



# Characteristics of H-1B Specialty Occupation Workers

Fiscal Year 2015 Annual Report to Congress  
October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015

March 17, 2016



Homeland  
Security

*U.S. Citizenship and  
Immigration Services*





**Homeland  
Security**

## Foreword

March 17, 2016

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 2015, 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 Grassley  
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee

The Honorable Robert W. Goodlatte  
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.  
Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee

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

Sincerely,



M. Tia Johnson  
Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs

# Executive Summary

*The American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act of 1998 (ACWIA)*, Pub. L. No. 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 2015, October 1, 2014–September 30, 2015.

## Highlights

- The number of H-1B petitions filed increased 9 percent from 318,824 in FY 2014 to 348,669 in FY 2015.
- The number of H-1B petitions approved decreased 13 percent from 315,857 in FY 2014, to 275,317 in FY 2015.<sup>1</sup>
- 71 percent of H-1B petitions approved in FY 2015 were for workers between the ages of 25 and 34.
- 45 percent of H-1B petitions approved in FY 2015 were for workers with a bachelor's degree, 44 percent had a master's degree, 7 percent had a doctorate, and 3 percent were for workers with a professional degree.
- 66 percent of H-1B petitions approved in FY 2015 were for workers in computer-related occupations.
- The median salary of beneficiaries of approved petitions increased from \$75,000 for FY 2014 to \$79,000 for FY 2015.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 2015 include petitions which were received *prior* to Fiscal Year 2015, but were approved in Fiscal Year 2015 (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. No. 105-277, div. C, tit. IV, 112 Stat. 2681, includes the following reporting requirement:<sup>2</sup>

[T]he Attorney General<sup>3</sup> 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.

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<sup>2</sup> Sections 416(c)(1) and (3) of ACWIA, Pub. L. No. 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 2015.

<sup>3</sup> As of March 1, 2003, in accordance with section 1517 of Title XV of the *Homeland Security Act of 2002* (HSA), Pub. L. No. 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.”*<sup>4</sup>

The H-1B nonimmigrant classification is a vehicle through which a qualified alien may seek admission to the United States on a temporary basis to work in his or her field of expertise. An H-1B petition can be filed 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 file a Labor Condition Application (LCA) with Department of Labor (DOL) and then file an H-1B petition with U.S. Citizenship and Immigrations Services (USCIS).<sup>5</sup> The LCA specifies the job, salary, length, and geographic location of employment. The employer must agree to pay the alien the greater of the actual or prevailing wage for the position.

To qualify as a specialty occupation, the position must meet one of the following requirements: (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 214.2(h)(4)(iii)(C). Specialty occupations may include, but are not limited to, computer systems analysts and programmers, physicians, professors, engineers, and accountants. See 8 CFR 214.2(h)(4)(ii).

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<sup>4</sup> 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.”

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



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 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 period of three years.<sup>6</sup> 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.<sup>7</sup> 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," 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*

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<sup>6</sup> 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 ten years, see 8 CFR 214.2(h)(13)(iii)(B); however, the H-1B petition may only be approved for a maximum period of five years. See 8 CFR 214.2(h)(9)(iii)(A)(2).

<sup>7</sup> 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. No. 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.<sup>8</sup> 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 master's 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 2015, USCIS approved 275,317 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 2012 to 2015 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 2015, a total of 113,609 petitions, or 39 percent, were for initial employment.<sup>9</sup> The corresponding number of petitions for continuing employment was 161,714.<sup>10</sup> 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 their current employer; 2) notify USCIS of changes in the

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<sup>8</sup> 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 U.S. 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 U.S. at any time performing services in a DOD cooperative research and development projects or coproduction projects. See 8 CFR 214.2(h)(8)(i)(B).

<sup>9</sup> 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 six 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.

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



conditions of employment, including a change of employer; or 3) request concurrent H-1B status with another employer.

The number of H-1B petitions filed increased nine percent and petitions approved decreased by 13 percent between FYs 2014 and 2015. For initial employment, petitions filed increased seven percent and petitions approved decreased by nine percent. Petitions filed for continuing employment increased 11 percent and petitions approved decreased by 16 percent.

**Table 1. H-1B Petitions Filed and Approved by Type of Petition:  
FYs 2012 to 2015**

	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
<b>Petitions filed</b>	<b>307,713</b>	<b>299,467</b>	<b>318,824</b>	<b>348,669</b>
Initial Employment	155,292	130,034	127,205	136,042
Continuing Employment	152,421	169,433	191,619	212,627
<b>Petitions approved<sup>11</sup></b>	<b>262,569</b>	<b>286,773</b>	<b>315,857</b>	<b>275,317</b>
Initial Employment	136,890	128,291	124,326	113,603
Continuing Employment	125,679	158,482	191,531	161,714

Table 2 shows the number of H-1B petitions filed by quarter in FYs 2012 to 2015. More than 81 percent of filings for initial employment occurred in the third quarter of FY 2015, when the cap-subject petition filing season opened. 62 percent of filings for continuing employment were received in the third and fourth quarters of FY 2015.

