



H-1B VISAS: FACTS OVER FEAR, DATA OVER DOGMA

Supply chain of college graduates

- The U.S. graduates 50,000 computer science majors annually, with 125,000 job openings annually for employees in this field. Of the 50,000 graduates, half are foreign-born, so only 25,000 of an annual need of 125,000 were born in the U.S.
- We need to greatly grow our U.S.-born pipeline while also attracting and retaining top talent from around the globe.

Definition

Non-immigrant visa for foreign workers in specialty occupations. "Specialty occupations" is not specifically defined, but the position must meet one of the following:

- Require a baccalaureate or higher degree
- Have a degree requirement that is common in the industry for similar positions, or be a position that is so specialized it can only be performed by a person with a degree
- The employer normally requires a degree or equivalent
- The nature of the job or its duties are so complex that the knowledge required to perform those duties would normally be associated with a baccalaureate or higher degree

Annual H-1B visa limits

- 65,000
- 20,000 additional for workers who have earned a master's degree or higher from a U.S. institution

H-1B visa requests, 2015 (<http://projects.sfchronicle.com/2016/visas/>)

- Santa Clara County - 46k
- San Francisco County - 11k
- San Mateo County - 6K
- Total above - 63k

Average salaries offered to H-1B workers, 2015 (<http://projects.sfchronicle.com/2016/visas/>)

- Google - \$130k
- Apple - \$123,600 - 154,200, on average
- Facebook - \$141k
- Nationally, H-1B workers earn an average of \$76,356, compared to \$67,301 for US born workers with bachelor's degrees, including areas like IT, engineering, healthcare. (American Immigration Council)

H-1B Visa's impact on economy (American Immigration Council)

- Occupations using large numbers of H-1B Visa workers (e.g., STEM) have lower unemployment rates than overall national unemployment rate.

How much does an H-1B Visa cost a sponsor? (H1B.io)

- With filing fees, American Workforce Improvement Act fees, fraud fees, premium processing fees and attendant attorney's fees, the total cost for a single employee can be over \$10,000.

How long does it take to process an H-1B Visa?

- Times vary depending on company and visa-applicant circumstance
- The wait time for processing an H-1B visa is 3-6 months