



Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs



Australian
BORDER FORCE

Immigration Detention and Community Statistics Summary

January 2023 (released 3 March 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
IRH	Immigration Residential Housing
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

Important Notice on APODs

From July 2020, detainees residing in APODs are reported under 'APODs' rather than under the ITA or 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.

Immigration Detention and Community Statistics Summary

At 31 January 2023, there were 1061 people in immigration detention facilities.

Of the 1061 people in immigration detention facilities, 980 (92.4 per cent) have a criminal history.

A further 516 people were living in the community after being approved for residence determination and 10,728 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), Immigration Transit Accommodation (ITA) and the Community at 31 January 2023

Place of immigration detention by State*	Men	Women	Children	Total	Change from 31/12/22
NSW					
Villawood IDC	329	26	0	355	- 2
APODs	0	<5	0	<5	- <5
VIC					
Melbourne ITA	<185	<10	0	190	- 3
APODs	<5	0	0	<5	+ <5
QLD					
Brisbane ITA	<90	<5	0	88	0
APODs	<25	<5	0	24	- 3
SA					
Adelaide ITA	20	0	0	20	- 4
APODs	0	0	0	0	0
WA					
Yongah Hill IDC	242	0	0	242	- 5
Perth IDC	16	5	0	21	+ 1
APODs	<5	0	0	<5	- <5
North West Point IDC	116	0	0	116	- 11
Christmas Island APODs	0	0	0	0	0
NT					
APODs	0	0	0	0	0
Total IDCs	703	31	0	734	- 17
Total APODs	24	5	0	29	-4
Total ITAs	290	8	0	298	- 7
Total IDCs/APODs/ITAs	1,017	44	0	1,061	- 28
Total in Community under Residence Determination	228	142	146	516	- 22
Total UMAs in Community on Bridging Visa E (Including people with a ceased BVE)	8,159	1,235	1,334	10,728	+ 7

* Refer to Important Notice on APODs on page 3.

In Community under Residence Determination Population by State/Territory

Of the 516 people approved for a residence determination to live in the community, 46.3 per cent were in Victoria, 32.2 per cent in Queensland, 17.4 per cent in New South Wales, 2.9 per cent in South Australia and 1.2 per cent in Western Australia.

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

State/Territory	Men	Women	Children	Total
New South Wales	41	26	23	90
Victoria	100	72	67	239
Queensland	73	40	53	166
South Australia	<15	<5	<5	15
Western Australia	<5	<5	<5	6
Total	228	142	146	516

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 548 to 1577 compared with 2125 at the end of January 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 January 2023.

Figure 1 – Population in Immigration Detention

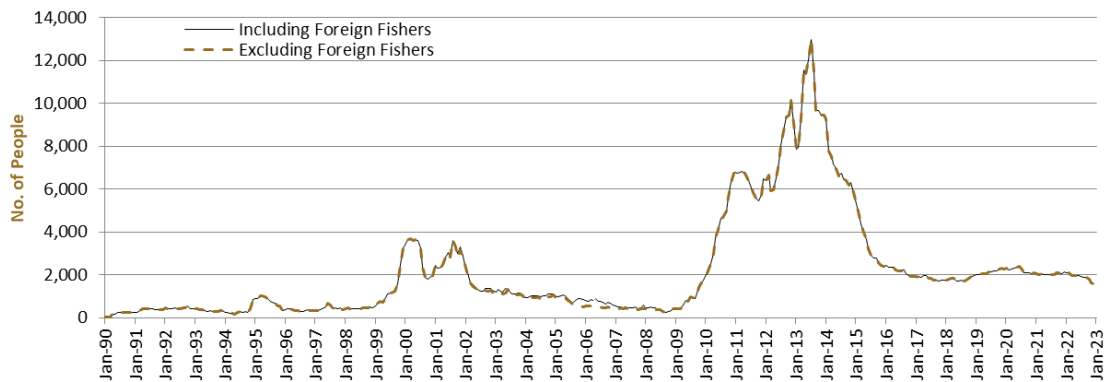


Figure 1 above, shows the number of people in immigration detention from 1990 to 2023.

People In Immigration Detention Facilities

Arrival Type

There were 184 people who arrived unlawfully by air or boat, in held immigration detention facilities at 31 January 2023 representing 17.3 per cent of the total immigration detention population.