**Table 2. H-1B Petitions Filed by Quarter:  
FYs 2012 to 2015**

Quarter	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2015 Initial Employment	Percent of Total	FY 2015 Continuing Employment	Percent of Total
<b>Total</b>	<b>307,713</b>	<b>299,467</b>	<b>318,824</b>	<b>348,669</b>	<b>136,042</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>212,627</b>	<b>100</b>
October-December	65,186	40,048	45,211	51,964	8,038	6	43,926	21
January-March	36,217	39,433	42,781	46,088	8,051	6	38,037	18
April-June	150,104	159,380	158,623	176,042	110,411	81	65,631	31
July-September	56,206	60,606	72,709	74,575	9,542	7	66,033	31

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

<sup>11</sup> 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 2012 to 2015 by type of petition. 113,603 H-1B beneficiaries were approved for initial employment and 161,714 for continuing employment in FY 2015.

The number of aliens outside the United States approved for initial employment decreased eight percent from 68,390 in FY 2014 to 62,656 in FY 2015. The corresponding number of petitions approved for aliens in the United States requesting a change to H-1B status decreased by nine percent from 55,936 in FY 2014 to 50,947 in FY 2015.

**Table 3. H-1B Petitions Approved by Type:  
FYs 2012 to 2015**

Type of Petition	Petitions Approved							
	FY2012	Percent	FY2013	Percent	FY2014	Percent	FY2015	Percent
<b>Total</b>	<b>262,569</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>286,773</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>315,857</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>275,317</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Initial employment</b>	<b>136,890</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>128,291</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>124,326</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>113,603</b>	<b>41</b>
Aliens outside U.S.	74,997	28	68,785	24	68,390	22	62,656	23
Aliens in U.S.	61,893	24	59,506	21	55,936	18	50,947	19
<b>Continuing employment</b>	<b>125,679</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>158,482</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>191,531</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>161,714</b>	<b>59</b>

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.<sup>12</sup> Of the H-1B petitions approved in FY 2015, 71 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 10 percent of all beneficiaries. The number of beneficiaries from India approved for initial employment decreased 13 percent in FY 2015, while the number of beneficiaries approved for continuing employment decreased 10 percent in FY 2015.

<sup>12</sup> 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 2014 and 2015**

Country of Birth	All Beneficiaries		Initial Employment		Continuing Employment	
	FY 2014 Number	FY 2015 Number	FY 2014 Number	FY 2015 Number	FY 2014 Number	FY 2015 Number
<b>Total</b>	<b>315,857</b>	<b>275,317</b>	<b>124,326</b>	<b>113,603</b>	<b>191,531</b>	<b>161,714</b>
India	220,286	195,247	82,263	71,263	138,023	123,984
China, People's Republic	26,393	26,669	13,708	15,438	12,685	11,231
Canada	6,853	3,607	2,561	1,823	4,292	1,784
South Korea	4,390	3,470	2,012	1,870	2,378	1,600
Philippines	5,157	3,146	1,318	1,215	3,839	1,931
United Kingdom	3,307	2,241	1,211	1,015	2,096	1,226
Taiwan	2,406	2,060	1,176	1,112	1,230	948
Mexico	2,768	2,017	1,038	970	1,730	1,047
France	2,218	1,794	920	906	1,161	888
Pakistan	1,923	1,602	787	749	1,136	853
Japan	1,983	1,398	691	634	1,292	764
Brazil	1,546	1,388	692	751	854	637
Nepal	1,735	1,385	769	666	966	719
Germany	1,625	1,325	751	706	874	619
Turkey	1,619	1,196	672	611	947	585
Iran	0	1,057	0	739	0	318
Russia	1,241	1,056	573	550	668	506
Italy	1,283	1,035	634	573	649	462
Venezuela	1,230	976	439	461	791	515
Colombia	1,290	949	447	421	843	528
Spain	1,155	938	573	559	582	379
Other countries	25,449	20,761	11,091	10,371	14,495	10,190

Note: Countries of birth are ranked based on FY 2015 data.



