



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

# Fiscal Year 2014 ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations Report

## Overview

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) shares responsibility for enforcing the nation's civil immigration laws with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). ICE identifies, arrests, and removes aliens who endanger national security or pose a risk to public safety, as well as those who enter the United States illegally or otherwise undermine our immigration laws and border control efforts. ICE focuses immigration enforcement on two primary missions: (1) identifying and apprehending *criminal aliens* and *other removable* individuals within the United States; and (2) detaining and *removing* individuals apprehended in the interior United States, as well as those apprehended by CBP officers and agents patrolling our nation's borders.

ICE prioritizes identifying and removing criminal aliens and those apprehended at the border attempting to unlawfully enter the United States. This report summarizes ICE's Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 civil immigration enforcement and removal operations. It also provides a comparative analysis between FY 2014 and FY 2013 figures.

ICE removed fewer aliens in FY 2014 than in FY 2013 due to various factors. First, as a percentage of total removals, Mexican removals decreased from 66 percent to 56 percent. Guatemalan, Honduran, and El Salvadorian removals, as a percentage of total ICE removals, increased 4 percent, 3 percent, and 3 percent, respectively. Since non-Mexican national removals require a travel document, their removal process requires more time and resources to complete. Second, ICE shifted resources toward managing the influx of family units, juveniles, and unaccompanied children (UACs) from Central America and away from consequence delivery initiatives such as the Alien Transfer Exit Program (ATEP). ATEP accounted for 52,965 Mexican removals in FY 2013, which comprised subjects apprehended by U.S. Border Patrol and quickly removed by ICE. Third, the increased number of jurisdictions declining to honor ICE detainers partially contributed to decreased criminal alien removals this year. Local law enforcement declined to honor 10,182 detainers in FY 2014. Lastly, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling in *Rodriguez v. Robbins* requiring bond hearings for all aliens detained six months or longer increased detained aliens' average length of stay (ALOS) in ICE detention. This ALOS increase directly impacted removals because as available detention space decreases and ICE detains fewer subjects, fewer subjects are available for removal.

In some instances, ICE cannot repatriate individuals to their countries of origin or nationality within the statutory time limits. In these cases, absent any extraordinary circumstances, ICE must, by law, release individuals from custody, pursuant to United States Supreme Court and other federal court decisions.

Individuals may be released on their own recognizance, on an order of supervision, with or without bond,

or placed in an Alternatives to Detention (ATD) program to include GPS monitoring and telephonic reporting.

In FY 2014:

- ICE conducted 315,943 removals.
- ICE conducted 102,224 removals of individuals apprehended in the interior of the U.S.
  - 86,923 (85 percent) of all *interior removals* involved individuals previously convicted of a crime.
- ICE conducted 213,719 removals of individuals apprehended along our borders while attempting to unlawfully enter the U.S.<sup>1</sup>
- 56 percent of all ICE removals, or 177,960, involved individuals who were previously convicted of a crime.
  - ICE apprehended and removed 86,923 criminals from the interior of the U.S.
  - ICE removed 91,037 criminals apprehended at or near the border while attempting to unlawfully enter the U.S.
- 98 percent of all ICE FY 2014 removals, or 309,477, clearly met one or more of ICE's stated civil immigration enforcement priorities.<sup>2</sup>
- Of the 137,983 individuals removed who had no criminal conviction, 89 percent, or 122,682, were apprehended at or near the border while attempting to unlawfully enter the United States, and 98 percent clearly fell within one of ICE's stated immigration enforcement priorities.<sup>3</sup>
- The leading countries of origin for removals were Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.
- 636 aliens were removed based on a referral from Probation and Parole officials.
- 2,802 individuals removed by ICE were classified as suspected or confirmed gang members.<sup>4</sup>

#### Key Term Definitions

**Border Removal:** An individual removed by ICE who is apprehended by a CBP officer or agent while attempting to illicitly enter the United States at or between the ports of entry. These individuals are also referred to as recent border crossers.

**Criminal Offender:** An individual convicted in the United States for one or more criminal offenses. This does not include civil traffic offenses.

**Immigration Fugitives:** An individual who has failed to leave the United States based on a final order of removal, deportation, or exclusion, or has failed to report to ICE after receiving notice to do so.

**Interior Removal:** An individual removed by ICE who is identified or apprehended in the United States by an ICE officer or agent. This category excludes those apprehended at the immediate border while attempting to unlawfully enter the United States.

