

Summary of Approved L-1 Petitions by Employers

Fiscal Year 2019

February 2020



U.S. Citizenship and
Immigration Services

Office of Policy and Strategy
Research and Evaluation Division

INTRODUCTION

In fiscal year 2019 (FY2019), USCIS approved approximately¹ 30,000 L-1 nonimmigrant worker petitions², including L-1A (for executives and managers), L-1B (for workers with specialized knowledge), LZ (blanket L-1), and a small number of L-1 petitions not specified as either L1-A or L-1B when captured by USCIS’s electronic system of records. These petitions were filed by nearly 12,000 employers.³

Of the approximately 12,000 employers who were granted L-1 approvals in FY2019, one employer had over 1,000 petitions approved, 18 employers had between 100 and 999 petitions approved, and 269 employers had between 10 and 99 petitions approved. The top 2% of filers received nearly 40% of the total approvals, whereas the other 98% received about 60% of the total approvals.

EMPLOYMENT TYPE⁴ AND CLASS PREFERENCE

In FY2019, USCIS approved slightly over 12,000 L-1 petitions for initial employment (not including LZ blanket petitions), and approximately 17,000 L-1 petitions for continuing employment. Of the total approved L-1 petitions (excluding LZ blanket petitions), 42% were for initial employment and 58% for continuing employment. Nearly two thirds of the total were for L-1A classification and one third was for L-1B classification. A very small number of approved L-1 petitions (less than one tenth of a

¹ See USCIS “Understand Our Data” page (<https://www.uscis.gov/tools/reports-studies/understanding-our-data>) for important general information regarding our data reporting.

² Not all petitions approved in FY2019 were received by USCIS in the same fiscal year. In FY2019, approximately 17% of approved petitions were received in prior fiscal years. Nearly all of these were filed in fiscal year 2018 (FY2018).

³ Based on distinctive petitioner tax identification number. USCIS makes no effort to group employers even if the business names appear to be similar.

⁴ Initial Employment petitions refer to petitions for aliens currently in a different nonimmigrant classification, or with no classification if outside the United States, for an initial period of employment in the United States. Continuing Employment petitions refer to petitions used to extend the authorized stay of, or change to a different employer for, aliens currently in the same nonimmigrant worker status. Continuing Employment also includes petitions that are filed to amend a previously approved petition. Initial Employment petitions are those that checked “a” or “d” for “Basis for Classification” on Form I-129, Part 2, Question 2. Continuing Employment petitions are those that checked “b”, “c”, “e”, or “f” for “Basis for Classification” on Form I-129, Part 2, Question 2.

percent) had no L-1A or L-1B specification in USCIS’s electronic system of records (shown as “Unspecified” in Table 1). Table 1 shows a detailed breakdown:

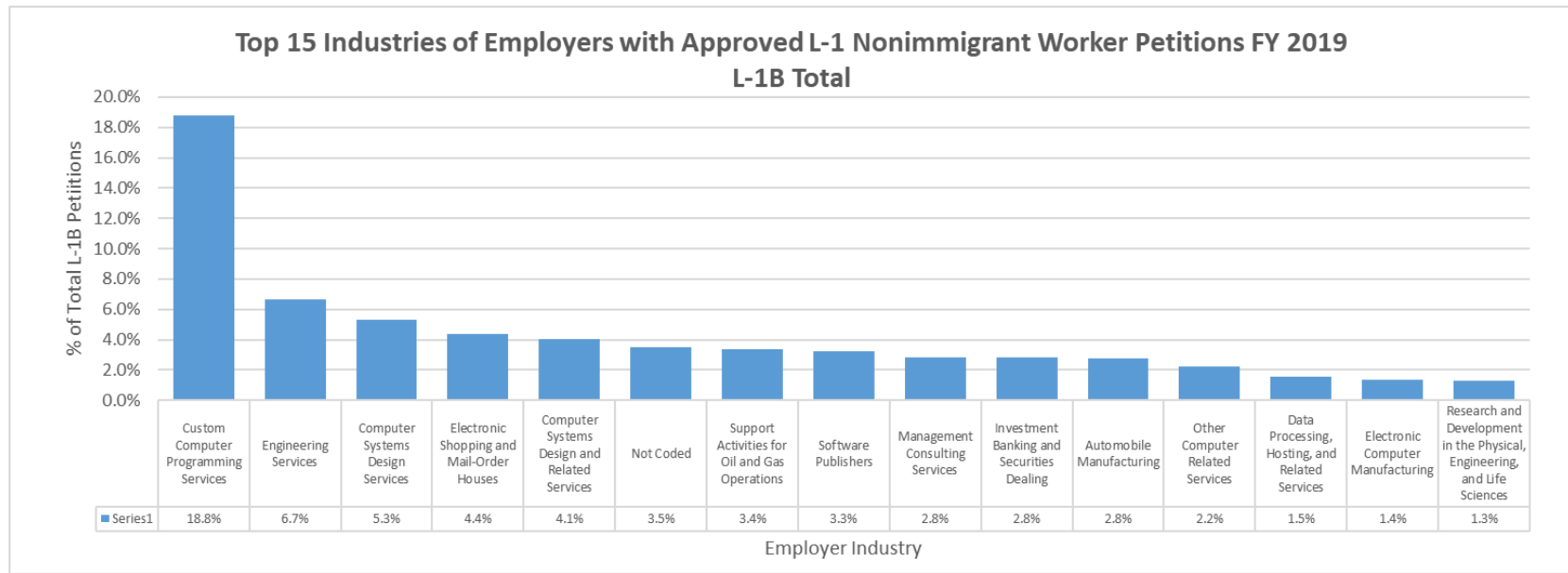
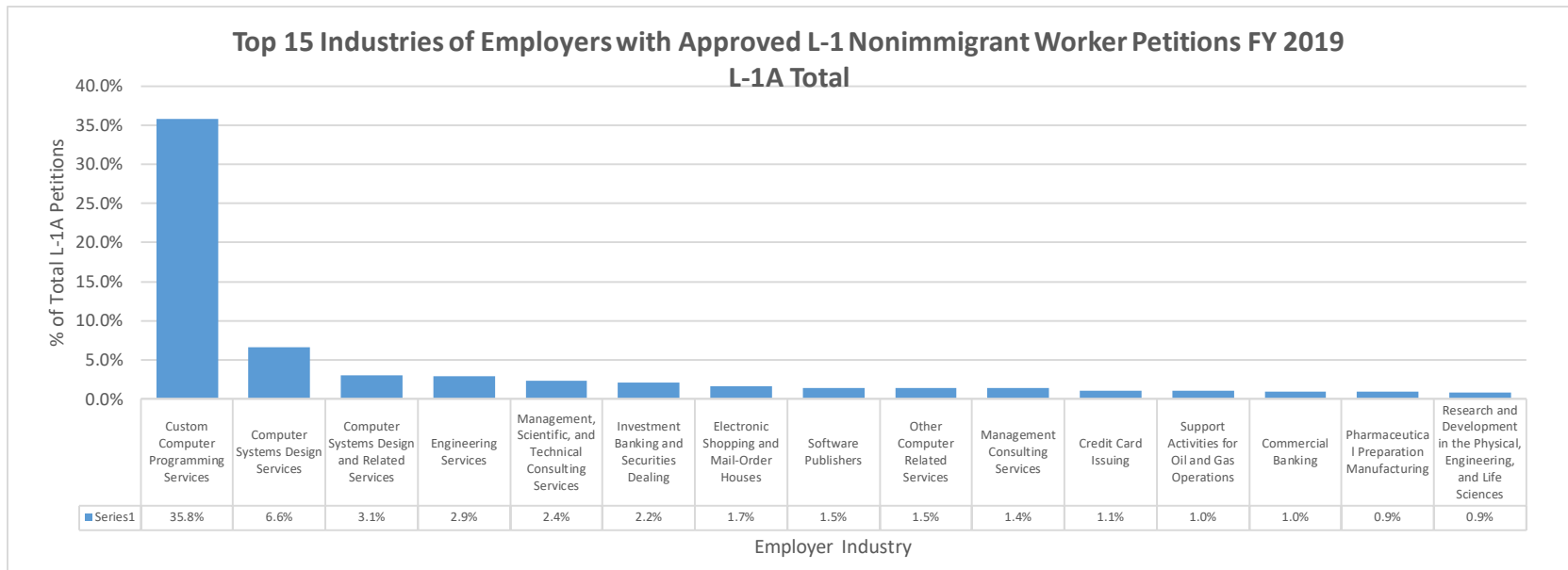
**Table 1: Approved L-1A and L-1B Petitions by Employment Type and Class Preference
Fiscal Year 2019**

