

Prisons in Europe 2005-2015

Cyprus Country Profile

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This country profile on Cyprus 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	CYPRUS		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) on 01.09.2015	77.1	Low	Low	93.9	↑↑↑↑
Rate of entries into penal institutions in 2014 (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants)	262.9	High	High	313.9	↔↔
Rate of releases from penal institutions in 2014 (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants) – Available since 2009	196.7	High	High	245.1*	↓↓↓↓
Average length of imprisonment in 2014 based on the total number of days spent in penal institutions (in months)	3.0	Low	Low	---	---
Average length of imprisonment in 2014 based on stock and flow (in months)	3.6	Low	Low	3.6	↑↑↑↑
Prison density on 01.09.2015 (inmates per 100 places)	97.3	Medium	Medium	132.6	↓↓↓↓
Median age of the prison population on 01.09.2015 (in years)	36.0	High	High	33.9	---
Percentage of female inmates (01.09.2015)	6.1	High	High	4.9	↑↑↑↑↑
Percentage of foreign inmates (01.09.2015)	38.2	High	High	42.4	↓↓↓
of which: in pre-trial detention	21.2	Low	Low	20.9	↓↓↓
Percentage of non-sentenced inmates (01.09.2015)	26.0	Medium	Medium	34.0	↑↑↑↑
Rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates in 2014	44.1	High	High	19.0	↓↓↓↓
Rate of suicides per 10,000 inmates in 2014 (n=3)	44.1	High	High	8.1	↑↑↑↑↑
of which: % in pre-trial detention (n=0) – Available since 2013	0.0	Low	Low	NAP	NAP
Ratio of inmates per staff (number of inmates per 1 staff person)	1.7	Medium	Medium	1.9	↑↑
Percentage of custodial staff in the total staff	96.9	High	High	90.3	↑↑
Total budget spent by the prison administration (in Euro) – Available since 2011	15 279 577	NAP	NAP	17 239 269**	↓↓↓
Average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate (in Euro) – Available since 2008	75.0	Medium	Medium	65.0***	↑↑

* Average calculated from 2009 to 2014

** Average calculated from 2011 to 2014

*** Average calculated from 2008 to 2014

Cyprus in brief

- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators show a *decrease*: rate of releases from penal institutions (-26%), prison density (-37%), percentage of foreign inmates (-16%), percentage of pre-trial detainees among foreign inmates (-10%), rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates (-22%), and total budget spent by the prison administration (-18%).
- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators show an *increase*: prison population rate (+22%), average length of imprisonment based on stock and flow (+26%), percentage of female inmates (+54%), percentage of non-sentenced inmates (+42%), ratio of inmates per staff (+10%), percentage of custodial staff in the total staff (+11%), and average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate (+17%).
- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators remain *stable*: rate of entries into penal institutions (-1%).

Cyprus in comparative perspective

- Compared to other European countries, in 2014/15 Cyprus presents:
 - **Low:** Prison population rate, average length of imprisonment based on the total number of days spent in penal institutions, average length of imprisonment based on stock and flow, percentage of foreigners in pre-trial detention, percentage of suicides in pre-trial detention.
 - **Medium:** Prison density, percentage of non-sentenced inmates, ratio of inmates per staff, average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate.
 - **High:** Rate of entries into penal institutions, rate of releases from penal institutions, median age of the prison population, percentage of female inmates, percentage of foreign inmates, rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates, rate of suicides per 10,000 inmates, percentage of custodial staff in the total staff.

General comments

Figure 1 (73)

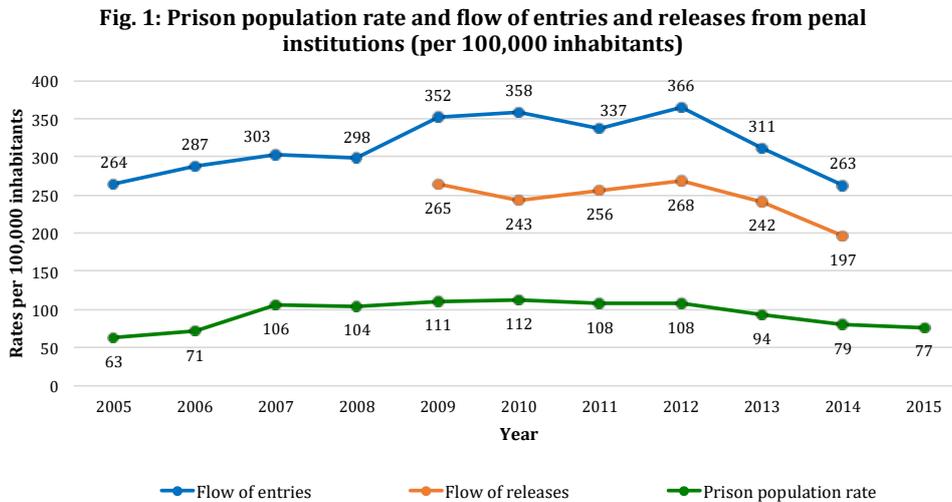


Figure 1 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the prison population rate of Cyprus (stock) increased by 22%. In 2005, the country had 63 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2015 it had 77.

