



Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs



Australian
BORDER FORCE

Immigration Detention and Community Statistics Summary

August 2023 (released 13 October 2023)

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

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 provided 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.

Immigration Detention and Community Statistics Summary

At 31 August 2023, there were 1056 people in immigration detention facilities.

Of the 1056 people in immigration detention facilities, 966 (91.5 per cent) have a criminal history.

A further 282 people were living in the community after being approved for residence determination and 10,634 UMAs were living in the community after grant of a Bridging Visa E.

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 August 2023

Place of immigration detention by State*	Men	Women	Children	Total	Change from 31/07/23
NSW					
Villawood IDC	367	24	0	391	- 45
APODs	<5	<5	0	6	- 3
VIC					
Melbourne IDC	<195	<20	0	206	+ 8
APODs	<5	0	0	<5	+ <5
QLD					
Brisbane IDC	117	0	0	117	- 3
APODs	<15	<5	0	12	+ 5
SA					
Adelaide IDC	19	0	0	19	+ 1
APODs	<5	0	0	<5	+ <5
WA					
Yongah Hill IDC	243	0	0	243	+ 10
Perth IDC	<15	<5	0	13	- 5
APODs	<5	<5	0	<5	+ <5
North West Point IDC	36	0	0	36	- 1
Christmas Island APODs	0	0	0	0	0
NT					
APODs	<5	0	0	<5	+ <5
Total IDCs	983	42	0	1,025	- 35
Total APODs	26	5	0	31	+ 12
Total IDCs/APODs	1,009	47	0	1,056	- 23
Total in Community under Residence Determination	144	65	73	282	+ 8
Total UMAs in Community on Bridging Visa E (Including people with a ceased BVE)	8,037	1,283	1,314	10,634	- 74

* Refer to Important Notice on APODs on page 3.

In Community under Residence Determination Population by State/Territory

Of the 282 people approved for a residence determination to live in the community, 53.2 per cent were in Victoria, 29.8 per cent in Queensland, 13.5 per cent in New South Wales, less than 5 per cent in Western Australia and less than 5 per cent in South Australia.

Table 3 – People in the Community under Residence Determination by State/Territory at 31 August 2023

State/Territory	Men	Women	Children	Total
New South Wales	28	4	6	38
Victoria	70	43	37	150
Queensland	36	18	30	84
South Australia	<5	0	0	<5
Western Australia	<10	0	0	<10
Total	144	65	73	282

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 570 to 1338 compared with 1908 at the end of August 2022. This number takes into account detainees in the community under residence determination and detainees who were held in immigration detention facilities as at 31 August 2023.

