



Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs



Australian
BORDER FORCE

Immigration Detention and Community Statistics Summary

March 2024 (released 23 May 2024)

Table of Contents

About this report	3
Enquiries	3
Acronyms	3
Notice on APODs	3
Important Notice on ITAs	3
Important Notice on NZYQ-affected individuals	4
Immigration Detention and Community Statistics Summary	5
In Community under Residence Determination Population by State/Territory	6
Immigration Detention Population	7
<i>From January 1990 to Current</i>	<i>7</i>
People In Immigration Detention Facilities	8
<i>Arrival Type</i>	<i>8</i>
People In Immigration Detention	10
<i>Nationality</i>	<i>10</i>
Children In Immigration Detention	11
Time In Immigration Detention Facilities	13
Time In Community Under Residence Determination	14

About this report

This report provides an overview of the number of people in onshore immigration detention, as at the morning of the first day following the end of the reporting month. The report is produced on a monthly basis.

As data is sourced from several departmental processing and recording systems, data relating to the immigration detention population is dynamic and variations between monthly reports can occur. Due to these issues, data from the current financial year should always be considered provisional.

Further information about immigration detention is available at:

<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/research-and-statistics/statistics/visa-statistics/live/immigration-detention>

Enquiries

Comments or enquiries concerning this report should be sent using the Department's client service feedback form quoting the name and date of the report.

See: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-support/contact-us>

Acronyms

Table 1 – Acronyms used in this document

Acronym	Description
APOD	Alternative Place of Detention
IDC/F	Immigration Detention Centre/Facility
ITA	Immigration Transit Accommodation
S501	Section 501 of the <i>Migration Act 1958</i> (the Migration Act)
S501 Visa Cancellation	Visa cancellations based on character or related grounds
UMA	Unauthorised Maritime Arrival

Notice on APODs

From July 2020, detainees residing in APODs are reported under 'APODs' rather than under the IDC that had responsibility for their management and care. APODs include hospitals, aged-care facilities, mental health inpatient facilities, as well as hotel and apartment style accommodation. The number of individuals in APODs is broken down by the State and Territory of the APODs.

Important Notice on ITAs

For reports released from July 2023 onwards, detainees residing within Immigration Transit Accommodation (ITA) facilities are reported under Immigration Detention Centres (IDCs). There is no change to the management and care of detainees within the affected ITAs.

Important Notice on NZYQ-affected individuals

The High Court of Australia's (High Court) decision on 8 November 2023 in *NZYQ v Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs & Anor* [2023] HCA 37 ('NZYQ'), found that immigration detention is not authorised by the Constitution where there is no real prospect of the removal of a detainee from Australia becoming practicable in the reasonably foreseeable future. The High Court decision requires the release from immigration detention of anyone for whom this is the case.

Information on UMAs on Bridging Visa E is available in the *Unauthorised Maritime Arrivals on Bridging E Visa* quarterly report.

Immigration Detention and Community Statistics Summary

At 31 March 2024, there were 901 people in immigration detention facilities, and of those, 784 (87.0 per cent) have a criminal history. A further 256 people were living in the community after being approved for residence determination.

The table below reflects figures based on records in Department of Home Affairs systems.

Table 2 – People in Immigration Detention Centres (IDCs), Alternative Places of Detention (APODs) and the Community at 31 March 2024

Place of immigration detention by State*	Men	Women	Children	Total	Change from 29/02/24
NSW					
Villawood IDC	373	37	0	410	+ 35
APODs	<10	<5	0	<10	+ <5
VIC					
Melbourne IDC	<165	<15	<5	177	- 13
APODs	<5	0	0	<5	+ <5
QLD					
Brisbane IDC	91	0	0	91	+ 2
APODs	<10	<5	0	9	- 10
SA					
Adelaide IDC	18	0	0	18	- 1
APODs	0	0	0	0	- <5
WA					
Yongah Hill IDC	168	0	0	168	+ 2
Perth IDC	<10	<10	0	14	- 1
APODs	<5	<5	0	5	+ 5
NT					
APODs	<5	0	0	<5	- <5
Total IDCs	<825	<60	<5	878	+ 24
Total APODs	<20	<10	0	23	- 4
Total IDCs/APODs	838	<65	<5	901	+ 20
Total in Community under Residence Determination	130	57	69	256	+ 9
Individuals released in the relevant period as it was assessed that they met the new test established by the High Court ruling in NZYQ**	<5	0	0	<5	N/A

* Refer to Important Notice on APODs on page 3.

