# Record 1,194 migrants cross English Channel in single day amid new UK immigration crackdown



Recent reports indicate a significant surge in the number of migrants crossing the English Channel, with a record 1,194 arrivals recorded in a single day this past Saturday. This brings the total for 2023 to 14,808 crossings, the highest figure for this period since records began in 2018. The ongoing situation underscores the enduring challenges the UK faces in managing irregular immigration, despite various measures implemented by both the French and UK governments to deter such crossings.

Alongside the record crossings, French authorities rescued nearly 200 individuals over the weekend, reflecting the perilous nature of these journeys. Defence Secretary John Healey described the latest figures as “shocking,” as they highlight the ongoing issues with people smuggling operations in the region. He noted that smugglers have adapted their tactics, launching boats elsewhere and then picking up migrants like a taxi service. “Britain has lost control of its borders,” Healey stated in an interview with Sky News, highlighting the urgency of addressing the situation.

This year’s increase in crossings partly correlates with relatively favourable weather conditions, which has seen a temporary pause in operations due to choppy seas earlier in the season. For example, previous reports indicated that up to 700 migrants crossed the Channel on a single day in July, pushing the annual tally close to that of 2022, which had recorded 12,119 crossings by the same time the previous year.

In response to the rising numbers, Prime Minister Keir Starmer has unveiled stringent immigration policies aimed at curbing irregular crossings. These measures include extending the qualification period for migrants seeking settlement and granting new powers to deport foreign criminals. This strategy appears to be a bid to regain voter confidence amid pressures from the hard-right Reform party, which has gained traction in recent months.

Current legislative efforts, including the Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill, aim to address the crisis more comprehensively. However, Saturday’s crossings serve as a stark reminder of the challenges that remain. The overall total exceeds the previous record for the same period, escalating existing concerns about border security and migrant welfare.

As the situation evolves, the UK government has also taken steps to collaborate with social media platforms to combat the promotion of trafficking and smuggling activities online. An initiative led by the National Crime Agency will see investment into an Online Capability Centre aimed at identifying and removing illicit content that encourages such dangerous journeys.

In spite of these concerted efforts, the grim reality remains that 15 lives have already been lost this year attempting to cross the Channel, a statistic that underscores both the desperation of those making the crossings and the urgent need for effective solutions to this ongoing humanitarian crisis.

As the number of migrants arriving from across the Channel continues to rise, the UK government finds itself at a crossroads, needing to balance firm immigration policies with a humane response to individuals seeking refuge.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.digitaljournal.com/world/more-than-1100-migrants-crossed-channel-on-saturday-uk-govt-data/article), [[6]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-66421389)
* Paragraph 2 – [[3]](https://news.sky.com/story/migrant-crossings-highest-number-of-people-make-dangerous-channel-journey-in-a-single-day-so-far-this-year-12917291), [[2]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/07/08/migrants-nearly-700-crossed-english-channel-uk-friday/), [[5]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/09/03/new-daily-record-for-migrant-channel-crossings-hit-for-2023/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.digitaljournal.com/world/more-than-1100-migrants-crossed-channel-on-saturday-uk-govt-data/article), [[4]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/06/12/migrants-record-high-number-channel-boat-crossings-dover/), [[6]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-66421389)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.digitaljournal.com/world/more-than-1100-migrants-crossed-channel-on-saturday-uk-govt-data/article), [[4]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/06/12/migrants-record-high-number-channel-boat-crossings-dover/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.digitaljournal.com/world/more-than-1100-migrants-crossed-channel-on-saturday-uk-govt-data/article), [[6]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-66421389)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.digitaljournal.com/world/more-than-1100-migrants-crossed-channel-on-saturday-uk-govt-data/article> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/07/08/migrants-nearly-700-crossed-english-channel-uk-friday/> - On 8 July 2023, nearly 700 migrants crossed the English Channel in small boats, setting a new daily record for the year. This surge brought the total number of crossings for 2023 to 12,119, just 7% below the same period in 2022. The crossings were detected by Border Force, with 13 small boats intercepted, averaging 53 migrants per vessel. The increase in crossings coincided with improved weather conditions, leading to a temporary halt in crossings due to choppy seas. The UK government has been under pressure to address the rising numbers of small boat crossings.
3. <https://news.sky.com/story/migrant-crossings-highest-number-of-people-make-dangerous-channel-journey-in-a-single-day-so-far-this-year-12917291> - On 8 July 2023, 686 migrants crossed the English Channel in small boats, marking the highest number for a single day that year. This brought the provisional total for 2023 to 12,119, slightly lower than the same point in 2022. The crossings were detected by Border Force, with 13 small boats intercepted. The increase in crossings was attributed to improved weather conditions, which had previously halted crossings due to choppy seas. The UK government has been under pressure to address the rising numbers of small boat crossings.
4. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/06/12/migrants-record-high-number-channel-boat-crossings-dover/> - On 12 June 2023, small boat migrants crossing the English Channel hit a record high for the year, with 616 migrants arriving in 12 boats. This brought the total for 2023 to 8,429 in 194 small boats, averaging 43 people per vessel. The increase was attributed to good weather conditions, which allowed traffickers to exploit the calm seas. The UK government has been under pressure to address the rising numbers of small boat crossings, with Border Force and RNLI lifeboats involved in the rescue operations.
5. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/09/03/new-daily-record-for-migrant-channel-crossings-hit-for-2023/> - On 2 September 2023, more than 800 migrants crossed the English Channel in small boats, setting a new daily record for the year. This brought the total for 2023 to 20,973, about 20% below the same point in 2022. The increase was attributed to good weather conditions, which prompted a surge in crossings. Border Force and ministers are expecting a succession of 'red' days when hundreds of migrants attempt the crossing, with smugglers adapting tactics to stretch French police resources.
6. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-66421389> - As of 2023, more than 15,000 migrants have crossed the English Channel in small boats. The UK government announced a partnership with social media companies to stop smuggling gangs from advertising. The partnership involves the National Crime Agency (NCA) and social media firms working together to identify content. An £11m Online Capability Centre will be set up by the NCA and Home Office to identify content. The figure for the same time in 2022 was 17,785, indicating a 15% decrease this year.
7. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/06/12/migrants-record-high-number-channel-boat-crossings-dover/> - On 12 June 2023, small boat migrants crossing the English Channel hit a record high for the year, with 616 migrants arriving in 12 boats. This brought the total for 2023 to 8,429 in 194 small boats, averaging 43 people per vessel. The increase was attributed to good weather conditions, which allowed traffickers to exploit the calm seas. The UK government has been under pressure to address the rising numbers of small boat crossings, with Border Force and RNLI lifeboats involved in the rescue operations.