

# OPM - Criminal Justice Policy & Planning Division

## Monthly Indicators Report

### Highlights

- 15,411 people were incarcerated in Connecticut on May 1, 2016. Two years ago, there were 16,541 people – over a thousand more than today - in the state’s prisons and jails.
- Layoff notices began to arrive at criminal justice agencies during the past month. Over the past month, hundreds of employees at DMHAS, the Judicial Branch and the Department of Correction have been laid off. OPM will monitor the prison and jail operations closely over the next few months in an attempt to quantify the impact of staff cuts on the volume of people being released and discharged from DOC facilities.
- In addition to reductions in state staffing, the non-profit community that provides offender and re-entry programs and services has also been impacted by budget cuts.
- On a more positive note, the number of offenders supervised in the community is up considerably (11.6%) compared to last year. The number of parolees increased from 750 to 937, up 24.9% compared to last year (see table 2).
- The Board of Pardons and Paroles appears to be making good progress increasing the number of monthly parole hearings. The number of paroles granted in recent months is up significantly compared to a year ago despite the fact that the grant rate has declined (see Table 4).
- Statewide monthly arrests, which spiked during the first two months of the year, compared to 2015, have settled back to the level of a year ago. An unseasonably mild winter may have contributed to these increases.

### Prison Population Forecast

The prison population for the first week of May was about 150 prisoners below what OPM projected in February. This is positive news. Compared to a year ago, the prison population is 4.4% smaller. The offender population supervised in the community is up 11.6% (see table 2). This suggests that efforts to hasten and improve re-entry processing have been working.

As layoffs impact the workforce, it is hard to anticipate what the fallout might be on the state’s prison population. It is a sad fact that short-term fluctuations in the prison population have more to do with system efficiencies than with the crime rate.

Efficient management of the prison population requires that that offenders who are eligible and appropriate for release, leave prison at the earliest possible opportunity. This requires the preparation and review of hundreds of prisoner re-entry packages each month. Thanks to the creation of the Community Release Unit last year, we now know that approximately 900 packages must to be created and reviewed for approximately 450 offenders to be approved for community release. A drop in manpower that reduces the number of packages produced translates, directly, into fewer releases each month, and fewer releases means a higher prison count.

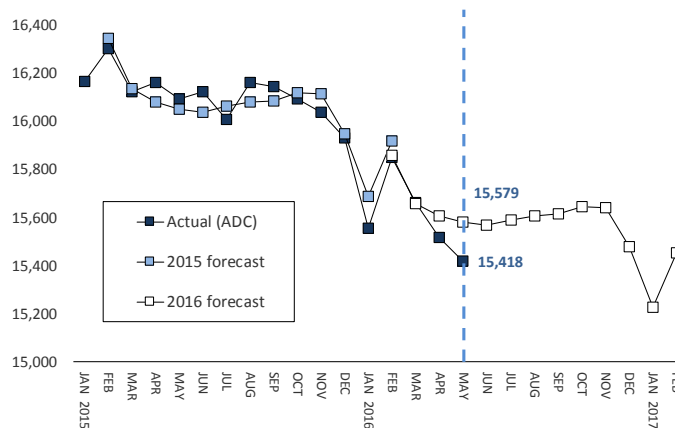
As the system settles, OPM will continue monitor the situation closely and and track developments.

