

# Prisons in Europe 2005-2015

## Hungary Country Profile

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This country profile on Hungary 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	HUNGARY		TRENDS 2005-2015		
<b>Key Facts</b>					
	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	180.8	High	High	168.1	↑↑
Rate of entries into penal institutions in 2014 (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants)	311.3	High	High	238.3	↑↑↑↑
Rate of releases from penal institutions in 2014 (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants) – Available since 2009	240.8	High	High	201.9*	↑↑↑↑
Average length of imprisonment in 2014 based on the total number of days spent in penal institutions (in months)	12.1	High	High	10.3	↓↓↓
Average length of imprisonment in 2014 based on stock and flow (in months)	7.1	Medium	Medium	8.9	↓↓↓↓
Prison density on 01.09.2015 (inmates per 100 places)	129.4	High	High	135.9	↓↓
Median age of the prison population on 01.09.2015 (in years)	36.8	High	High	34.8	↑
Percentage of female inmates (01.09.2015)	7.4	High	High	6.9	↑↑↑
Percentage of foreign inmates (01.09.2015)	4.6	Low	Low	3.8	↑↑↑
<i>of which: in pre-trial detention</i>	67.6	High	High	53.2	↑↑↑↑
Percentage of non-sentenced inmates (01.09.2015)	25.2	Medium	Medium	29.3	↓
Rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates in 2014	36.7	High	High	29.2	↑↑↑
Rate of suicides per 10,000 inmates in 2014 (n=6)	3.3	Low	Low	4.0	↑↑↑
<i>of which: % in pre-trial detention (n=3) – Available since 2013</i>	50.0	High	High	NAP	NAP
Ratio of inmates per staff (number of inmates per 1 staff person)	2.1	High	High	2.2	↓↓
Percentage of custodial staff in the total staff	79.1	High	High	56.2	↑↑↑↑
Total budget spent by the prison administration (in Euro) – Available since 2011	191 196 858	NAP	NAP	181 600 915**	↑↑
Average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate (in Euro) – Available since 2008	26.6	Medium	Low	28.2***	↓↓

\*Average calculated from 2009 to 2014

\*\* Average calculated from 2011 to 2014

\*\*\* Average calculated from 2008 to 2014

### Hungary in brief

- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators show a *decrease*: average length of detention based on the total number of days spent in penal institutions (-28%), average length of detention based on stock and flow (-55%), prison density (-11%), percentage of non-sentenced inmates (-9%), percentage of suicides (-10%), ratio of inmates per staff (-11%), and average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate (12%).
- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators show an *increase*: prison population rate (+11%), rate of entries into penal institutions (+152%), rate of releases from penal institutions (+54%), median age of the population (+8%), percentage of female inmates (+21%), percentage of foreign inmates (+21%), percentage of pre-trial detainees among foreign inmates (+291%), rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates (+16%), percentage of custodial staff in the total staff (+63%), and total budget spent by the prison administration (10%).
- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators none of indicators remain *stable*.

### Hungary in comparative perspective

- Compared to other European countries, in 2014/15 Hungary presents:
  - **Low**: Percentage of foreign inmates, percentage of suicides.
  - **Medium**: Average length of imprisonment based on stock and flow, percentage of non-sentenced inmates.
  - **High**: Prison population rate, rate of entries into penal institutions, rate of releases from penal institutions, average length of detention based on the total number of days spent in penal institutions, prison density, median age of the prison population, percentage of female inmates, percentage of pre-trial detainees among foreign inmates, rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates, percentage of suicides in pre-trial detention, ratio of inmates per staff, percentage of custodial staff in the total staff.
- When the average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate is calculated, the Hungarian average is 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 (145)

