

OPM - Criminal Justice Policy & Planning Division

Monthly Indicators Report

Highlights

- On March 1st there were 13,348 inmates in Connecticut prisons and jails, down nearly 100 inmates from the previous month. During February the sentenced, pretrial and special parole populations all declined.
- Chart 3, on page 4, illustrates the ebb and flow of the prison population over the course of a week. During a typical week, the population peaks on Tuesday and declines through to Saturday. These daily fluctuations are the reason why OPM began to calculate the average of the daily count on the first seven days of the month and use this calculation in its annual forecasts.
- While remands to custody were down significantly in February compared to January, a look at the longer term trend in remands shows that remand policy at the DOC's office of Parole and Community Supervision has been relatively stable in recent years. Not including remands to TOP, PCS remanded 1,812 offenders in 2017 and 1,798 offenders in 2018, a 0.8% reduction.
- This month chart 2a compares the return-to-prison, recidivism rates of pretrial compared to sentenced offenders. Ninety-nine percent of people admitted to jail on pre-trial status either 1) post bond 2) are released from court, or 2 become sentenced prisoners. Among these groups, the bond group returned to prison at the highest rate.
- The number of special parolees continues in the DOC's contracted halfway house network continues to edge upwards. On March 1st 390 halfway house beds were occupied by special parolees, an increase of 18% from 2018.

Prison Population Forecast

OPM's 2019 prison population forecast is off to a good start – a hopeful early sign that this year's estimate will reflect events better than last year's. Given that no significant pieces of legislation or policy that could impact the prison population have emerged, seasonal factors and operational dynamics within the DOC should drive the inmate count in the coming year.

One possible way to drive efficiencies in the prison system might be to address the myriad of release mechanisms at the DOC. A look at "Releases and Discharges" in chart 2 reveals how much complexity is built into existing offender release and discharge structures. Streamlining could unleash greater efficiencies in this area that could very well translate into a lower prison count. CRU unit demonstrated that internal process changes can yield massive dividends. Applying a similar approach to the release process might move offenders to appropriate release more quickly and effectively.

TABLE 1 – Prison Population Forecast

	Avg. Daily Count	OPM 2019 Forecast	Inmate difference
JAN '19	13,259	-	-
FEB	13,436	13,400	-
MAR	13,352	13,298	-54
APR		13,293	-
MAY		13,208	-
JUN		13,205	-
JUL		13,177	-
AUG		13,207	-
SEP		13,204	-
OCT		13,183	-
NOV		13,131	-
DEC		13,094	-
JAN '20		12,940	-
FEB		13,090	-

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

OPM's current projection is cautious in forecasting the rate at which the state's prison population will contract. If the forecast proves to be accurate the prison population, at year's end, will settle in a range not seen since 1993, a period when the state was rapidly expanding its prison capacity.

Chart 1 – Actual prison population against the OPM forecasts
January 1, 2017 through February 1, 2019

