The U.S. Immigration System
2016 Naturalizations

The naturalization process confers U.S. citizenship upon foreign citizens or nationals who have fulfilled the requirements established by Congress in the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). After naturalization, foreign-born citizens enjoy nearly all of the same benefits, rights, and responsibilities that the Constitution gives to native-born U.S. citizens, including the right to vote. Naturalization numbers presented include form N-400 applicants, ages 18 and up, and do not include persons under the age of 18 who derived citizenship. This graphic provides information for persons who naturalized in Fiscal Year 2016.

NATURALIZATIONS OVER TIME

753,060 persons naturalized in Fiscal Year 2016.

87,831 persons naturalized in Fiscal Year 1916.

Asia overtakes Europe as the largest region of origin for naturalizations.

Spike in naturalizations partially as a result of LPRs legalized under the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) becoming eligible to naturalize.

TOP 5 COUNTRIES OF BIRTH

Mexico | 13.8%  
India | 6.1%  
Philippines | 5.5%  
China | 4.8%  
Cuba | 4.3%

55.8% of persons naturalized in 2016 were female and 44.2% were male.

TIME TO NATURALIZATION

Persons naturalizing in Fiscal Year 2016 spent a median of 7 Years in lawful permanent resident (LPR) status before becoming citizens, unchanged from the previous four years.

TOP 5 STATES OF RESIDENCE

California 20.2%  
New York 12.4%  
Florida 11.8%  
Texas 8.5%  
New Jersey 5.4%