

New york

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"NY" redirects here. For other uses, see [NY \(disambiguation\)](#).

This article is about the U.S. State of New York. For the city, see [New York City](#). For other uses, see [New York \(disambiguation\)](#).



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State of New York



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Flag

Seal

Nickname(s): The Empire State

Motto(s): Excelsior (Latin)^[1]

New york

Ever upward



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Official language(s)	None
Demonym	New Yorker
Capital	Albany
Largest city	New York City
Largest metro area	New York metropolitan area
Area	Ranked 27 th in the US
- Total	54,555 sq mi (141,299 km ²)
- Width	285 miles (455 km)
- Length	330 miles (530 km)
- % water	13.3
- Latitude	40°30' N to 45°1' N
- Longitude	71°51' W to 79°46' W
Population	Ranked 3 rd in the US
- Total	19,541,453 (2009 est.) ^[2] 18,976,457 (2000)
- Density	408.7/sq mi (157.81/km ²) Ranked 7 th in the US
Elevation	
- Highest point	Mount Marcy ^[3]

	5,344 ft (1,629 m)
- Mean	1,000 ft (305 m)
- Lowest point	0 ft (0 m)
Admission to Union	July 26, 1788 (11 th)
Governor	David Paterson (D)
Lieutenant Governor	Richard Ravitch (D) ^[4]
U.S. Senators	Charles Schumer (D) Kirsten Gillibrand (D)
U.S. House delegation	27 Democrats, 2 Republicans (list)
Time zone	Eastern: UTC-5/-4
Abbreviations	NY US-NY
Website	http://www.ny.gov

New York (pronounced /nju: 'jɔrk/; locally [nu 'jɔək] or [nu: 'jɔrk](

listen)) is a state in the **Mid-Atlantic** and **Northeastern** regions of the **United States** and is the nation's **third most populous**. The state is bordered by **New Jersey** and **Pennsylvania** to the south, and **Connecticut**, **Massachusetts** and **Vermont** to the east. The state has a maritime border with **Rhode Island** east of **Long Island**, as well as an **international border** with the **Canadian** provinces of **Ontario** to the west, and **Quebec** to the north. New York is often referred to as **New York State** to distinguish it from **New York City**.

New York City, which is geographically the largest city in the state and most populous in the United States, is known for its history as a **gateway for immigration** to the United States and its status as a financial, cultural, transportation, and manufacturing center. According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, it is also a destination of choice for many foreign visitors. Both state and city were named for the 17th century **Duke of York**, James Stuart, future **James II and VII** of **England** and **Scotland**.

New York was inhabited by the **Algonquin**, **Iroquois**, and **Lenape Native American** groups at the time **Dutch** and **French** nationals moved into the region in the early 17th century. First claimed by **Henry Hudson** in 1609, the region came to have Dutch **forts** at **Fort Orange**, near the site of the present-day **capital** of **Albany** in 1614, and was colonized by the Dutch in 1624 at both **Albany** and **Manhattan**; it later fell to **British** annexation in 1664.

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The borders of the British colony, the [Province of New York](#), were roughly similar to those of the present-day state. About one third of all of the battles of the [Revolutionary War](#) took place in New York. New York became an independent state on July 9, 1776 and enacted its [constitution](#) in 1777. The state ratified the [United States Constitution](#) on July 26, 1788 to become the 11th state.

