

OPM - Criminal Justice Policy & Planning Division

Monthly Indicators Report

Highlights

- 15,527 people were incarcerated in Connecticut prisons and jails on April 1, 2016. A year ago, the prison count stood at 16,198.
- Last month, this paper observed that on a March-to-March basis, the number of offenders supervised in the community by the DOC had increased by 10%. By centralizing re-entry review and approval the DOC appears to have squeezed some long-standing inefficiency out of the process. On an April-to-April basis the number of offenders supervised in the community is up 12% (see table 2).
- The number of statewide arrests, court arraignments and pre-trial admissions to prison were all up in March compared to February. Despite this, the prison population dropped by almost 150 prisoners during the month.
- Based on an analysis of movement data provided by the MIS Unit at CT DOC, OPM estimates that roughly one-in-five prisoners (19.5%) either enters or leaves the sentenced-prison population each month (see chart 2a). During March, the total sentenced population declined by just 0.8% (see table 2).
- As reported last month, state agencies continue to grapple with the implications of a severe budget shortfall. All state criminal justice agencies are currently reassessing programmatic and policy priorities in the face of imminent reductions in force.
- The Board of Pardons and Paroles is preparing to insure that every parolee remanded for a technical violation is provided with a preliminary hearing within 14 days. This change should have a positive impact on operations.

Prison Population Forecast

The prison population for the first week of April was 87 prisoners below what OPM projected in February. This is positive news.

Between March 1 and April 1, the prison population declined from 15,691 to 15,527, a reduction of 164 prisoners. This decline of approximately 1% of the prison population, is the second largest month-of-March drop in the prison population in the last 20 years.

Over the past year, community supervision caseloads have increased substantially. The number of offenders on parole is up 21% since 2015. Offenders supervised on TS are up 10% (see table 2).

There are indications that caseloads may edge up still further in the near term.

Compared to last March, parole releases in 2016 are up 35%. TS releases during the same period are up 21% (see table 3).

Improved performance at the Board of Pardons and Paroles and system-wide coordination over DOC re-entry processing, by CRU, appear to be delivering more re-entry-eligible offenders to the point where they are ready for community placements more quickly. Fewer delays in placements correspond to fewer prison-days days expended and a lower prison count. The challenge now resides with DOC's Parole and Community Services unit to manage increased offender flows onto their caseloads.

TABLE 1 – Prison Population Forecast

	Avg. Daily Count	OPM 2015 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	-	15,579	-
JUN	-	15,567	-
JUL	-	15,588	-
AUG	-	15,605	-
SEP	-	15,613	-
OCT	-	15,644	-
NOV	-	15,639	-
DEC	-	15,480	-
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

