



2009

4517.0

# PRISONERS IN AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) THURS 10 DEC 2009

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## INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Robert Letheby on Melbourne (03) 9615 7423.

## NOTES

**ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION** This publication presents national statistics on prisoners who were in adult corrective services custody on 30 June 2009. These statistics describe the characteristics of prisoners, their sentence length, the most serious offence/charge for which offenders are imprisoned, and provide a basis for measuring change over time.

**CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE** Offence data in this publication for the 2009 reference period are based on the *Australian Standard Offence Classification (ASOC), 2008 (Second edition)* (cat. no. 1234.0) and the revised *National Offence Index, 2009* (cat. no. 1234.0.55.001) for all jurisdictions except Queensland and Western Australia. These jurisdictions are yet to implement the second edition of ASOC (ASOC08), therefore their 2009 data are presented on the ASOC97 and NOI02 basis. Data for 2008 and earlier reference periods for all jurisdictions are based on ASOC97 and NOI02.

ASOC08 was adopted to reflect changes that have occurred in criminal legislation since ASOC97 was released, as well as satisfying emerging user requirements for offence data. NOI09 reflects the revisions included in ASOC08. For further details see the Technical Note and Appendices 1 and 2.

Historical imprisonment rates have been revised using population estimates and projections benchmarked on the 2006 Census of Population and Housing. Data have been backcast for the period 1999 to 2008. For further information, see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 22–24 and 26–30.

The format of this issue has been changed from previous issues. National data, state and territory data, and Indigenous data are presented in separate chapters.

**ROUNDING** Discrepancies may occur between sums of component items and totals across tables due to rounding and randomisation.

**FURTHER INFORMATION** More information about ABS activities in the field of crime and justice statistics is available from the Crime and Justice theme page on the ABS website <[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)>. Details of other ABS publications relating to Crime and Justice statistics can be found in paragraphs 100–101 of the Explanatory Notes.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS** The ABS acknowledges the valuable contribution of the Board of Management and Advisory Group of the National Corrective Services Statistics Unit and the staff of the various agencies that provide the statistics that are presented in this publication.

Brian Pink  
Australian Statistician

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## ABBREVIATIONS .....

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ANCO	Australian National Classification of Offences
ASOC	Australian Standard Offence Classification
Aust.	Australia
cat. no.	Catalogue number
EDR	Effective Date of Release
EED	earliest eligibility date
ERP	estimated resident population
MSC	most serious charge
MSO	most serious offence
nec	not elsewhere classified
nfd	not further defined
no.	number
NCCJS	National Centre for Crime and Justice Statistics, Australian Bureau of Statistics
NOI	National Offence Index
NPP	non-parole period
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
Qld	Queensland
SA	South Australia
Tas.	Tasmania
Vic.	Victoria
WA	Western Australia

OVERVIEW

This publication presents information from the National Prisoner Census about persons held in Australian prisons on the night of 30 June 2009. The National Prisoner Census covers all prisoners in the legal custody of adult corrective services in adult prisons, including periodic detainees in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. It excludes persons held in juvenile institutions, psychiatric custody and police custody. It is based on data extracted from administrative records held by the corrective services agencies in each Australian state and territory. These statistics provide a profile of the legal status and sentence details as well as demographic characteristics of Australian adult prisoners.

Users of this publication should note that it provides a picture of the persons in prison at a point in time (30 June 2009), and does not represent the flow of prisoners during the year. The majority of prisoners in the annual Prisoner Census were serving long-term sentences for serious offences, whereas the flow of offenders in and out of prisons consists primarily of persons serving short sentences for lesser offences. Complementary information to this publication about Australian prisoners is available in the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) quarterly publication, *Corrective Services, Australia* (cat. no. 4512.0).

The Explanatory Notes provide detailed information on the data sources, definitions, counting rules and other technical matters associated with this publication.

For ease of reading, 'most serious offence/charge' may be referred to as 'offence/charge' throughout this publication. The term 'related offences' has also been omitted for ease of reading for the following offences/charges: homicide and related offences; sexual assault and related offences; robbery, extortion and related offences; and theft and related offences.

CHANGES TO OFFENCE DATA

The Australian Standard Offence Classification (ASOC) provides a basis for the standardised collection, analysis and dissemination of offence data within crime and justice statistics. The Prisoner Census collection between 2001 and 2008 was primarily based on the 1997 edition of ASOC (ASOC97). Prior to this period offences were classified to the Australian National Classification of Offences (ANCO).

