

Summary of Approved H-1B Petitions by Employers

Fiscal Year 2019

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U.S. Citizenship and
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Office of Policy and Strategy
Research and Evaluation Division

INTRODUCTION

In fiscal year (FY) 2019, USCIS approved approximately¹ 387,000 H-1B petitions, filed by nearly 47,000 employers. About one third (34%) of the approved petitions were for initial employment, and two thirds (66%) were for continuing employment².

Not all approved petitions approved in FY2019 were received by USCIS in the same fiscal year. Approximately 25% (approximately 96,500 petitions) of these approved petitions were received in prior fiscal years, nearly all of which were in FY 2018.

Of the nearly 47,000 employers who were granted H-1B approvals in FY 2019, 430 employers had 100 or more petitions approved, and 514 employers had between 50 and 99 petitions approved. The vast majority of the petitioning employers, or about 88%, had less than 10 petitions approved. The top 12% of filers received about 58% of the total approvals, whereas the other 88% received 42% of the total approvals.

Initial Employment

In FY2019, USCIS approved approximately 133,000 H-1B petitions for initial employment, based on petitions filed by approximately 29,000 employers. This count includes petitions subject to the numerical limit set by the statute (commonly known as “cap-subject”) and petitions that are exempt from the numerical limit (commonly known as “cap-exempt”). Among “cap-subject” petitions covered by this report, a small percentage were subject to the numerical limit set for FY 2019. Similarly, some “cap-subject” petitions subject to the numerical limit for FY 2020 are still pending adjudication as of the time of this writing.

Of the approximately 29,000 employers that received initial employment approvals in FY2019, 122 employers had 100 or more initial employment petitions approved, 171 employers had between 50 and 99 initial employment petitions approved, 367 employers had between 25 and 49 initial employment petitions approved, and 1,149 employers had between 10 and 24 initial employment petitions approved. The vast majority of the employers who received

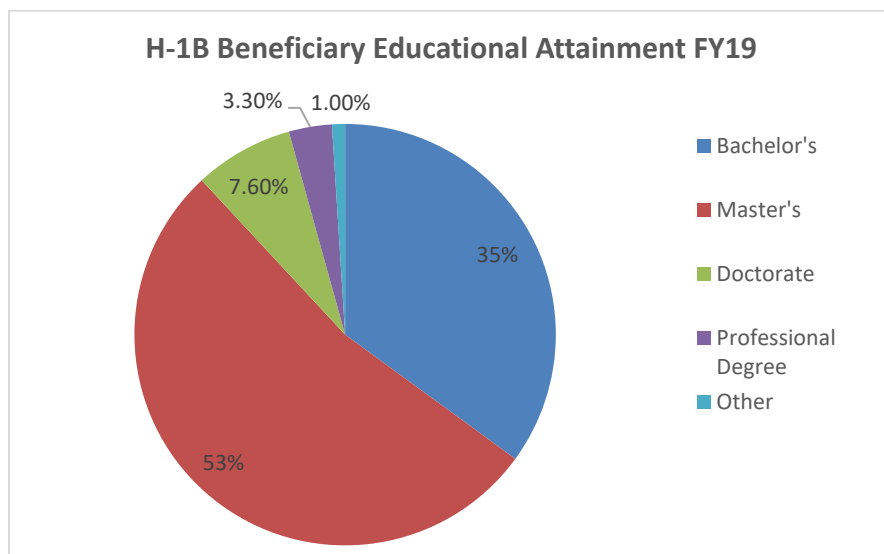
¹ Please refer to USCIS “Understand Our Data” page (<https://www.uscis.gov/tools/reports-studies/understanding-our-data>) for important general information regarding our data reporting.

² Initial Employment petitions refer to petitions for an alien currently in a different nonimmigrant classification, or with no classification if outside the United States, for an initial period of employment in the United States. Continuing Employment petitions refer to petitions used to extend the authorized stay of, or change to a different employer for, an alien currently in the same nonimmigrant worker status. Continuing Employment also includes petitions that are filed to amend a previously approved petition. Initial Employment petitions are those that checked “a” or “d” for “Basis for Classification” on Form I-129, Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker, Part 2, Question 2. Continuing Employment petitions are those that checked “b”, “c”, “e”, or “f” for “Basis for Classification” on Form I-129, Part 2, Question 2.

approvals in FY2019 for H-1B initial employment petitions, about 93%, had fewer than 10 initial employment petitions approved. The top 7% of filers received about 63% of the total initial employment approvals.