Figure 1 – Population in Immigration Detention

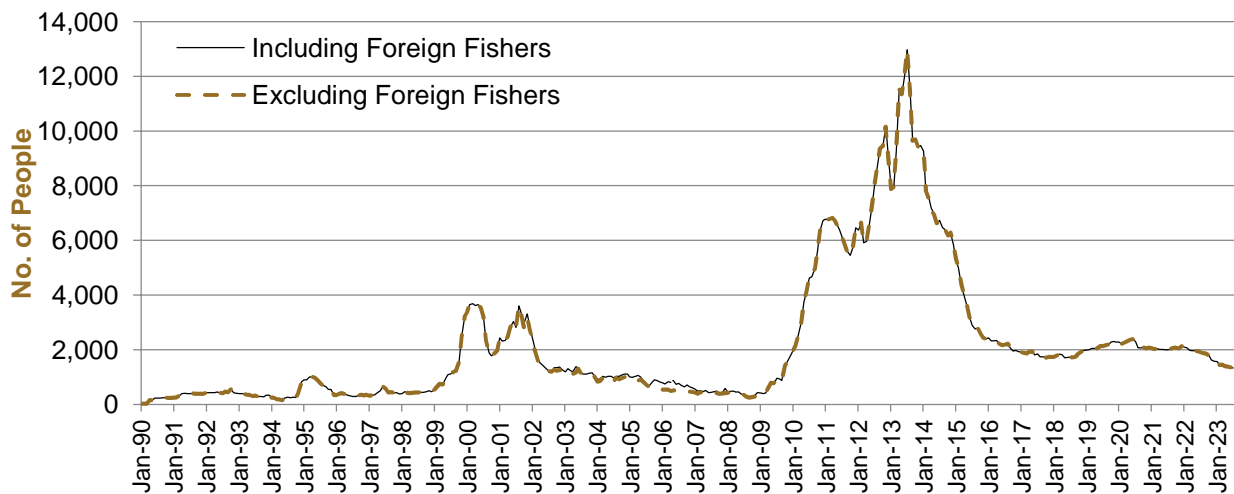


Figure 1 above, shows the number of people in immigration detention from 1990 to 2023.

People In Immigration Detention Facilities

Arrival Type

There were 165 people who arrived unlawfully by air or by boat, in held immigration detention facilities at 31 August 2023 representing 15.6 per cent of the total immigration detention population.

There were also 891 people (84.4 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

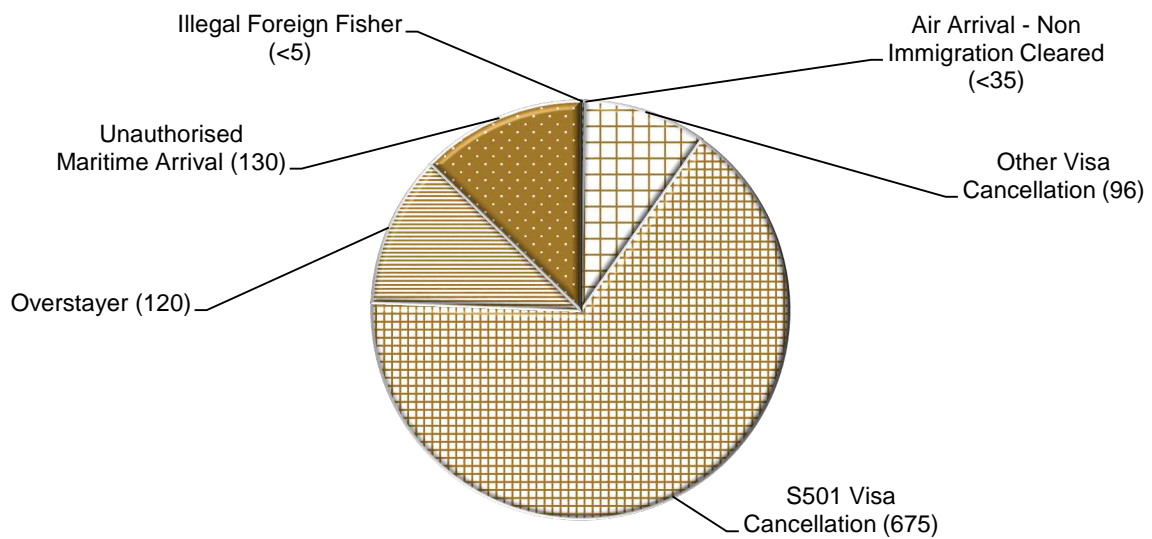


Figure 2 above, shows the number of people in held immigration detention facilities at 31 August 2023 by detention group, including Overstayers, S501 and Other Visa Cancellations, Unauthorised Maritime Arrivals, Unauthorised Air Arrivals, and if applicable – Illegal Foreign Fishers and Others such as stowaways and ship deserters.

