

# AUSTRALIAN DEPORTATION PROJECT

## Deportation practices across the Global North

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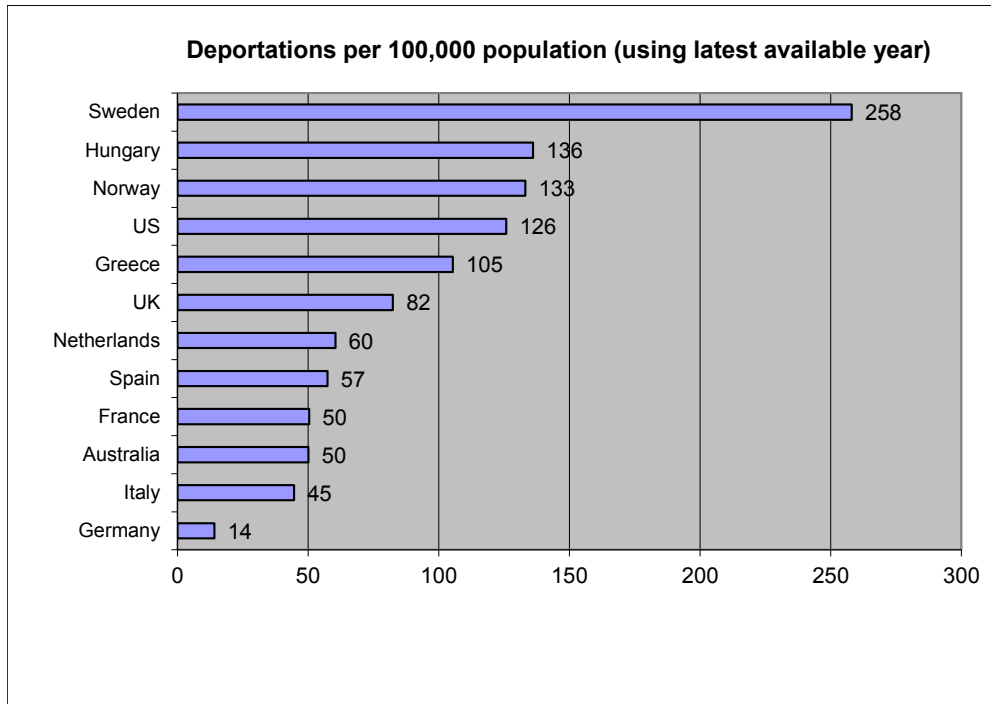
Comparing deportation practices across different countries is not as simple as it might seem. In some countries, deportation statistics are published regularly and are made available to the public. In others, explicit requests must be made to government departments which may or may not prove productive. Sometimes different government departments provide disparate figures. Even where statistics are published it can be very difficult to determine exactly what categories of expulsion are included. The data reported here were collected by Francisco Alonso (France), Andriani Fili (Greece), Julia Iván (Hungary), Kimberly Klein (USA, Canada), Sigmund Mohn (Sweden, Norway), Rebecca Powell (Australia, UK), Lea Schönfeld (Germany), Anne van Es (Netherlands), Francesco Vecchio (Italy) and Jonathan Zaragoza (Spain). Every effort was made to make the statistics as comparable as possible across countries, although there are still areas of doubt. An inclusive approach was taken, where deportations following criminal convictions, other deportations and removals, so-called voluntary returns under government assisted programs and turnarounds at the border from 2000 to 2011 were all included in the count when available. Unfortunately not all categories were available for each country included in the study, so some anomalies remain. For a full description of the methodology see Weber, L (2014) 'Deciphering deportation practices across the Global North' in Pickering, S and Ham, J (Eds) *Handbook on Crime and International Migration*, Abingdon, Routledge.

