



Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs



Australian
BORDER FORCE

Immigration Detention and Community Statistics Summary

March 2023 (released 5 May 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 March 2023, there were 1117 people in immigration detention facilities.

Of the 1117 people in immigration detention facilities, 1025 (91.8 per cent) have a criminal history.

A further 321 people were living in the community after being approved for residence determination and 10,828 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 March 2023

Place of immigration detention by State*	Men	Women	Children	Total	Change from 28/02/23
NSW					
Villawood IDC	395	32	0	427	+ 35
APODs	<5	<5	0	6	- 1
VIC					
Melbourne ITA	198	5	0	203	+ 10
APODs	<5	0	0	<5	- <5
QLD					
Brisbane ITA	102	0	0	102	+ 10
APODs	<25	<5	0	23	+ 6
SA					
Adelaide ITA	21	0	0	21	0
APODs	<5	0	0	<5	0
WA					
Yongah Hill IDC	254	0	0	254	+ 13
Perth IDC	13	6	0	19	-1
APODs	<5	0	0	<5	- <5
North West Point IDC	57	0	0	57	- 37
Christmas Island APODs	0	0	0	0	0
NT					
APODs	0	0	0	0	- 13
Total IDCs	719	38	0	757	+ 10
Total APODs	<35	<5	0	34	- 12
Total ITAs	<325	<10	0	326	+ 20
Total IDCs/APODs/ITAs	1,071	46	0	1,117	+ 18
Total in Community under Residence Determination	143	83	95	321	- 154
Total UMAs in Community on Bridging Visa E (Including people with a ceased BVE)	8,173	1,284	1,371	10,828	+ 81

* Refer to Important Notice on APODs on page 3.

In Community under Residence Determination Population by State/Territory

Of the 321 people approved for a residence determination to live in the community, 57.9 per cent were in Victoria, 32.4 per cent in Queensland, less than nine per cent in New South Wales and less than one per cent in Western Australia.

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

State/Territory	Men	Women	Children	Total
New South Wales	<20	<5	7	<30
Victoria	82	53	51	186
Queensland	<45	<30	37	104
South Australia	0	0	0	0
Western Australia	<5	0	0	<5
Total	143	83	95	321

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 637 to 1438 compared with 2075 at the end of March 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 March 2023.

Figure 1 – Population in Immigration Detention

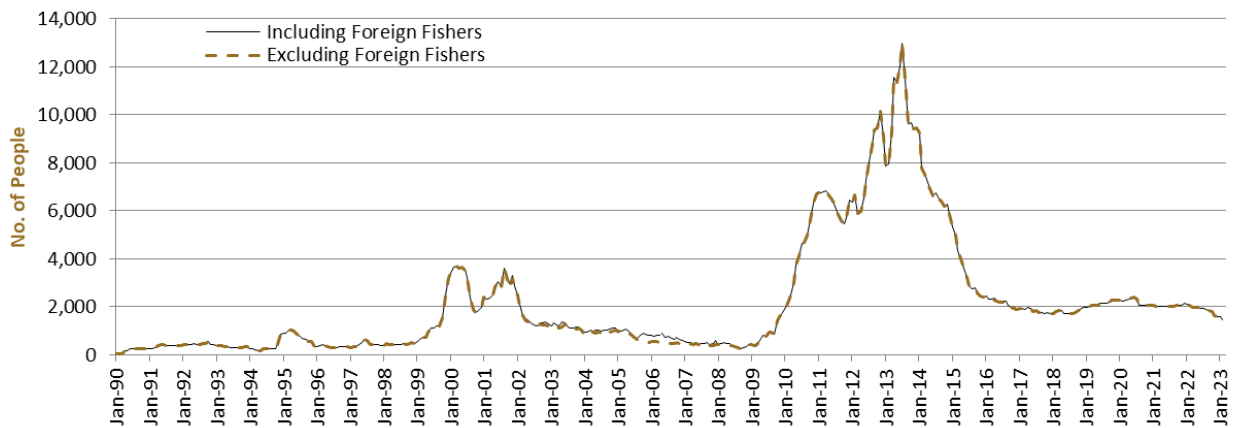


Figure 1 above, shows the number of people in immigration detention from 1990 to 2023.

People In Immigration Detention Facilities

Arrival Type

There were 191 people who arrived unlawfully by air or boat, in held immigration detention facilities at 31 March 2023 representing 17.1 per cent of the total immigration detention population.

