

Introduction

This eleventh edition of the World Prison Population List gives details of the number of prisoners held in 223 prison systems in independent countries and dependent territories. It shows the differences in the levels of imprisonment across the world and makes possible an estimate of the world prison population total. The figures include both pre-trial detainees/remand prisoners and those who have been convicted and sentenced. The information is the latest available at the end of October 2015.

The data are presented in two parts. Part one, tables 1-5, sets out prison population totals, rates and trends for each individual country. Part two, tables 6-8, provides data on prison population totals, rates and trends by continent, and includes comparison of male and female prison population levels.

The World Prison Population List*, like the World Female Imprisonment List (the third edition of which was published in September 2015) and the World Pre-trial/Remand Imprisonment List (second edition published in 2014) complement the information held on the World Prison Brief. This is an online database available at www.prisonstudies.org, and is updated monthly.

The World Prison Population List is compiled from a variety of sources. In almost all cases the original source is the national prison administration of the country concerned, or else the Ministry responsible for the prison administration. Most of the figures are recent and efforts are continually made to update them and to obtain information on the number of prisoners in the countries on which figures are not currently available (Eritrea, Somalia and the Democratic People's Republic of (North) Korea) or are incomplete. We welcome the assistance of readers in notifying us of the latest figures. Care has been taken to ensure that the List is as accurate as possible but we cannot guarantee the reliability of every figure and readers are also invited to draw attention to any errors they notice and, if possible, to supply corrections.

It is hoped that this edition of the World Prison Population List will be useful for policy makers, prison administrators, academic criminologists, non-governmental organisations, other criminal justice experts and everyone who is interested in the extent of imprisonment. The information may prompt fresh thought about the size of prison populations, given the high costs and disputed efficacy of imprisonment and the fact that prison overcrowding is widespread.

More information on prison population rates and trends, alongside discussion of the ethical challenges and imperatives of prisons policy in the 21st century, will be presented in the forthcoming book *Imprisonment Worldwide* (Andrew Coyle, Helen Fair, Jessica Jacobson and Roy Walmsley), to be published by Policy Press in summer 2016.

* The first five editions of the World Prison Population List were published by the Research and Statistics Directorate of the United Kingdom Home Office; the next five were published by the International Centre for Prison Studies (ICPS). Following the merger in November 2014 of ICPS with the Institute for Criminal Policy Research (ICPR), this eleventh edition is the first to be published by ICPR.

Key points

- ▶ This report shows that more than 10.35 million people are held in penal institutions throughout the world, either as pre-trial detainees/remand prisoners or having been convicted and sentenced. Figures for Eritrea, Somalia and the Democratic People's Republic of (North) Korea are not available and those for China and Guinea Bissau are incomplete (see footnote to Table 3 concerning China). Also missing are prisoners held in some jurisdictions that are not fully recognised internationally and those pre-trial prisoners who are held in police facilities and not included in published national prison population totals. The full total is therefore higher than 10.35 million and may well be in excess of 11 million.
- ▶ There are more than 2.2 million prisoners in the United States of America, more than 1.65 million in China (plus an unknown number in pre-trial detention or 'administrative detention'), 640,000 in the Russian Federation, 607,000 in Brazil, 418,000 in India, 311,000 in Thailand, 255,000 in Brazil and 225,000 in Iran.
- ▶ The countries with the highest prison population rate – that is, the number of prisoners per 100,000 of the national population – are Seychelles (799 per 100,000), followed by the United States (698), St. Kitts & Nevis (607), Turkmenistan (583), U.S. Virgin Islands (542), Cuba (510), El Salvador (492), Guam – U.S.A. (469), Thailand (461), Belize (449), Russian Federation (445), Rwanda (434) and British Virgin Islands (425).
- ▶ However, more than half of all countries and territories (55%) have rates below 150 per 100,000.
- ▶ The world prison population rate, based on United Nations estimates of national population levels, is 144 per 100,000.
- ▶ Prison population rates vary considerably between different regions of the world, and between different parts of the same continent. For example:
 - in Africa the median rate for western African countries is 52 whereas for southern African countries it is 188;
 - in the Americas the median rate for south American countries is 242 whereas for Caribbean countries it is 347;
 - in Asia the median rate for south central Asian countries (mainly the Indian sub-continent) is 74 whereas for central Asian countries it is 166.
 - in Europe the median rate for western European countries is 84 whereas for the countries spanning Europe and Asia (e.g. Russia and Turkey) it is 236.
 - in Oceania the median rate is 155.
- ▶ Since about the year 2000 the world prison population total has grown by almost 20%, which is slightly above the estimated 18% increase in the world's general population over the same period. There are considerable differences between the continents, and variation within continents. The total prison population in Oceania has increased by almost 60% and that in the Americas by over 40%; in Europe, by contrast, the total prison population has decreased by 21%. The European figure reflects large falls in prison populations in Russia and in central and eastern Europe. In the Americas, the prison population has increased by 14% in the USA, by over 80% in central American countries and by 145% in south American countries.
- ▶ The female prison population total has increased by 50% since about 2000, while the equivalent figure for the male prison population is 18%.
- ▶ The female total has increased proportionately more than the male total in every continent. Consequently the proportion of women and girls in the total world prison population has risen from 5.4% in about 2000 to 6.8% in the latest figures available. (For more information on female prison populations, see the third edition of the World Female Imprisonment List.)