From the 2009 reference period, offence data from the Prisoner Census collection will primarily be based on the revised edition of ASOC (ASOC08). Six jurisdictions (New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory) have migrated to the revised offence classification in 2009. Offence data for these jurisdictions presented in this issue are based on ASOC08. Data for Queensland and Western Australia are based on ASOC97. It is expected that these two jurisdictions will migrate progressively to the revised classification within the next two years.

*Collection impacts*

The revised classification only impacts the Prisoner Census time series in relation to offence information. Prisoner numbers are not impacted. The number of offence divisions have remained the same, however changes have been made to offence subdivisions and groups resulting in some subdivisions and groups moving across divisions. Additionally, as part of the migration, some jurisdictions discovered incorrect assignment of local offence codes to ASOC, resulting in further changes to 2009 offence data.

The impacts of the migration have been measured based on four jurisdictions. The largest impacts occurred in divisions 05, 11, 13 and 16 with movements greater than 15%. However, the size of these movements was largely a reflection of the small numbers within these offence categories. All other divisions were not greatly impacted.

Caution should be exercised when making comparisons to offence data prior to 2009 for those jurisdictions who have migrated to ASOC08, or comparing 2009 data between migrated and non-migrated jurisdictions. For more details about these impacts, refer to the Technical Note.

PRISONER SNAPSHOT

At 30 June 2009 there were 29,317 prisoners (sentenced and unsentenced) in Australian prisons, an increase of 6% (1,702 prisoners) from 30 June 2008. This represented an imprisonment rate of 175 prisoners per 100,000 adult population. The median aggregate sentence length for all sentenced prisoners was 3 years.

Unsentenced prisoners comprised 22% (6,393) of the total prisoner population, an increase of 1% (53) from 30 June 2008. Over half (56%) of all prisoners had served a sentence in an adult prison prior to the current episode. The most serious offence/charge category of acts intended to cause injury accounted for the highest proportion of all prisoners (19% or 5,638).

Of the total prisoner population, 7% (2,125) were female and more than 8 in 10 (81% or 23,642) were born in Australia. The median age of all prisoners was 33.4 years, unchanged from 2008.

Indigenous prisoners comprised a quarter (25% or 7,386) of the total prisoner population. The age standardised imprisonment rate for Indigenous prisoners was 1,891 per 100,000 adult Indigenous population, indicating that the rate for Indigenous prisoners was 14 times higher than non-Indigenous prisoners at 30 June 2009.

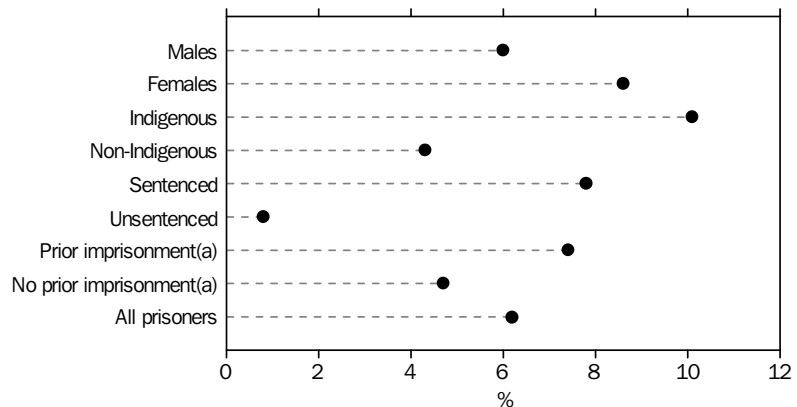
CHANGES IN THE PRISONER POPULATION

The total prisoner population increased by 6%, from 27,615 on 30 June 2008 to 29,317 on 30 June 2009, greater than the 1% (391) increase recorded between 2007 and 2008.

Between the 2008 and 2009 Prisoner Census dates:

- the number of male prisoners increased by 6% (1,534) whilst the number of female prisoners increased by 9% (168);
- the number of Indigenous prisoners increased by 10% (680);
- sentenced prisoners increased by 8% (1,649) and the number of unsentenced prisoners increased by 1% (53).