Geography

Main article: [Geography of New York](#)

Main article: [Long Island](#)

New York covers 54,556 square miles (141,300 km²) and ranks as the 27th largest state by size.^[5] The [Great Appalachian Valley](#) dominates eastern New York, while [Lake Champlain](#) is the chief northern feature of the valley, which also includes the [Hudson River](#) flowing southward to the [Atlantic Ocean](#). The rugged [Adirondack Mountains](#), with vast tracts of wilderness, lie west of the valley. Most of the southern part of the state is on the [Allegheny Plateau](#), which rises from the southeast to the [Catskill Mountains](#). The western section of the state is drained by the [Allegheny River](#) and rivers of the [Susquehanna](#) and [Delaware](#) systems. The Delaware River Basin Compact, signed in 1961 by New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and the federal government, regulates the utilization of water of the Delaware system. The highest elevation in New York is [Mount Marcy](#) in the Adirondacks.^[3]

New York's borders touch (clockwise from the west) two Great Lakes ([Erie](#) and [Ontario](#), which are connected by the [Niagara River](#)); the provinces of [Ontario](#) and [Quebec](#) in Canada; [Lake Champlain](#); three [New England](#) states ([Vermont](#), [Massachusetts](#), and [Connecticut](#)); the [Atlantic Ocean](#), and two [Mid-Atlantic States](#), [New Jersey](#) and [Pennsylvania](#). In addition, [Rhode Island](#) shares a water border with New York.



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New York [terrain](#)



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Map of the [Hudson](#) and [Mohawk](#) rivers

Contrasting with [New York City](#)'s urban atmosphere, the vast majority of the state is dominated by farms, forests, rivers, mountains, and lakes. New York's [Adirondack Park](#) is the largest state park in the United States. It is larger than the Yellowstone, Yosemite, Grand Canyon, Glacier and Olympic National Parks combined.^[6] New York established the first state park in the United States at Niagara Falls in 1885. [Niagara Falls](#), on the Niagara River as it flows from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario, is a popular attraction. The [Hudson River](#) begins with [Lake Tear of the Clouds](#) and flows south through the eastern part of the state without draining Lakes [George](#) or [Champlain](#). Lake George empties at its north end into Lake Champlain, whose northern end extends into Canada, where it drains into the [Richelieu](#) and then the [St. Lawrence](#) Rivers. Four of New York City's [five boroughs](#) are on the three islands at the mouth of the Hudson River: [Manhattan Island](#), [Staten Island](#), and [Brooklyn](#) and [Queens](#) on [Long Island](#).

Upstate and *downstate* are often used informally to distinguish New York City or its greater metropolitan area from the rest of New York state. The placement of a boundary between the two is a matter of great contention.^[7] Unofficial and loosely defined regions of Upstate New York include the [Southern Tier](#), which often includes the counties along the border with Pennsylvania.^[8] and the [North Country](#), which can mean anything from the strip along the Canadian border to everything north of the Mohawk River.^[9]



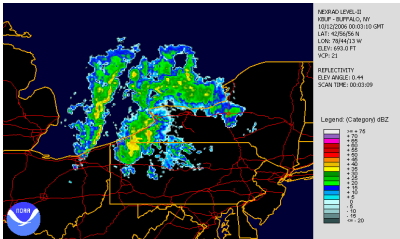
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Mount Marcy

Climate

Main article: [Climate of New York](#)

See also: [List of New York hurricanes](#)



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NY - Lake Effect - Winter

In general, New York has a [humid continental climate](#), though under the [Köppen climate classification](#), New York City has a [humid subtropical climate](#).^[10] Weather in New York is heavily influenced by two continental air masses: a warm, humid one from the southwest and a cold, dry one from the northwest.

The winters are long and cold in the Plateau Divisions of the state. In the majority of winter seasons, a temperature of -13 °F (-25 °C) or lower can be expected in the northern highlands (Northern Plateau) and 5 °F (-15 °C) or colder in the southwestern and east-central highlands (Southern Plateau).

The summer climate is cool in the Adirondacks, Catskills and higher elevations of the Southern Plateau.

The New York City/Long Island area and lower portions of the [Hudson Valley](#) have rather warm summers by comparison, with some periods of high, uncomfortable humidity.

The remainder of New York State enjoys pleasantly warm summers, marred by only occasional, brief intervals of sultry conditions. Summer daytime temperatures usually range from the upper 70s to mid 80s °F (25 to 30 °C), over much of the state.