Table 4 – People in Held Immigration Detention Facilities by Detention Group at 31 August 2023

Place of immigration detention by State*	S501 Visa Cancellation	UMA	Other Detention Group	Total	Change from 31/07/23
NSW					
Villawood IDC	246	45	100	391	- 45
APODs	<5	0	<10	6	- 3
VIC					
Melbourne IDC	116	29	61	206	+ 8
APODs	<5	<5	0	<5	+ <5
QLD					
Brisbane IDC	87	9	21	117	- 3
APODs	<10	<5	5	12	+ 5
SA					
Adelaide IDC	<20	0	<5	19	+ 1
APODs	0	0	<5	<5	+ <5
WA					
Yongah Hill IDC	161	41	41	243	+ 10
Perth IDC	<10	<5	5	13	- 5
APODs	<5	0	<5	<5	+ <5
North West Point IDC	30	<5	<5	36	- 1
Christmas Island APODs	0	0	0	0	0
NT					
APODs	0	0	<5	<5	+ <5
Total IDCs	665	<130	<235	1,025	- 35
Total APODs	10	<5	<20	31	12
Total IDCs/APODs	675	130	251	1,056	- 23

* Refer to Important Notice on APODs on page 3.

Table 5 – People in Held Immigration Detention Facilities by Detention Group and Cohort at 31 August 2023

Detention Group	Men	Women	Children	Total	Change from 31/07/23
S501 Visa Cancellation	649	26	0	675	- 21
Unauthorised Maritime Arrival	130	0	0	130	- 6
Other	230	21	0	251	+ 4
Total	1,009	47	0	1,056	- 23

People In Immigration Detention

Nationality

At 31 August 2023, there were 1056 people in held immigration detention facilities. Of these 1056 people, 15.8 per cent were from New Zealand, 8.2 per cent were from Iran, 7.0 per cent were from Vietnam, 5.0 per cent were from Sudan and 4.1 per cent were from Afghanistan.

Table 6 – People in Held Immigration Detention Facilities by Nationality at 31 August 2023

Nationalities	Men	Women	Children	Total
New Zealand	149	18	0	167
Iran	87	0	0	87
Vietnam	67	7	0	74
Sudan	<55	<5	0	53
Afghanistan	43	0	0	43
India	<40	<5	0	40
Iraq	37	0	0	37
Tonga	36	0	0	36
United Kingdom	<35	<5	0	32
China	<30	<5	0	31
Stateless ¹	31	0	0	31
Other	409	16	0	425
Total	1,009	47	0	1,056

At 31 August 2023, 282 were people living in the community after being approved for a residence determination. Of these 282 people, 44.3 per cent were from Iran, 9.9 per cent were Stateless, 6.7 percent were from Somalia, 6.4 per cent were from Sri Lanka and 6.0 per cent were from Iraq.

Table 7 – People in the Community under Residence Determination by Nationality at 31 August 2023

Nationalities	Men	Women	Children	Total
Iran	55	36	34	125
Stateless ²	<15	<5	10	28
Somalia	<5	<10	7	19
Sri Lanka	10	<5	<10	18
Iraq	12	<5	<5	17
Other	49	11	15	75
Total	144	65	73	282

^{1,2} The category of “Stateless” nationalities includes “claimed stateless” persons.

Children In Immigration Detention

At 31 August 2023 there were no 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

