



## **Oregon Department of Administrative Services**

### **Office of Economic Analysis**

155 Cottage Street NE, U20  
Salem, Oregon 97301-3966

# News Release

## **For Immediate Release**

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Contact: E-mail: [OEA.info@state.or.us](mailto:OEA.info@state.or.us)  
503-378-3405

### **State issues forecast on prison populations**

Salem — Today the state Office of Economic Analysis released an updated forecast projecting significant growth in the prison population, but due to legislative action, the growth is less than previously expected. The prison population, which has numbered around 14,000 inmates for the past two years, will exceed 15,000 in 2015, and approach 16,000 inmates by the end of the decade.

The previous forecast, issued last April, was slightly higher; it called for about 350 more inmates by the end of the decade. The reduction in today's forecast is primarily due to Senate Bill 395 (2011) which modified sentencing requirements for third-time DUII offenders, and is anticipated to eliminate most of the affect of Measure 73 (2010) on the prison population, with those offenders sentenced to jail instead.

The majority of prison population growth occurs from mid-2012 through 2016 and results from law changes related to property and drug crime offenders and earned time credit (Measure 57 (2008), House Bill 3508 (2009), and Senate Bill 1007 (2010)). Normal growth from long-term trends is also a significant contributor.

The Office of Economic Analysis issues the forecast on April 1 and October 1 of each year. It gives 10-year projections of the number of people that will be subject to supervision by the Oregon Department of Corrections. The forecast estimates the number of prison inmates, as well as the number of felony offenders on probation, parole, post-prison supervision, and those serving local control sentences in jail. State agencies, in particular the Department of Corrections, use the forecast for budgeting, planning, and policy development.

The report appears at <http://oregon.gov/DAS/OEA/corrections.shtml>.