New York ranks 46th among the 50 states in the amount of [greenhouse gases](#) generated per person. This efficiency is primarily due to the state's higher rate of [mass transit](#) use.^[11]

Monthly Normal High and Low Temperatures For Various New York Cities

Cy	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sp	Oct	Nov	Dec
Albany	313	346	425	526	706	785	820	808	710	609	481	320
Binghamton	285	317	425	535	666	754	789	767	680	570	481	321
Buffalo	318	319	426	546	668	757	802	780	703	593	474	324
Logansport	323	424	481	580	699	770	806	824	757	645	506	428
New York City	326	428	505	644	754	793	849	828	750	640	531	432
Rochester	317	317	425	535	666	755	810	799	711	601	473	323
Saratoga	314	346	424	535	666	755	820	809	711	600	472	321

Temperatures listed using the [Fahrenheit](#) scale

Source: [\[2\]](#)

State parks



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Map showing [Adirondack Park](#) to the north and [Catskill Park](#) to the south.

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See also: [List of New York state parks](#) and [New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation](#)

New York has many state parks and two major forest preserves. The two largest parks in New York State are the [Adirondack Park](#) at six million acres (24,000 km²) and the [Catskill Park](#) at 700,000 acres (2,800 km²).

They are managed by the [New York State Department of Environmental Conservation](#); the Adirondack Park is also managed by the [Adirondack Park Agency](#). Together, they comprise the [Forest Preserve](#).

[Adirondack Park](#), roughly the size of the state of [Vermont](#) and the largest state park in the United States, was established in 1892 and given state constitutional protection in 1894.

The thinking that led to the creation of the Park first appeared in [George Perkins Marsh's *Man and Nature*](#), published in 1864. Marsh argued that deforestation could lead to desertification; referring to the clearing of once-lush lands surrounding the Mediterranean, he asserted "the operation of causes set in action by man has brought the face of the earth to a desolation almost as complete as that of the moon."

The state operates numerous campgrounds and there are over 300 miles (480 km) of multi-use trails in the Park.

[Niagara Falls State Park](#) is located in the City of [Niagara Falls, New York](#) in [Niagara County](#). The park contains the [American Falls](#), the [Bridal Veil Falls](#), and part of the [Canadian Falls](#).

Niagara Falls State Park is the oldest state park in the United States. Established In 1885, the Niagara appropriations bill was signed into law, creating the [Niagara Reservation](#).



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Niagara Falls

Niagara Falls were formed when glaciers receded at the end of the [Wisconsin glaciation](#) (the [last ice age](#)), and water from the newly formed [Great Lakes](#) carved a path through the Niagara Escarpment en route to the [Atlantic Ocean](#).

The park contains the [American Falls](#), the [Bridal Veil Falls](#), and part of the [Canadian Falls](#).

The [Catskill Park](#) was protected in legislation passed in 1885,^[12] which declared that its land was to be conserved and never put up for sale or lease.

Consisting of 700,000 acres (2,800 km²) of land,^[12] the park is a habitat for bobcats, minks and fishers. There are some 400 black bears living in the region.



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Catskills

The Catskill are an eastward continuation, and the highest representation, of the [Allegheny Plateau](#).

They are sometimes considered an extension of the [Appalachian Mountains](#), which are found west of the [Hudson River](#) and lie within the bounds of six counties ([Otsego](#), [Delaware](#), [Sullivan](#), [Schoharie](#), [Greene](#), and [Ulster](#)).



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Montauk - Suffolk NY

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The [Montauk Point State Park](#) boasts the famous [Montauk Lighthouse](#), commissioned by [President George Washington](#), which is one of New York's major [tourist attractions](#).

Located on the southeastern most point of Long Island in lower section of New York State. [Montauk light](#) beams out over the North Atlantic shores, and is nestled in the township of [East Hampton](#), [Suffolk County](#).

It was the first lighthouse of many to be erected in New York State, and is the fourth-oldest active lighthouse in the United States. [Hither Hills](#) park offers camping and is a popular destination with surfcasting sport fishermen.

