



U.S. Naturalizations: 2023

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**Office of Homeland
Security Statistics**

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Immigration

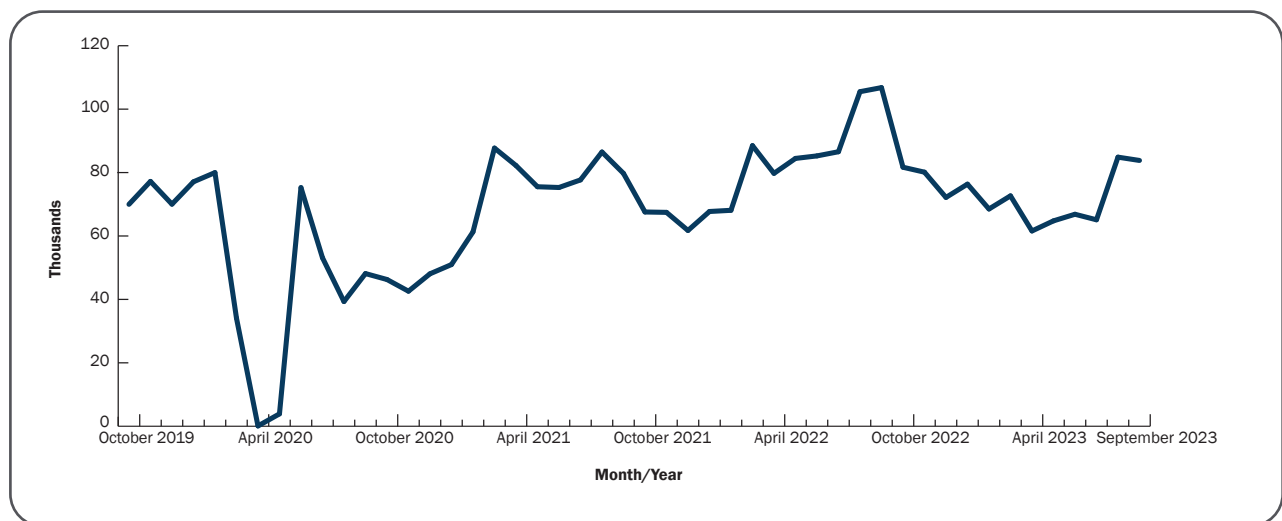
The naturalization process confers U.S. citizenship upon applicants who have fulfilled the requirements established in the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). After naturalization, foreign-born citizens enjoy almost all the same benefits, rights, and responsibilities that the U.S. Constitution gives to U.S. citizens at birth, including the right to vote. The 2023 U.S. Naturalizations Annual Flow Report, authored by the Office of Homeland Security Statistics (OHSS), presents information on the number and characteristics of applicants aged 18 years and over who naturalized during 2023.¹

SUMMARY

The number of U.S. naturalizations dropped to 878,460 persons in 2023, down 9.4 percent from 969,380 naturalizations in 2022 and up 20 percent from the 2010–2019 annual average of 730,100 (pre- COVID-19 period) (Figure 1).² The number of applications for naturalization increased 6.0 percent from 781,080 applications in 2022 to 827,610 in 2023. The leading countries of birth of newly naturalized citizens for 2023 were Mexico (111,460), India (59,050), the Philippines (44,760), the Dominican Republic (35,220), and Vietnam (33,310). The top three states of residence of persons naturalizing were California (154,520), Texas (100,290), and New York (94,210).

Figure 1.

