



Immigration Court Statistics, Fiscal Years 2018–2023: Cases Referred via Notice to Appear

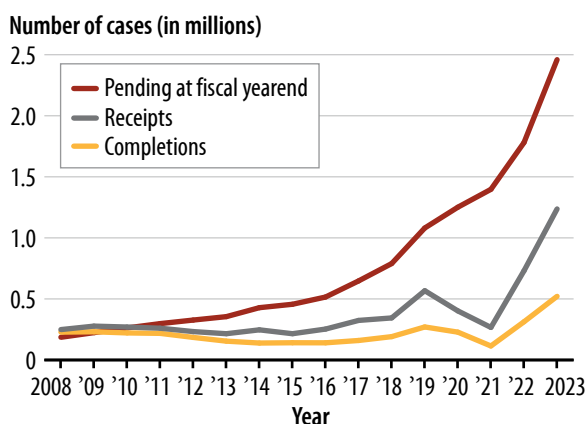
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In fiscal year (FY) 2023, U.S. immigration courts received 1.3 million cases, completed 560,000 cases, and had 2.5 million cases pending adjudication at fiscal yearend (figure 1; table 1). Notice to Appear (NTA) cases comprised most of the cases received (97%), completed (92%), and pending (99%) (not shown in tables). This report focuses only on NTA immigration court proceedings.¹

The number of NTA cases received in immigration court increased 397% (248,972 to 1,237,058) from FY 2008 to FY 2023. During the same period, NTA cases completed increased 129% (228,137 to 521,301) and NTA cases pending at fiscal yearend increased 1,222% (186,104 to 2,459,798).²

Through its Federal Justice Statistics Program, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) acquired data pertaining to civil immigration court proceedings from the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR).³ This report summarizes immigration court data, describes the process of the immigration enforcement system, and presents key statistics on immigration court outcomes. The report focuses on cases referred to immigration courts

FIGURE 1
Referrals to immigration court via an NTA – case receipts, case completions, and pending cases, fiscal years 2008–2023



Note: NTA denotes Notice to Appear. Each case is counted separately, so individuals with more than one case over time are counted more than once. Counts include initial and subsequent cases. See appendix table 1 for counts.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Executive Office for Immigration Review, Case Access System for EOIR, fiscal years 2008–2023.

via NTA, the primary way an individual is informed to appear in an immigration court, and the most common cases that immigration courts adjudicate.⁴

¹The EOIR routinely refers to statistics presented in NTAs as I-862 immigration court matters, after the form number of an NTA. EOIR will additionally refer to the initial receipts reported here as new NTAs. Immigration court initial case receipts correspond to NTA filings from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

²Total NTA cases comprise initial and subsequent cases, as depicted in figure 3.

³Statistics in this report are based upon a data extract of the Case Access System for EOIR (CASE), exported for BJS on May 8, 2024.

⁴Throughout this report, BJS adopted EOIR's naming conventions when measures of workload overlap those that the EOIR distributed publicly for their caseload statistics. For example, when this report refers to "initial case completions," it corresponds with the same term and selection rules in EOIR reports.

TABLE 1
NTA initial cases, NTA subsequent cases, and all other case types, fiscal years 2008–2023

Fiscal year	Case receipts				Case completions				Cases pending at yearend			
	Total	NTA initial	NTA subsequent	Other case types ^a	Total	NTA initial	NTA subsequent	Other case types ^a	Total	NTA initial	NTA subsequent	Other case types ^a
2008	250,723	224,762	24,210	1,751	229,998	213,508	14,629	1,861	187,357	157,470	28,634	1,253
2009	279,425	254,031	23,381	2,013	232,950	216,961	14,102	1,887	225,267	192,693	31,224	1,350
2010	272,606	245,916	24,037	2,653	223,983	206,165	15,460	2,358	264,271	230,091	32,566	1,614
2011	263,081	236,581	23,635	2,865	220,658	202,073	15,963	2,622	299,703	264,003	33,878	1,822
2012	235,864	211,278	21,362	3,224	187,701	170,084	14,846	2,771	329,261	293,960	33,067	2,234
2013	220,974	193,753	21,341	5,880	158,997	140,203	14,096	4,698	358,215	323,876	31,028	3,311
2014	258,917	226,619	20,305	11,993	149,911	127,217	11,537	11,157	432,437	397,457	30,934	4,046
2015	228,592	189,111	26,019	13,462	153,008	130,401	10,734	11,873	461,760	421,904	34,431	5,425
2016	267,128	224,745	28,399	13,984	153,585	129,258	11,357	12,970	521,664	478,624	36,922	6,118
2017	337,351	291,353	32,751	13,247	172,088	149,143	10,558	12,387	654,484	601,494	46,150	6,840
2018	359,947	310,265	34,093	15,589	204,169	179,738	11,449	12,982	799,159	733,322	56,438	9,399
2019	593,061	537,987	29,468	25,606	290,244	258,321	12,194	19,729	1,096,237	1,017,207	63,763	15,267
2020	423,038	365,748	36,428	20,862	248,054	218,794	9,338	19,922	1,267,494	1,167,073	84,243	16,178
2021	281,363	241,612	25,022	14,729	126,897	100,788	13,878	12,231	1,416,291	1,312,605	85,035	18,651
2022	753,759	703,189	27,301	23,269	334,302	291,963	20,906	21,433	1,800,947	1,706,241	74,465	20,241
2023	1,280,145	1,201,250	35,808	43,087	564,481	494,542	26,759	43,180	2,479,600	2,391,995	67,803	19,802
Percentage change, 2008–2023	410.6%	434.5%	47.9%	2,360.7%	145.4%	131.6%	82.9%	2,220.3%	1,223.5%	1,419.0%	136.8%	1,480.4%

Note: NTA denotes Notice to Appear.

^aOther case types comprise notices of referral, review cases, and other case types.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Executive Office for Immigration Review, Case Access System for EOIR, fiscal years 2008–2023.

HIGHLIGHTS

- From fiscal year (FY) 2008 to FY 2023, the number of NTA cases pending at fiscal yearend increased 1,222% (186,104 to 2,459,798) **(figure 1)**.
- NTA initial case receipts increased 287% **(figure 4)** and completions increased 175% **(figure 5)** from FY 2018 to FY 2023.
- In FY 2023, more NTA initial case completions ended in removal or voluntary departure (48%) than relief (9%), and 42% of cases were terminated without a finding **(table 2)**.
- From FY 2018 to FY 2023, the number of cases per judge actively concluding cases increased 130% for case receipts, 74% for cases completed, and 99% for pending cases **(table 3)**.
- The median time to complete an initial case referred to immigration court on an NTA for non-detained aliens increased from 615 days in FY 2018 to 979 days in FY 2023 **(figure 6)**.
- From FY 2018 to FY 2023, the share of females increased for NTA case receipts (35% to 42%) and cases completed (28% to 42%) **(table 4)**.
- Aliens age 17 and under were the most common age group in NTA case receipts in both FY 2018 (27%) and FY 2023 (26%) **(table 4)**.
- From FY 2018 to FY 2023, the percentage of aliens in NTA case receipts decreased from Mexico (24% to 12%) and Central America (48% to 24%), while the share of aliens increased from South America (6% to 34%) and the Caribbean (4% to 13%) **(table 6)**.
- The share of NTA case receipts where an alien was charged as inadmissible (e.g., entering the United States without a visa) increased from 77% in FY 2018 to 97% in FY 2023 **(table 7)**.

