Highlights

- On January 1, 2015, 16,167 people were incarcerated in CT jails and prisons, a 16-year low. The total prison population dropped by 2.6% or about 400 prisoners over the course of the year.

- The number of parole hearings held by the Board of Pardons and Paroles continues to edge upward. In December, Board panels heard 193 new parole cases. Paroles were granted in 55% of these cases, a rather low grant rate by historic standards.

- In an effort to better describe the different populations that flow through the state’s criminal justice system, MIR will begin reporting on the number of new people entering the prison system. Chart 2a reveals that fewer new people are entering the prison system each year. Table 5b contains data showing that 75% of offenders admitted to prison on pre-trial status have a prior history of incarceration with the CT DOC.

- Criminal arrests across the state in 2014 were down 4.8% compared to 2013. Coincidentally, total admissions to prison were also down 4.6% during the same period. In contrast, pre-trial prison admissions were only down by 3.5% compared with last year.

- During 2014, 1,038 offenders were discharged to special parole at the completion of their prison sentences. During the same period, 645 special parolees were remanded into custody.

Prison Population Forecast

After remaining relatively flat over most of the year, the state’s prison population took its anticipated seasonal winter dip in November and dropped by about 400 prisoners during the final two months of 2014.

OPM is currently working to produce a new projection of the prison population for the coming year. For almost a decade, when the prison population regularly hovered above 18,000, it was relatively easy to project how the prison population would trend during the course of a year. Those days appear to have ended.

On January 1st, 16,167 people were incarcerated in CT; the last year in which the prison population was lower was on January 1, 1997.

At this point, OPM expects that the prison population will decline over the coming 12 months. It would be prudent, however, to recall that in 2013, OPM projected that the prison population would end the year with 600 fewer inmates than it actually did when an unexpected constriction in the state’s parole-review system, that began in 2012, resulted in a large and unanticipated surge in the size of the sentenced, prison population during the second half of 2013. The last time the sentenced population had surged so dramatically was in the aftermath of the Cheshire murders.

Please send comments or suggestions to: opmmir@ct.gov
The state’s prison population has been dropping for several years. On January 1st, 2008, the state’s prisons held 19,438 inmates. This year, 16,167 people were in prison, a 16.8% decline.

During the same period, the size of the pre-trial population has also dropped but by a less dramatic 10.6%. Even though the decrease was smaller, there is reason to be optimistic; the number of new people being admitted to prison as pre-trial detainees appears to be decreasing. In 2008, 5,756 men, who had never been in prison before, were admitted as pre-trial offenders. In 2014, the number of new men being admitted to prison dropped to 3,786, a 34% decrease.

Simply put, almost 2,000 fewer new people entered prison in 2014 than in 2008. Complete data on persons admitted to prison on pre-trial status by age and gender is only available through 2013. That data shows that the reduction in new people entering the prison system is disproportionately affecting younger adults. In 2008, 3,093 men under the age of 25, with no prison histories, were admitted on pre-trial status. By 2013, that number had fallen to 1,672, a 46% decrease.
Table 2 – The first-of-the-month totals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal/Other</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>9.2%  29.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sentenced</td>
<td>12,372</td>
<td>12,301</td>
<td>12,063</td>
<td>12,417</td>
<td>-1.9%  -2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Parole</td>
<td>422</td>
<td>438</td>
<td>449</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>2.5%  12.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-trial</td>
<td>3,584</td>
<td>3,502</td>
<td>3,442</td>
<td>3,614</td>
<td>-1.7%  -4.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>16,605</td>
<td>16,436</td>
<td>16,167</td>
<td>16,594</td>
<td>-1.6%  -2.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3 – Admissions, releases & discharges*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal/Other</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>10.7%  31.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remands</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>-3.9%  -7.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trans.Parole / DUI</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.0%  100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parole</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>25.0%  -21.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trans Plac/Furlough</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.0%  100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HWH</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>-14.6% 20.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TS</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>-18.9% -33.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Parole</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>20.0%  20.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Sentence</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>-17.7% -1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VOP</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>13.7%  -4.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-trial</td>
<td>1,645</td>
<td>1,310</td>
<td>1,418</td>
<td>1,419</td>
<td>8.2%  -0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,259</td>
<td>1,801</td>
<td>1,875</td>
<td>1,861</td>
<td>4.1%  0.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4 – Parole hearings, new cases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Parole Hearings</th>
<th>Grant rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paroles granted</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct.</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov.</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec.</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4a – Other parole actions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Reparole from revocation</th>
<th>Closed interest cases cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paroles granted,</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct.</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov.</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec.</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5 – Bond ranges for pre-trial detainees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bond amount</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than $20K</td>
<td>698</td>
<td>649</td>
<td>642</td>
<td>626</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$20K to &lt; $50K</td>
<td>611</td>
<td>588</td>
<td>588</td>
<td>637</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50K to &lt; $100K</td>
<td>782</td>
<td>761</td>
<td>774</td>
<td>784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100K or higher</td>
<td>1,519</td>
<td>1,530</td>
<td>1,573</td>
<td>1,680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over $1M</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DOC admit</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 1 week</td>
<td>476</td>
<td>434</td>
<td>356</td>
<td>297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to &lt; 3 weeks</td>
<td>403</td>
<td>369</td>
<td>408</td>
<td>421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 to &lt; 10 weeks</td>
<td>981</td>
<td>925</td>
<td>890</td>
<td>950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 to &lt; 30 weeks</td>
<td>1,040</td>
<td>1,075</td>
<td>1,160</td>
<td>1,187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 wks or more</td>
<td>715</td>
<td>730</td>
<td>976</td>
<td>872</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-trial prisoners</td>
<td>3,615</td>
<td>3,533</td>
<td>3,590</td>
<td>3,727</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5b – New offender admits, pre-trial

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-trial Admts</td>
<td>1,645</td>
<td>1,310</td>
<td>1,418</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New offenders</td>
<td>449</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% new</td>
<td>27.3%</td>
<td>26.3%</td>
<td>26.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 6 – The Jail Re-interview Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pre-trial Offender Admissions</th>
<th>Offenders released</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Releases last year</td>
<td>Oct.</td>
<td>1,645</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov.</td>
<td>1,310</td>
<td>1,327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec.</td>
<td>1,418</td>
<td>1,525</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pre-trial Bail</th>
<th>Client Supv.</th>
<th>Split Sentence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Case Starts</td>
<td>Starts</td>
<td>Starts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct.</td>
<td>2,581</td>
<td>2,426</td>
<td>419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov.</td>
<td>2,207</td>
<td>2,022</td>
<td>378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec.'15</td>
<td>3,207</td>
<td>2,368</td>
<td>422</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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