Approved L-1 Nonimmigrant Worker Petitions by Employment Type and Class Preference(*) Fiscal Year 2019				
EMPLOYMENT	CLASS PREFERENCE			Total
	L1A	L1B	L1 (UNSPECIFIED)	
INITIAL	24.26%	17.70%	0.08%	42.04%
CONTINUING	42.60%	15.30%	0.06%	57.96%
Grand Total (*)	66.86%	33.00%	0.14%	100.00%
(*) Percentage is calculated over total approved L-1 petitions (excluding LZ).				
(**) Total may not equal 100% because of rounding.				

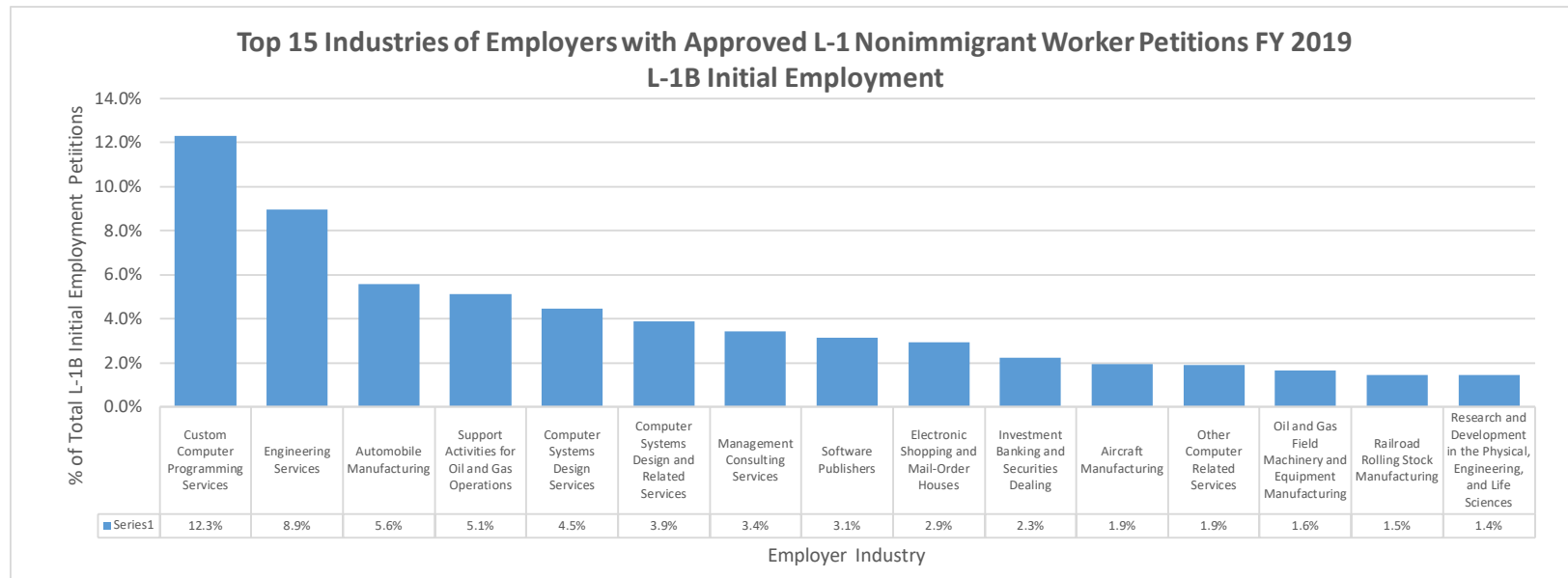
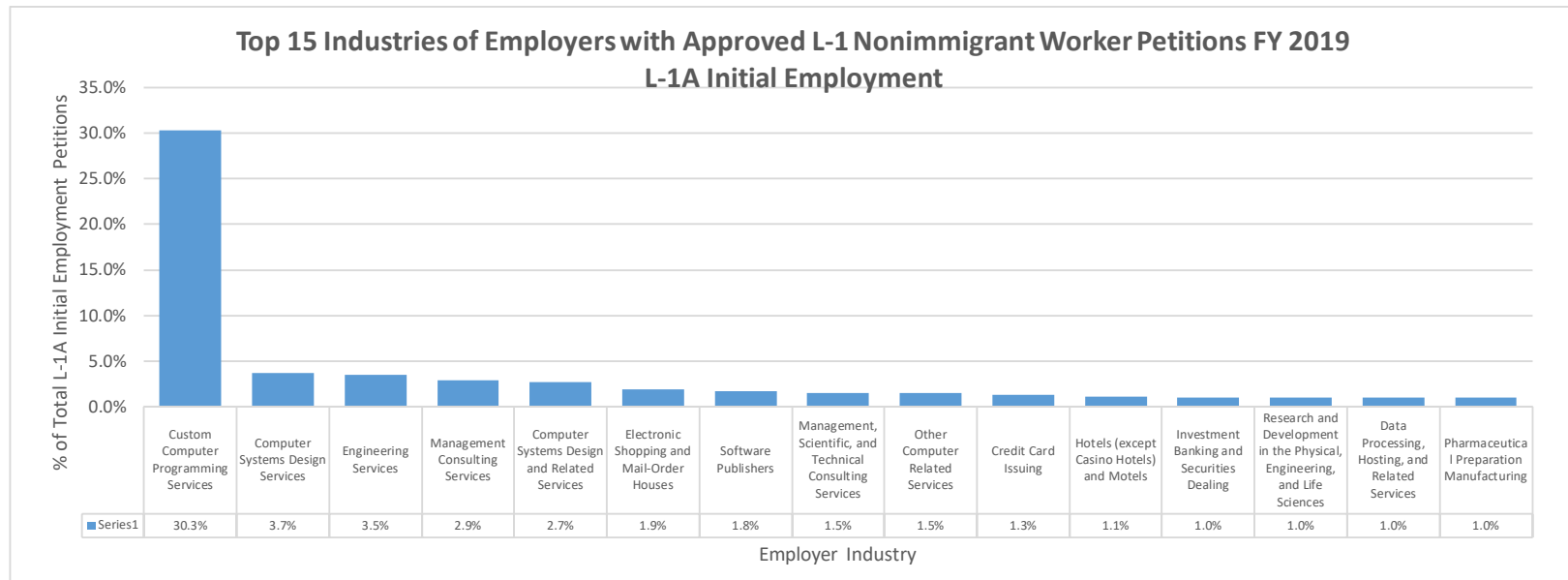
EMPLOYER INDUSTRY