**TABLE 1 – Prison Population Forecast**

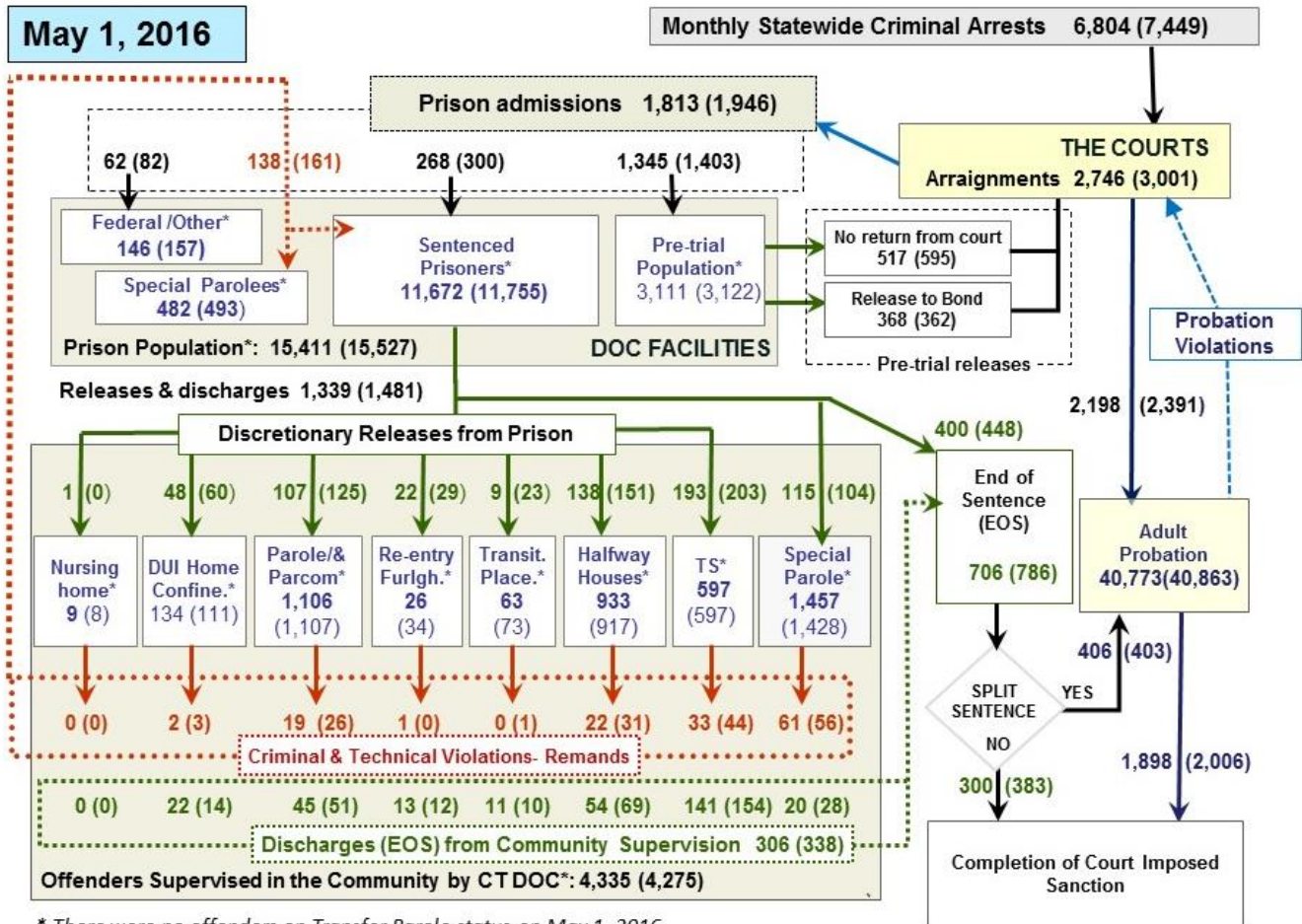
	Avg. Daily Count	OPM 2016 Forecast	Inmate difference
JAN '16	15,556	-	-
FEB	15,852	15,860	8
MAR	15,664	15,659	-5
APR	15,517	15,604	87
MAY	15,418	15,579	161
JUN	-	15,567	-
JUL	-	15,588	-
AUG	-	15,605	-
SEP	-	15,613	-
OCT	-	15,644	-
NOV	-	15,639	-
DEC	-	15,480	-
JAN '17	-	15,227	-
FEB	-	15,451	-

*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



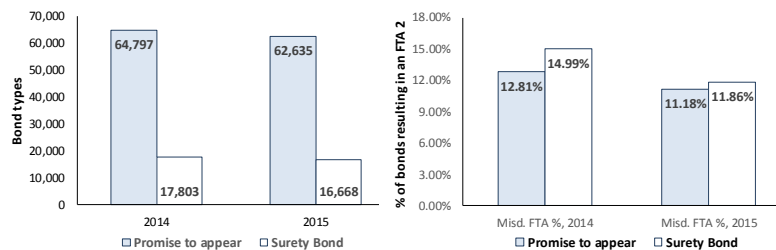
## Chart 2 - Criminal justice, monthly counts and flows



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

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

## Chart 2a – Bail and misdemeanor failure-to-appear rates



The Legislature is currently considering changes to the state's bail system that would largely eliminate court-imposed, cash bonds for most misdemeanor offenses.

For decades, opponents of cash bonds have argued that the bail system unduly punishes the poor without adequate evidence to demonstrate increased public safety. The bail industry counters that without their services, the pre-trial prison population would inevitably mushroom, and for those offenders released without bail, failure-to-appear (FTA) rates would sky-rocket.

