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# Migration and Temporary visa program quarterly report on visa processing times (2024-25 Q1)

## Visa activities

Visa processing times for the first quarter of 2024-25 (1 July 2024 to 30 September 2024) has increased across some migration and temporary visa programs, primarily due to the increase in visa volumes, focus on older applications and high level of integrity. During this quarter the Department has continued to see an increase in lodgements across several visa programs, however some program are seeing a slowing in applications being lodged such as Students and Parents.

The volume of new visa applications remains strong with over 2.3 million migration and temporary visa applications being lodged in the first quarter of 2024-25 (between 1 July 2024 to 30 September 2024):

- This is 1.4 per cent more than the number of applications lodged in the first quarter of 2023-24 and 34.4 per cent more than the first quarter in 2022-23.
- Some temporary visa programs have seen strong growth in application lodgements over the last two years with some continuing to see growth in this latest year. For example, comparing 2024-25 first quarter to the first quarter 2023-24 Working Holiday Maker applications have increased by 44.1 per cent, Temporary Skilled by 74.8 per cent, and Visitor visa applications by 4.7 per cent (nearly 61,000).
- Compared to the first quarter of 2023-24 Permanent Skilled visa application lodgements increased by 18.3 per cent, including 13.1 per cent in Migration Skilled and 48.3 per cent in Non-migration Skilled visas being lodged. First stage Partner increased by 34.3 per cent.

As at 30 September 2024, there were nearly 716,000 migration and temporary visa applications on-hand.

- This is nearly 135,000 (or 23.2 per cent) more migration and temporary visa applications on-hand, compared to 581,000 on-hand applications a year ago, on 30 September 2023.
- This is 156,000 (or 18 per cent) less migration and temporary visa applications on-hand, compared to 872,000 on-hand applications two years ago, on 30 September 2022.
- Of the 716,000 on-hand applications, over 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.

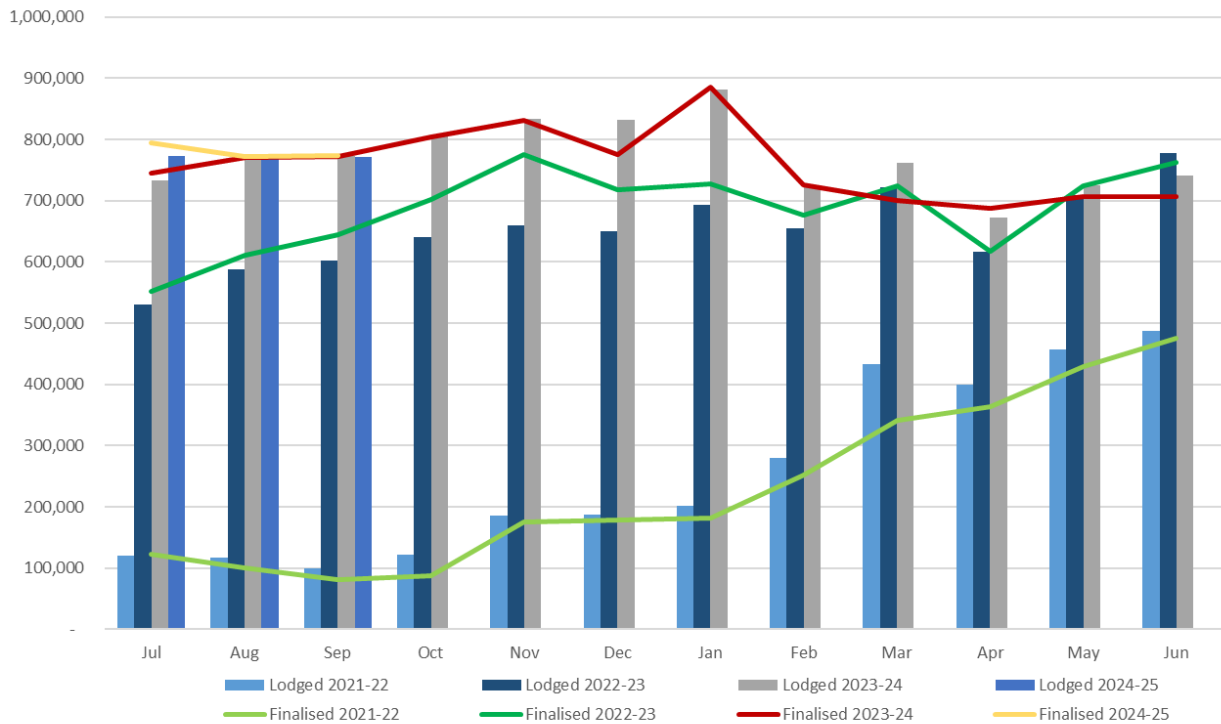
In the first quarter of 2024-25 the Department finalised over 2.35 million migration and temporary visa applications, 1.8 per cent more than in the same period in 2023-24. Of these over 2.2 million were in the temporary visa program, an increase of 2.9 per cent, including:

- 1.33 million Visitor visa applications finalised, an increase of 4.8 per cent,
- 96,600 Working Holiday Maker applications finalised, an increase of 55.0 per cent, and
- 34,600 Temporary Skilled applications finalised, an increase of 27.2 per cent.

Migration and temporary visa applications lodged and finalised by month from 2021-22 to 2024-25 up to September 2024 available in **Figure 1**.

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**Figure 1: Migration and Temporary visa applications lodged and finalised 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 by month**



## Processing times

Visa processing times for applications decided in the first quarter of 2024-25 has increased for some programs, when compared to the previous year. Global median processing times for key programs in the first quarter 2024-25, compared to the first quarter 2023-24:

- Visitor visas remained steady being decided in less than one day
- Temporary Skill Shortage (TSS) decided in 44 days (increased from 18 days)
- Student visas decided in 52 days (increased from 17 days)
- First Stage Partner visas decided in 11 months (increased from 6 months)
- Working Holiday Makers remained steady being decided in less than one day

There will continue to be variability in processing times from month to month because global processing times reflect the age of applications decided in a specific period. As such, when the Department focuses efforts on processing 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. The flow rates focus on primary applications received only. 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 key temporary visa applications lodged and finalised in the first quarter of 2024-25, with the Department finalising nearly 90 per cent of temporary visas lodged in the first quarter. **Table 2** provides the flow rates for the same key temporary visa applications lodged and finalised in the 12 months prior to the end of quarter one (1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024), with the Department finalising over 96 per cent of applications lodged in the 12 months.

**Table 1:** *Three months (quarter) snapshot of primary temporary visa applications lodged between 1 July 2024 and 30 September 2024 by key visa categories*

Visa Category	2024-25 Quarter 1 (July to September 2024)		
	Lodged in 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter 2024-25	Lodged in 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter 2024-25 and finalised	% lodged in 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter 2024-25 and finalised
Crew and Transit	111,218	107,265	96.45%
Skilled (Temporary)	20,751	8,078	38.93%
Student	85,277	38,438	45.07%
Temporary Resident (Other Employment)	49,657	32,946	66.35%
Visitor	1,345,073	1,264,631	94.02%
Working Holiday Maker	93,952	78,231	83.27%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,705,928</b>	<b>1,529,589</b>	<b>89.66%</b>

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

Visa Category	Rolling 12 months (October 2023 to September 2024)		
	Lodged in last 12 months	Lodged in last 12 months and finalised	% lodged last 12 months and finalised
Crew and Transit	437,590	433,580	99.08%
Skilled (Temporary)	73,882	55,756	75.47%
Student	467,198	370,055	79.21%
Temporary Resident (Other Employment)	246,273	220,190	89.41%
Visitor	5,347,308	5,263,059	98.42%
Working Holiday Maker	282,440	263,630	93.34%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>6,854,691</b>	<b>6,606,270</b>	<b>96.38%</b>