There were also 926 people (82.9 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

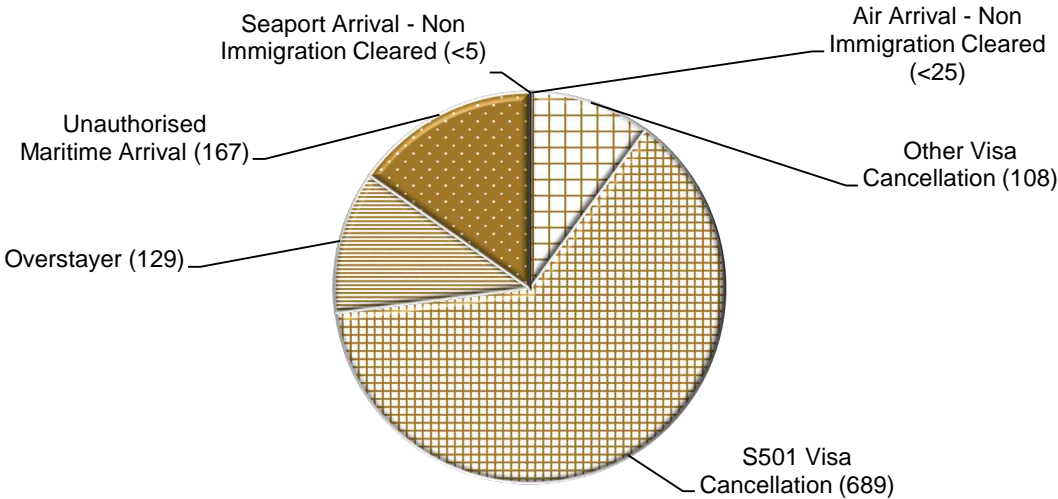


Figure 2 above, shows the number of people in held immigration detention facilities at 31 March 2023 by detention group, including Overstayers, S501 and Other Visa Cancellations, Unauthorised Maritime Arrivals, Unauthorised Air Arrivals, and if applicable – Illegal Foreign Fishers and Others such as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

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

Place of immigration detention by State*	S501 Visa Cancellation	UMA	Other Detention Group	Total	Change from 28/02/23
NSW					
Villawood IDC	273	50	104	427	+ 35
APODs	<5	0	<5	6	- 1
VIC					
Melbourne ITA	106	30	67	203	+ 10
APODs	<5	0	0	<5	- <5
QLD					
Brisbane ITA	78	<15	<15	102	+ 10
APODs	<5	<20	0	23	+ 6
SA					
Adelaide ITA	17	<5	<5	21	0
APODs	0	0	<5	<5	0
WA					
Yongah Hill IDC	152	50	52	254	+ 13
Perth IDC	11	<5	<10	19	-1
APODs	<5	0	<5	<5	- <5
North West Point IDC	43	<5	<15	57	- 37
Christmas Island APODs	0	0	0	0	0
NT					
APODs	0	0	0	0	- 13
Total IDCs	479	106	172	757	+ 10
Total APODs	9	19	6	34	- 12
Total ITAs	201	42	83	326	+ 20
Total IDCs/APODs/ITAs	689	167	261	1,117	+ 18

* 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 2023

Detention Group	Men	Women	Children	Total	Change from 28/02/23
S501 Visa Cancellation	658	31	0	689	+ 43
Unauthorised Maritime Arrival	167	0	0	167	+ 4
Other	246	15	0	261	- 29
Total	1,071	46	0	1,117	+ 18

People In Immigration Detention

Nationality

At 31 March 2023, there were 1117 people in held immigration detention facilities. Of these 1117 people, 15.8 per cent were from New Zealand, 8.4 per cent were from Iran, 6.1 per cent were from India, 5.9 per cent were from Vietnam and 5.0 per cent were from Sudan.

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

Nationalities	Men	Women	Children	Total
New Zealand	157	19	0	176
Iran	<95	<5	0	94
India	<70	<5	0	68
Vietnam	59	7	0	66
Sudan	<55	<5	0	56
Afghanistan	48	0	0	48
Iraq	44	0	0	44
United Kingdom	40	0	0	40
Stateless ¹	39	0	0	39
Tonga	39	0	0	39
Other	433	14	0	447
Total	1,071	46	0	1,117

At 31 March 2023, 321 were people living in the community after being approved for a residence determination. Of these 321 people, 53 per cent were from Iran, 10 per cent were Stateless, 7.5 per cent were from Sri Lanka, 6.9 per cent were from Somalia and 5.6 per cent were from Iraq.

