

FY 2017-2021

**Annual Statistical Report
FY 2021**



U.S. Citizenship and
Immigration Services



Message from the Director

I am pleased to release the Annual Statistical Report for fiscal year (FY) 2021. FY 2021 was a pivotal year at USCIS, and it marked a year of rebuilding and renewed vision for our agency. Our incoming receipts rebounded to 9.1 million, the highest number since FY 2017, and we completed 7.2 million cases despite the impacts of COVID-19 on our production environment. The health and safety of our workforce and those we serve remained a top priority.



In FY 2021, USCIS focused efforts on completing specific forms such as Form N-400, Application for Naturalization, and Form I-485 Application to Register Lawful Permanent Resident or Adjust status (LPR). USCIS completed 188,600 more N-400 applications than in FY 2020, including almost double the number of military naturalizations, and more than 52,000 video-facilitated N-400 interviews. In all, USCIS reduced the number of pending N-400 applications by more than 14 percent in FY 2021. USCIS continues to promote and improve access to naturalization pursuant to Executive Order 14012 and the [Interagency Strategy for Promoting Naturalization](#).

In FY 2021, USCIS received about 38 percent more applications (717,000) for adjustment of status to Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) (Form I-485) than the previous year (519,700) and completed 13 percent more adjustment applications in FY 2021 (573,000) compared to FY 2020 (503,000). USCIS faced the unprecedented challenge of processing over 237,000 employment-based Form I-485 applications—not only the agency’s usual 115,000, but an additional 122,000 immigrant visa numbers that the Department of State was unable to process in FY 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. By the end of FY 2021, USCIS completed over 172,000 employment-based adjustment of status applications.

USCIS continued to administer humanitarian programs despite challenges imposed by COVID-19. Affirmative asylum completions were affected by social distancing guidelines and travel restrictions. Although USCIS completed fewer cases in FY 2021 due to these issues, USCIS completed thousands of video interviews and achieved its case completion goals for FY 2021 Form I-589 Application for Asylum and for Withholding of Removal. The number of credible fear referrals received by USCIS increased in FY 2021 by almost 100 percent from FY 2020 levels, 30,800 to 59,200. Likewise, the number of credible fear screenings completed by USCIS officers also increased from 33,600 in FY 2020 to 44,000 in FY 2021.

In order to support Operation Allies Welcome, USCIS set up temporary field offices and mobile biometrics processing stations in eight federally approved facilities to process arriving Afghan nationals and family members who assisted the United States in Afghanistan. At these facilities, Afghan nationals applied for employment authorization and have been referred to resettlement services, if they are eligible. USCIS personnel adjudicated applications for employment authorization and conducted other immigration processing. During FY 2021, USCIS received biometrics for more than 52,000 individuals and adjudicated more than 28,000 applications for employment authorization for Afghan nationals and their families.



I could not be prouder of the progress made by the USCIS workforce in FY 2021. As we continue to administer our nation's legal immigration system, we will uphold America's promise as a nation of welcome and possibility with fairness, integrity, and respect for all we serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ur M. Jaddou", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Ur M. Jaddou
Director
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services



About U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

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 Petitions, Applications and Requests

- *Citizenship and Lawful Permanent Resident status:* Individuals who wish to become U.S. citizens through naturalization or to become lawful permanent residents submit their applications to USCIS.
- *Family-based immigrant petitions:* We manage the process that allows lawful permanent residents and U.S. citizens to bring certain qualifying 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 (such as H-1B specialty occupations) and some provide a path to lawful permanent residence.

FY 2021 Snapshot

9.1 million receipts

19,000 employees and contractors

\$4.8 billion budget, 96 percent supported by fees

809,000 took the oath of allegiance for naturalization

511,000 granted lawful permanent residence

78,000 protection interviews conducted by asylum officers

9,900 refugees interviewed

2.6 million employment authorization applications received

14 million Contact Center calls received

43 million new hires verified for eligibility to work in the United States

2.5 million biometrics collected

- *Humanitarian programs:* USCIS administers a number of humanitarian programs. These include programs for asylum seekers, refugees, special immigrant juveniles, and those eligible for temporary protected status, as well as victims of criminal activity, domestic violence, and human trafficking.

- *Other services:* USCIS handles requests for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, victims of crime and exploitation, individuals who seek to change or extend status in the United States as well as for those who need to replace their Green Card, among other services for immigrants and nonimmigrants.

Managing the E-Verify System

We administer E-Verify, a tool that helps ensure a legal work force by allowing participating employers to confirm 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, local and tribal benefit-administering agencies confirm eligibility for public benefits and licenses by providing citizenship and immigration status information to them.

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. As part of the background check process, biometrics are submitted at 131 Application Support Centers. Our work also includes administratively investigating immigration benefit fraud and identifying and addressing internal risks and vulnerabilities.

Promoting the Integration of Immigrants into American Society

The USCIS Office of Citizenship is mandated by the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Pub. L. No. 107-296) to promote instruction and training on citizenship rights and responsibilities, including the development of educational materials. The mission of the Office of Citizenship is to provide federal leadership, tools, and resources, such as [grants](#) to organizations that provide education programs, to proactively foster civic integration.

Communicating with the Public

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 applicants and other stakeholders. USCIS facilitates open and transparent communication between USCIS offices nationwide, external stakeholders, and the communities they represent, through public engagements to ensure that the public has a clear understanding of our agency's priorities and policies.

Overview

USCIS Received 9.1 million Applications, Petitions and Requests and Completed more than 7.2 million

USCIS received about 9.1 million applications, petitions, and requests for benefits in fiscal year 2021, the highest number of receipts since FY 2017. This represents an increase of about 18 percent over last year's 7.7 million applications, petitions, and requests received.

In particular, USCIS received significantly more applications for Temporary Protected Status (Form I-821) driven by new and extended country designations, additional employment-based applications for Lawful Permanent Resident status (Form I-485), and an increase in applications for employment authorization (Form I-765) compared to the previous year.

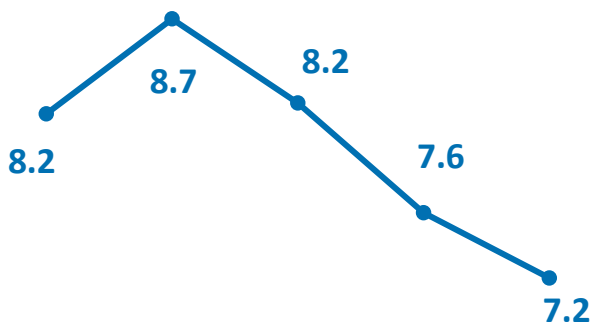
USCIS completed 7.2 million applications, petitions and requests in FY 2021, the lowest number of completions in the past five years. The decrease was largely driven by COVID-19 processing delays and a hiring freeze in the first half of FY 2021. Completions include both approved, denied, and revoked petitions, applications, and requests.

Applications, Petitions, and Requests Received in FY 2021 (in millions)



FY17 FY18 FY19 FY20 FY21

Applications, Petitions and Requests Completed in FY 2021 (in millions)



FY17 FY18 FY19 FY20 FY21

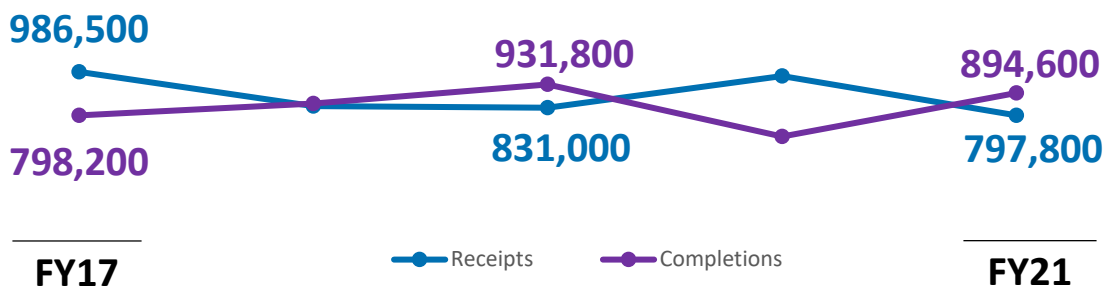
Although the number of completions decreased overall, USCIS focused efforts on completing specific forms such as Form I-485, and the Form N-400, Application for Naturalization. In FY 2021, USCIS completed 188,600 more N-400 applications than in FY 2020, including almost double the number of military naturalizations. In addition, USCIS completed more than 28,000 employment authorization documents for Afghan nationals and their families.