OPM recently reviewed Judicial Branch data on offenders released to bond in 2014 and 2015. This data suggests that misdemeanor FTA rates, in fact are slightly higher among offenders with surety bonds compared to offenders who were released on promise-to-appear agreements. Though not definitive, this data bolsters those who assert that current FTA rates will not be adversely affected.

It is too early to project the impact of proposed bail-reform legislation on the size of the state's jail population given the dynamics of the Connecticut's pre-trial system.

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

	2016	2016	2016	2015	% Change	
	Mar. 1	Apr. 1	May 1	May 1	Monthly	Annual
<b>DOC Facilities</b>						
Federal/Other	166	157	146	137	-7.0%	6.6%
Sentenced	11,846	11,755	11,672	12,304	-0.7%	-5.1%
Special Parole	484	493	482	546	-2.2%	-11.7%
Pre-trial	3,195	3,122	3,111	3,135	-0.4%	-0.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,691</b>	<b>15,527</b>	<b>15,411</b>	<b>16,122</b>	<b>-0.7%</b>	<b>-4.4%</b>
<b>DOC Community</b>						
Transfer Parole	0	0	0	0	-	-
Parole/ Parcom Total	1,067	1,107	1,106	924	-0.1%	19.7%
Parole	888	925	937	750	1.3%	24.9%
Parcom @ CT	179	182	179	174	-1.6%	2.9%
Furlough	39	34	26	21	-	-
Trans Placement	72	73	63	71	-13.7%	-11.3%
DUI/Home confine.	71	111	134	108	20.7%	24.1%
Halfway House Total	934	917	933	966	1.7%	-3.4%
Comm Release	478	449	462	631	2.9%	-26.8%
TS	41	44	44	37	0.0%	18.9%
Parole	151	150	159	101	6.0%	57.4%
Transfer Parole	0	0	0	0	-	-
Special Parole	264	274	268	197	-2.2%	36.0%
TS	605	597	597	533	0.0%	12.0%
Nursing home	8	8	9	6	-	-
Special Parole	1,418	1,428	1,457	1,245	2.0%	17.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,214</b>	<b>4,275</b>	<b>4,325</b>	<b>3,874</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>11.6%</b>

**Table 3 – Admissions, releases & discharges\***

	2016	2016	2016	2015	% Change	
	Feb.	Mar.	April	April	Monthly	Annual
<b>Admissions</b>						
Federal/Other	84	82	62	95	-24.4%	-34.7%
Remands	126	161	138	180	-14.3%	-23.3%
DUI	1	3	2	0	-	-
Parole	25	26	19	25	-26.9%	-24.0%
Trans Plac/Furlough	2	1	1	6	-	-
HWH	10	31	22	45	-29.0%	-51.1%
TS	36	44	33	43	-25.0%	-23.3%
Special Parole	52	56	61	61	8.9%	0.0%
New Sentence	307	300	268	325	-10.7%	-17.5%
VOP	81	105	87	100	-17.1%	-13.0%
Pre-trial	1270	1403	1345	1350	-4.1%	-0.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,787</b>	<b>1,946</b>	<b>1,813</b>	<b>1,950</b>	<b>-6.8%</b>	<b>-7.0%</b>
<b>Releases and discharges</b>						
Transfer Parole	0	0	0	0	-	-
Parole	116	125	107	99	-14.4%	8.1%
Furlough	30	29	22	20	-24.1%	10.0%
Trans. Placement	16	23	9	18	-60.9%	-50.0%
Home Confinement DUI	21	60	48	46	-20.0%	4.3%
HWH	133	151	138	188	-8.6%	-26.6%
TS	197	203	193	178	-4.9%	8.4%
Special Parole	99	104	115	97	10.6%	18.6%
Nursing home	2	0	1	0	-	-
End of Sentence	686	786	706	741	-10.2%	-4.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>1,481</b>	<b>1,339</b>	<b>1,387</b>	<b>-9.6%</b>	<b>-3.5%</b>
<b>Pre-trial Releases*</b>						
From Court	515	595	517	534	-13.1%	-3.2%
Release to Bond	372	362	368	361	1.7%	1.9%

\* Totals reflect events, not individual offenders

**Table 3a – The Community Release Unit**

	Cases				Approval Rate
	Reviewed	Approved	Denied	Continued	
Feb.	917	448	130	137	49%
Mar.	1,023	530	131	163	52%
Apr.	925	488	135	113	53%

