

OPM - Criminal Justice Policy & Planning Division

Monthly Indicators Report

Highlights

- The state's prisons and jails held 15,010 prisoners on October 1, 2016. A month earlier, the count was 15,023. After falling for most of the year, the prison population appeared to stall during September (see chart 4).
- Although the total prison population remained flat during September, the sentenced population declined by 82; the pre-trial population grew by 77 (see chart 2a).
- The number of offenders in the community on court-ordered Special Parole continues to grow. Over the last year, the number of special parolees jumped from 1,515 to 1,847, a 22% increase. The scale of this growth is cause for some concern. It is not uncommon for OPM to encounter instances where a sentence of special parole was imposed on an offender whose sentence that does not appear consistent with the intent of this particular form of sanction. In the coming year, OPM intends to analyze sentencing trends for Special Parole.
- The Board of Pardons and Paroles is gradually expanding its use of Transfer Parole. Last month there were 13 offenders on Transfer Parole status. A year ago there were none.
- The DOC is currently seeking proposals to expand its community-based residential bed network. Adding beds in the community will reduce the time that release-eligible offenders have to wait for an opening at a halfway house.
- Community caseloads have increased by 15.4% since last year (see table 2). Parole caseloads are up by over 20%.

Prison Population Forecast

The gap between OPM's February prison population projection and the actual prison count did not widen this month. One month's data does not, however, mean that the declining prison population that we've witnessed for most of the year has levelled off. A gradual increase in the pre-trial population over the last few months appears to have simply dampened the effect of a still-contracting sentenced population.

OPM's prison population forecast assumed a relatively stable prison system, i.e., a system where the volumes of admissions and releases track within typical, normal operating parameters. Today, with the prison population hovering in the 15,000 range, it may be reasonable to ask, is there a new normal? And, if there is, what does the new normal look like?

In recent weeks, OPM began a re-evaluation of its forecast model of the prison system, putting a stronger focus on the entire DOC-supervised population, not just the incarcerated population. In recent years, 80% of the entire DOC-supervised population was in prison, 20% were in the community. That relationship held relatively stable until quite recently. Today, instead of 80%, only 77% of DOC-supervised offenders are in prison. Although this seems like a small change in percentage terms, the impact of this change is larger. If 80% of DOC-supervised offenders were in prison today, the prison population would be around 15,600, a number - we add - that is oddly similar to the number OPM projected in February.

TABLE 1 – Prison Population Forecast

	Avg. Daily Count	OPM 2016 Forecast	Inmate difference
JAN '16	15,556	-	-
FEB	15,852	15,860	8
MAR	15,664	15,659	-5
APR	15,517	15,604	87
MAY	15,418	15,579	161
JUN	15,279	15,567	288
JUL	15,290	15,588	298
AUG	15,153	15,605	452
SEP	15,012	15,613	601
OCT	15,045	15,644	599
NOV	-	15,639	-
DEC	-	15,480	-
JAN '17	-	15,227	-
FEB	-	15,451	-

Avg. Daily Count (ADC) for 1st week of month

Chart 1 – Actual prison population against the OPM forecasts
January 1, 2015 through February 1, 2017

