



# Characteristics of H-1B Specialty Occupation Workers

Fiscal Year 2014 Annual Report to Congress  
October 1, 2013 – September 30, 2014

February 26, 2015



Homeland  
Security

*U.S. Citizenship and  
Immigration Services*



**Homeland  
Security**

## Foreword

February 26, 2015

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 2013, 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.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian de Vallance".

Brian de Vallance  
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 2014, October 1, 2013–September 30, 2014.

## **Highlights**

- The number of H-1B petitions filed increased 6 percent from 299,467 in FY 2013 to 318,824 in FY 2014.
- The number of H-1B petitions approved increased 10 percent from 286,773 in FY 2013 to 315,857 in FY 2014.<sup>1</sup>
- Seventy-two percent of H-1B petitions approved in FY 2014 were for workers between the ages of 25 and 34.
- Forty-five percent of H-1B petitions approved in FY 2014 were for workers with a bachelor's degree, 43 percent had a master's degree, 8 percent had a doctorate, and 4 percent were for workers with a professional degree.
- Sixty-five percent of H-1B petitions approved in FY 2014 were for workers in computer-related occupations.
- The median salary of beneficiaries of approved petitions increased from \$72,000 for FY 2013 to \$75,000 for FY 2014.

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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 2014 include 57,410 petitions which were received *prior* to Fiscal Year 2014, but were approved in Fiscal Year 2014 (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) of the INA. This data is included in the “Report on H1B Petitions” for Fiscal Year 2014.

<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 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 U.S. 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 (CBP) 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 Immigration Act of 1990, ACWIA, and the American Competitiveness in the Twenty-first Century Act of 2000 (AC21)*, made significant changes to policy and procedure governing the

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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.

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 FYs 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 2014, USCIS approved 315,857 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 2011 to 2014 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 2014, a total of 124,326 petitions, or 39 percent, were for initial employment.<sup>9</sup> The corresponding number of petitions for continuing employment was 191,531.<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 conditions of employment, including a change of employer; or 3) request concurrent H-1B status with another employer.

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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.



The number of H-1B petitions filed increased 6 percent and petitions approved increased by 10 percent between FYs 2013 and 2014. For initial employment, petitions filed decreased 2 percent and petitions approved decreased by 3 percent. Petitions filed for continuing employment increased 13 percent and petitions approved increased by 21 percent.

**Table 1. H-1B Petitions Filed and Approved by Type of Petition:  
FYs 2011 to 2014**

	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
<b>Petitions filed</b>	<b>267,654</b>	<b>307,713</b>	<b>299,467</b>	<b>318,824</b>
Initial Employment	114,529	155,292	130,034	127,205
Continuing Employment	153,125	152,421	169,433	191,619
<b>Petitions approved<sup>11</sup></b>	<b>269,653</b>	<b>262,569</b>	<b>286,773</b>	<b>315,857</b>
Initial Employment	106,445	136,890	128,291	124,326
Continuing Employment	163,208	125,679	158,482	191,531

Table 2 shows the number of H-1B petitions filed by quarter in FYs 2011 to 2014. More than eighty-one percent of filings for initial employment occurred in the third quarter of FY 2014, when the cap-subject petition filing season opened. Sixty-one percent of filings for continuing employment were received in the third and fourth quarters of FY 2014.

**Table 2. H-1B Petitions Filed by Quarter:  
FYs 2011 to 2014**

Quarter	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2014 Initial Employment	Percent of Total	FY 2014 Continuing Employment	Percent of Total
<b>Total</b>	<b>267,654</b>	<b>307,713</b>	<b>299,467</b>	<b>318,824</b>	<b>127,205</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>191,619</b>	<b>100</b>
October-December	55,781	65,186	40,048	45,211	6,681	5.3	38,530	20.1
January-March	44,995	36,217	39,433	42,781	7,221	5.7	35,560	18.6
April-June	86,716	150,104	159,380	158,623	103,473	81.3	55,150	28.8
July-September	80,162	56,206	60,606	72,709	9,830	7.7	62,379	32.6

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. To illustrate, in FY 2014, USCIS received 318,824, but approved 315,857 petitions. Of the 315,857 petitions that were approved, 258,447 were received in FY 2014, whereas 57,410 petitions were received prior to FY 2014.

