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DATA REPORT

EB-5 PROCESSING TIMES MONTHLY UPDATES:

Trends and Data Insights of Form I-526, I-829, and I-924 Processing Times at the Immigrant Investor Program Office

March, 2021

Data Source: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

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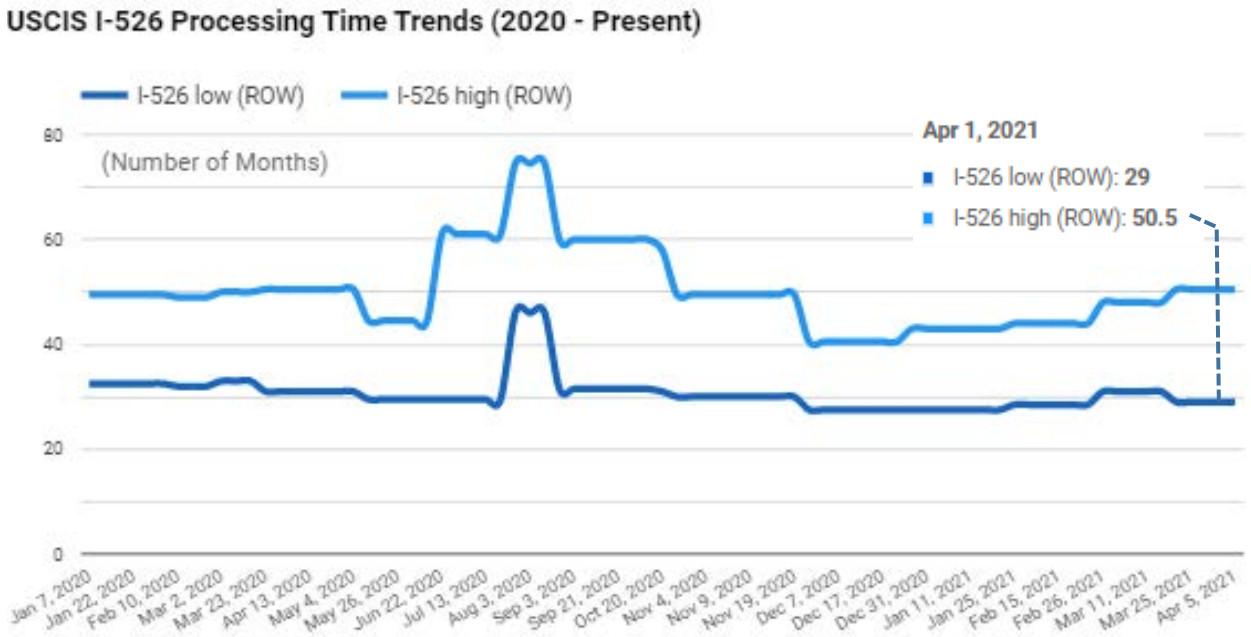
I-526 PROCESSING TIMES (NON-BACKLOGGED COUNTRIES)

DATA INSIGHTS:

According to USCIS, the current (as of April 1, 2021) processing time range for an I-526 petition (*Immigrant Petition by Alien Investor*) filed by a non-Chinese EB-5 investor was between 29 and 51 months,[1] indicating that 50% of the I-526 cases from non-backlogged countries were processed within 29 months while 93% of the I-526 adjudications were completed within 51 months.

In March, the spread between the low end and the high end of the average I-526 processing times became wider, showing that 50% of the I-526 cases saw a quicker adjudication in March 2021; while it took a longer time for USCIS to complete the other 50% of the I-526 cases likely due to RFE (Request for Evidence) or other issues.



1. *Note: Starting on March 31, 2020, USCIS adopted a new processing approach for I-526 petitions that is based on EB-5 visa availability. I-526 petitioners from non-backlogged countries (all countries except for mainland China) now enjoy a faster adjudication for their I-526 cases. Learn more about USCIS's new visa availability processing approach here.*

