

OPM - Criminal Justice Policy & Planning Division

Monthly Indicators Report

Highlights

- Considering the time of year, the prison population has remained remarkably stable over the last few months. On September 1st, 16,577 people were incarcerated in the state. By October 1, the population had only expanded to 16,610. As of the first of November, DOC reported that there were 16,605 offenders in the state’s prisons.
- The number of parole hearings appeared to stall this month compared to last. The reason is probably related to training and scheduling issues as newly-appointed board members begin settling into their duties.
- Over the last 7 years, the number of offenders on special parole status has increased by 71% (see chart 2a). Since sentences to special parole appear to run significantly longer than those for general parole, the cumulative effect of such a significant growth on future supervision capacity is not well understood or appreciated. The utilization of special parole and the impact of its increasing use deserves more study.
- Chart 2 attempts to provide readers with a sense of the general volumes of people moving through the system each month. While presenting some useful information on how things are trending, the chart does not capture many system nuances. Offenders shown entering Transitional Placement each month, for example, appear to leave prison. In fact, they are already in halfway houses when they enter the program.

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Prison Population Forecast

Last month this paper reported that August prison admissions were down 7.5% compared to August 2013 and that September prison admissions were down 5.2% compared to 2013 figures. During October, admission were also down compared to last year, this time by 1.1%. It remains unclear why the anticipated summertime bump in the prison population did not occur this year. The Average Daily Count (ADC) for the first week in November was 338 offenders below what OPM projected in February.

We are still anticipating that the prison population will drop through the remainder of the year. The question is, can we expect a drop of several hundred prisoners, which would be typical, without a prison population that has been inflated due to the normal flow of warm weather arrests and incarcerations. Between now and February 2015, when OPM’s next prison population forecast is due, we will be working on identifying why the prison population did not balloon during the summer of 2014.

TABLE 1 – Prison Population Forecast

	Avg. Daily Count	OPM 2014 Forecast	Inmate difference
JAN '14	16,347	-	-
FEB	16,839	16,839	
MAR	16,624	16,759	135
APR	16,582	16,737	155
MAY	16,519	16,683	164
JUN	16,563	16,678	115
JUL	16,486	16,709	223
AUG	16,579	16,763	184
SEP	16,559	16,860	301
OCT	16,610	16,979	369
NOV	16,608	16,946	338
DEC	-	16,761	
JAN '15	-	16,445	
FEB	-	16,758	

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

Chart 1 – Actual prison population against the OPM forecast
January 1, 2013 through February 1, 2015