Part 1: Prison population totals, rates and trends per country

Table 1

AFRICA

	Prison population total	Date	Estimated national population	Prison population rate	Trend information		
					year	total	rate
Northern Africa							
Algeria	60,220	31.12.13	37.28m	162	2000 2005 2010	33,992 43,797 58,000	111 132 164
Egypt	62,000	.13	82.06m	76	2001 2006 2011	56,587 64,378 c. 66,000	84 87 c. 83
Libya	6,187	4.14	6.24m	99	2004 2010	9,763 13,242	178 220
Morocco	76,000	4.15	34.28m	222	2000 2005 2010	54,288 50,933 64,877	187 167 201
Sudan	19,101	.13	37.96m	50	2002 2009	12,809 19,144	44 55
Tunisia	23,686	10.14	11.15m	212	2004 2009	c. 26,000 26,319	c. 261 250
Western Africa							
Benin	7,247	10.12	9.42m	77	2000 2006 2010	4,961 5,834 6,908	76 74 78
Burkina Faso	6,251	30.6.14	18.41m	34	2000 2005 2010	2,204 3,315 5,198	18 23 31
Cape Verde	1,434	.13	501,000	286	1999 2010	755 1,226	172 251
Cote d'Ivoire	c. 10,850	30.11.14	21.01m	c. 52	2002 2008	10,355 11,143	62 61
Gambia	1,121	11.14	1.93m	58	1999 2002 2009	478 450 780	40 34 47
Ghana	14,297	6.15	26.96m	53	2000 2005 2010	9,507 12,371 13,507	51 58 56
Guinea (Rep. of)	3,110	.14	12.12m	26	2002 2008	3,070 2,780	34 27
Guinea Bissau	92*	31.12.13	1.725m	–		not available	
Liberia	1,719	.14	4.40m	39	2007 2011	1,022 1,601	29 39
Mali	5,209	.14	15.77m	33	2002 2009	4,040 6,700	38 49
Mauritania	1,768	1.10.14	4.01m	44	2001 2005 2010	1,413 c. 815 1,700	50 c. 26 47
Niger	7,424	12.14	18.87m	39	2002 2006 2010	c. 6,000 7,381 5,337	c. 51 53 33
Nigeria	56,620	12.14	180.81m	31	2000 2005 2010	44,450 39,006 46,586	36 28 29
Senegal	8,630	11.14	13.86m	62	2000 2005 2010	4,894 6,417 7,300	51 59 59
Sierra Leone	3,488	27.10.15	6.36m	55	2004 2010	c. 1,400 2,237	c. 28 39
Togo	4,493	.14	6.99m	64	2003 2010	3,200 4,116	61 65
Central Africa							
Angola	22,826	31.12.14	21.45m	106	2001 2005 2009	4,000 c. 8,300 16,183	28 c. 50 87
Cameroon	25,914	31.12.13	22.54m	115	2002 2005 2009	20,000 22,734 23,368	119 127 115
Central African Rep	764	.15	4.80m	16	2005 2010	c. 1,000 1,320	c. 25 c. 29

Table 1 (continued)

AFRICA

	Prison population total	Date	Estimated national population	Prison population rate	Trend information		
					year	total	rate
Chad	4,831	31.12.11	12.26m	39	2000 2005 2010	2,385 3,416 4,775	29 34 41
Congo (Rep of)	c. 1,240	8.9.14	4.58m	c. 27	2005 2009	1,550 2,410	44 60
Dem. Rep. of Congo	21,722	31.8.13	67.82m	32	2004 2010	c. 30,000 c. 22,000	c. 58 c. 35
Equatorial Guinea	c. 1,000	.14	778,000	c. 129	not available		
Gabon	c. 3,500	.13	1.67m	c. 210	2006	c. 2,750	c. 195
Sao Tome e Principe	201	8.10.14	199,000	101	2002 2006 2010	130 160 305	90 101 171
South Sudan	c. 7,500	31.12.13	11.52m	c. 65	2011	c. 8,000	c. 77
Eastern Africa							
Burundi	8,646	8.10.14	9.28m	93	2001 2005 2010	9,013 7,167 9,481	139 99 113
Comoros	233	10.14	756,000	31	2009	c. 150	c. 22
Djibouti	c. 600	.14	886,000	c. 68	2000 2010	c. 200 c. 600	c. 27 c. 72
Ethiopia	c. 111,050	2011-12	86.47m	c. 128	2000-01 2005-06 2010-11	62,597 72,211 104,467	94 96 124
Kenya	54,154	4.15	45.80m	118	2000 2005 2010	40,010 50,000 49,757	129 141 122
Madagascar	18,719	.13	22.48m	83	1999 2005 2010	20,109 20,294 18,647	135 112 90
Malawi	12,156	25.7.14	16.73m	73	2000 2005 2010	7,728 9,656 11,672	69 75 78
Mauritius	2,072	21.9.15	1.34m	155	2000 2005 2010	1,635 2,547 2,449	136 203 188
Mozambique	15,430	.14	25.38m	61	1999 2004 2010	8,812 c. 10,000 15,249	49 c. 49 65
Rwanda	54,279	9.15	12.50m	434	2000 2005 2010	c. 115,000** c. 67,000** 55,000**	c. 1,369** c. 702** 507**
Seychelles	735	9.14	92,000	799	2000 2005 2010	c. 166 162 432	c. 205 196 486
Tanzania	34,196	3.14	49.72m	69	2000 2005 2009	45,611 46,416 40,111	135 118 92
Uganda	45,092	8.15	39.19m	115	2000 2005 2010	c. 21,700 26,126 30,312	c. 92 93 91
Zambia	18,560	4.15	14.82m	125	2000 2005 2010	11,999 14,207 16,666	116 124 128
Zimbabwe	18,857	9.1.15	13.01m	145	2000 2005 2010	20,567 18,033 13,361	164 144 107
Mayotte (France)	173	1.7.15	234,000	74	2003 2010	163 155	100 109
Reunion (France)	1,022	1.7.15	895,000	114	2001 2006 2011	1,079 962 1,078	144 120 127
Southern Africa							
Botswana	3,826	31.12.13	2.03m	188	2000 2005 2010	6,742 6,259 c. 5,063	381 333 c. 256