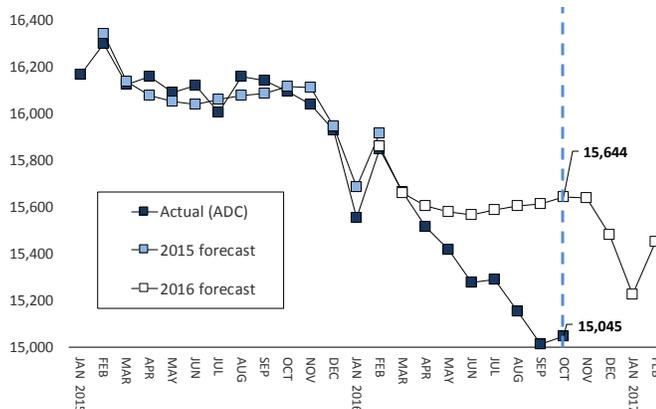


Chart 2 - Criminal justice, monthly counts and flows

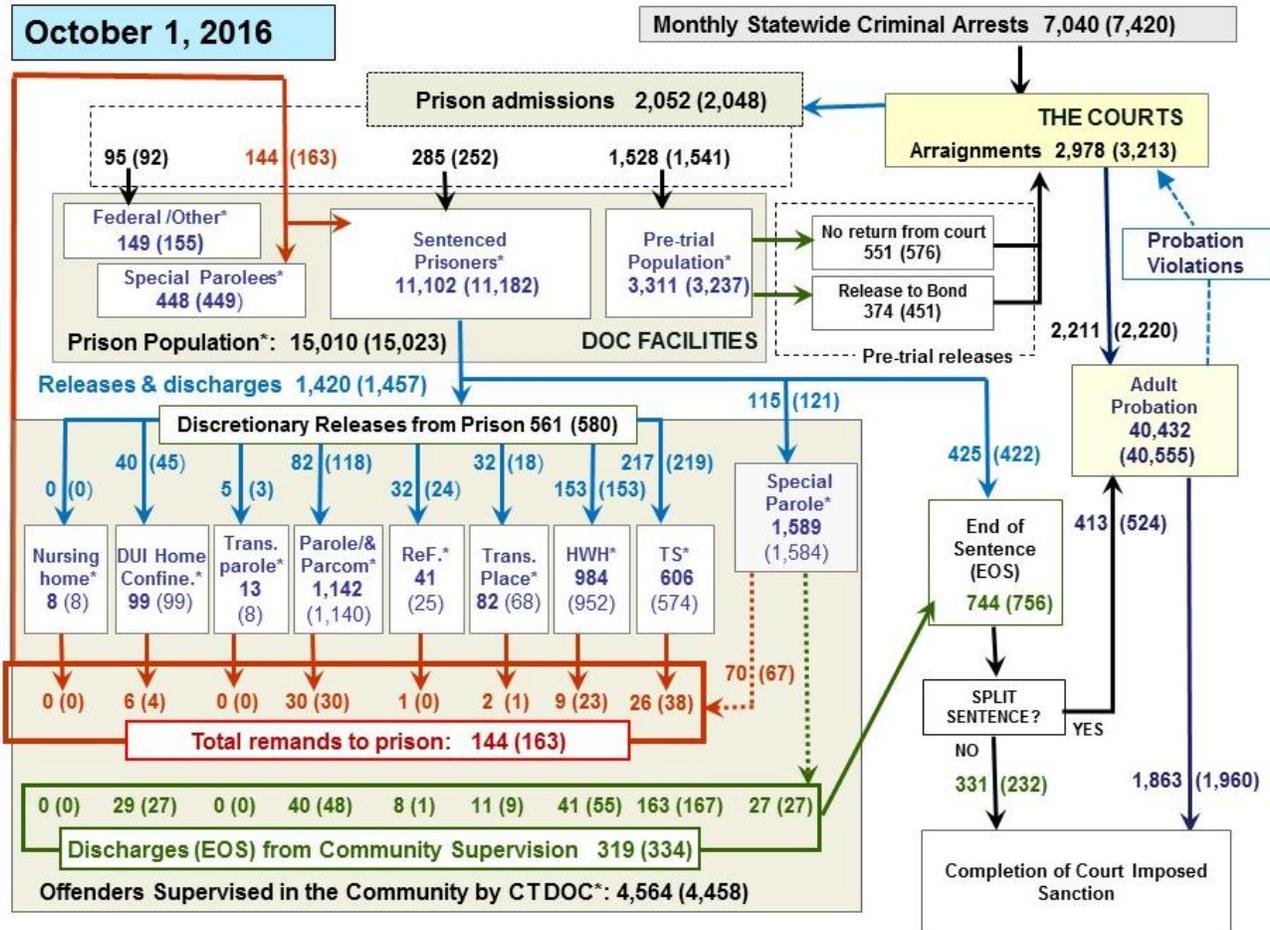
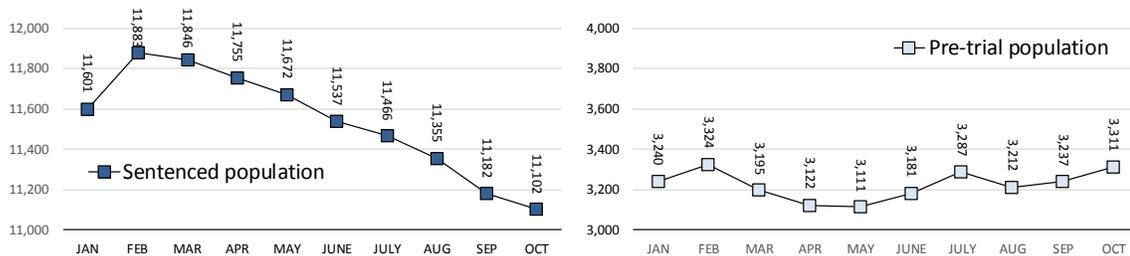


