



Characteristics of H-1B Specialty Occupation Workers

Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Report to Congress
October 1, 2016 – September 30, 2017

April 9, 2018



Homeland
Security

*U.S. Citizenship and
Immigration Services*



**Homeland
Security**

Foreword

April 10, 2018

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 2017, 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 Charles E. Grassley
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee

The Honorable Robert W. Goodlatte
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee

Inquiries relating to this report may be directed to me at (202) 447-5890.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Wonnberg".

David Wonnberg
Acting 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 2017, October 1, 2016 – September 30, 2017.

Highlights

- The number of H-1B petitions filed increased 1.24 percent from 398,718 in FY 2016 to 403,675 in FY 2017.
- The number of H-1B petitions approved increased 5.9 percent from 345,262 in FY 2016 to 365,682 in FY 2017.¹
- The number of H-1B petitions approved in FY 2017 for workers between the ages of 25 and 34 was 66.2 percent.
- The number of H-1B petitions approved in FY 2017 for workers with a bachelor's degree was 45.2 percent. In addition, 44.5 percent of approved petitions were for workers with a master's degree, 6.8 percent had a doctorate, and 3.3 percent were for workers with a professional degree.
- The number of H-1B petitions approved in FY 2017 for workers in computer-related occupations was 69.8 percent.
- The median salary of beneficiaries of approved petitions increased from \$82,000 for FY 2016 to \$85,000 for FY 2017.

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 2017 include petitions that were received *prior* to Fiscal Year 2017, but were approved in Fiscal Year 2017 (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 2017.

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; 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

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).

214.2(h)(4)(iii)(C). Specialty occupations may include, but are not limited to, physicians, professors, engineers, and accountants. *See* 8 CFR 214.2(h)(4)(ii).

Although USCIS is responsible for evaluating an alien's qualifications for the H-1B classification and effecting a change of nonimmigrant status for aliens already in the United States in another nonimmigrant classification, approval of an H-1B petition 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. 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 an institution of higher education or nonprofit entity affiliated with or related to 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

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.

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 up to 20,000 H-1B petitions filed on behalf of aliens with U.S.-earned masters, or higher, degrees 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 2017, USCIS approved 365,682 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 2014 to 2017 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 2017, a total of 108,101 petitions, or 29.5 percent, were for initial employment.⁹ The corresponding number of petitions for continuing employment was 257,581.¹⁰ 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 1.24 percent and petitions approved increased by 5.9 percent between FYs 2016 and 2017. For initial employment, petitions filed decreased by 7 percent and petitions approved decreased by 5.6 percent. Petitions filed for continuing employment increased by 5.9 percent and petitions approved increased by 11.6 percent.

**Table 1. H-1B Petitions Filed and Approved by Type of Petition:
FYs 2014 to 2017**

	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
Petitions filed	318,824	348,669	398,718	403,675
Initial Employment	127,205	136,042	144,583	134,348
Continuing Employment	191,619	212,627	254,135	269,327
Petitions approved¹¹	315,857	275,317	345,262	365,682
Initial Employment	124,326	113,603	114,503	108,101
Continuing Employment	191,531	161,714	230,759	257,581

Table 2 shows the number of H-1B petitions filed by quarter in FYs 2014 to 2017. A total of 76 percent of all FY 2017 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 2014 to 2017**

Quarter	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2017 Initial Employment	Percent of Total	FY 2017 Continuing Employment	Percent of Total
Total	318,824	348,669	398,718	403,675	134,348	100	269,327	100
October-December	45,211	51,964	64,721	65,108	9,696	7	55,412	21
January-March	42,781	46,088	66,715	97,219	15,256	11	81,963	30
April-June	158,623	176,042	185,782	169,471	102,569	76	66,902	25
July-September	72,709	74,575	81,500	71,877	6,827	5	65,050	24

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 2014 to 2017 by type of petition. In FY 2017, 108,101 H-1B beneficiaries were approved for initial employment and 257,581 were approved for continuing employment.