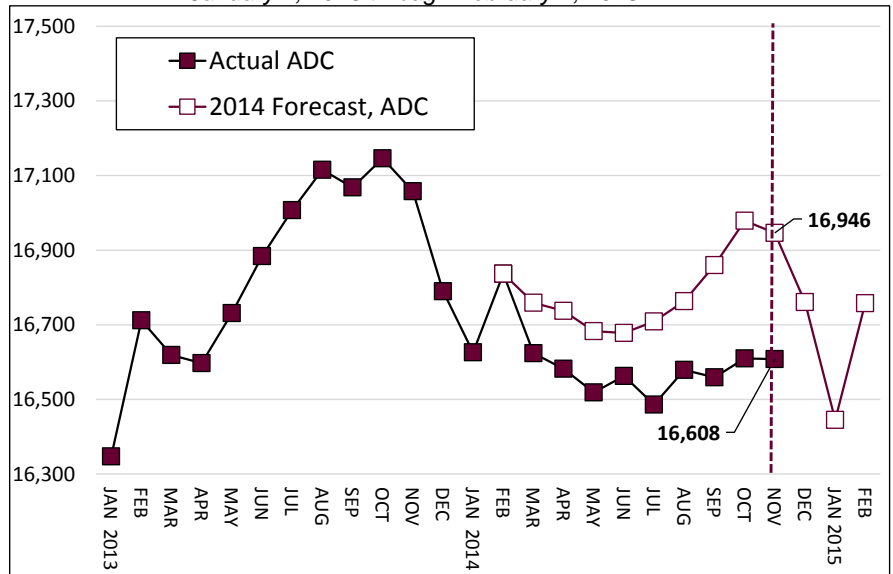


Chart 2 - Criminal justice, monthly counts and flows

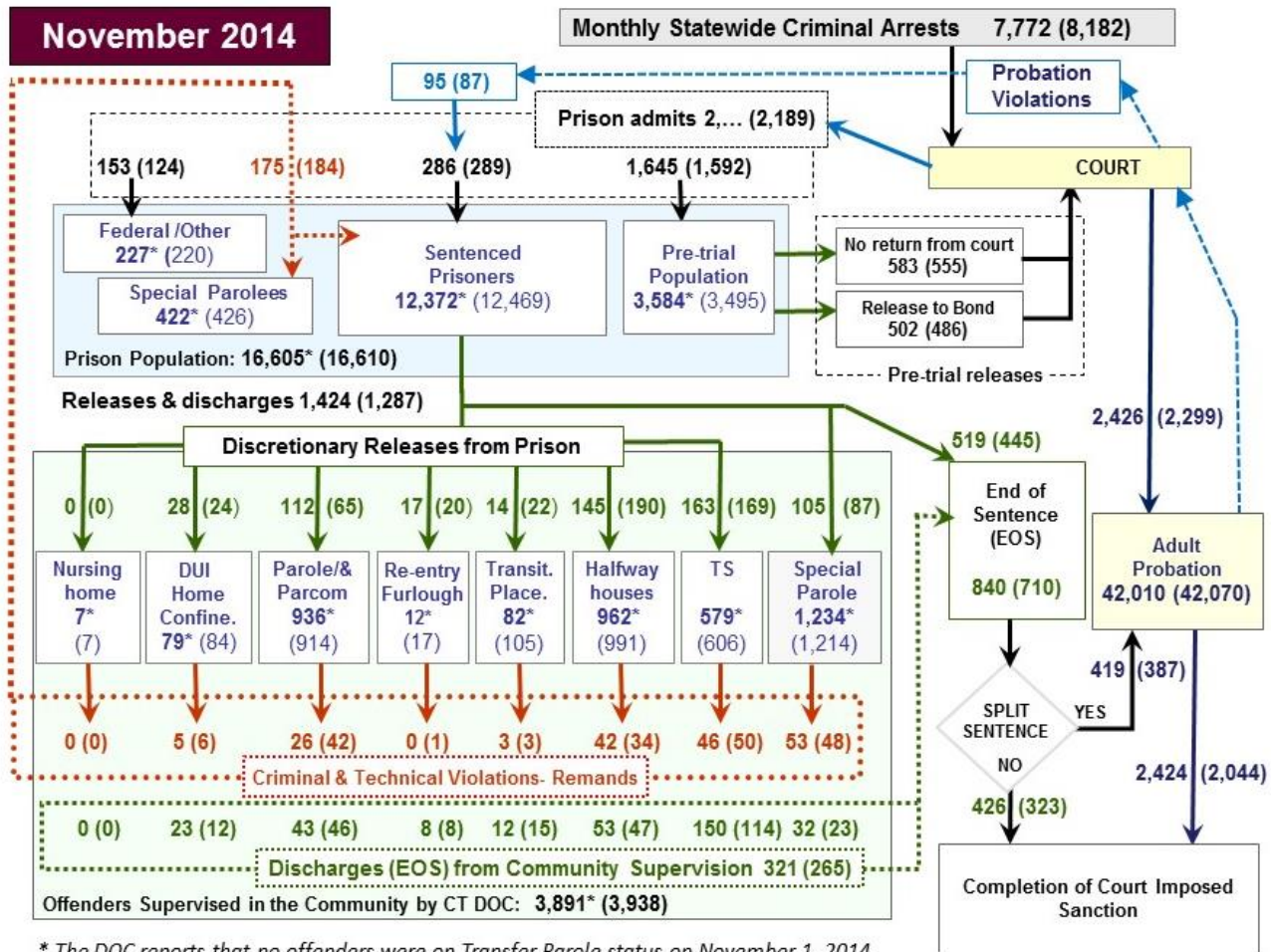
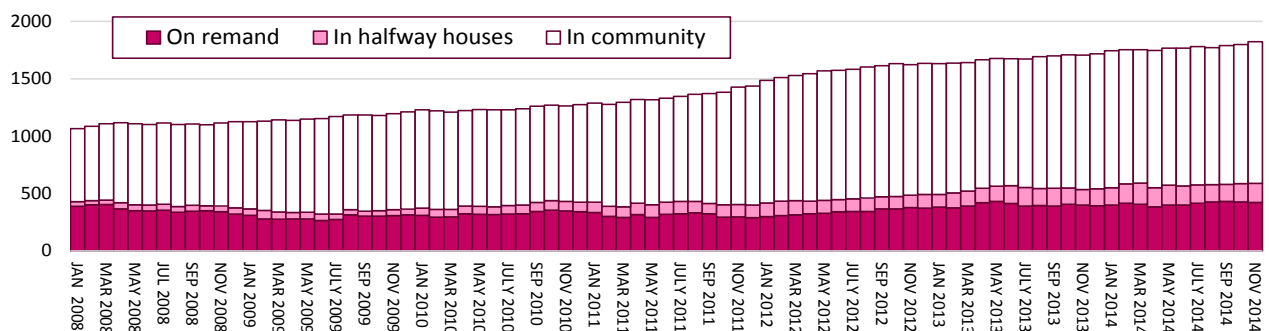


