

Prisons in Europe 2005-2015

Austria

Country Profile

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This country profile on Austria 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		AUSTRIA		TRENDS 2005-2015	
Key Facts					
	2014/15	Comparative		Evolution 2005-2014/15	
		CoE 47	EU 28	Average	% Change
Prison population rate (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants) (01.09.2015)	103.9	Medium	Medium	103.8	↔
Rate of entries into penal institutions in 2014 (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants)	135.0	Medium	Medium	150.0	↓↓↓
Rate of releases from penal institutions in 2014 (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants) – Available since 2009	136.5	Medium	Medium	140.3*	↓
Average length of imprisonment in 2014 based on the total number of days spent in penal institutions (in months)	9.3	Medium	Medium	8.6	↑↑
Average length of imprisonment in 2014 based on stock and flow (in months)	9.3	Medium	Medium	8.3	↑↑↑
Prison density (inmates per 100 places) (01.09.2015)	103.3	High	High	100.9	↔
Median age of the prison population (in years) (01.09.2015)	34.0	Medium	Medium	34.0	↔
Percentage of female inmates (01.09.2015)	5.9	High	Medium	5.8	↑↑
Percentage of foreign inmates (01.09.2015)	53.3	High	High	46.3	↑↑
of which: in pre-trial detention	31.4	Medium	Medium	30.4	↔
Percentage of non-sentenced inmates (01.09.2015)	33.0	High	High	32.7	↔
Rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates in 2014	23.7	Medium	Medium	35.7	↓↓↓
Rate of suicides per 10,000 inmates in 2014 (n=8)	9.0	High	High	11.0	↑↑↑
of which: % in pre-trial detention (n=7) – Available since 2013	87.5	High	High	NAP	NAP
Ratio of inmates per staff (number of inmates per 1 staff person) (01.09.2015)	2.4	High	High	2.2	↑↑
Percentage of custodial staff in the total staff (01.09.2015)	82.1	High	High	79.5	↑
Total budget spent by the prison administration in 2014 (in Euro) – Available since 2011	416 973 092	NAP	NAP	392 722 154**	↑↑
Average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate in 2014 (in Euro) – Available since 2008	113.0	Medium	Medium	103.9***	↑↑

*Average calculated from 2009 to 2014

**Average calculated from 2011 to 2014

***Average calculated from 2008 to 2014

Austria in brief

- Comparing 2014/15 to 2004/5, the following indicators show a *decrease*: rate of entries into penal institutions (-23%), rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates (-42%)
- Comparing 2014/15 to 2004/5, the following indicators show an *increase*: average length of imprisonment based on the total number of days spent in penal institutions (+19%), average length of imprisonment based on stock and flow (+27%), percentage of female inmates (+17%), percentage of foreign inmates (+17%), percentage of suicides (+32%), ratio of inmates per staff (+11%), percentage of custodial staff in the total staff (+6%), total budget spent by the prison administration (+20%), and average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate (+13%).
- Comparing 2014/15 to 2004/5, the following indicators remain *stable*: prison population rate (-3%), rate of releases from penal institutions (-4%), prison density (-3%), median age of the prison population (+4%), percentage of pre-trial detainees among foreign inmates (+4%) and percentage of non-sentenced inmates (0%).

Austria in comparative perspective

- Compared to other European countries, Austria presents:
 - **Low**: None of indicators.
 - **Medium**: Prison population rate, rate of entries into penal institutions, rate of releases from penal institutions, average length of imprisonment based on the total number of days spent in penal institutions, average length of imprisonment based on stock and flow, median age of the prison population, percentage of pre-trial detainees among foreign inmates, rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates, average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate.
 - **High**: Prison density, percentage of foreign inmates, percentage of non-sentenced inmates, rate of suicides per 10,000 inmates, percentage of suicides in pre-trial detention, rate of inmates per staff percentage of custodial staff in the total staff.
- When the percentage of female inmates, is calculated, the Austrian percentage is high compared to the member States of the Council of Europe, but medium compared to the member States of the European Union.

General comments

Figure 1 (25)

