



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

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USCIS Announces Latest H1-B Petitions Statistics for FY 2003

Washington, DC— U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) today announced that during the first three quarters of FY 2003 it approved 56,986 H1-B petitions. This amount will be counted against the annual cap of 195,000 workers. H1-B visas are for specialty occupations, defense workers and fashion models.

USCIS also approved 84,534 H1-B petitions for persons who are exempt from the congressionally mandated cap on this visa category for nonimmigrant workers and specialty occupations. Exempt workers include those who are employed by institutions of higher education and nonprofit and government research organizations.

In addition, 47,813 petitions are pending adjudication, one-third of which would count against the cap if approved. Petitions filed in the third quarter were up 15 percent over the same quarter of FY 2002, and receipts through the first three quarters were up three percent over the same period last year.

H-1B Statistics for FY2003

Month	Receipts	Approvals*
October 2002	18,926	20,201
November 2002	15,810	14,914
December 2002	15,907	12,755
January 2003	17,096	15,760
February 2003	16,124	16,118
March 2003	19,511	18,802
April 2003	19,698	18,092
May 2003	20,162	19,165
June 2003	21,454	20,316

* This figure reflects the total number of approved petitions, not the number of foreign workers for whom petitions have been approved. In some cases, more than one petition is filed on behalf of a worker.

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

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