Persons Naturalized by Month: Fiscal Years 2020 to 2023



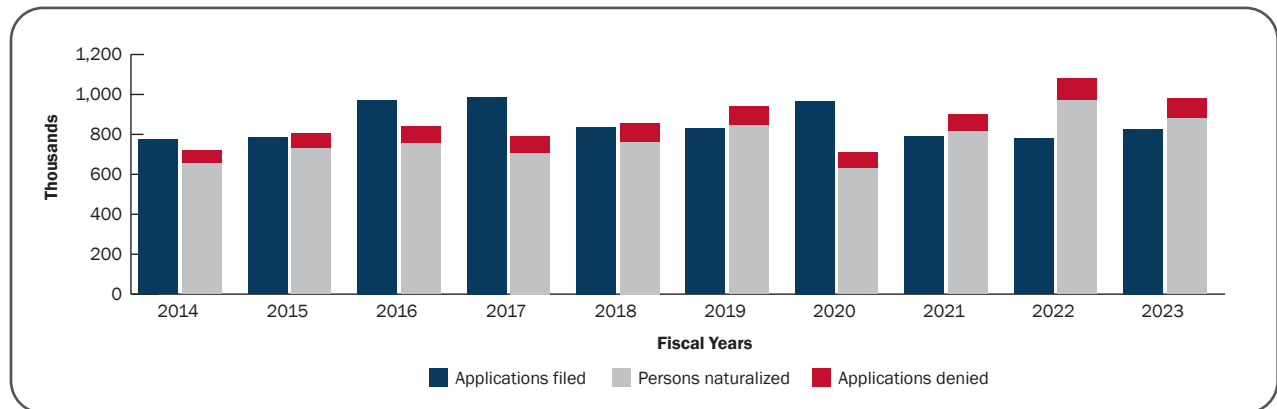
Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics analysis of USCIS data.

¹ This report was prepared by OHSS, which replaced the Office of Immigration Statistics in September 2023. Led by the DHS Statistical Official, OHSS's mission is to foster transparency and data-driven homeland security decision-making by analyzing and disseminating timely, objective DHS data and statistics. This report includes OHSS's analysis of relevant statutes, policy, and processes to provide background and context for DHS statistical data. DHS Component statistical officials have reviewed this report for accuracy. In this report, "years" refer to fiscal years, which run from October 1 to September 30. Fiscal Year 2023 ran from October 1, 2022, to September 30, 2023. The 2023 Yearbook of Immigration Statistics and other OHSS reports contain additional context and are available at <https://ohss.dhs.gov/topics/immigration/yearbook>. Not all numbers cited in this report are contained in this report's tables. To protect privacy, table cells and numbers in this report are rounded to the nearest ten. The totals may not sum due to rounding.

² This report does not include data on children acquiring citizenship based upon the citizenship status of a parent. Therefore, naturalizations described in this report—obtained from approved Form N-400, *Application for Naturalization*—are limited to applicants who are 18 years of age or older and do not represent a complete count of persons who obtained citizenship status during the reporting year. Naturalization numbers reflect changes in the numbers of naturalization applications received as well as the number processed, which may be affected by applications pending from previous years and available resources. As a result, caution should be exercised in drawing conclusions from these data about trends in the underlying demand to naturalize. Average naturalization totals over a period of years provide a more accurate indication of long-term trends in naturalization.

Figure 2.

Naturalization Applications Filed and Application Results: Fiscal Years 2014 to 2023



Notes: The sum of naturalizations and denials does not match the number of applications because applications may be filed and adjudicated in different years. See 2023 *Yearbook of Immigration Statistics*, Table 20: Applications for Naturalization Filed, Persons Naturalized, and Applications for Naturalization Denied.

Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics analysis of USCIS data.

THE NATURALIZATION PROCESS AND REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for naturalization, an applicant must meet statutory and regulatory requirements and file a Form N-400, with appropriate documentation. USCIS conducts an investigation and examination of all naturalization applicants, which includes completion of security and criminal background checks, review of the applicant's complete immigration record, interview(s) with oral and written testimony, testing for English and civics requirements, and qualifications for accommodations or disability exceptions. Following approval, USCIS schedules applicants for a required oath ceremony before a judge or authorized executive branch official.