Citizenship and Lawful Permanent Resident Status

USCIS Received Fewer Applications for Naturalization in FY 2021 than FY 2020

USCIS received almost 798,000 applications for naturalization ([Form N-400](#)) in FY 2021, 170,000 fewer than USCIS received in FY 2020 and the lowest in the last five years. Generally, applications for naturalization spike in an election year and decrease the following year. USCIS completed almost 895,000 applications for naturalization in FY 2021, 188,600 more than in FY 2020. Of those completed, USCIS naturalized 809,000 new citizens in FY 2021, not including children who derived citizenship when a parent naturalized. This increase can be attributed to the full re-opening of USCIS offices and in-person services after temporary closures and reduced staffing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, reuse of biometric information, as well as the deployment of video-facilitated interviews. In FY 2021, USCIS conducted more than 52,000 video-facilitated Form N-400 interviews. USCIS reduced the number of pending Form N-400 applications by about 15 percent in FY 2021.

Applications for Naturalization (N-400) Received and Completed, FY 2017 – FY 2021



Military Naturalizations

On July 3, 2002, President George W. Bush issued Executive Order 13269, which designated the period beginning on September 11, 2001, as a period in which the Armed Forces of the United States were engaged in armed conflict with a hostile foreign force for the purposes of section 329 of the Immigration and Nationality Act. The Executive Order allowed qualifying service members who served honorably on or after September 11, 2001, to naturalize under section 329 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, which provides certain exceptions to the usual naturalization requirements.

Since 2002, USCIS has naturalized more than 148,000 members of the U.S. military both at home and abroad; naturalization ceremonies have taken place in more than 30 countries from Albania to the United Arab Emirates. In the last five years, USCIS has naturalized almost 30,000 service members. In FY 2021, USCIS naturalized 8,800 service members, almost double the number from the previous year. This substantial increase can be attributed to the use of video interviews for overseas military members and their qualifying family members as well as video naturalization ceremonies. In addition, in FY 2021, to increase transparency, USCIS published additional data on military naturalizations on the [military naturalization statistics website](#).

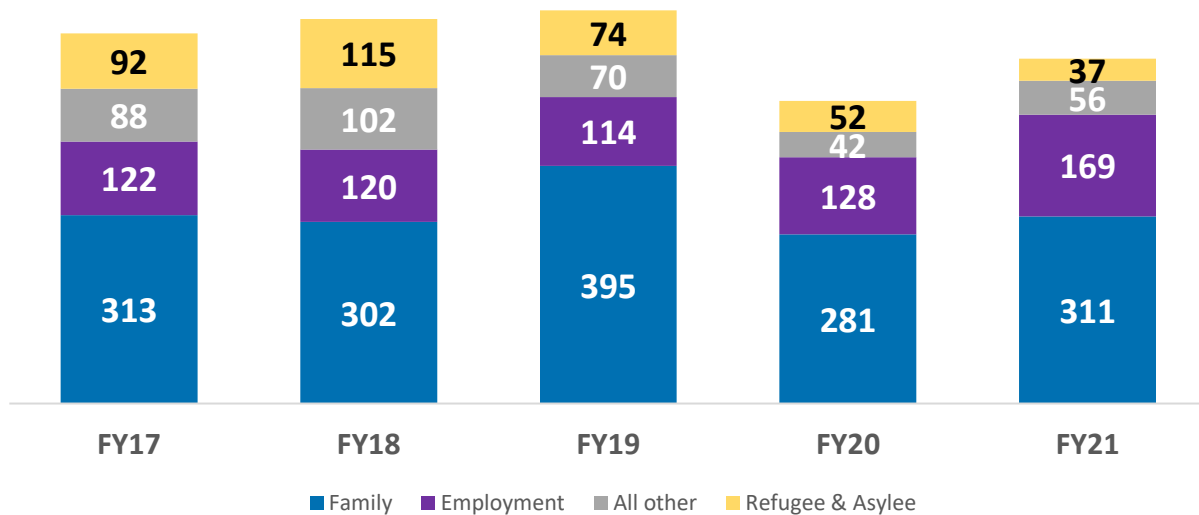
In FY 2021, USCIS Received 717,000 Applications for Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) status – an Increase of 38 percent from FY 2020

In FY 2021, USCIS received 38 percent more applications (717,000) to become a lawful permanent resident (LPR) ([Form I-485](#), Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status) than last year (519,700).

USCIS completed about 13 percent more adjustment of status applications in FY 2021 (572,100) than FY 2020 (504,200). Although this is the second lowest number of total completions in the last five years, it represents an increase in completed applications compared to last fiscal year. USCIS completed more adjustment of status applications for all subtypes than last year except for the refugee and asylee LPR sub-type. In FY2021, USCIS adjudicated 37,000 applications for refugee and asylee based LPR status, compared to 52,000 in FY 2020, about a 30 percent decrease.

In FY 2021, USCIS faced the unprecedented challenge of processing over 237,000 employment-based adjustment of status applications—not only the agency’s usual 115,000, but an additional 122,000 immigrant visa numbers that the Department of State was unable to process in FY 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. By the end of FY 2021, USCIS completed over 172,000 employment-based adjustment of status applications (note the employment figures in the graphic below excludes the employment-based fourth preference category).

Applications for Lawful Permanent Resident Status (Form I-485) Completed, FY 2017 – FY 2021 (in thousands)



Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness (LRIF)

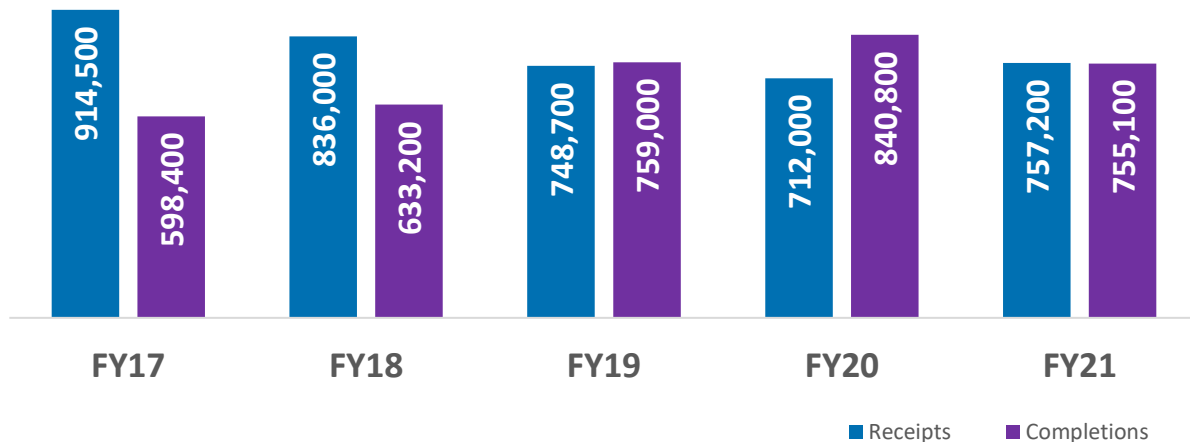
In December 2019, Congress enacted the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2020 which included the [Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness](#) (LRIF) provision. LRIF provides an opportunity for certain Liberian nationals and certain family members who meet eligibility requirements to obtain LPR status. As initially enacted, the filing deadline for LRIF applications was December 20, 2020. Congress later extended the filing deadline for LRIF applications to December 20, 2021. Since the start of the program, USCIS received over 3,600 applications. By the end of FY 2021, USCIS approved over 1,300 applications, denied about 200 applications, and 2,100 applications are pending adjudication.