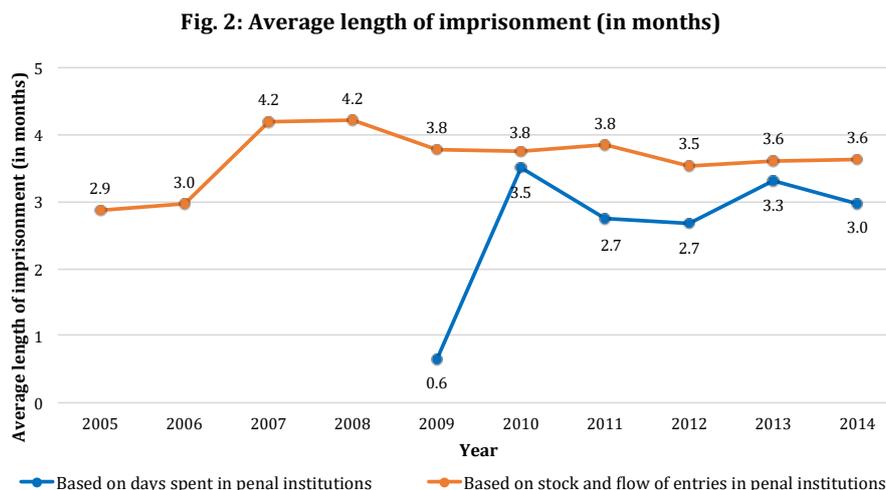
From 2005 to 2014, the rate of entries (flow of entries) remained relatively stable. In 2005, there were 264 entries into penal institutions per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2014 there were 263.

From 2009 to 2014, the rate of releases (flow of releases) decreased by 26%. In 2009, there were 265 releases from penal institutions per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2014 there were 197.

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

According to the information collected during this research, a possible explanation for the decrease observed in these indicators after 2012 is that alternative sanctions, such as community service and fines, were implemented to a greater degree after 2012. This led to a decrease in the flow of entries and, consequently, to a parallel decrease in the flow of releases.

Figure 2 (74)



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 26%. According to this indicator, in 2005, the average length of imprisonment was 2.9 months, while in 2014 it was 3.6 months.

Data for the estimation of the average length of imprisonment based on the number of days spent in penal institutions were only available from 2009 to 2014. Leaving aside the value shown in 2009, which stands as an outlier in the series, the trends from 2010 to 2014 are similar to the ones shown by the indicator based on the stock and flow.

Figure 3 (75)

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

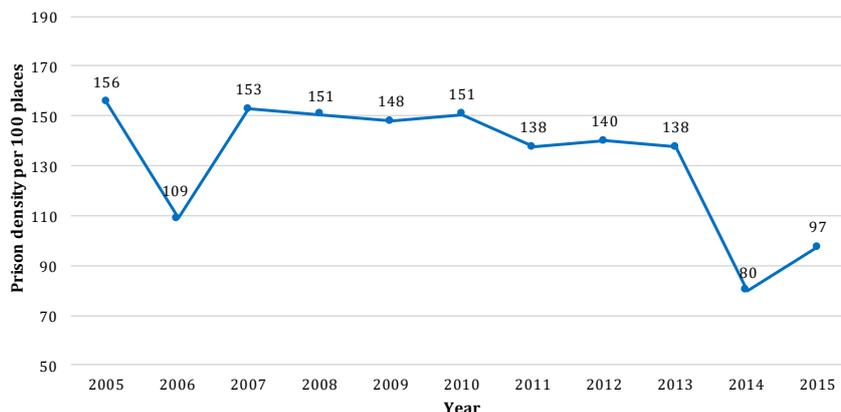


Figure 3 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the prison density of Cyprus decreased by 37%. In 2005, the country had 156 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2015 it had 97.