The number of aliens outside the United States approved for initial employment remained relatively constant at 58,896 in FY 2016 to 60,511 in FY 2017. The corresponding number of petitions approved for aliens in the United States requesting a change to H-1B status decreased from 55,607 in FY 2016 to 47,590 in FY 2017.

**Table 3. H-1B Petitions Approved by Type:
FYs 2014 to 2017**

Type of Petition	Petitions Approved							
	FY2014	Percent	FY2015	Percent	FY2016	Percent	FY2017	Percent
Total	315,857	100	275,317	100	345,262	100	365,682	100
Initial employment	124,326	39	113,603	41	114,503	33	108,101	30
Aliens outside U.S.	68,390	22	62,656	23	58,896	17	60,511	17
Aliens in U.S.	55,936	18	50,947	19	55,607	16	47,590	13
Continuing employment	191,531	61	161,714	59	230,759	67	257,581	70

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 2017, 75.6 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 9.4 percent of all beneficiaries. The number of beneficiaries from India approved for initial employment decreased by 4.1 percent in FY 2017, while the number of beneficiaries approved for continuing employment increased by 12.5 percent in FY 2017.

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 2016 and 2017

Country of Birth	All Beneficiaries		Initial Employment		Continuing Employment	
	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2016	FY 2017
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Total	345,262	365,682	114,503	108,101	230,759	257,581
India	256,226	276,423	70,737	67,815	185,489	208,608
China, People's Republic Of	31,995	34,477	16,781	15,165	15,214	19,312
Canada	3,442	3,758	1,781	2,226	1,661	1,532
Philippines	3,822	3,735	1,226	1,295	2,596	2,440
Korea, South	3,620	3,307	1,857	1,442	1,763	1,865
Mexico	2,104	2,365	940	1,285	1,164	1,080
Taiwan	2,208	2,144	1,239	1,052	969	1,092
United Kingdom	2,135	1,882	967	833	1,168	1,049
Pakistan	1,694	1,643	725	694	969	949
France	1,841	1,542	879	721	962	821
Brazil	1,528	1,501	842	786	686	715
Iran	1,250	1,390	784	814	466	576
Turkey	1,360	1,289	662	571	698	718
Nepal	1,501	1,279	603	462	898	817
Germany	1,377	1,272	732	633	645	639
Japan	1,413	1,269	560	459	853	810
Italy	1,108	1,019	608	501	500	518
Russia	1,040	942	542	463	498	479
Spain	978	942	539	450	439	492
Colombia	976	907	442	375	534	532
Venezuela	1,066	900	483	317	583	583
Other countries	22,578	21,696	10,574	9,742	12,004	11,954

Note: Countries of birth are ranked based on FY 2017 data.

Table 4B. H-1B Petitions Approved by Country of Birth of Beneficiary and Type of Petition (Percent): FYs 2016 and 2017

Country of Birth	All Beneficiaries		Initial Employment		Continuing Employment	
	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2016	FY 2017
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Total	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Country of birth	100	100	100	100	100	100
India	74.2	75.6	61.8	62.7	80.4	81.0
China, People's Republic Of	9.3	9.4	14.7	14.0	6.6	7.5
Canada	1.0	1.0	1.6	2.1	0.7	0.6
Philippines	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.1	0.9
Korea, South	1.0	0.9	1.6	1.3	0.8	0.7
Mexico	0.6	0.6	0.8	1.2	0.5	0.4
Taiwan	0.6	0.6	1.1	1.0	0.4	0.4
United Kingdom	0.6	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.4
Pakistan	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.4
France	0.5	0.4	0.8	0.7	0.4	0.3
Brazil	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.3
Iran	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.8	0.2	0.2
Turkey	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.3
Nepal	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3
Germany	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.2
Japan	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3
Italy	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.2
Russia	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.2
Spain	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.2
Colombia	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2
Venezuela	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2
Other countries	6.5	5.9	9.2	9.0	5.2	4.6

