

**FY2014-2018**

# **2018 USCIS Statistical Annual Report**



**U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services**

## WHAT WE DO

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) administers the nation's lawful immigration system. We manage a broad range of programs through which we process millions of immigration and naturalization benefit requests each year. We are responsible for:

### Adjudicating Applications, Petitions and Requests

- *Citizenship and naturalization.* Individuals who wish to become U.S. citizens through naturalization submit their applications to USCIS.
- *Family-based immigration.* We manage the process that allows lawful permanent residents and U.S. citizens to bring close relatives to live and work in the United States.
- *Employment-based nonimmigrant and immigrant petitions.* We manage the process that allows individuals from other countries to lawfully work in the United States. Some of these opportunities are temporary and some provide a path to lawful permanent residence.
- *Humanitarian.* USCIS administers a number of humanitarian programs and upholds U.S. law and international obligations. These include programs for asylum seekers, refugees, persons eligible for temporary protected status, and victims of qualifying criminal activity or human trafficking.
- *Adoptions.* We administer the first step in the process by which U.S. citizens adopt foreign-born children.
- *Nonimmigrant status for work, religion, study, business, recreation, and cultural exchange.* USCIS handles cases where individuals seek to change or extend status in the United States, or in some cases obtain work authorization.
- *Deferred action for childhood arrivals (DACA).*

### Managing the E-Verify and SAVE Programs

We administer E-Verify, a tool that helps ensure a legal work force by allowing participating employers to check online whether their new employees are eligible to work in the United States. We also administer the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) program that assists federal, state and local benefit-administering agencies determine eligibility for public benefits by providing immigration status information to them.

### FISCAL YEAR 2018 SNAPSHOT

- 8.7 million receipts
- 19,000 employees and contractors
- 237 offices worldwide
- \$4.4 billion budget
- 97% of budget supported by fees
- 757,000 naturalizations
- 1.1 million granted lawful permanent residence
- 2.1 million employment authorization applications processed
- 14 million Contact Center calls received
- 37 million new hires verified

### Deterring, Detecting, and Addressing Vulnerabilities

We determine whether individuals or organizations requesting benefits pose a threat to national security, public safety, or the integrity of the nation's immigration system. Our work includes administratively investigating immigration benefit fraud, and identifying and addressing internal risks and vulnerabilities.

### Promoting Lawful Immigrants' Assimilation into American Society

We encourage lawful immigrants' understanding of U.S. civic principles and citizenship, including their rights and responsibilities, by awarding grants and providing resources and tools to organizations.

## Responding to Public Inquiries

Through our Contact Center and responding to Freedom of Information Act requests, we respond to millions of inquiries about the legal U.S. immigration system to benefit applicants and their representatives.

## USCIS BY THE NUMBERS IN FISCAL YEAR 2018

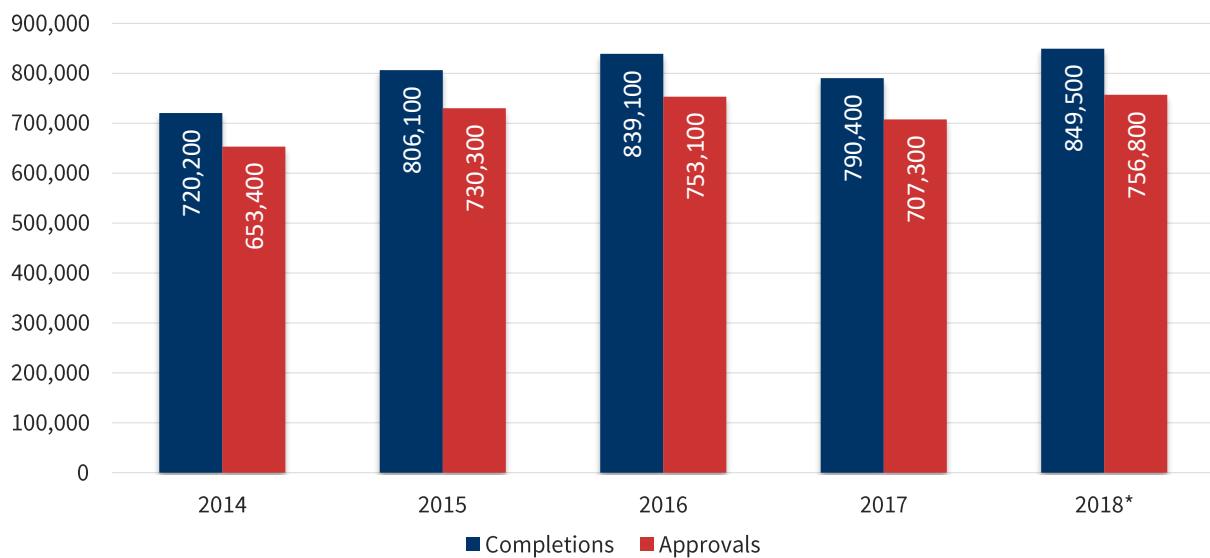
USCIS has 19,000 federal employees and contractors in 237 offices worldwide. We charge fees to applicants and petitioners, meaning 97 percent of our total budget authority comes from immigration and naturalization benefit fees, not annual appropriations. In FY 2018, USCIS' budget rose 6 percent from FY 2017, totaling more than \$4.4 billion.<sup>1</sup> We adjudicated more than 8 million benefit requests in FY 2018, which is a 7 percent increase compared to FY 2017 and a 28 percent increase over the past five fiscal years. Our five key areas of work in FY 2018 include the categories listed below.<sup>2</sup> Each category is accompanied by its respective USCIS Form(s) and the number of completions for each form. We use "completion" and "adjudication" interchangeably to mean the summation of the number of approvals and denials attached to each form in a fiscal year.

### 1. Naturalization

Over the past five fiscal years, USCIS naturalized anywhere from 650,000 to more than 750,000 persons per year.<sup>3</sup> As shown in Figure 1, approximately 757,000 persons took the oath of citizenship in FY 2018, a 6 percent increase from FY 2017 and a 16 percent increase from FY 2014. In FY 2018, USCIS reached a five-year high in the number of [Forms N-400, Application for Naturalization](#), processed, totaling nearly 850,000 completions, an 18 percent increase from FY 2014.

**FIGURE 1.**

N-400 COMPLETIONS AND APPROVALS: FISCAL YEARS 2014-2018



Note: Applications adjudicated in a fiscal year may be filed in previous fiscal years.

Source: [Office of Immigration Statistics, DHS, Table 20](#)

\*Source: [All USCIS Application and Petition Form Types, Preliminary Data](#)

<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/DHS%20BIB%202019.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> See appendix for data tables

<sup>3</sup> All numbers are rounded to the nearest hundredth throughout the report.