Chart 2 contains monthly, operations data for October 2014 and daily counts reported on November 1, 2014. Figures followed by asterisks (*) indicate the daily count on the first day of November. Last month's figures are enclosed by parentheses. Sources: Arrests - OBTS, Court and probation data - CSSD, all other data - CT DOC.

Chart 2a – Special parole, an increasingly used option in the courts



In recent years, OPM has reported on significant declines for some important criminal justice measures. Statewide arrests have been dropping, so too have general parole and probation caseloads. The number of crime reports are also down as are the number of people being admitted to prison. One indicator, however, has bucked this general trend: the number of offenders on special parole status continues to grow. Between January 2008 and November 2014, the number of offenders on special parole status grew by 71%.

Judges and prosecutors appear to be increasingly turning to special parole, instead of probation, as a post-incarceration community supervision option. Ostensibly designed to provide authorities with a simpler, more-straightforward mechanism to remand offenders than the probation violation process, special parole is putting greater demands on DOC's capacity to manage offenders in the community. In July 2013, the number of special parolees surpassed the number of general parolees for the first time ever. Since then, the gap has widened (see chart 8).

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

	2014	2014	2014	2013	% Change	
	Sept. 1	Oct. 1	Nov. 1	Nov. 1	Monthly	Annual
DOC Facilities						
Federal/Other	220	220	227	185	3.2%	22.7%
Sentenced	12,364	12,469	12,372	12,700	-0.8%	-2.6%
Special Parole	430	426	422	400	-0.9%	5.5%
Pre-trial	3,563	3,495	3,584	3,818	2.5%	-6.1%
Total	16,577	16,610	16,605	17,103	0.0%	-2.9%
DOC Community						
Transfer Parole	0	0	0	4	-	-
Parole/ Parcom Total	946	914	936	1,092	2.4%	-14.3%
Parole	785	754	774	927	2.7%	-16.5%
Parcom @ CT	161	160	162	165	1.3%	-1.8%
Furlough	9	17	12	24	-	-
Trans Placement	111	105	82	71	-21.9%	15.5%
DUI/Home confine.	84	84	79	107	-6.0%	-26.2%
Halfway House Total	940	991	962	948	-2.9%	1.5%
Comm Release	706	738	709	694	-3.9%	2.2%
TS	31	32	24	32	-25.0%	-25.0%
Parole	53	62	63	87	1.6%	-27.6%
Transfer Parole	0	0	0	0	-	-
Special Parole	150	159	166	135	4.4%	23.0%
TS Total	624	606	579	694	-4.5%	-16.6%
Nursing home	8	7	7	2	-	-
Special Parole	1,209	1,214	1,234	1,170	1.6%	5.5%
Total	3,931	3,938	3,891	4,112	-1.2%	-5.4%

