

# Temporary Protected Status protects families *while also boosting the U.S. economy*

New analysis finds that TPS helps protect hundreds of thousands of families while also filling worker shortage gaps in the U.S. workforce.

The Biden administration should further expand TPS to protect more families and strengthen the U.S. economy even more this year.

**FEBRUARY 2024**



Temporary Protected Status provides significant protections for families, allowing them to improve their economic condition, keep their families together, and more fully participate in their local communities.

**New FWD.us estimates, based on analysis of census and other government data, show that hundreds of thousands living in the U.S. today are currently eligible for [Temporary Protected Status](#) (TPS), a form of immigration relief that provides work authorization and deportation protections for those whose home countries are very unsafe for return. These TPS-eligible individuals, who include current TPS holders, live with more than 400,000 U.S. citizen children, and more than 500,000 U.S. citizen adults.**

TPS-eligible individuals are also boosting the economy. **Some 380,000 TPS-eligible people in the labor force are working in industries with persistent labor shortages**, including 100,000 in accommodation and food services, 90,000 in business services, 50,000 in healthcare services, and 50,000 in other services.

Since Congress established TPS more than three decades ago, TPS recipients have used the program's work authorization to support themselves and to contribute enormously to the U.S. workforce and economy. For example: **some 86% of TPS holders from El Salvador and 83% from Honduras—all of whom have lived in the U.S. for more than 20 years—participate in the labor force.** These labor force participation rates of long-term TPS holders are considerably higher than the U.S. labor force overall ([about 63%](#)), and are on par with the U.S. labor force in their prime working years of 25 to 54 years old ([about 83%](#)). In all, **TPS-eligible individuals contribute nearly \$31 billion annually to the U.S. economy.**

TPS country	Geography	Eligible population	U.S. citizen children living with TPS individuals	U.S. citizen adults living with TPS individuals	Working in labor-short industries	Annual economic contribution
TPS-ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS						
AFGHANISTAN TPS-eligible individuals	living in the U.S.	87,000	2,000	6,000	6,000	\$1.5 billion
BURMA (MYANMAR) TPS-eligible individuals	living in the U.S.	9,000	5,000	8,000	2,000	\$234 million
CAMEROON TPS-eligible individuals	living in the U.S.	11,000	7,000	8,000	5,000	\$217 million
EL SALVADOR TPS-eligible individuals	living in the U.S.	185,000	141,000	140,000	79,000	\$5.0 billion
	living in California	43,000	31,000	38,000	19,000	\$1.2 billion
	living in Maryland	19,000	11,000	11,000	8,000	\$558 million
	living in New York	11,000	7,000	11,000	6,000	\$335 million
	living in Texas	36,000	24,000	29,000	16,000	\$850 million
	living in Virginia	16,000	12,000	11,000	6,000	\$457 million
ETHIOPIA TPS-eligible individuals	living in the U.S.	56,000	33,000	46,000	15,000	\$1.3 billion
HAITI TPS-eligible individuals	living in the U.S.	308,000	87,000	116,000	75,000	\$4.4 billion
	living in Florida	164,000	53,000	61,000	48,000	\$2.1 billion
	living in New York	19,000	7,000	15,000	8,000	\$316 million
HONDURAS TPS-eligible individuals	living in the U.S.	55,000	35,000	33,000	18,000	\$1.4 billion
	living in Florida	9,000	4,000	4,000	3,000	\$173 million
	living in Texas	11,000	9,000	7,000	3,000	\$211 million
NEPAL TPS-eligible individuals	living in the U.S.	19,000	10,000	13,000	9,000	\$779 million
NICARAGUA TPS-eligible individuals	living in the U.S.	8,000	4,000	9,000	4,000	\$214 million
SOMALIA TPS-eligible individuals	living in the U.S.	2,000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
SOUTH SUDAN TPS-eligible individuals	living in the U.S.	1,000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
SUDAN TPS-eligible individuals	living in the U.S.	4,000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
SYRIA TPS-eligible individuals	living in the U.S.	4,000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UKRAINE TPS-eligible individuals	living in the U.S.	165,000	17,000	38,000	19,000	\$3.7 billion
VENEZUELA TPS-eligible individuals	living in the U.S.	730,000	54,000	80,000	143,000	\$11.5 billion
YEMEN TPS-eligible individuals	living in the U.S.	10,000	5,000	6,000	1,000	\$228 million

Note: Population estimates based on FWD.us analysis of 2022 American Community Survey and other governmental data, as of September 30, 2023. N/A indicates insufficient data to provide an estimate. Labor-shortage industries had 4% or more of its jobs open January through September 2023. Estimated economic contribution is disposable income after payment of federal, state, and local taxes, upwardly adjusted for average increase of wages between 2022 and 2023.

