



Characteristics of H-1B Specialty Occupation Workers

Fiscal Year 2018 Annual Report to Congress
October 1, 2017 – September 30, 2018



Homeland
Security

*U.S. Citizenship and
Immigration Services*



**Homeland
Security**

April 4, 2019

Foreword

On behalf of the Department of Homeland Security, I am pleased to present the following report, “Characteristics of H-1B Specialty Occupation Workers” for Fiscal Year 2018, prepared by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Pursuant to statutory requirements, this report is being provided to the following Members of Congress:

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee

The Honorable Doug Collins
Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee

If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of Legislative Affairs at (202) 447-5890.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christine M. Ciccone".

CHRISTINE M. CICCONE
Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs

Executive Summary

The American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act of 1998 (ACWIA), Pub. L. 105-277, div. C, tit. IV § 416(c)(2), 112 Stat. 2681, imposes annual reporting requirements on U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) concerning the countries of origin and occupations of, educational levels attained by, and compensation paid to, aliens who were issued visas or otherwise provided nonimmigrant status under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) of the *Immigration and Nationality Act (INA)* during the previous fiscal year (FY).

To fulfill this requirement, USCIS submits the following report for FY 2018, October 1, 2017 – September 30, 2018.

Highlights

- The number of H-1B petitions filed increased 3.6 percent from 403,675 in FY 2017 to 418,799 in FY 2018.
- The number of H-1B petitions approved decreased 9.1 percent from 365,682 in FY 2017 to 332,358 in FY 2018.¹
- The number of H-1B petitions approved in FY 2018 for workers between the ages of 25 and 34 was 64.5 percent.
- The number of H-1B petitions approved in FY 2018 for workers with a bachelor's degree was 37.3 percent. In addition, 52.3 percent of approved petitions were for workers with a master's degree, 6.9 percent had a doctorate, and 3.2 percent were for workers with a professional degree.
- The number of H-1B petitions approved in FY 2018 for workers in computer-related occupations was 66.4 percent.
- The median salary of beneficiaries of approved petitions increased from \$85,000 for FY 2017 to \$95,000 for FY 2018.

¹ This number does not reflect approval versus denial rates, but rather shows the number of approved petitions overall this year versus the number approved last year. The figures for Fiscal Year 2018 include some petitions that were received *prior* to Fiscal Year 2018, but were approved in Fiscal Year 2018 (see footnote 11).



Characteristics of H-1B Specialty Occupation Workers

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I. Legislative Requirement

Section 416(c)(2) of the *American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act of 1998* (ACWIA), Pub. L. 105-277, div. C, tit. IV, 112 Stat. 2681, includes the following reporting requirement:²

[T]he Attorney General³ shall submit on an annual basis, to the Committees on the Judiciary of the United States House of Representatives and the Senate, information on the countries of origin and occupations of, educational levels attained by, and compensation paid to, aliens who were issued visas or otherwise provided nonimmigrant status under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act during the previous fiscal year.

² Sections 416(c)(1) and (3) of ACWIA, Pub. L. 105-277, div. C, tit. IV, 112 Stat. 2681, require the submission of data on the number of aliens issued visas or otherwise provided nonimmigrant status pursuant to petitions filed by institutions or organizations described in section 212(p)(1) of the INA. This data is included in the “Report on H-1B Petitions” for Fiscal Year 2018.

³ As of March 1, 2003, in accordance with section 1517 of Title XV of the *Homeland Security Act of 2002* (HSA), Pub. L. 107-296, 116 Stat. 2135, any reference to the Attorney General in a provision of the *Immigration and Nationality Act* describing functions which were transferred from the Attorney General or other Department of Justice official to the Department of Homeland Security by the HSA “shall be deemed to refer to the Secretary” of Homeland Security. *See* 6 USC 557 (2003) (codifying HSA, Title XV, § 1517).

II. Background

*An H-1B temporary worker is an alien admitted to the United States to perform services in a “specialty occupation.”*⁴

The H-1B nonimmigrant classification is a vehicle through which employers may obtain workers on a temporary basis. Employers may file an H-1B petition for an alien to perform services in a specialty occupation, services of an exceptional nature relating to a U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) cooperative research and development project or coproduction project, or services of distinguished merit and ability in the field of fashion modeling. Prior to employing an H-1B temporary worker, the U.S. employer must first obtain a certified Labor Condition Application (LCA) from the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) and then file a Petition for Nonimmigrant Worker (Form I-129) with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).⁵ The LCA specifies the job, salary, length, and geographic location of employment. In addition, to ensure the protection of U.S. workers (as well as H-1B workers), the employer must agree to pay the alien the greater of the actual wage paid by the employer to other workers with similar experience and qualifications or the prevailing wage for the occupation in the area. Certain employers (“H-1B dependent” employers and “willful violator” employers) must also recruit U.S. workers before seeking H-1B workers.

The position must meet one of the following criteria to qualify as a specialty occupation: (1) a bachelor’s or higher degree or its equivalent is normally the minimum entry requirement for the position; (2) the degree requirement is common to the industry in parallel positions among similar organizations or, in the alternative, the position is so complex or unique that it can be performed only by an individual with a degree; (3) the employer normally requires a degree or its equivalent for the position; or (4) the nature of the specific duties is so specialized and complex that the knowledge required to perform the duties is usually associated with attainment of a bachelor’s or higher degree. *See* 8 CFR 214.2(h)(4)(iii)(A).

In order to perform services in a specialty occupation, an alien must meet one of the following criteria: (1) hold a U.S. bachelor’s or higher degree as required by the specialty occupation from an accredited college or university; (2) possess a foreign degree determined to be equivalent to a U.S. bachelor’s or higher degree as required by the specialty occupation from an accredited college or university; (3) have any required license or other official permission to practice the occupation (for example, architect, surveyor, physical therapist) in the state in which employment is sought, with limited exceptions; or (4) have education, specialized training, or progressively responsible experience (or a combination thereof) that is equivalent to completion of a U.S. bachelor’s degree or higher in the specialty occupation, and have recognition of expertise through progressively responsible positions directly related to the specialty occupation. *See* 8 CFR 214.2(h)(4)(iii)(C). Specialty occupations may include, but are not limited to, architecture, engineering, accounting, law, and medicine. *See* 8 CFR 214.2(h)(4)(ii).

