

# OPM - Criminal Justice Policy & Planning Division

## Monthly Indicators Report

### Highlights

- The state’s jails and prisons held 14,814 inmates on December 1, 2016. After hovering around the 15,000-prisoner mark for several weeks, the population dipped into the 14,000s on November 5<sup>th</sup>. It will almost certainly stay there through the remainder of the year.
- The CT prison system has moved into uncharted territory. The last time the prison population was this size, the state was in the process of rapidly placing prison facilities on-line to house a burgeoning number of prisoners. In 1990, the state opened Willard CI and Webster CI and over the next decade, 10 prisons were opened, expanded or repurposed.
- OPM recently compiled and analyzed FBI statistics on violent crime in the US. According to this analysis, CT registered the largest, 3-year, percentage drop in violent crime among the 50 states. For more information please see the link for the [Violent Crime Report December 2016](#) on the OPM-CJPPD website.
- On a year-to-year basis the prison population is down 5.7%. The number of offenders on parole in the community is up 22%; the number of special parolees is up 19% (see table 2).
- OPM-CJPPD is currently working on a 5-year recidivism study of sex offenders who were released from prison during 2011. This study, which will be published in February 2017, is a follow-up and extension of a study OPM released in 2012. For this study we hope to be able to utilize a wider range of information and data than was previously available.

### Prison Population Forecast

This past February, when OPM projected that the December 1<sup>st</sup> prison population would be 15,480, we relied on our standard forecast model which we believed to be both conservative and moderately optimistic. At that point, the last time the state’s prison population was below 15,480 was May 1997.

After falling for most of the year, on December 1, 2016, the prison population was 14,814, more than 650 prisoners fewer than projected. In fact the last time CT saw a lower December 1<sup>st</sup> prison count was in 1994.

Volatility will undo the reputation of the best forecaster because during periods of general stability and calm, the best predictor of the near-future is generally the

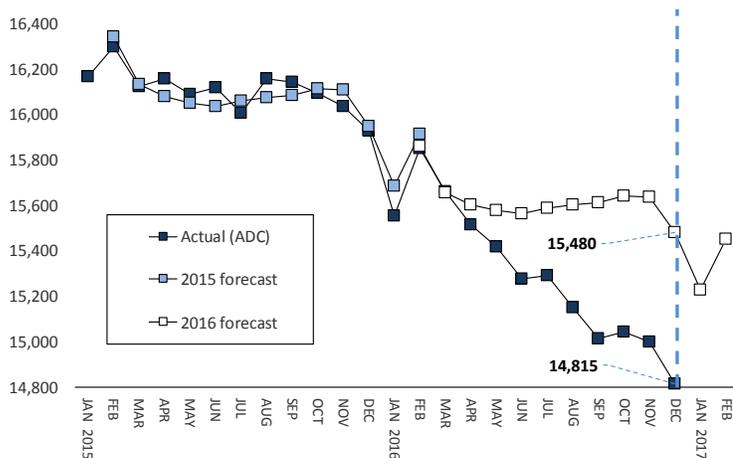
near-past. The prolonged drop in the prison population that began near the middle of last year (see chart 1) is unprecedented. Over the last few months we have attempted, in this space, to explain why we believe the prison population is contracting so quickly. Even if we are mostly correct, we still find ourselves in new territory. The vast majority of DOC employees never experienced a prison population below 15,000. As recently as 2012, talk of a prison population in the 14,500 range was considered by many to be unrealistic - a pipe dream. Now it seems likely that the prison population will settle in under 15,000 for most of next year. The task for OPM is to determine the new base level of the prison population.

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	15,002	15,639	637
DEC	14,815	15,480	665
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

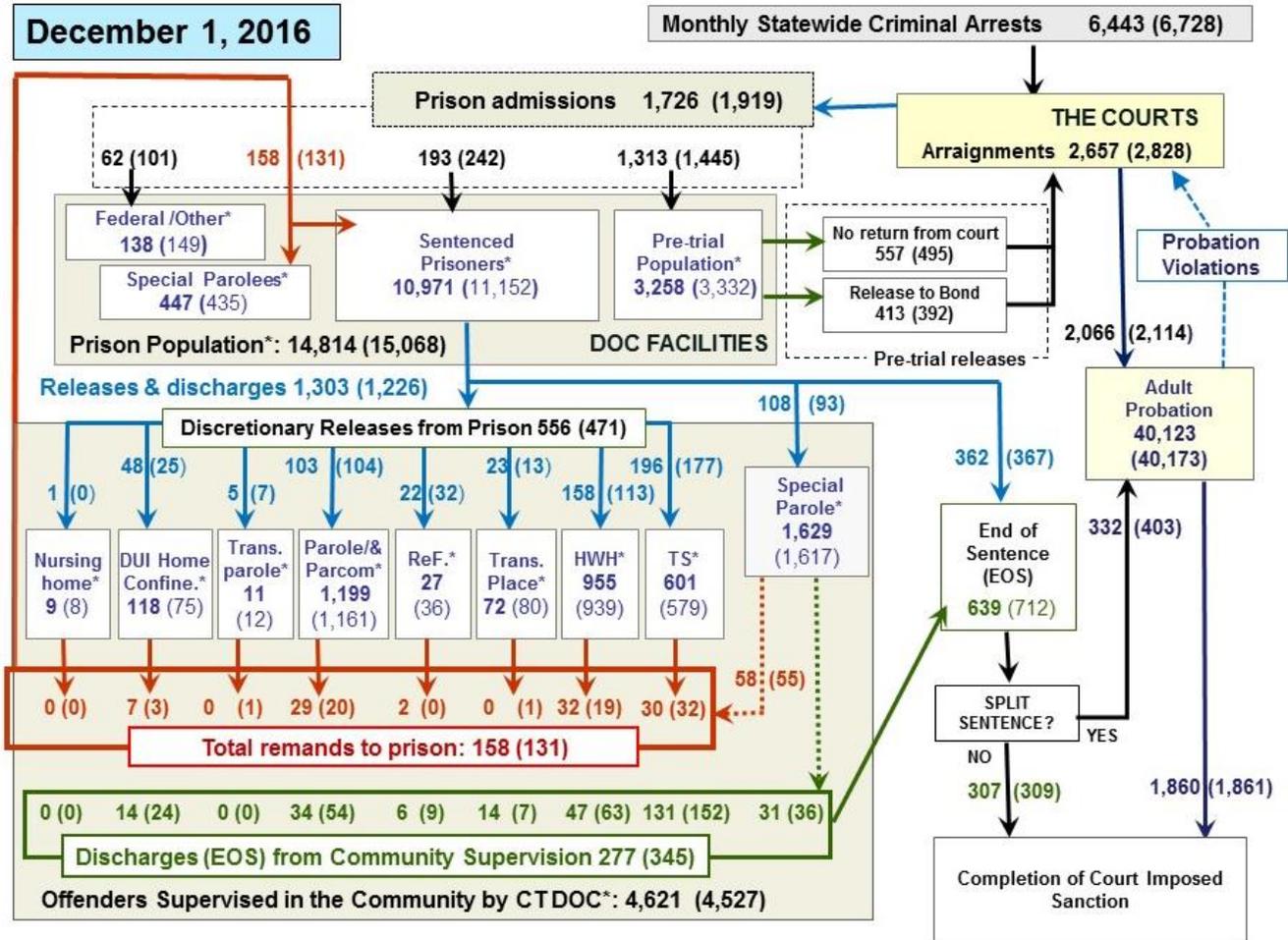


Chart 2 contains monthly operations data for November 2016 and daily counts reported on December 1, 2016. Asterisks (\*) indicate the daily count on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Figures for last month are enclosed by parentheses. Sources: Arrests - OBTS, Court and probation data - CSSD, all other data -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

## Chart 2a – Where does the prison population go from here?

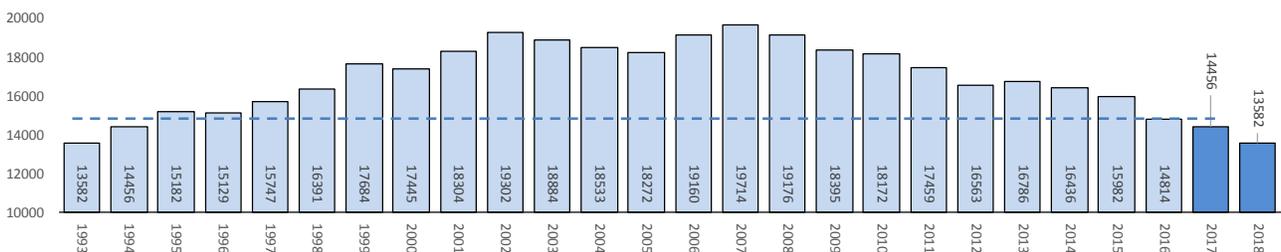


Chart 2a plots the December 1<sup>st</sup> prison population in CT since 1994. The chart displays a curious symmetry with the expansion and contraction of the prison population almost equally balanced over the last two decades.