Table 3 provides a breakdown of approved petitions in FYs 2011 to 2014 by type of petition. 124,326 H-1B beneficiaries were approved for initial employment and 191,531 for continuing employment in FY 2014.

The number of aliens outside the United States approved for initial employment decreased less than 1 percent from 68,785 in FY 2013 to 68,390 in FY 2014. The corresponding number of petitions approved for aliens in the United States requesting a change to H-1B status decreased by 6 percent from 59,506 in FY 2013 to 55,936 in FY 2014.

**Table 3. H-1B Petitions Approved by Type:  
FYs 2011 to 2014**

Type of Petition	Petitions Approved							
	FY2011	Percent	FY2012	Percent	FY2013	Percent	FY2014	Percent
<b>Total</b>	<b>269,653</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>262,569</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>286,773</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>315,857</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Initial employment</b>	<b>106,445</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>136,890</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>128,291</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>124,326</b>	<b>39</b>
Aliens outside U.S.	48,665	18	74,997	28	68,785	24	68,390	22
Aliens in U.S.	57,780	21	61,893	24	59,506	21	55,936	18
<b>Continuing employment</b>	<b>163,208</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>125,679</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>158,482</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>191,531</b>	<b>61</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 2014, 70 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 8 percent of all beneficiaries. The number of beneficiaries from India approved for initial employment increased less than 1 percent in FY 2014, while the number of beneficiaries approved for continuing employment increased 31 percent in FY 2014.

<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 2013 and 2014**

Country of Birth	All Beneficiaries		Initial Employment		Continuing Employment	
	FY 2013 Number	FY 2014 Number	FY 2013 Number	FY 2014 Number	FY 2013 Number	FY 2014 Number
<b>Total</b>	<b>286,773</b>	<b>315,857</b>	<b>128,291</b>	<b>124,326</b>	<b>158,482</b>	<b>191,531</b>
India	187,270	220,286	81,992	82,263	105,278	138,023
China, People's Republic	23,429	26,393	12,651	13,708	10,778	12,685
Canada	7,971	6,853	3,096	2,561	4,875	4,292
Philippines	6,152	5,157	1,673	1,318	4,479	3,839
South Korea	4,843	4,390	2,310	2,012	2,533	2,378
United Kingdom	3,680	3,307	1,595	1,211	2,085	2,096
Mexico	3,114	2,768	1,260	1,038	1,854	1,730
Taiwan	2,470	2,406	1,260	1,176	1,210	1,230
France	2,322	2,218	1,161	920	1,161	1,161
Japan	2,464	1,983	929	691	1,535	1,292
Pakistan	2,147	1,923	851	787	1,296	1,136
Nepal	1,652	1,735	844	769	808	966
Germany	1,767	1,625	900	751	867	874
Turkey	1,683	1,619	801	672	882	947
Brazil	1,649	1,546	765	692	884	854
Colombia	1,361	1,290	529	447	832	843
Italy	1,381	1,283	760	634	621	649
Russia	1,313	1,241	741	573	572	668
Venezuela	1,310	1,230	583	439	727	791
Spain	1,188	1,155	716	573	472	582
Other countries	27,607	25,449	12,874	11,091	14,733	14,495

Note: Countries of birth are ranked based on FY 2014 data.

**Table 4B. H-1B Petitions Approved by Country of Birth of Beneficiary and Type of Petition (Percent): FYs 2013 and 2014**

Country of Birth	All Beneficiaries		Initial Employment		Continuing Employment	
	FY 2013 Percent	FY 2014 Percent	FY 2013 Percent	FY 2014 Percent	FY 2013 Percent	FY 2014 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	65.3	69.7	63.9	66.2	66.4	72.1
China, People's Republic	8.2	8.4	9.9	11	6.8	6.6
Canada	2.8	2.2	2.4	2.1	3.1	2.2
Philippines	2.2	1.6	1.3	1.1	2.8	2.0
South Korea	1.7	1.4	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.2
United Kingdom	1.3	1.0	1.2	1.0	1.3	1.1
Mexico	1.1	0.9	1.0	0.8	1.2	0.9
Taiwan	0.9	0.8	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.6
France	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.6
Japan	0.9	0.6	0.7	0.6	1.0	0.7
Pakistan	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.6
Nepal	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.5
Germany	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.5
Turkey	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.5
Brazil	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.4
Colombia	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4
Italy	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.3
Russia	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.3
Venezuela	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4
Spain	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.3
Other countries	9.6	8.1	10.0	8.9	9.2	7.6