⁴ Section 214(i)(1) of the INA, 8 USC 1184(i)(1), defines a specialty occupation as “an occupation that requires— (A) theoretical and practical application of a body of highly specialized knowledge, and (B) attainment of a bachelor’s or higher degree in the specific specialty (or its equivalent) as a minimum for entry into the occupation in the United States.”

⁵ An LCA is not required for petitions involving DOD cooperative research and development projects or coproduction projects. *See* 8 CFR 214.2(h)(4)(vi)(A)(2).

USCIS is responsible for determining eligibility for the classification sought. Approval of an H-1B petition, however, does not guarantee issuance of an H-1B visa or admission to the United States in H-1B status. The responsibility for visa issuance rests primarily with the Department of State (DOS), which determines whether a prospective alien employee is eligible for issuance of a visa at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate abroad after the H-1B petition has been approved by USCIS. Determinations of whether to admit an alien in H-1B status are made by U.S. Customs and Border Protection at a port of entry. Possession of a visa does not guarantee admission.

An alien generally may be admitted to the United States in H-1B status for a maximum period of 6 years, *see* INA 214(g)(4); however, each H-1B petition may only be approved for a maximum initial period of admission of 3 years.⁶ *See* 8 CFR 214.2(h)(9)(iii)(A)(1). The H-1B petition may be used to sponsor an alien for an initial period of H-1B employment or to extend or change the authorized stay of an alien previously admitted to the United States in H-1B status or another nonimmigrant status. An employer may file the petition to sponsor an alien who currently has H-1B nonimmigrant status working for another employer or amend a previously approved petition. Therefore, the total number of approved petitions in any given fiscal year may exceed the actual number of aliens who are provided nonimmigrant status in the H-1B classification. At the end of the six year period, the alien must either change to a different status (if eligible) or depart the United States, unless otherwise exempt.⁷ USCIS regulations provide that an alien who has resided and been physically present outside the United States for at least one year may be eligible for a new six-year period of admission in H-1B status. *See* 8 CFR 214.2(h)(13)(iii)(A).

When the H-1B category was enacted in 1990, Congress set a maximum of 65,000 aliens who could be issued H-1B visas or otherwise provided H-1B status during each fiscal year. This limitation, commonly referred to as the “H-1B cap,” generally does not apply to H-1B petitions filed on behalf of certain aliens who have previously been counted against the cap. *See* INA 214(g)(7), 8 USC 1184(g)(7). Thus, generally, a petition to extend an H-1B nonimmigrant’s period of stay, change the conditions of the H-1B nonimmigrant’s current employment, or request new H-1B employment for an H-1B worker already in the United States will not count against the H-1B fiscal year cap. An approved petition for initial employment is also exempt from the cap if the petitioner is a public or nonprofit institution of higher education or nonprofit entity affiliated with or related to such an institution of higher education, or if the petitioner is a nonprofit research organization or governmental research organization. *See* INA 214(g)(5)(A)-(B), 8 USC 1184(g)(5)(A)-(B).

The American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act of 1998 (ACWIA) and The American Competitiveness in the Twenty-first Century Act of 2000 (AC21), made significant changes to policy and procedure governing the H-1B classification, including providing temporary increases in the fiscal year limitations on the number of aliens who may be issued H-1B visas or otherwise provided H-1B status and providing certain exemptions to these

⁶ An alien involved in DOD cooperative research and development projects or coproduction projects may be admitted to the United States in H-1B status for a maximum period of 10 years, *see* 8 CFR 214.2(h)(13)(iii)(B); however, the H-1B petition may only be approved for a maximum period of 5 years. *See* 8 CFR 214.2(h)(9)(iii)(A)(2).

⁷ Certain aliens are exempt from the 6 year maximum period of admission under the provisions of the American Competitiveness in the Twenty-First Century Act of 2000 (AC21), Pub. L. 106-313, 114 Stat. 1251. *See* 8 CFR 214.2(h)(13)(iii)(D) and (E).

limitations. Under ACWIA, the annual ceiling was increased from 65,000 to 115,000 in Fiscal Years (FY) 1999 and 2000 and to 107,500 in FY 2001. AC21 raised the limit in FY 2001, FY 2002 and FY 2003 to 195,000. Starting in FY 2004, the H-1B cap reverted to 65,000 per fiscal year and remains at that level.⁸ These statutory provisions also provided for certain exemptions from the fiscal year H-1B cap, as described above. The *H-1B Visa Reform Act of 2004* mandated that 20,000 H-1B petitions filed on behalf of aliens who have earned a master's or higher degree from a U.S. institution of higher education will be exempt from each fiscal year's H-1B cap. See INA 214(g)(5)(C), 8 USC 1184(g)(5)(C).

III. Data Report

Section 3.1 – General distribution of petitions

During FY 2018, USCIS approved 332,358 H-1B petitions submitted by employers on behalf of alien workers. The number of approved petitions exceeds the number of individual H-1B workers sponsored because of the different types of petitions that can be filed (e.g., requests for concurrent employment with another employer, requests for extension of stay, amended petitions).

Table 1 shows for FYs 2015 to 2018 the number of petitions filed for initial and continuing employment and the number of petitions approved for initial and continuing employment. Of the petitions approved in 2018, a total of 93,615 petitions, or 28.2 percent, were for initial employment.⁹ The corresponding number of petitions for continuing employment was 238,743.¹⁰ A worker may have had a second (or subsequent) petition filed on his or her behalf to: 1) extend the period allowed to work with his or her current employer; 2) notify USCIS of changes in the conditions of employment, including a change of employer; or 3) request concurrent H-1B status with another employer.

The number of H-1B petitions filed increased by 3.75 percent and petitions approved decreased by 9.1 percent between FYs 2017 and 2018. For initial employment, petitions filed increased by 11.8 percent and petitions approved decreased by 13.4 percent. Petitions filed for continuing employment decreased by 0.3 percent and petitions approved decreased by 7.3 percent.

⁸ Each fiscal year, up to 1,400 H-1B visa numbers are set aside for nationals of Chile and up to 5,400 are set aside for nationals of Singapore under the provisions of free trade agreements between the United States and each country. See INA 214(g)(8)(B)(ii), 8 USC 1184(g)(8)(B)(ii). In addition, there is a limit of no more than 100 aliens in the United States at any time performing services in a DOD cooperative research and development project or coproduction project. See 8 CFR 214.2(h)(8)(i)(B).

