

Sources blame pandemic, bureaucracy — not demand — for H-1B decline

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Scott Bettridge was quoted in *HR Dive* discussing the decrease in H-1B visas. For many consecutive years, H-1B visa petitions from employers have exceeded the annual cap placed on the visas' allotment by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. That employers are still utilizing the full allotment — even with some declines — should be a sign that demand remains high for the visas, said Scott. By and large, the pandemic has impacted international travel and relocation plans for employers in all industries, he said, noting that U.S. consulates abroad were closed in some cases for more than a year as COVID-19 spread. The U.S. Department of State also temporarily suspended routine services at embassies and consulates.

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