



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

Fact Sheet

October 22, 2003

H-1B Petitions Received and Approved in FY 2003

- CIS received 231,030 H-1B petitions in FY 2003 for both initial and continuing employment.
- Legacy Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) approved 217,340 petitions in FY 2003. Of the approved applications, 105,314 were for initial employment and 112,026 petitions were for continuing employment.
- Nearly all workers approved for continuing employment are not subject to the cap mandated by Congress at 195,000 beneficiaries.
 - Also exempt from the cap are individuals working for institutions of higher education, and nonprofit research organizations
 - Of the workers approved for initial employment in FY 2003, about 19 percent did not count against the cap because the sponsor was an exempt employer.
- The total number of workers subject to the FY 2003 cap comprised about two-fifths of the total number approved for H-1B employment.
- During FY 2003, the Congressionally-mandated cap of 195,000 beneficiaries was not reached and about 78,000 individuals, mostly initial beneficiaries, were counted against the cap. The corresponding number for FY 2002 was 79,000.
- Although workers may have multiple petitions submitted on their behalf during the pursuit of H-1B employment, they are counted only once against the cap if working for non-exempt employers.

H-1B Petitions Filed and Approved by Type of Petition: FYs 2000-03

	Fiscal Year	Total	Initial Employment	Continuing Employment
Petitions Filed	2000	299,046	164,814	134,232
	2001	342,035	201,543	140,492
	2002	215,190	109,576	105,614
	2003	231,030	108,526	122,504
Petitions Approved	2000	257,640	136,787	120,853
	2001	331,206	201,079	130,127
	2002	197,537	103,584	93,953
	2003	217,340	105,314	112,026

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On March 1, 2003, U.S Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) became one of three legacy INS components to join the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. U.S. CIS is charged with fundamentally transforming and improving the delivery of immigration and citizenship services, while enhancing the integrity of our nation's security.