** Refer to Important Notice on NZYQ on page 4. 'Relevant period' refers to March 2024.

In Community under Residence Determination Population by State/Territory

Of the 256 people approved for a residence determination to live in the community, 52.0 per cent were in Victoria, 34.4 per cent in Queensland, 11.3 per cent in New South Wales and 2.3 per cent in Western Australia.

Table 3 – People in the Community under Residence Determination by State/Territory at 31 March 2024

State/Territory	Men	Women	Children	Total
New South Wales	24	<5	<5	29
Victoria	62	38	33	133
Queensland	38	<20	<35	88
Western Australia	6	0	0	6
Total	130	57	69	256

Immigration Detention Population

From January 1990 to Current

The overall number of people in immigration detention including in the community under residence determination has decreased by 281 to 1157, compared with 1438 at the end of March 2023. This number takes into account detainees in the community under residence determination and detainees who were held in immigration detention facilities as at 31 March 2024.

Figure 1 – Population in Immigration Detention

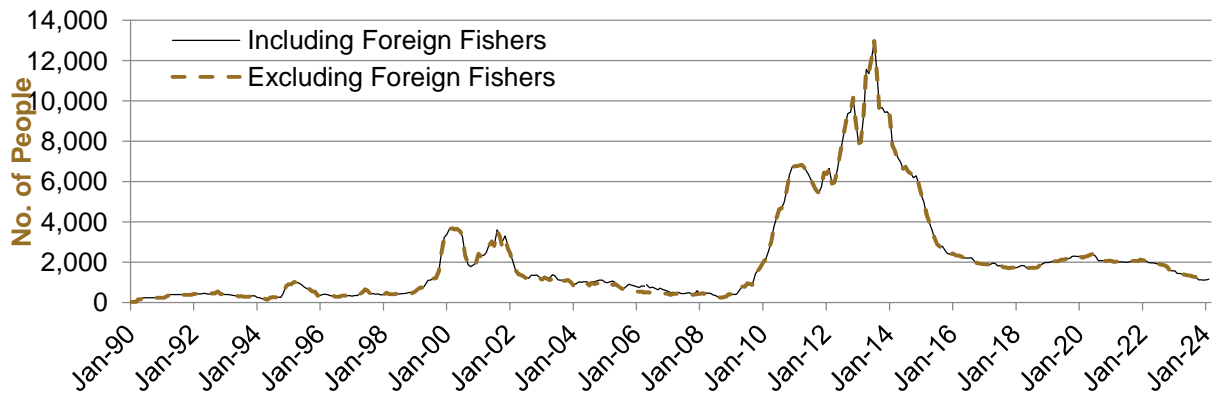


Figure 1 above, shows the number of people in immigration detention from 1990 to 2024.

People In Immigration Detention Facilities

Arrival Type

There were 159 people who arrived unlawfully by air or by boat, in held immigration detention facilities at 31 March 2024 representing 17.6 per cent of the total immigration detention population.

There were also 742 people (82.4 per cent of the total immigration detention population) who arrived in Australia lawfully and were subsequently taken into immigration detention for either overstaying or having their visas cancelled for reasons including failing the character test, breaching their visa conditions or presenting a risk to the safety, health or good order of the community.

