



Offender Management Statistics Bulletin, England and Wales

Quarterly October to December 2017

Annual 2017

Prison population: 31 March 2018

Main points

The prison population has been relatively stable for the past five years. This differs to the increasing prison population trend that was observed between the 1950's and early 2000's (see Figure 1). Our most recent extracts indicate that there were:

83,263 prisoners in England and Wales as at 31 March 2018	↓	The total prison population has decreased by 3%, compared with the same point in the previous year.
140,687 admissions of which 83,917 were first receptions into prison in the year 2017	↓	Compared with the year 2016, this is a 2% decrease in the number of admissions, and a 3% decrease in the number of first receptions
191,614 adjudication outcomes in the last year	↑	This is an increase of 12% on the previous year. A total of 21,081 additional days were added to prisoner's sentences.
264,649 offenders on probation as at 31 December 2017	↓	The number of offenders on probation at the end of December 2017 was 1% lower than the same point in the previous year.
5,652 offenders recalled to prison in the latest quarter	↑	This is an increase of 3% on the previous quarter and a 7% increase on the same quarter in 2016.
71,495 releases in 2017, of which 70,410 were from determinate sentences	↓	This is a fall of 3% compared with the total number of releases in 2016.

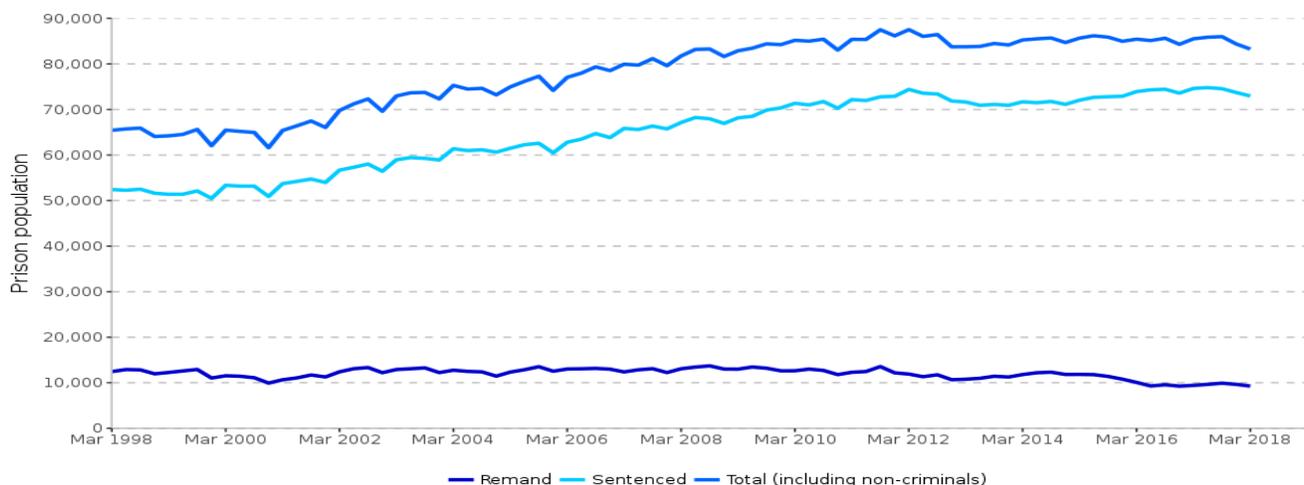
This publication provides offender management quarterly statistics for the latest date available and provides comparisons to the previous year. This publication also contains annual information for prison receptions and probation starts, as well as releases from prison and probation terminations. For full and detailed commentary which looks into longer term trends in the prison population, please refer to the prison population annual publication, published in July, and [‘The Story of the Prison Population: 1993 - 2016’](#). For technical detail please refer to the accompanying guide, [‘Guide to offender management statistics’](#)

1. Population

The prison population stood at 83,263 on 31 March 2018.

The sentenced prison population stood at 73,035 (88% of the prison population); the remand prison population stood at 9,263 (11%) and the non-criminal prison population stood at 965 (1%).

Figure 1: Prison population, March 1998 to 2018 (Source: Table 1.1)



Remand

The remand population has decreased by 2% (156) compared with the same point 12 months earlier. The number of males remanded in custody decreased by 2% (to 8,699) whilst the number of females decreased by 2% (to 564).

More than half (55%) of those remanded in custody were being held for either:

Violence against the person (22% of the remand population), Drug offences (17%) or Theft Offences (16%).

Sentenced

In line with the long term trend, the sentenced population has decreased by 2% in the year leading up to 31 March 2018. Figure 1 shows that the total prison population has increased in line with the growth of the sentenced prison population since March 1998, however in more recent years the sentenced and total prison population has remained as a relatively constant level. Broadly speaking, there have been decreases in the number of prisoners serving determinate sentences of less than 4 years and increases in those serving determinate sentences of 4 years or longer. The number of prisoners serving determinate sentences of 14 years or more has increased by 8% (to 3,893) in the 12 months to 31 March 2018.

Sex offenders

The rise in the long determinate sentenced population is in line with the increasing number of sentenced sex offenders. As at 31 March 2018 there were 13,562 prisoners serving sentences for sexual offences, which represented 19% of the sentenced prison population.

The number of prisoners serving immediate custodial sentences for sexual offences is now at its highest level since at least 2002. This is consistent with the latest ONS ['Crime in England and Wales'](#) bulletin which reports on the number of sexual offences recorded by the police in the year ending March 2018.

'Violence Against the Person (VATP)' and 'Possession of Weapons' offences

One in every four (26%) sentenced prisoners is in prison for a VATP offence. This proportion has remained stable for the past 12 months. The number of those sentenced to a 'Possession of Weapons' offence increased by 6% (to 2,448) compared to the same time last year. This substantial increase can be attributed to a range of factors, including more targeted police operations against knife crime. However this offence group only accounts for 3% of the sentenced prison population.

Extended Determinate Sentences (EDS)

EDSs were made available for courts to impose from 13 April 2015 and on 31 March 2018, 4,488 prisoners were serving such sentences; a 4% increase compared to the previous quarter and a 25% increase compared to the same time last year.

Indeterminate sentences

As at 31 March 2018, there were 10,018 (9,674 male; 344 female) indeterminate sentenced prisoners (those serving Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP) sentences and life sentences) in the prison population. This represents an annual decrease of 7%.

There were 2,884 IPP prisoners as at 31 March 2018 which represents a decrease of 18% in the last 12 months. This figure has decreased by 53% since the June 2012 peak of 6,080, however the number of IPP prisoners who have been recalled to custody continues to increase; in the past year the recalled IPP population has grown by 19% (to 847).

The proportion of the IPP population who are post-tariff continues to increase; 88% of IPP prisoners were post-tariff as of 31 March 2018 compared to 85% at the same time the previous year.

The number of life sentenced prisoners (7,134) has decreased by 2% compared to 31 March 2017. There were 62 whole-life prisoners at the end of March 2018, with 3 additional life prisoners being treated in secure hospitals.

Recall to custody

The prison population who have been recalled to custody (6,047 prisoners) decreased by 8% over the year leading up to 31 March 2018. On this date, there were 1,072 prisoners recorded as being in custody following a recall under the Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014 (ORA); representing 18% of the total recall population.

Foreign National Offenders (FNOs)

There were 9,318 (1,638 remand, 6,794 sentenced and 886 non-criminal) foreign nationals held in custody and HMPPS-operated Immigration Removal Centres (IRCs) as at 31 March 2018; representing 11% of the total prison population. The number of FNOs in the prison (and HMPPS IRC) population has decreased by 5% compared to 31 March 2017. The most common nationalities after British Nationals in prisons are Polish (9% of the FNO prison population), Albanian (8%), Irish (8%), Romanian (7%) and Jamaican (5%).

2. Prison receptions and admissions

Summary of annual statistics

In total there were 140,687 admissions to custody in 2017.

54,795 remand admissions, 64,783 sentenced admissions, 20,858 recall admissions and 251 civil non-criminal admissions.

83,917 offenders were received into custody as first receptions in 2017.

44,059 remand first receptions 39,647 sentenced first receptions and 211 civil non-criminal first receptions.

During 2017 there were 64,783 sentenced admissions to prison (4% lower than 2016). The number of admissions to shorter sentences (of less than four years) decreased by 5% compared to 2016, whereas there was a 1% increase in sentenced admissions for determinate sentences of 4 years or more. This continues the long-term shifting trend to longer determinate prison sentences

Part of the increase in sentenced admissions on to longer determinate sentences can be attributed to legislative changes in 2012 which abolished the IPP (Imprisonment for Public Protection) sentence and introduced Extended Determinate Sentences (EDS).

There was an overall reduction in admissions receiving an immediate custodial sentence of 4% in 2017 relative to 2016. The biggest reductions in the number of those receiving an immediate custodial sentence were for fraud (10%) and theft offences (8%). By comparison, the number of those admitted under an immediate custodial sentence for possession of weapons was 10% higher in 2017 than 2016. Direct comparison is not available beyond 2015 due to changes in the reporting of offence groups.

The number of adult untried admissions fell by 1% when compared to the previous year, while adult sentenced admissions saw a fall of 4%. The only age categories to see an increase in immediate custodial sentenced admissions were 50-59 year old and 70 and over, both increased by 1%. The younger age groups decreased the most, with the number of 21-24 year old admissions for immediate custodial sentences falling by 11%.

For untried remands, adult (21 years or older) defendants saw a slight decline of 1% while young adults increased by 4%. For convicted unsentenced remands, the number of adult offenders declined by 3% and that of young adults stayed the same with 0% change. For sentenced admissions, young adults saw the biggest decline of 7% while the number of adults decreased by 4%. The fall in sentenced admissions is largely attributable to the fall in sentenced admissions on to determinate sentences of less than 2 years. The recent pattern of steep decreases for the prison admissions in this age group has continued and can also be observed in the lower proportion of the prison population being attributed to young adults.

Summary of quarterly statistics

In total there were 34,195 admissions to custody in the latest quarter.

13,384 remand admissions, 15,404 sentenced admissions, 5,346 recall admissions and 61 non-criminal admissions.

19,989 offenders were received into custody as first receptions in the latest quarter.

10,672 remand first receptions, 9,265 sentenced first receptions and 52 civil non-criminal first receptions.

The number of first receptions decreased by 6% on the previous quarter, this is consistent with a 1% decrease in the number of first receptions compared with the same quarter in 2016.

There was a 2% decrease in the number of untried admissions (to 8,268), a 2% increase in the number of convicted unsentenced admissions (to 5,116) and a 4% decrease in the number of sentenced admissions (to 15,404) compared with the same quarter in 2016.

By comparing the latest quarter to the same quarter in the previous year, adult (aged 21+) remand admissions have decreased by 1% and young adult (18-20 year olds) remand admissions have increased by 5%. Adult sentenced admissions have decreased by 4% and young adult sentenced admissions have decreased by 4%, compared with the same quarter last year.

Almost half of all sentenced admissions during the quarter were for sentences of six months or less (7,197, 47% of sentenced admissions). This sentence length band has seen a 4% decrease in the number of admissions when compared with the same quarter last year.

By comparing this quarter with the corresponding quarter in 2016 immediate custodial sentenced admissions for 'Criminal damage and arson' and 'Miscellaneous crimes against society' decreased by 14% and 11% respectively, however the number of sentenced admissions for 'Possession of weapons' and 'Robbery' has increased by 14% and 8% respectively compared to the same quarter in the previous year.

Former Members of the Armed Forces

Former members of the armed forces accounted for 398 of the matched first receptions for the period October to December 2017. This accounts for approximately 3% of offenders who responded to the question asked

3. Adjudications

Summary of annual statistics

There were 191,614 adjudication outcomes in the last year.

65% of these adjudications were proven.

Over the latest year ending 31 December 2017 the number of adjudication outcomes stood at 191,614, a rise of 12% on the number one year earlier. Of these, proven adjudications increased from 111,332 to 124,884, a rise of 12%, which continues the increasing trend observed since 2013.

The total number of proven adjudications for the offence of violence increased from 15,434 to 16,922, an increase of 10%. Similarly, but to a less extent the number of proven adjudications for disobedience or disrespect increased by 3% over the same period. This is consistent with the recent [‘Safety in Custody Statistics’](#) bulletin that reported a sharp rise in the number of assault incidents. As a result the number of incidents reported and referred to Independent Adjudicators increased from 23,709 to 29,339, a rise of 24%, which continues the increasing trend observed since 2010.

In terms of punishments, additional days stood at 21,081 at the end of 2017, an increase of 26% compared with end of 2016. The average number of days imposed on offenders remained the same compared with last year. The average number of punishments per offence decreased from 1.72 to 1.70 in this one year period.

Summary of quarterly statistics

There were 49,203 adjudication outcomes in the latest quarter

64% of these adjudications were proven.

More than one in three (33%) of proven adjudications were for offences of disobedience or disrespect; the number of proved disobedience offences decreased by 2% on the previous quarter.

There were 5,246 additional days added as punishments for offences committed by prisoners in the quarter ending December 2017. The average number of punishments per offence was 1.69.

4. Prison Releases

Summary of annual statistics

71,495 offenders were released from custody during 2017.

70,410 releases from determinate sentences and 1,085 from indeterminate sentences.

In 2017, a total of 70,410 offenders were released from determinate sentences, a fall of 3% from 2016. The number of males released from determinate sentences fell by 3% between 2016 and 2017, whereas the number of females released decreased by 1%. Until the change of data source in 2015⁽¹⁾, the number of releases from determinate sentences had been falling since 2008. Much of this fall could be attributed to a falling number of prison receptions for shorter determinate sentences (less than 12 months) throughout the period. Though the figures taken from the new data source (2016 and 2017) are not directly comparable with pre-2015 data, the trend of falling numbers of releases from determinate sentences looks to be continuing.

1,085 offenders were released from indeterminate sentences in 2017; a 15% increase compared to 2016. Of the indeterminate releases during 2017, 616 were from IPP sentences (up 7% compared to 2016) and 469 from life sentences (an increase of 26% from 2016).

The average time served in prison (including time spent on remand) for those released from determinate sentences continued to increase, to 12.2 months (mean) and 4.4 months (median) for those released in 2017. Both the mean and median figures have been increasing each year since 2015.

Summary of quarterly statistics

18,196 offenders were released from custody in the latest quarter.

17,931 releases from determinate sentences and 265 from indeterminate sentences.

Prison releases from custodial sentences

The total number of releases during the quarter ending December 2017 represents a 1% decrease compared to the same quarter in 2016.

The number of prisoners released from sentences of '14 years or more (excluding indeterminate sentences)' and '2 years to less than 4 years' decreased by 11% and 8% respectively, however the number of prisoners released from sentences of 'Extended determinate sentence' and '10 years to less than 14 years' has increased by 29% and 21% respectively .

There were 265 releases from indeterminate sentences between October and December 2017, a 7% increase from the same period in 2016. The majority (138) were offenders released from Life sentences.

Releases on Home Detention Curfew (HDC)

2,487 offenders were released on HDC during the latest quarter. The number of HDC releases increased by 7% compared to the same quarter in 2016.

Releases on Temporary Licence (ROTL)

There were 90,624 incidences of ROTL during the quarter ending December 2017, which is a 2% increase on the same quarter last year.

Compared to the quarter ending December 2016, the number of ROTL incidences increased by 9% for females (to 8,074) and increased by 2% for males (to 82,550).

The number of individuals given at least one incidence of ROTL between October and December 2017 was 4,127, which represents a increase of 4% since the same quarter of the previous year.

There were 96 recorded Temporary Release Failures (TRFs) between October and December 2017. This is an increase of 14 compared with the previous quarter and an increase of 33 compared with the same period the previous year. TRFs as a proportion of temporary release incidences remain at a low level, with approximately only 1 in every 940 incidences of temporary release resulting in a failure between October and December 2017.

Prisoner transfers

There were a total of 22,355 recorded incidences of prisoner transfer during the latest quarter. The majority of these (70%) were routine inter-prison transfers; 117 (1%) incidences of transfer were a result of overcrowding drafts. 18,526 prisoners had at least one incidence of a transfer in quarter ending the December 2017.

5. Probation

Summary of annual statistics

The total number of offenders on probation was 264,649 at the end of 2017.

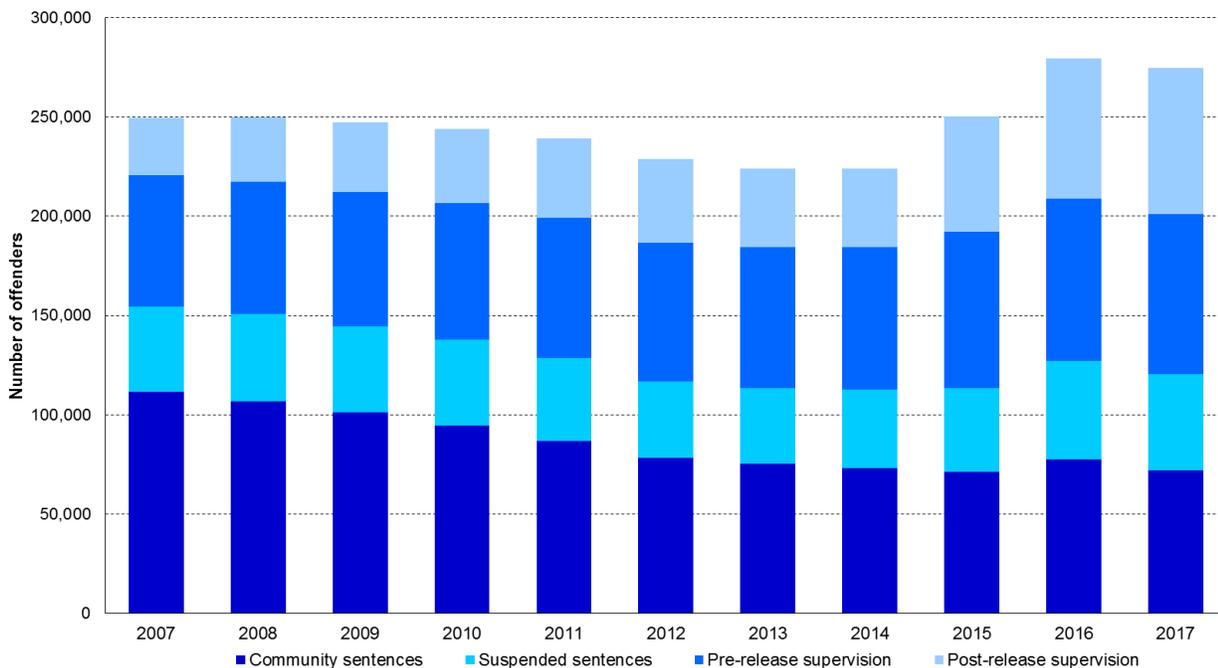
This was a 1% decrease in the total probation caseload (court orders and pre and post-release supervision) compared with one year earlier and an increase of 9% compared to December 2007.

The total annual probation caseload increased by 39% between 2000 and 2008 to 243,434. Since then the probation caseload fell year on year, reaching 217,359 at the end of 2014. However, at the end of December 2017, the total caseload stood at 264,649. This rise in recent years is mainly due to statutory supervision on release from prison for all offenders given custodial sentences of more than one day.

The total court order caseload (offenders on community orders (COs) and suspended sentence orders (SSOs)) fell 17% between 2010 and 2015, largely reflecting the fall in the community order. In 2016 the court order caseload rose by 12%, but has fallen again in 2017 by 5%, to 118,176. This is again mainly due to a fall in the community order. For those starting supervision, the number of court order starts fell by 28% between 2010 and 2017. This largely reflects a fall in community orders given as a sentence by the courts in England and Wales over the past seven years.

The number of court reports prepared by the Probation Service fell by 40% between 2009 and 2017, to 129,642, which is contributed to by the downward trend in the number of defendants being dealt with by the courts over this period.

Figure 2: Number of offenders under Probation Service supervision at end of December 2007-2017 (Source: Table 4.7)



Summary of quarterly statistics

The total number of offenders on probation was 264,649 as at 31 December 2017.

There was an 1% decrease in the total probation caseload compared with 31 December 2016.

Looking at the most recent quarterly trends, the court order caseload fell by 5%, with the CO caseload falling by 8% and the SSO caseload falling by 2% between the quarters ending December 2016 and 2017. The number of offenders starting both COs and SSOs each fell by 5% over this period. The caseload of offenders supervised before or after release from prison increased by 2% between the end of December 2016 and 2017, with offenders supervised on post release increasing by 5% alone.

With regard to the number of requirements started under court orders, there have been particular increases in the use of accredited programmes for offenders starting both COs and SSOs between the quarters ending December 2016 and 2017.

Of the court orders terminated in the quarter ending December 2017, 72% of Community orders were terminated successfully (i.e. 'ran their full course' or were 'terminated early for good progress'); for the supervision periods of Suspended Sentence Orders, 71% were terminated successfully over this period. These percentages have been fairly stable for some time.

The volume of court reports decreased by 13% between the quarters ending December 2016 and 2017, falling from 33,557 to 29,320. Around 90% of immediate custodial sentences proposed in Pre-Sentence Reports resulted in that sentence being given in the latest 12 month period.

6. Licence Recalls

The number of licence recalls between October and December 2017 was 5,652.

The number of recalls increased by 7% compare with the same period in 2016.

As a result of the Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014, offenders sentenced to more than a day in prison receive at least 12 months supervision on release. This came into effect for those sentenced from 1 February 2015. ORA recall refers to the recall of an offender on licence who received a sentence of length less than 12 months in prison.

Between October and December 2017, there were 2,306 recalls of offenders released from a sentence of under 12 months, a 14% increase from the same period in 2016 and a 4% increase from the previous quarter.

The number of non-ORA recalls has generally been falling since the latter part of 2014. The 3,346 non-ORA recalls between October and December 2017 is a decrease of 29% from a recent peak in July-September 2014; however, it is a 3% increase from the same period in 2016 and a 2% increase from the previous quarter.

There usually is more than one reason for recalling an offender on license. About 42% of all recalls between October and December 2017 involved cases of further offences. And non-compliance was given as one of the reasons for recalling in 66% of recalls in this period.

Between October and December 2017 there were 84 IPP prisoners and 55 life-sentence prisoners who were re-released having previously been returned to custody for a breach of licence conditions.

Offenders not returned to custody

Of all those released on licence and recalled to custody due to breaching the conditions of their licence between April 1999 and December 2017, there were 1,641 who had not been returned to custody by the end of March 2018.

A further 18 offenders had not been returned to custody as of 31 March 2018 after recall between 1984 and April 1999, meaning the total number of offenders not returned to custody at the end of March 2018 was 1,659. These figures include some offenders believed to be dead or living abroad but who have not been confirmed as dead or deported.

Of the 1,659 not returned to custody by 31 March 2018, 254 had originally been serving a prison sentence for violence against the person offences and a further 56 for sexual offences.

Further information

This publication presents quarterly data trends. For annual figures, and longer-term trends, please refer to our annual bulletin published in July each year.

Accompanying files

As well as this bulletin, the following products are published as part of this release:

- A '[Guide to Offender Management Statistics](#)', which provides comprehensive information about data sources and quality, as well as key legislative changes.
- A document outlining the '[Users of Offender Management Statistics](#)'
- A set of data tables, covering each section of this bulletin, including a prison population data tool.

National Statistics status

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value. All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.



It is the Ministry of Justice's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected for National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

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