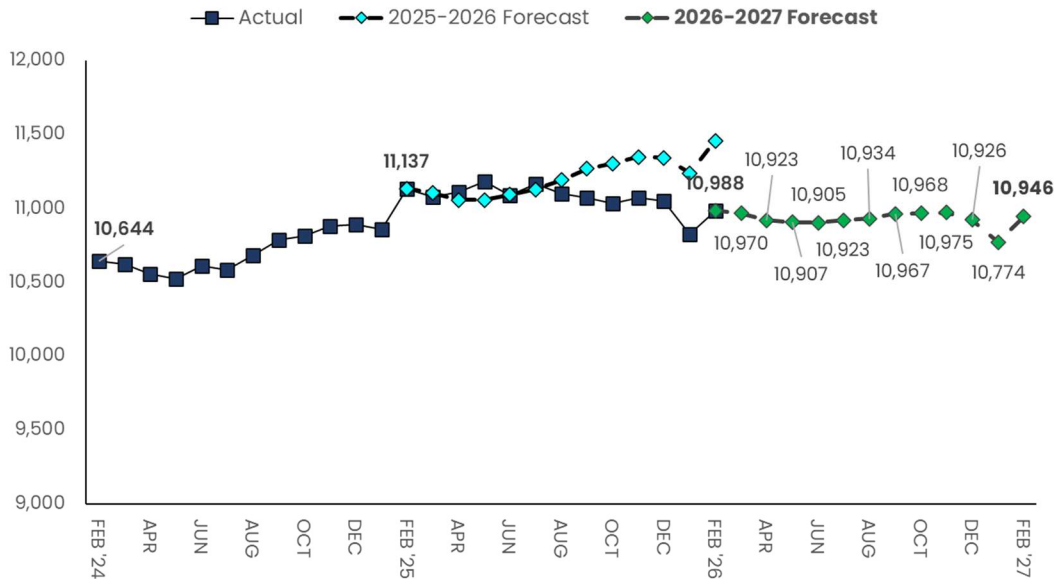


CORRECTIONAL POPULATION

2026-27 FORECAST

Connecticut Correctional Facility Population: Actual and Projected, February 2024 to February 2027



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

Overview of the 2026-2027 forecast

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

The February 1 correctional facility count declined 1 percent between 2025 and 2026, reversing growth trends observed in recent years. The 2025 decline in the size of the population held pretrial within the Department of Correction more than offset an accompanying rise in the sentenced population. For 2026-27, OPM CJPPD projects **the correctional population will remain relatively consistent**, aside from seasonal fluctuation. We estimate the DOC facility count may reach **10,946** by February 2027, just 42 fewer people held than on February 1, 2026.



Developing the 2026–2027 forecast

Since 2022, OPM CJPPD has used an expanded forecasting approach. OPM’s methodology historically includes: 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. 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 beginning in 2022. To develop OPM’s projection, we utilize these multiple approaches to generate over 20 different sets of forecast estimates, then create a composite forecast incorporating these results. **Chart 2** below presents the variety of forecast point estimates that were ultimately incorporated into our composite 2026–2027 correctional facility population projection, shown in **green**.

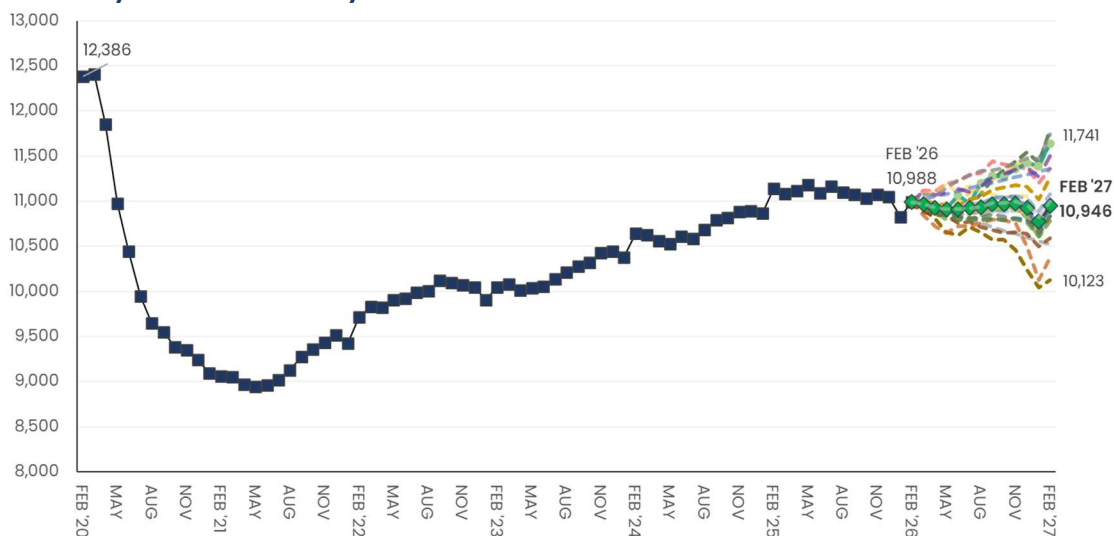
This brief was produced by the **Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division** at:

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

The **2026–2027 Forecast** will be presented to the Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission in Spring 2026.

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 2026 to February 2027



Across the mix of projections, we observed estimates indicating further reductions, and alternately, further increases. Our composite projection reflects relative stability overall in 2026–27, masking considerable variation of flows into and out of DOC facilities. Pretrial population changes exert influence on overall forecast trends, and future population swings in either direction may alter our outlook. OPM CJPPD will continue to monitor correctional facility counts monthly to identify any emerging trends that could shift expectations.

