



# Offender Management Statistics Bulletin, England and Wales

Quarterly April to June 2018

Prison population: 30 September 2018

## Main points

After being relatively stable for the past five years, the prison population has fallen in 2018. 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:

**83,005 prisoners in England and Wales as at 30 September 2018**



The total prison population has decreased by 3%, compared with the same point in the previous year.

**19,330 first receptions into prison in the latest quarter**



Compared with the same quarter last year, this is a 9% decrease in first receptions.

**48,793 adjudication outcomes between April and June 2018**



This is an increase of 3% on the same quarter in the previous year. 5,584 of these resulted in awards of additional days added to prisoners' sentences.

**261,196 offenders on probation as at 30 June 2018**



The number of offenders on probation at the end of June 2018 was stable (less than 1% decrease) compared to the same point in the previous year.

**5,999 offenders recalled to prison in the latest quarter**



This is a 11% increase on the same quarter in 2017.

**17,369 releases of which 17,133 were from determinate sentences in the latest quarter**



This is a decrease of 2% compared with the number of releases in the same quarter in 2017.

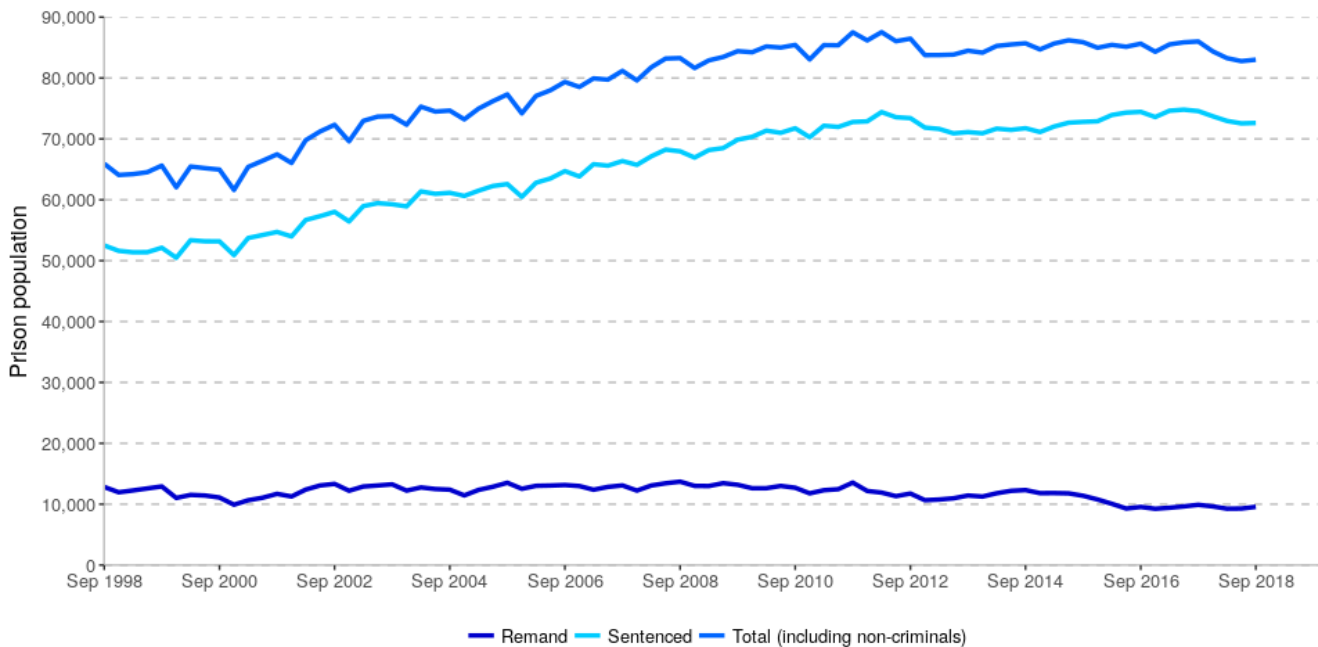
This publication provides offender management quarterly statistics for the latest date available and provides comparisons to the previous year. This publication also contains longer term trends in the prison population. For full and detailed commentary which looks into longer term trends for prison receptions and probation starts, as well as releases from prison and probation terminations, please refer to the annual publication, published in April. For technical detail please refer to the accompanying guide, ['Guide to offender management statistics'](#)

# 1. Population

**The prison population stood at 83,005 on 30 September 2018.**

The sentenced prison population stood at 72,668 (88% of the prison population); the remand prison population stood at 9,571 (12%) and the non-criminal prison population stood at 766 (1%).