**Other Removable Alien:** An individual who is not a confirmed convicted criminal, recent border crosser, or other ICE civil enforcement priority category. This category may include individuals removed on national security grounds or for general immigration violations.

**Previously Removed Alien:** An individual previously removed or returned who has re-entered the country illegally.

**Reinstatement of Final Removal Order:** The removal of an alien based on the reinstatement of a prior removal order, where the alien departed the United States under an order of removal and illegally reentered the United States (INA § 241(a)(5)). The alien may be removed without a hearing before an immigration court.

**Removal:** The compulsory and confirmed movement of an inadmissible or deportable alien out of the United States based on an order of removal. An individual who is removed may have administrative or criminal consequences placed on subsequent reentry because of the removal. ICE removals also include voluntary returns, voluntary departures, and withdrawals of admission for cases managed by ICE officers and agents.

<sup>1</sup> Approximately 96 percent these individuals were apprehended by U.S. Border Patrol agents and then processed, detained, and removed by ICE. The remaining individuals were apprehended by CBP officers at ports of entry.

<sup>2</sup> As defined in the March 2011 ICE Memorandum: Civil Immigration Enforcement: Priorities for the Apprehension, Detention, and Removal of Aliens.

<sup>3</sup> ICE defines criminality via a recorded criminal conviction obtained by ICE officers and agents from certified criminal history repositories. The individuals described above include recent border crossers, fugitives from the immigration courts, and repeat immigration violators.

<sup>4</sup> Gang affiliation is documented as part of the intake process in the Risk Classification Assessment (RCA)

- ICE conducted 146 domestic air charter missions to transport 7,930 unaccompanied children and 11 foreign air charter missions to transport 23 unaccompanied children.

***Interior Apprehensions and Removals***

In FY 2014, ICE conducted 102,224 removals of individuals apprehended in the interior of the United States.

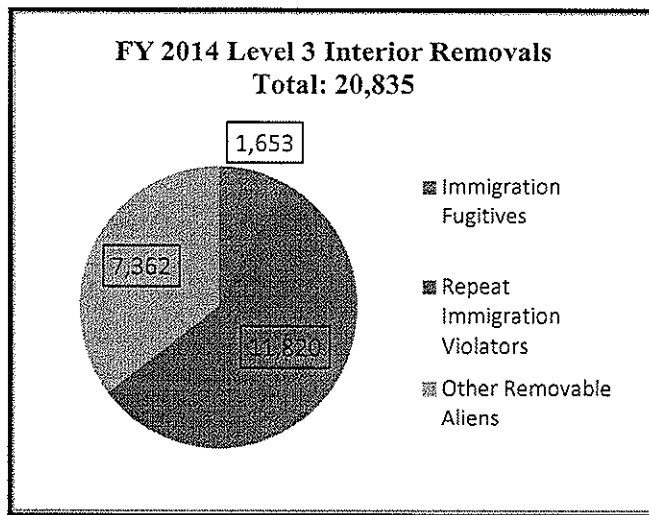
ICE focused interior enforcement operations on convicted criminals, emphasizing those convicted of the most serious crimes. Notably, 85 percent of all removals from the interior of the United States were previously convicted of a criminal offense, while 76 percent of the convicted criminals removed from the interior were convicted of an ICE Level 1 or Level 2 offense.

Level 1 offenders are aliens convicted of “aggravated felonies,” as defined in § 101(a)(43) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, or two or more crimes each punishable by more than one year, commonly referred to as “felonies.” Level 2 offenders are aliens convicted of any other felony or three or more crimes, each punishable by less than one year, commonly referred to as “misdemeanors.” Level 3 offenders are aliens convicted of “misdemeanor” crime(s) punishable by less than one year.

FY 2014 Interior Criminal Removals by Level		
Level 1	43,897	50.5 percent
Level 2	22,191	25.5 percent
Level 3	20,835	23.9 percent

Many criminal aliens removed from the interior of the United States also fell into other ICE priority categories. For example, 62 percent of ICE’s interior criminal alien removals were *previously removed* from the United States or were *immigration fugitives*, and 65 percent of all interior Level 3 removals had been *previously removed* or were *immigration fugitives*.

