



Characteristics of H-1B Specialty Occupation Workers

Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report to Congress
October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019

March 5, 2020



Homeland
Security

*U.S. Citizenship and
Immigration Services*



**Homeland
Security**

Foreword

March 5, 2020

We are pleased to present the following report, “Characteristics of H-1B Specialty Occupation Workers” for Fiscal Year 2019, 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 Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
Chairman, House Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Doug Collins
Ranking Member, House Committee on the Judiciary

Please do not hesitate to contact us at (202) 447-5890 if we may be of further assistance.

Respectfully,

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

CHRISTINE M. CICCONE
Assistant Secretary for 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 2019, October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019.

Highlights

- The number of H-1B petitions filed increased by 0.4 percent from 418,799 in FY 2018 to 420,549 in FY 2019.
- The number of H-1B petitions approved increased 16.9 percent from 332,358 in FY 2018 to 388,403 in FY 2019.¹
- The number of H-1B petitions approved in FY 2019 for workers between the ages of 25 and 34 was 62.4 percent.
- The number of H-1B petitions approved in FY 2019 for workers with a bachelor's degree was 36 percent. In addition, the highest degree achieved for all beneficiaries was 54 percent of approved petitions held a master's degree, 8 percent held a doctorate, and 3 percent a professional degree.
- The number of H-1B petitions approved in FY 2019 for workers in computer-related occupations was 66.1 percent.
- The median salary of beneficiaries of approved petitions increased from \$95,000 for FY 2018 to \$98,000 for FY 2019.

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 2019 include some petitions that were received in a previous fiscal year, but were approved in Fiscal Year 2019 (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 2019.

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 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 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.

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).

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).

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 six years, *see* INA 214(g)(4); however, each H-1B petition may only be approved for a maximum initial period of admission of three 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).

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).

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 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 with 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 2019, USCIS approved 388,403 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 2016 to 2019 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 2019, a total of 138,927 petitions, or 35.8 percent, were for initial employment.⁹ The corresponding number of petitions for continuing employment was 249,476.¹⁰ 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.

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.

The number of H-1B petitions filed increased by 0.4 percent and petitions approved increased by 16.9 percent between FYs 2018 and 2019. For initial employment, petitions filed decreased by 1.2 percent and petitions approved increased by 48.4 percent. During the same time period, petitions filed for continuing employment increased by 1.3 percent and petitions approved increased by 4.5 percent.

**Table 1. H-1B Petitions Filed and Approved by Type of Petition:
FYs 2016 to 2019**

	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
Petitions filed	398,718	403,675	418,799	420,549
Initial Employment	144,583	134,348	150,179	148,374
Continuing Employment	254,135	269,327	268,620	272,175
Petitions approved¹¹	345,262	365,682	332,358	388,403
Initial Employment	114,503	108,101	93,615	138,927
Continuing Employment	230,759	257,581	238,743	249,476

Table 2 shows the number of H-1B petitions filed by quarter in FYs 2016 to 2019. A total of 83 percent of all FY 2019 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 2016 to 2019**

Quarter	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2019 Initial Employment	Percent of Total	FY 2019 Continuing Employment	Percent of Total
Total	398,718	403,675	418,799	420,549	148,374	100	272,175	100
October-December	64,721	65,108	62,317	60,300	6,394	4	53,906	20
January-March	66,715	97,219	69,607	67,294	7,458	5	59,836	22
April-June	185,782	169,471	202,409	206,667	122,663	83	84,004	31
July-September	81,500	71,877	84,466	86,288	11,859	8	74,429	27

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 2016 to 2019 by type of petition. In FY 2019, 138,927 H-1B beneficiaries were approved for initial employment and 249,476 were approved for continuing employment.

The number of aliens outside the United States approved for initial employment increased from 35,401 in FY 2018 to 53,311 in FY 2019. The corresponding number of petitions approved for aliens in the United States requesting a change to H-1B status increased from 58,214 in FY 2018 to 85,616 in FY 2019.