Terms and definitions

Basic Terms

- *Alien* – A person who is not a citizen or national of the United States.
- *Immigration and Nationality Act (INA)* – Originally passed in 1952, the INA establishes the framework for immigration law in the United States, and governs legal immigration, naturalization, asylum, and removal.
- *Immigration judge* – An attorney appointed by the U.S. Attorney General to adjudicate immigration court proceedings.
- *Immigration officer* – A U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) employee authorized to exercise the powers and duties of the INA.

Key INA Provisions

- *INA § 212 (8 U.S.C. § 1182)* – Inadmissible aliens – Specifies reasons an alien is inadmissible, including health-related, criminal-related (e.g., organized crime), and security-related (e.g., terrorism) grounds; illegal entrances and immigration violations (e.g., overstaying a visa); those ineligible for citizenship; and aliens previously removed.
- *INA § 237 (8 U.S.C. § 1227)* – Deportable aliens – Specifies deportable aliens, including those who were inadmissible at time of entry (such as for smuggling, marriage fraud, or violation of condition of entry), convicted of criminal offenses, failed to register/ falsified documents, and inadmissible on security-related grounds.
- *INA § 241 (8 U.S.C. § 1231)* – Detention and removal of aliens ordered removed – Specifies conditions for removal of aliens, including the removal and detention period, pausing removal if an alien is incarcerated, and travel for removal.

Case Type

- *Notice to Appear (NTA)* – A charging document issued by DHS to an individual that initiates removal proceedings in immigration court.
- *I-862* – The form used for an NTA.

- *Institutional Hearing Program (IHP)* – A partnership between immigration court and some federal and state prisons to adjudicate an alien's immigration case in prison.

Case Process

- *Initial case* – The first case an alien has before immigration court.
- *Subsequent case* – Any case after the initial case an alien has before immigration court.
- *Relief* – A finding in immigration court for the alien. These can include relief from removal (cancellation of removal, asylum, or an adjustment of immigration status) or administrative relief (motions to reopen proceedings or reconsider evidence, a stay of removal, administrative appeal, or judicial review).
- *Removal* – An order that an alien be removed from the country.
- *Master calendar hearing (MCH)* – The initial hearing that handles scheduling and administrative details.
- *Individual hearing* – A hearing scheduled after the MCH.

I-862 Case Outcomes

- *Relief* – The immigration court granted the alien relief from deportation. This outcome includes an order to remain in the United States and a temporary stay of removal with or without detention.
- *Termination* – Proceedings ending by either the government or an immigration judge. The alien does not receive a removal order but is not granted an official status to stay in the United States. The alien may receive a new NTA later.
- *Removal* – An order of removal from the United States. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is responsible for removing the alien.
- *Voluntary departure* – The alien chooses to leave the United States voluntarily. This option is usually accompanied by the ability to apply for reentry to the United States more quickly than if the alien had received a removal order.

Immigration court proceedings

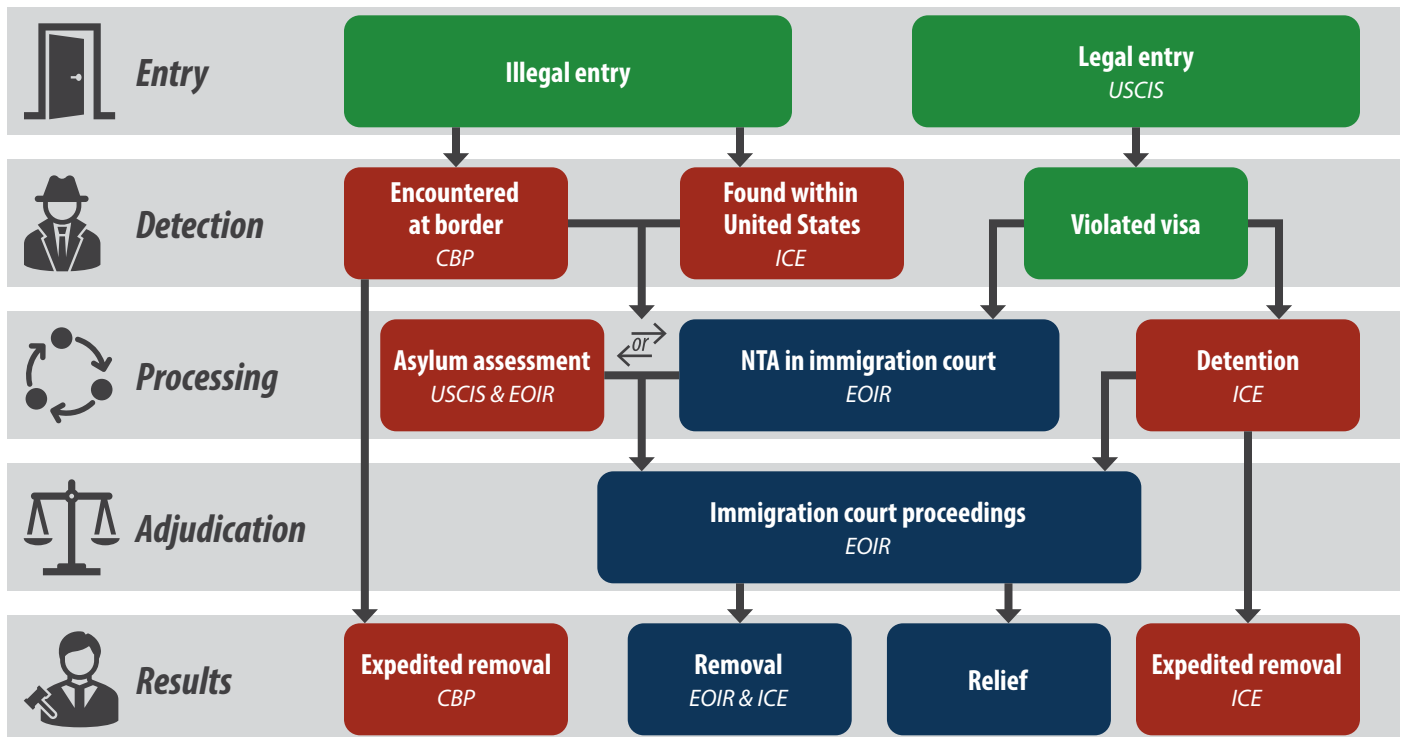
Passed in 1952 and amended periodically, the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) is the framework for immigration law in the United States. The INA sets up the system for legal immigration, naturalization, asylum, and removal from the United States. Immigration court is an important component of enforcement of the immigration system, as the court adjudicates cases involving civil violations of the INA by aliens. Immigration courts issue orders that include whether an alien remains in the United States, should be granted asylum, or is deported. While BJS has reported on criminal violations of the INA, it has never reported comprehensive statistics from civil immigration court.⁵

⁵For criminal violations of INA, see *Immigration, Citizenship, and the Federal Justice System, 1998–2018* (NCJ 253116, BJS, August 2019) and *Immigration, Citizenship, and the Federal Justice System, 2000–2020 – Supplemental Tables* (NCJ 304628, BJS, May 2022).