⁹ The terms “initial employment” and “continuing employment” are used throughout this report to identify two types of petitions. Petitions for initial employment are filed for first-time H-1B employment with an employer, only some of which are applied to the annual cap. Examples of petitions for initial employment that are exempt from the cap include petitions submitted by nonprofit research organizations or governmental research organizations. Continuing employment petitions refer to extensions, sequential employment and concurrent employment, which are filed for aliens already in the United States. Extensions generally are filed for H-1B workers intending to work beyond the initial 3 year period up to a total of 6 years, the maximum period generally permissible under law. Sequential employment refers to petitions for workers transferring between H-1B employers within the 6 year period. Finally, petitions for concurrent employment are filed for H-1B workers intending to work simultaneously for an additional H-1B employer.

¹⁰ Neither AC21 nor prior legislation established a cap on H-1B petitions for continuing employment.

**Table 1. H-1B Petitions Filed and Approved by Type of Petition:
FYs 2015 to 2018**

	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
Petitions filed	348,669	398,718	403,675	418,799
Initial Employment	136,042	144,583	134,348	150,179
Continuing Employment	212,627	254,135	269,327	268,620
Petitions approved¹¹	275,317	345,262	365,682	332,358
Initial Employment	113,603	114,503	108,101	93,615
Continuing Employment	161,714	230,759	257,581	238,743

Table 2 shows the number of H-1B petitions filed by quarter in FYs 2015 to 2018. A total of 82 percent of all FY 2018 initial employment filings occurred in the third quarter when the cap-subject petition filing season opened.

**Table 2. H-1B Petitions Filed by Quarter:
FYs 2015 to 2018**

Quarter	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2018 Initial Employment	Percent of Total	FY 2018 Continuing Employment	Percent of Total
Total	348,669	398,718	403,675	418,799	150,179	100	268,620	100
October-December	51,964	64,721	65,108	62,317	7,567	5	54,750	20
January-March	46,088	66,715	97,219	69,607	8,956	6	60,651	23
April-June	176,042	185,782	169,471	202,409	123,104	82	79,305	30
July-September	74,575	81,500	71,877	84,466	10,552	7	73,914	28

Note: Sum of the percent may not add to 100 due to rounding.

¹¹ These figures represent all approved petitions during the respective fiscal year, irrespective of whether the petition was filed in the same or in a previous fiscal year.

Table 3 provides a breakdown of approved petitions in FYs 2015 to 2018 by type of petition. In FY 2018, 93,615 H-1B beneficiaries were approved for initial employment and 238,743 were approved for continuing employment.

The number of aliens outside the United States approved for initial employment decreased from 60,511 in FY 2017 to 35,401 in FY 2018. The corresponding number of petitions approved for aliens in the United States requesting a change to H-1B status increased from 47,590 in FY 2017 to 58,214 in FY 2018.

**Table 3. H-1B Petitions Approved by Type:
FYs 2015 to 2018**

Type of Petition	Petitions Approved							
	FY2015	Percent	FY2016	Percent	FY2017	Percent	FY2018	Percent
Total	275,317	100	345,262	100	365,682	100	332,358	100
Initial employment	113,603	41	114,503	33	108,101	30	93,615	28
Aliens outside U.S.	62,656	23	58,896	17	60,511	17	35,401	11
Aliens in U.S.	50,947	19	55,607	16	47,590	13	58,214	18
Continuing employment	161,714	59	230,759	67	257,581	70	238,743	72

Note: Sum of the percent may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Section 3.2 – Distribution of petitions by country of birth

Tables 4A and 4B show the distribution of beneficiaries by country of birth.¹² Of the H-1B petitions approved in FY 2018, 73.4 percent reported that the beneficiary was born in India. The second most prevalent country of birth of H-1B beneficiaries was the People’s Republic of China, representing 11.9 percent of all beneficiaries. The number of beneficiaries from India approved for initial employment decreased by 24.3 percent in FY 2018, while the number of beneficiaries approved for continuing employment decreased by 7.7 percent in FY 2018.

¹² Data represent countries and territories of birth.

Table 4A. H-1B Petitions Approved by Country of Birth of Beneficiary and Type of Petition (Number): FYs 2018 and 2017

Country of Birth	All Beneficiaries		Initial Employment		Continuing Employment	
	FY 2018	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2017
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Total	332,358	365,682	93,615	108,101	238,743	257,581
India	243,994	276,423	51,353	67,815	192,641	208,608
China, People's Republic Of	39,700	34,477	18,025	15,165	21,675	19,312
Canada	3,273	3,758	1,802	2,226	1,471	1,532
Korea, South	3,195	3,307	1,678	1,442	1,517	1,865
Philippines	2,568	3,735	970	1,295	1,598	2,440
Taiwan	2,124	2,144	1,134	1,052	990	1,092
Mexico	1,966	2,365	1,010	1,285	956	1,080
United Kingdom	1,603	1,882	730	833	873	1,049
Pakistan	1,509	1,643	734	694	775	949
Brazil	1,414	1,501	793	786	621	715
France	1,384	1,542	634	721	750	821
Iran	1,287	1,390	830	814	457	576
Nepal	1,207	1,279	597	462	610	817
Turkey	1,164	1,289	599	571	565	718
Germany	1,062	1,272	515	633	547	639
Japan	1,020	1,269	443	459	577	810
Italy	985	1,019	532	501	453	518
Russia	929	942	430	463	499	479
Colombia	870	907	424	375	446	532
Spain	849	942	461	450	388	492
Other countries	20,255	21,696	9,921	9,742	10,334	11,954

Note: Countries of birth are ranked based on FY 2018 data.

Table 4B. H-1B Petitions Approved by Country of Birth of Beneficiary and Type of Petition (Percent): FYs 2018 and 2017

Country of Birth	All Beneficiaries		Initial Employment		Continuing Employment	
	FY 2018	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2017
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Total	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Country of birth	100	100	100	100	100	100
India	73.4	75.6	54.9	62.7	80.7	81.0
China, People's Republic Of	11.9	9.4	19.3	14.0	9.1	7.5
Canada	1.0	1.0	1.9	2.1	0.6	0.6
Korea, South	1.0	0.9	1.8	1.3	0.6	0.7
Philippines	0.8	1.0	1.0	1.2	0.7	0.9
Taiwan	0.6	0.6	1.2	1.0	0.4	0.4
Mexico	0.6	0.6	1.1	1.2	0.4	0.4
United Kingdom	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.4	0.4
Pakistan	0.5	0.4	0.8	0.6	0.3	0.4
Brazil	0.4	0.4	0.8	0.7	0.3	0.3
France	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.3
Iran	0.4	0.4	0.9	0.8	0.2	0.2
Nepal	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.3
Turkey	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.3
Germany	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.2	0.2
Japan	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.3
Italy	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.2
Russia	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.2
Colombia	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2
Spain	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.2
Other countries	6.1	5.9	10.6	9.0	4.3	4.6

Notes: Countries of birth are ranked based on FY 2018 data.
Sum of the percent may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Section 3.3 – Distribution of petitions by age

Table 5 shows the age distribution of the H-1B beneficiaries in FY 2018 by type of petition. At the time their petitions were approved, 64.5 percent of workers granted H-1B status during FY 2018 were between 25 and 34 years of age. Of initial beneficiaries, 54.1 percent were under age 30, compared with 21.1 percent of continuing beneficiaries under age 30.