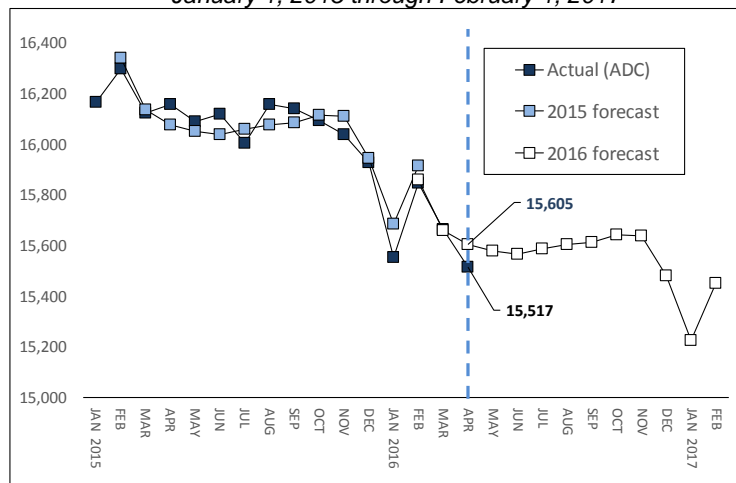
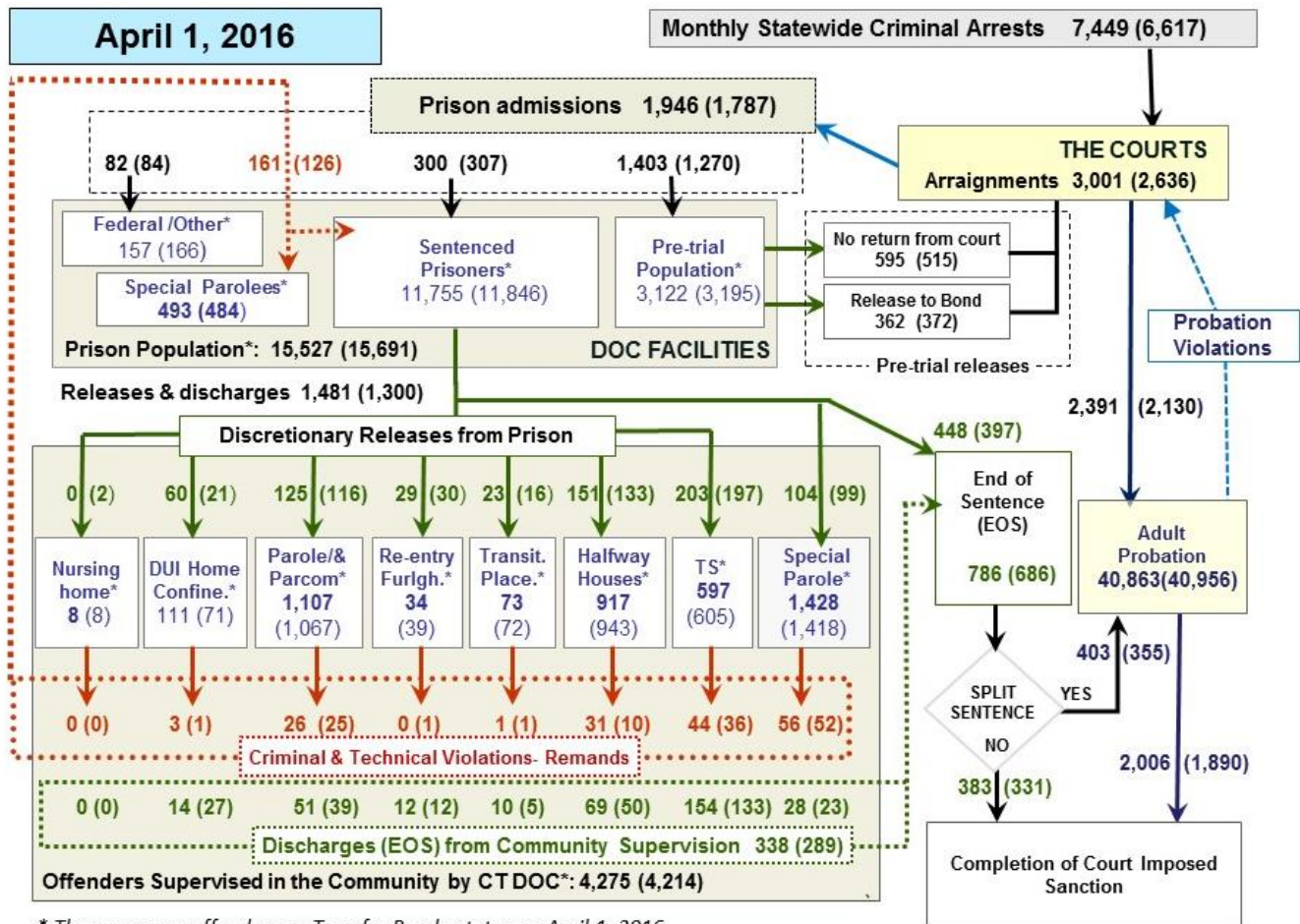


Chart 2 - Criminal justice, monthly counts and flows

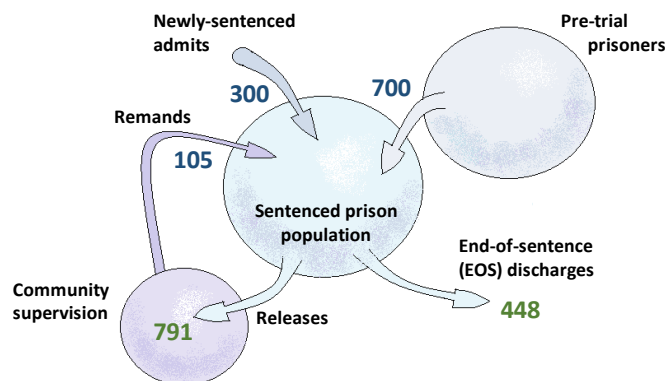


* There were no offenders on Transfer Parole status on April 1, 2016.

Chart 2 contains monthly operations data for March 2016 and daily counts reported on April 1, 2016. Asterisks (*) indicate the daily count on April 1st. Last month's figures are enclosed by parentheses. Sources: Arrests - OBTS, Court and probation data - CSSD, all other data - CT DOC.