Table 3 – Admissions, releases & discharges*

	2014	2014	2014	2013	% Change	
	August	Sept.	Oct.	Oct.	Monthly	Annual
Admissions						
Federal/Other	107	124	153	122	23.4%	25.4%
Remands	172	184	175	188	-4.9%	-6.9%
Trans.Parole / DUI	5	6	5	3	-	-
Parole	32	42	26	34	-38.1%	-23.5%
Trans Plac/Furlough	5	4	3	5	-	-
HWH	34	34	42	41	23.5%	2.4%
TS	40	50	46	42	-8.0%	9.5%
Special Parole	56	48	53	63	10.4%	-15.9%
New Sentence	260	289	286	346	-1.0%	-17.3%
VOP	69	87	95	97	9.2%	-2.1%
Pre-trial	1,611	1,592	1,645	1,627	3.3%	1.1%
Total	2,150	2,189	2,259	2,283	3.2%	-1.1%
Releases and discharges						
Transfer Parole	0	0	0	0	-	-
Parole	80	65	112	109	72.3%	2.8%
Furlough	9	20	17	24	-15.0%	-29.2%
Trans. Placement	30	22	14	38	-36.4%	-63.2%
Home Confinement DUI	20	24	28	33	16.7%	-15.2%
HWH	183	190	145	147	-23.7%	-1.4%
TS	162	169	163	262	-3.6%	-37.8%
Special Parole	90	87	105	103	20.7%	1.9%
Nursing home	1	0	0	0	-	-
End of Sentence	744	710	840	810	18.3%	3.7%
Total	1,319	1,287	1,424	1,526	10.6%	-6.7%
Pre-trial Releases*						
No return from Court	571	555	583	701	5.0%	-16.8%
Release to Bond	500	486	502	475	3.3%	5.7%

* Totals reflect events not individuals.

Board of Pardons and Paroles

Table 4a – Inmates with sentences > 24 months

	Parole-eligible	Not eligible
Sept	8,337	859
Oct.	8,342	862
Nov.	8,313	864

Table 4b – Parole hearings, new cases

	Paroles			Paroles	
	Parole Hearings	granted, 2014	Grant rate	granted, 2013	granted, 2012
Aug	186	141	76%	124	151
Sept.	210	151	72%	128	104
Oct.	171	110	64%	125	93

Table 4c – Other parole actions

	Reparole from revocation	Reparole from rescission	Closed interest cases	Special parole cases
August	25	7	53	42
Sept.	49	8	43	54
Oct.	45	4	40	58

Pre-trial detainees

Table 5 – Bond ranges for pre-trial detainees

Bond amount	Sept. 1, 2014	Oct. 1, 2014	Nov. 1, 2014	Nov. 1, 2013
Less than \$20K	687	688	698	664
\$20K to < \$50K	658	633	611	630
\$50K to < \$100K	729	753	782	791
\$100K or higher	1,511	1,530	1,519	1,732
Over \$1M	188	196	204	208
Offenders w/bonds	3,585	3,604	3,610	3,817

