



# Prisons in Europe 2005-2015

## Armenia Country Profile

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This country profile on Armenia is taken from the report *Prisons in Europe 2005-2015* ([link](#)), which contains 51 profiles on the prison populations in the Prison Administrations of the 47 member States of the Council of Europe.

*Prisons in Europe 2005- 2015* presents data on prison populations across Europe from 2005 to 2015. It is divided in two volumes: Volume 1 presents country profiles based on several indicators concerning prison populations, and Volume 2 includes all the data used for the report. The report has been prepared by the University of Lausanne and co-funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe.

Each country profile includes a Table with Key Facts about the country, which are presented in the form of several indicators referring to the latest available year and to the evolution during the latest ten years, as well as the relative position of the country (low, medium or high) for each indicator compared to the 28 member States of the European Union (“EU 28”) and the 47 member States of the Council of Europe (“CoE 47”). The classification in “low”, “medium” and “high” is based on the comparative indicators presented in Part 2 of the study. The country profile is divided in four sections and includes 8 Figures. The four sections are the following:

- Key facts
- The country in brief: This section summarizes the trends shown in the key facts from 2005 to 2014/15. It illustrates which indicators have increased, which have decreased and which have remained stable. The indicator is considered as showing a stable trend if the variation is lower than 5%.
- The country in comparative perspective: This section compares each country to the rest of the countries included in the study.

#### General comments:

This section includes eight Figures, comments to these Figures and some possible explanations of the observed trends. The eight Figures are numbered from 1 to 8 within each country profile and also include, between brackets, their absolute number from 1 to 408.

The Key facts include indicators of stock and flow. The stock indicators refer to the situation on 1st September 2015. The flow indicators refer to the situation during the year 2014. On the basis of the data included in this study, we have calculated for each indicator the average for the 10 to 11 years under study. This average is presented in the fifth column of the country profiles.

Finally, the last column of the country profiles provides a graphic indicator of the trend observed when one compares the last year of the series (2014 and 2015 respectively) to the first one (2005). The arrows included in this column reflect the evolution of the indicator according to the following table:

↔	+/- 4.9%	stable
↑	+5 to +9%	slight increase
↑↑	+10 to +19%	moderate increase
↑↑↑	+20 to +49%	substantial increase
↑↑↑↑	+50% and more	huge increase
↓	-5 to -9%	slight decrease
↓↓	-10 to -19%	moderate decrease
↓↓↓	-20 to -49%	substantial decrease
↓↓↓↓	-50% and more	huge decrease

COUNTRY PROFILE	ARMENIA	TRENDS 2005-2015
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**Key Facts**

	2014/15	Comparative		Evolution 2005-2014/15	
		CoE 47	EU 28	Average	% Change
<b>Prison population rate (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants) (01.09.2015)</b>	129.7	Medium	NAP	136.0	↑↑↑↑
Rate of entries into penal institutions in 2014 (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants)	---	---	NAP	---	---
Rate of releases from penal institutions in 2014 (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants) – Available since 2009	48.5	Low	NAP	63.9*	↓↓↓↓
Average length of imprisonment in 2014 based on the total number of days spent in penal institutions (in months)	---	---	NAP	---	---
Average length of imprisonment in 2014 based on stock and flow (in months)	---	---	NAP	---	---
Prison density (inmates per 100 places) (01.09.2015)	84.8	Low	NAP	97.9	↑↑↑↑
Median age of the prison population (in years) (01.09.2015)	---	---	NAP	---	---
Percentage of female inmates (01.09.2015)	4.4	Medium	NAP	3.7	↑↑↑↑↑
Percentage of foreign inmates (01.09.2015)	3.2	Low	NAP	2.4	↑↑↑↑↑
<i>of which:</i> in pre-trial detention	44.4	Medium	NAP	57.9	↓↓↓↓
Percentage of non-sentenced inmates (01.09.2015)	26.7	Medium	NAP	29.4	↔
Rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates in 2014	95.5	High	NAP	60.9	↑↑↑↑
Rate of suicides per 10,000 inmates in 2014 (n=4)	10.1	High	NAP	7.6	↓
<i>of which:</i> % in pre-trial detention (n=0) - Available since 2013	0.0	Low	NAP	NAP	NAP
Ratio of inmates per staff (number of inmates per 1 staff person) (01.09.2015)	1.8	Medium	NAP	2.4	↓↓↓↓
Percentage of custodial staff in the total staff (01.09.2015)	54.2	Low	NAP	63.7	↓↓↓↓
Total budget spent by the prison administration in 2014 (in Euro) – Available since 2011	21 982 160	NAP	NAP	15 211 432**	↑↑↑↑↑
Average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate in 2014 (in Euro) – Available since 2008	10.3	Low	NAP	---	---

