

Report on Characteristics of Specialty Occupation Workers (H-1B): Fiscal Year 2000

October 1, 1999 – September 30, 2000



April 2002

U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service

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This annual report covering fiscal year 2000 is the first to be submitted to Congress under the American Competitive and Workforce Improvement Act of 1998 (ACWIA).¹ Information is presented on the characteristics of specialty occupation workers who were approved for H-1B nonimmigrant status during fiscal year 2000. While this report covers a variety of characteristics, information is not available on the city or state where the H-1B workers are employed.

This statistical report updates and expands upon a similar report the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) published in June 2000 describing the characteristics of H-1B workers.² In addition, this report distinguishes between H-1B workers approved for initial employment and those workers approved for continuing employment.

Included are eleven tables presenting statistics on:

- 1) H-1B petitions filed and approved by type of petition;
- 2) H-1B petitions filed by month;
- 3) H-1B petitions approved by type and action requested;
- 4) H-1B petitions approved by country of birth of beneficiary and type of petition;
- 5) H-1B petitions approved by age of beneficiary at time of approval and by type of petition;
- 6) H-1B petitions approved by level of education of beneficiary and type of petition;
- 7) H-1B petitions approved by major occupation of beneficiary and type of petition;
- 8) H-1B petitions approved by detailed occupation of beneficiary and type of petition;
- 9) Annual compensation of all H-1B beneficiaries by major occupation group;
- 10) Annual compensation of H-1B beneficiaries for initial employment by major occupation; and
- 11) Annual compensation of H-1B beneficiaries for continuing employment by major occupation.

¹ Public Law 105-277, Division C, American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act of 1998 (ACWIA), Section 416(c) requires the INS to submit a report with “information on the countries of origin and occupations of, educational levels attained by, and compensation paid to, aliens who were issued visas or otherwise provided nonimmigrant status under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act during the previous fiscal year.”

² U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, Characteristics of Specialty workers (H-1B), June 2000.

Types of Petitions

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 employers, only some of which are applied to the annual cap.³ Continuing employment petitions refer to extensions, sequential employment, and concurrent employment, which are filed for aliens already in the United States. Extensions are filed for H-1B workers intending to work beyond the initial 3-year period up to six years, the maximum period permissible under law during fiscal year 2000.⁴ Sequential employment refers to petitions for workers transferring between H-1B employers within the six-year period. Finally, petitions for concurrent employment are filed for H-1B workers intending to work simultaneously for a second or subsequent H-1B employer.

During fiscal year 2000, INS approved 257,640 H-1B petitions submitted by employers on behalf of alien workers. In some cases, more than one U.S. employer submitted a petition on behalf of an individual H-1B worker (multiple petitions); therefore, the number of approved petitions exceeds the number of individual H-1B workers.

Table 1 shows for fiscal year 2000 the number of petitions filed and/or approved for initial and continuing employment. Of the 257,640 petitions approved in fiscal year 2000, a total of 136,787 petitions or 53 percent were for initial employment.⁵ The corresponding number of petitions for continuing employment was 120,853.⁶ These workers may have had a second (or subsequent) petition filed on their behalf in order to 1) extend the period allowed to work with their current employer, 2) notify INS of changes in the conditions of employment including a change of employer, or 3) request concurrent H-1B status with another employer.

Table 1. H-1B Petitions Filed and Approved by Type of Petition: FY 2000

| | Total | Initial Employment | Continuing Employment |
|--|---------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Petitions filed in FY 2000 | 299,046 | 164,814 | 134,232 |
| Petitions approved in FY 2000, regardless of when filed | 257,640 | 136,787 | 120,853 |

Table 2 shows the distribution of petitions filed by month in fiscal year 2000. For initial employment and continuing employment petitions combined, September and April were the highest and lowest months respectively. For initial employment petitions filed, 37 percent were received in December, January, and February. The fall-off in receipts that began in April reflects the INS announcement that enough petitions had been received as of March 22 to potentially reach the cap for fiscal year 2000, once all processing was completed and approval was granted.

³ H-1B petitions approved for initial employment with non-exempt employers, adjusted for multiple petitions for individuals and revocations, count against the annual cap.

⁴ Enactment of the American Competitiveness in the Twenty-first Century Act (AC21) in October 2000 amended the 6-year limitation for certain aliens (Public Law 106.313 §104(c) and 106).

