

OPM - Criminal Justice Policy & Planning Division

Monthly Indicators Report

Highlights

- The prison population grew by 20 inmates during June; on July 1st 15,342 people were incarcerated in state prisons and jails. Although the prison population was down by almost 700 compared to last year, June was the first month since January in which prison population expanded (see chart 4).
- During the last two months, the Board of Pardons and Paroles has begun reauthorizing the release of offenders to transfer parole (see chart 2a). To reflect this, chart 2 - this paper's attempt to map monthly flows into and out of the criminal justice system – has been revised to include transfer parole.
- The number of offenders supervised in the community has been increasing steadily since the beginning of 2015. This month the number of offenders under DOC supervision in the community topped 4,400. The last time community caseloads surpassed that figure was in December 2012.
- The CT DOC and the state's Judicial Branch's are adjusting to the loss of hundreds of employees who were laid off over the last few months. Although it is certainly too early to conclude that these losses are responsible for this month's sudden end to five consecutive months of declining prison populations, the labor intensive nature of running and maintaining the criminal justice system is often underappreciated. OPM is closely tracking these developments.
- Compared to April, the number of offender release packages prepared for CRU review in June fell by 9.9%. The number of pre-trial interviews performed by CSSD's Jail Re-interview staff were down by 9.1% in the same period.

Prison Population Forecast

The average prison population during the first week of July was 298 prisoners below what OPM had projected in February. While the trend has been positive, the declines in the prison population that we have observed since February appear to be easing. Although statewide arrests and pre-trial admissions have remained relatively flat, layoffs and reassignments may be impacting both the DOC's and the Judicial Branch's ability to process cases and move eligible offenders towards re-entry or programs as efficiently as they did in the recent past.

Delays in release and re-entry processing inevitably add to the prison count. While limitations on the availability of residential beds or offender programming slots are well-recognized

causes for delays, the lack of adequate manpower in key, non-custodial areas may also translate into longer stays for offenders awaiting release to community supervision programs. It is not clear whether the stall seen in last month's figures are only temporary.

Several years ago, the state's prison population typically swelled by several hundred during the summer months as longer days and warmer weather led to more arrests and pre-trial prison admits. In recent years, we have not observed this summer 'bump.' Certainly, the introduction and expansion of the Jail Re-interview Program (JRI) deserves some credit for this change. In recent weeks, some JRI staff have have been reassigned to new duties as a result of reductions in the force. OPM will monitor events closely.

TABLE 1 – Prison Population Forecast

	Avg. Daily Count	OPM 2016 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	15,418	15,579	161
JUN	15,279	15,567	288
JUL	15,290	15,588	298
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