FY 2014 Interior Removals by Priority		
Threat Level/Priority		Removals
Convicted Criminal	Level 1	43,897
	Level 2	22,191
	Level 3	20,835
Immigration Fugitives		1,629
Repeat Immigration Violators		7,206
Other Removals		6,466



**Border Removals**

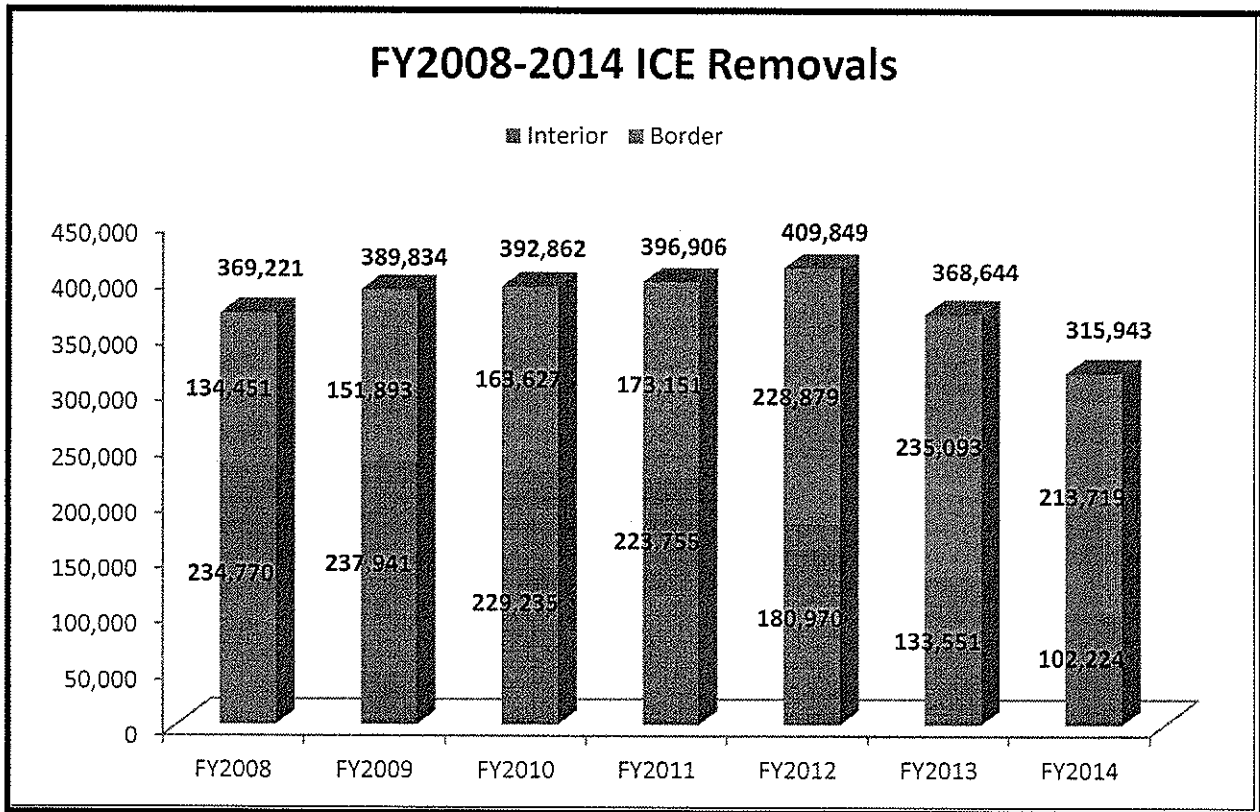
In FY 2014, ICE continued to prioritize border security, partnering with CBP to process and remove individuals apprehended while attempting to unlawfully enter the United States.

In FY 2014, ICE conducted 213,179 removals of recent border crossers. Many of those apprehended along the border had prior criminal or civil immigration violations in the United States. Of these recent border crosser removals, 91,037 had a criminal conviction.

FY 2014 Border Removals by Apprehending Program and Priority			
Agency	Level/Priority		Removals
Office of Border Patrol (OBP)	Convicted Criminal	Level 1	17,772
		Level 2	19,733
		Level 3	49,948
	Immigration Fugitives		1,776
	Repeat Immigration Violators		54,115
	Other Border Removals		61,714
	<b>Total OBP</b>		<b>205,058</b>
Office of Field Operations (OFO)	Convicted Criminal	Level 1	1,490
		Level 2	866
		Level 3	1,228
	Immigration Fugitives		56
	Repeat Immigration Violators		995
	Other Border Removals		4,026

	Total OFO	8,661
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FY 2014 border removals represented a 9 percent decrease from FY 2013 border removals.



***Changing Border Apprehension Demographics***

In FY 2013, 90,461 of ICE removals, following a CBP apprehension, **originated from countries other than Mexico**. In FY 2014, this number rose 26 percent to 110,021. Given this shift in border apprehension demographics, ICE used more of its detention and removal resources for recent border crossers, as CBP can only effectuate the return of individuals to Mexico and Canada.