## 2. Adjustment to Lawful Permanent Resident Status

Persons obtain Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) status primarily through their family, an employer, or through humanitarian programs, such as those for refugees and asylees. The two paths to LPR status depend on whether the applicant is seeking LPR status within the United States or applying for an immigrant visa abroad.<sup>4</sup> The U.S. Department of State issues immigrant visas to those abroad who are qualified and already have an immigrant visa petition approved by USCIS. Those in the United States with an approved immigrant visa petition are allowed to adjust to LPR status by applying with USCIS. In FY 2018, nearly 1.1 million people were granted LPR status. Of these, almost 52 percent were processed by USCIS, a 3 percent increase in applications processed during the preceding year.<sup>5</sup>

Figure 2 below displays the number of adjustment of status completions by filing category associated with the [Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status](#). In FY 2018, USCIS adjudicated more than 630,000 I-485 applications, which is a 4 percent increase from fiscal year 2017 and a 10 percent increase from fiscal year 2014. Family-based LPR applications represented 47 percent of I-485 applications processed in FY 2018, totaling more than 300,000 completions, a slight decrease (4 percent) from the previous fiscal year. Employment-based LPR completions similarly exhibited a slight decrease from FY 2017, totaling more than 120,000 completions in FY 2018. The overall increase in I-485 applications processed in fiscal year 2018 is explained by the increase in the number of refugee/asylee and all other<sup>6</sup> applications processed. Refugee/asylee completions reached nearly 115,000 in FY 2018, which is a 24 percent increase from FY 2017, and an 18 percent increase from FY 2014. The last category of I-485 applications completed – all other – reached 102,000 applications adjudicated in FY 2018, rising from 88,000 completions (15 percent increase) in FY 2017, and 68,000 completions (49 percent increase) in FY 2014. The overall approval rate of I-485 applications processed in fiscal year 2018 was 91 percent, which is consistent with approval rates over the past five fiscal years.

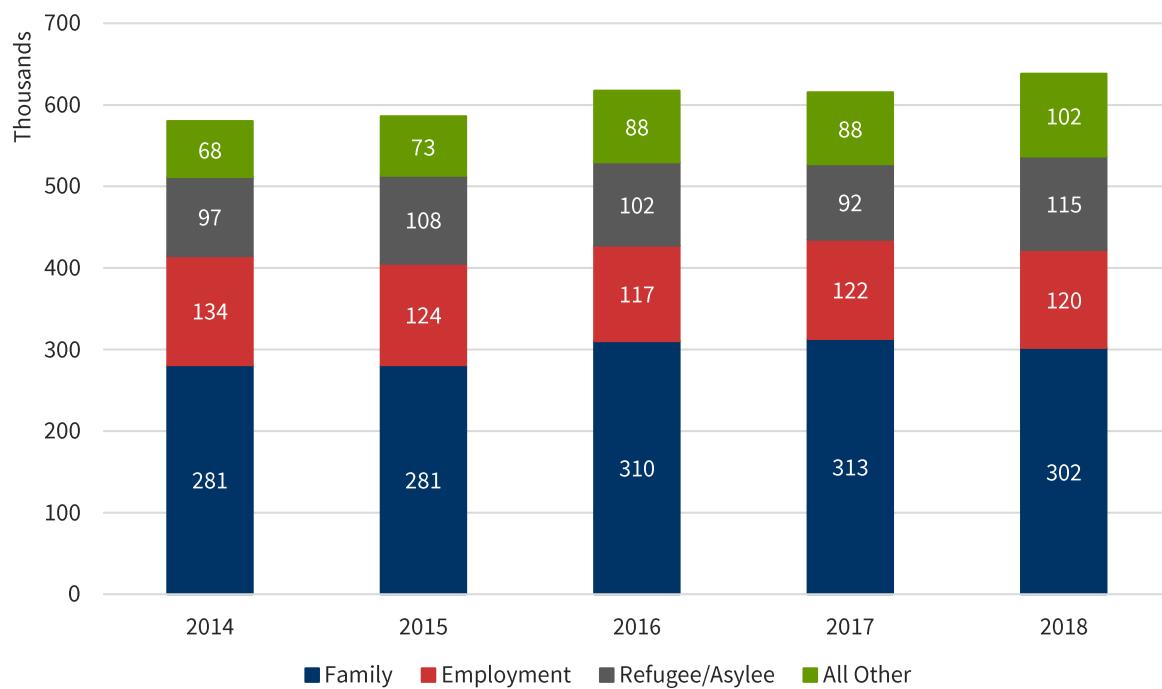
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<sup>4</sup> See <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/immigrate/the-immigrant-visa-process.html>

<sup>5</sup> Even though USCIS does not process all applications that lead to LPR status, the agency still processes the appropriate immigrant visa petition that establishes individuals as eligible for the preference category that best fits their situation. Petitions include I-130 (petition for alien relative), I-140 (immigrant petition for alien worker), I-360 (petition for Amerasian, widow(er), or special immigrant), I-526 (Immigrant Petition by Alien Entrepreneur), among others.

<sup>6</sup> All other includes Diversity, Parolees, NACARA, Cancellation of Removals, Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act, among others.

**FIGURE 2.**  
I-485 ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS COMPLETIONS: FISCAL YEARS 2014-2018



Note: Applications adjudicated in a fiscal year may be filed in previous fiscal years.

Source: [All USCIS Application and Petition Form Types](#)

USCIS also processes [Form I-90, Application to Replace Permanent Resident Card](#), used to replace or renew a Permanent Resident Card, also known as a Green Card. LPRs are required to replace their Green Card every 10 years, or a situation might arise where a LPR needs to replace their Green Card or a conditional resident needs to replace a two-year Green Card. In FY 2018, USCIS processed more than 1.1 million I-90 requests, the highest rate of completions in the past five fiscal years. This is a 128 percent increase from FY 2017 and a 71 percent increase from FY 2014. The increase is driven not by increased receipts, but by the implementation of streamlined processing for the I-90, which has automated numerous case processing tasks and freed up officers to focus on adjudicative areas that require their attention. See Table 3 in appendix.

### 3. Humanitarian Programs

USCIS administers a number of humanitarian programs to assist individuals in need of shelter, aid, or protection from disasters, persecution, emergency medical issues, and other urgent circumstances.

Two key humanitarian programs that USCIS administers are for refugees and asylees. Refugee status is a form of protection granted to people who reside outside the United States and meet the definition of refugee,<sup>7</sup> whereas asylum status is a form of protection available to people who meet the definition of refugee and who either are already in the United States or are seeking admission at a port of entry.