⁵ AC21 raised the cap on initial employment from 107,500 to 195,000 in fiscal year 2001 and from 65,000 to 195,000 in fiscal years 2002 and 2003. In addition under AC21, petitions filed for initial employment after March 22, 2000 (when the INS had enough petitions to reach the 115,000 cap in fiscal year 2000) and before September 1, 2000, regardless of when approved, do not count towards the fiscal year 2000 cap. Initial employment applications filed in September 2000 count against the fiscal year 2001 cap.

⁶ Neither AC21 nor prior legislation established a cap on H-1B petitions for continuing employment.

Table 2. H-1B Petitions Filed by Month: FY 2000

| Month Petition Filed | Total | Percent of Total | Initial Employment | Percent of Total | Continuing Employment | Percent of Total |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Total | 299,046 | 100.0 | 164,814 | 100.0 | 134,232 | 100.0 |
| Oct-99 | 21,801 | 7.3 | 13,375 | 8.1 | 8,426 | 6.3 |
| Nov-99 | 23,585 | 7.9 | 15,350 | 9.3 | 8,235 | 6.1 |
| Dec-99 | 28,489 | 9.5 | 19,360 | 11.7 | 9,129 | 6.8 |
| Jan-00 | 32,131 | 10.7 | 22,222 | 13.5 | 9,909 | 7.4 |
| Feb-00 | 29,877 | 10.0 | 19,808 | 12.0 | 10,069 | 7.5 |
| Mar-00 | 28,754 | 9.6 | 14,914 | 9.0 | 13,840 | 10.3 |
| Apr-00 | 13,344 | 4.5 | 3,264 | 2.0 | 10,080 | 7.5 |
| May-00 | 21,855 | 7.3 | 6,178 | 3.7 | 15,677 | 11.7 |
| Jun-00 | 20,493 | 6.9 | 6,925 | 4.2 | 13,568 | 10.1 |
| Jul-00 | 14,669 | 4.9 | 6,280 | 3.8 | 8,389 | 6.3 |
| Aug-00 | 29,151 | 9.7 | 15,136 | 9.2 | 14,015 | 10.4 |
| Sep-00 | 34,897 | 11.7 | 22,002 | 13.3 | 12,895 | 9.6 |

Note: Sum of the percents may not add to 100.0 due to rounding.

Table 3 gives a breakdown of approved petitions in fiscal year 2000 by type of petition. Nearly 137,000 H-1B beneficiaries were approved for initial employment and 121,000 for continuing employment. Approximately 44 percent of the beneficiaries of initial employment were in the United States in another nonimmigrant status.

Table 3. H-1B Petitions Approved by Type: FY 2000

| Type of Petition | Petitions Approved |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Total | 257,640 |
| Initial employment | 136,787 |
| Aliens outside U.S. | 75,785 |
| Aliens in U.S. | 61,002 |
| Continuing employment | 120,820 |
| Unknown | 33 |

Notes: Shaded cells represent the petitions approved in fiscal year 2000 that qualified as counting towards the numerical limit of 115,000 based on rules existing prior to the enactment of AC21 and before adjustments for multiple petitions and revocations. Under AC21, approved petitions in fiscal year 2000 above 115,000 do not count against the fiscal year 2000 cap.

Country of Birth

Table 4 shows the distribution of beneficiaries by country of birth. Almost half of the H-1B petitions approved were granted to individuals born in India, easily exceeding the 9 percent from China, the second leading country of birth. The share of H-1B workers born in India is higher for continuing beneficiaries (53 percent) than for initial beneficiaries (44 percent).

Table 4. H-1B Petitions Approved by Country of Birth of Beneficiary and Type of Petition: FY 2000

