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News Release

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State issues forecast on prison populations

Salem— The prison population, which is now about 14,000, will grow very little over the next two years, the state Office of Economic Analysis said Thursday in its semi-annual Oregon Corrections Population Forecast.

The prison population will remain under 14,150, and will grow more slowly than previously expected, to reach 16,000 by the end of the decade, according to the forecast.

The forecast projects the populations of offenders supervised by the Oregon Department of Corrections. It estimates the number of inmates in the state prison system, as well as the number offenders on probation, parole, and post-prison supervision. It also estimates the number felony offenders serving sentences of 12 or fewer months in county jails.

The report, which projects monthly populations over a 10-year period, is due April 1 and October 1 of each year. State agencies, in particular the Department of Corrections, use the forecast for budgeting and policy development.

The community corrections populations, currently about 33,000, will increase gradually to exceed 36,000 by the end of the decade. Probation comprises about 55 percent of that number; local control comprises about 3 percent; and parole and post-prison supervision about 42 percent.

Compared to the October 2009 forecast, this prison forecast was lower due to new analysis showing that tougher Measure 57 sentencing was not applied as aggressively as previously assumed. Measure 57 was passed by voters in 2008 and toughened sentencing for certain property and drug crime offenders. The reduction was partially offset by restrictions on sentence reductions for earned time put in place by SB 1007 (2010).

The forecast is available at:

<http://www.oregon.gov/DAS/OEA/corrections.shtml>

To receive more information or questions about the forecast, contact the Office of Economic Analysis at:

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