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



## Remand

The remand population has decreased by 3% (331) compared with the same point 12 months earlier. The number of males remanded in custody decreased by 3% (to 9,022) whilst the number of females decreased by 5% (to 549). 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 (18%) or Theft Offences (15%).

## Sentenced

The sentenced population has decreased by 3% in the year leading up to 30 September 2018. Figure 1 shows that the total prison population has increased in line with the growth of the sentenced prison population since September 1998, however in more recent years the sentenced and total prison population has remained at a relatively constant level. Overall, 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 4,047) in the 12 months to 30 September 2018.

## **Sex offenders**

The rise in the long determinate sentenced population is in line with the increasing number of sentenced sex offenders. As at 30 September 2018 there were 13,535 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 14% (to 2,842) 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 4% of the sentenced prison population.

## **Extended Determinate Sentences (EDS)**

EDSs were made available for courts to impose from 13 April 2015 and on 30 September 2018, 4,896 prisoners were serving such sentences; a 4% increase compared to the previous quarter and a 21% increase compared to the same time last year.

## **Indeterminate sentences**

As at 30 September 2018, there were 9,686 (9,347 male; 339 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 2,598 IPP prisoners as at 30 September 2018 which represents a decrease of 18% in the last 12 months. This figure has decreased by 57% 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 22% (to 965).

The proportion of the IPP population who are post-tariff continues to increase; 89% of IPP prisoners were post-tariff as of 30 September 2018 compared to 86% at the same time the previous year.

The number of life sentenced prisoners (7,088) has decreased by 2% compared to 30 September 2017. There were 63 whole-life prisoners at the end of September 2018, with 3 additional life prisoners being treated in secure hospitals.

## **Recall to custody**

The prison population who have been recalled to custody (6,635 prisoners) increased by 7% over the year leading up to 30 September 2018.

## **Foreign National Offenders (FNOs)**

There were 9,047 (1,706 remand, 6,642 sentenced and 699 non-criminal) foreign nationals held in custody and HMPPS-operated Immigration Removal Centres (IRCs) as at 30 September 2018; representing 11% of the total prison population. The number of FNOs in the prison (and HMPPS IRC) population has decreased by 9% compared to 30 September 2017. The most common nationalities after British Nationals in prisons are Polish (9% of the FNO prison population), Albanian (8%), Irish (8%), Romanian (8%) and Jamaican (5%).

## 2. Prison receptions and admissions

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**In total there were 33,341 admissions to custody in the latest quarter.**

13,030 remand admissions, 14,692 sentenced admissions and 5,619 recall admissions.

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**19,330 offenders were received into custody as first receptions in the latest quarter.**

10,485 remand first receptions, 8,795 sentenced first receptions and 50 civil non-criminal first receptions.

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The number of first receptions decreased by 3% on the previous quarter, this is consistent with a 9% decrease in the number of first receptions compared with the same quarter in 2017.

There was a 6% decrease in the number of untried admissions (to 8,065), a 7% decrease in the number of convicted unsentenced admissions (to 4,965) and a 10% decrease in the number of sentenced admissions (to 14,692) compared with the same quarter in 2017.

By comparing the latest quarter to the same quarter in the previous year, adult (aged 21+) remand admissions have decreased by 6% and young adult (18-20 year olds) remand admissions have decreased by 9%. Adult sentenced admissions have decreased by 10% and young adult sentenced admissions have decreased by 12% compared with the same quarter last year.

Almost half of all sentenced admissions during the quarter were for sentences of six months or less (7,101, 48% of sentenced admissions). This sentence length band has seen an 8% decrease in the number of admissions when compared with the same quarter last year.

By comparing this quarter with the corresponding quarter in 2017, it can be seen that immediate custodial sentenced admissions for 'Drug offences' and 'Theft Offences' decreased by 19% and 16% respectively, however the number of sentenced admissions for 'Possession of weapons' has increased by 7% compared to the same quarter in the previous year.

### 3. Adjudications

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**There were 48,793 adjudication outcomes in the latest quarter.**

66% of these adjudications were proven.

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Around one in three (31%) of proven adjudications were for offences of disobedience or disrespect; the number of proven disobedience offences decreased by 1% on the same quarter of the previous year.

There were 5,584 punishments where additional days were awarded for offences committed by prisoners in the quarter ending June 2018. The average number of punishments per offence was 1.65. This is broadly consistent with figures seen in the previous quarter.

## 4. Releases

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**17,369 offenders were released from custody in the latest quarter.**

17,133 releases from determinate sentences and 236 from indeterminate sentences.

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### **Prison releases from custodial sentences**

The total number of releases during the quarter ending June 2018 represents a 2% decrease compared to the same quarter in 2017.

Substantial decreases in the number of releases for offenders serving sentences of 'less than 12 months' – just over 5% drop compared to Q2 2017 and '4 years or more' - 5% drop compared to Q2 2017 accounted the most for this small decrease.

In contrast, this was offset by a rise in the number of prisoners released from sentences of '12 months to less than 4 years' – a 5% increase compared to Q2 2017 and in those serving sentences of '10 years to less than 14 years' – a 9% increase compared to Q2 2017.

There were 236 releases from indeterminate sentences between April and June 2018, a 13% decrease from the same period in 2017. The majority (129) were offenders released from IPP sentences.

### **Releases on Home Detention Curfew (HDC)**

3,836 offenders were released on HDC during the latest quarter. The number of HDC releases increased by 69% compared to the same quarter in 2017.

### **Releases on Temporary Licence (ROTL)**

There were 91,952 incidences of ROTL during the quarter ending June 2018, which is a 7% increase on the same quarter last year.

Compared to the quarter ending June 2017, the number of ROTL incidences increased by 18% for females (to 8,141) and increased by 6% for males (to 83,811).

The number of individuals given at least one incidence of ROTL between April and June 2018 was 4,185, which represents a 4% increase from the same period in 2017.

There were 113 recorded Temporary Release Failures (TRFs) between April and June 2018. This is an increase of 32 compared with the previous quarter of 2018 and an increase of 23 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 810 incidences of temporary release resulting in a failure between April and June 2018.

### **Prisoner transfers**

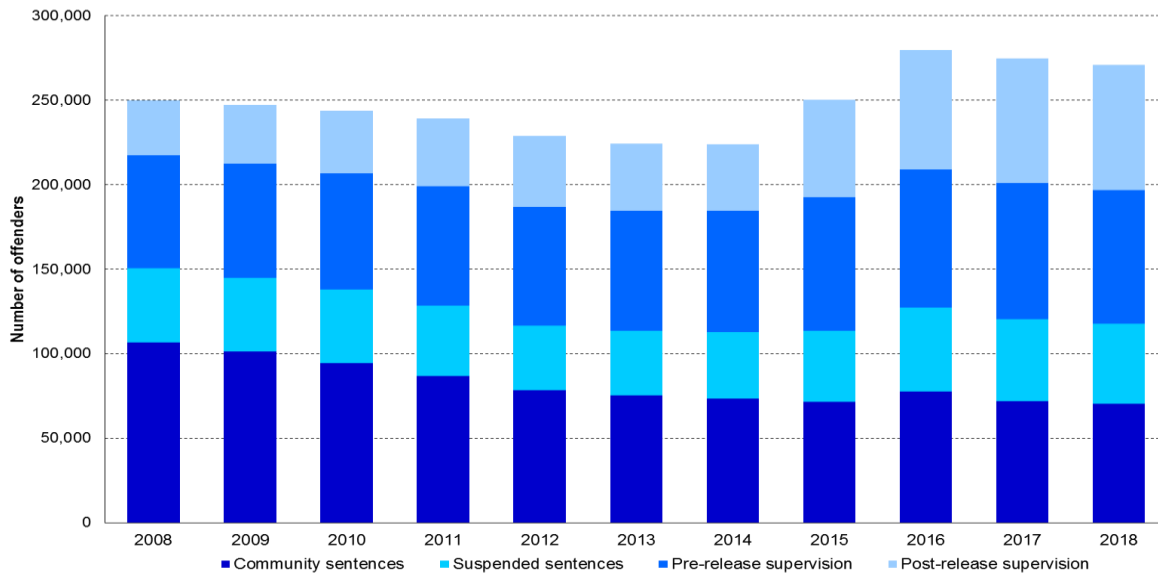
There were a total of 21,151 recorded incidences of prisoner transfer during the latest quarter. The majority of these (73%) were routine inter-prison transfers; 55 (under 1%) incidences of transfer were a result of overcrowding drafts. 17,362 prisoners had at least one incidence of a transfer in the quarter ending June 2018.

## 5. Probation

The total number of offenders on probation was 261,196 at the end of June 2018.

There was no percentage change in the total number of offenders on probation (court orders and pre and post release supervision) compared with 30 June 2017.

**Figure 2: Number of offenders under Probation Service supervision, 31 December 2008-2017 and 30 June 2018 (Source for latest period: Table 4.6)**



The overall court order caseload fell by 6% between the quarters ending June 2017 and 2018, with the Community Order (CO) caseload decreasing by 7% and the Suspended Sentence Order (SSO) caseload decreasing by 6%. The number of offenders starting COs showed no percentage change over this period, while the number of offenders starting SSOs with requirements decreased by 22%. This may be caused by a recent instruction to probation officers not to recommend SSOs in Pre-Sentence reports, leading to more offenders being given COs in their place. The overall caseload of offenders supervised before or after release from prison increased by 4% between the end of June 2017 and 2018, with those supervised on post release alone rising by 7%.

Regarding the number of requirements started under court orders, these have not fallen quite so much as orders in the case of SSOs, and have risen in the case of COs, meaning a slightly higher number of requirements per court order for both. There has been a continued rise in the number of accredited program requirements under COs, and in terms of combinations of requirements, rehabilitation combined with both unpaid work and with curfews have seen significant rises under COs.

Of the court orders terminated in the quarter ending June 2018, 71% 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, 73% of all those terminated were terminated successfully over this period.

The number of Pre-Sentence court reports prepared by the Probation Service decreased by 13% between the quarter ending June 2018 and the same quarter in the previous year. Ninety per cent of immediate custodial sentences proposed in Pre-Sentence Reports resulted in that sentence being given in the latest 12 month period.

## 6. Licence Recalls

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**The number of licence recalls between April and June 2018 was 5,999.**

The number of recalls increased by 11% compared with the same period in 2017.

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Offenders that have been sentenced for more than a day in prison will receive at least 12 months supervision on release as a result of the Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014. This came into effect for those sentenced from 1st February 2015. Offenders that have been recalled for breaching conditions of their licence following a sentence of under 12 months are called ORA recalls.

Between April and June 2018, there were 2,211 recalls of offenders released from a sentence of under 12 months, virtually unchanged when compared with the same period in 2017.

Since the introduction of ORA, the number of non-ORA recalls has been falling. There were 3,788 non-ORA recalls between April and June 2018, a 19% increase compared with the same period in 2017, and a 10% increase when compared to the previous quarter. The ministerial change in January 2018 increased the number of offenders released on Home Detention Curfew (HDC) – this has also resulted in an increase in the number of recalls from HDC.

The most common reason for offenders being recalled between April and June 2018 was for non-compliance, with 71% of recalls having non-compliance recorded as one of the reasons for recall. Further charge was recorded as a reason in 42% of licence recalls.

Between April and June 2018 there were 81 prisoners serving an IPP sentence and 42 offenders serving a life sentence 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 June 2018, there were 1,737 who had not been returned to custody by the end of September 2018.

A further 18 offenders had not been returned to custody as of 30 September 2018 after recall between 1984 and April 1999, meaning the total number of offenders not returned to custody at the end of September 2018 was 1,755. These figures include some offenders believed to be dead or living abroad but who have not been confirmed as dead or deported.

Of the 1,755 not returned to custody by 30 September 2018, 264 had originally been serving a prison sentence for violence against the person offences and a further 52 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.

Since August 2016 Community Rehabilitation Companies have not been obliged to use the same Tiering framework as the National Probation Service. As such, there have been increasing proportions of missing or 'not stated' data appearing in Probation Tables 4.6 and 4.9, which show probation supervision by tier (around 40 per cent missing for Community orders and 30 per cent for SSOs). For this reason, it has been decided to drop these tables going forward, so this edition of OMSQ will be the last in which they appear. Any queries about this decision should be directed to the email address: [statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk)

## 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.

## Contact

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**Next update:** 31st January 2019

**URL:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/offender-management-statistics-quarterly>

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