Table 1 (continued)

AFRICA

	Prison population total	Date	Estimated national population	Prison population rate	Trend information		
					year	total	rate
Lesotho	2,073	30.8.14	2.26m	92	2000 2005 2010	2,908 2,712 2,498	147 130 115
Namibia	3,560	10.4.15	2.48m	144	2000 2004 2010	4,883 4,442 4,251	254 218 185
South Africa	159,241	31.3.15	54.57m	292	2000 2005 2010	171,462 187,394 163,312	394 400 328
Swaziland	3,616	21.3.14	1.25m	289	2000 2005 2009	2,745 2,667 2,713	256 242 232

* The figure for Guinea Bissau is for the two prisons only. Figures for the detention centres are not available.

** The prison population of Rwanda includes many thousands detained in connection with the genocide of 1994.

Figures are not available for:
Eastern Africa: Eritrea, Somalia.

Table 2

AMERICAS

	Prison population total	Date	Estimated national population	Prison population rate	Trend information		
					year	total	rate
Northern America							
Canada	37,864	2013-14	35.68m	106	2000-01 2005-06 2010-11	35,533 35,436 39,916	115 110 117
U.S.A.	2,217,000	.13	317.76m	698	2000 2005 2010	1,937,482 2,195,471 2,270,142	683 739 731
Bermuda (UK)	230	31.7.14	65,000	354	2000 2004 2010	298 364 277	473 569 426
Greenland (Denm'k)	116	21.7.15	55,700	208	2000 2005 2010	88 114 171	157 200 302
Central America							
Belize	1,545	9.1.15	344,000	449	2000 2005 2010	765 1,234 1,420	320 454 460
Costa Rica	17,440	30.9.14	4.95m	352	2000 2005 2010	7,575 9,053 12,110	193 210 259
El Salvador	31,686	26.10.15	6.44m	492	2000 2005 2010	7,754 12,525 24,662	130 206 395
Guatemala	19,810	30.10.15	16.39m	121	2000 2005 2010	6,974 8,247 11,148	62 65 78
Honduras	16,331	11.14	8.32m	196	1999 2005 2010	10,869 11,589 11,846	178 167 154
Mexico	255,138	30.6.15	120.20m	212	2000 2005 2010	154,765 205,821 219,027	156 195 194
Nicaragua	10,569	10.14	6.19m	171	2000 2005 2010	6,539 6,382 c. 6,500	128 117 c. 112
Panama	15,508	9.1.15	3.96m	392	2000 2005 2010	8,652 11,571 12,293	280 340 333

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Table 2 (continued)

AMERICAS

	Prison population total	Date	Estimated national population	Prison population rate	Trend information		
					year	total	rate
Caribbean							
Antigua & Barbuda	343	6.15	92,000	373	2000 2005 2010	c. 170 194 295	c. 218 234 339
Bahamas	1,396	10.14	385,000	363	2000 2005 2010	c. 1,400 1,500 1,322	c. 470 453 367
Barbados	924	5.15	286,900	322	2000 2005 2010	1,411 997 910	527 365 324
Cuba	57,337	5.12	11.25m	510	2003 2006	c. 55,000 c. 60,000	c. 487 c. 531
Dominica	219	7.15	73,000	300	1999 2005 2010	298 282 295	426 397 415
Dominican Republic	24,832	29.5.15	10.64m	233	2000 2005 2010	14,995 12,495 20,743	173 133 206
Grenada	424	1.15	106,500	398	2002 2006 2010	297 334 432	291 324 411
Haiti	10,266	30.1.15	10.54m	97	2000 2005 2010	4,219 3,670 5,331	49 39 54
Jamaica	4,050	10.11.14	2.79m	145	2003 2007 2011	4,744 4,709 4,457	178 174 161
St Kitts & Nevis	334	.14	55,000	607	1999 2005 2010	135 209 256	300 422 488
St Lucia	646	1.15	185,000	349	1999 2005 2010	373 503 526	241 303 296
St Vincent & the Grenadines	412	28.7.14	109,000	378	1999 2005 2010	405 364 413	375 334 379
Trinidad & Tobago	3,481	.14	1.35m	258	2000 2005 2010	4,633 3,683 3,766	365 283 283
Anguilla (UK)	46	30.10.15	15,000	307	2004 2007 2010	41 56 58	342 431 414
Aruba (Neth)	170	23.10.14	103,000	165	2005 2011	231 246	232 241
Cayman Is (UK)	205	1.15	54,600	375	2000 2005 2010	227 190 212	565 393 382
Curacao (Neth)	348	23.10.14	154,650	225	1999 2006 2010	434 578 541	306 412 365
Guadeloupe (Fr)	913	1.7.15	468,000	195	2001 2006 2011	628 718 784	144 158 171
Martinique (Fr)	949	1.7.15	396,000	240	2001 2006 2011	608 649 885	156 163 224
Puerto Rico (USA)	12,327	31.12.14	3.52m	350	2000 2005 2010	14,691 14,263 10,878	384 364 294
Sint Maarten (Neth)	c. 161	23.10.14	46,400	c. 347	2002 2006 2011	129 141 138	396 362 319
Virgin Is. (UK)	119	4.14	28,000	425	1999 2005 2010	43 105 117	215 457 433
Virgin Is. (USA)	577	3.13	106,700	542	2000 2005 2010	518 596 577	475 554 544

