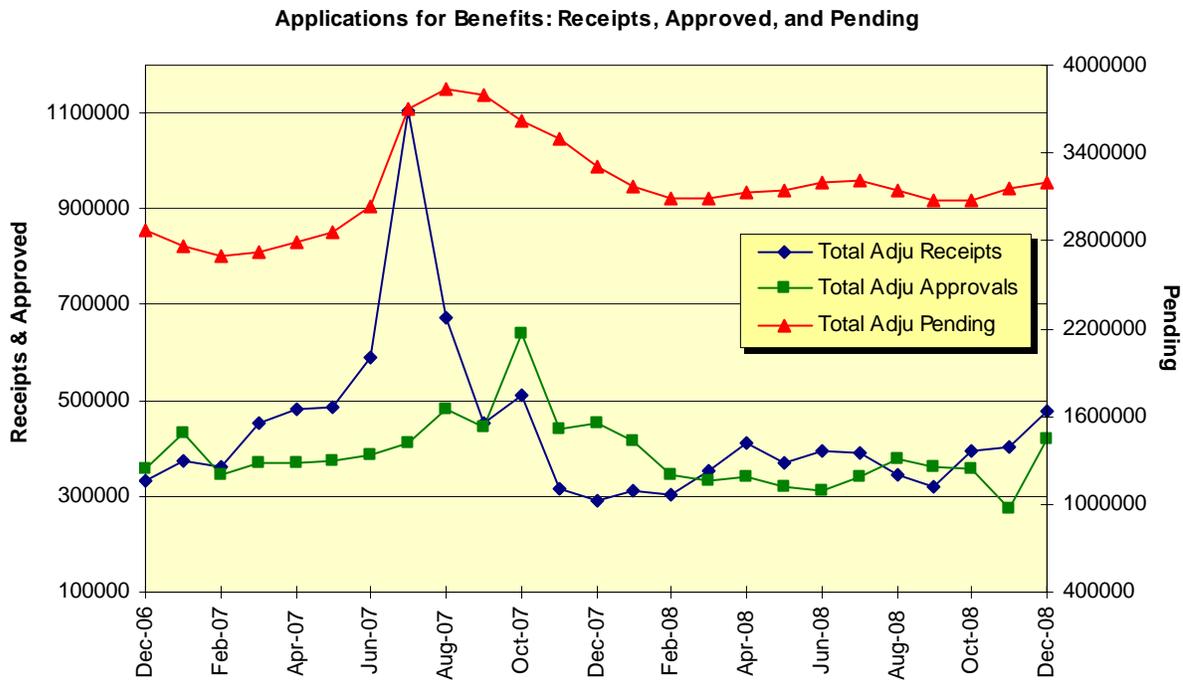


APPLICATIONS FOR IMMIGRATION BENEFITS

Applications and petitions for immigration benefits in December 2008 increased 65 percent compared to the number received in December 2007. December 2008 approvals decreased by 8 percent, denials increased by 18 percent, and pending decreased by 4 percent compared to December 2007.

	<i>Month</i>			<i>Fiscal Year</i>			<i>Total FY 2008</i>
	<i>December 2008</i>	<i>December 2007</i>	<i>% Change</i>	<i>FY 2009 to Date</i>	<i>FY 2008 to Date</i>	<i>% Change</i>	
Initial Receipts	479,455	291,445	65%	1,273,848	1,116,881	14%	4,319,134
Approved	419,234	454,226	-8%	1,049,418	1,533,235	-32%	4,684,090
Denied	40,671	34,361	18%	118,968	126,627	-6%	507,606
Pending	3,192,861	3,313,151	-4%	3,192,861	3,313,151	-4%	3,073,290

Data source: PAS G-22.2



- Major receipt volumes in December 2008 include: 166,904 I-765 employment authorizations; 90,443 I-821 temporary protected status; 56,855 I-130 immediate/all other petitions; 43,045 I-485 applications to adjust status; 29,119 I-90 green card renewals/replacements.
- Major volumes of pending applications at the end of December 2008 include: 1,445,336 I-130 immediate/all other petitions; 648,592 I-485 applications to adjust status; 262,130 I-765 employment authorizations; 188,711 I-90 green card renewals/replacements; 150,986 I-751 remove conditions spouse jointly/waiver; 128,130 I-821 temporary protected status.

Footnote: “Initial Receipts data only reflects the number of applications that USCIS was able to fee receipt and/or data enter into a case processing system. Applications currently held in USCIS mailroom facilities but not processed to the point of recognition as Initial Receipts are deemed frontlog cases. These frontlog cases are also not reflected in Pending figures.”