There were also 877 people (82.7 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

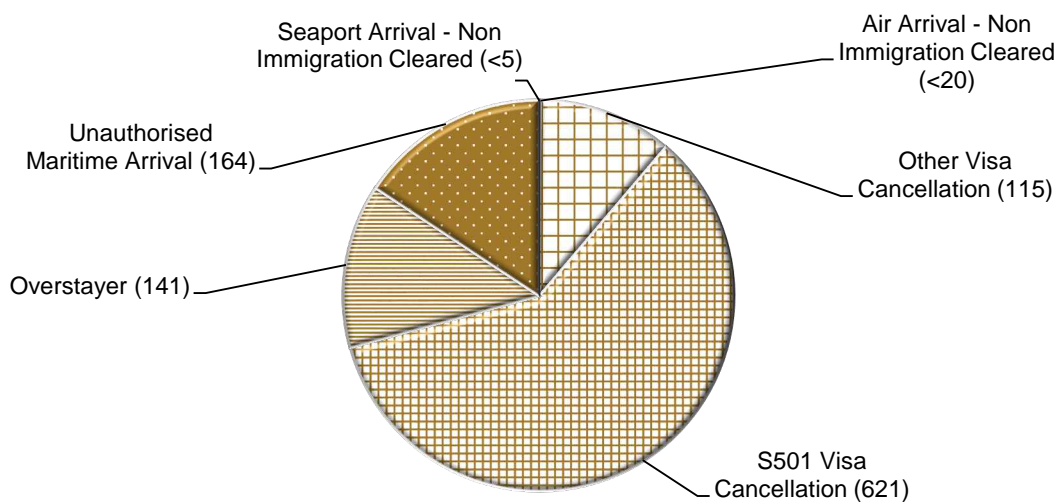


Figure 2 above, shows the number of people in held immigration detention facilities at 31 January 2023 by detention group, including Overstayers, S501 and Other Visa Cancellations, Unauthorised Maritime Arrivals, Unauthorised Air Arrivals, and if applicable – Illegal Foreign Fishers and Others such as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

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

Place of immigration detention by State*	S501 Visa Cancellation	UMA	Other Detention Group	Total	Change from 31/12/22
NSW					
Villawood IDC	196	48	111	355	- 2
APODs	<5	0	0	<5	+ <5
VIC					
Melbourne ITA	89	32	69	190	- 3
APODs	<5	0	0	<5	+ 5
QLD					
Brisbane ITA	69	<10	<15	88	0
APODs	17	<5	<5	24	- 3
SA					
Adelaide ITA	14	<5	<5	20	- 4
APODs	0	0	0	0	0
WA					
Yongah Hill IDC	132	55	55	242	- 5
Perth IDC	12	<10	<5	21	+ 1
APODs	0	0	<5	<5	- <5
North West Point IDC	89	<10	<20	116	- 11
Christmas Island APODs	0	0	0	0	0
NT					
APODs	0	0	0	0	0
Total IDCs	429	117	188	734	- 17
Total APODs	20	<5	<10	29	4
Total ITAs	172	<45	<85	298	- 7
Total IDCs/APODs/ITAs	621	164	276	1,061	- 28

* Refer to Important Notice on APODs on page 3.

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

Detention Group	Men	Women	Children	Total	Change from 31/12/22
S501 Visa Cancellation	593	28	0	621	- 30
Unauthorised Maritime Arrival	<165	<5	0	164	+ 2
Other	<265	<20	0	276	0
Total	1,017	44	0	1,061	- 28

People In Immigration Detention

Nationality

At 31 January 2023, there were 1061 people in held immigration detention facilities. Of these 1061 people, 14.1 per cent were from New Zealand, 9.3 per cent were from Iran, 6.9 per cent were from Vietnam, 6.0 per cent were from India and 4.8 per cent were from Sudan.

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

Nationalities	Men	Women	Children	Total
New Zealand	135	15	0	150
Iran	<100	<5	0	99
Vietnam	65	8	0	73
India	<65	<5	0	64
Sudan	<50	<5	0	51
Tonga	40	0	0	40
Iraq	<40	<5	0	40
United Kingdom	<40	<5	0	38
Afghanistan	37	0	0	37
Sri Lanka	34	0	0	34
Other	421	14	0	435
Total	1,017	44	0	1,061

At 31 January 2023, 516 were people living in the community after being approved for a residence determination. Of these 516 people, 54.1 per cent were from Iran, 10.1 per cent were Stateless, 9.1 per cent were from Somalia, 8.1 per cent were from Sri Lanka and 4.7 per cent were from Iraq.

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

Nationalities	Men	Women	Children	Total
Iran	106	91	82	279
Stateless ¹	25	11	16	52
Somalia	15	17	15	47
Sri Lanka	16	10	16	42
Iraq	19	<5	<5	24
Other	47	<15	<20	72
Total	228	142	146	516

¹ The category of "Stateless" nationalities include "claimed stateless" persons.