Chart 2 contains monthly operations data for September 2016 and daily counts reported on October 1, 2016. Asterisks (*) indicate the daily count on October 1st. Figures for last month are enclosed by parentheses. Sources: Arrests - OBTS, Court and probation data - CSSD, all other data - CT DOC.

Chart 2a – Trends for sentenced and pre-trial prisoners



After trending down since February, the prison population stalled last month. While the sentenced population has continued to shrink (see above), increases in the size of the pre-trial population were large enough to hold the total prison population steady. If the pre-trial count was at its May 2016 level, the prison population on October 1, would have been 14,810 instead of 15,010.

Although pre-trial admits have risen over the last two months, OPM suspects there is more behind the rise in the pre-trial population than the admit data suggests. We suspect that average incarceration length has been increasing. CSSD's Jail Re-interview Program provides many pre-trial prisoners with bond and program assistance within a week of

entering prison. In recent months, JRI has been impacted by both layoffs and staff transfers. According to CSSD data (see table 6), JRI-related offender releases in September were down 18% compared to August and down 50% compared to last year.

DOC figures indicate that the number of pre-trial prisoners with bonds of under \$100k rose 12% between May and October; the number of pre-trial prisoners held for less than 6 weeks jumped by 8%. These types of prisoners are the kind most typically targeted by JRI. OPM also compared the average length-of-incarceration for pre-trial prisoners, without detainers, held on bonds under \$100k. Between April and October, the average length-of-incarceration for these prisoners increased from 91.1 to 95.6 days.

Table 2 – The first-of-month totals

	2016	2016	2016	2015	% Change	
	Aug. 1	Sept. 1	Oct. 1	Oct. 1	Monthly	Annual
DOC Facilities						
Federal/Other	148	155	149	160	-3.9%	-6.9%
Sentenced	11,355	11,182	11,102	11,993	-0.7%	-7.4%
Special Parole	446	449	448	554	-0.2%	-19.1%
Pre-trial	3,212	3,237	3,311	3,392	2.3%	-2.4%
Total	15,161	15,023	15,010	16,099	-0.1%	-6.8%
DOC Community						
Transfer Parole	10	8	13	0	-	-
Parole/ Parcom Total	1,115	1,140	1,142	948	0.2%	20.5%
Parole	934	961	962	774	0.1%	24.3%
Parcom @ CT	181	179	180	174	0.6%	3.4%
Furlough	25	25	41	24	64.0%	70.8%
Trans Placement	68	68	82	58	20.6%	41.4%
DUI/Home confine.	91	99	99	81	0.0%	22.2%
Halfway House Total	953	952	984	981	3.4%	0.3%
Comm Release	435	461	491	589	6.5%	-16.6%
TS	59	62	61	51	-1.6%	19.6%
Parole	183	180	171	133	-5.0%	28.6%
Transfer Parole	5	3	3	0	-	-
Special Parole	271	246	258	208	4.9%	24.0%
TS	584	574	606	547	5.6%	10.8%
Nursing home	9	8	8	8	-	-
Special Parole	1,548	1,584	1,589	1,307	0.3%	21.6%
Total	4,403	4,458	4,564	3,954	2.4%	15.4%