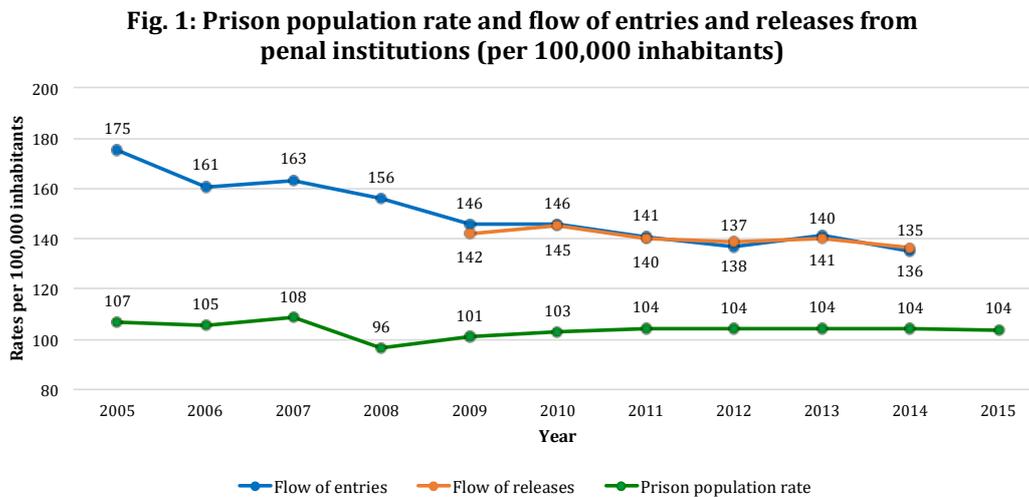


Figure 1 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the prison population rate of Austria (stock) decreased by 3%. In 2005, the country had 107 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2015 it had 104.

From 2005 to 2014, the rate of entries (flow of entries) decreased by 23%. In 2005, there were 175 entries into penal institutions per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2014 there were 135.

According to the information collected during this research, the number of entries into prison as well as the prison population rate decreased in 2008 due to a legislative amendment to the criminal law that became applicable that year (Strafrechtsreform 2008; BGBl Nr 109/2007).

From 2009 to 2014, the rate of releases (flow of releases) decreased by 4%. In 2009, there were 142 releases from penal institutions per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2014 there were 136.

The flow of entries and the flow of releases show similar rates and trends.

Figure 2 (26)

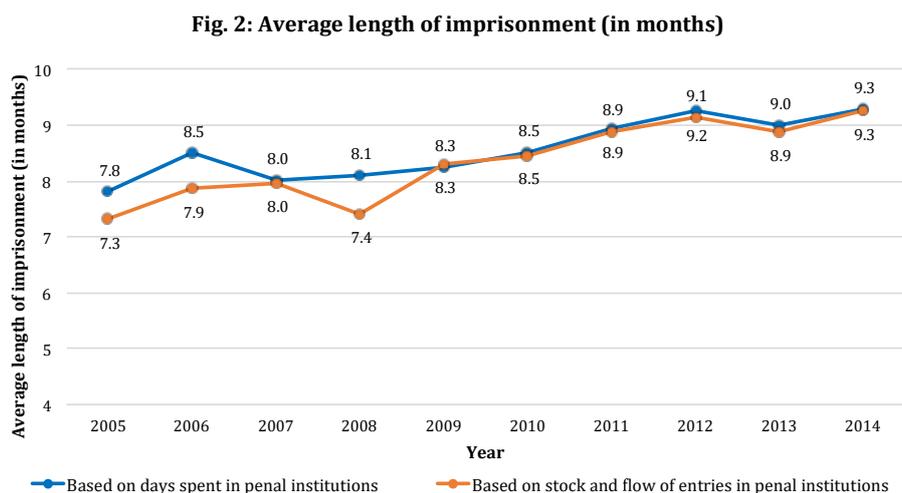


Figure 2 shows that, from 2004 to 2014, the average length of imprisonment based on the number of days spent in penal institutions increased by 19%. In 2004, the average length of imprisonment was 7.8 months, while in 2014 it was 9.3 months.

When the average length of imprisonment is computed on the basis of the ratio between the stock and the flow, it shows an increase of 27%. According to this indicator, in 2004, the average length of imprisonment was 7.3 months, while in 2014 it was 9.3 months.

Figure 3 (27)

Fig. 3: Prison density per 100 places (Overcrowding)

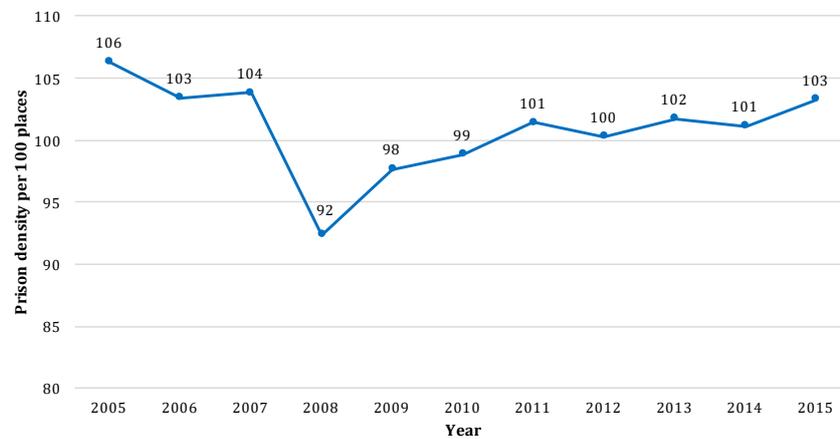


Figure 3 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the prison density of Austria decreased by 3%. In 2005, the country had 106 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2015 it had 103.

