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Background Brief on…

Prisons

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Background

The Oregon Department of Corrections (**DOC**) has custody of felony offenders sentenced to prison for more than twelve months. The department operates 12 state prisons. The state's adult correctional facilities and locations are:
- Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, Wilsonville (women's prison and co-gender intake center)
- Columbia River Correctional Institution, Portland
- Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution, Pendleton
- Mill Creek Correctional Facility, Salem
- Oregon State Correctional Institution, Salem
- Oregon State Penitentiary, Salem
- Powder River Correctional Facility, Baker City
- Santiam Correctional Institution, Salem
- Shutter Creek Correctional Institution, North Bend (co-gender Summit Program)
- South Fork Forest Camp, Tillamook State Forest
- Snake River Correctional Institution, Ontario
- Two Rivers Correctional Institution, Umatilla

Corrections Populations[1]

Oregon's felony corrections population consists of state prison inmates and community corrections offenders. Oregon's prison population was 11,450 on July 1, 2002. It is approximately 12, 500 on May 1, 2004. It is expected to be over 17,000 in ten years.

The Department of Administrative Services determines the prison population forecast by looking at population growth for several groups of inmates. The largest inmate groups are:

- Measure 11: inmates incarcerated under Oregon's 1995 mandatory minimum sentencing law

- Repeat property offenders: certain inmates incarcerated with multiple property crime convictions

- Base population: all inmates not covered by one of several recent legislative or voter-initiated sentencing changes

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[1] Information is based on the April 2002 Oregon Corrections Population Forecast.

The Office of Economic Analysis **(OEA)** of the Department of Administrative Services produces semi-annual corrections population forecasts using a flow model for criminal justice forecasting. The model mimics the movement of offenders through the corrections system. For example, the model simulates the flow of offenders from arrest to probation, local control or prison. Probation revocations feed into prison or local control. Prison and local control releases feed into parole/post-prison supervision. Parole and post-prison supervision **(PPS)** revocations feed back into prison or local control. The model is similar to those used in Washington, Idaho, Texas, and other states. Demographics, arrest rates, incarceration rates, and criminal justice policy changes are all factored into the forecast.

Community Corrections
Community corrections includes felony probation, parole and post-prison supervision, and "local control." Senate Bill 1145, passed by the 1995 Legislative Assembly, mandates that felons sentenced to 12 months or less be placed in county custody, under "local control." The community corrections population was 30,048 on January 1, 2004. It is forecast to grow by 2. percent to 30,670 by July 2005, and by 12.3 percent to 34,249 by July 2011. This population does not include persons convicted of misdemeanors who are on probation or are serving time in county jails.

Prison Construction
In April 2002, DOC opened most of the beds at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility in Wilsonville. Groundbreaking for Warner Creek Correctional Facility, a new minimum-security men's prison in Lakeview, took place in July 2002, and 250 beds will be added to three of the department's existing minimum-security institutions — South Fork Forest Camp, Shutter Creek Correctional Institution and Powder River Correctional Facility.

To accommodate the forecasted state prison population, DOC had planned new prisons in four locations: Lakeview (minimum – April 2004); Madras (minimum – July 2004, medium – June 2006); Junction City (minimum – August 2005, medium – Nov. 2010); White City (minimum – December 2009). Building plans are now on hold because of budget cutbacks. However, Oregon may soon be facing severe prison overcrowding.

Inmate Work
In 1994 voters passed Ballot Measure 17, which requires every eligible Oregon prison inmate to work a 40-hour week. Up to half of that requirement can be met by participating in job training and education programs.

In November 1999, Oregon voters created Oregon Corrections Enterprises **(OCE),** a semi-independent state agency, and also clarified their intent regarding prison work programs' role in the private sector.

OCE develops and maintains partnerships with private-sector businesses to achieve mutual business goals. One example of inmate work with the private sector is the popular "Prison Blues" line of clothing, sewn at Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution in Pendleton.

OCE also operates 17 businesses located within various correctional facilities throughout the state. These businesses range from commercial laundries to telecommunication centers. Each business is self-sustaining, receiving no General Fund tax monies from the state.

Oregon Corrections Enterprises operates programs that are cost effective and promote work ethics, job skills, and motivation, ultimately assisting inmates in their transition back into the community. OCE also has made operating state government less costly to the taxpayer while providing quality products, competitive pricing and customer service.

2003 Legislative Action
The 2003-05 Department of Corrections budget, including a one-time federal grant of $116.4 million, is $948.8 million. This is lower than the 2001-03 budget because capital construction funding was eliminated.

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