# OPM - Criminal Justice Policy & Planning Division

# Monthly Indicators Report

## Highlights

- The state's prisons and jails held 15,023 prisoners on September 1, 2016. A year ago, 16,168 people were incarcerated in CT, a drop of 7.1%. On September 3rd, the prison population dropped below 15,000, a milestone that few thought possible several years ago (see chart3).
- Chart 3 captures a single-day, 70-inmate bump in the prison count between Tuesday the 6th and Wednesday the 7th. Increases this sudden are normal following three-day holiday weekends as an extra day's worth of pre-trial defendants finally make their way to court.
- On September 1st, there were 11,182 sentenced prisoners incarcerated in the state. This was the DOC's lowest, first-of-the-month, sentenced population total since November 1993.
- During the last year, the number of special parolees on supervision in the community rose by 259. This represents a 19.8% increase over a 12 month period (see chart 8).
- Interactions through the Jail Re-interview (JRI) program have declined significantly since layoffs and forced transfers were enacted by the Judicial Branch (see table 6). The longer term impact of this on the pre-trial population is presently unclear.
- If the ratio of offenders on community supervision to offenders in prison was the same today as it was last September, there would currently be 15,650 people in prison, a number oddly similar to OPM's February forecast.
- 12-month recidivism rates for offenders released in 2014 were down only slightly from 2011. Recidivism events, however, were down by 19% (see chart 2b).

## Prison Population Forecast

The gap between OPM's February prison population projection and the actual prison count continues to widen. This is good news. OPM's forecast was designed to project the future prison population were the criminal justice system running at 'normal' operational levels. The fact that the count is 600 prisoners below the estimate suggests a significant improvement in system efficiency.

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 | - | 15,644 | - |
| NOV | - | 15,639 | - |
| DEC | - | 15,480 | - |
| JAN '17 | - | 15,227 | - |
| FEB | - | 15,451 | - |

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

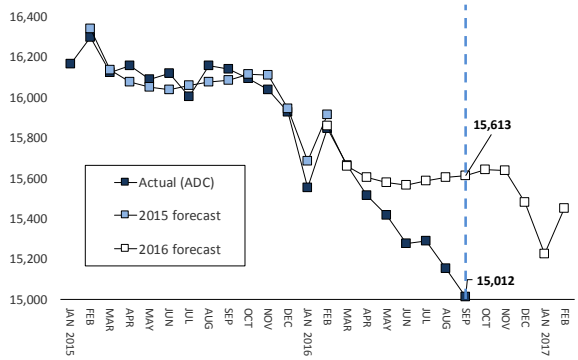
Over the last year,the prison population has dropped by over 1,100 prisoners. There is no single explanation. Certainly, admits to prison are down this year compared to last year. Releases, though down, are down by a smaller margin.

Tracking total prison admissions and releases, however, does not explain why the prison population is contracting as quickly as it is. A critical piece of system information is lacking. We, currently, do not know how many extra days appropriate, release-eligible prisoners spend in prison facilities past their earliest possible release dates. It is an elusive measure but a key one if we ever hope to squeeze more efficiency out of exisitng re-entry processes.

In the past, it was not uncommon for some release-eligible offenders to languish a few extra days, weeks, or even months, in prison beyond their earliest possible release dates. We know that if every offender who was reviewed and approved was released from prison on their eligibility date, the state woud realize substantial savings. OPM suspects that the DOC's Community Release Unit had already begun to squeeze some of these bed-day savings out of the re-entry process. OPM's new challenge is to determine when the state's declining prison population will settle out.

