

FY 2016- 2020

**2020 USCIS Statistical
Annual Report**



U.S. Citizenship and
Immigration Services



About U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) administers the nation’s lawful immigration system. We manage a broad range of programs through which we process millions of immigration and naturalization benefit requests each year. We are responsible for:

Adjudicating Benefit Petitions, Applications and Requests

- *Citizenship and Lawful Permanent Residence:* Individuals who wish to reside permanently in the United States or who wish to become U.S. citizens through naturalization submit their applications to USCIS.
- *Family-based immigration:* We manage the process that allows lawful permanent residents and U.S. citizens to bring certain qualifying relatives to live and work in the United States.
- *Employment-based nonimmigrant and immigrant petitions:* We manage the process that allows individuals from other countries to lawfully work in the United States. Some of these opportunities are temporary (such as cultural exchange programs) and some provide a path to lawful permanent residence.
- *Humanitarian programs:* USCIS administers a number of humanitarian programs and upholds U.S. law and international obligations. These include programs for asylum seekers, refugees, those eligible for temporary protected status, and victims of criminal activity or human trafficking.
- *Other services:* USCIS handles requests for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, for individuals who seek to change or extend status in the United States as well as for those who need to replace their green card, among other services for immigrants and nonimmigrants.

Managing the E-Verify System

We administer E-Verify, a tool that helps ensure a legal work force by allowing participating employers to confirm online whether their new employees are eligible to work in the United States. We also administer the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) program that assists federal, state, local and tribal benefit-administering agencies confirm eligibility for public benefits and licenses by providing citizenship and immigration status information to them.

Deterring, Detecting, and Addressing Vulnerabilities

We determine whether individuals or organizations requesting benefits pose a threat to national security, public safety, or the integrity of the nation’s immigration system. Our work includes administratively

FY 2020 Snapshot

7.7 Million Receipts

19,000 Employees and Contractors

\$4.8 billion budget, 96% supported by fees

625,400 new citizens welcomed

439,000 granted lawful permanent residence

2 million employment authorization applications processed

11 million Contact Center calls received

37 million new hires verified for eligibility to work in the United States

investigating immigration benefit fraud and identifying and addressing internal risks and vulnerabilities.

Promoting the Assimilation of Lawful Immigrants into American Society

We promote prospective citizens' assimilation into American civic life by awarding grants to organizations that provide education programs designed to increase lawful immigrants' knowledge of English, U.S. history and civics.

Responding to Public Inquiries

Through our Contact Center and responding to Freedom of Information Act requests, we respond to millions of inquiries about the legal U.S. immigration system to applicants and other stakeholders.

The COVID-19 Pandemic and USCIS

USCIS, like all of America impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, faced significant challenges in FY 2020. Because of the pandemic, USCIS temporarily closed offices to in-person services and implemented social distancing practices. During this time, USCIS received fewer petitions, applications, and requests for benefits a reduction, which, as a fee funded agency, significantly impacted our financial outlook for the year.

To protect our employees and immigration benefit applicants, all of the field offices in the Field Operations Directorate (FOD)—the offices that conduct interviews for naturalization and lawful permanent residence—as well as the Refugee, Asylum and International Operations (RAIO) directorate's asylum offices were closed to the public from March 18 through June 3 of 2020, nearly halting all in-person services. Despite these officer closures, RAIO continued to provide humanitarian and significant public benefit parole working with consular posts overseas, even where all other services were cancelled, due to the compelling humanitarian nature of the parole and significant public benefit parole requests. Further, all Application Support Centers (ASC) were closed from March 18 through July 12 of 2020, pausing biometrics capture for applications that require biometrics. The Service Center Operations (SCOPS) directorate, which is not open to the public, continued operations but faced challenges associated with completing work that could not be conducted at home, such as accepting direct filings, mailroom activities, and file movement. Once offices reopened, USCIS adjusted its operations for naturalization oaths and other in-person services such as interviews in order to comply with social distancing guidelines.

In addition to the office closures, delayed biometrics capture, and social distancing guidelines, USCIS experienced a steep decline in immigration benefit receipts, which significantly affected revenue. During the office closures, incoming receipts were 32 percent lower when compared to the same time period in FY 2019. The volume of receipts recovered to near pre-pandemic levels with USCIS receiving about 12 percent fewer receipts than projected by the end of FY 2020.

The impact of the pandemic on the various forms that USCIS receives and processes can be seen in each section of this report. For example, although naturalization ceremonies were mostly absent during the spring, USCIS staff prioritized naturalization ceremonies upon the reopening of the field offices in June and, by August, were able to naturalize almost all applicants whose applications had already been approved and were awaiting an oath ceremony since office closures in March. USCIS also processed a record number of Forms I-539 (Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status), I-129 (Petition for Nonimmigrant Worker), and I-130 (Petition for Alien Relative) in FY 2020.

Finally, the loss in revenue due to the reduced number of receipts forced cost-cutting measures across the agency. The number of contracts for services such as printing employment authorization documents and associated contract staff were cut and USCIS prepared for a potential furlough of federal staff for several months during the second half of FY 2020, which was ultimately averted.

Overview

USCIS received 7.7 million Applications, Petitions and Requests and completed more than 7.6 million

USCIS received about 7.7 million applications, petitions, and requests for benefits in fiscal year (FY) 2020, the lowest number of receipts in the last five years. This decrease was driven in large part by a significant decrease in receipts during the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in the spring of 2020, when USCIS closed field offices to the public.

During the office closures, incoming receipts were 32 percent lower compared to the same time period in FY 2019. By the end of FY 2020, USCIS received about 5% percent fewer receipts than in FY 2019. Although receipts decreased in some of the most frequently submitted form types, others such as the N-400 (Application for Naturalization) and I-129 (Petition for Nonimmigrant Worker) increased slightly from FY 2019.

Applications, Petitions and Requests Received in FY 2020 (in millions)



USCIS completed 7.6 million applications, petitions and requests in FY 2020, also the lowest in the past five years. Completions include both approved and denied petitions, applications and requests. The number of completions in FY 2020 also decreased significantly during the spring of 2020 when USCIS closed field offices to the public. However, USCIS focused efforts on completing specific form types during and after the closures.

Applications, Petitions and Requests Completed in FY 2020 (in millions)



In particular, USCIS completed more I-129 (Petition for Nonimmigrant Worker) petitions in FY2020 than in FY2019. In addition, while USCIS offices were closed to the public, prioritization was placed on processing other benefit types that do not require an in-person interview. As a result, USCIS processed more I-130 (Petition for Alien Relative) petitions this year than in FY 2019. Once USCIS offices re-opened to the public, USCIS focused on holding naturalization ceremonies for those awaiting the oath of allegiance and rescheduling naturalization interviews according to social distancing guidelines.