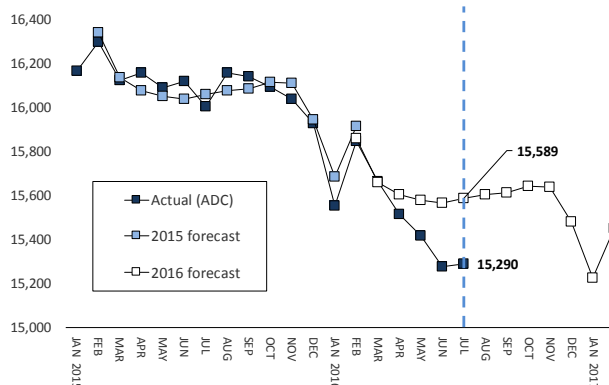


Chart 2 - Criminal justice, monthly counts and flows

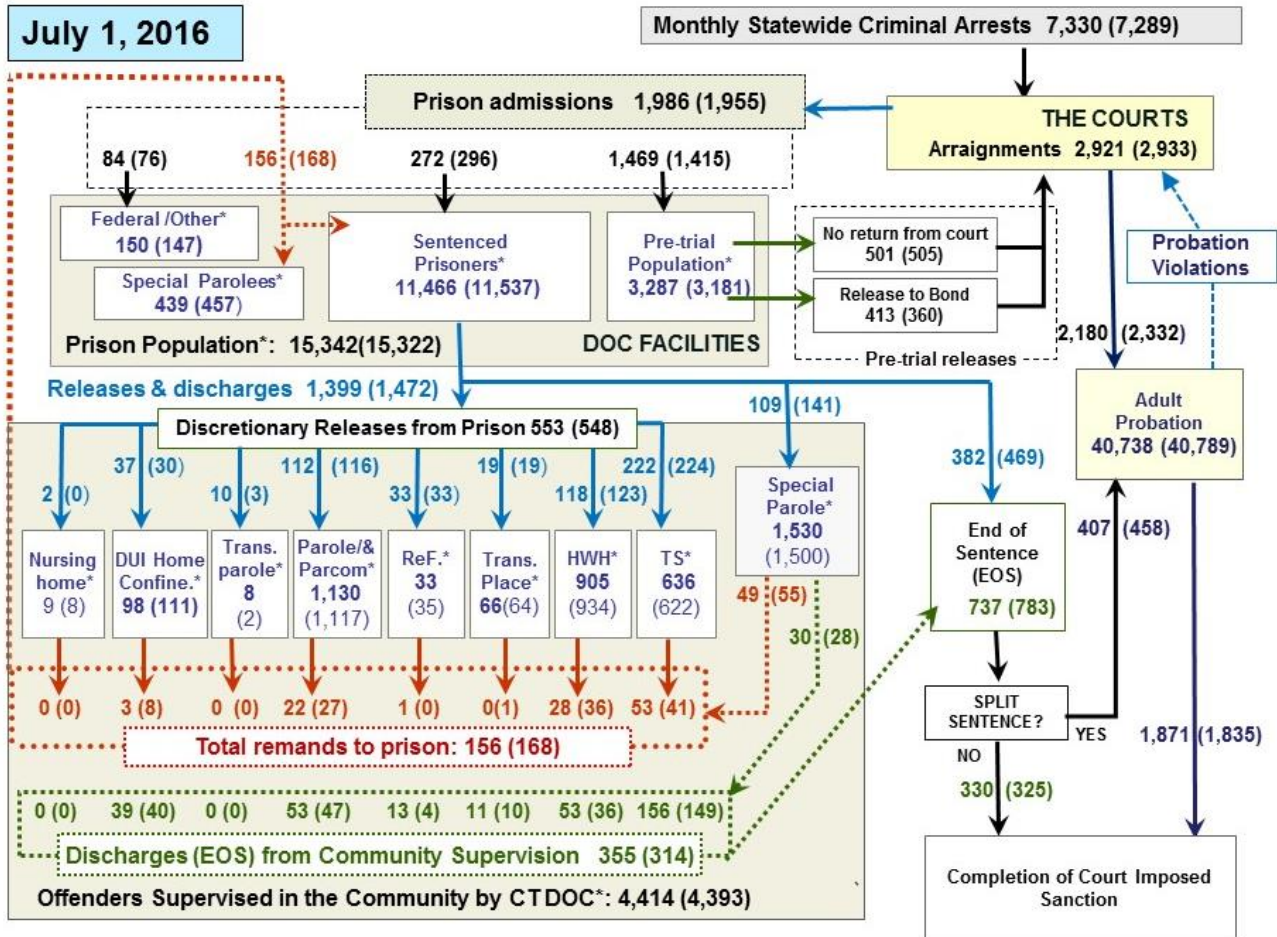
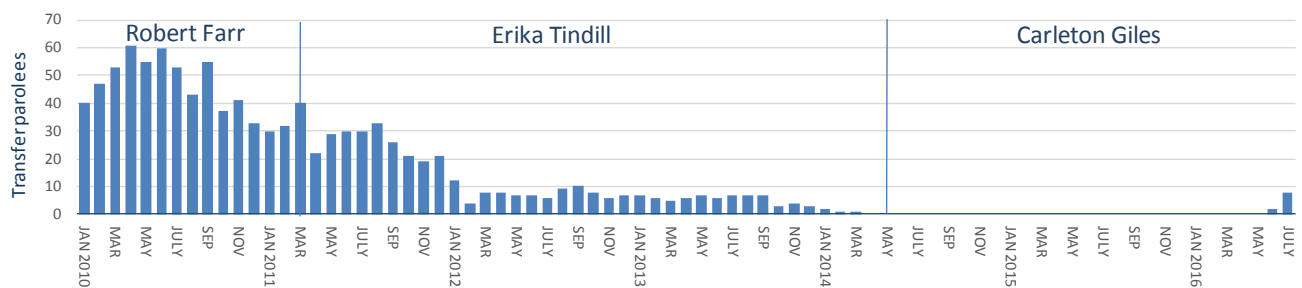


Chart 2 contains monthly operations data for June 2016 and daily counts reported on July 1, 2016. Asterisks (*) indicate the daily count on July 1st. Figures for last month are enclosed by parentheses. Sources: Arrests - OBTS, Court and probation data - CSSD, all other data - CT DOC.

