



Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs



Australian
BORDER FORCE

Immigration Detention and Community Statistics Summary

October 2023 (released 21 December 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
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 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.

Immigration Detention and Community Statistics Summary

At 31 October 2023, there were 987 people in immigration detention facilities.

Of the 987 people in immigration detention facilities, 910 (92.2 per cent) have a criminal history.

A further 285 people were living in the community after being approved for residence determination and 10,439 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 October 2023

Place of immigration detention by State*	Men	Women	Children	Total	Change from 30/09/23
NSW					
Villawood IDC	349	22	0	371	- 10
APODs	<5	<5	0	<10	+ <10
VIC					
Melbourne IDC	194	10	0	204	+ 8
APODs	0	0	0	0	0
QLD					
Brisbane IDC	109	0	0	109	- 3
APODs	<10	<5	0	8	- 4
SA					
Adelaide IDC	15	0	0	15	- 5
APODs	0	0	0	0	- <5
WA					
Yongah Hill IDC	249	0	0	249	- 11
Perth IDC	12	10	0	22	+ 10
APODs	<5	<5	0	<5	- <10
North West Point IDC	0	0	0	0	0
Christmas Island APODs	0	0	0	0	0
NT					
APODs	0	0	0	0	- <5
Total IDCs	928	42	0	970	- 11
Total APODs	11	6	0	17	- 7
Total IDCs/APODs	939	48	0	987	- 18
Total in Community under Residence Determination	154	61	70	285	- 3
Total UMAs in Community on Bridging Visa E (Including people with a ceased BVE)	7,935	1,262	1,242	10,439	- 116

* Refer to Important Notice on APODs on page 3.

In Community under Residence Determination Population by State/Territory

Of the 285 people approved for a residence determination to live in the community, 53.0 per cent were in Victoria, 29.5 per cent in Queensland, 13.7 per cent in New South Wales, less than five per cent in Western Australia and less than one per cent in South Australia.

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

State/Territory	Men	Women	Children	Total
New South Wales	34	<5	<5	39
Victoria	73	41	37	151
Queensland	36	<20	<35	84
South Australia	<5	0	0	<5
Western Australia	<15	0	0	<15
Total	154	61	70	285

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 585 to 1272 compared with 1857 at the end of October 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 October 2023.

Figure 1 – Population in Immigration Detention

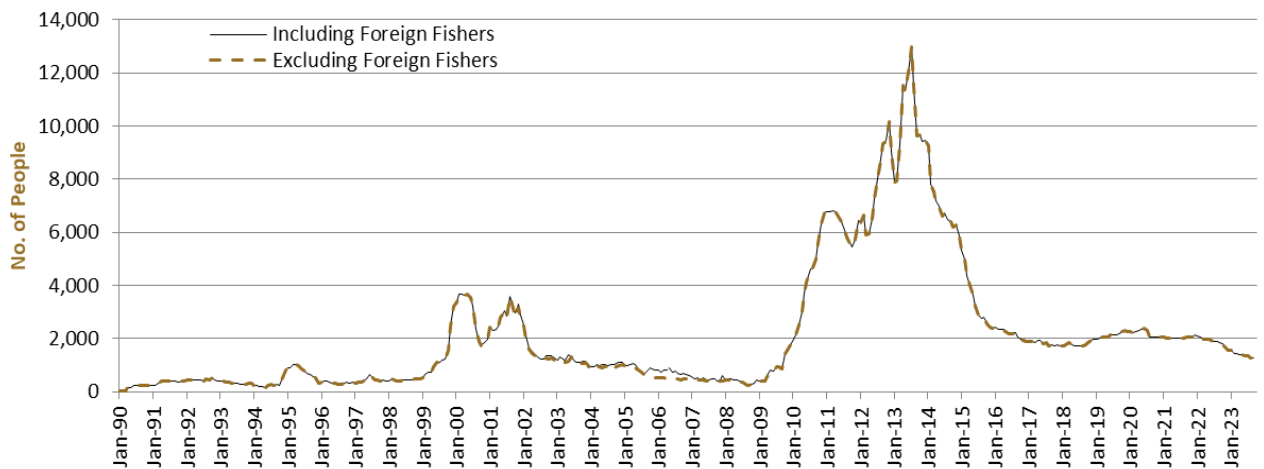


Figure 1 above, shows the number of people in immigration detention from 1990 to 2023.

People In Immigration Detention Facilities

Arrival Type

There were 158 people who arrived unlawfully by air or by boat, in held immigration detention facilities at 31 October 2023 representing 16.0 per cent of the total immigration detention population.