Notes: Countries of birth are ranked based on FY 2014 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 2014 by type of petition. Seventy-two percent of workers granted H-1B status during FY 2014 were between 25 and 34 years of age at the time their petitions were approved. Thirty-eight percent of initial beneficiaries were under 30, compared with over 29 percent of continuing beneficiaries.

**Table 5. H-1B Petitions Approved by Age of Beneficiary at Time of Approval and by Type of Petition: FY 2014**

Age	All Beneficiaries	Percent	Initial Employment	Percent	Continuing Employment	Percent
<b>Total</b>	<b>315,857</b>		<b>124,326</b>		<b>191,531</b>	
<b>Age known</b>	<b>315,796</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>128,284</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>191,512</b>	<b>100</b>
Under 20	53	0.02	26	0.02	27	0.01
20-24	12,013	3.8	10,642	8.56	1,371	0.72
25-29	107,787	34.13	52,627	42.34	55,160	28.8
30-34	118,513	37.53	38,782	31.2	79,731	41.63
35-39	52,457	16.61	15,186	12.22	37,271	19.46
40-44	15,899	5.03	4,460	3.59	11,439	5.97
45-49	5,482	1.74	1,489	1.2	3,993	2.08
50-54	2,185	0.69	632	0.51	1,553	0.81
55-59	891	0.28	286	0.23	605	0.32
60-64	341	0.11	95	0.08	246	0.13
65 and over	175	0.06	59	0.05	116	0.06
<b>Age unknown</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>-----</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>-----</b>	<b>19</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 2013 and 2014. As shown in Table 6, 45 percent of all H-1B petitions approved for workers in FY 2014 reported that the beneficiary had earned the equivalent of a bachelor's degree, 43 percent a master's degree, 8 percent a doctorate, and 4 percent a professional degree.

**Table 6. Percent of H-1B Petitions Approved by Level of Education: FYs 2011-2014**

Level of Education	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
<b>Education known</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Less than a Bachelor's degree	1	1	1	1
Bachelor's degree	41	46	45	45
Master's degree	42	41	41	43
Doctorate degree	11	8	9	8
Professional degree	5	4	3	4

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 2014**

Level of Education	All Beneficiaries	Percent	Initial Employment	Percent	Continuing Employment	Percent
<b>Total</b>	<b>315,857</b>		<b>124,326</b>		<b>191,531</b>	
<b>Education known</b>	<b>315,828</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>124,314</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>191,514</b>	<b>100</b>
No high school diploma	78	0.02	32	0.03	46	0.02
High school graduate	268	0.08	133	0.11	135	0.07
Less than 1 year of college credit	<b>60</b>	0.02	18	0.01	42	0.02
1 or more years of college credit, no diploma	362	0.11	133	0.11	229	0.12
Associate's degree	308	0.1	88	0.07	220	0.11
Bachelor's degree	142,148	45.01	56,843	45.73	85,305	44.54
Master's degree	136,188	43.12	51,058	41.07	85,130	44.45
Doctorate degree	24,468	7.75	11,839	9.52	12,629	6.59
Professional degree	11,948	3.78	4,170	3.35	7,778	4.06
<b>Education unknown</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>-----</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>-----</b>	<b>17</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 2013 and 2014. The category of computer-related occupations was the largest occupational category in 2014; its share of total petitions approved was 65 percent in FY 2014. The corresponding shares for initial employment and continuing employment in computer-related occupations were 65 and 64 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 increased by 19 percent from 2013 to 2014. The number of H-1B petitions for all other occupation groups remained relatively constant between 2013 and 2014.

