

# Prisons in Europe 2005-2015

## Georgia Country Profile

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This country profile on Georgia 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		GEORGIA		TRENDS 2005-2015	
	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	274.6	High	NAP	369.5	↑↑↑
Rate of entries into penal institutions in 2014 (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants)	197.6	Medium	NAP	250.4	↓↓↓
Rate of releases from penal institutions in 2014 (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants) – <i>Available since 2009</i>	170.9	Medium	NAP	243.8*	↓↓
Average length of imprisonment in 2014 based on the total number of days spent in penal institutions (in months)	---	---	NAP	---	---
Average length of imprisonment in 2014 based on stock and flow (in months)	13.8	High	NAP	24.4	↑↑↑↑↑
Prison density on 01.09.2015 (inmates per 100 places)	47.9	Low	NAP	92.4	↓↓↓↓
Median age of the prison population on 01.09.2015 (in years)	34.0**	Medium	NAP	---	---
Percentage of female inmates (01.09.2015)	3.1	Low	NAP	4.3	↓↓↓↓
Percentage of foreign inmates (01.09.2015)	3.0	Low	NAP	1.6	↑↑↑↑↑
<i>of which: in pre-trial detention</i>	33.9	Medium	NAP	18.2	↑↑↑↑↑
Percentage of non-sentenced inmates (01.09.2015)	13.8	Low	NAP	19.5	↓↓↓↓
Rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates in 2014	26.4	Medium	NAP	47.3	↓↓↓↓
Rate of suicides per 10,000 inmates in 2014 (n=7)	6.8	Medium	NAP	2.6	↑↑
<i>of which: % in pre-trial detention (n=0) – Available since 2013</i>	0.0	Low	NAP	NAP	NAP
Ratio of inmates per staff (number of inmates per 1 staff person)	2.2	High	NAP	5.5	↓↓
Percentage of custodial staff in the total staff	48.9	Low	NAP	61.5	↑
Total budget spent by the prison administration (in Euro) – <i>Available since 2011</i>	53 159 872	NAP	NAP	55 247 110***	↔
Average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate (in Euro) – <i>Available since 2008</i>	5.7	Low	NAP	---	---

\*Average calculated from 2009 to 2014

\*\*Data refers to 2014

\*\*\* Average calculated from 2011 to 2014

## Georgia in brief

- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators show a *decrease*: rate of entries into penal institutions (-54%), rate of releases from penal institutions (-16%), prison density (-56%), percentage of female inmates (-52%), percentage of non-sentenced inmates (-77%), rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates (-53%), ratio of inmates per staff (-19%), and percentage of custodial staff in the total staff (-17%).
- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators show an *increase*: prison population rate (+37%), average length of detention based on stock and flow (+145%), percentage of foreign inmates (+245%), percentage of pre-trial detainees among foreign inmates (+10'245%), and percentage of suicides (+19%).
- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators remain *stable*: total budget spent by the prison administration (-2%).

## Georgia in comparative perspective

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

## General comments

**Figure 1 (121)**

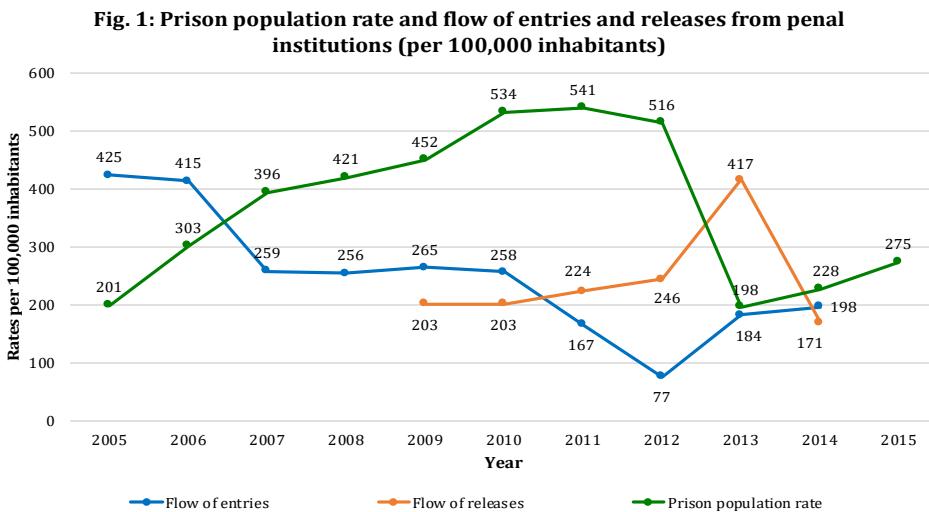
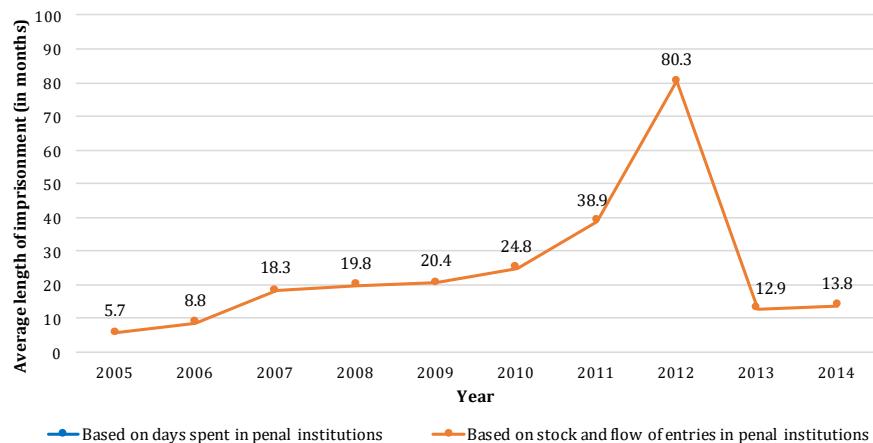