Notes: Countries of birth are ranked based on FY 2017 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 2017 by type of petition. At the time their petitions were approved, 66.2 percent of workers granted H-1B statuses during FY 2017 were between 25 and 34 years of age. Of initial beneficiaries, 44.5 percent were under age 30, compared with 21.5 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 2017

Age	All Beneficiaries	Percent	Initial Employment	Percent	Continuing Employment	Percent
Total	365,682		108,101		257,581	
Age known	365,579	100	108,052	100	257,527	100
Under 20	16	0.00	7	0.01	9	0.00
20-24	8,482	2.32	7,155	6.62	1,327	0.52
25-29	95,210	26.04	40,968	37.92	54,242	21.06
30-34	146,956	40.20	34,913	32.31	112,043	43.51
35-39	80,019	21.89	16,668	15.43	63,351	24.60
40-44	25,004	6.84	5,420	5.02	19,584	7.60
45-49	6,605	1.81	1,772	1.64	4,833	1.88
50-54	2,101	0.57	683	0.63	1,418	0.55
55-59	770	0.21	279	0.26	491	0.19
60-64	286	0.08	120	0.11	166	0.06
65 and over	130	0.04	67	0.06	63	0.02
Age unknown	103	-----	49	-----	54	-----

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 remained mostly constant between FYs 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017. As shown in Table 6, 45 percent of all H-1B petitions approved for workers in FY 2017 reported that the beneficiary had earned the equivalent of a bachelor's degree, 44 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 2014-2017

Level of Education	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
Education known	100	100	100	100
Less than a Bachelor's degree	1	1	1	1
Bachelor's degree	45	45	44	45
Master's degree	43	44	45	44
Doctorate degree	8	7	7	7
Professional degree	4	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 2017

Level of Education	All Beneficiaries	Percent	Initial Employment	Percent	Continuing Employment	Percent
Total	365,682		108,101		257,581	
Education known	365,634	100	108,087	100	257,547	100
No high school diploma	30	0.01	15	0.01	15	0.01
High school graduate	107	0.03	50	0.05	57	0.02
Less than 1 year of college credit	17	0.00	3	0.00	14	0.01
1 or more years of college credit, no diploma	173	0.05	57	0.05	116	0.05
Associate's degree	171	0.05	46	0.04	125	0.05
Bachelor's degree	165,276	45.20	46,937	43.43	118,339	45.95
Master's degree	162,803	44.53	45,405	42.01	117,398	45.58
Doctorate degree	24,987	6.83	11,704	10.83	13,283	5.16
Professional degree	12,070	3.30	3,870	3.58	8,200	3.18
Education unknown	48	-----	14	-----	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 2016 and 2017. The category of computer-related occupations was the largest occupational category in 2016 and 2017; its share of total petitions approved was 69.8 percent in FY 2017. The corresponding shares for initial employment and continuing employment in computer-related occupations were 62.0 and 73.1 percent, respectively. The top 10 occupational categories representing 98.9 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 6.6 percent from 237,837 in 2016 to 254,592 in 2017. The number of H-1B petitions for all other occupation groups increased by 3.4 percent from 106,418 in 2016 to 110,009 in 2017.

Table 8A. H-1B Petitions Approved by Major Occupation Group of Beneficiary and Type of Petition (Number): Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017