**Table 8A. H-1B Petitions Approved by Major Occupation Group of Beneficiary and Type of Petition (Number): Fiscal Years 2013 and 2014**

Occupational Category	All Beneficiaries		Initial Employment		Continuing Employment	
	FY2013 Number	FY2014 Number	FY2013 Number	FY2014 Number	FY2013 Number	FY2014 Number
<b>Total</b>	<b>286,773</b>	<b>315,857</b>	<b>128,291</b>	<b>124,326</b>	<b>158,482</b>	<b>191,531</b>
<b>Occupation known</b>	<b>284,851</b>	<b>313,930</b>	<b>127,536</b>	<b>123,591</b>	<b>157,315</b>	<b>190,339</b>
Computer-related occupations	171,613	203,425	79,870	80,877	91,743	122,368
Occupations in Architecture, Engineering and Surveying	27,495	29,103	11,642	10,707	15,853	18,396
Occupations in Administrative Specializations	18,771	18,905	8,500	7,395	11,401	11,510
Occupations in Education	20,370	18,680	8,969	8,393	10,271	10,287
Occupations in Medicine and Health	17,138	15,358	5,587	5,020	11,551	10,338
Occupations in Mathematics and Physical Sciences	5,303	5,571	2,405	2,295	2,898	3,276
Managers and Officials N.E.C.*	5,775	5,453	2,079	1,699	3,696	3,754
Occupations in Life Sciences	5,247	4,746	2,518	2,158	2,729	2,588
Occupations in Social Sciences	3,882	3,920	1,777	1,567	2,105	2,353
Miscellaneous Professional, Technical, and Managerial	3,882	3,861	1,639	1,294	2,243	2,567
Occupations in Art	2,613	2,518	1,200	958	1,413	1,560
Occupations in Law and Jurisprudence	982	1,018	505	486	477	532
Occupations in Writing	733	646	341	305	392	341
Miscellaneous <sup>13</sup>	473	405	219	186	254	219
Occupations in Entertainment and Recreation	211	178	90	89	121	89
Occupations in Museum, Library, and Archival Sciences	157	158	76	71	81	87
Occupations in Religion and Theology	119	92	45	40	74	52
Sales Promotion Occupations	87	73	74	51	13	22
<b>Occupation unknown<sup>14</sup></b>	<b>1,922</b>	<b>1,927</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>1,167</b>	<b>1,192</b>

Notes: Occupations ranked based on FY 2014 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 does not mean, however, that the position is not a "specialized occupation".



**Table 8B. H-1B Petitions Approved by Major Occupation Group of Beneficiary and Type of Petition (Percent): FYs 2013 and 2014**

Occupational Category	All Beneficiaries		Initial Employment		Continuing Employment	
	FY2013 Number	FY2014 Number	FY2013 Number	FY2014 Number	FY2013 Number	FY2014 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	59.8	64.5	62.3	65.1	57.9	63.9
Occupations in Architecture, Engineering, and Surveying	9.6	9.2	9.1	8.6	10.0	9.6
Occupations in Administrative Specializations	6.5	6.0	6.6	5.9	7.2	6.0
Occupations in Education	7.1	5.9	7.0	6.8	76.5	5.4
Occupations in Medicine and Health	6.0	4.9	4.4	4.0	7.3	5.4
Occupations in Mathematics and Physical Sciences	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.7
Managers and Officials N.E.C.*	2.0	1.7	1.6	1.4	2.3	2.0
Occupations in Life Sciences	1.8	1.5	2.0	1.7	1.7	1.4
Occupations in Social Sciences	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.2
Miscellaneous Professional, Technical, and Managerial	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.0	1.4	1.3
Occupations in Art	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.8
Occupations in Law and Jurisprudence	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3
Occupations in Writing	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
Miscellaneous	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1
Occupations in Entertainment and Recreation	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
Occupations in Museum, Library, & Archival Sciences	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	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	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Occupation unknown</b>	<b>---0.7---</b>	<b>---0.6---</b>	<b>-----0.6</b>	<b>-----0.6</b>	<b>---0.7---</b>	<b>---0.6---</b>

Notes: Occupations ranked based on FY 2014 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 2013 and 2014. Each table shows occupations arranged in descending order by the total number of beneficiaries approved in FY 2014. The list is limited to the top 20 categories. Fifty-four percent of approved petitions in 2014 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 2013 and 2014**