## Board of Pardons and Paroles

**Table 4 – Parole hearings, new cases**

	Paroles granted, 2016			Paroles granted, 2015	
	Parole Hearings	granted, 2016	Grant rate	granted, 2015	Paroles granted, 2014
Feb.	183	108	59%	88	103
Mar.	167	93	56%	67	78
Apr.	176	101	57%	67	73

**Table 4a – Other Board actions**

	Reparole from revocation	Reparole from rescission	Closed interest cases	Special parole cases
	Feb.	41	6	13
Mar.	48	7	23	42
Apr.	59	7	21	41

## The pre-trial population

**Table 5 – Bond ranges for pre-trial detainees**

Bond amount	Mar. 1, 2016	Apr. 1, 2016	May 1, 2016	May 1, 2015
Less than \$20K	519	503	543	547
\$20K to <\$50K	556	556	547	523
\$50K to <\$100K	688	688	611	677
\$100K or higher	1,495	1,495	1,519	1,450
<b>Offenders w/bonds</b>	<b>3,258</b>	<b>3,242</b>	<b>3,220</b>	<b>3,197</b>
Over \$1M	165	161	155	188

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

Weeks since last DOC admit	Mar. 1, 2016	April 1, 2016	May 1, 2016	May 1, 2015
< 1 week	386	382	513	458
1 to < 3 weeks	343	343	375	350
3 to < 10 weeks	903	903	778	771
10 to < 30 weeks	911	911	862	831
30 wks or more	718	718	694	790
<b>Pre-trial prisoners</b>	<b>3,261</b>	<b>3,257</b>	<b>3,222</b>	<b>3,200</b>

**Table 5b – Pre-trial admits, new offenders**

	Jan. 2016	Feb. 2016	Mar. 2016	Apr. 2016
Arraignments	2,860	2,636	3,001	2,746
Pre-trial Admits	1,441	1,270	1,403	1,345
New to DOC	355	342	362	337
<b>% New</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>25%</b>

## Court Support Services Division

**Table 6 – The Jail Re-interview Program**

	Pre-trial admissions	Offender interviews	Offenders released	Releases last year
Feb.	1,270	1,554	776	754
Mar.	1,403	1,678	856	868
Apr.	1,345	1,553	755	827

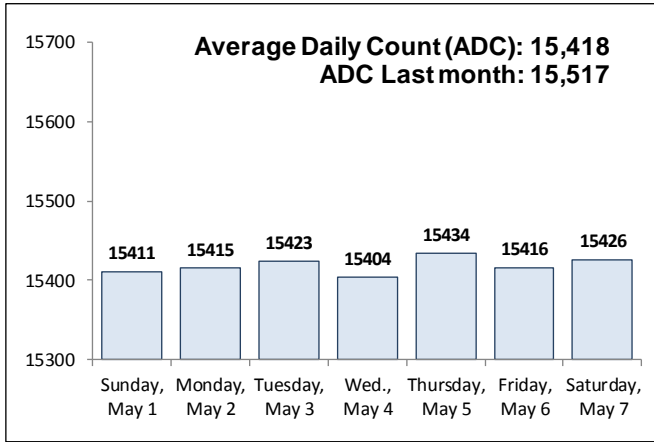
**Table 6a – Pre-Trial & split-sentence starts**

	Pre-trial Bail Case Starts	Client Supv. Starts	Split Sentence Starts
Feb.	2,162	2,130	355
Mar.	2,477	2,391	403
Apr.	2,216	2,198	406