History

Main article: [History of New York](#)



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New York and the rest of the [Thirteen Colonies](#) (red); the lands ceded to Great Britain by France in 1763 (pink), much of which would go to the United States in 1783.

17th century

During the 17th century, Dutch [trading posts](#) established for the trade of pelts from the [Lenape](#), [Iroquois](#) and other [indigenous peoples](#) expanded into the colony of [New Netherlands](#). The first of these trading posts were [Fort Nassau](#) (1614, near present-day [Albany](#)); [Fort Orange](#) (1624, on the [Hudson River](#) just south of the current city of Albany and created to replace [Fort Nassau](#)), developing into settlement [Beverwijck](#) (1647), and into what became Albany; [Fort](#)

[Amsterdam](#) (1625, to develop into the town [New Amsterdam](#) which is present-day [New York City](#)); and [Esopus](#), (1653, now [Kingston](#)). The success of the [patroonship](#) of [Rensselaerswyck](#) (1630), which surrounded [Albany](#) and lasted until the mid 19th century, was also a key factor in the early success of the colony. The British captured the colony during the [Second Anglo-Dutch War](#) and governed it as the [Province of New York](#).

American Revolution

The [Sons of Liberty](#) were organized in [New York City](#) during the 1760s, largely in response to the oppressive [Stamp Act](#) passed by the [British Parliament](#) in 1765. The [Stamp Act Congress](#) met in the city on October 19th of that year: a gathering of representatives from across the [Thirteen Colonies](#) that set the stage for the [Continental Congress](#) to follow. The [Stamp Act Congress](#) resulted in the [Declaration of Rights and Grievances](#), which was the first written expression by representatives of the Americans of many of the rights and complaints later expressed in the [United States Declaration of Independence](#), including the right to [representative government](#).

The [Capture of Fort Ticonderoga](#) provided the [cannon and gunpowder](#) necessary to force a [British](#) withdrawal from the [Siege of Boston](#) in 1775.



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[Victory, Saratoga County, New York](#)

New York endorsed the [Declaration of Independence](#) on July 9, 1776.^[13] The New York state constitution was framed by a [convention](#) which assembled at [White Plains, New York](#) on July 10, 1776, and after repeated adjournments and changes of location, terminated its labors at [Kingston, New York](#) on Sunday evening, April 20, 1777, when the [new constitution](#) drafted by

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[John Jay](#) was adopted with but one dissenting vote. It was not submitted to the people for ratification. On July 30, 1777, [George Clinton](#) was inaugurated as the first [Governor of New York](#) at Kingston.

The first major battle of the [American Revolutionary War](#) after independence was declared – and the largest battle of the entire war – was fought in New York at the [Battle of Long Island](#) (a.k.a *Battle of Brooklyn*) in August of 1776. British victory made New York City their military and political base of operations in North America for the duration of the conflict, and consequently the center of attention for General [George Washington's intelligence network](#).

The notorious British [prison ships](#) of [Wallabout Bay](#) saw more American combatants [die of intentional neglect](#) than were killed in combat in every battle of the war, combined.

The first of two major British armies were captured by the [Continental Army](#) at the [Battle of Saratoga](#) in 1777, influencing France to ally with the revolutionaries.

Four of the [Iroquois](#) nations fought on the side of the British; only the Onondagas were allies of the colonists. Many Iroquois were defeated in the [Sullivan Expedition](#) of 1779.^[14] As Loyalist allies of the losing British, the Iroquois were pushed to Canada after the war. In the treaty settlement, the British ceded most Indian lands to the new United States. Because New York made treaty with the Iroquois without getting Congressional approval, some of the land purchases are the subject of modern-day claims by the individual tribes. More than 5 million acres of former Iroquois territory was put up for sale in the years after the Revolutionary War, leading to rapid development in upstate New York.^[15] As per the [Treaty of Paris](#), the last vestige of British authority in the former [Thirteen Colonies](#) – their troops in New York City – departed in 1783, which was long afterwards celebrated as [Evacuation Day](#).^[16]

New York was the 11th state to ratify the [United States Constitution](#), on July 26, 1788.^[17] The ratification followed heated debate that resulted in the [Federalist Papers](#), largely written by New Yorker [Alexander Hamilton](#), first printed in local newspapers to convince voters to support the new constitution. They remain the most influential interpretation of intent for the document.