The INA establishes the immigration court and the authority of immigration judges to adjudicate cases involving non-U.S. citizens who are subject to removal proceedings. Immigration court is one part of the overall U.S. immigration system, under the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) EOIR. Immigration court proceedings are civil hearings of individuals violating immigration law.

The immigration system involves cooperation from several agencies, most of which are components of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). While there are exceptions, **figure 2** depicts a simplified view of how immigration court relates to the immigration system's other components and an alien's usual path through immigration court.

FIGURE 2
Depiction of the U.S. immigrant enforcement system



Note: NTA denotes Notice to Appear. USCIS denotes U.S. Customs and Immigration Service. CBP denotes U.S. Customs and Border Patrol. ICE denotes U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. EOIR denotes the Executive Office for Immigration Review. Agencies responsible for a particular stage in the immigration enforcement process are italicized.

How an alien gains **entry** into the United States has implications for potential involvement with the immigration enforcement system. The first path is illegal entry, where an alien who has not been granted a visa or legal passage enters the United States. Examples of illegal entry include attempts to enter the southern or northern U.S. borders without authorization. The second path is through legal entry into the United States.⁶ Citizens from Canada or countries participating in the Visa Waiver Program may enter the United States for a fixed period. Citizens of other countries need to apply for an entry visa and register with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Aliens violating their entry requirements no longer have legal status. Actions that violate entry requirements include overstaying the period the visa allows the alien to remain in the United States or violating work restrictions (e.g., holding some form of employment while in the United States on a student visa).

DHS components typically handle the **detection** of aliens violating civil immigration. U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) is responsible for detection at the border and other ports of entry (e.g., international airports or seaports), while U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) handles detection and arrest within U.S. borders.⁷

DHS also handles **processing** for an alien detected for violating immigration law; there are multiple actions that DHS can take to process the alien.⁸ Two agencies

process violations. The first, CBP, processes its violation encounters from the border in one of three ways:

1. nonadmission to individuals illegally entering the United States who are encountered at or near the border;
2. issuance of an NTA in immigration court to decide the alien's legal status; or
3. referral by a DHS official when an alien makes a claim of credible fear or asylum.

The second, ICE, may process an arrest via an expedited removal process like that used by CBP, or by issuing an NTA in immigration court.

Adjudication of civil immigration cases is handled by immigration courts in EOIR. The adjudication process may involve appeals of immigration court decisions, which can be reviewed by EOIR's Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA), U.S. Circuit Courts, and the U.S. Supreme Court.

The final **result** from the adjudication process may be some form of temporary relief from removal (e.g., granting a motion to reopen or reconsider a previous decision, or a stay of removal to grant more time to file an appeal), permanent relief from removal (e.g., such as cancellation of removal or asylum), or removal from the United States. ICE executes all removal orders.

⁶See <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/immigrate/the-immigrant-visa-process/step-1-submit-a-petition.html> [↗](#).

⁷For more information, see <https://www.cbp.gov/border-security> [↗](#) and <https://www.ice.gov/identify-and-arrest> [↗](#).

⁸The pathways mentioned in this section are those that are generally applicable at the time of writing this report. The U.S. Government has used other methods to process aliens violating immigration law, such as prosecuting all illegal entrants in U.S. criminal court through a program known as [Operation Streamline](#) [↗](#).

Immigration court proceedings beginning with an NTA

Figure 3 provides a simplified view of immigration court proceedings, focusing on cases that begin with a Notice to Appear (NTA).⁹ An alien's initial case starts with the NTA. Prosecutors are assigned from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) [Office of the Principal Legal Advisor](#). Aliens adjudicated in immigration court are not entitled to a defense attorney and must either find their own representation or represent themselves in immigration court.

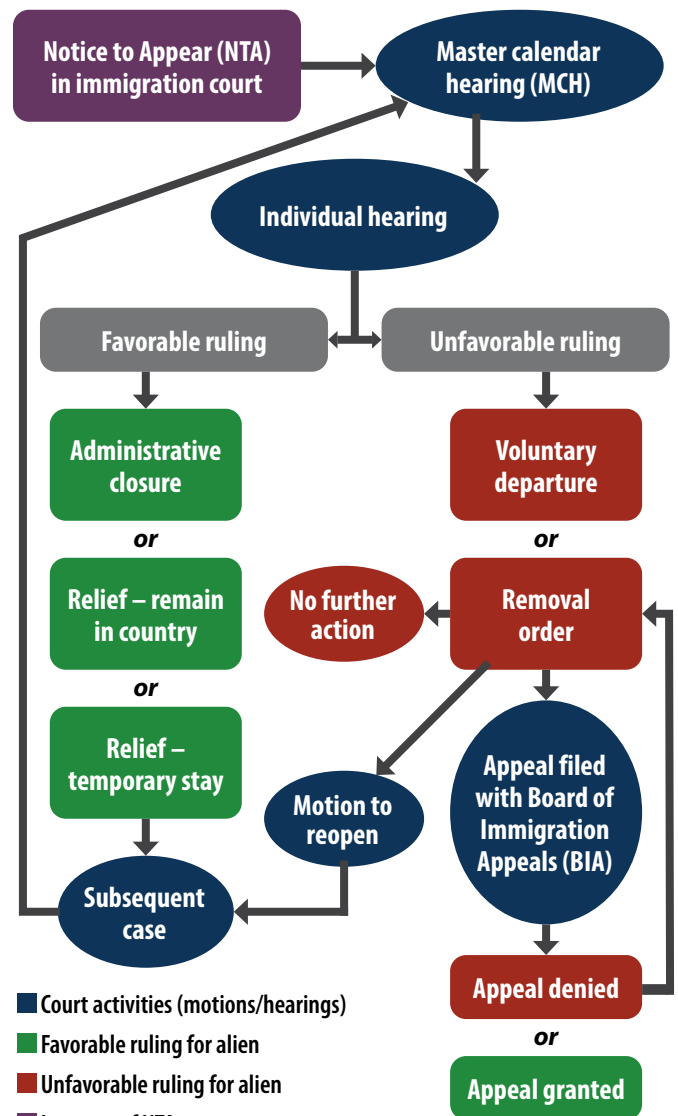
The NTA sets a date for the master calendar hearing (MCH). Later adjudication dates are set from the MCH. There may be multiple MCHs due to factors such as judge or prosecutor availability or changes to or hiring of counsel for the respondent. Once the calendar is set, there may be one or more subsequent hearings, though for simplicity figure 3 depicts this process as one hearing.

Adjudication outcomes may be favorable or unfavorable to the respondent. There are three general outcomes favorable to a respondent in immigration court. The first is administrative closure, where an immigration judge ends the case against the alien. This is usually in response to the alien gaining legal status from another process, such as obtaining a green card or becoming a naturalized citizen. The second is relief granted to the alien to remain in the United States through the cancellation of removal, granting of asylum, or an adjustment of status to remain in the country legally. The third is granting a temporary stay in the United States, which is routinely accompanied by a respondent's motion to reopen or reconsider the case, or the respondent filing an appeal of a removal order. These reopened, reconsidered, or appealed cases are known as subsequent cases to the initial case.

Two types of outcomes from an unfavorable ruling result in an order of removal for the alien. The first outcome, voluntary departure, is a type of discretionary relief that an alien may select. The second outcome is an order of removal. From the removal order, the respondent can take no action, file a motion for an appeal, or file a motion to reopen the case with new evidence. If the appeal is granted, the case is referred to the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA). If the motion to reopen is granted, then a subsequent case, related to but distinct from the initial case, is opened. Upon reopening a case, immigration court proceedings start over with a new MCH.

⁹The Executive Office for Immigration Review's (EOIR) [Immigration Court Practice Manual](#) provides a more detailed look at proceedings of immigration courts.

FIGURE 3
Immigration court case process



Note: Adapted from a description of the Executive Office for Immigration Review's (EOIR) court case process in *EOIR Policy Manual, Part II – OCIJ Immigration Court Practice Manual*. A subsequent case is a case that follows from a ruling of a temporary stay or from a successful motion to reopen a case after receiving a removal order. Subsequent cases are related to the original cases but routinely adjudicate a new case fact or piece of evidence. The adjudication of the subsequent case follows the same process as the original case. See *Terms and definitions* for expanded descriptions of terms used in this figure.

Statistical findings

NTA initial case receipts (287%) and completions (175%) increased from FY 2018 to FY 2023

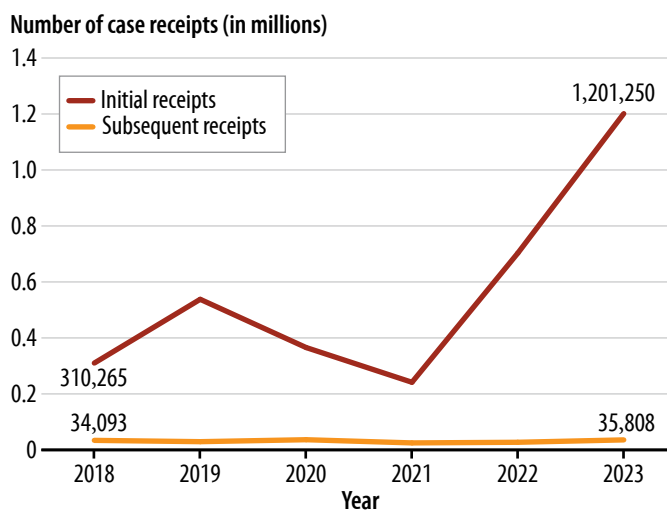
Initial cases represent the first time an alien's NTA case is adjudicated. Subsequent cases are independent cases reopened following the initial case completion. From FY 2018 to FY 2023, initial case receipts increased 287% (310,265 to 1,201,250 cases), while subsequent case receipts increased 5% (34,093 to 35,808 cases) (figure 4). Over the same period, initial case completions increased 175% (179,738 to 494,542 cases) and subsequent case completions increased 134% (11,449 to 26,759 cases) (figure 5).

In FY 2023, a greater percentage of initial case completions ended in removal or termination than in relief

Outcomes differ for initial and subsequent case completions. In FY 2023, 47% of NTA initial cases ended in a removal, compared to 19% of NTA subsequent cases (table 2). Conversely, a smaller share of initial cases ended in relief (9%) or termination (42%) than subsequent cases (14% relief and 65% termination).

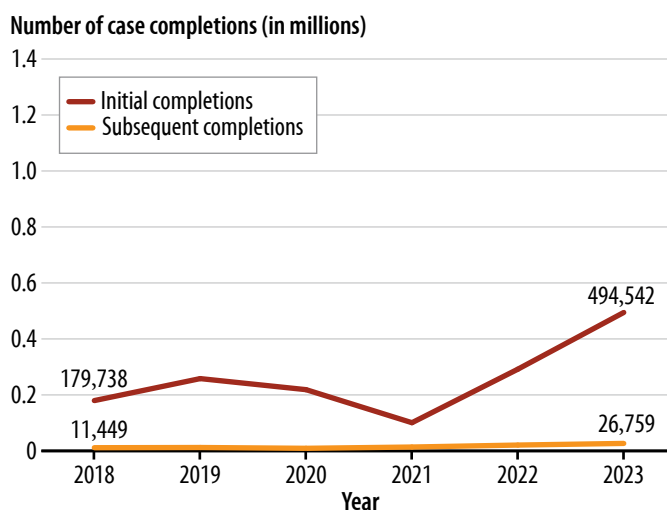
From FY 2021 through FY 2023, an annual average of 44% of NTA initial cases ended in a termination of court proceedings, compared to an annual average of 9% of initial cases from FY 2018 through FY 2020 (average percentages not shown in table). While termination of proceedings ends the legal process and is a form of relief to the alien to remain in the country, it does not confer any legal status to the alien. Another NTA may be filed in the future to initiate removal proceedings against the alien. The increase in termination outcomes between the FYs 2018–2020 and FYs 2021–2023 periods corresponded to decreases in removal and voluntary departure outcomes. Subsequent cases follow a similar pattern. From FY 2021 through FY 2023, an annual average of 64% of subsequent cases ended in termination of court proceedings, compared to an annual average of 22% from FY 2018 through FY 2020 (average percentages not shown in table).

FIGURE 4
Referrals to immigration court via an NTA, by type of receipt, fiscal years 2018–2023



Note: NTA denotes Notice to Appear. See appendix table 2 for counts.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Executive Office for Immigration Review, Case Access System for EOIR, fiscal years 2018–2023.

FIGURE 5
Referrals to immigration court via an NTA, by type of case completion, fiscal years 2018–2023



Note: NTA denotes Notice to Appear. See appendix table 3 for counts.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Executive Office for Immigration Review, Case Access System for EOIR, fiscal years 2018–2023.

TABLE 2**Referrals to immigration court via an NTA, case outcomes by decision, fiscal years 2018–2023**

Case outcome	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Initial case completions												
Total	179,738	100%	258,321	100%	218,794	100%	100,788	100%	291,963	100%	494,542	100%
Relief	22,754	12.7	30,355	11.8	23,458	10.7	17,539	17.4	36,178	12.4	45,608	9.2
Termination	18,984	10.6	20,579	8.0	19,941	9.1	42,756	42.4	139,971	47.9	207,819	42.0
Removal	115,687	64.4	180,622	69.9	159,588	72.9	35,612	35.3	108,180	37.1	230,997	46.7
Voluntary departure	21,839	12.2	26,265	10.2	15,552	7.1	4,668	4.6	5,886	2.0	8,370	1.7
Other	474	0.3	500	0.2	255	0.1	213	0.2	1,748	0.6	1,748	0.4
Subsequent case completions												
Total	11,449	100%	12,194	100%	9,338	100%	13,878	100%	20,906	100%	26,759	100%
Relief	2,721	23.8	3,248	26.6	2,598	27.8	2,774	20.0	3,518	16.8	3,783	14.1
Termination	3,074	26.8	2,280	18.7	1,962	21.0	8,413	60.6	13,749	65.8	17,414	65.1
Removal	4,299	37.5	5,175	42.4	4,021	43.1	2,263	16.3	3,142	15.0	4,965	18.6
Voluntary departure	1,026	9.0	1,273	10.4	707	7.6	386	2.8	366	1.8	431	1.6
Other	329	2.9	218	1.8	50	0.5	42	0.3	131	0.6	166	0.6

Note: NTA denotes Notice to Appear.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Executive Office for Immigration Review, Case Access System for EOIR, fiscal years 2018–2023.