Occupational Category	All Beneficiaries		Initial Employment		Continuing Employment	
	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2013	FY 2014
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
<b>Total</b>	<b>286,773</b>	<b>315,857</b>	<b>128,291</b>	<b>124,326</b>	<b>158,482</b>	<b>191,531</b>
<b>Occupation known</b>	286,770	315,814	128,289	124,295	158,481	191,519
Occupations in Systems Analysis and Programming	145,437	170,966	69,166	68,791	76,271	102,175
Computer-Related Occupations, N.E.C.*	21,365	26,610	8,546	9,881	12,819	16,729
Occupations in College and University Education	15,362	14,402	7,635	7,274	7,727	7,128
Electrical/Electronics Engineering Occupations	10,752	11,350	4,586	3,849	6,166	7,501
Accountants, Auditors, and Related Occupations	7,567	7,869	3,390	3,039	4,177	4,830
Physicians and Surgeons	8,320	7,327	2,479	2,350	5,841	4,977
Mechanical Engineering Occupations	4,974	5,418	2,139	2,060	2,835	3,358
Occupations in Architecture, Engineering, and Surveying, N.E.C.*	3,708	3,861	1,546	1,525	2,162	2,336
Occupations in Administrative Specializations, N.E.C.*	3,848	3,857	1,754	1,523	2,094	2,334
Budget and Management Systems Analysis Occupations	3,870	3,810	1,806	1,514	2,064	2,296
Misc Professional, Technical, and Managerial Occupations, N.E.C.*	3,580	3,651	1,494	1,205	2,086	2,446
Occupations in Biological Sciences	3,906	3,498	1,884	1,631	2,022	1,867
Occupations in Economics	3,405	3,485	1,513	1,352	1,892	2,133
Occupations in Medicine and Health, N.E.C.*	3,165	2,914	1,340	1,140	1,825	1,774
Occupations in Computer System Technical Support	2,248	2,893	1,108	1,187	1,140	1,706
Miscellaneous Managers and Officials, N.E.C.*	3,049	2,862	1,015	873	2,034	1,989
Industrial Engineering Occupations	2,340	2,573	1,027	975	1,313	1,598
Occupations in Data Communications and Networks	2,260	2,484	945	918	1,315	1,566
Occupations in Mathematics	2,069	2,393	880	955	1,189	1,438
Therapists	2,403	2,222	842	658	1,561	1,564
Other Occupations	33,142	31,369	13,194	11,595	19,848	19,774
<b>Occupation Unknown</b>	3	43	2	31	1	12

Notes: Occupations ranked based on FY 2014 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 2013 and 2014**

Occupational Category	All Beneficiaries		Initial Employment		Continuing Employment	
	FY 2013 Percent	FY 2014 Percent	FY 2013 Percent	FY 2014 Percent	FY 2013 Percent	FY 2014 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	50.7	54.1	53.9	55.3	48.1	53.7
Computer-Related Occupations, N.E.C.*	7.5	8.4	6.7	7.9	8.1	8.7
Occupations in College and University Education	5.4	4.6	6.0	5.9	4.9	3.7
Electrical/Electronics Engineering Occupations	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.1	3.9	3.9
Accountants, Auditors, and Related Occupations	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.6	2.5
Physicians and Surgeons	2.9	2.3	1.9	1.9	3.7	2.6
Mechanical Engineering Occupations	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.8
Occupations in Architecture, Engineering, and Surveying, N.E.C.*	1.3	1.2				
Occupations in Administrative Specializations, N.E.C.*	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.2
Budget and Management Systems Analysis Occupations	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.2
Misc Professional, Technical, and Managerial Occupations, N.E.C.*	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.0	1.3	1.3
Occupations in Biological Sciences	1.4	1.1	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.0
Occupations in Economics	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.1
Occupations in Medicine and Health, N.E.C.*	1.1	0.9	1.0	0.9	1.2	0.9
Occupations in Computer System Technical Support	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.7	0.9
Miscellaneous Managers and Officials, N.E.C.*	1.1	0.9	0.8	0.7	1.3	1.0
Industrial Engineering Occupations	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Occupations in Data Communications and Networks	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8
Occupations in Mathematics	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.8
Therapists	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.5	1.0	0.8
Other Occupations	11.6	9.9	10.3	9.3	12.6	10.3
<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 2014 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 2014. As shown in Table 10, the median annual compensation reported by employers of H-1B workers approved for employment during FY 2014 was \$75,000. The median annual compensation was \$72,000 in FY 2013. Median compensation ranged from a low of \$38,000 for occupations in religion and theology to a high of \$105,000 for law and jurisprudence occupations.