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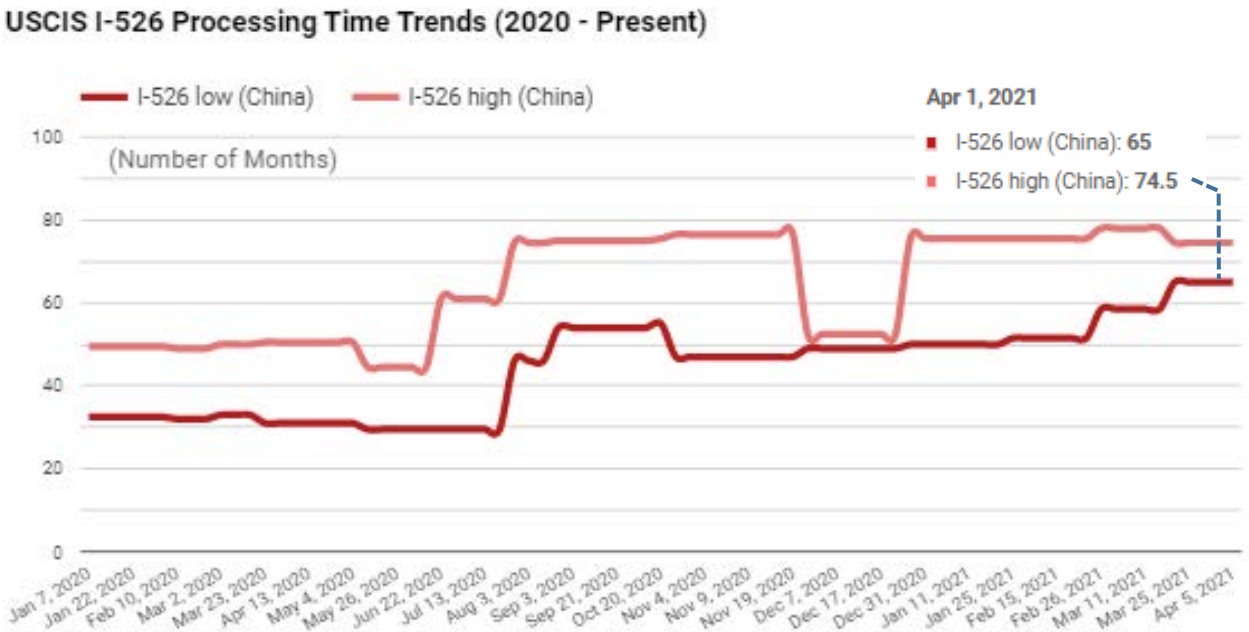
I-526 PROCESSING TIMES (MAINLAND CHINA)

DATA INSIGHTS:

For I-526 petitioners from mainland China, USCIS estimated that the processing time range was between 65 and 75 months (as of April 1, 2021). The processing time range means that 50% of the I-526 petitions that were filed by a Chinese investor were completed within 65 months while 93% of the cases were adjudicated within 75 months.

Under IPO's new processing approach that is based on visa availability, the I-526 processing times for Chinese petitioners continued to grow in March 2021 because of the lack of movement for China EB-5 cut-off dates on the monthly Visa Bulletins. Furthermore, it's expected that the I-526 processing times for China would continue to rise until the Consulate Office in Guangzhou reopens for regular visa processing.



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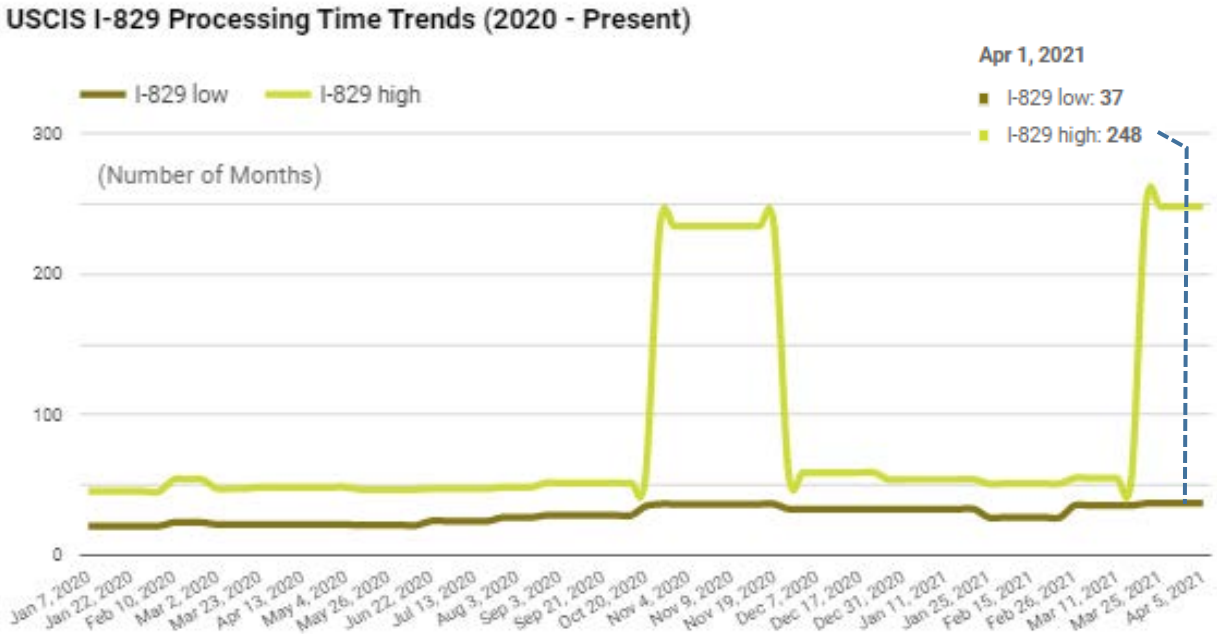
I-829 PROCESSING TIMES