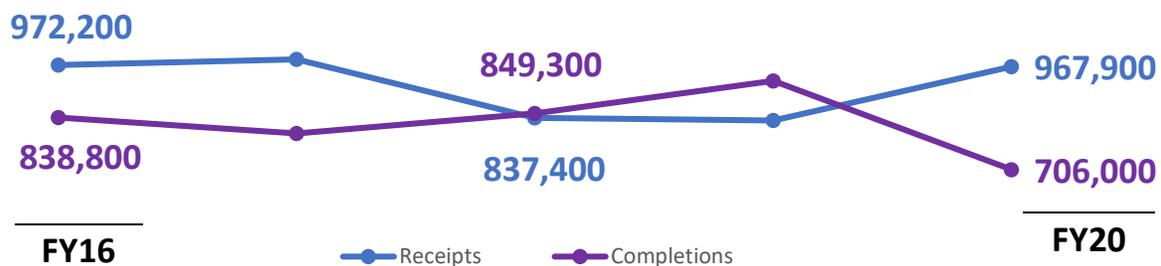
Citizenship and Lawful Permanent Residence (LPR)

USCIS Received more Applications for Naturalization in FY 2020 than FY 2019

USCIS received almost 968,000 applications for naturalization (N-400) in FY 2020, 137,000 more than USCIS received in FY 2019. The increase in receipts for the N-400 may be due to the proposed fee increase announced in the Federal Register in FY 2020 as well as the election. Prior to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, USCIS received on average, about 80,000 citizenship applications each month in FY 2020. This number dropped significantly during the first few months, April through June, of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the number of applications returned to around pre-pandemic levels during the last few months of fiscal year 2020.

USCIS completed about 706,000 applications for naturalization in FY 2020, 225,800 fewer than in FY 2019 and the lowest in the last five years. This decrease can be attributed to the closure of USCIS offices and in-person services in the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Of those completed, USCIS naturalized 625,400 new citizens in FY 2020.

Applications for Naturalization Received and Completed, FY 2016 – FY 2020



Following the re-opening of USCIS offices to in-person services in June 2020, USCIS adjusted its operations by instituting drive-through oath ceremonies and conducting video interviews where the applicant appears in person at a USCIS office, but the officer conducts the interview via video conferencing technology from another room. In a matter of months following the reopening of USCIS offices to in-person services, USCIS completed the more than 110,000 pending naturalization oaths that were put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Military Naturalizations

In response to the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the president issued Executive Order 13269 on July 3, 2002 which triggered immediate naturalization eligibility for qualifying service members. Since 2002, USCIS has naturalized more than 139,000 members of the U.S. military both at home and abroad; naturalization ceremonies have taken place in more than 30 countries from Albania to the United Arab Emirates. In the last five years (FY2016-FY2020), USCIS has naturalized almost 30,000 service members. In FY2020, USCIS naturalized more than 4,500 service members about the same number of service members as the previous year.

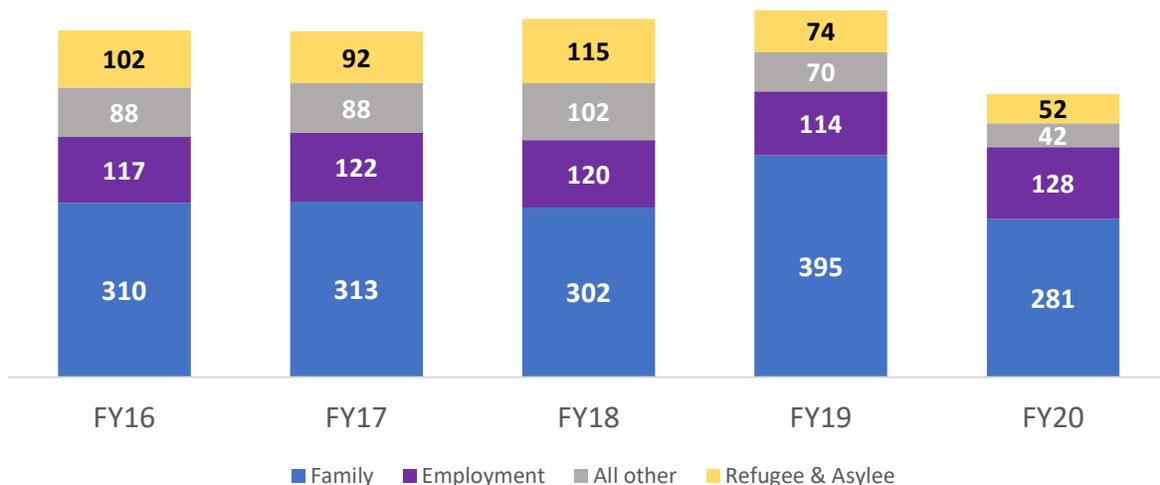
In FY 2020, USCIS Received 519,700 Applications for Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) Status – a decrease of 5% from FY 2019

In FY 2020, USCIS received about 5 percent fewer applications to become a lawful permanent resident (LPR) ([I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status](#)) than last year (519,700 down from 548,900 in FY 2019).

USCIS completed about 23% fewer LPR applications in FY 2020 compared to FY 2019. In FY 2020, USCIS completed a total of 504,200 LPR applications – the fewest total completions in the last five years. Many LPR applications require an in-person interview and with USCIS office closures in March through June 2020 as well as the implementation of social distancing guidelines after reopening, in-person services were limited. As a result, the number of LPR applications USCIS completed was reduced.

The only LPR sub-type that USCIS completed more applications for in FY 2020 compared to the previous years is employment. In FY 2020, USCIS adjudicated 128,200 applications for employment-based LPR status, compared to 113,700 in FY 2019, about a 13 percent increase.

Applications for Lawful Permanent Resident Status Completed, FY 2016 – FY 2020 (in thousands)



Notes: Applications may have been filed in previous fiscal years.

Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness (LRIF)

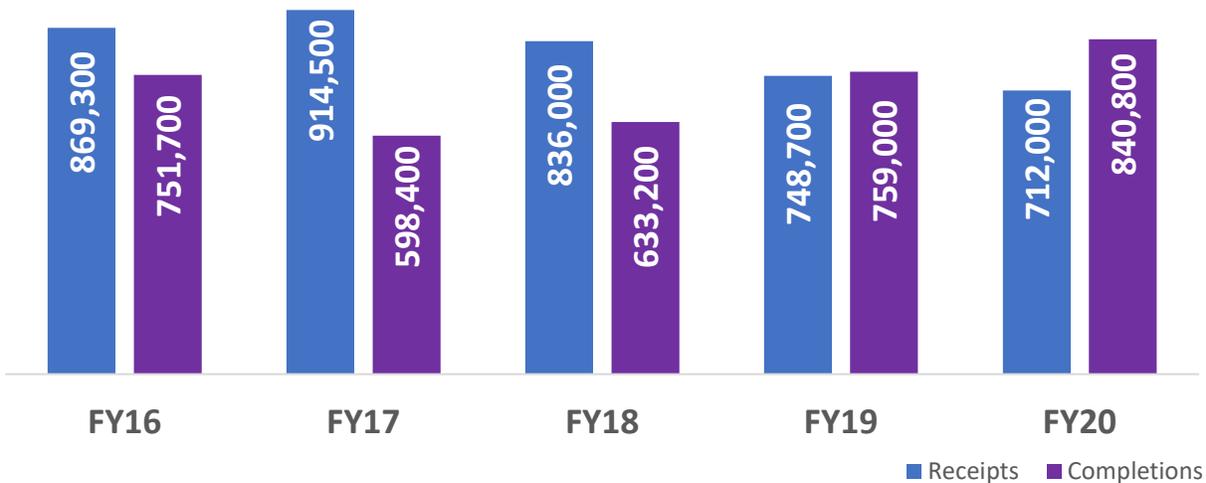
In December 2019, Congress enacted the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2020 which included the [Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness](#) (LRIF) provision. LRIF provides an opportunity for certain Liberian nationals and their dependents who meet eligibility requirements to obtain lawful permanent resident (LPR) status. As initially enacted, the filing deadline for LRIF applications was December 20, 2020. Congress later extended the filing deadline for LRIF applications to December 20, 2021. USCIS received over 2,000 applications in FY 2020. Relatively few applications were completed during the fiscal year due to the nine-month processing time. Additional information on this program will be reported in FY 2021.

