



NEWS RELEASE

ICA ANNUAL STATISTICS 2025

FASTER IMMIGRATION CLEARANCE WITH ENHANCED BORDER SECURITY IN 2025, AMID RISING TRAVELLER VOLUME

In 2025, the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) further strengthened border security through enhanced targeting by our Integrated Targeting Centre (ITC), alongside on-the-ground profiling and assessment of travellers by ICA officers. These efforts have led to tangible outcomes, as more foreigners who posed security and immigration risks were detected and refused entry, and more contraband was detected, compared to 2024.

2. At the same time, our passport-less clearance initiatives have made immigration clearance at our checkpoints faster, and more efficient and seamless for travellers. Following the full implementation of QR code clearance at the land checkpoints in January 2025 and the progressive roll-out of token-less clearance at the air and sea checkpoints, clearance times have been reduced. This has also enabled ICA to better manage the increasing volume of travellers, especially at the land checkpoints.

3. In 2026, ICA will implement new initiatives to further enhance the traveller experience and clearance efficiency at our land checkpoints. These initiatives include the Automated Passenger Clearance System (APCS), BIKES@Manual Car and Facial Recognition@BIKES (FR@BIKES).

Facilitating cross-border trade and travel

Increase in traveller volume

4. There was an **increase in traveller volume** in 2025. ICA cleared close to 245 million travellers last year, an increase of 6.3% or about 14 million more travellers compared to 2024. The increase was largely due to a rise in the number of travellers using the land checkpoints, which accounted for about 76% of the total traveller volume. There was a record number of close to 589,000 land crossings in a single day on 19 December 2025.

	2024	2025	
Total travellers cleared	230,399,000	244,864,000	 6.3%

[Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand]

Increase in vehicle volume

5. There was also an **increase in vehicle volume** at the land checkpoints in 2025. ICA cleared almost 84.8 million vehicles last year, an increase of 9.5% or about 7 million more vehicles compared to 2024. The increase was mainly due to a rise in the number of cars and motorcycles, which accounted for about 94% of the total vehicle volume.

	2024	2025	
Bus	2,419,000	2,372,000	 2.0%
Car	18,252,000	19,725,000	 8.1%
Lorry/Van	2,632,000	2,725,000	 3.5%
Motorcycle	54,103,000	59,972,000	 10.8%
Total vehicles cleared	77,406,000	84,793,000	 9.5%

[Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand]

Decrease in cargo volume

6. The volume of cargo cleared through the checkpoints decreased in 2025 as compared to 2024. The **total number of containers, consignments and parcels remained constant** at around 7.7 million. The **volume of low-value goods saw a decline** of 27.5% in the same period.

	2024	2025	
Containers cleared	1,182,000	1,164,000	▼ 1.5%
Consignments¹ cleared	4,569,000 ²	4,807,000	▲ 5.2%
Parcels cleared	1,957,000	1,718,000	▼ 12.2%
Total cleared	7,708,000	7,690,000	▼ 0.2%

[Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand]

	2024	2025	
Low-value goods³ cleared	34,581,000	25,069,000	▼ 27.5%

[Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand]

Securing our Borders

Strengthened border security under the NCC

7. Under the New Clearance Concept (NCC), the ITC conducts pre-arrival risk assessment through leveraging advance information and data analytics to identify high-risk travellers, vehicles and cargo for enhanced checks upon arrival at the checkpoints. NCC has also transformed our checkpoint operations, enabling us to

¹ Consignments include both conventional cargo and air express couriers (AEC).

² Figures for consignments cleared in 2024 are the revised figures. (ICA Annual Statistics 2024 had recorded the number of consignments as 5,323,000 due to a duplicate count of AEC permits).

