

U.S. Naturalizations: 2022

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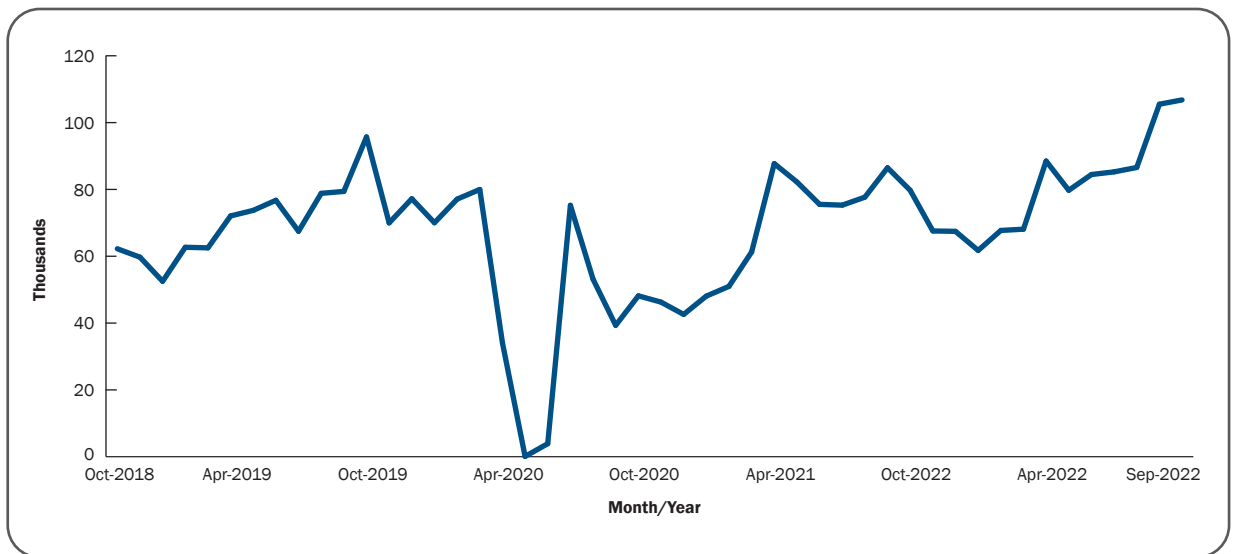
The naturalization process confers U.S. citizenship upon applicants who have fulfilled the requirements established in the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). After naturalization, foreign-born citizens enjoy almost all the same benefits, rights, and responsibilities that the U.S. Constitution gives to U.S. citizens at birth, including the right to vote. The 2022 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 2022.^{1,2,3,4,5,6}

SUMMARY

The number of U.S. naturalizations rose to slightly more than 969,000 persons in 2022, up 19 percent from 814,000 naturalizations in 2021 (Table 1) and up 34 percent up from the 2010–2020 average of 721,000.⁷ The suspension of in-person naturalization services from March 18, 2020 to June 4, 2020 to help slow the spread of Coronavirus Disease-2019 (COVID-19) contributed to the lower number of naturalizations in 2020 (Figure 1). The

Figure 1.

Persons Naturalized by Month: Fiscal Years 2019 to 2022



Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics.

¹ This report was prepared by OHSS, which replaced the Office of Immigration Statistics in September 2023. The OHSS' mission is to provide quality assurance and governance of Department-wide statistical data, support data-driven decision-making, and improve the efficiency and transparency of statistical reporting. The DHS Statistical Official heads OHSS.

² This report includes OHSS' analysis of relevant statutes, policy, and processes to provide background and context for DHS statistical data. The report has been reviewed for accuracy by relevant DHS Components.

³ In this report, "years" refer to fiscal years, which run from October 1 to September 30. Fiscal Year 2022 ran from October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022.

⁴ Numbers in the text of this report are rounded to the nearest thousand; please refer to data tables for precise figures.

⁵ 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 N-400 records, and limited to applicants who are 18 years of age or older, do not represent a complete count of persons who obtained citizenship status during the reporting year.

