

Countries all around the world utilize migration pathways to train and bring over workers with needed skills. The CGD Migration Pathways database documents these pathways to promote innovation in this space. To explore the database, visit GSP.cgdev.org.

Some of the H-1B application fees (which range from US\$1,720 to US\$8,970) pay for US worker education and training, along with border security. The American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act (ACWIA) fees fund job training and scholarships as well as grants in math, science, and engineering administered by the National Science Foundation and the Department of Labor. In 2010, Congress introduced a fee, intended to pay for border security measures, that is required of companies in which 50 percent or more of the company's US workforce holds an H-1B visa. It affects mainly Indian offshore firms, which employ people from India through H-1B visas to serve US customers.

What impact has it had?

As of September 2019, USCIS estimated that there were 619,327 H-1B visa holders in the United States. Many become legal permanent residents after six years as a result of "dual intent," meaning the visa allows for both temporary and permanent immigrant intent.

Some employers rely heavily on the program. The top 30 H-1B employers accounted for more than 25 percent of all petitions approved by USCIS for initial and continuing H-1B employment in FY2019.

The computer science sector was significantly affected by immigration throughout the 1990s. In the absence of immigration, estimates suggest that wages for US computer scientists would have been 2.6 percent–5.1 percent higher and employment in computer science for US workers 6.1 percent–10.8 percent higher by the early 2000s. In 2016, however, *The Economist* reported that the number of unfilled US jobs in computing and

IT could top 1 million, noting that "American campuses produced fewer than 56,000 graduates with the sort of qualifications sought by IT firms." Disputes are ongoing about the appropriate wage levels for H-1B beneficiaries, best practices for visa allocation, and market impacts.

Further readings

For more information, see the US Government [H-1B Visa Program website](#).

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The Economist. 2016. "A blueprint for getting more women into information technology." London. <https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2016/12/12/a-blueprint-for-getting-more-women-into-information-technology>

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