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

Weeks since last DOC admit	Sept. 1, 2014	Oct. 1, 2014	Nov. 1, 2014	Nov. 1, 2013
< 1 week	511	516	476	420
1 to < 3 weeks	412	412	403	395
3 to < 10 weeks	1,005	1,005	981	1,023
10 to < 30 weeks	953	953	1,040	1,179
30 wks or more	707	707	715	805
Pre-trial prisoners	3,588	3,593	3,615	3,822

Court Support Services Division

Table 6 – The Jail Re-interview Program

	Offenders interviewed	Offenders released	Releases last year
August	1,619	834	998
Sept.	1,731	897	946
Oct.	1,756	706	1,081

Table 7 – Pre-Trial & split-sentence starts

	Pre-trial Case Starts	Bail Client Supv. Starts	Split Sentence Starts
August	2,620	2,067	390
Sept.	2,669	2,299	387
Oct.	2,581	2,426	419

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

Chart 3 – Prison population

November 1, 2014 to November 7, 2014

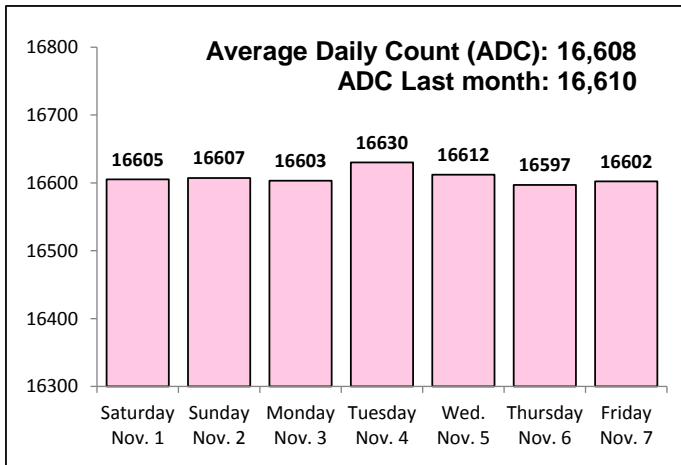


Chart 6 – Monthly DOC Admissions

September 2013 through October 2014

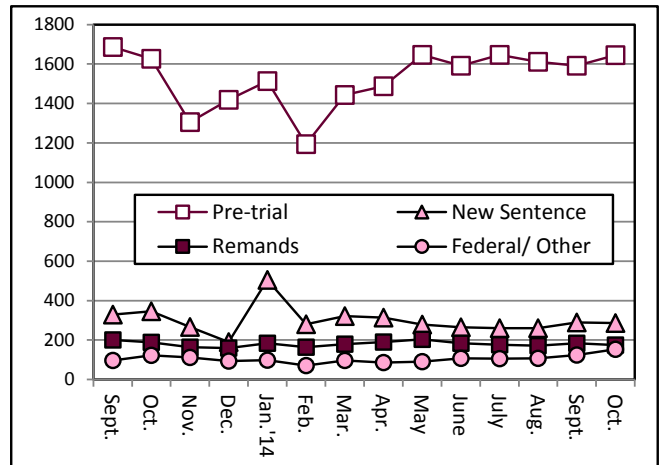


Chart 4 – Prison population, first-of-month

2013 and 2014

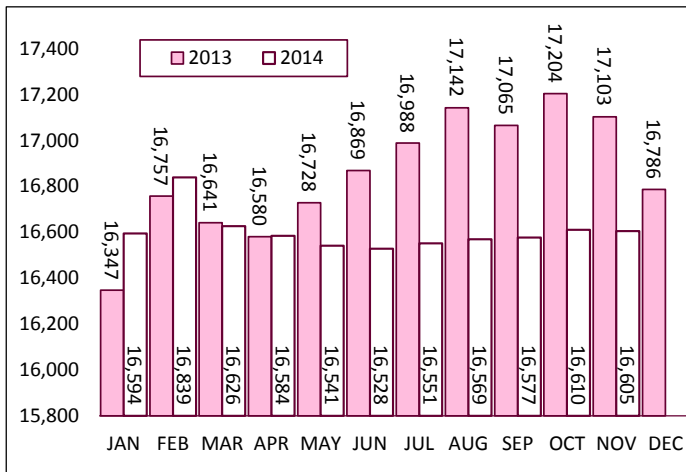


Chart 7– Remands from community release

October 2014

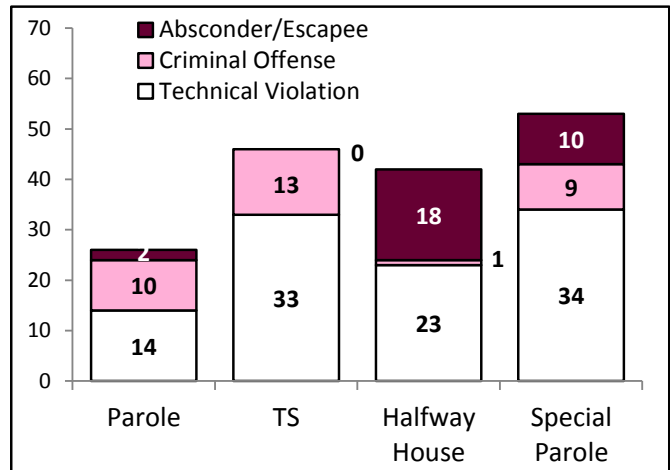


Chart 5 – Statewide criminal arrests

2013 versus 2014

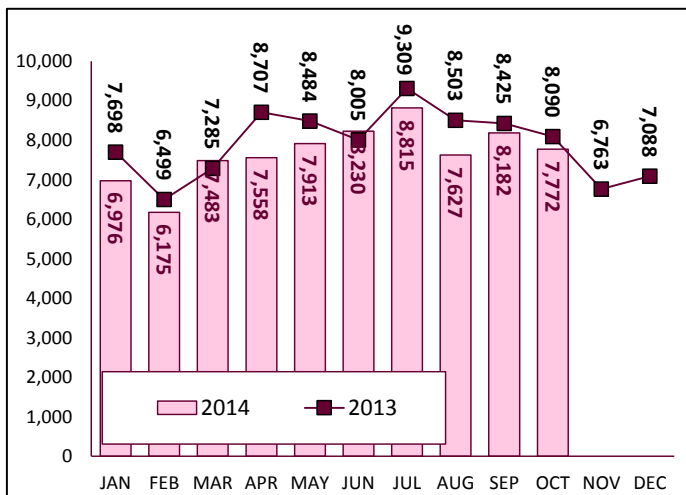
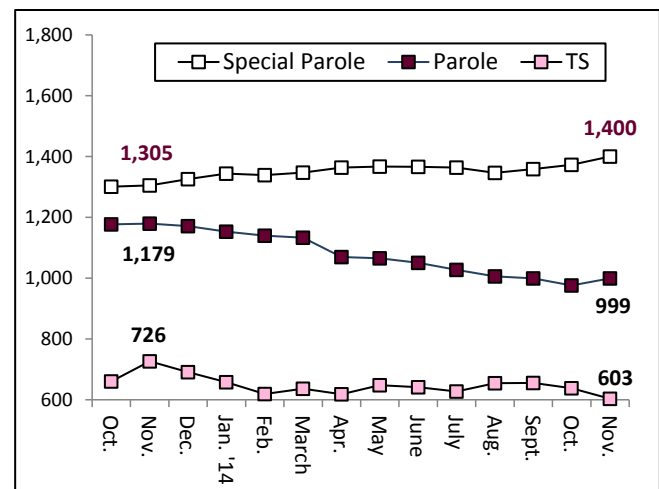


Chart 8 – DOC community supervision

October 1, 2013 through November 1, 2014



Note: Data for all charts, with the exception of Chart 5, was supplied by CT DOC. Data for Chart 5 is based on new case starts in the state Offender-Based Tracking System (OBTS). Chart 8 includes offenders in halfway houses.