| Country of Birth | Total | Percent | Initial | Percent | Continuing | Percent |
|---------------------------------|---------|---------|------------|---------|------------|---------|
| | | | Employment | | Employment | |
| Total | 257,640 | ----- | 136,787 | ----- | 120,853 | ----- |
| Country of birth known | 257,077 | 100.0 | 136,404 | 100.0 | 120,673 | 100.0 |
| India | 124,697 | 48.5 | 60,757 | 44.5 | 63,940 | 53.0 |
| China | 22,570 | 8.8 | 12,333 | 9.0 | 10,237 | 8.5 |
| Canada | 8,365 | 3.3 | 5,465 | 4.0 | 2,900 | 2.4 |
| United Kingdom | 7,937 | 3.1 | 4,166 | 3.1 | 3,771 | 3.1 |
| Philippines | 7,396 | 2.9 | 4,002 | 2.9 | 3,394 | 2.8 |
| Taiwan | 5,420 | 2.1 | 2,864 | 2.1 | 2,556 | 2.1 |
| Japan | 4,919 | 1.9 | 2,805 | 2.1 | 2,114 | 1.8 |
| Korea | 4,815 | 1.9 | 3,160 | 2.3 | 1,655 | 1.4 |
| Pakistan | 4,651 | 1.8 | 2,490 | 1.8 | 2,161 | 1.8 |
| Russia | 3,983 | 1.5 | 2,469 | 1.8 | 1,514 | 1.3 |
| Germany | 3,534 | 1.4 | 2,018 | 1.5 | 1,516 | 1.3 |
| France | 3,415 | 1.3 | 2,024 | 1.5 | 1,391 | 1.2 |
| Mexico | 2,711 | 1.1 | 1,465 | 1.1 | 1,246 | 1.0 |
| South Africa | 2,299 | 0.9 | 1,020 | 0.7 | 1,279 | 1.1 |
| Malaysia | 2,253 | 0.9 | 1,339 | 1.0 | 914 | 0.8 |
| Brazil | 2,243 | 0.9 | 1,363 | 1.0 | 880 | 0.7 |
| Hong Kong | 2,216 | 0.9 | 1,070 | 0.8 | 1,146 | 0.9 |
| Colombia | 2,082 | 0.8 | 1,519 | 1.1 | 563 | 0.5 |
| Australia | 1,936 | 0.8 | 1,056 | 0.8 | 880 | 0.7 |
| Indonesia | 1,738 | 0.7 | 1,150 | 0.8 | 588 | 0.5 |
| Other countries | 41,279 | 16.1 | 23,793 | 17.4 | 17,486 | 14.5 |
| Country of birth unknown | 563 | ----- | 383 | ----- | 180 | ----- |

Notes: Sum of the percents may not add to 100.0 due to rounding.

About 0.2 percent of total petitions approved have an unknown country of birth.

Percents shown in the table are based on the total number of petitions approved with known countries of birth.

Age

Table 5 shows the age structure of the H-1B beneficiaries in fiscal year 2000 by type of petition. It reveals that nearly 69 percent of workers granted H-1B status during fiscal year 2000 were between 25 and 34 years of age at the time their petitions were approved. The age structures of the initial employment and continuing employment beneficiaries differ markedly. At the low end of the age spectrum, seventeen percent of first-time beneficiaries were under age 25; in contrast to only 4 percent of those beneficiaries continuing employment. Nearly 45 percent of the beneficiaries continuing employment were between the ages of 30 and

39. On the other hand, nearly 32 percent of first-time H-1B workers were in their thirties. The most beneficiaries in any single 5-year age group, initial or continuing, were in the 25-29 age group. Less than 2 percent were 50 or older. Of the 137 beneficiaries under 20 years of age, 123 were fashion models. The mean and median ages of all H-1B beneficiaries were 30 and 29 years respectively; 30 and 28 for initial beneficiaries; and 31 and 30 continuing beneficiaries (not shown in Table 5).

Table 5. H-1B Petitions Approved by Age of Beneficiary at Time of Approval and by Type of Petition: FY 2000

| Age | Total | Percent | Initial Employment | Percent | Continuing Employment | Percent |
|--------------------|---------|---------|--------------------|---------|-----------------------|---------|
| Total | 257,640 | ----- | 136,787 | ----- | 120,853 | ----- |
| Age known | 256,796 | 100.0 | 136,237 | 100.0 | 120,559 | 100.0 |
| Under 20 | 137 | 0.1 | 122 | 0.1 | 15 | 0.0 |
| 20-24 | 28,652 | 11.2 | 23,575 | 17.3 | 5,077 | 4.2 |
| 25-29 | 109,358 | 42.6 | 58,470 | 42.9 | 50,888 | 42.2 |
| 30-34 | 66,763 | 26.0 | 29,395 | 21.6 | 37,368 | 31.0 |
| 35-39 | 30,618 | 11.9 | 13,937 | 10.2 | 16,681 | 13.8 |
| 40-44 | 12,238 | 4.8 | 6,007 | 4.4 | 6,231 | 5.2 |
| 45-49 | 5,170 | 2.0 | 2,701 | 2.0 | 2,469 | 2.0 |
| 50-54 | 2,363 | 0.9 | 1,250 | 0.9 | 1,113 | 0.9 |
| 55-59 | 952 | 0.4 | 516 | 0.4 | 436 | 0.4 |
| 60-64 | 365 | 0.1 | 184 | 0.1 | 181 | 0.2 |
| 65 and over | 180 | 0.1 | 80 | 0.1 | 100 | 0.1 |
| Age unknown | 844 | ----- | 550 | ----- | 294 | ----- |

Notes: Sum of the percents may not add to 100.0 due to rounding.
 0.3 percent of total beneficiaries have an unknown age.
 Percentages shown in the table are based on the total number of approved petitions with known ages.