Family-based Immigrant Petitions

USCIS Completed Fewer Petitions for Alien Relatives in FY 2021 than Last Fiscal Year

USCIS received more Petitions for Alien Relative ([Form I-130](#)) in FY 2021 than the previous two fiscal years. However, USCIS adjudicated 85,700 fewer Form I-130 petitions in FY 2021 than in the previous year.

Petitions for Alien Relatives (Form I-130) Received and Completed, FY 2017 – FY 2021

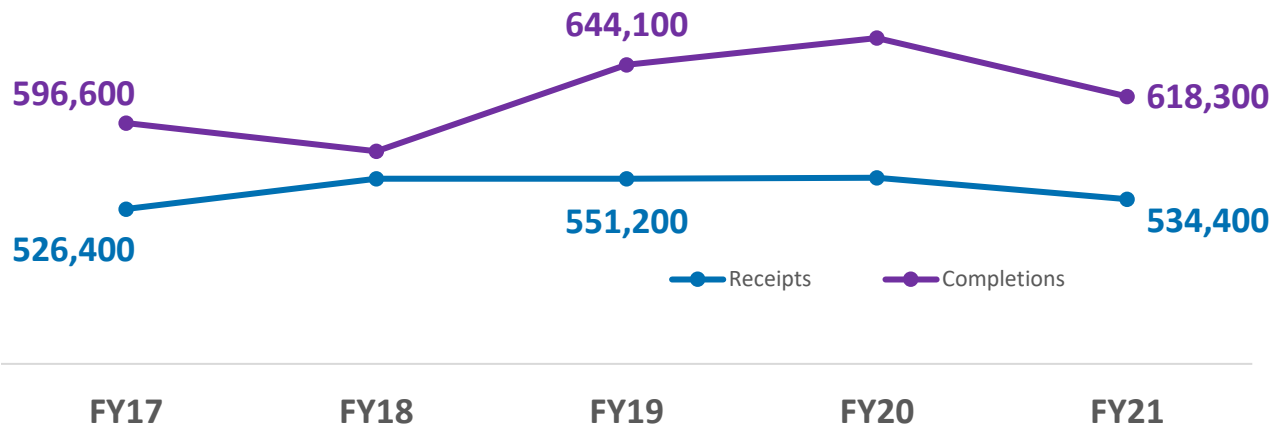


Nonimmigrant Workers and Employment-based Immigrant Petitions

USCIS Completions of Form I-129 Petitions Remained About the Same Over the Last Five Years

The number of [Form I-129](#), Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker, petitions USCIS received in FY 2021 (534,400) was about the same as the last four years. Although the number of receipts remained constant in FY 2021, USCIS adjudicated fewer Form I-129 petitions (618,300) in FY 2021 than in the previous two years. Completions are higher than receipts in all years due to the number of secondary actions (which are considered a completion), such as revocations. In FY 2021, for example, USCIS processed about 48,000 revocations; one reason a revocation may occur is if the petitioner requests to withdraw the petition after approval. The Form I-129 petition is used for employers and employees seeking H-1B, H-2A, H-2B, L, O, and P classifications, among others.

Form I-129 Petitions Received and Completed, FY 2017 – FY 2021



Notes: Applications may have been filed in previous fiscal years.

H-1B nonimmigrant worker petitions comprise the largest share of Form I-129 petitions USCIS receives each year. In FY 2021, H-1B petitions comprised almost 75 percent of all Form I-129 petitions received, roughly the same as the previous four years. Like H-1B nonimmigrant petitions, other Form I-129 nonimmigrant petition receipts in FY 2021 remained consistent with previous years, as did completions. A notable exception is the H-2B nonimmigrant classification: in FY 2021, USCIS received 9,200 H-2B nonimmigrant petitions, approximately 70 percent more than FY 2020 (5,400). Note, for both the H-2A and H-2B nonimmigrant classifications, more than one worker may be included in a single petition.

H-2B Program

In FY 2021, USCIS received 9,200 petitions from U.S. employers seeking to bring foreign nationals to the United States to fill temporary nonagricultural jobs. An employer may petition for more than one employee on a single petition.

There is a statutory numerical limit, or cap, on the total number of noncitizens who may be issued an H-2B visa or otherwise granted H-2B status during a fiscal year. 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 (October 1 - March 31) and 33,000 for workers who begin employment in the second half of the fiscal year (April 1 - September 30). Generally, H-2B petitions may only be approved for nationals of countries that the Secretary of Homeland Security has designated.

Based on time-limited statutory authority provided by Congress, in May 2021, DHS announced a supplemental cap of 22,000 visa which consisted of 16,000 visa available only to returning H-2B workers of the last three years and 6,000 for visas for nationals of El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala. USCIS reached the numerical cap (including the supplemental cap) for the number of noncitizens who may be issued an H-2B visa in both the first and second half of FY 2021.

Form I-129 Petitions Completed by Type, FY 2021



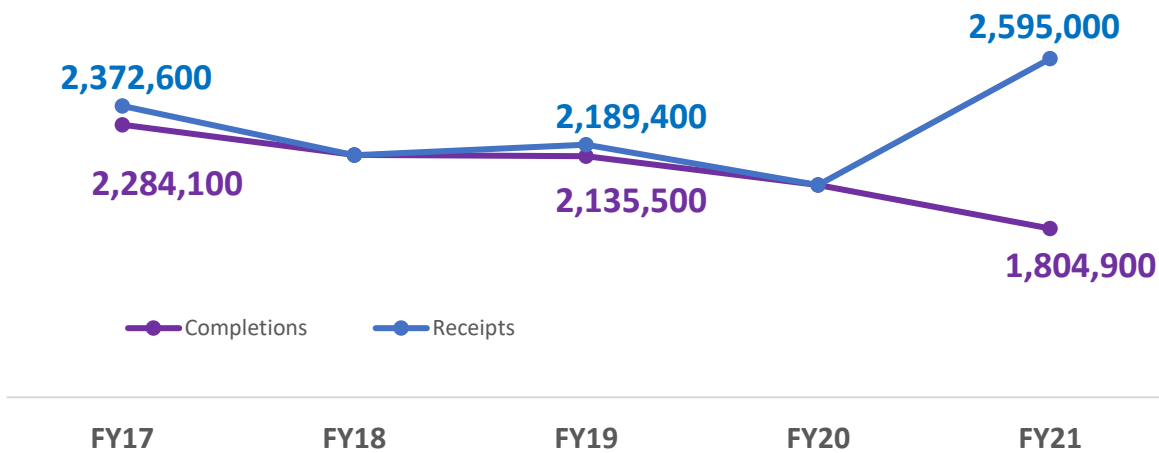
EB-5 Program and the I-526 Immigrant Petition by Alien Investor

In FY 2021, USCIS received nearly 800 petitions from immigrant investors and their families (spouses and unmarried children under 21), substantially less than the previous four fiscal years. In FY 2021, USCIS completed 3,000 Form I-526 petitions – almost 13 percent less than the number of FY 2020 completions. Under the EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program, investors are eligible to apply for a Green Card if they (1) make the necessary investment in a commercial enterprise in the United States; and (2) plan to create or preserve 10 permanent full-time jobs for qualified U.S. workers.

Employment Authorization Applications

Certain foreign nationals who are in the United States may file [Form I-765](#), Application for Employment Authorization, to request 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 to USCIS for an EAD that shows such authorization. Applicants may use this form to request initial employment authorization, a renewal or replacement of an EAD. In FY 2021, USCIS received almost 2.6 million applications for employment authorization, the highest in the last five years, and completed about 1.8 million applications, including 28,000 for individuals through Operation Allies Welcome (through September 2021). EAD applications related to pending DACA requests, pending asylum applications, pending adjustment of status applications, and temporary protected status applications accounted for the largest increase in FY 2021.