Generally, to be eligible for naturalization, applicants must be at least 18 years of age when they submit the Form N-400, establish that they have been a lawfully admitted permanent resident of the United States for at least five years at the time of filing the Form N-400, and have resided continuously in the United States for at least five years as a lawful permanent resident (LPR) immediately preceding the date of filing the Form N-400 and up to the time of naturalization. The applicant generally must be physically present in the United States for at least 30 months out of the five years immediately preceding the date of filing the Form N-400 and must have lived within the state or district with jurisdiction over the applicant's place of residence for at least three months prior to the date of filing. Certain persons with qualifying military service may be eligible to apply for naturalization without lawful permanent residence and without any period of continuous residence or physical presence in

the United States.³ Additional requirements for applicants include the ability to speak, read, and write in the English language; knowledge of U.S. Government and its history; attachment to the principles of the U.S. Constitution; and being of good moral character.⁴

TRENDS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF PERSONS NATURALIZING

Historical Trend

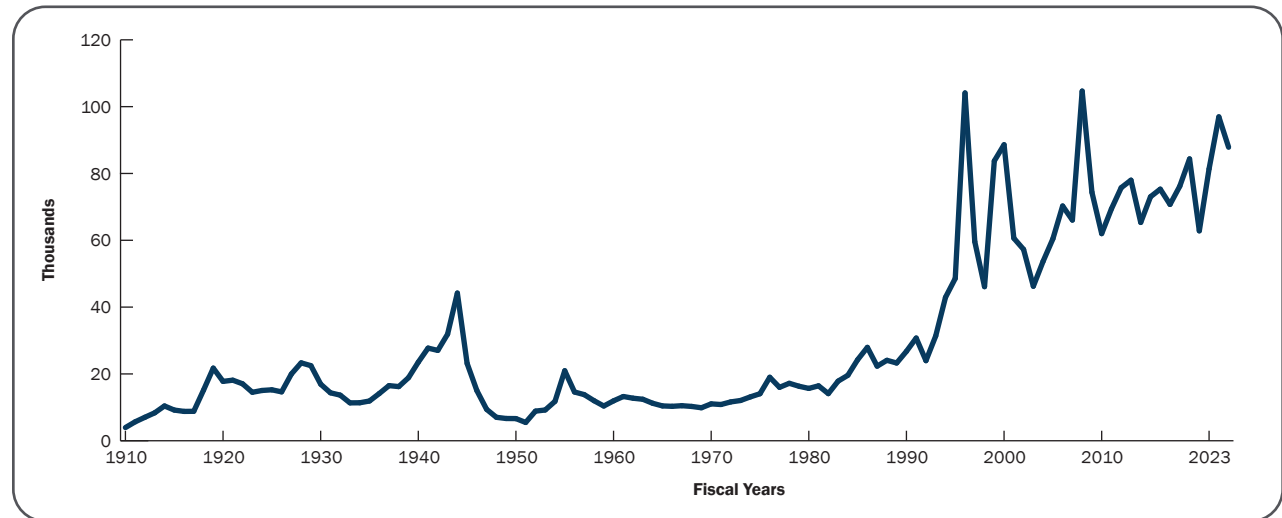
The average number of persons naturalizing increased from fewer than 113,000 per year during the 1950s and 1960s to 210,000 per year during the 1980s, 500,000 during the 1990s, 680,000 during the 2000s,

³ For more information on citizenship through military service, please visit <https://www.uscis.gov/military/naturalization-through-military-service>.

⁴ Children of U.S. citizen-parents may obtain citizenship at birth or after birth but before the age of 18; for more information see <https://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/learn-about-citizenship/i-am-the-child-of-a-us-citizen>. Applicants for naturalization who are married to U.S. citizens are subject to the requirements for naturalization as described above; however, applicants who are married to U.S. citizens need only establish that they have been a LPR for at least three years at the time of filing the Form N-400, they have been living in marital union with their U.S. citizen spouse for at least three years at the time of filing the Form N-400, and they have continuous residence in the United States for at least three years at the time of filing the Form N-400. In addition, applicants who are married to U.S. citizens generally must be physically present in the United States for at least 18 months out of the three years immediately preceding the date of filing the Form N-400. For more information on naturalization, please visit <https://www.uscis.gov/us-citizenship/citizenship-through-naturalization>. OHSS provides estimates of the LPR population eligible to apply to naturalize; see <https://ohss.dhs.gov/topics/immigration/lawful-permanent-residents/lawful-permanent-residents-population-estimates>.

Figure 3.