CHANGE IN SELECTED PRISONER CHARACTERISTICS, between 30 June 2008 and 30 June 2009



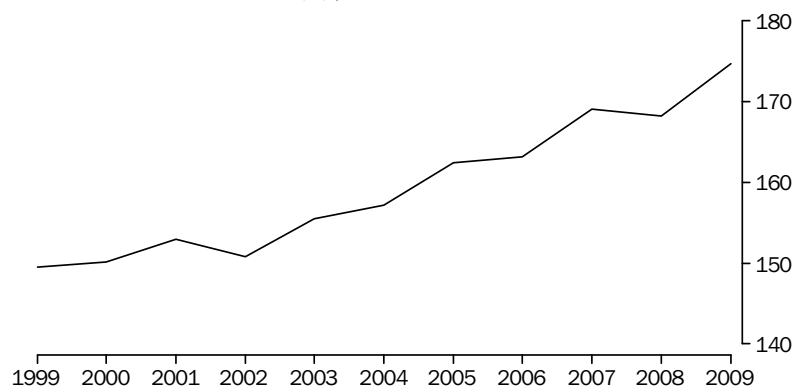
(a) Refers to prior adult imprisonment under sentence.



IMPRISONMENT RATES

At 30 June 2009, the Australian imprisonment rate was 175 prisoners per 100,000 adult population, up from 168 prisoners per 100,000 adult population in 2008.

IMPRISONMENT RATES (a), 30 June 1999 to 30 June 2009



(a) Rate per 100,000 adult population.

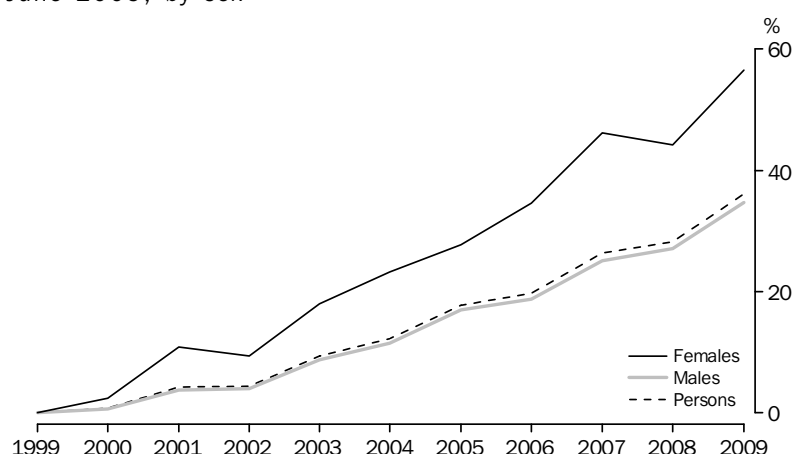
SEX

Males comprised 93% (27,192) of the total prisoner population at 30 June 2009, whilst females comprised 7% (2,125). The number of male prisoners increased by 6% (1,534) and female prisoners increased by 9% (168) from 30 June 2008.

The imprisonment rate for males at 30 June 2009 was 329 prisoners per 100,000 male adults, 13 times the rate for females (25 female prisoners per 100,000 female adults).

Between June 1999 and June 2009, the number of prisoners increased by 36%, from 21,538 to 29,317. Over the same period, the number of male prisoners increased by 35% (from 20,181 to 27,192) and the number of female prisoners increased by 57% (from 1,357 to 2,125).

CHANGE IN PRISONER NUMBERS, between 30 June 1999 and 30 June 2009, by sex



AGE

The median age of male prisoners at 30 June 2009 was 33.4 years, the same median age of all prisoners. Females had a higher median age at 34.2 years. Approximately two thirds (67%) of all prisoners were aged between 20 and 39 years.

**MOST SERIOUS OFFENCE/CHARGE**

A most serious offence/charge is determined for each prisoner (see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 74–77). At 30 June 2009, the most prevalent offences/charges for prisoners (either sentenced or unsentenced) were: acts intended to cause injury (19%); sexual assault (12%); illicit drug offences and unlawful entry with intent (both 11%); robbery and extortion (10%); and homicide (9%).

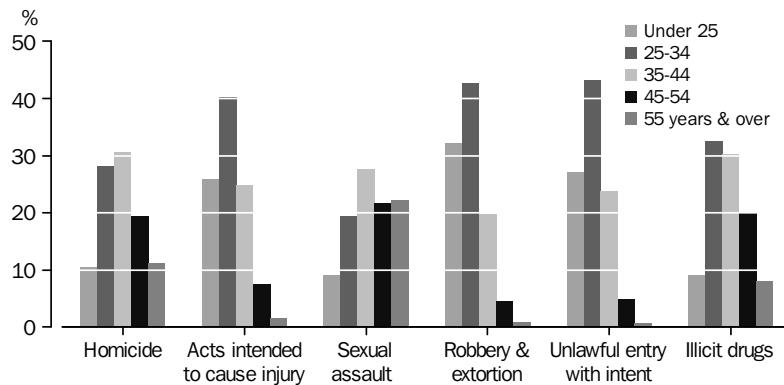
**Age**

Prisoners in the 25-34 year age group accounted for the highest proportion of prisoners for the following offence/charge categories:

- unlawful entry with intent – 43%;
- robbery and extortion – 43%;
- acts intended to cause injury – 40%; and
- illicit drugs – 33%.