Figure 2 – People in Held Immigration Detention Facilities by Detention Group

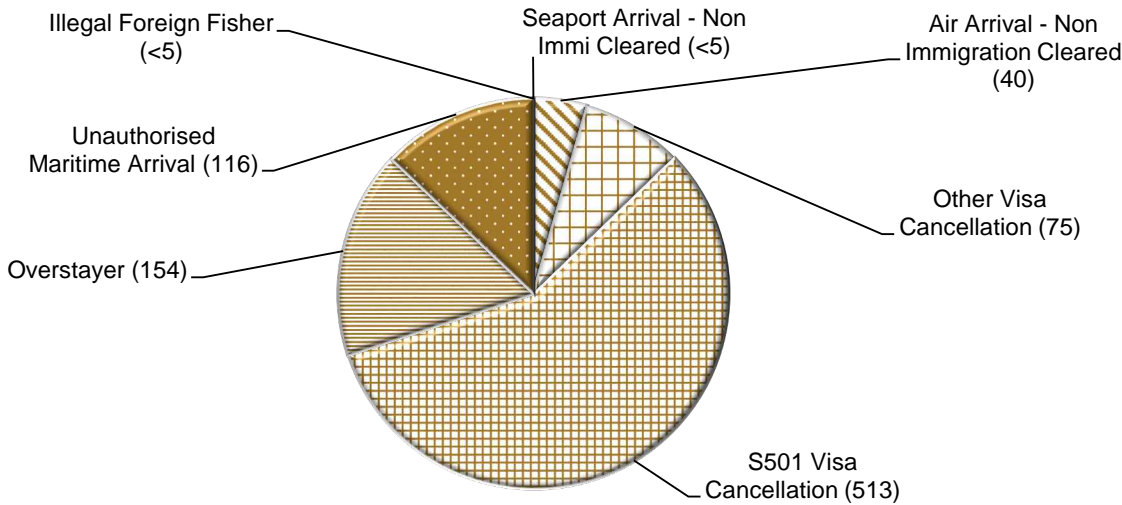


Figure 2 above, shows the number of people in held immigration detention facilities at 31 March 2024 by detention group, including Overstayers, S501 and Other Visa Cancellations, Unauthorised Maritime Arrivals, Unauthorised Air Arrivals, and if applicable – Illegal Foreign Fishers and Others such as stowaways and ship deserters.

Table 4 – People in Held Immigration Detention Facilities by Detention Group at 31 March 2024

Place of immigration detention by State*	S501 Visa Cancellation	UMA	Other Detention Group	Total	Change from 29/02/24
NSW					
Villawood IDC	243	46	121	410	+ 35
APODs	0	0	<10	<10	+ <5
VIC					
Melbourne IDC	87	25	65	177	- 13
APODs	0	0	<5	<5	+ <5
QLD					
Brisbane IDC	67	<15	<15	91	+ 2
APODs	<5	0	<10	9	- 10
SA					
Adelaide IDC	6	0	12	18	- 1
APODs	0	0	0	0	- <5
WA					
Yongah Hill IDC	101	32	35	168	+ 2
Perth IDC	6	<5	<10	14	- 1
APODs	<5	0	<5	5	+ 5
NT					
APODs	0	0	<5	<5	- <5
Total IDCs	<515	116	<255	878	+ 24
Total APODs	<5	0	<25	23	- 4
Total IDCs/APODs	513	116	272	901	+ 20

* Refer to Important Notice on APODs on page 3.

Table 5 – People in Held Immigration Detention Facilities by Detention Group and Cohort at 31 March 2024

Detention Group	Men	Women	Children	Total	Change from 29/02/24
S501 Visa Cancellation	<495	<25	0	513	- 1
Unauthorised Maritime Arrival	116	0	0	116	+ 1
Other	<235	<45	<5	272	+ 20
Total	838	<65	<5	901	+ 20

People In Immigration Detention

Nationality

At 31 March 2024, there were 901 people in held immigration detention facilities. Of these 901 people, 16.0 per cent were from New Zealand, 7.2 per cent were from Iran, 5.9 per cent were from Vietnam, 5.4 per cent were from India and 4.2 per cent were from China.

Table 6 – People in Held Immigration Detention Facilities by Nationality at 31 March 2024

Nationalities	Men	Women	Children	Total
New Zealand	128	16	0	144
Iran	65	0	0	65
Vietnam	46	7	0	53
India	49	0	0	49
China	30	8	0	38
Tonga	33	0	0	33
Sri Lanka	<35	<5	0	33
Sudan	32	0	0	32
United Kingdom	<35	<5	0	32
Iraq	26	0	0	26
Other	368	<30	<5	396
Total	838	<65	<5	901

At 31 March 2024, 256 were people living in the community after being approved for a residence determination. Of these 256 people, 43.8 per cent were from Iran, 11.3 per cent were Stateless, 5.9 per cent were from Somalia, 5.5 per cent were from Sri Lanka and 5.1 per cent were from Pakistan.

Table 7 – People in the Community under Residence Determination by Nationality at 31 March 2024

Nationalities	Men	Women	Children	Total
Iran	49	32	31	112
Stateless ¹	<20	<5	10	29
Somalia	<5	<10	6	15
Sri Lanka	<10	<5	5	14
Pakistan	13	0	0	13
Other	41	15	17	73
Total	130	57	69	256

¹ The category of “Stateless” nationalities includes “claimed stateless” persons.

Children In Immigration Detention

At 31 March 2024, there were less than five children (aged less than 18 years) in Immigration Detention Facilities and Alternative Places of Detention.