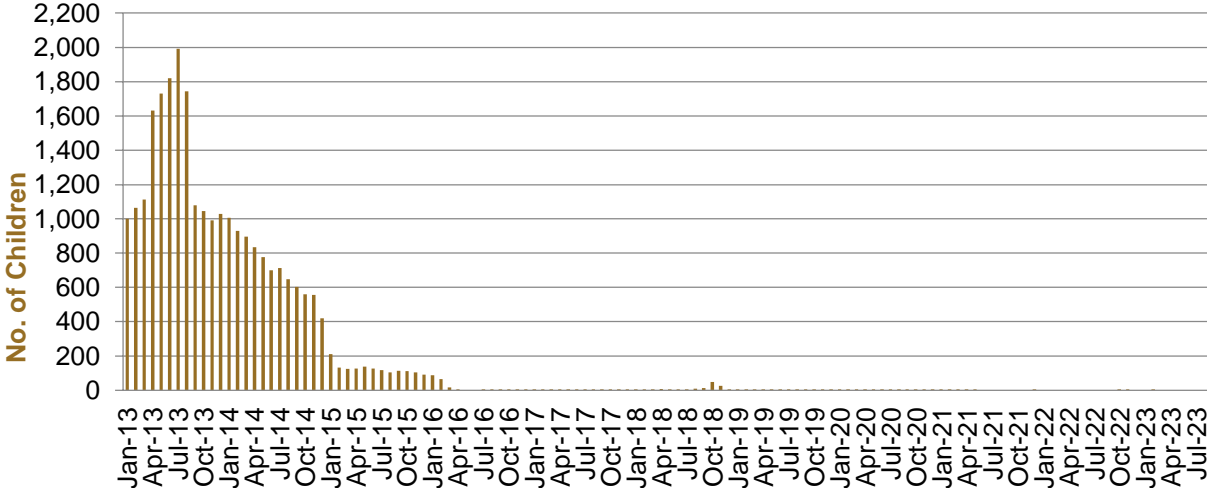


Figure 3 above, shows the number of children in IDFs and APODs from January 2013 to the date of this report. The continuous increase in the number of children in IDFs from April 2013 to Aug 2013 was due to a rapid increase in UMAs during this period. The number of children in IDFs continued to decline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

At 31 August 2023, the number of children living in the community after being approved for a residence determination has remained the same at 73 since the previous report.

Figure 4 – Children in the Community under Residence Determination

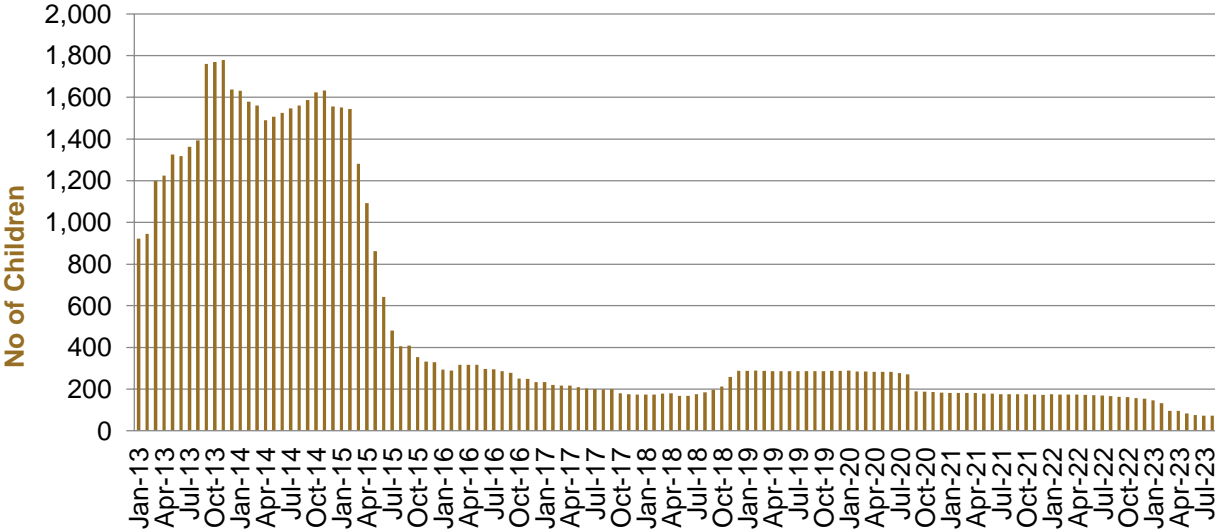


Figure 4 above, shows the number of children in the community under residence determination from January 2013 to the date of this report. The number of children in the community under residence determination, has levelled off at its lowest number since the peak in November 2013, as a result of releases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

Table 8 – Children in Immigration Detention and UMA Children in the Community on a Bridging E Visa at 31 August 2023

Placement Type	Children
Immigration Residential Housing	0
Immigration Detention Centre	0
Alternative Places of Detention	0
Total Facility	0
Total in the Community under a Residence Determination	73
Total UMAs in the Community on a Bridging E visa (including people with a ceased BVE)	1,314

Time In Immigration Detention Facilities

At 31 August 2023, there were 1056 people in immigration detention facilities.