Prisoners aged 35-44 years accounted for the highest proportion of prisoners for homicide and sexual assault (31% and 28% respectively).

**PROPORTION OF PRISONERS, selected most serious offence/charge, by age group(a)**



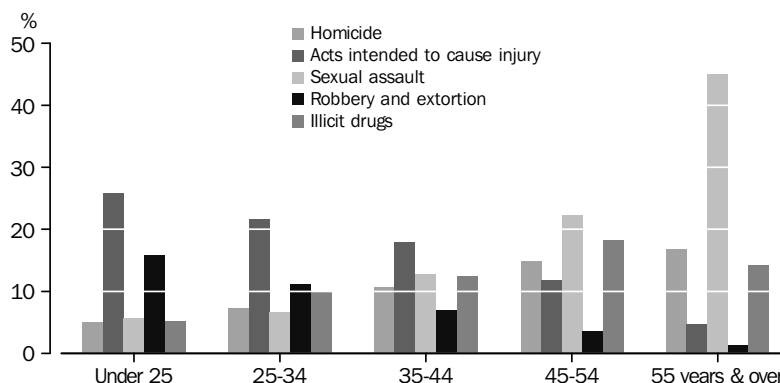
(a) Offence data are based on ASOC08, with the exception of data from Qld and WA which are based on ASOC97. See Technical Note.

Comparing different age groups (see chart below):

- prisoners 55 and over were more likely to be imprisoned for sexual assault than for other selected most serious offence/charge types (45%);
- of the 45-54 age group, the highest proportion (22%) were also in prison for the most serious offence/charge of sexual assault;
- for each of the remaining age groups, the offence with the highest proportion of prisoners was acts intended to cause injury.

Age continued

PROPORTION OF PRISONERS, age groups by selected most serious offence/charge(a)



(a) Offence data are based on ASOC08, with the exception of data from Qld and WA which are based on ASOC97. See Technical Note.

COUNTRY OF BIRTH

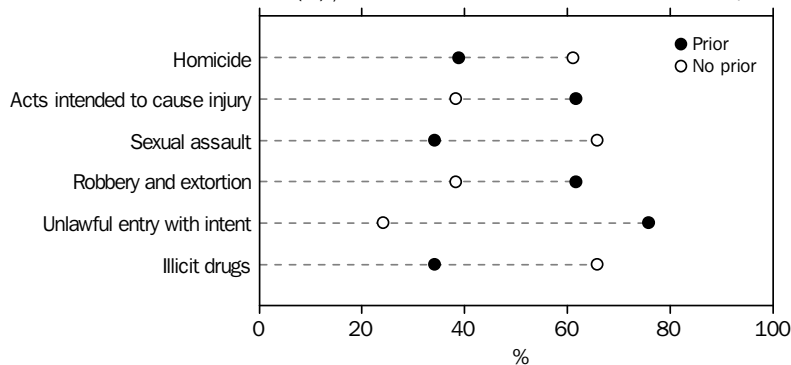
At 30 June 2009, Australia was the country of birth recorded by 81% (23,642) of all prisoners (sentenced and unsentenced). This was followed by New Zealand (3% or 807 prisoners), Vietnam (3% or 745) and the United Kingdom and Ireland (2% or 609).

Prisoners born in Tonga had the highest imprisonment rate (635 prisoners per 100,000 adult population for Tonga), followed by prisoners born in Samoa (578 prisoners per 100,000 adult population for Samoa).

PRIOR IMPRISONMENT

Over half (56%) of prisoners in custody at 30 June 2009 had served a sentence in an adult prison prior to the current episode.

PRIOR IMPRISONMENT(a), selected most serious offence/charge(b)



(a) Prior imprisonment as an adult under sentence.  
 (b) Offence data are based on ASOC08, with the exception of data from Qld and WA which are based on ASOC97. See Technical Note.

