

Offender Management Statistics Quarterly Bulletin

April to June 2010, England and Wales

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Executive summary

This publication provides key statistics relating to offenders who are in prison or under Probation Service supervision. It covers flows into these services (receptions into prison or probation starts) and flows out (discharges from prison or probation terminations) as well as the caseload of both services at specific points in time. The publication also includes information on returns to custody following recall. Latest figures for 2010 are provided with comparisons to 2009, as well as reference to longer term trends.

The contents of the report will be of interest to government policy makers, the agencies responsible for offender management at both national and local levels, and others who want to understand more about the prison population and probation caseload.

Overview – latest period compared to the previous year

	September 2010	Percentage change September 2009 to September 2010
Prison population	85,429	1% ↑
Remand	12,706	-6% ↓
Untried	8,398	-5% ↓
Convicted unsentenced	4,308	-8% ↓
Under sentence	71,744	3% ↑
Fine Defaulters	128
Less than or equal to 6 months	5,532
Greater than 6 months to less than 12 months	2,564
12 months to less than 4 years	20,674
4 years or more (excluding indeterminate sentences)	23,916
Indeterminate sentences	13,271
Recalls	5,659
Non criminal⁽²⁾	979
	April - June 2010	Percentage change April - June 2009 to 2010
Prison receptions		
First receptions	29,676	-7% ↓
Remand - untried	13,929	-3% ↓
Remand - convicted unsentenced	9,601	7% ↑
Under sentence	22,218	-5% ↓
Fine Defaulters	315	0% →
Less than or equal to 6 months	10,972	-13% ↓
Greater than 6 months to less than 12 months	2,209	-4% ↓
12 months to less than 4 years	6,580	7% ↑
4 years or more (excluding indeterminate sentences)	1,928	5% ↑
Indeterminate sentences	214	-32% ↓
Non criminal⁽²⁾	509
Prison discharges		
Determinate sentences	22,217	1% ↑
Less than or equal to 6 months	9,900	-16% ↓
Greater than 6 months to less than 12 months	2,118	-7% ↓
12 months to less than 4 years	7,920	30% ↑
4 years or more (excluding indeterminate sentences)	2,279	23% ↑
Average percentage of time served⁽¹⁾		
Determinate sentences	57%	-2% point ↓
Less than or equal to 6 months	54%	-3% point ↓
Greater than 6 months to less than 12 months	49%	-1% point ↓
12 months to less than 4 years	56%	-2% point ↓
4 years or more (excluding indeterminate sentences)	60%	-2% point ↓
Probation starts		
All court orders	45,523	-3% ↓
All community sentences	33,621	-5% ↓
Community order	33,032	-4% ↓
All pre CJA orders	599	-54% ↓
Other sentences	11,917	1% ↑
Deferred sentence	143	18% ↑
Suspended sentence order	11,774	1% ↑
Pre and post release supervision	11,457	1% ↑
Persons supervised by the Probation Service	239,041	-2% ↓
All court orders	136,644	-6% ↓
All community sentences	96,635	-9% ↓
Community order	94,066	-7% ↓
All pre CJA orders	2,663	-41% ↓
Other sentences	43,631	1% ↑
Deferred sentence	102	19% ↑
Suspended sentence order	43,550	1% ↑
All pre and post release supervision	103,734	4% ↑
Pre release supervision	68,804	3% ↑
Post release supervision	35,333	6% ↑
Licence recalls		
Recalled	3,800	2% ↑
Returned to custody	3,702	2% ↑
Not returned to custody	98	-13% ↓

(1) Average percentage of time served includes time served on remand.

(2) The latest figures for non-criminals cannot be compared with the previous year due to changes in the way these data are recorded.

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Prison population

The prison population grew rapidly in the 15 years from 1993 to 2008 – an average of 4 per cent a year. This rapid rise was driven by:

- increased numbers of people sentenced to immediate custody from 1999 to 2002.
- Increases in the average custodial sentence length and increased use of indeterminate sentences.
- Increase in numbers recalled to prison following breaches of the conditions of licence and these offenders spending longer in prison once recalled.

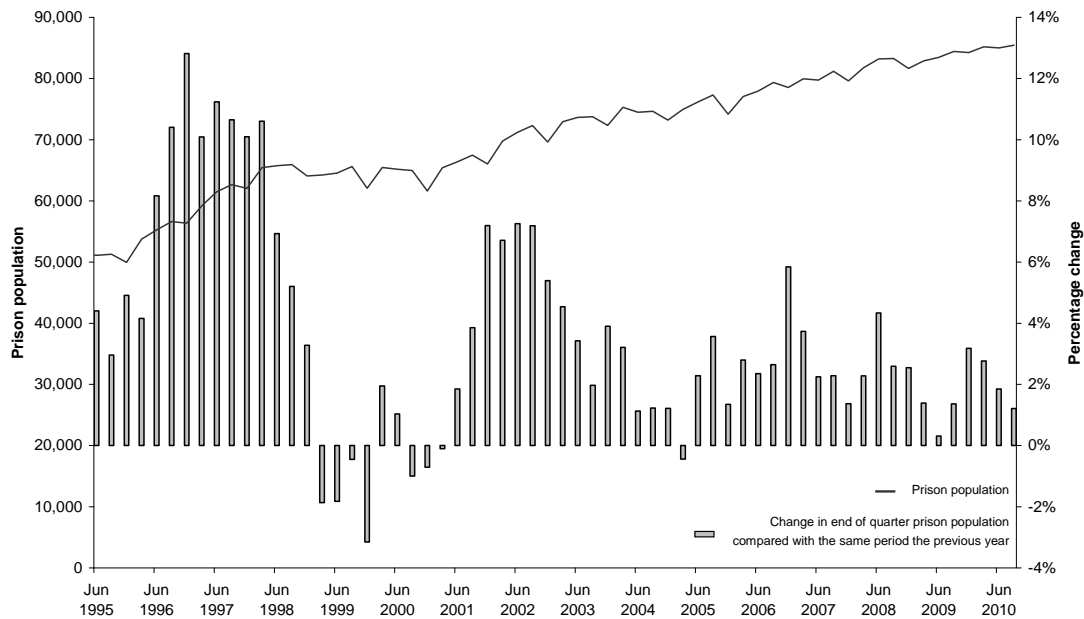
However, the rise in the prison population has slowed considerably since the summer of 2008 with an average annual increase of 1 per cent (Figure 1.1).

Most recently, between September 2009 and September 2010 the prison population increased by 1 per cent to 85,429. Over this period, the withdrawal of the End of Custody Licence (ECL) early release scheme in March 2010 added around 1,000 to the prison population. If ECL had continued, the prison population would have been virtually unchanged between September 2009 and September 2010.

At the end of September 2010, there were:

- 81,150 males in prison - a rise of 1.2 per cent over the year (or just 0.1 per cent after removing the impact of the withdrawal of ECL).
- 4,279 females in prison - a rise of 1 per cent over the year (or a fall of 1 per cent after removing the impact of the withdrawal of ECL).

Figure 1.1 Quarterly prison population and annual percentage change
England and Wales, June 1995 to September 2010



The flatter trend seen since 2008 partly reflects the introduction of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act (CJIA) 2008, which changed sentencing and offender management in ways which helped to reduce growth in the prison population. For more information see [CJIA 2008](#).

The relatively small increase in total prison population over the last year was made up of a decrease in the remand population and slower growth in the sentenced population:

- The remand population fell by 6 per cent between September 2009 and September 2010 to 12,706, similar to the level seen in 2007 (historically the remand population has been between 12,500 and 13,500 since 2002). This fall comprised a 5 per cent fall in the untried population to 8,398 and an 8 per cent fall in the convicted unsentenced population to 4,308. The falling remand population partly reflects the rising use of fast delivery pre-sentence reports (PSRs) since they were introduced in 2005.
- There was a 3 per cent increase (of 2,318) in prisoners under sentence in September 2010 (71,744) compared with September 2009 (almost half of this rise was due to the ending of ECL).
- The adult and young adult sentenced populations increased by 3 per cent and 9 per cent to 62,402 and 8,130 respectively whereas the 15-17 year old sentenced population fell by 24 per cent to 1,212 (continuing the trend of falling numbers of 15-17 year olds seen since 2008).
- In terms of sentence length:
 - the number of prisoners on indeterminate sentences (either a life sentence or an Indeterminate sentence for Public Protection – an IPP)

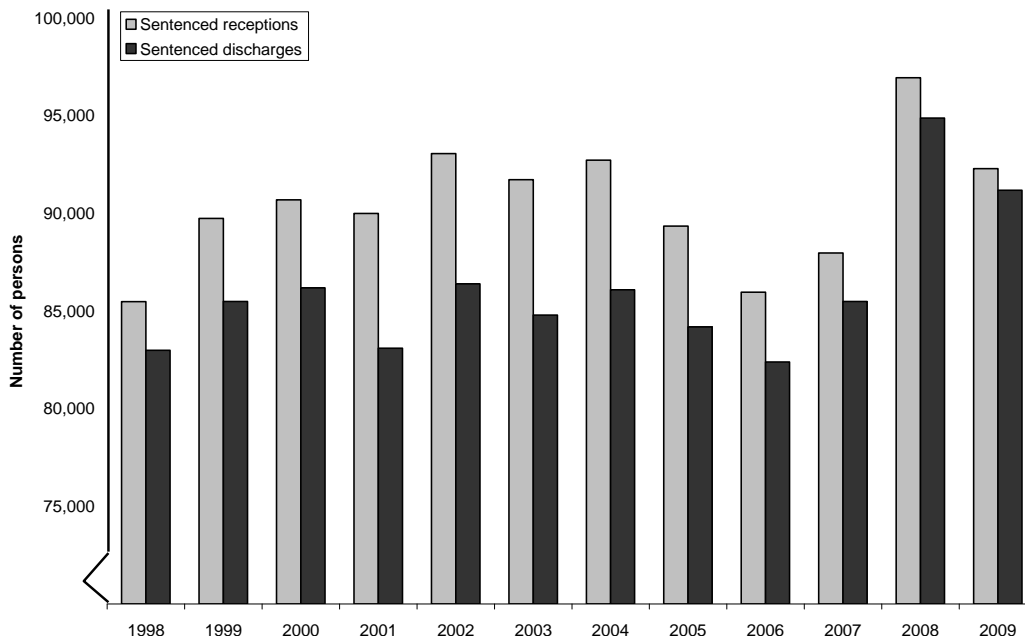
is now at its highest ever at 13,271, but recent figures (where comparisons can be made – see appendix A) suggest the rate of increase is continuing to fall following changes introduced in the CJIA 2008.

- The determinate sentenced population and recall population are now 52,686 and 5,659 respectively.
- The non-criminal population was 979 in September 2010. This figure cannot be compared to a year ago because of changes in how these data are recorded.

Changes in the size of the prison population are affected by changes in the number and type of receptions and of those who are discharged. Figure 1.2 below compares determinate sentenced receptions with determinate sentenced discharges between 1998 and 2010, illustrating the difference between sentenced receptions and discharges, which began to narrow in 2005 when growth in the determinate sentenced population also began to slow.

For the most recent quarter where population, receptions and discharges data are all available (quarter ending June 2010) the determinate sentenced population excluding recalls fell by 460 (between 31 March and 30 June 2010). During the quarter ending June 2010 there were 21,689 determinate sentenced receptions and 22,217 determinate sentenced discharges – a net outflow of 528.

Figure 1.2 Annual determinate sentenced receptions and determinate sentenced discharges England and Wales 1998 to 2009



Prison receptions

There were 125,877 first receptions in 2009 representing a fall of 6 per cent compared to 2008 but a similar level to 2007. First receptions are an indication of the number of individuals received into prison in a given year or quarter.

In 2009, 75,266 prisoners were received on remand, 8 per cent lower than in 2008. This fall of 8 per cent was comprised of a 4 per cent fall in untried receptions and a 17 per cent fall in convicted unsentenced receptions.

The falling number of remand receptions partly reflects the rising use of fast delivery pre-sentence reports (PSRs) since they were introduced in 2005. Fast delivery PSRs are more likely to be completed on the same day than standard delivery PSRs, and therefore are less likely to result in a convicted unsentenced prison reception.

In 2009, there were 93,621 prisoners received under immediate custodial sentence (excluding fine defaulters), down 5 per cent on 2008, but 4 per cent higher than 2007.

More recently, in the quarter ending June 2010, 22,218 prisoners were received under sentence, 5 per cent lower than in the quarter ending June 2009. Within this overall decrease, short sentenced receptions (less than 12 months) fell by 11 per cent, while longer sentenced receptions rose (by 7 per cent for sentences of 12 months to less than 4 years, and by 5 per cent for determinate sentences of 4 years or more).

The increase in the 12 months to less than 4 years group reflects changes introduced in the CJIA 2008 which restricted the use of Indeterminate sentences for Public Protection (IPPs) to a minimum tariff of 2 years. As a result some offenders who would previously have been given a short tariff IPP will now receive a determinate sentence of 12 months to less than 4 years.

Prison discharges

In the quarter ending June 2010, a total of 22,217 offenders were discharged from determinate sentences, up 1 per cent from the quarter ending June 2009. Within this total, male discharges rose by 1 per cent, but female discharges fell by 2 per cent.

Within the overall increase, discharges of short sentences (less than 12 months) were lower than a year ago, whereas discharges of longer sentences were higher. The numbers discharged from sentences of less than or equal to 6 months or greater than 6 months to less than 12 months were down 16 per cent and 7 per cent respectively. Whereas those discharged from sentences of 12

months to less than 4 years and 4 years or more (excluding indeterminate sentences) were up 30 per cent and 23 per cent respectively.

In the quarter ending June 2010, the percentage of sentence served for all determinate sentences was 57 per cent, compared with 59 per cent in the same quarter in 2009; these figures include time on remand. Over the longer term, the proportion of time served rose from 56 per cent in 1999 to 61 per cent in 2007, before falling slightly to 60 per cent in 2008 and 59 per cent in 2009. These changes reflect the falling use of Home Detention Curfew (HDC) over the period (particularly from 2003-2007) and a decline in the parole release rate from 2006/07.

A total of 3,007 prisoners were released on HDC in the quarter ending June 2010, virtually unchanged from the 3,003 released on HDC in the quarter ending June 2009 (although the numbers released on HDC were lower in each of the intervening quarters).

Prisoners released on HDC in the quarter ending June 2010 spent an average of 3.1 months on HDC, down slightly from 3.2 months in the quarter ending June 2009.

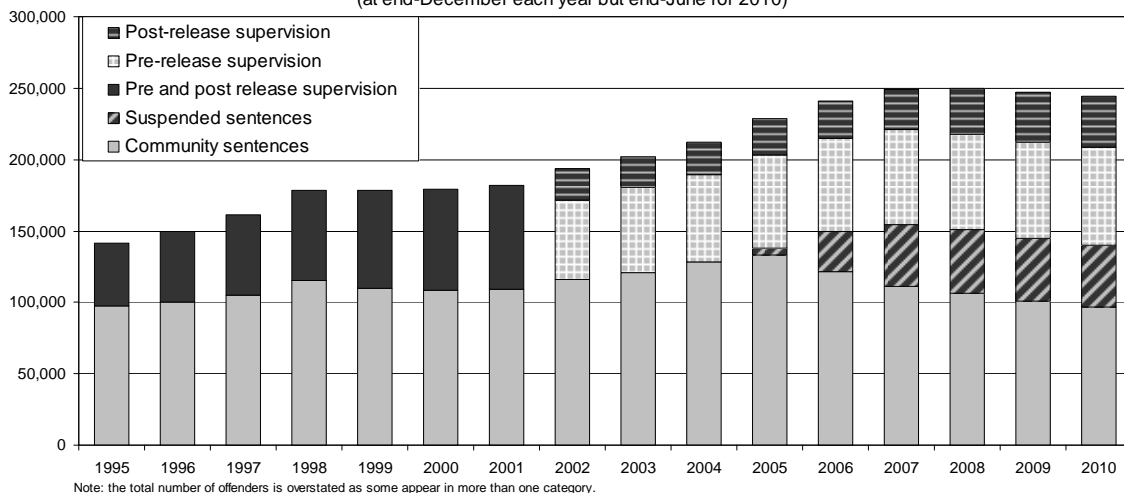
Probation

The probation caseload increased by 38 per cent between 1999 and 2009 to 241,500. This rise was driven by:

- introduction of new court orders, most recently the Suspended Sentence Order (SSO) in 2005 (under the Criminal Justice Act 2003).
- Increase in pre and post-release supervision caseload due to:
 - continued growth in the number of offenders serving custodial sentences of 12 months or more who require supervision on release from custody.
 - Offenders spending longer periods on licence after release from custody under CJA 2003.

The number of offenders starting court orders (community orders and SSOs) continued to increase in 2009, while the number being supervised at the end of the year (the caseload) continued the decrease seen in 2008. This was due to a reduction in the average sentence length of community orders since their introduction, from 22 months in 2005 to 13 months in 2009. It is possible that SSOs have drawn in some who would previously have received longer community orders, partly explaining this fall. (See Chapter 3, Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2009 for further possible reasons for the fall in average sentence length).

Figure 1.3 Number of offenders under Probation Service supervision
(at end-December each year but end-June for 2010)



The court order caseload continued to decrease between the quarter ending June 2009 and quarter ending June 2010. The number of offenders starting court orders also decreased over this period, following increases in the longer term. The picture differed for community orders and SSOs, with community orders falling and SSOs rising:

- there was a 7 per cent decrease in the community order caseload and a 4 per cent decrease in the number starting community orders (down from 34,279 to 33,032) between the quarter ending June 2009 and quarter ending June 2010.
- There was a 1 per cent increase in both the SSO caseload and the number starting SSOs (up from 11,627 to 11,774).

The caseload of offenders supervised before or after release from prison increased by 4 per cent between the quarter ending June 2009 and quarter ending June 2010, including a 6 per cent increase in the number supervised post release. Starts of pre or post release supervision rose by just 1 per cent, up from 11,366 to 11,457 over the same period, reflecting the slower growth in the prison population.

Of the 32,454 community orders terminated in the quarter ending June 2010, 66 per cent had run their full course or were terminated early for good progress, an increase from the previous year (64 per cent). Equivalent figures for SSOs were 67 and 65 per cent respectively.

A total of 55,230 court reports were prepared in the quarter ending June 2010, 4 per cent down on the previous year, representing a change in the longer term trend of small increases. The decrease was due to a 20 per cent fall in the number of Standard PSRs, while Fast delivery PSRs rose by 14 per cent; comprising increases of 11 per cent in oral fast delivery PSRs and 15 per cent in written fast delivery PSRs.

Licence recalls

During the quarter ending June 2010, a total of 3,800 offenders had their licence revoked and were recalled. Of these, by 30 September 2010, 3,702 recalled offenders had been returned to custody and 98 had not been returned to custody.

A further 844 offenders who had been recalled prior to 1 April 2010 had not been returned to custody by 30 September 2010 making a total of 942 offenders who had been recalled but had not been returned to custody. Of these, 147 had originally been serving a prison sentence for violence against the person offences and a further 32 for sexual offences.

The end-to-end measure across all agencies involved in the process is for 75 per cent of recalled offenders to be returned to custody within 74 hours for emergency recalls and 144 hours for standard recalls. In the quarter ending June 2010, 2,954 (78 per cent) were returned within agreed timescales.

References

This publication replaces three existing statistics publications: monthly population in custody, probation statistics quarterly, and licence recalls and returns to custody. This new quarterly bulletin combines all three publications and incorporates for the first time quarterly data on receptions and discharges. This publication and associated spreadsheet files of the tables contained in this document are available for download at

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics.htm under the Prison and Probation section. All previous bulletins (monthly population in custody, probation statistics quarterly, licence recalls and returns to custody) are also available at the same link.

Definitions and key legislative change: For detailed information of definitions, and key legislative changes please see appendix A and C of the [Offender Management Caseload Statistics annual publication 2009](#).

Appendix A – Data sources and quality

The data presented in this publication are drawn from administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. While the figures shown have been checked as far as practicable, they should be regarded as approximate and not necessarily accurate to the last whole number shown in the tables. Where figures in the tables have been rounded to the nearest whole number, the rounded components do not always add to the totals, which are calculated and rounded independently.

Prison data – impact of data collection issues affecting the quarters July-September 2009, October-December 2009 and January-March 2010

In May 2009, the National Offender Management Service began the roll-out of a new case management system for prisons (Prison-NOMIS). During the phased roll-out, data collection issues emerged that affected the supply of data for statistical purposes from July 2009 to February 2010. Specifically, statistical information on sentence length and offence group is not available on any of our prison datasets for this period. The problems were successfully resolved in March 2010.

As a consequence, there are no breakdowns by sentence length or offence group for the third and fourth quarter of 2009 in any of the prison population, receptions or discharges tables.

In order to ensure the fullest possible set of data for 2010, sentence lengths have been estimated for those prisoners received or discharged before the problems were resolved. A small number of prison establishments are still using the old LIDS case management system; data for prisoners received or discharged from these prisons has been assumed to be unaffected.

For those prisoners received or discharged from prisons operating Prison-NOMIS, efforts were made to populate their record with the correct sentence length using other data extracts. For example, many prisoners discharged in January 2010 were originally received into prison prior to July 2009, so we were able to take their sentence length from unaffected datasets before the problems began. Similarly, the majority of those received in early 2010 were still in prison in March 2010 when the problems were resolved, so we were able to use the sentence length in the corrected prison population data.

Where it was not possible to populate a sentence length using other datasets, prisoners were allocated a sentence length band based on the number of days they spent in custody (taking account of early release schemes where relevant).

Offence groups have not been estimated for the first quarter of 2010, so prison receptions tables do not include this breakdown. Additionally, the number of Home Detention Curfew releases by sentence length band, and the average time served for those discharged from determinate sentences, have not been estimated so figures are not available for January – March 2010.

Licence recalls and returns to custody data

Total number of recalls – all figures presented in this bulletin include offenders recalled from licence for determinate sentences, indeterminate sentences for public protection (IPPs) and life sentences and those recalled from Home Detention Curfew for the period 1 April 1999 to 30 June 2010. They do not include recalls from End of Custody Licence. The End of Custody Licence scheme was withdrawn on 12 March 2010. Final figures were published in Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2009 which is available for download at www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm.

The total number of recalls to end of June 2010 does not include those offenders recalled during the period 1 January 1984 to 31 March 1999 as the number of recalled offenders is approximate.

Returned to custody – the figures for those returned to custody include people who have died or been deported by the UK Borders Agency as prior to 2007 this information was not collected separately. The information held centrally records whether or not recalled offenders are still wanted for return to custody but for those offenders no longer wanted for return to custody, information is not held on whether the recall was completed by actual return to custody or because the offender died or was deported.

Not returned to custody – this includes those offenders believed to be dead or living outside of the UK but who have not been confirmed as dead or deported.

Offence – table 5.4 presents a breakdown of all offenders recalled in the period up to and including 30 June 2010 and not returned to custody by 30 September 2010 by offence. This is the offence for which the offender served a prison sentence before being released on licence and subsequently recalled for breaching the conditions of that licence. The figures are presented by standard offence groups, with a further breakdown of violence against the person and sexual offences. Those cases recorded as “other” do not fit into the set categories. These offences include: arson, blackmail, breach of probation orders, criminal damage, drunk and disorderly, escape lawful custody, harassment, libel and possession of weapons.

Performance data - the licence recall data on performance against timescales is compiled by the National Offender Management Service based on returns from the agencies involved and the Local Criminal Justice Boards.

Symbols used

..	not available
0	nil or less than half the final digit shown
-	not applicable
*	denominator less than 50

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