Occupational Category	All Beneficiaries		Initial Employment		Continuing Employment	
	FY2016	FY2017	FY2016	FY2017	FY2016	FY2017
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Total	345,262	365,682	114,503	108,101	230,759	257,581
Occupation known	344,255	364,601	114,130	107,736	230,125	256,865
Computer-related occupations	237,837	254,592	69,846	66,848	167,991	187,744
Occupations in Architecture, Engineering and Surveying	27,836	29,210	10,243	10,510	17,593	18,700
Occupations in Administrative Specializations	19,144	20,544	7,824	6,711	11,320	13,833
Occupations in Education	18,090	18,686	9,414	8,238	8,676	10,448
Occupations in Medicine and Health	14,178	14,884	4,979	4,696	9,199	10,188
Occupations in Mathematics and Physical Sciences	6,281	6,869	2,786	2,750	3,495	4,119
Managers and Officials N.E.C.*	4,830	4,284	2,517	1,398	2,313	2,886
Occupations in Life Sciences	4,580	5,054	1,533	2,314	3,047	2,740
Occupations in Social Sciences	3,898	2,993	1,502	1,196	2,396	1,797
Miscellaneous Professional, Technical and Managerial	3,470	3,635	1,622	1,325	1,848	2,310
Occupations in Art	2,087	1,982	904	865	1,183	1,117
Occupations in Law and Jurisprudence	912	947	445	501	467	446
Occupations in Writing	421	345	182	144	239	201
Miscellaneous ¹³	320	265	140	96	180	169
Occupations in Entertainment and Recreation	148	104	78	42	70	62
Occupations in Museum, Library and Archival Sciences	138	139	67	70	71	69
Occupations in Religion and Theology	70	61	36	27	34	34
Sales Promotion Occupations	15	7	12	5	3	2
Occupation unknown¹⁴	1,007	1,081	373	365	634	716

Notes: Occupations ranked based on FY 2016 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 2016 and 2017

Occupational Category	All Beneficiaries		Initial Employment		Continuing Employment	
	FY2016 Number	FY2017 Number	FY2016 Number	FY2017 Number	FY2016 Number	FY2017 Number
Occupation known	100	100	100	100	100	100
Computer-related occupations	69.1	69.8	61.2	62.0	73.0	73.1
Occupations in Architecture, Engineering and Surveying	8.1	8.0	9.0	9.8	7.6	7.3
Occupations in Administrative Specializations	5.6	5.6	6.9	6.2	4.9	5.4
Occupations in Education	5.3	5.1	8.2	7.6	3.8	4.1
Occupations in Medicine and Health	4.1	4.1	4.4	4.4	4.0	4.0
Occupations in Mathematics and Physical Sciences	1.8	1.9	2.4	2.6	1.5	1.6
Managers and Officials N.E.C.*	1.4	1.2	2.2	1.3	1.0	1.1
Occupations in Life Sciences	1.3	1.4	1.3	2.1	1.3	1.1
Occupations in Social Sciences	1.1	0.8	1.3	1.1	1.0	0.7
Miscellaneous Professional, Technical and Managerial	1.0	1.0	1.4	1.2	0.8	0.9
Occupations in Art	0.6	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.4
Occupations in Law and Jurisprudence	0.3	0.3	0.4	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 Entertainment and Recreation	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Occupations in Museum, Library, & Archival Sciences	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
Sales Promotion Occupations	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Occupation unknown	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3

Notes: Occupations ranked based on FY 2016 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 2016 and 2017. Each table shows occupations arranged in descending order by the total number of beneficiaries approved in FY 2016 and FY 2017. The list is limited to the top 20 categories. Of approved petitions in 2017, 62 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 2016 and 2017