Table 2 (continued)

AMERICAS

South America							
	Prison population total	Date	Estimated national population	Prison population rate	Trend information		
					year	total	rate
Argentina	69,060	31.12.14	43.20m	160	1999 2005 2010	38,604 63,357 65,095	105 161 157
Bolivia	13,468	10.15	11.08m	122	2000 2005 2010	8,151 6,793 9,406	95 72 92
Brazil	607,731	6.14	202.03m	301	2000 2005 2010	232,755 361,402 496,251	133 193 253
Chile	44,238	30.9.15	17.90m	247	2000 2005 2010	33,050 37,033 53,410	215 228 313
Colombia	121,389	30.9.15	49.68m	244	2000 2005 2010	51,518 66,829 84,444	128 154 181
Ecuador	25,902	14.9.14	16.03m	162	2000 2005 2010	8,029 11,971 11,800	64 87 79
Guyana	1,967	31.12.14	758,500	259	2001 2005 2010	1,507 1,524 2,160	205 204 286
Paraguay	10,949	7.8.14	6.93m	158	2000 2005 2010	3,219 6,282 6,197	60 105 95
Peru	75,379	31.7.15	31.19m	242	2000 2005 2010	27,734 33,010 45,464	107 119 155
Suriname	c. 1,000	11.14	547,000	c. 183	2000 2005 2009	786 820 915	168 164 175
Uruguay	9,996	31.10.15	3.43m	291	2000 2005 2010	4,469 6,211 8,700	135 187 257
Venezuela	55,007	.14	30.85m	178	2000 2005 2010	14,196 19,853 40,825	58 74 140
Fr. Guiana/ Guyane (Fr)	726	1.7.15	262,000	277	2001 2005 2010	423 600 715	256 296 310

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Table 3

ASIA

	Prison population total	Date	Estimated national population	Prison population rate	Trend information		
					year	total	rate
Western Asia							
Bahrain	4,028	12.13	1.34m	301	2003 2010	437 1,100	57 88
Iraq	42,880	.14	34.77m	123	2004 2007 2010	c. 7,000 26,472 39,130	c. 26 91 125
Israel	20,245	4.15	7.90m	256	2000 2005 2010	9,421 16,059 20,164	158 240 270
Jordan	10,089	9.14	6.72m	150	2001 2005 2010	5,621 6,378 8,434	114 120 136
Kuwait	c. 3,200	.14	3.48m	c. 92	2000 2005 2010	c. 3,100 c. 3,500 4,179	c. 162 c. 152 140
Lebanon	6,012	11.11.14	5.02m	120	2000 2005 2010	4,917 6,921 5,189	154 173 120
Oman	1,300	.13	3.63m	36	2000 2002	2,020 1,403	92 61
Qatar	c. 1,150	.13	2.17m	c. 53	2000 2004 2008	570 465 551	96 60 38
Saudi Arabia	47,000	2.13	29.17m	161	2000 2002 2009	23,720 28,612 44,600	116 131 165
Syria	10,599	.04	17.68m	60	2003	11,829	68
United Arab Emirates	11,193	.06	4.88m	229	2001 2006	c. 11,000 11,193	c. 351 229
Yemen	c. 14,000	7.13	26.23m	c. 53	2003 2006 2010	16,252 10,415 12,409	84 49 52
Central Asia							
Kazakhstan	41,333	1.10.15	17.68m	234	2000 2005 2010	78,029 52,608 63,643	520 342 393
Kyrgyzstan	9,729	25.7.14	5.85m	166	2000 2005 2010	20,000 16,662 9,923	402 327 183
Tajikistan	9,317	12.10	7.70m	121	2001 2006	c. 11,000 10,804	c. 175 157
Turkmenistan	30,568	.13	5.24m	583	2000 2005 2010	c. 22,000 13,462 c. 26,500	c. 488 283 c. 522
Uzbekistan	c. 43,900	.14	29.33m	c. 150	2000 2003 2009	63,900 48,000 c. 42,000	257 188 c. 153
South Central Asia							
Afghanistan	26,519	.14	35.60m	74	2004 2007 2010	5,262 10,590 18,283	20 36 58
Bangladesh	69,719	8.15	160.65m	43	2000 2005 2010	62,669 74,766 69,650	47 52 46
Bhutan	1,119	12.14	772,000	145	2011	1,001	137
India	418,536	31.12.14	1,275.00m	33	2000 2005 2010	272,079 358,368 368,998	26 32 30
Iran	225,624	12.14	78.59m	287	2001 2005 2010	158,000 134,384 204,365	237 192 275
Maldives	1,200	.14	352,000	341	2000 2005 2010	2,166 983 830	793 330 255
Nepal	16,813	10.14	28.27m	59	2000 2005 2010	6,000 7,135 10,739	25 28 40