Chart 2a – Piloting the return of transfer parole at BOPP



By general statute (CGS: 54-125h), an offender who has already been granted parole may be released to transfer parole up to 18 months prior to their actual parole date. Offenders on transfer parole face the same or, in some cases, stricter supervision conditions than offenders on parole.

In May 2013, the Board of Pardons and Paroles stopped approving transfer parole releases. By the following year the number of transfer parolees in the community had fallen to zero. In recent months, the Board has revisited its decision to eliminate transfer parole as a release option. A pilot program was recently initiated to evaluate whether the reintroduction of transfer parole was warranted.

In May, three offenders - all women - were released to transfer parole. They were the first in thirty-three months. During June, more ten women were released to transfer parole.

During 2010, there were many as 60 offenders, per month, serving out their sentences in the community, on transfer parole status, instead of in prison. For the appropriate type of offender, transfer parole may, in fact, result in better outcomes with respect to prisoner re-entry and recidivism, all without negatively impacting public safety. It remains unclear, at this point, whether transfer parole numbers will ever return to earlier levels.

Table 2 – The first-of-month totals

	2016	2016	2016	2015	% Change	
	May 1	June 1	July 1	July 1	Monthly	Annual
DOC Facilities						
Federal/Other	146	147	150	147	2.0%	2.0%
Sentenced	11,672	11,537	11,466	12,166	-0.6%	-5.8%
Special Parole	482	457	439	562	-3.9%	-21.9%
Pre-trial	3,111	3,181	3,287	3,150	3.3%	4.3%
Total	15,411	15,322	15,342	16,025	0.1%	-4.3%
DOC Community						
Transfer Parole	0	2	8	0	-	-
Parole/ Parcom Total	1,106	1,117	1,130	938	1.2%	20.5%
Parole	937	934	947	768	1.4%	23.3%
Parcom @ CT	179	183	183	170	0.0%	7.6%
Furlough	26	35	32	31	-	-
Trans Placement	63	64	66	73	3.1%	-9.6%
DUI/Home confine.	134	111	98	118	-11.7%	-16.9%
Halfway House Total	933	934	905	967	-3.1%	-6.4%
Comm Release	462	442	404	618	-8.6%	-34.6%
TS	44	47	53	50	12.8%	6.0%
Parole	159	170	182	103	7.1%	76.7%
Transfer Parole	0	1	2	0	-	-
Special Parole	268	274	265	196	-3.3%	35.2%
TS	597	622	636	531	2.3%	19.8%
Nursing home	9	8	9	7	-	-
Special Parole	1,457	1,500	1,530	1,290	2.0%	18.6%
Total	4,325	4,393	4,414	3,955	0.5%	11.6%

Table 3 – Admissions, releases & discharges*

	2016	2016	2016	2015	% Change	
	April	May	June	June	Monthly	Annual
Admissions						
Federal/Other	62	76	84	99	10.5%	-15.2%
Remands	138	168	156	159	-7.1%	-1.9%
DUI	2	8	3	6	-	-
Parole	19	27	22	24	-18.5%	-8.3%
Trans Plac/Furlough	1	1	1	1	-	-
HWH	22	36	28	27	-22.2%	3.7%
TS	33	41	53	40	29.3%	32.5%
Special Parole	61	55	49	61	-10.9%	-19.7%
New Sentence	268	296	277	307	-6.4%	-9.8%
VOP	87	101	71	92	-29.7%	-22.8%
Pre-trial	1345	1415	1469	1404	3.8%	4.6%
Total	1,813	1,955	1,986	1,969	1.6%	0.9%
Releases and discharges						
Transfer Parole	0	3	10	0	-	-
Parole	107	116	112	117	-3.4%	-4.3%
Furlough	22	33	33	31	0.0%	6.5%
Trans. Placement	9	19	19	23	0.0%	-17.4%
Home Confinement DUI	48	30	37	53	23.3%	-30.2%
HWH	138	123	118	153	-4.1%	-22.9%
TS	193	224	222	221	-0.9%	0.5%
Special Parole	115	141	109	109	-22.7%	0.0%
Nursing home	1	0	2	0	-	-
End of Sentence	706	783	737	747	-5.9%	-1.3%
Total	1,339	1,472	1,399	1,454	-5.0%	-3.8%
Pre-trial Releases*						
From Court	517	505	501	530	-0.8%	-5.5%
Release to Bond	368	360	413	378	14.7%	9.3%

