

# OPM - Criminal Justice Policy & Planning Division

# Monthly Indicators Report

### Highlights

- The CT prison population dropped by 169 prisoners during the month of November. On December 1<sup>st</sup>, 16,436 people were incarcerated in the state. Last year, 16,786 people were in prison.
- The number of parole hearings, which had been increasing, stalled in October because of training and scheduling issues related to the appointment of new board members. These same issues are apparently still causing delays. In November the number of hearings stayed at about the same level as October's and the number of paroles granted fell by almost 5% (table 4b).
- Total prison admissions during November fell by 20% compared to October. Seventy-five percent of the drop was accounted for by a drop in the number of pre-trial admissions. The number of remands and admissions of sentenced offenders also declined in November (see chart 2).
- On any given day approximately 600 people are incarcerated on pre-trial status in CT with bonds of \$20,000 or less. Such low bonds suggest that 1) the public safety risk posed by these individuals is quite low, and 2) that the charges they are facing are not significant or serious. OPM is working with CSSD and DOC to investigate why so many people fall into this category and whether there are alternatives to jail for relatively low-risk offenders as they await the disposition of their cases.

**Please forward comments and suggestions to:**  
**oosmmir@ct.gov**

### Prison Population Forecast

During November we witnessed the largest monthly drop in the prison population since February. Each year the prison system contracts during November and December. Although the exact reasons have not been conclusively identified, we surmise there are several causes. First, we believe there is a general reluctance to schedule court business during the holiday season. This results in fewer cases being adjudicated in November and December and more cases being postponed until after the new year. Weather- and season-related drops in arrests and prison admissions also contribute the lower prison count as does a cumulative system-wide reduction in the number of hours worked by at some agencies during the holiday season.

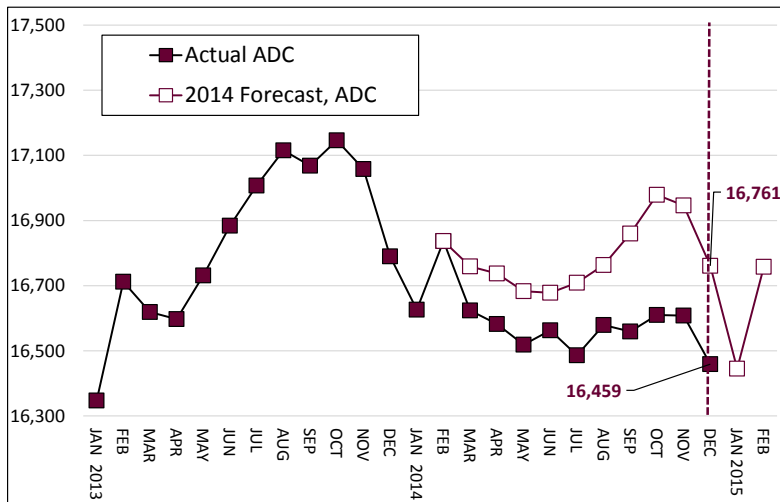
**TABLE 1 – Prison Population Forecast**

	Avg. Daily Count	OPM 2014 Forecast	Inmate difference
JAN '14	16,347	-	-
FEB	16,839	16,839	
MAR	16,624	16,759	135
APR	16,582	16,737	155
MAY	16,519	16,683	164
JUN	16,563	16,678	115
JUL	16,486	16,709	223
AUG	16,579	16,763	184
SEP	16,559	16,860	301
OCT	16,610	16,979	369
NOV	16,608	16,946	338
DEC	16,459	16,761	302
JAN '15	-	16,445	
FEB	-	16,758	

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

It is likely that the prison population will dip below 16,300 by January 1, 2015. With the prison population now hovering in the mid-16,000s range, we should not expect the same volatility in the prison count that we witnessed when the prison population was much higher and we could anticipate a drop of over 700 prisoners between September 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup> (see chart 2a).