Table 3 – Admissions, releases & discharges*

	2016	2016	2016	2015	% Change	
	July	August	Sept.	Sept.	Monthly	Annual
Admissions						
Federal/Other	73	92	95	97	3.3%	-2.1%
Remands	166	163	144	215	-11.7%	-33.0%
DUI	7	4	6	4	-	-
Parole	25	30	30	41	0.0%	-26.8%
Trans Plac/Furlough	1	1	3	3	-	-
HWH	11	23	9	46	-60.9%	-80.4%
TS	46	38	26	46	-31.6%	-43.5%
Special Parole	76	67	70	76	4.5%	-7.9%
New Sentence	253	252	285	290	13.1%	-1.7%
VOP	71	74	93	92	25.7%	1.1%
Pre-trial	1367	1541	1528	1474	-0.8%	3.7%
Total	1,859	2,048	2,052	2,076	0.2%	-1.2%
Releases and discharges						
Transfer Parole	6	3	5	0	-	-
Parole	104	118	82	106	-30.5%	-22.6%
Furlough	23	24	32	27	33.3%	18.5%
Trans. Placement	19	18	32	18	77.8%	77.8%
Home Confinement DUI	33	47	40	28	-14.9%	42.9%
HWH	155	153	153	155	0.0%	-1.3%
TS	177	219	217	224	-0.9%	-3.1%
Special Parole	136	121	115	126	-5.0%	-8.7%
Nursing home	0	0	0	1	-	-
End of Sentence	778	756	744	781	-1.6%	-4.7%
Total	1,431	1,459	1,420	1,466	-2.7%	-3.1%
Pre-trial Releases*						
From Court	561	576	551	559	-4.3%	-1.4%
Release to Bond	382	451	374	414	-17.1%	-9.7%

* Totals reflect events, not individual offenders

DOC - Community Release Unit

Table 3a – Case reviews and release metrics

	Cases				Approval Rate
	Reviewed	Approved	Denied	Continued	
July'16	888	434	138	106	49%
Aug. '16	928	456	146	137	49%
Sept. '16	864	438	139	118	51%
Sept. '15	983	489	140	156	50%

Board of Pardons and Paroles

Table 4 – Parole hearings, new cases

	Paroles			Paroles granted, 2015	
	Parole Hearings	Paroles granted, 2016	Grant rate	2015	2014
July	164	99	60%	84	125
August	130	69	53%	123	141
Sept.	154	97	63%	109	151

Table 4a – Other Board actions

	Reparole from revocation	Reparole from rescission	Closed interest cases	Special parole cases	Transfer parole cases
July	40	10	27	36	11
Aug.	42	6	22	31	19
Sept. '16	45	2	28	37	14
Sept. '15	53	3	53	53	0

The pre-trial population

Table 5 – Bond ranges for pre-trial detainees

Bond amount	Aug. 1, 2016	Sept. 1, 2016	Oct. 1, 2016	Oct. 1, 2015
Less than \$20K	596	603	649	601
\$20K to <\$50K	557	589	571	581
\$50K to <\$100K	675	701	699	745
\$100K or higher	1,488	1,477	1,513	1,531
Total	3,316	3,370	3,432	3,458
Over \$1M	149	150	149	180