³ Low-value goods (LVG) are items purchased from overseas sellers and delivered into Singapore by air or post, and have a sales value of no more than S\$400 per item.

upskill and redeploy officers from manual counter duties to higher-value functions such as profiling and investigative interviewing, resulting in more effective detection of undesirable travellers and smuggling attempts. **Through this upstream targeting and enhanced frontline detection, more foreigners were picked up for enhanced screening in 2025, and subsequently refused entry. More contraband smuggling cases were also detected compared to 2024.**

8. Notable detections in 2025 included the detection of two male Indian nationals holding forged Ministry of Manpower (MOM) In-Principle Approval (IPA) letters and a male Thai national with previous convictions in Singapore trying to enter Singapore under a different name. Our enhanced profiling capabilities also allowed us to foil an attempt to smuggle drugs including 3.3kg of heroin and 3.2kg of cannabis in a Malaysian-registered car. (Refer to Annex A for the story highlights.)

Significant increase in the number of foreign visitors refused entry

9. The **number of foreign visitors who were refused entry at Singapore’s checkpoints increased** by 38.3% compared to 2024. These foreigners were assessed to pose immigration (e.g., potential to overstay or work illegally) or security (e.g., potential to commit crimes) risks to Singapore.

	2024	2025	
Foreign visitors refused entry	33,100	45,700	 38.3%

[Rounded to the nearest hundred]

Significant increase in detection of contraband smuggling attempts

10. Through ITC’s targeting capabilities and the improved profiling skills of checkpoint officers, coupled with close collaboration with other enforcement agencies, there was a 30.6% **increase in foiled contraband smuggling attempts**. Several cases involved smuggling of contraband cigarettes in cars with modified compartments or concealed among other goods in lorries. There was also more detection of illegal

importation of significant quantities of both fresh and processed produce. The number of drug detections remained the same as in 2024, with more than 1,000 cases detected. (Refer to Annex B for some significant case detections in 2025.)

	2024	2025	
Contraband cases detected	43,900	57,400	 30.6%

[Rounded to the nearest hundred]

11. In 2025, in line with Singapore's zero-tolerance stance against vaping, ICA stepped up publicity and enforcement against vape smuggling at the checkpoints, in close cooperation and through joint operations and information sharing with other enforcement agencies. ICA detected 667 cases across all the checkpoints in 2025, and seized more than 350,000 vapes and vape-related components.

Similar number of travellers with multiple identities detected as in 2024

12. ICA's automated lanes at the checkpoints are equipped with multi-modal biometrics screening systems which can detect travellers who attempt to impersonate others or use false identities. They include persons-of-interest who have previously committed crimes in Singapore and are attempting to re-enter Singapore under a different identity. The **number of multiple identity cases detected at the checkpoints remained about the same** in 2025 as compared to 2024. Foreign visitors who were detected with multiple identities are barred from re-entering Singapore.

	2024	2025	
Cases of multiple identities detected on arrival	233	223	 4.3%

Decrease in number of forged/tampered travel documents

13. The counter forgery detection capabilities of ICA's automated lanes enable ICA officers to detect travellers using fraudulent travel documents. A decreasing trend in the use of forged travel documents for illegal migration was observed.

	2024	2025	
Forged/tampered travel documents detected on arrival	61	37	▼ 39.3%

Keeping Singapore safe through inland enforcement operations

14. ICA also conducts regular inland enforcement operations, including joint operations with other law enforcement agencies, to arrest immigration offenders (IOs).

Similar number of IOs arrested as in 2024

15. The **total number of IOs arrested in 2025 remained about the same** as in 2024, with a 11.4% decrease in the number of illegal immigrants arrested and a 1.9% increase in the number of overstayers arrested.

	2024	2025	
Illegal immigrants arrested	61	54	▼ 11.4%
Overstayers arrested	475	484	▲ 1.9%
Total IOs arrested	536	538	▲ 0.4%

Decrease in number of harbourers and employers of IOs

16. The total number of **harbourers and employers of IOs arrested by ICA decreased** by 28.8% in 2025. Most of the harbourers either had existing relationships

with the IOs (e.g. family members, friends or employers) or had allowed the IOs to stay in their premises for financial gain.

	2024	2025	
Harbourers of IOs arrested	217	141	▼ 35.0%
Employers of IOs arrested	172	136	▼ 20.9%
Total harbourers and employers of IOs arrested	389	277	▼ 28.8%

17. The majority of the harbourers either did not check the immigration status of the IO, or only performed the checks at the start of tenancy but did not ensure that their tenant’s immigration status had remained valid throughout the tenancy.