During the 1990s, CT, like most other states, introduced longer and harsher sentencing guidelines for wide range of offenses. As a consequence incarcerated populations swelled across the nation and states scrambled to build enough prison-bed space to meet the growing need. At one point, CT OPM projected the state's prison population could reach 25,000 prisoners.

This December the prison count was the lowest in 21 years, and unlike the 1990s when violent crime rates were peaking, the reported crime rate has been falling for several years. As a matter of fact, over the last three years, CT's violent crime rate has declined by 23%, the steepest drop in the nation.

The question the state must now consider is, what is the appropriate size for a prison system in a state like ours? While the current prison population hovers at the same level it did in the mid-1990s, we should recall that on December 1, 1985, the prison population was only 5,829.

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

	2016	2016	2016	2015	% Change	
	Oct. 1	Nov. 1	Dec. 1	Dec. 1	Monthly	Annual
<b>DOC Facilities</b>						
Federal/Other	149	149	138	128	-7.4%	-7.2%
Sentenced	11,102	11,152	10971	11,854	-1.6%	8.0%
Special Parole	448	435	447	570	2.8%	27.5%
Pre-trial	3,311	3,332	3258	3,430	-2.2%	5.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,010</b>	<b>15,068</b>	<b>14,814</b>	<b>15,982</b>	<b>-1.7%</b>	<b>7.9%</b>
<b>DOC Community</b>						
Transfer Parole	13	12	11	0	-	-
Parole/ Parcom Total	1,142	1,161	1199	981	3.3%	-18.2%
Parole	962	988	1027	804	3.9%	-21.7%
Parcom @ CT	180	183	172	177	-6.0%	2.9%
Furlough	41	36	27	40	-25.0%	48.1%
Trans Placement	82	80	72	44	-10.0%	-38.9%
DUI/Home confine.	99	95	118	96	24.2%	-18.6%
Halfway House Total	984	939	955	1,009	1.7%	5.7%
Comm Release	491	474	503	555	6.1%	10.3%
TS	61	57	52	52	-8.8%	0.0%
Parole	171	158	147	163	-7.0%	10.9%
Transfer Parole	3	2	1	0	-	-
Special Parole	258	248	252	239	1.6%	-5.2%
TS	606	579	601	540	3.8%	-10.1%
Nursing home	8	8	9	8	-	-
Special Parole	1,589	1,617	1629	1,355	0.7%	-16.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,564</b>	<b>4,527</b>	<b>4,621</b>	<b>4,073</b>	<b>2.1%</b>	<b>-11.9%</b>

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

	2016	2016	2016	2016	% Change	
	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Nov.	Monthly	Annual
<b>Admissions</b>						
Federal/Other	95	101	62	75	-38.6%	-17.3%
Remands	144	131	158	164	20.6%	-3.7%
DUI	6	3	7	5	-	-
Parole	30	20	29	20	45.0%	45.0%
Trans Plac/Furlough	3	1	0	2	-	-
HWH	9	19	32	32	68.4%	0.0%
TS	26	32	30	45	-6.3%	-33.3%
Special Parole	70	55	58	60	5.5%	-3.3%
New Sentence	285	242	193	222	-20.2%	-13.1%
VOP	93	78	61	70	-21.8%	-12.9%
Pre-trial	1528	1445	1313	1358	-9.1%	-3.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,052</b>	<b>1,919</b>	<b>1,726</b>	<b>1,819</b>	<b>-10.1%</b>	<b>-5.1%</b>
<b>Releases and discharges</b>						
Transfer Parole	5	7	5	0	-	-
Parole	82	104	103	118	-1.0%	-12.7%
Furlough	32	32	22	29	-31.3%	-24.1%
Trans. Placement	32	13	23	13	76.9%	76.9%
Home Confinement DUI	40	25	48	24	92.0%	100.0%
HWH	153	113	158	137	39.8%	15.3%
TS	217	177	196	176	10.7%	11.4%
Special Parole	115	93	108	102	16.1%	5.9%
Nursing home	0	0	1	1	-	-
End of Sentence	744	712	639	721	-10.3%	-11.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,420</b>	<b>1,276</b>	<b>1,303</b>	<b>1,321</b>	<b>2.1%</b>	<b>-1.4%</b>
<b>Pre-trial Releases*</b>						
From Court	551	495	557	452	12.5%	23.2%
Release to Bond	374	392	413	367	5.4%	12.5%