**Table 3. H-1B Petitions Approved by Type:
FYs 2016 to 2019**

Type of Petition	Petitions Approved							
	FY 2016	Percent	FY 2017	Percent	FY 2018	Percent	FY 2019	Percent
Total	345,262	100	365,682	100	332,358	100	388,403	100
Initial employment	114,503	33	108,101	30	93,615	28	138,927	36
Aliens outside U.S.	58,896	17	60,511	17	35,401	11	53,311	14
Aliens in U.S.	55,607	16	47,590	13	58,214	18	85,616	22
Continuing employment	230,759	67	257,581	70	238,743	72	249,476	64

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 2019, 71.7 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 13.0 percent of all beneficiaries. The number of beneficiaries from India approved for initial employment increased by 54.7 percent in FY 2019, while the number of beneficiaries approved for continuing employment increased by 3.3 percent in FY 2019.

¹² Data represent countries and territories of birth.

**Table 4A. H-1B Petitions Approved by Place of Birth of Beneficiary and Type of Petition
(Number): FYs 2019 and 2018**

Place of Birth	All Beneficiaries		Initial Employment		Continuing Employment	
	FY 2019	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2018
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Total	388,403	332,358	138,927	93,615	249,476	238,743
India	278,491	243,994	79,423	51,353	199,068	192,641
China, People's Republic Of	50,609	39,700	25,490	18,025	25,119	21,675
Canada	4,615	3,273	2,916	1,802	1,699	1,471
Korea, Republic of	3,476	3,195	1,990	1,678	1,486	1,517
Mexico	2,936	1,966	1,866	1,010	1,070	956
Philippines	2,707	2,568	1,203	970	1,504	1,598
Taiwan	2,637	2,124	1,624	1,134	1,013	990
United Kingdom	1,910	1,603	1,106	730	804	873
Brazil	1,902	1,414	1,171	793	731	621
Pakistan	1,766	1,509	934	734	832	775
France	1,691	1,384	959	634	732	750
Iran	1,513	1,287	1,070	830	443	457
Nepal	1,407	1,207	780	597	627	610
Germany	1,305	1,062	765	515	540	547
Turkey	1,279	1,164	728	599	551	565
Italy	1,126	985	643	532	483	453
Japan	1,118	1,020	577	443	541	577
Russia	1,107	929	630	430	477	499
Spain	1,069	849	625	461	444	388
Colombia	1,045	870	596	424	449	446
Other countries	24,694	20,255	13,831	9,921	10,863	10,334

Note: Places of birth are ranked based on FY 2019 data.

Table 4B. H-1B Petitions Approved by Place of Birth of Beneficiary and Type of Petition (Percent): FYs 2019 and 2018

Place of Birth	All Beneficiaries		Initial Employment		Continuing Employment	
	FY 2019	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2018
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Total	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Place of Birth	100	100	100	100	100	100
India	71.7	73.4	57.2	54.9	79.8	80.7
China, People's Republic Of	13.0	11.9	18.3	19.3	10.1	9.1
Canada	1.2	1.0	2.1	1.9	0.7	0.6
Korea, Republic of	0.9	1.0	1.4	1.8	0.6	0.6
Mexico	0.8	0.6	1.3	1.1	0.4	0.4
Philippines	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.6	0.7
Taiwan	0.7	0.6	1.2	1.2	0.4	0.4
United Kingdom	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.3	0.4
Brazil	0.5	0.4	0.8	0.8	0.3	0.3
Pakistan	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.3	0.3
France	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.3
Iran	0.4	0.4	0.8	0.9	0.2	0.2
Nepal	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.3
Germany	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.2	0.2
Turkey	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.2	0.2
Italy	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.2	0.2
Japan	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.2
Russia	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.2
Spain	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.2
Colombia	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.2
Other countries	6.4	6.1	10.0	10.6	4.4	4.3

Notes: Places of birth are ranked based on FY 2019 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 2019 by type of petition. At the time their petitions were approved, 62.4 percent of workers granted H-1B status during FY 2019 were between 25 and 34 years of age. Of initial beneficiaries, 53.4 percent were under age 30, compared with 19.93 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 2019