\*Average calculated from 2009 to 2014

\*\*Average calculated from 2011 to 2014

**Armenia in brief**

- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators show a *decrease*: rate of releases from penal institutions (-25%), percentage of pre-trial detainees among foreign inmates (-38%), percentage of suicides (-5%), ratio of inmates per staff (-26%), and percentage of custodial staff in the total staff (-34%).
- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators show an *increase*: prison population rate (+48%), prison density (+22%), percentage of female inmates (+59%), percentage of foreign inmates (+1207%), rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates (+30%), and total budget spent by the prison administration (+64%).
- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators remain *stable*: percentage of non-sentenced inmates (+4%).

**Armenia in comparative perspective**

- Compared to other European countries, Armenia presents:
  - **Low**: Rate of releases from penal institutions, prison density, percentage of foreign inmates, percentage of suicides in pre-trial detention, percentage of custodial staff, average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate.
  - **Medium**: Prison population rate, percentage of female, percentage of pre-trial detainees among foreign inmates, percentage of non-sentenced inmates, ratio of inmates per staff.
  - **High**: Rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates, percentage of suicides.

## General comments

Figure 1 (17)

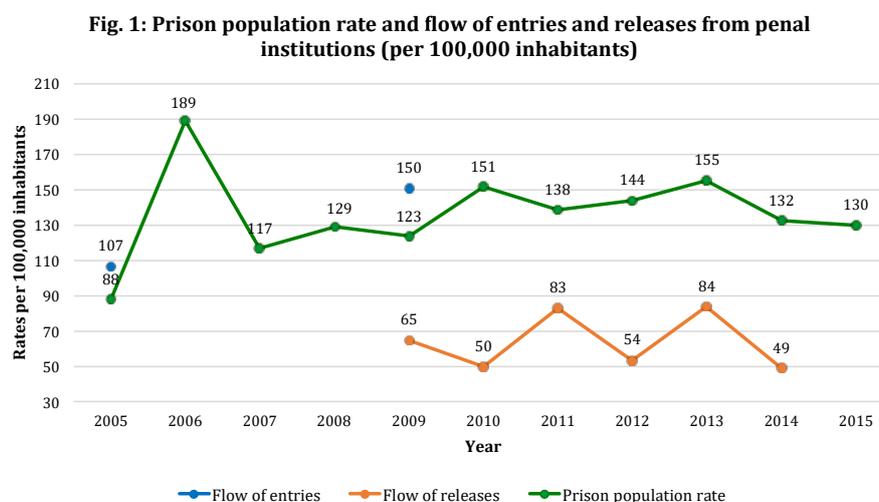
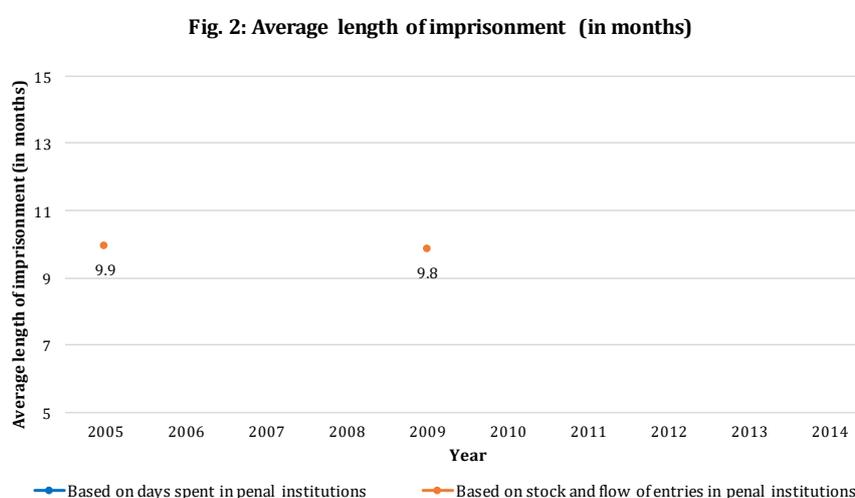


Figure 1 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the prison population rate of Armenia (stock) increased by 48%. In 2005, the country had 88 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2015 it had 130.

