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Migration and Temporary visa program quarterly report on processing times (2023-24 Q4)

Visa activities

Visa processing times for the fourth quarter of 2023-24 marginally increased across some of the migration and temporary visa programs. During this period the Department has seen an increase in lodgements across all visa programs, with a recent trend of slowing visa application lodgements.

The volume of new visa applications remains high with nearly 9.3 million migration and temporary visa applications lodged in the 2023-24 program year, which represents an 18 per cent increase in lodgements compared to the 2022-23 program year.

Of the 9.3 million applications received in 2023-24, over 2.1 million were received in the fourth quarter (1 April 2024 to 30 June 2024):

- This is 1.6 per cent more than the number of applications lodged in the fourth quarter of the previous year (2022-23).
- Temporary visa programs have seen the strongest growth in application lodgements, up 3.7 per cent in the fourth quarter 2023-24, compared to the fourth quarter the previous year. This included Visitor visa applications increasing by 7 per cent, Working Holiday Maker increasing by 3 per cent, and Temporary Skilled increasing by nearly 54 per cent.
- Permanent Skilled visa application lodgements have however reduced by 34.5 per cent compared to the fourth quarter of the previous year (2022-23). Noting this, the total number of new applications in the previous program year (2022-23) was a high for Permanent Skilled visas.

As at 30 June 2024, there were over 745,000 migration and temporary visa applications on-hand.

- This is 166,000 (or 29 per cent) more temporary and migration visa applications on-hand, compared to 579,000 on-hand applications on 30 June 2023.
- This is 214,000 (or 22 per cent) less temporary and migration visa applications on-hand, compared to 959,000 on-hand applications on 30 June 2022.
- Temporary visa applications on-hand have increased to nearly 337,000 compared to just over 161,000 the same time last year.
- Of the over 745,000 on-hand applications, nearly 160,000 are in programs subject to capping and/or queuing. The cap is set annually in a legislative instrument based on Migration Program planning levels.

During the 2023-24 program year the Department finalised 9.1 million temporary and migration visa applications, with over 2.1 million being in the fourth quarter (between 1 April 2024 to 30 June 2024), 0.15 per cent less than in the same period in 2022-23.

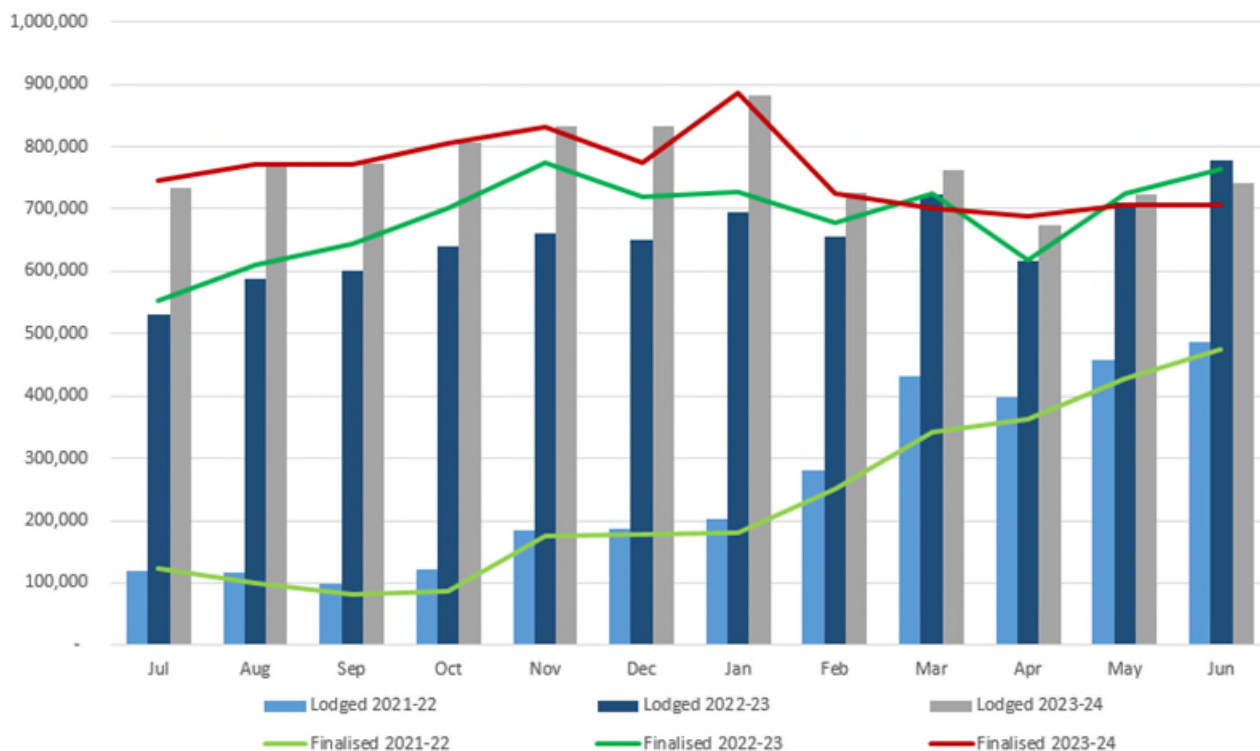
Of visa applications finalised during the fourth quarter 2023-24 compared to fourth quarter 2022-23, there was an increase of just over 1.4 per cent in temporary visa programs, including:

- 1.2 million Visitor visa applications finalised, an increase of 7 per cent,
- 65,300 Working Holiday Maker applications finalised, an increase of 15 per cent, and
- 31,300 Temporary Skilled applications finalised, an increase of 24 per cent.

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Visa application finalisations for the Migration Program, however, reduced in the fourth quarter in line with the planning levels. The Skilled (Permanent) and Family programs achieved the planning level of 190,000 by 30 June 2024.

Figure 1: *Migration and Temporary visa applications lodged and finalised 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 by month*



Processing times

Visa processing times increased in some programs in the fourth quarter of 2023-24, when compared to the fourth quarter of 2022-23. Global median processing times for key programs in the fourth quarter compared to the previous year were:

- Visitor visas in less than one day (decreased from 1 day)
- Temporary Skill Shortage (TSS) visas in 33 days (increased from 14 days)
- Student visas in 45 days (increased from 14 days)
- Other Temporary visas in 31 days (increased from 17 days)
- First Stage Partner visas in 18 months (increased from 7 months)
- Working Holiday Makers remained steady at less than one day

There will continue to be some variability in processing times from month to month. This is because global processing times reflect the age of applications finalised in a specific period. As such, when the Department focuses efforts on finalising older applications, processing times will temporarily increase and as a result may not reflect processing times for new applications.

Visa application flow rates

Visa application flow rates measure the proportion of applications lodged in a period that have been finalised in either the same period or by a subsequent snapshot date. Any period can be used as the lodgement period but this report focuses on the latest quarter and the latest 12 months.

Table 1 provides the visa flow rates for visa applications lodged and finalised in the fourth quarter of 2023-24 (1 April 2024 to 30 June 2024), with the Department finalising over 91 per cent of temporary visas lodged in the fourth quarter. **Table 2** provides the flow rates for visa applications lodged and finalised in the 12 months prior to the end of quarter four (1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024). In this period the Department finalised nearly 97 per cent of applications lodged in the reported 12 month period of 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

Table 1: *Three month (quarter) snapshot of primary Temporary visa applications lodged between 1 April 2024 and 30 June 2024 by key visa categories*

Visa Category	2023-24 Quarter 4 (Apr to June 2024)		
	Lodged in 4 th quarter 2024	Lodged in 4 th quarter 2024 and finalised	% lodged in 4 th quarter 2024 and finalised
Crew and Transit	98,311	97,218	98.89%
Skilled (Temporary)	22,466	9,593	42.70%
Student	125,679	54,294	43.20%
Temporary Resident (Other Employment)	50,077	29,729	59.37%
Visitor	1,184,720	1,134,583	95.77%
Working Holiday Maker	59,610	43,085	72.28%
Grand Total	1,540,863	1,368,502	88.81%

Table 2: *12 month snapshot of primary Temporary visa applications lodged between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024 by key visa categories*

Visa Category	Rolling 12 months (Jul 2023 to Jun 2024)		
	Lodged in last 12 months	Lodged in last 12 months and finalised	% lodged last 12 months and finalised
Crew and Transit	431,572	430,438	99.74%
Skilled (Temporary)	64,495	48,871	75.77%
Student	503,807	395,372	78.48%
Temporary Resident (Other Employment)	309,780	276,317	89.20%
Visitor	5,287,474	5,232,963	98.97%
Working Holiday Maker	253,707	233,781	92.15%
Grand Total	6,850,835	6,617,742	96.60%