**Table 4B. H-1B Petitions Approved by Country of Birth of Beneficiary and Type of Petition (Percent): FYs 2014 and 2015**

Country of Birth	All Beneficiaries		Initial Employment		Continuing Employment	
	FY 2014 Percent	FY 2015 Percent	FY 2014 Percent	FY 2015 Percent	FY 2014 Percent	FY 2015 Percent
<b>Total</b>	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>Country of birth</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
India	69.7	70.9	66.2	62.7	72.1	76.7
China, People's Republic	8.4	9.7	11	13.6	6.6	6.9
Canada	2.2	1.3	2.1	1.6	2.2	1.1
South Korea	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.6	2.0	1.0
Philippines	1.6	1.1	1.6	1.1	1.2	1.2
United Kingdom	1.0	0.8	1.0	0.9	1.1	0.8
Taiwan	0.8	0.7	0.8	1.0	0.9	0.6
Mexico	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.6
France	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.5
Pakistan	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.5
Japan	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5
Brazil	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.4
Nepal	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.4
Germany	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.4
Turkey	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4
Iran	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.2
Russia	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.3
Italy	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.3
Venezuela	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3
Columbia	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3
Spain	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.2
<b>Other countries</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>6.3</b>

Notes: Countries of birth are ranked based on FY 2015 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 2015 by type of petition. Seventy-one percent of workers granted H-1B status during FY 2015 were between 25 and 34 years of age at the time their petitions were approved. Forty-nine percent of initial beneficiaries were under 30, compared with 28 percent of continuing beneficiaries.

**Table 5. H-1B Petitions Approved by Age of Beneficiary at Time of Approval and by Type of Petition: FY 2015**

Age	All Beneficiaries	Percent	Initial Employment	Percent	Continuing Employment	Percent
<b>Total</b>	<b>275,317</b>		<b>113,603</b>		<b>161,714</b>	
<b>Age known</b>	<b>275,266</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>113,572</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>161,694</b>	<b>100</b>
Under 20	56	0.02	35	0.03	21	0.01
20-24	10,942	3.98	9,800	8.63	1,142	0.71
25-29	89,903	32.66	46,060	40.56	43,843	27.11
30-34	105,631	38.37	35,235	31.02	70,396	43.54
35-39	47,440	17.23	15,148	13.34	32,292	19.97
40-44	14,050	5.1	4,642	4.09	9,408	5.82
45-49	4,377	1.59	1,543	1.36	2,834	1.75
50-54	1,731	0.63	676	0.6	1,055	0.65
55-59	733	0.27	272	0.24	461	0.29
60-64	282	0.1	105	0.09	177	0.11
65 and over	121	0.04	56	0.05	65	0.04
<b>Age unknown</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>-----</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>-----</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>-----</b>

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 and 2015. As shown in Table 6, 45 percent of all H-1B petitions approved for workers in FY 2015 reported that the beneficiary had earned the equivalent of a bachelor's degree, 44 percent a master's degree, seven percent a doctorate, and three percent a professional degree.

**Table 6. Percent of H-1B Petitions Approved by Level of Education:  
FYs 2012-2015**

Level of Education	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
Education known	100	100	100	100
Less than a Bachelor's degree	1	1	1	1
Bachelor's degree	46	45	45	45
Master's degree	41	41	43	44
Doctorate degree	8	9	8	7
Professional degree	4	3	4	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 2015**

Level of Education	All Beneficiaries	Percent	Initial Employment	Percent	Continuing Employment	Percent
<b>Total</b>	<b>275,317</b>		<b>113,603</b>		<b>161,714</b>	
<b>Education known</b>	<b>275,294</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>113,589</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>161,705</b>	<b>100</b>
No high school diploma	52	0.02	25	0.02	27	0.02
High school graduate	148	0.05	69	0.06	79	0.05
Less than 1 year of college credit	25	0.01	12	0.01	13	0.01
1 or more years of college credit, no diploma	232	0.08	89	0.08	143	0.09
Associate's degree	189	0.07	72	0.06	117	0.07
Bachelor's degree	123,143	45	49,265	43	73,878	46
Master's degree	121,549	44	48,317	43	73,232	45
Doctorate degree	20,633	7	11,722	10	8,911	6
Professional degree	9,323	3	4,018	4	5,305	3
<b>Education unknown</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>-----</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>-----</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>-----</b>

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 2014 and 2015. The category of computer-related occupations was the largest occupational category in 2015; its share of total petitions approved was 66 percent in FY 2015. The corresponding shares for initial employment and continuing employment in computer-related occupations were 62 and 69 percent, respectively. The top ten occupational categories representing 98 percent of all beneficiaries had more continuing employment than initial employment beneficiaries.

The number of H-1B petitions approved for workers in computer-related occupations decreased by 10 percent from 2014 to 2015. The number of H-1B petitions for all other occupation groups decreased by 18 percent between 2014 and 2015.