For the rate of entries (flow of entries) most of the data were not available.

From 2009 to 2014, the rate of releases (flow of releases) decreased by 25%. In 2009, there were 65 releases from penal institutions per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2014 there were 49.

Figure 2 (18)



Most of the data required for the estimation of the average length of imprisonment based on stock and flow were not available.

No data were available for the estimation of the average length of imprisonment based on the number of days spent in penal institutions.

Figure 3 (19)

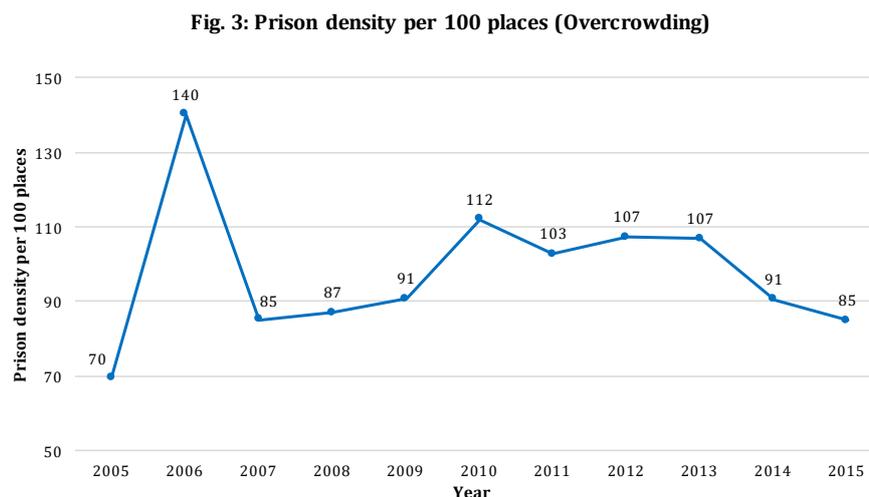


Figure 3 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the prison density of Armenia increased by 22%. In 2005, the country had 70 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2015 it had 85.

Figure 4 (20)

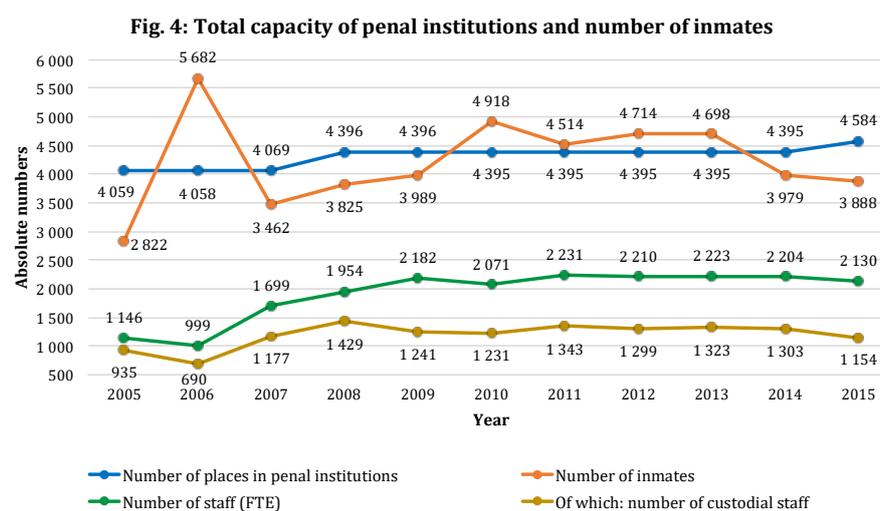


Figure 4 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the total number of places in penal institutions in Armenia increased by 13%. In 2005, the country had 4,059 places, while in 2015, it had 4,584. According to the information collected during this research, the number of places in penal institutions increased due to the construction of the new “Armavir” penitentiary institution. The “Armavir” penitentiary institution has a total capacity of 1,240 places, of which 200 are foreseen for pre-trial detainees.