The following four charts reflect L-1 petitions filed by employers with known industry classifications as defined by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code. The top industries that obtained approvals for L-1A and L-1B nonimmigrant workers in FY2019 were technology related, including Custom Computer Programming Services, Computer Systems Design, and Engineering Services. This is true for both total petitions and initial employment petitions.

Summary of Approved L-1 Petitions by Employers FY2019



Summary of Approved L-1 Petitions by Employers FY2019



BENEFICIARY OCCUPATIONⁱ

**Table 2: Approved L-1A and L-1B Petitions by Beneficiary Occupation
Fiscal Year 2019**

Approved L-1 Nonimmigrant Worker Petitions by Occupation (FY 2019)		
BENEFICIARY OCCUPATION	CLASS PREFERENCE	
	L1A	L1B
ACCOUNTANT, AUDITOR	0.02%	0.70%
ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT	.	0.05%
AEROSPACE ENGINEER	.	0.39%
AGRI/HORTICULTURAL WORKER	.	0.02%
ARCHITECT, SURVEYOR	0.01%	0.33%
ATHLETES & RELATED WORKERS	.	0.02%
CHEMICAL ENGINEER	.	0.27%
CIVIL ENGINEER	.	0.16%
CONSTRUCTION TRADES	.	0.65%
EDITOR, REPORTER, ETC.	.	0.05%
ELECTRICAL/ELECTRONIC ENGINEER	0.01%	2.03%
ENGINEER - SPECIALITY NOT LIST	0.01%	5.83%
ENGINEER - SPECIALITY UNKNOWN	0.01%	0.91%
EXECUTIVES & MANAGERS	95.35%	3.70%
EXTRACTION	.	0.36%
FOOD SERVICE	.	0.05%
HANDLERS, HELPERS, & LABORERS	.	0.01%
HEALTH TECHNICIAN	.	0.08%
INDUSTRIAL ENGINEER	.	1.64%
LAWYER, JUDGE	0.01%	0.19%
LIBRARIAN, ARCHIVIST, CURATOR	.	0.01%
LIFE & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST	.	0.51%
MACHINE OPERATOR	.	0.76%
MANAGEMENT SUPPORT	0.23%	20.37%
MARKETING & SALES	0.08%	1.49%
MATHEMATICIAN	0.04%	14.02%
MECHANICAL ENGINEER	.	2.04%
MECHANICS & REPAIRERS	0.01%	1.65%
MILITARY OCCUPATIONS	.	0.02%
OTHER HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER	0.01%	0.02%
PERSONAL SERVICE	.	0.01%
PHARMACIST, DIETICIAN	.	0.06%
PHYSICAL SCIENTIST	.	0.43%
PHYSICIAN, SURGEON, OSTEOPATH	.	0.03%
PRECISION PRODUCTION	.	0.90%
PROTECTIVE SERVICE	.	0.04%
SCIENCE TECHNICIAN	0.09%	23.71%
SOCIAL SCIENTIST	.	0.07%
TEACHER	.	0.05%
TRANSPORTATION/MATERIAL MOVING	.	0.21%
VO/ED COUNSELOR	.	0.01%
WRITER, TECHNICAL WRITER, ETC.	.	0.22%
NOT RECORDED/OTHER	4.16%	15.90%
Grand Total (*)	100%	100%

(*) Total may not equal 100% because of rounding

**Table 3: Approved L-1A and L-1B Initial Employment Petitions by Beneficiary Occupation
Fiscal Year 2019**

Approved L-1 Nonimmigrant Worker Petitions by Occupation (FY 2019)		
Initial Employment		
EMPLOYER INDUSTRY	CLASS PREFERENCE	
	L1A	L1B
ACCOUNTANT, AUDITOR	0.03%	0.90%
ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT	.	0.10%
AEROSPACE ENGINEER	.	0.37%
AGRI/HORTICULTURAL WORKER	.	0.04%
ARCHITECT, SURVEYOR	.	0.21%
ATHLETES & RELATED WORKERS	.	0.02%
CHEMICAL ENGINEER	.	0.31%
CIVIL ENGINEER	.	0.12%
CONSTRUCTION TRADES	.	0.82%
EDITOR, REPORTER, ETC.	.	0.02%
ELECTRICAL/ELECTRONIC ENGINEER	.	1.70%
ENGINEER - SPECIALITY NOT LIST	.	4.37%
ENGINEER - SPECIALITY UNKNOWN	.	0.64%
EXECUTIVES & MANAGERS	92.70%	2.85%
EXTRACTION	.	0.57%
FOOD SERVICE	.	0.04%
HANDLERS, HELPERS, & LABORERS	.	0.02%
HEALTH TECHNICIAN	.	0.06%
INDUSTRIAL ENGINEER	.	1.46%
LAWYER, JUDGE	.	0.25%
LIFE & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST	.	0.45%
MACHINE OPERATOR	.	0.92%
MANAGEMENT SUPPORT	0.31%	24.74%
MARKETING & SALES	0.07%	1.37%
MATHEMATICIAN	0.03%	9.85%
MECHANICAL ENGINEER	.	1.89%
MECHANICS & REPAIRERS	0.01%	2.67%
PERSONAL SERVICE	.	0.02%
PHARMACIST, DIETICIAN	.	0.08%
PHYSICAL SCIENTIST	.	0.45%
PHYSICIAN, SURGEON, OSTEOPATH	.	0.04%
PRECISION PRODUCTION	.	1.09%
PROTECTIVE SERVICE	.	0.04%
SCIENCE TECHNICIAN	0.06%	18.01%
SOCIAL SCIENTIST	.	0.08%
TEACHER	.	0.04%
TRANSPORTATION/MATERIAL MOVING	.	0.31%
VO/ED COUNSELOR	.	0.02%
WRITER, TECHNICAL WRITER, ETC.	.	0.27%
NOT RECORDED/OTHER	6.79%	22.80%
Grand Total(*)	100%	100%

(*) Total may not equal 100% because of rounding

¹ Petitions with no specification are not included.