Education

Table 6 shows the highest level of education achieved by the beneficiary at the time of application. Employers are asked to provide highest degree (domestic or foreign) but not training or experience deemed equivalent to degree. The reporting of a domestic or foreign degree is not required in a standard format on INS or Department of Labor forms. However, the petitioning employer almost always 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. INS does not maintain separate data regarding whether the degree was earned in the United States or abroad.

As shown in Table 6, 57 percent of all H-1B workers were reported to have earned the equivalent of a bachelor’s degree; 31 percent a master’s degree; 7 percent a doctorate, and nearly 3 percent a professional degree. Altogether, 98 percent earned at least a bachelor’s degree and 41 percent earned at least a master’s degree. Of the 760 beneficiaries without a high school diploma, 544 were fashion models. Little difference is indicated between initial and continuing employment, though beneficiaries continuing employment were slightly more likely to have a master’s degree (33 versus 29 percent).

Table 6. H-1B Petitions Approved by Level of Education of Beneficiary and Type of Petition: FY 2000

| Level of Education | Total | Percent | Initial Employment | Percent | Continuing Employment | Percent |
|--|---------|---------|--------------------|---------|-----------------------|---------|
| Total | 257,640 | ----- | 136,787 | ----- | 120,853 | ----- |
| Education known | 235,749 | 100.0 | 122,967 | 100.0 | 112,782 | 100.0 |
| No high school diploma | 760 | 0.3 | 554 | 0.5 | 206 | 0.2 |
| High school graduate | 522 | 0.2 | 288 | 0.2 | 234 | 0.2 |
| Less than 1 year of college credit | 283 | 0.1 | 158 | 0.1 | 125 | 0.1 |
| 1 or more years of college credit, no diploma | 2,176 | 0.9 | 1,290 | 1.0 | 886 | 0.8 |
| Associate's degree | 1,228 | 0.5 | 696 | 0.6 | 532 | 0.5 |
| Bachelor's degree | 134,126 | 56.9 | 72,196 | 58.7 | 61,930 | 54.9 |
| Master's degree | 73,220 | 31.1 | 35,990 | 29.3 | 37,230 | 33.0 |
| Doctorate degree | 16,960 | 7.2 | 8,782 | 7.1 | 8,178 | 7.3 |
| Professional degree | 6,474 | 2.7 | 3,013 | 2.5 | 3,461 | 3.1 |
| Education unknown | 21,891 | ----- | 13,820 | ----- | 8,071 | ----- |

Notes: Sum of the percents may not add to 100.0 due to rounding.
 8.5 percent of total petitions approved have an unknown level of education.
 Percents shown in the table are based on the number of approved petitions with known levels of education.

Occupation

- Major Occupation Group

Table 7 indicates the distribution of beneficiaries by major occupation group. The occupations are arranged by descending order of total petitions approved. The petitioning employer supplies the occupation code on the Labor Condition Application (LCA).⁷ Fifty-eight percent of all H-1B petitions approved in fiscal year 2000 were accounted for by computer-related occupations. The corresponding percents for initial employment and continuing employment were 55 and 61, respectively. This pattern of higher proportionality among continuing employment petitions was repeated only in occupations in medicine and health. The second and third most numerous occupation groups in order were architecture, engineering, and surveying and administrative specializations. The former group includes computer and systems engineers while the latter contains accountants and management systems analysts.

⁷ H-1B status requires a sponsoring U.S. employer. The employer must file a labor condition application (LCA) with the Department of Labor attesting to several items, including payment of prevailing wages for the position, and the working conditions offered.