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Table 3 (continued)

ASIA

	Prison population total	Date	Estimated national population	Prison population rate	Trend information		
					year	total	rate
Pakistan	80,169	4.15	187.52m	43	2000 2005 2010	78,938 89,370 75,586	56 57 43
Sri Lanka	19,774	mid-14	21.45m	92	2000 2005 2010	16,412 22,114 26,984	87 111 130
South Eastern Asia							
Brunei Darussalam	554	22.9.14	418,500	132	2000 2005 2010	333 492 379	101 136 96
Cambodia	16,497	15.7.15	15.69m	105	2000 2005 2010	5,502 8,160 14,043	45 61 97
Indonesia	161,692	8.14	253.18m	64	2000 2005 2010	53,399 97,671 117,863	26 44 49
Laos	4,020	mid-04	5.70m	71	not available		
Malaysia	51,946	10.15	30.45m	171	2000 2005 2010	27,358 35,644 38,387	116 138 137
Myanmar	c. 60,000	.13	53.26m	c. 113	2001 2004 2009	31,648 c. 60,000 60,053	64 c. 120 117
Philippines	120,076	.14	99.165m	121	2000 2005 2010	79,299 90,492 95,390	102 105 103
Singapore	12,596	31.12.14	5.56m	227	2000 2005 2010	13,791 13,644 12,852	352 299 250
Thailand	311,036	15.10.15	67.45m	461	2000 2005 2010	223,406 162,293 210,855	357 247 317
Timor-Leste	581	8.15	1.17m	50	2003 2009	c. 320 223	c. 35 21
Vietnam	142,636	mid-14	92.55m	154	2005 2010	88,414 108,557	104 122
Eastern Asia							
China	1,657,812*	mid-14	1,393.78m	119*	2000 2005 2010	1,427,407* 1,565,771* 1,656,773*	111* 118* 121*
Japan	60,486	31.12.14	127.02m	48	2000 2005 2010	61,242 79,052 72,975	48 62 57
Korea (Rep of)	50,800	31.7.14	50.09m	101	2000 2005 2010	62,959 52,403 47,471	136 110 97
Mongolia	7,773	10.9.14	2.92m	266	2001 2005 2010	6,656 6,998 7,044	275 277 260
Taiwan	63,734	31.8.15	23.47m	272	2000 2005 2010	56,676 60,122 65,311	254 264 282
Hong Kong (China)	8,284	30.6.15	7.29m	114	2000 2005 2010	12,017 11,311 9,988	180 165 142
Macau (China)	1,258	31.7.15	646,700	195	2000 2005 2010	847 897 929	196 185 172

* The China figures are for sentenced prisoners only. Figures for pre-trial detention and other forms of detention are not available but more than 650,000 were so held in 2009 (Supreme People's Procuratorate).

Figures are not available for:

Eastern Asia: Democratic People's Republic of (North) Korea

Table 4

EUROPE

	Prison population total	Date	Estimated national population	Prison population rate	Trend information		
					year	total	rate
Northern Europe							
Denmark	3,481	1.5.15	5.67m	61	2000 2005 2010	3,382 4,041 3,965	63 75 71
Estonia	2,830	26.10.15	1.31m	216	2000 2005 2010	4,712 4,565 3,555	343 337 266
Finland	3,105	16.5.15	5.47m	57	2000 2005 2010	2,855 3,888 3,291	55 74 61
Iceland	147	1.1.14	325,700	45	2000 2005 2010	78 119 165	28 40 52
Ireland	3,733	30.10.15	4.64m	80	2000 2005 2010	2,948 3,151 4,290	77 76 94
Latvia	4,745	31.12.14	1.99m	239	2000 2005 2010	8,815 7,646 7,055	370 340 333
Lithuania	7,810	1.9.15	2.91m	268	2000 2005 2010	14,412 8,125 8,655	410 242 275
Norway	3,710	13.5.15	5.19m	71	2000 2005 2010	2,548 3,124 3,624	57 68 74
Sweden	5,400	1.1.15	9.75m	55	2000 2005 2010	5,326 7,008 6,902	60 78 74
UK: England & Wales	85,843	30.10.15	58.02m	148	2000 2005 2010	64,602 75,979 84,725	124 142 153
UK: Northern Ireland	1,607	23.10.15	1.85m	87	2000 2005 2010	1,068 1,301 1,465	64 76 81
UK: Scotland	7,692	30.10.15	5.37m	143	2000 2005 2010	5,869 6,792 7,806	116 133 150
Faeroes (Denmark)	11	avrge 14	48,480	23	2000 2005 2010	9 10 10	20 21 21
Guernsey (UK)	83	2.10.15	65,450	127	2000 2005 2010	59 105 75	94 164 114
Isle of Man (UK)	80	26.10.15	87,000	92	2000 2005 2010	54 60 97	70 75 115
Jersey (UK)	154	21.10.15	101,500	152	2000 2005 2010	130 172 177	150 190 183
Southern Europe							
Albania	5,455	9.15	2.89m	189	2001 2005 2010	3,053 4,356 4,750	99 139 148
Andorra	55	8.14	76,250	72	2001 2006 2010	48 30 61	72 37 78
Bosnia & Herzegovina - Federation	1,722	31.12.14	2.35m	73	2000 2005 2010	1,041 1,435 1,714	45 62 75
Bosnia & Herzegovina - Republika Srpska	940	31.12.14	1.32m	71	2001 2005 2010	849 955 1,046	61 68 75
Croatia	3,763	31.12.14	4.23m	89	2000 2005 2010	2,027 3,022 4,891	45 68 110