**Table 10. Annual Compensation (\$) of All H-1B Beneficiaries by Major Occupation Group: FY 2014 (Approvals)<sup>16</sup>**

Occupation	Total Reported	25 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Median	Mean	75 <sup>th</sup> Percentile
<b>Total</b>	<b>314,078</b>	<b>62,000</b>	<b>75,000</b>	<b>84,000</b>	<b>98,000</b>
<b>Known Occupations with annual compensation</b>	<b>312,190</b>	<b>62,000</b>	<b>75,000</b>	<b>84,000</b>	<b>98,000</b>
Computer-related Occupations	202,691	64,000	76,000	83,000	96,000
Occupations in Architecture, Engineering, and Surveying	28,948	68,000	85,000	89,000	104,000
Occupation in Administrative Specializations	18,664	52,000	69,000	79,000	97,000
Occupations in Education	18,555	43,000	53,000	64,000	72,000
Occupations in Medicine and Health	14,948	56,000	77,000	117,000	170,000
Occupations in Mathematics and Physical Sciences	5,545	61,000	80,000	85,000	100,000
Managers and Officials	5405	69,000	100,000	111,000	132,000
Occupations in Life Sciences	4,715	45,000	53,000	62,000	71,000
Occupations in Social Sciences	3,883	55,000	80,000	90,000	112,000
Miscellaneous Professional, Technical, and Managerial Occupations	3839	65,000	92,000	99,000	125,000
Occupations in Art	2,492	45,000	57,000	68,000	79,000
Occupations in Law and Jurisprudence	1,003	59,000	105,000	119,000	165,000
Occupations in Writing	634	36,000	52,000	58,000	72,000
Miscellaneous	398	35,000	45,000	53,000	60,000
Occupations in Entertainment and Recreation	172	29,000	43,000	60,000	64,000
Occupations in Museum, Library, and Archival Sciences	155	40,000	51,000	63,000	77,000
Occupations in Religion and Theology	92	28,000	38,000	44,000	55,000
Sales Promotion Occupations	51	52,000	104,000	127,000	169,000
<b>Occupation unknown</b>	<b>1,888</b>	<b>53,000</b>	<b>70,000</b>	<b>82,000</b>	<b>96,000</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 and 2014 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 \$83,000 for the former and \$66,000 for the latter. In FY 2014 workers approved for continuing employment and initial employment reported mean 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 2014 (Approvals)<sup>17</sup>**

Occupation	Total Reported	25 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Median	Mean	75 <sup>th</sup> Percentile
<b>Total</b>	<b>123,653</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>66,000</b>	<b>75,000</b>	<b>81,000</b>
<b>Known Occupations with annual compensation</b>	<b>122,932</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>66,000</b>	<b>75,000</b>	<b>81,000</b>
Computer-related occupations	80,709	60,000	67,000	74,000	80,000
Occupations in Architecture, Engineering, and Surveying	10,621	61,000	75,000	80,000	95,000
Occupations in Education	8,340	42,000	52,000	64,000	72,000
Occupations in Administrative Specializations	7,264	46,000	57,000	67,000	76,000
Occupations in Medicine and Health	4,934	51,000	66,000	112,000	165,000
Occupations in Mathematics and Physical Sciences	2,281	55,000	70,000	75,000	90,000
Occupations in Life Sciences	2,146	43,000	50,000	57,000	64,000
Managers and Officials	1,676	60,000	90,000	101,000	120,000
Occupations in Social Sciences	1,545	46,000	65,000	76,000	96,000
Miscellaneous Professional, Technical, and Managerial Occupations	1,279	53,000	75,000	85,000	110,000
Occupations in Art	943	40,000	52,000	60,000	68,000
Occupations in Law and Jurisprudence	480	50,000	90,000	108,000	160,000
Occupations in Writing	296	31,000	44,000	50,000	64,000
Miscellaneous	184	30,000	40,000	45,000	52,000
Occupations in Entertainment and Recreation	87	26,000	41,000	59,000	60,000
Occupations in Museum, Library, and Archival Sciences	70	39,000	48,000	60,000	67,000
Occupations in Religion and Theology	40	27,000	36,000	39,000	48,000
Sales Promotion Occupations	37	100,000	104,000	144,000	200,000
<b>Occupation unknown</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>48,000</b>	<b>62,000</b>	<b>72,000</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, and 2014 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 2014 (Approvals)<sup>18</sup>**