Age	All Beneficiaries	Percent	Initial Employment	Percent	Continuing Employment	Percent
Total	388,403		138,927		249,476	
Age known	388,314	100	138,889	100	249,425	100
Under 20	7	0.0	6	0.0	1	0.0
20-24	12,157	3.1	11,099	8.0	1,058	0.4
25-29	111,712	28.8	63,064	45.4	48,648	19.5
30-34	130,692	33.7	36,598	26.6	94,094	37.7
35-39	90,882	23.4	18,461	13.3	72,421	29.0
40-44	31,354	8.1	6,211	4.5	25,143	10.1
45-49	7,987	2.1	2,125	1.6	5,862	2.4
50-54	2,277	0.6	796	0.6	1,481	0.6
55-59	851	0.2	355	0.3	496	0.2
60-64	264	0.1	108	0.1	156	0.1
65 and over	131	0.0	66	0.1	65	0.0
Age unknown	89	-----	38	-----	51	-----

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. However, in nearly all cases, the petitioning employer provides the information in supporting documentation. For degrees earned outside the United States, the 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 shifted to upward trend towards master's degree in recent years. As shown in Table 6, 36 percent of all H-1B petitions approved for workers in FY 2019 reported that the highest degree achieved by beneficiary was the equivalent of a bachelor's degree, 54 percent a master's degree, 8 percent a doctorate, and 3 percent a professional degree.

Table 6. Percent of H-1B Petitions Approved by Level of Education: FYs 2016-2019

Level of Education	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
Education known	100	100	100	100
Less than a Bachelor's degree	1	1	0	0
Bachelor's degree	44	45	37	36
Master's degree	45	44	52	54
Doctorate degree	7	7	7	8
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 2019

Level of Education	All Beneficiaries	Percent	Initial Employment	Percent	Continuing Employment	Percent
Total	388,403		138,927		249,476	
Education known	388,359	100	138,917	100	249,442	100
No high school diploma	23	0.0	14	0.0	9	0.0
High school graduate	80	0.0	35	0.0	45	0.0
Less than 1 year of college credit	10	0.0	4	0.0	6	0.0
1 or more years of college credit, no diploma	132	0.0	57	0.0	75	0.0
Associate's degree	113	0.0	38	0.0	75	0.0
Bachelor's degree	137,869	35.5	40,306	29.0	97,563	39.1
Master's degree	207,970	53.6	78,373	56.4	129,597	52.0
Doctorate degree	29,444	7.6	15,248	11.0	14,196	5.7
Professional degree	12,718	3.3	4,842	3.5	7,876	3.2
Education unknown	44	-----	10	-----	34	-----

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 2019 and 2018. The category of computer-related occupations was the largest occupational category in 2019 and 2018; its share of total petitions approved was 66.1 percent in FY 2019. The corresponding shares for initial employment and continuing employment in computer-related occupations were 56.3 and 71.6 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 increased by 16.3 percent from 220,310 in 2018 to 256,226 in 2019. The number of H-1B petitions approved for all other known occupation groups increased by 18 percent from 111,242 in 2018 to 131,266 in 2019.

Table 8A. H-1B Petitions Approved by Major Occupation Group of Beneficiary and Type of Petition (Number): Fiscal Years 2019 and 2018

