

	Quick Facts	
	Immigration detainees (2019)	Not Available
	Detained minors (2017)	Not Available
	International migrants (2019)	2,114
	New asylum applications (2014)	935

NOTES ON USING THIS PROFILE

- Sources for the data provided in this report are available online at: <https://www.globaldetentionproject.org/countries/asia-pacific/nauru>
- "Observation Dates" indicate the timeframe statistical data correspond to or other data were last validated. More than one statistical entry for a year indicates contrasting reports.

STATISTICS

Detention, expulsion, and incarceration statistics

		Observation Date			Observation Date
Total number of immigration detainees by year	Not Available	2019	Total number of detained minors	Not Available	2017
				86	2015
Number of dedicated long-term immigration detention centres	1	2016	Criminal prison population	14	2014
Percentage of foreign prisoners	6.7	2010	Prison population rate (per 100,000 of national population)	140	2013

Demographics and immigration-related statistics

		Observation Date			Observation Date
Population	11,000	2019	International migrants	2,114	2019
	10,000	2015		3,200	2015
	10,000	2010		2,100	2013
International migrants as a percentage of the population	31.1	2015	Refugees	755	2019
	20.6	2013		488	2016
				0	2014
Ratio of refugees per 1000 inhabitants	49.3	2016	Total number of new asylum applications	935	2014
	38.9	2014		414	2012
Refugee recognition rate	79.6	2014			

DOMESTIC LAW

LEGAL TRADITION

Legal tradition	Name	Observation Date
	Common law	2017

LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Constitutional guarantees?	Yes/No	Constitution and Articles	Year Adopted	Last Year Amended
	Yes	The Constitution of Nauru, Article 5(1)	1968	1968

LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Core pieces of national legislation	Name	Year Adopted	Last Year Amended
	Asylum Seekers (Regional Processing Centre) Act 2012	2012	

COVID-19 UPDATES

	Update Status	Observation Date
Latest Update	<p>During a near 20-year period (2001-2019), the tiny island nation of Nauru hosted a controversial offshore processing centre for Australia that confined asylum seeking men, women, and children in order to prevent them from making their journeys to Australia. Since the facility officially closed, refugees and asylum seekers on the island have faced a precarious accommodation situation. This situation has been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic as the 210 people still on Nauru, many of whom have had either medical transfers or resettlement requests approved since 2019, have seen their cases stalled--due to delays, government inertia, and COVID-19 travel restrictions--and their services curtailed, including healthcare. As of September 2020, Nauru remained one of only a small handful of countries that had yet to report any COVID-19 cases. However, there is concern that a COVID-19 outbreak would quickly overwhelm the country's health infrastructure. In April, the Refugee Council of Australia stated that health systems in Papua New Guinea and Nauru could not withstand full-blown outbreaks. It said: "There is ample and overwhelming evidence of the inadequacies in healthcare provision in those countries, even with financial support from Australia. ... Further pressure on those fragile health systems could result in their falling apart, with serious consequences for the refugees ... many of whom already have chronic illnesses and are immunocompromised." It recommended that refugees be evacuated from regional processing centres in Nauru and Papua New Guinea to Australia. According to a report by BuzzFeed News, the International Health & Medical Services (IHMS), which the Australian government contracts to provide medical services to the refugees on Nauru, is responsible for the care of any refugees who contract COVID-19. However, the country has seen a rapid exodus of interpreters, caseworkers, security guards, and doctors because of ongoing fears over the island's inability to handle an outbreak of the coronavirus. In late March, one group of refugees met with their caseworkers (who are employed by a Nauruan government entity) and demanded to know who would be responsible if they were infected with the virus and what treatment was available. One refugee criticized the Nauru government's response to the pandemic: "All the refugees and asylum seekers thought that if [they] were infected by coronavirus, nobody would look after them. ... The Nauru government only looks after Nauruans." The caseworkers promised to take the questions to the Australian Border Force (ABF), but the group did not receive a response. Another refugee told BuzzFeed News, "If someone gets coronavirus here, there's no solution. There's no good treatment... We will suffer and we will die here."</p>	2020

INTERNATIONAL LAW

Relevant international treaties and date of ratification

	Name	Ratification Year
International treaties	OPCAT, Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	2013
	CAT, Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	2012
	CRPD, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	2012
	CTOCTP, Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children	2012
	CTOCSP, Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime	2012
	VCCR, Vienna Convention on Consular Relations	2012
	CEDAW, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	2011
	CRSR, Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees	2011
	PCRSR, Protocol to the Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees	2011
	CRC, Convention on the Rights of the Child	1994
Ratio of relevant international treaties ratified	10/19	

Relevant international treaties and date of ratification			
Ratio of complaints procedures accepted	Number		Observation Date
	0/4		2017
Non treaty-based international human rights mechanisms			
Relevant recommendations of the UN Universal Periodic Review	Recomendation Issued		Observation Date
	Yes		2017
	Yes		2011

INSTITUTIONAL INDICATORS				
Institutions responsible for immigration detention				
Custodial authority	Agency	Ministry	Ministry Typology	Observation Date
		Department of Immigration and Border Protection	Immigration or Citizenship	2008
Institutions responsible for immigration detention				
Detention Facility Management	Entity Name		Entity Type	Observation Date
	International Organization for Migration		International or Regional Organization	2008
Expenditures				
Estimated cost per detainees day (in USD)	Estimated cost per detainees day (in USD)			Observation Date
	680			2014

More information about immigration detention in Nauru is available at the website of the Global Detention Project (www.globaldetentionproject.org)