



Australian Government
Department of Immigration
and Citizenship

Immigration Detention Statistics Summary

31 March 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 March 2012

There were 4197 people in immigration detention facilities and alternative places of detention, including 4029 in immigration detention on the mainland and 168 in immigration detention on Christmas Island as at 31 March 2012. Separately, 1712 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 (29/02/12)
Christmas Island IDC	128			128	- 423
Curtin IDC	950			950	- 6
Maribyrnong IDC	72	9		81	- 12
Northern IDC (Darwin)	118	1		119	- 74
Perth IDC	21	5		26	- 6
Pontville IDC				0	- 132
Scherger IDC	427			427	+ 155
Villawood IDC	291	44		335	- 9
Wickham Point IDC	822	1		823	+ 355
Total in IDCs	2829	60	0	2889	- 152
Perth Immigration Residential Housing	5		2	7	0
Port Augusta Immigration Residential Housing	16			16	+ 16
Sydney Immigration Residential Housing	14	6	5	25	- 3
Adelaide Immigration Transit Accommodation	4	1		5	- 4
Brisbane Immigration Transit Accommodation	27			27	- 18
Melbourne Immigration Transit Accommodation	71		1	72	+ 4
Total in Immigration Residential Housing and Immigration Transit Accommodation	137	7	8	152	- 5
Alternative Places of Detention ² (Christmas Island)	5	3	32	40	- 751
Alternative Places of Detention (Mainland)	529	199	388	1116	+ 162
Restricted on Board Vessels in Port				0	- 1
Total	3500	269	428	4197	- 747
People in Community under Residence Determination	736	385	591	1712	+ 12

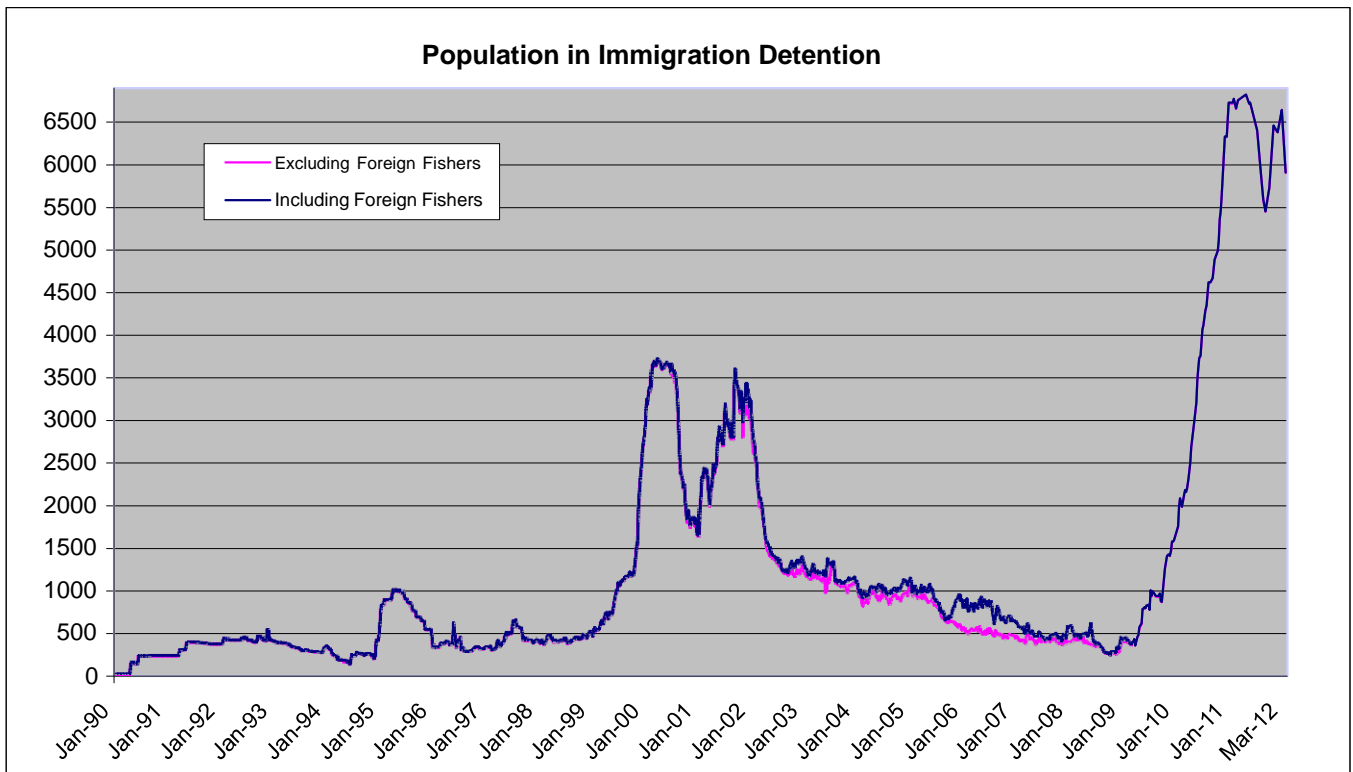
¹ Immigration detention as set out under s 189 or s 249 of the *Migration Act 1958*.