Figure 3 – Children in Immigration Detention Facilities and Alternative Places of Detention

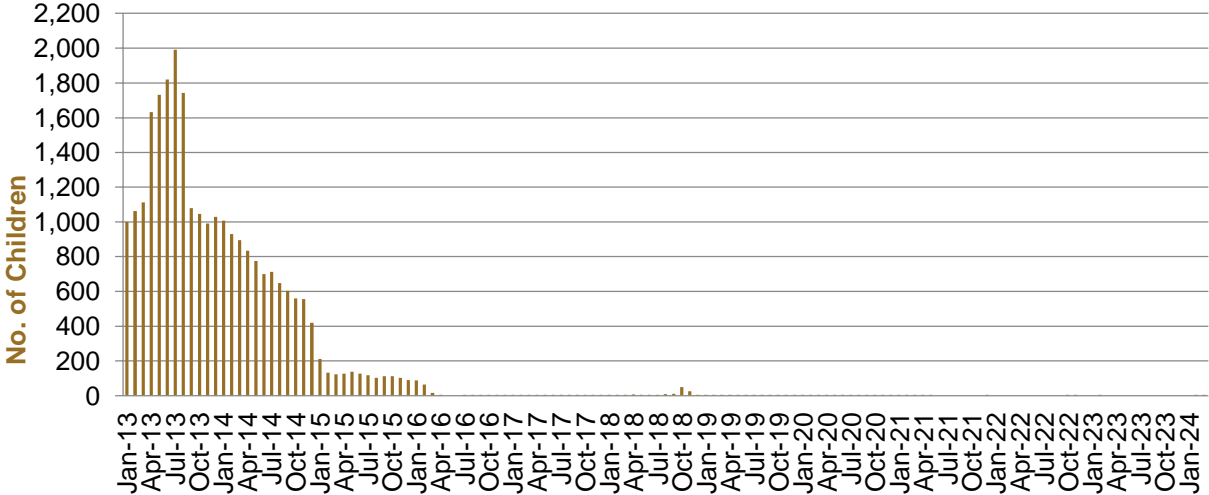


Figure 3 above, shows the number of children in IDFs and APODs from January 2013 to the date of this report. The continuous increase in the number of children in IDFs from April 2013 to Aug 2013 was due to a rapid increase in UMAs during this period. The number of children in IDFs continued to decline during the late 2013 and 2014, with further reduction in January 2015.

At 31 March 2024, the number of children living in the community after being approved for a residence determination has increased by four to 69 from 65 since the previous report.

Figure 4 – Children in the Community under Residence Determination

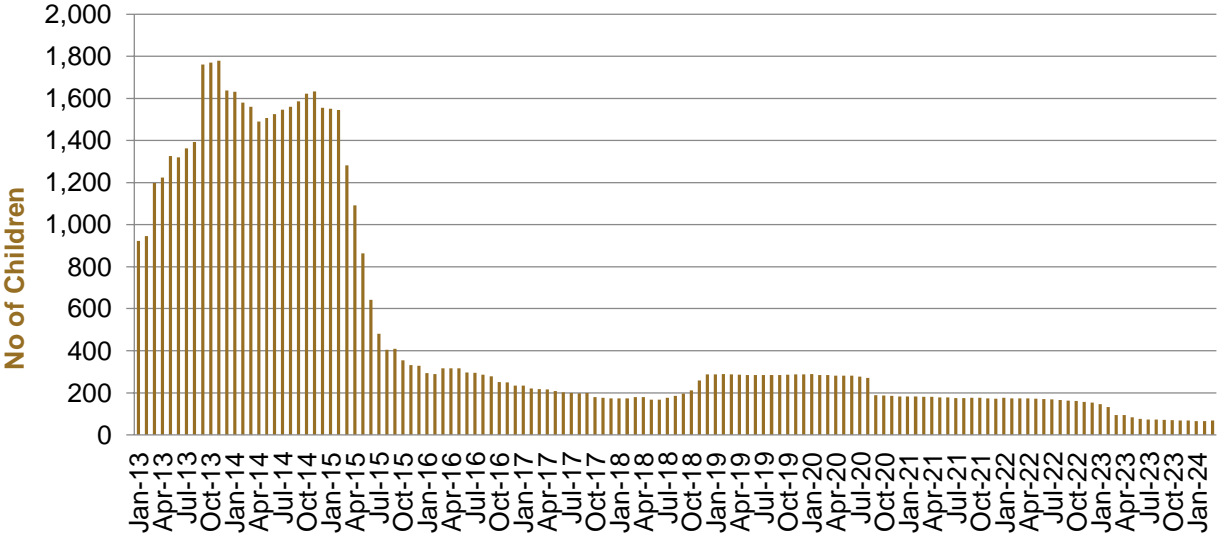


Figure 4 above, shows the number of children in the community under residence determination from January 2013 to the date of this report. The number of children in the community under residence determination, has levelled off at its lowest number since the peak in November 2013, as a result of releases into the community on Bridging Visa E.