Chart 2a – Churn among the DOC's sentenced population, March 2016

On March 1, 2016, there were 11,846 sentenced prisoners in CT DOC facilities. A month later, on April 1, 2016, there were 11,755, a drop of 95 inmates. Monthly totals like these, though useful, fail to capture the constant, and significant, movement and change taking place within the sentenced population.



Balancing these 1,250 releases and discharges were approximately 1,100 additions to the sentenced-prison population. These 1,100 offenders were either newly sentenced or had been remanded to custody.

Although the total sentenced population dropped by 95 during the month of March, almost 800 sentenced prisoners were released from prison during March to serve out the remainder of their sentences in community supervision programs. Another 450, or so, were discharged at the end of their sentences (EOS).

During March, approximately 2,300 offenders - out of a population of roughly 11,800 sentenced prisoners - either entered or left the sentenced prison population. In other words, one in five sentenced prisoners was replaced during March, a monthly churn rate of 19.5%.

Table 2 – The first-of-month totals

	2016	2016	2016	2015	% Change	
	Feb. 1	Mar. 1	Apr. 1	Apr. 1	Monthly	Annual
DOC Facilities						
Federal/Other	165	166	157	134	-5.4%	17.2%
Sentenced	11,883	11,846	11,755	12,296	-0.8%	-4.4%
Special Parole	488	484	493	543	1.9%	-9.2%
Pre-trial	3,324	3,195	3,122	3,225	-2.3%	-3.2%
Total	15,860	15,691	15,527	16,198	-1.0%	-4.1%
DOC Community						
Transfer Parole	0	0	0	0	-	-
Parole/ Parcom Total	1,040	1,067	1,107	911	3.7%	21.5%
Parole	863	888	925	746	4.2%	24.0%
Parcom @ CT	177	179	182	165	1.7%	10.3%
Furlough	40	39	34	10	-	-
Trans Placement	66	72	73	71	1.4%	2.8%
DUI/Home confine.	82	71	111	83	56.3%	33.7%
Halfway House Total	891	934	917	939	-1.8%	-2.3%
Comm Release	465	478	449	637	-6.1%	-29.5%
TS	45	41	44	26	7.3%	69.2%
Parole	132	151	150	79	-0.7%	89.9%
Transfer Parole	0	0	0	0	-	-
Special Parole	249	264	274	197	3.8%	39.1%
TS	588	605	597	542	-1.3%	10.1%
Nursing home	6	8	8	6	-	-
Special Parole	1,412	1,418	1,428	1,254	0.7%	13.9%
Total	4,125	4,214	4,275	3,816	1.4%	12.0%

Table 3 – Admissions, releases & discharges*

	2016	2016	2016	2015	% Change	
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Mar.	Monthly	Annual
Admissions						
Federal/Other	107	84	82	89	-2.4%	-7.9%
Remands	181	126	161	161	27.8%	0.0%
DUI	3	1	3	3	-	-
Parole	33	25	26	41	4.0%	-36.6%
Trans Plac/Furlough	0	2	1	3	-	-
HWH	33	10	31	23	210.0%	34.8%
TS	42	36	44	45	22.2%	-2.2%
Special Parole	70	52	56	46	7.7%	21.7%
New Sentence	447	307	300	323	-2.3%	-7.1%
VOP	127	81	105	105	29.6%	0.0%
Pre-trial	1441	1270	1403	1498	10.5%	-6.3%
Total	2,176	1,787	1,946	2,071	8.9%	-6.0%
Releases and discharges						
Transfer Parole	0	0	0	0	-	-
Parole	109	116	125	92	7.8%	35.9%
Furlough	28	30	29	8	-3.3%	262.5%
Trans. Placement	31	16	23	25	43.8%	-8.0%
Home Confinement DUI	30	21	60	32	185.7%	87.5%
HWH	105	133	151	136	13.5%	11.0%
TS	178	197	203	165	3.0%	23.0%
Special Parole	113	99	104	87	5.1%	19.5%
Nursing home	0	2	0	1	-	-
End of Sentence	670	686	786	730	14.6%	7.7%
Total	1,264	1,300	1,481	1,276	13.9%	16.1%
Pre-trial Releases*						
From Court	497	515	595	531	15.5%	12.1%
Release to Bond	323	372	362	443	-2.7%	-18.3%

* Totals reflect events, not individual offenders

Table 3a – Community Release Unit metrics

	Cases				Approval	
	Reviewed	Approved	Denied	Continued	Rate	
Jan.	743	344	123	126	46%	
Feb.	917	448	130	137	49%	
Mar.	1023	530	131	163	52%	

