

OPM - Criminal Justice Policy & Planning Division

Monthly Indicators Report

Highlights

- The state's prisons and jails held 13,228 inmates on January 1, 2019 - down 168 prisoners since December 1st and 421 from January 1, 2018.
- Monthly arrest totals show signs of flattening. Over the last three months of 2018, statewide arrests were nearly identical with figures from 2017. For the year, arrests are down 5%, but all of the reduction happened earlier in the year. (chart 5)
- The pretrial population continues to tick up each month. In December we reported that the pretrial count was up 142 inmates year over year. This month, year on year, the pretrial component of the population is up nearly 8%, 250 inmates more than January 1, 2018.
- The distribution of pretrial inmates held on bonds is shifting. Mid-range bonds are flat compared to 2018, but those held on the lowest and highest bonds have grown. Those held in lieu of less than \$20,000 is up 11% as are those held on bonds over \$100,000. (table 5a)
- Due to a much smaller sentenced population, especially those serving under two years, the late year drop off was much smaller than in years past. (Chart 2a)
- The DOC's senior management will be all new in 2019. Retired Commissioner Scott Semple has been replaced by Rollin Cook, former head of Utah Corrections. One Deputy Commissioner and the Director of Programs and Treatment have also retired with the Director of Parole and Community Services announced his retirement for April 1st.

Prison Population Forecast

At the beginning of the year, the prison population was approximately 360 prisoners larger than the figure OPM had anticipated in its February 2018 forecast. After underestimating the contraction of the prison system in 2016 and 2017, we overestimated it in 2018.

What went wrong? Analysis of the population over the last 3 years revealed a point of inflection in the trend data occurred early in 2018, a strong indication that the rate of contraction in the prison system was slowing. Over the last few years, the prison system was shrinking by almost 900 to 1,000 prisoners per year. While we knew that this rate of contraction was unsustainable over the long term, we did not know when the brakes would be applied.

OPM will release its February 2019 forecast later this month. That forecast will report that while the prison population will continue to contract, the rate of contraction will slow considerably compared to recent trends.

TABLE 1 – Prison Population Forecast

	Avg. Daily Count	OPM 2018 Forecast	Inmate difference
JAN '18	13,688	-	-
FEB	13,819	13,819	-
MAR	13,753	13,701	-52
APR	13,652	13,607	-45
MAY	13,499	13,550	51
JUN	13,405	13,465	60
JUL	13,369	13,433	64
AUG	13,439	13,320	-119
SEP	13,431	13,265	-166
OCT	13,459	13,259	-200
NOV	13,403	13,230	-173
DEC	13,390	13,103	-287
JAN '19	13,259	12,901	-358
FEB	-	13,093	-

If the February 2019 forecast proves to be accurate the prison population will decline by about 310 prisoners over the coming year. This moderate projection is based on the assumption that the sentenced prison population – the main source for recent declines - will be unable to deliver large system-wide reductions over the coming year.