Almost 76% of prisoners with the offence/charge of unlawful entry with intent and 62% of prisoners with the offence/charge of acts intended to cause injury or robbery and extortion had a prior imprisonment recorded. Conversely, two-thirds of prisoners with a sexual assault or an illicit drug offence/charge had no prior imprisonment recorded (66% each).

Of those prisoners sentenced between 30 June 2008 and 30 June 2009, 59% had a prior imprisonment.

SENTENCED PRISONERS

There were 22,924 sentenced prisoners in Australian prisons at 30 June 2009, an increase of 8% (1,649 sentenced prisoners) from 30 June 2008 (21,275).

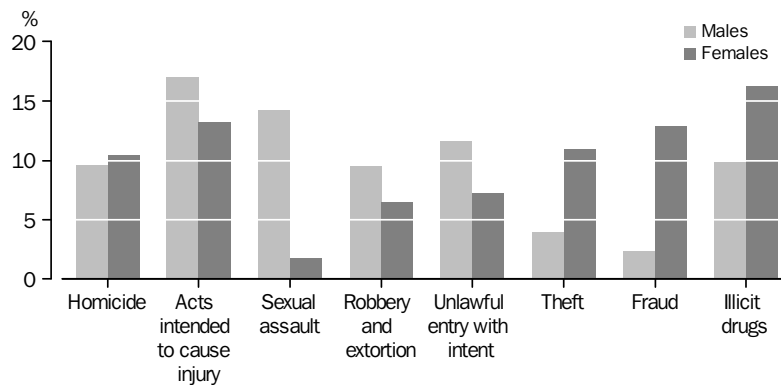
*Most serious offence*

Six offences accounted for 71% of all sentenced prisoners: acts intended to cause injury (17%); sexual assault (13%); unlawful entry with intent (11%); and homicide, illicit drugs, and offences against justice procedures (all 10%).

*Sex*

The number of sentenced males in prison increased by 1,469 (7%) from 30 June 2008, whilst sentenced females increased by 185 (13%) in the same period. At 30 June 2009, the most serious offence with the highest proportion for sentenced male prisoners was acts intended to cause injury (17%), followed by sexual assault (14%). For sentenced female prisoners the most serious offence with the highest proportion was illicit drugs (16%), followed by acts intended to cause injury (13%).

SENTENCED PRISONERS, selected most serious offence by sex(a)



(a) Offence data are based on ASOC08, with the exception of data from Qld and WA which are based on ASOC97. See Technical Note.

*Aggregate sentence length*

Of all sentenced prisoners, 4% (1,009) were serving a life term or other indeterminate sentence. A quarter (25% or 5,682) of sentenced prisoners had an aggregate sentence length imposed in the range from 2 years to less than 5 years, while 21% (4,773) had an aggregate sentence length of between 5 years and under 10 years. Approximately 34% (7,850) had an aggregate sentence length of less than 2 years. Periodic detainees accounted for 4% (841) of all sentenced prisoners.

Excluding prisoners with indeterminate, life with a minimum and periodic detention sentences, the median aggregate sentence length for sentenced prisoners was unchanged from 2008 at 3 years (36 months). For information about interpreting mean and median sentence lengths based on a census 'snapshot' see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 71–73.

The longest median aggregate sentence lengths at 30 June 2009 were for homicide (15 years or 180 months), miscellaneous offences (8 years or 96 months) and sexual assault (6.5 years or 78 months).

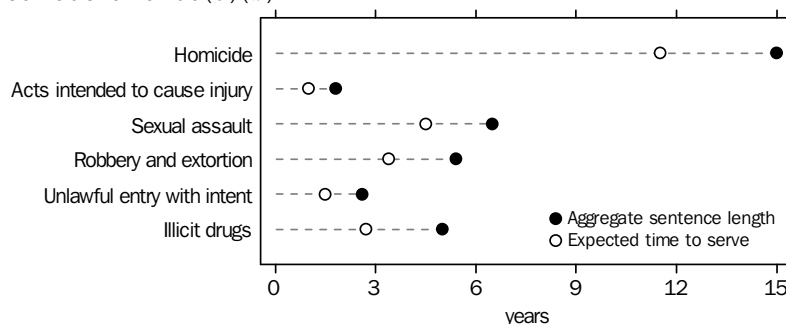
*Expected time to serve*

Expected time to serve takes into account the earliest date of release for sentenced prisoners. Over 23% of sentenced prisoners (5,239) had an expected time to serve between 2 and under 5 years, while 20% of prisoners (4,671) had an expected time to serve greater than 5 years.

