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High-Skilled Immigration in High-Skill Labor Markets: The Impact of the H-1B Visa Program on the Employment of Workers in the STEM Industries in the United States

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My research looked into the effects of the H-1B visa program as it relates to the employment status, particularly the wages, of native workers. To determine whether the H-1B Visa program has any effect on the wages of native workers, I collected data of both the median wages of workers across all industries as well as that of workers on the STEM industries to use as my dependent variables. I used several regressions to determine the relationship between these two dependent variables and independent variables (H-1B Visas issued, F-1 Visas issued, graduation of STEM majors, productivity of workers, etc.) between the years 1997 to 2012.

I found that the H-1B visa program does not have a negative effect on the wages of native workers; in fact, my research suggests that the H-1B visa program has a positive, although minute, effect on the wages of both workers in the STEM field as well as the wages of native workers across all industries.

The results, with respect to H-1B visas, are consistent with existing literature on this topic about the impact on high-skilled workers in the US labor market. However, it is important to point out that while data shows there is no negative effect on wages of native workers, it does not mean that an expansion of the H-1B visa program will lead to similarly positive outcomes. With so many applications submitted within the first days of the program application window, however, it seems imprudent to keep the cap at its current level.

Because of the short time frame, my research will still need to be refined. To learn more about my research (my working paper, etc.) and its progression, feel free to email me at [pitu\(at\)pitusim\(dot\)com](mailto:pitu(at)pitusim(dot)com).