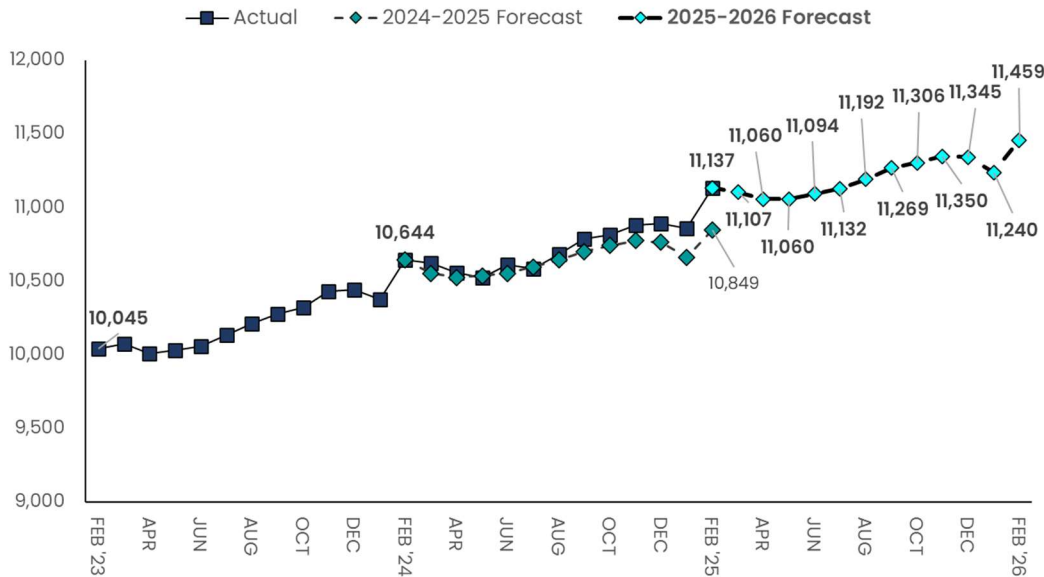


# CORRECTIONAL POPULATION

## 2025-26 FORECAST

### Connecticut Correctional Facility Population: Actual and Projected, February 2022 to February 2025



Note: The y-axis begins at 9,000 instead of 0 to better show the monthly variation in projected amounts.

#### Overview of the 2025-2026 forecast

Each February, the Office of Policy and Management Criminal Justice Policy & Planning Division (OPM CJPPD) forecasts Connecticut’s total correctional population over the subsequent 12 months. The OPM CJPPD forecast aids in setting near-term system expectations.

The correctional facility population grew just under 5 percent from February 2024 to 2025, and 6 percent previously from 2023 to 2024; larger growth in both years than expected. In the upcoming year, OPM CJPPD projects **the correctional population to continue increasing, growing nearly 3 percent** to reach a facility population of 11,459 in February 2026. Though our methodology takes steps to account for recent trends, we note that the long term historic trends informing our forecast may still tend toward a conservative projection. The correctional population even rising above 12,000 in the coming year remains a possibility. OPM CJPPD will continue to monitor correctional population changes monthly to identify additional emerging trends that could shift these expectations.



**Developing the 2025–2026 forecast**

Since 2022, OPM CJPPD has used an expanded forecasting approach. Historically, OPM’s methodology has traditionally included: 1) an analysis of prison–population trend data 2) the use of an input–output model to track operational flows and rates of change in the size and composition of the prison population, and 3) assessments of the impact of proposed legislative and policy changes. In 2022, to better contextualize COVID-19 pandemic disruptions to long term trends in Connecticut’s criminal justice system, OPM CJPPD augmented its traditional approach by incorporating additional time series forecasting methodologies. To develop OPM’s projection, we then utilize these multiple approaches to generate a wide variety of forecast estimates and develop a composite forecast incorporating these results. **Chart 2** below presents the variety of forecast point estimates that were incorporated into our composite 2025–2026 correctional population projection.

This brief was produced by the **Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division** at:

The Connecticut Office of Policy and Management  
450 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford CT, 06106

The **2025–2026 Forecast** will be presented to the Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission in Spring 2025.

*This report can be found on the OPM CJPPD website:*  
<https://portal.ct.gov/OPM/CJ-About/CJ-SAC/SAC-Sites/SAC-Homepage>.

**Chart 2: Forecast point estimates and OPM composite projection, February 2020 to February 2025**