Occupational Category	All Beneficiaries		Initial Employment		Continuing Employment	
	FY 2019	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2018
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Total	388,403	332,358	138,927	93,615	249,476	238,743
Occupation known	387,492	331,552	138,541	93,349	248,951	238,203
Computer-Related Occupations	256,226	220,310	78,003	48,017	178,223	172,293
Occupation in Architecture, Engineering, and Surveying	39,070	32,657	17,791	11,952	21,279	20,705
Occupations in Administrative Specializations	22,125	20,436	9,755	7,548	12,370	12,888
Occupations in Education	19,850	16,023	10,002	8,679	9,848	7,344
Occupations in Medicine and Health	15,233	12,965	5,763	4,771	9,470	8,194
Occupations in Mathematics and Physical Sciences	11,642	9,277	5,855	4,079	5,787	5,198
Occupations in Life Sciences	6,334	4,728	3,253	2,362	3,081	2,366
Managers and Officials N.E.C.*	4,618	4,355	1,814	1,292	2,804	3,063
Miscellaneous Professional, Technical, and Managerial Occupations	4,162	3,596	1,847	1,349	2,315	2,247
Occupations in Social Sciences	3,665	3,286	1,938	1,497	1,727	1,789
Occupations in Art	2,209	1,868	1,157	799	1,052	1,069
Occupations in Law and Jurisprudence	1,344	1,160	818	597	526	563
Occupations in Writing	460	353	244	157	216	196
Miscellaneous ¹³	226	229	125	87	101	142
Occupations in Museum, Library, and Archival Sciences	144	141	79	70	65	71
Occupations in Entertainment and Recreation	128	112	70	67	58	45
Occupations in Religion and Theology	54	49	25	21	29	28
Sale Promotion Occupations	2	7	2	5	-	2
Occupation unknown¹⁴	911	806	386	266	525	540

Notes: Occupations ranked based on FY 2019 data.

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

¹³ 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>).

¹⁴ 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 2019 and 2018

Occupational Category	All Beneficiaries		Initial Employment		Continuing Employment	
	FY2019 Percent	FY2018 Percent	FY2019 Percent	FY2018 Percent	FY2019 Percent	FY2018 Percent
Occupation known	100	100	100	100	100	100
Computer-Related Occupations	66.1	66.4	56.3	51.4	71.6	72.3
Occupations in Architecture, Engineering, and Surveying	10.1	9.8	12.8	12.8	8.5	8.7
Occupations in Administrative Specializations	5.7	6.2	7.0	8.1	5.0	5.4
Occupations in Education	5.1	4.8	7.2	9.3	4.0	3.1
Occupations in Medicine and Health	3.9	3.9	4.2	5.1	3.8	3.4
Occupations in Mathematics and Physical Sciences	3.0	2.8	4.2	4.4	2.3	2.2
Occupations in Life Sciences	1.6	1.4	2.3	2.5	1.2	1.0
Managers and Officials N.E.C.*	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.1	1.3
Miscellaneous Professional, Technical, and Managerial Occupations	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.4	0.9	0.9
Occupations in Social Sciences	0.9	1.0	1.4	1.6	0.7	0.8
Occupations in Art	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.9	0.4	0.4
Occupations in Law and Jurisprudence	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.2	0.2
Occupations in Writing	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
Miscellaneous	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	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	0.1	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	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2

Notes: Occupations ranked based on FY 2019 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 2019 and 2018. Each table shows occupations arranged in descending order by the total number of beneficiaries approved in FY 2019 and FY 2018. The list is limited to the top 20 categories. Of approved petitions in 2019, 55.9 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 2019 and 2018