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 March 2012.

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

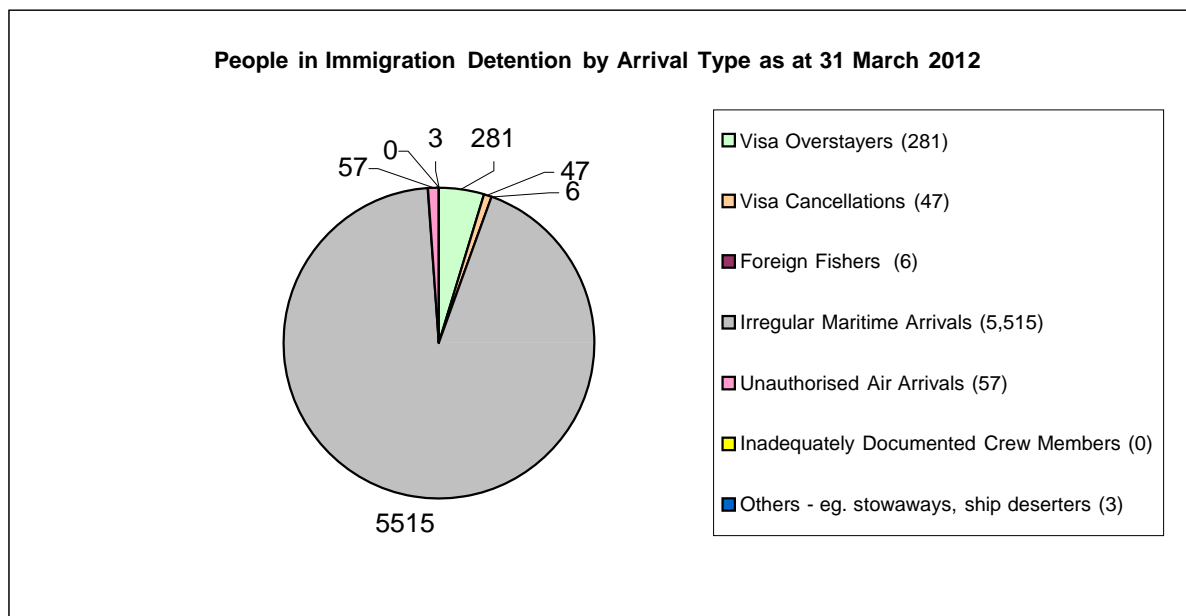
Figure 2



People in Immigration Detention by Arrival Type

The number of people in immigration detention who arrived unlawfully by air or boat as at 31 March 2012 was 5572, representing about 94 per cent of the total immigration detention population. There were also 328 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 4197 people in immigration detention facilities and alternative places of detention as at 31 March 2012, around 36% were Afghan nationals, 17% were Iranian nationals and 8% were Indonesian nationals.

Figure 4

People in Immigration Detention Facilities and Alternative Places of Detention as at 31 March 2012					
Nationalities	Adult		Child (<18 years)		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Afghanistan	28	1314	17	166	1525
Iran	107	538	41	40	726
Indonesia	2	333		13	348
Pakistan	3	304	1	14	322
Sri Lanka	25	261	13	16	315
Iraq	12	180	9	11	212
China, Peoples Republic Of	27	93		1	121
Vietnam	4	27	19	22	72
Burma	5	56	4	5	70
Malaysia	6	27			33
Other	50	367	14	22	453
Total	269	3500	118	310	4197

Of the 1712 people approved to live in the community under residence determinations as at 31 March 2012, around 37% were Iranian nationals, 16% were Afghan nationals and 15% were Sri Lankan nationals.

