OPM - Criminal Justice Policy & Planning Division
Monthly Indicators Report

Highlights

- On August 1, 2017, 14,204 people were incarcerated in CT. To find a lower, first-of-the-month number it would be necessary to go back to July 1994.

- On August 1, 2017, there were 10,448 sentenced prisoners in DOC facilities. The last time the system held fewer sentenced prisoners was in August 1993. When the prison system hit its historic peak, on February 1, 2008, there were 15,379 sentenced prisoners.

- The state's prison population continues to shrink. In fact, the prison population has declined in 16 of the last 18 months. Chart 1 illustrates how the prison population declined and the difficulty OPM forecasters have had anticipating the interplay between different factors that impact the size of the prison population.

- During July, the CT DOC expanded its network of community-based residential beds. Approximately 35 treatment beds were added in addition a roughly equal number of scattered-site beds.

- As of July 1st judges were expected to dramatically reduce the number of cash-only bonds. OPM has been monitoring the number of pre-trial prisoners incarcerated across the state these types of bonds.

- The number of prisoners who were released or discharged from prison was down by over 9% in July compared to June. It was also down by over 9% compared to last July (see table 20. Despite this, the prison population dropped by over 130 during the month, the biggest monthly decline since April 2017.

Prison Population Forecast

For a second consecutive year, the prison population deviated significantly from OPM's February forecast. Last year we suggested that increased efficiencies brought on by internal changes made at the DOC were driving an unexpectedly dramatic drop in the prison population; effectively accelerating an already shrinking system. This year's forecast, assumed that the efficiencies witnessed last year would diminish, resulting in continuing – though much more moderate - decreases in the prison population.

TABLE 1 – **Prison Population Forecast**			
	Avg. Daily Count	OPM 2017 Forecast	Inmate difference
JAN '17	14,565	-	-
FEB	14,776	14,776	-
MAR	14,646	14,658	12
APR	14,543	14,618	75
MAY	14,491	14,542	51
JUN	14,406	14,532	126
JUL	14,316	14,526	210
AUG	14,162	14,577	415
SEP	-	14,586	-
OCT	-	14,600	-
NOV	-	14,531	-
DEC	-	14,367	-
JAN '18	-	14,139	-
FEB	-	14,308	-
Avg. Daily Count (ADC) for 1st week of month			

For almost 20 years, the state's prison system, in fact the state's entire criminal justice system, chugged along, operating in one year much as it had in the previous year. Those days are over. Crime rates have dropped significantly in recent years, resulting in large declines in the number of criminal cases making their way through the system. At some point the trend of steadily declining prison populations that we have witnessed for almost a decade, must bottom out. The question is when.

OPM analysts have are currently discussing and evaluating probable changes to the existing forecast model, which had been used since 2009. Over the next few months, they will attempt to run a variety of simulations to determine whether a more accurate model of the system should be employed.

Chart 1 – Actual prison population against the OPM forecasts
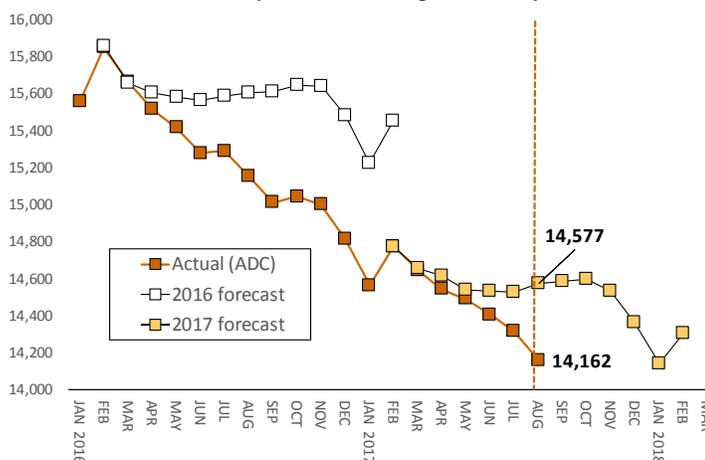*January 1, 2016 through February 1, 2018*