Table 5. H-1B Petitions Approved by Age of Beneficiary at Time of Approval and by Type of Petition: FY 2018

Age	All Beneficiaries	Percent	Initial Employment	Percent	Continuing Employment	Percent
Total	332,358		93,615		238,743	
Age known	332,284	100	93,578	100	238,706	100
Under 20	19	0.01	10	0.01	9	0.00
20-24	8,927	2.69	7,849	8.39	1,078	0.45
25-29	91,962	27.68	42,789	45.73	49,173	20.60
30-34	122,408	36.84	24,990	26.70	97,418	40.81
35-39	75,470	22.71	11,748	12.55	63,722	26.69
40-44	24,549	7.39	3,915	4.18	20,634	8.64
45-49	6,012	1.81	1,363	1.46	4,649	1.95
50-54	1,871	0.56	537	0.57	1,334	0.56
55-59	691	0.21	222	0.24	469	0.20
60-64	256	0.08	97	0.10	159	0.07
65 and over	119	0.04	58	0.06	61	0.03
Age unknown	74	-----	37	-----	37	-----

Notes: Anyone reported as under 16 years old and *not* a fashion model was assumed to be of unknown age.
 Age of beneficiary is calculated based on the date the petition was approved.
 Sum of the percent may not add to 100 due to rounding.
 Percentages shown in the table are based on the total number of approved petitions with known ages.

Section 3.4 – Distribution of petitions by education

Tables 6 and 7 show the highest level of education achieved by the beneficiaries at the time of filing the petition. Employers are asked to provide the highest degree (domestic or foreign) when completing the H-1B petition, but not training or experience deemed equivalent to a degree. The reporting of a domestic or foreign degree is not required in a standard format on USCIS or DOL forms.¹³ However, in nearly all cases, the petitioning employer provides the information in supporting documentation. For degrees earned outside the United States, the

¹³ However, as of November 2018, DOL forms require certain employers to provide educational degree information for H-1B workers for which those employers will seek exempt status based only on attainment of a Master's degree or higher.

employer usually supplies a credential evaluation stating that the foreign degree is “equivalent to” a particular U.S. degree. USCIS does not maintain separate data regarding whether the degree was earned in the United States or abroad. (Data on beneficiaries with U.S. advanced degrees has been available since May 2005.)

The breakdown of the highest level of education achieved by H-1B beneficiaries remained mostly constant between FYs 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018. As shown in Table 6, 37 percent of all H-1B petitions approved for workers in FY 2018 reported that the beneficiary had earned the equivalent of a bachelor’s degree, 52 percent a master’s degree, 7 percent a doctorate, and 3 percent a professional degree.

Table 6. Percent of H-1B Petitions Approved by Level of Education: FYs 2015-2018

Level of Education	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
Education known	100	100	100	100
Less than a Bachelor's degree	1	1	1	0
Bachelor's degree	45	44	45	37
Master's degree	44	45	44	52
Doctorate degree	7	7	7	7
Professional degree	3	3	3	3

Note: Sum of percent may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Table 7. H-1B Petitions Approved by Level of Education of Beneficiary and Type of Petition: Fiscal Year 2018

Level of Education	All Beneficiaries	Percent	Initial Employment	Percent	Continuing Employment	Percent
Total	332,358		93,615		238,743	
Education known	332,323	100	93,605	100	238,718	100
No high school diploma	18	0.01	9	0.01	9	0.00
High school graduate	90	0.03	30	0.03	60	0.03
Less than 1 year of college credit	9	0.00	2	0.00	7	0.00
1 or more years of college credit, no diploma	127	0.04	34	0.04	93	0.04
Associate's degree	127	0.04	39	0.04	88	0.04
Bachelor's degree	124,156	37.36	25,189	26.91	98,967	41.46
Master's degree	173,929	52.34	52,168	55.73	121,761	51.01
Doctorate degree	23,097	6.95	11,949	12.77	11,148	4.67
Professional degree	10,770	3.24	4,185	4.47	6,585	2.76
Education unknown	35	-----	10	-----	25	-----

Notes: Sum of the percent may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Percentages shown in the table are based on the number of approved petitions with known levels of education.

Section 3.5 – Distribution of petitions by occupation

Occupational Category

Tables 8A and 8B show the distribution of beneficiaries by occupational category for FYs 2018 and 2017. The category of computer-related occupations was the largest occupational category in 2018 and 2017; its share of total petitions approved was 66.4 percent in FY 2018. The corresponding shares for initial employment and continuing employment in computer-related occupations were 51.4 and 72.3 percent, respectively. The top 10 occupational categories representing 98.7 percent of all beneficiaries had more continuing employment than initial employment beneficiaries.

The number of H-1B petitions approved for workers in computer-related occupations decreased by 13.5 percent from 254,592 in 2017 to 220,310 in 2018. The number of H-1B petitions approved for all other occupation groups increased by 1.1 percent from 110,009 in 2017 to 111,242 in 2018.