<sup>7</sup> Under U.S. law, a refugee is any person who is outside any country of such person's nationality or, in the case of a person having no nationality, is outside any country in which such person last habitually resided, and who is unable or unwilling to return to, and is unable or unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of, that country because of persecution or a

Limits exist on the number of refugees who may be admitted to the United States per year, which is determined by the refugee cap set by the president in consultation with Congress. Fluctuation in the refugee cap caused variation in the number of refugees interviewed (and admitted – see Table 4 in the Appendix) between FY 2014 and FY 2018, which reached a peak of approximately 125,200 interviews in FY 2016. Refugee interviews declined by 46 percent between FY 2017 and FY 2018, with approximately 49,300 admissions in FY 2017, and 26,400 admissions in FY 2018.

There are two processes for applying for asylum in the United States, which are administered by two federal agencies. Affirmative asylum, which is administered by USCIS using [Form I-589, Application for Asylum and for Withholding of Removal](#), is generally for asylum seekers who are not in removal proceedings, whereas defensive asylum is generally for individuals who are in removal proceedings and request asylum through the Executive Officer for Immigration Review (EOIR), which is part of the Department of Justice. Asylum (both affirmative and defensive) is different from refugee status because refugees are admitted to the United States from abroad and typically begin their application for refugee status with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Asylum seekers, on the other hand, apply within the United States or at a port of entry and, in most cases, have one year from initial arrival to seek affirmative asylum.

According to Figure 3, USCIS adjudicated nearly 82,000 affirmative asylum applications (Form I-589) in FY 2018, a 61 percent increase from the previous fiscal year. During FY 2018, USCIS announced a shift away from “First-in, First-out” processing of affirmative asylum cases to “Last-in, First-out” processing and has seen some success in its efforts to slow the growth of the backlog of pending cases. There was a 30 percent reduction in receipts within the first month of implementation and a 23 percent decrease from the prior year.

In addition to adjudicating affirmative asylum applications, USCIS also conducts credible fear and reasonable fear screenings. In the credible fear process, individuals who are subject to expedited removal and claim a fear of return to their country of origin are screened to determine whether a significant possibility exists that the individual could establish eligibility for asylum or withholding of removal. If this standard is met, individuals are referred to immigration court, at which point they may apply for asylum and withholding of removal. Reasonable fear screening applies to individuals who either re-entered the United States after previously being ordered removed or to individuals who are in administrative removal proceedings due to an aggravated felony conviction. Individuals who establish a reasonable possibility of persecution or torture upon return to their country of origin are referred to immigration court, where they may apply for withholding of removal. In FY 2018, USCIS completed 98,000 screenings for credible fear (Form I-870, Record of Determination/Credible Fear Worksheet) and 11,000 screenings for reasonable fear (Form I-899 Reasonable Fear Work Sheet).<sup>8</sup> The number of credible fear screenings completed increased by 22 percent between FY 2017 and FY 2018, and increased by 104 percent from FY 2014 to FY 2018. Reasonable fear (I-899) screenings completed

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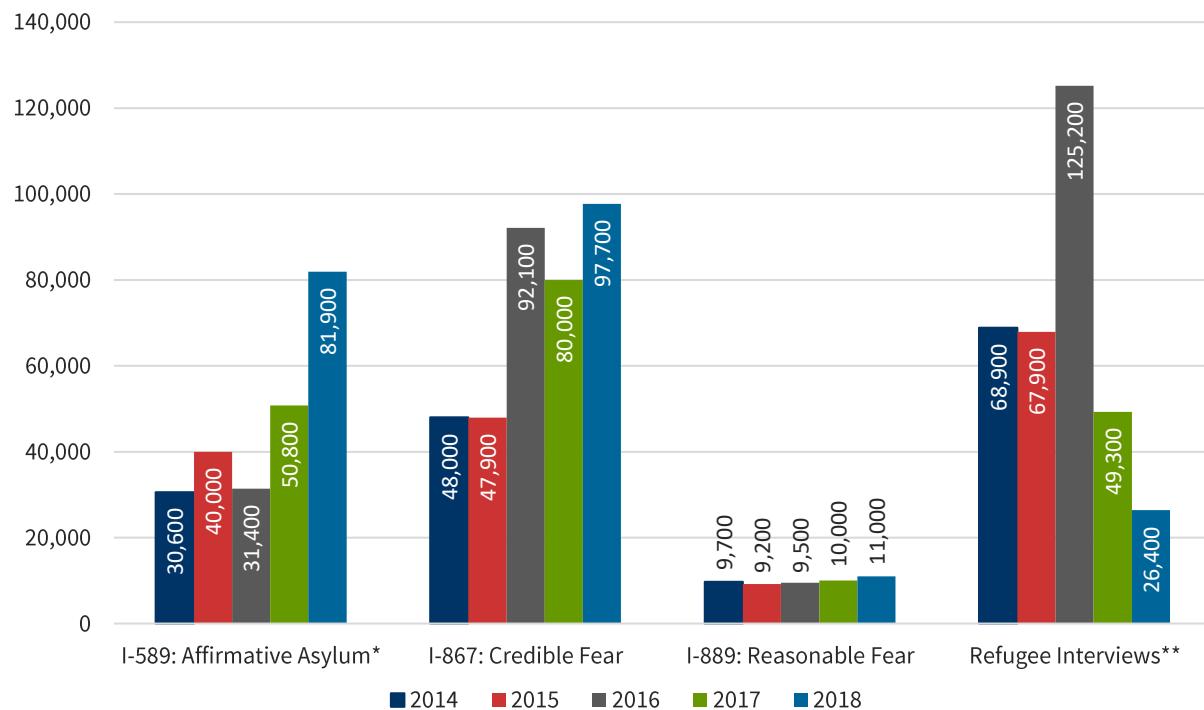
well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. For more information, see: <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/refugees-asylum/refugees>.

<sup>8</sup> As part of the credible and reasonable fear screening processes, USCIS Asylum Officers prepare Form I-870, Record of Determination/Credible Fear Worksheet, and Form I-899, Record of Determination/Reasonable Fear Worksheet, respectively. These worksheets include biographic information about the applicant, including the applicant’s name, date of birth, gender, country of birth, nationality, ethnicity, religion, language, and information about the applicant’s entry into the United States and place of detention. The forms also identify the interpreter used during the reasonable fear interview. Credible and Reasonable Fear screenings (and their respective forms I-870 and I-899) do not confer an immigration benefit; rather they are intended to identify individuals with viable protection claims, which are then referred to the Immigration Courts for adjudication. Asylum Officers do not adjudicate the actual asylum applications during the screening process.

were less variable, increasing by 10 percent between FY 2017 and FY 2018, and 13 percent from FY 2014 to FY 2018.

### FIGURE 3.

#### I-589, I-870 AND I-899 COMPLETIONS, AND REFUGEE INTERVIEWS: FISCAL YEARS 2014-2018



Note: Applications adjudicated in a fiscal year may be filed in previous fiscal years.