19th century



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The creation of the [Erie Canal](#) led to rapid industrialization in New York.

Transportation in western New York was difficult before canals were built in the early part of the nineteenth century. The [Hudson](#) and [Mohawk](#) Rivers could be navigated only as far as Central New York. While the [St. Lawrence River](#) could be navigated to [Lake Ontario](#), the way westward to the other [Great Lakes](#) was blocked by [Niagara Falls](#), and so the only route to western New York was over land.

Governor [DeWitt Clinton](#) strongly advocated building a canal to connect the Hudson River with [Lake Erie](#), and thus all the [Great Lakes](#). Work commenced in 1817, and the [Erie Canal](#) was finished in 1825. It was considered an engineering marvel. Packet boats traveled up and down the canal with sightseers and visitors on board.^[18] The canal opened up vast areas of New York to commerce and settlement. It enabled Great Lakes port cities such as [Buffalo](#) and [Rochester](#) to grow and prosper. It also connected the burgeoning agricultural production of the Midwest and shipping on the Great Lakes, with the port of New York City. Improving transportation, it enabled additional population migration to territories west of New York.

Ellis Island

Main article: [Ellis Island](#)



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Scenes at the Immigration Depot and a nearby dock on [Ellis Island](#)



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[Ellis Island](#) in 1905

Ellis Island was the main facility for [immigrants](#), entering the [United States](#) in the late 19th Century to the mid 20th Century. The facility operated from January 1, 1892, until November 12, 1954. It is owned by the Federal government and is now part of the [Statue of Liberty National Monument](#), under the jurisdiction of the [National Park Service](#). It is situated in [New York Harbor](#), between two states and cities, [Jersey City](#), [New Jersey](#) and [New York City](#), New York.

More than 12 million immigrants passed through [Ellis Island](#), between 1892 and 1954. After 1924, when the [National Origins Act](#) was passed, the only immigrants to pass through there were displaced persons or war refugees.^[19] Today, over 100 million Americans can trace their ancestry to the immigrants, who first arrived in America through the island, before dispersing to points all over the country. Ellis Island was the subject of a border dispute between New York State and New Jersey.

Statue of Liberty

Main article: [Statue of Liberty](#)



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[Statue of Liberty](#)

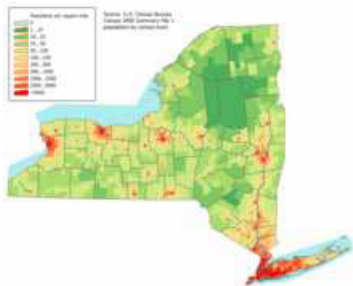
The Statue of Liberty was a gift from France to the United States to mark the Centennial of the American Declaration of Independence. The idea of giving a colossal representation of republican virtues to a "sister" republic, across the sea, served as a focus for the republican cause against other politicians. The Statue of Liberty was dedicated in New York Harbor on October 28, 1886.

[Liberty Island](#) closed on [September 11, 2001](#); the island reopened in December, the monument reopened on August 3, 2004, but the statue remained closed until the summer of 2009. The National Park Service claims that the statue is not shut because of a terrorist threat, but principally because of a long list of fire regulation contraventions, including inadequate evacuation procedures. The museum and ten-story pedestal are open for visitors, but are only accessible if visitors have a "Monument Access Pass", which is a reservation that visitors must make in advance of their visit and pick up before boarding the ferry. There are a maximum of 3000 passes available each day, with a total of 15,000 visitors to the island daily. The interior of the statue remains closed, although a glass ceiling in the pedestal allows for views of [Gustave Eiffel's](#) iron framework of Lady Liberty.