18. As for the employers of IOs, most claimed that they (i) were in the process of extending/renewing the work pass of the IOs, (ii) had only performed checks to ensure that their employee had a valid work pass at the point of employment but did not track their employee’s work pass status subsequently, (iii) had overlooked applying for work pass extension/renewal for the IO, or iv) had not checked at all if their employee had any valid work pass in Singapore.

19. ICA will continue to take tough action against harbourers and employers of IOs. It is a serious offence to harbour or employ IOs. Members of the public must not provide IOs shelter and means of subsistence, so that we do not have illegal immigrant problems in Singapore. Homeowners who wish to rent out their property must exercise due diligence by checking the immigration status of their prospective foreign tenants, to ensure that their stay in Singapore is legal. We urge the public to report suspected IO cases to ICA at [<https://go.gov.sg/icafeedbackio>].

Decrease in number of persons arrested for marriage-of-convenience (MOC)-related offences

20. The **number of persons arrested for MOC-related offences decreased** by 63.4% as compared to 2024.

	2024	2025
Persons arrested for MOC-related offences	41	15

▼
63.4%

21. ICA takes a serious view of individuals trying to circumvent our immigration policies by engaging in, arranging for or assisting MOCs, in order to obtain immigration facilities in Singapore. We will take firm enforcement action against errant couples and middlemen. We urge the public to report suspected cases to ICA at [<https://go.gov.sg/icafeedbackio>].

Enhancing Traveller Experience with Passport-Less Clearance

22. In 2025, about 127 million travellers cleared immigration without having to present their passport.

QR code clearance

23. QR code clearance was rolled out in March 2024 and has been fully implemented at both land checkpoints since January 2025. Since its roll-out in March 2024, 134 million travellers have used QR code for immigration clearance. In 2025, usage of QR code among bus passengers and motorcycle travellers increased, while usage by car travellers remained stable.

Take-up rate of QR code clearance:

	January 2025	December 2025
Bus passengers	28%	60%
Car travellers	68%	69%
Motorcycle travellers	32%	57%

24. The implementation of QR code clearance has enhanced the efficiency of immigration clearance at the land checkpoints, enabling ICA to better manage the increasing volume of land travellers. With group QR code clearance, families of up to four members using the Special Assistance Lanes (SALs) can save up to 40 seconds in immigration clearance by presenting one group QR code instead of scanning multiple passports. The SALs have also been enhanced to allow group, concurrent facial matching, instead of individual, sequential facial matching, further improving travellers' experience at the lanes. For car travellers, immigration clearance time can be reduced by more than 30% using QR code clearance, with greater time savings for cars with a larger number of passengers.

25. To encourage greater adoption, ICA has stepped up public education through videos, digital signages and posters, with step-by-step guides. Officers are also deployed on-site to assist travellers who require guidance on using QR code for clearance. QR code clearance will also be implemented at the Johor Bahru-Singapore Rapid Transit System (RTS) Link.

Token-less clearance

26. Token-less clearance, which allows Singapore residents and departing foreign visitors to clear immigration by simply using facial and iris biometrics without the need to present their passport or a QR code, was implemented at Changi Airport and Marina Bay Cruise Centre in 2024. This initiative was extended to Tanah Merah Ferry Terminal and Seletar Airport in February and July 2025 respectively, and will be implemented at the new Singapore Cruise Centre in the second half of 2026.

Upcoming initiatives

27. ICA will roll out the APCS for car travellers (APCS@Car) and cargo drivers and attendants (APCS@Cargo) from end-2026. This will further enhance the clearance experience and efficiency for these traveller segments. ICA is actively engaging these segments of traveller to gather feedback to ensure that our systems and processes will be user-centric and intuitive.

28. To improve the clearance experience and efficiency for motorcyclists, ICA will introduce the FR@BIKES and BIKES@Manual Car in 2026. FR@BIKES will allow motorcyclists and their pillion riders to use facial recognition as the primary biometric modality for automated clearance, replacing the current process using fingerprints. Under the BIKES@Manual Car initiative, ICA will retrofit selected manual car lanes at Woodlands Checkpoint, enabling them to be flexibly deployed for either automated motorcycle clearance or manual car clearance depending on operational needs.