Table 7. H-1B Petitions Approved by Major Occupation Group of Beneficiary and Type of Petition: FY 2000

| Occupation LCA Code (2-digits) | Total | Percent | Initial Employment | Percent | Continuing Employment | Percent |
|--|--------------|----------------|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Total | 257,640 | ----- | 136,787 | ----- | 120,853 | ----- |
| Occupation known | 255,556 | 100.0 | 135,362 | 100.0 | 120,194 | 100.0 |
| Computer-related occupations (03) | 148,426 | 58.1 | 74,551 | 55.1 | 73,875 | 61.5 |
| Occupations in architecture, engineering, and surveying (00/01) | 31,384 | 12.3 | 17,086 | 12.6 | 14,298 | 11.9 |
| Occupations in administrative specializations (16) | 18,419 | 7.2 | 11,468 | 8.5 | 6,951 | 5.8 |
| Occupations in education (09) | 12,648 | 4.9 | 7,210 | 5.3 | 5,438 | 4.5 |
| Occupations in medicine and health (07) | 10,065 | 3.9 | 4,734 | 3.5 | 5,331 | 4.4 |
| Managers and officials n.e.c. (18) | 7,781 | 3.0 | 4,366 | 3.2 | 3,415 | 2.8 |
| Occupations in social sciences (05) | 5,179 | 2.0 | 3,103 | 2.3 | 2,076 | 1.7 |
| Occupations in life sciences (04) | 5,010 | 2.0 | 2,921 | 2.2 | 2,089 | 1.7 |
| Miscellaneous professional, technical, and managerial (19) | 4,748 | 1.9 | 2,734 | 2.0 | 2,014 | 1.7 |
| Occupations in mathematics and physical sciences (02) | 4,276 | 1.7 | 2,364 | 1.7 | 1,912 | 1.6 |
| Occupations in art (14) | 3,046 | 1.2 | 1,847 | 1.4 | 1,199 | 1.0 |
| Occupations in writing (13) | 1,501 | 0.6 | 906 | 0.7 | 595 | 0.5 |
| Occupations in law and jurisprudence (11) | 1,132 | 0.4 | 755 | 0.6 | 377 | 0.3 |
| Fashion models (29) | 781 | 0.3 | 614 | 0.5 | 167 | 0.1 |
| Occupations in entertainment and recreation (15) | 727 | 0.3 | 449 | 0.3 | 278 | 0.2 |
| Occupations in museum, library, and archival sciences (10) | 330 | 0.1 | 186 | 0.1 | 144 | 0.1 |
| Occupations in religion and theology (12) | 103 | 0.0 | 68 | 0.1 | 35 | 0.0 |
| Occupation unknown | 2,084 | ----- | 1,425 | ----- | 659 | ----- |

Notes: Sum of the percents may not add to 100.0 due to rounding.
 0.8 percent of total petitions approved have an unknown occupation.
 Percents 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

Table 8 indicates the distribution of beneficiaries by detailed major occupation group. The number of beneficiaries is listed in descending order the top 24 3-digit occupations. Fifty-one percent of the approved petitions were for aliens working as systems analysts or programmers. The second largest category was electrical/electronics engineering occupations with nearly 5 percent of approved petitions.

Table 8. H-1B Petitions Approved by Detailed Occupation of Beneficiary and Type of Petition: FY 2000