**Chart 1 – Actual prison population against the OPM forecast**  
 January 1, 2013 through February 1, 2015



## Chart 2 - Criminal justice, monthly counts and flows

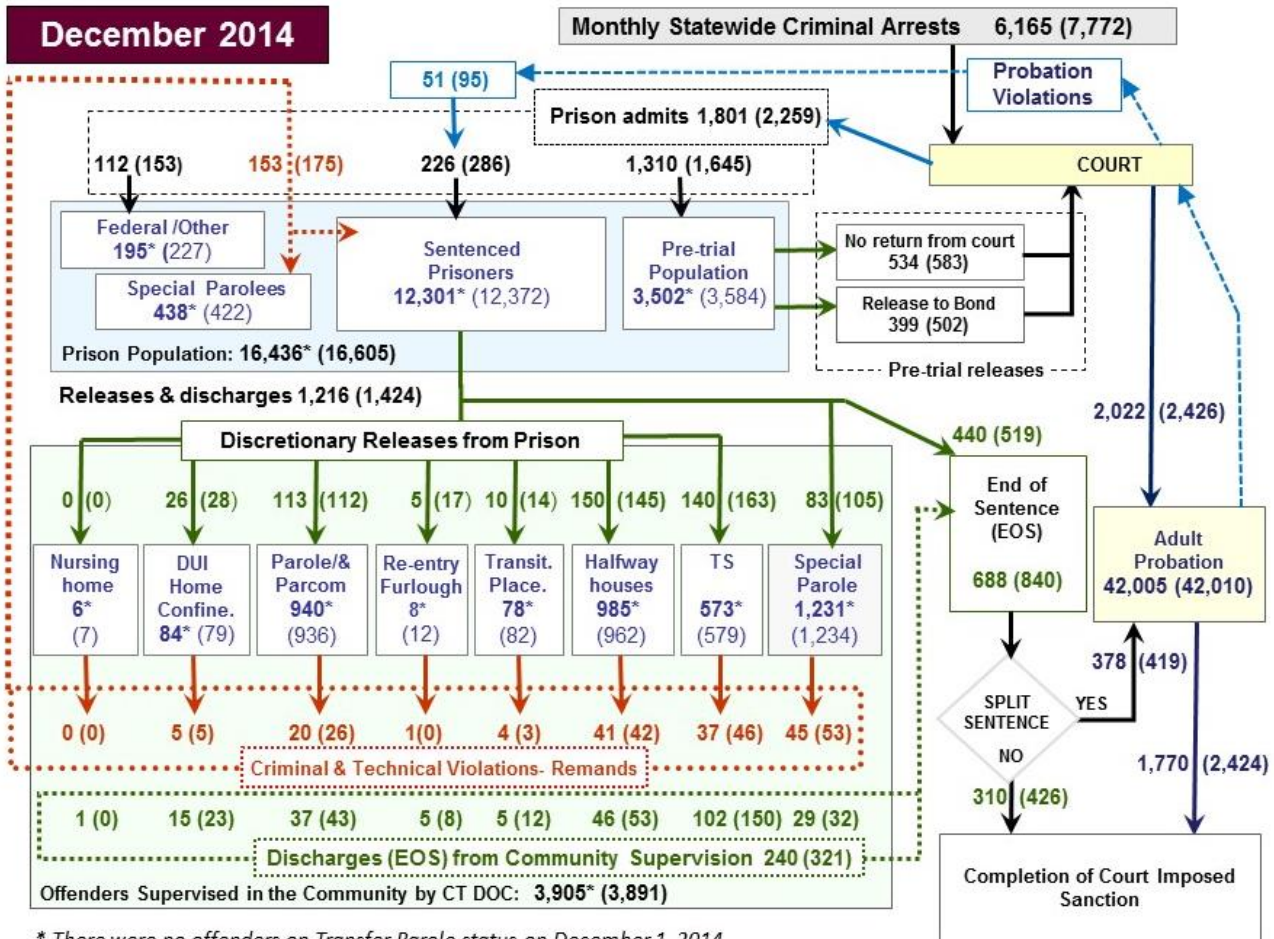
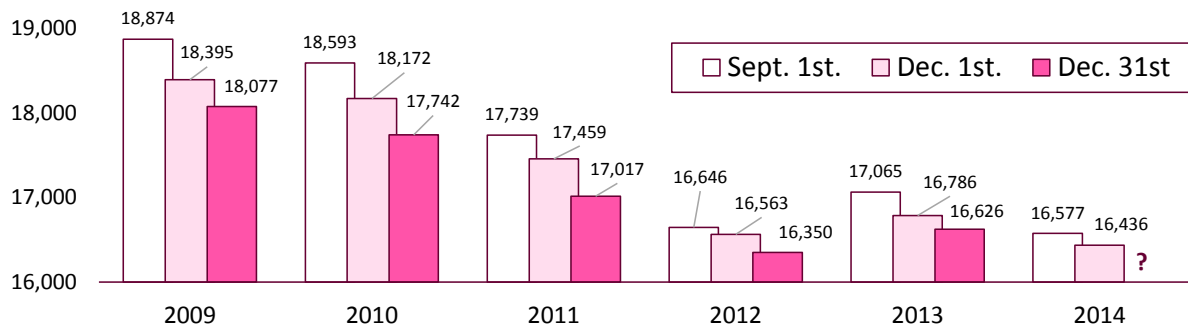


