



STATEMENT

1 March 2002

1st Quarter FY 2002 H-1B Processing

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) reported that during the first quarter of the current fiscal year, from October 1, 2001, to December 31, 2001, approximately 28,000 H-1B petitions had been approved against the 195,000 limit for FY 2002. In addition to the petitions already approved, the INS has an estimated 18,000 pending petitions that may be counted against the H-1B cap. Not all pending petitions will ultimately count against the cap. Some petitions are denied while other petitions are exempt from the cap (i.e. petitions approved for certain types of employers such as colleges, universities, and non-profit research organizations.) In total INS received approximately 54,000 H-1B petitions during the first quarter of FY 2002. This is an approximately a 58 percent decrease from the level of filings INS experienced during the first quarter of FY 2001. INS received approximately 129,000 H-1B petitions during that time however, the level of filings were exceptionally high in the first quarter of FY 2001 due to a fee increase that took effect late in the calendar year.

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