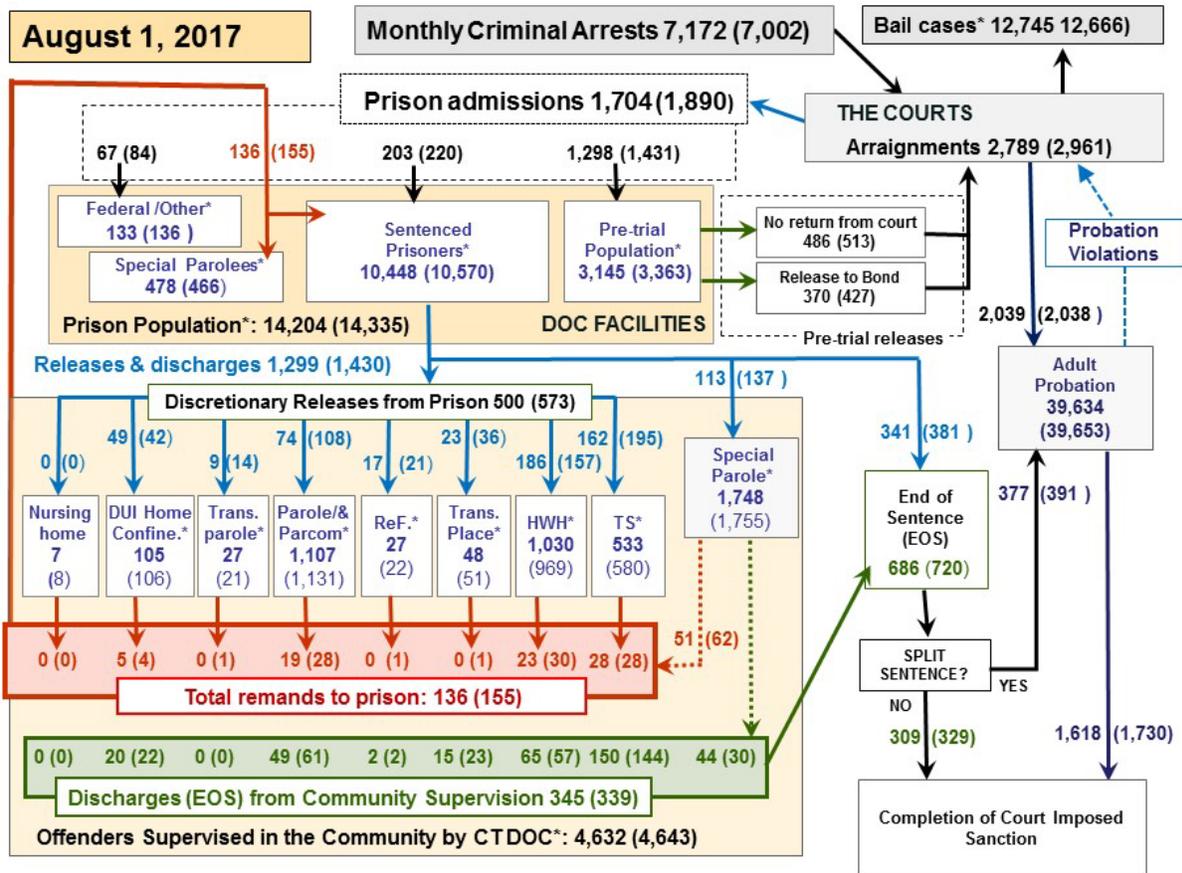## Chart 2 - Criminal justice, monthly counts and flows

Chart 2 contains monthly operations data for July 2017 and daily counts reported on August 1, 2017. Asterisks (*) indicate the daily count on August 1st. Figures for last month are enclosed by parentheses. Sources: Arrests - OBTS, Court and probation data - CSSD, all other data - CT DOC.

