



# Prisons in Europe 2005-2015

## Norway Country Profile

Marcelo F. Aebi  
Léa Berger-Kolopp  
Christine Burkhardt  
Mélania M. Tiago

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This country profile on Norway 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

## NORWAY

## 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	70.3	Low	NAP	70.7	↑
Rate of entries into penal institutions in 2014 (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants)	174.7	Medium	NAP	233.2	↓↓↓
Rate of releases from penal institutions in 2014 (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants)	174.9	High	NAP	227.2	↓↓↓
Average length of imprisonment in 2014 based on the total number of days spent in penal institutions (in months)	5.0	Low	NAP	3.8	↑↑↑
Average length of imprisonment in 2014 based on stock and flow (in months)	5.0	Low	NAP	3.7	↑↑↑↑
Prison density on 01.09.2015 (inmates per 100 places)	89.6	Medium	NAP	94.0	↓
Median age of the prison population on 01.09.2015 (in years)	35.0	Medium	NAP	33.8	↔
Percentage of female inmates (01.09.2015)	5.1	Medium	NAP	5.7	↔
Percentage of foreign inmates (01.09.2015)	33.4	High	NAP	27.5	↑↑↑↑
<i>of which: in pre-trial detention</i>	44.8	Medium	NAP	44.5	↑↑
Percentage of non-sentenced inmates (01.09.2015)	26.8	Medium	NAP	25.5	↑↑
Rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates in 2014	16.1	Low	NAP	20.6	↓↓↓
Rate of suicides per 10,000 inmates in 2014 (n=6)	16.1	High	NAP	13.3	↓↓
<i>of which: % in pre-trial detention (n=0) – Available since 2013</i>	0.0	Low	NAP	55.6	↓↓↓↓
Ratio of inmates per staff (number of inmates per 1 staff person)	1.0	Low	NAP	1.0	↓↓
Percentage of custodial staff in the total staff	65.5	Medium	NAP	64.5	↔
Total budget spent by the prison administration (in Euro) – Available since 2011	475 000 000	NAP	NAP	447 890 750*	↑↑
Average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate (in Euro) – Available since 2008	348.0	High	NAP	294.3**	↑↑↑↑

\* Average calculated from 2011 to 2014

\*\* Average calculated from 2008 to 2014

### Norway in brief

- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators show a *decrease*: rate of entries into penal institutions (-32%), rate of releases from penal institutions (-29%), prison density (-8%), rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates (-29%), percentage of suicides (-17%), percentage of suicides in pre-trial detention (there were no suicides in pre-trial detention in 2014), and ratio of inmates per staff (-11%).
- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators show an *increase*: prison population rate (+5%), average length of detention based on the total number of days spent in penal institution (+62%), average length of detention based on stock and flow (+59%), percentage of foreign inmates (+88%), percentage of pre-trial detainees among foreign inmates (+17%), percentage of non-sentenced inmates (+18%), total budget spent by the prison administration (+15%), and average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate (+107%).
- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators remain *stable*: median age of the population (+2%), percentage of female inmates (+1%), and percentage of custodial staff (-3%).

### Norway in comparative perspective

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

## General comments

Figure 1 (249)

