



Ministry of
JUSTICE

Statistical Notice

Prisoners working in custody:

Public Sector Prisons

2010/11 - 2011/12

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Background

The Government set out in the Breaking the Cycle: Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders (December 2010) their ambition to increase work in prisons.

The intention is to have more prisoners working and working longer hours in an 'employment like' atmosphere. The aim of this is threefold:

- To ensure that prisoners are occupied in purposeful activity whilst in establishments
- To enable us to make deductions for services that support victims of crime
- To give offenders the opportunity to learn new skills and experience and support finding employment on release

NOMS are committed to working with businesses to significantly increase work activity undertaken by offenders in custody. One3One, the NOMS group with responsibility for working with governors to deliver this ambition recently launched their offer to business at a reception in Downing Street.

This note provides provisional management information on the number of prisoners undertaking specific work activities in public sector prisons in the years 2010/11 and 2011/12, and the total number of hours worked by offenders in these areas.

This data is sourced from the regime monitoring systems used by each public sector prison to record the number of prisoners in each of their workshops and the hours worked each day. Further quality assurance and validation of these data is undertaken by One3One who are able to access a detailed breakdown to individual workshop level. All data is subject to verification and comparison to the forecasts provided by prisons at the beginning of the year in relation to their attendance and production targets.

The number of prisoners working and the number of hours worked over the last two financial years are set out in the table below. These figures do not include other 'internal' work activity undertaken by offenders such as catering and cleaning.

Table 1: Prisoners working in custody: Public Sector Prisons^[1,2].

	Average number of prisoners working per month ⁽³⁾	Total prisoner hours in work (million) ⁽⁴⁾
2010/11	8,600	10.6
2011/2 ^[5]	9,000	11.4

- In 2010/11 public sector prisons delivered around 10.6 million prisoner working hours which increased to over 11.4 million hours in 2011/12.
- Over the last two years the number of prisoners working in public sector prisons increased from around 8,600 per month in 2010/11 to around 9,000 per month in 2011/12.

Notes

1. For the purposes of this report the following work activities have been included as work: Contract Services, Land Based Activities, Textiles, Laundry, Woodwork, Printing/DTP/Signs, Engineering, PICTA, Other/Concrete, Industrial Cleaning, Single Portions, Charity, Braille, Plastics and Newgate Furniture.
2. The data excludes activity such as cleaning and catering and work placements undertaken by offenders on release on temporary license.
3. The number of prisoners working refers to the number of offenders employed in the defined activities across the estate at a particular time and is not a cumulative figure.
4. The total hours worked figure is cumulative and is derived from total recorded hours spent by offenders in defined work areas over the year. Hours worked may differ from hours paid due to permitted interruptions to work.
5. Figures for 2011/12 are provisional and may be revised following year end adjustments. Final figures will be included within the Addendum to the NOMS Annual Report which is being published on 24th July.
6. Data has been drawn from administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the data, the level of detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

Contact details and further information

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