Table 4 (continued)

EUROPE

	Prison population total	Date	Estimated national population	Prison population rate	Trend information		
					year	total	rate
Cyprus*	811	1.9.13	860,600	94	2000 2005 2010	312 536 637	45 70 76
Greece	11,798	1.1.15	10.81m	109	2000 2005 2010	7,625 8,722 11,364	70 79 102
Italy	52,434	31.10.15	60.81m	86	2000 2005 2010	53,165 59,523 67,961	93 101 112
Kosovo	1,816	1.10.14	1.81m	100	2000 2005 2010	227 1,199 1,333	11 58 61
Macedonia (FYROM)	3,034	10.14	2.07m	147	2000 2005 2010	1,178 1,844 2,516	59 90 122
Malta	582	31.1.15	429,740	135	2001 2005 2010	257 294 583	65 73 141
Montenegro	1,083	9.14	621,900	174	2000 2005 2010	664 812 1,457	108 130 235
Portugal	14,238	15.10.15	10.33m	138	2000 2005 2010	12,944 12,889 11,613	126 123 110
San Marino*	2	1.9.13	33,700	–	1999 2005 2010	2 1 0	– – –
Serbia	10,500	4.15	7.10m	148	2000 2005 2010	6,160 8,078 11,211	82 109 155
Slovenia	1,511	25.5.15	2.06m	73	2000 2005 2010	1,148 1,159 1,304	58 58 64
Spain	63,025	30.10.15	46.38m	136	2000 2005 2010	45,309 60,707 76,701	113 139 165
Gibraltar (UK)	48	31.12.13	32,730	147	2000 2005 2010	18 27 53	67 94 180
Western Europe							
Austria	8,188	1.1.15	8.58m	95	2000 2005 2010	6,862 8,869 8,597	86 108 102
Belgium	11,769	1.3.14	11.24m	105	2000 2005 2010	8,688 9,375 10,561	85 90 97
France*	60,896	1.9.15	64.39m	95	2000 2005 2010	48,049 55,302 61,430	82 91 98
Germany	63,628	31.3.15	81.29m	78	2000 2005 2010	70,252 78,664 69,385	85 95 85
Liechtenstein*	8	1.1.15	37,370	21	1999 2005 2010	24 10 14	74 29 39
Luxembourg	631	1.1.15	562,400	112	2000 2005 2010	394 693 690	90 149 136
Monaco*	28	1.1.15	37,800	74	2000 2005 2010	18 26 12	51 74 34
Netherlands	11,603	30.9.14	16.88m	69	2000 2005 2010	13,847 21,826 15,235	87 134 92
Switzerland	6,923	3.9.14	8.20m	84	2000 2005 2010	5,760 6,137 6,181	80 82 79

Table 4 (continued)

EUROPE

	Prison population total	Date	Estimated national population	Prison population rate	Trend information		
					year	total	rate
Central & Eastern Europe							
Belarus	c. 29,000	10.14	9.47m	c. 306	2000 2005 2009	56,590 41,538 41,525	566 426 438
Bulgaria	9,028	10.14	7.21m	125	2000 2005 2010	10,147 10,871 9,006	124 140 119
Czech Republic	20,628	30.10.15	10.56m	195	2000 2005 2010	21,538 18,937 21,900	210 185 209
Hungary	18,424	13.10.15	9.83m	187	2000 2005 2010	15,539 15,720 16,328	152 156 163
Moldova*	7,643	1.7.15	3.55m	215	2000 2005 2010	9,449 9,377 6,535	260 260 183
Poland	72,609	30.9.15	37.99m	191	2000 2005 2010	70,544 82,955 80,728	184 217 210
Romania	28,383	27.10.15	19.79m	143	2000 2005 2010	48,267 36,700 28,244	215 173 140
Slovakia	9,991	1.10.15	5.43m	184	2000 2005 2010	6,941 8,897 10,031	129 165 186
Ukraine*	71,046	1.10.15	c. 36.5m	c. 195	2000 2005 2010	218,800 188,465 147,716	443 400 323
Europe/Asia							
Armenia	3,880	1.1.15	2.99m	130	2000 2005 2010	7,281 2,673 4,807	236 89 162
Azerbaijan	22,526	.14	9.54m	236	2000 2005 2010	23,504 18,656 21,971	291 221 241
Georgia*	10,236	30.9.15	3.73m	274	2000 2005 2010	8,349 9,688 23,684	190 220 530
Russian Federation	642,470	1.10.15	144.4m	445	2000 2005 2010	1,060,404 763,115 864,197	729 532 609
Turkey	172,562	5.10.15	78.47m	220	2000 2005 2010	49,512 55,870 120,814	73 77 164

