



PRISONS

BACKGROUND BRIEF

LPRO: LEGISLATIVE POLICY AND RESEARCH OFFICE

The Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) is responsible for the custody of felony offenders sentenced to prison for more than 12 months. Offenders sentenced to less than 12 months are housed in local jail facilities.

The DOC operates 14 state prisons:

- Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, Wilsonville (women's prison and co-gender intake center);
- Columbia River Correctional Institution, Portland;
- Deer Ridge Correctional Institution, Madras;
- 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;
- South Fork Forest Camp, Tillamook State Forest;
- Snake River Correctional Institution, Ontario;
- Two Rivers Correctional Institution, Umatilla; and
- Warner Creek Correctional Facility, Lakeview.

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CORRECTIONS POPULATIONS

Oregon's felony corrections population consists of state prison inmates and community corrections offenders. As of January 2018, Oregon's prison population is 14,733 inmates, composed of 13,429 men and 1,304 women.

ORS 184.351 and Executive Order 95-06 direct the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and the Corrections Population Forecasting Advisory Committee to issue the prison population

forecast. The Office of Economic Analysis, within DAS, produces the semiannual 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; and parole and post-prison supervision 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.

The April 1, 2018 forecast predicts that in ten years, there will be 1.4 percent fewer inmates in Oregon. This 1.4 percent reduction, given an expected 12 percent population growth in the next ten years, means the incarceration rate in Oregon is expected to fall by 11.3 percent in the next ten years. One cause for this reduction is changes in the law, such as House Bill 3078 (2017), which makes changes and modifications to several public safety programs and sentences for crimes.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Community corrections include felony probation, parole, and post-prison supervision and local control. Senate Bill 1145 (1995) mandated that felons sentenced to 12 months or less be placed in county custody under local control. There are approximately 32,300 people under community supervision. This population does not include persons convicted of misdemeanors who are on probation or serving time in county jails.

PRISON CONSTRUCTION

Based on the April 2018 prison population forecast, the DOC female population is anticipated to peak in 2018 and shrink over the following five years before it levels out. The male population is also forecasted to peak in 2018, followed by a period of reduction that ends in 2022. The male population will begin to grow again through 2028, but will not reach 2018 levels. No construction or opening of new capacity is anticipated under this forecast through 2028 for either the male or female prison populations.

INMATE WORK

In 1994, voters passed Measure 17, which required 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 educational programs.

In November 1999, Oregon voters passed Measure 68, creating a semi-independent state agency called Oregon Corrections Enterprises (OCE), and clarifying their intent regarding the role of prison work programs 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 operates 17 businesses located within various correctional facilities throughout the state, ranging from commercial laundries to telecommunication centers, and receives no General Fund

tax dollars. It attempts to promote a good work ethic and provide job skills with the ultimate goal of helping inmates make a productive transition back into the community.

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