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

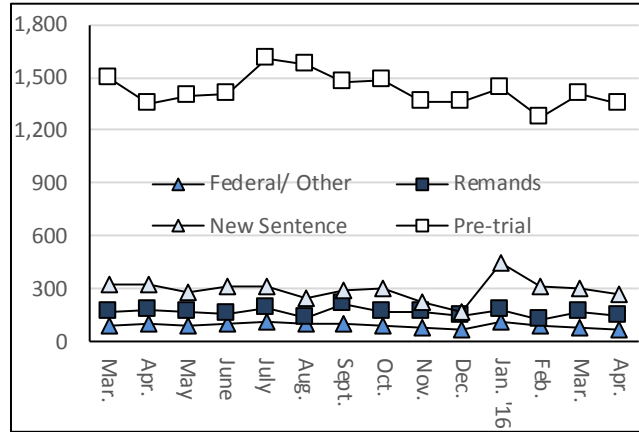
**Chart 3 – Prison population**

*First week of the month, and ADC*



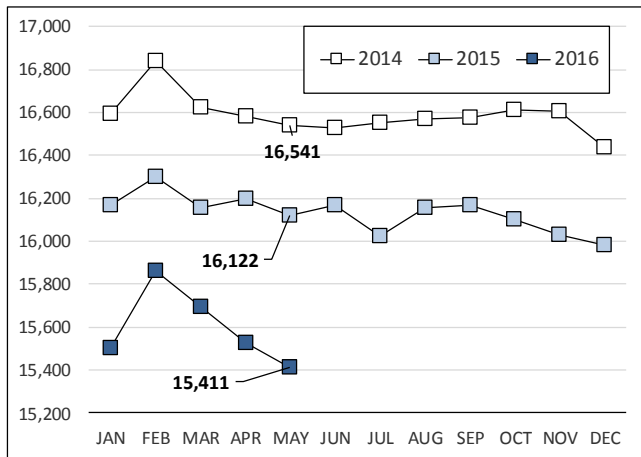
**Chart 6 – Monthly DOC Admissions**

*March 2015 through April 2016*



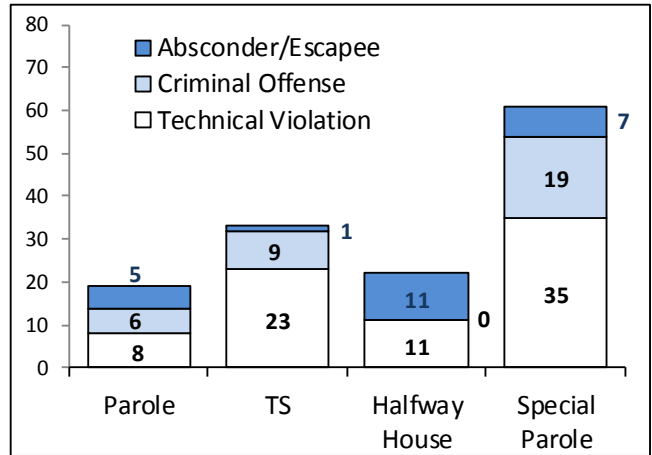
**Chart 4 – Prison population, first-of-month**

*2014, 2015 and 2016*



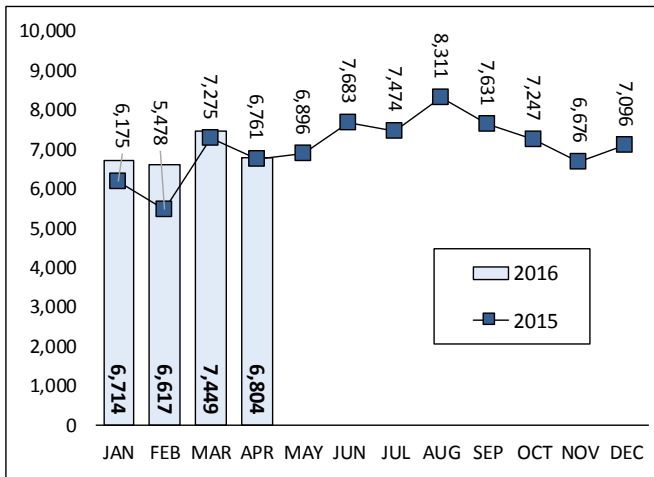
**Chart 7– Remands from community release**

*April 2016*



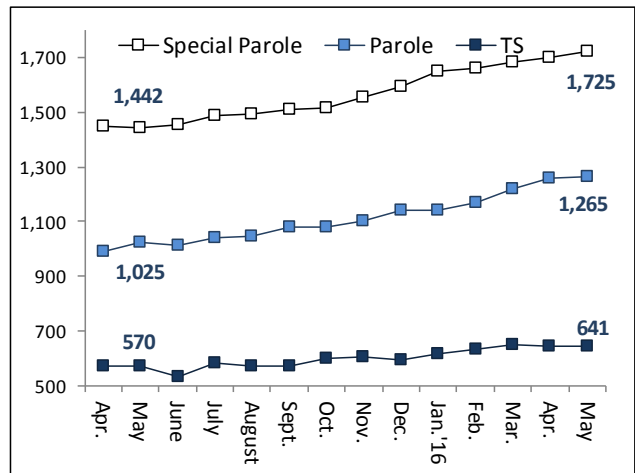
**Chart 5 – Statewide criminal arrests**

*2015 and 2016*



**Chart 8 – DOC community supervision**

*April 1, 2015 through May 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.*