



Australian Government
Department of Immigration
and Citizenship

Immigration Detention Statistics Summary

29 February 2012



About this report

This report provides an overview of the number of people in immigration detention in Australia as at midnight on the date of the report. The report is produced on a monthly basis.

Data is sourced from several departmental processing and recording systems. Data relating to the immigration detention population is dynamic and there can be delays in transmission of information from the department's immigration detention network operations. Variations in figures between this report and previous issues 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 www.immi.gov.au/managing-australias-borders/detention.

Enquiries

Any comment or enquiries concerning this report should be sent using our client service feedback form quoting the name and date of the report.

See: <http://www.immi.gov.au/managing-australias-borders/detention/visiting/enquiries-feedback.htm>

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IMMIGRATION DETENTION STATISTICS SUMMARY

Detention Operations Division, DIAC - As at 29 February 2012

There were 4944 people in immigration detention facilities and alternative places of detention, including 3602 in immigration detention on the mainland and 1342 in immigration detention on Christmas Island as at 29 February 2012. Separately, 1700 people have been approved for a residence determination to live in the community.

Figure 1

People in Immigration Detention Facilities and Alternative Places of Detention					
Place of immigration detention ¹	Men	Women	Children	Total	Change from Previous Summary (31/01/12)
Christmas Island IDC	551			551	+ 111
Curtin IDC	956			956	+ 100
Maribyrnong IDC	78	15		93	+ 15
Northern IDC (Darwin)	193			193	- 10
Perth IDC	32			32	- 2
Pontville IDC	132			132	- 180
Scherger IDC	272			272	- 11
Villawood IDC	292	52		344	- 31
Wickham Point IDC	468			468	+ 18
Total in IDCs	2974	67	0	3041	+ 10
Perth Immigration Residential Housing	6		1	7	+ 3
Port Augusta Immigration Residential Housing				0	- 28
Sydney Immigration Residential Housing	13	8	7	28	+ 5
Adelaide Immigration Transit Accommodation	7	2		9	+ 5
Brisbane Immigration Transit Accommodation	45			45	- 6
Melbourne Immigration Transit Accommodation	67		1	68	+ 7
Total in Immigration Residential Housing and Immigration Transit Accommodation	138	10	9	157	- 14
Alternative Places of Detention ² (Christmas Island)	488	67	236	791	+ 399
Alternative Places of Detention (Mainland)	528	175	251	954	- 235
Restricted on Board Vessels in Port	1			1	+ 1
Total	4129	319	496	4944	+ 161
People in Community under Residence Determination	706	383	611	1700	+ 100

