



Offender Management Statistics Bulletin, England and Wales

Quarterly July to Sept 2018

Prison population: 31 December 2018

1. 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:

82,236 prisoners in England and Wales as at 31 December 2018



The total prison population has decreased by 3%, compared with the same point in the previous year. This is being driven by fewer people entering prison ("first receptions"), given that there are also fewer prisoners being released.

18,974 first receptions into prison in the latest quarter



Compared with the same quarter last year, this is an 11% decrease in first receptions.

17,136 releases of which 16,885 were from determinate sentences in the latest quarter



This is a decrease of 4% compared with the number of releases in the same quarter in 2017. This decrease reflects the fact that as the prison population shifts towards those serving longer sentences, we would expect fewer releases in a given period.

54,710 adjudication outcomes between July and September 2018



This is an increase of 14% on the same quarter in the previous year. Additional days were awarded as punishment on 6,003 occasions between July and September 2018.

6,240 offenders recalled to prison in the latest quarter



This is a 13% increase on the same quarter in 2017, driven by an increase in HDC recalls following policy change in early 2018.

258,157 offenders on probation as at 30 September 2018



The number of offenders on probation at the end of September 2018 decreased by 3% compared to the same point in the previous year.

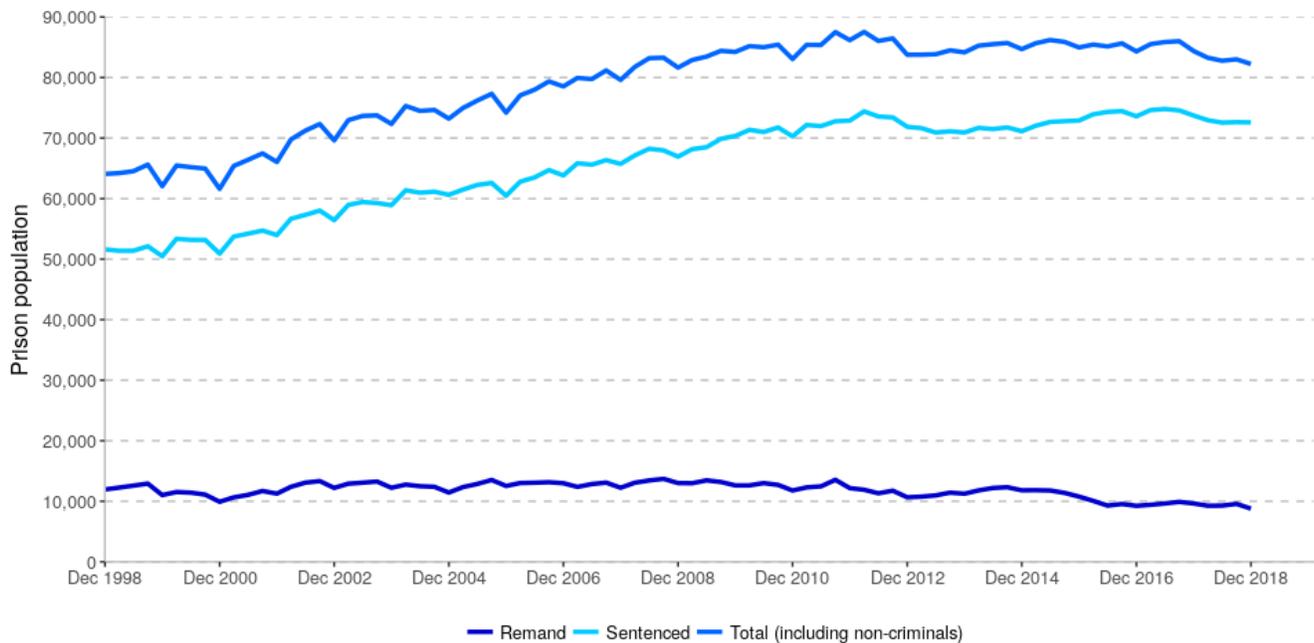
This publication provides offender management quarterly statistics for the latest date available and provides comparisons to the previous year. This publication also contains longer term trends in the prison population. For full and detailed commentary which looks into longer term trends for prison receptions 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'](#)

2. Population

The prison population stood at 82,236 on 31 December 2018.