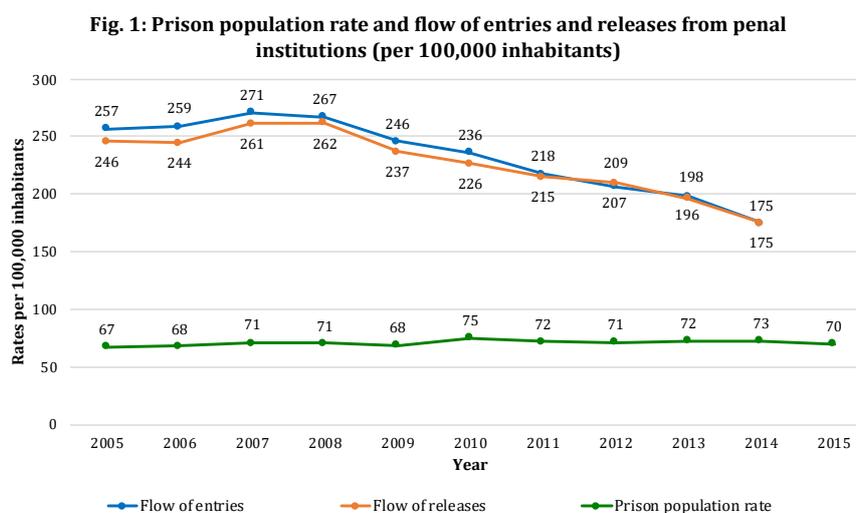


Figure 1 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the prison population rate of Norway (stock) increased by 5%. In 2005, the country had 67 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2015 it had 70. According to the information provided by the SPACE national correspondent, as of 1 September 2015, the Norwegian Correctional service makes use of an agreement with the Dutch correctional service according to which Norway is renting for three years the Dutch Norderhaven Prison. This led to an increase of the capacity of Norwegian prisons by 242 high-security cells. The transferring of the prisoners from Norway to the Netherlands took a few months. Figures for the total number of inmates and the total capacity are therefore not entirely representative on the dates indicated in the Figure. However, the agreement had an immediate effect on the occupancy rate (see Figure 4).

From 2005 to 2014, the rate of entries (flow of entries) decreased by 32%. In 2005, there were 257 entries into penal institutions per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2014 there were 175. According to the information provided by the SPACE national correspondent, the decrease in new entries observed since 2008 is not completely due to a decrease in unconditional prison sentences, but in large part to the gradual introduction, all over the country, of Electronic Monitoring (EM). Persons with a prison sentence of up to four months may apply to the Correctional Service for serving the sanction at home with EM and, when granted, they do not end up being counted as a new entry in prison.

During the same period, the rate of releases (flow of releases) decreased by 29%. In 2005, there were 246 releases from penal institutions per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2014 there were 175.

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

Figure 2 (250)



Figure 2 shows that, from 2005 to 2014, the average length of imprisonment based on the number of days spent in penal institutions increased by 62%. In 2005, the average length of imprisonment was 3.1 months, while in 2014 it was 5.0 months.

During the same period, the average length of imprisonment computed on the basis of the ratio between the stock and the flow increased by 59%. In 2005, the average length of imprisonment was 3.1 months, while in 2014 it was 5.0 months.

Figure 3 (251)

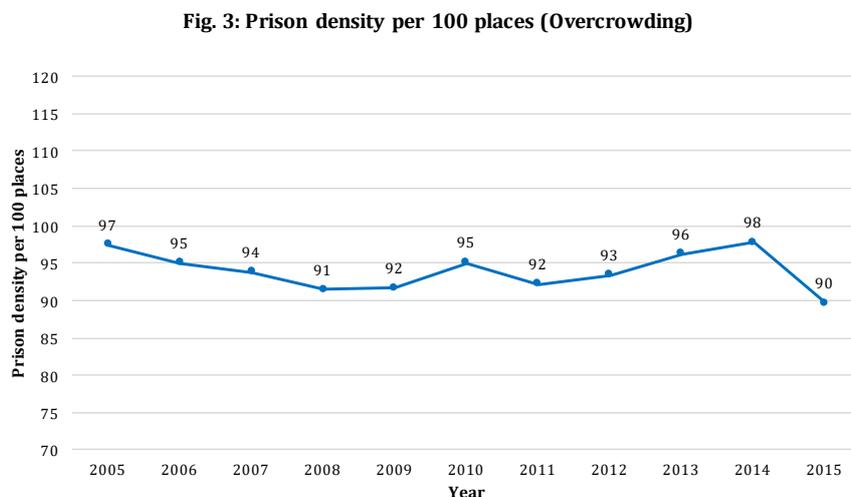


Figure 3 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the prison density of Norway decreased by 8%. In 2005, the country had 97 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2015 it had 90. According to the information provided by the SPACE national correspondent, and as indicated in the comments to Figure 1, as of 1 September 2015, the Norwegian Correctional service makes use of an agreement with the Dutch correctional service according to which Norway is renting for three years the Dutch Norgerhaven Prison. This led to an increase of the capacity of Norwegian prisons by 242 high-security cells. The agreement had an immediate effect on the prison density.

Figure 4 (252)