Delivering Convenient and Inclusive Service

29. ICA officially launched the ICA Services Centre (ISC) on 31 July 2025, featuring redesigned systems that allow holistic assessments of various applications submitted by our customers. Family members are now able to apply for the same immigration facility in a single application. The Integrated Smart Document Management System (iSMART), a comprehensive document sorting, storage, retrieval and issuance system that leverages automation, robotics and biometric technologies, allows eligible customers to conveniently collect their passport and/or identity card at the self-collection kiosks at any time on the day of their appointment.

30. Today, more than 95% of our customers submit their applications online. Nonetheless, ICA continues to adopt a “Digital-First, but not Digital-Only” approach. Members of the public who are unable to transact with ICA digitally can receive in-person assistance at the ‘iAssist’ in ISC. ICA is engaging members of the public to provide feedback on proposed enhancements to the features of the ICA website to ensure that they are user-friendly for online transactions.

31. ICA remains committed to exploring innovative solutions to provide an even better customer experience, and facilitate trade and travel, but at the same time keep Singapore's borders secure.

IMMIGRATION & CHECKPOINTS AUTHORITY

23 FEBRUARY 2026

Overview of ICA's Annual Statistics 2025

ICA ANNUAL STATISTICS 2025

SECURING OUR BORDERS

Travellers Cleared at Checkpoints



Vehicles Cleared at Checkpoints



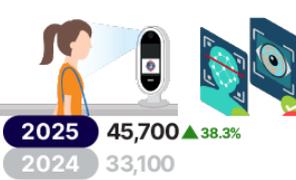
Consignments, Containers and Parcels Cleared



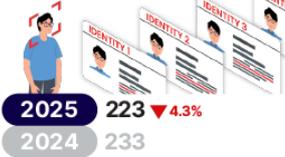
Low-Value Goods Cleared



Foreign Visitors Refused Entry



Cases of Multiple Identities Detected on Arrival



Forged/Tampered Travel Documents Detected on Arrival



Contraband Cases Detected

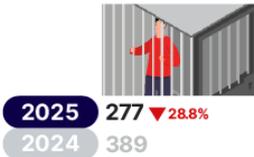


INLAND ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

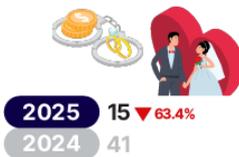
Immigration Offenders Arrested



Harbourers and Employers of Immigration Offenders Arrested



Persons Arrested for Marriage of Convenience Related Offences



TAKE-UP RATE OF QR CODE CLEARANCE

Bus Passengers



Car Travellers



Motorcycle Travellers



Annex A – Stories highlighting our ITC-targeting and profiling capabilities

Case #1 - Detection of two male India nationals who produced suspected forged MOM IPA letters on arrival

On 8 Dec 2025, two male Indian nationals, both aged 23, arriving at Changi Airport Terminal 2 were flagged by ITC and referred for further checks.

During the interview by CI(2) Neo Chih Chuan, both men informed that they were entering Singapore to work and produced hardcopy MOM In-Principle Approval (IPA) letters to support their claims. CI(2) Neo found abnormalities in the IPA letters and upon further inspection, found that the IPA numbers were invalid. Both men informed that the letters were obtained from an agent they knew through a friend and declined to share further details.

As both men were detected to be in possession of forged MOM IPA letters, they were refused entry and barred from entering Singapore.

Case #2 - Detection of a male Thai with multiple identities

On 14 Oct 2025, one 30-year-old male Thai national arriving at Tuas Checkpoint was flagged by ITC and referred for further checks.

The man claimed that he was entering Singapore for a day trip. Upon further screenings, it was found that he had previously entered Singapore under a different name and was subsequently convicted under said name for providing sexual services for monetary gain. He was subsequently deported from Singapore in 2016.

As the man was detected with multiple identities, he was refused entry and barred from entering Singapore.

