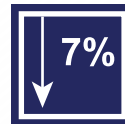




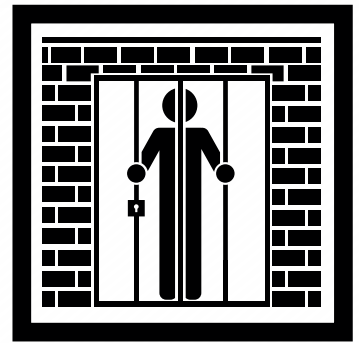
# Annual Statistics Report 2015

Here are some figures on the immigration offender situation and contraband cases detected for the year 2015.

**310** illegal immigrants and  
**1,591** overstayers arrested



The number of immigration offenders arrested has continued to decline.



**416** persons arrested for harbouring immigration offenders and

**91** persons arrested for employing them



Focused and co-ordinated enforcement checks have resulted in a 59% jump in the number of harbourers and errant employers arrested.

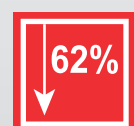
**95,677**  
contraband cases detected



Smuggling of contraband items via parcels and packages has become an emerging trend.



**64** persons convicted for Marriage of Convenience



Tough laws and heavy penalties proved effective to deter would-be offenders from entering into bogus unions.

# Immigration Offender Situation

Number of Immigration Offenders  
Arrested Continued to Decline.

Year	Illegal Immigrants	Overstayers	Total Immigration Offenders arrested	
2015	310	1,591	1,901	▼ 7%
2014	350	1,690	2,040	

Last year, the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) arrested 1,901 immigration offenders (IOs), a decrease from 2,040 in 2014.

2. The number of illegal immigrants arrested fell about 11% from 350 in 2014 to 310 in 2015. The number of overstayers arrested also dropped about 6% from 1,690 in 2014 to 1,591 last year.

3. ICA's sustained tough enforcement and proactive public education against illegal immigrants and overstayers have resulted in a steady decline in the number of IOs in Singapore.

4. As undocumented persons, IOs pose potential law and order as well as security problems. ICA will continue to take a strong stance against them.



IOs arrested in a housing unit in July 2015



Inland enforcement operation carried out in a forested area in May 2015

# Harbouring and Employment of Immigration Offenders

Number of Harbourers and Employers of IOs Rose Significantly.

Year	Harbourers	Employers	Total Arrested	
2015	416	91	507	▲ 59%
2014	250	69	319	

5. In 2015, 416 harbourers and 91 errant employers were arrested for providing lodging or work to IOs. The number arrested has increased by 59% as compared to 2014.

6. The increase in the number of harbourers and errant employers arrested can be attributed to ICA’s focused and co-ordinated enforcement efforts, which were conducted in close collaboration with other enforcement agencies such as the Police and the Ministry of Manpower.

7. Almost half of the harbourers arrested last year were Singaporeans. The errant employers who engaged IOs came from various industries such as construction, food and beverage and cleaning services.

8. Everyone has a role to play in ensuring the safety and security of Singapore. Homeowners and employers should not offer shelter or employment to IOs. Without the prospect of illegal employment or shelter, IOs would not find Singapore attractive.



Photos above: IOs caught during inland enforcement operations

# Outreach to the Community

The Safety and Security of Our Community is a Collective Responsibility.

9. ICA continues to work closely with our community partners to keep Singapore safe and secure. ICA ambassadors reach out to homeowners and estate agents on the need to conduct necessary checks on potential tenants. Awareness talks were also carried out at work sites to remind foreign workers of the serious consequences of overstaying in Singapore.

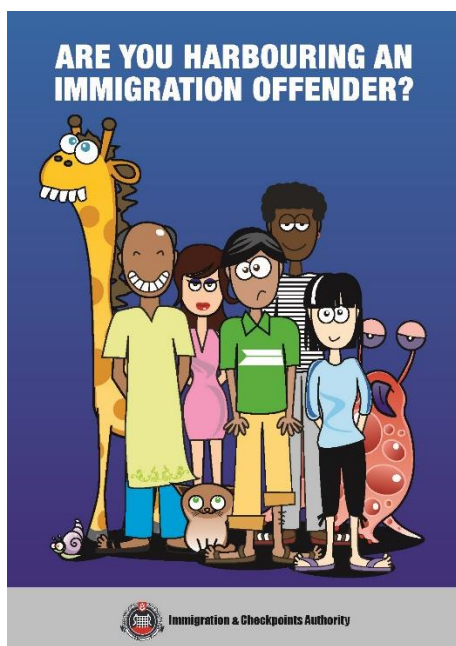
10. In addition, ICA has continued to reach out to households by distributing the Homeowners' Guide. The purpose is to alert homeowners to carry out due diligence by checking the legal status of their foreign tenants before agreeing to rent out their premises.



ICA ambassador advising homeowners to conduct checks before renting out their premises



Sharing with foreign workers on the importance of having a valid work/immigration pass to remain in Singapore.





# Contraband Smuggling Situation

Slight Increase in Number of Contraband Cases Detected.

Year	Overview of contraband smuggling detection situation	
2015	95,677	▲ 2%
2014	93,380	

11. The number of contraband cases detected at our checkpoints increased about 2% from 93,380 in 2014 to 95,677 in 2015. Despite stringent checks at the borders, smuggling attempts have not abated.

## Emerging Trend

12. With online shopping becoming more popular with Singaporeans, the smuggling of contraband items via parcels and packages shipped into Singapore is increasing. The number of contraband cases detected in parcels and packages increased from 14,289 in 2014 to 18,419 last year.

13. Some of the common contraband articles detected included stun guns and sex enhancement pills. The public are reminded not to import prohibited goods or controlled items without the approval of the relevant authorities. If they are not sure, they should refer to ICA’s website at [www.ica.gov.sg](http://www.ica.gov.sg).



One of the eight cases of contraband cigarettes declared as “Alloy Air Filters”



Parts of airsoft gun detected in a parcel



Airsoft gun detected in a parcel

14. ICA will continue to conduct stringent checks on passengers and vehicles at the checkpoints to prevent attempts to smuggle undesirable persons, drugs, weapons, explosives or other contraband items.

# Marriage of Convenience

Significant Drop in the Number of Persons Arrested for MOC.

Year	Number of Persons Convicted for MOC offences	
2015	64	▼ 62%
2014	170	

15. Fewer people are being convicted for marriage of convenience (MOC) offences last year. Some foreigners enter into an MOC in order to stay in Singapore and find work here, while Singaporeans who enter into such bogus unions do so for monetary gains. Entering into an MOC is illegal.

16. ICA takes a tough stance against couples and middlemen trying to circumvent the law by engaging in MOC so as to obtain immigration facilities in Singapore. In 2012, the act of arranging or entering into a MOC was criminalised. The law and heavy penalties against MOC have been effective in deterring would-be offenders.

17. ICA will spare no effort to go after such persons by pursuing every available lead. We welcome members of public to report any suspected case of MOC as well as other immigration related offences to ICA at 1800-391-6150. Any information provided will be treated in the strictest confidence.

# Commissioner's Quote

18. Commissioner ICA, Clarence Yeo sums up the 2015 annual statistics:

“In this current security climate, ICA has stepped up its border control measures and will continue to conduct stringent checks on all travellers, goods and conveyances. At the same time, we urge the community, our fellow Singaporeans, to work hand in hand with us to help keep our country safe and secure”.

**\*\*End\*\***

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