



Australian Government
Department of Immigration
and Citizenship

Immigration Detention Statistics Summary

31 July 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 31 July 2012

There were 6809 people in immigration detention facilities and alternative places of detention, including 5180 in immigration detention on the mainland and 1629 in immigration detention on Christmas Island as at 31 July 2012. Separately, 1217 people have been approved for a residence determination to live in the community. July has seen an increase in arrivals, including children. This has impacted on the number of children in detention facilities for this month.

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 (30/06/12)
Christmas Island IDC	721			721	- 33
Curtin IDC	1061			1061	+ 162
Maribyrnong IDC	86	7		93	+ 4
Northern IDC (Darwin)	256			256	+ 206
Perth IDC	25	3		28	- 7
Scherger IDC	459			459	+ 39
Villawood IDC	279	33		312	+ 19
Wickham Point IDC	1184			1184	- 108
Yongah Hill IDC	441			441	+ 353
Total in IDCs	4512	43		4555	+ 635
Perth Immigration Residential Housing	1		2	3	- 4
Port Augusta Immigration Residential Housing	17			17	0
Sydney Immigration Residential Housing	10	5	4	19	- 1
Adelaide Immigration Transit Accommodation	8	4		12	- 9
Brisbane Immigration Transit Accommodation	65	1		66	+ 29
Melbourne Immigration Transit Accommodation	47	1	23	71	+ 3
Total in Immigration Residential Housing and Immigration Transit Accommodation	148	11	29	188	+ 18
Alternative Places of Detention ² (Christmas Island)	543	97	268	908	+ 186
Alternative Places of Detention (Mainland)	551	218	389	1158	+ 155
Restricted on Board Vessels in Port				0	0
Total	5754	369	686	6809	+ 994
People in Community under Residence Determination	559	231	427	1217	- 220

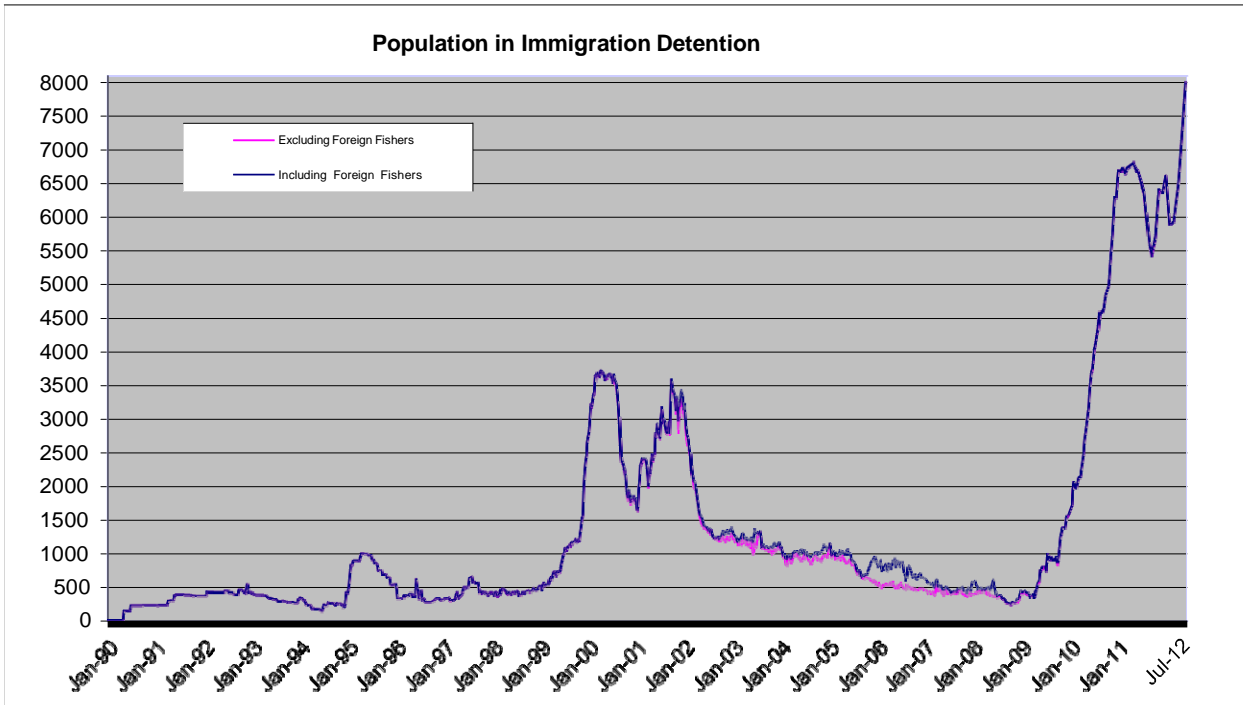
¹ Immigration detention as set out under s 189 or s 249 of the *Migration Act 1958*.