***Criminal Alien Removals***

ICE conducted 177,960 removals of convicted criminals in FY 2014. Compared to FY 2013, convicted criminal removals decreased 18 percent and Level 1 convicted criminal removals dropped 15 percent. Overall, in FY 2014, 63,159 of the convicted criminals removals were Level 1 offenders, 42,790 were Level 2 offenders, and 72,011 were Level 3 offenders.

The majority of Level 1 and Level 2 offenders – 62 percent – were apprehended in the interior United States. Conversely, 71 percent of all Level 3 offenders were apprehended at or near the border.

***Non-Criminal Removals***

Most ICE non-criminal removals in FY 2014 were individuals encountered by CBP agents and officers while trying to unlawfully enter the United States. Specifically, 89 percent (122,682) of ICE’s 137,983

non-criminal removals were individuals attempting to unlawfully enter the United States. 95 percent of ICE's non-criminal removals were recent border crossers, repeat immigration violators, or immigration court fugitives.

***Removed Population by Citizenship***

In FY 2014, Mexico continued to be the leading country of origin for those removed, followed by Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.

<b>FY 2014 Top 10 Countries of Removal by Citizenship</b>	
<b>Citizenship</b>	<b>Total</b>
Mexico	176,968
Guatemala	54,423
Honduras	40,695
El Salvador	27,180
Dominican Republic	2,130
Ecuador	1,565
Nicaragua	1,266
Colombia	1,181
Jamaica	938
Brazil	850
<b>Total</b>	<b>307,196</b>

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***Family Unit Removals***

During FY 2014, ICE, in conjunction with CBP, returned or removed 852 individuals who were apprehended as part of a family unit. This includes FY 2014 arrests of subjects Border Patrol identified as part of a family unit at the time of arrest, as well as those with a detention stay in a family facility that Border Patrol did not arrest in FY 2014.

<b>FY 2014 Family Unit Removals by Citizenship</b>	
<b>Country</b>	<b>Total</b>
Mexico	327
Honduras	256
Guatemala	142
El Salvador	102
Ecuador	10
Brazil	7
Sri Lanka	3
United Kingdom	2
Turks and Caicos Islands	2
Romania	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>852</b>

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### *Unaccompanied Children*

In FY 2014, there were 56,029 intakes of unaccompanied children (UACs) into ICE custody. ICE removed 1,901 unaccompanied children during the same period. These individuals were juveniles at intake, but not necessarily at removal.<sup>5</sup>

FY 2014 UAC Removals by Country of Citizenship	
Country of Citizenship	Total
Bahamas	1
Brazil	3
China	1
Costa Rica	1
Dominican Republic	2
Ecuador	16
El Salvador	190
Guatemala	686
Honduras	503
Latvia	1
Mexico	484
Micronesia	1
Nicaragua	4
Pakistan	1
Peru	3
Portugal	1
Romania	1
South Africa	1
Spain	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,901</b>

### *ICE Detention Activity*

ICE detention ensures ICE promptly removes aliens subject to an order of removal from the United States. In FY 2014, 62 percent of ICE detention activity involved aliens CBP agents and officers encountered trying to unlawfully enter the United States. In FY 2014, ICE took 425,728 total aliens into custody. Of the 263,340 intakes resulting from CBP apprehensions, 23 percent were convicted criminals. ICE officer and agent arrests led to 162,305 aliens being taken into ICE custody, 79 percent of whom were convicted criminals.

<sup>5</sup> Unaccompanied Children (UC) data provided by the Juvenile and Family Residential Management Unit (FMUA).



Aliens in ICE custody's average length of stay (ALOS) increased by less than a day from FY 2013 (28.7 days) to FY 2014 (29.6 days). The average daily population (ADP) of aliens in ICE detention facilities was 33,227 in FY 2014, down from 33,788 in FY 2013.

To both comply with current detention-focused laws and court decisions and ensure available detention space for border enforcement activity and national security/public safety enforcement efforts, ICE also released 126,921 aliens from custody, 30,862 of whom were convicted criminals. ICE monitors and ensures released aliens comply with their respective release conditions, which include in-person or telephonic reporting to ICE or GPS monitoring through the Alternatives to Detention (ATD) Program.