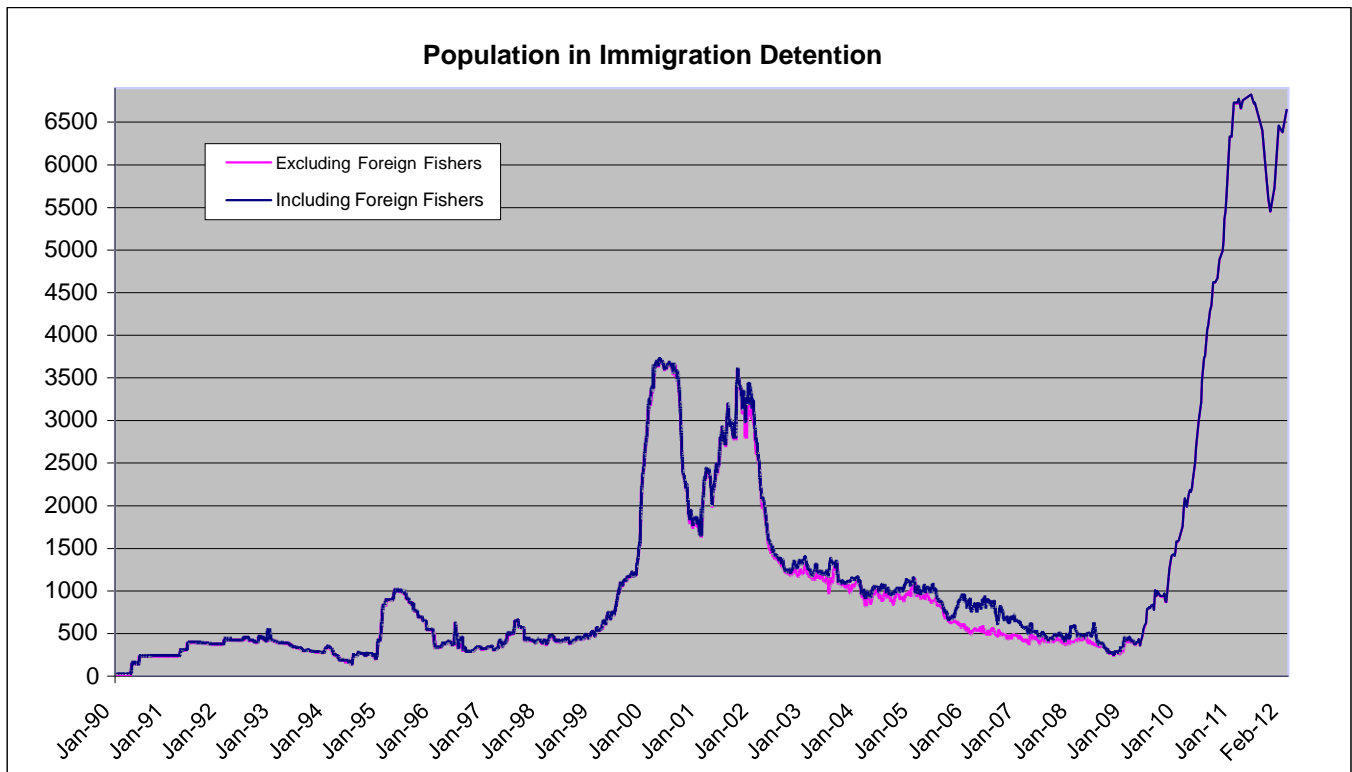
¹ Immigration detention as set out under s 189 or s 249 of the *Migration Act 1958*.

² Includes detention in the community in private houses / correctional facilities / watch houses / hotels / apartments / foster care / hospitals with a person designated under the Act.

Immigration Detention Population from 1990 to February 2012.

The number of people in immigration detention month to month continues to fluctuate, predominantly due to the changing pattern of irregular maritime arrivals.