From FY 2018 to FY 2023, the number of cases per judge actively concluding cases increased for case receipts, cases completed, and pending cases at yearend

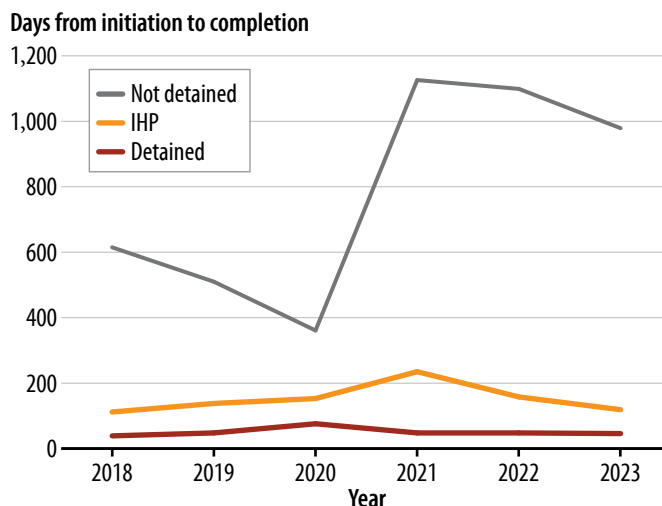
From FY 2018 to FY 2023, the increase in the number of judges has been lower than the increase of the number of NTA cases pending at fiscal yearend (table 3).¹⁰ While the number of judges that concluded at least five cases within a fiscal year increased 56% from FY 2018 (478 judges) to FY 2023 (748 judges), the number of NTA cases pending at fiscal yearend increased 211% (789,760 to 2,459,798 cases). This difference in the increase between judges and cases resulted in a 99% increase in the number of NTA pending cases at fiscal yearend per judge during this time frame. Over the same period, the number of NTA case receipts per judge increased 130% and the number of NTA case completions per judge increased 74%.

The median time to complete an NTA initial case for non-detained aliens increased from 615 days in FY 2018 to 979 days in FY 2023

From FY 2018 to FY 2023, the median number of days to resolve an NTA initial case remained roughly steady for incarcerated or detained aliens but increased for non-detained aliens (figure 6). For non-detained aliens, the median case completion time increased 59% from FY 2018 (615 days) to FY 2023 (979 days).

¹⁰Each year, most immigration judges hear and complete hundreds of cases each. However, some judges appear infrequently, completing one or two cases per year. For the purposes of this analysis, judges who completed at least five cases within a fiscal year were considered active.

FIGURE 6
Median case processing time for initial NTA cases by detention and IHP status, fiscal years 2018–2023



Note: NTA denotes Notice to Appear. Detained denotes aliens detained by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). IHP denotes the in-prison Institutional Hearing Program. Case processing time calculated as the difference between the case completion and input dates. See appendix table 4 for counts.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Executive Office for Immigration Review, Case Access System for EOIR, fiscal years 2018–2023.

TABLE 3
Number of judges and cases per judge for NTA case receipts, case completions, and pending cases at fiscal yearend, fiscal years 2018–2023

Fiscal year	Number of judges	NTA receipts		NTA completions		NTA pending at yearend	
		Number of cases	Cases per judge	Number of cases	Cases per judge	Number of cases	Cases per judge
2018	478	344,358	720	191,187	400	789,760	1,652
2019	502	567,455	1,130	270,515	539	1,080,970	2,153
2020	563	402,176	714	228,132	405	1,251,316	2,223
2021	569	266,634	469	114,666	202	1,397,640	2,456
2022	648	730,490	1,127	312,869	483	1,780,706	2,748
2023	748	1,237,058	1,654	521,301	697	2,459,798	3,289
Percentage change, FYs 2018 to 2023	56%	259%	130%	173%	74%	211%	99%

Note: NTA denotes Notice to Appear. For this analysis, in each fiscal year, a judge was counted if they completed at least five cases within the fiscal year. Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Executive Office for Immigration Review, Case Access System for EOIR, fiscal years 2018–2023.

Detained aliens may fall into one of two types of cases. The first type, the [Institutional Hearing Program \(IHP\)](#) [↗](#), involves aliens incarcerated for a criminal conviction. The IHP is a partnership between immigration court and some federal and state prisons to adjudicate the alien's immigration case in prison. As these typically result in a deportation order, IHP cases are prioritized to be completed before the alien's release. From FY 2018 to FY 2023, the median time to complete an IHP case ranged from a low of 112 days in FY 2018 to a high of 235 days in FY 2021.

The second type of case involves aliens who are [detained by ICE](#) [↗](#) during their case. The median number of days to complete a case for detained aliens ranged from a low of 39 in FY 2018 to a high of 76 days in FY 2020.

From FY 2018 to FY 2023, the share of females in NTA case receipts and completions increased

In FY 2023, males appeared in 58% of both NTA case receipts and completions, which was lower than FY 2018

(65% receipts and 72% completions) ([table 4](#)).¹¹ More women appeared in case receipts (42%) and completions (42%) in FY 2023 compared to FY 2018 (35% receipts and 28% completions).

In FY 2018 and FY 2023, NTA case receipts included aliens age 17 and under more frequently than any other age group

Aliens age 17 and under were the most common age group in NTA case receipts in both FY 2018 (27%) and FY 2023 (26%). In the same years, the most common age group among case completions were aliens ages 30–39 (26% in FY 2018 and 24% in FY 2023). While the share of aliens ages 0–17 decreased from 27% in FY 2018 to 26% in FY 2023 for case receipts, the same group increased from 16% to 23% in its share of case completions. Meanwhile, the share of case receipts decreased for aliens ages 13–17 (16% in FY 2018 to 8% in FY 2023) and for aliens ages 40–59 (18% in FY 2018 to 14% in FY 2023).

¹¹CASE does not require sex and date of birth to be entered for each alien, so data about sex and age may be missing more frequently than other data. See *Methodology*.

TABLE 4
Case receipts and completions in immigration court via an NTA, by sex and age, fiscal years 2018 and 2023

Characteristic	Case receipts				Case completions			
	2018		2023		2018		2023	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sex								
Total	344,358	100%	1,237,058	100%	191,187	100%	521,301	100%
Male	147,395	65.4	538,540	57.8	80,743	71.8	213,572	58.2
Female	78,100	34.6	392,803	42.2	31,701	28.2	153,246	41.8
Age								
Total	344,358	100%	1,237,058	100%	191,187	100%	521,301	100%
0–17	62,908	27.3	243,592	26.4	18,777	16.0	85,450	22.7
18–24	38,434	16.7	156,301	16.9	24,834	21.2	78,948	21.0
25–29	28,403	12.3	153,681	16.7	16,890	14.4	48,184	12.8
30–39	57,109	24.8	236,583	25.7	30,960	26.4	88,727	23.6
40–59	41,100	17.8	124,748	13.5	23,629	20.2	69,471	18.4
60–99	2,624	1.1	7,360	0.8	2,154	1.8	5,892	1.6

Note: NTA denotes Notice to Appear. Case Access System for EOIR (CASE) does not require sex and date of birth to be entered for each alien, so sex and age may be missing more frequently than other data. Sex was missing from 118,863 FY 2018 case receipts, 305,715 FY 2023 case receipts, 78,743 FY 2018 case completions, and 154,483 FY 2023 case completions. Date of birth was missing from 113,780 FY 2018 case receipts, 314,793 FY 2023 case receipts, 73,943 FY 2018 case completions, and 144,629 FY 2023 case completions.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Executive Office for Immigration Review, Case Access System for EOIR, fiscal years 2018–2023.