Children In Immigration Detention

At 31 January 2023 there were no children (aged less than 18 years) in Immigration Residential Housing, Immigration Transit Accommodation and Alternative Places of Detention.

Figure 3 – Children in Immigration Residential Housing, Immigration Transit Accommodation and Alternative Places of Detention

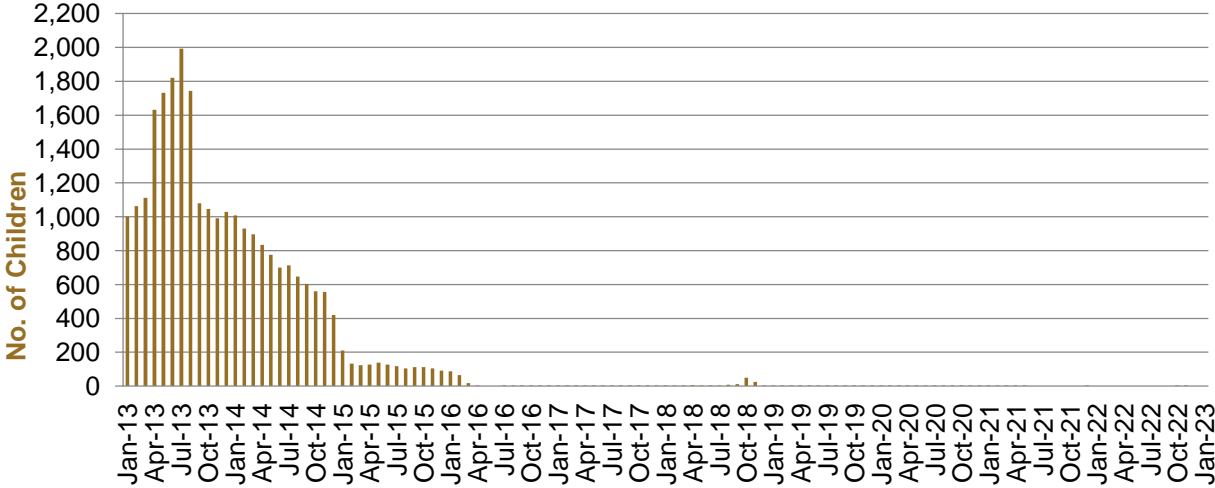


Figure 3 above, shows the number of children in IDFs and APODs from January 2013 to the date of this report. The continuous increase in the number of children in IDFs from April 2013 to Aug 2013 was due to a rapid increase in UMAs during this period. The number of children in IDFs continued to decline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

At 31 January 2023, the number of children living in the community after being approved for a residence determination has decreased by eight to 146 compared with 154 at the end of December 2022.