**Chart 1 – Actual prison population against the OPM forecasts**

*January 1, 2015 through February 1, 2017*



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

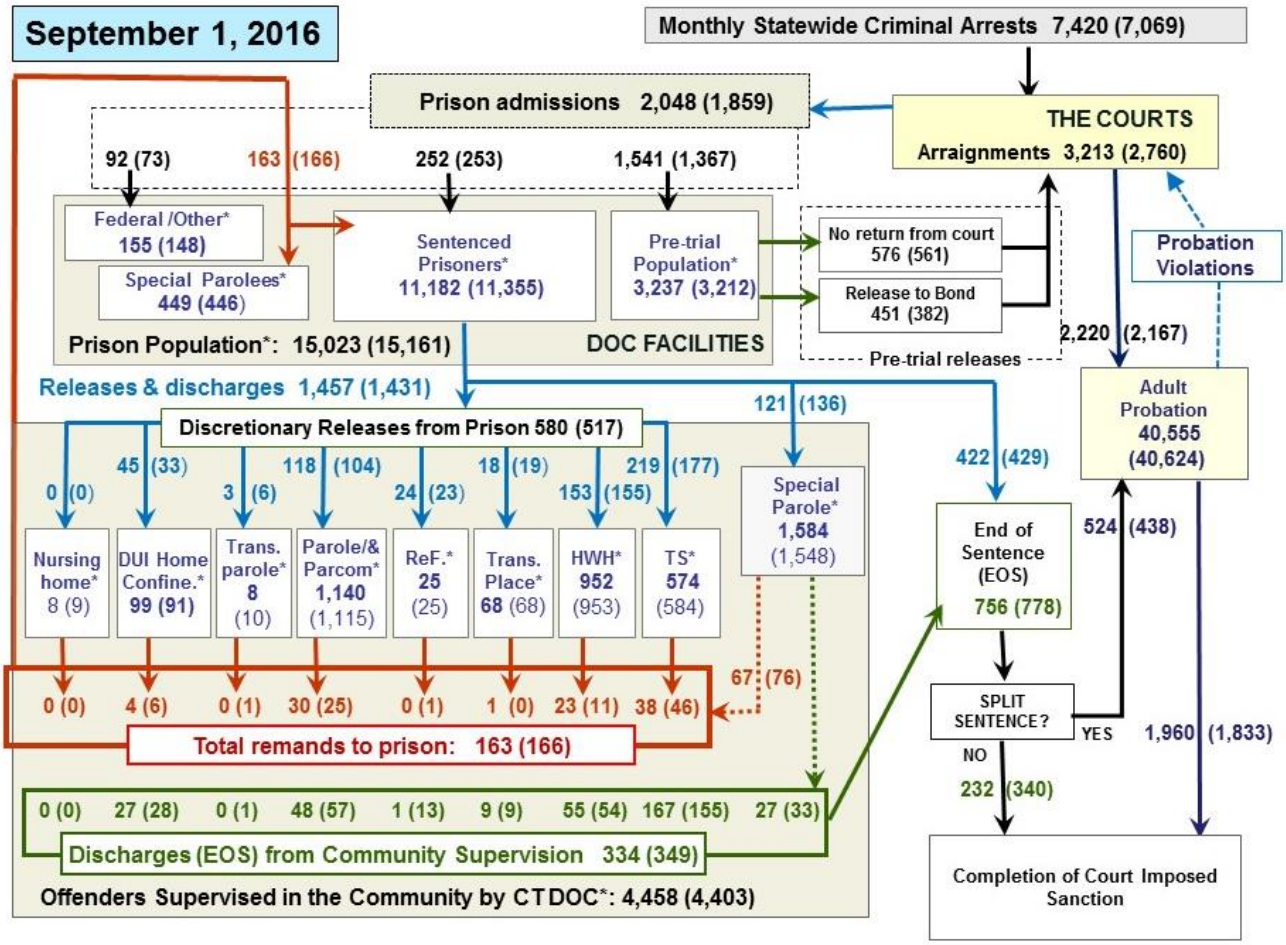
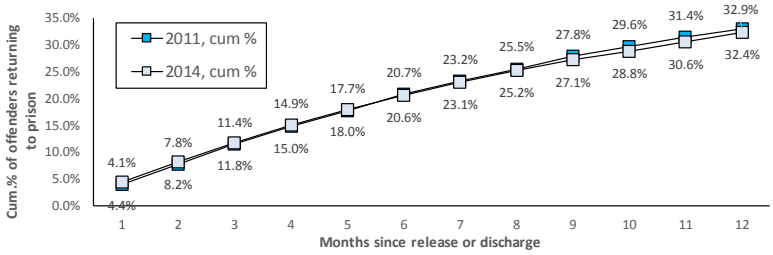



