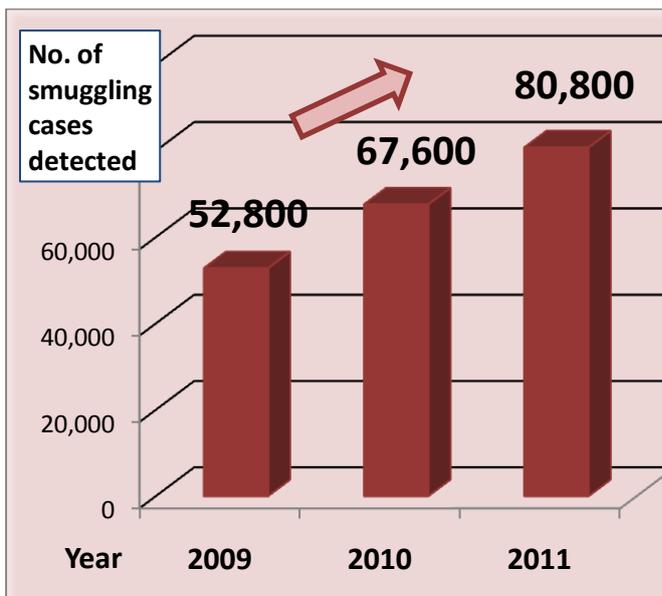
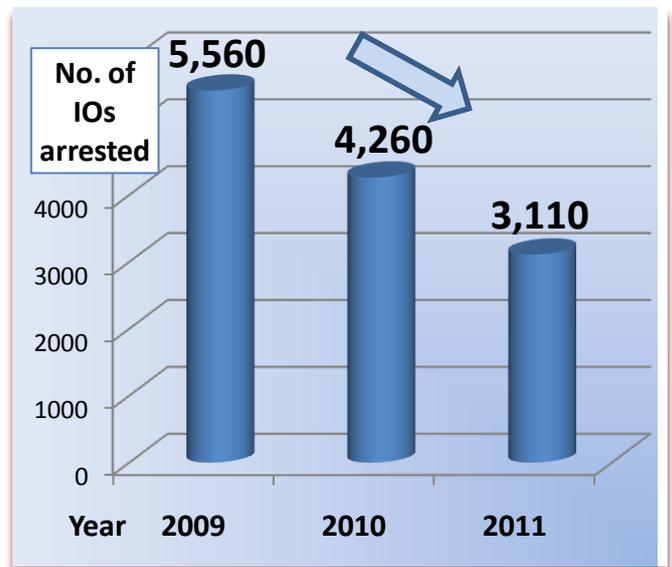




IMMIGRATION & CHECKPOINTS AUTHORITY ANNUAL STATISTICS REPORT 2011

IMMIGRATION OFFENDERS ARRESTED CONTINUE ON A DOWNWARD TREND



TIGHT SECURITY CHECKS UNCOVERED MORE THAN 80,000 CONTRABAND CASES



IMMIGRATION OFFENDERS ARRESTED CONTINUE TO DROP

	2009	2010	2011
No. of illegal immigrants arrested	1,800	1,430	930
No. of overstayers arrested	3,760	2,830	2,180
No. of harbourers and employers arrest	130	103	63
No. of vehicles seized for conveying immigration offenders	8	18	7

The number of immigration offenders¹ (IO) arrested has been steadily declining since 2001. This is attributed to ICA's relentless efforts such as thorough examinations and tightened security at the checkpoints to sieve out IOs.

The number of illegal immigrants² (II) arrested fell by 35% from 1,430 in 2010 to 930 in 2011. The number of overstayers (OS) also registered a decline of 23%, from 2,830 in 2010 to 2,180 last year.

Human smuggling syndicates have been known to improvise on the different modes of conveying IOs. Innovative as these human smugglers may be, they are still outwitted by the vigilant ICA officers. Successful detections at the checkpoints have deterred human smuggling syndicates from attempting

¹ Immigration offenders (IO) refer to illegal immigrants (II) as well as overstayers (OS).

² Illegal immigrants (II) do not necessarily refer to those who have sneaked into the country via concealment methods by sea or land. It could also involve those who used fraudulent travel documents or impersonated others for entry. Some could even have disposed of their legitimate travel documents on entry so that their entry records cannot be traced.



IO crouching in the heated car boot



IOs stacking on top of one another behind the driver's seat of a prime mover



'Chill-out' time – IO huddling amongst stacks of empty trays in the cold storage area of the truck

to convey IOs through the authorised checkpoints. The number of vehicles seized for conveying IOs has generally been on a downward trend since 2001. The number dropped by more than half from 18 in 2010 to 7 last year. ICA officers will constantly remain watchful for suspicious drivers, modified compartments and illegal hiding places in conveyances.

INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY – AN ENABLER TO TIGHTENED CHECKS

Over the years, ICA has continued to leverage on biometric identification technologies such as fingerprint and facial screening system to provide enhanced backend security screening for travellers during immigration clearance. It complements ICA's Biometric Database for Immigration Clearance (BDIC) which is a repository of fingerprints and photo images of immigration offenders and persons-of-interest.



The Biometric Identification of Motorbikers System (BIKES) automates the immigration clearance of motorcyclists at the Woodlands and Tuas checkpoints. The system will authenticate the motorcyclist's fingerprint and once this is successful, the automated gate will open for the motorcyclist to pass through.

The immigration facial screening system (i-FACES) was also introduced progressively since early 2009. i-FACES enables frontline officers to perform facial recognition and matching of travellers' images against persons-of-interest in the BDIC database.

HARBOURERS & EMPLOYERS FIGURES ON STEADY DECLINE

The number of people caught harbouring and employing IOs continued to register a decline last year. The number of harbourers arrested dropped by almost half, from 77 in 2010 to 40 in 2011. Similarly, the number of employers arrested also fell from 26 in 2010 to 23 in 2011.

The steady decrease in the number of harbourers and employers since 2001 is attributed to ICA's successful and intensive publicity and public education efforts since 2000. To complement its public awareness efforts on harbourer/employer-related offences, ICA has also adopted a more targeted approach to reach out to specific groups of potential harbourers since 2003. Some of the target audience include housing agents, grassroots leaders, students as well as senior citizens.

The revamped anti-harbouring guide book released in 2010: A more reader-friendly version that is more effective in conveying ICA's anti-harbouring messages



ICA also taps on its pool of Crime Prevention ambassadors to help spread its anti-harbouring messages, mainly to residents of their neighbourhoods through dialogue sessions and other public events. ICA also works closely with its strategic partners such as the Singapore Police Force, National Environment Agency, Ministry of Manpower and the Hindu Endowment Board to disseminate messages on the dire consequences of illegal entry and overstaying to the foreign workers here in Singapore.

Coupled with public education, the amendments made to the Immigration Act on harbouring in November 2004 has also served well as a deterrent with the imposition of a fine and mandatory imprisonment on middlemen, such as housing agents and foreign labour agents who assist landlords to rent their premises to IOs.

CONTRABAND SMUGGLING CASES ON THE RISE

The ICA saw a surge in attempts at smuggling contraband items at the checkpoints for 2011. The total number of cases detected registered a record high of 80,800, which was an increase of 19.5% as compared to 2010. This was brought about by heightened enforcement efforts at the checkpoints. The contraband cases detected include security-related items such as weapons, duty-unpaid cigarettes and animal and plant products.

Methods of concealment for contrabands today = Methods of concealment for security-sensitive materials tomorrow?

The ICA safeguards Singapore's security by ensuring the lawful and legitimate movement of people, goods and conveyances through our checkpoints. The smuggling tactics used by smugglers are constantly evolving, thereby raising security concerns. Smugglers are turning to more deceptive and inventive methods of concealment, in their attempts to evade detection. The same methods of concealment used by contraband smugglers may be used by terrorists to smuggle arms and explosives to carry out more sinister attacks in Singapore.

UNCOMMON MODUS OPERANDI DETECTED IN 2011



Smugglers did not spare even books as a means of concealment. On 1 September 2011, officers at the Air Cargo Command came across the modus operandi of used hollowed-out books to conceal contraband. Officers were examining a trans-shipment parcel which was declared to contain 14 pieces of printed books and uncovered packets of a dark powdery substance in the books.

INTERESTING MODUS OPERANDI DETECTED IN 2011



Contraband cigarettes were hidden in the vehicle's tyres (including the spare tyre)

On 22 October 2011, 930 packets of contraband cigarettes were found hidden within the four running tyres and a spare tyre of a Malaysia-registered jeep at the Woodlands Checkpoint. Officers observed that the driver appeared nervous when questioned and anomalies were noted in the scanned images.



Contraband cigarettes hidden in a spare tyre (left) found in a bus (right)

On 26 July 2011, a total of 602 packets of contraband cigarettes and 906 sachets of chewing tobacco were found hidden in a spare tyre. The 39-year-old Malaysian bus driver who plies between Malaysia and Singapore conveying factory workers was arrested for transporting the spare tyre concealed with contraband cigarettes into Singapore.

Given the constantly evolving security landscape and the large and increasing numbers of people entering and leaving Singapore every day, ICA will continue to leverage on technology as an enabler, invest in developing the capability of our officers and build our capacity to be ready for the challenges ahead. As Commissioner Clarence Yeo sums it up:

“Despite the evolving security climate that remains challenging, I am pleased that we have done well. The good results are attributed to the vigorous efforts of ICA officers as well as the continued support from our strategic partners and the community to bring about seamless synergy in keeping our borders safe and secure.”

- Commissioner Clarence Yeo