Board of Pardons and Paroles

Table 4 – Parole hearings, new cases

	Paroles granted, 2015			Paroles granted, 1 year ago	
	Parole Hearings	Paroles granted, 2015	Grant rate	Paroles granted, 1 year ago	Paroles granted, 2 years ago
Jan. '16	164	102	62%	81	96
Feb.	183	108	59%	88	103
Mar.	167	93	56%	67	78

Table 4a – Other Board actions

	Reparole from revocation		Reparole from rescission		Closed interest cases		Special parole cases	
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Jan.	Feb.
Jan.	37	41	48	5	6	7	41	13
Feb.	41	48	37	6	7	5	23	45
Mar.	48	37	41	7	5	6	41	45

The pre-trial population

Table 5 – Bond ranges for pre-trial detainees

Bond amount	Feb. 1, 2016	Mar. 1, 2016	Apr. 1, 2016	April 1, 2015
Less than \$20K	560	519	503	573
\$20K to < \$50K	561	556	509	558
\$50K to < \$100K	718	688	637	687
\$100K or higher	1,502	1,495	1,537	1,473
Offenders w/bonds	3,341	3,258	3,186	3,291
Over \$1M	167	165	161	186

Table 5a – Pre-trial, weeks since admission

Weeks since last DOC admit	Feb. 1, 2016	Mar. 1, 2016	April 1, 2016	April 1, 2015
< 1 week	545	386	382	435
1 to < 3 weeks	389	343	363	391
3 to < 10 weeks	773	903	831	731
10 to < 30 weeks	937	911	918	943
30 wks or more	700	718	695	797
Pre-trial prisoners	3,344	3,261	3,189	3,297

Table 5b – Pre-trial admits, new offenders

	Dec. 2015	Jan. 2016	Feb. 2016	Mar. 2016
Arraignments	2,901	2,860	2,636	3,001
Pre-trial Admits	1,358	1,441	1,270	1,403
New to DOC	402	355	342	362
% New	30%	25%	27%	26%

Court Support Services Division

Table 6 – The Jail Re-interview Program

	Pre-trial admissions	Offender interviews	Offenders released	Releases last year
Jan. '16	1,441	1,656	872	888
Feb.	1,270	1,554	776	754
Mar.	1,403	1,678	856	868

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

	Pre-trial Bail Case Starts		Client Supv. Starts		Split Sentence Starts	
	Jan. '15	Feb.	Jan. '15	Feb.	Jan. '15	Feb.
Jan. '15	2,403	2,162	2,320	2,130	376	355
Feb.	2,162	2,477	2,391	2,391	403	403
Mar.	2,477	2,162	2,391	2,391	403	403