Occupational Category	All Beneficiaries		Initial Employment		Continuing Employment	
	FY2019 Number	FY2018 Number	FY2019 Number	FY2018 Number	FY2019 Number	FY2018 Number
Total	388,403	332,358	138,927	93,615	249,476	238,743
Occupation known	387,492	331,552	138,541	93,349	248,951	238,203
Occupations in Systems Analysis and Programming	216,654	185,524	65,545	40,404	151,109	145,120
Computer-Related Occupations, N.E.C.*	32,909	29,249	10,062	6,165	22,847	23,084
Occupations in College and University Education	16,817	13,453	8,555	7,430	8,262	6,023
Electrical/Electronics Engineering Occupations	15,194	12,717	6,054	3,853	9,140	8,864
Occupations in Architecture, Engineering, and Surveying, N.E.C.*	12,125	10,236	6,127	4,328	5,998	5,908
Accountants, Auditors, and Related Occupations	9,866	8,888	4,455	3,654	5,411	5,234
Occupations in Administrative Specializations, N.E.C.*	8,142	7,522	3,464	2,637	4,678	4,885
Physicians and Surgeons	8,054	6,784	4,013	2,505	4,041	4,279
Mechanical Engineering Occupations	7,867	6,624	2,764	2,416	5,103	4,208
Occupations in Mathematics	7,831	6,176	3,613	2,683	4,218	3,493
Miscellaneous Managers and Officials, N.E.C.*	5,405	4,355	2,494	1,292	2,911	3,063
Occupations in Medicine and Health, N.E.C.*	4,903	4,252	2,496	1,713	2,407	2,539
Budget and Management Systems Analysis Occupations	4,618	4,026	1,814	1,257	2,804	2,769
Occupations in Biological Sciences	4,162	3,645	1,847	1,859	2,315	1,786
Misc. Professional, Technical, and Managerial Occupations, N.E.C.*	4,134	3,596	1,391	1,349	2,743	2,247
Occupations in Computer Systems Technical Support	4,117	3,301	1,836	813	2,281	2,488
Industrial Engineering Occupations	3,920	3,080	1,997	1,355	1,923	1,725
Occupations in Economics	3,190	2,915	1,662	1,290	1,528	1,625
Occupations in Data Communications and Networks	2,529	2,236	1,005	635	1,524	1,601
Therapists	1,961	1,929	505	553	1,456	1,376
Other Occupations	13,094	11,044	6,842	5,158	6,252	5,886
Occupation Unknown	911	806	386	266	525	540

Notes: Occupations ranked based on FY 2019 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 2019 and 2018

Occupational Category	All Beneficiaries		Initial Employment		Continuing Employment	
	FY 2019	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2018
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Total	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Occupation known	100	100	100	100	100	100
Occupations in Systems Analysis and Programming	55.9	56.0	47.3	43.3	60.7	60.9
Computer-Related Occupations, N.E.C.*	8.5	8.8	7.3	6.6	9.2	9.7
Occupations in College and University Education	4.3	4.1	6.2	8.0	3.3	2.5
Electrical/Electronics Engineering Occupations	3.9	3.8	4.4	4.1	3.7	3.7
Occupations in Architecture, Engineering, and Surveying, N.E.C.*	3.1	3.1	4.4	4.6	2.4	2.5
Accountants, Auditors, and Related Occupations	2.5	2.7	3.2	3.9	2.2	2.2
Occupations in Administrative Specializations, N.E.C.*	2.1	2.3	2.5	2.8	1.9	2.1
Physicians and Surgeons	2.1	2.0	2.9	2.7	1.6	1.8
Mechanical Engineering Occupations	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.6	2.0	1.8
Occupations in Mathematics	2.0	1.9	2.6	2.9	1.7	1.5
Miscellaneous Managers and Officials, N.E.C.*	1.4	1.3	1.8	1.4	1.2	1.3
Occupations in Medicine and Health, N.E.C.*	1.3	1.3	1.8	1.8	1.0	1.1
Budget and Management Systems Analysis Occupations	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.2
Occupations in Biological Sciences	1.1	1.1	1.3	2.0	0.9	0.7
Misc. Professional, Technical, and Managerial Occupations, N.E.C.*	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.4	1.1	0.9
Occupations in Computer Systems Technical Support	1.1	1.0	1.3	0.9	0.9	1.0
Industrial Engineering Occupations	1.0	0.9	1.4	1.5	0.8	0.7
Occupations in Economics	0.8	0.9	1.2	1.4	0.6	0.7
Occupations in Data Communications and Networks	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7
Therapists	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.6
Other Occupations	3.4	3.3	4.9	5.5	2.5	2.5
Occupation Unknown	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2

Notes: Occupations ranked based on FY 2019 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 compensation¹⁵

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 2019. As shown in Table 10, the median annual compensation reported by employers of H-1B workers approved for employment during FY 2019 was \$98,000. The median annual compensation was \$95,000 in FY 2018. Median compensation ranged from a low of \$48,000 for occupations in entertainment and recreation to a high of \$180,000 for law and jurisprudence occupations.