Family-based Immigration

USCIS Completed more Petitions for Alien Relatives in FY 2020 than any of the Previous Four Years

USCIS received fewer Petitions for Alien Relative (Form [I-130](#)) petitions in FY 2020 than in any of the previous four years (712,000). However, USCIS adjudicated 81,800 more I-130 petitions in FY 2020 than in the previous year; further, USCIS staff completed the largest number of Form I-130 petitions (840,800) in FY 2020 than in any of the four previous years. Over the last few years, and in FY 2020 in particular, USCIS dedicated additional staff to processing Form I-130 petitions to keep up with increased demand in immigrant preference categories which allows certain eligible family members to apply for lawful permanent resident status or for admission as a lawful permanent resident.

Petitions for Alien Relatives (Form I-130) Received and Completed, FY 2016 – FY 2020



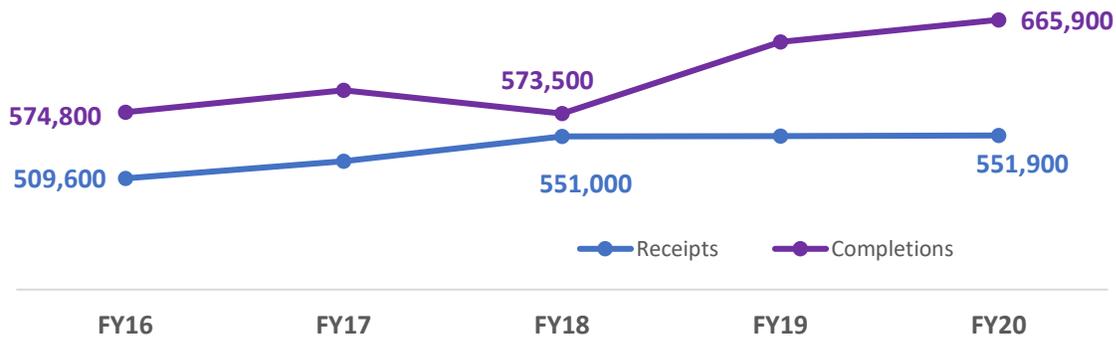
Notes: Petitions may have been filed in previous fiscal years.

Nonimmigrant Workers and Employment-based Immigration

USCIS Completed more I-129 Petitions in FY 2020 than in any of the Previous Four Years

USCIS received about the same number of [Form I-129](#), Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker petitions in FY 2020 as the last few years (551,900). Although the number of receipts remained constant in FY 2020, USCIS adjudicated more I-129 petitions (665,900) in FY 2020 than in the previous four years. Completions are higher than receipts in all years due to the number of secondary actions (which are considered a completion), such as revocations. In FY 2020, for example, USCIS processed about 80,000 revocations; a revocation may occur if the petitioner requests to withdraw the petition after approval. The Form I-129 petition is used for employers and employees seeking H-1B, H-2A, H-2B, L, O, and P visas, among others.

I-129 Petitions Received and Completed, FY 2016 – FY 2020



H-1B nonimmigrant worker petitions comprise the largest share of I-129 petitions USCIS receives each year. In FY 2020, H-1B petitions comprised more than 75 percent of all I-129 petitions received, roughly the same as the previous four years. Like H-1B petitions, other I-129 nonimmigrant petition receipts in FY 2020 remained consistent with previous years, as did completions. A notable exception is the P classification: in FY 2020, USCIS received 8,700 P nonimmigrant petitions, about a third fewer than FY 2019 (13,100). This decrease is likely due to closures associated with the COVID-19 pandemic given that the P nonimmigrant classification is for certain athletes, artists, and entertainers, among others.

I-129 Petitions Completed by Type, FY 2020



In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, USCIS provided [flexibilities](#) to certain nonimmigrant workers, such as (1) allowing eligible physicians to maintain status even if temporarily unable to work full-time due to the pandemic, and (2) changing certain H-2A and H-2B requirements for essential workers already present in the United States with a valid H-2A and H-2B nonimmigrant status to assist in increasing food security and stabilizing the U.S. food supply chain.

In FY 2019, USCIS also issued a final rule establishing a registration system requiring prospective petitioners seeking to file H-1B cap-subject petitions, including those that may be eligible for the advanced degree exemption, to first electronically register with USCIS during a

designated registration period.¹ By regulation, unless the registration requirement is suspended by USCIS, only those prospective petitioners whose registrations are selected will be eligible to file an H-1B cap-subject petition. The electronic registration system is designed to streamline the H-1B cap selection process by reducing paperwork and data exchange and provide an overall time and cost savings to the public.

In FY 2020, USCIS implemented the agency's [first electronic registration requirement](#) for FY 2021 H-1B cap-subject petitions. The initial H-1B cap petition registration period began on March 1, 2020. Starting on that date, USCIS required prospective petitioners seeking to file H-1B cap-subject petitions, including those for beneficiaries eligible for the advanced degree exemption, to first register electronically with USCIS and pay the associated (\$10) registration fee, and have that registration selected, before being eligible to properly file an H-1B cap-subject petition for the FY 2021 H-1B numerical allocations. USCIS closed the initial registration period on March 20, 2020. After the initial registration period closed, USCIS conducted a selection process, and petitioners with selected registrations were notified of their eligibility to file an FY 2021 H-1B cap-subject petition. USCIS received nearly 275,000 H-1B registrations online in FY 2020.

EB-5 Program and the I-526 Immigrant Petition by Alien Investor

In FY 2020, USCIS received 4,400 petitions from immigrant investors and their families (spouses and unmarried children under 21), about the same number as FY 2019. In FY 2020, USCIS completed 3,400 Form I-526 petitions – almost 28% less than the number of FY 2019 completions.

Under the EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program, investors are eligible to apply for a Green Card if they (1) make the necessary investment in a commercial enterprise in the United States; and (2) plan to create or preserve 10 permanent full-time jobs for qualified U.S. workers. In FY 2020, a new DHS rule went into effect, which made changes to the EB-5 program including increasing the required minimum investment amounts to account for inflation, providing priority date retention to certain EB-5 investors, and reforming certain targeted employment area (TEA) designations.

Humanitarian Programs

USCIS administers several humanitarian-based immigration programs, including those for refugees, asylees, victims of trafficking and crime, as well as those seeking Temporary Protected Status and parole for humanitarian and significant public benefit reasons. Limits exist on the number of refugees who may be admitted to the United States per year; the annual refugee ceiling is set by the president in consultation with Congress. As such, the number of interviews conducted annually by USCIS refugee officers fluctuates based on the annual ceiling.