From FY 2018 to FY 2023, the share of NTA case receipts decreased among aliens from Mexico and Central America and increased among aliens from South America and the Caribbean

The share of aliens from Central America and Mexico among NTA case receipts decreased from FY 2018 to FY 2023 (table 5). Combined, they accounted for nearly

three-quarters of receipts in FY 2018 (48% for Central America and 24% for Mexico), but this declined to one-third in FY 2023 (24% from Central America and more than 12% from Mexico). In the same period, the share of aliens increased among receipts from South America (6% to 34%) and the Caribbean (4% to 13%). The same patterns were observed among case completions.

TABLE 5

Case receipts and case completions in immigration court via an NTA, by region of citizenship, fiscal years 2018–2023

Region of citizenship	Case receipts				Case completions			
	2018		2023		2018		2023	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	344,358	100%	1,237,058	100%	191,187	100%	521,301	100%
Africa	11,607	3.6	41,908	4.0	6,851	3.8	11,437	2.4
Asia/Oceania	34,820	10.8	92,204	8.9	17,402	9.6	33,518	7.0
Europe	8,387	2.6	48,524	4.7	4,411	2.4	12,591	2.6
South America	20,301	6.3	355,094	34.3	8,017	4.4	74,591	15.6
Canada	441	0.1	201	--	410	0.2	253	0.1
Caribbean	12,723	3.9	129,694	12.5	9,174	5.1	45,241	9.5
Central America	155,705	48.2	248,534	24.0	77,266	42.7	243,038	50.9
Mexico	78,790	24.4	120,372	11.6	57,404	31.7	56,378	11.8
United States	13	--	3	--	3	--	3	--

Note: NTA denotes Notice to Appear. Region was missing from 21,571 FY 2018 initial case receipts, 200,524 FY 2023 initial case receipts, 10,249 FY 2018 case completions, and 44,251 FY 2023 case completions.

--Less than 0.05%.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Executive Office for Immigration Review, Case Access System for EOIR, fiscal years 2018–2023.

From FY 2018 to FY 2023, the share of NTA case receipts from Mexico and Guatemala decreased, while the share from Venezuela and Colombia increased

In FY 2018, aliens from Mexico had the largest share of NTA case receipts (24%) and NTA case completions (32%) in immigration court (**table 6**). From FY 2018 to FY 2023, the share of NTA case receipts that involved aliens from Mexico dropped by half. The share of NTA

case completions that involved aliens from Mexico dropped by more than half, from 32% to 12%. In FY 2023, aliens from Venezuela appeared in the most NTA case receipts (13%) and aliens from Guatemala appeared in the most NTA case completions (17%). From FY 2018 to FY 2023, the share of the top 10 countries decreased for NTA case receipts (from 85% to 74%) and NTA case completions (from 85% to 82%).

TABLE 6
Percentage of case receipts and completions in immigration court via an NTA, by top nations of citizenship, fiscal years 2018 and 2023

Rank	Case receipts				Case completions			
	2018		2023		2018		2023	
	Country	Percent	Country	Percent	Country	Percent	Country	Percent
1	Mexico	24.4%	Venezuela	13.0%	Mexico	31.7%	Guatemala	17.2%
2	Guatemala	22.2	Mexico	11.6	Guatemala	16.4	Honduras	16.7
3	Honduras	14.7	Colombia	9.0	Honduras	13.0	Mexico	11.8
4	El Salvador	10.5	Honduras	8.6	El Salvador	12.4	El Salvador	11.6
5	India	3.6	Guatemala	7.2	China	3.7	Cuba	5.7
6	China	2.9	Cuba	5.6	Haiti	1.8	Nicaragua	5.2
7	Cuba	1.9	Nicaragua	5.1	India	1.6	Venezuela	3.5
8	Venezuela	1.7	Haiti	4.7	Ecuador	1.6	Colombia	3.4
9	Brazil	1.6	Peru	4.7	Cuba	1.2	Ecuador	3.3
10	Ecuador	1.5	Ecuador	4.7	Dominican Republic	1.1	Brazil	3.3
N/A	Remaining	15.1		25.8		15.4		18.2

Note: NTA denotes Notice to Appear. Country of citizenship was missing from 21,447 FY 2018 initial case receipts, 200,419 FY 2023 initial case receipts, 10,199 FY 2018 case completions, and 44,097 FY 2023 case completions.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Executive Office for Immigration Review, Case Access System for EOIR, fiscal years 2018–2023.

The percentage of cases in which an alien was charged as inadmissible increased from FY 2018 to FY 2023

When an NTA is received by immigration court, DHS will note the charges given to the alien in the charging document. Charges will either indicate an alien is deportable (e.g., those entering the United States without a visa check by the CBP) or inadmissible (e.g., those that had entered the country legally but subsequently acquired an illegal status, such as overstaying an approved visa period).¹² Based on the first charge listed on the NTA form, from FY 2018 to FY 2023, the percentage of cases with charges of an individual being inadmissible increased from 77% to 97% for NTA case receipts, 76% to 89% for case completions, and 79% to 93% for cases pending at fiscal yearend (**table 7**). The largest increases for receipts (87% to 95%) and completions (76% to 83%) occurred from FY 2021 to FY 2022.

In FY 2023, the city of New York had the largest number of NTA case receipts, completions, and cases pending at the end of the fiscal year

A court's jurisdiction over an NTA depends upon the area for which a court has responsibility and the location of the individual. For detained individuals, court assignment depends upon the facility where the individual

¹²Like sex and date of birth, CASE does not require a charge to be entered for each case. The charge information may be missing more frequently than other data. See *Methodology*.

is detained.¹³ For non-detained individuals, court assignment depends upon the individual's residence.

Individual courts may have overlapping or exclusive administrative control. For example, the two courts in Atlanta both have administrative control over the Atlanta DHS office and its suboffice, but only one (Ted Turner Drive) has administrative control over individuals detained in the area's ICE detention facilities and federal, state, and local prisons and jails. The EOIR provides a detailed list of the areas of administrative control for each court at <https://www.justice.gov/eoir/immigration-court-administrative-control-list> ².

In FY 2023, the five cities with the largest number of NTA case receipts were New York (123,638), Miami (88,542), Chicago (74,633), Dallas (62,053), and Orlando, FL (56,941) (**table 8**). The same five cities also had the most cases pending at fiscal yearend 2023.