**Many more individuals in the U.S., however, need protection from being deported to countries where their lives would be at risk.** For example, current TPS countries in [Central America](#) like [El Salvador](#), [Honduras](#), and [Nicaragua](#), as well as [Nepal](#) and [Haiti](#), continue to face unsafe and deteriorating conditions. However, because TPS designations for these countries were issued up to 20 years ago, individuals who have arrived since then are ineligible to apply. The U.S. should redesignate TPS so that people who have been forced to flee these countries over the past two decades are able to access relief. Additionally, the Biden administration should provide a new TPS designation for [Guatemala](#), which faces similar deteriorating conditions as its Central American neighbors. Last, it is imperative that the U.S. extend TPS protections to nations in Africa facing armed conflict and humanitarian emergencies, including the [Democratic Republic of the Congo](#), [Mali](#), and [Mauritania](#). All these countries meet statutory requirements for TPS, with armed conflicts, natural disasters, and/or humanitarian crises.

**If all the countries named above were (re)designated for TPS in 2024, nearly 900,000 U.S. citizen additional children and more than 500,000 U.S. citizen additional adults living with TPS potential individuals could remain together, safe from family separation from deportation.**

**This combined group of immigrants from all countries listed above and potentially eligible for TPS already contributes more than \$50 billion to the U.S. economy annually,** despite the fact that they are undocumented and work in the informal economy. **With work authorization available through TPS, if granted, they could contribute an estimated \$5 billion more each year to the U.S. economy.** Work authorization available through TPS would also enable TPS-potential individuals to work in higher-paying jobs and give them the career flexibility to meet labor demands in short-handed industries.

Providing formal work authorization would allow these individuals to contribute to industries struggling to fill critically needed open jobs. **Nearly 600,000 of this combined group already work in industries that have been experiencing historic and persistent labor shortages during the past year,** including nearly 200,000 in accommodation and food services, 180,000 in business services, 40,000 in healthcare services, and 90,000 in other services. But with work authorizations, more people could shift to industries with the greatest needs.

TPS country	Geography	Eligible population	U.S. citizen children living with TPS individuals	U.S. citizen adults living with TPS individuals	Working in labor-short industries	Annual economic contribution
TPS-POTENTIAL INDIVIDUALS						
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO TPS-potential individuals	living in the U.S.	17,000	12,000	8,000	1,000	\$86 million
EL SALVADOR TPS-potential individuals	living in the U.S.	525,000	298,000	160,000	129,000	\$10.9 billion
	living in California	86,000	37,000	41,000	24,000	\$1.9 billion
	living in Florida	44,000	14,000	6,000	8,000	\$831 million
	living in Georgia	10,000	11,000	5,000	3,000	\$219 million
	living in Maryland	58,000	36,000	12,000	17,000	\$1.2 billion
	living in New Jersey	23,000	12,000	7,000	6,000	\$266 million
	living in New York	29,000	24,000	17,000	8,000	\$655 million
	living in North Carolina	16,000	12,000	4,000	5,000	\$372 million
	living in Texas	139,000	62,000	35,000	25,000	\$2.6 billion
	living in Virginia	39,000	33,000	13,000	12,000	\$903 million