Source: [All USCIS Application and Petition Form Types](#)

\*Source: National Performance Report, OPQ, USCIS

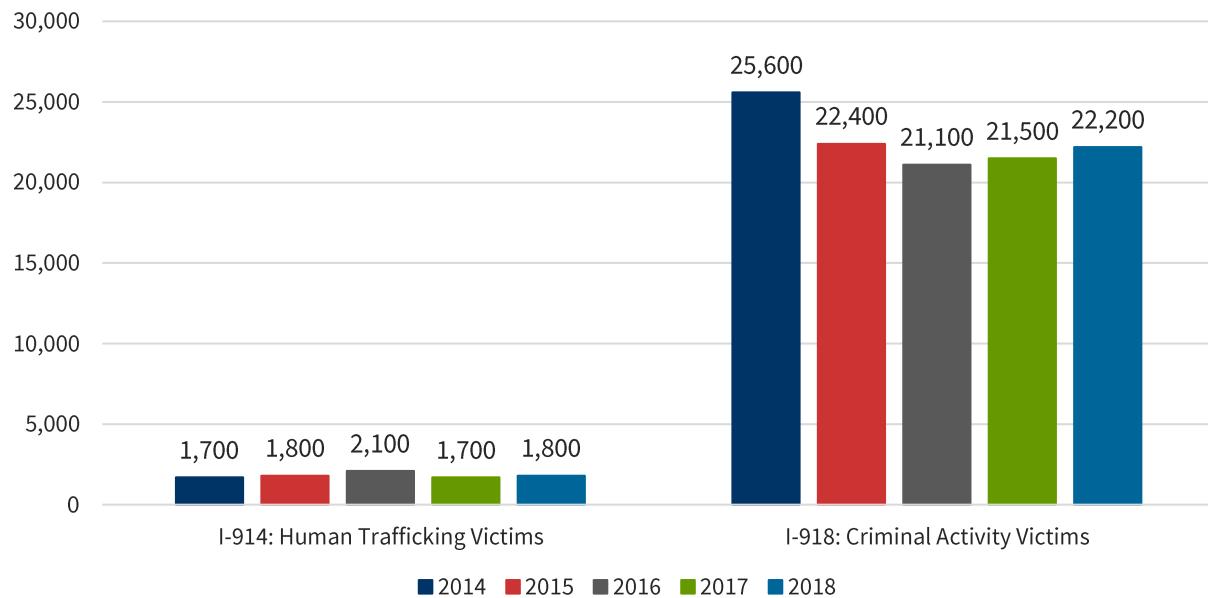
\*\*Source: Refugee, Asylum, and International Operations Directorate, USCIS

Figure 4 below shows the count of applications and petitions processed for two forms pertaining to victims of human trafficking or other serious crimes. Human trafficking, also known as trafficking in persons, is a form of modern-day slavery. Traffickers use force, fraud, or coercion to lure their victims and force them into labor or commercial sexual exploitation. Victims of human trafficking may apply for temporary immigration status (commonly referred to as a “T Visa”) by filing [Form I-914, Application for T Nonimmigrant Status](#). The limit on the number of T Visas that may be granted to principal petitioners each year is 5,000. However, there is no cap for family members deriving status from the principal applicant, such as spouses, children, or other eligible family members. Form I-914 experienced a higher volume of adjudications in FY 2018 compared to FY 2017 – USCIS adjudicated 1,800 applications (including principals and derivatives) in FY 2018, which is a 6 percent increase from FY 2017.

Victims of qualifying crimes may apply for temporary immigration status (commonly referred to as a “U Visa”) by filing [Form I-918, Petition for U Nonimmigrant Status](#). These qualifying crimes include rape, murder, manslaughter, domestic violence, sexual assault, and many others. Similar to T Visas, there is a limit on the number of U Visas that may be granted to principal petitioners each year. The limit for U Visas is 10,000, but there is no cap for family members deriving status from the principal applicant, such as spouses, children, or other eligible family members. In FY 2018, petitions for victims

of qualifying criminal activity (including principals and derivatives), Form I-918, reached 22,200 completions. This is a 3 percent increase from the previous fiscal year and a 13 percent decrease over the past five fiscal years.

**FIGURE 4.**  
**I-914 AND I-918 ADJUDICATIONS: FISCAL YEARS 2014-2018**



Note: Applications adjudicated in a fiscal year may be filed in previous fiscal years.

Note: Fiscal Year is based on the date of completion and may not correspond to any applicable numerical limits.

Note: Figure accounts for principals and derivatives.

Source: [All USCIS Application and Petition Form Types](#)

Another type of humanitarian program offering protection is Temporary Protected Status (TPS) ([Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status](#)). The Secretary of Homeland Security may designate a foreign country for TPS due to conditions in the country that temporarily prevent the country's nationals from returning safely, or in certain circumstances, where the country is unable to handle the return of its nationals adequately. USCIS may grant TPS to eligible nationals of designated countries (or parts of countries) who are already in the United States. From September 2017 through June 2018, the Secretary of Homeland Security determined to terminate TPS for Sudan, Nicaragua, Haiti, El Salvador, Nepal, and Honduras.<sup>9</sup> In 2018, USCIS extended TPS for Syria, Yemen, and Somalia.

The number of Form I-821 TPS applications processed fluctuated between FY 2014 and FY 2018. In FY 2018, USCIS completed approximately 262,300 applications, a 55 percent increase from the previous fiscal year. This increase is partly contributable to the extension of TPS for Syria, Yemen, and Somalia. TPS applications processed, overall, increased by 156 percent during the past five fiscal years, with 102,400 completions in FY 2014 to 262,300 applications processed in FY 2018 (see Table 6 in appendix).

