

# CORRECTIONAL SERVICE CANADA

CHANGING LIVES. PROTECTING CANADIANS.

## Post-pandemic Provisional Federal Security Level Forecasts

*Post-pandemic changes in 10-year population forecasts were manifested for men across maximum, medium and minimum security.*

### Why we are doing this study

Every year, the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) updates its provisional federal population forecasts using a robust methodology developed decades ago. However, over the course of two recent fiscal years (2020-21 and 2021-22), marked by the COVID-19 pandemic, CSC experienced an unprecedented trend break in the historical time series with a major decline in the federal custody (-1,392 or 10.1%) populations.<sup>1</sup> Consequently, a pause had occurred in the forecasting exercise during the pandemic era. Then, in 2022 new 10-year in-custody security level provisional projections were estimated to fiscal year-end.<sup>2</sup>

### What we did

A database of weekly snapshots of institutional counts from 1990-91 to year-end 2022-23 was derived from CSC's Offender Management System. Security level projections for maximum-, medium, and minimum-security were estimated only for men as the women security level distributions were deemed too low for forecasting models. SAS/ETS software was used for analyzing univariate time series data and to select the best-fitting model.

### What we found

As tabled below, for men in-custody on 29 March 2023, the actual count in maximum security was **1,596**, while a slight increase and change in direction post pandemic. For 2032-33, the 10-year forecast for men in maximum-security is estimated to be **1,693**, an increase of 94 or 5.9%. With the exception of the Quebec and Prairies regions, all others are projected to grow.

In relation to medium-security, at fiscal year-end 2022-23 the actual count was **6,883**, also a relatively large increase over one year post pandemic. By year-end 2032-33, the medium security population is estimated to be **7,325**, an increase of 442 or 6.4%. With the exception of the Pacific region, all others are projected to increase.

With respect to minimum-security, at fiscal year-end 2022-23 the actual count was **2,006**, also a substantial increase over one year post pandemic period. By year-end 2031-32, the minimum population is estimated to be **2,340**, a substantial increase of 334 or 16.7%. All regions are projected to increase.

### Federal Security Level Forecasts for Men to 2032-33

	Atl.	Que.	Ont.	Pra.	Pac.	Total
<b>Maximum</b>						
21-22	139	416	269	433	333	1,590
22-23	132	428	321	391	327	1,599
32-33	135	403	436	342	377	1,693
<b>Net</b> ▲	<b>+3</b>	<b>-25</b>	<b>+115</b>	<b>-49</b>	<b>+50</b>	<b>+94</b>
<b>Change</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>5.8%</b>	<b>35.8%</b>	<b>12.5%</b>	<b>15.3%</b>	<b>5.9%</b>

	Atl.	Que.	Ont.	Pra.	Pac.	Total
<b>Medium</b>						
21-22	584	1,411	1,793	2,004	810	6,602
22-23	744	1,464	1,893	1,967	815	6,883
32-33	811	1,627	1,969	2,163	755	7,325
<b>Net</b> ▲	<b>+67</b>	<b>+163</b>	<b>+76</b>	<b>+196</b>	<b>-60</b>	<b>+442</b>
<b>Change</b>	<b>9.0%</b>	<b>11.1%</b>	<b>4.0%</b>	<b>10.0%</b>	<b>7.4%</b>	<b>6.4%</b>

	Atl.	Que.	Ont.	Pra.	Pac.	Total
<b>Minimum</b>						
21-22	148	313	474	665	203	1,803
22-23	139	331	588	733	215	2,006
32-33	169	403	688	828	252	2,340
<b>Net</b> ▲	<b>+30</b>	<b>+72</b>	<b>+100</b>	<b>+95</b>	<b>+37</b>	<b>+334</b>
<b>Change</b>	<b>21.6%</b>	<b>21.8%</b>	<b>17.0%</b>	<b>13.0%</b>	<b>17.2%</b>	<b>16.7%</b>

<sup>1</sup> RIB-22-05 - Pandemic Era Impacts on the Federal Supervision Populations

<sup>2</sup> RIB-22-20 – Pandemic Era Impacts on Provisional Federal Security Level Forecasts

### What it means

Although pandemic period saw a significant decline in the federal men in-custody population, it appears that the institutional population is quickly rebounding back to pre-pandemic levels. While the men in-custody is projected to increase over a 10-year horizon, it appears that by 2032-33 the maximum-, medium-, and minimum-security men populations will have grown.

### For more information

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

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