Figure 4 (76)

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

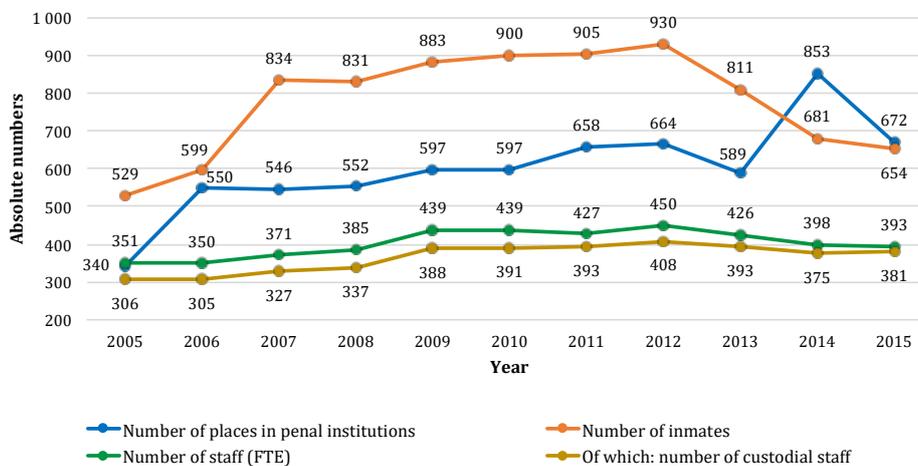


Figure 4 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the total number of places in penal institutions in Cyprus increased by 98%. In 2005, the country had 340 places, while in 2015 it had 672. According to the information collected during this research, the total capacity of penal institutions in Cyprus depend on the number of places available in the central Prison of Nicosia, which is the only correctional facility of the country, and on the number of places available in police custody. The increase observed between 2013 and 2014 corresponds to an increase in the number of places available both in the prison (where the open section was extended) and in police custody places. The fluctuations observed are indeed mainly due to variations in the number of places of police custody. The reason is that the number of places made available for custody at police stations changes from year to year.

During the same period, the total number of inmates increased by 24%. In 2005, the country had 529 inmates, while in 2015 it had 654.

From 2005 to 2015, the total number of staff increased by 12%. In 2005, Cyprus had in total a staff of 351 persons, while in 2015 it had 393.

During the same period, the total number of custodial staff increased by 25%. In 2005, the total custodial staff was 306 persons, while in 2015 it was 381.

Figure 5 (77)

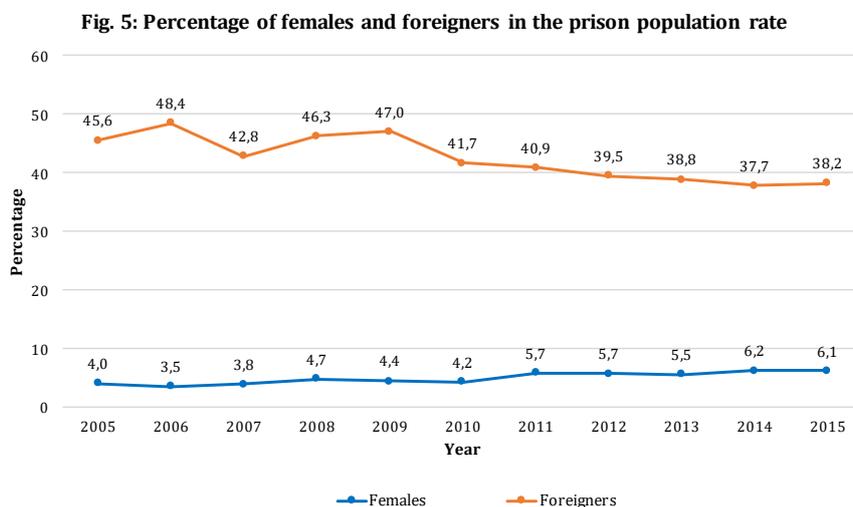


Figure 5 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentage of female inmates increased by 54%. In 2005, 4.0% of the inmates were females, while in 2015 they were 6.1%.

During the same period, the percentage of foreign inmates decreased by 16%. In 2005, 46% of the inmates were foreigners, while in 2015 they represented 38% of the total prison population.