Chart 2a – Tracking cash only bail and PA 17-145
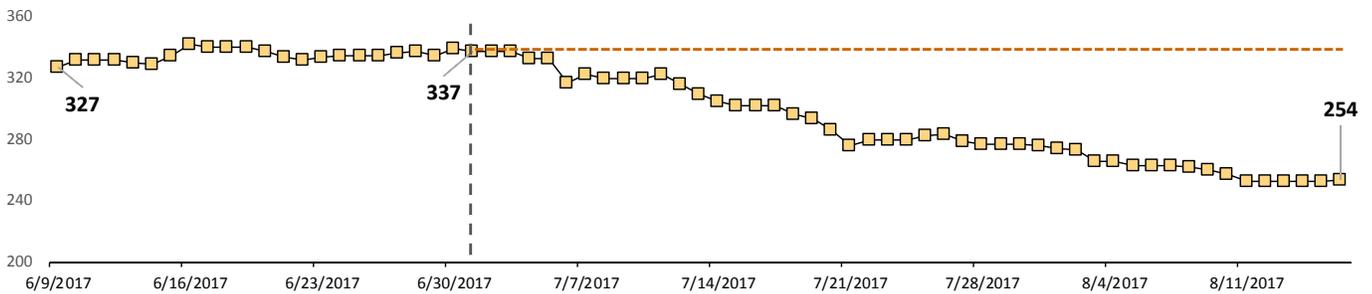
Public Act 17-145 changed the rules governing pretrial detention and bail in Connecticut. When implemented on July 1, 2017, the law, among other things, changed the way cash bail could be applied for most offenses. To measure the impact of this legislation and its implementation, OPM began monitoring the daily count of inmates held on cash-only bonds i.e., prisoners who could only meet their bail obligations by paying the full bail amount set by the court, in cash. Chart 2A suggests that the law has already significantly impacted the state's pretrial population.

Almost all pre-trial detainees in the state (almost 88% on August 16) are held on surety bonds, meaning that the defendants may meet their bail obligations through the use of a bail bondsman. Another 7% of pre-trial prisoners were held on dockets with both cash and surety bond obligations. Less than 5% of current pre-trial detainees are held on cash-only bail.

In the coming months, OPM will continue to monitor the application of cash bail in the state and its impact on the pretrial population.

Table 2 - First-of-month totals

	2017	2017	2017	2016	% Change	
	June 1	July 1	Aug. 1	Aug. 1	Monthly	Annual
DOC Facilities						
Federal/Other	142	136	133	148	-2.2%	-10.1%
Sentenced	10,724	10,570	10,448	11,355	-1.2%	-8.0%
Special Parole	452	466	478	446	2.6%	7.2%
Pre-trial	3,111	3,163	3,145	3,212	-0.6%	-2.1%
Total	**14,429**	**14,335**	**14,204**	**15,161**	**-0.9%**	**-6.3%**
DOC Community						
Transfer Parole	14	21	27	10	-	-
Parole/ Parcom Total	1,139	1,131	1,107	1,115	-2.1%	-0.7%
Parole	976	968	942	934	-2.7%	0.9%
Parcom @ CT	163	163	165	181	1.2%	-8.8%
Furlough	44	22	27	25	22.7%	8.0%
Trans Placement	53	51	48	68	-5.9%	-29.4%
DUI/Home confine.	93	106	105	91	-0.9%	15.4%
Halfway House Total	951	969	1,030	953	6.3%	8.1%
Comm Release	474	471	531	435	12.7%	22.1%
TS	51	56	55	59	-1.8%	-6.8%
Parole	136	141	139	183	-1.4%	-24.0%
Transfer Parole	0	4	3	5	-	-
Special Parole	289	297	302	271	1.7%	11.4%
TS	580	580	533	584	-8.1%	-8.7%
Nursing home	7	8	7	9	-	-
Special Parole	1,742	1,755	1,748	1,548	-0.4%	12.9%
Total	**4,623**	**4,643**	**4,632**	**4,403**	**-0.2%**	**5.2%**

Table 2a - Admissions, releases & discharges

	2016	2017	2017	2016	% Change	
	May	June	July	July	Monthly	Annual
Admissions						
Federal/Other	78	84	67	73	-20.2%	-8.2%
Remands	142	155	136	166	-12.3%	-18.1%
DUI	9	5	5	7	0.0%	-28.6%
Parole	16	28	29	25	3.6%	16.0%
Trans Plac/Furlough	0	2	0	1	-	-
HWH	31	30	23	11	-23.3%	109.1%
TS	33	28	28	46	0.0%	-39.1%
Special Parole	53	62	51	76	-17.7%	-32.9%
New Sentence	237	220	203	253	-7.7%	-19.8%
VOP	71	64	61	71	-4.7%	-14.1%
Pre-trial	1,474	1,431	1298	1367	-9.3%	-5.0%
Total	**1,931**	**1,890**	**1,704**	**1,859**	**-9.8%**	**-8.3%**
Releases and discharges						
Transfer Parole	9	14	9	6	-35.7%	-
Parole	95	108	74	104	-31.5%	-28.8%
Furlough	24	21	17	23	-19.0%	-26.1%
Trans. Placement	24	36	23	19	-36.1%	21.1%
Home Confinement DU	34	42	29	33	-31.0%	-12.1%
HWH	112	157	186	155	18.5%	20.0%
TS	186	195	162	177	-16.9%	-8.5%
Special Parole	118	137	113	136	-17.5%	-16.9%
Nursing home	1	0	0	0	-	-
End of Sentence	765	720	686	778	-4.7%	-11.8%
Total	**1,368**	**1,430**	**1,299**	**1,431**	**-9.2%**	**-9.2%**
Pre-trial Releases*						
From Court	581	513	486	561	-5.3%	-13.4%
Release to Bond	409	427	370	382	-13.3%	-3.1%

* Totals reflect events, not individual offenders

DOC - Community Release Unit (CRU)

Table 3 - Case reviews and release metrics

	Cases				Approval
	Reviewed	Approved	Denied	Continued	Rate
May	806	376	95	113	47%
June	850	423	125	123	50%
July	677	320	89	106	47%
July'16	888	434	138	106	49%

Board of Pardons and Paroles

Table 4 - Parole hearings, new cases

	Parole Hearings	Paroles granted	Grant rate	Paroles granted, 2016	Paroles granted, 2015
May	192	100	52%	95	83
June	182	84	46%	90	70
July	177	87	49%	99	84

Table 4a - Other BOPP actions

	Reparole from revocation	Reparole from rescission	Closed interest cases	Special parole cases	Transfer parole cases
May	44	2	20	40	13
June	29	2	45	41	11
July	33	2	22	42	11
July '16	40	10	27	36	11

The pre-trial population

Table 5 - Bond ranges for pre-trial detainees

Bond amount	June 1, 2017	July 1, 2017	Aug 1, 2017	Aug 1, 2016
Less than $20K	548	568	530	596
$20K to < $50K	493	483	495	557
$50K to <$100K	734	753	727	675
$100K or higher	1,407	1,484	1,498	1,488
Inmates w/bonds	3182	3,288	3,250	3,316
Over $1M	144	148	151	149

Table 5a - Pre-trial, weeks since admission

Weeks since last DOC admit	June 1, 2017	July 1, 2017	Aug. 1, 2017	Aug. 1, 2016
< 1 week	411	389	431	495
1 to < 3 weeks	344	374	324	364
3 to < 10 weeks	785	825	813	799
10 to < 30 weeks	881	911	901	935
30 wks or more	776	789	783	725
Pre-trial prisoners	3,197	3,288	3,252	3,318

Table 5b - Pre-trial admits, new offenders

	May 2017	June 2017	July 2017	July 2016
Arraignments	2,968	2,961	2,789	2,760
Pre-trial Admits	1,474	1,431	1,298	1,367
New to DOC	409	393	342	375
% New	28%	27%	26%	27%

Court Support Services Division

Table 6 - The Jail Re-interview Program

	Pre-trial admissions	Offender interviews	Offenders released	Released last year
May	1,474	1,210	515	774
June	1,431	1,212	499	711
July	1,298	1,080	508	529

Table 6a - Pre-trial bail and probation caseloads

	Pre-trial Bail Case Starts	Client Supv. Starts	Split Sentence Starts	Pre-trial bail cases
May	2,335	2,180	420	12,756
June	2,251	2,038	391	12,666
July 2017	2,192	2,039	377	12,745
July 2016	2,289	2,167	438	13,397

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

Chart 3 – Prison population
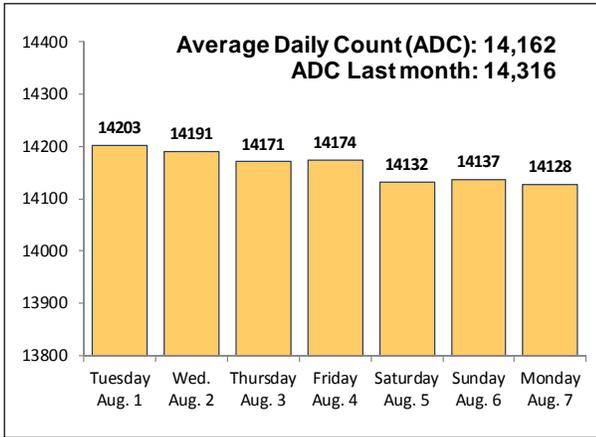### First week of the month, avg. daily count (ADC)

Average Daily Count (ADC): 14,162
ADC Last month: 14,316

14203	14191	14171	14174	14132	14137	14128
Tuesday Aug. 1	Wed. Aug. 2	Thursday Aug. 3	Friday Aug. 4	Saturday Aug. 5	Sunday Aug. 6	Monday Aug. 7

Chart 6 – Monthly DOC Admissions
June 2016 through July 2017

Pre-trial values: 1,469 / 1,367 / 1,541 / 1,528 / 1,445 / 1,313 / 1,205 / 1,424 / 1,240 / 1,381 / 1,271 / 1,474 / 1,431 / 1,298

Legend: Federal/ Other, Remands, New Sentence, Pre-trial
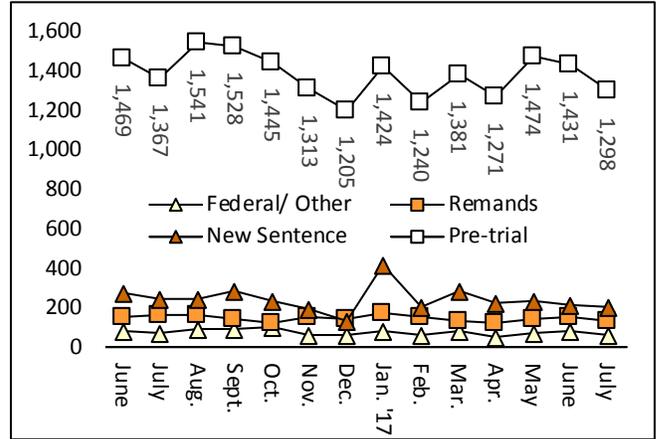
Chart 4 – Prison population, first-of-month
2015, 2016 and 2017

Legend: 2015, 2016, 2017

16,156
15,161
14,204
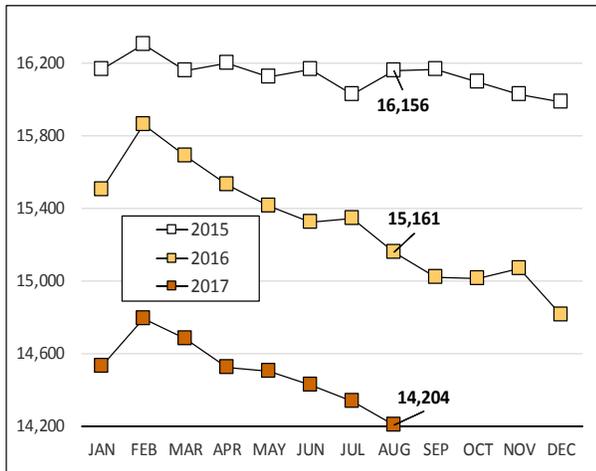
Chart 7– Remands from community release
July 2017

Legend: Absconder/Escapee, Criminal Offense, Technical Violation

	Parole	TS	Halfway House	Special Parole
Absconder/Escapee	5	2	6	12
Criminal Offense	12	12	0	16
Technical Violation	12	14	17	23
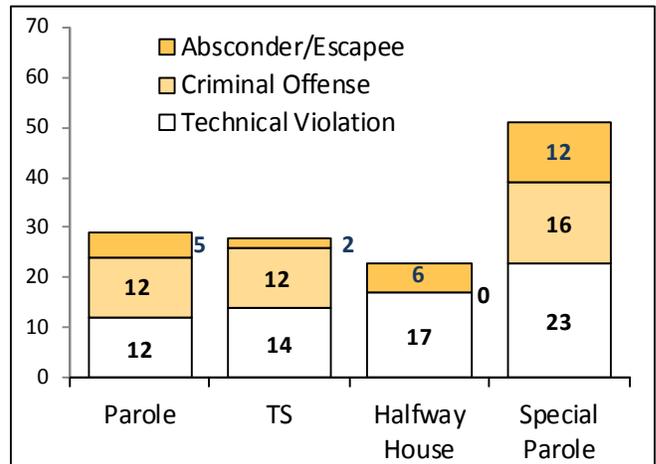
Chart 5 – Statewide criminal arrests
2016 and 2017

2017 (bars): 6,658 / 5,917 / 6,876 / 6,061 / 7,369 / 7,002 / 7,172
2016 (line): 6,714 / 6,617 / 7,449 / 6,804 / 7,289 / 7,330 / 7,069 / 7,420 / 7,040 / 6,782 / 6,443 / 6,186

Legend: 2017, 2016
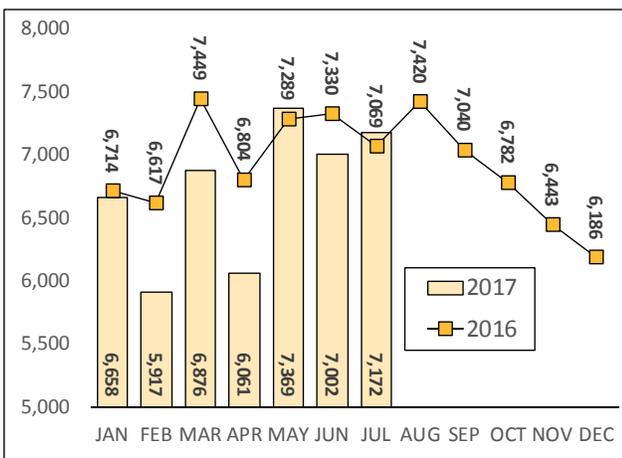
Chart 8 – DOC community supervision
July 1, 2016 through August 1, 2017

Legend: Special Parole, Parole, TS

Special Parole: 1,819 → 2,050
Parole: 1,298 → 1,246
TS: 643 → 588
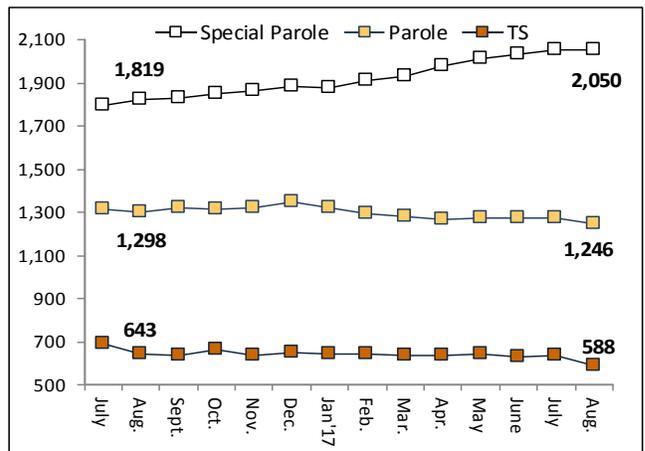
Note: Data for all charts, with the exception of Chart 5, was supplied by CT DOC. Data for Chart 5 are for new case starts in the state Offender-Based Tracking System (OBTS). Chart 8 includes offenders in halfway houses.