Form I-765 Applications Received and Completed, FY 2017 – FY 2021



Humanitarian Programs

USCIS administers several humanitarian-based immigration programs, including those for refugees, asylees, special immigrant juveniles, victims of domestic violence, trafficking, and other qualifying crimes, as well as those seeking Temporary Protected Status and parole for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit. Limits exist on the number of refugees who may be admitted to the United States per year; the annual refugee ceiling is set by the President in consultation with Congress. In FY 2021, USCIS expanded its capacity to conduct certain refugee interviews remotely using video-teleconferencing, which enabled USCIS to mitigate the impact of COVID-19-related restrictions on international travel for much of the year. USCIS deployed officers to 12 overseas locations to conduct in-person initial refugee interviews or to provide support for video interviews conducted remotely from the United States. USCIS interviewed approximately 6,900 refugee applicants in person and over 1,800 refugee applicants remotely in 12 countries.

There are two processes for applying for asylum in the United States. Affirmative asylum, 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; defensive asylum is generally for individuals who are in removal proceedings and request asylum while in immigration court through the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) at the Department of Justice.

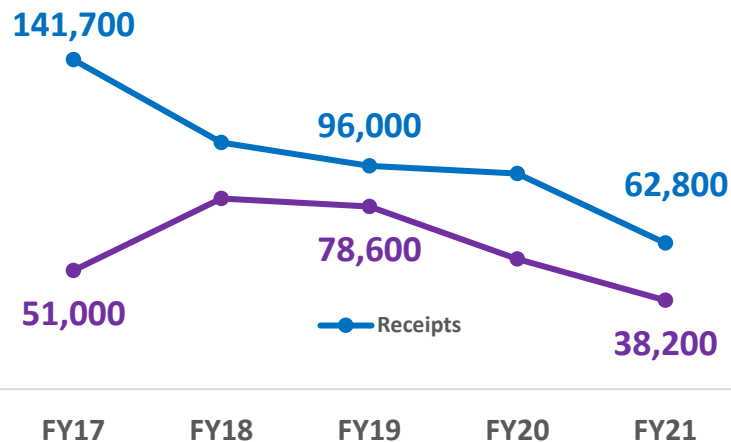
In addition to adjudicating affirmative asylum applications, USCIS also conducts [credible fear](#) and [reasonable fear](#) screenings (Forms I-870 and I-899), as well as Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) and Title 42 *non-refoulement* interviews and assessments.¹ Credible fear screenings apply to individuals in expedited removal proceedings who indicate an intention to apply for asylum, a fear of persecution or torture, or a fear of return to their home country are screened to determine whether there is a significant possibility that the individual could establish eligibility for asylum or withholding of removal or a significant possibility he or she is eligible for protection under the regulations implementing the Convention Against Torture. 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 screenings apply to individuals who are subject to a final administrative removal order due to an aggravated felony conviction or who are subject to a reinstated order of removal and express a fear of return. Individuals who establish a reasonable possibility of persecution or torture upon return to their home country are referred to an immigration court where they may apply for withholding or deferral of removal. In MPP, citizens and nationals of certain countries other than Mexico who arrive in the United States by land from Mexico may be returned to Mexico while their U.S. removal proceedings are pending. Individuals who are potentially subject to MPP or who are subject to MPP who express a fear of persecution or torture in Mexico are referred to USCIS for an MPP *non-refoulement* interview and assessment. Individuals who establish that there is a reasonable possibility they would face persecution or torture in Mexico are removed from MPP. Pursuant to its public health authority in 42 U.S.C. § 265 ("Title 42"), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has required the expulsion of unauthorized single adults and family units arriving at the land borders to protect against the spread of COVID-19. USCIS conducts *non-refoulement* interviews for those who are subject to Title 42 and claim a fear of torture. Individuals who establish a fear of torture are then processed under Title 8 of the U.S. Code.

¹ In addition to these programs, USCIS also adjudicates suspension of deportation or cancellation of removal under the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act (NACARA 203).

USCIS Received 61,800 Applications for Affirmative Asylum, the Lowest in the Last Five Years

Applications for Affirmative Asylum (Form I-589) Received and Completed, FY 2017 – FY 2021



In FY 2021, USCIS received approximately 62,800 applications for asylum (Form I-589) and completed about 38,200 applications. The number of I-589 applications received is the lowest in the last five years (FY 2017 – FY 2021). The number of asylum applications completed in FY 2021 (38,200) is the lowest number in the last five years (FY 2017 – FY 2021).

The reduced number of affirmative asylum applications filed may be due in part to the continued travel restrictions

resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Affirmative asylum completions were impacted in FY 2021 due to COVID-19 social distancing guidelines. Although USCIS completed fewer cases in FY 2021 due to these issues, USCIS completed thousands of video interviews and achieved its FY 2021 Form I-589 case completions goals.

USCIS Accepted Over 14,000 Requests for Parole for Urgent Humanitarian or Significant Public Benefit Reasons

Individuals who are outside of the United States may request parole into the United States based on urgent humanitarian or significant public benefit reasons by filing a [Form I-131, Application for Travel Document](#). Parole allows an individual, who may be inadmissible or otherwise ineligible for admission into the United States, to be paroled into the United States for a temporary period. Parole ends on the date the parole period expires or when the beneficiary departs the United States or acquires an immigration status, whichever occurs first. In FY 2021, USCIS accepted over 14,000 requests for urgent humanitarian or significant public benefit parole.²

² Requests for parole from U.S. Government Executive Agencies are not included; these requests are generally fairly small in number and are not submitted using the Form I-131.

Screening Trends: Credible Fear Referrals Nearly Doubled while Reasonable Fear Referrals Fell Compared to Last Year

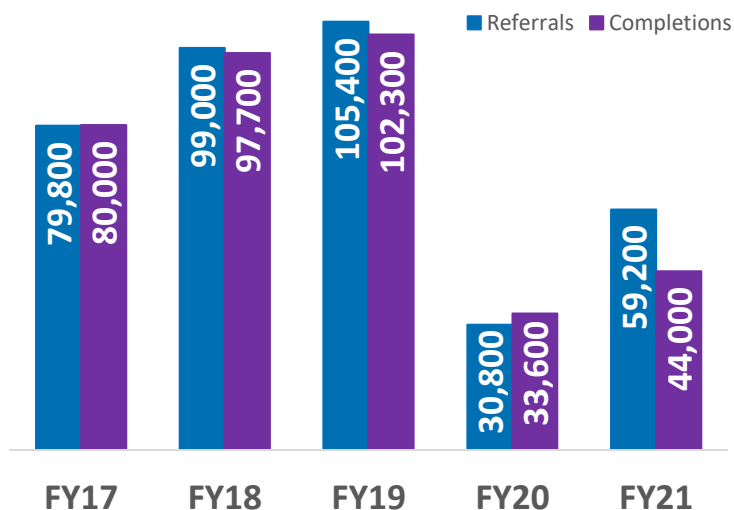
The number of credible fear referrals received by USCIS increased dramatically in FY 2021 by 92 percent from FY 2020 levels from 30,800 to 59,200. Likewise, the number of credible fear screenings completed by USCIS officers also increased from 33,600 in FY 2020 to 44,000 in FY 2021.

The number of reasonable fear referrals received fell in FY 2021 to 5,100 (down from 8,700 in FY 2020); USCIS officers completed 4,500 reasonable fear cases, down from 7,500 in FY 2020.

In addition, USCIS received more than 1,470 referrals for MPP *non-refoulement* assessments from the southwest border.³ USCIS officers completed 2,900 Title 42 interviews in FY 2021, up from the 340 in FY 2020. Please note, the earliest Title 42 interview was received in March 2020; as such the FY 2020 total only includes data from March through September 2020.

The reduced number of credible and reasonable fear referrals is due in large part to the travel and border restrictions put in place at the southwest border during the COVID-19 pandemic.

