



Ministry
of Justice

Adult Male Prison Population and Capacity Release

Ad hoc statistical release

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1. Headline Figures

- There were 708 places remaining in the adult male prison estate on 8 July 2024.
- Since the start of 2023 the average occupancy rate in the adult male estate has routinely been higher than 99% (60 out of 69 weeks with recorded data).
- The adult male prison population has increased by around 60 per week on average.
- The End of Custody Supervised Licence (ECSL) scheme was introduced in October 2023. Since its implementation, the population of the adult male estate has been suppressed by ECSL releases.

2. Background and Coverage

This release sets out weekly statistics on the adult male prison population, useable operational capacity, and therefore occupancy rate, alongside headroom in the adult male prison estate in England and Wales from 2 January 2023 to 8 July 2024.

3. Main Body

The total prison population and operational capacity is published every Friday¹. This publication focuses on the population and operational capacity of the adult male estate; the female and youth estates are not included.

Table 1 below shows the population, operational capacity, headroom (i.e., unfilled vacancies) and occupancy rate of all adult male prisons as at each Monday from January 2023 to Monday 8 July 2024.

There were 1,449 places remaining in the adult male estate on 9 January 2023, this has decreased to 708 places on 8 July 2024. Over this period the population of the adult male estate increased by around 60 per week on average. This is based on the total change in the adult male prison population over this period, divided by the number of weeks.

Since the start of 2023 the average occupancy rate in the adult male estate has routinely been higher than 99% (60 out of 69 weeks with recorded data).

Population data shown reflects the actual population on a given day. A separate release on the total number of prisoners released on ECSL has also been released today². Please note that the population without the impact of ECSL cannot be calculated using these two publications. The current reduction in the population does not equal the total number of releases under ECSL, as many of those released would now have reached the end of their sentence without ECSL.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prison-population-figures-2024>.

² Available here [Ad hoc justice statistics - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ad-hoc-justice-statistics)

Table 1: Population, operational capacity, headroom and occupancy rate of all adult male prisons as at each Monday from 9 January 2023 to Monday 8 July 2024

Date (Monday)	Population	Useable Operational Capacity	Headroom (Number of Vacancies)	Occupancy rate (%)
02/01/2023*				
09/01/2023	78,734	80,183	1,449	98.19%
16/01/2023	78,844	80,182	1,338	98.33%
23/01/2023	78,963	80,230	1,267	98.42%
30/01/2023	79,228	80,290	1,062	98.68%
06/02/2023	79,580	80,349	769	99.04%
13/02/2023	79,832	80,475	643	99.20%
20/02/2023	80,024	80,586	562	99.30%
27/02/2023	80,137	80,784	647	99.20%
06/03/2023	80,295	80,853	558	99.31%
13/03/2023	80,384	80,936	552	99.32%
20/03/2023	80,393	81,001	608	99.25%
27/03/2023	80,487	81,075	588	99.27%
03/04/2023	80,629	81,217	588	99.28%
10/04/2023*				
17/04/2023	80,662	81,257	595	99.27%
24/04/2023	80,745	81,320	575	99.29%
01/05/2023*				
08/05/2023*				
15/05/2023	81,170	81,829	659	99.19%
22/05/2023	81,364	81,855	491	99.40%
29/05/2023*				
05/06/2023	81,511	82,011	500	99.39%
12/06/2023	81,425	82,097	672	99.18%
19/06/2023	81,601	82,349	748	99.09%
26/06/2023	81,783	82,414	631	99.23%
03/07/2023	82,060	82,534	474	99.43%
10/07/2023	82,261	82,664	403	99.51%
17/07/2023	82,491	82,772	281	99.66%
24/07/2023	82,559	83,073	514	99.38%
31/07/2023	82,655	83,238	583	99.30%
07/08/2023	82,837	83,375	538	99.35%
14/08/2023	82,838	83,399	561	99.33%
21/08/2023	83,070	83,477	407	99.51%
28/08/2023*				
04/09/2023	83,070	83,672	602	99.28%
11/09/2023	83,162	83,767	605	99.28%
18/09/2023	83,509	83,847	338	99.60%
25/09/2023	83,670	83,939	269	99.68%