Table 8A. H-1B Petitions Approved by Major Occupation Group of Beneficiary and Type of Petition (Number): Fiscal Years 2018 and 2017

Occupational Category	All Beneficiaries		Initial Employment		Continuing Employment	
	FY2018	FY2017	FY2018	FY2017	FY2018	FY2017
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Total	332,358	365,682	93,615	108,101	238,743	257,581
Occupation known	331,552	364,601	93,349	107,736	238,203	256,865
Computer-Related Occupations	220,310	254,592	48,017	66,848	172,293	187,744
Occupations In Architecture, Engineering, And Surveying	32,657	29,210	11,952	10,510	20,705	18,700
Occupations In Administrative Specializations	20,436	20,544	7,548	6,711	12,888	13,833
Occupations In Education	16,023	18,686	8,679	8,238	7,344	10,448
Occupations In Medicine And Health	12,965	14,884	4,771	4,696	8,194	10,188
Occupations In Mathematics And Physical Sciences	9,277	6,869	4,079	2,750	5,198	4,119
Occupations In Life Sciences	4,728	5,054	2,362	2,314	2,366	2,740
Managers And Officials N.E.C.*	4,355	4,284	1,292	1,398	3,063	2,886
Miscellaneous Professional, Technical, And Managerial Occupations	3,596	3,635	1,349	1,325	2,247	2,310
Occupations In Social Sciences	3,286	2,993	1,497	1,196	1,789	1,797
Occupations In Art	1,868	1,982	799	865	1,069	1,117
Occupations In Law And Jurisprudence	1,160	947	597	501	563	446
Occupations In Writing	353	345	157	144	196	201
Miscellaneous ¹⁴	229	265	87	96	142	169
Occupations In Museum, Library, And Archival Sciences	141	139	70	70	71	69
Occupations In Entertainment And Recreation	112	104	67	42	45	62
Occupations In Religion And Theology	49	61	21	27	28	34
Sale Promotion Occupations	7	7	5	5	2	2
Occupation unknown¹⁵	806	1,081	266	365	540	716

Notes: Occupations ranked based on FY 2018 data.

*N.E.C. indicates not elsewhere classified.

¹⁴ The Miscellaneous category is a Major Occupation Group whose numbers are derived from the Detailed Occupations listed in Table 9A. A full listing of the Major Occupation Groups and the corresponding Detailed Occupations can be found in Form M-746, I-129 Dictionary of Occupational Titles (DOT) Codes (<http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/m-746.pdf>).

¹⁵ The data in this chart is pulled from information captured on the Form I-129. In some instances a petitioner will leave the beneficiary's job code blank, which we report here as "Occupation unknown." This generally means that the position could not be classified under one of the provided occupational categories; it does not mean that the position is unknown or that the position is or is not a specialty occupation.

Table 8B. H-1B Petitions Approved by Major Occupation Group of Beneficiary and Type of Petition (Percent): FYs 2018 and 2017

Occupational Category	All Beneficiaries		Initial Employment		Continuing Employment	
	FY2018 Number	FY2017 Number	FY2018 Number	FY2017 Number	FY2018 Number	FY2017 Number
Occupation known	100	100	100	100	100	100
Computer-Related Occupations	66.4	69.8	51.4	62.0	72.3	73.1
Occupations In Architecture, Engineering, And Surveying	9.8	8.0	12.8	9.8	8.7	7.3
Occupations In Administrative Specializations	6.2	5.6	8.1	6.2	5.4	5.4
Occupations In Education	4.8	5.1	9.3	7.6	3.1	4.1
Occupations In Medicine And Health	3.9	4.1	5.1	4.4	3.4	4.0
Occupations In Mathematics And Physical Sciences	2.8	1.9	4.4	2.6	2.2	1.6
Occupations In Life Sciences	1.4	1.4	2.5	2.1	1.0	1.1
Managers And Officials N.E.C.*	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.1
Miscellaneous Professional, Technical, And Managerial Occupations	1.1	1.0	1.4	1.2	0.9	0.9
Occupations In Social Sciences	1.0	0.8	1.6	1.1	0.8	0.7
Occupations In Art	0.6	0.5	0.9	0.8	0.4	0.4
Occupations In Law And Jurisprudence	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.2
Occupations In Writing	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Miscellaneous	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Occupations In Museum, Library, And Archival Sciences	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Occupations In Entertainment And Recreation	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Occupations In Religion And Theology	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sale Promotion Occupations	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Occupation unknown	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3

Notes: Occupations ranked based on FY 2018 data.

Sum of the percent may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Percentages shown in the table are based on the total number of petitions approved with known occupations.

*N.E.C. indicates not elsewhere classified.

Detailed Occupation

Tables 9A and 9B indicate the distribution of beneficiaries by detailed occupational category in FYs 2018 and 2017. Each table shows occupations arranged in descending order by the total number of beneficiaries approved in FY 2018 and FY 2017. The list is limited to the top 20 categories. Of approved petitions in 2018, 56 percent were for aliens working in occupations in systems analysis and programming. The second largest category was computer-related occupations.

Table 9A. H-1B Petitions Approved by Detailed Occupation of Beneficiary and Type of Petition (Number): FYs 2018 and 2017

Occupational Category	All Beneficiaries		Initial Employment		Continuing Employment	
	FY2018 Number	FY 2017 Number	FY2018 Number	FY 2017 Number	FY2018 Number	FY 2017 Number
Total	332,358	365,682	93,615	108,101	238,743	257,581
Occupation known	331,552	364,601	93,349	107,736	238,203	250,153
Occupations In Systems Analysis And Programming	185,524	219,855	40,404	58,374	145,120	161,481
Computer-Related Occupations, N.E.C.*	29,249	29,533	6,165	6,805	23,084	22,728
Occupations In College And University Education	13,453	15,772	7,430	7,324	6,023	8,448
Electrical/Electronics Engineering Occupations	12,717	11,840	3,853	3,969	8,864	7,871
Occupations In Architecture, Engineering, And Surveying, N.E.C.*	10,236	9,079	4,328	3,589	5,908	5,490
Accountants, Auditors, And Related Occupations	8,888	8,407	3,654	3,020	5,234	5,387
Occupations In Administrative Specializations, N.E.C.*	7,522	6,489	2,637	2,121	4,885	4,368
Physicians And Surgeons	6,784	7,704	2,505	2,227	4,279	5,477
Mechanical Engineering Occupations	6,624	5,780	2,416	2,029	4,208	3,751
Occupations In Mathematics	6,176	3,952	2,683	1,559	3,493	2,393
Miscellaneous Managers And Officials, N.E.C.*	4,355	4,284	1,292	1,398	3,063	2,886
Occupations In Medicine And Health, N.E.C.*	4,252	4,942	1,713	1,927	2,539	3,015
Budget And Management Systems Analysis Occupations	4,026	5,648	1,257	1,570	2,769	4,078
Occupations In Biological Sciences	3,645	3,896	1,859	1,840	1,786	2,056
Misc. Professional, Technical, And Managerial Occupations, N.E.C.*	3,596	3,635	1,349	1,325	2,247	2,310
Occupations In Computer Systems Technical Support	3,301	2,945	813	950	2,488	1,995
Industrial Engineering Occupations	3,080	2,511	1,355	923	1,725	1,588
Occupations In Economics	2,915	2,565	1,290	970	1,625	1,595
Occupations In Data Communications And Networks	2,236	2,259	635	719	1,601	1,540
Therapists	1,929	2,238	553	542	1,376	1,696
Other Occupations	11,044	11,267	5,158	4,555	5,886	6,712
Occupation Unknown	806	1,081	266	365	540	716

Notes: Occupations ranked based on FY 2018 data.