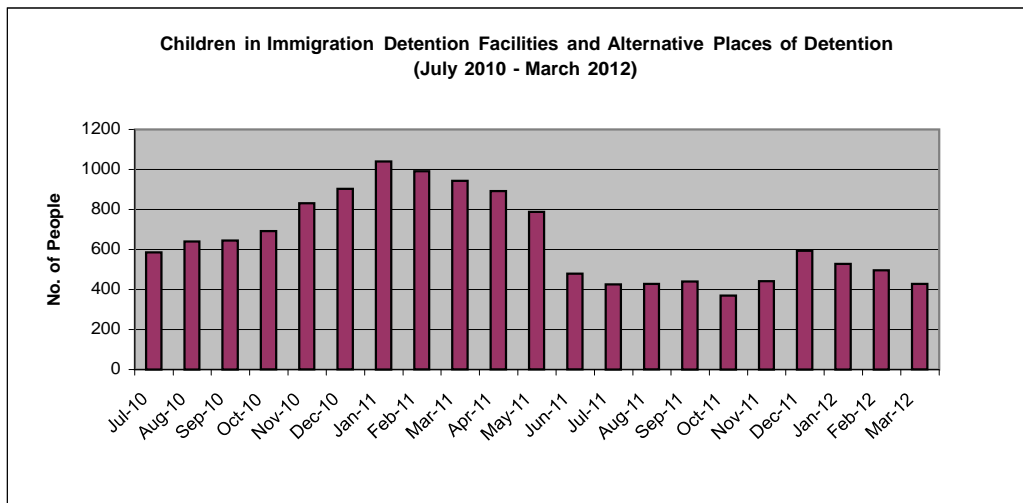
Figure 5

People in Community under Residence Determination as at 31 March 2012					
Nationalities	Adult		Child (<18 years)		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Iran	185	270	82	95	632
Afghanistan	12	131	4	131	278
Sri Lanka	72	105	43	45	265
Iraq	30	89	23	51	193
Vietnam	6	6	5	9	26
Other	80	135	41	62	318
Total	385	736	198	393	1712

Children in Immigration Detention

As at 31 March 2012, there were 428 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 four 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

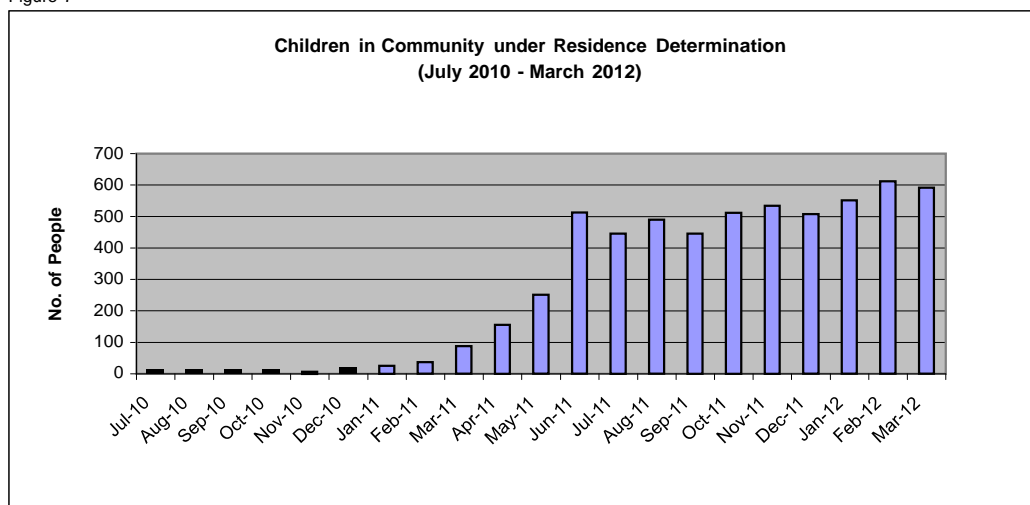


Figure 8

Children in Immigration Detention as at 31 March 2012	
Type	Total
Immigration Residential Housing	7
Immigration Transit Accommodation	1
Alternative Places of Detention	420
Total	428

Children in Community under Residence Determination	591
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Time in Detention

Of the 5909 people in immigration detention as at 31 March 2012, around 26% had been detained for 3 months or less and 73% had been detained for 12 months or less.

Figure 9

Length of Time in Detention as at 31 March 2012		
Period Detained	Total	% of Total
7 days or less	87	1.5%
8 days - 31 days	177	3.0%
32 days - 91 days	1268	21.5%
92 days - 182 days	2098	35.5%
183 days - 365 days	679	11.5%
366 days - 547 days	765	12.9%
548 days - 730 days	493	8.3%
Greater than 730 days	342	5.8%
Total	5909	100%

The average period of people held in detention facilities has significantly decreased from 277 days in November 2011 to 157 days in March 2012.

Figure 10