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

Chart 3 – Prison population

First week of the month, and ADC

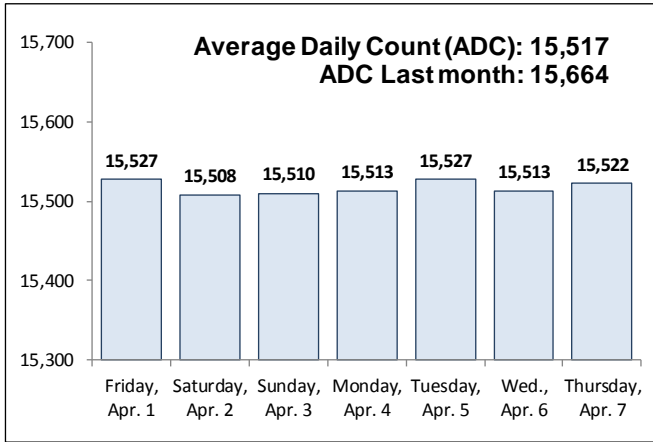


Chart 6 – Monthly DOC Admissions

February 2015 through March 2016

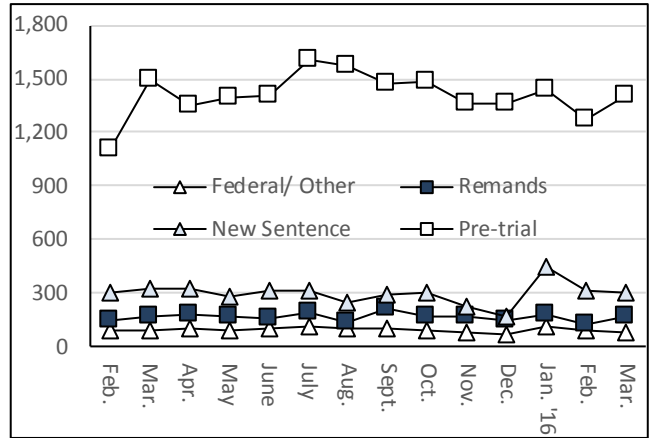


Chart 4 – Prison population, first-of-month

2014, 2015 and 2016

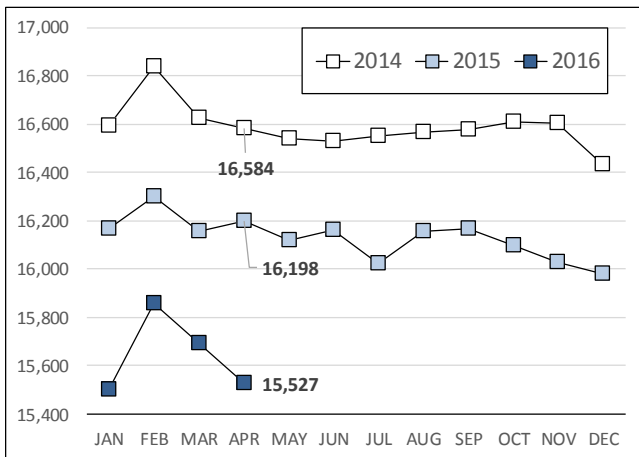


Chart 7 – Remands from community release

March 2016

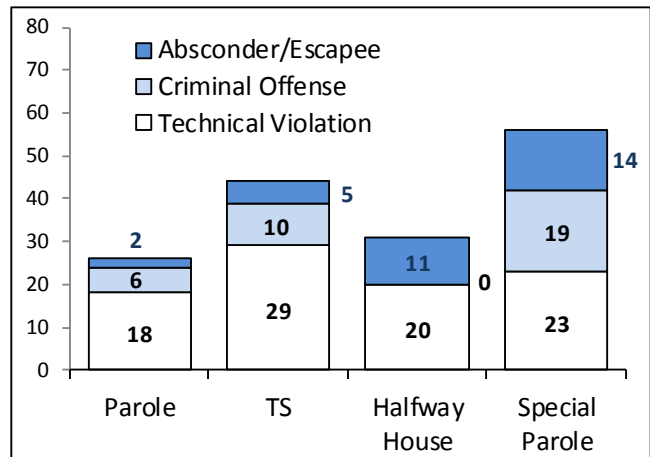


Chart 5 – Statewide criminal arrests

2015 and 2016

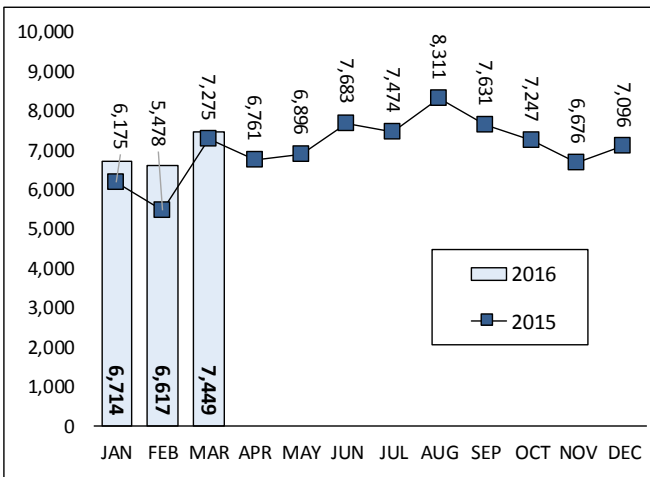
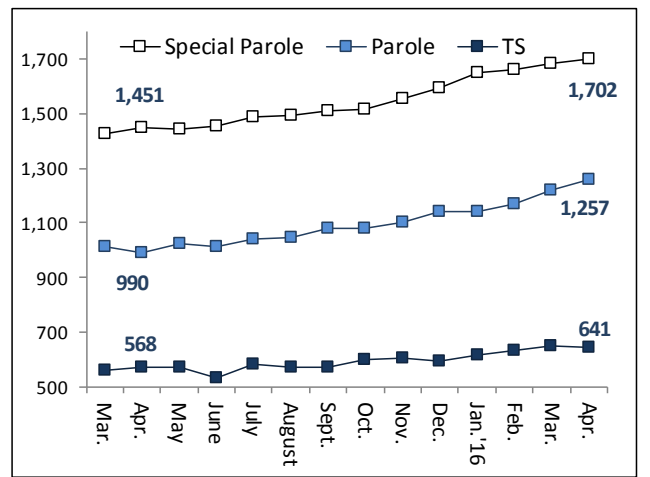


Chart 8 – DOC community supervision

March 1, 2015 through April 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.