Chart 2 contains monthly, operations data for November 2014 and daily counts reported on December 1, 2014. Figures followed by asterisks (\*) indicate the daily count on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Last month's figures are enclosed by parentheses. Sources: Arrests - OBTS, Court and probation data - CSSD, all other data - CT DOC.

## Chart 2a – Late-year effect on the population weakening



The state's prison population is influenced by a variety of internal and external constraints and forces. In addition, prison population also ebbs and flows over the course of the year, in rhythm with the changing seasons.

Over the last 10 years the prison population has generally spiked during January, reaching a peak in February before leveling off during the spring. As summer begins, the prison population typically grows until late-September or early October before dropping off as the year winds down.

In recent years, when the number of inmates exceeded 17,500, it was not uncommon for the prison population to tumble by over 700 between September 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup>. A drop on this scale was welcome relief, helping to alleviate crowding issues in some facilities. With smaller prison populations, like those being managed today, it appears unrealistic to expect such large, end-of-the-year drops in the total inmate count. In 2009, 2010 and 2011, the prison population lost 790 prisoners, on average, between Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> and the end of the year. In 2012 and 2013, the average loss in the same period was 368 inmates.

**Table 2 – The first-of-the-month totals**

	2014	2014	2014	2013	% Change	
	Oct. 1	Nov. 1	Dec. 1	Dec. 1	Monthly	Annual
<b>DOC Facilities</b>						
Federal/Other	220	227	195	178	-14.1%	9.6%
Sentenced	12,469	12,372	12,301	12,557	-0.6%	-2.0%
Special Parole	426	422	438	392	3.8%	11.7%
Pre-trial	3,495	3,584	3,502	3,659	-2.3%	-4.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,610</b>	<b>16,605</b>	<b>16,436</b>	<b>16,786</b>	<b>-1.0%</b>	<b>-2.1%</b>
<b>DOC Community</b>						
Transfer Parole	0	0	0	3	-	-
Parole/ Parcom Total	914	936	940	1,090	0.4%	-13.8%
Parole	754	774	774	930	0.0%	-16.8%
Parcom @ CT	160	162	166	60	2.5%	176.7%
Furlough	17	12	8	16	-	-
Trans Placement	105	82	78	85	-4.9%	-8.2%
DUI/Home confine.	84	79	84	99	6.3%	-15.2%
Halfway House Total	991	962	985	1,004	2.4%	-1.9%
Comm Release	738	709	680	746	-4.1%	-8.8%
TS	32	24	19	29	-20.8%	-34.5%
Parole	62	63	101	81	60.3%	24.7%
Transfer Parole	0	0	0	0	-	-
Special Parole	159	166	185	148	11.4%	25.0%
TS Total	606	579	573	662	-1.0%	-13.4%
Nursing home	7	7	6	5	-	-
Special Parole	1,214	1,234	1,231	1,178	-0.2%	4.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,938</b>	<b>3,891</b>	<b>3,905</b>	<b>4,142</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>-5.7%</b>