*N.E.C. indicates not elsewhere classified.

Table 9B. H-1B Petitions Approved by Detailed Occupation of Beneficiary and Type of Petition (Percent): FYs 2018 and 2017

Occupational Category	All Beneficiaries		Initial Employment		Continuing Employment	
	FY 2018	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2017
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Total	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Occupation known	100	100	100	100	100	100
Occupations In Systems Analysis And Programming	56.0	62.2	43.3	56.6	60.9	64.6
Computer-Related Occupations, N.E.C.*	8.8	8.4	6.6	6.6	9.7	9.1
Occupations In College And University Education	4.1	4.5	8.0	7.1	2.5	3.4
Electrical/Electronics Engineering Occupations	3.8	3.4	4.1	3.8	3.7	3.1
Occupations In Architecture, Engineering, And Surveying, N.E.C.*	3.1	2.6	4.6	3.5	2.5	2.2
Accountants, Auditors, And Related Occupations	2.7	2.4	3.9	2.9	2.2	2.2
Occupations In Administrative Specializations, N.E.C.*	2.3	1.8	2.8	2.1	2.1	1.7
Physicians And Surgeons	2.0	2.2	2.7	2.2	1.8	2.2
Mechanical Engineering Occupations	2.0	1.6	2.6	2.0	1.8	1.5
Occupations In Mathematics	1.9	1.1	2.9	1.5	1.5	1.0
Miscellaneous Managers And Officials, N.E.C.*	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.2
Occupations In Medicine And Health, N.E.C.*	1.3	1.4	1.8	1.9	1.1	1.2
Budget And Management Systems Analysis Occupations	1.2	1.6	1.3	1.5	1.2	1.6
Occupations In Biological Sciences	1.1	1.1	2.0	1.8	0.7	0.8
Misc. Professional, Technical, And Managerial Occupations, N.E.C.*	1.1	1.0	1.4	1.3	0.9	0.9
Occupations In Computer Systems Technical Support	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.8
Industrial Engineering Occupations	0.9	0.7	1.5	0.9	0.7	0.6
Occupations In Economics	0.9	0.7	1.4	0.9	0.7	0.6
Occupations In Data Communications And Networks	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6
Therapists	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.7
Other Occupations	3.3	3.2	5.5	4.4	2.5	2.7
Occupation Unknown	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.3

Notes: Occupations ranked based on FY 2018 data.

Sum of the percent may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Percentages shown in the table are based on the total number of petitions approved with known occupation.

* N.E.C. indicates not elsewhere classified.

Section 3.6 – Distribution of petitions by annual compensation¹⁶

Tables 10, 11 and 12 show compensation by occupation for beneficiaries of all, initial, and continuing employment, respectively. Each table shows occupations arranged in descending order by the total number of beneficiaries approved in FY 2018. As shown in Table 10, the median annual compensation reported by employers of H-1B workers approved for employment during FY 2018 was \$95,000. The median annual compensation was \$85,000 in FY 2017. Median compensation ranged from a low of \$40,000 for occupations in religion and theology to a high of \$175,000 for law and jurisprudence occupations.

**Table 10. Annual Compensation (\$) of All H-1B Beneficiaries by Major Occupation
Group: FY 2018 (Approvals)**

Occupation	Total Reported	25 th Percentile	Median	Mean	75 th Percentile
Total	332,337	75,000	95,000	104,000	122,000
Known Occupations with annual compensation	331,534	75,000	95,000	104,000	122,000
Computer-Related Occupations	220,306	80,000	98,000	105,000	122,000
Occupations In Architecture, Engineering and Surveying	32,651	74,000	92,000	99,000	118,000
Occupations In Administrative Specializations	20,434	64,000	86,000	97,000	122,000
Occupations In Education	16,023	50,000	63,000	77,000	85,000
Occupations In Medicine and Health	12,960	62,000	105,000	147,000	215,000
Occupations In Mathematics and Physical Sciences	9,276	74,000	94,000	100,000	120,000
Occupations In Life Sciences	4,728	52,000	65,000	76,000	90,000
Managers And Officials, N.E.C.*	4,355	89,000	120,000	132,000	155,000
Miscellaneous Professional, Technical and Managerial Occupations	3,596	83,000	119,000	119,000	150,000
Occupations In Social Sciences	3,286	65,000	90,000	104,000	125,000
Occupations In Art	1,868	55,000	66,000	78,000	91,000
Occupations In Law And Jurisprudence	1,160	75,000	175,000	150,000	190,000
Occupations In Writing	353	40,000	62,000	68,000	90,000
Miscellaneous	229	40,000	53,000	64,000	77,000
Occupations In Museum, Library and Archival Sciences	141	50,000	67,000	86,000	104,000
Occupations In Entertainment and Recreation	112	35,000	46,000	57,000	66,000
Occupations In Religion and Theology	49	31,000	40,000	49,000	57,000
Sale Promotion Occupations	7	35,000	104,000	104,000	208,000
Occupation unknown	803	57,000	80,000	91,000	110,000

Notes: Occupations ranked by number of beneficiaries.

*N.E.C. indicates not elsewhere classified.

Definitions: Median is the middle ranking value (50th percentile) of all values.

Mean is the average of all values.

25th percentile and 75th percentile are the lower quarter and upper quarter ranking values, respectively.

¹⁶ Annual compensation refers to what the employer agreed to pay the beneficiary at the time the application was filed. The amount excludes non-cash compensation and benefits such as health insurance and transportation. Further, compensation is based on full-time employment for 12 months, even if the beneficiary worked fewer than 12 months.

As revealed in Tables 11 and 12, beneficiaries for continuing employment reported higher annual compensation than did beneficiaries for initial employment. In FY 2018, workers approved for continuing employment and initial employment reported median annual compensation of \$100,000 and \$80,000, respectively.