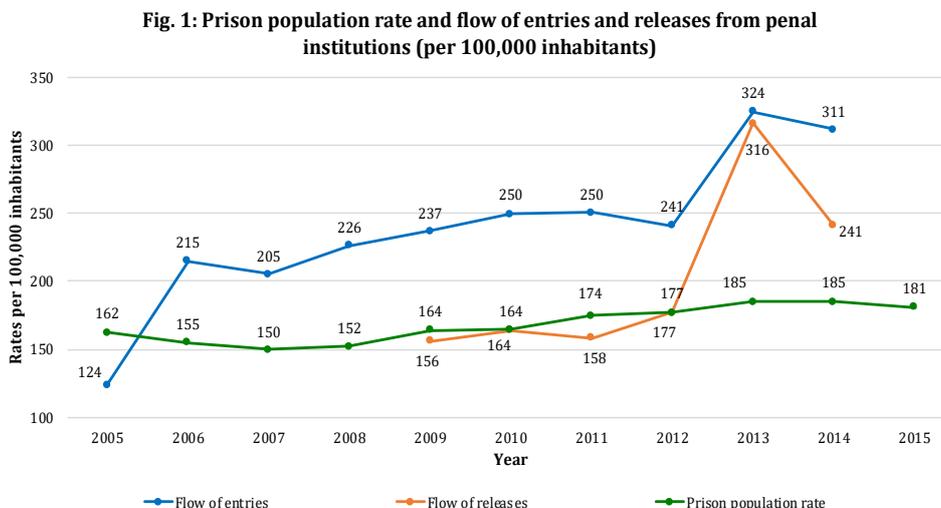


Figure 1 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the prison population rate of Hungary (stock) increased by 11%. In 2005, the country had 162 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2015 it had 181. According to the information collected during this research, the increase observed since 2011 is due to the introduction of a new criminal code in 2010, which is harsher than the former one and led to an increase in the number of inmates.

From 2005 to 2014, the rate of entries (flow of entries) increased by 152%. In 2005, there were 124 entries into penal institutions per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2014 there were 311.

According to the information collected during this research, the increases observed since 2013 are mainly due to the introduction of a new Criminal Code in 2012 and to stricter judicial practices. In that perspective, courts are pronouncing more severe verdicts which include an enhanced use of prison sentences.

From 2009 to 2014, the rate of releases (flow of releases) increased by 54%. In 2009, there were 156 releases from penal institutions per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2014 there were 241.

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

Figure 2 (146)

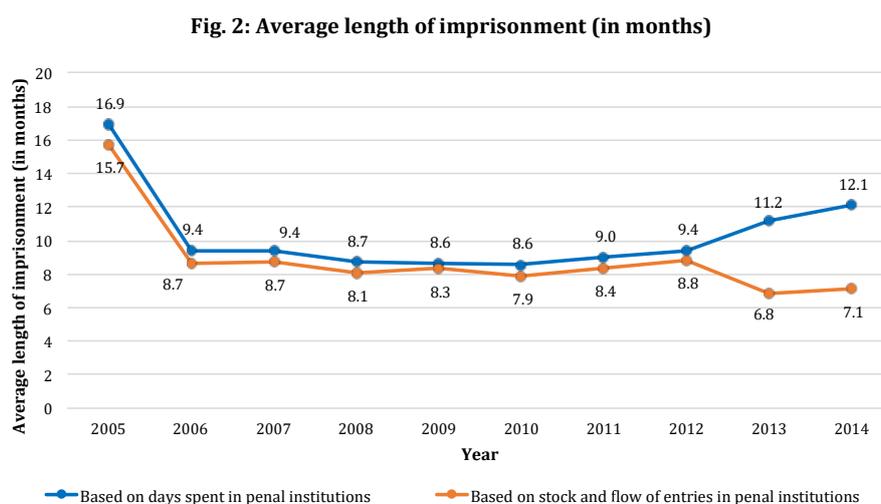


Figure 2 shows that, from 2005 to 2014, the average length of imprisonment based on the number of days spent in penal institutions decreased by 28%. In 2005, the average length of imprisonment was 16.9 months, while in 2014 it was 12.1 months.

During the same period, the average length of imprisonment computed on the basis of the ratio between the stock and the flow decreased by 55%. In 2005, the average length of imprisonment was 15.7 months, while in 2014 it was 7.1 months.

**Figure 3 (147)**

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

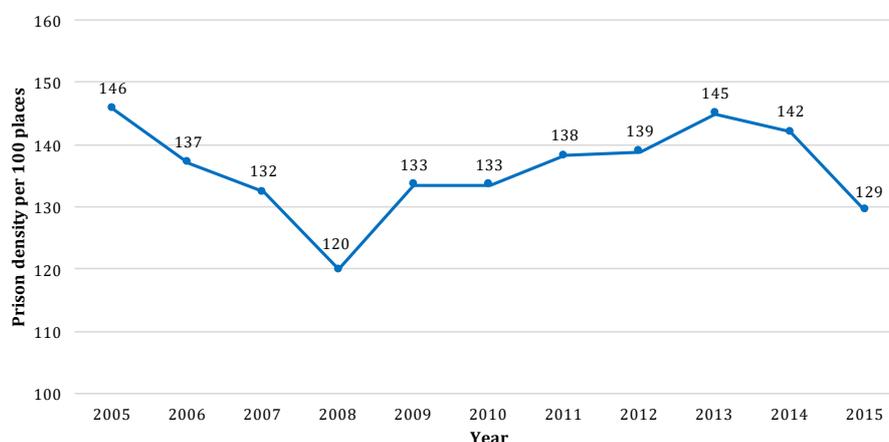


Figure 3 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the prison density of Hungary decreased by 11%. In 2005, the country had 146 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2015 it had 129.