**Table 8A. H-1B Petitions Approved by Major Occupation Group of Beneficiary and Type of Petition (Number): Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015**

Occupational Category	All Beneficiaries		Initial Employment		Continuing Employment	
	FY2014 Number	FY2015 Number	FY2014 Number	FY2015 Number	FY2014 Number	FY2015 Number
<b>Total</b>	<b>315,857</b>	<b>275,317</b>	<b>124,326</b>	<b>113,603</b>	<b>191,531</b>	<b>161,714</b>
<b>Occupation known</b>	<b>313,930</b>	<b>274,380</b>	<b>123,591</b>	<b>113,232</b>	<b>190,339</b>	<b>161,148</b>
Computer-related occupations	203,425	183,076	80,877	70,902	122,368	112,174
Occupations in Architecture, Engineering and Surveying	29,103	23,866	10,707	10,003	18,396	13,863
Occupations in Administrative Specializations	18,905	16,628	7,395	7,899	11,510	8,729
Occupations in Education	18,680	15,123	8,393	8,395	10,287	6,728
Occupations in Medicine and Health	15,358	11,543	5,020	4,645	10,338	6,898
Occupations in Mathematics and Physical Sciences	5,571	4,917	2,295	2,441	3,276	2,476
Managers and Officials N.E.C.*	5,453	4,103	1,699	1,550	3,754	2,553
Occupations in Life Sciences	4,746	4,114	2,158	2,291	2,588	1,823
Occupations in Social Sciences	3,920	3,480	1,567	1,666	2,353	1,814
Miscellaneous Professional, Technical, and Managerial	3,861	3,595	1,294	1,528	2,567	2,067
Occupations in Art	2,518	1,899	958	891	1,560	1,008
Occupations in Law and Jurisprudence	1,018	864	486	454	532	410
Occupations in Writing	646	424	305	218	341	206
Miscellaneous <sup>13</sup>	405	355	186	137	219	218
Occupations in Entertainment and Recreation	178	134	89	66	89	68
Occupations in Museum, Library, and Archival Sciences	158	148	71	81	87	67
Occupations in Religion and Theology	92	85	40	43	52	42
Sales Promotion Occupations	73	26	51	22	22	4
<b>Occupation unknown<sup>14</sup></b>	<b>1,927</b>	<b>937</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>1,192</b>	<b>566</b>

Notes: Occupations ranked based on FY 2015 data.

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

<sup>13</sup> 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 <http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/m-746.pdf>.

<sup>14</sup> 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 2014 and 2015**

Occupational Category	All Beneficiaries		Initial Employment		Continuing Employment	
	FY2014 Number	FY2015 Number	FY2014 Number	FY2015 Number	FY2014 Number	FY2015 Number
<b>Occupation known</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Computer-related occupations	64.5	66.5	65.1	62.4	63.9	69.4
Occupations in Architecture, Engineering, and Surveying	9.2	8.7	8.6	8.8	9.6	8.6
Occupations in Administrative Specializations	6.0	6.7	5.9	7.0	6.0	5.4
Occupations in Education	5.9	5.5	6.8	7.4	5.4	4.2
Occupations in Medicine and Health	4.9	4.2	4.0	4.1	5.4	4.3
Occupations in Mathematics and Physical Sciences	1.8	1.8	1.8	2.1	1.7	1.5
Managers and Officials N.E.C.*	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.4	2.0	1.6
Occupations in Life Sciences	1.5	1.5	1.7	2.0	1.4	1.1
Occupations in Social Sciences	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.2	1.1
Miscellaneous Professional, Technical, and Managerial	1.2	1.3	1.0	1.3	1.3	1.3
Occupations in Art	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.6
Occupations in Law and Jurisprudence	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3
Occupations in Writing	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1
Miscellaneous	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Occupations in Entertainment and Recreation	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Occupations in Museum, Library, & Archival Sciences	0.1	0.1	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
<b>Occupation unknown</b>	<b>---0.6---</b>	<b>---0.03---</b>	<b>-----0.6</b>	<b>-----0.3</b>	<b>---0.6---</b>	<b>---0.4---</b>

Notes: Occupations ranked based on FY 2015 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 2014 and 2015. Each table shows occupations arranged in descending order by the total number of beneficiaries approved in FY 2015. The list is limited to the top 20 categories. 56 percent of approved petitions in 2015 were for aliens working as systems analysts or programmers. Aside from the "Other Occupations" category, 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 2014 and 2015**