Occupation	Total Reported	25 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Median	Mean	75 <sup>th</sup> Percentile
<b>Total</b>	<b>190,425</b>	<b>66,000</b>	<b>83,000</b>	<b>90,000</b>	<b>105,000</b>
<b>Known Occupations with annual compensation</b>	<b>189,258</b>	<b>66,000</b>	<b>83,000</b>	<b>90,000</b>	<b>105,000</b>
Computer-related occupations	121,982	69,000	84,000	89,000	104,000
Occupations in Architecture, Engineering, and Surveying	18,327	75,000	89,000	94,000	108,000
Occupations in Administrative Specializations	11,400	58,000	77,000	86,000	105,000
Occupations in Education	10,215	44,000	53,000	65,000	71,000
Occupations in Medicine and Health	10,014	58,000	82,000	119,000	170,000
Managers and Officials	3,729	75,000	105,000	115,000	136,000
Occupations in Mathematics and Physical Sciences	3,264	66,000	86,000	91,000	108,000
Occupations in Life Sciences	2,569	46,000	57,000	66,000	79,000
Miscellaneous Professional, Technical, and Managerial Occupations	2,560	75,000	100,000	106,000	130,000
Occupations in Social Sciences	2,338	64,000	90,000	99,000	122,000
Occupations in Art	1,549	48,000	60,000	72,000	84,000
Occupations in Law and Jurisprudence	523	62,000	113,000	129,000	185,000
Occupations in Writing	338	43,000	60,000	65,000	80,000
Miscellaneous	214	39,000	50,000	61,000	65,000
Occupations in Entertainment and Recreation	85	32,000	45,000	60,000	70,000
Occupations in Museum, Library, and Archival Sciences	85	41,000	55,000	66,000	80,000
Occupations in Religion and Theology	52	29,000	41,000	47,000	56,000
Sales Promotions Occupations	14	52,000	59,000	79,000	103,000
<b>Occupation unknown</b>	<b>1,167</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>80,000</b>	<b>87,000</b>	<b>102,000</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, and 2014 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 2014. Industry data are collected using the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). The top 20 industries listed in Tables 13A and 13B represent nearly 80 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 increased 21 percent from 229,434 in FY 2013 to 277,300 in FY 2014.

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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 2014, 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, since the sponsor does not provide supporting documentation.

