

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Criminal Justice Estimating Conference

July 31, 2024

The Criminal Justice Estimating Conference convened July 31, 2024, to revise the forecast of prison admissions and population. During the seven months monitored since the December 2023 Conference, admissions totaled 16,363 which was -995 (-5.7 percent) below the estimate. An examination of upstream variables indicated a potential disconnect between trends in felony filings (which were strongly increasing over the year) and total admissions (which were declining over the year). Relative to the prior estimates for FY 2023-24, monthly admissions were strongly negative in three months (December, March and June) and essentially on estimate in four months (January, February, April and May). The order of this result seems to suggest a recurring pattern, but no reason is currently known for this. The error in the overall prison population was similarly sized in level (-937) if not in percentage (-1.1 percent).

Holding the timing anomaly in abeyance, the Conference concluded there is a strong possibility that the admission and population errors since the last forecast are the result of recent growth in felony filings which has yet to be fully incorporated in admissions. The new forecast embeds this assumption, with the lagged growth in admissions occurring this year. After the catch-up in admissions during the 2024-25 fiscal year, the end result is minor changes to the prison population forecast adopted in December 2023. Other than the current year, the annual percentage changes are similar to those assumed by the prior conference.

Year	Admissions	Releases	End of year pop	End of year over (under) December 2023 CJEC	End of year percent change
FY 24-25	28,455	26,077	89,681	-117	2.7%
FY 25-26	28,563	27,246	90,998	123	1.5%
FY 26-27	29,013	27,872	92,139	-68	1.3%
FY 27-28	29,097	27,932	93,304	80	1.3%
FY 28-29	29,145	28,192	94,257	198	1.0%
FY 29-30	28,737	28,183	94,811	n/a	0.6%