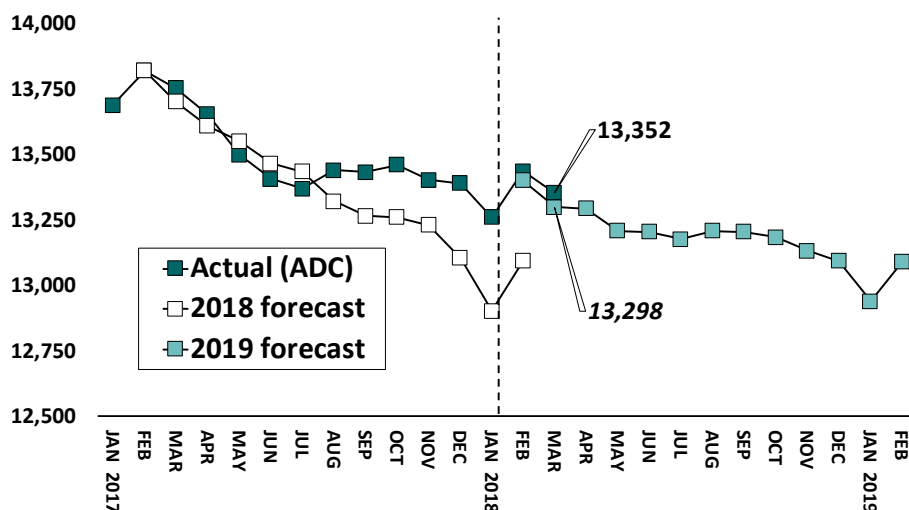


Chart 2 - Criminal justice, monthly counts and flows

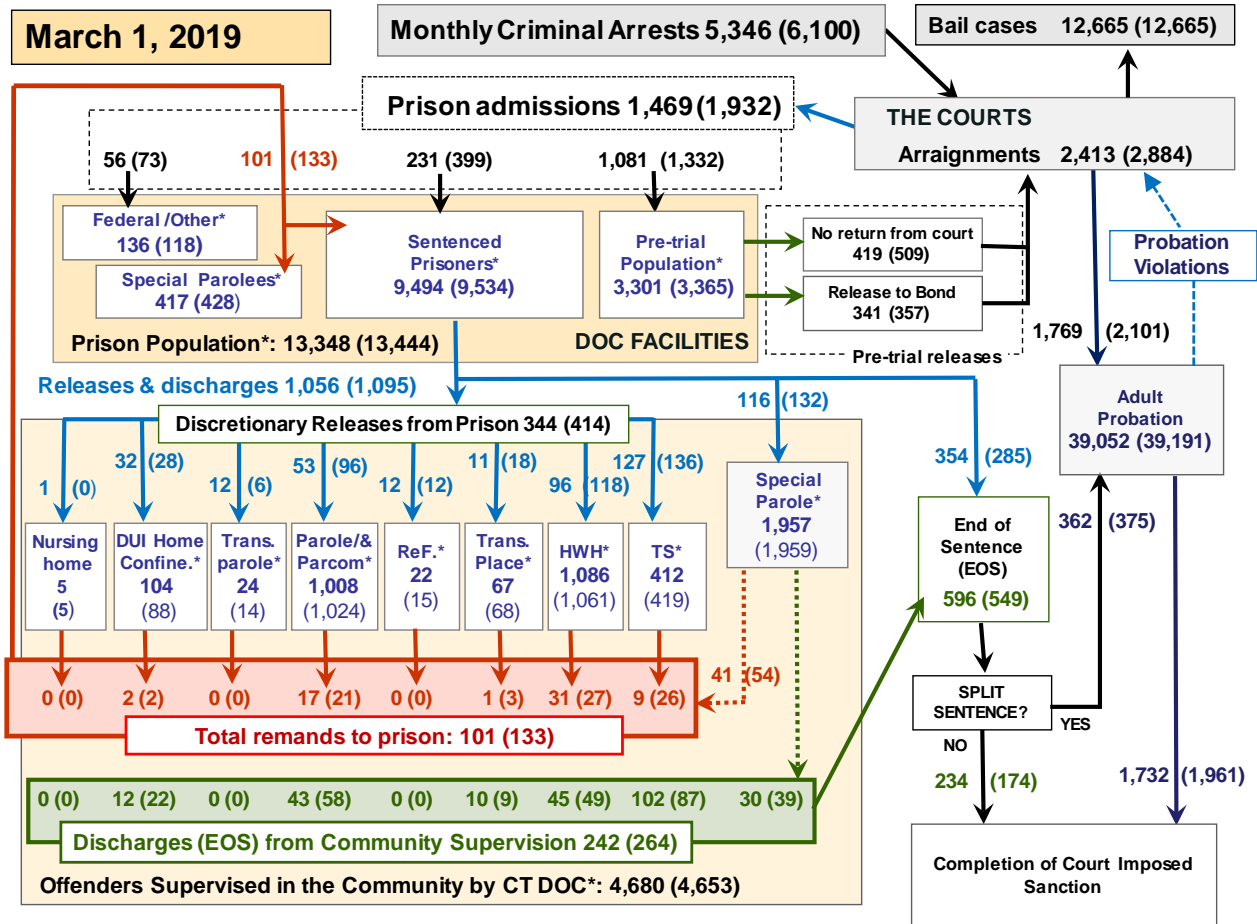
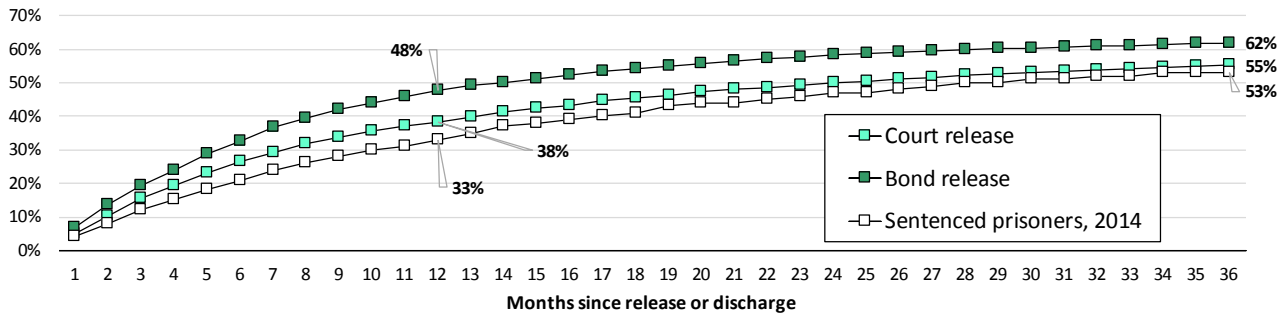