Figure 6 (78)

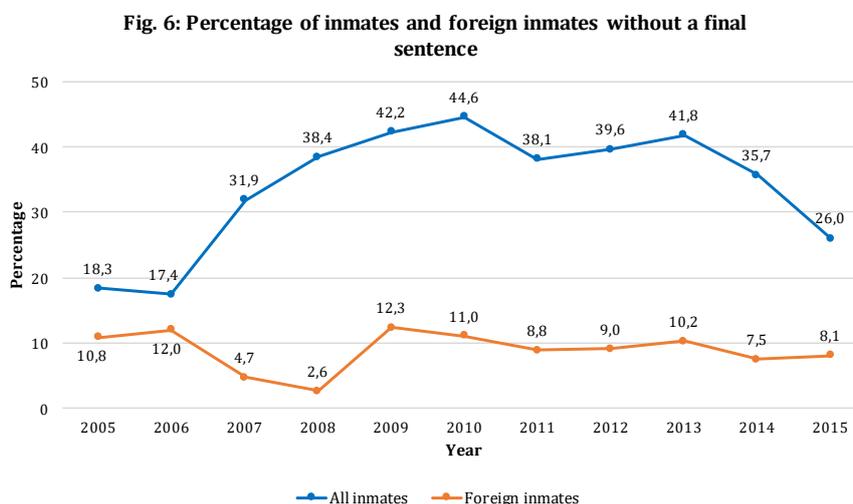


Figure 6 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentage of inmates without a final sentence increased by 42%. In 2005, 18% of the inmates did not have a final sentence while, in 2015, inmates without a final sentence represented 26% of all inmates.

During the same period, the percentage of foreigners held in pre-trial detention decreased by 25%. In 2005, they represented 10.8% of the total number of inmates, while in 2015 they represented 8.1% of them.

Figure 7¹²³ (79)

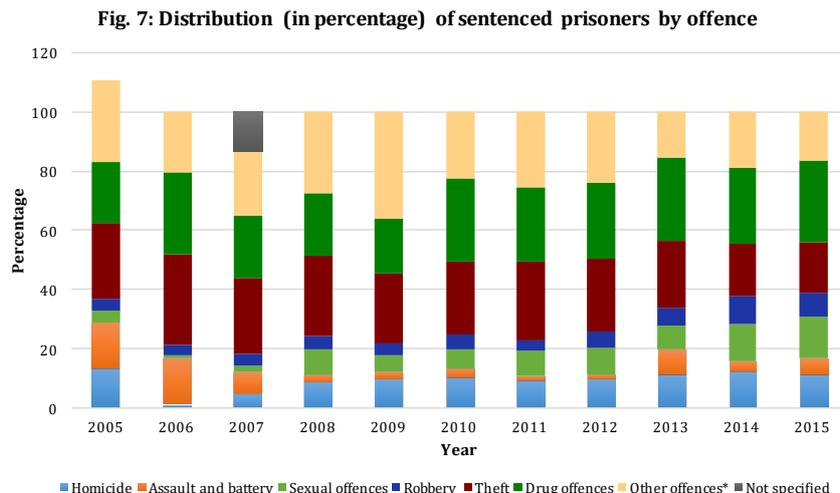
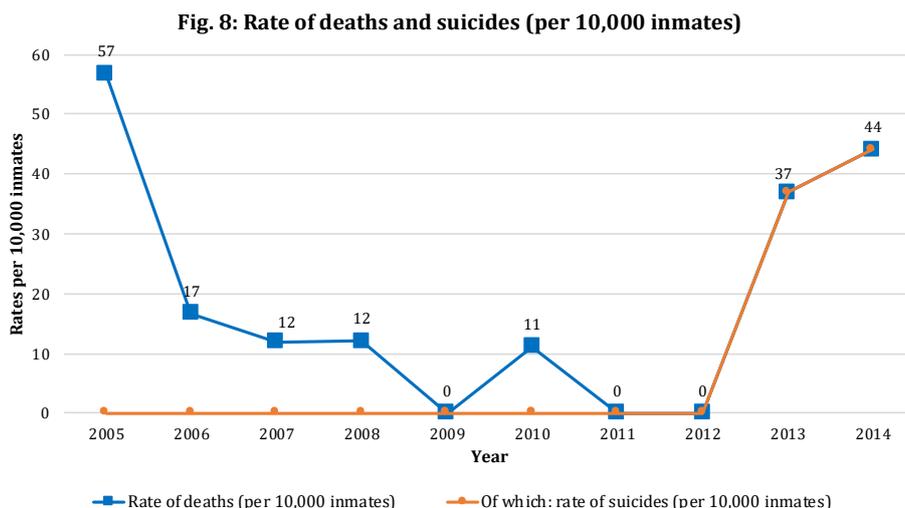


Figure 7 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentages of prisoners serving sentences for sexual offences, robbery, and drug offences have increased; while the percentages of those serving sentences for homicide, assault and battery, theft, and other types of offences have decreased.

Figure 8 (80)



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. For example, in 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2010 the rate corresponds to the death of one inmate per year. Three inmates died in 2013 and another three in 2014; all of them had committed suicide.

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).