⁶ The 2022 Yearbook of Immigration Statistics (forthcoming, at time of this report release) and other OHSS reports contain additional context. Not all numbers reported are contained in this report's tables.

⁷ 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.

number of applications for naturalization decreased 1.0 percent, from 789,000 applications in 2021 to 781,000 in 2022, and was down 7.5 percent from the 2010–2020 average of 845,000 applications. The number of naturalizations does not match the number of applications because not all applications are approved, and applications may be filed and adjudicated in different years (Figure 2).⁸ The leading countries of birth of newly naturalized citizens for 2022 were Mexico (129,000), India (66,000), the Philippines (53,000), Cuba (47,000), and the Dominican Republic (35,000) (Table 1). The top three states of residence of persons naturalizing were California (182,000), Texas (106,000), and Florida (106,000) (Table 2).

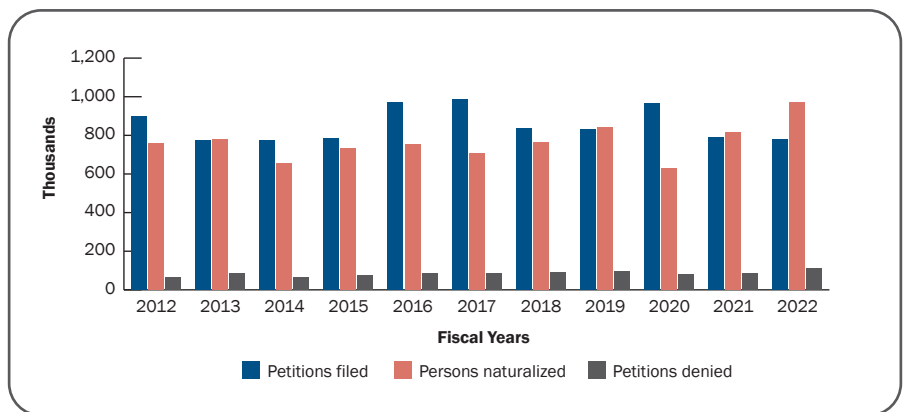
THE NATURALIZATION PROCESS AND REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for naturalization, an applicant must meet statutory and regulatory requirements and file a Form N-400, *Application for Naturalization*, with appropriate documentation. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (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 admission to

Figure 2.

Naturalization Petitions Filed and Application Results: Fiscal Years 2012 to 2022



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

Table 1.

Persons Naturalized by Region and Country of Birth: Fiscal Years 2020 to 2022

(Countries ranked by 2022 persons naturalized)

Region and country of birth	2020		2021		2022	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
REGION						
Total.....	628,254	100.0	813,861	100.0	969,380	100.0
Africa.....	66,450	10.6	76,009	9.3	106,094	10.9
Asia.....	246,215	39.2	295,224	36.3	361,176	37.3
Europe.....	57,410	9.1	77,084	9.5	92,242	9.5
North America.....	204,269	32.5	288,431	35.4	324,409	33.5
Caribbean.....	80,888	12.9	120,601	14.8	132,699	13.7
Central America.....	30,704	4.9	43,379	5.3	49,874	5.1
Other North America.....	92,677	14.8	124,451	15.3	141,836	14.6
Oceania.....	3,393	0.5	4,304	0.5	5,260	0.5
South America.....	50,442	8.0	72,701	8.9	79,982	8.3
Unknown.....	75	0.0	107	0.0	217	0.0
COUNTRY						
Total.....	628,254	100.0	813,861	100.0	969,380	100.0
Mexico.....	84,090	13.4	113,269	13.9	128,878	13.3
India.....	48,111	7.7	57,043	7.0	65,960	6.8
Philippines.....	33,422	5.3	48,478	6.0	53,413	5.5
Cuba.....	31,371	5.0	47,919	5.9	46,913	4.8
Dominican Republic.....	18,675	3.0	28,103	3.5	34,525	3.6
Vietnam.....	22,707	3.6	24,224	3.0	33,246	3.4
China, People's Republic...	26,111	4.2	29,227	3.6	27,038	2.8
Jamaica.....	13,466	2.1	20,716	2.5	22,963	2.4
El Salvador.....	12,606	2.0	18,340	2.3	21,453	2.2
Colombia.....	12,768	2.0	17,539	2.2	18,089	1.9
Pakistan.....	9,975	1.6	12,377	1.5	18,006	1.9
Haiti.....	10,867	1.7	14,882	1.8	18,001	1.9
Iran.....	8,830	1.4	10,798	1.3	15,752	1.6
Korea, South.....	11,350	1.8	14,996	1.8	14,880	1.5
Nigeria.....	8,930	1.4	10,921	1.3	14,438	1.5
Bangladesh.....	6,883	1.1	10,110	1.2	14,177	1.5
Brazil.....	8,323	1.3	12,448	1.5	13,203	1.4
United Kingdom.....	8,842	1.4	11,407	1.4	12,975	1.3
Canada.....	8,423	1.3	10,928	1.3	12,565	1.3
Iraq.....	12,323	2.0	7,695	0.9	11,503	1.2
All other countries, including unknown.....	230,181	36.6	292,441	35.9	371,402	38.3

Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics.

⁸ See 2022 *Yearbook of Immigration Statistics*, Table 20: Applications for Naturalization Filed, Persons Naturalized, and Applications for Naturalization Denied.

citizenship.^{9,10} 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. 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. Special provisions of naturalization law generally exempt spouses of U.S. citizens employed abroad and persons with qualifying military service in the U.S. Armed Forces from some of these requirements.

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, and 721,000 during the 2010s (Figure 3). While naturalizations have gradually increased, annual naturalization levels since the mid-1990s have varied substantially due to

⁹ Children of U.S. citizen parents may obtain citizenship at birth or after birth under 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>. Certain LPRs who are married to U.S. citizens are eligible for naturalization after three years. 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. In addition, certain persons with qualifying military service may be eligible to apply for naturalization without any period of continuous residence in the United States. For more information, please visit <https://www.uscis.gov/military/naturalization-through-military-service> and <https://www.uscis.gov/us-citizenship/citizenship-through-naturalization> for citizenship through military service and naturalization, respectively.

¹⁰ OHSS provides estimates of the LPR population eligible to apply to naturalize. For more information, please visit <https://www.dhs.gov/ohss/topics/immigration/LPR/population-estimates>.

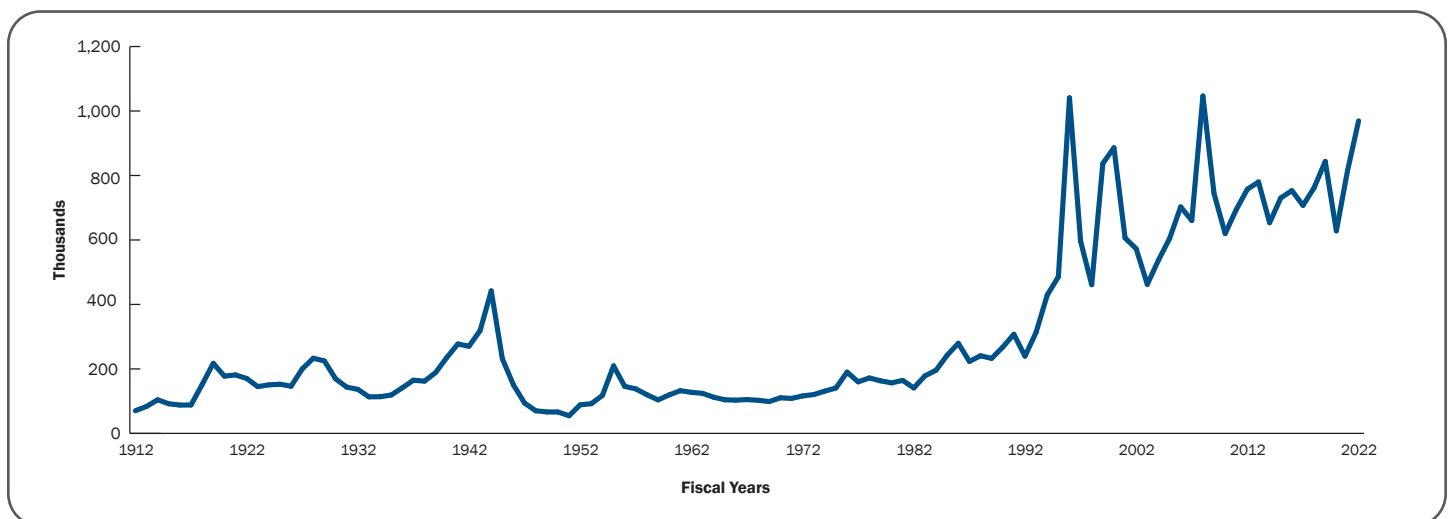
dynamics related to election years, USCIS fee increases, and proposed or actual statutory changes. USCIS was particularly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 because the agency is fee-funded and experienced a budget shortfall following the suspension of in-person services and reduced worldwide travel. Spending reductions impacted all USCIS operations, including naturalizations, which have since risen above pre-pandemic levels. In addition, USCIS suspended in-person naturalization services from March 18, 2020 to June 4, 2020 (Figure 1). Naturalizations began recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021, when total naturalizations rose 30 percent, and continued to rise in 2022, increasing by 19 percent.