The sentenced prison population stood at 72,628 (88% of the prison population); the remand prison population stood at 8,788 (11%) and the non-criminal prison population stood at 820 (1%).

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



Remand

The remand population has decreased by 9% (851) compared with the same point 12 months earlier. The number of males remanded in custody decreased by 8% (to 8,317) whilst the number of females decreased by 18% (to 471). More than half (55%) of those remanded in custody were being held for either:

Violence against the person (23% of the remand population), Drug offences (17%) or Theft Offences (15%).

Sentenced

The sentenced population has decreased by 2% in the year leading up to 31 December 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 4,121) in the 12 months to 31 December 2018.

Sex offenders

The rise in the long determinate sentenced population is in line with the increasing number of sentenced sex offenders. As at 31 December 2018 there were 13,512 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 reached its highest level since at least 2002 in June 2018, but has since remained broadly stable. 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 June 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 17% (to 2,882) 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 31 December 2018, 5,065 prisoners were serving such sentences; a 3% increase compared to the previous quarter and a 18% increase compared to the same time last year.

Indeterminate sentences

As at 31 December 2018, there were 9,575 (9,233 male; 342 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 6%.

There were 2,489 IPP prisoners as at 31 December 2018 which represents a decrease of 18% in the last 12 months. This figure has decreased by 59% 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 1,016).

The proportion of the IPP population who are post-tariff continues to increase; 91% of IPP prisoners were post-tariff as of 31 December 2018 compared to 87% at the same time the previous year.

The number of life sentenced prisoners (7,083) has decreased by 1% compared to 31 December 2017. There were 63 whole-life prisoners at the end of December 2018, with 3 additional life prisoners being treated in secure hospitals.

Recall to custody

The prison population who have been recalled to custody (6,965 prisoners) increased by 13% over the year leading up to 31 December 2018. This is being driven by an increase in HDC recalls following policy change in early 2018.

Foreign National Offenders (FNOs)

There were 9,090 (1,587 remand, 6,745 sentenced and 758 non-criminal) foreign nationals held in custody and the HMPPS-operated Immigration Removal Centre (IRC; at Morton Hall) as at 31 December 2018; representing 11% of the total prison population. The number of FNOs in the prison (and HMPPS IRC) population has decreased by 3% compared to 31 December 2017. The most common nationalities after British Nationals in prisons are Polish (9% of the FNO prison population), Albanian (8%), Romanian (8%), Irish (8%) and Jamaican (5%).

3. Prison receptions and admissions

18,974 offenders were received into custody as first receptions in the latest quarter.

10,302 remand first receptions, 8,634 sentenced first receptions and 38 civil non-criminal first receptions.

Offender first receptions

The total number of first receptions during Q3 2018 was 11% lower than the same quarter in 2017.

There were 2,779 first receptions of foreign nationals during Q3 2018 (an 8% decrease compared to July to September 2017). The five foreign nationalities with the highest numbers of first receptions in the latest quarter were: Romanian (407), Polish (380), Albanian (208), Irish (179) and Lithuanian (146). When taken together, these five nationalities accounted for around half (47%) of the 2,779 foreign national first receptions between July and September 2018.

Prison admissions

There was a 13% decrease in the number of untried admissions (to 7,760), a 4% decrease in the number of convicted unsentenced admissions (to 4,996) and a 10% decrease in the number of sentenced admissions (to 14,479) 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 9% and young adult (18-20 year olds) remand admissions have decreased by 12%. Adult sentenced admissions have decreased by 10% and young adult sentenced admissions have decreased by 15% compared with the same quarter in 2017.

Almost half of all sentenced admissions during the quarter were for sentences of six months or less (6,721, 46% of sentenced admissions). This sentence length band has seen a 12% decrease in the number of admissions when compared with the same quarter last year.

Compared to the same period in 2017, it can be seen that immediate custodial sentenced admissions for 'Drug offences', 'Sexual offences' and 'Theft Offences' decreased by 8%, 20% and 19% respectively, however the number of sentenced admissions for 'Possession of weapons' has increased by 22% compared to the same quarter in the previous year.