**Table 3 – Admissions, releases & discharges\***

	2014	2014	2014	2013	% Change	
	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Nov.	Monthly	Annual
<b>Admissions</b>						
Federal/Other	124	153	112	111	-26.8%	0.9%
Remands	184	175	153	164	-12.6%	-6.7%
Trans.Parole / DUI	6	5	5	3	-	-
Parole	42	26	20	30	-23.1%	-33.3%
Trans Plac/Furlough	4	3	5	4	-	-
HWH	34	42	41	42	-2.4%	-2.4%
TS	50	46	37	39	-19.6%	-5.1%
Special Parole	48	53	45	46	-15.1%	-2.2%
New Sentence	289	286	226	266	-21.0%	-15.0%
VOP	87	95	51	84	-46.3%	-39.3%
Pre-trial	1,592	1,645	1,310	1,305	-20.4%	0.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,189</b>	<b>2,259</b>	<b>1,801</b>	<b>1,846</b>	<b>-20.3%</b>	<b>-2.4%</b>
<b>Releases and discharges (sentenced only)</b>						
Transfer Parole	0	0	0	0	-	-
Parole	65	112	113	105	0.9%	7.6%
Furlough	20	17	5	12	-70.6%	-58.3%
Trans. Placement	22	14	10	27	-28.6%	-63.0%
Home Confinement DUI	24	28	26	23	-7.1%	13.0%
HWH	190	145	150	211	3.4%	-28.9%
TS	169	163	140	181	-14.1%	-22.7%
Special Parole	87	105	83	98	-21.0%	-15.3%
Nursing home	0	0	0	0	-	-
End of Sentence	710	840	688	839	-18.1%	-18.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,287</b>	<b>1,424</b>	<b>1,215</b>	<b>1,496</b>	<b>-14.7%</b>	<b>-18.8%</b>
<b>Pre-trial Releases*</b>						
No return from Court	555	583	534	561	-8.4%	-4.8%
Release to Bond	486	502	399	413	-20.5%	-3.4%

\* Totals reflect events not individuals.

**Board of Pardons and Paroles**

**Table 4a – Inmates with sentences > 24 months**

	Parole-eligible	Not eligible
Oct.	8,342	862
Nov.	8,313	864
Dec.	8,227	862

**Table 4b – Parole hearings, new cases**

	Parole Hearings	Paroles granted, 2014	Grant rate	Paroles granted, 2013	Paroles granted, 2012
Sept.	210	151	72%	128	104
Oct.	171	110	64%	125	93
Nov.	169	103	61%	117	110

**Table 4c – Other parole actions**

	Reparole from revocation	Reparole from rescission	Closed interest cases	Special parole cases
Sept.	49	8	43	54
Oct.	45	4	40	58
Nov.	30	9	44	39

**Pre-trial detainees**

**Table 5 – Bond ranges for pre-trial detainees**

	Oct. 1, 2014	Nov. 1, 2014	Dec. 1, 2014	Dec. 1, 2013
Bond amount				
Less than \$20K	688	698	649	600
\$20K to < \$50K	633	611	588	621
\$50K to < \$100K	753	782	761	758
\$100K or higher	1,530	1,519	1,530	1,683
Over \$1M	196	204	199	208
Offenders w/bonds	3,604	3,610	3,528	3,662