*Chart 2 contains monthly operations data for August 2016 and daily counts reported on September 1, 2016. Asterisks (*) indicate the daily count on September 1st. Figures for last month are enclosed by parentheses. Sources: Arrests - OBTS, Court and probation data - CSSD, all other data - CT DOC.*

## Chart 2a – Recidivism rates and recidivism, 2011 and 2014




**Recidivism - 1-year return to prison, 2011 v. 2014**

| | 2011 | 2014 | Change,% |
|---|---|---|---|
| Offenders in cohort | 12,579 | 10,328 | -17.9% |
| Recidivators w/in 1-year | 4,138 | 3,348 | -19.1% |
| 1-year recidivism rate | 32.9% | 32.4% | -1.5% |

OPM recently received offender-movement data from CT DOC's MIS unit for all sentenced prisoners who were released or discharged from prison during calendar year 2014. The data allowed this office to calculate 12-month recidivism rates for returns-to-prison. The findings were compared with recidivism data for a similar cohort of offenders in 2011.

The comparative analysis revealed an important detail that can commonly be overlooked when people think about and discuss recidivism, i.e., recidivism rates and recidivism events cannot be used interchangeably.

OPM's preliminary analysis, for example, revealed that the 12-month recidivism rate for offenders returning to prison in the 2014 was virtually unchanged from the recidivism rate of offenders who left prison in 2011. However, the 2014 prisoner cohort was 17.9% smaller than the 2011 cohort (see table). As a result, many fewer former prisoners, 790 in fact, were returned to prison within 12-months from the 2014-cohort than from the 2011-cohort. This translates into 19.1% fewer return-to-prison events.

These returns-to-prison include readmissions for a variety of reasons including technical violations of supervision conditions, rearrests for new charges, and admissions to prison to begin a new term of incarceration. OPM will publish more complete findings from this analysis in the coming weeks and months.

### Table 2 – The first-of-month totals

| | 2016 July 1 | 2016 Aug. 1 | 2016 Sept. 1 | 2015 Sept. 1 | % Change Monthly | % Change Annual |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **DOC Facilities** | | | | | | |
| Federal/Other | 150 | 148 | 155 | 157 | 4.7% | -1.3% |
| Sentenced | 11,466 | 11,355 | 11,182 | 12,064 | -1.5% | -7.3% |
| Special Parole | 439 | 446 | 449 | 544 | 0.7% | -17.5% |
| Pre-trial | 3,287 | 3,212 | 3,237 | 3,403 | 0.8% | -4.9% |
| **Total** | **15,342** | **15,161** | **15,023** | **16,168** | **-0.9%** | **-7.1%** |
| **DOC Community** | | | | | | |
| Transfer Parole | 8 | 10 | 8 | 0 | - | - |
| Parole/ Parcom Total | 1,130 | 1,115 | 1,140 | 958 | 2.2% | 19.0% |
| Parole | 947 | 934 | 961 | 786 | 2.9% | 22.3% |
| Parcom @ CT | 183 | 181 | 179 | 172 | -1.1% | 4.1% |
| Furlough | 32 | 25 | 25 | 37 | - | - |
| Trans Placement | 66 | 68 | 68 | 62 | 0.0% | 9.7% |
| DUI/Home confine. | 98 | 91 | 99 | 88 | 8.8% | 12.5% |
| Halfway House Total | 905 | 953 | 952 | 982 | -0.1% | -3.1% |
| Comm Release | 404 | 435 | 461 | 603 | 6.0% | -23.5% |
| TS | 53 | 59 | 62 | 65 | 5.1% | -4.6% |
| Parole | 182 | 183 | 180 | 121 | -1.6% | 48.8% |
| Transfer Parole | 2 | 5 | 3 | 0 | - | - |
| Special Parole | 265 | 271 | 246 | 193 | -9.2% | 27.5% |
| TS | 636 | 584 | 574 | 505 | -1.7% | 13.7% |
| Nursing home | 9 | 9 | 8 | 8 | - | - |
| Special Parole | 1,530 | 1,548 | 1,584 | 1,318 | 2.3% | 20.2% |
| **Total** | **4,414** | **4,403** | **4,458** | **3,958** | **1.2%** | **12.6%** |

