



Oregon Department of Administrative Services

Office of Economic Analysis

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News Release

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State issues forecast on prison populations

Salem—The Office of Economic Analysis today released the Oregon Corrections Population Forecast, which shows the inmate population to be about 13,600, or half a percent higher than a year ago.

Analysts expect that population to reach 15,800 by 2018. Projections show an annual growth rate of two-three percent in the near term, followed by approximately one-percent long-term growth. The short-term growth is driven primarily by recent increases in the average length of sentences. The long-term growth reflects trends in criminal justice practices, demographics, and other factors.

Background

The Office of Economic Analysis produces the semi-annual Corrections Population Forecast, which provides projections of the offender populations supervised by the Department of Corrections (DOC). The forecast estimates the number of inmates in the state prison system, offenders on probation, parole, and post-prison supervision, and felony offenders serving sentences of 12 or fewer months in county jails.

The forecast, which projects monthly populations over a ten-year period, is due April 1 and October 1 of each year. State agencies, in particular the DOC and the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission, use the forecast for budgeting and policy development.

The advisory committee is comprised of citizens with knowledge of the criminal justice system. It meets several times before each forecast to discuss issues related to the inmate population.

For more information about the forecast and methodology, please go to <http://oregon.gov/DAS/OEA/corrections.shtml>