During the same period, the total number of inmates increased by 38%. In 2005, the country had 2,822 inmates, while in 2015, it had 3,888.

From 2005 to 2015, the total number of staff increased by 86%. In 2005, Armenia had in total a staff of 1,146 persons, while in 2015, it had 2,130.

During the same period, the total number of custodial staff increased by 23%. In 2005, the total custodial staff was 935 persons, while in 2015, it was 1,154.

Figure 5 (21)

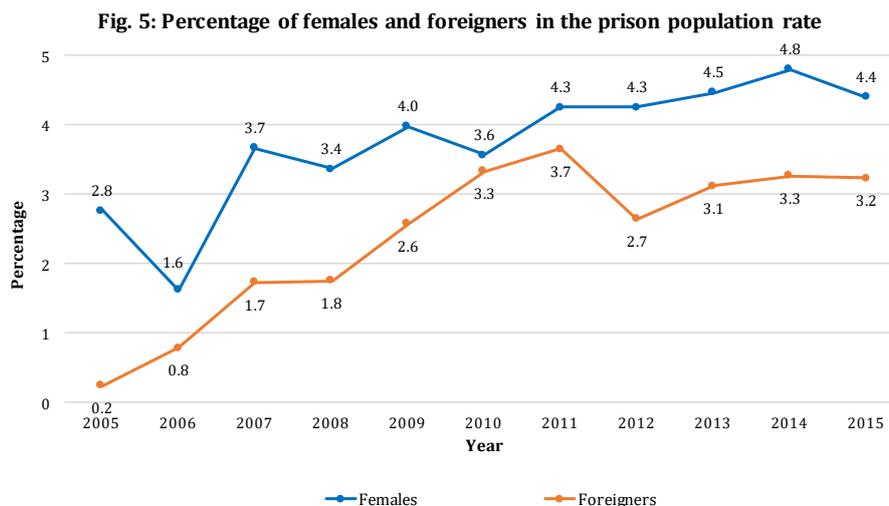


Figure 5 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentage of female inmates increased by 59%. In 2005, 2.8% of the inmates were females, while in 2015 they represented 4.4% of the total prison population.

During the same period, the percentage of foreign inmates increased by 1,207%. In 2005, 0.2% of the inmates were foreigners, while in 2015 they represented 3.2% of the total prison population.

Figure 6 (22)

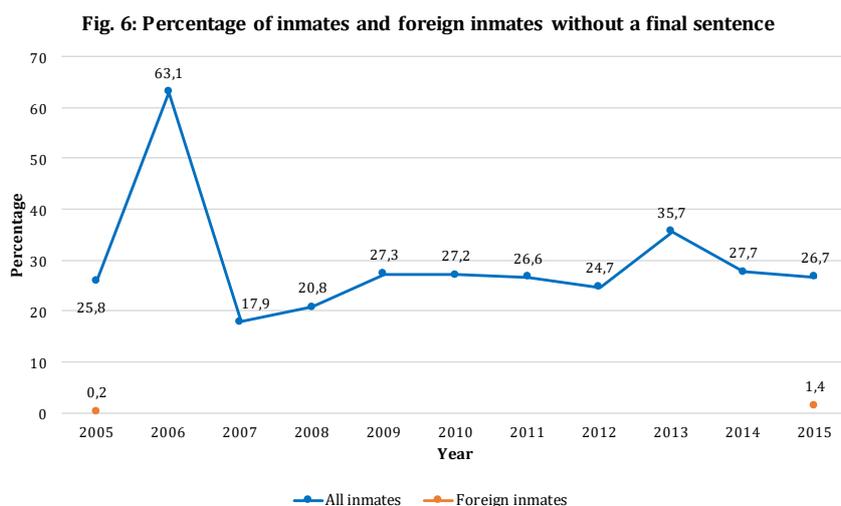
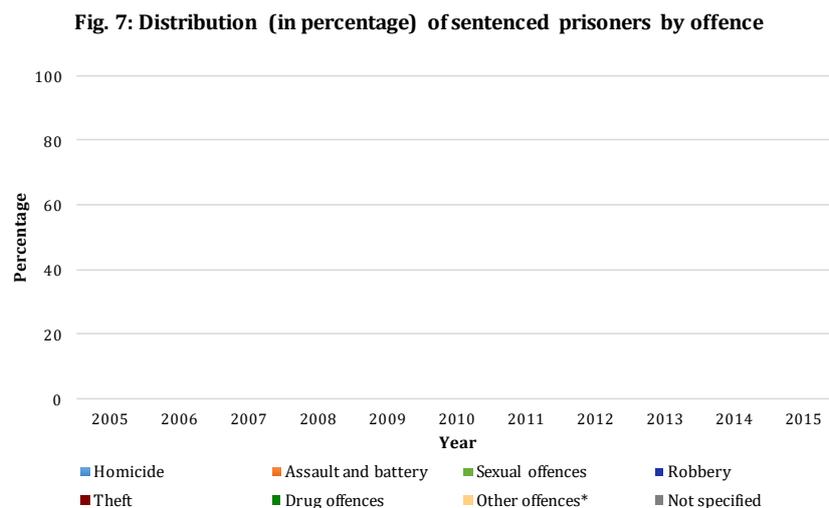