* Totals reflect events, not individual offenders

DOC - Community Release Unit

Table 3a – Review and release metrics

	Cases				Approval Rate
	Reviewed	Approved	Denied	Continued	
Apr.	925	488	135	113	53%
May	821	403	107	118	49%
June'16	833	398	112	121	48%
June'15	892	439	209	157	49%

Board of Pardons and Paroles

Table 4 – Parole hearings, new cases

	Paroles		Paroles granted, 2015	Paroles granted, 2014
	Parole Hearings	Paroles granted, 2016		
Apr.	176	101	57%	67
May	164	95	58%	83
June	164	90	55%	70

Table 4a – Other Board actions

	Reparole from revocation	Reparole from rescission	Closed interest cases	Special parole cases	Transfer parole cases
Apr.	59	7	21	41	1
May	51	6	13	38	22
June'16	41	4	29	43	2
June'15	46	8	56	41	0

The pre-trial population

Table 5 – Bond ranges for pre-trial detainees

Bond amount	May 1, 2016	June 1, 2016	July 1, 2016	July 1, 2015
Less than \$20K	543	592	603	558
\$20K to <\$50K	547	534	593	517
\$50K to <\$100K	611	624	646	721
\$100K or higher	1,519	1,501	1,532	1,458
Offenders w/bonds	3,220	3,251	3,374	3,254
Over \$1M	155	159	155	175

Table 5a – Pre-trial, weeks since admission

Weeks since last DOC admit	May 1, 2016	June 1, 2016	July 1, 2016	July 1, 2015
< 1 week	513	407	432	469
1 to < 3 weeks	375	374	409	346
3 to < 10 weeks	778	841	856	882
10 to < 30 weeks	862	919	950	823
30 wks or more	694	712	730	735
Pre-trial prisoners	3,222	3,253	3,377	3,255

Table 5b – Pre-trial admits, new offenders

	Mar. 2016	Apr. 2016	May 2016	June 2016
Arraignments	3,001	2,746	2,933	2,921
Pre-trial Admits	1,403	1,345	1,415	1,469
New to DOC	362	337	377	415
% New	26%	25%	27%	28%

Court Support Services Division

Table 6 – The Jail Re-interview Program

	Pre-trial admissions	Offender interviews	Offenders released	Releases last year
Apr.	1,345	1,553	755	827
May	1,415	1,616	774	832
June	1,469	1,412	711	778

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

	Pre-trial Bail Case Starts	Client Supv. Starts	Split Sentence Starts
Apr.	2,216	2,198	406
May	2,393	2,332	458
June'16	2,319	2,180	407
June'15	2,419	2,090	400