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 July 2012.

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

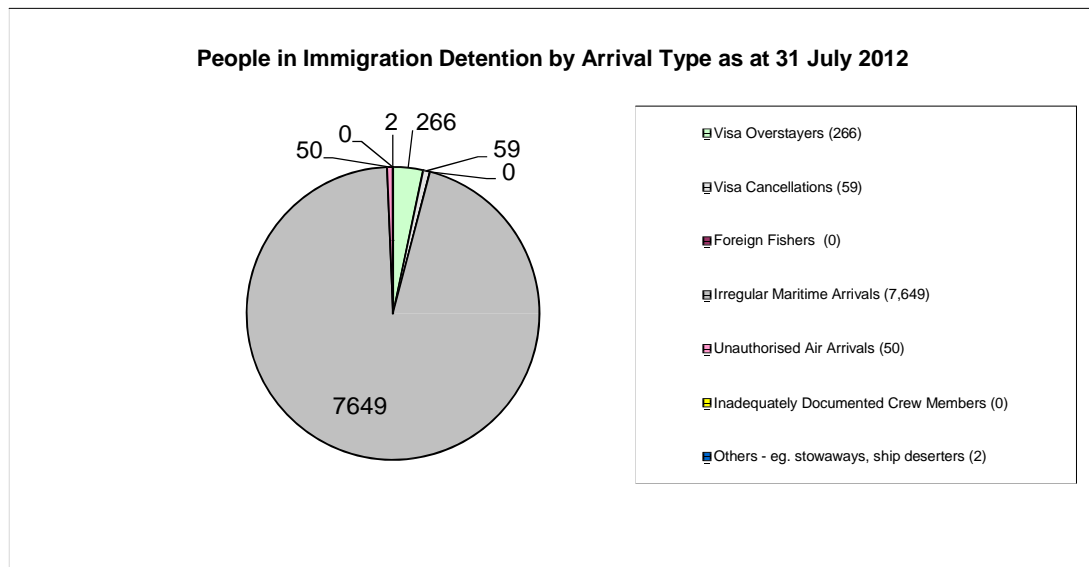
Figure 2



People in Immigration Detention by Arrival Type

The number of people in immigration detention who arrived unlawfully by air or boat as at 31 July 2012 was 7699, representing about 96 per cent of the total immigration detention population. There were also 325 people (about 4 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 6809 people in immigration detention facilities and alternative places of detention as at 31 July 2012, around 30% were Afghan nationals, 28% were Sri Lankan nationals and 11% were Iranian nationals.

Figure 4

People in Immigration Detention Facilities and Alternative Places of Detention as at 31 July 2012					
Nationalities	Adult		Child (<18 years)		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Afghanistan	46	1735	19	252	2052
Sri Lanka	41	1759	13	93	1906
Iran	140	518	37	60	755
Pakistan	7	514	4	37	562
Indonesia	5	336		16	357
Iraq	14	185	5	5	209
Palestinian Authority	25	45	31	17	118
China, Peoples Republic Of	13	84			97
Vietnam	14	37	3	14	68
Bangladesh		33			33
Other	64	508	28	52	652
Total	369	5754	140	546	6809

Of the 1217 people approved to live in the community under residence determinations as at 31 July 2012, around 31% were Iranian nationals, 18% were Afghan nationals and 14% were Iraqi nationals.

