

Fact Sheet: Temporary Protected Status

By [Zuzana Cepla](#) | October 12, 2018

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) is granted by the Secretary of U.S. Department of Homeland Security (Secretary) to eligible foreign born individuals, who are unable to return home safely due to conditions or circumstances preventing their country from adequately handling the return.

When can the Secretary designate a country for TPS?

The Secretary can designate a country for TPS due to:

- Ongoing armed conflict (such as civil war),
- An environmental disaster (such as earthquake or hurricane), or an epidemic, or
- Other extraordinary and temporary conditions.

Who is eligible for TPS?

TPS can be granted to an individual who is a national of a country designated for TPS and meets other requirements and has been continuously physically present in the U.S. since specific dates.

What TPS means for the eligible individuals?

During a designated period, TPS holders are:

- Not removable from the U.S. and not detainable by DHS on the basis of his or her immigration status,
- Eligible for an employment authorization document (EAD), and
- Eligible for travel authorization.

How many individuals are currently granted TPS?

The U.S. currently provides TPS to over [300,000 foreign nationals](#) from the following countries:

Country	Estimated Number
El Salvador	195,000
Honduras	57,000
Haiti	50,000
Nepal	8,950
Syria	5,800
Nicaragua	2,550
Yemen	1,000
Sudan	450
Somalia	270
South Sudan	75-200

Where do TPS holders live?

TPS holders [reside](#) all over the U.S. Most TPS holders from El Salvador live in the Washington, DC (32,359), Los Angeles (30,415) and New York (23,168) metropolitan areas. Honduran TPS holders live mostly in the New York (8,818), Miami (7,467) and Houston (6,060) metropolitan areas. Haitian TPS holders live mainly in the Miami (16,287), New York (9,402) and Boston (4,302) metropolitan areas.

When do TPS designations expire?

UPDATE: On October 3, 2018, a federal court judge in California issued a [preliminary injunction](#) blocking the Trump administration from terminating TPS for over 250,000 immigrants from El Salvador, Nicaragua, Haiti and Sudan. The ruling [came in response](#) to a lawsuit filed in March 2018, claiming that the government terminated TPS designations as a result of a predetermined agenda and in violation of the law. The judge's preliminary injunction did not address TPS termination for Nepal and Honduras because the administration ended their designations after the case was filed in March 2018. The administration [appealed](#) the ruling on October 11, 2018 to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. The government has [announced](#) that if the government wins its appeal that it will allow people to continue their TPS status for 120 days after a final court order if the termination date has passed.

Country	Most Recent Designation Date	Secretary's Decision Due	Expiration Date
Sudan	5/3/2013	N/A	11/2/2018
Nicaragua	1/5/1999	N/A	1/5/2019
South Sudan	5/3/2016	3/3/2019	5/2/2019
Nepal	6/24/2015	N/A	6/24/2019
Haiti	7/23/2011	N/A	7/22/2019
El Salvador	3/9/2001	N/A	9/9/2019
Syria	8/1/2016	8/1/2019	9/30/2019
Honduras	1/5/1999	N/A	1/5/2020
Yemen	3/4/2017	1/3/2020	3/3/2020
Somalia	9/18/2012	1/17/2020	3/17/2020

The Secretary can extend TPS after a review of country conditions. A [decision](#) about a 6, 12 or 18 month extension must be made at least 60-days before the TPS designation expiration date.

For example, the Secretary most recently [extended but not re-designated](#) TPS for Yemen and [Somalia](#) and [ended](#) TPS for Honduras. Previously, the Secretary extended but not re-designated TPS status for [Syrians](#). She also terminated TPS for [Nepal](#), [El Salvador](#), [Haiti](#), [Sudan](#) and [Nicaragua](#), but extended TPS for eligible immigrants South Sudan through May 2019.

How do TPS holders contribute to our economy?

Recent [data](#) estimate that TPS holders from El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti contribute a combined \$4.5 billion in pre-tax wages or salary income annually to our nation's gross domestic product. Total Social Security and Medicare contributions of those individuals is estimated at more than \$6.9 billion over a decade.

Where do TPS holders work?

According to a recent [survey](#) of TPS holders from El Salvador and Honduras, overall 88.5% are working — 94 percent of men and 82 percent of women. Male TPS holders work in the following sector or occupation: construction/painting (23 percent), driving/delivery (13.7 percent), cleaning

buildings or houses (7.3 percent), gardener (5.4 percent), cook (3.9 percent), or store clerk (2.5 percent). Female TPS holders are concentrated in cleaning buildings or houses (27.9 percent), childcare (6.6 percent), cook (5.2 percent), clothing factory (4 percent), or store clerk (3.8 percent).



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