Case #3 - Detection of a male Malaysian found with four cat food packages suspected to contain controlled drugs

On 25 June 2025, during a joint operation between ICA and Singapore Police Force (SPF) K9 at Woodlands Checkpoint, CI(1) Dayangku Suhaila Binte Abdul Aziz profiled an arriving Malaysian-registered car driven by a 31-year-old Malaysian man for enhanced checks. When questioned about his reason for entering Singapore, the man claimed that he was delivering cat food to a friend. CI(1) Dayangku was prompted to conduct further checks as AVS has import restrictions on pet food.

During the inspection, CI(1) Dayangku and her team found four packages of “cat food” in the car boot, which they observed to be oddly shaped and did not resemble cat food. They instructed the man to open one of the packages in their presence, and found substances suspected to be controlled drugs. The man was immediately placed under arrest and the Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) was alerted to the detection and subsequently conducted further checks.

A total of about 3,335g of heroin, 3,201g of cannabis and 530g of ‘Ice’ were seized from the four packages.



Annex B – Significant case detections publicised in 2025

Case #1 – Drugs Including More Than 5.6kg of Heroin Detected at Woodlands Checkpoint

On 20 January 2025 at about 11pm, a 58-year-old Singaporean man was arrested for attempting to smuggle a large amount of heroin in a Singapore-registered car arriving at Woodlands Checkpoint.

ICA officers directed the car for enhanced checks where they uncovered 10 black bundles concealed under the driver's seat, and five black bundles concealed beneath the front passenger seat. As the bundles were suspected to contain controlled drugs, the man was immediately placed under arrest, and the case was handed over to the CNB for further investigation.

The bundles were later found to contain drugs amounting to about 5,653g of heroin, 14g of 'Ice', 11g of 'Ecstasy' and 2,000 Erimin-5 tablets.



QR code to ICA-CNB Joint Release on 23 Jan 2025:



Case #2 – Smuggling of e-vaporisers and related components in a Malaysia-registered lorry at Tuas Checkpoint

On 5 March 2025, ICA officers at Tuas Checkpoint foiled an attempt to smuggle e-vaporisers and related components into Singapore. A Malaysia-registered lorry was directed for further checks and a total of 23,642 pieces of e-vaporisers and related components were found hidden within a consignment of assorted food products. The case was referred to the Health Sciences Authority for further investigation.



QR code to ICA's Facebook post on 11 Mar 2025:



Case #3 – Detection of duty-unpaid cigarettes and tobacco in a container at Pasir Panjang Scanning Station

On 20 Aug 2025, ICA officers at Pasir Panjang Scanning Station foiled an attempt to smuggle duty-unpaid cigarettes and tobacco into Singapore via a 40-footer container. ICA officers noticed anomalies in the scanned image and directed the container for further inspection. A total of 42,000 cartons of undeclared duty-unpaid cigarettes and 4,800 packets of duty-unpaid tobacco, which were declared as rubber mats, were detected within the container. The case was referred to the Singapore Customs for further investigation.



QR code to ICA's Facebook post on 2 Sep 2025:



Case #4 - Detection of suspected counterfeit goods in a container at Pasir Panjang Scanning Station

On 21 May 2025, ICA officers at Pasir Panjang Scanning Station foiled an attempt to smuggle suspected counterfeit goods into Singapore. ICA officers noticed anomalies in a scanned image of a container and directed it for further checks, where more than 200 pieces of suspected counterfeit goods were found. The case was referred to the Singapore Customs for further investigation.



QR code to ICA's Facebook post on 2 Jun 2025:



Case #5 - Traveller with almost \$200,000 in undeclared currencies detected at Woodlands Checkpoint

On 23 October 2025, ICA officers at Woodlands Checkpoint foiled an attempt to smuggle undeclared currencies exceeding S\$20,000 into Singapore via a Malaysia-registered car. ICA officers directed the vehicle for enhanced checks and discovered currencies concealed under the passenger seat, inside a luggage, and within a backpack, amounting to Brunei Dollar BND \$200,000 (equivalent to S\$199,840). Preliminary investigations revealed that the 54-year-old Malaysian male driver was allegedly transporting the money into Singapore on behalf of another party and had failed to submit the required electronic declaration. The case was subsequently referred to the SPF for further investigation.



QR code to ICA's Facebook post on 30 Oct 2025:

