

Prisons in Europe 2005-2015

Estonia

Country Profile

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This country profile on Estonia 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	ESTONIA		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	210.3	High	High	264.4	↓↓↓↓
Rate of entries into penal institutions in 2014 (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants)	134.1	Medium	Medium	---	---
Rate of releases from penal institutions in 2014 (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants) – Available since 2009	158.3	Medium	Medium	195.8*	↓↓↓↓
Average length of imprisonment in 2014 based on the total number of days spent in penal institutions (in months)	19.9	High	High	---	---
Average length of imprisonment in 2014 based on stock and flow (in months)	20.1	High	High	---	---
Prison density on 01.09.2015 (inmates per 100 places)	83.3	Low	Low	94.0	↓↓↓
Median age of the prison population on 01.09.2015 (in years)	35.0	Medium	Medium	32.5	↑↑↑
Percentage of female inmates (01.09.2015)	5.2	Medium	Medium	5.1	↑
Percentage of foreign inmates (01.09.2015)	7.5	Medium	Low	25.3	↓↓↓↓↓
of which: in pre-trial detention	30.4	Medium	Medium	27.6	↑↑↑
Percentage of non-sentenced inmates (01.09.2015)	22.2	Medium	Medium	23.7	↔
Rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates in 2014	27.0	Medium	Medium	24.2	↑↑↑↑
Rate of suicides per 10,000 inmates in 2014 (n=1)	3.4	Low	Low	4.9	↑↑↑↑
of which: % in pre-trial detention (n=1) - Available since 2013	100.0	High	High	NAP	NAP
Ratio of inmates per staff (number of inmates per 1 staff person)	1.7	Medium	Medium	2.0	↓↓↓↓
Percentage of custodial staff in the total staff	40.8	Low	Low	54.3	↓↓↓↓↓
Total budget spent by the prison administration (in Euro) – Available since 2011	43 671 208	NAP	NAP	42 324 995**	↑↑↑
Average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate (in Euro) – Available since 2008	39.4	Medium	Low	---	---

* Average calculated from 2009 to 2014

** Average calculated from 2011 to 2014

Estonia in brief

- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators show a *decrease*: prison population rate (-36%), rate of releases from penal institutions (-35%), prison density (-16%), percentage of foreign inmates (-82%), ratio of inmates per staff (-39%), and percentage of custodial staff (-52%).
- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators show an *increase*: median age of the population (+11%), percentage of female inmates (+9%), percentage of pre-trial detainees among foreign inmates (+16%), rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates (+32%), percentage of suicides (+49%), and total budget spent by the prison administration (+10%).
- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators remain *stable*: percentage of non-sentenced inmates (-4%).

Estonia in comparative perspective

- Compared to other European countries, in 2014/15 Estonia presents:
 - **Low**: Prison density, rate of suicides per 10,000 inmates, percentage of custodial staff in the total staff.
 - **Medium**: Rate of entries into penal institutions, rate of releases from penal institutions, median age of the prison population, percentage of female inmates, percentage of pre-trial detainees among foreign inmates, percentage of non-sentenced inmates, rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates, ratio of inmates per staff.
 - **High**: Prison population rate, average length of detention based on the total number of days spent in penal institution, average length of detention based on stock and flow, percentage of suicides in pre-trial detention.
- When the percentage of foreign inmates and the average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate are calculated, the Estonian results are medium compared to the member States of the Council of Europe, but low compared to the member States of the European Union.

General comments

Figure 1 (97)

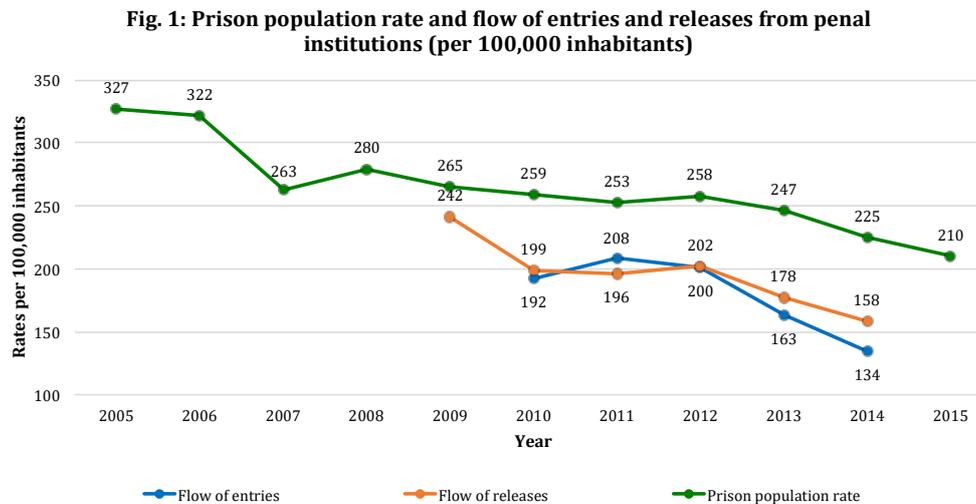


Figure 1 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the prison population rate of Estonia (stock) decreased by 36%. In 2005, the country had 327 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2015 it had 210.

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 35%. In 2009, there were 242 releases from penal institutions per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2014 there were 158.

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

Figure 2 (98)



The data required for the estimation of the average length of imprisonment on the basis of the ratio between the stock and the flow are only available since 2010. They show an increase of 25% from 2010 to 2014. In 2010, the average length of imprisonment was 16.2 months, while in 2014 it was 19.9 months.

Data were not available for the estimation of the average length of imprisonment based on the number of days spent in penal institutions.

Figure 3 (99)

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

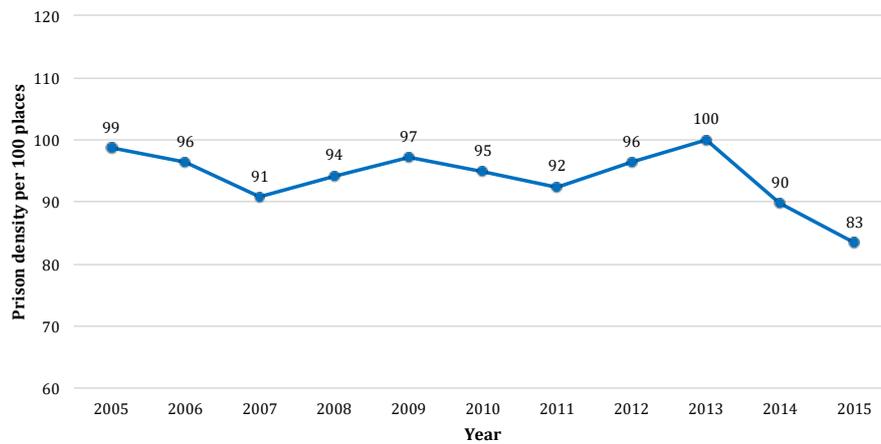


Figure 3 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the prison density of Estonia decreased by 16%. In 2005, the country had 99 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2015 it had 83.

Figure 4 (100)

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

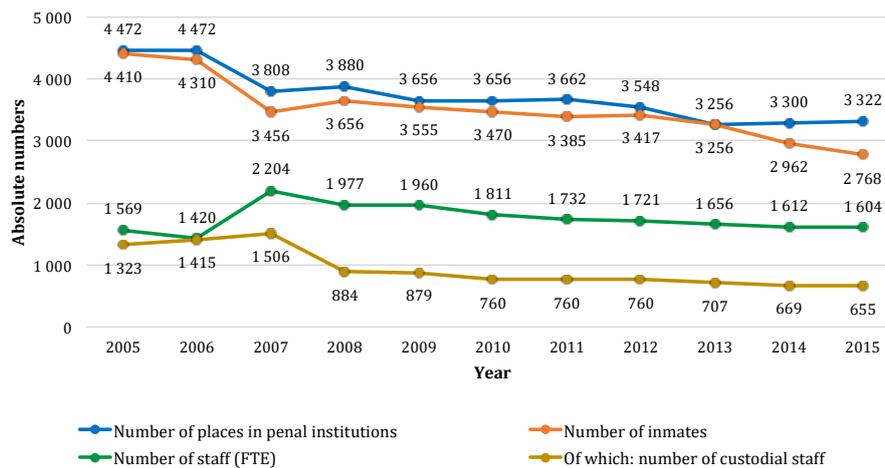


Figure 4 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the total number of places in penal institutions in Estonia decreased by 26%. In 2005, the country had 4,472 places, while in 2015 it had 3,322.

During the same period, the total number of inmates decreased by 37%. In 2005, the country had 4,410 inmates, while in 2015 it had 2,768.

From 2005 to 2015, the total number of staff increased by 2%. In 2005, Estonia had in total a staff of 1,569 persons, while in 2015 it had 1,604.

During the same period, the total number of custodial staff decreased by 51%. In 2005, the total custodial staff was 1,323 persons, while in 2015 it was 655.

Figure 5 (101)

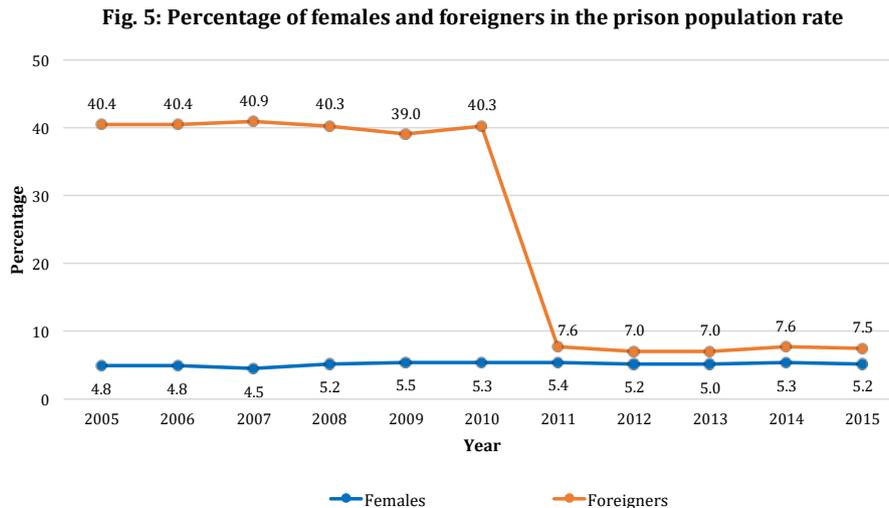


Figure 5 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentage of female inmates increased by 9%. In 2005, 4.8% of the inmates were females, while in 2015 they represented 5.2% of the total prison population.

During the same period, the percentage of foreign inmates decreased by 82%. In 2005, 40.4% of the inmates were foreigners, while in 2015 they represented 7.5% of the total prison population.

Figure 6 (102)

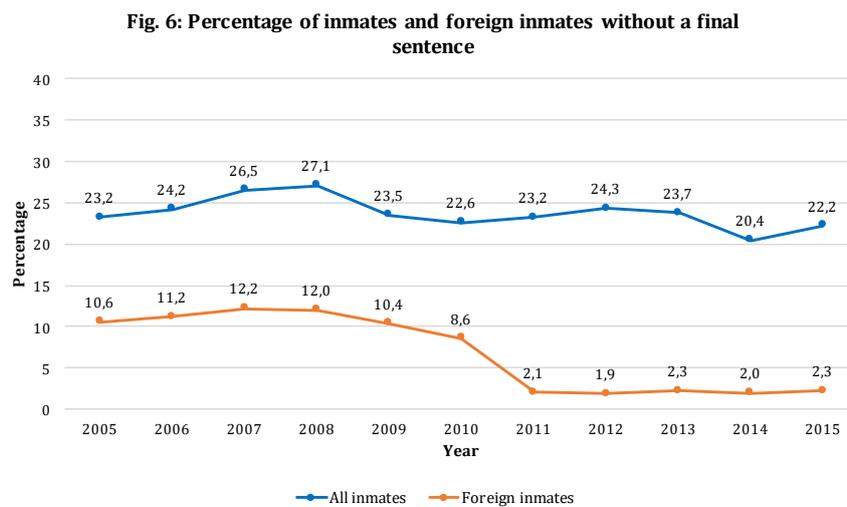


Figure 6 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentage of inmates without a final sentence decreased by 4%. In 2005, 23% of the inmates did not have a final sentence while, in 2015, inmates without a final sentence represented 22% of all inmates.

During the same period, the percentage of foreigners held in pre-trial detention decreased by 79%. In 2005, they represented 10.6% of the total number of inmates, while in 2015 they represented 2.3% of them.

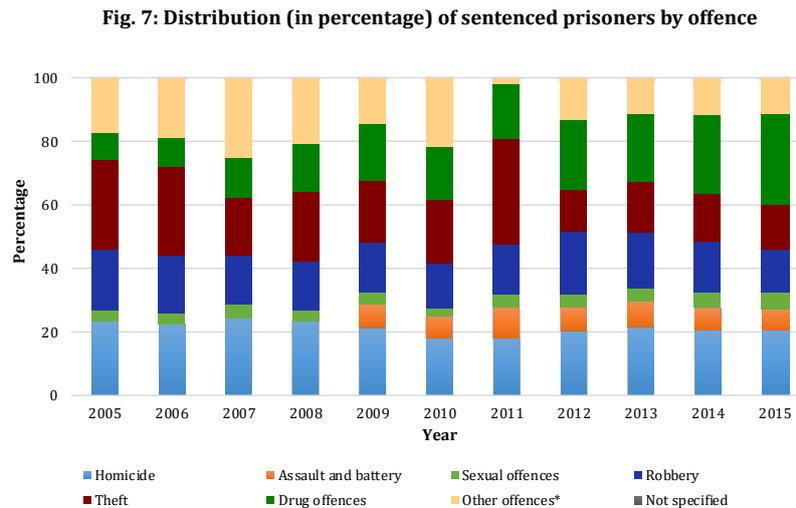
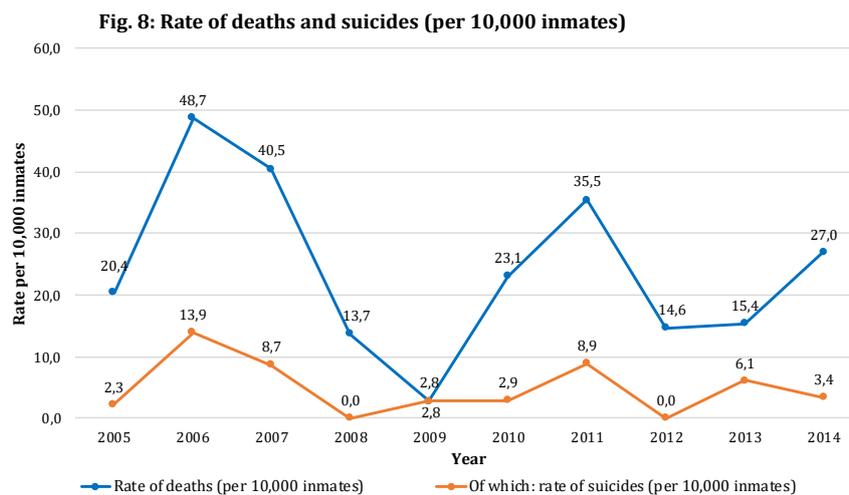
Figure 7¹²³ (103)

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

Figure 8 (104)



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 1 and 22 and, among them, the number of those who committed suicide fluctuated between 6 and none.

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).