GUATEMALA TPS-potential individuals	living in the U.S.	1,000,000	342,000	204,000	211,000	\$18.3 billion
	living in Alabama	13,000	7,000	5,000	3,000	\$216 million
	living in Arizona	14,000	2,000	3,000	2,000	\$320 million
	living in California	132,000	59,000	50,000	31,000	\$2.6 billion
	living in Connecticut	44,000	5,000	3,000	19,000	\$872 million
	living in Florida	137,000	35,000	14,000	37,000	\$2.5 billion
	living in Georgia	55,000	23,000	10,000	12,000	\$1.1 billion
	living in Maryland	52,000	18,000	8,000	7,000	\$1.0 billion
	living in Massachusetts	16,000	6,000	5,000	5,000	\$315 million
	living in Michigan	18,000	4,000	3,000	1,000	\$103 million
	living in New Jersey	43,000	20,000	12,000	13,000	\$957 million
	living in New York	34,000	19,000	14,000	13,000	\$690 million
	living in North Carolina	35,000	13,000	5,000	4,000	\$652 million
	living in Pennsylvania	11,000	4,000	4,000	3,000	\$130 million
	living in South Carolina	16,000	6,000	1,000	2,000	\$219 million
	living in Tennessee	21,000	13,000	6,000	6,000	\$318 million
	living in Texas	191,000	29,000	14,000	21,000	\$3.5 billion
	living in Virginia	25,000	9,000	6,000	4,000	\$524 million
HAITI TPS-potential individuals	living in the U.S.	169,000	10,000	13,000	n/a	n/a
	living in Florida	77,000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
HONDURAS TPS-potential individuals	living in the U.S.	753,000	221,000	101,000	100,000	\$14.5 billion
	living in California	34,000	17,000	10,000	8,000	\$708 million
	living in Florida	81,000	22,000	14,000	13,000	\$1.4 billion
	living in Georgia	27,000	10,000	3,000	3,000	\$443 million
	living in Louisiana	58,000	12,000	3,000	4,000	\$1.3 billion
	living in Maryland	35,000	13,000	3,000	6,000	\$727 million
	living in New Jersey	26,000	11,000	4,000	6,000	\$552 million
	living in New York	22,000	13,000	10,000	4,000	\$469 million
	living in North Carolina	61,000	15,000	6,000	6,000	\$1.2 billion
	living in Tennessee	17,000	7,000	1,000	2,000	\$341 million
	living in Texas	245,000	54,000	25,000	30,000	\$4.8 billion
	living in Virginia	32,000	11,000	7,000	6,000	\$594 million
MALI TPS-potential individuals	living in the U.S.	3,000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
MAURITANIA TPS-potential individuals	living in the U.S.	3,000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
NEPAL TPS-potential individuals	living in the U.S.	17,000	10,000	14,000	4,000	\$261 million
NICARAGUA TPS-potential individuals	living in the U.S.	386,000	27,000	36,000	47,000	\$4.9 billion
	living in Arizona	20,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	\$185 million
	living in California	40,000	4,000	7,000	9,000	\$509 million
	living in Florida	141,000	8,000	15,000	19,000	\$1.6 billion
	living in Texas	54,000	5,000	3,000	3,000	\$1.1 billion
	living in Virginia	27,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	\$164 million
	living in Wisconsin	23,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	\$487 million

Note: Population estimates based on FWD.us analysis of 2022 American Community Survey and other governmental data, as of September 30, 2023. N/A indicates insufficient data to provide an estimate. Labor-shortage industries had 4% or more of its jobs open January through September 2023. Estimated economic contribution is disposable income after payment of federal, state, and local taxes, upwardly adjusted for average increase of wages between 2022 and 2023.

### ***Terminology for TPS Population Groups***

<b>TPS-eligible individuals:</b>	TPS holders plus those eligible for TPS but may have not applied or have an application being processed.
<b>TPS-potential individuals:</b>	Additional TPS individuals who could be eligible with the designation of new countries or redesignation of current countries with new arrival dates as outlined in this report.

## **TPS provides lifesaving relief for those whose home countries are very unsafe**

Congress established the Temporary Protected Status program as part of the [Immigration Act of 1990](#). TPS is currently administered by [U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services](#) (USCIS), under the Department of Homeland Security.

Since TPS was established, new designations have been issued 33 times by Republican and Democratic presidents, including six times during the George H.W. Bush administration, ten times during the Clinton administration, twice during the George W. Bush administration, seven times during the Obama administration, and eight times so far during the Biden administration.

Immigrants can apply for TPS if Congress or the Secretary of Homeland Security [issues a designation](#) that "conditions in the country temporarily prevent the country's nationals from returning safely." Many TPS recipients originally entered the U.S. as temporary immigrants or visitors, individuals seeking humanitarian relief, or without immigration status.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS,  
SEE OUR [TPS BLOG: 5 THINGS TO KNOW](#).**

Upon registration with and approval by [USCIS](#), TPS holders are protected from deportation and can receive work authorization. Only individuals already in the U.S. when a designation is announced are eligible to receive TPS. The program is not a substitute for refugee or asylum protections, which provide permanent relief to individuals who are actively fleeing dangerous conditions and need to permanently resettle; TPS is instead a temporary relief for individuals who are already in the U.S. and who cannot safely return home.

Many TPS holders have lived in the United States for many years, setting down roots and [building families](#) here. As a result, many TPS recipients are deeply ingrained into American families and communities. Whether these families will be able to remain safe and together is inextricably bound to their loved ones' TPS protections.