Table 11. Annual Compensation (\$) of H-1B Beneficiaries for Initial Employment by Major Occupation Group: FY 2018 (Approvals)

Occupation	Total Reported	25 th Percentile	Median	Mean	75 th Percentile
Total	93,601	64,000	80,000	90,000	105,000
Known Occupations with annual compensation	93,335	64,000	80,000	90,000	105,000
Computer-Related Occupations	48,014	70,000	85,000	92,000	109,000
Occupations In Architecture, Engineering and Surveying	11,948	64,000	76,000	82,000	95,000
Occupations In Education	8,679	49,000	60,000	75,000	84,000
Occupations In Administrative Specializations	7,546	54,000	68,000	79,000	96,000
Occupations In Medicine And Health	4,767	57,000	76,000	136,000	205,000
Occupations In Mathematics And Physical Sciences	4,078	66,000	80,000	88,000	105,000
Occupations In Life Sciences	2,362	50,000	58,000	69,000	77,000
Occupations In Social Sciences	1,497	58,000	79,000	89,000	104,000
Miscellaneous Professional, Technical and Managerial Occupations	1,349	68,000	98,000	102,000	132,000
Managers And Officials, N.E.C.*	1,292	65,000	95,000	112,000	130,000
Occupations In Art	799	46,000	60,000	64,000	72,000
Occupations In Law And Jurisprudence	597	64,000	175,000	138,000	180,000
Occupations In Writing	157	37,000	54,000	59,000	75,000
Miscellaneous	87	35,000	46,000	51,000	57,000
Occupations In Museum, Library and Archival Sciences	70	48,000	56,000	74,000	77,000
Occupations In Entertainment And Recreation	67	31,000	42,000	49,000	55,000
Occupations In Religion And Theology	21	29,000	39,000	41,000	55,000
Sale Promotion Occupations	5	37,000	104,000	98,000	104,000
Occupation unknown	266	48,000	62,000	73,000	77,000

Notes: Occupations ranked by the number of beneficiaries.

*N.E.C. indicates not elsewhere classified.

Definitions: Median is the middle ranking value (50th percentile) of all values.

Mean is the average of all values.

25th percentile and 75th percentile are the lower quarter and upper quarter ranking values, respectively.

Table 12. Annual Compensation (\$) of H-1B Beneficiaries for Continuing Employment by Major Occupation Group: FY 2018 (Approvals)

	Total	25th	Median	Mean	75th
Occupation	Reported	Percentile			Percentile
Total	238,736	82,000	100,000	109,000	128,000
Known Occupations with annual compensation	238,199	82,000	100,000	109,000	128,000
Computer-Related Occupations	172,292	84,000	101,000	108,000	125,000
Occupations In Architecture, Engineering and Surveying	20,703	83,000	102,000	108,000	127,000
Occupations In Administrative Specializations	12,888	74,000	99,000	108,000	134,000
Occupations In Medicine And Health	8,193	70,000	121,000	153,000	220,000
Occupations In Education	7,344	51,000	65,000	80,000	88,000
Occupations In Mathematics And Physical Sciences	5,198	84,000	105,000	110,000	131,000
Managers And Officials, N.E.C.*	3,063	100,000	130,000	140,000	164,000
Occupations In Life Sciences	2,366	57,000	75,000	83,000	100,000
Miscellaneous Professional, Technical and Managerial Occupations	2,247	95,000	128,000	129,000	160,000
Occupations In Social Sciences	1,789	77,000	105,000	117,000	140,000
Occupations In Art	1,069	62,000	77,000	88,000	107,000
Occupations In Law And Jurisprudence	563	84,000	174,000	163,000	235,000
Occupations In Writing	196	43,000	68,000	75,000	95,000
Miscellaneous	142	43,000	60,000	71,000	87,000
Occupations In Museum, Library and Archival Sciences	71	57,000	82,000	97,000	130,000
Occupations In Entertainment And Recreation	45	39,000	56,000	68,000	75,000
Occupations In Religion And Theology	28	33,000	41,000	54,000	69,000
Sale Promotion Occupations	2	29,000	119,000	119,000	208,000
Occupation unknown	537	67,000	92,000	99,000	120,000

Notes: Occupations ranked by the number of beneficiaries.
*N.E.C. indicates not elsewhere classified.

Definitions: Median is the middle ranking value (50th percentile) of all values.
Mean is the average of all values.
25th percentile and 75th percentile are the lower quarter and upper quarter ranking values, respectively.

Section 3.7 – Distribution of petitions by industry

Tables 13A and 13B show the top industries that employed H-1B workers in FY 2018. Industry data are collected using the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). The top industries listed in Tables 13A and 13B represent over 65 percent of H-1B workers approved for all known industry categories as determined by the NAICS code entered on Form I-129.¹⁷ The number of workers approved for all known industries decreased by 8.5 percent from 339,604 in FY 2017 to 310,747 in FY 2018.

¹⁷ The remaining known industries for which H-1B workers were approved are captured in the “Other Industries” category in Tables 13A and 13B. For FY 2018 and FY 2017, H-1B workers were approved for just over 1,400 unique industry categories as determined by the NAICS code entered on the Form I-129. Unlike country of birth, age, education, and occupation, USCIS does not verify the NAICS code.