Occupational Category	All Beneficiaries		Initial Employment		Continuing Employment	
	FY 2014 Number	FY 2015 Number	FY 2014 Number	FY 2015 Number	FY 2014 Number	FY 2015 Number
<b>Total</b>	315,857	275,317	124,326	113,603	191,531	161,714
<b>Occupation known</b>	315,814	275,317	124,295	113,603	191,519	161,714
Occupations in Systems Analysis and Programming Computer-Related Occupations, N.E.C.*	170,966	154,549	68,791	60,126	102,175	94,423
Occupations in College and University Education	26,610	23,920	9,881	8,876	16,729	15,044
Electrical/Electronics Engineering Occupations	14,402	12,239	7,274	7,224	7,128	5,015
Accountants, Auditors, and Related Occupations	11,350	8,975	3,849	3,467	7,501	5,508
Physicians and Surgeons	7,869	6,898	3,039	3,440	4,830	3,458
Mechanical Engineering Occupations	7,327	5,772	2,350	2,344	4,977	3,428
Occupations in Architecture, Engineering, and Surveying, N.E.C.*	5,418	4,657	2,060	1,961	3,358	2,696
Occupations in Administrative Specializations, N.E.C.*	3,861	3,149	1,525	1,380	2,336	1,769
Budget and Management Systems Analysis Occupations	3,857	3,163	1,523	1,349	2,334	1,814
Misc Professional, Technical, and Managerial Occupations, N.E.C.*	3,810	3,814	1,514	1,848	2,296	1,966
Occupations in Biological Sciences	3,651	3,437	1,205	1,446	2,446	1,991
Occupations in Economics	3,498	3,090	1,631	1,762	1,867	1,328
Occupations in Medicine and Health, N.E.C.*	3,485	3,084	1,352	1,429	2,133	1,655
Occupations in Computer System Technical Support	2,914	2,180	1,140	1,047	1,774	1,133
Miscellaneous Managers and Officials, N.E.C.*	2,893	2,402	1,187	949	1,706	1,453
Industrial Engineering Occupations	2,862	2,011	873	720	1,989	1,291
Occupations in Data Communications and Networks	2,573	2,157	975	834	1,598	1,323
Occupations in Mathematics	2,484	1,944	918	855	1,566	1,089
Therapists	2,393	2,434	955	1,185	1,438	1,249
Other Occupations	2,222	1,564	658	488	1,564	1,076
<b>Other Occupations</b>	31,369	23,878	11,595	10,873	19,774	13,005
<b>Occupation Unknown</b>	43	0	31	0	12	0

Notes: Occupations ranked based on FY 2015 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 2014 and 2015**

Occupational Category	All Beneficiaries		Initial Employment		Continuing Employment	
	FY 2014 Percent	FY 2015 Percent	FY 2014 Percent	FY 2015 Percent	FY 2014 Percent	FY 2015 Percent
<b>Total</b>	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>Occupation known</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Occupations in Systems Analysis and Programming	54.1	56.1	55.3	52.9	53.7	83.1
Computer-Related Occupations, N.E.C.*	8.4	8.7	7.9	7.8	8.7	13.2
Occupations in College and University Education	4.6	4.4	5.9	6.4	3.7	4.4
Electrical/Electronics Engineering Occupations	3.6	3.3	3.1	3.1	3.9	4.8
Accountants, Auditors, and Related Occupations	2.5	2.5	2.4	3.0	2.5	3.0
Physicians and Surgeons	2.3	2.1	1.9	2.1	2.6	3.0
Mechanical Engineering Occupations	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8	2.4
Occupations in Architecture, Engineering, and Surveying, N.E.C.*	1.2	1.1		1.2		1.6
Occupations in Administrative Specializations, N.E.C.*	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.6
Budget and Management Systems Analysis Occupations	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.6	1.2	1.7
Misc Professional, Technical, and Managerial Occupations, N.E.C.*	1.2	1.2	1.0	1.3	1.3	1.8
Occupations in Biological Sciences	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.6	1.0	1.2
Occupations in Economics	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.5
Occupations in Medicine and Health, N.E.C.*	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0
Occupations in Computer System Technical Support	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.9	1.3
Miscellaneous Managers and Officials, N.E.C.*	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.6	1.0	1.1
Industrial Engineering Occupations	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.8	1.2
Occupations in Data Communications and Networks	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	1.0
Occupations in Mathematics	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.8	1.1
Therapists	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.8	0.9
Other Occupations	9.9	8.8	9.3	9.6	10.3	11.5
<b>Occupation Unknown</b>	<b>-0.0-----</b>	<b>-0.0-----</b>	<b>-0.0-----</b>	<b>-0.0-----</b>	<b>-----0.0-</b>	<b>---0.0---</b>

Notes: Occupations ranked based on FY 2015 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 compensation<sup>15</sup>

<sup>15</sup> 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.