| Occupation LCA Code (3-digits) | Total | Percent | Initial Employment | Percent | Continuing Employment | Percent |
|---|--------------|----------------|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Total | 257,640 | ----- | 136,787 | ----- | 120,853 | ----- |
| Occupation known | 255,035 | 100.0 | 134,992 | 100.0 | 120,043 | 100.0 |
| Occupations in systems analysis and programming (030) | 132,745 | 52.0 | 67,053 | 49.7 | 65,692 | 54.7 |
| Electrical/Electronics engineering occupations (003) | 12,094 | 4.7 | 6,342 | 4.7 | 5,752 | 4.8 |
| Computer-related occupations, n.e.c. (039) | 10,487 | 4.1 | 4,787 | 3.5 | 5,700 | 4.7 |
| Occupations in colleges and university education (090) | 9,165 | 3.6 | 5,152 | 3.8 | 4,013 | 3.3 |
| Accountants, auditors, and related occupations (160) | 8,586 | 3.3 | 5,219 | 3.9 | 3,367 | 2.8 |
| Occupations in architecture, engineering, and surveying, n.e.c. (019) | 6,965 | 2.7 | 3,331 | 2.5 | 3,634 | 3.0 |
| Occupations in economics (050) | 4,883 | 1.9 | 2,904 | 2.2 | 1,979 | 1.6 |
| Physicians and surgeons (070) | 4,472 | 1.7 | 1,921 | 1.4 | 2,551 | 2.1 |
| Misc. professional, technical, and managerial occupations, n.e.c. (199) | 4,341 | 1.7 | 2,485 | 1.8 | 1,856 | 1.5 |
| Mechanical engineering occupations (007) | 4,246 | 1.6 | 2,466 | 1.8 | 1,780 | 1.5 |
| Occupations in biological sciences (041) | 3,777 | 1.5 | 2,160 | 1.6 | 1,617 | 1.3 |
| Miscellaneous managers and officials, n.e.c. (189) | 2,862 | 1.1 | 1,332 | 1.0 | 1,530 | 1.3 |
| Occupations in administrative specializations, n.e.c. (169) | 2,597 | 1.0 | 1,625 | 1.2 | 972 | 0.8 |
| Budget and management systems occupations (161) | 2,477 | 1.0 | 1,651 | 1.2 | 826 | 0.7 |
| Occupations in computer systems technical support (033) | 2,410 | 0.9 | 1,186 | 0.9 | 1,224 | 1.0 |
| Occupations in medicine and health, n.e.c. (079) | 2,259 | 0.9 | 1,380 | 1.0 | 879 | 0.7 |
| Architectural occupations (001) | 2,210 | 0.9 | 1,449 | 1.1 | 761 | 0.6 |
| Occupations in data communications and networks (031) | 2,004 | 0.8 | 1,109 | 0.8 | 895 | 0.7 |
| Commercial artists: designers and illustrators, graphics arts (141) | 1,974 | 0.8 | 1,172 | 0.9 | 802 | 0.7 |
| Sales and distribution management occupations (163) | 1,954 | 0.8 | 1,188 | 0.9 | 766 | 0.6 |
| Industrial engineering occupations (012) | 1,793 | 0.7 | 1,018 | 0.8 | 775 | 0.6 |
| Service industry managers and officials (187) | 1,788 | 0.7 | 1,159 | 0.9 | 629 | 0.5 |
| Occupations in chemistry (022) | 1,762 | 0.7 | 959 | 0.7 | 803 | 0.7 |
| Therapists (076) | 1,614 | 0.6 | 430 | 0.3 | 1,184 | 1.0 |
| Other occupations | 25,570 | 10.0 | 15,514 | 11.5 | 10,056 | 8.4 |
| Occupation unknown | 2,605 | ----- | 1,795 | ----- | 810 | ----- |

Notes: Sum of the percents may not add to 100.0 due to rounding.
1.0 percent of total petitions approved have an unknown occupation.
Percents shown in the table are based on the total number of petitions approved with known occupations.
N.E.C. indicates *not elsewhere classified*.

Annual Compensation⁸

Tables 9, 10, and 11 bring together occupations and compensation for beneficiaries of all, initial, and continuing employment respectively. Annual compensation in each table is arranged by ascending occupation code. As shown in Table 9, the median annual compensation reported by employers of H-1B workers was \$53,000; half were expected to earn between \$42,000 and \$70,000. Median compensation ranges from a low of \$30,500 for occupations in religion and theology to high of \$125,000 for fashion models.