4. Adjudications

There were 54,710 adjudication outcomes in the latest quarter. Additional days were awarded as punishment on 6,003 occasions between July and September 2018.

65% of all adjudications were proven.

Around one in three (32%) of proven adjudications were for offences of disobedience or disrespect; the number of proven disobedience offences increased by 10% on the same quarter of the previous year.

There was a 11% increase in the number of punishments (to 59,331), a 17% increase in the number of offences of unauthorised transactions (to 17,298) and of violence (to 8,998) compared with the same quarter in 2017.

Additional days were awarded as punishment on 6,003 occasions between July and September 2018, this is 18% higher than the same period in 2017. A total of 100,432 days were awarded in the latest quarter – this represents a rise of 17% from the same quarter in 2017 (85,565; July to September 2017).

The average number of punishments per offence was 1.66. This is broadly consistent with figures seen in the previous quarter.

5. Releases

17,136 offenders were released from custody in the latest quarter.

16,885 releases from determinate sentences and 251 from indeterminate sentences.

Prison releases from custodial sentences

The total number of releases during the quarter ending September 2018 represents a 4% decrease compared to the same quarter in 2017, driven by a rise in the number of prisoners that are serving longer determinate sentences.

There were fewer releases from short sentences but more releases from longer determinate sentences compared to the same quarter in 2017 (9% fall in releases from sentences of less than 12 months; 8% increase in releases from determinate sentences of 4 years or more).

There were 251 releases from indeterminate sentences between July and September 2018, a 12% decrease from the same period in 2017 – of which, the number of IPP releases fell by 25%, whereas Life sentence releases increased by 8%.

There was an unusually large number of IPP releases in the comparison period (between July and September 2017) – which has influenced the 25% year-on-year decrease in the number of releases from IPP sentences.

The number of IPP releases in the most recent quarter (between July and September 2018) was in line with each of the three previous quarters (with around 130 IPP releases in each quarter).

Over the longer term, the number of IPP releases is likely to decrease over time, with the reducing numbers of serving IPP prisoners in the prison population.

Releases on Home Detention Curfew (HDC)

3,590 offenders were released on HDC during the latest quarter. The number of HDC releases increased by 60% compared to the same quarter in 2017. This large year-on-year increase is due to the change in HDC policy at the start of 2018.

Releases on Temporary Licence (ROTL)

There were 97,356 incidences of ROTL during the quarter ending September 2018, which is a 7% increase on the same quarter last year (7% increase for both males and for females).

4,323 individuals were given at least one incidence of ROTL between July and September 2018 - an increase of 7% compared to the same quarter in 2017.

There were 127 recorded Temporary Release Failures (TRFs) between July and September 2018. This is an increase of 13 compared with the previous quarter and an increase of 45 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 765 incidences of temporary release resulting in a failure between July and September 2018.