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

Nationalities	Men	Women	Children	Total
Iran	66	53	51	170
Stateless	14	6	12	32
Sri Lanka	9	5	10	24
Somalia	7	8	7	22
Iraq	13	<5	<5	18
Other	34	<10	<15	55
Total	143	83	95	321

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

Children In Immigration Detention

At 31 March 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

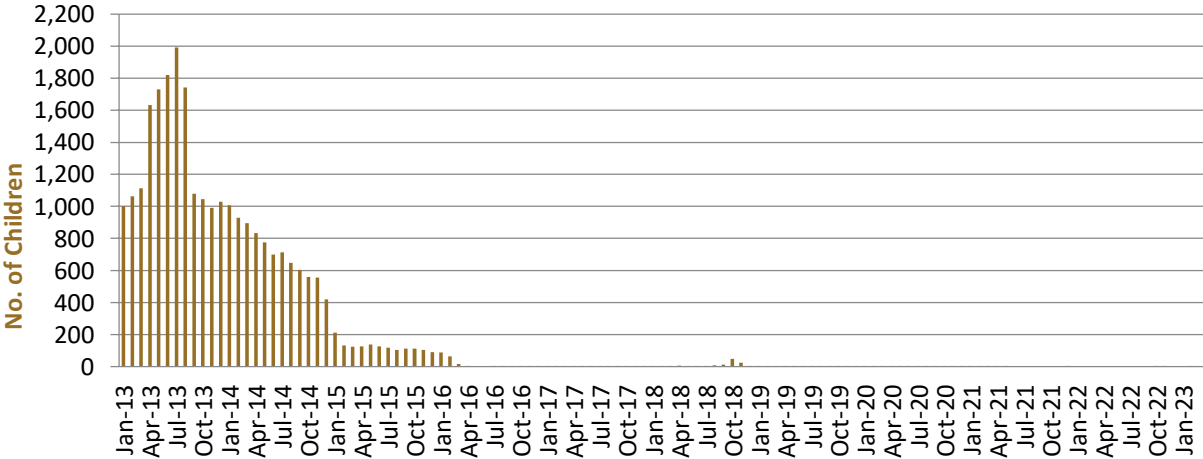


Figure 3 above, shows the number of children in IDFs and APODs from January 2013 to the date of this report. The continuous increase in the number of children in IDFs from April 2013 to Aug 2013 was due to a rapid increase in UMAs during this period. The number of children in IDFs continued to decline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

At 31 March 2023, the number of children living in the community after being approved for a residence determination has decreased by 37 to 95 compared with 132 at the end of February 2023.