DATA INSIGHTS:

As of April 1, 2021, USCIS's processing time for Form I-829 (*Petition by Investor to Remove Conditions on Permanent Resident Status*) was between 37 and 248 months. The current processing time range indicates that 50% of the I-829 cases were processed within 37 months while USCIS were adjudicating some I-829 cases that were filed 248 months ago (approximately August 2000).

In fact, the I-829 processing experienced a similar irregularity in November 2020 when the high end of the processing time range increased to 234 months but declined to below 60 months after one month in December 2020. With that, the high end of the I-829 processing time would be mostly likely to drop back to "normal" as soon as USCIS completed adjudicating those I-829 cases that were more than 20 years old.



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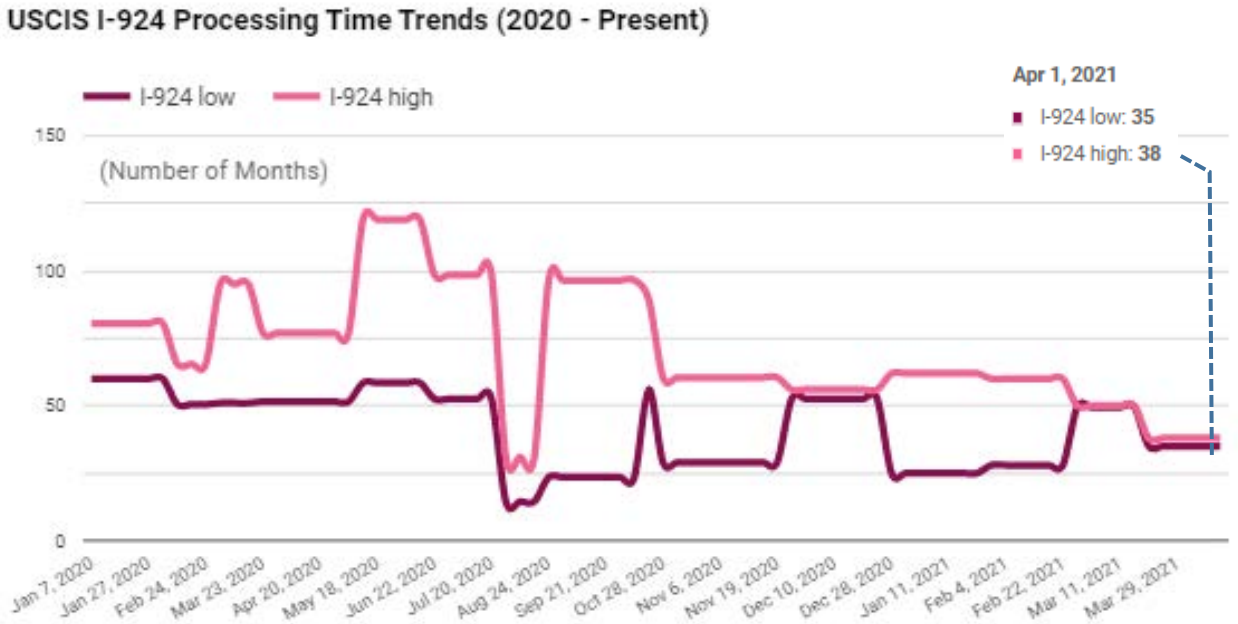
I-924 PROCESSING TIMES

DATA INSIGHTS:

As of April 1, 2021, USCIS estimated the regular processing time for Form I-924 (*Application for Regional Center Designation Under the Immigrant Investor Program*), including an initial designation or amendment to a Regional Center, was between 35 and 38 months.