Persons Naturalized: Fiscal Years 1910 to 2023



Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics analysis of USCIS data.

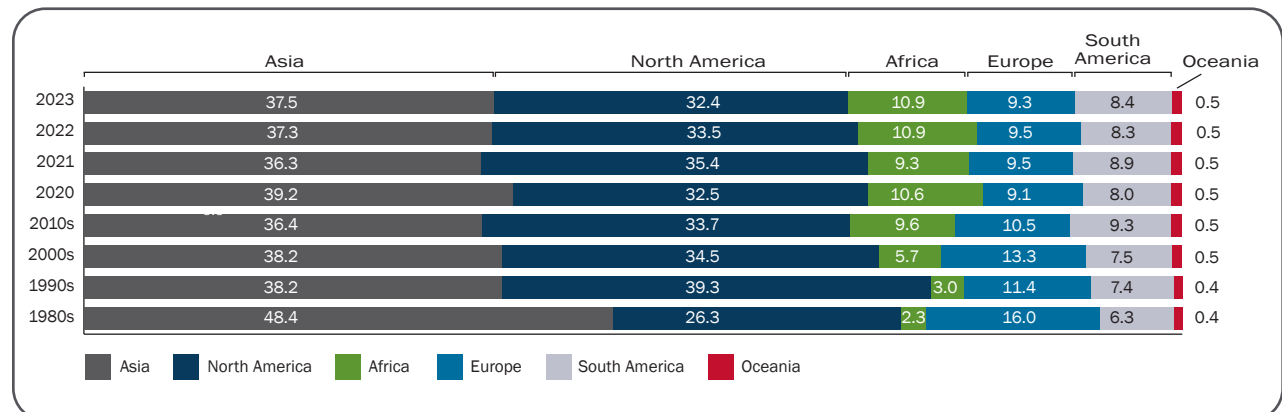
and 730,000 between 2010 and 2019 (Figure 3). While naturalizations have gradually increased, annual naturalization levels since the mid-1990s have varied substantially due to dynamics related to election years, USCIS fee increases, and proposed or actual statutory changes. USCIS was particularly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 because the agency is fee-funded and experienced a budget shortfall following the suspension of in-person services and reduced worldwide travel. Spending reductions affected all USCIS operations, including naturalizations, which dropped to 628,250 in 2020 following a recent high of 843,590 in 2019. Annual naturalizations have since recovered from the COVID-19 pandemic and were 40 percent higher in 2023 than the pandemic era low in 2020 (Figure 1).

Region and Leading Countries of Birth

Until the early 1970s, persons naturalizing were predominately from Europe. Asia overtook Europe as the leading region of origin for newly naturalized citizens following increased Asian immigration pursuant to the 1965 amendments to the INA. Other factors include the arrival of large numbers of Indochinese refugees in the 1970s along with a pattern of higher-than-average naturalization rates among Asian immigrants. Asia has continued to be the leading region of origin in recent decades and is followed by the North American region. African nationals accounted for 11 percent of naturalizations in both 2022 and 2023, their highest proportion ever observed, up from 9.6 percent in 2010–2019 (Figure 4).

Figure 4.

Percent of Total Persons Naturalized by Region of Birth: Fiscal Years 2020 to 2023 and Select Earlier Decades



Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics analysis of USCIS data

Mexico was the leading country of birth for persons naturalizing in 2023 (13 percent), followed by India (6.7 percent), the Philippines (5.1 percent), the Dominican Republic (4.0 percent), and Vietnam (3.8 percent) (Table 1). The top ten countries of origin accounted for 46 percent of all naturalizing citizens in 2023. From 2022 to 2023, naturalizations across

all world regions of birth decreased. Naturalizations of those from South America decreased the smallest proportion (7.3 percent), while those from Oceania and North America decreased the most (12 percent each). The largest numeric decreases in naturalizations among the top ten countries of origins between 2022 and 2023 occurred among immigrants born in Mexico (17,410 decrease),

Table 1.