Table 5a – Pre-trial, weeks since admission

Weeks since last DOC admit	Aug. 1, 2016	Sept. 1, 2016	Oct. 1, 2016	Oct. 1, 2015
< 1 week	495	441	468	485
1 to < 3 weeks	364	364	457	419
3 to < 10 weeks	799	875	836	889
10 to < 30 weeks	935	927	914	967
30 wks or more	725	773	760	703
Pre-trial prisoners	3,318	3,380	3,435	3,463

Table 5b – Pre-trial admits, new offenders

	May 2016	June 2016	July 2016	Aug. 2016	Sept. 2016
Arraignments	2,933	2,921	2,760	3,213	2,978
Pre-trial Admits	1,415	1,469	1,367	1,541	1,528
New to DOC	377	415	375	426	412
% New	27%	28%	27%	28%	27%

Court Support Services Division

Table 6 – The Jail Re-interview Program

	Pre-trial admissions	Offender interviews	Offenders released	Releases last year
July	1,367	743	529	873
August	1,541	805	541	887
Sept.	1,528	862	441	911

Table 6a – Pre-Trial & split-sentence starts

	Pre-trial Case Starts	Bail Starts	Client Supv. Starts	Split Sentence Starts
July	2,289		2,167	438
Aug.	2,408		2,220	524
Sept. '16	2,143		2,211	413
Sept. '15	2,450		2,277	426

Note: Figures published here are based on the operational data available at publication. Data in subsequent issues may not agree.

Chart 3 – Prison population

First week of the month, avg. daily count (ADC)

