



U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

H-1B Petition Data FY1992 – FY2015

FY	Cap	# Used *	Date Cap Reached
1992	65,000	48,600	Not reached
1993	65,000	61,600	Not reached
1994	65,000	60,300	Not reached
1995	65,000	54,200	Not reached
1996	65,000	55,100	Not reached
1997	65,000	65,000	September 1, 1997
1998	65,000	65,000	May 11, 1998
1999	115,000	115,000	June 15, 1999
2000	115,000	115,000	July 21, 2000
2001	195,000	163,600	Not reached
2002	195,000	79,100	Not reached
2003	195,000	78,000	Not reached
2004	65,000	65,000	February 17, 2004
2005	85,000 (65,000 + 20,000 Masters or higher)	65,000 ¹	H-1B: October 10, 2004
			Masters: Unknown
2006	85,000 (65,000 + 20,000 Masters or higher)	85,000	H-1B: August 10, 2005
			Masters: January 17, 2006
2007	85,000 (65,000 + 20,000 Masters or higher)	85,000	H-1B: May 26, 2006
			Master: July 26, 2006
2008	85,000 (65,000 + 20,000 Masters or higher)	85,000 Received 150,000 day one	H-1B: April 2, 2007
			Masters: April 30, 2007
2009	85,000 (65,000 + 20,000 Masters or higher)	85,000 Received 163,00 1 st five days (of which 31,200 were Masters)	H-1B: April 5, 2008
			Masters: April 5, 2008
2010	85,000 (65,000 + 20,000 Masters or higher)	85,000	H-1B: December 21, 2009
			Masters: July 9, 2009
2011	85,000 (65,000 + 20,000 Masters or higher)	85,000	H-1B: January 26, 2011
			Masters: December 22, 2010
2012	85,000 (65,000 + 20,000 Masters or higher)	85,000	H-1B: November 22, 2011
			Masters: October 19, 2011
2013	85,000 (65,000 + 20,000 Masters or higher)	85,000	H-1B: June 11, 2012
			Masters: June 7, 2012
2014	85,000 (65,000 + 20,000 Masters or higher)	85,000 Received 124,000 1 st five days	H1-B: April 5, 2013
			Masters: April 5, 2013
2015	85,000 (65,000 + 20,000 Masters or higher)	85,000 Received 172,500 1 st five days	H-1B: April 7, 2014
			Masters: April 7, 2014

*Legacy INS had ongoing issues in counting the number of H-1B numbers. For example, in FY 1996 it was initially announced that the cap had been hit on 8/21/96. However, on re-calculation, INS determined that the cap had not been hit, and resumed accepting H-1Bs on 9/6/96 through the end of the FY. Additionally, in FY 1999 a computer malfunction at INS resulted in the accidental issuance of 20,000 more H-1B visas than the law allows during the FY.

¹ The law creating the advanced degree H1B cap was signed in December 2004 and became effective on May 12, 2005 (in the middle of FY 2005). However, according to DHS officials, the agency first began tracking the master's cap is FY 2006. Therefore, there is not a separate date for the master's cap for FY 2005.