Chart 1 – Actual prison population against the OPM forecasts

January 1, 2017 through February 1, 2019

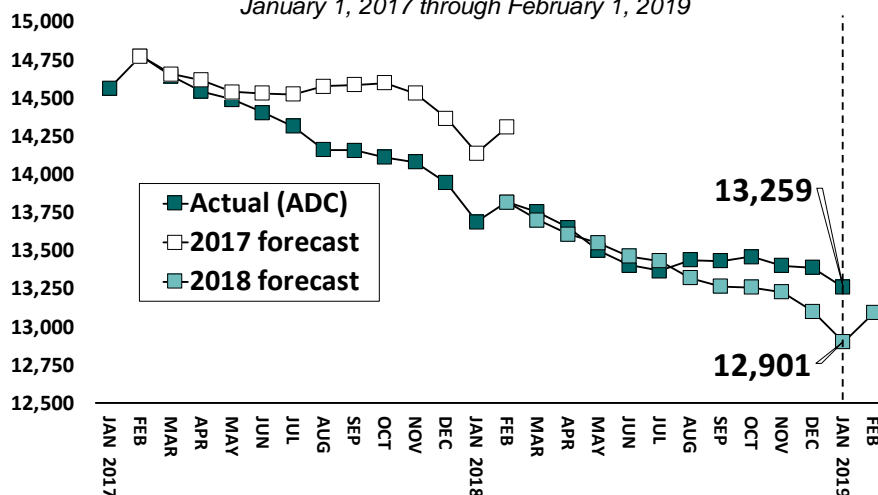


Chart 2 - Criminal justice, monthly counts and flows

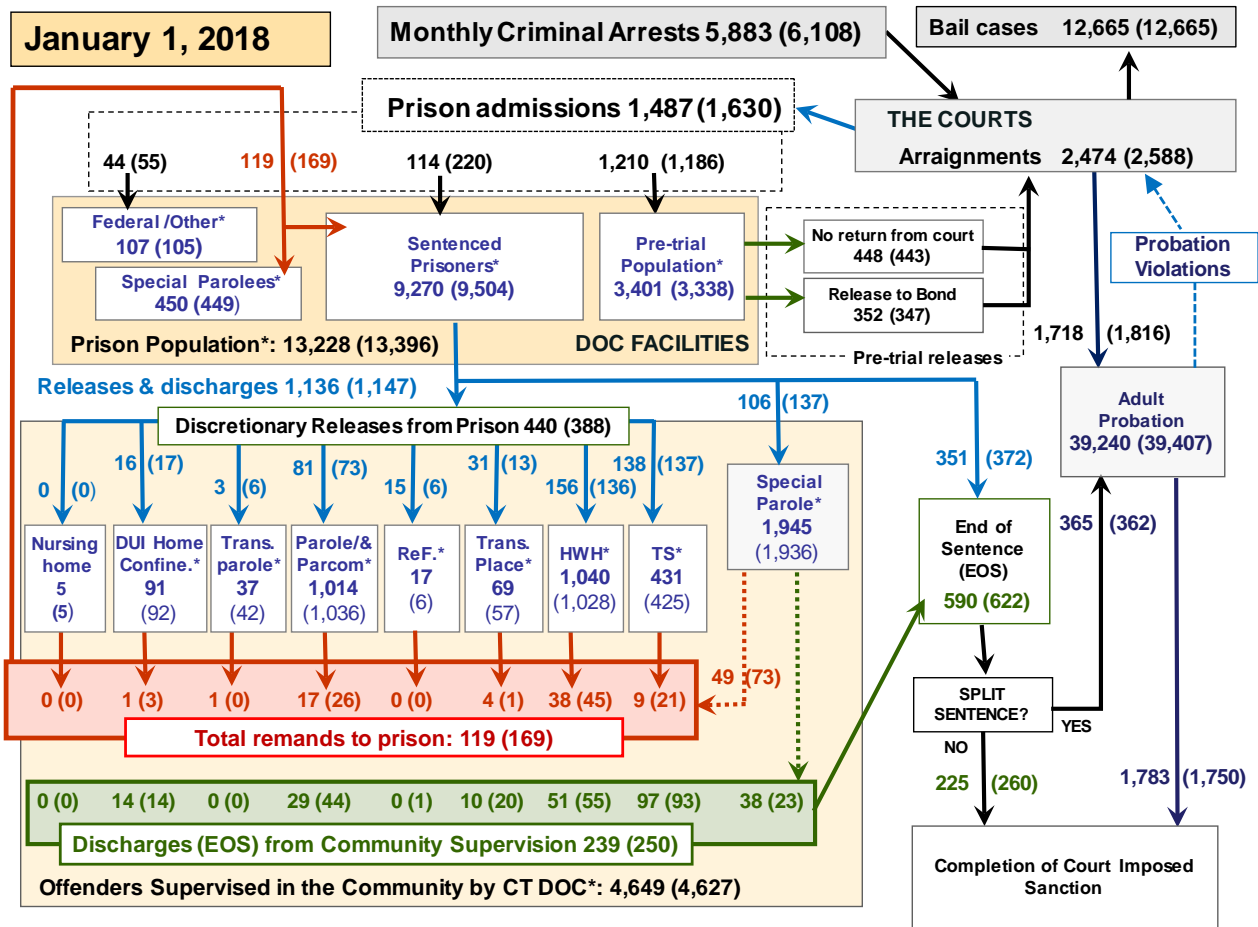


Chart 2 contains monthly operations data for December 2018 and daily counts reported on Jan. 1, 2019. Asterisks (*) indicate the daily count on Jan. 1st. Figures for last month are enclosed by parentheses. Sources: Arrests – CRMVS, Court and probation data - CSSD, all other data - CT DOC. Note: Some Judicial Branch data this month is estimated.

Chart 2a – Late-year effect on the prison population



This paper noted that the late-year drop off in the prison population appeared to be weakening in December 2014, suggesting that a shrinking population was, at least partly, responsible. This year the prison population fell by only 206 inmates between November and January; less than half of the usual 500.