Prisoner transfers

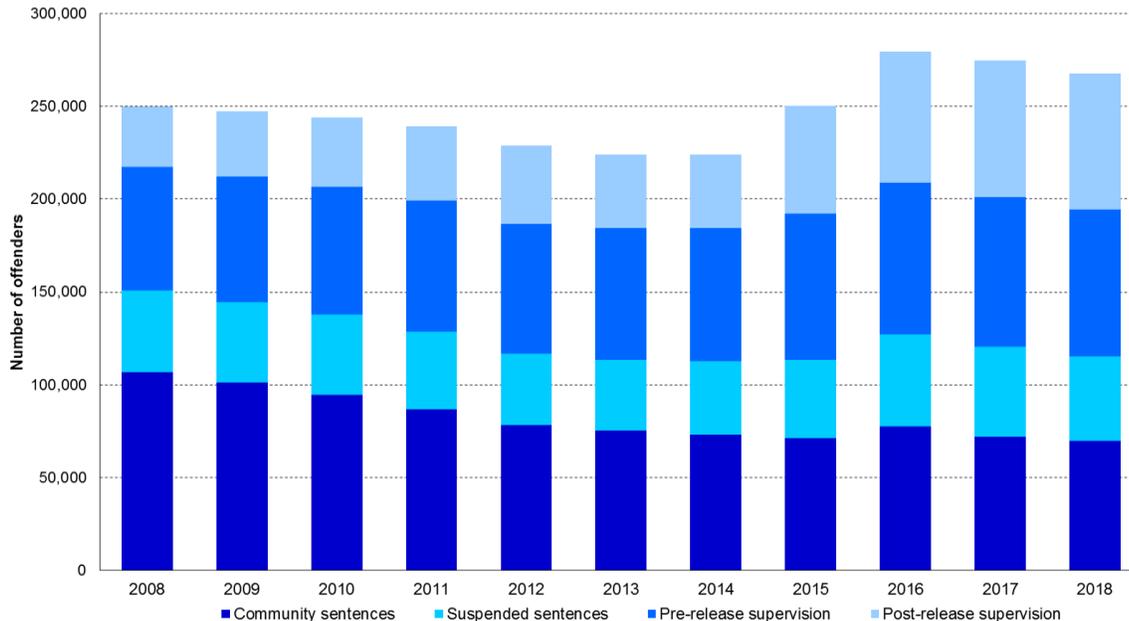
There was a total of 21,418 recorded incidences of prisoner transfer during the latest quarter (an annual fall of 6%). The majority of these (72%) were routine inter-prison transfers; 54 (less than 1%) were a result of overcrowding drafts. 17,698 prisoners had at least one incidence of a transfer in quarter ending the September 2018.

6. Probation

The total number of offenders on probation was 258,157 at the end of September 2018.

There was a 3% decrease in the total number of offenders on probation (court orders and pre and post release supervision) compared with 30 September 2017.

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



The overall court order caseload fell by 7% between the quarters ending September 2017 and 2018, with the Community Order (CO) caseload decreasing by 5% and the Suspended Sentence Order (SSO) caseload decreasing by 9%. The number of offenders starting COs showed no percentage change over this period, while the number of offenders starting SSOs with requirements decreased by 23%. 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 showed no percentage change between the end of September 2017 and 2018, but those supervised under post release rose by 2%.

Regarding the number of requirements started under court orders, the latest quarter has seen a continued rise in the number of accredited program requirements under COs, and in terms of combinations of requirements, rehabilitation combined with unpaid work has seen a further significant rise under COs.

Of the court orders terminated in the quarter ending September 2018, 69% 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, 74% 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 September 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.

7. Licence Recalls

6,240 people were recalled to custody between July and September 2018, 465 of which were Home Detention Curfew (HDC) recalls.

The number of recalls increased by 4% from the previous quarter.

The total number of quarterly recalls has been increasing since October-December 2016. We observe noticeably high quarterly increases since January-March 2018, partly as a result of increased HDC recalls – ministerial initiatives were introduced in early 2018 to simplify the HDC process, and these have led to increases in HDC releases.

Between July and September 2018, the number of recalls of offenders released from a sentence of under 12 months (2,255), ORA recalls, was an increase of 44 from the previous quarter and an increase of 33 from the same period in 2017.

After falling to April-June 2017, the number of non-ORA recalls (including recalls of those with indeterminate sentences) has since been increasing. Consequently, increases in non-ORA recalls tend to lead to increases in the quarterly recall population.

There usually is more than one reason for recalling an offender on licence. In recent quarters, about 4 in 10 recalls involved the offender recalled for facing further charges. Non-compliance was given as one of the reasons for recalling in about 7 out of 10 recalls in July-September 2018.

Between July and September 2018, there were 103 prisoners serving an IPP sentence and 45 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 September 2018, there were 1,793 who had not been returned to custody by the end of December 2018.

A further 18 offenders had not been returned to custody as of 31 December 2018 after recall between 1984 and April 1999, meaning the total number of offenders not returned to custody at the end of December 2018 was 1,811. These figures include some offenders believed to be dead or living abroad but who have not been confirmed as dead or deported.

Of the 1,811 not returned to custody by 31 December 2018, 287 had originally been serving a prison sentence for violence against the person offences and a further 50 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.

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.

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

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