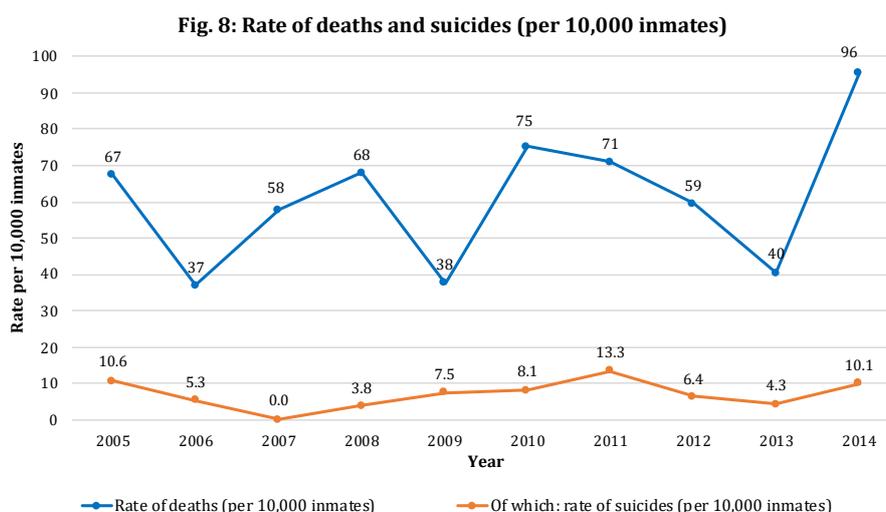
Figure 6 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentage of detainees without a final sentence increased by 4%. In 2005, 26% of the detainees did not have a final sentence, while in 2015 they were 27%.

For the percentage of foreign persons in pre-trial detention most of the data were not available.

Figure 7<sup>123</sup> (23)

As can be seen in Figure 7, data were not available for the distribution of sentenced prisoners by offence. This is due to the fact that Armenia uses different categories of offences than the ones used in SPACE: (1) Crimes against life and health; (2) Crimes against property, economy and economic activity; (3) Crimes against public safety, public order and morality; (4) Crimes against public health; (5) Crimes against state safety; (6) Crimes against military; (7) Crimes against peace and human safety.

Figure 8 (24)



The instability of the trends for deaths and suicides per 10,000 inmates shown in Figure 8 illustrates the impossibility of reaching statistically reliable conclusions when the absolute number of cases that generated the rates is low. From 2005 to 2014, the annual number of inmates who died in prison oscillated between 19 and 38 and, among them, the number of those who committed suicide fluctuated between 6 and none.

<sup>1</sup> The figures provided by the country do not always add to 100%.

<sup>2</sup> Sexual offences include (1) rape (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2005), and (2) other sexual offences (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2008).

<sup>3</sup> Other offences include (1) economic and financial offences (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2008); (2) terrorism (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2007); (3) organised crime (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2007); (4) cybercrime (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2014); and (5) other cases (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2005).