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 (Figure 4) and is closely followed by the North American region. While the total number of naturalizations has varied in recent years, the respective regional proportions have remained similar. Naturalizations of those from Africa had the largest increase between 2021 and 2022 (40 percent), followed by naturalizations of those from Asia and Oceania (each 22 percent) (Table 1). Total naturalizations from all regions now exceed those seen in 2019, with naturalizations of applicants from African having the largest increase (25 percent) from 2019 to 2022.

Mexico was the leading country of birth for persons naturalizing in 2022 (13 percent), followed by India (6.8 percent), the Philippines (5.5 percent), Cuba (4.8 percent), and the Dominican Republic (3.6 percent) (Table 1). The top ten countries of origin accounted for 47 percent of all naturalizing citizens in 2022,

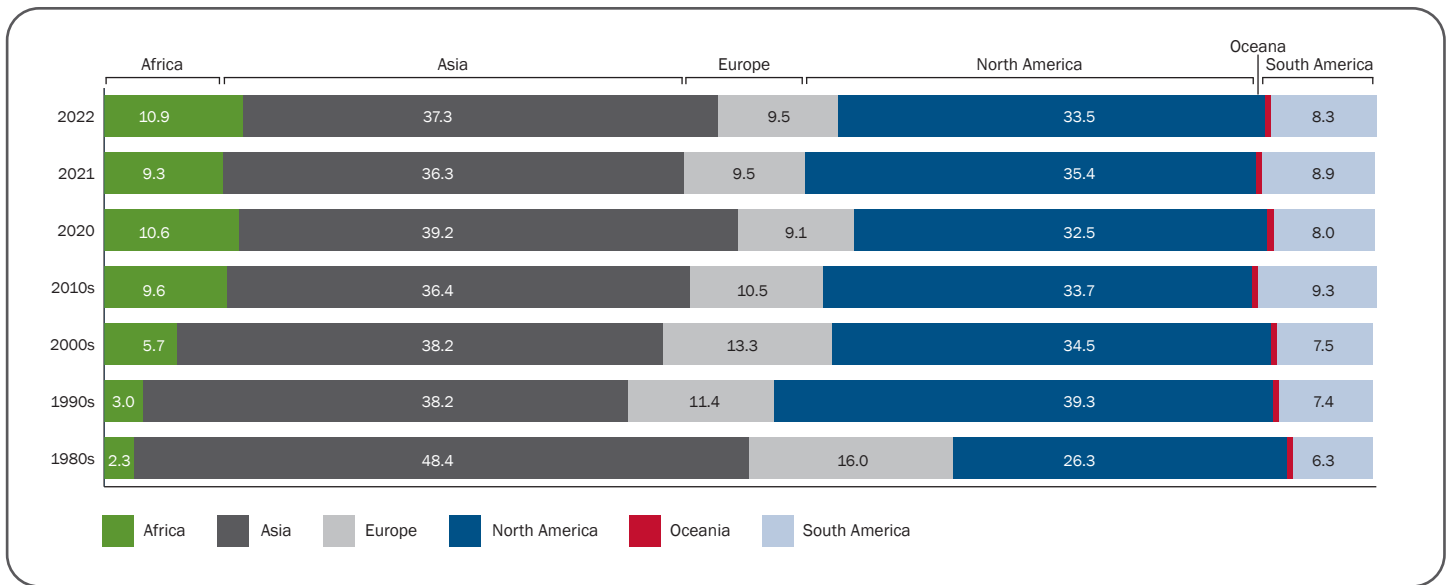
Figure 3.
Persons Naturalized: Fiscal Years 1912 to 2022



Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics.

Figure 4.

Percent of Total Persons Naturalized by Region of Birth: Fiscal Years 2020 to 2022 and Select Earlier Decades



Note: Oceania has an average value of 0.5 percent over the last five-year period. Africa had a value of 0.5 percent in 1966.
Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics.

slightly less than in 2021. The largest numeric increase in naturalizations of top ten countries of origins between 2021 and 2022 occurred among immigrants born in Mexico (15,000), Vietnam (9,000), and India (9,000). The largest percentage increase in naturalizations among the top ten countries between 2021 and 2022 was experienced by immigrants born in Iran (46 percent), Pakistan (45 percent), and Vietnam (37 percent). Of all countries of origin with more than 1,000 persons naturalized, Syria saw the largest percentage increase of 177 percent to 10,000 persons naturalized, Afghanistan saw a 164 percent increase to 11,000, and the Democratic Republic of Congo saw a 94 percent increase to 6,000.

Leading States and Metropolitan Areas of Residence

In 2022, 726,000 naturalized citizens (75 percent) resided in just ten states. California was home to the largest number of naturalized citizens with 182,000 (19 percent of the total), up 5.9 percent from 172,000 in 2021; Texas followed with 106,000 (11 percent), up 38 percent from 77,000 in 2021; and Florida with 106,000 (11 percent), down 3.4 percent from 109,000 in 2021 (Table 2). Of the top ten states of residence in 2022, the largest percentage increases of persons who became naturalized citizens between 2021 and 2022 occurred in Georgia (73 percent), Washington (59 percent), and Illinois (43 percent).

Table 2.

Persons Naturalized by State of Residence: Fiscal Years 2020 to 2022

(States ranked by 2022 persons naturalized)

State of residence	2020		2021		2022	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	628,254	100.0	813,861	100.0	969,380	100.0
California	112,738	17.9	171,863	21.1	181,995	18.8
Texas	66,942	10.7	77,025	9.5	106,123	10.9
Florida	78,641	12.5	109,235	13.4	105,528	10.9
New York	56,273	9.0	89,989	11.1	104,052	10.7
New Jersey	22,185	3.5	39,953	4.9	54,952	5.7
Illinois	19,835	3.2	22,684	2.8	32,519	3.4
Washington	15,969	2.5	19,511	2.4	31,041	3.2
Georgia	18,694	3.0	16,476	2.0	28,440	2.9
Virginia	17,360	2.8	20,732	2.5	27,324	2.8
Massachusetts	20,367	3.2	24,085	3.0	27,008	2.8
Other*	270,398	27.9	222,308	27.3	199,250	31.7

* Includes unknown, U.S. territories, and U.S. armed forces posts.
Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics.

Fifty-one percent of all persons who naturalized in 2022 lived in ten metropolitan areas (Table 3).¹¹ The leading metropolitan areas were New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA, with 143,000 persons (15 percent of the total), up 23 percent from 116,000 in 2021; Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL with 63,000 persons (6.5 percent), down 7.8 percent from 69,000 persons in 2021; and Los Angeles-Long Beach-

¹¹ The most current Core-Based Statistical Area (CBSA) definitions are available from OMB at <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/metro-micro.html>.