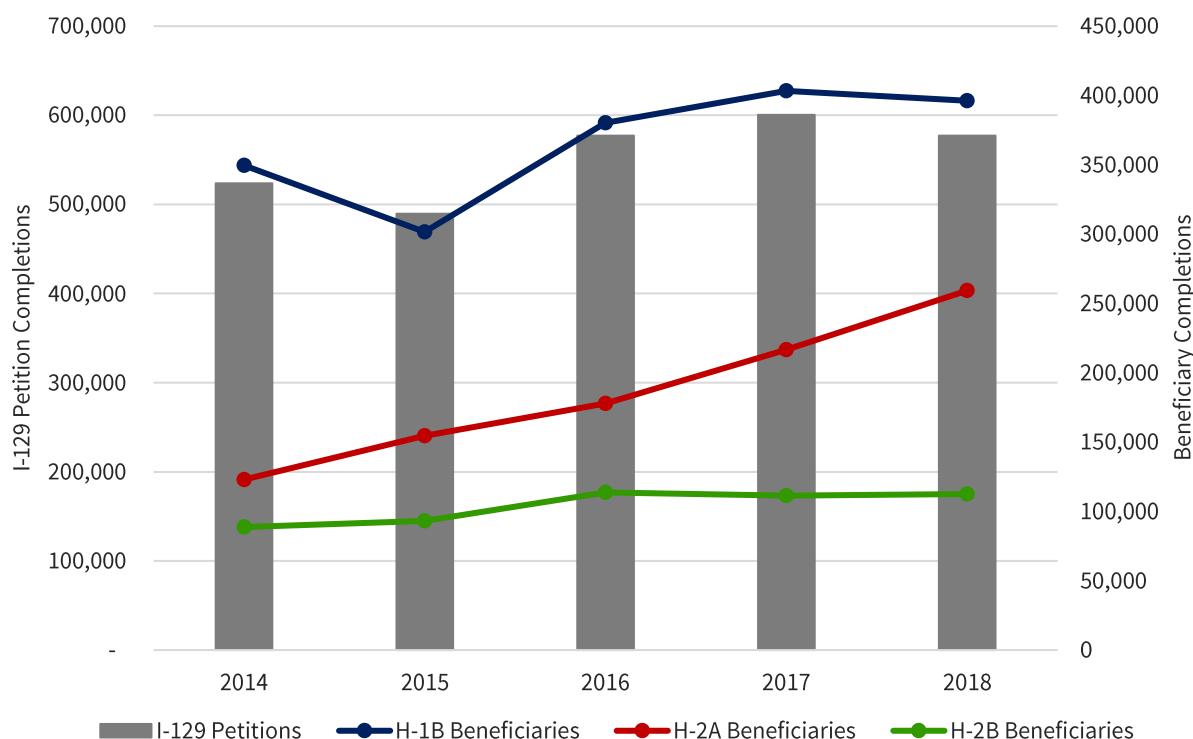
<sup>9</sup> Due to federal court action, none of these terminations have yet taken effect.

#### 4. Temporary Employment

Temporary worker visas are for persons who want to enter the United States for employment lasting a fixed period and are not considered permanent or indefinite. Persons coming to the United States as nonimmigrant workers either temporarily perform services or labor, or receive training, and may request an extension of stay or change status once in the United States.

**FIGURE 5.**

I-129 COMPLETIONS BY CLASSIFICATION: FISCAL YEARS 2014-2018



Note: Petitions adjudicated in a fiscal year may be filed in previous fiscal years.

Note: Figure accounts for initial and continuing petitions and may not correspond to any applicable numerical limits.

Note: Fiscal Year is based on the date of completion and may not correspond to any applicable numerical limits.

Source: [All USCIS Application and Petition Form Types](#)

Source: Office of Performance and Quality, USCIS

Figure 5 displays the number of completions for all [Forms I-129, Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker](#), [H-1B Specialty Occupations](#),<sup>10</sup> [H-2A Temporary Agricultural Workers](#), and [H-2B Non-Agricultural Workers](#)<sup>11</sup> for FY 2014 to FY 2018. In FY 2018, USCIS processed 577,200 I-129 petitions, which is a slight

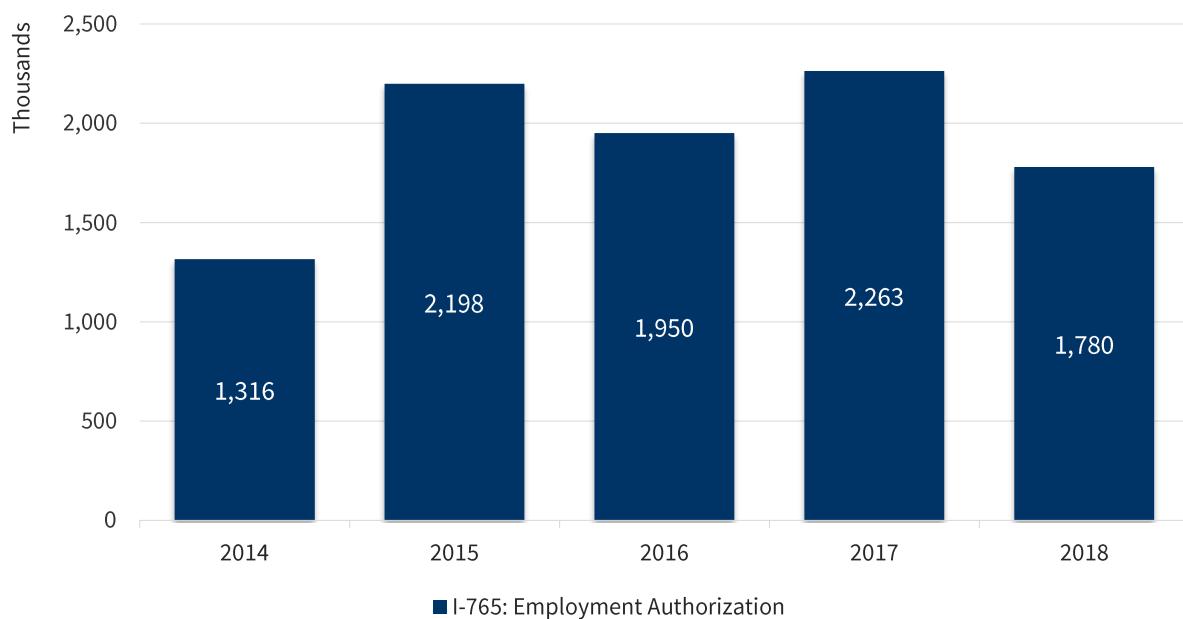
<sup>10</sup> The H-1B visa has an annual numerical limit, or "cap," of 65,000 visas each fiscal year. The first 20,000 petitions filed on behalf of beneficiaries with a U.S. master's degree or higher are exempt from the cap. Additionally, H-1B workers who are petitioned for or employed at an institution of higher education or its affiliated or related nonprofit entities or a nonprofit research organization, or a government research organization are not subject to this numerical cap.