### Did the use of deportation increase during the first decade of this century?

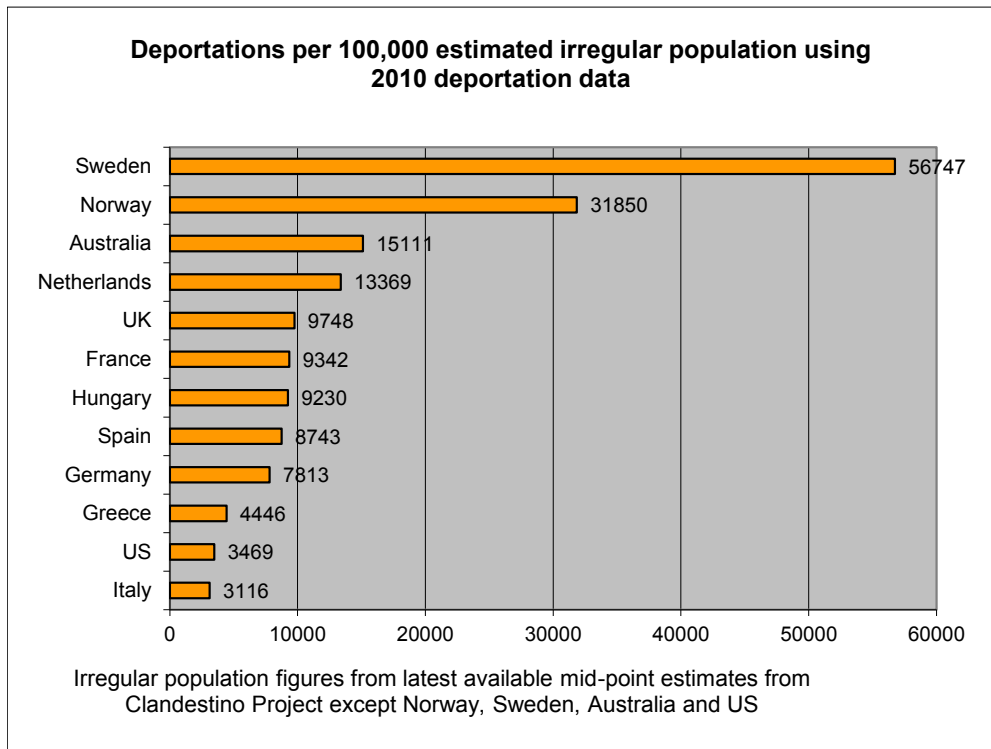
According to this data, deportations continued to rise steadily in France and the USA over the study period. However in Germany and Italy the trend was downwards, although in the case of Germany this decrease was from a very high level of deportations in the late 1990s. The remaining countries showed variable patterns that could sometimes be traced to particular policy changes or other events. In Spain, a rapid increase in deportations up to 2004 was suddenly reversed following an amnesty for irregular migrants in 2005. In Hungary, a sudden drop in recorded deportation figures is evident from around 2007 due mainly to fewer rejections at the border following Hungary's accession to the European Union in 2004. Australia's use of deportation was on the rise from 2000, dipped significantly after 2005 following scandals over the wrongful detention and deportation of Australian citizens, but climbed again thereafter.

### Does the USA lead the world in deportation?

In absolute terms, the answer is a resounding yes. The USA deported close to 400,000 people in 2011, eclipsing the numbers from all other countries in the collection. However, once these figures are standardised according to population size a different picture emerges (see graph overleaf). Smaller countries such as Sweden, Hungary and Norway show even higher rates of deportation per head of population. The very low figure for Germany as measured at the end of the study period belies the extremely high deportation rate of 229 per 100,000 that applied at the end of the 1990s.



Standardising the deportation figures by the undocumented population in each country is a better measure of the efficiency with which each country expels 'deportable' individuals. This analysis is hampered by the immense difficulty of estimating these largely hidden populations. Using the best available data, Australia joins the Scandinavian countries amongst the most efficient deporters, while the USA's huge deportation program is seen to make much less impact on its estimated population of over 11 million irregular migrants.



Prepared for the Border Crossing Observatory by Leanne Weber, November 2014  
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