\* Totals reflect events, not individual offenders

**DOC - Community Release Unit**

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

	Cases				Approval
	Reviewed	Approved	Denied	Continued	Rate
Sept.	864	438	139	118	51%
Oct.	801	341	127	153	43%
Nov. '16	891	425	175	117	48%
Nov. '15	903	420	137	129	47%

**Board of Pardons and Paroles**

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

	Paroles			Paroles	Paroles
	Hearings	granted, 2016	Grant rate	granted, 2015	granted, 2014
Sept.	154	97	63%	109	151
Oct.	171	67	39%	93	110
Nov.	175	97	55%	96	103

**Table 4a – Other Board actions**

	Reparole from revocation	Reparole from rescission	Closed interest cases	Special parole cases	Transfer parole cases
Sept.	45	2	28	37	14
Oct.	40	5	14	47	7
Nov.'16	56	4	18	39	3
Nov.'15	64	4	21	30	0

**The pre-trial population**

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

Bond amount	Oct. 1, 2016	Nov. 1, 2016	Dec. 1, 2016	Dec. 1, 2015
Less than \$20K	601	632	588	568
\$20K to <\$50K	581	528	573	593
\$50K to <\$100K	745	718	723	717
\$100K or higher	1,531	1,474	1,468	1,540
Persons w/bonds	3,458	3,352	3,352	3,418
Over \$1M	149	144	144	178

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

Weeks since last DOC admit	Oct. 1, 2016	Nov. 1, 2016	Dec. 1, 2016	Dec. 1, 2015
< 1 week	468	395	371	351
1 to < 3 weeks	457	443	371	415
3 to < 10 weeks	836	854	902	921
10 to < 30 weeks	914	905	949	1,029
30 wks or more	760	757	766	706
Pre-trial prisoners	3,435	3,354	3,359	3,422

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

	July 2016	Aug. 2016	Sept. 2016	Oct. 2016	Nov. 2016
Arraignments	2,760	3,213	2,978	2,828	2,657
Pre-trial Admits	1,367	1,541	1,528	1,445	1,313
New to DOC	375	426	412	410	360
% 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
Sept.	1,528	862	441	911
Oct.	1,445	726	428	896
Nov.	1,313	832	432	745

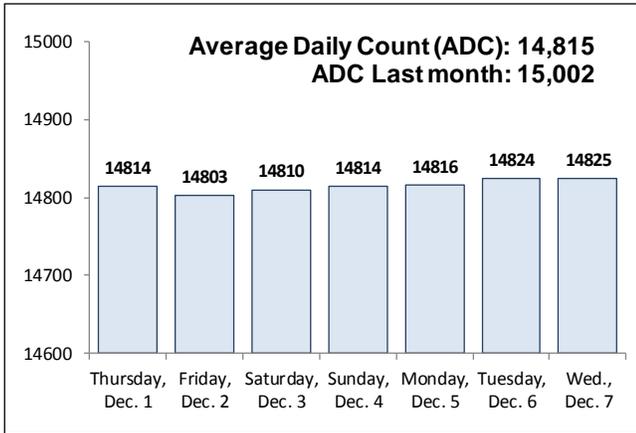
**Table 6a – Pre-Trial & split-sentence starts**

	Pre-trial Case Starts	Bail Starts	Client Supv. Starts	Split Sentence Starts
Sept.	2,143	2,211	413	
Oct. '16	2,310	2,114	403	
Nov.'16	2360	2066	332	
Nov.'15	2,254	2,176	377	