<sup>11</sup> There is a statutory numerical limit, or "cap," on the total number of foreign nationals who may be issued an H-2B visa or otherwise granted H-2B status during a fiscal year (FY). Currently, Congress has set the H-2B cap at 66,000 per fiscal year, with 33,000 for workers who begin employment in the first half of the fiscal year (Oct. 1 - March 31) and 33,000 for workers who begin employment in the second half of the fiscal year (April 1 – Sept. 30). Any unused numbers from the first half of the fiscal year will be available for employers seeking to hire H-2B workers during the second half of the fiscal year. However,

decrease from the previous fiscal year (4 percent), but a 10 percent increase from FY 2014. This variation in completions is partly explained by the number of H-1B beneficiary petitions processed, or the number of beneficiaries attached to an employer petition. For instance, in FY 2018, 396,300 H-1B beneficiary petitions were processed, which is a 13 percent increase over five fiscal years and a 2 percent decrease from FY 2017. The number of beneficiary petitions processed for the H-2A classification reached a five fiscal year high in FY 2018 at 259,200, a 20 percent increase from the previous fiscal year and a 111 percent increase from FY 2014. Processing for H-2B beneficiary petitions reached 112,300 in FY 2018, which is 27 percent increase from FY 2014 and less than a 1 percent increase from FY 2017.<sup>12</sup>

**FIGURE 6.**

I-765 COMPLETIONS: FISCAL YEARS 2014-2018



Note: Applications adjudicated in a fiscal year may be filed in previous fiscal years.

Source: [All USCIS Application and Petition Form Types](#)

Certain foreign nationals who are in the United States may file [Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization](#), to apply for employment authorization and an Employment Authorization Document (EAD). Other foreign nationals whose immigration status authorizes them to work in the United States without restrictions may also use Form I-765 to apply for an EAD that shows such authorization. Foreign nationals filing the I-765 can include refugees/asylees, TPS or DACA

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unused H-2B numbers from one fiscal year do not carry over into the next. Generally, workers in the United States in H-2B status who extend their stay, change employers, or change the terms and conditions of employment will not be subject to the cap. Similarly, H-2B workers who have previously been counted against the cap in the same fiscal year that the proposed employment begins will not be subject to the cap if the employer names the workers on the petition and indicates that they have already been counted. The spouse and children of H-2B workers classified as H-4 nonimmigrants are also not counted against this cap.

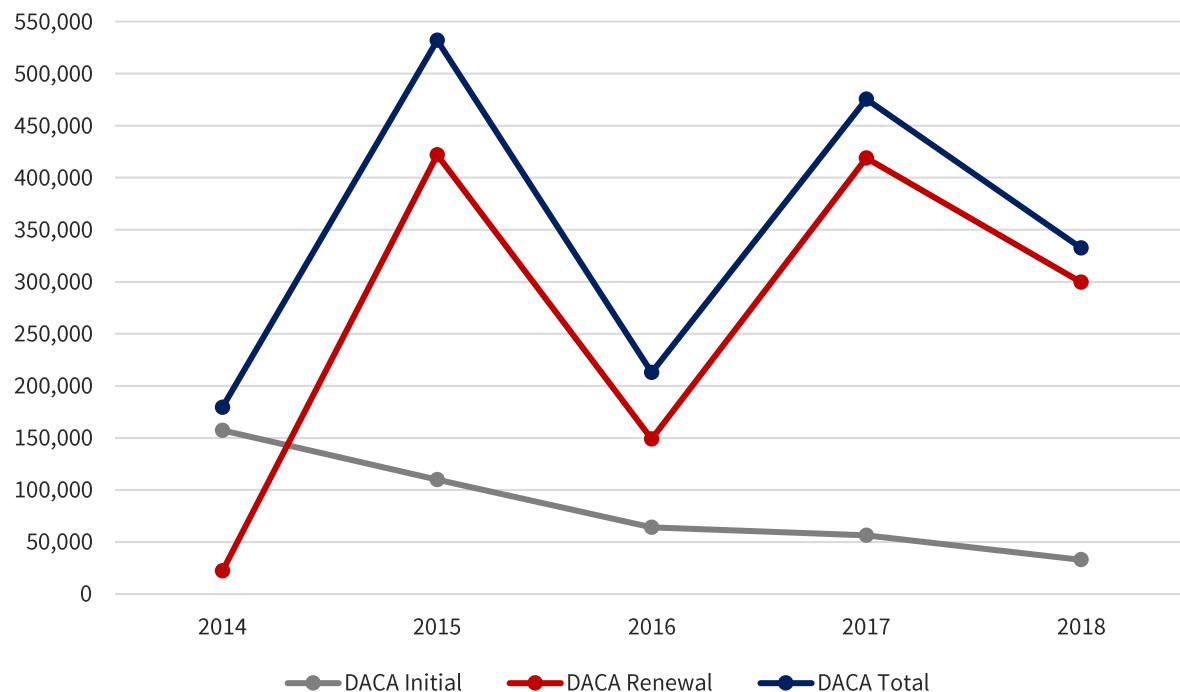
<sup>12</sup> One change to temporary employment in FY 2018 involved the H-2B visa. On May 31, 2018, the Departments of Homeland Security and Labor published a temporary rule increasing the numerical limit on H-2B (seasonal, nonagricultural) nonimmigrant visas by up to 15,000 additional visas through the end of fiscal year 2018. This also occurred in FY 2017.

recipients, foreign students and vocational students, and persons possessing certain humanitarian-based visas, among other categories. Aside from obtaining an EAD, the I-765 can also be used to apply for a Social Security number and card. As shown in Figure 6, USCIS processed more than 1.7 million I-765 applications in FY 2018. From FY 2017 to FY 2018, the number of I-765 applications adjudicated decreased by 21 percent, but the number of completions experienced a 35 percent increase from FY 2014 to FY 2018. Of all the applications and petitions that USCIS processes, the I-765 is the highest volume form.

## 5. Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

An individual may request that USCIS exercise prosecutorial discretion in their favor under the DACA process, including consideration for renewal of deferred action. In September 2017, the termination of the DACA program was announced in anticipation that Congress would enact legislation before the program's expiration, scheduled for March 2018. Although Congress passed no legislation addressing DACA, court injunctions prohibiting ending DACA remain in place, pending further litigation. As required by the injunctions, USCIS continues to adjudicate certain requests for DACA.

**FIGURE 7.**  
I-821D COMPLETIONS: FISCAL YEARS 2014-2018



Note: Applications adjudicated in a fiscal year may be filed in previous fiscal years.

Source: [Office of Performance and Quality, USCIS](#)

Figure 7 displays the number of [Form I-821D, Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals](#), requests processed, including the number of completions for DACA initial filings processed and DACA renewal requests processed. The number of total I-821D requests processed in FY 2018 reached 332,500, a 30 percent decrease from the previous fiscal year. A decline in I-821D requests processed is attributable to the termination of DACA in September 2017 under which USCIS is no longer accepting

initial filings for deferred action.<sup>13</sup> Only those individuals already granted deferred action are eligible to renew their deferment. DACA initial requests processed in FY 2018 reached approximately 33,000 (a 42 percent decline from FY 2017) while the number of DACA renewal requests processed dropped from 419,000 in FY 2017 to about 300,000 in FY 2018, a 28 percent decrease.

