

Tennessee Demographics

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Tennessee (2021)*

- ❖ Total foreign-born population – 370,765
- ❖ 5.3% of the state's ~ 7 million people are foreign born
 - 40.7% naturalized citizens
 - 29% legal permanent residents (as of 2019)
 - 30.3% temporary visa holders or undocumented immigrants
- 133.2% rise in immigrant population from 2000 to 2021
- ❖ Length of time immigrants have lived in the U.S.
 - 34.4% entered before 1999
 - 26.5% entered 2000 - 2009
 - 39.1% since 2010
- ❖ 13.5% of children under age 18 have one or more immigrant parents
 - 84.8% of these children are native-born U.S. citizens

**Source: Migration Policy Institute Data Hub (November, 2023) and Lawful Permanent Resident estimates MPI and DHS (2022)*

Tennessee – Countries/Regions of Origin & Limited English Proficiency (LEP)(2021)*

- ❖ Latin America – 47.2%
 - ❖ Mexico (22.4%)
 - ❖ Other Central America (16.4%)
 - ❖ South America (5.1%)
- ❖ Asia – 23.6%
 - ❖ Southeastern Asia (8.4%)
 - ❖ India (6.6%)
 - ❖ Eastern Asia (6%)
- ❖ Europe – 9.8%
- ❖ Africa – 11.9%
- ❖ Middle East – 4.2%
- ❖ Canada – 2.8%
- ❖ Oceania – 0.6%
- ❖ Language spoken
 - ❖ 7.5% of people in the state who speak a language other than English at home
 - ❖ 47% of foreign-born persons are LEP - speak English less than “very well”

**Source: Migration Policy Institute Data Hub (November, 2023)*

Tennessee - Languages Spoken at Home (2021)*

- ❖ Spanish (285,227)
- ❖ Arabic (30,602)
- ❖ German (12,545)
- ❖ Chinese (including Mandarin, Cantonese) (12,376)
- ❖ French (including Cajun) (10,258)
- ❖ Hindi (10,091)
- ❖ Vietnamese (10,027)
- ❖ Thai, Lao, or Other Tai-Kadai Languages (8,108)
- ❖ Tagalog (including Filipino) (8,056)
- ❖ Swahili or Other Languages of Central, Eastern, and Southern Africa (7,889)
- ❖ Amharic, Somali, or Other Afro-Asiatic Languages (6,560)
- ❖ Yiddish, Pennsylvania Dutch, or Other West Germanic Languages (6,550)
- ❖ Yoruba, Twi, Igbo, or Other Languages of Western Africa (6,332)
- ❖ Korean (5,227)
- ❖ Nepali, Marathi, or Other Indic Languages (5,127)
- ❖ Telugu (5,123)
- ❖ Russian (4,803)

Tennessee - LEP (2021)*

- ❖ Limited English Proficiency (Speak English less than very well)
 - ❖ Naturalized citizens – 32.9%
 - ❖ Noncitizens – 56.8%
- ❖ Limited English Proficiency by language spoken at home
 - ❖ Vietnamese (71.2%)
 - ❖ Swahili or Other Languages of Central, Eastern, and Southern Africa (50.1%)
 - ❖ Thai, Lao, or Other Tai-Kadai Languages (49%)
 - ❖ Spanish (48.3%)
 - ❖ Arabic (43.8%)
 - ❖ Chinese (including Mandarin, Cantonese) (42.9%)
 - ❖ Hindi (29.1%)
 - ❖ German (28.7%)
 - ❖ Tagalog (including Filipino) (27.2%)
 - ❖ French (including Cajun) (21.8%)