

US immigration

Number of people in ICE detention hits record high, data shows

ICE held more than 68,400 people as of 14 December, breaking previous high set at beginning of December



Federal agents smash a car window while trying to detain a man during an immigration raid in Chicago, Illinois, on 17 December 2025. Photograph: Jim Vondruska/Reuters

Will Craft and Andrew Witherspoon in New York

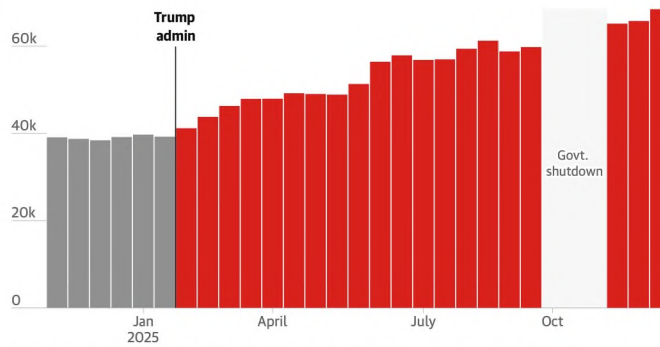
Mon 22 Dec 2025 20:37 CET

The number of people in immigration detention in the US has hit an all-time high according to data published by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The data, which comes out every two weeks, shows that as of 14 December 2025, ICE held more than 68,400 people.

This many people in immigration detention is a new record, breaking the previous high set at the beginning of December.

People in ICE detention

Point-in-time counts every 14 days, as of 14 December 2025



Guardian graphic. Note: Data includes people booked into ICE detention who were arrested by Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Values rounded to nearest 10.

[See more data](#) →

The Guardian, using ICE's data, has continued to track the number of people arrested, detained and deported by the agency. The latest, published on 22 December covers 1 October through 14 December 2025. The Guardian has been tracking this data and has calculated the total number of people the administration has arrested, detained and deported since January 2025.

In total, the administration has arrested more than 328,000 and deported nearly 327,000.

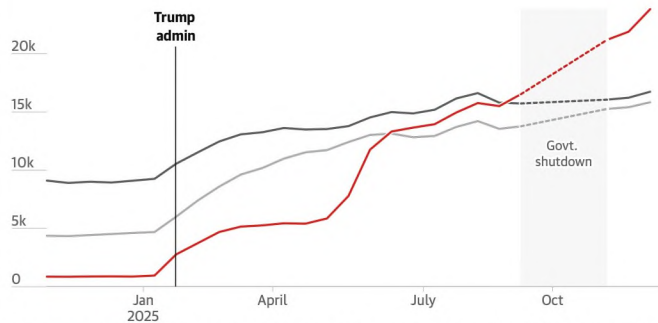


📷 A federal immigration officer detains a migrant at immigration court in New York on 3 September 2025. Photograph: David Dee Delgado/Reuters

In one of the biggest changes in immigration enforcement policies, immigrants with **no criminal record** continue to make up the largest group in US immigration detention, despite the administration's rhetoric about focusing its anti-immigration efforts on "the worst of the worst" criminals. Being undocumented in the US is a civil not a criminal infraction. The Trump administration has also moved to invalidate protections for many immigrants staying in the US legally.

People in ICE detention by criminal history

No criminal record Criminal record Pending charges



Guardian graphic. Note: Point-in-time counts every 14 days, as of 14 December 2025. Values rounded to nearest 10. Data includes people booked into ICE detention who were arrested by Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Data was not reported during the federal government shutdown.

[See more data →](#)

Related stories

First Thing: Number of people in ICE detention hits record high
23 Dec 2025



Louisiana nursing student speaks out during her six-month ICE detention
22 Dec 2025



Immigrants with no criminal record now largest group in Ice detention
26 Sept 2025



More from News

Latest updates
US reportedly attempting to seize Venezuela-linked tanker in European waters

25m ago



Greenland
France and allies discuss response to possible US invasion of Greenland

1h ago



Netherlands
Amsterdam airport cancels at least 700 flights because of snow and wind

4h ago



Most viewed