Taking a closer look at the sentenced population, we found that short-term (<2 years) sentenced prisoners play an outsized role in the late year drop off. The chart above breaks out the trends, in

indexed terms, for offenders serving more than 2 years versus those serving less than <2 years over the last four years. The chart clearly shows that the late year drop is most pronounced among those serving shorter sentences.

The number of sentenced offenders serving less than 2 years, has fallen from nearly 3700 to 2500 (33%) over the last 8 years. Being only one quarter of the sentenced population means that an already smaller group has less to give resulting in a weakened late year effect.

Table 2 - First-of-month totals

	2018		2019	2018		% Change	
	Nov. 1	Dec. 1	Jan. 1	Jan. 1	Monthly	Annual	
DOC Facilities							
Federal/Other	117	105	107	134	1.9%	-20.1%	
Sentenced	9,510	9,504	9,270	9,871	-2.5%	-6.1%	
Special Parole	432	449	450	491	0.2%	-8.4%	
Pre-trial	3,375	3,338	3,401	3,153	1.9%	7.9%	
Total	13,434	13,396	13,228	13,649	-1.3%	-3.1%	
DOC Community							
Transfer Parole	42	42	37	29	-11.9%	27.6%	
Parole/ Parcom Total	1,064	1,036	1,014	1,046	-2.1%	-3.1%	
Parole	889	859	844	891	-1.7%	-5.3%	
Parcom @ CT	175	177	170	155	-4.0%	9.7%	
Furlough	7	6	17	51	-	-	
Trans Placement	69	57	69	66	21.1%	4.5%	
DUI/Home confine.	96	92	91	92	-1.1%	-1.1%	
Halfway House Total	1,032	1,028	1,040	1,017	1.2%	2.3%	
Comm Release	495	485	509	515	4.9%	-1.2%	
TS	18	25	23	55	-8.0%	-58.2%	
Parole	151	153	162	144	5.9%	12.5%	
Transfer Parole	5	5	6	1	-	-	
Special Parole	363	360	340	302	-5.6%	12.6%	
TS	423	425	431	512	1.4%	-15.8%	
Nursing home	5	5	5	6	-	-	
Special Parole	1,906	1,936	1,945	1,821	0.5%	6.8%	
Total	4,644	4,627	4,649	4,640	0.5%	0.2%	

Table 2a - Monthly admissions, releases & discharges

	2018		2018	2017	% Change	
	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Dec.	Monthly	Annual
Admissions						
Federal/Other	68	55	44	81	-20.0%	-45.7%
Remands	165	169	119	124	-29.6%	-4.0%
DUI	7	3	2	3	-	-
Parole	30	26	17	18	-34.6%	-5.6%
Trans Plac/Furlough	2	1	4	0	-	-
HWH	34	45	38	31	-15.6%	22.6%
TS	24	21	9	25	-57.1%	-64.0%
Special Parole	68	73	49	47	-32.9%	4.3%
New Sentence	226	220	114	128	-48.2%	-10.9%
VOP	70	59	27	41	-54.2%	-34.1%
Pre-trial	1,348	1,186	1,210	1,130	2.0%	7.1%
Total	1,807	1,630	1,487	1,463	-8.8%	1.6%
Releases and discharges						
Transfer Parole	15	6	3	1	-	-
Parole	89	73	81	80	11.0%	1.3%
Furlough	4	6	15	18	-	-
Trans. Placement	19	13	31	28	138.5%	10.7%
Home Confinement DUI	27	17	16	24	-5.9%	-33.3%
HWH	124	136	156	133	14.7%	17.3%
TS	146	137	138	174	0.7%	-20.7%
Special Parole	138	137	106	137	-22.6%	-22.6%
Nursing home	0	0	0	1	-	-
End of Sentence	621	622	590	630	-5.1%	-6.3%
Total	1,183	1,147	1,136	1,226	-1.0%	-7.3%
Pre-trial Releases*						
From Court	506	443	448	444	-12.5%	-0.2%
Release to Bond	394	347	352	377	-11.9%	-8.0%

* Totals reflect events, not individual offenders

DOC - Community Release Unit (CRU)

Table 3 - Case reviews and release metrics

	Cases				Approval
	Reviewed	Approved	Denied	Continued	Rate
Oct.	762	356	121	108	47%
Nov.	667	286	95	102	43%
Dec.	610	281	99	105	46%
Dec. '17	680	332	113	107	49%