**Table 13A. H-1B Petitions Approved by Detailed Industry and Type of Petition
(Number) FYs 2017 and 2018**

	All Beneficiaries		Initial Employment		Continuing Employment	
	FY 2018	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2017
Industry	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Total	332,358	365,682	93,615	108,101	238,743	257,581
Industry known	310,747	339,604	86,430	99,137	224,317	240,467
Custom Computer Programming Services	91,904	116,844	19,987	32,063	71,917	84,781
Computer Systems Design Services	26,124	43,784	5,276	11,240	20,848	32,544
Colleges, Universities, and Professional Schools	16,761	19,843	9,067	9,063	7,694	10,780
Software Publishers	10,673	9,389	3,023	3,190	7,650	6,199
Computer Systems Design and Related Services	8,470	10,054	1,857	2,952	6,613	7,102
Engineering Services	7,844	7,457	3,040	2,904	4,804	4,553
Other Computer Related Services	6,334	6,358	1,602	1,643	4,732	4,715
Electronic Computer Manufacturing	5,851	4,582	1,406	1,500	4,445	3,082
Investment Banking and Securities Dealing	5,783	3,905	1,566	1,096	4,217	2,809
Management Consulting Services	5,656	---	1,338	---	4,318	---
Management, Scientific, and Technical Consulting Services	5,124	6,026	940	1,102	4,184	4,924
General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	4,971	6,199	2,148	2,055	2,823	4,144
Administrative Management and General Management Consulting Services	3,752	4,403	923	1,194	2,829	3,209
Offices of Certified Public Accountants	3,409	3,810	1,185	827	2,224	2,983
Semiconductor and Other Electronic Component Manufacturing	3,033	3,367	1,237	1,354	1,796	2,013
Commercial Banking	2,947	---	652	---	2,295	---
Data Processing, Hosting, and Related Services	2,824	---	705	---	2,119	---
Semiconductor and Related Device Manufacturing	2,765	2,571	878	847	1,887	1,724
Offices of Physicians (except Mental Health Specialists)	2,554	2,797	833	813	1,721	1,984
Elementary and Secondary Schools	---	2,449	---	701	---	1,748
Research and Development in the Physical, Engineering, and Life Sciences	2,430	2,506	927	944	1,503	1,562
Other Industries ¹⁸	91,538	77,329	27,840	22,252	63,698	55,077
Industry unknown	21,611	26,078	7,185	8,964	14,426	17,114

Notes: Industries ranked by total beneficiaries in FY 2018.
NICS stands for North American Industry Classification System.

¹⁸ See footnote 19.

**Table 13B. H-1B Petitions Approved by Detailed Industry and Type of Petition
(Percent) FYs 2017 and 2018**

Industry	All Beneficiaries		Initial Employment		Continuing Employment	
	FY2018 Percent	FY2017 Percent	FY2018 Percent	FY2017 Percent	FY2018 Percent	FY2017 Percent
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
Industry known	93.5	92.9	92.3	91.7	94.0	93.4
Custom Computer Programming Services	27.7	34.4	21.4	32.3	30.1	35.3
Computer Systems Design Services	7.9	12.9	5.6	11.3	8.7	13.5
Colleges, Universities, and Professional Schools	5.0	5.8	9.7	9.1	3.2	4.5
Software Publishers	3.2	2.8	3.2	3.2	3.2	2.6
Computer Systems Design and Related Services	2.5	3.0	2.0	3.0	2.8	3.0
Engineering Services	2.4	2.2	3.2	2.9	2.0	1.9
Other Computer Related Services	1.9	1.9	1.7	1.7	2.0	2.0
Electronic Computer Manufacturing	1.8	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.9	1.3
Investment Banking and Securities Dealing	1.7	1.1	1.7	1.1	1.8	1.2
Management Consulting Services	1.7	---	1.4	---	1.8	---
Management, Scientific, and Technical Consulting Services	1.5	1.8	1.0	1.1	1.8	2.0
General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	1.5	1.8	2.3	2.1	1.2	1.7
Administrative Management and General Management Consulting Services	1.1	1.3	1.0	1.2	1.2	1.3
Offices of Certified Public Accountants	1.0	1.1	1.3	0.8	0.9	1.2
Semiconductor and Other Electronic Component Manufacturing	0.9	1.0	1.3	1.4	0.8	0.8
Commercial Banking	0.9	---	0.7	---	1.0	---
Data Processing, Hosting, and Related Services	0.8	---	0.8	---	0.9	---
Semiconductor and Related Device Manufacturing	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.7
Offices of Physicians (except Mental Health Specialists)	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.8
Elementary and Secondary Schools	---	0.7	---	0.7	---	0.7
Research and Development in the Physical, Engineering, and Life Sciences	0.7	0.7	1.0	1.0	0.6	0.6
Other Industries	27.5	22.8	29.7	22.4	26.7	22.9
Industry unknown	6.5	7.1	7.7	8.3	6.0	6.6

Notes: Industries ranked by total beneficiaries in FY 2018.

Sum of the percent may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Percentages shown are based on the total number of petitions approved with industry known.

NAICS stands for North American Industry Classification System.

IV. Appendices

A. H-1B Petition Processing

After obtaining a certified *Form ETA-9035/9035E* from DOL, prospective employers petition for alien workers to obtain H-1B nonimmigrant classification by filing USCIS *Form I-129*, Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker; the H Classification Supplement to *Form I-129*; and the H-1B Data Collection and Filing Fee Exemption Supplement. The petitions are generally mailed to one of three USCIS Service Centers (located in St. Albans, Vermont; Lincoln, Nebraska; or Laguna Niguel, California) for processing, depending on the location of the beneficiary's worksite or type of requested action.

Upon receipt of a properly filed petition,¹⁹ each petition is stamped with its date of arrival at the service center. A clerk creates a paper file that contains the original petition as well as all supporting documentation. This file becomes the official file of record for all activities connected with the petition.

Biographical data (such as name, date of birth and country of birth), as well as data on occupational and industry categories, are taken from the petition and entered by data entry clerks into the case tracking system Computer-Linked Application Information Management System (known as CLAIMS). The computer system generates a unique receipt number for the file. After being sorted into potential cap-subject and cap-exempt cases, the file is assigned to an adjudicator.

The adjudicator evaluates whether there is adequate information in the file to approve or deny the petition, or whether a need for further information warrants a request for evidence or initiation of an administrative investigation. If sufficient evidence is available, the adjudicator makes a decision and enters the corresponding information into the tracking system. In the case of insufficient evidence, the adjudicator requests additional information from the sponsoring employer. The employer must respond to the request within a set period of time or the petition will be denied.

After petitions are adjudicated, the petition and supporting documentation are forwarded to either the USCIS records center in Harrisonburg, Virginia, for storage, or the Kentucky Consular Center in Williamsburg, Kentucky, for consular processing.

¹⁹ Petitions that are improperly filed (e.g., submitted without the correct supplements, proper signatures, or required fees) may be rejected by the service center. Rejected petitions are returned to the petitioner with any submitted fees. See 8 CFR 103.2(a)(7).

B. Data Limitations

The data for the tables in this report have been extracted from a USCIS Service Center electronic data file. As such, errors in data may have occurred as a result of erroneous data submitted by the petitioner, initial data entry errors at service centers, or improper electronic transfer from the service centers to USCIS Headquarters. Accordingly, some data elements in the above tables are “unknown.”

Minimal editing has been done to the data in this file, and impossible or highly improbable values (such as beneficiaries younger than 16, except for fashion models) or beneficiaries (such as those working without compensation) have been defined as “unknown.” Information in electronic format is not available regarding the cities or states where H-1B workers are employed.