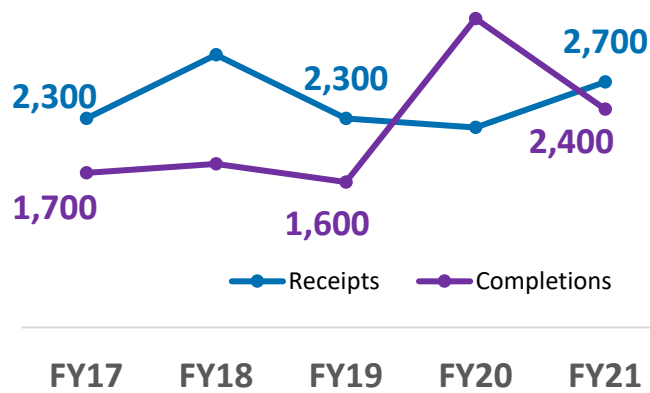
Credible Fear Referrals and Completions (Form I-867), FY 2017 – FY 2021



USCIS Completed Fewer T Visa Applications in FY 2021 than the Previous Year

Applications for T Nonimmigrant Status (Form I-914) Received and Completed, FY 2017 – FY 2021

³ Public statistics regarding MPP *non-refoulement* assessments are available through Customs and Border Protection at <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/migrant-protection-protocols-fy2021>.



T nonimmigrant status (commonly referred to as the T visa, [Form I-914](#), Application for T Nonimmigrant Status) provides a temporary immigration benefit to eligible trafficking victims for up to four years. A principal T visa applicant may apply for derivative T nonimmigrant status for qualifying family members. By statute, no more than 5,000 principal T visas may be granted in any fiscal year (derivative family members are not subject to the annual cap). The T visa cap has not been reached since the implementation of the T visa program.

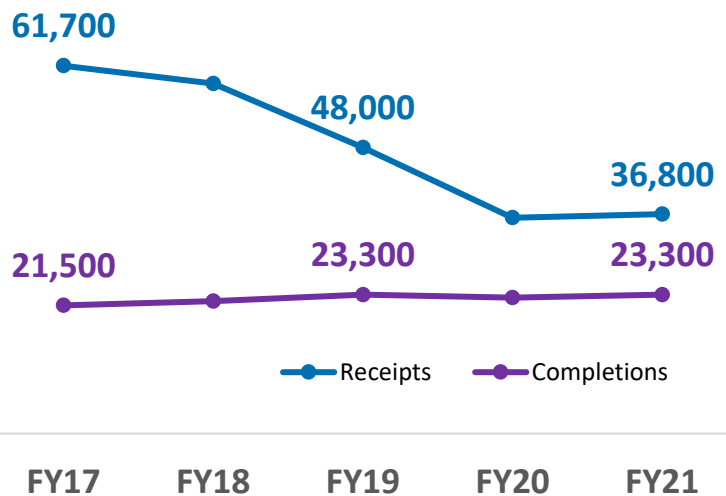
In FY 2021, USCIS received 2,700 T visa applications (this includes both principal applicants and qualifying family members),

among the highest number of applications in the last five years. Although USCIS completed about 30 percent fewer applications in FY 2021 (2,400) than in the previous year, the number of completions is higher than completions in FY 2017 through FY 2019.

USCIS Received About the Same Number of U Visa Petitions as Last Year

U nonimmigrant status ([Form I-918](#), Petition for U Nonimmigrant Status) provides a temporary immigration benefit to victims of certain qualifying crimes who assist law enforcement in the detection, investigation, prosecution, conviction or sentencing of those crimes. Derivative U nonimmigrant status is available to certain family members of principal U nonimmigrants. By statute, no more than 10,000 individuals may be provided principal U nonimmigrant status in any fiscal year (derivative family members are not subject to the annual cap).

Petitions for U Nonimmigrant Status (Form I-918) Received and Completed, FY 2017 – FY 2021



The number of U visa petitions submitted to USCIS dropped for the second year in a row, with over 36,000 petitions received. The number of completions in FY 2021 was about the same as the previous four years (23,300). In June 2021, USCIS [announced](#) the U nonimmigrant bona fide determination process to address the volume of U nonimmigrant petitions and a growing number of cases awaiting placement on the waiting list or final adjudication. With this initiative, USCIS will be able to provide efficient reviews of U visa petitions and provide work authorization and deferred action to victims of crimes in a timelier

manner. In FY 2021, since the bona fide determination process was initiated, USCIS conducted 23,000 bona fide determinations for U visa petitioners and family members in addition to the 23,300 completions noted above.

USCIS Completed 22,900 Temporary Protected Status (TPS) Applications in FY 2021

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) is another humanitarian program that offers temporary status to nationals of certain countries. 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. The designation is only valid for a specific period of time and may be re-designated, extended, or terminated by the Secretary. Noncitizens request TPS by filing [Form I-821](#), Application for Temporary Protected Status; TPS beneficiaries typically must apply for reregistration of their TPS status, while nationals of some countries designated in earlier years [are not required](#) by USCIS to submit a re-registration application according to the regular schedule due to pending litigation. Because of the fluctuations in when TPS beneficiaries are eligible to reregister, the number of receipts and completions also fluctuates.

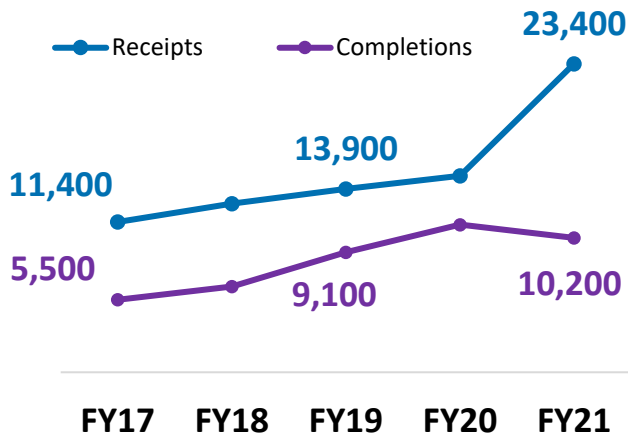
In FY 2021, USCIS received 307,300 TPS applications and completed 22,900. The number of applications filed is a substantial increase from the last two years (13,600 received in FY 2020 and 5,600 in FY 2019). In March 2021, Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas designated Venezuela for TPS for the first time; by the end of FY 2021, USCIS received more than 220,000 TPS applications from Venezuelans.

USCIS completed fewer applications in FY 2021 year than in recent years. However, the vast majority (more than 90 percent) of TPS applications were received in the second half of the fiscal year and thus will be completed in the following fiscal year given average processing times. In FY 2021, USCIS began accepting initial applications and reregistration applications for TPS under new or extended designations for South Sudan, Burma, Somalia, Syria, Venezuela, Yemen, and Haiti.

USCIS Received the Highest Number of Violence Against Women Act Petitions than the Previous Four Years

VAWA Self-Petitions (Form I-360) Received and Completed, FY 2017 – FY 2021

Certain family members of an abusive U.S. citizen or LPR may be eligible to self-petition for immigrant classification under the [Violence Against Women Act \(VAWA\)](#) (Form I-360). Those with an approved SIJ petition may be eligible to apply for lawful permanent residence.



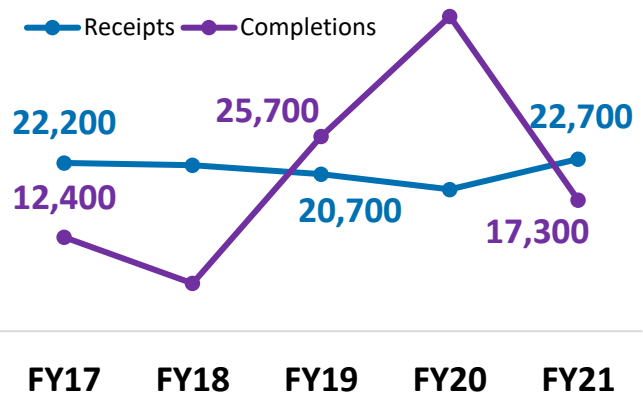
The number of VAWA self-petitions has steadily increased over the last five years. In FY 2021, USCIS received significantly more VAWA petitions compared to previous years (23,400); this is about 50 percent more than those received in FY 2020 (14,900). USCIS, however, completed slightly fewer VAWA petitions in FY 2021 (10,200) than the previous year (11,200).