Chart 2 contains monthly operations data for February 2019 and daily counts reported on Mar. 1, 2019. Asterisks (*) indicate the daily count on Mar. 1st. Figures for last month are enclosed by parentheses. Sources: Arrests – CRMVS, Court and probation data - CSSD, all other data - CT DOC. Note: Some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

Chart 2a – Recidivism among pre-trial and sentenced prisoner cohorts



OPM recently completed an analysis of recidivism rates among pre-trial detainees who were admitted to a CT DOC facility during 2015. Approximately 99% of pre-trial detainees, admitted in 2014, either a) bonded out from jail b) were released at court, or c) transitioned to sentenced status.

OPM generally tracks four measures of recidivism. For this population, however, only one recidivism measure – return to prison – was tracked. OPM will be following up with a more detailed analysis of this pre-trial cohort in an upcoming report.

The chart above compares return-to-prison rates for three groups of prisoners - pretrial prisoners who bonded out of jail, pretrial detainees released at court, and sentenced prisoners who were released or discharged in 2014. Pretrial prisoners, especially those who bonded out had the highest return rate, especially during the first year after release - 15% higher than sentenced releases.

Taking the broad view, all three groups display similar patterns over a three year arc, suggesting these populations are more alike than different. They are likely comprised of individuals with similar exposure to criminal justice sanctions.

Board of Pardons and Paroles

Table 4 - Parole hearings, new cases

	Parole Hearings	Paroles granted	Grant rate	Paroles granted, 2017	Paroles granted, 2016
Dec.	140	74	53%	87	95
Jan. '19	117	65	56%	87	77
Feb.	138	83	60%	77	100

Table 4a - Other BOPP actions

	Reparole from revocation	Reparole from rescission	Closed interest cases	Special parole cases	Transfer parole cases
Dec.	36	0	14	35	6
Jan. '19	43	2	28	18	15
Feb.	30	1	15	34	10
Feb. '18	41	3	13	24	11

The pre-trial population

Table 5 - Bond ranges for pre-trial detainees

Bond amount	Jan. 1, 2019	Feb. 1, 2019	Mar. 1, 2019	Mar. 1, 2018
Less than \$20K	558	531	510	501
\$20K to < \$50K	502	467	450	467
\$50K to < \$100K	661	630	635	678
\$100K or higher	1,817	1,858	1,829	1,676
Persons w/bonds	3,538	3,486	3,424	3,322
Over \$1M	201	196	198	188

