



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

Table with 3 columns: Month, Receipts, Approvals*. Rows include months from October 2002 to June 2003 with corresponding numerical values.

* 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.