**FY 2014 Intakes by Criminality and Month**

Criminality	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total
Convicted Criminal	18,464	16,889	16,344	15,435	15,020	16,591	17,226	16,256	14,579	15,056	14,016	13,228	189,104
Non-Criminal Immigration Violators	15,935	15,098	16,764	12,968	16,494	22,865	26,271	28,662	26,511	23,052	17,907	14,097	236,624
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,399</b>	<b>31,987</b>	<b>33,108</b>	<b>28,403</b>	<b>31,514</b>	<b>39,456</b>	<b>43,497</b>	<b>44,918</b>	<b>41,090</b>	<b>38,108</b>	<b>31,923</b>	<b>27,325</b>	<b>425,728</b>

**FY 2014 Releases by Month**

Criminality	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total
Convicted Criminal	3,271	2,840	2,741	2,676	2,546	2,751	2,672	2,497	2,309	2,257	2,166	2,136	30,862
Non-Criminal Immigration Violators	6,513	6,339	6,926	5,717	6,156	8,028	9,818	12,077	11,324	9,726	7,083	6,352	96,059
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,784</b>	<b>9,179</b>	<b>9,667</b>	<b>8,393</b>	<b>8,702</b>	<b>10,779</b>	<b>12,490</b>	<b>14,574</b>	<b>13,633</b>	<b>11,983</b>	<b>9,249</b>	<b>8,488</b>	<b>126,921</b>

## ***Appendix A: Methodology***

### **Data Source:**

Data used to report ICE statistics are obtained through the ICE Integrated Decision Support (IIDS) system data warehouse.

### **Data Run Dates**

FY 2014: IIDS v1.16 run date 10/05/2014; ENFORCE Integrated Database (EID) as of 10/03/2014

FY 2013: IIDS v1.14 run date 10/06/2013; EID as of 10/04/2013

FY 2012: IIDS v1.12 run date 10/07/2012; EID as of 10/05/2012

FY 2011: IIDS run date 10/07/2011; EID as of 10/05/2011

FY 2010: IIDS run date 10/05/2010; EID as of 10/03/2010

FY2009: Removals and Returns are an adjusted historical number of an IIDS run date of 8/16/2010 (EID as of 8/14/10) and will remain static.

### **Removals**

Removals data are historical and remain static. Removals include Returns. Returns include Voluntary Returns, Voluntary Departures, and Withdrawals Under Docket Control.

In FY 2009, ICE began to “lock” removal statistics on October 5 at the end of each fiscal year, and counted only aliens whose removal or return was already confirmed. Aliens removed or returned in that fiscal year but not confirmed until after October 5 were excluded from the locked data, and thus from ICE statistics. To ensure an accurate and complete representation of all removals and returns, ICE will count removals and returns confirmed after October 5 toward the next fiscal year. FY 2012 removals, excluding FY 2011 “lag,” were 402,919. FY 2013 removals, excluding FY 2012 “lag,” were 363,144.

FY Data Lag/Case Closure Lag is defined as the physical removal of an alien occurring in a given month; however, the case is not closed in EARM until the FY after the data is locked. Since data from the previous FY are locked, the removal is recorded in the month the case was closed and reported in subsequent FY Removals. This will result in a higher number of recorded removals in an FY than actual departures.

Any voluntary return on or after June 1, 2013 without an ICE intake case will not be recorded as an ICE removal.

ERO Removals include aliens processed for Expedited Removal (ER) and turned over to ERO for detention. Aliens processed for ER and not detained by ERO are primarily processed by Border Patrol. CBP should be contacted for those statistics.

FY 2012 – FY 2013 Removals include ATEP removals.

### **Criminality**

ICE Levels reflect priorities outlined in the June 2010 memorandum entitled “ICE Civil Immigration Enforcement Priorities effective October 1, 2010.” Since FY 2011, ICE has defined criminality as a recorded criminal conviction from certified criminal history repositories. To prioritize the removal of convicted criminal aliens, ICE personnel refer to the following offense levels: Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 offenders. Level 1 offenders are aliens convicted of “aggravated felonies,” as defined in § 101(a)(43) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, or two or more crimes, each punishable by more than one year, commonly referred to as “felonies.” Level 2 offenders are aliens convicted of any other felony or three or more crimes, each punishable by less than one year, commonly referred to as “misdemeanors.” Level 3 offenders are aliens convicted of “misdemeanor” crime(s) punishable by less than one year. Prior to FY 2011, ICE used Secure Communities (SC) Levels 1, 2, and 3 for prioritization purposes.

### **Intakes and Releases**

Detention data exclude Office of Refugee Resettlement facilities and United States Marshals Service prisoners.

