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The holders of H-1B visas are the highest earners in the United States, placing them in the 90th percentile quartile of all wages in the country. The median wage of all US workers in 2021 was \$45,760 while the top 10% earn \$102,000, according to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

Among all US workers, H-1B visa holders were paid \$102,810 during the period, which is double the median wage, placing such workers in the top 10% salary bracket, the American think tank Cato Institute found in a recent study.

The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. Technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China.

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H-1B speciality occupations may include fields such as architecture, engineering, mathematics, physical sciences, social sciences, medicine and health, education, business specialities, accounting, law, theology, and the arts.

Popular discourse in the US is that H-1B visas are used by big tech companies to body-shop cheap foreign workers, essentially, giving American jobs to foreign immigrants.

"Opponents of the H-1B visa often claim that H-1B employers "pay low wages." This has never been true, but the latest wage data prove how ridiculous this claim is. H-1B workers are highly paid: their wages are in the 90th percentile of all wages in the United States, meaning that they have wages in the top 10 percent of U.S. wage earners. H-1B workers are not low wage or

“cheap” workers in any honest assessment of the meaning of those words.," noted David J. Bier, a Research Fellow at Cato Institute, in a blog [post](#).