Figure 1 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the prison population rate of Georgia (stock) increased by 37%. In 2005, the country had 201 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2015 it had 275. According to the information collected during this research, the increase observed from 2005 to 2012 is mainly due to the fact that, during that period, the country applied a strict law enforcement policy and there were practically no community sanctions and measures that could have acted as alternatives to imprisonment. In particular, the large increase observed from 2005 to 2007 is related to the massive arrest of entrepreneurs and other actors suspected of having worked in close collaboration with the previous government. The decrease in the prison population rate from 2012 to 2013 is due to an amnesty, whose effects can be observed in the high number of releases registered in 2013. From 2014 to 2015, the increase is not due to an increase in the number of inmates –as can be seen in the absolute numbers presented in Figure 4– but to a decrease of the population of the country that passed from 4,490,498 inhabitants in 2014 to 3,729,500 in 2015.

From 2005 to 2014, the rate of entries (flow of entries) decreased by 54%. In 2005, there were 425 entries into penal institutions per 100,000 habitants, while in 2014 there were 198.

From 2009 to 2014, the rate of releases (flow of releases) decreased by 16%. In 2009, there were 203 releases from penal institutions per 100,000 habitants, while in 2014 there were 171.

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

**Figure 2 (122)****Fig. 2: Average length of imprisonment (in 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 145%. In 2005, the average length of imprisonment was 5.7 months, while in 2014 it was 13.8 months.

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

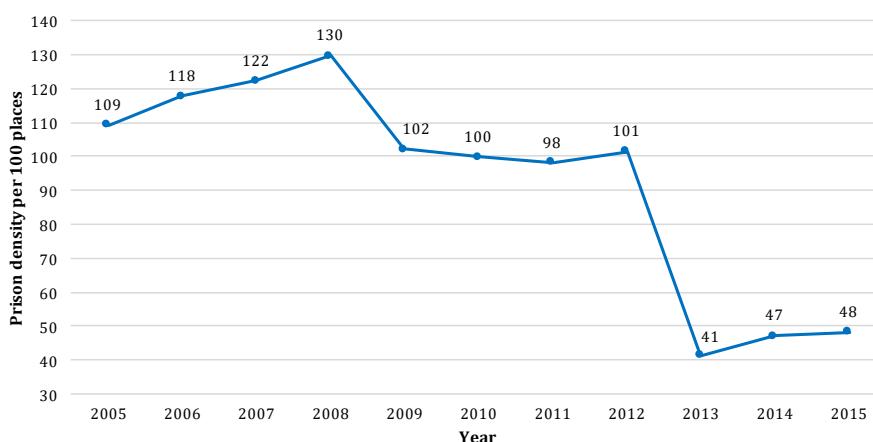
**Figure 3 (123)****Fig. 3: Prison density per 100 places (Overcrowding)**

Figure 3 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the prison density of Georgia decreased by 56%. In 2005, the country had 109 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2015 it had 48.