**Table 13A. H-1B Petitions Approved by Detailed Industry and Type of Petition  
(Number) FYs 2013 and 2014**

Industry	All Beneficiaries		Initial Employment		Continuing Employment	
	FY 2013 Number	FY 2014 Number	FY 2013 Number	FY 2014 Number	FY 2013 Number	FY 2014 Number
<b>Total</b>	<b>286,773</b>	<b>315,857</b>	<b>128,291</b>	<b>124,326</b>	<b>158,482</b>	<b>191,531</b>
<b>Industry known</b>	<b>229,434</b>	<b>277,300</b>	<b>104,222</b>	<b>113,288</b>	<b>125,212</b>	<b>164,012</b>
Custom Computer Programming Services	82,642	98,681	41,715	45,127	40,927	53,554
Computer System Design Services	24,149	32,198	11,289	11,488	12,860	20,710
Colleges, Universities, and Professional Schools	20,016	18,684	9,564	9,086	10,452	9,598
Computer Systems Design and Related Services	8,091	8,318	4,445	3,999	3,646	4,319
Software Publishers	6,280	6,921	2,108	2,506	4,172	4,415
Other Computer Related Services	5,410	5,880	2,594	2,379	2,816	3,501
Engineering Services	3,300	5,826	1,574	2,686	1,726	3,140
General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	6,077	5,566	2,004	2,021	4,073	3,545
Management, Scientific, and Technical Consulting Services	5,073	5,440	3,790	2,986	1,283	2,454
Administrative Management and General Management Consulting Services	2,739	3,112	1,345	1,159	1,394	1,953
Electronic Computer Manufacturing	2,051	2,960	672	954	1,379	2,006
Elementary and Secondary Schools	2,735	2,864	617	770	2,118	2,094
Investment Banking and Securities Dealing	433	2,769	163	780	270	1,989
Offices of Physicians (except Mental Health Specialists)	2,685	2,742	856	810	1,829	1,932
Semiconductor and Related Device Manufacturing	2,160	2,609	852	824	1,308	1,785
Semiconductor and Other Electronic Component Manufacturing	2,558	2,480	1,057	836	1,501	1,644
Research and Development in the Physical, Engineering, and Life Sciences	2,635	2,361	1,113	1,036	1,522	1,325
Offices of Certified Public Accountants	1,896	2,274	782	791	1,114	1,483
Radio and Television Broadcasting and Wireless Communications Equipment Manufacturing	2,125	2,202	920	711	1,205	1,491
Offices of Other Holding Companies	1,116	1,312	254	260	862	1,052
Other Industries <sup>20</sup>	45,263	62,101	16,508	22,079	28,755	40,022
<b>Industry unknown</b>	<b>57,339</b>	<b>38,557</b>	<b>24,069</b>	<b>11,038</b>	<b>33,270</b>	<b>27,519</b>

Notes: Industries ranked by total beneficiaries in FY 2014.

<sup>20</sup> See footnote 17.



NAICS stands for North American Industry Classification System.

**Table 13B. H-1B Petitions Approved by Detailed Industry and Type of Petition  
(Percent) FYs 2013 and 2014**

Industry	All Beneficiaries		Initial Employment		Continuing Employment	
	FY2013 Percent	FY2014 Percent	FY2013 Percent	FY2014 Percent	FY2013 Percent	FY2014 Percent
<b>Total</b>	100	100	100	100	100	100
<b>Industry known</b>	<b>80.0</b>	<b>87.8</b>	<b>81.2</b>	<b>91.1</b>	<b>79.0</b>	<b>85.6</b>
Custom Computer Programming Services	28.8	31.2	32.5	36.3	25.8	28.0
Computer System Design Services	8.4	10.2	8.8	9.2	8.1	10.8
Colleges, Universities, and Professional Schools	7.0	5.9	7.5	7.3	6.6	5.0
Computer Systems Design and Related Services	2.8	2.6	3.5	3.2	2.3	2.3
Software Publishers	2.2	2.2	1.6	2.0	2.6	2.3
Other Computer Related Services	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.8
Engineering Services	1.2	1.8	1.2	2.2	1.1	1.6
General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	2.1	1.8	1.6	1.6	2.6	1.9
Management, Scientific, and Technical Consulting Services	1.8	1.7	3.0	2.4	0.8	1.3
Administrative Management and General Management Consulting Services	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	1.0
Electronic Computer Manufacturing	0.7	0.9	0.5	0.8	0.9	1.0
Elementary and Secondary Schools	1.0	0.9	0.5	0.6	1.3	1.1
Investment Banking and Securities Dealing	0.2	0.9	0.1	0.6	0.2	1.0
Offices of Physicians (except Mental Health Specialists)	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.7	1.2	1.0
Semiconductor and Related Device Manufacturing	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.9
Semiconductor and other Electronic Component Manufacturing	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.9
Research and Development in the Physical, Engineering, and Life Sciences	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.8	1.0	0.7
Offices of Certified Public Accountants	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8
Radio and Television Broadcasting and Wireless Communications Equipment Manufacturing	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.8
Offices of Other Holding Companies	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.5
Other Industries	15.8	19.7	12.9	17.8	18.1	20.9
<b>Industry unknown</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>18.8</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>14.4</b>

Notes: Industries ranked by total beneficiaries in FY 2014.

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 (CLAIMS3). 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.