Table 10. Annual Compensation (\$) of All H-1B Beneficiaries by Major Occupation Group: FY 2019 (Approvals)

Occupation	Total Reported	25th Percentile	Median	Mean	75th Percentile
Total	388,401	79,000	98,000	107,000	125,000
Known occupations with annual compensation	387,490	79,000	98,000	107,000	125,000
Computer-Related Occupations	256,224	85,000	102,000	110,000	127,000
Occupations in Architecture, Engineering, and Surveying	39,070	74,000	92,000	100,000	118,000
Occupations in Administrative Specializations	22,125	65,000	88,000	100,000	125,000
Occupations in Education	19,850	51,000	63,000	78,000	86,000
Occupations in Medicine and Health	15,233	62,000	96,000	145,000	215,000
Occupations in Mathematics and Physical Sciences	11,642	77,000	96,000	104,000	125,000
Occupations in Life Sciences	6,334	53,000	67,000	78,000	92,000
Managers and Officials, N.E.C.*	4,618	88,000	123,000	132,000	157,000
Miscellaneous Professional, Technical, and Managerial Occupations	4,162	85,000	118,000	124,000	153,000
Occupations in Social Sciences	3,665	70,000	90,000	103,000	126,000
Occupations in Art	2,209	59,000	73,000	85,000	103,000
Occupations in Law and Jurisprudence	1,344	80,000	180,000	151,000	190,000
Occupations in Writing	460	48,000	70,000	78,000	100,000
Miscellaneous	226	42,000	54,000	64,000	74,000
Occupations in Entertainment and Recreation	144	36,000	48,000	60,000	70,000
Occupations in Museum, Library, and Archival Sciences	128	60,000	79,000	98,000	115,000
Occupations in Religion and Theology	54	38,000	49,000	53,000	63,000
Sale Promotion Occupations	2	200,000	204,000	204,000	208,000
Occupation unknown	911	62,000	83,000	93,000	110,000

Notes: Occupations ranked by number of beneficiaries.

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

Only beneficiaries with known compensation greater than 0 are included, so total count is slightly lower than in Table 1.

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.

¹⁵ 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 2019, workers approved for continuing employment and initial employment reported median annual compensation of \$105,000 and \$86,000, respectively.

Table 11. Annual Compensation (\$) of H-1B Beneficiaries for Initial Employment by Major Occupation Group: FY 2019 (Approvals)

Occupation	Total Reported	25th Percentile	Median	Mean	75th Percentile
Total	138,927	70,000	86,000	96,000	112,000
Known occupations with annual compensation	138,541	70,000	86,000	96,000	112,000
Computer-Related Occupations	78,003	78,000	92,000	100,000	115,000
Occupations in Architecture, Engineering, and Surveying	17,791	66,000	80,000	87,000	102,000
Occupations in Education	10,002	50,000	61,000	76,000	85,000
Occupations in Administrative Specializations	9,755	58,000	75,000	87,000	105,000
Occupations in Mathematics and Physical Sciences	5,855	70,000	85,000	93,000	110,000
Occupations in Medicine and Health	5,763	57,000	78,000	134,000	200,000
Occupations in Life Sciences	3,253	51,000	60,000	71,000	80,000
Occupations in Social Sciences	1,938	64,000	83,000	93,000	115,000
Miscellaneous Professional, Technical, and Managerial Occupations	1,847	71,000	97,000	108,000	135,000
Managers and Officials, N.E.C.*	1,814	75,000	106,000	121,000	140,000
Occupations in Art	1,157	52,000	66,000	80,000	95,000
Occupations in Law and Jurisprudence	818	70,000	180,000	140,000	190,000
Occupations in Writing	244	45,000	65,000	70,000	95,000
Miscellaneous	125	41,000	50,000	60,000	61,000
Occupations in Entertainment and Recreation	79	35,000	45,000	55,000	65,000
Occupations in Museum, Library, and Archival Sciences	70	59,000	75,000	91,000	100,000
Occupations in Religion and Theology	25	41,000	50,000	50,000	60,000
Sale Promotion Occupations	2	200,000	204,000	204,000	208,000
Occupation unknown	386	57,000	71,000	81,000	95,000

Notes: Occupations ranked by the number of beneficiaries.