Final Book-outs include only the following Release Reasons: [ATD, Bonded Out, Order of Recognizance, Order of Supervision, Paroled, Prosecutorial Discretion].

The data represent the number of final book-outs as defined above. A final book-out is the last book-out in a detainee's length of detention. If an alien has multiple final book-outs during FY 2014 YTD, he/she is counted once for each book-out.

*Appendix B: FY 2014 Removals by Citizenship*

FY 2014 Removals by Citizenship	
Citizenship	Total
Mexico	176,968
Guatemala	54,423
Honduras	40,695
El Salvador	27,180
Dominican Republic	2,130
Ecuador	1,565
Nicaragua	1,266
Colombia	1,181
Jamaica	938
Brazil	850
Peru	678
China	534
Canada	457
Haiti	382
India	359
Philippines	302
Nigeria	261
Costa Rica	245
United Kingdom	213
Poland	159
Trinidad and Tobago	158
South Korea	154
Venezuela	153
Romania	143
Guyana	136
Belize	123
Spain	121
Kenya	113
Russia	112
Bahamas	110
Saudi Arabia	105
Argentina	101
Pakistan	98

FY 2014 Removals by Citizenship	
Citizenship	Total
Ukraine	96
Ghana	91
Italy	91
France	87
Bolivia	85
Israel	83
Korea	83
Jordan	80
Germany	77
Cambodia	75
Panama	73
Indonesia	71
Chile	69
Bangladesh	66
Somalia	65
Portugal	64
Micronesia	63
Egypt	62
Hungary	60
Turkey	60
Bosnia-Herzegovina	53
Lebanon	53
Thailand	52
Albania	50
Vietnam	48
Uruguay	45
Nepal	44
Morocco	43
South Africa	42
Australia	41
Netherlands	39
Uzbekistan	39
Czech Republic	34
Japan	34
Bulgaria	33
Ireland	33

FY 2014 Removals by Citizenship	
Citizenship	Total
Latvia	32
Ethiopia	31
Lithuania	31
Marshall Islands	31
Sri Lanka	31
Tanzania	31
Armenia	30
Cameroon	30
Greece	30
Iraq	29
Taiwan	29
Tonga	29
Moldova	26
Cuba	24
Iran	23
Kazakhstan	23
Mongolia	23
Afghanistan	22
Georgia	22
Uganda	22
Malaysia	21
Kyrgyzstan	20
St. Vincent Grenadines	19
Belarus	18
Fiji	18
New Zealand	18
Senegal	18
Liberia	17
St. Kitts-Nevis	17
Sweden	17
Barbados	16
Dominica	16
Mali	16
Slovakia	16
Unknown	16
Antigua-Barbuda	15

FY 2014 Removals by Citizenship	
Citizenship	Total
Hong Kong	15
Palau	15
Yemen	15
Sudan	14
Angola	13
Guinea	13
Grenada	12
Macedonia	12
Paraguay	12
Serbia	12
Sierra Leone	12
Singapore	12
St. Lucia	12
Tunisia	12
Ivory Coast	11
Libya	11
Congo	10
Kosovo	10
Niger	10
Zambia	10
Zimbabwe	10
Azerbaijan	9
Belgium	9
Cape Verde	9
Czechoslovakia	9
Samoa	9
South Sudan	9
Syria	9
Estonia	8
British Virgin Islands	7
Gambia	7
Mauritania	7
Montenegro	7
Norway	7
Tajikistan	7
Bermuda	6

FY 2014 Removals by Citizenship	
Citizenship	Total
Burkina Faso	6
Dem Rep of the Congo	6
Denmark	6
Kuwait	6
Switzerland	6
Togo	6
Benin	5
Burma	5
Croatia	5
Slovenia	5
Suriname	5
Yugoslavia	5
Algeria	4
Austria	4
Burundi	4
Equatorial Guinea	4
Gabon	4
Malawi	4
Oman	4
Botswana	3
Cayman Islands	3
Finland	3
Iceland	3
Laos	3
Namibia	3
Netherlands Antilles	3
Turks and Caicos Islands	3
Chad	2
Cyprus	2
Mauritius	2
Rwanda	2
United Arab Emirates	2
Andorra	1
Bahrain	1
Comoros	1
Eritrea	1



FY 2014 Removals by Citizenship	
Citizenship	Total
French Guiana	1
Guadeloupe	1
Guinea-Bissau	1
Macau	1
Madagascar	1
Malta	1
Monaco	1
Montserrat	1
Papua New Guinea	1
San Marino	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>315,943</b>

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