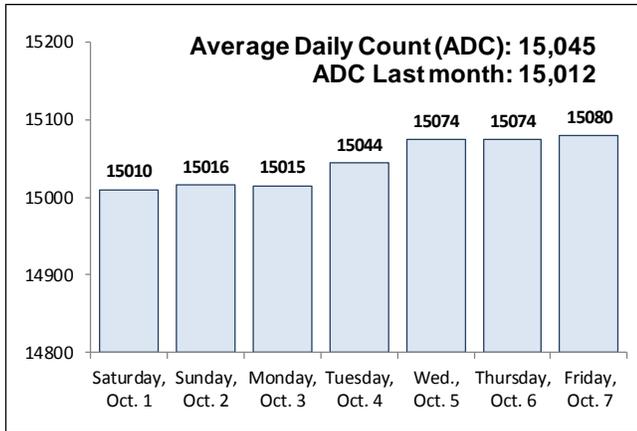


Chart 6 – Monthly DOC Admissions

July 2015 through August 2016

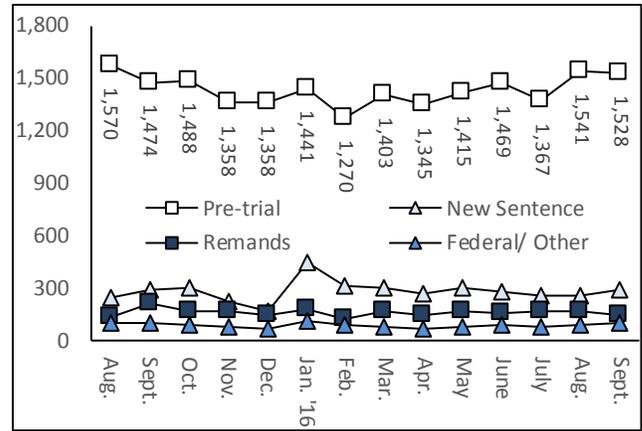


Chart 4 – Prison population, first-of-month

2014, 2015 and 2016

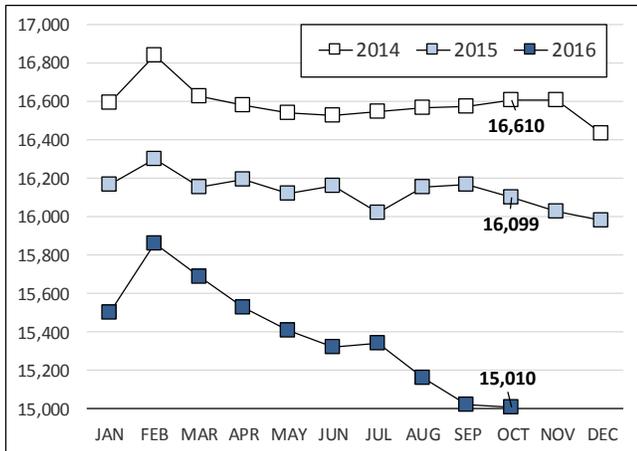


Chart 7 – Remands from community release

September 2016

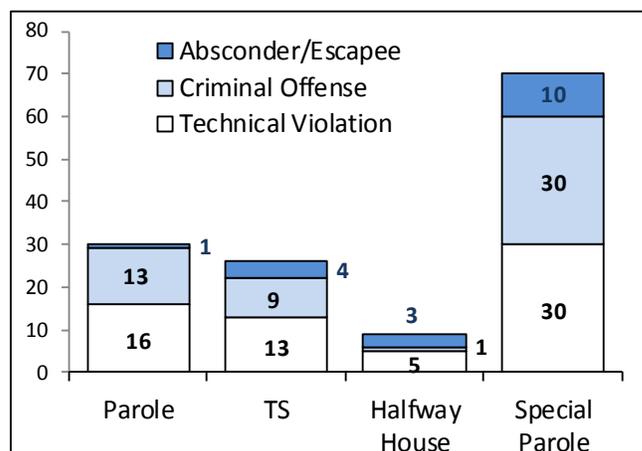


Chart 5 – Statewide criminal arrests

2015 and 2016

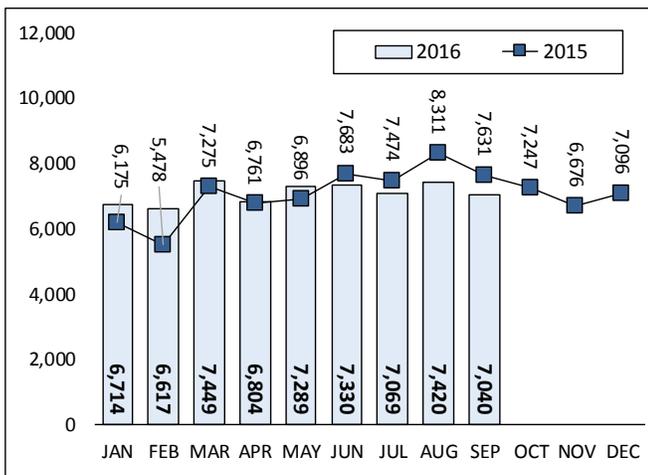
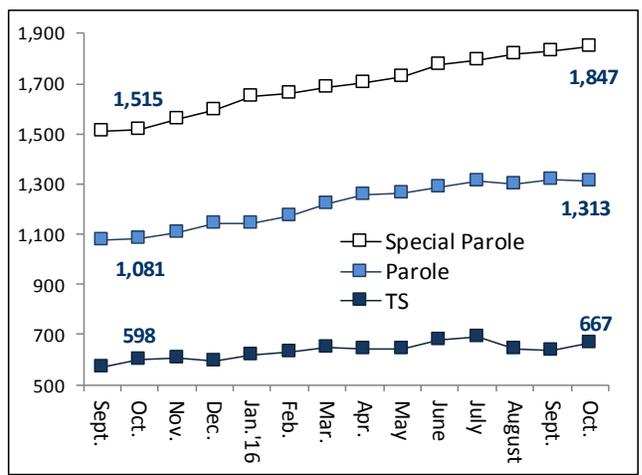


Chart 8 – DOC community supervision

September 1, 2015 through October 1, 2016



Note: Data for all charts, with the exception of Chart 5, was supplied by CT DOC. Data for Chart 5 are for new case starts in the state Offender-Based Tracking System (OBTS). Chart 8 includes offenders in halfway houses.