Educational Attainment³

In FY2019, more than 53% of the beneficiaries in the approved H-1B petitions have a Master's degree. About 35% have a Bachelor's degree, 7.6% have a Doctoral degree, and 3.3% have a professional degree. Less than 1% of beneficiaries in the approved petitions have other educational attainment.⁴



³ Information on education attainment is based on what is reported on Form I-129, Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker and does not differentiate between degrees earned at a U.S. institution of higher education and degrees earned abroad. A degree obtained from a foreign institution may or may not be equivalent to the same degree in the United States.

⁴ Including high school diploma, some college credits but no degree, associate degree, and others. Also includes petitions with missing education field.

Median Salary

The median salary of the overall approved petitions in FY2019 is \$98,000. When considering this figure it is important to note that it includes not just entry-level H-1B workers but also those with numerous years of experience. It should also be noted that H-1Bs are generally employed in high cost areas. These factors drive up the median salary for H-1B workers overall, but do not indicate that H-1B worker wages are high in comparison to others in the same locality at the same skill level. The following tables show median salaries by employment type, educational attainment, beneficiary gender, and occupation (top 30 in terms of the volume of approved petitions)

**Table 1: Median Salary by Employment Type
FY2019 Approved H-1B Petitions**

Employment Type	Median Salary
Initial Employment	\$86,000
Continuing Employment	\$105,000

**Table 2: Median Salary by Educational Attainment
FY2019 Approved H-1B Petitions**

Educational Attainment	Median Salary
Bachelor's	\$99,736
Master's	\$97,970
Doctorate	\$85,016
Professional Degree	\$170,000
Other	\$95,638

**Table 3: Median Salary by Beneficiary Gender
FY2019 Approved H-1B Petitions**

Beneficiary Gender	Median Salary
Female	\$90,000
Male	\$100,775

**Table 4: Median Salary by Occupation (Top 30 only)⁵
FY2019 Approved H-1B Petitions**

Occupation (Top 30)	Median Salary	% of Approved Petitions
Occupations In Systems Analysis And Programming	\$102,000	55.8%
Other Computer-Related Occupations	\$105,952	8.3%
Occupations In College And University Education	\$66,951	4.3%
Electrical/Electronic Engineering Occupations	\$108,000	3.9%
Accountants, Auditors, And Related Occupations	\$78,000	2.5%
Occupations In Mathematics	\$102,000	2.1%
Physicians And Surgeons	\$208,000	2.0%
Mechanical Engineering Occupations	\$85,000	2.0%
Other Occupations In Administrative Specializations	\$110,000	1.3%
Occupations In Biological Sciences	\$65,997	1.3%
Other Occupations In Architecture, Engineering, And Surveying	\$90,147	1.2%
Occupations In Computer Systems Technical Support	\$95,638	1.1%
Budget And Management Systems Analysis Occupations	\$93,473	1.1%
Industrial Engineering Occupations	\$86,807	1.0%
Miscellaneous Professional, Technical, And Managerial Occupations	\$122,458	1.0%
Civil Engineering Occupations	\$72,000	0.9%
Occupations In Economics	\$96,000	0.8%
Other Occupations In Medicine And Health	\$66,950	0.7%
Occupations In Data Communications And Networks	\$93,538	0.7%
Miscellaneous Managers And Officials	\$135,000	0.5%
Therapists	\$72,862	0.5%
Architectural Occupations	\$60,000	0.4%
Occupations In Chemistry	\$76,752	0.4%
Commercial Artists: Designers And Illustrators, Graphic Arts	\$80,000	0.4%
Finance, Insurance, And Real Estate Managers And Officials	\$120,000	0.4%
Occupations In Preschool, Primary School, And Kindergarten Education	\$50,500	0.3%
Occupations In Secondary School Education	\$52,530	0.3%
Other Occupations In Mathematics And Physical Sciences	\$90,000	0.3%
Chemical Engineering Occupations	\$95,000	0.3%
Lawyers	\$190,000	0.3%

⁵ Occupations are as defined in I-129 Dictionary of Occupational Titles (DOT) Codes (https://www.uscis.gov/system/files_force/files/form/m-746.pdf?download=1)