Persons Naturalized by Region and Country of Birth: Fiscal Years 2021 to 2023

(Countries ranked by 2023 persons naturalized)

Region and country of birth	2021		2022		2023	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
REGION						
Total	813,860	100.0	969,380	100.0	878,460	100.0
Africa	76,010	9.3	106,090	10.9	95,330	10.9
Asia	295,220	36.3	361,180	37.3	329,260	37.5
Europe	77,090	9.5	92,240	9.5	82,040	9.3
North America	288,430	35.4	324,410	33.5	284,350	32.4
Caribbean	120,600	14.8	132,700	13.7	112,890	12.9
Central America	43,380	5.3	49,870	5.1	48,260	5.5
Other North America	124,450	15.3	141,840	14.6	123,200	14.0
Oceania	4,300	0.5	5,260	0.5	4,610	0.5
South America	72,700	8.9	79,980	8.3	74,120	8.4
Unknown	110	0.0	220	0.0	8,750	1.0
COUNTRY						
Total	813,860	100.0	969,380	100.0	878,460	100.0
Mexico	113,270	13.9	128,880	13.3	111,460	12.7
India	57,040	7.0	65,960	6.8	59,050	6.7
Philippines	48,480	6.0	53,410	5.5	44,760	5.1
Dominican Republic	28,100	3.5	34,530	3.6	35,220	4.0
Vietnam	24,220	3.0	33,250	3.4	33,310	3.8
Cuba	47,920	5.9	46,910	4.8	33,190	3.8
China, People's Republic	29,230	3.6	27,040	2.8	30,750	3.5
El Salvador	18,340	2.3	21,450	2.2	21,090	2.4
Jamaica	20,720	2.5	22,960	2.4	20,190	2.3
Colombia	17,540	2.2	18,090	1.9	17,090	1.9
Haiti	14,880	1.8	18,000	1.9	16,100	1.8
Pakistan	12,380	1.5	18,010	1.9	15,440	1.8
Nigeria	10,920	1.3	14,440	1.5	13,530	1.5
Brazil	12,450	1.5	13,200	1.4	12,980	1.5
Bangladesh	10,110	1.2	14,180	1.5	12,640	1.4
Korea, South	15,000	1.8	14,880	1.5	12,330	1.4
Iran	10,800	1.3	15,750	1.6	11,870	1.4
Canada	10,930	1.3	12,570	1.3	11,320	1.3
United Kingdom	11,410	1.4	12,980	1.3	10,990	1.3
Venezuela	10,220	1.3	11,500	1.2	10,860	1.2
All other countries	289,920	35.6	371,410	38.3	344,310	39.2

Notes: To protect privacy, table cells are rounded to the nearest ten. The totals may not sum due to rounding.

Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics analysis of USCIS data.

Table 2.**Persons Naturalized by State of Residence: Fiscal Years 2021 to 2023**

(States ranked by 2023 persons naturalized)

State of residence	2021		2022		2023	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	813,860	100.0	969,380	100.0	878,460	100.0
California	171,860	21.1	182,000	18.8	154,520	17.6
Texas	77,030	9.5	106,120	10.9	100,290	11.4
Florida	109,240	13.4	105,530	10.9	94,210	10.7
New York	89,990	11.1	104,050	10.7	91,480	10.4
New Jersey	39,950	4.9	54,950	5.7	38,820	4.4
Illinois	22,680	2.8	32,520	3.4	33,560	3.8
Washington	19,510	2.4	31,040	3.2	26,280	3.0
Pennsylvania	19,690	2.4	26,750	2.8	25,420	2.9
Massachusetts	24,090	3.0	27,010	2.8	24,220	2.8
Virginia	20,730	2.5	27,320	2.8	23,940	2.7
Other*	219,090	26.9	272,090	28.1	265,730	30.2

*Includes unknown, U.S. territories, and U.S. armed forces posts.

Notes: To protect privacy, table cells are rounded to the nearest ten. The totals may not sum due to rounding.

Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics analysis of USCIS data.

Cuba (13,730), and the Philippines (8,660). The largest percentage decreases in naturalizations among the top ten countries between 2022 and 2023 were of those born in Cuba (29 percent decrease), Iran (25 percent), and the Philippines (16 percent).