Occupational Category	All Beneficiaries		Initial Employment		Continuing Employment	
	FY 2016 Number	FY 2017 Number	FY 2016 Number	FY 2017 Number	FY 2016 Number	FY 2017 Number
Total	345,262	365,682	113,503	108,101	230,759	257,581
Occupation known	345,233	364,601	114,501	107,736	230,732	250,153
Occupations in Systems Analysis and Programming	203,025	219,855	60,385	58,374	142,640	161,481
Computer-Related Occupations, N.E.C.*	29,342	29,533	7,694	6,805	21,648	22,728
Occupations in College and University Education	14,672	15,772	8,158	7,324	6,514	8,448
Electrical/Electronics Engineering Occupations	10,972	11,840	3,538	3,969	7,434	7,871
Accountants, Auditors and Related Occupations	7,825	8,407	3,499	3,020	4,326	5,387
Physicians and Surgeons	7,329	7,704	2,427	2,227	4,902	5,477
Mechanical Engineering Occupations	5,523	5,780	2,086	2,029	3,437	3,751
Occupations in Architecture, Engineering and Surveying, N.E.C.*	3,715	9,079	1,482	3,589	2,233	5,490
Occupations in Administrative Specializations, N.E.C.*	3,673	6,489	1,403	2,121	2,321	4,368
Budget and Management Systems Analysis Occupations	4,637	5,648	1,781	1,570	2,856	4,078
Misc. Professional, Technical and Managerial Occupations, N.E.C.*	3,692	3,635	1,403	1,325	2,289	2,310
Occupations in Biological Sciences	3,705	3,896	2,008	1,840	1,697	2,056
Occupations in Economics	3,051	2,565	1,378	970	1,673	1,595
Occupations in Medicine and Health, N.E.C.*	2,482	4,942	1,137	1,927	1,345	3,015
Occupations in Computer System Technical Support	2,902	2,945	867	950	2,035	1,995
Miscellaneous Managers and Officials, N.E.C.*	3,692	4,284	704	1,398	1,575	2,886
Industrial Engineering Occupations	2,350	2,511	905	923	1,445	1,588
Occupations in Data Communications and Networks	2,233	2,259	805	719	1,428	1,540
Occupations in Mathematics	3,308	3,952	1,486	1,559	1,822	2,393
Therapists	2,014	2,238	522	542	1,462	1,696
Other Occupations	25,091	11,267	10,833	4,555	15,650	6,712
Occupation Unknown	29	1,081	2	365	7	716

Notes: Occupations ranked based on FY 2016 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 2016 and 2017

Occupational Category	All Beneficiaries		Initial Employment		Continuing Employment	
	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2016	FY 2017
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Total	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Occupation known	100	100	100	100	100	100
Occupations in Systems Analysis and Programming	58.8	62.2	52.7	56.6	61.8	64.6
Computer-Related Occupations, N.E.C.*	8.5	8.4	6.7	6.6	9.4	9.1
Occupations in College and University Education	4.2	4.5	7.1	7.1	2.8	3.4
Electrical/Electronics Engineering Occupations	3.2	3.4	3.1	3.8	3.2	3.1
Accountants, Auditors and Related Occupations	2.1	2.4	3.1	2.9	1.9	2.2
Physicians and Surgeons	1.6	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.2
Mechanical Engineering Occupations	1.7	1.6	1.8	2.0	1.5	1.5
Occupations in Architecture, Engineering and Surveying, N.E.C.*	1.1	2.6	1.3	3.5	1.0	2.2
Occupations in Administrative Specializations, N.E.C.*	1.1	1.8	1.2	2.1	1.0	1.7
Budget and Management Systems Analysis Occupations	1.4	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.2	1.6
Misc. Professional, Technical and Managerial Occupations, N.E.C.*	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.0	0.9
Occupations in Biological Sciences	1.1	1.1	1.8	1.8	0.7	0.8
Occupations in Economics	0.9	0.7	1.2	0.9	0.7	0.6
Occupations in Medicine and Health, N.E.C.*	0.7	1.4	1.0	1.9	0.6	1.2
Occupations in Computer System Technical Support	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.8
Miscellaneous Managers and Officials, N.E.C.*	0.7	1.2	0.6	1.4	0.7	1.2
Industrial Engineering Occupations	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.6	0.6
Occupations in Data Communications and Networks	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6
Occupations in Mathematics	0.2	1.1	0.3	1.5	0.2	1.0
Therapists	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.7
Other Occupations	8.9	3.2	10.4	4.4	7.5	2.7
Occupation Unknown	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.3

Notes: Occupations ranked based on FY 2016 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 2017. As shown in Table 10, the median annual compensation reported by employers of H-1B workers approved for employment during FY 2017 was \$85,000. The median annual compensation was \$82,000 in FY 2016. Median compensation ranged from a low of \$39,000 for occupations in sale promotion occupations to a high of \$135,000 for law and jurisprudence occupations.