Table 5a - Pre-trial, weeks since admission

Weeks since last DOC admit	Jan. 1, 2019	Feb. 1, 2019	Mar. 1, 2019	Mar. 1, 2018
< 1 week	336	368	367	416
1 to < 3 weeks	373	331	277	274
3 to < 10 weeks	825	852	799	770
10 to < 30 weeks	1,038	1,008	1,026	993
30 wks or more	971	933	959	870
Pre-trial prisoners	3,543	3,492	3,428	3,323

Table 5b - Pre-trial admits, new offenders

	Dec. 2018	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2019	Feb. 2018
Arraignments	2,474	2,884	2,413	2,446
Pre-trial Admits	1,210	1,332	1,081	1,143
New to DOC	266	380	295	298
% New	22%	29%	27%	26%

Court Support Services Division

Table 6 - The Jail Re-interview Program

	Pre-trial admissions	Offender interviews	Offenders released	Released last year
Dec.	1,210	832	303	330
Jan. '19	1,332	973	324	301
Feb.	1,081	827	325	311

Table 6a - Pre-trial bail and probation caseloads

	Pre-trial Bail Case Starts	Client Supv. Starts	Split Sentence Starts	Pre-trial bail cases
Dec.	2,050*	1,718	365	12,665*
Jan. '19	2,050*	2,101	375	12,665*
Feb.	2,050*	1,769	362	12,665*
Feb. '18	2,080*	1,728	353	12,670*

* 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.

Table 2 - First-of-month totals

	2018	2019	2019	2018	% Change	
	Jan. 1	Feb. 1	Mar. 1	Mar. 1	Monthly	Annual
DOC Facilities						
Federal/Other	107	118	136	137	15.3%	-0.7%
Sentenced	9,270	9,534	9,494	9,968	-0.4%	-4.8%
Special Parole	450	428	417	469	-2.6%	-11.1%
Pre-trial	3,401	3,365	3,301	3,177	-1.9%	3.9%
Total	13,228	13,445	13,348	13,751	-0.7%	-2.9%
DOC Community						
Transfer Parole	37	14	24	20	71.4%	20.0%
Parole/ Parcom Total	1,014	1,024	1,003	1,088	-2.1%	-7.8%
Parole	844	857	835	927	-2.6%	-9.9%
Parcom @ CT	170	167	168	161	0.6%	4.3%
Furlough	17	15	22	9	-	-
Trans Placement	69	68	67	58	-1.5%	15.5%
DUI/Home confine.	91	88	104	86	18.2%	20.9%
Halfway House Total	1,040	1,061	1,086	1,062	2.4%	2.3%
Comm Release	509	514	510	527	-0.8%	-3.2%
TS	23	28	35	54	25.0%	-35.2%
Parole	162	163	148	151	-9.2%	-2.0%
Transfer Parole	6	2	3	1	-	-
Special Parole	340	354	390	329	10.2%	18.5%
TS	431	419	412	493	-1.7%	-16.4%
Nursing home	5	5	5	7	-	-
Special Parole	1,945	1,959	1,957	1,824	-0.1%	7.3%
Total	4,649	4,653	4,680	4,650	0.6%	0.6%