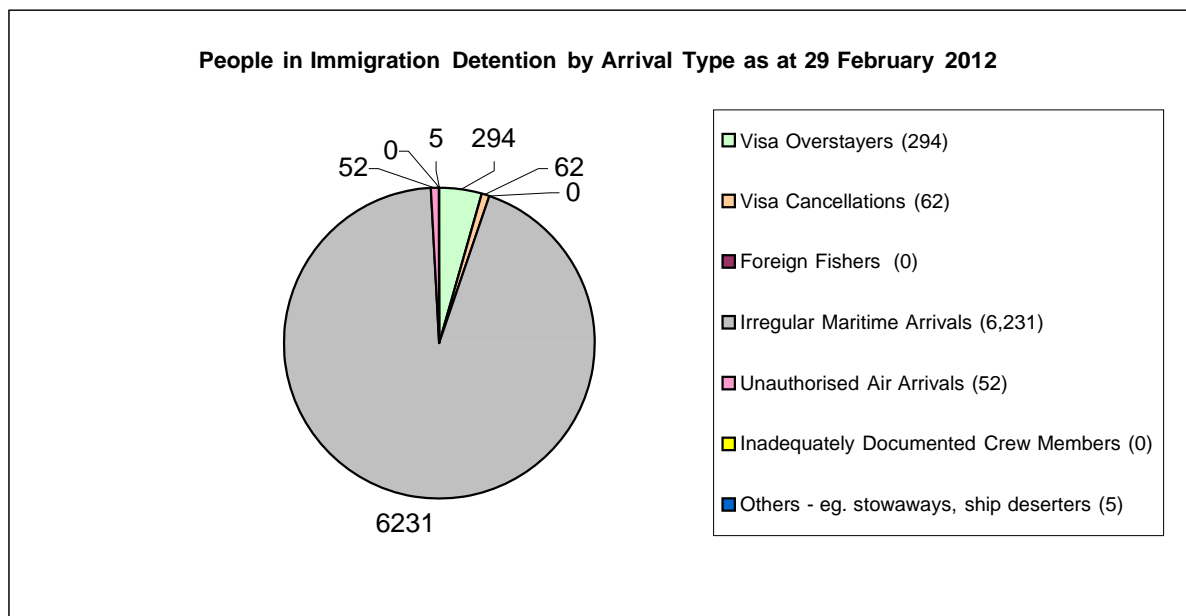
Figure 2



People in Immigration Detention by Arrival Type

The number of people in immigration detention who arrived unlawfully by air or boat as at 29 February 2012 was 6283, representing about 94 per cent of the total immigration detention population. There were also 356 people (about 5 per cent of the total immigration population) who arrived in Australia lawfully and were subsequently taken into immigration detention for either overstaying or breaching their visa conditions, resulting in visa cancellation.

Figure 3



People in Immigration Detention by Nationality

Of the 4944 people in immigration detention facilities and alternative places of detention as at 29 February 2012, around 35% were Afghan nationals, 20% were Iranian nationals and 8% were Indonesian nationals.

Figure 4

People in Immigration Detention Facilities and Alternative Places of Detention as at 29 February 2012					
Nationalities	Adult		Child (<18 years)		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Afghanistan	26	1471	17	222	1736
Iran	123	812	36	39	1010
Indonesia	7	348		28	383
Sri Lanka	30	292	13	17	352
Pakistan	3	322	1	20	346
Iraq	18	215	13	15	261
China, Peoples Republic Of	37	98	1		136
Burma	4	79	5	8	96
Vietnam	16	36	8	14	74
India	4	22	1	2	29
Other	51	434	12	24	521
Total	319	4129	107	389	4944

Of the 1700 people approved to live in the community under residence determinations as at 29 February 2012, around 39% were Iranian nationals, 15% were Sri Lankan nationals and 15% were Afghan nationals.

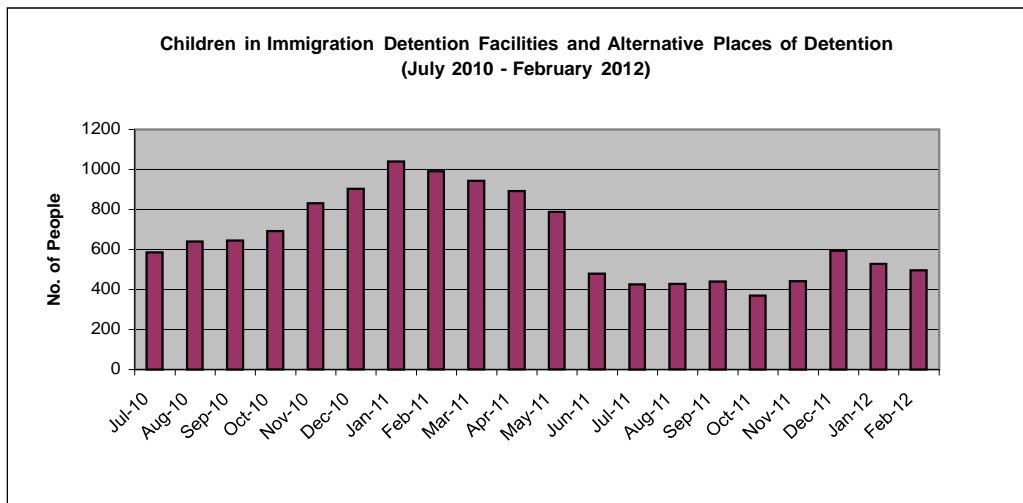
Figure 5

People in Community under Residence Determination as at 29 February 2012					
Nationalities	Adult		Child (<18 years)		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Iran	187	261	99	118	665
Sri Lanka	71	104	43	45	263
Afghanistan	13	112	5	126	256
Iraq	24	84	22	47	177
Vietnam	6	12	5	3	26
Other	82	133	36	62	313
Total	383	706	210	401	1700