There are two processes for applying for asylum in the United States. Affirmative asylum, administered by USCIS using [Form I-589](#), Application for Asylum and for Withholding of Removal, is generally for asylum seekers who are not in removal proceedings; defensive asylum is generally for individuals who are in removal proceedings and request asylum while in

¹ See 8 CFR 214.2(h)(8)(iii).

immigration court through the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) at the Department of Justice.

In addition to adjudicating affirmative asylum applications, USCIS also conducts [credible fear](#) and [reasonable fear](#) screenings (Forms I-870 and I-899) and Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) *non-refoulement* assessments. ² who indicate an intention to apply for asylum, a fear of persecution or torture, or a fear of return to their home country are screened to determine whether there is a significant possibility that the individual could establish eligibility for asylum or withholding of removal or a significant possibility he or she is eligible for protection under the regulations implementing the Convention Against Torture. If this standard is met, individuals are referred to immigration court, at which point they may apply for asylum and withholding of removal. Reasonable fear screenings apply to individuals who are in administrative removal proceedings due to an aggravated felony conviction or who are subject to a reinstated order of removal and express a fear of return. Individuals who establish a reasonable possibility of persecution or torture upon return to their home country are referred to an immigration court where they may apply for withholding or deferral of removal.³ In MPP, citizens and nationals of countries other than Mexico who arrive in the United States by land from Mexico may be returned to Mexico while their U.S. removal proceedings are pending. Individuals who are potentially subject to MPP or who are subject to MPP who express a fear of persecution or torture in Mexico are referred to USCIS for an MPP *non-refoulement* assessment interview. Individuals who establish that they are more likely than not to face persecution or torture in Mexico are not processed for or are removed from MPP.

USCIS Received 92,800 Applications for Affirmative Asylum, the fewest in the Last Five Years

Applications for Affirmative Asylum (I-589) Received and Completed FY 2016 - FY 2020



In FY 2020, USCIS received approximately 92,800 applications for asylum (Form I-589) and completed over 56,000 applications. The number of I-589 applications received is the lowest in the last five years (FY 2016 – FY 2020). The number of asylum applications completed in FY 2020 (56,000) is the lowest number in the last three years (FY 2018 – FY 2020).

The reduced number of affirmative asylum applications filed may be due in part to travel restrictions and the COVID-19 pandemic. Affirmative asylum completions were impacted in FY 2020 due to COVID-19 and social distancing guidelines. To protect USCIS employees and immigration

² In addition to these programs, USCIS also adjudicates suspension of deportation or cancellation of removal under the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act (NACARA 203) and conducts threshold and fear assessments for individuals who appear to be amenable to a Safe Third Country or Asylum Cooperative Agreement. These caseloads are not addressed in this report.

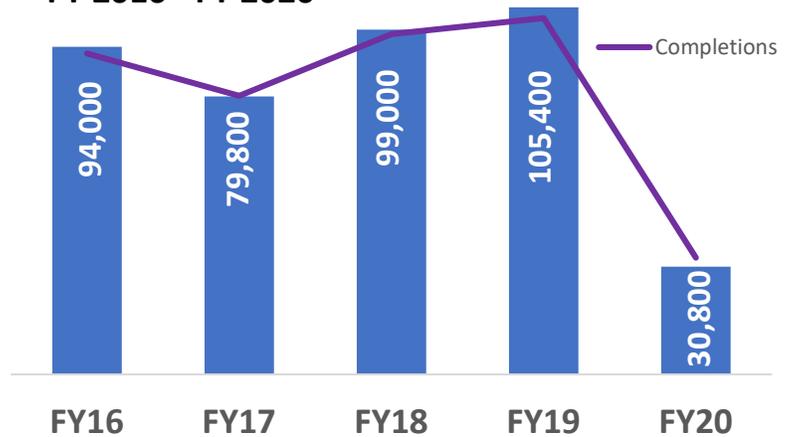
³ This description of the credible fear screening process generally applies to FY 2020.

benefit applicants, all of the USCIS field and asylum offices were closed to the public from March 18 through June 3, 2020. Asylum offices reopened to the public in phases starting June 4, 2020 during which time asylum offices instituted in-office video conferencing interviews to comply with health, safety and proper social distancing guidelines. Although USCIS completed fewer cases in FY 2020, USCIS completed thousands of video interviews and achieved its FY 2020 application for asylum and for withholding of removal (I-589) case completions goals.

Credible Fear Referrals fell by 71% compared to Last Year

The number of credible fear referrals received by USCIS decreased dramatically in FY 2020 by 71% from FY 2019 levels from 105,400 to 30,800. Likewise, the number of screenings completed by USCIS officers also fell in FY 2020 from a high in FY 2019 of 102,300 to 33,600 in FY 2020. Similarly, the number of reasonable fear referrals received fell in FY 2020 to 8,700 (down from 11,100 in FY 2019); USCIS officers completed 7,500 reasonable fear cases, down from 11,800 in FY 2020. In addition, USCIS received more than 12,350 referrals for MPP *non-refoulement* assessments from the southwest border.⁴ The reduced number of credible and reasonable fear referrals is due in large part to the travel and border restrictions put in place at the U.S. southern border during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Credible Fear Referrals and Completions (I-867)
FY 2016 - FY 2020**



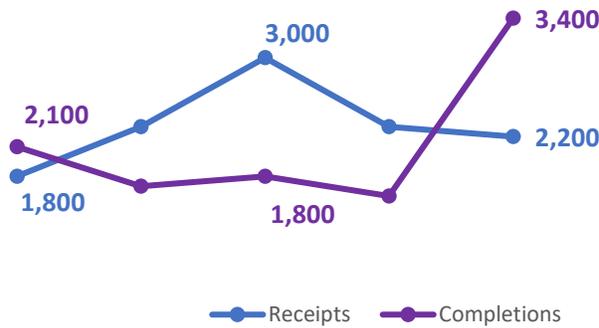
USCIS Received 1,500 Requests for Humanitarian or Significant Public Benefit Parole, the fewest in the Last Five Years

Individuals who are outside of the United States may request parole into the United States based on urgent humanitarian or significant public benefit reasons by filing a [Form I-131, Application for Travel Document](#). Parole allows an individual, who may be inadmissible or otherwise ineligible for admission into the United States, to be paroled into the United States for a temporary period. Parole ends on the date the parole period expires or when the beneficiary departs the United States or acquires an immigration status, whichever occurs first.

⁴ Public statistics regarding MPP *non-refoulement* assessments are available through Customs and Border Protection at <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/migrant-protection-protocols-fy-2020>.

USCIS more than Doubled the Number of Completed T Visa Applications in FY 2020

Applications for T Nonimmigrant Status (I-914) Received and Completed, FY 2016 - FY 2020



T nonimmigrant status (commonly referred to as the T visa, [Form I-914](#), Application for T Nonimmigrant Status) provides a temporary immigration benefit to eligible trafficking victims for up to four years. A principal T visa applicant may apply for derivative T nonimmigrant status for qualifying family members. By statute, no more than 5,000 principal T visas may be granted in any fiscal year (derivative family members are not subject to the annual cap). The T visa cap has not been reached since the implementation of the T visa program.