## Timeline of Historic TPS Designations by Presidential Administration and Date

Presidential Administration	Date of Initial Designation	Country	Status	Count of Redesignations & Extensions <sup>2</sup>	Date of Termination
George H.W. Bush	November 29, 1990	El Salvador	Terminated	0	January 1, 1999
	March 27, 1991	Kuwait	Terminated	0	March 27, 1992
	March 27, 1991	Lebanon	Terminated	1	April 9, 1993
	March 27, 1991	Liberia	Terminated	6	September 28, 1999
	September 16, 1991	Somalia	Active	24	September 17, 2024 <sup>3</sup>
	August 10, 1992	Bosnia-Herzegovina	Terminated	7	February 10, 2001
Bill Clinton	August 27, 1997	Montserrat	Terminated	5	August 27, 2004
	November 4, 1997	Burundi	Terminated	9	May 2, 2009
	November 4, 1997	Sudan	Active <sup>1</sup>	16	November 2, 2018
	June 9, 1998	Kosovo	Terminated	2	December 8, 2000
	January 5, 1999	Honduras	Active <sup>1</sup>	15	July 5, 2025
	January 5, 1999	Nicaragua	Active <sup>1</sup>	15	July 5, 2025
	March 11, 1999	Guinea-Bissau	Terminated	1	September 10, 2000
	March 29, 2000	Angola	Terminated	2	March 29, 2003
George W. Bush	March 9, 2001	El Salvador	Active <sup>1</sup>	13	March 9, 2025
	October 1, 2002	Liberia	Terminated	5	October 1, 2007
	June 7, 2004	Rwanda	Terminated	4	December 6, 1997
	November 21, 2004	Sierra Leone	Terminated	2	May 21, 2017
Barack Obama	January 21, 2010	Haiti	Active <sup>1</sup>	6	August 3, 2024
	October 13, 2011	South Sudan	Active	7	November 3, 2023 <sup>3</sup>
	March 29, 2012	Syria	Active	7	March 31, 2024 <sup>3</sup>
	November 21, 2014	Guinea	Terminated	1	May 21, 2017
	November 21, 2014	Liberia	Terminated	2	May 21, 2017
	June 24, 2015	Nepal	Active <sup>1</sup>	2	June 24, 2025
	September 3, 2015	Yemen	Active	5	September 3, 2024 <sup>3</sup>
Joe Biden	March 9, 2021	Venezuela	Active	2	April 2, 2025 <sup>3</sup>
	May 25, 2021	Burma (Myanmar)	Active	1	May 25, 2024 <sup>3</sup>
	August 3, 2021	Haiti	Active	1	August 3, 2024 <sup>3</sup>
	April 19, 2022	Sudan	Active	2	April 19, 2025 <sup>3</sup>
	April 19, 2022	Ukraine	Active	1	April 19, 2025 <sup>3</sup>
	May 20, 2022	Afghanistan	Active	1	May 20, 2025 <sup>3</sup>
	June 7, 2022	Cameroon	Active	1	June 7, 2025 <sup>3</sup>
	December 12, 2022	Ethiopia	Active	0	June 12, 2024 <sup>3</sup>

Source: Department of Justice, "Temporary Protected Status," <https://www.justice.gov/eoir/temporary-protected-status>.

1. These designations were previously terminated, yet court injunctions prevented terminations from taking effect, and DHS extended the validity of all TPS-related documents for beneficiaries of TPS for El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Nepal, Nicaragua, and Sudan. DHS subsequently issued new designations for Haiti and Sudan; DHS has also rescinded the terminations for El Salvador, Honduras, Nepal and Nicaragua, and announced extensions for those countries.
2. Counts of redesignations and extensions include only formal redesignations and extensions of the TPS designation, but do not include automatic extensions of documentation or benefits.
3. For countries with active designations, we have listed the date of termination as the date on which the most recent designation, redesignation, or extension is scheduled to expire. Please note that these dates could change if the designation is terminated, extended, or redesignated.