Leading States and Metropolitan Areas of Residence

Seventy percent of all persons who naturalized in 2023 lived in ten states. California was home to the largest number of newly naturalized citizens with 154,520 (18 percent of the total), down 15 percent from 182,000 in 2022; Texas followed with 100,290 (11 percent), down 5.6 percent from 106,120 in 2022; and Florida with 94,210 (11 percent), down 12 percent from 105,530 in 2022 (Table 2). Of the top ten states of residence in 2023, the largest percentage decreases of persons who became naturalized citizens between 2022 and 2023 occurred in New Jersey (29 percent decrease), Washington (15 percent decrease), and California (15 percent decrease).

On a per capita basis, the United States had 263 newly naturalized citizens per 100,000 population in 2023. Thirteen states had more naturalizations per capita than this overall number, Illinois matched this number, and 36 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico had fewer. New York had the highest number of naturalizations per capita (with 481 newly naturalized citizens per 100,000 population), while West Virginia

had the lowest (with 32 per 100,000 population) (Figure 5).⁵

Forty-seven percent of all persons who naturalized in 2023 lived in ten metropolitan areas (Table 3).⁶ The three leading metropolitan areas remained the same as in years past: New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ, with 115,040 persons (13 percent of the total), down 19 percent from 142,380 in 2022; Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA with 56,180 persons (6.4 percent), down 6.9 percent from 60,370 persons in 2022; and Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL with 50,320 persons (5.7 percent), down 20 percent from 63,480 persons in 2022.