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

| | 2016 June | 2016 July | 2016 August | 2015 August | % Change Monthly | % Change Annual |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Admissions** | | | | | | |
| Federal/Other | 84 | 73 | 92 | 102 | 26.0% | -9.8% |
| Remands | 156 | 166 | 163 | 137 | -1.8% | 19.0% |
| DUI | 3 | 7 | 4 | 1 | - | - |
| Parole | 22 | 25 | 30 | 22 | 20.0% | 36.4% |
| Trans Plac/Furlough | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | - | - |
| HWH | 28 | 11 | 23 | 28 | 109.1% | -17.9% |
| TS | 53 | 46 | 38 | 38 | -17.4% | 0.0% |
| Special Parole | 49 | 76 | 67 | 43 | -11.8% | 55.8% |
| New Sentence | 277 | 253 | 252 | 248 | -0.4% | 1.6% |
| VOP | 71 | 71 | 74 | 85 | 4.2% | -12.9% |
| Pre-trial | 1469 | 1367 | 1541 | 1570 | 12.7% | -1.8% |
| **Total** | **1,986** | **1,859** | **2,048** | **2,057** | **10.2%** | **-0.4%** |
| **Releases and discharges** | | | | | | |
| Transfer Parole | 10 | 6 | 3 | 0 | - | - |
| Parole | 112 | 104 | 118 | 116 | 13.5% | 1.7% |
| Furlough | 33 | 23 | 24 | 28 | 4.3% | -14.3% |
| Trans. Placement | 19 | 19 | 18 | 13 | -5.3% | 38.5% |
| Home Confinement DUI | 37 | 33 | 47 | 27 | 42.4% | 74.1% |
| HWH | 118 | 155 | 153 | 168 | -1.3% | -8.9% |
| TS | 222 | 177 | 219 | 174 | 23.7% | 25.9% |
| Special Parole | 109 | 136 | 121 | 101 | -11.0% | 19.8% |
| Nursing home | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | - | - |
| End of Sentence | 737 | 778 | 756 | 724 | -2.8% | 4.4% |
| **Total** | **1,399** | **1,431** | **1,459** | **1,351** | **2.0%** | **8.0%** |
| **Pre-trial Releases*** | | | | | | |
| From Court | 501 | 561 | 576 | 571 | 2.7% | 0.9% |
| Release to Bond | 413 | 382 | 451 | 404 | 18.1% | 11.6% |

** Totals reflect events, not individual offenders*

## DOC - Community Release Unit

### Table 3a – Case reviews and release metrics

| | Cases Reviewed | Approved | Denied | Continued | Approval Rate |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| June | 833 | 398 | 112 | 121 | 48% |
| July'16 | 888 | 434 | 138 | 106 | 49% |
| Aug. '16 | 928 | 456 | 146 | 137 | 49% |
| Aug. '15 | 770 | 402 | 134 | 97 | 52% |

## Board of Pardons and Paroles

### Table 4 – Parole hearings, new cases

| | Parole Hearings | Paroles granted, 2016 | Grant rate | Paroles granted, 2015 | Paroles granted, 2014 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| June | 164 | 90 | 55% | 70 | 98 |
| July | 164 | 99 | 60% | 84 | 125 |
| August | 130 | 69 | 53% | 123 | 141 |

### Table 4a – Other Board actions

| | Reparole from revocation | Reparole from rescission | Closed interest cases | Special parole cases | Transfer parole cases |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| June | 41 | 4 | 29 | 43 | 2 |
| July | 40 | 10 | 27 | 36 | 11 |
| Aug. '16 | 42 | 6 | 22 | 31 | 19 |
| Aug. '15 | 47 | 3 | 18 | 37 | 0 |

## The pre-trial population

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

| Bond amount | July 1, 2016 | Aug. 1, 2016 | Sept. 1, 2016 | Sept. 1, 2015 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Less than $20K | 603 | 596 | 603 | 624 |
| $20K to < $50K | 593 | 557 | 589 | 577 |
| $50K to <$100K | 646 | 675 | 701 | 710 |
| $100K or higher | 1,532 | 1,488 | 1,477 | 1,444 |
| Offenders w/bonds | 3,374 | 3,316 | 3,370 | 3,355 |
| Over $1M | 155 | 149 | 150 | 173 |

