

\$100,000 H-1B Fee Could Cost Tech \$5B+ a Year

The U.S. government's newly disclosed **\$100,000 H-1B application fee** could create a multi-billion-dollar annual burden for the tech industry.

DesignRush's study looks at how this fee change will affect companies that rely on global talent.

Each year, **85,000 new H-1B visas** are issued (65,000 regular + 20,000 master's cap). Roughly **60%–70%** of these go to computer-related occupations, meaning about **55,000 tech workers** on average.

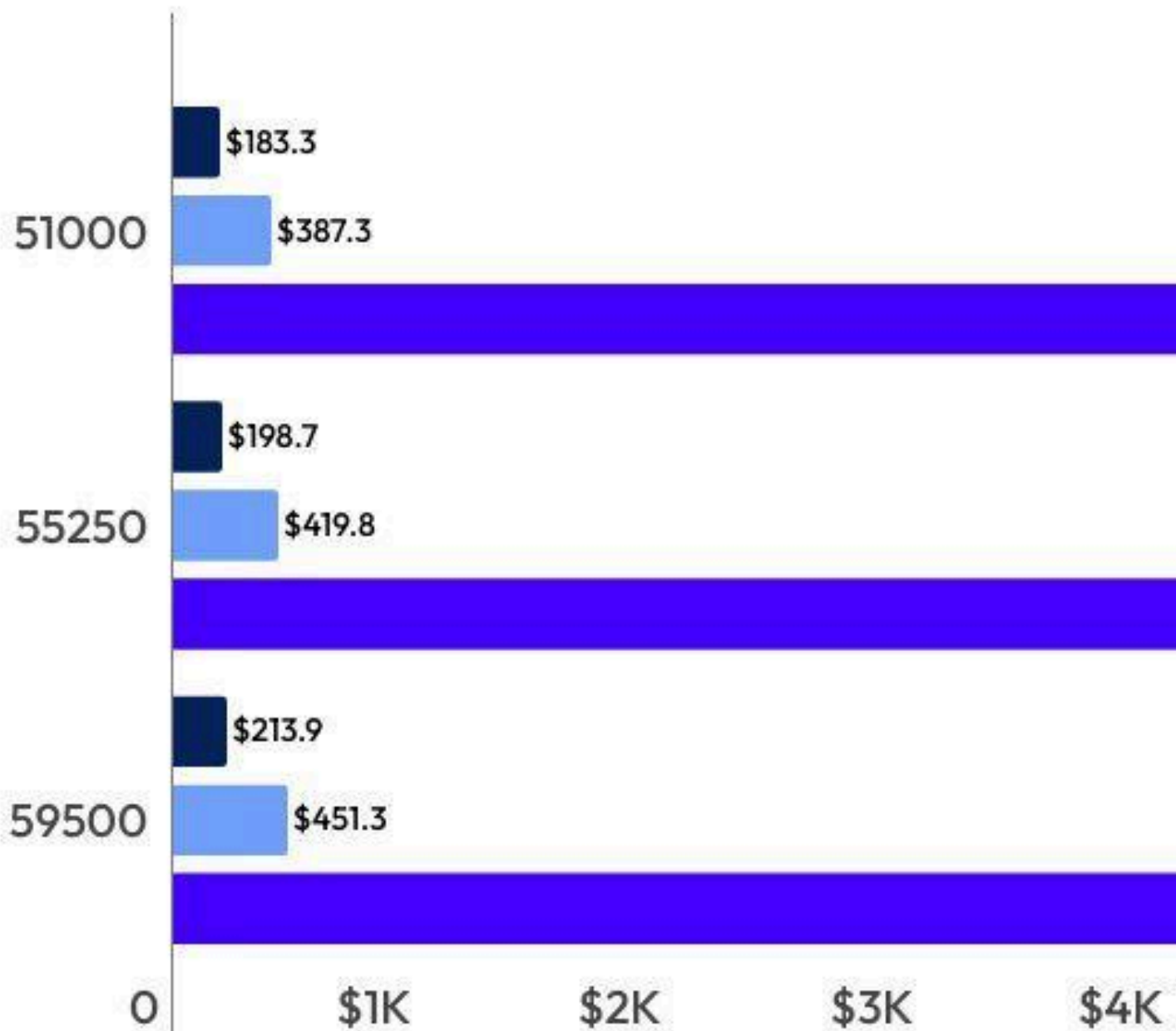
At the new fee level, that equals **\$5.5 billion per year** just for tech hires, excluding the \$100 million already spent on registrations that never make it past the lottery phase.

1. Rising Costs for Tech Hiring

Under the old fee system, hiring 55,000 skilled tech workers cost between \$200 million and \$400 million in total. With the new \$100,000 charge, the same number of hires will now cost over \$5 billion.