Board of Pardons and Paroles

Table 4 - Parole hearings, new cases

	Parole Hearings	Paroles granted	Grant rate	Paroles granted, 2017	Paroles granted, 2016
Oct.	134	52	39%	109	67
Nov.	159	74	47%	91	97
Dec.	140	74	53%	87	95

Table 4a - Other BOPP actions

	Reparole from revocation	Reparole from rescission	Closed interest cases	Special parole cases	Transfer parole cases
Oct.	56	2	22	40	1
Nov.	37	1	15	28	2
Dec.	36	0	14	35	6
Dec. '17	28	3	16	35	4

The pre-trial population

Table 5 - Bond ranges for pre-trial detainees

Bond amount	Nov. 1, 2018	Dec. 1, 2018	Jan. 1, 2019	Jan. 1, 2018
Less than \$20K	563	528	558	504
\$20K to < \$50K	489	518	502	503
\$50K to < \$100K	641	613	661	706
\$100K or higher	1,778	1,795	1,817	1,643
Persons w/bonds	3,471	3,454	3,538	3,356
Over \$1M	191	196	201	178

Table 5a - Pre-trial, weeks since admission

Weeks since last DOC admit	Nov. 1, 2018	Dec. 1, 2018	Jan. 1, 2019	Jan. 1, 2018
< 1 week	384	407	336	327
1 to < 3 weeks	334	279	373	314
3 to < 10 weeks	802	804	825	794
10 to < 30 weeks	1,030	1,020	1,038	1,054
30 wks or more	927	946	971	868
Pre-trial prisoners	3,477	3,456	3,543	3,357

Table 5b - Pre-trial admits, new offenders

	Oct. 2018	Nov. 2018	Dec. 2018	Dec. 2017
Arraignments	3,006	2,588	2,474	2,284
Pre-trial Admits	1,348	1,186	1,210	1,130
New to DOC	325	286	266	304
% New	24%	24%	22%	27%

Court Support Services Division

Table 6 - The Jail Re-interview Program

	Pre-trial admissions	Offender interviews	Offenders released	Released last year
Oct.	1,348	978	342	380
Nov.	1,186	866	301	367
Dec.	1,210	832	303	330

Table 6a - Pre-trial bail and probation caseloads

	Pre-trial Bail Case Starts	Client Supv. Starts	Split Sentence Starts	Pre-trial bail cases
Oct.	2,050*	2,172	372	12,665*
Nov.	2,050*	1,816	362	12,665*
Dec.	2,050*	1,718	365	12,665*
Dec. '17	2,075*	1,590	375	12,685*

* CSSD estimates

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)