In FY 2023, NTA cases completed followed different patterns than case receipts or cases pending at yearend. The top five cities with the largest number of case completions included New York (71,274), Houston (57,676), Los Angeles (48,727), Miami (39,175), and Newark, NJ (22,824). Houston was one of five cities where completions exceeded receipts (44,448). The other cities where completions outpaced receipts in FY 2023 were San Diego; Saipan, MP; Harlingen, TX; and Hyattsville, MD.

¹³Detained may include detention by ICE, and detention or incarceration by the Federal Bureau of Prisons or state and local law enforcement.

TABLE 7
Nature of first listed charge for NTA cases: receipts, completions, and pending cases, fiscal years 2018–2023

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Case receipts						
Nonmissing number	269,967	465,212	325,243	239,773	652,684	899,587
Percent deportable	23.1%	15.0%	18.7%	13.1%	4.3%	2.5%
Percent inadmissible	76.5	84.8	81.1	86.6	95.5	97.3
Case completions						
Nonmissing number	143,547	200,701	155,613	85,333	251,627	432,080
Percent deportable	23.7%	18.8%	17.1%	22.8%	16.3%	11.0%
Percent inadmissible	75.8	80.9	82.5	76.3	83.0	88.6
Cases pending at yearend						
Nonmissing number	546,275	806,377	973,220	1,123,242	1,496,698	1,934,681
Percent deportable	20.2%	17.5%	17.9%	16.5%	11.2%	7.1%
Percent inadmissible	79.4	82.3	81.9	83.3	88.7	92.8

Note: NTA denotes Notice to Appear. Case Access System for EOIR (CASE) does not require a charge to be entered for each alien's case, so the charge may be missing more frequently than other data. If multiple charges are listed, the charge represents the first charge listed for the case. The number of records that do not report charges, for each fiscal year from 2018 to 2023, are: case receipts (74,391, 102,243, 76,933, 26,861, 77,806, 337,471); case completions (47,640, 69,814, 72,519, 29,333, 61,242, 89,221); and pending cases at yearend (243,485, 274,593, 278,096, 274,398, 284,008, 525,117). Percentages may not add to 100% due to omitting "in detention waiting to be deported" charges (less than 1% of cases).

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Executive Office for Immigration Review, Case Access System for EOIR, fiscal years 2018–2023.

TABLE 8

Case receipts, case completions, and cases pending at fiscal yearend that were referrals to immigration court via an NTA, fiscal year 2023

State name	Report city	Case receipts		Case completions		Cases pending at yearend	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Arizona	Eloy	8,843	0.7%	1,219	0.2%	540	--
Arizona	Florence	2,916	0.2	1,316	0.2	509	--
Arizona	Phoenix	10,730	0.8	8,819	1.3	16,625	0.7%
Arizona	Tucson	1,658	0.1	865	0.1	1,919	0.1
California	Adelanto	1,694	0.1	850	0.1	561	--
California	Concord	18,574	1.5	4	--	39,385	1.6
California	Imperial	4,725	0.4	1,622	0.2	1,421	0.1
California	Los Angeles - N. Los Angeles Street	18,613	1.5	9,595	1.4	24,351	1.0
California	Los Angeles - Van Nuys	17,931	1.4	12,159	1.8	33,705	1.4
California	Los Angeles - West	21,302	1.7	26,973	4.0	35,014	1.4
California	Otay Mesa	7,192	0.6	3,338	0.5	657	--
California	Sacramento	11,548	0.9	5,633	0.8	19,223	0.8
California	San Diego	8,934	0.7	9,922	1.5	9,658	0.4
California	San Francisco	37,624	3.0	20,154	3.0	93,601	3.8
California	Santa Ana	23,883	1.9	18,855	2.8	30,604	1.3
Colorado	Aurora	1,893	0.1	938	0.1	153	--
Colorado	Denver	27,519	2.2	9,415	1.4	40,538	1.7
Connecticut	Hartford	13,709	1.1	6,858	1.0	31,769	1.3
Florida	Miami	84,768	6.7	39,175	5.8	210,723	8.6
Florida	Miami Krome	3,774	0.3	2,622	0.4	845	--
Florida	Orlando	56,941	4.5	12,758	1.9	148,355	6.1
Georgia	Atlanta - Ted Turner Drive	2,611	0.2	4,400	0.7	1,284	0.1
Georgia	Atlanta - W. Peachtree Street	41,684	3.3	17,208	2.6	84,140	3.5
Georgia	Stewart	5,487	0.4	2,854	0.4	1,203	--
Hawaii	Honolulu	584	--	301	--	698	--
Illinois	Chicago	74,633	5.9	16,945	2.5	145,272	6.0
Louisiana	LaSalle	6,694	0.5	6,288	0.9	368	--
Louisiana	New Orleans	18,621	1.5	12,920	1.9	48,529	2.0
Louisiana	Oakdale	5,370	0.4	3,650	0.5	1,040	--
Maryland	Baltimore	9,840	0.8	7,610	1.1	27,386	1.1
Maryland	Fort Snelling	16,524	1.3	8,709	1.3	29,284	1.2
Maryland	Hyattsville	11,212	0.9	16,791	2.5	22,964	0.9
Massachusetts	Boston	25,382	2.0	22,347	3.3	77,516	3.2
Massachusetts	Chelmsford	3,185	0.3	0	0.0	8,092	0.3
Michigan	Detroit	10,465	0.8	3,683	0.5	16,117	0.7
Missouri	Kansas City	13,892	1.1	6,373	0.9	32,024	1.3
Nebraska	Omaha	10,736	0.8	4,444	0.7	32,177	1.3
Nevada	Las Vegas	8,322	0.7	5,514	0.8	13,027	0.5
New Jersey	Elizabeth	2,905	0.2	2,395	0.4	807	--
New Jersey	Newark	50,460	4.0	22,824	3.4	135,191	5.5
New Mexico	Otero	4,622	0.4	2,006	0.3	184	--
New York	Batavia	873	0.1	484	0.1	161	--
New York	Buffalo	6,168	0.5	2,698	0.4	7,329	0.3
New York	New York - Broadway	27,396	2.2	19,677	2.9	42,372	1.7
New York	New York - Federal Plaza	76,786	6.1	36,386	5.4	168,337	6.9
New York	New York - Varick	19,456	1.5	15,211	2.3	28,297	1.2
New York	Ulster	202	--	120	--	165	--
North Carolina	Charlotte	43,618	3.4	17,229	2.6	91,732	3.8
Northern Mariana Islands	Saipan	14	--	107	--	222	--

Continued on next page

TABLE 8 (CONTINUED)

Case receipts, case completions, and cases pending at fiscal yearend that were referrals to immigration court via an NTA, fiscal year 2023