H-1B Hiring Costs Skyrocket

● Old Cost (Base \$3,595, \$M) ● Old Cost (With \$7,595, \$M)



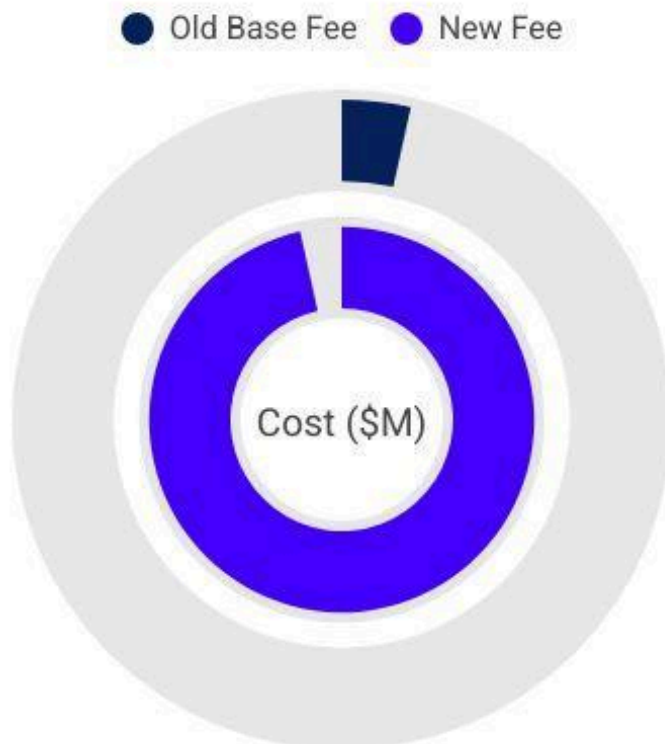
Hiring 55,000 skilled tech workers now
billion — compared to just \$200–\$400

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2. Who These Fees Affect

Historically, about 60–70% of H-1B approvals go to tech jobs such as software engineers and data specialists. That means the new fee will fall hardest on the technology sector.

New Fee vs Old Costs



The new \$100,000 fee equals to \$5.5B total burden

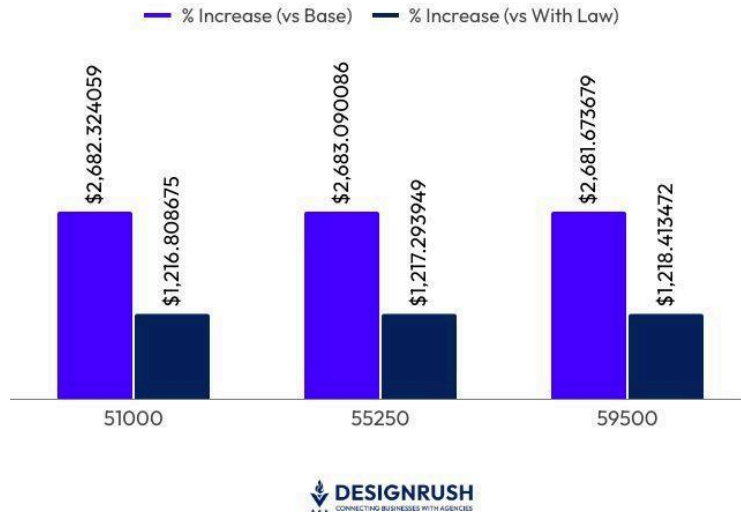


3. The Percentage Increase is Extreme

For comparison, the new charge is more than 25 times higher than the old base fee. Even compared with the higher Public Law fee, the increase is more than tenfold.

From Thousands to Hundreds of Thousands

The new H-1B fee is up to 2,600% higher than the old base fee



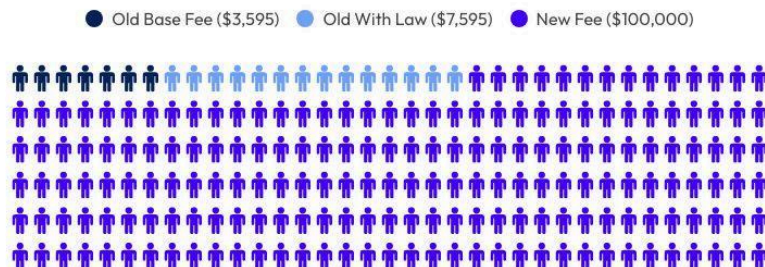
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4. Cost Per Worker

For a single hire, the price rises from around \$3,600–\$7,600 to \$100,000. This changes the economics of hiring skilled workers from abroad.

Cost Per Worker: Then vs Now

One H-1B hire that once cost \$3,600–\$7,600 will now cost \$100,000 in application fees alone



5. Where the Money Goes

Today, the new fee makes up more than 95% of the overall application cost. The old filing fees are almost invisible when placed next to the \$100,000 charge.

Gianluca Ferruggia, General Manager at DesignRush shares:

“For tech companies, this is more than just another fee. It takes billions away from areas like product development, hiring, and innovation. Larger companies might absorb these costs, but for smaller firms and startups, it could mean fewer opportunities to bring in the talent they need to grow.”