The average processing time for I-924 adjudications continued to decline from approximately 50 months in February to under 40 months in March, which was an encouraging news for regional center applicants that are seeking either initial designation or project exemplar approvals.



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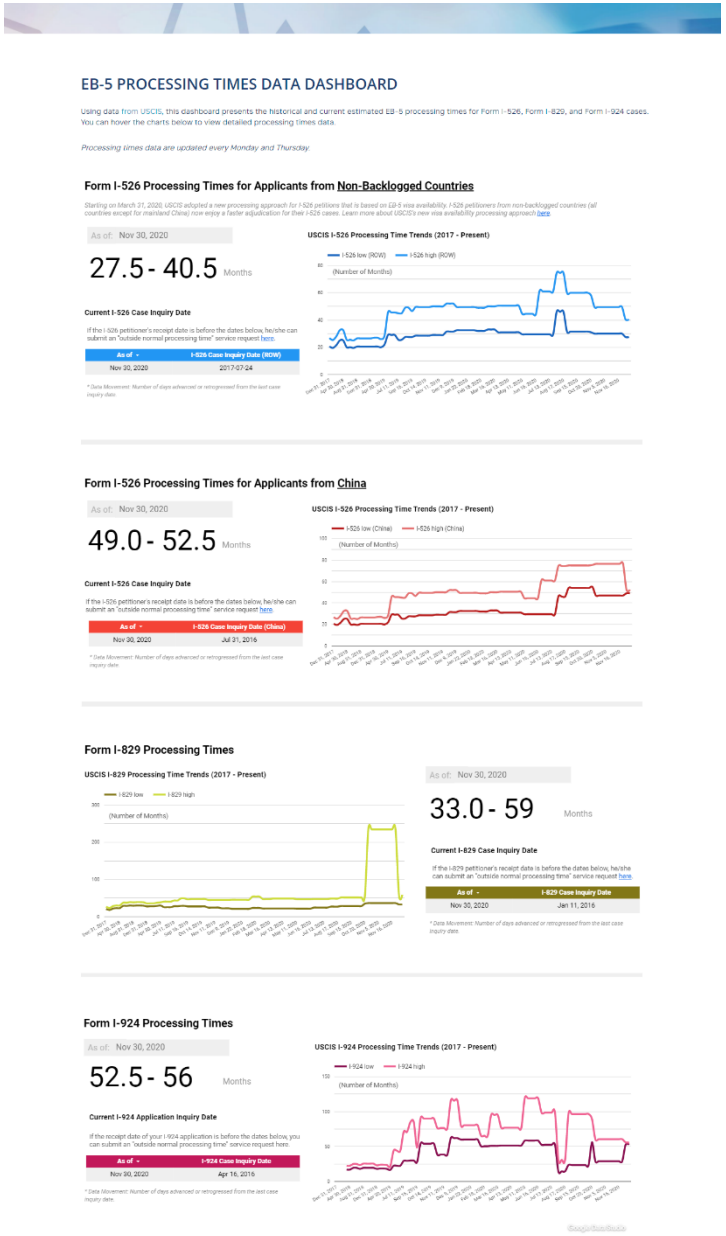
INTRODUCING IIUSA'S EB-5 PROCESSING TIMES DATA DASHBOARD

All EB-5 processing times information at one place

IIUSA is excited to launch this interactive data dashboard featuring the latest processing time ranges and historical processing time trends for I-526 petitions, I-829 petitions and I-924 applications.

This free resource, available on IIUSA's website https://iiusa.org/eb5_processing_times/, saves your time by aggregating pertinent processing time statistics across the USCIS website and displaying them all at one place.

Add this new interactive EB-5 Processing Times Data Dashboard to your bookmark *and stay up-to-date with the key statistics that are the most relevant to EB-5 investors and regional center operators.*



IIUSA, a national 501(c) (6) not-for-profit, is the unifying voice for thousands of diverse stakeholders who contribute to economic development and job growth in the U.S. through the EB-5 Regional Center Program.

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