* The figures for Cyprus do not include prisoners in the internationally unrecognised Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC). There were 249 prisoners in TRNC in August 2014.

The figures for France are those for Metropolitan France. Those for French departments and territories in Africa, the Americas and Oceania are shown under those continents in tables 1, 2 and 5.

The figures for Georgia do not include prisoners in Abkhazia and South Ossetia, which have declared independence from Georgia.

By agreement with Austria, some persons imprisoned by Liechtenstein may be held in Austrian prisons.

The figures for Moldova do not include prisoners in the internationally unrecognised territory that has declared independence from Moldova and is known variously as Transdniestria, Transnistria or Pridnestrovie. The territory is reported to have contained 2,840 prisoners in 2014.

By agreement with France, some persons imprisoned by Monaco may be held in French prisons.

The figures for San Marino do not show prison population rates because, by agreement with Italy, most persons imprisoned by San Marino are held in Italian prisons and the number of such prisoners is not available.

The 2015 figures for Ukraine do not include prisoners in Crimea and Sebastopol and those areas of Donetsk and Luhansk that are not under the control of the Ukrainian authorities.

World Prison Population List (eleventh edition)

Table 5

OCEANIA

	Prison population total	Date	Estimated national population	Prison population rate	Trend information		
					year	total	rate
Oceania							
Australia	35,949	4.15-6.15	23.75m	151	2000 2005 2010	21,714 25,353 29,700	114 126 135
Fiji	1,555	9.15	894,000	174	2000 2005 2010	1,185 1,113 1,097	146 135 127
Kiribati	141	9.14	104,000	136	2000 2005 2010	57 74 90	69 82 92
Marshall Is.	35	9.14	53,000	66	2003 2006 2010	c. 20 47 43	c. 38 90 83
Federated States of Micronesia	132	31.12.14	104,000	127	2000 2005 2010	91 72 100	85 68 97
Nauru	14	11.14	10,000	140	2003 2005 2010	6 3 20	60 30 200
New Zealand	8,906	29.6.15	4.60m	194	2000 2005 2010	5,720 7,100 8,604	148 171 198
Palau	72	.14	21,000	343	2001 2005 2010	70 97 79	368 485 395
Papua New Guinea	4,580	5.11.14	7.53m	61	2000 2005 2010	3,531 4,056 4,268	65 67 61
Samoa	481	10.14	192,500	250	2000 2005 2009	173 247 c. 300	99 137 c. 162
Solomon Is.	323	9.14	575,000	56	1999 2005 2010	134 295 268	33 63 51
Tonga	176	7.14	106,000	166	2000 2005 2010	106 128 159	108 127 152
Tuvalu	11	8.14	10,000	110	2000 2005 2010	6 7 8	67 70 80
Vanuatu	c. 230	.15	265,000	c. 87	1999 2005 2010	46 138 187	25 66 80
American Samoa (USA)	214	9.13	56,000	382	2000 2005 2011	140 222 167	241 376 304
Cook Is. (NZ)	25	21.11.11	23,000	109	2000 2005 2010	23 27 40	128 142 200
Fr. Polynesia (Fr)	451	1.7.15	283,000	159	2001 2004 2007	275 327 404	114 129 155
Guam (USA)	797	30.3.15	170,000	469	2000 2005 2010	684 505 559	440 320 352
New Caledonia (Fr)	459	1.7.15	263,000	175	2001 2006 2011	329 316 438	154 136 175
Northern Mariana Is. (USA)	175	31.12.14	65,500	267	2000 2005 2011	97 149 162	141 223 263

Sources The figures in the above tables originate almost always from the national prison administrations. Some were obtained indirectly, via the Ministry responsible for prisons, via national statistical offices, via United Nations surveys, via surveys for the annual meetings of the Asian and Pacific Conference of Correctional Administrators, via the Council of Europe Annual Penal Statistics (SPACE) and via U.S. State Department human rights reports.