**Table 5a – Pre-trial offenders, weeks since admission**

Weeks since last DOC admit	Oct. 1, 2014	Nov. 1, 2014	Dec. 1, 2014	Dec. 1, 2013
< 1 week	516	476	434	454
1 to < 3 weeks	412	403	369	384
3 to < 10 weeks	1,005	981	925	902
10 to < 30 weeks	953	1,040	1,075	1,106
30 wks or more	707	715	730	820
Pre-trial prisoners	3,593	3,615	3,533	3,666

**Court Support Services Division**

**Table 6 – The Jail Re-interview Program**

	Pre-trial admissions	Offender interviews	Offenders released	Releases last year
Sept.	1,592	1,731	897	946
Oct.	1,645	1,756	706	1,081
Nov.	1,310	1,327	804	917

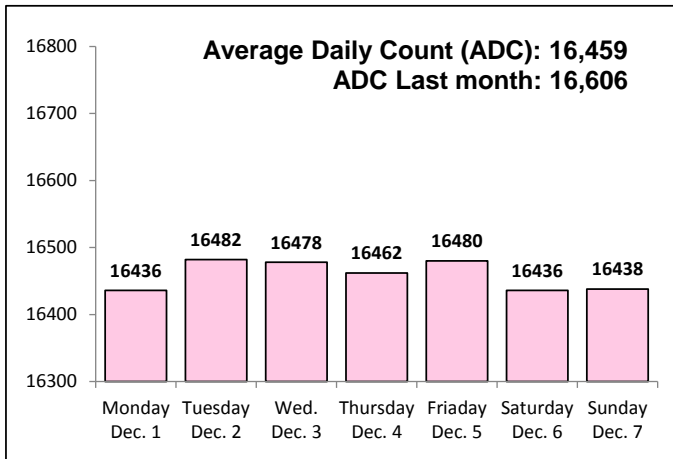
**Table 7 – Pre-Trial & split-sentence starts**

	Pre-trial Bail Case Starts	Client Supv. Starts	Split Sentence Starts
Sept.	2,669	2,299	387
Oct.	2,581	2,426	419
Nov.	2,207	2,022	378