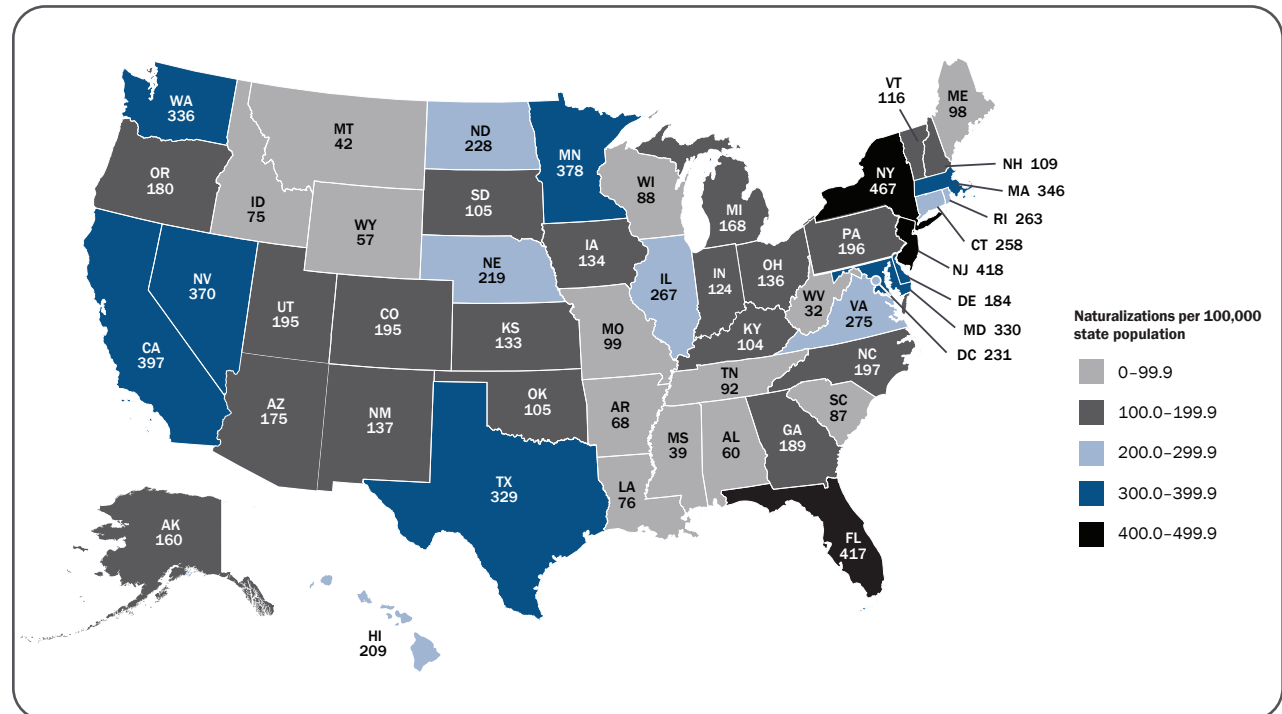
Sex, Age, and Marital Status

Naturalization proportions by sex, age, and marital status varied only very slightly between 2022 and 2023 (Tables 4, 5, and 6, respectively). In 2023, females accounted for the majority of naturalizations (54 percent). The median age for newly naturalized adults was 41 in 2023, a year

⁵ State populations sourced from the U.S. Census Bureau: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division. December 2023. Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for the United States, Regions, States, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico: April 1, 2020, to July 1, 2023 (NST-EST2023-POP).

⁶ The most current Core-Based Statistical Area (CBSA) definitions are available from OMB at <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/metro-micro.html>.

Figure 5.
Naturalizations per 100,000 State Population: Fiscal Year 2023



Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics analysis of USCIS data.

Table 3.
Persons Naturalized by Core Based Statistical Area (CBSA) of Residence: Fiscal Years 2021 to 2023
 (CBSAs ranked by 2023 persons naturalized)

Metropolitan area of residence	2021		2022		2023	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	813,860	100.0	969,380	100.0	878,460	100.0
New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ	116,150	14.3	142,380	14.7	115,040	13.1
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA	80,730	9.9	60,370	6.2	56,180	6.4
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL	68,880	8.5	63,480	6.5	50,320	5.7
Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands, TX	24,380	3.0	44,590	4.6	34,970	4.0
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	26,150	3.2	32,840	3.4	33,470	3.8
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV	30,020	3.7	37,360	3.9	31,380	3.6
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN	21,600	2.7	30,300	3.1	31,160	3.5
San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA	21,910	2.7	35,330	3.6	23,610	2.7
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA	15,040	1.8	24,240	2.5	20,870	2.4
Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH	19,020	2.3	21,650	2.2	18,650	2.1
Other, including unknown	390,000	47.9	476,840	49.2	462,810	52.7

Notes: Metropolitan areas defined based on the 2023 update of CBSA definitions.

To protect privacy, table cells are rounded to the nearest ten. The totals may not sum due to rounding. Numbers for previous years may differ from previously published figures.

Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics analysis of USCIS data.

older than in 2022.⁷ Two-thirds of newly naturalized adults (67 percent) were ages 25 to 54 years. Twenty-four percent were ages 55 years and older, and 9.2 percent were ages 18 to 24 years, unchanged from 2022 (Figure 6). Sixty-five percent of individuals naturalizing in 2023 were

married, and 20 percent were single, essentially unchanged from 2022 (Table 6).

Years in Immigrant Status

Persons naturalizing in 2023 spent a median of seven years in LPR status before becoming U.S. citizens, the same as 2021 and 2022, and down from a median of eight years in 2017–2019 (Table 7). This decrease is a return to

⁷ This report excludes data on children acquiring citizenship based on the citizenship of a parent; see footnote 2.

Table 4.
Persons Naturalized by Sex: Fiscal Years 2021 to 2023

Sex	2021		2022		2023	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	813,860	100.0	969,380	100.0	878,460	100.0
Female	456,030	56.0	526,020	54.3	478,030	54.4
Male	357,770	44.0	443,330	45.7	395,820	45.1
Unknown	70	0.0	30	0.0	4,610	0.5

Notes: To protect privacy, table cells are rounded to the nearest ten. The totals may not sum due to rounding.
Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics analysis of USCIS data.