**Figure 4 (148)**

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

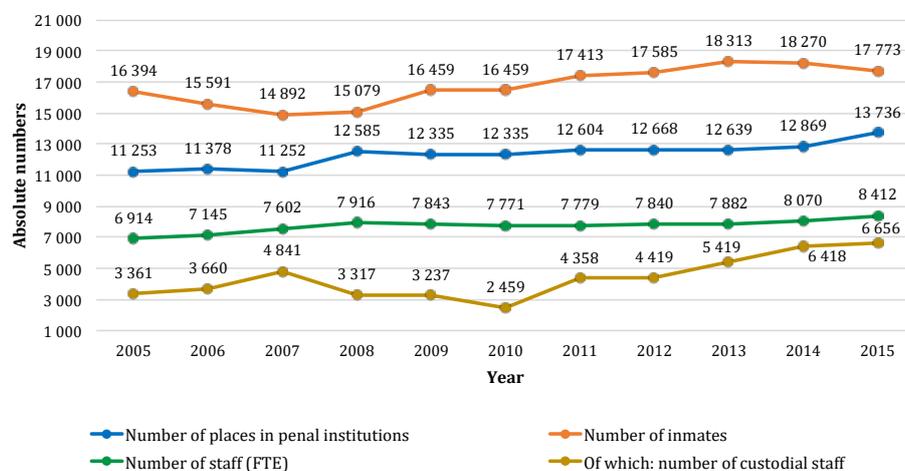


Figure 4 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the total number of places in penal institutions in Hungary increased by 22%. In 2005, the country had 11,253 places, while in 2015 it had 13,736.

During the same period, the total number of inmates increased by 8%. In 2005, the country had 16,394 inmates, while in 2015 it had 17,773.

From 2005 to 2015, the total number of staff increased by 22%. In 2005, Hungary had in total a staff of 6,914 persons, while in 2015 it had 8,412.

During the same period, the total number of custodial staff increased by 98%. In 2005, the total custodial staff was 3,361 persons, while in 2015 it was 6,656.

Figure 5 (149)

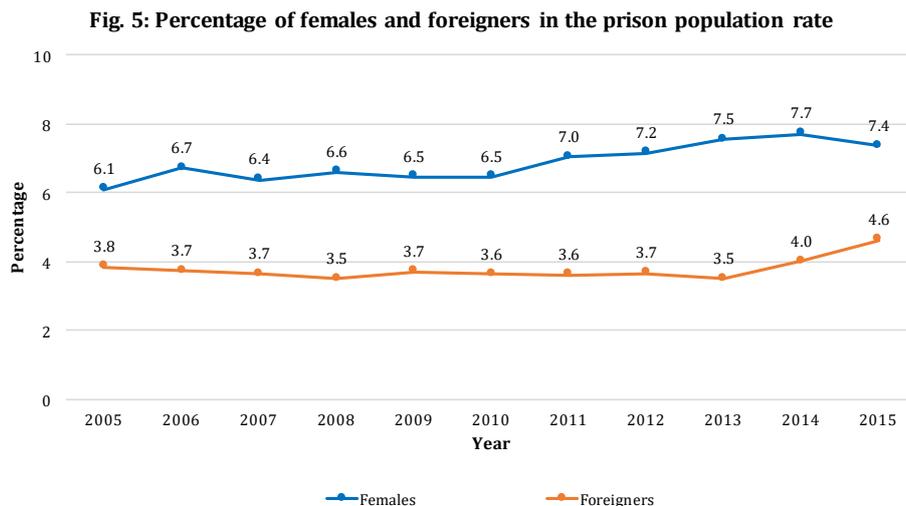


Figure 5 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentage of female inmates increased by 21%. In 2005, 6.1 % of the inmates were females, while in 2015 they represented 7.4% of the total prison population.

During the same period, the percentage of foreign inmates increased by 21%. In 2005, 3.8% of the inmates were foreigners, while in 2015 they represented 4.6% of the total prison population.

Figure 6 (150)