Table 3.**Persons Naturalized by Core Based Statistical Area of Residence: Fiscal Years 2020 to 2022**

(CBSAs ranked by 2022 persons naturalized)

Metropolitan area of residence	2020		2021		2022	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	628,254	100.0	813,861	100.0	969,380	100.0
New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA	68,933	11.0	116,201	14.3	142,448	14.7
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL	52,921	8.4	68,880	8.5	63,483	6.5
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA	43,381	6.9	80,727	9.9	60,370	6.2
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX	21,462	3.4	24,369	3.0	44,577	4.6
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV	26,306	4.2	30,089	3.7	37,444	3.9
San Francisco-Oakland-Berkeley, CA	23,479	3.7	21,909	2.7	35,329	3.6
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	22,371	3.6	26,151	3.2	32,842	3.4
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI	18,588	3.0	21,729	2.7	30,466	3.1
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA	12,947	2.1	15,040	1.8	24,237	2.5
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Alpharetta, GA	16,046	2.6	13,522	1.7	23,915	2.5
Other, including unknown	474,269	48.9	395,244	48.6	321,820	51.2

Notes: Metropolitan areas defined based on the 2022 update of CBSA definitions. As a result, numbers for previous years may differ from previously published figures.
Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics.

2021. The largest numeric increase among metropolitan areas of residence for naturalized citizens occurred in New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA (an increase of 26,000) and Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX (an increase of 20,000). Of the top ten metropolitan areas of residence for naturalized citizens in 2022, the largest percentage increases from 2021 occurred in Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX (83 percent), Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Alpharetta (77 percent), and San Francisco-Oakland-Berkeley, CA (61 percent).

Sex, Age, and Marital Status

Naturalization proportions by sex, age, and marital status varied only very slightly between 2020 and 2021 (Tables 4, 5, and 6, respectively). In 2022, females accounted for the majority of naturalizations (54 percent), essentially unchanged from 2020 and 2021 (Figure 5). The median age for newly naturalized adults is 40 in 2022, a year younger than in 2020 and 2021.¹² Half of newly naturalized adults (51 percent) were ages 25 to 44 years, unchanged from 2020 and 2021. Twenty-two percent were ages 55 years and older, also unchanged from 2020 and 2021, and 9.2 percent were ages 18 to 24 years, up from 7.4 percent in 2021 (Figure 5). Sixty-five percent of individuals naturalizing in 2022 were married, similar to as in 2020 and 2021, and 22 percent were single, a slight increase from 2021 (Table 6).

¹² This report excludes data on children acquiring citizenship based on the citizenship of a parent; see footnote 5.

Table 4.**Persons Naturalized by Sex: Fiscal Years 2020 to 2022**

Sex	2020		2021		2022	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	628,254	100.0	813,861	100.0	969,380	100.0
Female	348,333	55.4	456,025	56.0	526,024	54.3
Male	279,832	44.5	357,768	44.0	443,325	45.7
Unknown	89	0.0	68	0.0	31	0.0

Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics.

Table 5.**Persons Naturalized by Age: Fiscal Years 2020 to 2022**

Age	2020		2021		2022	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	628,254	100.0	813,861	100.0	969,380	100.0
18 to 24 years	51,421	8.2	60,056	7.4	88,945	9.2
25 to 34 years	149,900	23.9	190,634	23.4	230,507	23.8
35 to 44 years	171,844	27.4	225,886	27.8	259,294	26.7
45 to 54 years	115,667	18.4	156,454	19.2	175,118	18.1
55 to 64 years	80,548	12.8	109,131	13.4	124,644	12.9
65 years and over	58,874	9.4	71,700	8.8	90,872	9.4
Median age (years)	41	X	41	X	40	X

X Not applicable.

Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics.

Table 6.**Persons Naturalized by Marital Status: Fiscal Years 2020 to 2022**

Marital status	2020		2021		2022	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	628,254	100.0	813,861	100.0	969,380	100.0
Married	411,725	65.5	543,627	66.8	632,089	65.2
Single	131,044	20.9	164,532	20.2	210,222	21.7
Other*	85,485	13.6	105,702	13.0	127,069	13.1

*Includes persons who were divorced, separated, widowed, or of unknown marital status.