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

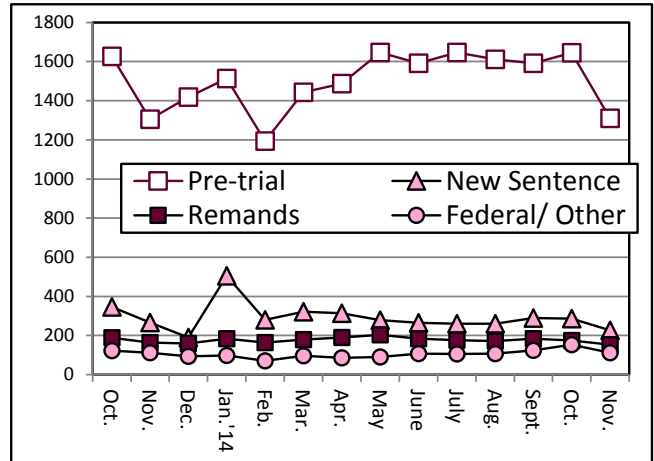
**Chart 3 – Prison population**

December 1, 2014 to December 7, 2014



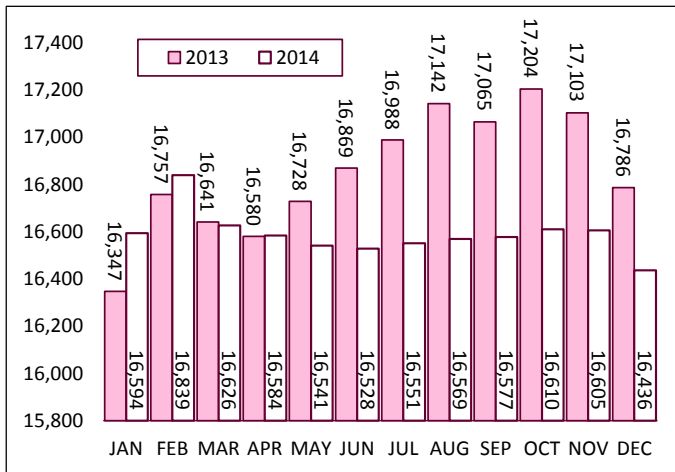
**Chart 6 – Monthly DOC Admissions**

October 2013 through November 2014



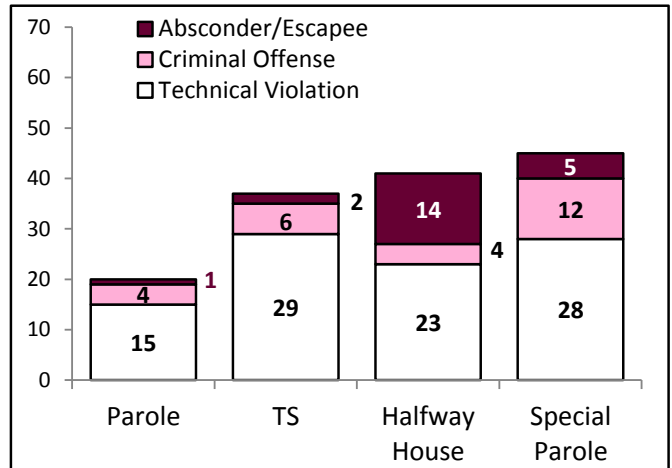
**Chart 4 – Prison population, first-of-month**

2013 and 2014



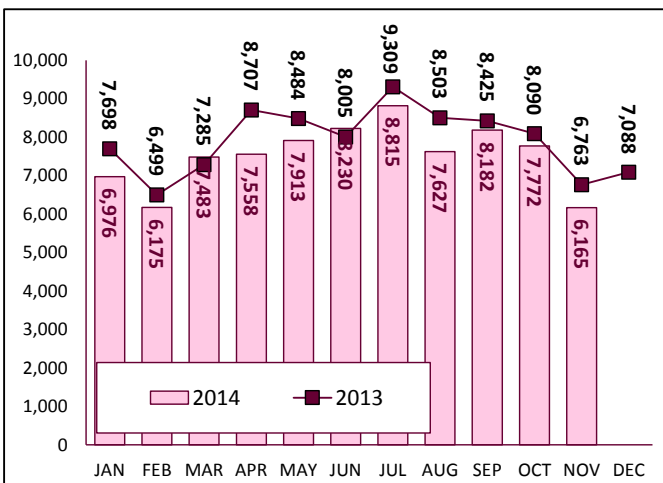
**Chart 7– Remands from community release**

November 2014



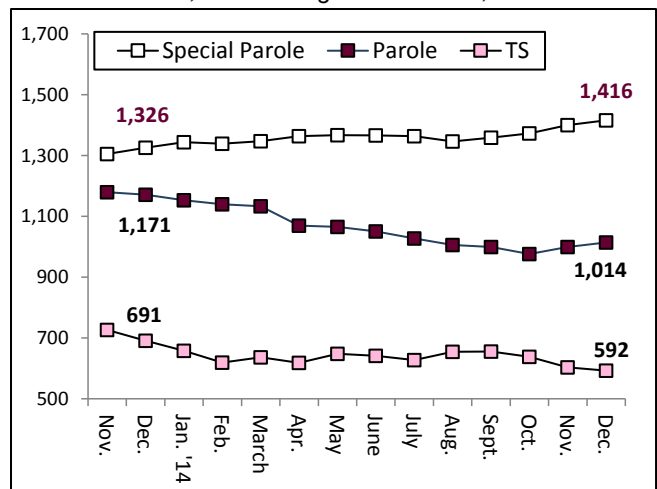
**Chart 5 – Statewide criminal arrests**

2013 versus 2014



**Chart 8 – DOC community supervision**

November 1, 2013 through December 1, 2014



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