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

Only beneficiaries with known compensation greater than 0 are included, so total count is slightly lower than in Table 1.

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 2019 (Approvals)

Occupation	Total Reported	25th Percentile	Median	Mean	75th Percentile
Total	249,474	85,000	105,000	114,000	133,000
Known occupations with annual compensation	248,949	85,000	105,000	114,000	133,000
Computer-Related Occupations	178,221	89,000	107,000	114,000	132,000
Occupations in Architecture, Engineering, and Surveying	21,279	84,000	102,000	110,000	130,000
Occupations in Administrative Specializations	12,370	75,000	100,000	111,000	137,000
Occupations in Education	9,848	52,000	65,000	80,000	88,000
Occupations in Medicine and Health	9,470	66,000	110,000	152,000	220,000
Occupations in Mathematics and Physical Sciences	5,787	87,000	110,000	116,000	136,000
Occupations in Life Sciences	3,081	57,000	76,000	85,000	102,000
Managers and Officials, N.E.C.*	2,804	100,000	130,000	140,000	165,000
Miscellaneous Professional, Technical, and Managerial Occupations	2,315	99,000	130,000	136,000	169,000
Occupations in Social Sciences	1,727	80,000	110,000	115,000	140,000
Occupations in Art	1,052	64,000	79,000	91,000	114,000
Occupations in Law and Jurisprudence	526	85,000	175,000	170,000	220,000
Occupations in Writing	216	58,000	80,000	87,000	100,000
Miscellaneous	101	45,000	60,000	69,000	85,000
Occupations in Entertainment and Recreation	65	40,000	55,000	66,000	80,000
Occupations in Museum, Library, and Archival Sciences	58	63,000	90,000	106,000	130,000
Occupations in Religion and Theology	29	38,000	45,000	55,000	74,000
Occupation unknown	525	68,000	93,000	102,000	120,000

Notes: Occupations ranked by the number of beneficiaries.

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

Only beneficiaries with known compensation greater than 0 are included, so total count is slightly lower than in Table 1.

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 2019. Industry data are collected using the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). The top industries listed in Tables 13A and 13B represent over 66.2 percent of H-1B workers approved for all known industry categories as determined by the NAICS code entered on Form I-129.¹⁶ The number of workers approved for all known industries increased by 16.5 percent from 310,747 in FY 2018 to 361,957 in FY 2019.

¹⁶ 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 2019 and FY 2018, 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 2019 and 2018**

	All Beneficiaries		Initial Employment		Continuing Employment	
	FY 2019	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2018
Industry	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Total	388,403	332,358	138,927	93,615	249,476	238,743
Industry known	361,957	310,747	128,463	86,430	233,494	224,317
Custom Computer Programming Services	99,015	91,904	30,770	19,987	68,245	71,917
Computer Systems Design Services	35,356	26,124	9,957	5,276	25,399	20,848
Colleges, Universities, and Professional Schools	21,225	16,761	10,677	9,067	10,548	7,694
Software Publishers	13,146	10,673	4,858	3,023	8,288	7,650
Engineering Services	9,551	7,844	4,438	3,040	5,113	4,804
Computer Systems Design and Related Services	9,506	8,470	3,601	1,857	5,905	6,613
Management, Scientific, and Technical Consulting Services	7,681	5,124	2,206	940	5,475	4,184
Other Computer Related Services	7,434	6,334	2,627	1,602	4,807	4,732
Electronic Computer Manufacturing	6,970	5,851	2,513	1,406	4,457	4,445
General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	6,412	4,971	2,448	2,148	3,964	2,823
Management Consulting Services	6,346	5,656	1,723	1,338	4,623	4,318
Investment Banking and Securities Dealing	5,897	5,783	2,304	1,566	3,593	4,217
Administrative Management and General Management Consulting Services	4,414	3,752	1,651	923	2,763	2,829
Offices of Certified Public Accountants	4,002	3,409	1,140	1,185	2,862	2,224
Semiconductor and Other Electronic Component Manufacturing	3,920	3,033	1,451	1,237	2,469	1,796
Data Processing, Hosting, and Related Services	3,503	2,824	1,136	705	2,367	2,119
Research and Development in the Physical, Engineering, and Life Sciences	3,495	2,430	1,531	927	1,964	1,503
Semiconductor and Related Device Manufacturing	3,241	2,765	1,364	878	1,877	1,887
Commercial Banking	3,083	2,947	958	652	2,125	2,295
Offices of Physicians (except Mental Health Specialists)	2,789	2,554	962	833	1,827	1,721
Other Industries ¹⁷	104,971	91,538	40,148	27,840	64,823	63,698
Industry unknown	26,446	21,611	10,464	7,185	15,982	14,426