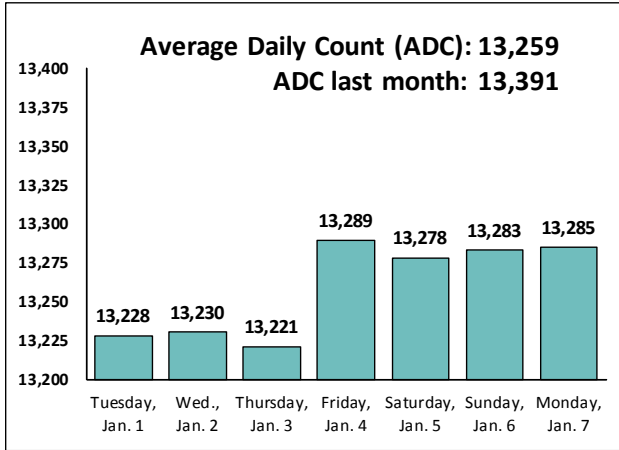


Chart 6 – Monthly DOC Admissions

Nov. 2017 through Dec. 2018

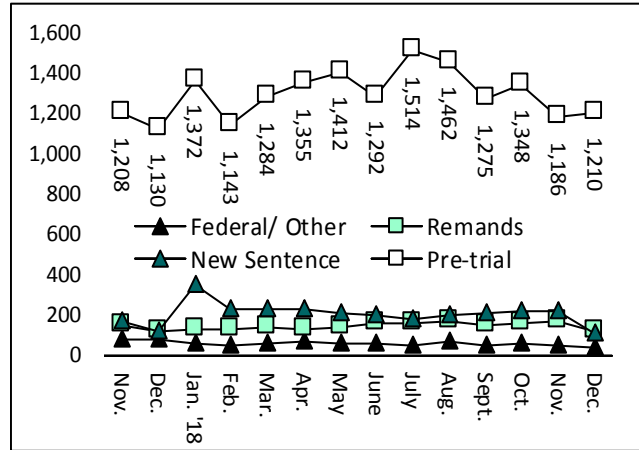


Chart 4 – Prison population, first-of-month

2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019

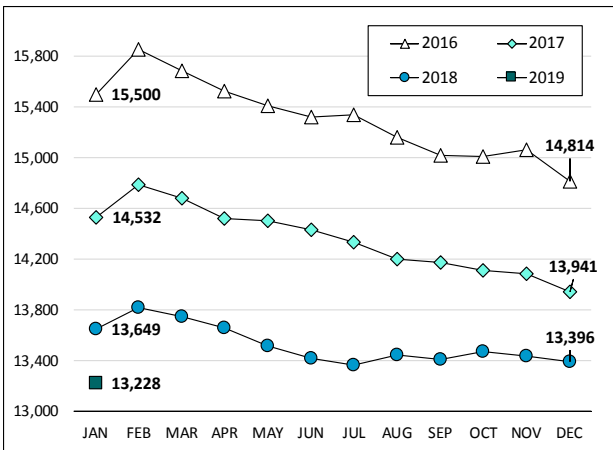


Chart 7– Remands from community release

December 2018

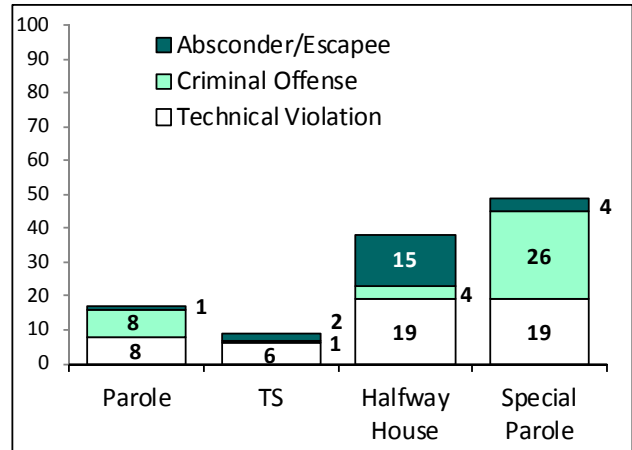


Chart 5 – Statewide criminal arrests

2017 and 2018

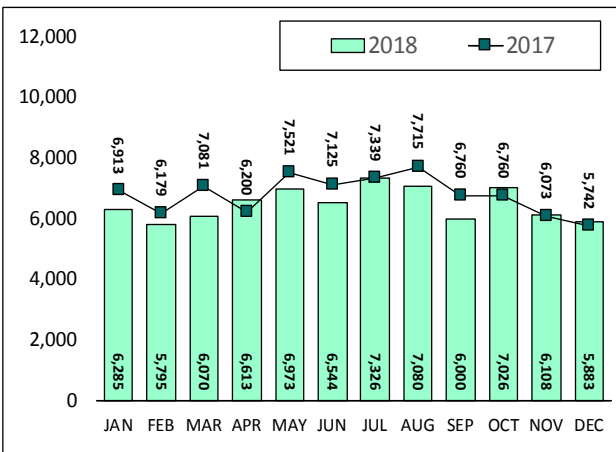
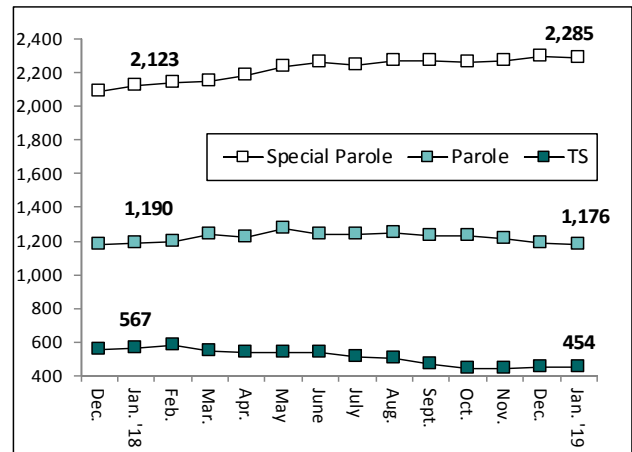


Chart 8 – DOC community supervision

Dec. 1, 2017 through Jan. 1, 2019



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 Criminal Motor Vehicle System (CRMVS). Chart 8 includes offenders in halfway houses.