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 2015. As shown in Table 10, the median annual compensation reported by employers of H-1B workers approved for employment during FY 2015 was \$79,000. The median annual compensation was \$75,000 in FY 2014. Median compensation ranged from a low of \$39,000 for occupations in religion and theology to a high of \$124,000 for law and jurisprudence occupations.

**Table 10. Annual Compensation (\$) of All H-1B Beneficiaries by Major Occupation Group: FY 2015 (Approvals)<sup>16</sup>**

Occupation	Total Reported	25 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Median	Mean	75 <sup>th</sup> Percentile
<b>Total</b>	<b>274,581</b>	<b>65,000</b>	<b>79,000</b>	<b>88,000</b>	<b>102,000</b>
<b>Known Occupations with annual compensation</b>	<b>273,651</b>	<b>65,000</b>	<b>79,000</b>	<b>88,000</b>	<b>102,000</b>
Computer-related Occupations	182,832	67,000	80,000	87,000	100,000
Occupations in Architecture, Engineering, and Surveying	23,785	69,000	85,000	91,000	106,000
Occupation in Administrative Specializations	16,532	55,000	71,000	82,000	100,000
Occupations in Education	15,065	45,000	55,000	67,000	75,000
Occupations in Medicine and Health	11,365	57,000	83,000	123,000	180,000
Occupations in Mathematics and Physical Sciences	4,906	63,000	80,000	87,000	105,000
Managers and Officials	4,095	73,000	104,000	116,000	138,000
Occupations in Life Sciences	4,108	45,000	54,000	64,000	75,000
Occupations in Social Sciences	3,458	58,000	83,000	93,000	115,000
Miscellaneous Professional, Technical, and Managerial Occupations	3,593	72,000	95,000	103,000	131,000
Occupations in Art	1,889	45,000	60,000	73,000	84,000
Occupations in Law and Jurisprudence	863	60,000	125,000	124,000	170,000
Occupations in Writing	421	37,000	50,000	58,000	72,000
Miscellaneous	351	38,000	50,000	60,000	72,000
Occupations in Entertainment and Recreation	133	30,000	46,000	56,000	61,000
Occupations in Museum, Library, and Archival Sciences	147	48,000	60,000	78,000	82,000
Occupations in Religion and Theology	85	29,000	39,000	42,000	53,000
Sales Promotion Occupations	23	28,000	104,000	130,000	208,000
<b>Occupation unknown</b>	<b>930</b>	<b>54,000</b>	<b>75,000</b>	<b>87,000</b>	<b>102,000</b>

Notes: Occupations ranked by number of beneficiaries.

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

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

Mean is the average of all values.

25<sup>th</sup> percentile and 75<sup>th</sup> percentile are the lower quarter and upper quarter ranking values, respectively.

<sup>16</sup> The Fiscal Year 2012 report reflects detailed occupational groups, whereas the Fiscal Year 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014, and 2015 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. Median annual compensation was \$78,000 for the former and \$87,000 for the latter. In FY 2015 workers approved for continuing employment and initial employment reported mean annual compensation of \$95,000 and \$78,000 respectively.

**Table 11. Annual Compensation (\$) of H-1B Beneficiaries for Initial Employment by Major Occupation Group: FY 2015 (Approvals)<sup>17</sup>**

Occupation	Total Reported	25 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Median	Mean	75 <sup>th</sup> Percentile
<b>Total</b>	<b>113,282</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>70,000</b>	<b>78,000</b>	<b>86,000</b>
<b>Known Occupations with annual compensation</b>	<b>112,914</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>66,000</b>	<b>78,000</b>	<b>86,000</b>
Computer-related occupations	70,819	63,000	70,000	77,000	84,000
Occupations in Architecture, Engineering, and Surveying	9,955	62,000	75,000	82,000	95,000
Occupations in Education	8,368	44,000	55,000	66,000	75,000
Occupations in Administrative Specializations	7,837	50,000	60,000	71,000	84,000
Occupations in Medicine and Health	4,587	53,000	68,000	115,000	170,000
Occupations in Mathematics and Physical Sciences	2,437	60,000	72,000	80,000	95,000
Occupations in Life Sciences	2,289	44,000	51,000	59,000	65,000
Managers and Officials	1,545	65,000	90,000	111,000	125,000
Occupations in Social Sciences	1,653	50,000	70,000	80,000	100,000
Miscellaneous Professional, Technical, and Managerial Occupations	1,527	62,000	81,000	93,000	120,000
Occupations in Art	886	41,000	54,000	62,000	70,000
Occupations in Law and Jurisprudence	453	52,000	105,000	114,000	160,000
Occupations in Writing	216	33,000	44,000	50,000	60,000
Miscellaneous	134	34,000	43,000	50,000	60,000
Occupations in Entertainment and Recreation	66	30,000	40,000	52,000	50,000
Occupations in Museum, Library, and Archival Sciences	80	45,000	56,000	71,000	80,000
Occupations in Religion and Theology	43	29,000	39,000	43,000	55,000
Sales Promotion Occupations	19	28,000	150,000	142,000	208,000
<b>Occupation unknown</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>48,000</b>	<b>61,000</b>	<b>73,000</b>	<b>82,000</b>

Notes: Occupations ranked by the number of beneficiaries.

