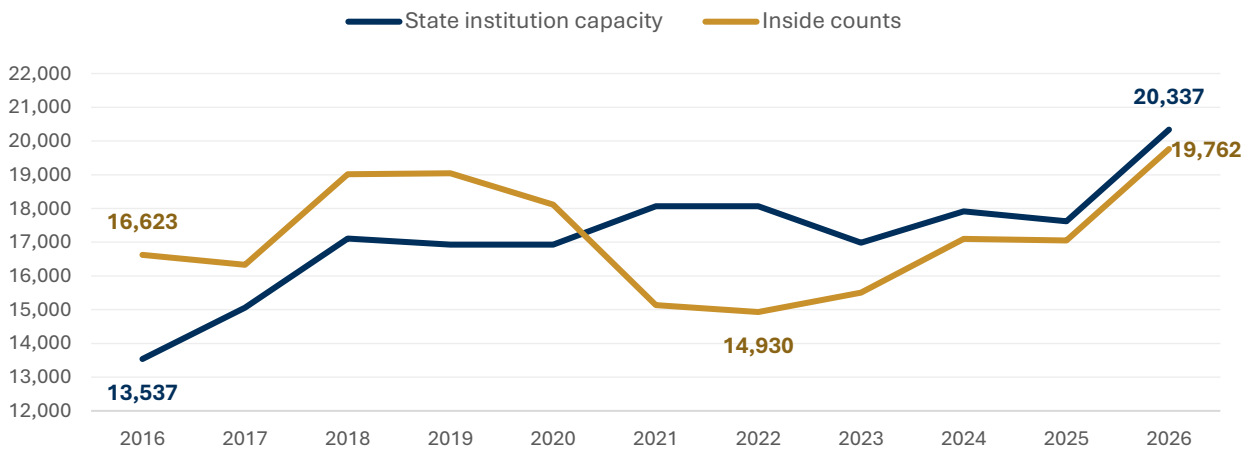
Prison Population Growth in Oklahoma

Updated 10/16/2026

After a significant decline, Oklahoma's **prison population has risen** since the pandemic

- From 2022 to 2026, the **prison population** grew from **14,930** to **19,762** — an increase of **32%**

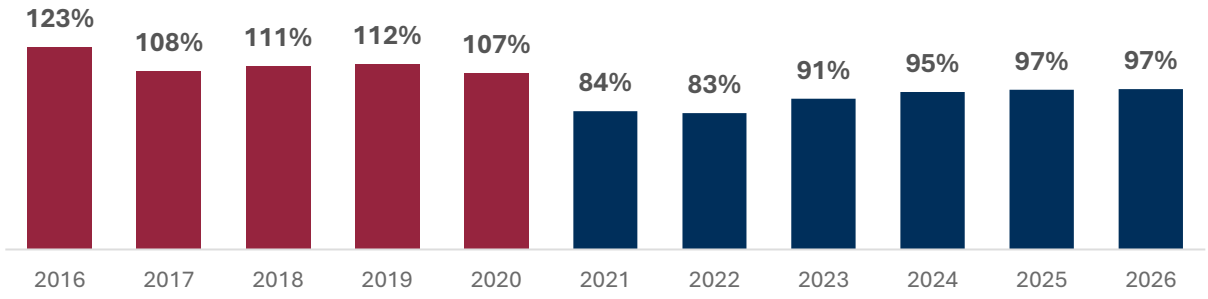
State Prison Capacity and Population, 2016 - 2026



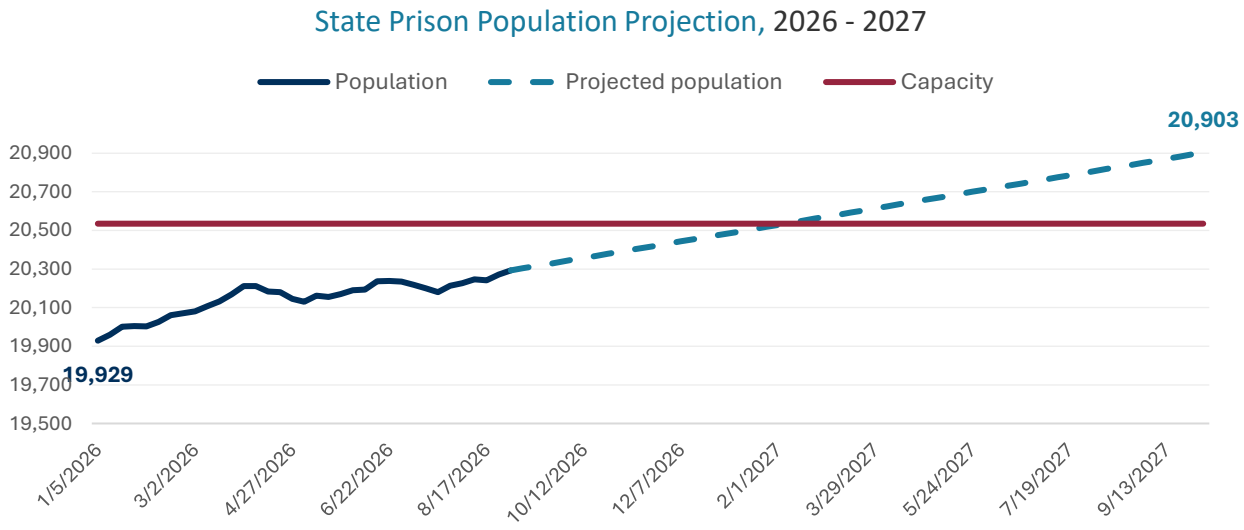
Despite increasing populations, capacity remains slightly below 100% due to an increase in beds

- **Capacity** grew from **13,537** beds in 2016 to **20,337** in 2026
- Before the pandemic, the population **exceeded capacity** — **123%** in 2016 and **112%** in 2019
- After a drop in 2022, the population reached **97%** of capacity in 2026, up from **83%**

Prison Population as a Percent of Capacity, 2016 - 2026



The prison population will exceed current capacity in February 2027 if the average 2026 increase continues



- The weekly population grew from **19,929** (January 5, 2026) to **20,293** (August 31, 2026), against a capacity of **20,535**
- At that pace, the population is projected to reach **20,903** by October 2027
- The projection is **conservative**; if 2025 data were included, the population would increase about **three times** as fast

Three counties are responsible for most of the sentenced prison population

- **60%** of cases in 2025 came from **Oklahoma, Pottawatomie, and Tulsa Counties**

Oklahoma's female imprisonment rate is over twice as high as the national average

- 2023: **107** per 100,000 in Oklahoma vs. **51** nationally
- 2016: **171** per 100,000 in Oklahoma vs. **64** nationally

*Population and capacity reflect inside counts at Correctional Centers, the State Penitentiary, and the State Reformatory, first week of each year (weekly counts for 2026–2027 projection); excludes jail backlog, assessment and reception centers, community centers, rehabilitation facilities, and community supervision. Imprisonment rates use all residents as the denominator.

Sources:
Oklahoma Department of Corrections, Weekly Facilities Count (2016-2026).
Bureau of Justice Statistics, Prisoners Reports (2016-2023).