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Migration and Temporary visa program quarterly report on visa processing times (2024-25 Q2)

Visa activities

In the second quarter 2024-25 (1 October 2024 to 31 December 2024) visa processing times have improved on the first quarter for some programs. In comparison to the second quarter in the previous year 2023-24 (October to December 2023) the processing times have increased for most programs, primarily due to the increase in visa applications being received and high level of integrity checking.

The volume of new visa applications received by the Department has continued to grow, with over 2.5 million Migration and Temporary visa applications being lodged in the second quarter of 2024-25 (1 October 2024 to 31 December 2024):

- This is 1.3 per cent more than the number of applications lodged in the second quarter of 2023-24 and 28.4 per cent more than the second quarter in 2022-23.
- Compared to the second quarter of 2023-24 Permanent Skilled visa application lodgements increased by 57.4 per cent, including 61.4 per cent in Migration Skilled and 28.5 per cent in Non-Migration Skilled visas being lodged. Other key programs have increased as well, including:
 - First stage Partner increased by 3.2 per cent,
 - Working Holiday Maker applications have increased by 26.4 per cent,
 - Temporary Skilled by 69.4 per cent, and
 - Visitor visa applications by 0.9 per cent (nearly 13,000).
- However, there continues to be a slowing of lodgements in other visa programs, including Parents reducing by 22.9 per cent and Students reducing by 27.6 per cent, particularly notable in the offshore Student visa lodgements that reduced by 40.7 per cent when compared to the second quarter in 2023-24.

On 31 December 2024, there were over 731,000 Migration and Temporary visa applications on-hand.

- This is over 81,000 (or 12.5 per cent) more Migration and Temporary visa applications on-hand, compared to 650,000 on-hand applications a year ago, on 31 December 2023.
- This is 103,000 (or 16.4 per cent) more Migration and Temporary visa applications on-hand, compared to 628,000 on-hand applications two years ago, on 31 December 2022.
- Of the 731,000 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.

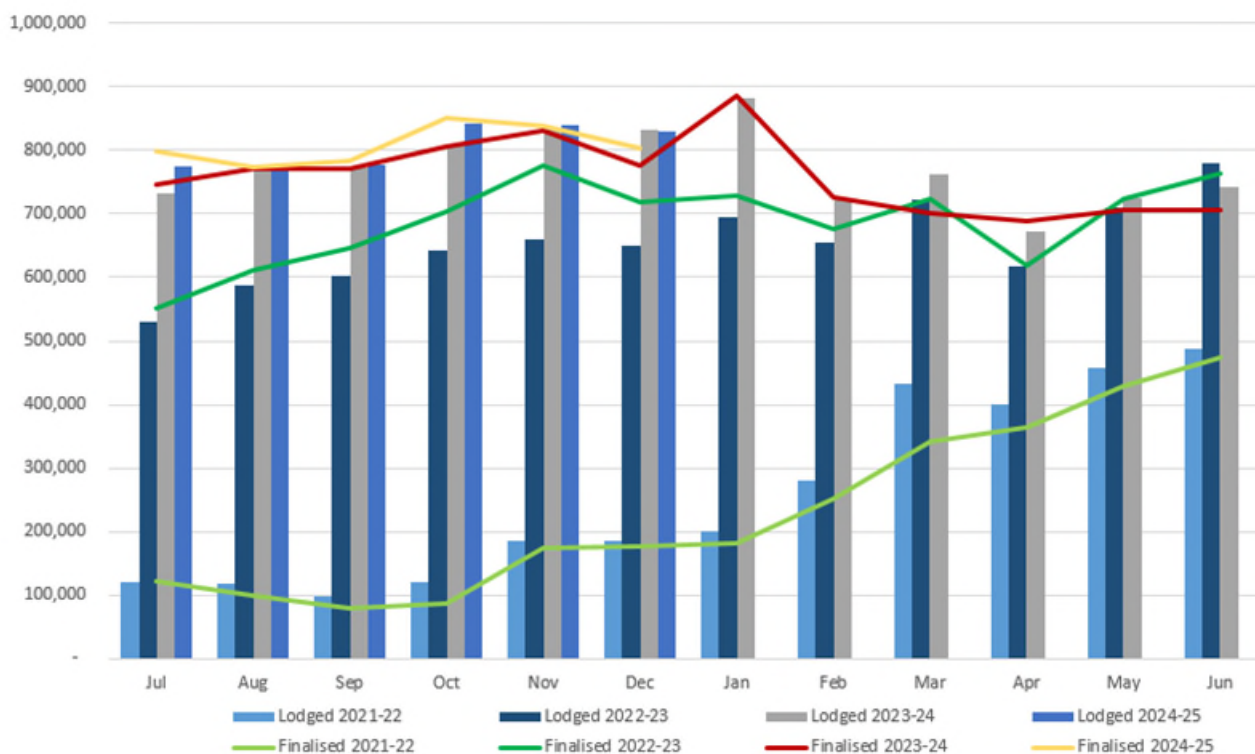
In the second quarter of 2024-25 the Department finalised nearly 2.5 million Migration and Temporary visa applications, 3 per cent more than in the same period in 2023-24. Of these nearly 2.4 million were in the Temporary visa program, an increase of 4.2 per cent, including:

- 1.47 million Visitor visa applications finalised, an increase of 2.4 per cent,
- 80,300 Working Holiday Maker applications finalised, an increase of 30.6 per cent, and
- 28,100 Temporary Skilled applications finalised, an increase of 28.7 per cent.

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

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



Processing times

The global median visa processing times for applications decided in the second quarter of 2024-25 has increased for some programs, when compared to the second quarter 2023-24 – results for key programs:

- Visitor visas remained steady being decided in less than one day
- Temporary Skill Shortage (TSS) decided in 51 days (increased from 15 days)
- Student visas decided in 25 days (increased from 18 days)
- First Stage Partner visas decided in 9 months (increased from 7 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 second quarter of 2024-25, with the Department finalising over 90 per cent of Temporary visas lodged in the second 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 two (1 January 2024 to 31 December 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 October 2024 and 31 December 2024 by key visa categories*

Visa Category	2024-25 Quarter 2 (October to December 2024)		
	Lodged in 2 nd quarter 2024-25	Lodged in 2 nd quarter 2024-25 and finalised	% lodged in 2 nd quarter 2024-25 and finalised
Maritime Crew	79,972	79,173	99.00%
Skilled (Temporary)	25,196	4,896	19.43%
Student	92,079	57,406	62.34%
Temporary Resident (Other Employment)	50,817	33,321	65.57%
Transit	42,027	36,662	87.23%
Visitor	1,471,080	1,387,005	94.28%
Working Holiday Maker	80,110	63,478	79.24%
Grand Total	1,841,281	1,661,941	90.26%

Table 2: *12-month snapshot of primary Temporary visa applications lodged between 1 January 2024 and 31 December 2024 by key visa categories*

Visa Category	Rolling 12 months (January 2024 to December 2024)		
	Lodged in last 12 months	Lodged in last 12 months and finalised	% lodged last 12 months and finalised
Maritime Crew	311,893	311,080	99.74%
Skilled (Temporary)	84,173	55,190	65.57%
Student	433,636	345,453	79.66%
Temporary Resident (Other Employment)	221,821	197,229	88.91%
Transit	133,977	128,595	95.98%
Visitor	5,369,138	5,279,615	98.33%
Working Holiday Maker	299,793	280,653	93.62%
Grand Total	6,854,431	6,597,815	96.26%