## Table of Current TPS Designations

Country	Most Recent Decision	Required Arrival Date <sup>a</sup>	Expiration Date <sup>b</sup>	Individuals with TPS <sup>c</sup>
Afghanistan	Extension and Redesignation	September 20, 2023	May 20, 2025	3,905
Burma (Myanmar)	Extension and Redesignation	Sept 25, 2022	May 25, 2024	2,120
Cameroon	Extension and Redesignation	October 5, 2023	June 7, 2025	2,200
El Salvador	Extension	February 13, 2001	March 9, 2025	184,035
Ethiopia	New Designation	Oct. 20, 2022	June 12, 2024	1,880
Haiti	Extension and Redesignation	November 6, 2022	August 3, 2024	164,235
Honduras	Extension	December 30, 1998	July 5, 2025	55,360
Nepal	Extension	June 24, 2015	June 24, 2025	8,100
Nicaragua	Extension	December 30, 1998	July 5, 2025	2,930
Somalia	Extension and Redesignation	January 11, 2023	Sept. 17, 2024	470
South Sudan	Extension and Redesignation	Sept. 4, 2023	May 3, 2025	120
Sudan	Extension and Redesignation	October 20, 2023	April 19, 2025	1,015
Syria	Extension and Redesignation	January 25, 2024	September 5, 2025	3,880
Ukraine	Extension and Redesignation	August 16, 2023	April 19, 2025	26,215
Venezuela	Extension and Redesignation	July 31, 2023	April 2, 2025	239,175
Yemen	Extension and Redesignation	December 29, 2022	September 3, 2024	1,790
<b>Total</b>				<b>697,430</b>

Source: Congressional Research Service, ["Temporary Protected Status and Deferred Enforced Departure"](#)

a. The arrival date represents the date from which individuals are required to have continuously resided in the United States in order to qualify for TPS. Unless a country is re-designated for TPS, the required arrival date does not change.

b. The expiration date represents the end of the most recent designation period and is subject to change based on future decisions of the Secretary of DHS. Expiration dates for recent designations may not yet be announced.

c. Counts of individuals with TPS are the most recent estimates provided by USCIS or DHS. [Most counts were provided to the Congressional Research Service.](#) Countries with a pending termination and a new designation may have individuals registered under both designations; the Total count does not count these individuals twice. Data for countries with relatively newer designations may not yet be available and are marked "N/A."



## TPS expansion should be at the forefront of President Biden's immigration agenda in 2024

The Biden administration has already used its legal, statutory authority to expand deportation protections and work authorizations to hundreds of thousands of new individuals. But the opportunity to expand TPS to other immigrants, many of whom have been in the United States for many years, is still available, and would be supported by the American people. Polling from FWD.us shows that two-thirds of voters in key 2024 battleground states [support](#) expanding TPS to crisis-ridden countries.

The economic benefits are clear—expanded work authorization would boost the economy in 2024 and provide greater certainty for employers desperately trying to fill worker shortages.

Work authorizations through TPS would also help tens of thousands of newly arrived immigrants in several U.S. cities provide for themselves and their families, instead of being forced to rely on city services. And work authorizations through TPS would allow most to send money back home to their families; historical evidence [suggests](#) that these remittances could help reduce irregular migration from these countries.

**The Biden administration should immediately expand TPS to more countries in 2024. The conditions warrant it. The administration has legal authority to do it. U.S. families need it. Employers are asking for it. The public approves of it. Our borders and cities will be better for it.**

### Methodology

Population estimates in this report reflect TPS-eligible and TPS potentially eligible holders as of September 30, 2023. Immigration status assignments performed by FWD.us researchers using the 2022 American Community Survey (ACS) provide the base data for the data analysis. Other government data, including figures from Customs and Border Protection (CBP), U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, and Department of Homeland Security, allowed researchers to add to the underlying 2022 ACS data to obtain end of 2023 estimates. (See our complete [methodology](#) for 2023 immigrant assignment.) Note that several countries are not itemized by CBP, including Afghanistan, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania, Nepal, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen; consequently, population estimates for these countries are solely based on the 2022 ACS.

Some TPS-eligible individuals have no immigration status and thus are unprotected, while others have a protected status such as parole or are waiting on a decision in their asylum case. Estimates, then, are considered conservative, as they do not include those who entered the U.S. without an encounter with border authorities or those with nonimmigrant status. The population estimates assume no emigration of TPS-eligible individuals since 2021. Potential TPS holder characteristics, including state of residence, are the same as undocumented peers from the same country who entered the U.S. during 2021 and 2022; consequently, they do not reflect new destination patterns within the U.S.

Industries deemed to have labor shortages are those that consistently had 4% or more of its jobs open January through September 2023, according to the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#).

Current contribution to the U.S. economy is based on spending power, or total wages after the payment of federal, payroll, state, and local income taxes. Additional billions of dollars contributed to the U.S. economy through TPS designation is based on a multiplier from a predictive regression model using the 2022 ACS that compares TPS holders from El Salvador (2001 original designation), Honduras (1998 original designation), and Nicaragua (1998 original designation) with undocumented adults without any protected status who entered the U.S. before 2000, controlling for several economic and demographic characteristics. This multiplier was added to the current economic contributions of TPS individuals by demographic groups. The TPS economic boost reflects the additional spending power.