Part 2: Prison population totals, rates and trends by continent and gender

Table 6 World prison population levels – continental totals and rates

	Prison population totals (latest available at 31.10.2015)	National populations (at dates of prison population totals)	Prison population rate (per 100,000 of national populations)
AFRICA	1,038,735	1,102m	94
AMERICAS	3,780,528	977m	387
ASIA	3,897,797	4,227m	92
EUROPE	1,585,348	827m	192
OCEANIA	54,726	39m	140
WORLD	10,357,134	7,172m	144

Table 7 World prison population levels – change since about the year 2000*

	Estimated prison population total at about 2000**	Latest available prison population total (at 31.10.2015)	Change in prison population total since about 2000	Change in national populations mid-2000 to start of 2015 (United Nations)
AFRICA	902,500	1,038,735	+15.1%	+ 43.8%
without Rwanda ¹	787,500	984,456	+ 25.0%	
AMERICAS	2,690,300	3,780,528	+40.5%	+ 17.3%
without U.S.A. ²	752,818	1,563,528	+ 107.7%	
ASIA	3,023,500	3,897,797	+28.9%	+ 17.5%
without China & India ³	1,324,014	1,821,449	+ 37.6%	
EUROPE	2,013,600	1,585,348	-21.3%	+ 3.3%
without Russia ⁴	953,196	942,878	- 1.1%	
OCEANIA⁵	34,400	54,726	+59.1%	+ 25.2%
WORLD	8,664,300	10,357,134	+19.5%	+18.2%

* Does not include estimates in respect of the number of prisoners in Eritrea, Somalia and Democratic People's Republic of (North) Korea and for China includes only the numbers of sentenced prisoners.

** Some of the figures on which the totals for about the year 2000 are based are estimates and so the continental totals have been rounded to the nearest 100.

1. The growth in the African prison population is considerably less than the increase in the population of the continent. However the size of this difference is heavily influenced by the figures for Rwanda. Rwanda's prison population is still inflated by the many thousands detained in connection with the genocide in 1994, but the numbers have more than halved since 2000. Without the figures for Rwanda the prison population in Africa has increased by 25% since 2000.
2. The change in the prison population in the Americas since 2000 is greatly influenced by the prison population in the United States, which is by far the largest but which has grown much less than that of many other countries in the continent. Without the figures for the United States, the prison population in the Americas has increased by 108% since 2000, the increase being over 80% in central America and 145% in south America.
3. Prison population change since 2000 in Asia has varied greatly between the different parts of the continent: the totals in south eastern Asia and in western Asia (Middle East) both rose by 75% while the total in central Asia fell by 31%. China and India with their high national populations strongly influence the overall Asian prison population

level, but in opposite directions – the Chinese prison population rose by 16% while the Indian prison population rose by 54%. Without the figures for these two countries the Asian prison population has risen by 38%.

4. Europe is the only continent that has seen a fall in prisoner numbers since 2000. The size of the decrease is heavily influenced by the figures for the Russian Federation: Russia’s prison population is by far the largest in Europe and has fallen by almost 40%. Without the figures for the Russian Federation, the prison population in Europe has fallen by 1% since 2000. Russia is not the only part of Europe that has seen a large fall in the prison population: the prison population in central and eastern Europe without Russia has fallen by almost 42% since 2000. By contrast there has been growth in the other regions of Europe: 6% in western Europe, 12% in northern Europe and 27% in southern Europe.

5. The growth in the prison population of Oceania is higher than in any other continent. It is of course dominated by the figures for Australia, whose prison population rose by 66% between 2000 and 2015, and New Zealand whose total rose by 56%.

Table 8 **World prison population levels – change in male and female levels since about the year 2000**

	Change in male prison population total since about 2000	Change in female prison population total since about 2000*	Change in overall prison population total since about 2000	Women & girls as % of prison population – about 2000	Women & girls as % of prison population – latest figures
AFRICA	+14.5%	+27.8%	+14.9%**	2.7%	3.0%
without Rwanda	+ 24.7%	+ 28.8%	+ 24.8%	2.7%	2.8%
AMERICAS	+39.8%	+51.9%	+40.7%**	7.4%	8.0%
without U.S.A.	+ 110.6%	+ 146.9%	+ 112.5%**	5.3%	6.1%
ASIA	+27.5%	+83.6%	+30.2%**	4.9%	6.9%
without China & India	+ 39.5%	+ 62.3%	+ 41.1%**	7.0%	8.0%
EUROPE	-22.6%	+3.4%	-21.3%	5.0%	6.5%
without Russia	- 1.7%	+ 12.4%	- 1.1%	4.7%	5.3%
OCEANIA	+56.7%	+99.5%	+59.1%	5.5%	6.9%
WORLD	+18.1%	+50.2%	+19.8%**	5.4%	6.8%

* The percentage changes in the female prison population totals for each continent differ slightly from those shown in table 7 of the third edition of the World Female Imprisonment List. This is because the accuracy of some of the estimates for the number of female prisoners in about 2000 has been improved.

** These percentage changes in the overall prison population totals for Africa, America and Asia and in the world total differ slightly from those shown in table 7 and mentioned in the accompanying commentary. This is because table 8 does not include the seven countries on which information on female prison population levels is not available (Africa: Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Gabon and Somalia. Americas: Cuba. Asia: Democratic People’s Republic of (North) Korea, Uzbekistan).

As with table 7, the continental figures in table 8 are heavily influenced by the figures for Rwanda, the U.S.A, China, India and Russia but this does not affect the fact that, throughout the world, the female prison population has increased proportionately more than the male prison population.

Roy Walmsley is Director of the World Prison Brief, a comprehensive online database of information on the prison systems of the world, which can be accessed free of charge at www.prisonstudies.org. He also researches and compiles the World Female Imprisonment List and the World Pre-trial/Remand Imprisonment List.