Source: DHS Office of Immigration Statistics.

Years in Immigrant Status

Persons naturalizing in 2022 spent a median of seven years in LPR status before becoming U.S. citizens, the same as 2021 and 2020, and down from eight years in 2017–2019 (Table 7). This decrease is a return to levels observed in 2012–2016. Of those naturalizing in 2022, immigrants born in Africa and Asia spent the least number of years in LPR status (six years), followed by South America (seven years), Europe (eight years), and North America, and Oceania (ten years), the ordering largely unchanged over the last decade. Those from Europe, North America, and Oceania who naturalized in 2022 had overall more time spent in LPR status than those naturalizing in 2021, and those from Asia who naturalized in 2022 had overall less time spent in LPR status than those naturalizing in 2021.

DATA

This report is based on data from USCIS administrative records of new U.S. citizens who naturalized in 2022. These records consist of information taken from Form N-400 applications, such as the date and country of birth, sex, marital status, and state of residence.¹³ The Electronic Immigration System (ELIS) provided more than 99 percent of the data while the Central Index System provided 0.5 percent.

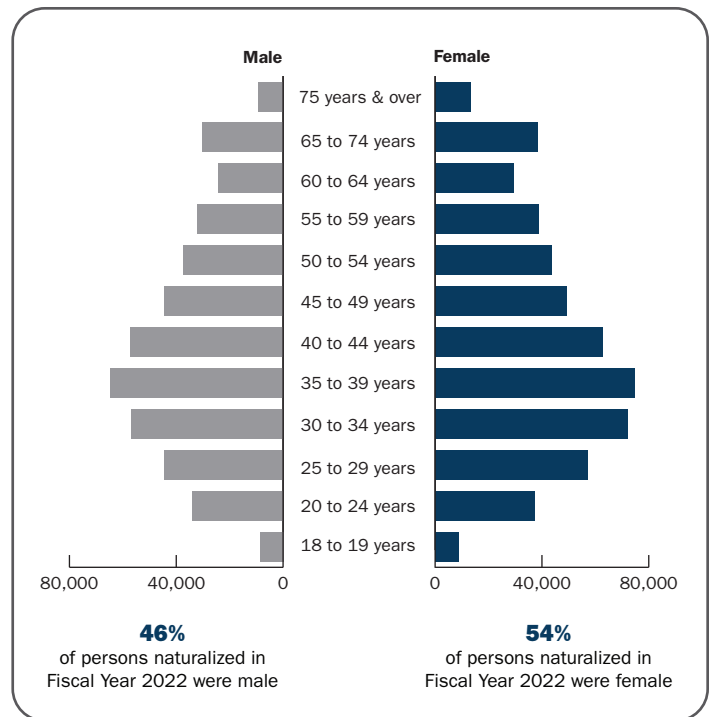
FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about immigration and immigration statistics, visit the web page at <http://ohss.dhs.gov>.

¹³ A lawful permanent resident becomes a naturalized U.S. citizen only after the oath ceremony.

Figure 5.

Naturalizations by Age and Sex: Fiscal Year 2022



Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics.

Table 7.

Median Years in Lawful Permanent Resident Status for Persons Naturalized by Region of Birth and Year of Naturalization: Fiscal Years 2013 to 2022

Region of birth	Fiscal Year									
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total	7	7	7	7	8	8	8	7	7	7
Africa	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Asia	6	6	6	6	6	7	7	6	7	6
Europe	7	8	9	9	9	9	9	8	8	8
North America	10	10	10	10	11	11	11	10	9	10
Caribbean	9	9	9	9	10	9	9	8	7	8
Central America	10	10	10	10	11	11	11	10	10	10
Other North America	11	12	11	11	14	15	13	13	11	12
Oceania	8	9	9	10	10	10	10	10	9	10
South America	6	7	7	7	8	8	8	7	7	7

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

Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics.