



Ministry
of Justice

Statistical Notice and Consultation – Part 1

Changes to Offender Management Statistics Quarterly and Annual editions

April 2014

Introduction

Offender Management Statistics Quarterly (OMSQ) aims to provide informative statistics relating to offenders who are in prison or under Probation Service supervision in England and Wales. Between the first edition of OMSQ in October 2010 and most recent edition in January 2014, OMSQ has expanded in response to frequently requested information from our users, and to include new data as it has become suitable for publication.

During 2014, as a result of improvements to IT, the administrative data source used to produce statistics on the prison population is expected to change. In the longer term, this should mean that more detailed information about the prison population should be available for inclusion in this statistical series. In the short term, there are likely to be differences between the new and old data source that will need to be quantified and explained.

Subject to this change being made successfully, we will be looking to change the administrative data sources for other prison data in order to improve the coverage and content of these statistical series. As with the prison population, there are likely to be differences between new and old data sources that will need to be quantified and explained.

Given the length of time that OMSQ has been running, and the forthcoming changes to data sources, it is therefore appropriate to review the statistics that are published as part of OMSQ. As a National Statistics series, OMSQ complies with the “Code of Practice for Official Statistics”. In accordance with this, and the “Strategy for the Government Statistical Service to 2020”, this notice sets out how the accompanying edition of OMSQ marks the start of a twelve month programme of work that will review each part of the publication to ensure it continues to meet users’ needs.

As part of this programme of work, we will continue to introduce further breakdowns of published statistics that are requested most often by our users to improve the coverage of OMSQ. Tables will also be re-organised so that statistics are provided consistently throughout the publication, including both the annual and quarterly editions. Alongside each publication any new breakdowns that are being released, and how any tables have been re-organised, will be clearly documented both in a document similar to this and within the tables themselves. There is no intention of making this a total reorganisation of the series, rather a series of small changes so that information is presented consistently throughout the publication.

As a result of data source changes, there may be some changes to the classifications used in these statistics. Where possible, we will invite users’ views as to what these new classifications should be. As a minimum, we will announce any changes to classifications used in these statistics as far in advance of their use as possible, and update associated information on data quality and sources.

To enable further breakdowns and a more consistent publication to be produced, it is therefore clear that those breakdowns which do not contribute to providing a more informative set of statistics for our users should be discontinued. Any statistics or tables that that have previously been published will only be discontinued as part of this programme of work after consulting with our users and announcing the discontinuation of these statistics in advance.

As stated above, specific changes that have been made in this edition of OMSQ have been documented below. Following this, potential future changes to OMSQ are set out. Users are therefore encouraged to contact Sapna Sanghvi at statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk with their feedback on this statistical series and these proposed future changes.

Comments are requested by **19 June 2014**.

The changes made resulting from these proposals will be documented in a similar notice to this alongside the next edition of OMSQ on 31 July 2014.

Changes made in this edition of OMSQ

There has been no reduction in the statistical information published in this edition of OMSQ and only a few small changes have been made that do not necessitate pre-announcement. These mainly focus on the prison population series which have been slightly re-organised after being reviewed. This section provides users with a guide of how to find previously published material that may have moved and highlights the additional information that is now being provided.

Increased coverage of religion of prisoners

Previously information on the religion of prisoners has only been provided in annual edition of the publication that is normally published at this time of year. From this edition of OMSQ onwards, information on the religion of prisoners will be published quarterly in the Prison Population tables, with commentary provided in the associated bulletin.

This is in response to continued public interest in this topic. Including this information therefore helps ensure that these statistics are equally available to all our users.

Increased coverage of Foreign National Offenders

The annual edition also provided a table showing the British and Foreign National Prison populations broken down by sentence types. From this edition of OMSQ onwards, this information will be provided quarterly. Furthermore, sentence types will be broken down into the same sentence bands used elsewhere in the publication to describe the prison population.

This is also in response to continued public interest in this topic. Including this information therefore helps ensure that these statistics are equally available to all our users.

Time series information on the prison population

The UK Statistics Authority and National Statistician's Office have encouraged the Government Statistical Service to improve the time series information it provides. Since 2010, the annual tables published alongside the April edition of OMSQ (thereby replacing the annual Offender Management Caseload Statistics publication) have provided additional information on the prison population over time to supplement the quarterly tables.

These annual tables have, however, previously only contained information on the prison population on 30 June of each year. The advice to our users will remain that to make long term comparisons about the prison population over time, the 30 June data point should be used to avoid any seasonality issues that affect the prison population around the Christmas or Easter periods.

In this annual edition we have supplemented the information on the prison population with the information that is already provided each quarter. During the next year, we will work to provide more complete time series for previous years where the information was not readily available or where particular breakdowns have only previously been included in the annual publication.

Re-organisation of prison population tables

Annex A sets out how the quarterly prison population tables previously published in OMSQ have been re-organised. The principal changes are:

- Two previously annual tables on the religion of prisoners and on Foreign National Offenders are now also included in the quarterly tables, and can be found Tables 1.5 and 1.6 respectively.
- The previously separate Tables 1.1a, 1.1b, and 1.1c have now been collapsed into one table, and supplemented with monthly information that was previously included in Table 1.2. The information is now found in Table 1.1.
- The previously separate Tables 1.3a, 1.3b, 1.3c, and 1.3d have been collapsed to include all age groups but split into separate tables for the remand and sentenced populations. The information is now found in Tables 1.2a and 1.2b respectively.
- Tables have been re-ordered to include new quarterly tables at a sensible point, and have consequently been renumbered.

Annex B also sets out how the annual prison publication tables in OMSQ have been re-organised. The principal changes are:

- The previously separate Table A1.12 on indeterminate sentenced prisoners has been removed as it duplicated material found in A1.1 on the prison population by sentence type.
- The previously separate Table A1.3 has been merged in with Table A1.1 to give a monthly time series on the prison population from 2009 onwards.
- The previously separate Tables A1.5 and A1.6 have been re-organised into Tables A1.3a and A1.3b to correspond to the quarterly Tables 1.2a and 1.2b to give an offence group breakdown of the remand and sentenced populations respectively.
- The previously separate Table A1.11 on the sentenced prison population by age group has been merged in with Table A1.5 to give one table on the prison population by age group.
- The previously separate Tables A1.26 and A1.27 on custody type and sentence length have been merged into Table A1.14 to give one table on the custody types and sentence lengths of prisoners by religion.
- Tables have been re-ordered to follow the order of the quarterly tables, and have consequently been renumbered.

Resumed coverage in the annual tables

In 2009 there was disruption to the supply of prison data following the introduction of the prison NOMIS data system. As a consequence of this, some annual tables published in 2009 and prior to that had been suspended due to concerns about data quality. Most of these tables have now been re-instated, but subject to user needs, outstanding tables can also be reinstated. As a consequence of this, in this annual edition two further tables have been re-instated to the annual tables following data quality work:

- In the Receptions Tables, Table A2.7 reinstates information previously given on non-criminal receptions into prison. This is in response to user needs.
- In the Releases Tables, Tables A3.10 to A3.12 reinstates information previously given on Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL). This has been as a result of data quality work to support the MoJ and HMIP ROTL reviews. Data on 2012 was first published in an ad-hoc statistical release to support the outcomes of these reviews.

Renamed discharges as releases

Statistics on people being released from prison have been previously called discharges. Whilst the term 'discharge' is used operationally for the process of a prisoner being released from prison, it is not immediately clear to users what this represents. Therefore, in this edition of OMSQ, and in future editions, what has previously been called 'discharges' will now be called 'releases'. No changes to the method, recording practices, or data sources used for prisoner discharges/releases have been made.

Proposed changes for future editions of OMSQ

After reviewing the quarterly and annual prison population tables, further changes beyond re-organising already published information have been identified. As these changes do not only comprise of releasing further breakdowns of already published information, but would result in the loss of some statistical information, this section sets out a series of proposals which users can consider and give their feedback on.

Quarterly statistics on the prison population

No changes to content of the quarterly prison population tables are proposed. These tables should remain the same as published in the edition of OMSQ accompanying this notice.

Annual statistics on the prison population

The primary purpose of the annual edition of OMSQ is to provide users with longer time series and further breakdowns on small subsets of offenders than those included in the quarterly edition. In particular, it should aim to be a depository for longer time series on those statistics published in the quarterly edition.

Annual tables proposed to be discontinued

The review of the annual prison population tables identified the following tables which provide cross-tabulations of the prison population at one point in time. It is proposed that they are discontinued for publications due in 2015 onwards:

Table	Title
A1.7	Population in prison by ethnic group, custody type, length of sentence, age group and sex
A1.9	Population in prison under an immediate custodial sentence by ethnic group, nationality, offence group and sex
A1.10	Prison population by ethnic group, type of prisoner, sex and nationality
A1.12	Population in prison by ethnic group, religious group and sex
A1.13	Prison population in prison by age, religious group and sex
A1.14	Prison population in prison by custody type, religious group and sex

The reason for discontinuing these tables is that they quickly become outdated and therefore through Freedom of Information requests users are able to obtain more timely bespoke cross-tabulations on the prison population than those currently published within these annual tables. However, should there be sufficient user feedback to demonstrate ongoing demand for these tables, they will continue.

Annual tables proposed to be expanded or introduced

Subject to resources made available from discontinuing the above tables, and user demand, it is proposed to expand the coverage in some annual tables and introduce others to ensure that the annual tables provide a more complete depository of longer

term time series for those statistics found in the quarterly publication. The proposals set out below would mean that each of Tables 1.1 to 1.8 in the quarterly edition of OMSQ would have an associated annual table with a longer time series.

Table	Title	Proposal
A1.4	Prison population under sentence by offence, age group and sex, 30 June 2013, England and Wales	Change this table to give information over time and discontinue to the age group breakdown.
A1.11	Prison population by religion, 2002 to 2013, England and Wales	Expand this table to include a gender breakdown to match the quarterly Table 1.5
A1.15	Prison population by type of custody and nationality status, 2002 to 2013, England and Wales	Expand this table to include the sentence length bands used as a further breakdown of custody type in quarterly Table 1.6
New annual table	Prison population by sex, establishment and nationality status, England and Wales	To introduce a new annual table to give a longer time series of that given in Table 1.7.
New annual table	Prison population by nationality and sex, England and Wales	To introduce a new annual table to give a longer time series of that given in Table 1.8.

In addition to this, to continue the work that has already been done in this annual edition of OMSQ, rather than just providing time series consisting of the June data point, we will seek to undertake further work to provide more complete time series by including the published quarterly information in the annual tables.

Reviewing statistics on prison receptions and releases

In the next edition of OMSQ, tables and commentary on receptions into and releases from prison will be reviewed. Users views on the existing commentary and tables are welcome. As started earlier in this notice, this will not be a wholesale reorganisation of these tables, rather an opportunity to identify further breakdowns of data that are requested by our users, and to ensure that quarterly and annual tables are harmonised. Proposals of changes to tables will be set out in a document similar to this alongside the next edition of OMSQ on 31 July 2014.

Potential changes in other future editions of OMSQ

As part of the Government's Transforming Rehabilitation programme, Probation Trusts will be replaced by Community Rehabilitation Companies and the National Probation Service on 1 June 2014. This will have an impact on all probation related statistics, in particular how best to reflect the new organisational arrangements. Proposals for changes to presentation and coverage will be set out in a document similar to this in due course.

Annex A

Following the introduction of two new quarterly prison population tables in the edition of OMSQ that accompanies this notice, and work to better organise the tables, the tables previously published in OMSQ in January 2014 have been renumbered.

In the table below the 'Old Table' gives the tables as published in the quarterly prison population tables in OMSQ in January 2014 for the period up to December 2013, and 'New Table' gives the table number for quarterly prison population tables that are in the edition of OMSQ that accompanies this notice for the period up to March 2014.

Old Table	New Table
Table 1.1a: Total population in custody by type of custody and age group, on a quarterly basis, September 2012 to December 2013, England and Wales.	Table 1.1
Table 1.1b: Male population in custody by type of custody and age group, on a quarterly basis, September 2012 to December 2013, England and Wales.	Table 1.1
Table 1.1c: Female population in custody by type of custody and age group, on a quarterly basis, September 2012 to December 2013, England and Wales.	Table 1.1
Table 1.2: Population in custody by type of custody, sex and age group, at end of month, October 2013 to December 2013, England and Wales.	Table 1.1
Table 1.3a: Total remand and sentenced population in prison by offence group and sex, on a quarterly basis, September 2012 to December 2013, England and Wales.	Table 1.2a, 1.2b
Table 1.3b: Adult remand and sentenced population in prison by offence group and sex, on a quarterly basis, September 2012 to December 2013, England and Wales.	Table 1.2a, 1.2b
Table 1.3c: 18 to 20 year olds remand and sentenced population in prison by offence group and sex, on a quarterly basis, September 2012 to December 2013, England and Wales.	Table 1.2a, 1.2b
Table 1.3d: 15 to 17 year olds remand and sentenced population in prison by offence group and sex, on a quarterly basis, September 2012 to December 2013, England and Wales.	Table 1.2a, 1.2b
Table 1.4: Indeterminate sentence prisoner population, by tariff length and tariff expiry date, 31 December 2013, England and Wales	Table 1.9
Table 1.5: Population in prison by sex, establishment and nationality status, 31 December 2013, England and Wales.	Table 1.7
Table 1.6: Population in prison, by nationality and sex, 31 December 2013, England and Wales.	Table 1.8
Table 1.7: Population in prison by sex and ethnic group, 30 September 2012 to 31 December 2013, England and Wales.	Table 1.4
Table 1.8: Population in prison by sex and age group, 30 September 2012 to 31 December 2013, England and Wales.	Table 1.3
Table 1.9: Population detained by type of accommodation, 31 December 2012 to 31 March 2014, England and Wales.	Table 1.10

Annex B

Following work to better align the annual publication tables with those of the quarterly tables, and to more generally better organise the tables, the tables previously published in OMSQ in April 2013 have been renumbered.

In the table below the 'Old Table' gives the tables as published in the annual prison population tables in OMSQ in April 2013 for the period up to June 2012, and 'New Table' gives the table number for annual prison population tables that are in the edition of OMSQ that accompanies this notice for the period up to June 2013.

Old Table	New Table
Table A1.1 Population in prison by type of custody, sentence length and age group, 2002 to 2012	Table A1.1
Table A1.2 Prison population annual average 1900 to 2012 by sex	Table A1.2
Table A1.3 Month end population in prison and police cells by sex, 2002 to 2012	Table A1.1
Table A1.4 Population in prison establishments by age and sex, 2002 to 2012	Table A1.5
Table A1.5 Population in prison by type of custody, offence group and sex, 2002 to 2012	Table A1.3a, 3b
Table A1.6 Population in prison under an immediate custodial sentence by sex, offence and age group, 2002 to 2012	Table A1.3b
Table A1.7 Population in prison establishments under sentence by offence, age group and sex	Table A1.4
Table A1.8 Population in prison by sentence length, 2002 to 2012	Table A1.20
Table A1.9 Population in prison by sex, sentence length and offence type	Table A1.21
Table A1.10 Population of under 21s held in prison by type of custody and sex, 2002 to 2012	Table A1.6
Table A1.11 Population in prison under sentence by age and sex, 2002 to 2012	Table A1.5
Table A1.12 Population of indeterminate sentenced prisoners by type of prisoner and sex, 2002 to 2012	Table A1.1
Table A1.13 Population of indeterminate sentenced prisoners by type of sentence and sex, 2002 to 2012	Table A1.16
Table A1.14 Population of indeterminate sentenced prisoners by type of sentence, sex and age	Table A1.17
Table A1.15 Population of indeterminate sentenced prisoners by type of prisoner, offence and sex	Table A1.18
Table A1.16 Population of indeterminate sentenced prisoners by type of sentence, ethnicity and sex	Table A1.19

Table A1.17 Non-criminal population in prison by sex and type of committal, 2002 to 2012	Table A1.22
Table A1.18 Prison population by type of prisoner and nationality, 2002 to 2012	Table A1.15
Table A1.19 Population in prison by sex, ethnic group and nationality, 2002 to 2012	Table A1.8
Table A1.20 Prison population by ethnic group, type of prisoner, sex and nationality	Table A1.10
Table A1.21 Population in prison under an immediate custodial sentence by ethnic group, nationality, offence group and sex	Table A1.9
Table A1.22 Population in prison by ethnic group, custody type, length of sentence, age group and sex	Table A1.7
Table A1.23 Population in prison by religion, 2002 to 2012	Table A1.11
Table A1.24 Population in prison by ethnic group, religious group and sex	Table A1.12
Table A1.25 Prison population in prison by age, religious group and sex	Table A1.13
Table A1.26 Prison population in prison by custody type, religious group and sex	Table A1.14
Table A1.27 Population in prison under an immediate custodial sentence by sentence length, religious group and sex	Table A1.14
Table A1.28 Population in prison under immediate custodial sentence at 30 June by sex, age group and number of previous convictions and cautions, 2004 to 2012	Table A1.23
Table A1.29 Population in prison under immediate custodial sentence at 30 June 2011 and 2012 by sex, sentence length and number of previous convictions and cautions	Table A1.24

Contacts

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Other enquiries, including feedback, about these statistics and associated changes should be directed to the Justice Statistics Analytical Services division of the Ministry of Justice:

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