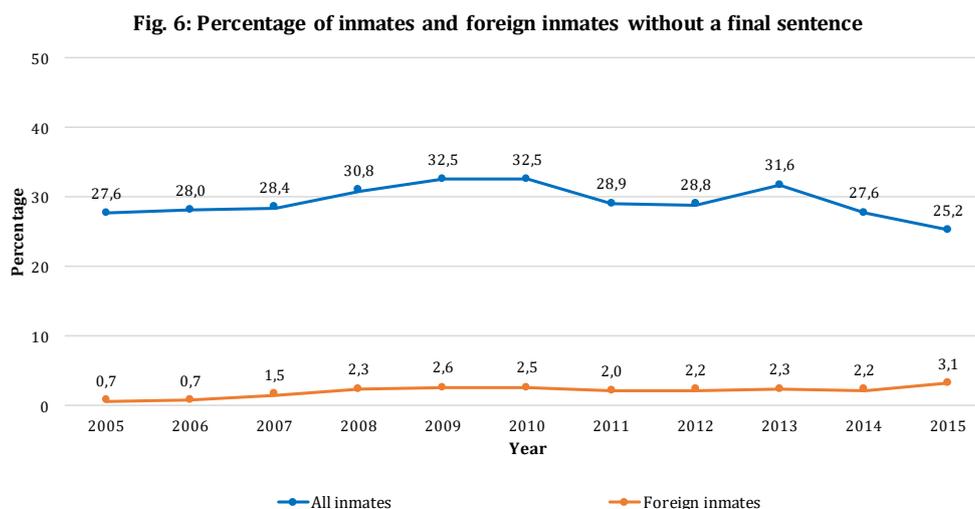


Figure 6 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentage of inmates without a final sentence decreased by 9%. In 2005, 28% of the inmates did not have a final sentence while, in 2015, inmates without a final sentence represented 25% of all inmates.

During the same period, the percentage of foreigners held in pre-trial detention increased by 371%. In 2005, they represented 0.7% of the total number of inmates, while in 2015 they represented 3.1% of them.

Figure 7<sup>123</sup> (151)

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

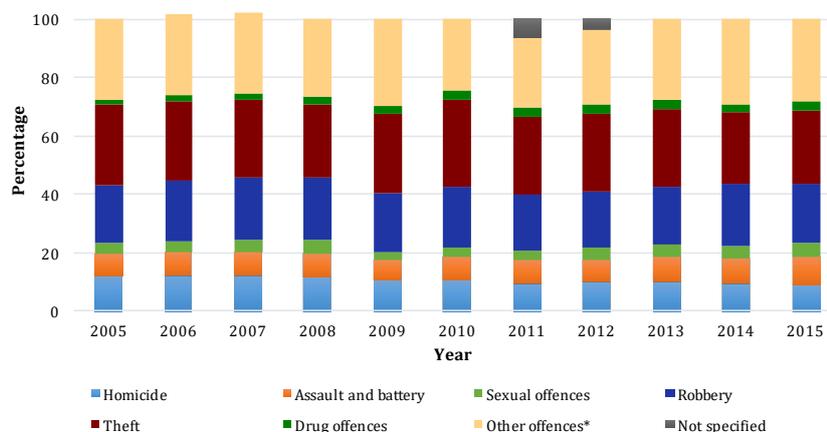


Figure 7 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentages of prisoners serving sentences for assault and battery, sexual offences, and drug offences have increased; while the percentages of those serving sentences for homicide and theft have decreased.

Figure 8 (152)

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

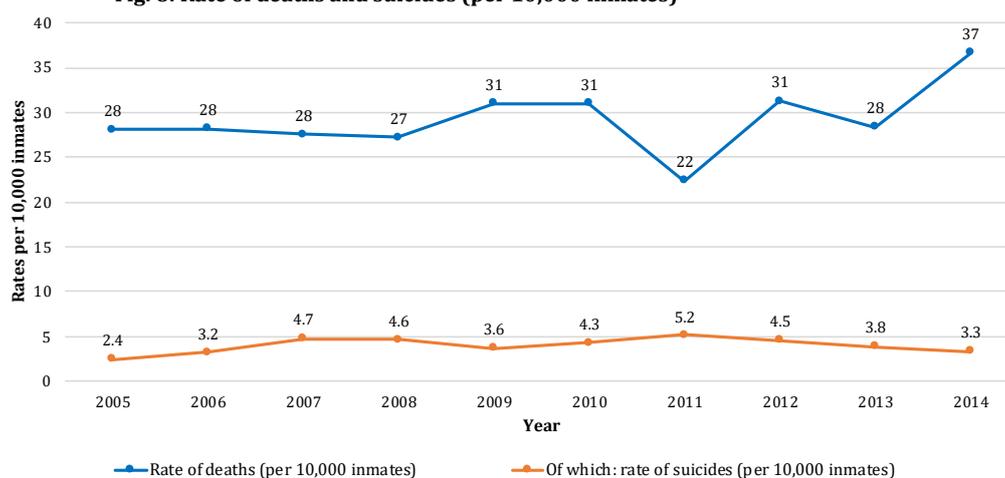


Figure 8 shows that, from 2005 to 2014, the rate of deaths of inmates in penal institutions per 10,000 inmates increased by 31%. In 2005, there were 28 deaths per 10,000 inmates, while in 2014 there were 37.

Any interpretation of the rates and trends of suicides would be misleading because, from a statistical point of view, the absolute numbers are too low (between 4 and 9 cases per year) to reach reliable conclusions.

<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 includes (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).