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

| Weeks since last DOC admit | July 1, 2016 | Aug. 1, 2016 | Sept. 1, 2016 | Sept. 1, 2015 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| < 1 week | 432 | 495 | 441 | 461 |
| 1 to < 3 weeks | 409 | 364 | 364 | 369 |
| 3 to < 10 weeks | 856 | 799 | 875 | 961 |
| 10 to < 30 weeks | 950 | 935 | 927 | 867 |
| 30 wks or more | 730 | 725 | 773 | 704 |
| Pre-trial prisoners | 3,377 | 3,318 | 3,380 | 3,362 |

### Table 5b – Pre-trial admits, new offenders

| | Apr. 2016 | May 2016 | June 2016 | July 2016 | Aug. 2016 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arraignments | 2,746 | 2,933 | 2,921 | 2,760 | 3,213 |
| Pre-trial Admits | 1,345 | 1,415 | 1,469 | 1,367 | 1,541 |
| New to DOC | 337 | 377 | 415 | 375 | 426 |
| % New | 25% | 27% | 28% | 27% | 28% |

## Court Support Services Division

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

| | Pre-trial admissions | Offender interviews | Offenders released | Releases last year |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| June | 1,469 | 1,412 | 711 | 778 |
| July | 1,367 | 743 | 529 | 873 |
| August | 1,541 | 805 | 541 | 887 |

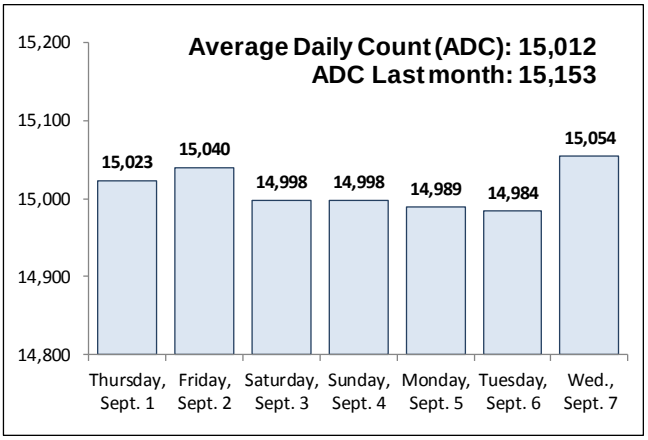
### Table 6a – Pre-Trial & split-sentence starts

| | Pre-trial Bail Case Starts | Client Supv. Starts | Split Sentence Starts |
|---|---|---|---|
| June | 2,319 | 2,180 | 407 |
| July | 2,289 | 2,167 | 438 |
| Aug. '16 | 2,408 | 2,220 | 524 |
| Aug '15 | 2,440 | 2,205 | 398 |