Table 5.
Persons Naturalized by Age: Fiscal Years 2021 to 2023

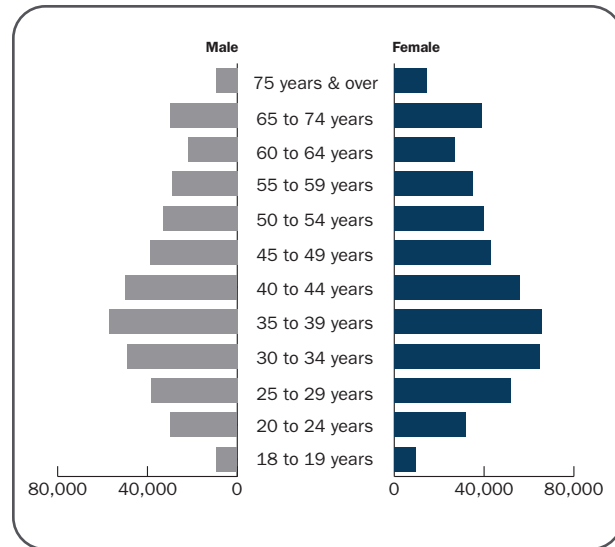
Age	2021		2022		2023	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	813,860	100.0	969,380	100.0	878,460	100.0
18 to 24 years	60,060	7.4	88,950	9.2	80,700	9.2
25 to 34 years	190,630	23.4	230,510	23.8	205,180	23.4
35 to 44 years	225,890	27.8	259,290	26.7	229,580	26.1
45 to 54 years	156,450	19.2	175,120	18.1	155,720	17.7
55 to 64 years	109,130	13.4	124,640	12.9	113,660	12.9
65 years and over	71,700	8.8	90,870	9.4	93,500	10.6
Unknown	0	0.0	0	0.0	130	0.0
Median age (years)	41	X	40	X	41	X

X Not applicable.
Notes: To protect privacy, table cells are rounded to the nearest ten. The totals may not sum due to rounding.
Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics analysis of USCIS data.

Table 6.
Persons Naturalized by Marital Status: Fiscal Years 2021 to 2023

Marital status	2021		2022		2023	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	813,860	100.0	969,380	100.0	878,460	100.0
Married	543,630	66.8	632,090	65.2	570,950	65.0
Single	164,530	20.2	210,220	21.7	174,540	19.9
Other*	105,700	13.0	127,070	13.1	132,960	15.1

*Includes persons who were divorced, separated, widowed, or of unknown marital status.
Notes: To protect privacy, table cells are rounded to the nearest ten. The totals may not sum due to rounding.
Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics analysis of USCIS data.

Figure 6.**Naturalizations by Age and Sex: Fiscal Year 2023**

Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics analysis of USCIS data.

intervals observed in 2012–2016. Of those naturalizing in 2023, immigrants born in Africa and Asia spent the least number of years in LPR status (six years), followed by South America (seven years), Europe (seven years), and North America and Oceania (each nine years). This ordering remained largely consistent through the last decade. Those from Europe, North America, and Oceania who naturalized in 2023 had overall less time spent in LPR status than those naturalizing in 2022.

Data

This report is based on data from USCIS administrative records from the Electronic Immigration System of new U.S. citizens who naturalized in 2023. These records consist of information taken from approved Form N-400 applications, such as the date and country of birth, sex, marital status, and state of residence.⁸

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information, visit the Office of Homeland Security Statistics web page at <https://ohss.dhs.gov>.

⁸ An applicant for naturalization becomes a naturalized U.S. citizen only after the oath ceremony.

Table 7.**Median Years in Lawful Permanent Resident Status for Persons Naturalized by Region of Birth and Year of Naturalization: Fiscal Years 2014 to 2023**

Region of birth	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	7	7	7	8	8	8	7	7	7	7
Africa	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Asia	6	6	6	6	7	7	6	7	6	6
Europe	8	9	9	9	9	9	8	8	8	7
North America	10	10	10	11	11	11	10	9	10	9
Caribbean	9	9	9	10	9	9	8	7	8	8
Central America	10	10	10	11	11	11	10	10	10	9
Other North America	12	11	11	14	15	13	13	11	12	10
Oceania	9	9	10	10	10	10	10	9	10	9
South America	7	7	7	8	8	8	7	7	7	7

Note: Excludes persons who were not required to be lawful permanent residents prior to naturalization.

Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics analysis of USCIS data.