Table 10. Annual Compensation (\$) of All H-1B Beneficiaries by Major Occupation Group: FY 2017 (Approvals)¹⁶

Occupation	Total Reported	25 th Percentile	Median	Mean	75 th Percentile
Total	365,672	69,000	85,000	94,000	110,000
Known Occupations with annual compensation	364,597	69,000	85,000	94,000	110,000
Computer-Related Occupations	254,590	71,000	85,000	93,000	109,000
Occupations In Architecture, Engineering and Surveying	29,210	73,000	90,000	96,000	113,000
Occupations In Administrative Specializations	20,544	61,000	83,000	93,000	115,000
Occupations In Education	18,685	48,000	59,000	72,000	80,000
Occupations In Medicine and Health	14,883	60,000	86,000	134,000	198,000
Occupations In Mathematics and Physical Sciences	6,869	70,000	90,000	96,000	115,000
Occupations In Life Sciences	5,054	50,000	60,000	70,000	81,000
Managers And Officials, N.E.C.*	4,284	80,000	112,000	120,000	143,000
Miscellaneous Professional, Technical and Managerial Occupations	3,635	79,000	109,000	113,000	145,000
Occupations In Social Sciences	2,993	60,000	85,000	96,000	120,000
Occupations In Art	1,982	55,000	65,000	74,000	88,000
Occupations In Law And Jurisprudence	947	64,000	135,000	137,000	188,000
Occupations In Writing	345	39,000	60,000	67,000	84,000
Miscellaneous	265	38,000	52,000	62,000	69,000
Occupations In Museum, Library and Archival Sciences	139	48,000	65,000	78,000	97,000
Occupations In Entertainment and Recreation	104	33,000	47,000	59,000	69,000
Occupations In Religion and Theology	61	35,000	51,000	59,000	66,000
Sale Promotion Occupations	7	-	39,000	46,000	78,000
Occupation unknown	1,075	55,000	75,000	86,000	100,000

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.

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.

¹⁶ The Fiscal Year 2012 report reflects detailed occupational groups, whereas the Fiscal Year 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 reports reflect major occupational groups, which capture data on the general categories of H-1B positions.

As revealed in Tables 11 and 12, beneficiaries for continuing employment reported higher annual compensation than did beneficiaries for initial employment. In FY 2017, workers approved for continuing employment and initial employment reported median annual compensation of \$90,000 and \$75,000, respectively.

Table 11. Annual Compensation (\$) of H-1B Beneficiaries for Initial Employment by Major Occupation Group: FY 2017 (Approvals)¹⁷

Occupation	Total Reported	25 th Percentile	Median	Mean	75 th Percentile
Total	108,100	63,000	75,000	86,000	100,000
Known Occupations with annual compensation	107,735	63,000	75,000	86,000	100,000
Computer-Related Occupations	66,848	66,000	76,000	85,000	98,000
Occupations In Architecture, Engineering and Surveying	10,510	65,000	81,000	88,000	104,000
Occupations In Education	8,238	48,000	58,000	71,000	80,000
Occupations In Administrative Specializations	6,711	55,000	70,000	82,000	100,000
Occupations In Medicine And Health	4,695	55,000	73,000	130,000	190,000
Occupations In Mathematics And Physical Sciences	2,750	65,000	81,000	89,000	108,000
Occupations In Life Sciences	2,314	48,000	55,000	65,000	73,000
Managers And Officials, N.E.C.*	1,398	72,000	100,000	112,000	130,000
Miscellaneous Professional, Technical and Managerial Occupations	1,325	71,000	95,000	103,000	128,000
Occupations In Social Sciences	1,196	55,000	78,000	90,000	115,000
Occupations In Art	865	50,000	61,000	71,000	83,000
Occupations In Law And Jurisprudence	501	66,000	160,000	138,000	180,000
Occupations In Writing	144	37,000	54,000	58,000	72,000
Miscellaneous	96	34,000	45,000	64,000	64,000
Occupations In Museum, Library and Archival Sciences	70	42,000	66,000	83,000	115,000
Occupations In Entertainment And Recreation	42	36,000	47,000	55,000	60,000
Occupations In Religion And Theology	27	30,000	42,000	43,000	55,000
Sale Promotion Occupations	5	-	-	34,000	39,000
Occupation unknown	365	50,000	65,000	75,000	83,000