Figure 4 (28)

Fig. 4: Total capacity of penal institutions and number of inmates

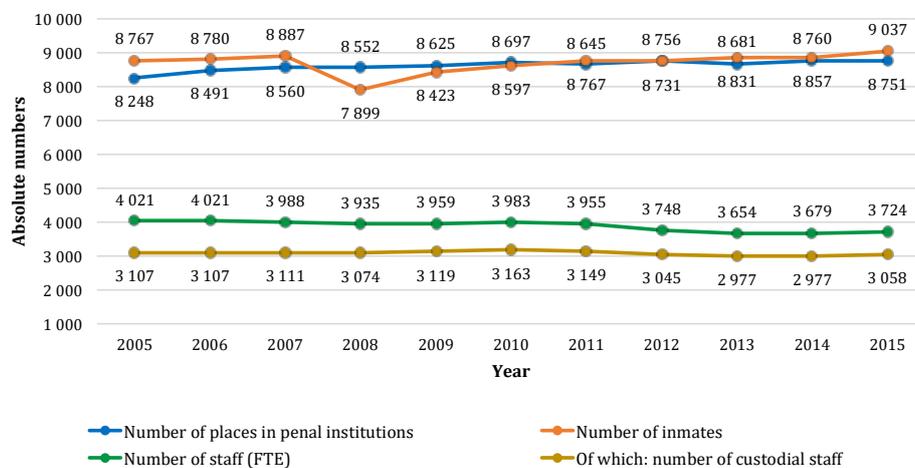


Figure 4 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the total number of places in penal institutions in Austria increased by 2%. In 2005, the country had 8,248 places, while in 2015 it had 8,751. According to the information collected during this research, the number of places in penal institutions increased due to the construction of new prison cells as well as renovations conducted within the existing penal institutions.

During the same period, the total number of inmates increased by 2%. In 2005, the country had 8,767 inmates, while in 2015 it had 9,037.

From 2005 to 2015, the total number of staff decreased by 7%. In 2005, Austria had in total a staff of 4,021 persons, while in 2015 it had 3,724.

During the same period, the total number of custodial staff decreased by 2%. In 2005, the total custodial staff was 3,107 persons, while in 2015 it was 3,058.

Figure 5 (29)

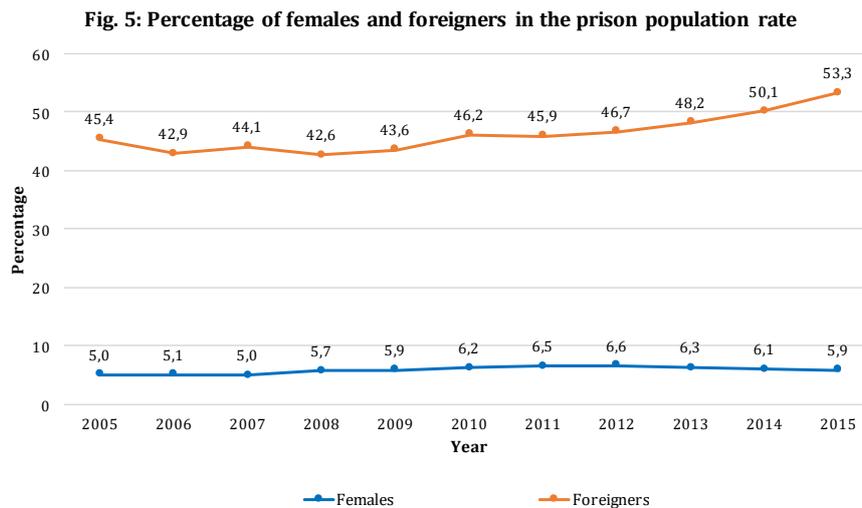


Figure 5 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentage of female inmates increased by 17%. In 2005, 5.0% of the inmates were females while, in 2015, they represented 5.9% of the total prison population.

During the same period, the percentage of foreign inmates increased by 17%. In 2005, 45% of the inmates were foreigners, while in 2015 they represented 53% of the total prison population.