Demographics

Main article: [Demographics of New York](#)

Population



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New York population density map

As of 2006, New York was the third largest state in population after California and Texas,^[20] with an estimated population of 19,541,453 as of July 1, 2009.^[2] This represents an increase of

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513,481, or 2.7%, since the last census in 2000.^[21] It includes a natural increase since the last census of 803,680 people (that is 2,072,765 births minus 1,269,085 deaths) and a decrease due to net migration of 698,895 people out of the state.^[21] Immigration from outside the United States resulted in a net increase of 876,969 people, and migration within the country produced a net loss of 1,575,864 people.^[21]

In spite of the open land in the state, New York's population is very urban, with 92% of residents living in an urban area.^[22]

New York is a slow growing state with a large rate of domestic migration to other states. In 2000 and 2005, more people moved from New York to Florida than from any one state to another.^[23] However, New York state is one of the leading destinations for international immigration and thus has the second largest immigrant population in the country (after California) at 4.2 million as of 2008. Although **Upstate New York** receives considerable immigration, most of the state's immigrants settle in and around New York City, due to its more vibrant economy and cosmopolitan culture.

The **center of population** of New York is located in **Orange County**, in the town of **Deerpark**.^[24] New York City and its eight suburban counties (excluding those in New Jersey, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania) have a combined population of 13,209,006 people, or 68.42% of the state's population.^[25]

Racial and ancestral makeup



See Picture License Information [Here](#)

New York population ethnicity map

The major ancestry groups in New York state are **African American** (15.8%), **Italian** (14.4%), **Irish** (12.9%), and **German** (11.1%).^[26] According to a 2004 estimate, 20.4% of the population is foreign-born.

New York is home to the [largest African American](#) population and the [second largest Asian American](#) population in the United States. In addition it is home to the largest [Puerto Rican](#), [Dominican](#) and [Jamaican American](#) populations in the continental United States. The New York City neighborhood of [Harlem](#) has historically been a major cultural capital for African-Americans of sub-Saharan descent, and [Bedford Stuyvesant](#) is the largest such population in the United States.

[Queens](#), also in New York City, is home to the state's largest [Asian-American](#) population, and is also the most diverse county in the United States. The second concentration of Asian-Americans is in Manhattan's Chinatown. [Queens](#) is home to the largest [Andean](#) population ([Colombian](#), [Ecuadorian](#), [Peruvian](#) and [Bolivian](#)) population in [The United States](#) of America.

In the 2000 Census, [Italian Americans](#) made up the largest ancestral group in Staten Island and Long Island, followed by [Irish Americans](#). Albany and southeast-central New York also have populations with many of Irish-American and Italian-American descent. In Buffalo and western New York, [German Americans](#) are the largest group; in the northern tip of the state, [French Canadians](#) are. New York State has a higher number of Italian Americans than any other U.S. state.

6.5% of New York's population were under 5 years of age, 24.7% under 18, and 12.9% were 65 or older. Females made up 51.8% of the population.

According to the [2000 U.S. Census](#), 13.61% of the population aged 5 and over speak [Spanish](#) at home, while 2.04% speak [Chinese](#) (including [Cantonese](#) and [Mandarin](#)), 1.65% [Italian](#), and 1.23% [Russian](#).^[27]

Religion

[Catholics](#) comprise more than 40% of the population in New York.^[28] [Protestants](#) are 30% of the population, [Jews](#) 8.4%, [Muslims](#) 3.5%, [Buddhists](#) 1%, and 13% claim no religious affiliation. The largest Protestant denominations are the [United Methodist Church](#) with 403,362; the [American Baptist Churches USA](#) with 203,297; and the [Episcopal Church](#) with 201,797 adherents.^[29]