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

Mean is the average of all values.

25<sup>th</sup> percentile and 75<sup>th</sup> percentile are the lower quarter and upper quarter ranking values, respectively.

<sup>17</sup> The FY 2012 report reflects detailed occupational groups, whereas the FY 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014, and 2015 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 2015 (Approvals)<sup>18</sup>**

Occupation	Total Reported	25 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Median	Mean	75 <sup>th</sup> Percentile
<b>Total</b>	<b>161,299</b>	<b>70,000</b>	<b>87,000</b>	<b>95,000</b>	<b>110,000</b>
<b>Known Occupations with annual compensation</b>	<b>160,737</b>	<b>70,000</b>	<b>87,000</b>	<b>95,000</b>	<b>110,000</b>
Computer-related occupations	112,013	72,000	88,000	93,000	109,000
Occupations in Architecture, Engineering, and Surveying	13,830	77,000	91,000	97,000	112,000
Occupations in Administrative Specializations	8,695	61,000	84,000	92,000	115,000
Occupations in Education	6,697	45,000	55,000	69,000	75,000
Occupations in Medicine and Health	6,778	60,000	93,000	129,000	187,000
Managers and Officials	2,550	80,000	110,000	120,000	143,000
Occupations in Mathematics and Physical Sciences	2,469	70,000	90,000	94,000	113,000
Occupations in Life Sciences	1,819	48,000	61,000	70,000	85,000
Miscellaneous Professional, Technical, and Managerial Occupations	2,066	80,000	105,000	111,000	137,000
Occupations in Social Sciences	1,805	69,000	95,000	104,000	126,000
Occupations in Art	1,003	51,000	66,000	83,000	92,000
Occupations in Law and Jurisprudence	410	69,000	145,000	135,000	185,000
Occupations in Writing	205	41,000	60,000	68,000	85,000
Miscellaneous	217	42,000	57,000	67,000	86,000
Occupations in Entertainment and Recreation	67	33,000	52,000	59,000	71,000
Occupations in Museum, Library, and Archival Sciences	67	51,000	61,000	87,000	93,000
Occupations in Religion and Theology	42	30,000	38,000	42,000	48,000
Sales Promotions Occupations	4	39,000	78,000	77,000	116,000
<b>Occupation unknown</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>63,000</b>	<b>89,000</b>	<b>96,000</b>	<b>110,000</b>

Notes: Occupations ranked by the number of beneficiaries.

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

Mean is the average of all values.

25<sup>th</sup> percentile and 75<sup>th</sup> percentile are the lower quarter and upper quarter ranking values, respectively.

<sup>18</sup> The FY 2012 report reflects detailed occupational groups, whereas the FY 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014, and 2015 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 20 industries that employed H-1B workers in FY 2015. Industry data are collected using the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). The top 20 industries listed in Tables 13A and 13B represent nearly 91 percent of H-1B workers approved for all known industry categories as determined by the NAICS code entered on Form I-129.<sup>19</sup> The number of workers approved for all known industries decreased 10 percent from 277,300 in FY 2014 to 250,685 in FY 2015.

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<sup>19</sup> 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 2015, 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 2014 and 2015**