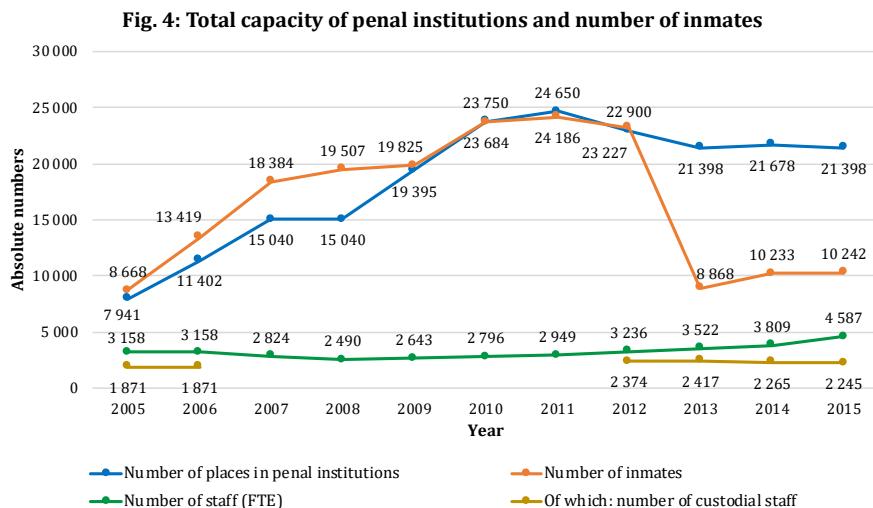
**Figure 4 (124)**

Figure 4 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the total number of places in penal institutions in Georgia increased by 170%. In 2005, the country had 7,941 places, while in 2015 it had 21,398. According to the information collected during this research, the increase is due to the construction of new penal institutions and to the redesign of the existing ones.

During the same period, the total number of inmates increased by 18%. In 2005, the country had 8,668 inmates, while in 2015 it had 10,242.

From 2005 to 2015, the total number of staff increased by 45%. In 2005, Georgia had in total a staff of 3,158 persons, while in 2015 it had 4,587.

During the same period, the total number of custodial staff increased by 20%. In 2005, the total custodial staff was 1,871 persons, while in 2015 it was 2,245.

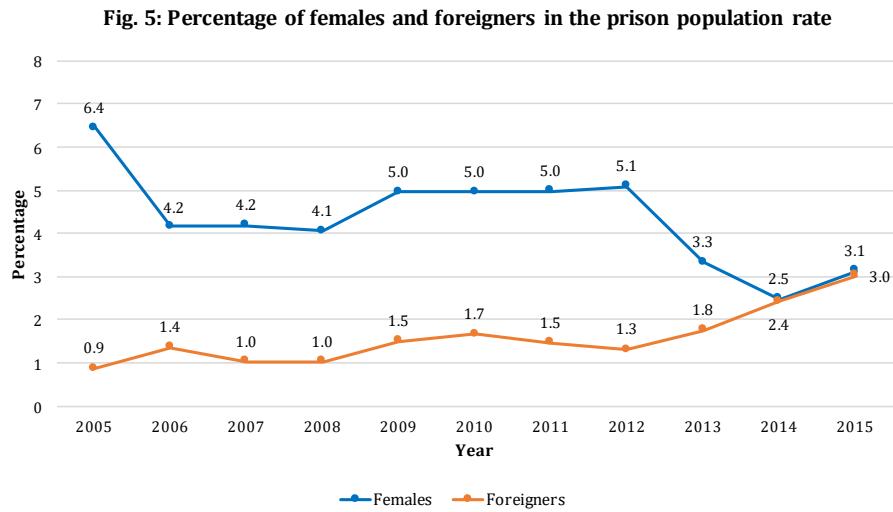
**Figure 5 (125)**

Figure 5 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentage of female inmates decreased by 52%. In 2005, 6.4 % of all inmates were females, while in 2015 they represented 3.1% of the total prison population.

During the same period, the percentage of foreign inmates increased by 245%. In 2005, 0.9% of the inmates were foreigners, while in 2015 they represented 3.0% of the total prison population.