**Table 9. Annual Compensation of All H-1B Beneficiaries
by Major Occupation Group: FY 2000**

| Occupation LCA Code (2-digits) | Total Reported | 25th Percentile | Median | 75th Percentile |
|--|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| Total | 235,128 | \$42,000 | \$52,800 | \$69,600 |
| Occupation with annual compensation known | 233,815 | \$42,000 | \$52,900 | \$69,500 |
| Occupations in architecture, engineering, and surveying (00/01) | 28,297 | \$45,000 | \$58,000 | \$72,000 |
| Occupations in mathematics and physical sciences (02) | 3,875 | \$40,000 | \$51,100 | \$68,400 |
| Computer-related occupations (03) | 138,383 | \$46,000 | \$55,000 | \$69,600 |
| Occupations in life sciences (04) | 4,512 | \$29,700 | \$35,000 | \$48,000 |
| Occupations in social sciences (05) | 4,395 | \$34,000 | \$42,000 | \$62,000 |
| Occupations in medicine and health (07) | 8,725 | \$35,568 | \$46,200 | \$96,000 |
| Occupations in education (09) | 10,900 | \$28,500 | \$35,000 | \$45,082 |
| Occupations in museum, library, and archival sciences (10) | 280 | \$28,400 | \$36,696 | \$45,680 |
| Occupations in law and jurisprudence (11) | 1,012 | \$42,000 | \$90,000 | \$115,000 |
| Occupations in religion and theology (12) | 82 | \$24,960 | \$30,520 | \$42,000 |
| Occupations in writing (13) | 1,360 | \$28,000 | \$35,000 | \$46,540 |
| Occupations in art (14) | 2,826 | \$30,000 | \$38,000 | \$52,000 |
| Occupations in entertainment and recreation (15) | 584 | \$25,000 | \$33,280 | \$45,315 |
| Occupations in administrative specializations (16) | 16,518 | \$32,000 | \$40,795 | \$60,000 |
| Managers and officials n.e.c. (18) | 7,056 | \$37,000 | \$60,000 | \$90,020 |
| Miscellaneous professional, technical, and managerial (19) | 4,321 | \$35,000 | \$50,000 | \$80,000 |
| Fashion models (29) | 689 | \$100,000 | \$125,000 | \$221,000 |
| Occupation unknown | 1,313 | \$35,000 | \$46,000 | \$75,000 |

Notes: Of the 257,640 petitions approved, 8.7 percent (or 22,512) did not have compensation reported.
Of the 235,128 petitions approved with compensation reported, 0.6 percent (or 1,313) did not have an occupation reported.

⁸ 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 twelve months, even if beneficiary actually worked fewer than twelve months.

From Tables 10 and 11, beneficiaries for continuing employment received higher annual compensation than did beneficiaries for initial employment. Median annual compensation for the former was \$62,000 and \$48,000 for the latter.

Table 10. Annual Compensation of H-1B Beneficiaries for Initial Employment by Major Occupation Group: FY 2000

| Occupation LCA Code (2-digits) | Total Reported | 25th Percentile | Median | 75th Percentile |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Total | 122,548 | \$40,000 | \$48,000 | \$58,760 |
| Occupation with annual compensation known | 121,658 | \$40,000 | \$48,000 | \$58,500 |
| Occupations in architecture, engineering, and surveying (00/01) | 15,017 | \$40,000 | \$51,480 | \$64,000 |
| Occupations in mathematics and physical sciences (02) | 2,080 | \$37,420 | \$47,500 | \$64,948 |
| Computer-related occupations (03) | 68,897 | \$44,000 | \$50,000 | \$57,000 |
| Occupations in life sciences (04) | 2,582 | \$28,091 | \$33,488 | \$43,000 |
| Occupations in social sciences (05) | 2,560 | \$32,228 | \$40,000 | \$55,000 |
| Occupations in medicine and health (07) | 3,998 | \$32,240 | \$42,000 | \$88,000 |
| Occupations in education (09) | 5,976 | \$27,393 | \$32,968 | \$42,677 |
| Occupations in museum, library, and archival sciences (10) | 156 | \$27,656 | \$36,484 | \$47,920 |
| Occupations in law and jurisprudence (11) | 668 | \$42,060 | \$86,700 | \$104,000 |
| Occupations in religion and theology (12) | 52 | \$24,980 | \$30,000 | \$41,000 |
| Occupations in writing (13) | 802 | \$27,000 | \$32,470 | \$42,500 |
| Occupations in art (14) | 1,690 | \$28,080 | \$35,000 | \$45,000 |
| Occupations in entertainment and recreation (15) | 343 | \$25,000 | \$32,136 | \$45,000 |
| Occupations in administrative specializations (16) | 10,035 | \$30,000 | \$38,000 | \$52,000 |
| Managers and officials n.e.c. (18) | 3,825 | \$34,000 | \$50,000 | \$84,000 |
| Miscellaneous professional, technical, and managerial (19) | 2,431 | \$32,000 | \$44,000 | \$70,000 |
| Fashion models (29) | 546 | \$100,000 | \$125,180 | \$212,500 |
| Occupation unknown | 890 | \$33,425 | \$43,958 | \$70,000 |

Notes: Of the 136,787 petitions approved for initial employment, 10.4 percent (or 14,239) did not have compensation reported.
Of the 122,548 petitions approved for initial employment with compensation reported, 0.7 percent (or 890) did not have an occupation reported.