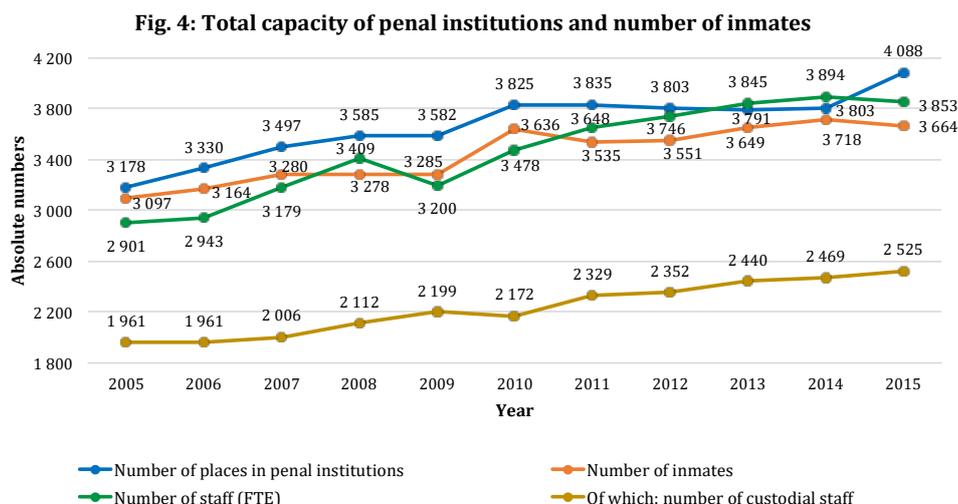


Figure 4 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the total number of places in penal institutions in Norway increased by 29%. In 2005, the country had 3,178 places, while in 2015 it had 4,088. According to the information provided by the SPACE national correspondent, and as indicated in the comments to Figures 1 and 3, as of 1 September 2015, the Norwegian Correctional service makes use of an agreement with the Dutch correctional service according to which Norway is renting for three years the Dutch Norgerhaven Prison. This led to an increase of the capacity of Norwegian prisons by 242 high-security cells that can be seen in Figure 4. This is a temporary measure to relieve the pressure on the prison waiting list without establishing overcrowding, and it also allows for the temporary closing of certain units for reasons of substantial arrays in maintenance. The waiting list has been reduced from about 1,300 in 2014 to 250 at the moment of writing (March 2017).

From 2005 to 2015, the total number of inmates increased by 18%. In 2005, the country had 3,097 inmates, while in 2015 it had 3,664.

From 2005 to 2015, the total number of staff increased by 33%. In 2005, Norway had in total a staff of 2,901 persons, while in 2015 it had 3,853.

During the same period, the total number of custodial staff increased by 29%. In 2005, the total custodial staff was 1,961 persons, while in 2015 it was 2,525.

Figure 5 (253)

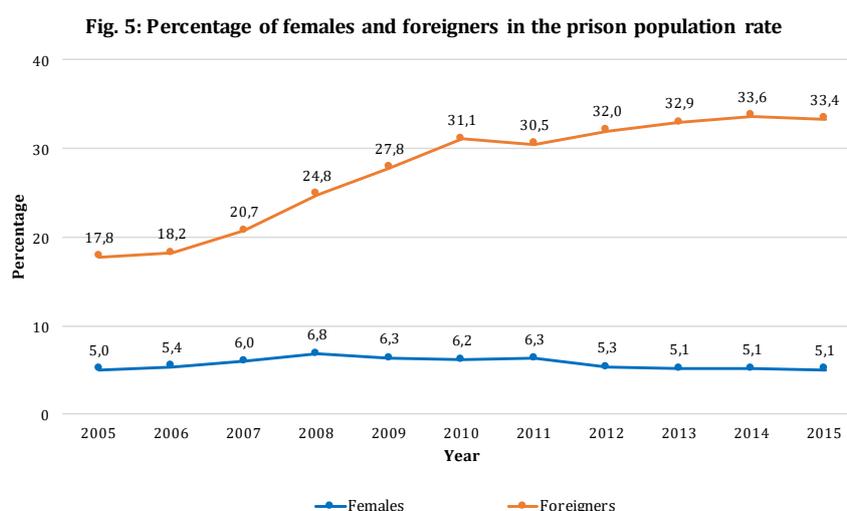


Figure 5 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentage of female inmates remained relatively stable. In 2005, 5.0% of the inmates were females, while in 2015 they represented 5.1% of the total prison population.

During the same period, the percentage of foreign inmates increased by 88%. In 2005, 18% of the inmates were foreigners, while in 2015 they represented 33% of the total prison population. According to the information collected during this research, several reasons may explain the increase of the percentage of foreign inmates. One of them seems to be the extension of the Schengen Area that entered into effect on 21 December 2007. This interpretation is corroborated by an analysis of the nationalities of the foreign inmates held in Norwegian prisons.