USCIS Completed Fewer Special Immigrant Juvenile Petitions than the Previous Year

Certain noncitizen juveniles who have the protection of a juvenile court because of abuse, abandonment, or neglect by a parent, may be eligible for the [Special Immigrant Juvenile \(SIJ\) classification \(Form I-360, Petition for Amerasian, Widow\(er\), or Special Immigrant\)](#). Those with an approved VAWA self-petition may be eligible to apply for lawful permanent residence.

The number of SIJ petitions USCIS received in FY 2021 (22,700) was about the same as the previous four years, however, USCIS completed fewer petitions in FY 2021 (17,300) than the past two years. The lower completions were due, in part, to reduced staffing levels and a shift in staff resources to adjudicating SIJ-based I-485 applications.

SIJ Petitions (Form I-360) Received and Completed, FY 2017 – FY 2021

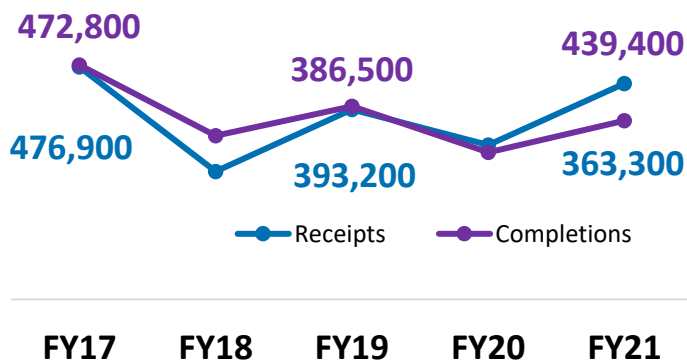


Other Services

USCIS provides services for nonimmigrants and other noncitizens living inside and outside of the United States. These services include the processing of requests for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), extension of stay and change of status requests, the renewal or replacement of green cards for LPRs, and issuance of travel documents that permit noncitizens to enter and/or reenter the United States lawfully from abroad (including parole).

The Number of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Requests and Completions Increased in FY 2021

DACA Requests (Form I-821D) Received and Completed, FY 2017 – FY 2021



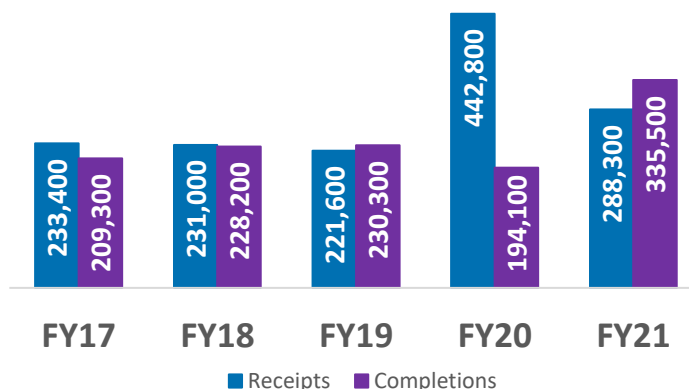
Certain individuals may request deferred action under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy (Form [I-821D](#)). As required by court order, USCIS resumed accepting and processing initial DACA requests per a court order in December 2020. However, because of a July 2021 order, USCIS was able to continue accepting new initial DACA requests but was prohibited from granting initial DACA requests. In FY 2021, the number of initial and renewal requests received for DACA increased to about 439,400 compared with

314,200 in FY 2020. The number of DACA requests USCIS completed (both initial and renewal) also increased from 299,100 in FY 2020 to 363,300 in FY 2021.

Extension of Stay and Change of Status Applications Completed Increased Dramatically in FY 2021

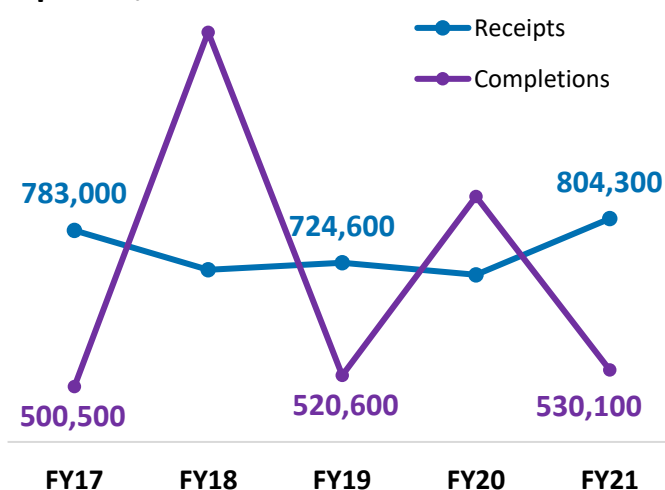
USCIS completed the largest number of Form I-539 applications ([Form I-539, Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status](#)) in FY 2021 (335,500) than any of the previous four years. Although USCIS completed the most Form I-539s in the last five years, the number of extensions of stay/change of status applications received by USCIS decreased substantially from FY 2020 when USCIS received a record number of applications due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In FY 2021, receipts for extension of stay and change of status requests declined by about 35% from 442,800 in FY 2020 to 288,300 in FY 2021.

Applications to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status, (Form I-539) Received and Completed, FY 2017 – FY 2021



In FY 2021, the Number of Applications to Replace Permanent Resident Card Increased

Applications to Replace a Permanent Resident Card, (Form I-90) Received and Completed, FY 2017 – FY 2021

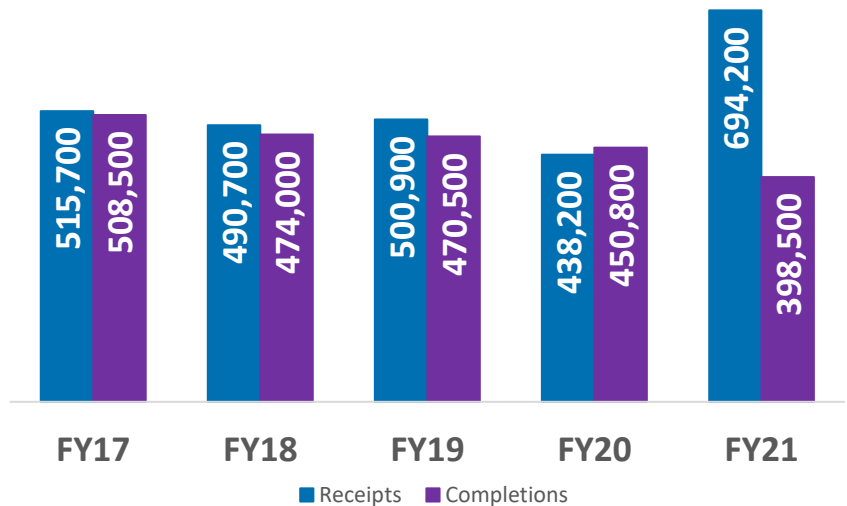


Applications for a Permanent Resident Card replacement ([Form I-90, Application to Replace Permanent Resident Card](#)) increased to about 804,300 in FY 2021 – the most applications in the last five years. Conversely, USCIS completed about 37 percent fewer Form I-90 applications in FY 2021 than last year (530,100, down from 844,300 in FY 2020). The changes in the number of completions over the years is the result of operational changes including periodic use of streamlined processing as well as the increase and decrease of staff dedicated to processing Form I-90 applications.

USCIS Received the Highest Number of Applications for Travel Documents and Parole in FY 2021 than in the Last Five Years

The number of travel document applications ([Form I-131](#), Application for Travel Document), including those requesting Advance Parole Documents, increased to the highest number of applications received in the last five years. In FY 2021, USCIS received 694,200 applications – an increase of over 250,000 applications compared to FY 2020. Form I-131 travel document applications include those requested by refugees, requests for advance parole including DACA recipients, and those who received parole in place, among others. The increase in Form I-131 receipts was due, in part, to the increase in employment-based Form I-485 applications and the increase in DACA receipts. USCIS completed slightly fewer travel document applications in FY 2021 (398,500) than FY 2020 (450,800).