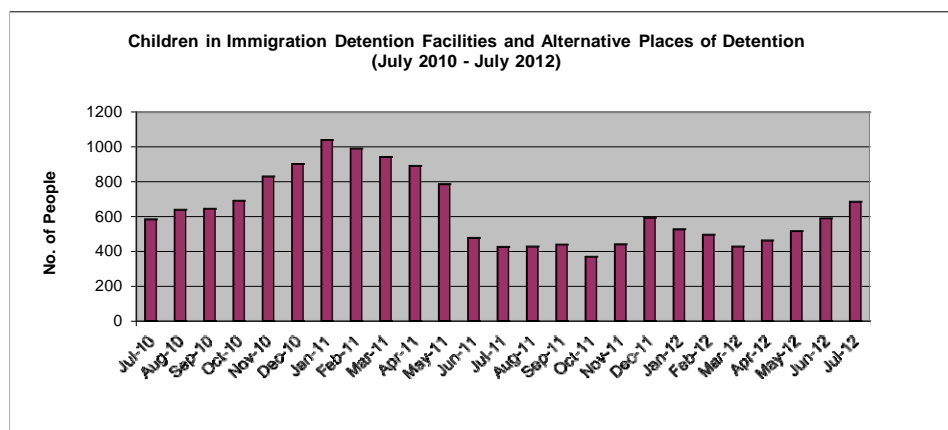
Figure 5

People in Community under Residence Determination as at 31 July 2012					
Nationalities	Adult		Child (<18 years)		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Iran	90	183	52	59	384
Afghanistan	14	94	11	99	218
Iraq	31	81	19	39	170
Sri Lanka	34	77	24	23	158
Vietnam	8	8	11	9	36
Other	54	116	22	59	251
Total	231	559	139	288	1217

Children in Immigration Detention

As at 31 July 2012, there were 686 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 July 2012 was due to a rapid increase in irregular maritime arrivals, including 245 children. The majority of children in facilities-based detention have been in detention for less than two months. No children are detained in an immigration detention centre.

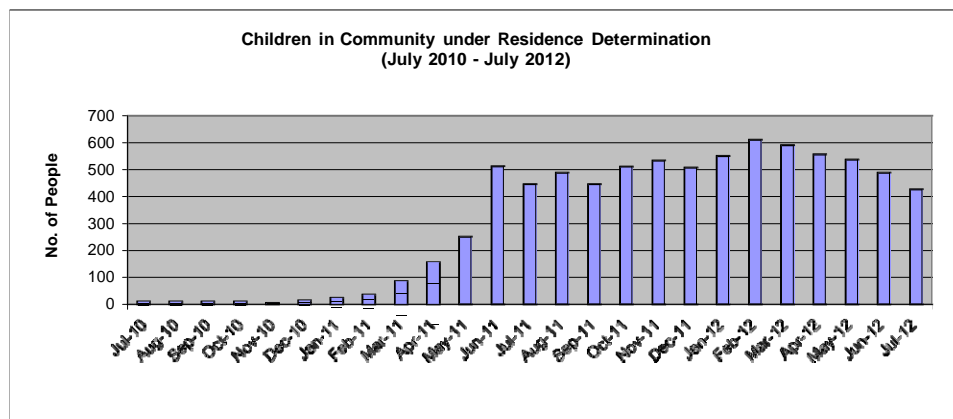
Figure 6



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 been maintained at a high level 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



For the month of July 2012, 686 children remained in immigration detention while undergoing initial processing, 427 children were approved under residence determination for community placement. In addition, 81 children had been granted a bridging visa and were living in the community.

Figure 8

Children in Immigration Detention as at 31 July 2012	
Type	Total
Immigration Residential Housing	6
Immigration Transit Accommodation	23
Alternative Places of Detention	657
Total	686
Children in Community under Residence Determination	427
Children on Bridging Visa E (BVE)	101

Time in Detention

Of the 8026 people in immigration detention as at 31 July 2012, around 63% had been detained for 3 months or less and 86% had been detained for 12 months or less.

Figure 9

Length of Time in Detention as at 31 July 2012		
Period Detained	Total	% of Total
7 days or less	681	8.5%
8 days - 31 days	1222	15.2%
32 days - 91 days	3136	39.1%
92 days - 182 days	1400	17.4%
183 days - 365 days	483	6.0%
366 days - 547 days	289	3.6%
548 days - 730 days	348	4.3%
Greater than 730 days	467	5.8%
Total	8026	100%

The average period of people held in detention facilities has significantly decreased from 277 days in November 2011 to 86 days in July 2012.

Figure 10