Figure 4 – Children in the Community under Residence Determination

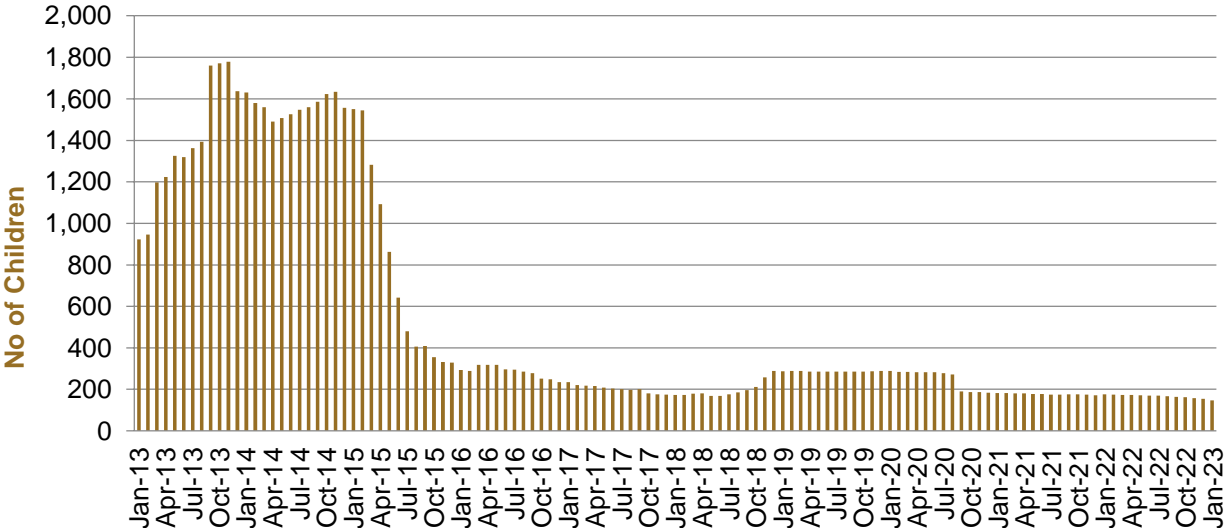


Figure 4 above, shows the number of children in the community under residence determination from January 2013 to the date of this report. The number of children in the community under residence determination, has levelled off at its lowest number since the peak in November 2013, as a result of releases 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 January 2023

Placement Type	Children
Immigration Residential Housing	0
Immigration Transit Accommodation	0
Alternative Places of Detention	0
Total Facility	0
Total in the Community under a Residence Determination	146
Total UMAs in the Community on a Bridging E visa (including people with a ceased BVE)	1,334

Time In Immigration Detention Facilities

At 31 January 2023, there were 1061 people in immigration detention facilities.

Of these 1061 people, 16.5 per cent had been detained for 91 days or less and 42.1 per cent had been detained for 365 days or less.

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

Period Detained	Total	% of Total
7 days or less	25	2.4%
8 days - 31 days	42	4.0%
32 days - 91 days	108	10.2%
92 days - 182 days	128	12.1%
183 days - 365 days	144	13.6%
366 days - 547 days	98	9.2%
548 days - 730 days	95	9.0%
731 days - 1095 days	123	11.6%
1096 days - 1460 days	86	8.1%
1461 days - 1825 days	76	7.2%
Greater than 1825 days	136	12.8%
Total	1,061	100%

At 31 January 2023, the average period of time for people held in detention facilities was 806 days.

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

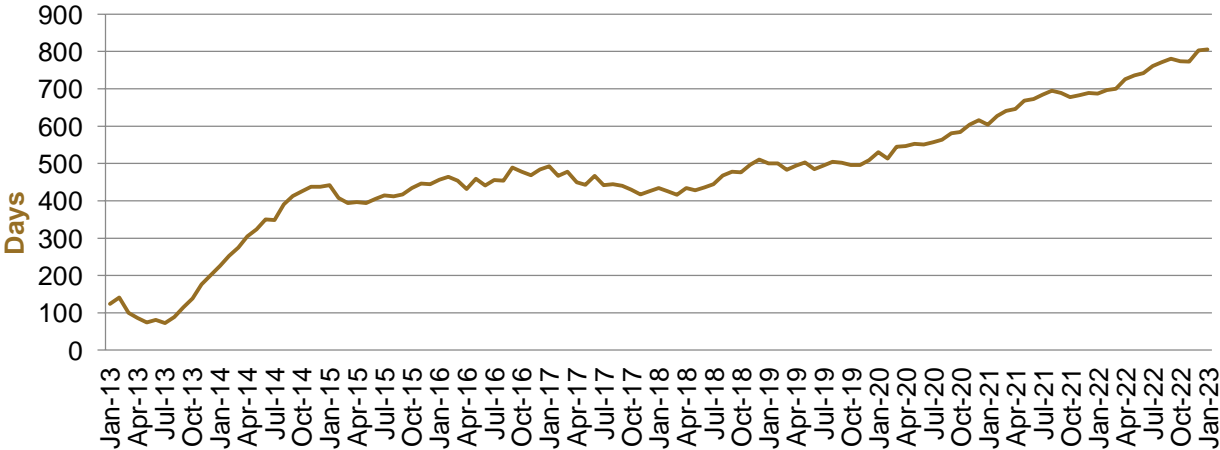


Figure 5 above, shows the average days in held immigration detention at the end of each month from January 2013 to the date of this report. The average period of time for people held in detention facilities steadily increased from July 2013 to January 2015. Between November 2018 and December 2019 the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

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 516 people in the community under residence determination, as at 31 January 2023, less than three per cent had been in the community for 91 days or less and less than six 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 January 2023

Period Detained	Total	% of Total
7 days or less	5	1.0%
8 days - 31 days	<5	<1.0%
32 days - 91 days	5	1.0%
92 days - 182 days	7	1.4%
183 days - 365 days	9	1.7%
366 days - 547 days	46	8.9%
548 days - 730 days	<5	<1.0%
731 days - 1095 days	32	6.2%
1096 days - 1460 days	53	10.3%
1461 days - 1825 days	188	36.4%
Greater than 1825 days	164	31.8%
Total	516	100%