There were also 829 people (84.0 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

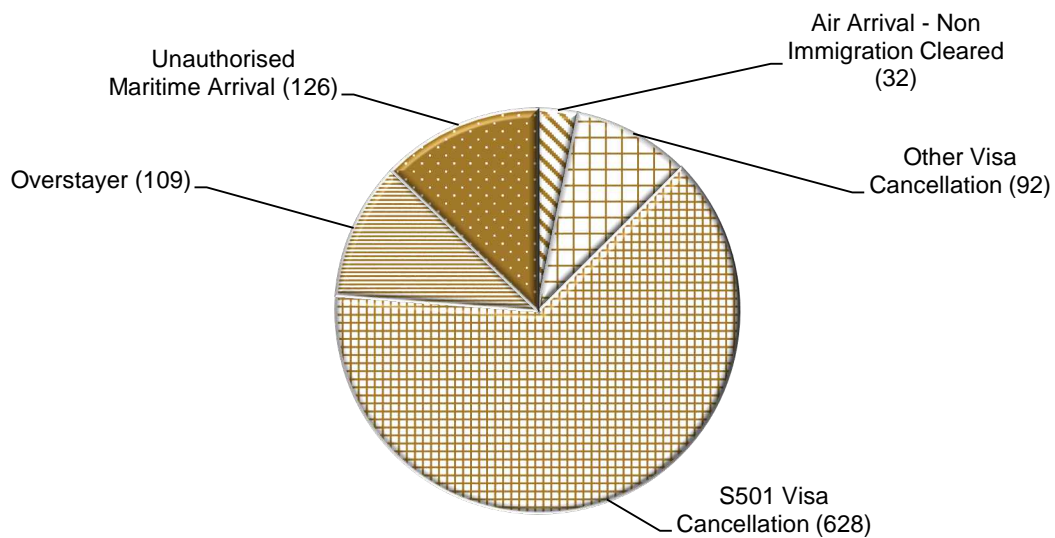


Figure 2 above, shows the number of people in held immigration detention facilities at 31 October 2023 by detention group, including Overstayers, S501 and Other Visa Cancellations, Unauthorised Maritime Arrivals, Unauthorised Air Arrivals, and if applicable – Illegal Foreign Fishers and Others such as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

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

Place of immigration detention by State*	S501 Visa Cancellation	UMA	Other Detention Group	Total	Change from 30/09/23
NSW					
Villawood IDC	237	43	91	371	- 10
APODs	<5	0	<5	<10	+ <10
VIC					
Melbourne IDC	114	30	60	204	+ 8
APODs	0	0	0	0	0
QLD					
Brisbane IDC	73	9	27	109	- 3
APODs	<5	<5	<5	8	- 4
SA					
Adelaide IDC	15	0	0	15	- 5
APODs	0	0	0	0	- <5
WA					
Yongah Hill IDC	174	42	33	249	- 11
Perth IDC	9	<5	<15	22	+ 10
APODs	<5	0	<5	<5	- <10
North West Point IDC	0	0	0	0	0
Christmas Island APODs	0	0	0	0	0
NT					
APODs	0	0	0	0	- <5
Total IDCs	622	<130	<225	970	- 11
Total APODs	6	<5	<15	17	- 7
Total IDCs/APODs	628	126	233	987	- 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 October 2023

Detention Group	Men	Women	Children	Total	Change from 30/09/23
S501 Visa Cancellation	605	23	0	628	- 15
Unauthorised Maritime Arrival	126	0	0	126	0
Other	208	25	0	233	- 3
Total	939	48	0	987	- 18

People In Immigration Detention

Nationality

At 31 October 2023, there were 987 people in held immigration detention facilities. Of these 987 people, 15.1 per cent were from New Zealand, 8.4 per cent were from Iran, 8.3 per cent were from Vietnam, 4.8 per cent were from Sudan and 4.2 per cent were from India.

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

Nationalities	Men	Women	Children	Total
New Zealand	132	17	0	149
Iran	83	0	0	83
Vietnam	72	10	0	82
Sudan	<50	<5	0	47
India	<45	<5	0	41
Afghanistan	38	0	0	38
Iraq	36	0	0	36
Sri Lanka	<35	<5	0	36
United Kingdom	<35	<5	0	34
China	<25	<5	0	28
Other	404	9	0	413
Total	939	48	0	987

At 31 October 2023, 285 were people living in the community after being approved for a residence determination. Of these 285 people, 43.9 per cent were from Iran, 10.5 per cent were Stateless, 6.3 per cent were from Sri Lanka, 6.3 per cent were from Somalia, 4.6 per cent were from Afghanistan and 4.6 per cent from Iraq.