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

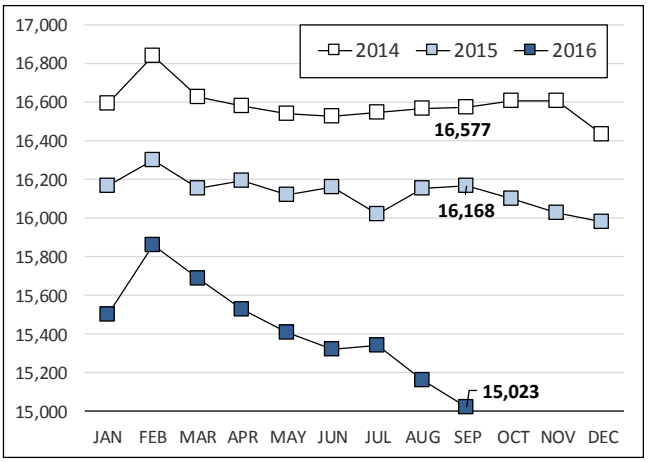
## Chart 3 – Prison population

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



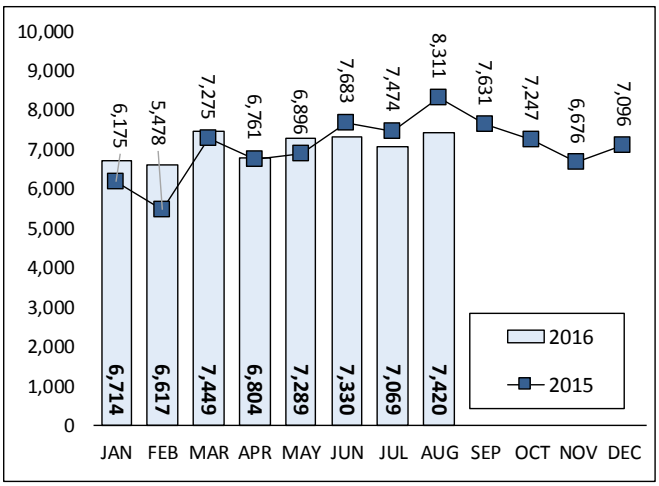

## Chart 4 – Prison population, first-of-month

*2014, 2015 and 2016*



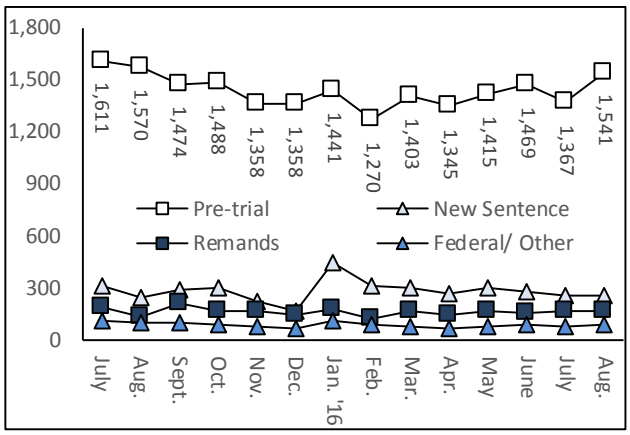

## Chart 5 – Statewide criminal arrests

*2015 and 2016*



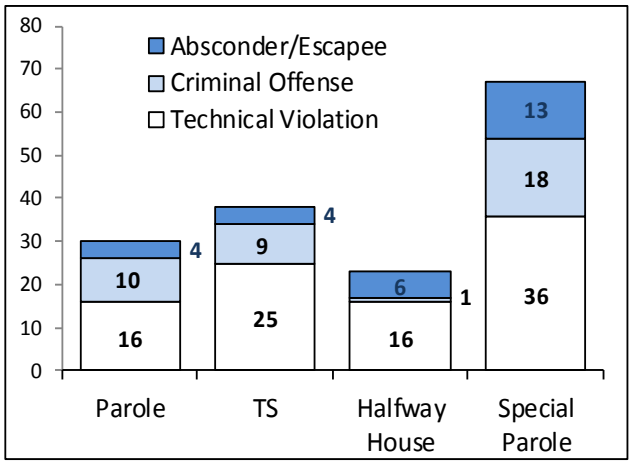

## Chart 6 – Monthly DOC Admissions

*July 2015 through August 2016*



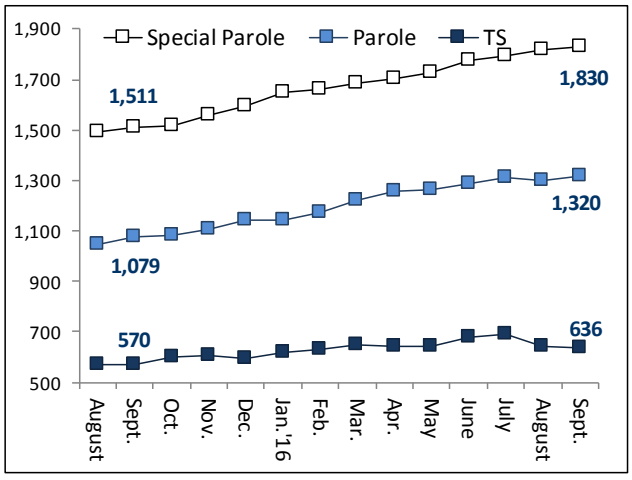

## Chart 7– Remands from community release

*August 2016*




## Chart 8 – DOC community supervision

*August 1, 2015 through September 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.*