**Figure 6 (254)**

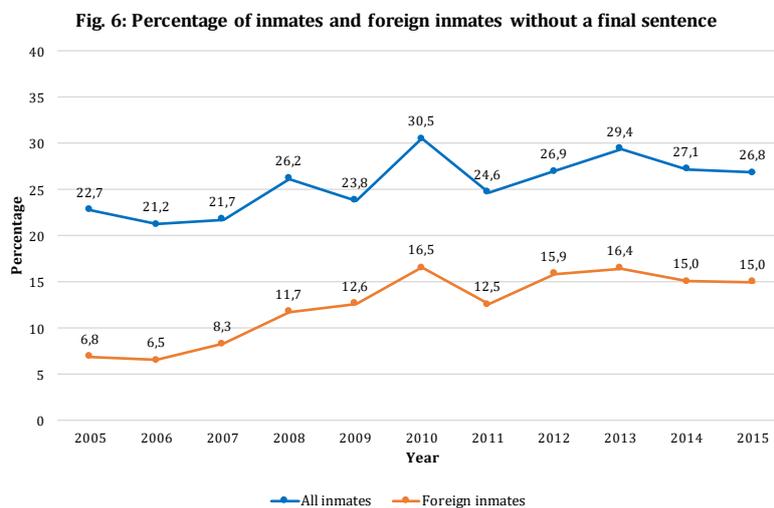


Figure 6 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentage of inmates without a final sentence increased by 18%. In 2005, 23% of the inmates did not have a final sentence while, in 2015, inmates without a final sentence represented 27% of all inmates.

During the same period, the percentage of foreigners held in pre-trial detention increased by 119%. In 2005, they represented 6.8% of the total number of inmates, while in 2015 they represented 15.0% of them.

Figure 7<sup>123</sup> (255)

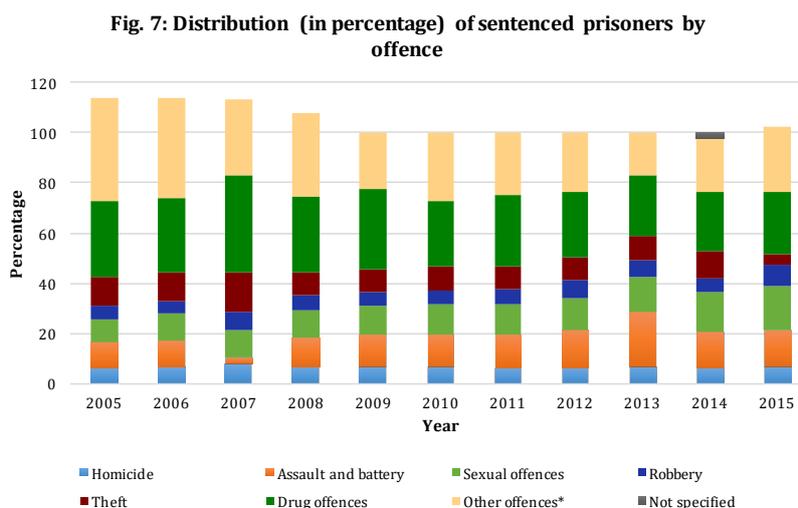
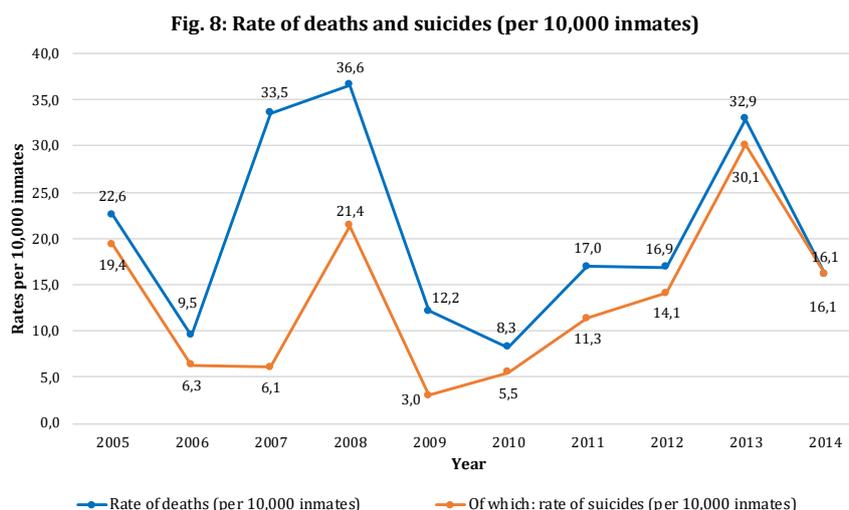


Figure 7 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentages of prisoners serving sentences for homicide, assault and battery, sexual offences, and robbery have increased; while the percentages of those serving sentences for theft, drug offences, and other types of offences have decreased.

Figure 8 (256)



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 3 and 16 and, among them, the number of those who committed suicide fluctuated between 1 and 11.

<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).