## **USCIS PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES**

### **Citizenship and Applicant Information Services**

The Office of Citizenship and Applicant Information Services helps the public learn about U.S. citizenship and assists applicants with a variety of resources and tools, including:

#### *USCIS Contact Center*

The USCIS Contact Center responds to questions by phone, email, live chat, and written correspondence. Individuals can receive assistance in locating information on the USCIS website, in both English and Spanish, using the virtual assistant, Emma. In FY 2018, USCIS received nearly 14 million calls through its interactive voice response system. USCIS staff answered 7.3 million calls and responded to 272,000 web form requests (emails).

#### *Citizenship and Assimilation Grant Program*

USCIS provides instruction and training on citizenship rights and responsibilities and administers the Citizenship and Assimilation Grant Program. In September 2018, USCIS awarded nearly \$9.5 million in grants to 40 organizations to help prepare an anticipated 35,000 lawful permanent residents for naturalization. These grants consisted of two separate funding opportunities – a grant for citizenship instruction and naturalization application assistance, and another grant for assimilation services to assist refugees and asylees launched in July 2018.

#### *Digital Services*

The Digital Services team delivers accurate, accessible information by building online tools to help anyone understand and navigate U.S. immigration law. In support of the President's Management Agenda, the team works to unify USCIS' digital presence, focuses on external user needs, and creates business efficiencies. USCIS digital tools are among the most popular in the U.S. federal government. In FY 2018, there were 345 million sessions for Case Status Online and 195 million sessions for USCIS.gov.

#### **Freedom of Information Act**

The USCIS centralized Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) office receives, tracks, and processes all USCIS FOIA requests to ensure transparency within the agency. Requests can include decision papers, memoranda, databases, audio and video recordings, publications, webpages, telephone logs, and email messages. During FY 2018, approximately 191,000 FOIA requests were received and 186,000 requests were closed, totaling more than 31 million pages of records processed.

#### **Employment Verification**

E-Verify is a web-based system that allows enrolled employers to confirm the eligibility of their employees to work in the United States. E-Verify employers verify the identity and employment eligibility of newly hired employees by electronically matching information provided by employees on Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification, against records available to the Social Security Administration and the Department of Homeland Security. In FY 2018, more than 816,000 employers

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<sup>13</sup> Due to federal court orders, USCIS has resumed accepting requests to renew a grant of deferred action under DACA. USCIS is not accepting requests from individuals who have never before been granted deferred action under DACA.

were registered with the program, representing nearly 3 million hiring sites that ran more than 39 million cases through E-Verify.

## **SAVE**

The Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements Program (SAVE) assists federal, state, and local benefit-administering agencies, institutions, and licensing agencies to determine the immigration status of benefit applicants so only those entitled to benefits receive them. As of September 30, 2018, SAVE had 1,179 agencies enrolled and over 18.7 million verifications processed.

## **Fraud Detection and National Security**

The Fraud Detection and National Security Directorate's (FDNS) primary mission is to determine whether individuals or organizations filing for immigration benefits pose a threat to national security, public safety, or the integrity of the nation's legal immigration system. FDNS officers investigate and document national security or fraud (marriage, visa, etc.) concerns identified during the processing of immigration benefit applications and petitions. They also perform checks of USCIS databases and public information, as well as other administrative inquiries, to verify information provided on, and in support of, applications and petitions. In FY 2018, FDNS received approximately 149,300 referrals,<sup>14</sup> which is a 14 percent increase from the previous fiscal year. These referrals included approximately 59,500 requests for assistance; 30,400 fraud leads; 21,400 fraud cases; 12,000 administrative site visit and targeted site visit compliance reviews; 7,600 national security concerns; 4,400 public safety leads and 12,300 public safety cases; and 1,600 requests for overseas verification. Additionally, FDNS screened 11,700 cases against social media.

## **USCIS eProcessing Initiative**

In FY 2018, USCIS affirmed its commitment to becoming a paperless agency by 2020 by requiring the electronic filing and processing of benefit requests. This paperless initiative already began deploying technology to assist in the electronic filing of six forms, including [Form I-90, Application to Replace Permanent Resident Card](#), and [Form N-400, Application for Naturalization](#), which have been available for e-filing since March 2015 and August 2016, respectively. USCIS continues to expand both its electronic records request system and its online filing to reach its paperless goal. USCIS also included a proposal in its fall 2018 regulatory agenda to require all benefit types to be electronically filed. Data received from the eProcessing initiative will allow the agency to finally have a full and accurate picture of America's immigration system.

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<sup>14</sup> The term "referral" indicates any request for FDNS to review, investigate, or support the USCIS workload. This includes administrative site visits referred through random selection of eligible receipts.

## APPENDIX

**TABLE 1.**  
**N-400 COMPLETIONS AND APPROVALS: FISCAL YEARS 2014-2018**

	Completions	Approvals	Approval Rate
2014	720,200	653,400	91%
2015	806,100	730,300	91%
2016	839,100	753,100	90%
2017	790,400	707,300	89%
2018*	849,500	756,800	89%

Note: Totals are rounded.

Note: Approval rate based on unrounded completions and approvals.

Note: Applications adjudicated in a fiscal year may be filed in previous fiscal years.

Source: [Office of Immigration Statistics, DHS, Table 20](#)

\*Source: [All USCIS Application and Petition Form Types](#)

Form: [N-400 Application for Naturalization](#)

**TABLE 2.**  
**I-485 COMPLETIONS AND APPROVALS: FISCAL YEARS 2014-2018**

I-485 Completions	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Family	281,000	280,700	310,200	313,000	301,800
Employment	133,800	124,300	117,300	121,800	120,300
Refugee/Asylum	96,900	108,100	101,900	92,400	114,600
All Other	68,400	72,800	88,100	88,300	101,600
Total	580,100	585,900	617,500	615,500	638,300
I-485 Approvals					
Family	248,900	249,700	278,500	275,900	262,000
Employment	126,900	117,400	110,400	114,500	109,400
Refugee/Asylum	94,000	105,100	99,200	89,500	111,800
All Other	62,700	67,800	81,800	82,000	95,000
Total Approvals	532,500	540,000	569,900	561,900	578,200
I-485 Approval Rate					
Family	89%	89%	90%	88%	87%
Employment	95%	94%	94%	94%	91%
Refugee/Asylum	97%	97%	97%	97%	98%
All Other	92%	93%	93%	93%	94%
Total Approval Rate	92%	92%	92%	91%	91%

Note: Totals are rounded.

Note: Approval rate based on unrounded completions and approvals.

Note: Applications adjudicated in a fiscal year may be filed in previous fiscal years.