Table 2a - Monthly admissions, releases & discharges

	2018	2019	2019	2018	% Change	
	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Feb.	Monthly	Annual
Admissions						
Federal/Other	44	73	56	56	-23.3%	0.0%
Remands	119	133	101	132	-24.1%	-23.5%
DUI	2	2	2	5	-	-
Parole	17	21	17	23	-19.0%	-26.1%
Trans Plac/Furlough	4	3	1	0	-	-
HWH	38	27	31	25	14.8%	24.0%
TS	9	26	9	23	-65.4%	-60.9%
Special Parole	49	54	41	56	-24.1%	-26.8%
New Sentence	114	399	231	232	-42.1%	-0.4%
VOP	27	101	66	76	-34.7%	-13.2%
Pre-trial	1,210	1,332	1,081	1,143	-18.8%	-5.4%
Total	1,487	1,937	1,469	1,563	-24.2%	-6.0%
Releases and discharges						
Transfer Parole	3	6	12	12	-	-
Parole	81	96	53	77	-44.8%	-31.2%
Furlough	15	12	12	9	-	-
Trans. Placement	31	18	11	27	-38.9%	-59.3%
Home Confinement DUI	16	28	32	29	14.3%	10.3%
HWH	156	118	96	106	-18.6%	-9.4%
TS	138	136	127	117	-6.6%	8.5%
Special Parole	106	132	116	124	-12.1%	-6.5%
Nursing home	0	0	1	1	-	-
End of Sentence	590	549	596	572	8.6%	4.2%
Total	1,136	1,095	1,056	1,074	-3.6%	-1.7%
Pre-trial Releases*						
From Court	448	509	419	441	-17.7%	-5.0%
Release to Bond	352	357	341	376	-4.5%	-9.3%

* Totals include transfers, not individual releases

DOC Community Release Unit (CRU)

Table 3 - Case reviews and release metrics

	Cases				Approval
	Reviewed	Approved	Denied	Continued	Rate
Dec.	610	281	99	105	46%
Jan. '19	695	332	106	101	48%
Feb.	636	290	85	97	46%
Feb. '18	634	304	114	78	48%

Chart 3 – Prison population

First week of the month, avg. daily count (ADC)