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

Nationalities	Men	Women	Children	Total
Iran	56	35	34	125
Stateless ¹	16	<5	<15	30
Sri Lanka	10	<5	<10	18
Somalia	<5	7	<10	18
Afghanistan	<15	0	<5	13
Iraq	10	<5	<5	13
Other	48	10	10	68
Total	154	61	70	285

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

Children In Immigration Detention

At 31 October 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

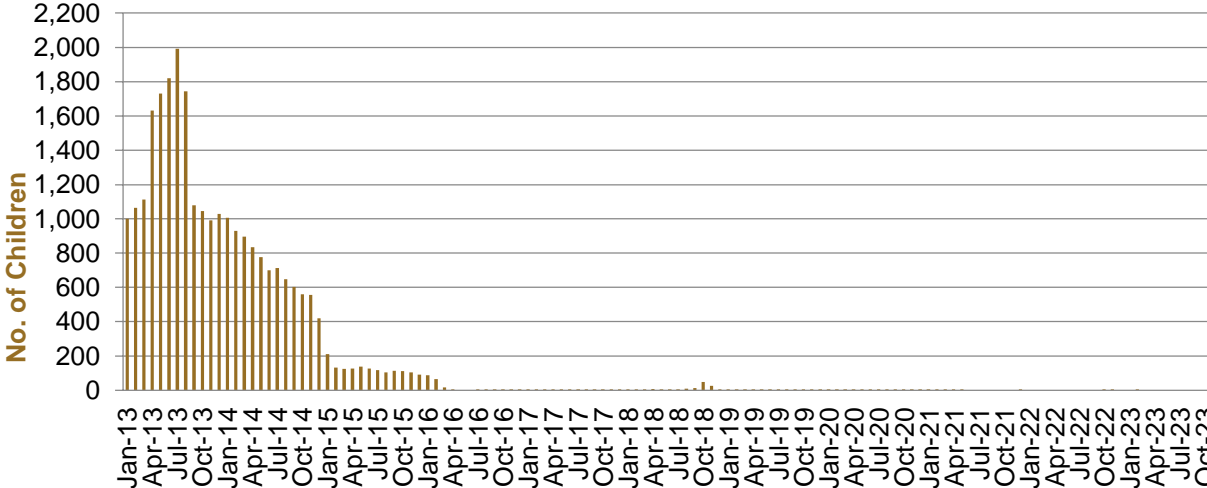


Figure 3 above, shows the number of children in IDFs and APODs from January 2013 to the date of this report. The continuous increase in the number of children in IDFs from April 2013 to Aug 2013 was due to a rapid increase in UMAs during this period. The number of children in IDFs continued to decline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

At 31 October 2023, the number of children living in the community after being approved for a residence determination has decreased by one to 70 from 71 since the previous report.

Figure 4 – Children in the Community under Residence Determination

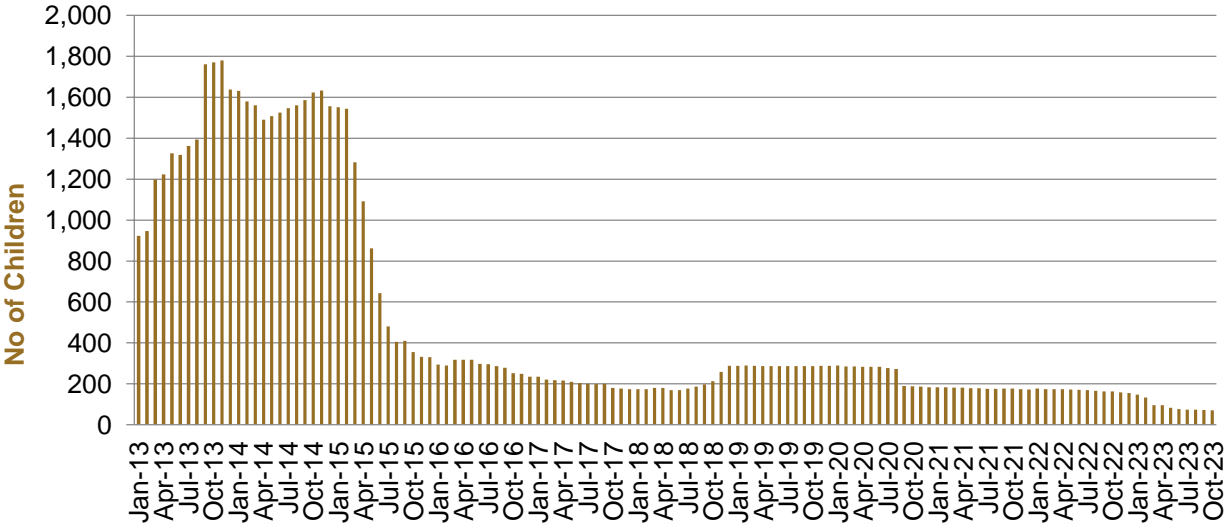


Figure 4 above, shows the number of children in the community under residence determination from January 2013 to the date of this report. The number of children in the community under residence determination, has levelled off at its lowest number since the peak in November 2013, as a result of releases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