Notes: Industries, according to NAICS, ranked by total beneficiaries in FY 2019.
NAICS stands for North American Industry Classification System.

¹⁷ See footnote 16.

**Table 13B. H-1B Petitions Approved by Detailed Industry and Type of Petition
(Percent) FYs 2019 and 2018**

	All Beneficiaries		Initial Employment		Continuing Employment	
	FY 2019	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2018
Industry	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
Industry known	93.2	93.5	92.5	92.3	93.6	94.0
Custom Computer Programming Services	25.5	27.7	22.1	21.4	27.4	30.1
Computer Systems Design Services	9.1	7.9	7.2	5.6	10.2	8.7
Colleges, Universities, and Professional Schools	5.5	5.0	7.7	9.7	4.2	3.2
Software Publishers	3.4	3.2	3.5	3.2	3.3	3.2
Engineering Services	2.5	2.4	3.2	3.2	2.0	2.0
Computer Systems Design and Related Services	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.0	2.4	2.8
Management, Scientific, and Technical Consulting Services	2.0	1.5	1.6	1.0	2.2	1.8
Other Computer Related Services	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.7	1.9	2.0
Electronic Computer Manufacturing	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.5	1.8	1.9
General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	1.7	1.5	1.8	2.3	1.6	1.2
Management Consulting Services	1.6	1.7	1.2	1.4	1.9	1.8
Investment Banking and Securities Dealing	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.4	1.8
Administrative Management and General Management Consulting Services	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.0	1.1	1.2
Offices of Certified Public Accountants	1.0	1.0	0.8	1.3	1.1	0.9
Semiconductor and Other Electronic Component Manufacturing	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.3	1.0	0.8
Data Processing, Hosting, and Related Services	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9
Research and Development in the Physical, Engineering, and Life Sciences	0.9	0.7	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.6
Semiconductor and Related Device Manufacturing	0.8	0.8	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.8
Commercial Banking	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.9	1.0
Offices of Physicians (except Mental Health Specialists)	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.7
Other Industries	27.0	27.5	28.9	29.7	26.0	26.7
Industry unknown	6.8	6.5	7.5	7.7	6.4	6.0

Notes: Industries, according to NAICS, ranked by total beneficiaries in FY 2019.

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 from the U.S. Department of Labor, 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 four USCIS Service Centers (located in Laguna Niguel, California; Lincoln, Nebraska; Dallas, Texas; or St. Albans, Vermont) for processing, depending on the location of the beneficiary's worksite or type of requested action. This process may change as USCIS has the regulatory authority to first require an electronic registration by petitioners and then only those selected in the lottery are invited to submit a full H-1B petition.

Upon receipt of a properly filed petition,¹⁸ 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, gender, date of birth, and place 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 may request additional information from the sponsoring employer. If a request for additional evidence is issued, 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.

¹⁸ 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.

C. Data Transparency and Availability

On April 1, 2019, USCIS launched the H-1B Employer Data Hub to provide information on employers petitioning for H-1B workers. The data provides an additional layer of transparency to the H-1B program by allowing the public to search for H-1B petitioners by fiscal year, NAICS code, employer name, city, state, or ZIP code. Data are available from fiscal year 2009 through 2019 and are updated on a quarterly basis. The H-1B Employer Data Hub includes data on the first decisions USCIS makes on petitions for initial and continuing employment and identifies employers by the last four digits of their tax identification number.