Industry	All Beneficiaries		Initial Employment		Continuing Employment	
	FY 2014 Number	FY 2015 Number	FY 2014 Number	FY 2015 Number	FY 2014 Number	FY 2015 Number
<b>Total</b>	<b>315,857</b>	<b>275,317</b>	<b>124,326</b>	<b>113,603</b>	<b>191,531</b>	<b>161,714</b>
<b>Industry known</b>	<b>277,300</b>	<b>250,685</b>	<b>113,288</b>	<b>102,187</b>	<b>164,012</b>	<b>148,498</b>
Custom Computer Programming Services	98,681	86,775	45,127	38,004	53,554	48,771
Computer System Design Services	32,198	28,974	11,488	9,371	20,710	19,603
Colleges, Universities, and Professional Schools	18,684	15,777	9,086	9,151	9,598	6,626
Computer Systems Design and Related Services	8,318	5,514	3,999	2,155	4,319	3,359
Software Publishers	6,921	6,870	2,506	2,703	4,415	4,167
Other Computer Related Services	5,880	5,215	2,379	2,019	3,501	3,196
Engineering Services	5,826	5,818	2,686	2,543	3,140	3,275
General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	5,566	4,495	2,021	2,052	3,545	2,443
Management, Scientific, and Technical Consulting Services	5,440	3,285	2,986	1,788	2,454	1,497
Administrative Management and General Management Consulting Services	3,112	2,957	1,159	1,343	1,953	1,614
Electronic Computer Manufacturing	2,960	3,422	954	1,073	2,006	2,349
Elementary and Secondary Schools	2,864	2,338	770	888	2,094	1,450
Investment Banking and Securities Dealing	2,769	3,813	780	1,191	1,989	2,622
Offices of Physicians (except Mental Health Specialists)	2,742	2,116	810	713	1,932	1,403
Semiconductor and Related Device Manufacturing	2,609	1,972	824	766	1,785	1,206
Semiconductor and Other Electronic Component Manufacturing	2,480	1,915	836	713	1,644	1,202
Research and Development in the Physical, Engineering, and Life Sciences	2,361	1,828	1,036	915	1,325	913
Offices of Certified Public Accountants	2,274	2,327	791	1,096	1,483	1,231
Radio and Television Broadcasting and Wireless Communications Equipment Manufacturing	2,202	1,611	711	482	1,491	1,129
Offices of Other Holding Companies	1,312	1,279	260	360	1,052	919
Other Industries <sup>20</sup>	62,101	62,384	22,079	22,867	40,022	39,523
<b>Industry unknown</b>	<b>38,557</b>	<b>24,632</b>	<b>11,038</b>	<b>11,416</b>	<b>27,519</b>	<b>13,216</b>

Notes: Industries ranked by total beneficiaries in FY 2015.

<sup>20</sup> See footnote 19.



NAICS stands for North American Industry Classification System.

**Table 13B. H-1B Petitions Approved by Detailed Industry and Type of Petition  
(Percent) FYs 2014 and 2015**

Industry	All Beneficiaries		Initial Employment		Continuing Employment	
	FY2014 Percent	FY2015 Percent	FY2014 Percent	FY2015 Percent	FY2014 Percent	FY2015 Percent
<b>Total</b>	100	100	100	100	100	100
<b>Industry known</b>	<b>87.8</b>	<b>91.1</b>	<b>91.1</b>	<b>90.0</b>	<b>85.6</b>	<b>91.8</b>
Custom Computer Programming Services	31.2	31.5	36.3	33.5	28.0	30.2
Computer System Design Services	10.2	10.5	9.2	8.2	10.8	12.1
Colleges, Universities, and Professional Schools	5.9	5.7	7.3	8.1	5.0	4.1
Computer Systems Design and Related Services	2.6	2.0	3.2	1.9	2.3	2.1
Software Publishers	2.2	2.5	2.0	2.4	2.3	2.6
Other Computer Related Services	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8	2.0
Engineering Services	1.8	2.1	2.2	2.2	1.6	2.0
General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.8	1.9	1.5
Management, Scientific, and Technical Consulting Services	1.7	1.2	2.4	1.6	1.3	0.9
Administrative Management and General Management Consulting Services	1.0	1.1	0.9	1.2	1.0	1.0
Electronic Computer Manufacturing	0.9	1.2	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.5
Elementary and Secondary Schools	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.8	1.1	0.9
Investment Banking and Securities Dealing	0.9	1.4	0.6	1.0	1.0	1.6
Offices of Physicians (except Mental Health Specialists)	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.6	1.0	0.9
Semiconductor and Related Device Manufacturing	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.7
Semiconductor and other Electronic Component Manufacturing	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.7
Research and Development in the Physical, Engineering, and Life Sciences	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.6
Offices of Certified Public Accountants	0.7	0.8	0.6	1.0	0.8	0.8
Radio and Television Broadcasting and Wireless Communications Equipment Manufacturing	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.8	0.7
Offices of Other Holding Companies	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.6
Other Industries	19.7	22.7	17.8	20.1	20.9	24.4
<b>Industry unknown</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>8.2</b>

Notes: Industries ranked by total beneficiaries in FY 2015.

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

Petitions for obtaining H-1B nonimmigrant classification for alien workers are submitted by prospective employers on 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 two USCIS Service Centers (St. Albans, Vermont, or Laguna Niguel, California) for processing, depending on the location of the beneficiary's worksite.

Upon receipt of a properly filed petition,<sup>21</sup> 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. 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.

### 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

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<sup>21</sup> 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).



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.