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NEW ESTIMATE OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE OVERSTAYED THEIR VISA

Immigration New Zealand (INZ) has released its updated estimate of the number of people currently in New Zealand who have overstayed their visa.

The latest estimate shows that as of 1 July 2025, there were around 20,980 people in New Zealand who had overstayed their visa.

This is the first estimate produced using INZ's newly adopted methodology, which has significantly enhanced the accuracy of the estimate. The previous estimate, conducted in 2017, estimated the number of people who have overstayed their visas at approximately 14,000, but direct comparisons between the two estimates cannot be made because of the different methodologies used.

Each year, New Zealand processes around one million visa applications and 1.6 million New Zealand Electronic Travel Authority requests and there are around 3.6 million arrivals from non-New Zealand citizens each year.

The latest estimate shows that the number of people who overstay their visa is a very small proportion of temporary migrants who come to New Zealand.

The estimate of people who have overstayed their visa will be used alongside other systems and tools to improve efforts to address overstaying and enhance policy advice.

INZ will be releasing the updated estimate annually on its website as part of its broader efforts to improve transparency and public confidence in the immigration system.

Of the estimated 20,980 people, the top ten nationalities are as follows:

Top 10	Nationality	Estimate
1	Tonga	2,599
2	China	2,577
3	United States of America	2,213
4	Samoa	1,697
5	India	1,582
6	Great Britain	1,256
7	Philippines	938
8	Malaysia	753
9	Canada	510
10	Germany	498

11	Other	6,356
	Total	20,979*

**This data is based off 30 years' worth of data and corresponds with the introduction of Immigration New Zealand using electronic records.*

The top 10 nationalities account for 69.7% of the total estimate of people in New Zealand who have overstayed their visas.

A snapshot of the percentage of overstaying compared to temporary visa arrivals for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2025, shows that overall, the percentage of overstaying is less than 0.20% of those who arrived on temporary visas for that same two-year period.

Number of people who have arrived in New Zealand on a temporary visa between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2025 who have overstayed their visa

Nationality	Total temporary visa arrivals between 1/7/2023 and 30/6/2025	Individuals who arrived between 1/7/2023 and 30/6/2025 and were recorded as having overstayed their visas as of 1/7/2025	Percentage*
Tonga	24,425	472	1.93%
Samoa	23,075	382	1.66%
Malaysia	64,865	220	0.34%
Fiji	53,061	163	0.31%
India	222,436	428	0.19%
Canada	115,727	219	0.19%
Great Britain	314,773	504	0.16%
United States of America	656,684	894	0.14%
Germany	142,802	184	0.13%
China	472,041	369	0.08%
Other	1,313,716	2,018	0.15%
Total	3,403,605	5,853	0.17%

A breakdown of the main visa categories and subcategories held at the most recent arrival for those identified as overstaying their visa are as follows:

Visa held at most recent arrival	Estimate
Visitor	15,472



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<i>General Visitor Visa</i>	5,623
<i>Visa Waiver</i>	8,018
<i>Other Visitor</i>	1,831
Work	2,219
<i>Skilled Work</i>	390
<i>Working Holiday</i>	347
<i>Recognised Seasonal Employer</i>	134
<i>Other Work</i>	1,348
Student	1,031
<i>Fee Paying Student</i>	838
<i>Other Student</i>	193
Relationship	598
<i>Visitor Visa</i>	354
<i>Work Visa</i>	244
Business	508
<i>Other</i>	1,151
Total	20,979

Deportations

The updated estimate will not change our approach to deportations and how we carry out compliance activity. Immigration Compliance staff will continue to prioritise visits based on established criteria, and our highest priority remains individuals involved in criminal activity, particularly those who pose a threat to national security.

Information about the estimate can be found on our INZ website [Overstaying a visa expiry: Immigration New Zealand](#).