Placement Type	Children
Immigration Detention Centre	0
Alternative Places of Detention	0
Total Facility	0
Total in the Community under a Residence Determination	70
Total UMAs in the Community on a Bridging E visa (including people with a ceased BVE)	1,242

Time In Immigration Detention Facilities

At 31 October 2023, there were 987 people in immigration detention facilities.

Of these 987 people, 18.7 per cent had been detained for 91 days or less and 50.8 per cent had been detained for 365 days or less.

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

Period Detained	Total	% of Total
7 days or less	20	2.0%
8 days - 31 days	59	6.0%
32 days - 91 days	106	10.7%
92 days - 182 days	146	14.8%
183 days - 365 days	170	17.2%
366 days - 547 days	83	8.4%
548 days - 730 days	61	6.2%
731 days - 1095 days	103	10.4%
1096 days - 1460 days	64	6.5%
1461 days - 1825 days	60	6.1%
Greater than 1825 days	115	11.7%
Total	987	100%

At 31 October 2023, the average period of time for people held in detention facilities was 719 days.

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

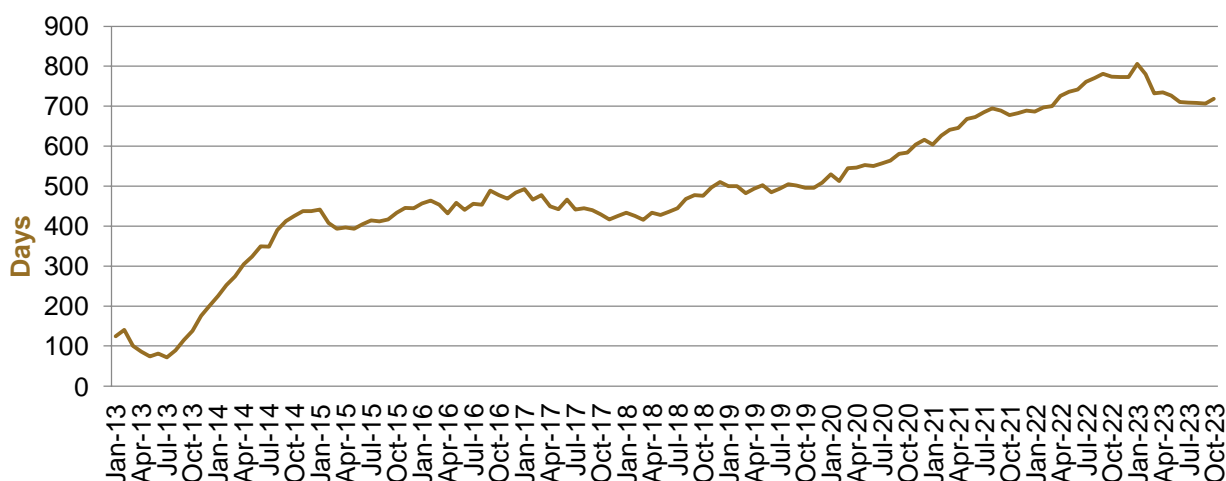


Figure 5 above, shows the average days in held immigration detention at the end of each month from January 2013 to the date of this report. The average period of time for people held in detention facilities steadily increased from July 2013 to January 2015. Between November 2018 and December 2019 the 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 285 people in the community under residence determination, as at 31 October 2023, 5.2 per cent had been in the community for 91 days or less and 24.9 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 October 2023

Period Detained	Total	% of Total
7 days or less	<5	<2.0%
8 days - 31 days	<5	<2.0%
32 days - 91 days	11	3.9%
92 days - 182 days	13	4.6%
183 days - 365 days	43	15.1%
366 days - 547 days	8	2.8%
548 days - 730 days	12	4.2%
731 days - 1095 days	17	6.0%
1096 days - 1460 days	10	3.5%
1461 days - 1825 days	65	22.8%
Greater than 1825 days	102	35.8%
Total	285	100%