

CORRECTIONAL SERVICE CANADA

CHANGING LIVES. PROTECTING CANADIANS.

Changes in the Size of the Federal Offender Population: 2000 to 2018

Historical federal population trend lines show a recent decline in custody and rise under community supervision.

Why we are doing this study

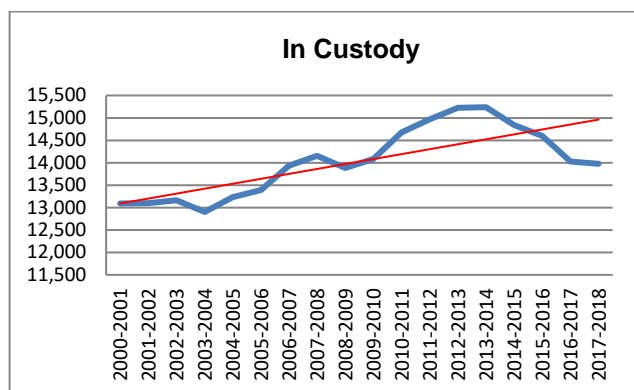
The Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) regularly conducts population forecasts and monitors historical trends of federal offender counts both in custody and under community supervision.^{1,2} The systematic monitoring of breaks in a longer-term line can help to signal when net demand for accommodation and intervention capacity might be mounting, weakening or being met.

What we did

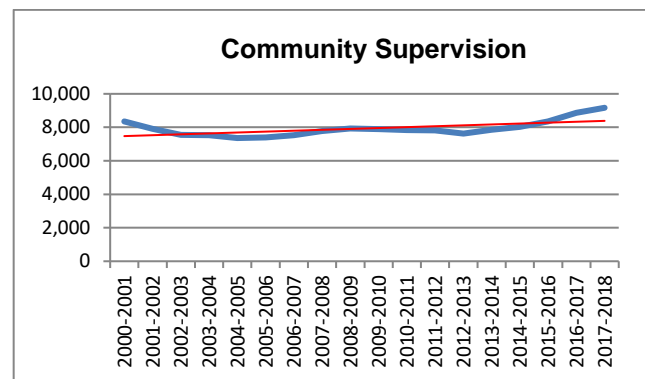
Historical year-end federal in custody and under community supervision counts are recorded as standardized reports in CSC's Corporate Reporting System-Modernized (CRS-M). Data between Fiscal Year (FY) 2000-2001 and 2017-2018 were extracted from CRS-M to establish 18-year trend lines.

What we found

Since the turn of the millennium the federal in custody population has increased by +872 (or 6.7%). However, since peaking in 2013-2014 at 15,288 the in custody population has steadily declined to 13,967 (-1,321 or -8.6%) by year-end 2017-2018. As displayed in the figure below, there were several notable breaks in the 18-year trend line, the significant rise above beginning in 2010-2011 followed by a major decline below in 2015-2016.



Similarly, the federal population under community supervision has increased by +819 (or 9.8%) since 2000-2001. However, since 2013-2014 at 7,681 the community population has steadily increased to 9,167 (+1,306 or +16.6%) by year-end 2017-2018. As displayed in the figure, there is a noteworthy break in the 18-year trend line with the substantial rise above beginning in 2015-2016.



What it means

The national in custody count being well below the longer-term trend-line and the community supervision counts being well above is reflective of recent efforts directed at preparation for safe release and more offenders being granted a discretionary release. This examination of longer-term trend-lines suggests that the current approach to safe reintegration is viable.

For more information

Please e-mail the [Research Branch](#) or contact us by phone at (613) 995-3975.

You can also visit the [Research Publications](#) section for a full list of reports and one-page summaries.

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¹ Motiuk, L. & Vuong, B. (2018). *Forecasted and Actual Federal Custody Populations: 2017-2018*. Research in Brief 18-05, Correctional Service Canada.

² Motiuk, L. & Vuong, B. (2018). *Forecasted and Actual Federal Community Populations: 2017-2018*. Research in Brief 18-09, Correctional Service Canada.