The naturalization process confers U.S. citizenship upon foreign citizens or nationals who have fulfilled the requirements established by the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). After naturalization, foreign-born citizens enjoy nearly all of the same benefits, rights, and responsibilities that the Constitution protects for native-born U.S. citizens, including the right to vote. This graphic provides information for adults ages 18 and up who naturalized in Fiscal Year 2017; the graphic does not include information on persons under the age of 18 who derived citizenship from the naturalization of a parent.

**NATURALIZATIONS OVER TIME**

- 88,104 persons naturalized in Fiscal Year 1917.
- 707,265 persons naturalized in Fiscal Year 2017.

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 16.8%
- India 7.2%
- China 5.3%
- Philippines 5.2%
- Dominican Republic 4.2%

56% of persons naturalized in 2017 were female and 44% were male.

**TIME TO NATURALIZATION**

Persons naturalizing in Fiscal Year 2017 spent a median of 8 Years in lawful permanent resident (LPR) status before becoming citizens.

- North America: 11 Years
- Oceania: 10 Years
- Europe: 9 Years
- South America: 8 Years
- Africa: 6 Years
- Asia: 6 Years

**TOP 5 STATES OF RESIDENCE**

- California 22.2%
- New York 12.2%
- Florida 9.8%
- Texas 7.1%
- New Jersey 5.5%