Applications for Travel Document and Parole (Form I-131), Received and Completed, FY 2017 – FY 2021



Online Filing Remained Consistently High as the Previous Year

USCIS Online Filings, FY 2018 - FY 2021



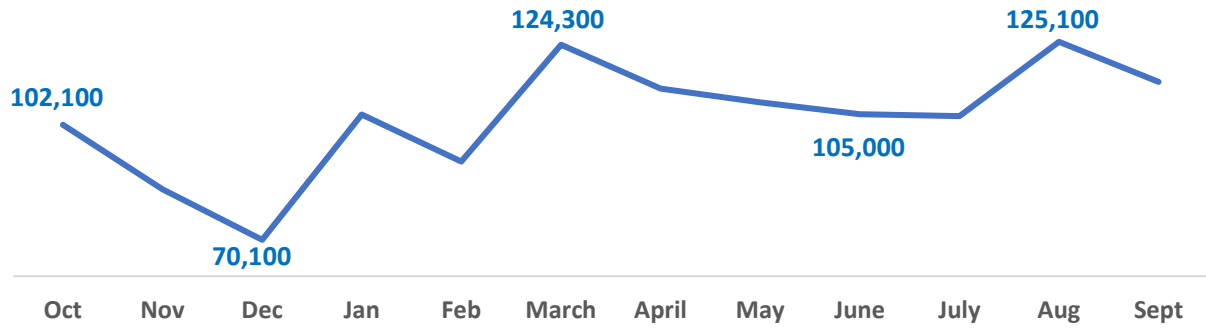
In FY 2021, 1,246,200 applications and petitions were filed online and remained relatively consistent as the previous year when USCIS temporarily shut down offices due to COVID19 and saw a dramatic increase in online filing. While the number of applications and petitions filed online have steadily increased over the last several years, online filings increased during the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to online filing of petitions, applications and requests, USCIS collects some immigrant filing fees online.⁴ Over the years, USCIS has expanded the

number of applications and requests available for [online filing](#). In FY 2021, the Form I-765,

⁴ Those immigrating to the United States as lawful permanent residents must pay the USCIS Immigrant Fee online, with some [exemptions](#). This fee is used to support immigrant visa packet processing and Green Card production.

Application for Employment Authorization for certain categories, and Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status, became available for online filing.

USCIS Online Monthly Filing, FY 2021 (excludes immigrant fees filed online)



USCIS Programs and Initiatives

Citizenship and Integration Grant Program

The Office of Citizenship and Applicant Information Services (CAIS) helps the public learn about U.S. citizenship and assists applicants with a variety of resources and tools, including the USCIS Contact Center and the Citizenship and Integration Grant Program.

On September 20, 2021, USCIS announced the award of \$10 million in grants to 40 organizations that prepare LPRs for naturalization. The grants also aim to promote prospective citizens' integration into American civic life by funding educational programs designed to increase their knowledge of English, U.S. history and civics. Located in 25 states, these organizations will receive federal funding to support citizenship preparation services for LPRs through September 2023.

USCIS Contact Center and Public Engagement

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. Additionally, in FY 2021, 14.2 million calls were received at the USCIS Contact Center. USCIS held more than 2,000 virtual engagements with approximately 74,000 attendees, including 2,069 local engagements and 47 engagements at the national level. USCIS hosts engagements in English, Spanish, and other languages including Arabic, Haitian Creole, Mandarin, Dari, and Urdu. We covered more than 20 topics, including citizenship and naturalization, USCIS data, online filing, TPS, public charge, avoiding immigration scams, Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness (LRIF), family-based petitions, business immigration, and COVID-19 visitor procedures for local offices.

Increased Data Transparency

Data transparency and improving access to data and information continues to be an important priority for the agency. In FY 2021, USCIS created new quarterly reports for benefit programs, including LRIF that include reporting on receipts broken down by state, gender, as well as fee waiver information. As part of the efforts to increase naturalization promotion and outreach, USCIS also launched a new webpage outlining key statistics and information about characteristics of new citizens over the last few fiscal years. USCIS also launched a new H-2B Employer Data Hub providing detailed information on H-2B petitions including employer name, state, worksite state, industry, occupation, and wage levels.

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. In FY 2019 USCIS stood up [FIRST](#), the federal government's first fully electronic FOIA/Privacy Act request and delivery system that allows users to submit and track FOIA requests and receive documents digitally. In FY 2021, more than 142,334 electronic responses were delivered to individuals with online accounts, a 50.85 percent increase over the more than 94,353 electronic responses delivered in FY 2020.

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 confirm the identity and employment eligibility of newly hired employees by electronically matching information provided by employees on the Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification, against records available to the Social Security Administration and the Department of Homeland Security. In FY 2021, more than one million employers were enrolled in the program, representing more than 3 million hiring sites creating almost 43 million E-Verify cases.

SAVE

The Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) program assists federal, state, local, and tribal benefit and licensing-administering agencies to confirm the citizenship and immigration status of benefit applicants so only those entitled to benefits receive them. As of September 30, 2021, SAVE had 1,194 agencies enrolled and processed over 16 million cases.

Fraud Detection and National Security

The Fraud Detection and National Security (FDNS) Directorate's 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 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 2021, USCIS personnel completed more than 5,800 site visits as part of the Targeted Site Visit and Verification Program. The primary background screening system for USCIS (known as ATLAS) processed more than 72 million screenings, through law enforcement and other federal databases, generating more than 5,700 created and 7,000 completed fraud, public safety and national security cases worked by specially trained USCIS officers in FY 2021. FDNS continued leveraging open source and publicly available social media information to investigate potential fraud, national security, and public safety concerns with more than 10,600 checks completed in FY 2021.

About USCIS Data

The data in this report covers fiscal years 2017 through 2021; note the federal fiscal year is October 1 through September 30. All data are rounded to the nearest hundred. Some figures in this report may differ from previously published numbers as some previous reports relied on other data sources, were compiled at different times, or use different definitions for completions. For this report, completions include all outcomes such as approvals, denials, and revocations, among others. Applications, petitions, or requests completed during the year may have been received in a previous fiscal year. Receipts are based on the date received in a USCIS lockbox or mailroom. Processing times vary across forms.

USCIS data have some inherent limitations. Data inaccuracies may result for various reasons such as during the data entry process, either by USCIS staff when entering data or by applicants themselves when filling out forms. Information is limited to data provided on immigration forms, with only certain information entered into our databases. Given the transactional nature

of USCIS work, the status of some applications can change leading to changes in the underlying statistics. Statistics can also vary depending on the time period used for calculations. Generally, an adjudication of an application or petition may happen weeks or months after it was initially received. This means that statistics of completed cases, such as approvals and denials, may be for petitions or applications submitted months (or sometimes years) earlier. For additional information on USCIS data and data limitations, please see the “[Understanding Our Data](#)” section of the USCIS website.

This report’s analysis was prepared by the Performance Analysis and External Reporting Division of the Office of Performance and Quality at USCIS. Past annual statistical reports and other USCIS data and statistics can be found on our [reports and studies](#) and [Immigration and Citizenship data](#) and webpages.

Appendix A

Data Table 1: Receipts and Completions by Select Form Types, FY 2017 – FY 2021¹

	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Total Receipts and Completions					
Receipts	9,154,000	8,468,000	8,145,000	7,725,000	9,084,000
Completions	8,150,000	8,691,000	8,212,000	7,585,000	7,214,000
Form N-400, Application for Naturalization					
Receipts	986,500	837,400	831,000	967,900	798,000
Completions	798,200	849,300	931,800	706,000	895,000
Form I-485, Application to Register for Lawful Permanent Residence (LPR)					
Receipts - Total	732,600	655,400	548,900	519,700	717,300
Family	365,700	334,200	333,700	300,200	290,000
Employment	139,600	132,700	102,000	99,100	297,400
Refugee & Asylee	110,700	109,700	68,100	69,000	67,600
All other	116,700	78,800	45,100	51,400	62,200
Completions - Total	615,500	638,000	652,900	504,200	572,100
Family	313,000	301,700	395,000	281,400	310,700
Employment	121,800	120,100	113,700	128,200	168,600
Refugee & Asylee	88,300	101,600	69,800	42,400	36,800
All other	92,400	114,600	74,300	52,200	56,100
Form I-130, Petition for Alien Relative					
Receipts	914,500	836,000	748,700	712,000	757,200
Completions	598,400	633,200	759,000	840,800	755,100
Form I-129, Petition for Nonimmigrant Worker ²					
Receipts - Total	526,400	551,000	551,200	551,900	534,400
H-1B	403,100	418,600	420,500	427,200	398,300
H-2A	11,600	13,400	15,500	17,000	20,300
H-2B	6,100	6,100	7,500	5,400	9,200
L-1	42,800	41,300	41,200	40,000	39,400
O	24,300	25,200	26,500	22,300	20,700
P	11,700	12,300	13,100	8,500	7,700
R	8,400	8,500	8,900	7,300	6,800
TN	7,500	8,200	7,100	13,100	12,900
All other	10,900	17,400	10,900	11,100	19,200
Completions - Total	596,600	573,500	644,100	665,900	618,300
H-1B	460,100	444,600	510,400	547,800	418,300
H-2A	11,600	13,400	15,600	15,900	20,100
H-2B	6,300	6,100	7,500	5,300	9,100
L-1	45,700	39,600	42,400	35,900	41,400
O	26,400	25,400	26,200	23,000	21,200
P	12,600	12,400	12,900	9,000	7,700

R	10,700	9,100	8,400	7,200	8,000
TN	7,700	8,400	7,400	9,600	15,700
All other	15,500	14,500	13,300	12,300	77,000
Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization Document					
Receipts	2,372,600	2,140,800	2,189,400	1,999,900	2,595,000
Completions	2,284,100	2,142,400	2,135,500	2,000,300	1,804,900
Form I-526, Immigrant Petition by Alien Entrepreneur					
Receipts	12,200	6,400	4,200	4,400	800
Completions	12,200	15,500	4,700	3,400	3,000
Form I-924, Application for Regional Center Designation Under the Immigrant Investor Program					
Receipts	280	120	80	30	10
Completions	490	720	200	320	60
Form I-589, Application for Asylum and for Withholding of Removal ³					
Receipts	141,700	106,100	96,000	92,800	62,800
Completions	51,000	82,000	78,600	56,000	38,200
Form I-867, Credible Fear Screenings					
Receipts	79,800	99,000	105,400	30,900	59,200
Completions	80,000	97,700	102,300	33,600	44,000
Form I-899, Reasonable Fear Screenings					
Receipts	10,300	11,100	11,100	8,700	5,100
Completions	10,000	11,000	11,800	7,500	4,500
Form I-914, Application for T Nonimmigrant Status					
Receipts	2,300	3,000	2,300	2,200	2,700
Completions	1,700	1,800	1,600	3,400	2,400
Form I-918, Petition for U Nonimmigrant Status and Form I-918A, Petition for Qualifying Family Member of U-1 Recipient					
Receipts	61,700	58,700	48,000	36,200	37,000
Completions	21,500	22,200	23,300	22,800	23,000
Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status					
Receipts	61,600	314,600	5,600	13,600	302,000
Completions	171,800	304,400	37,100	14,200	24,000
Form I-360, Petition for Amerasian, Widow(er), or Special Immigrant ⁴					
Receipts (SIJ)	22,200	21,900	20,700	18,700	22,700
Completions (SIJ)	12,400	6,300	25,700	41,500	17,300
Receipts (VAWA)	11,400	12,800	13,900	14,900	23,200
Completions (VAWA)	5,500	6,500	9,100	11,200	10,500
Form I-821D, Request for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA)					
Receipts	472,800	260,300	386,500	314,200	439,000
Completions	476,900	333,300	393,200	299,100	363,000
Form I-539, Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status					
Receipts	233,400	231,000	221,600	442,800	288,000
Completions	209,300	228,200	230,300	194,100	336,000

Form I-90, Application to Replace Permanent Resident (LPR) Card					
Receipts	783,000	711,900	724,600	702,700	804,000
Completions	500,500	1,142,000	520,600	844,300	530,000
Form I-131, Application for Travel Document					
Receipts - Total	515,700	490,700	500,900	438,200	694,200
Refugee Travel Document	82,700	84,300	90,400	64,600	72,600
Advance Parole Document	412,300	404,500	403,100	364,200	595,500
Parole in Place Request	6,400	1,900	7,400	9,200	14,600
DACA Advanced Parole Document	14,300	0	0	200	11,500
Completions – Total	508,500	474,000	470,500	450,800	398,500
Refugee Travel Document	102,100	81,000	88,800	64,700	45,900
Advance Parole Document	375,500	387,000	375,000	379,800	341,400
Parole in Place Request	14,800	6,000	6,700	6,300	7,700
DACA Advanced Parole Document	16,100	0	0	0	363,300

Reference(s):

¹ Although all USCIS receipts and completions are included in the grand total, not all form types are broken out in this table.

² Data represent the number of petitions only; some petitions, such as H-2 and H-2B petitions, may include multiple beneficiaries. The I-129 petition types shown will not sum to the total due to rounding. These data may differ from other published reports due to different definitions of completions; in this report we include revocations in the completion category. The number of completed employment-based I-485 applications do not include applications in the fourth preference category.

³ Data are for affirmatively filed I-589 asylum applications and do not include defensive asylum claims before a DOJ EOIR immigration court.

⁴ The Form I-360 may be submitted for different classifications. Special Immigrant Juveniles (SIJ) refers to foreign children in the United States who have been abused, abandoned, or neglected. VAWA refers to those who self-petition as a spouse of an abusive U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident, self-petition as a child of an abusive U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident, and those who self-petition as a parent of an abusive U.S. citizen son or daughter.

Note(s):

- 1) Some applications, petitions, or requests completed may have been received in prior year(s).
- 2) Counts may not sum to totals due to rounding.
- 3) Counts may differ from those reported in other available reports due to system updates and post-adjudicative outcomes.
- 4) The federal fiscal year is from October 1st through September 30th.

Source(s):

Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Office of Performance and Quality

Data Table 2: USCIS Online Filings, FY 2018 – FY 2021 and by Month, FY 2020 – FY 2021

	Forms Filed Online	Immigrant Fees Filed Online	Total Online Filings
FY 2018	553,700	516,700	1,070,500
FY 2019	701,100	474,500	1,175,700
FY 2020	1,183,500	267,200	1,450,700
FY 2021	1,460,600	214,300	1,246,300
Oct-20	108,300	6,200	102,100
Nov-20	91,300	7,200	84,100
Dec-20	78,600	8,500	70,100
Jan-21	113,500	8,600	104,900
Feb-21	101,300	9,500	91,800
Mar-21	143,900	19,600	124,300
Apr-21	127,800	15,700	112,100
May-21	126,000	17,700	108,300
Jun-21	129,400	24,400	105,000
Jul-21	133,700	29,200	104,500
Aug-21	157,200	32,100	125,100
Sep-21	149,600	35,600	114,000

Note(s):

- 1) The federal fiscal year is from October 1st through September 30th.
- 2) Counts may not sum to the total due to rounding.
- 3) Forms included in the “forms filed online” column include: Form I-90, Form N-400, Form N-336, Form N-565, Form I-539, Form I-130, Form N-600, Form N-600K, Form I-765, Form I-821 and Immigrant Fees. Those immigrating to the United States as a lawful permanent resident must pay the USCIS Immigrant Fee online, with some exemptions. This fee is used to process the immigrant visa packet processing and Green Card production.

Source(s):

Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Office of Performance and Quality