Children in Immigration Detention

As at 29 February 2012, there were 496 children (aged under 18 years) in immigration detention facilities and alternative places of detention. The increase in the number of children in detention facilities during November 2011, December 2011 and February 2012 was due to a rapid increase in irregular maritime arrivals during those months. The majority of children in facilities-based detention have been in detention for less than three months. No children are detained in an immigration detention centre.

Figure 6



Note: Immigration Detention Facilities in Figure 6 refer to Immigration Residential Housing and Immigration Transit Accommodation.

The number of children approved to live in the community under a residence determination has increased significantly since the Government's announcement on 18 October 2010 that it would move the majority of children and a significant number of vulnerable families into community based arrangements by 30 June 2011.

Figure 7

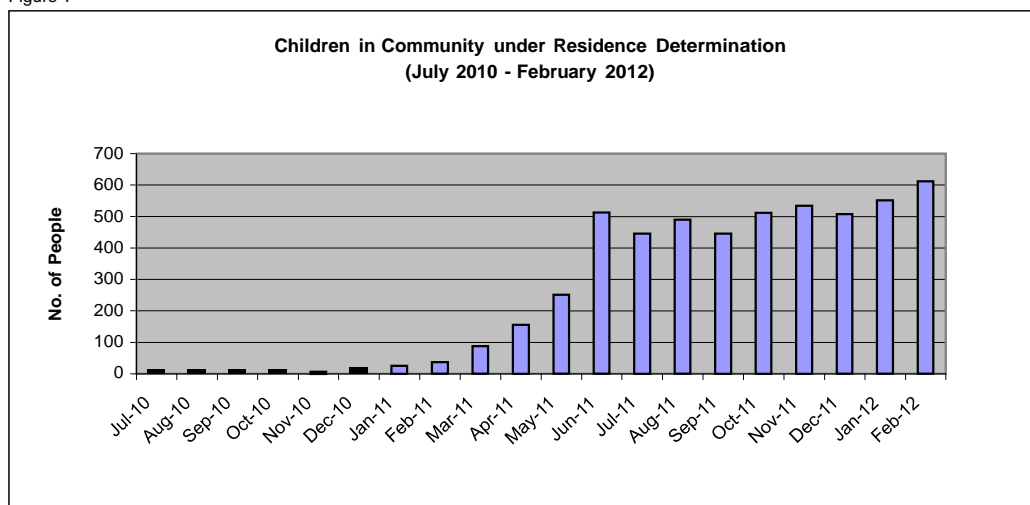


Figure 8

Children in Immigration Detention as at 29 February 2012	
Type	Total
Immigration Residential Housing	8
Immigration Transit Accommodation	1
Alternative Places of Detention	487
Total	496

Children in Community under Residence Determination	611
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Time in Detention

Of the 6644 people in immigration detention as at 29 February 2012, around 38% had been detained for 3 months or less and 74% had been detained for 12 months or less.

Figure 9

Length of Time in Detention as at 29 February 2012		
Period Detained	Total	% of Total
7 days or less	418	6.3%
8 days - 31 days	609	9.2%
32 days - 91 days	1495	22.5%
92 days - 182 days	1306	19.7%
183 days - 365 days	1073	16.1%
366 days - 547 days	936	14.1%
548 days - 730 days	554	8.3%
Greater than 730 days	253	3.8%
Total	6644	100%