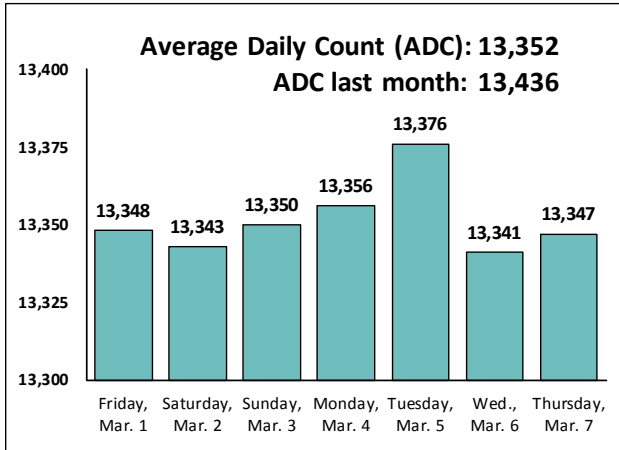


Chart 6 – Monthly DOC Admissions

Jan. 2018 through Feb. 2019

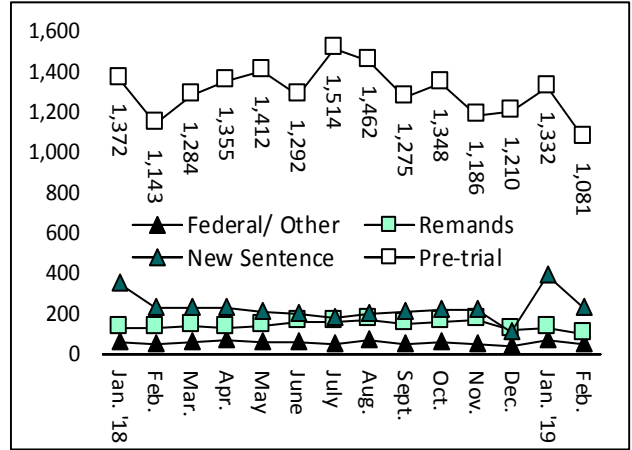


Chart 4 – Prison population, first-of-month

2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019

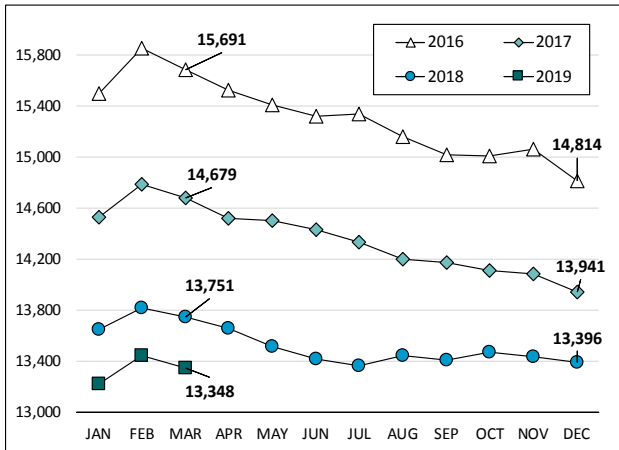


Chart 7– Remands from community release

February 2019

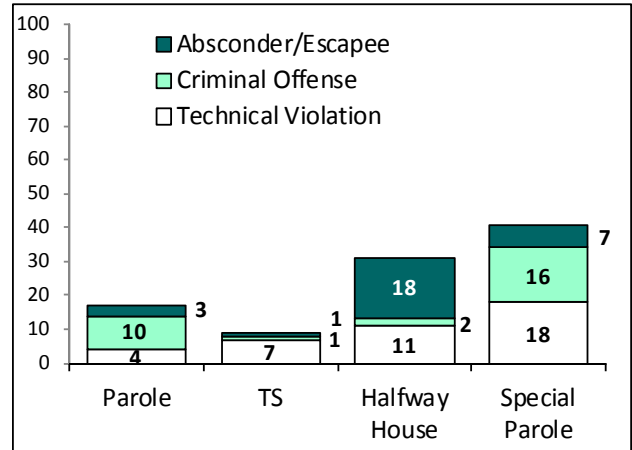


Chart 5 – Statewide criminal arrests

2018 and 2019

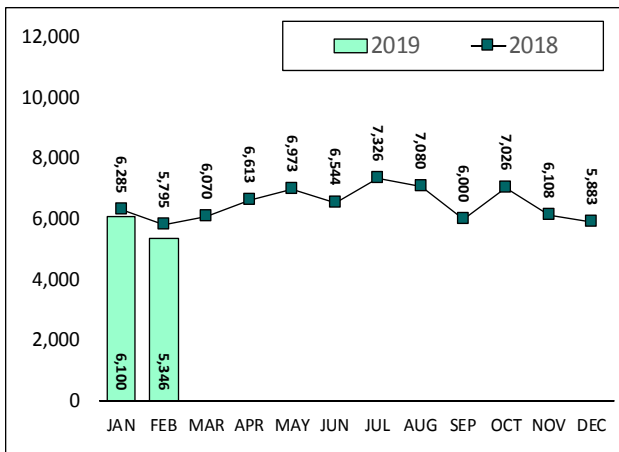
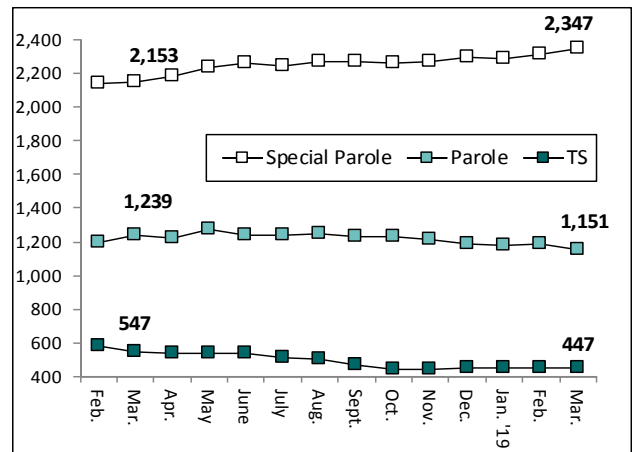


Chart 8 – DOC community supervision

Feb. 1, 2018 through Mar. 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.