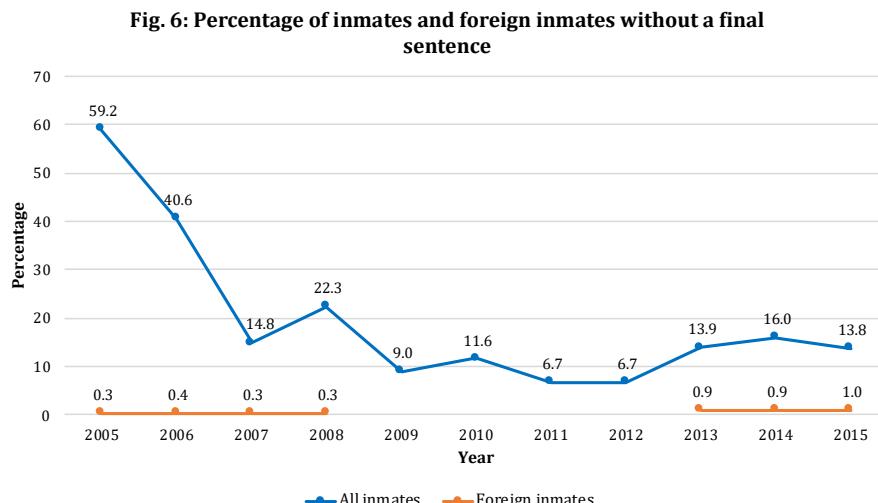
**Figure 6 (126)**

Figure 6 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentage of inmates without a final sentence decreased by 77%. In 2005, 59.2% of the inmates did not have a final sentence while, in 2015, inmates without a final sentence represented 13.8% of all inmates. According to the information collected during this research, the large share of prisoners without a final sentence observed in 2005 and 2006 is related to the massive arrest of entrepreneurs and other actors suspected of having worked in close collaboration with the previous government (see the comments to Figure 1).

From 2005 to 2015, the percentage of foreigners held in pre-trial detention increased by 242%. In 2005, they represented 0.3% of the total number of inmates, while in 2015 they represented 1.0% of them.

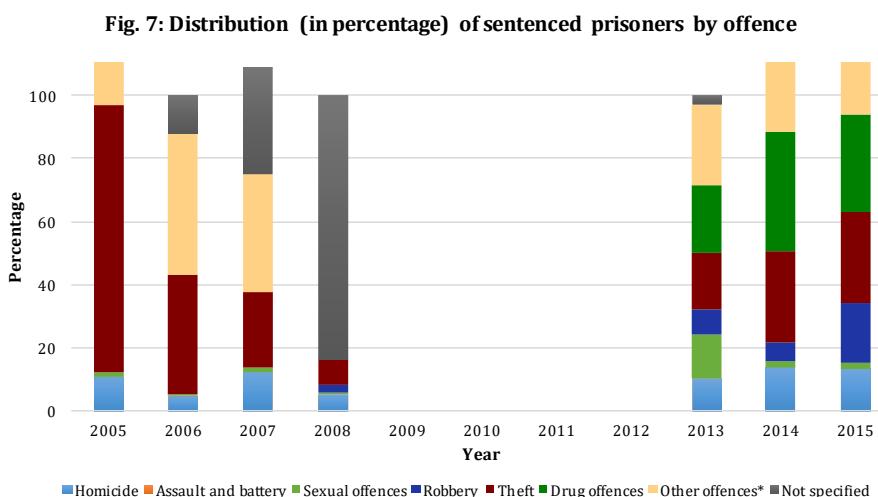
**Figure 7<sup>123</sup> (127)**

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

<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).

have decreased. In some years, the total percentage exceeds 100% because the country does not apply the principal offence rule.

**Figure 8 (128)**

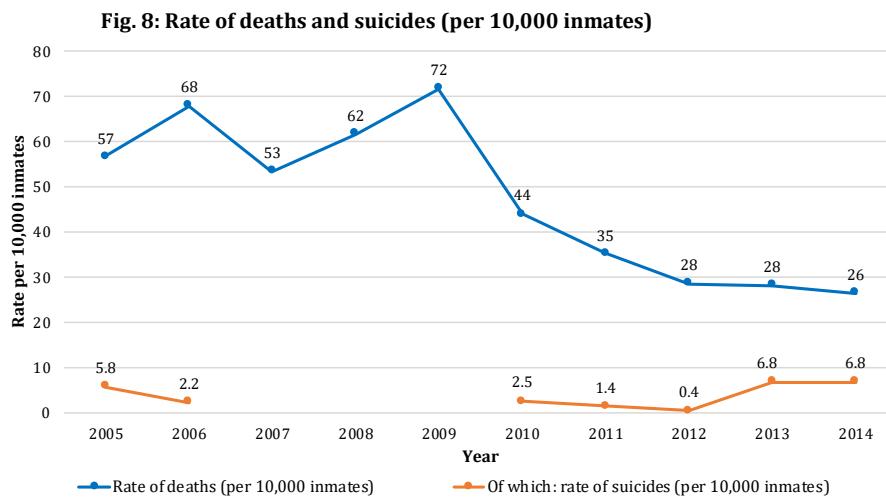


Figure 8 shows that, from 2005 to 2014, the rate of deaths of inmates in penal institutions per 10,000 inmates decreased by 53%. In 2005, there were 57 deaths per 10,000 inmates, while in 2014 there were 26.

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 1 and 7 suicides per year) to reach reliable conclusions.