Predicting the Labor Certification Date for an Green Card Petition

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Background

- Program Electronic Review Management (PERM) is the system used for obtaining labor certification.

- It is the first step for certain foreign nationals in obtaining an employment-based immigrant visa ("green card")

- PERM is run by the US Department of Labor (DOL) who certifies whether the Green Card petition is certified, rejected or needs review.

- The time taken for certification is not constant and not easily predictable

Need for the project

- Any person who has applied for the Labor Certification would like to know when the case will be certified.

Problem Definition

- Dependent Variable (to be predicted):
  - Certification Date

- Independent Variables:
  - Date of petition application
  - Number of cases in the backlog
  - Number of cases received daily
  - Number of cases certified daily

$$Cert.Date = Appl.Date + \beta_1 Backlog + \beta_2 DailyIn + \beta_3 DailyOut$$

Obstacles

- The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) releases the PERM cases that are certified daily. From these the certification date can be obtained directly and date of application can be extracted indirectly.

- No available data of the cases in the backlog.

- The number of cases of received, rejected and under review are not updated daily. The data is released every quarter and granularity is on a per-month basis.