From $3,675 to $7,850: US to more than double EB-5 investor visa fees from Nov 30. How it affects Indians

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Moneycontrol World Desk

The US will sharply raise fees for the EB-5 investor visa programme from November 30, with some charges more than doubling. The increase comes as the route gains popularity among Indians facing long waits in other Green Card categories.



Key EB-5 filing fees will rise by thousands of dollars under a revised USCIS fee structure taking effect November 30.

The US is hiking EB-5 investor visa fees significantly from November 30, with some costs more than doubling. This aims to cover administrative expenses as the program gains popularity among Indian nationals, particularly H-1B and F-1 visa holders seeking faster permanent residency amidst long waits in other categories. The investment threshold remains unchanged.

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The US is set to significantly increase fees for applications under the EB-5 immigrant investor programme, raising the cost for foreign nationals seeking permanent residency through investment.



The revised fee structure, finalised by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), will come into effect on November 30. Fees for some of the programme's key petitions will more than double, adding thousands of dollars to the application process.

The increase comes as the EB-5 route has gained popularity among Indian nationals, particularly those already living in the US on H-1B and F-1 visas and facing long waits in other employment-based immigration categories.

What is the EB-5 investor visa programme?

Created by the US Congress in 1990, the EB-5 Immigrant Investor Programme allows eligible foreign investors to seek a US Green Card by investing in a qualifying commercial enterprise and creating at least 10 full-time jobs for American workers.

The investment threshold is currently $1.05 million for a qualifying business. The minimum falls to $800,000 when the investment is made in a Targeted Employment Area, or TEA, or in an eligible infrastructure project.

An approved investor can eventually seek permanent residency for themselves, their spouse and qualifying children.

Applicants can make a standalone investment or invest through a USCIS-approved regional centre.

How much will EB-5 fees increase?

The biggest increases affect the petitions used to begin the EB-5 process.

For standalone investors, the Form I-526 filing fee will rise from $3,675 to $7,615, an increase of $3,940.

For investors applying through a regional centre, the Form I-526E fee will increase from $3,675 to $7,850, a rise of $4,175.

Initial I-526 and I-526E petitions will also carry a $75 technology fee. Regional-centre investors will additionally have to pay the applicable investor integrity fee.

The costs increase further later in the process.

The fee for Form I-829, which investors use to seek removal of the conditions attached to their permanent resident status, will rise from $3,750 to $5,000.

Regional centres will face particularly steep increases. The fee for an initial Form I-956 application for regional-centre designation will jump from $17,795 to $44,115.

The Form I-956F fee, used to seek approval of an investment in a commercial enterprise, will rise to $42,675 from $17,795.

The annual Form I-956G fee will, however, fall from $3,035 to $2,165.

The final rule also introduces Form I-527 for certain investors seeking to amend older Form I-526 petitions. The filing fee will be $10,330.

Why is the US increasing EB-5 fees?

USCIS said the higher fees reflect the cost of administering the immigration programme.

“This means the cost of reviewing applications, conducting background checks, verifying eligibility, detecting fraud, and maintaining programme operations must be paid by those who use the immigration system," the agency said in a press release.

The fee revision increases the administrative cost of the EB-5 process but does not alter the underlying investment threshold.

Investors will therefore still need to invest $1.05 million in a qualifying business or $800,000 in a qualifying TEA or infrastructure project, even as the associated filing fees rise.

Why are Indians increasingly turning to EB-5?

The fee increase comes at a time when interest in the programme among Indian nationals has risen sharply.

According to IIUSA data cited by The American Bazaar, EB-5 filings from India increased from around 75 in fiscal year 2022 to nearly 1,900 in fiscal year 2025.

That represents an increase of roughly 25 times in three years.

One factor behind the growing interest is the lengthy wait faced by many Indian nationals pursuing permanent residency through other employment-based immigration routes.

The EB-5 programme also has annual visa limits and country-based limits, meaning increased demand from India can itself contribute to longer waits.

However, the programme has become particularly relevant for Indians already in the US on temporary visas.

Chaitrali Karve, Senior Director at LCR Capital Partners, told The American Bazaar that most of the new EB-5 investors she encounters are H-1B or F-1 visa holders,

predominantly from India.

“Most of the families I talk to are not fixated on the dollar figure. They are H-1B or F-1 visa holders, mostly from India, and for them the real pain point is time, not price," Karve told the publication.

She said these families are concerned about how immigration timelines could affect their ability to remain in the US and whether their children could continue to qualify as dependants.

“What keeps them up at night is the calendar: will their student visa run out, will their H-1B renewal come through, will their child age out of eligibility," Karve said.

How will the hike affect Indian applicants?

For an Indian applicant filing as a standalone investor, the initial Form I-526 fee will increase by $3,940.

For those applying through a regional centre using Form I-526E, the increase will be $4,175, before accounting for the additional technology fee and applicable investor integrity fee.

The underlying investment requirement remains unchanged.

For many regional-centre investors, the relevant investment threshold is $800,000 because projects may qualify as TEAs.

Karve told The American Bazaar that most regional-centre projects she works with qualify as TEA investments, making $800,000 the threshold considered by most of her clients.

Why September 30 is another important date

The November 30 fee change is separate from another date that prospective EB-5 investors are watching.

According to Karve, September 30, 2026, is significant for investors planning to file an I-526E petition under the existing EB-5 framework.

“Investors who file their EB-5 application (I-526E petition) on or before that date lock in the current EB-5 framework," Karve told The American Bazaar.

That framework includes the investment amount, source-of-funds requirements and investment structure applicable when the petition is filed.

The September 30 date and the November 30 USCIS fee revision therefore relate to two separate changes. The former concerns the framework applicable to an investor's filing, while the latter concerns the revised government fees that take effect from November 30.