02/10/2023	83,796	84,186	390	99.54%
09/10/2023	84,014	84,292	278	99.67%
16/10/2023	84,163	84,407	244	99.71%
23/10/2023	83,897	84,491	594	99.30%
30/10/2023	83,730	84,571	841	99.01%
06/11/2023	83,710	84,615	905	98.93%
13/11/2023	83,667	84,588	921	98.91%
20/11/2023	83,774	84,542	768	99.09%
27/11/2023	83,838	84,572	734	99.13%
04/12/2023	83,840	84,603	763	99.10%
11/12/2023	83,852	84,647	795	99.06%
18/12/2023	83,818	84,642	824	99.03%
25/12/2023*				
01/01/2024*				
08/01/2024	83,784	84,627	843	99.00%
15/01/2024	83,894	84,630	736	99.13%
22/01/2024	83,856	84,675	819	99.03%
29/01/2024	83,898	84,670	772	99.09%
05/02/2024	84,065	84,717	652	99.23%
12/02/2024	84,269	84,755	486	99.43%
19/02/2024	84,240	84,714	474	99.44%
26/02/2024	84,233	84,717	484	99.43%
04/03/2024	84,328	84,732	404	99.52%
11/03/2024	84,402	84,708	306	99.64%
18/03/2024	84,045	84,623	578	99.32%
25/03/2024	83,952	84,564	612	99.28%
01/04/2024*				
08/04/2024	83,288	84,482	1,194	98.59%
15/04/2024	83,428	84,433	1,005	98.81%
22/04/2024	83,617	84,453	836	99.01%
29/04/2024	83,808	84,449	641	99.24%
06/05/2024*				
13/05/2024	84,022	84,451	429	99.49%
20/05/2024	84,212	84,502	290	99.66%
27/05/2024*				
03/06/2024	83,528	84,519	991	98.83%
10/06/2024	83,628	84,462	834	99.01%
17/06/2024	83,631	84,414	783	99.07%
24/06/2024	83,678	84,377	699	99.17%
01/07/2024	83,659	84,417	758	99.10%
08/07/2024	83,755	84,463	708	99.16%

Source: HMPPS Management Information

*Bank holidays affect court, prison and probation staffing levels which in turn alters the number of offenders entering and leaving custody compared to weeks that do not include Bank Holidays. Population data for these weeks has been omitted as these weeks should not be compared with data from weeks that do not include Bank Holidays.

4. Explanatory Notes

The Operational Capacity of a prison is the total number of prisoners that an establishment can hold taking into account control, security and the proper operation of the planned regime. It is determined by HMPPS Prison Group Directors on the basis of operational judgement and experience.

Useable Operational Capacity of the estate is the sum of all establishments' operational capacity less the Operating Margin. This is an assumption of how many places cannot be used on any given day³. The Operating Margin reflects the constraints imposed by the need to provide appropriate accommodation for different classes of prisoner i.e., by security category, conviction status, single cell risk assessment and due to geographical distribution in the case of the open estate.

Data on useable operational capacity in this report is drawn from HMPPS Management Information. Data on the population of the estate is drawn from the National Offender Management Information System (NOMIS). This is an operational database used in prisons for the management of offenders. It includes information on offenders such as their age group, type of offence(s) and type of custody (including those remanded on bail and sentenced).

Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the information 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. Business-as-usual data assurance has been undertaken.

Population, capacity and headroom figures are all unrounded, but occupancy is rounded to the nearest 2 decimal places.

Contact

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³ Across the whole estate (adult male, adult female and YCS) the operating margin is currently 1,350. This is reviewed regularly to ensure this assumption is based on the best available evidence and operational insight.

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