Table 8 – Children in Immigration Detention and released as a result of the High Court’s Decision in NZYQ at 31 March 2024

Placement Type	Children
Immigration Detention Centre	<5
Alternative Places of Detention	0
Total Facility	<5
Total in the Community under a Residence Determination	69
Total released in the relevant period as it was assessed that they met the new test established by the High Court ruling in NZYQ *	0

* 'Relevant period' refers to March 2024.

Time In Immigration Detention Facilities

At 31 March 2024, there were 901 people in immigration detention facilities.

Of these 901 people, 25.2 per cent had been detained for 91 days or less and 56.3 per cent had been detained for 365 days or less.

Table 9 – Length of Time of People in Held Immigration Detention Facilities at 31 March 2024

Period Detained	Total	% of Total
7 days or less	46	5.1%
8 days - 31 days	83	9.2%
32 days - 91 days	98	10.9%
92 days - 182 days	125	13.9%
183 days - 365 days	155	17.2%
366 days - 547 days	87	9.7%
548 days - 730 days	51	5.7%
731 days - 1095 days	70	7.8%
1096 days - 1460 days	70	7.8%
1461 days - 1825 days	38	4.2%
Greater than 1825 days	78	8.7%
Total	901	100%

At 31 March 2024, the average period of time for people held in detention facilities was 610 days.

Figure 5 – Average Number of Days of People in Held Immigration Detention Facilities only

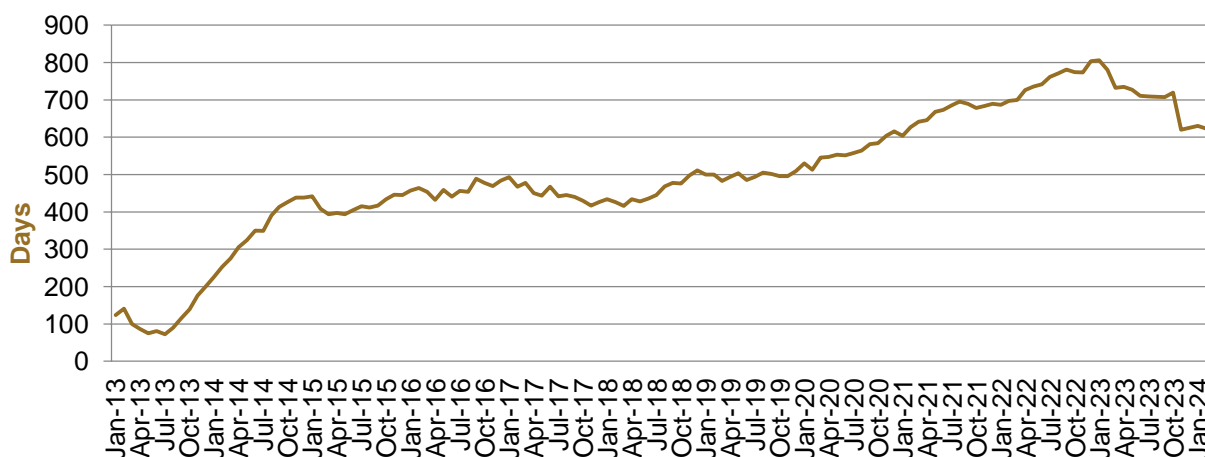


Figure 5 above, shows the average days in held immigration detention at the end of each month from January 2013 to the date of this report. The average period of time for people held in detention facilities steadily increased from July 2013 to January 2015. Between November 2018 and December 2019, the average number of days remained at around 500. Since January 2020, the average period of time for people held in detention facilities has steadily increased until January 2023, after which there has been an overall decrease.

The time an individual spends in immigration detention depends on a range of factors, including the complexity of their case, the legal processes they pursue and whether they voluntarily choose to leave Australia.

Time In Community Under Residence Determination

Of the 256 people in the community under residence determination, as at 31 March 2024, less than 6.0 per cent had been in the community for 91 days or less and less than 16.0 per cent had been in the community for 365 days or less.

Table 10 – Length of Time of People in Community under Residence Determination at 31 March 2024

Period Detained	Total	% of Total
7 days or less	<10	<4.0%
8 days - 31 days	0	0.0%
32 days - 91 days	<5	<1.0%
92 days - 182 days	<5	<1.0%
183 days - 365 days	23	9.0%
366 days - 547 days	32	12.5%
548 days - 730 days	5	2.0%
731 days - 1095 days	20	7.8%
1096 days - 1460 days	10	3.9%
1461 days - 1825 days	22	8.6%
Greater than 1825 days	135	52.7%
Total	256	100%