Figure 6 (30)

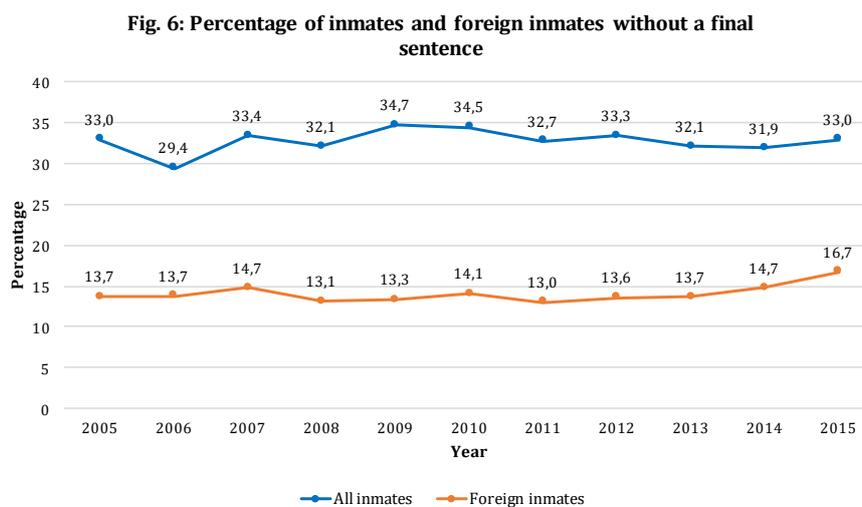
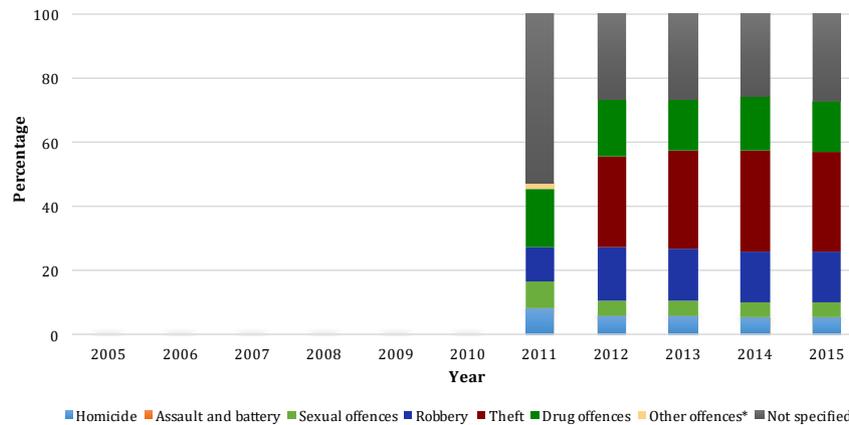


Figure 6 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentage of inmates without a final sentence remained stable. In 2005 and 2015, inmates without a final sentence represented 33% of the all inmates.

During the same period, the percentage of foreigners held in pre-trial detention increased by 22%. In 2005, they represented 14% of the total number of inmates, while in 2015 they represented 17% of them.

Figure 7¹²³ (31)

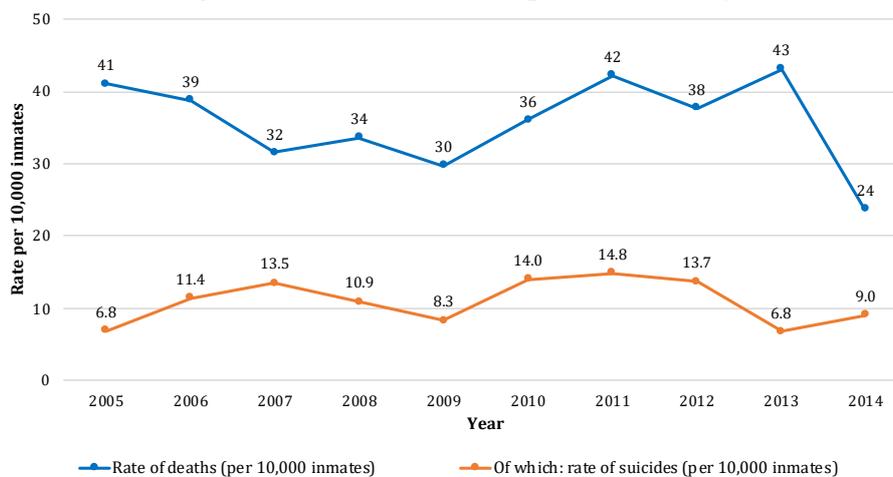
Fig. 7: Distribution (in percentage) of sentenced prisoners by offence



As can be seen in Figure 7, data on the distribution of sentenced prisoners by offence were not available for most of the series. Moreover, in the years for which data are available, the classification of offences does not fully correspond to the categories used in SPACE because it is based on the legal definitions provided by the Austrian criminal law.

Figure 8 (32)

Fig. 8: Rate of deaths and suicides (per 10,000 inmates)



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 21 and 38 and, among them, the number of those who committed suicide fluctuated between 6 and 13.

¹ The figures provided by the country do not always add to 100%.

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

³ 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).