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.

¹⁷ The FY 2012 report reflects detailed occupational groups, whereas the FY 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 reports reflect major occupational groups, which capture data on the general categories of H-1B positions.

Table 12. Annual Compensation (\$) of H-1B Beneficiaries for Continuing Employment by Major Occupation Group: FY 2017 (Approvals)¹⁸

	Total	25th	Median	Mean	75th
Occupation	Reported	Percentile			Percentile
Total	257,572	73,000	90,000	98,000	114,000
Known Occupations with annual compensation	256,862	73,000	90,000	98,000	114,000
Computer-Related Occupations	187,742	75,000	90,000	96,000	111,000
Occupations In Architecture, Engineering and Surveying	18,700	79,000	95,000	101,000	118,000
Occupations In Administrative Specializations	13,833	66,000	89,000	98,000	122,000
Occupations In Education	10,447	48,000	60,000	72,000	80,000
Occupations In Medicine And Health	10,188	62,000	92,000	136,000	200,000
Occupations In Mathematics And Physical Sciences	4,119	76,000	96,000	102,000	120,000
Managers And Officials, N.E.C.*	2,886	85,000	117,000	124,000	149,000
Occupations In Life Sciences	2,740	52,000	64,000	73,000	89,000
Miscellaneous Professional, Technical and Managerial Occupations	2,310	84,000	115,000	119,000	151,000
Occupations In Social Sciences	1,797	65,000	92,000	101,000	124,000
Occupations In Art	1,117	60,000	69,000	77,000	90,000
Occupations In Law And Jurisprudence	446	62,000	110,000	136,000	205,000
Occupations In Writing	201	41,000	65,000	74,000	91,000
Miscellaneous	169	40,000	55,000	61,000	70,000
Occupations In Museum, Library and Archival Sciences	69	48,000	63,000	73,000	85,000
Occupations In Entertainment And Recreation	62	27,000	50,000	61,000	87,000
Occupations In Religion And Theology	34	41,000	64,000	72,000	88,000
Sale Promotion Occupations	2	78,000	78,000	78,000	78,000
Occupation unknown	710	61,000	82,000	91,000	105,000

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.

¹⁸ The FY 2012 report reflects detailed occupational groups, whereas the FY 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 reports reflect major occupational groups, which capture data on the general categories of H-1B positions.

Section 3.7 – Distribution of petitions by industry

Tables 13A and 13B show the top industries that employed H-1B workers in FY 2017. Industry data are collected using the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). The top industries listed in Tables 13A and 13B represent over 75 percent of H-1B workers approved for all known industry categories as determined by the NAICS code entered on Form I-129.¹⁹ The number of workers approved for all known industries increased by 6.8 percent from 318,093 in FY 2016 to 339,604 in FY 2017.