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

Chart 3 – Prison population

First week of the month, and ADC

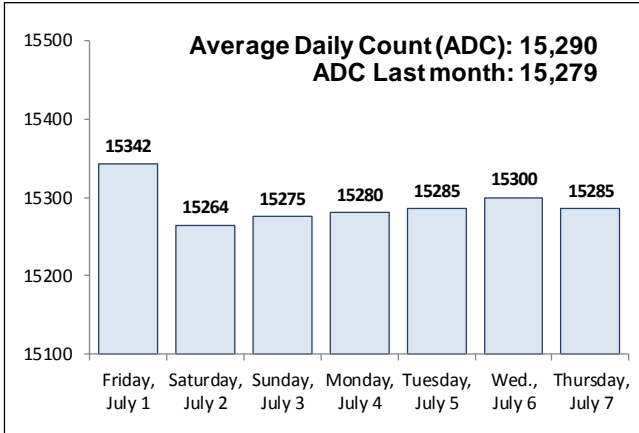


Chart 6 – Monthly DOC Admissions

May 2015 through June 2016

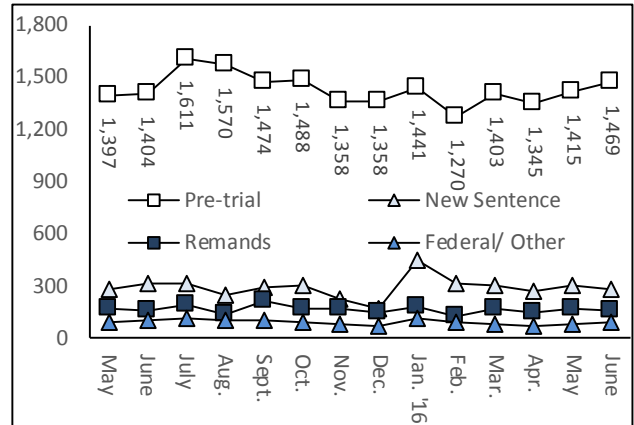


Chart 4 – Prison population, first-of-month

2014, 2015 and 2016

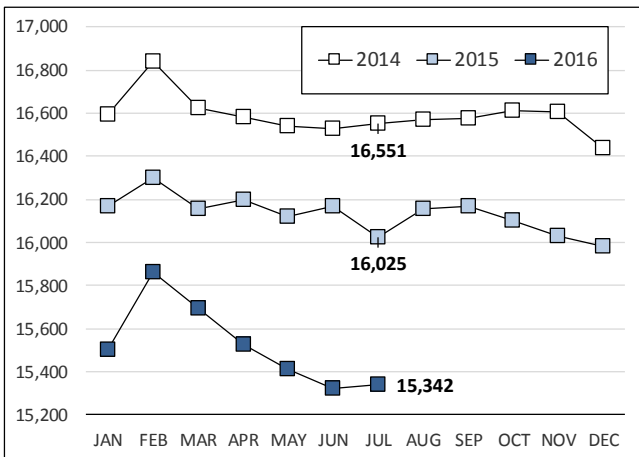


Chart 7 – Remands from community release

June 2016

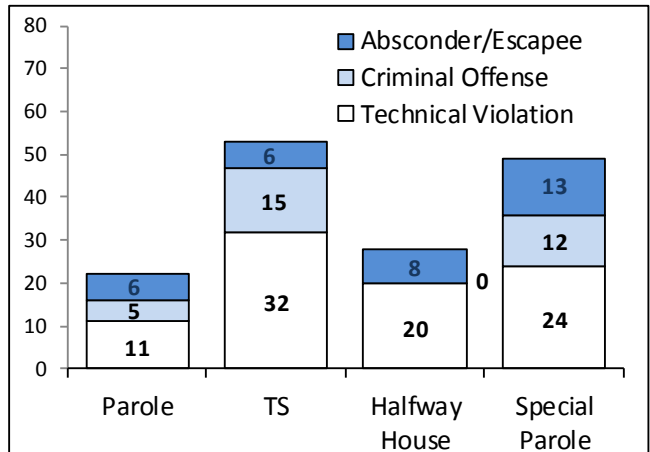


Chart 5 – Statewide criminal arrests

2015 and 2016

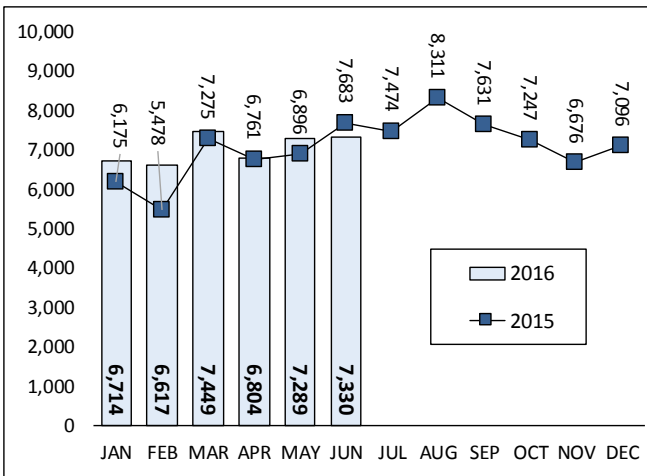
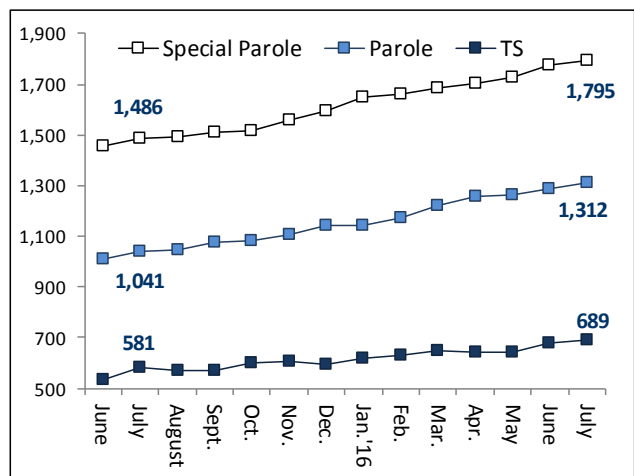


Chart 8 – DOC community supervision

May 1, 2015 through June 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.