

# Office of Economic Analysis<sup>1</sup> – Prison Forecast Tracking Summary

November 2023

The latest forecast (October 1, 2023 release) for the adults-in-custody (AIC) population on November 1 was 12,136, a projected four-bed decrease from the September 1, 2023 actual AIC population count. The actual number of AICs was 12,143, a three-bed increase. Total prison counts were seven beds above the forecast<sup>2</sup>.

Table 1

| Prison Forecast - Tracking for Latest Forecast |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |       |        |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|
|  | M-PERS | M-PROP | M-STAT | Males  | F-PERS | F-PROP | F-STAT | Women | Total  |
| September 1 Actual                             | 8,801  | 1,580  | 868    | 11,249 | 554    | 236    | 101    | 891   | 12,140 |
| November 1 Actual                              | 8,818  | 1,559  | 878    | 11,255 | 558    | 231    | 99     | 888   | 12,143 |
| November 1 Forecast                            | 8,803  | 1,576  | 873    | 11,251 | 547    | 239    | 99     | 885   | 12,136 |
| Actual Change                                  | 17     | -21    | 10     | 6      | 4      | -5     | -2     | -3    | 3      |
| Forecast Change                                | 2      | -4     | 5      | 2      | -7     | 3      | -2     | -6    | -4     |
| Forecast Error (count)                         | 15     | -17    | 5      | 4      | 11     | -8     | 0      | 3     | 7      |
| Forecast Error (percent)                       | 0.2%   | -1.1%  | 0.6%   | 0.0%   | 2.0%   | -3.3%  | 0.0%   | 0.4%  | 0.1%   |
| HB 3194/3078 Impact                            | -130   | -116   | -95    | -341   | -17    | -27    | -21    | -65   | -406   |

Forecast error varied by gender and the type of crime. The AIC forecast produced by OEA is broken down to Males and Females by crime type (Person, Property, and Statutory<sup>3</sup>).<sup>4</sup>

For Male-Person AICs, actual beds were 15 beds above the forecast. Male-Property AIC counts were 17 beds below the forecast. Male-Statutory beds were five beds above the forecast. The total Male population was four beds above the forecast.

Female - Person AICs were 11 beds above the forecast. Female – Property AICs were eight beds below the forecast. Female – Statutory AICs were equal to the forecast. Total Female beds were three beds above the forecast. (Note that subtotals may not match summary statistics due to rounding.)

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<sup>2</sup> Note that this brief documents changes in the prison counts, both projected and actual, between the last actual data on which the forecast was based and the latest prison counts available.

<sup>3</sup> Includes Drug crimes, Weapon crimes, and felony DUII.

<sup>4</sup> The forecast is further delineated by those AICs in on a new crime versus those in on a revocation.

The final row in the table above characterizes adjustments made to the baseline model outputs for legislative changes that have not been incorporated into the data. Currently, these adjustments are attributed to short-term transition leave, which never factor into the data and will always need to be incorporated as outside-the-model add factors.

Near term forecast error such as that characterized in this report boils down primarily to deviations from assumptions made about intakes in the months following the release of the forecast. The chart to the right presents the recent history of

prison intakes since the onset of the pandemic (blue bars), as well as the projection for intakes in the near future (pink bars). The gray bar indicates the pre-pandemic average.

The drop in intakes during the first year and a half of the pandemic, for the most part, caused the 2,500-bed drop in the prison population. The October 2023 forecast assumes that prison intakes will return to pre-pandemic levels by the end of 2027.

The October 2023 forecast assumed that intakes would average 345 per month for the first few months of the forecast. Actual intakes were slightly fewer than that. The minor error observed on November 1 can be attributed to deviations in releases relative to forecast assumptions.

Finally, point-in-time errors give an indication of how the forecast is tracking in real time. The recent history of the error rate also provides information about how the forecast is performing. The chart to the right presents the forecast errors since the publication of the forecast.

Chart 1

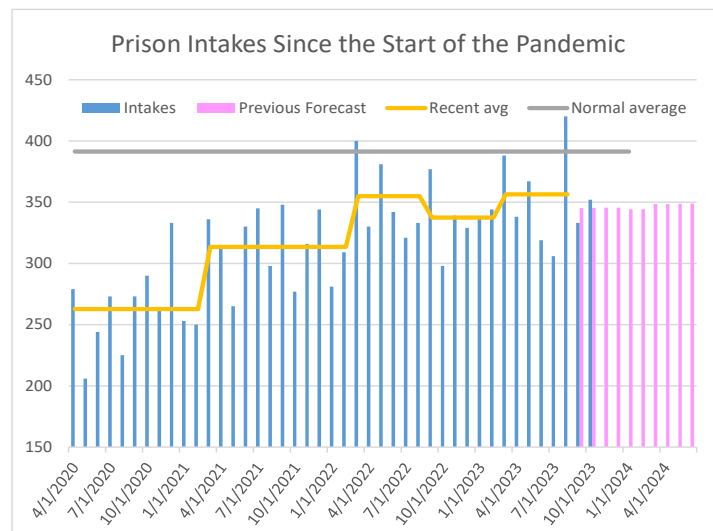


Chart 2

