



ILCM Fact Sheet: Temporary Protected Status (TPS)

(Current as of March 13, 2023)

What is Temporary Protected Status?

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) is an immigration status which provides recipients with an 18-month authorization to live in the United States and offers a work permit for people from designated foreign countries that have been impacted by a natural disaster, armed conflict, or other extraordinary circumstances. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has the sole authority to designate and then renew or re-designate a country for TPS.

TPS is a *temporary* status, granted because conditions in the home country prevent safe return of that country's nationals living in the United States, or because the home country *temporarily* is unable to accept their return. For some of the designated countries, TPS has been extended year after year when country conditions have not improved, so that many TPS holders have lived in the United States for decades, with strong ties to work, families, and communities.

- TPS has been granted to residents of [27 countries and the province of Kosovo](#) since it was created by Congress in the Immigration Act of 1990.
- Only DHS can grant or extend TPS, but Congress could create a pathway to permanent residence for people with TPS
- As of February 16, 2022, there were an [estimated 354,625 people with TPS living in the United States](#). In addition, approximately 145,800 people may be eligible for TPS under three designations announced by the Biden administration in March and April of 2022.
- Here is the list of [current designations and end dates](#).

How does TPS work?

- TPS is granted, ended, or changed by DHS. Granting TPS is entirely within the discretion of the Department of Homeland Security. TPS is granted for three reasons: ongoing armed conflict (such as civil war); an environmental disaster (such as earthquake or hurricane), or an epidemic; other extraordinary and temporary conditions.
- TPS is a temporary status, granted because conditions in the home country prevent safe return of that country's nationals living in the United States, or because the home country temporarily is unable to accept their return. TPS has been extended year after year when country conditions have not improved, so that many TPS holders have lived in the United States for decades, with strong ties to work, families, and communities

- TPS applies only to people who are already inside the United States—it cannot be used to apply for entry to the United States.
- TPS is not automatic. People must apply, pay a filing fee, and pass immigration screening.

Contributions to U.S. Society and Economy

The Center for Migration Studies analyzed the TPS beneficiaries from Haiti, Honduras, and El Salvador and found:

- The labor force participation rate of the TPS population from the three nations ranges from 81 to 88 percent, which is well above the rate for the total U.S. population (63 percent) and the foreign-born population (66 percent).
- Roughly 30 percent own homes in the United States.
- About 68,000, or 22 percent, of the TPS population from these nations arrived as children under the age of 16.
- TPS beneficiaries from these nations have 273,000 U.S. citizen children.
- More than one-half of El Salvadoran and Honduran, and 16 percent of the Haitian TPS beneficiaries have resided in the United States for 20 years or more.
- Eighty-seven percent of the TPS population from these countries speaks at least some English, and slightly over one-half speak English well, very well, or only speak English.
- About 27,000, or 11 percent, of those in the labor force are self-employed, having created jobs for themselves and likely for others as well.

For more information:

- [Temporary Protected Status](#) (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website)
- [Temporary Protected Status](#) (U.S. Department of Justice Executive Office for Immigration Review website)
- [A Statistical and Demographic Profile of the US Temporary Protected Status Populations from El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti](#) (Center for Migration Studies, 2017)
- [Temporary Protected Status: An Overview](#) (American Immigration Council)