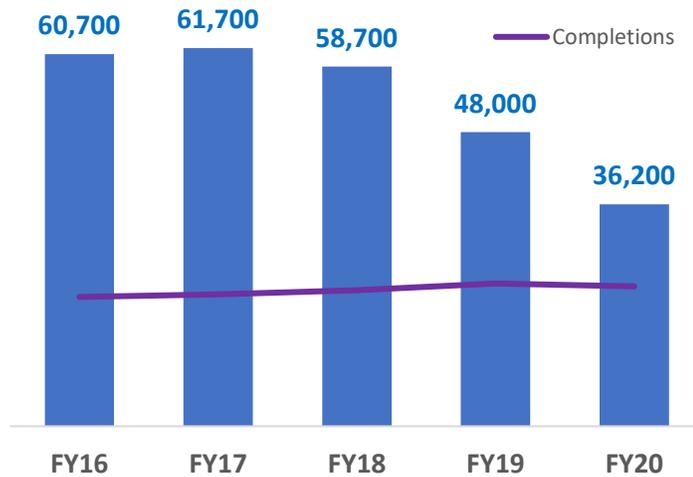
In FY 2020, USCIS received 2,200 T visa applications (this includes both principal applicants and family members), among the lowest number of applications in the last five years. However, USCIS completed the highest number of applications in FY 2020 (3,400) than in any of the past five years –

more than double FY 2019 completions of 1,600. This increase in completions is due to an increase in the number of staff processing T visa applications.

In FY 2020, USCIS Received the fewest Number of U Visa Petitions of the Last Five Years

U nonimmigrant status ([Form I-918](#), Petition for U Nonimmigrant Status) provides a temporary immigration benefit to certain victims of qualifying crimes who assist law enforcement in the detection, investigation, or prosecution of those crimes. Derivative U nonimmigrant status is available to certain family members of principal U nonimmigrants. By statute, no more than 10,000 individuals may be provided principal U nonimmigrant status in any fiscal year (derivative family members are not subject to the annual cap).

Petitions for U Nonimmigrant Status (I-918)



The number of U visa petitions submitted to USCIS has decreased over the last few years; in FY 2020, 36,200 petitions were received, the lowest in the last five years. The number of completions in FY 2020 was about the same as the previous four years (22,800).

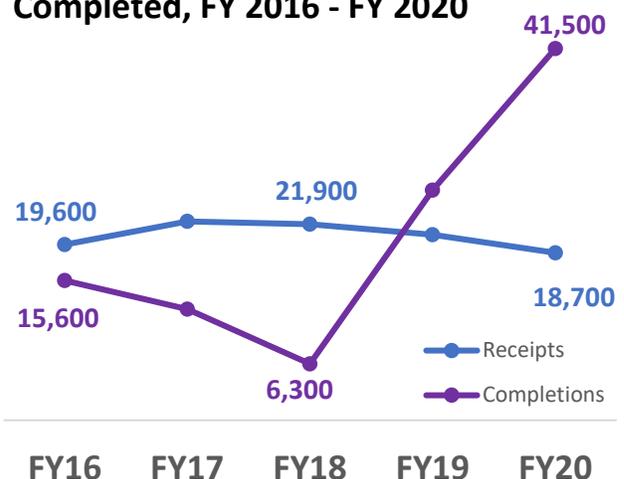
USCIS Completed 14,200 Temporary Protected Status (TPS) Applications in FY 2020

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) is another humanitarian program that offers a temporary status to nationals of certain countries. The Secretary of Homeland Security may designate a foreign country for TPS due to conditions in the country that temporarily prevent the country's nationals from returning safely, or in certain circumstances, where the country is unable to handle the return of its nationals adequately. The designation is only valid for a specific period of time and is either renewed or terminated by the Secretary. Those eligible for TPS file [Form I-821](#), Application for Temporary Protected Status; TPS beneficiaries must apply to renew their TPS status, while citizens of some countries designated in earlier years [are not required](#) by USCIS to submit a re-registration application according to the regular schedule. Because of the fluctuations in when TPS beneficiaries are eligible to reregister, the number of receipts and completions also fluctuates. In FY 2020, USCIS received 13,600 TPS applications and completed 14,200. By comparison, USCIS received 314,600 TPS applications in FY 2018 and completed 304,400; USCIS received 5,600 TPS applications and completed 37,100 in FY 2019.

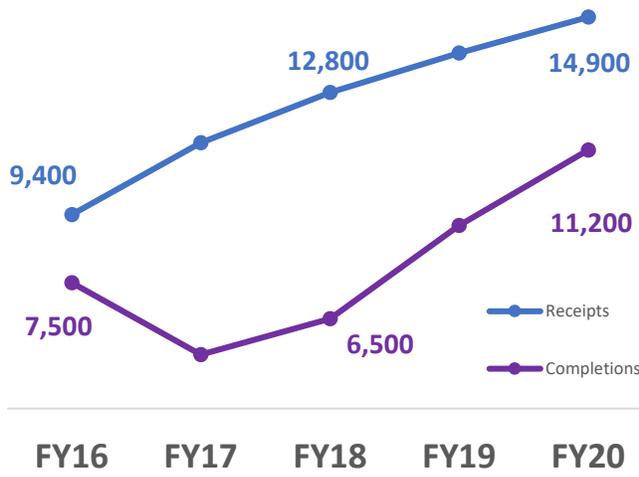
USCIS Completed the Highest Number of Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) and Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Petitions in FY 2020 than any of the Previous Four Years

Certain alien juveniles who have the protection of a juvenile court because of abuse, abandonment, or neglect by a parent, may be eligible for the [Special Immigrant Juvenile](#) (SIJ) classification ([Form I-360, Petition for Amerasian, Widow\(er\), or Special Immigrant](#)). Those approved for an SIJ benefit may later qualify for lawful permanent residence. Additionally, certain family members of an abusive U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident may be eligible for the [Violence Against Women Act \(VAWA\) classification](#) (Form I-360). Those with an approved VAWA self-petition may be eligible to apply for lawful permanent residence.

SIJ Petitions (I-360) Received and Completed, FY 2016 - FY 2020



VAWA Self-Petitions (I-360) Received and Completed, FY 2016 - FY 2020



The number of SIJ petitions USCIS received in FY 2020 (18,700) was about the same as the previous four years. The number of VAWA self-petitions has steadily increased over the last five years; USCIS received 13,900 in FY 2019 compared to 14,900 in FY 2020.

The number of completed petitions and self-petitions, however, increased in FY 2020 for both SIJ petitions and VAWA self-petitions. The number of SIJ completions in FY 2020 (41,500) was 61% more than those completed in FY 2019 (25,700) and the highest in the last five years. Similarly, the number of VAWA completions in FY 2020 (11,200) was the highest in the last five years. The increase in completions for SIJ petitions in FY 2020 is primarily due to the resolution of a class-action lawsuit. Like

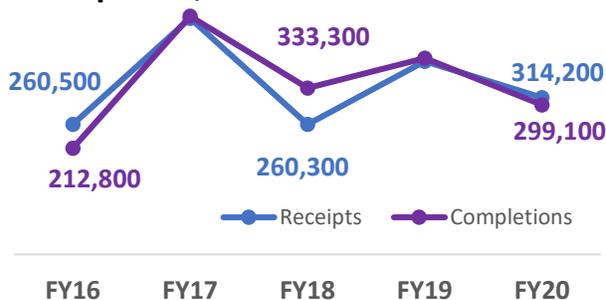
the T visa, the increase in the number of completed VAWA self-petitions in FY 2020 is due to an increase in staff dedicated to processing VAWA self-petitions.

Other Services

USCIS provides services for nonimmigrants and other aliens living inside and outside of the United States. These services include the processing of requests for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy, extension of stay and change of status requests, the renewal or replacement of green cards for lawful permanent residents, and issuance of travel documents that permit aliens to enter and/or reenter the United States lawfully from abroad (known as parole).

The Number of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Requests and Completions Decreased in FY 2020

DACA Requests (I-821D) Received and Completed, FY 2016 - FY 2020

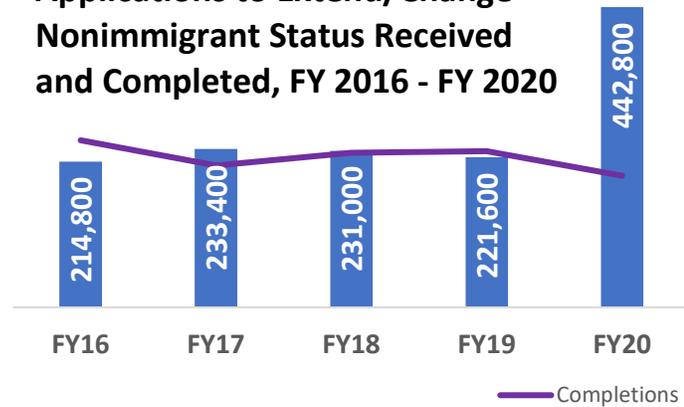


Certain individuals may request deferred action under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy (Form [I-821D](#)). As required by court order, USCIS resumed accepting and processing initial DACA requests, as well as DACA renewal applications. In FY 2020, the number of requests received for DACA decreased to about 314,200 compared with 386,500 in FY 2019. The number of DACA requests USCIS completed also decreased from 393,200 in FY 2019 to 299,100 in FY 2020.

Extension of Stay and Change of Status Applications Increased Dramatically in FY 2020

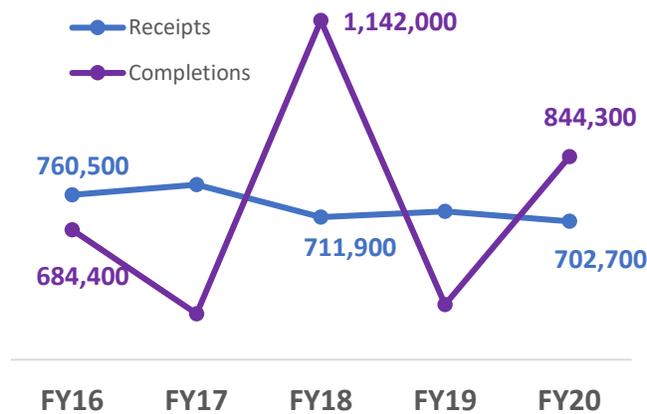
The number of extensions of stay/change of status applications ([I-539, Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status](#)) received by USCIS increased substantially during the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, rising to record monthly numbers March through June, before leveling off at the end of the fiscal year. By the end of FY 2020, receipts for extensions and change of status requests nearly doubled FY 2019 receipts – 221,600 in FY 2019 compared to 442,800 in FY 2020.

Applications to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status Received and Completed, FY 2016 - FY 2020



In FY 2020, Completions of Applications to Replace Permanent Resident Card Increased 62% from Last Year

Applications to Replace a Permanent Resident Card Received and Completed, FY 2016 - FY 2020



Applications for a Permanent Resident Card replacement ([Form I-90, Application to Replace Permanent Resident Card](#)) dipped slightly during the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, but ended with a total of 702,700 applications in FY 2020, only slightly less than most recent years. Comparatively, completions of Form I-90 applications increased through the middle of FY 2020 and were 62% higher than FY 2019 completions. USCIS completed a total of 844,300 Form I-90 applications in FY 2020.

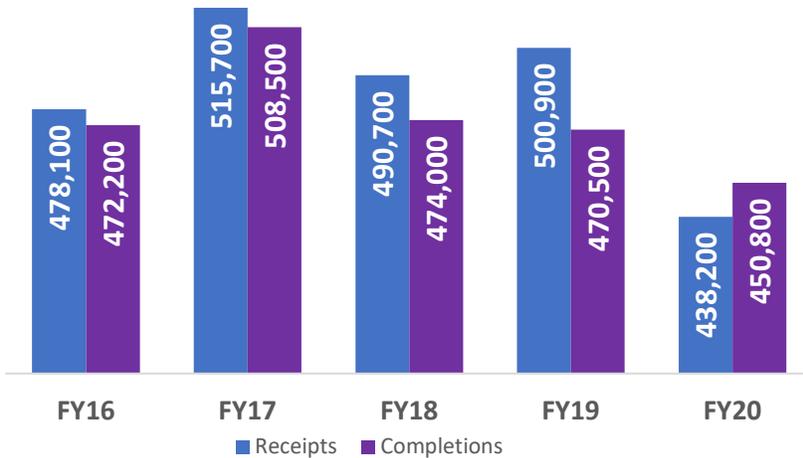
The changes in the number of completions over the years is the result of operational changes including adoption of streamlined

processing as well as the increase and decrease of staff dedicated to processing Form I-90 applications.

USCIS Received Fewer Applications for Travel Document and Parole in FY 2020 compared to FY 2019

The number of travel document ([Form I-131](#), Application for Travel Document) applications, including those for advance parole, decreased throughout much of fiscal 2020, ending the year with 438,200 applications – a decrease of about 60,000 applications compared to FY 2019. The

Applications for Travel Document and Parole Received and Completed, FY 2016 - FY 2020

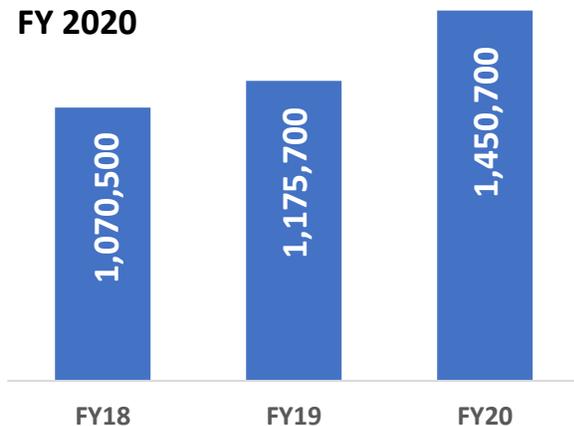


lower number of applications is likely due to the border and travel restrictions put in place in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. USCIS completed slightly fewer travel document applications in FY 2020 (450,800) than FY 2019 (470,500). Form I-131 travel document applications include those requested by refugees, requests for advance parole including DACA recipients, and those who received parole in place.

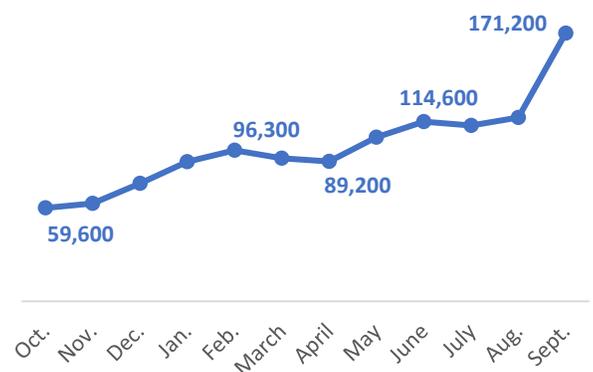
Online Filing Increased by More Than 20% in FY 2020

In FY 2020, 1,450,700 applications and petitions were filed online, a more than 20% increase compared to FY 2019. While the number of applications and petitions filed online have steadily increased over the last several years, online filings peaked during the COVID-19 pandemic despite a decrease in the number of immigrant visa filings over this period.

USCIS Online Filings, FY 2018 - FY 2020



USCIS Online Monthly Filing, FY 2020 (excludes immigrant fees filed online)



In addition to online filing of petitions, applications and requests, USCIS collects some immigrant filing fees online.⁵ Over the years, USCIS has made other applications and requests available for [online filing](#).

In the last two years the Form I-539, Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant status, Form I-130, Petition for A lien Relative, Form N-600, Application for Certificate of Citizenship, and Form N-600K, Application for Citizenship and Issuance of Certificate became available for online filing.

USCIS Programs and Initiatives

Citizenship and Applicant Information Services

The Office of Citizenship and Applicant Information Services helps the public learn about U.S. citizenship and assists applicants with a variety of resources and tools, including the USCIS Contact Center, and the Citizenship and Assimilation Grant Program.

USCIS Contact Center and Digital Services

The USCIS Contact Center responds to questions by phone, email, live chat, and written correspondence. Individuals can receive assistance in locating information on the USCIS website, in both English and Spanish, using the virtual assistant, Emma. Additionally, in FY 2020, the number of myUSCIS sessions reached almost 41 million compared with 35 million in FY 2019. This is a 17% increase since FY 2019 and a 37% increase since FY 2018. In FY 2020, there were 119 million sessions for Case Status Online which helps users understand the status of their request, application or petition and 178 million sessions for USCIS.gov.

Citizenship and Assimilation Grant Program

USCIS provides instruction and training on citizenship rights and responsibilities and administers the Citizenship and Assimilation Grant program. In September 2020, USCIS awarded \$10 million in grants to 39 organizations to help prepare lawful permanent residents for naturalization. These grants consisted of two separate funding opportunities – a grant for citizenship instruction and naturalization application assistance, and another grant for assimilation services to assist refugees and asylees launched in July 2018.

Freedom of Information Act

The USCIS centralized Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) office receives, tracks, and processes all USCIS FOIA requests to ensure transparency within the agency. Requests can include decision papers, memoranda, databases, audio and video recordings, publications, webpages, telephone logs and email messages. In FY 2019 USCIS stood up [FIRST](#), the federal government's first fully electronic FOIA/Privacy Act request and delivery system that allows users to submit and track FOIA requests and receive documents digitally. In FY 2020, more than 74,560

⁵ Those immigrating to the United States as a lawful permanent resident must pay the USCIS Immigrant Fee online, with some [exemptions](#). This fee is used to process the immigrant visa packet processing and green card production.

electronic responses were delivered to individuals with online accounts, a 187 percent increase over the more than 26,000 electronic responses delivered in FY 2019.

Employment Verification

E-Verify is a web-based system that allows enrolled employers to confirm the eligibility of their employees to work in the United States. E-Verify employers confirm the identity and employment eligibility of newly hired employees by electronically matching information provided by employees on the Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification, against records available to the Social Security Administration and the Department of Homeland Security. In FY 2020, more than 966,000 employers were enrolled in the program, representing more than 3 million hiring sites creating almost 37 million E-Verify cases.

SAVE

The Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) program assists federal, state, local, and tribal benefit and licensing-administering agencies to confirm the citizenship and immigration status of benefit applicants so only those entitled to benefits receive them. As of September 30, 2020, SAVE had 1,194 agencies enrolled and processed over 19.1 million cases.

Fraud Detection and National Security

The Fraud Detection and National Security (FDNS) Directorate's primary mission is to determine whether individuals or organizations filing for immigration benefits pose a threat to national security, public safety, or the integrity of the nation's legal immigration system. FDNS officers investigate and document national security or fraud concerns identified during the processing of immigration benefit applications and petitions. They also perform checks of USCIS databases and public information, as well as other administrative inquiries, to verify information provided on, and in support of, applications and petitions. In FY 2020, USCIS personnel completed more than 4,300 site visits as part of the Targeted Site Visit and Verification Program. The primary background screening system for USCIS (known as ATLAS) processed more than 58 million screenings, through law enforcement and other federal databases, generating more than 15,500 automated potential fraud, public safety and national security cases requiring further investigation by USCIS officers. FDNS continued leveraging open source and publicly available social media information to investigate potential fraud, national security and public safety concerns with more than 9,700 checks completed in FY 2020.

About USCIS Data

The data in this report covers fiscal years 2016 through 2020; note the federal fiscal year is October 1st through September 30th. All data are rounded to the nearest hundred. Some figures in this report may differ from previously published numbers as some previous reports relied on other data sources, were compiled at different times, or use different definitions for completions. For this report, completions include all outcomes such as approvals, denials, and revocations, among others. Applications, petitions, or requests completed during the year may have been received in a previous fiscal year. Receipts are based on the date received in a USCIS lockbox or mailroom. Processing times vary across forms.

USCIS data have some inherent limitations. Data inaccuracies may result for various reasons such as during the data entry process, either by USCIS staff when entering data or by applicants themselves when filling out forms. Information is limited to data provided on immigration forms, with only certain information entered into our databases. Given the transactional nature of USCIS work, the status of some applications can change leading to changes in the underlying statistics. Statistics can also vary depending on the time period used for calculations. Generally, an adjudication of an application or petition may happen weeks or months after it was initially received. This means that statistics of completed cases, such as approvals and denials, may be for petitions or applications submitted months (or sometimes years) earlier. For additional information on USCIS data and data limitations, please see the “[Understanding Our Data](#)” section of the USCIS website.

This report’s analysis was performed by the Performance Analysis and External Reporting (PAER) Division of the Office of Performance and Quality at USCIS. More reports and data can be found on our [reports and studies](#) webpage.

Appendix A

Data Table 1: Receipts and Completions by Form, FY 2016 – FY 2020

	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Total Receipts and Completions					
Receipts	8,745,000	9,154,000	8,468,000	8,145,000	7,725,000
Completions	7,978,000	8,150,000	8,691,000	8,212,000	7,585,000
Form N-400, Application for Naturalization					
Receipts	972,200	986,500	837,400	831,000	967,900
Completions	838,800	798,200	849,300	931,800	706,000
Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status					
Receipts - Total	663,200	732,600	655,400	548,900	519,700
Family	338,000	365,700	334,200	333,700	300,200
Employment	128,900	139,600	132,700	102,000	99,100
Refugee & Asylee	102,100	110,700	109,700	68,100	69,000
All other	94,300	116,700	78,800	45,100	51,400
Completions - Total	617,600	615,500	638,000	652,900	504,200
Family	310,300	313,000	301,700	395,000	281,400
Employment	117,300	121,800	120,100	113,700	128,200
Refugee & Asylee	88,100	88,300	101,600	69,800	42,400
All other	101,900	92,400	114,600	74,300	52,200
Form I-130, Petition for Alien Relative					
Receipts	869,300	914,500	836,000	748,700	712,000
Completions	751,700	598,400	633,200	759,000	840,800
Form I-129, Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker ¹					
Receipts - Total	509,600	526,400	551,000	551,200	551,900
H-1B	398,800	403,100	418,600	420,500	427,200
H-2A	10,200	11,600	13,400	15,500	17,000
H-2B	6,500	6,100	6,100	7,500	5,400
L-1	41,800	42,800	41,300	41,200	40,000
O	23,900	24,300	25,200	26,500	22,300
P	12,200	11,700	12,300	13,100	8,500
R	8,200	8,400	8,500	8,900	7,300
TN	6,900	7,500	8,200	7,100	13,100
All Other	1,100	10,900	17,400	10,900	11,100
Completions - Total	574,800	596,600	573,500	644,100	665,900
H-1B	443,700	460,100	444,600	510,400	547,800
H-2A	10,300	11,600	13,400	15,600	15,900
H-2B	6,600	6,300	6,100	7,500	5,300
L-1	41,500	45,700	39,600	42,400	35,900
O	24,300	26,400	25,400	26,200	23,000
P	12,500	12,600	12,400	12,900	9,000
R	8,700	10,700	9,100	8,400	7,200

	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
TN	7,600	7,700	8,400	7,400	9,600
All Other	19,600	15,500	14,500	13,300	12,300
Form I-526, Immigrant Petition by Alien Investor					
Receipts	14,100	12,200	6,400	4,200	4,400
Completions	9,400	12,200	15,500	4,700	3,400
Form I-924, Application for Regional Center Designation Under the Immigrant Investor Program					
Receipts	440	280	120	80	30
Completions	340	490	720	200	320
Form I-589, Application for Asylum and for Withholding of Removal ²					
Receipts	115,000	141,700	106,100	96,000	92,800
Completions	31,400	51,000	82,000	78,600	56,000
Form I-870, Record of Determination/Credible Fear Worksheet					
Referrals	94,000	79,800	99,000	105,400	30,800
Completions	92,100	80,000	97,700	102,300	33,600
Form I-899, Record of Determination/Reasonable Fear Worksheet					
Referrals	9,600	10,300	11,100	11,100	8,700
Completions	9,500	10,000	11,000	11,800	7,500
Form I-914, Application for T Nonimmigrant Status and Supplement A, Application for Family Member of T-1 Recipient					
Receipts	1,800	2,300	3,000	2,300	2,200
Completions	2,100	1,700	1,800	1,600	3,400
Form I-918, Petition for U Nonimmigrant Status and Supplement A, Petition for Qualifying Family Member of U-1 Recipient					
Receipts	60,700	61,700	58,700	48,000	36,200
Completions	21,100	21,500	22,200	23,300	22,800
Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status					
Receipts	304,300	61,600	314,600	5,600	13,600
Completions	195,300	171,800	304,400	37,100	14,200
Form I-360, Petition for Amerasian, Widow(er), or Special Immigrant ³					
Receipts (SIJ)	19,600	22,200	21,900	20,700	18,700
Completions (SIJ)	15,600	12,400	6,300	25,700	41,500
Receipts (VAWA)	9,400	11,400	12,800	13,900	14,900
Completions (VAWA)	7,500	5,500	6,500	9,100	11,200
Form I-821D, Consideration for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)					
Receipts	260,500	472,800	260,300	386,500	314,200
Completions	212,800	476,900	333,300	393,200	299,100
Form I-539, Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status					
Receipts	214,800	233,400	231,000	221,600	442,800
Completions	246,400	209,300	228,200	230,300	194,100
Form I-90, Application to Replace Permanent Resident Card					
Receipts	760,500	783,000	711,900	724,600	702,700

	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Completions	684,400	500,500	1,142,000	520,600	844,300
Form I-131, Application for Travel Document					
Receipts - Total	478,100	515,700	490,700	500,900	438,200
Refugee Travel Document	88,200	82,700	84,300	90,400	64,600
Advance Parole Document	358,000	412,300	404,500	403,100	364,200
Parole in Place Document	10,900	6,400	1,900	7,400	9,200
DACA Travel Document	21,000	14,300	0	0	200
Completions – Total	472,200	508,500	474,000	470,500	450,800
Refugee Travel Document	79,600	102,100	81,000	88,800	64,700
Advance Parole Document	365,200	375,500	387,000	375,000	379,800
Parole in Place Document	9,600	14,800	6,000	6,700	6,300
DACA Travel Document	17,800	16,100	0	0	0

Reference(s):

¹ Data represent the number of petitions only; some petitions, such as H-2 and H-2B petitions, may include multiple beneficiaries. The I-129 petition types shown will not sum to the total due to rounding. These data may differ from other published reports due to different definitions of completions; in this report we include revocations in the completion category.

² Data are for affirmatively filed I-589 asylum applications and do not include defensive asylum claims before a DOJ EOIR immigration court.

³ The Form I-360 may be submitted for different classifications. Special Immigrant Juveniles (SIJ) refers to foreign children in the United States who have been abused, abandoned, or neglected. VAWA refers to those who self-petition as a spouse of an abusive U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident, self-petition as a child of an abusive U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident, and those who self-petition as a parent of an abusive U.S. citizen son or daughter.

Note(s):

- 1) Some applications, petitions, or requests completed may have been received in prior year(s).
- 2) Counts may not sum to totals due to rounding.
- 3) Counts may differ from those reported in other available reports due to system updates and post-adjudicative outcomes.

Source(s):

Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Office of Performance and Quality

Data Table 2: USCIS Online Filings, FY 2018 – FY 2020 and by Month for FY 2020

	Forms Filed Online	Immigrant Fees Filed Online	Total Online Filings
FY 2018	553,700	516,700	1,070,500
FY 2019	701,100	474,500	1,175,700
FY 2020	1,183,500	267,200	1,450,700
October 2019	59,600	38,300	97,900
November 2019	62,500	38,600	101,100
December 2019	75,300	40,700	116,000
January 2020	89,000	40,600	129,600
February 2020	96,300	37,600	133,900
March 2020	91,400	23,800	115,200
April 2020	89,200	1,400	90,600
May 2020	104,800	7,400	112,200
June 2020	114,600	5,900	120,500
July 2020	112,300	12,200	124,500
August 2020	117,400	7,900	125,300
September 2020	171,200	5,800	177,000

Note(s):

- 1) The federal fiscal year is from October 1st through September 30th.
- 2) Counts may not sum to the total due to rounding.
- 3) Forms included in the “forms filed online” column include: Form I-90, Form N-400, Form N-336, Form N-565, Form I-539, Form I-130, Form N-600, Form N-600K and Immigrant Fees. Those immigrating to the United States as a lawful permanent resident must pay the USCIS Immigrant Fee online, with some exemptions. This fee is used to process the immigrant visa packet processing and green card production.

Source(s):

Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Office of Performance and Quality