Palladium-Item

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ANALYSIS

The East Montana Detention Facility at Fort Bliss in Texas can house up to 5,000 migrants. PAUL RATJE/REUTERS FILE

ICE detention centers expanding across U.S.

Data: Record number of migrants being detained

Lauren Villagran, Ignacio Calderon and Jennifer Borresen
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump's second term has brought sweeping changes to immigration enforcement. One of the top takeaways: Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention has expanded dramatically, both in the number of people being held and the sites holding them.

Here are a few things to know about immigration detention today:

Record number of detainees

Trump kick-started his promised "mass deportation" campaign in 2025 with a series of executive orders that paved the way for a stricter application of immigration law and for new policies to expand enforcement.

A year in, immigrant arrests have climbed dramatically. The pace of deportation flights – while rising – hasn't quite kept up. The result is that more people are being held in detention for longer.

There were nearly 69,000 people held in ICE detention on Jan. 7, 2026, according to snapshot data provided by ICE. That figure eclipses the number of people being detained a year earlier, which reached fewer than 38,000 people in early January 2025, before Trump took office.

Trump's orders for ICE to "maximize" detention and end discretionary releases of immigrants have driven the rise in the detained population, according to a new report by the American Immigration Council, an advocacy organization that promotes fairness in immigration policy. A separate order forcing immigration judges to deny bond to large swaths of immigrants means more are fighting their case to remain in the United States from inside detention.

"With the administration sending more people to detention centers, fewer people are being permitted to leave them while they fight their cases," according to the report.

The American Immigration Council report tracked a 2,450% increase in the number of people with no criminal record held in ICE detention on any given day.

Other researchers have underscored the trend.

"We've never seen detention numbers this high," said Austin Kocher, an immigration researcher at Syracuse University. "The growth in immigrant

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Three leaders to receive honors in Richmond

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USA TODAY NETWORK

Junior Achievement of Eastern Indiana is set to induct three new members into its Business Hall of Fame.

The 35th annual induction ceremony is scheduled for March 12 at the First Bank Kuhlman Center in Richmond, according to a community announcement.

The 2026 laureates are Tom Alberts, retired from US Bank; George Clinton of R.W. Clinton Architects & Engineers; and Tom Holthouse of Holthouse Furniture, who is being honored posthumously.

Since 1991, the Junior Achievement of Eastern Indiana Business Hall of Fame has recognized individuals for their contributions to free enterprise and the community. The three honorees will join a group of 90 men and women who have been inducted since the hall of fame's founding.

The laureates are chosen by a selection committee of business and community leaders, independent of Junior Achievement.

Junior Achievement of Eastern Indiana provides free programming to local schools on financial literacy, career and workforce readiness, and entrepreneurship. The organization serves the counties of Wayne, Fayette, Franklin, Union, Ripley, Dearborn, and Ohio, affecting more than 5,000 students each year.

The event is expected to include a dinner and induction ceremony at the First Bank Kuhlman Center, which has been upgraded to offer more space for attendees.

This story was created by Jane Imbody, jimbody@usatodayco.com, with the assistance of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Journalists were involved in every step of the information gathering, review, editing and publishing process. Learn more at cm.usatoday.com/ethical-conduct/.

Purdue tops IN universities with $931.5M in research

Jane Imbody
AI-assisted reporter
USA TODAY NETWORK

WEST LAFAYETTE — Purdue University leads Indiana universities in research expenditures, with $931.5 million reported for fiscal year 2024, according to a news release.

The university also improved its national ranking to No. 5 among universities without human medical schools or affiliated hospitals, based on data from the U.S. National Science Foundation's annual Higher Education Research and Development Survey.

"Research and development at scale is the cornerstone of Purdue as a top-tier university for Indiana," Dan DeLaurentis, Purdue's executive vice president for research, said in the announcement. "Important industry partnerships and government funding provide the resources to push new innovations and workforce development across science and engineering."

The HERD Survey is considered the most widely accepted standard for measuring research activities across colleges and universities. Purdue's research expenditures grew by almost $86 million from the previous fiscal year, and the university has already exceeded $1 billion in research expenditures for fiscal year 2025.

The HERD survey reflects fiscal year 2024 data, while Purdue's internal figures show research expenditures have already surpassed $1 billion in fiscal year 2025.

Purdue Provost Patrick Wolfe emphasized the importance of the university's progress.

"Thanks to the strengthened efforts of our faculty, our postdoctoral scholars and our graduate students, Purdue has vastly expanded and accelerated its focus on research and impactful scholarly outputs," Wolfe said in the release. "With research expenditures exceeding $1 billion for the first time in our history this past fiscal year, we will continue to make choices that support, prioritize and reward high-impact, innovative research and scholarly contributions."

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