¹⁹ 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 2016 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 2016 and 2017**

	All Beneficiaries		Initial Employment		Continuing Employment	
	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2016	FY 2017
Industry	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Total	345,262	365,682	114,503	108,101	230,759	257,581
Industry known	318,093	339,604	104,923	99,137	213,170	240,467
Custom Computer Programming Services	114,299	116,844	36,048	32,063	78,251	84,781
Computer System Design Services	36,773	43,784	10,060	11,240	26,713	32,544
Colleges, Universities and Professional Schools	18,696	19,843	10,254	9,063	8,442	10,780
Software Publishers	8,805	9,389	2,959	3,190	5,846	6,199
Computer Systems Design and Related Services	8,727	10,054	3,190	2,952	5,537	7,102
Engineering Services	7,173	7,457	2,735	2,904	4,438	4,553
Other Computer Related Services	6,583	6,358	1,882	1,643	4,701	4,715
General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	5,483	6,199	2,239	2,055	3,604	4,144
Management, Scientific and Technical Consulting Services	4,911	6,026	1,699	1,102	3,212	4,924
Electronic Computer Manufacturing	4,510	4,582	1,324	1,500	3,186	3,082
Investment Banking and Securities Dealing	4,191	3,905	1,274	1,096	2,917	2,809
Administrative Management and General Management Consulting Services	3,871	4,403	1,506	1,194	2,365	3,209
Elementary and Secondary Schools	2,773	2,449	963	701	1,810	1,748
Offices of Physicians (except Mental Health Specialists)	2,549	2,797	811	813	1,738	1,984
Semiconductor and Other Electronic Component Manufacturing	2,529	3,367	1,086	1,354	1,443	2,013
Semiconductor and Related Device Manufacturing	2,500	2,571	826	847	1,674	1,724
Offices of Certified Public Accountants	2,476	3,810	1,070	827	1,406	2,983
Research and Development in the Physical, Engineering and Life Sciences	2,245	2,506	390	944	1,203	1,562
Other Industries ²⁰	75,254	77,329	23,926	22,252	51,620	55,077
Industry unknown	27,169	26,078	9,580	8,964	17,589	17,114

Notes: Industries ranked by total beneficiaries in FY 2016.
NAICS stands for North American Industry Classification System.

**Table 13B. H-1B Petitions Approved by Detailed Industry and Type of Petition
(Percent) FYs 2016 and 2017**

²⁰ See footnote 19.

Industry	All Beneficiaries		Initial Employment		Continuing Employment	
	FY2016	FY2017	FY2016	FY2017	FY2016	FY2017
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
Industry known	92.1	92.9	91.6	91.7	92.4	93.4
Custom Computer Programming Services	35.9	34.4	34.4	32.3	36.7	35.3
Computer System Design Services	11.6	12.9	9.6	11.3	12.5	13.5
Colleges, Universities and Professional Schools	5.9	5.8	9.8	9.1	4.0	4.5
Software Publishers	2.7	2.8	2.8	3.2	2.7	2.6
Computer Systems Design and Related Services	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.6	3.0
Engineering Services	2.1	2.2	2.6	2.9	2.1	1.9
Other Computer Related Services	2.3	1.9	1.8	1.7	2.2	2.0
General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	1.7	1.8	2.1	2.1	1.7	1.7
Management, Scientific and Technical Consulting Services	1.5	1.8	1.6	1.1	1.5	2.0
Electronic Computer Manufacturing	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.3
Investment Banking and Securities Dealing	1.4	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.4	1.2
Administrative Management and General Management Consulting Services	0.9	1.3	1.4	1.2	0.8	1.3
Elementary and Secondary Schools	1.3	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.7
Offices of Physicians (except Mental Health Specialists)	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Semiconductor and Other Electronic Component Manufacturing	0.8	1.0	1.0	1.4	0.7	0.8
Semiconductor and Related Device Manufacturing	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.7
Offices of Certified Public Accountants	0.7	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.7	1.2
Research and Development in the Physical, Engineering and Life Sciences	0.8	0.7	0.3	1.0	0.2	0.6
Other Industries	15.7	22.8	14.6	22.4	17.2	22.9
Industry unknown	7.9	7.1	8.4	8.3	7.6	6.6

Notes: Industries ranked by total beneficiaries in FY 2016.

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 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,²¹ 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.

²¹ 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.