State name	Report city	Case receipts		Case completions		Cases pending at yearend	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Ohio	Cleveland	21,821	1.7	7,807	1.2	32,858	1.3
Oregon	Portland	13,181	1.0	5,219	0.8	21,933	0.9
Pennsylvania	Philadelphia	27,982	2.2	15,255	2.3	58,960	2.4
Puerto Rico	Guaynabo	559	--	469	0.1	258	--
Tennessee	Memphis	34,779	2.7	13,542	2.0	64,348	2.6
Tennessee	Memphis - Louisville	6,688	0.5	3,122	0.5	20,389	0.8
Texas	Conroe	13,587	1.1	7,237	1.1	1,013	0.0
Texas	Dallas	62,053	4.9	17,445	2.6	140,013	5.7
Texas	El Paso	9,207	0.7	9,673	1.4	17,334	0.7
Texas	El Paso Service Processing Center	3,819	0.3	2,591	0.4	527	--
Texas	Harlingen	6,018	0.5	7,980	1.2	13,543	0.6
Texas	Houston - Greenspoint Park	17,151	1.4	18,305	2.7	35,291	1.4
Texas	Houston - Jefferson Street	11,946	0.9	22,772	3.4	25,875	1.1
Texas	Houston - S. Gessner Road	15,351	1.2	16,599	2.5	26,416	1.1
Texas	Laredo	5,791	0.5	6,423	1.0	2,317	0.1
Texas	Pearsall	20,437	1.6	8,689	1.3	928	--
Texas	Port Isabel	11,025	0.9	6,065	0.9	475	--
Texas	San Antonio	37,975	3.0	15,340	2.3	82,285	3.4
Utah	Salt Lake City	17,617	1.4	4,222	0.6	27,498	1.1
Virginia	Annandale	13,484	1.1	12,890	1.9	33,794	1.4
Virginia	Falls Church	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	--
Virginia	Sterling	14,987	1.2	10,004	1.5	42,874	1.8
Washington	Seattle	17,089	1.3	6,852	1.0	32,550	1.3
Washington	Tacoma	1,258	0.1	861	0.1	217	--

Note: NTA denotes Notice to Appear. The immigration court was missing in 13,827 case receipts, 356 case completions, and 41,829 cases pending at fiscal yearend.

--Less than 0.05%.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Executive Office for Immigration Review, Case Access System for EOIR, fiscal years 2018–2023.

Methodology

This report uses data from the Executive Office for Immigration Review's (EOIR) Case Access System for EOIR (CASE), which provides information on aliens adjudicated through immigration court. Data were obtained by the Bureau of Justice Statistics through its Federal Justice Statistics Program.¹⁴ It contains detailed measures about the initiation and completion of a case and associated outcomes; dates, types, and results of court motions; specific statutes under which an alien can be charged; information about prosecution and defense counsel, judges, and adjudication venues; juvenile status; and results of appeals handled by the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA).

The fiscal year (FY) 2008 to FY 2023 statistics presented in this report are based upon an extract of CASE tables run on May 8, 2024. This report uses both initial and subsequent cases originating with a Notice to Appear (NTA) and denotes them in the text as case receipts, completions, and pending at fiscal yearend. The report also makes distinctions between initial and subsequent cases for some tables. NTA case receipts within a fiscal year are based upon a case filing date between October 1 and September 30 of that fiscal year.

¹⁴For more information on Federal Justice Statistics Program, visit <https://bjs.ojp.gov/data-collection/federal-justice-statistics-program-fjsp>.

For example, an NTA case receipt occurring between October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022 would be counted in FY 2022. Cases completed within a fiscal year are based upon the case completion date being between October 1 and September 30 of that fiscal year. Cases pending at fiscal yearend are based upon a case being opened between October 1 and September 30 but remained open after September 30 of that fiscal year.

Some data elements are not required when adding a case into CASE, which increases the amount of information missing within an item. CASE does not require sex and date of birth to be entered for each alien, so more data are missing than other required measures (for FY 2023 initial cases, 13% missing for sex and 30% missing for date of birth). Charges reported in CASE are transcribed from the NTA. Although the NTA form must include at least one charge to initiate a case filing, CASE does not require charges to be entered into its system. Therefore, charges have more data missing than other measures in the CASE data; for example, 28% of FY 2023 initial receipts were missing a charge. In addition, courts vary about recording a representative charge or all charges associated with a case. To mitigate reporting variation with respect to charge, this report uses the first charge listed in CASE.

APPENDIX TABLE 1

Counts for figure 1: Referrals to immigration court via an NTA – case receipts, case completions, and pending cases, fiscal years 2008–2023

Fiscal year	Receipts	Completions	Pending at yearend
2008	248,972	228,137	186,104
2009	277,412	231,063	223,917
2010	269,953	221,625	262,657
2011	260,216	218,036	297,881
2012	232,640	184,930	327,027
2013	215,094	154,299	354,904
2014	246,924	138,754	428,391
2015	215,130	141,135	456,335
2016	253,144	140,615	515,546
2017	324,104	159,701	647,644
2018	344,358	191,187	789,760
2019	567,455	270,515	1,080,970
2020	402,176	228,132	1,251,316
2021	266,634	114,666	1,397,640
2022	730,490	312,869	1,780,706
2023	1,237,058	521,301	2,459,798
Percentage change, 2008–2023	396.9%	128.5%	1,221.7%

Note: NTA denotes Notice to Appear. Each case is counted separately, so individuals with more than one case over time are counted more than once. Counts include initial and subsequent cases.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Executive Office for Immigration Review, Case Access System for EOIR, fiscal years 2008–2023.

APPENDIX TABLE 2

Counts for figure 4: Referrals to immigration court via an NTA, by type of receipt, fiscal years 2018–2023

Fiscal year	Initial receipts	Subsequent receipts
2018	310,265	34,093
2019	537,987	29,468
2020	365,748	36,428
2021	241,612	25,022
2022	703,189	27,301
2023	1,201,250	35,808
Percentage change, 2018–2023	287.2%	5.0%

Note: NTA denotes Notice to Appear.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Executive Office for Immigration Review, Case Access System for EOIR, fiscal years 2018–2023.

APPENDIX TABLE 3

Counts for figure 5: Referrals to immigration court via an NTA, by type of case completion, fiscal years 2018–2023

Fiscal year	Initial completions	Subsequent completions
2018	179,738	11,449
2019	258,321	12,194
2020	218,794	9,338
2021	100,788	13,878
2022	291,963	20,906
2023	494,542	26,759
Percentage change, 2018–2023	175.1%	133.7%

Note: NTA denotes Notice to Appear.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Executive Office for Immigration Review, Case Access System for EOIR, fiscal years 2018–2023.

APPENDIX TABLE 4

Counts for figure 6: Median case processing time for initial NTA cases by detention and IHP status, fiscal years 2018–2023

Fiscal year	Detained	Institutional Hearing Program (IHP)	Not detained
2018	39	112	615
2019	48	138	510
2020	76	153	361
2021	48	235	1,126
2022	48	158	1,099
2023	46	119	979

Note: NTA denotes Notice to Appear.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Executive Office for Immigration Review, Case Access System for EOIR, fiscal years 2018–2023.

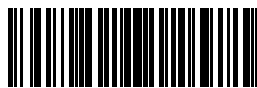


The Bureau of Justice Statistics of the U.S. Department of Justice is the principal federal agency responsible for measuring crime, criminal victimization, criminal offenders, victims of crime, correlates of crime, and the operation of criminal and civil justice systems at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels. BJS collects, analyzes, and disseminates reliable statistics on crime and justice systems in the United States, supports improvements to state and local criminal justice information systems, and participates with national and international organizations to develop and recommend national standards for justice statistics. Kevin M. Scott, PhD, is the acting director.

This report was written by Ryan Kling. Mark A. Motivans, PhD, verified the report.

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September 2026, NCJ 311393



NCJ 311393

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