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

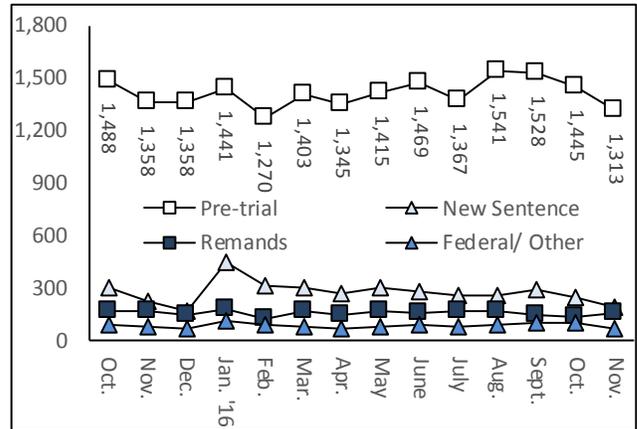
**Chart 3 – Prison population**

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



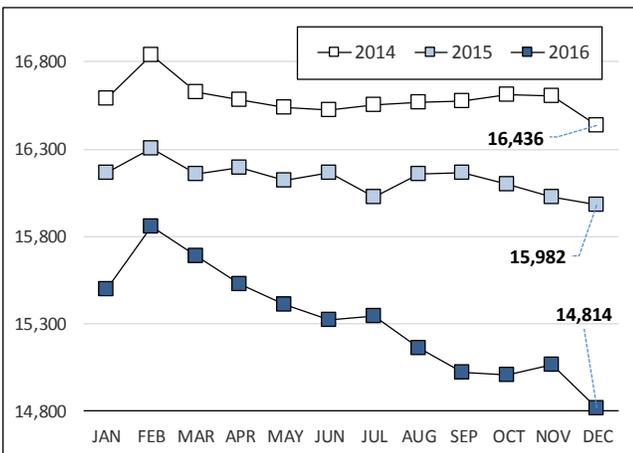
**Chart 6 – Monthly DOC Admissions**

October 2015 through November 2016



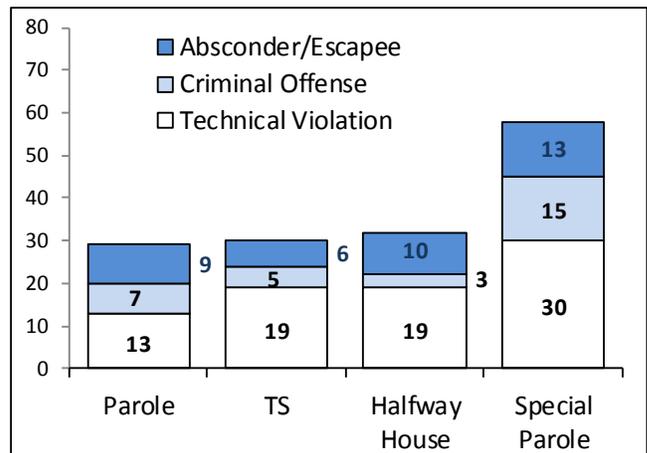
**Chart 4 – Prison population, first-of-month**

2014, 2015 and 2016



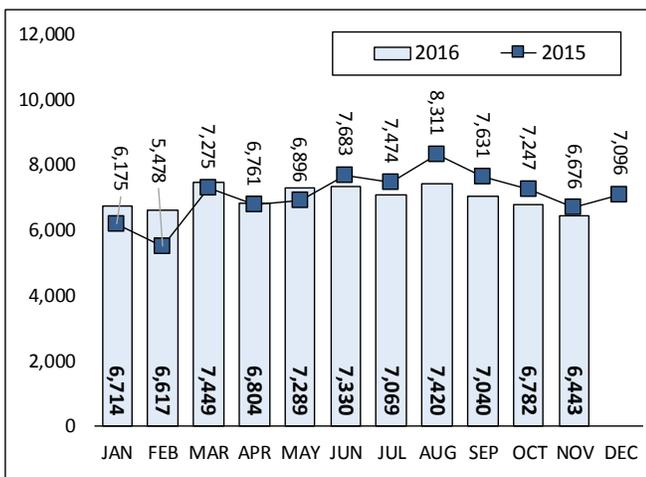
**Chart 7– Remands from community release**

November 2016



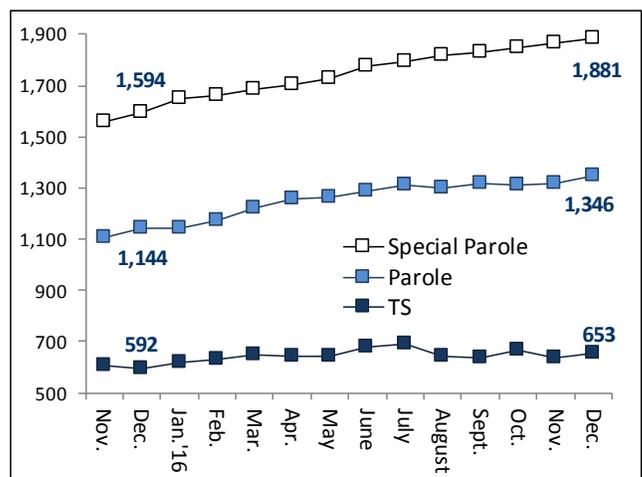
**Chart 5 – Statewide criminal arrests**

2015 and 2016



**Chart 8 – DOC community supervision**

November 1, 2015 through December 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.