Source: [All USCIS Application and Petition Form Types](#)

Form: [I-485 Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status](#)

**TABLE 3.**  
**I-90 COMPLETIONS AND APPROVALS: FISCAL YEARS 2014-2018**

	Completions	Approvals	Approval Rate
2014	669,700	636,600	95%
2015	862,100	830,100	96%
2016	675,500	647,200	95%
2017	501,700	473,600	94%
2018	1,142,100	1,081,600	93%

Note: Totals are rounded.

Note: Approval rate based on unrounded completions and approvals.

Note: Applications adjudicated in a fiscal year may be filed in previous fiscal years.

Source: Office of Performance and Quality, USCIS

Form: [I-90 Application to Replace/Renew Permanent Resident Card](#)

**TABLE 4.**  
**I-589, I-870 AND I-899 COMPLETIONS, AND REFUGEES ADMITTED AND  
INTERVIEWED: FISCAL YEARS 2014-2018**

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Completions</b>					
I-589*	30,600	40,000	31,400	50,800	81,900
I-870	48,000	47,900	92,100	80,000	97,700
I-899	9,700	9,200	9,500	10,000	11,000
Refugees Admitted**	70,000	69,900	85,000	53,700	22,500
Refugee Interviews**	68,900	67,900	125,200	49,300	26,400

Note: Totals are rounded.

Note: Adjudications and interviews in a fiscal year may be filed or conducted in previous fiscal years.

Source: [All USCIS Application and Petition Form Types](#)

\*Source: National Performance Report, OPQ, USCIS

\*\*Source: Refugee, Asylum, and International Operations Directorate, USCIS

Forms: 1) [I-589 Application for Asylum and for Withholding of Removal](#)

2) I-870 Credible Fear

3) I-899 Reasonable Fear

**TABLE 5.****I-914 AND I-918 COMPLETIONS AND APPROVALS: FISCAL YEARS 2014-2018**

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Completions</b>					
I-914	1,700	1,800	2,100	1,700	1,800
I-918	25,600	22,400	21,100	21,500	22,200
<b>Approvals</b>					
I-914	1,400	1,300	1,700	1,400	1,300
I-918	18,500	17,700	17,900	17,700	17,700
<b>Approval Rate</b>					
I-914	84%	73%	83%	80%	69%
I-918	72%	79%	85%	82%	80%

Note: Totals are rounded.

Note: Approval rate based on unrounded completions and approvals.

Note: Applications and petitions adjudicated in a fiscal year may be filed in previous fiscal years.

Source: [All USCIS Application and Petition Form Types](#)Forms: 1) [I-914 Application for T Nonimmigrant Status](#)2) [I-918 Petition for U Nonimmigrant Status](#)**TABLE 6.****I-821 COMPLETIONS AND APPROVALS: FISCAL YEARS 2014-2018**

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Completions</b>					
I-821	102,400	262,600	194,900	169,300	262,300
<b>Approvals</b>					
I-821	94,800	258,700	187,500	163,100	258,300
<b>Approval Rate</b>					
I-821	93%	99%	96%	96%	98%

Note: Totals are rounded.

Note: Approval rate based on unrounded completions and approvals.

Note: Applications adjudicated in a fiscal year may be filed in previous fiscal years.

Source: [All USCIS Application and Petition Form Types](#)Form: [I-821 Application for Temporary Protected Status](#)

**TABLE 7.**  
I-129 COMPLETIONS AND APPROVALS BY CLASSIFICATION: FISCAL YEARS 2014-2018

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Completions</b>					
I-129 Petitions	523,700	489,500	577,000	600,500	577,200
H-1B Beneficiaries	349,600	301,600	380,200	403,300	396,300
H-2A Beneficiaries	123,000	154,600	177,800	216,600	259,200
H-2B Beneficiaries	88,700	93,000	113,700	111,400	112,300
<b>Approvals</b>					
I-129 Petitions	435,000	402,900	480,200	498,100	451,400
H-1B Beneficiaries	332,800	288,500	357,200	373,400	335,000
H-2A Beneficiaries	122,400	153,500	174,500	214,600	255,900
H-2B Beneficiaries	86,100	90,800	106,200	105,800	108,500
<b>Approval Rate</b>					
I-129 Petitions	83%	82%	83%	83%	78%
H-1B Beneficiaries	95%	96%	94%	93%	85%
H-2A Beneficiaries	100%	99%	98%	99%	99%
H-2B Beneficiaries	97%	97%	93%	95%	97%

Note: Totals are rounded.

Note: Approval rate based on unrounded completions and approvals.

Note: H-1B total includes initial filings and renew requests.

Note: Petitions adjudicated in a fiscal year may be filed in previous fiscal years.

Note: Fiscal Year is based on the date of completion and may not correspond to any applicable numerical limits.

Source: [All USCIS Application and Petition Form Types](#)

Source: Office of Performance and Quality, USCIS

Form/Classifications:

- 1) [I-129 Petition for Nonimmigrant Worker](#)
- 2) [H-1B Specialty Occupations, DOD Cooperative Research and Development Project Workers, and Fashion Models](#)
- 3) [H-2A Temporary Agriculture Worker](#)
- 4) [H-2B Temporary Non-Agricultural Workers](#)

**TABLE 8.**  
I-765 COMPLETIONS AND APPROVALS: FISCAL YEARS 2014-2018

	Completions	Approvals	Approval Rate
2014	1,316,000	1,213,000	92%
2015	2,198,000	2,094,000	95%
2016	1,950,000	1,833,000	94%
2017	2,263,000	2,141,000	95%
2018	1,780,000	1,608,000	90%

Note: Totals are rounded.

Note: Approval rate based on unrounded completions and approvals.

Note: Applications adjudicated in a fiscal year may be filed in previous fiscal years.

Source: [All USCIS Application and Petition Form Types](#)

Form: [I-765 Application for Employment Authorization](#)

**TABLE 9.**  
**I-821D COMPLETIONS AND APPROVALS: FISCAL YEARS 2014-2018**

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Completions</b>					
I-821D Initial	157,300	110,000	64,100	56,400	32,900
I-821D Renewal	22,200	421,900	148,900	418,900	299,600
I-821D Total	179,500	531,900	213,000	475,300	332,500
<b>Approvals</b>					
I-821D Initial	136,200	90,800	52,700	47,200	24,600
I-821D Renewal	22,200	419,500	145,800	414,900	295,300
I-821D Total*	158,400	510,300	198,500	462,100	319,900
<b>Approval Rate</b>					
I-821D Initial	87%	83%	82%	84%	75%
I-821D Renewal	100%	99%	98%	99%	99%
I-821D Total	88%	96%	93%	97%	96%

Note: Totals are rounded.

Note: Approval rate based on unrounded completions and approvals.

Note: Adjudications in a fiscal year may be filed in previous fiscal years.

Source: Office of Performance and Quality, USCIS

Form: [I-821D Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals](#)