Of these 1056 people, 21.2 per cent had been detained for 91 days or less and 52.1 per cent had been detained for 365 days or less.

Table 9 – Length of Time of People in Held Immigration Detention Facilities at 31 August 2023

Period Detained	Total	% of Total
7 days or less	40	3.8%
8 days - 31 days	56	5.3%
32 days - 91 days	128	12.1%
92 days - 182 days	177	16.8%
183 days - 365 days	149	14.1%
366 days - 547 days	80	7.6%
548 days - 730 days	65	6.2%
731 days - 1095 days	108	10.2%
1096 days - 1460 days	73	6.9%
1461 days - 1825 days	56	5.3%
Greater than 1825 days	124	11.7%
Total	1,056	100%

At 31 August 2023, the average period of time for people held in detention facilities was 708 days.

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

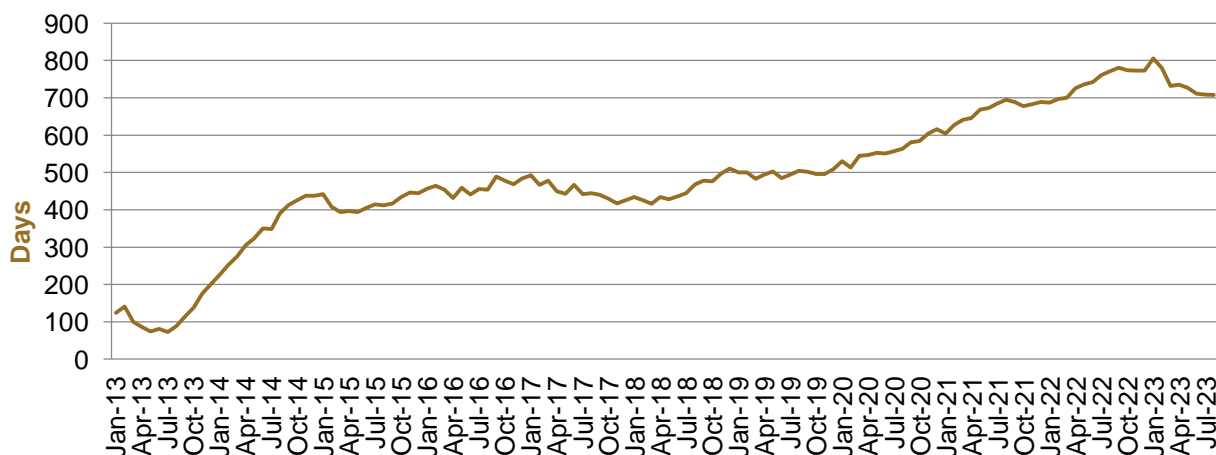


Figure 5 above, shows the average days in held immigration detention at the end of each month from January 2013 to the date of this report. The average period of time for people held in detention facilities steadily increased from July 2013 to January 2015. Between November 2018 and December 2019 the 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 moderate 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 282 people in the community under residence determination, as at 31 August 2023, 5.3 per cent had been in the community for 91 days or less and 24.1 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 August 2023

Period Detained	Total	% of Total
7 days or less	<10	<3.0%
8 days - 31 days	<5	<2.0%
32 days - 91 days	7	2.5%
92 days - 182 days	14	5.0%
183 days - 365 days	39	13.8%
366 days - 547 days	9	3.2%
548 days - 730 days	7	2.5%
731 days - 1095 days	18	6.4%
1096 days - 1460 days	13	4.6%
1461 days - 1825 days	75	26.6%
Greater than 1825 days	92	32.6%
Total	282	100%