Figure 4 – Children in the Community under Residence Determination

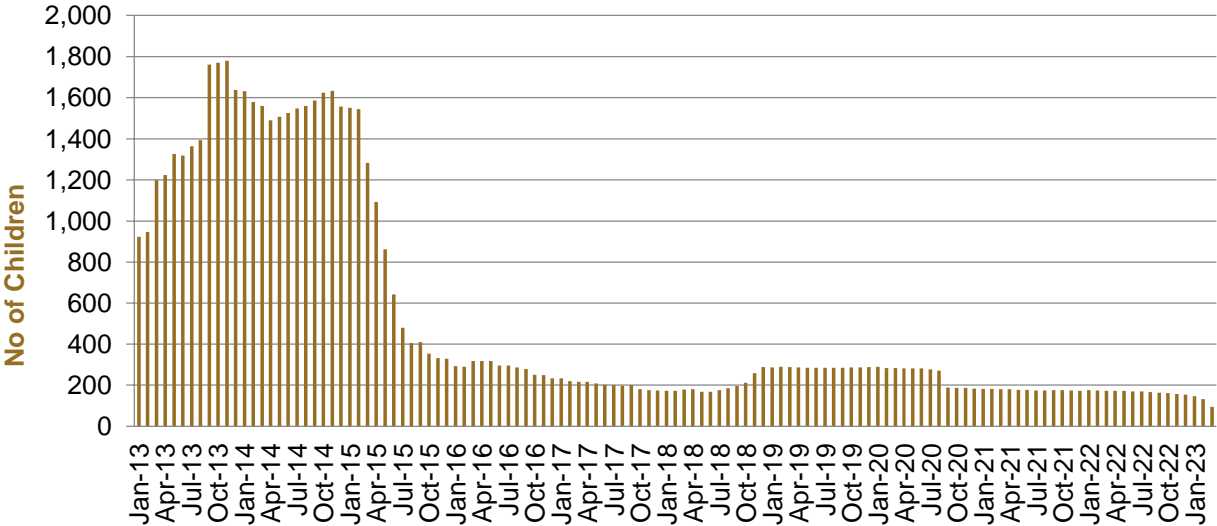


Figure 4 above, shows the number of children in the community under residence determination from January 2013 to the date of this report. The number of children in the community under residence determination, has levelled off at its lowest number since the peak in November 2013, as a result of releases 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 March 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	95
Total UMAs in the Community on a Bridging E visa (including people with a ceased BVE)	1,371

Time In Immigration Detention Facilities

At 31 March 2023, there were 1117 people in immigration detention facilities.

Of these 1117 people, 24.5 per cent had been detained for 91 days or less and 48.1 per cent had been detained for 365 days or less.

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

Period Detained	Total	% of Total
7 days or less	31	2.8%
8 days - 31 days	117	10.5%
32 days - 91 days	126	11.3%
92 days - 182 days	104	9.3%
183 days - 365 days	159	14.2%
366 days - 547 days	95	8.5%
548 days - 730 days	73	6.5%
731 days - 1095 days	129	11.5%
1096 days - 1460 days	81	7.3%
1461 days - 1825 days	72	6.4%
Greater than 1825 days	130	11.6%
Total	1,117	100%

At 31 March 2023, the average period of time for people held in detention facilities was 732 days.

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

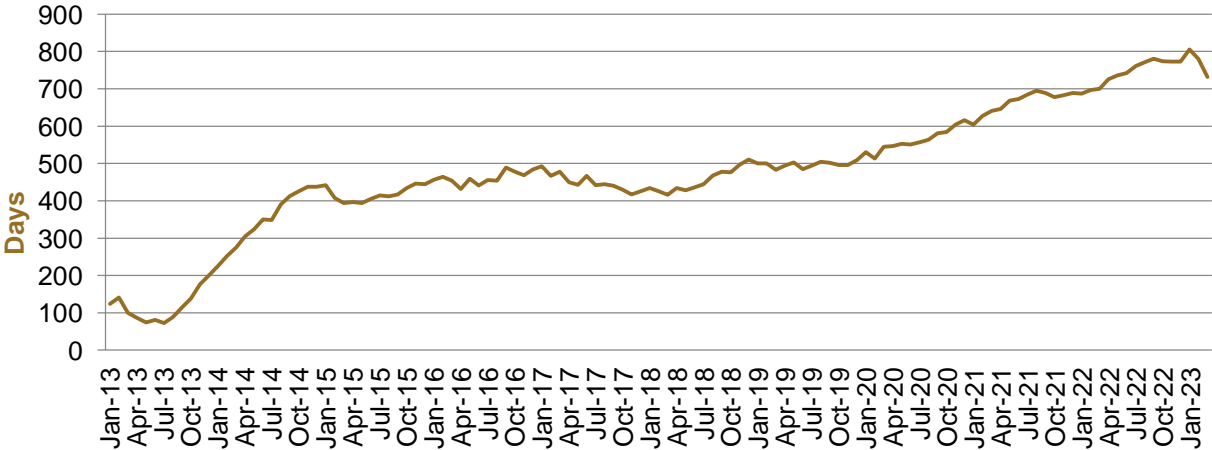


Figure 5 above, shows the average days in held immigration detention at the end of each month from January 2013 to the date of this report. The average period of time for people held in detention facilities steadily increased from July 2013 to January 2015. Between November 2018 and December 2019 the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

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 321 people in the community under residence determination, as at 31 March 2023, less than five per cent had been in the community for 91 days or less and 10.0 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 2023

Period Detained	Total	% of Total
7 days or less	<5	<1.0%
8 days - 31 days	0	0.0%
32 days - 91 days	<15	<4.0%
92 days - 182 days	8	2.5%
183 days - 365 days	10	3.1%
366 days - 547 days	10	3.1%
548 days - 730 days	21	6.5%
731 days - 1095 days	11	3.4%
1096 days - 1460 days	33	10.3%
1461 days - 1825 days	106	33.0%
Greater than 1825 days	108	33.6%
Total	321	100%