Table 11. Annual Compensation of H-1B Beneficiaries for Continuing Employment by Major Occupation Group: FY 2000

| Occupation LCA Code (2-digits) | Total Reported | 25th Percentile | Median | 75th Percentile |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Total | 112,580 | \$48,000 | \$62,000 | \$75,428 |
| Occupation with annual compensation known | 112,157 | \$48,000 | \$62,000 | \$75,300 |
| Occupations in architecture, engineering, and surveying (00/01) | 13,280 | \$52,000 | \$65,000 | \$78,300 |
| Occupations in mathematics and physical sciences (02) | 1,795 | \$42,000 | \$55,700 | \$72,000 |
| Computer-related occupations (03) | 69,486 | \$53,000 | \$65,000 | \$75,400 |
| Occupations in life sciences (04) | 1,930 | \$31,500 | \$38,241 | \$52,500 |
| Occupations in social sciences (05) | 1,835 | \$36,000 | \$50,000 | \$70,000 |
| Occupations in medicine and health (07) | 4,727 | \$38,713 | \$50,000 | \$102,740 |
| Occupations in education (09) | 4,924 | \$30,504 | \$37,410 | \$48,000 |
| Occupations in museum, library, and archival sciences (10) | 124 | \$30,680 | \$36,926 | \$44,188 |
| Occupations in law and jurisprudence (11) | 344 | \$42,000 | \$95,000 | \$135,000 |
| Occupations in religion and theology (12) | 30 | \$23,670 | \$34,064 | \$45,000 |
| Occupations in writing (13) | 558 | \$30,000 | \$39,711 | \$50,004 |
| Occupations in art (14) | 1,136 | \$35,175 | \$45,000 | \$62,400 |
| Occupations in entertainment and recreation (15) | 241 | \$26,000 | \$35,000 | \$48,000 |
| Occupations in administrative specializations (16) | 6,483 | \$36,000 | \$50,000 | \$73,200 |
| Managers and officials n.e.c. (18) | 3,231 | \$44,940 | \$70,000 | \$100,000 |
| Miscellaneous professional, technical, and managerial (19) | 1,890 | \$40,000 | \$64,600 | \$90,000 |
| Fashion models (29) | 143 | \$91,000 | \$123,906 | \$221,000 |
| Occupation unknown | 423 | \$38,000 | \$56,712 | \$85,000 |

Notes: Of the 120,853 petitions approved for continuing employment, 6.8 percent (or 8,273) did not have compensation reported.
Of the 112,580 petitions approved for continuing employment with compensation reported, 0.4 percent (or 423) did not have an occupation reported.

Appendix: H-1B Petition Processing and Data Limitations

Petition Processing

Petitions for obtaining H-1B nonimmigrant status for alien workers are submitted by their prospective employers on INS form I-129 (Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker) and the addendum I-129W (H-1B Data Collection & Filing Fee Exemption). The petitions are mailed to one of four INS Service Centers for processing depending on the location of the sponsoring employer: St. Albans, Vermont; Lincoln, Nebraska; Dallas Texas; and Laguna Niguel, California.

Upon receipt, each petition is stamped with its date of arrival at the Service Center. File assembly clerks create 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.

Bio-data such as name, date of birth, and country of birth are entered from the petition by data entry clerks into the case tracking system Computer-Linked Application Information Management System (CLAIMS3). The computer system generates a unique number for the file, known as a receipt number. The files are distributed to adjudicators after being sorted into potential cap and non-cap cases.

After being received, the files are reviewed by adjudicators who determine whether they have adequate information in the file on which to base a decision to approve or deny the petition. If sufficient evidence is available, a decision is made by the adjudicator and then corresponding information entered into the tracking system. Otherwise, additional information is sought from the sponsoring employer by the adjudicator. A response from the employer must be made within a set period of time or the petition will be denied.

After petitions have been adjudicated, the associated paper files are forwarded for storage to the INS records center in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Data Limitations

The tables in this report have been tabulated from an extract file created at headquarters from INS service center files. Errors in this extract file could have occurred in several ways. For example, petition data might have been inaccurate on petitions, miskeyed into computers at the service centers or improperly transferred electronically between the service centers and headquarters. Very little editing has been done in this report. Impossible or very improbable values have been defined as unknown. Examples are beneficiaries younger than 16 or those beneficiaries working without compensation.

The percentage of petitions with unknown information was relatively high at 8.5 percent for education and 8.7 percent for compensation. On the other hand, the percentages of approved petitions with missing data on age, country of birth, major occupation, and detailed occupation were only 0.3, 0.2, 0.8, and 1.0 percent respectively.