Excluding prisoners with indeterminate, life without a minimum, and periodic detention sentences, the median expected time to serve for sentenced prisoners at 30 June 2009 was 1.8 years (21 months), a decrease of less than a month from 2008.

The median expected time to serve was highest for the offence category of homicide (11.5 years or 138 months), followed by miscellaneous offences (5 years or 60 months) and sexual assault (4.5 years or 54 months).

SENTENCED PRISONERS, median sentence length and selected most serious offence(a) (b)



(a) Prisoners with indeterminate, life with a minimum and periodic detention sentences are excluded from the aggregate sentence length calculations. For expected time to serve, prisoners with indeterminate, life without a minimum and periodic detention sentences are excluded.  
 (b) Offence data are based on ASOC08, with the exception of data from Qld and WA which are based on ASOC97. See Technical Note.

UNSENTENCED PRISONERS

Unsentenced prisoners (those on remand) include unconvicted prisoners awaiting a court hearing or trial, convicted prisoners awaiting sentencing and persons awaiting deportation where they are under the administration of adult corrective services. There was a total of 6,393 unsentenced prisoners at 30 June 2009, an increase of 1% from 30 June 2008 (6,340). Unsentenced prisoners accounted for 22% of the total prisoner population in Australian prisons at 30 June 2009, a decrease from the 23% at 30 June 2008.

*Most serious charge*

Of all unsentenced prisoners, 28% had a most serious charge of acts intended to cause injury, followed by illicit drug offences (14%) and robbery and extortion (10%).

*Time on remand*

Time on remand is influenced by a number of factors, particularly the time it takes for a case to come before a court. The median number of months spent on remand by unsentenced prisoners in custody at 30 June 2009 was 2.9 months, an increase from the 2.7 months at 30 June 2008. The longest amount of time spent on remand was by prisoners charged with homicide (median of 8.4 months), followed by illicit drug offences (median of 4.4 months). For information about interpreting median time on remand based on a census 'snapshot' see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 71–73.

PERIODIC DETAINEES

The sentencing option of periodic detention, where detainees are in custody for two consecutive days in a week and remain at liberty the rest of the week, is available only in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. There were 841 periodic detainees at 30 June 2009, an increase of 12% from 30 June 2008 (754 periodic detainees). Nearly one quarter (24% or 198) of periodic detainees were sentenced for traffic and vehicle regulatory offences, followed by acts intended to cause injury (22% or 188).

## 2.1 PRISONERS, selected most serious offence/charge by selected characteristics(a)(b)

		<i>Homicide and related offences</i>	<i>Acts intended to cause injury</i>	<i>Sexual assault and related offences</i>	<i>Robbery, extortion and related offences</i>	<i>Unlawful entry with intent</i>	<i>Illicit drug offences</i>	<i>Other(c)</i>	<i>Total</i>
<b>All prisoners</b>	no.	<b>2 717</b>	<b>5 638</b>	<b>3 633</b>	<b>2 791</b>	<b>3 209</b>	<b>3 217</b>	<b>8 112</b>	<b>29 317</b>
Males	no.	2 501	5 303	3 597	2 646	3 046	2 842	7 257	27 192
Females	no.	216	335	36	145	163	375	855	2 125
Indigenous	no.	441	2 365	747	650	1 010	138	2 035	7 386
Non-Indigenous	no.	2 256	3 203	2 837	2 104	2 183	2 987	5 984	21 554
Unknown	no.	20	70	49	37	16	92	93	377
Median age									
Males	yrs	38.4	30.6	42.9	28.6	29.9	37.3	32.7	33.4
Females	yrs	38.7	30.4	40.5	29.3	30.3	38.2	34.4	34.2
Indigenous	yrs	35.3	30.6	36.3	27.6	27.4	36.2	30.9	30.6
Non-Indigenous	yrs	39.1	30.6	45.0	29.3	31.3	37.6	33.5	34.5
Sentenced	no.	2 219	3 840	3 064	2 125	2 588	2 348	6 740	22 924
Unsentenced	no.	498	1 798	569	666	621	869	1 372	6 393
Prior imprisonment(d)	no.	1 056	3 480	1 241	1 722	2 434	1 100	5 236	16 269
No prior imprisonment(d)	no.	1 661	2 158	2 392	1 069	775	2 117	2 876	13 048

### PROPORTIONS

Males	%	92.1	94.1	99.0	94.8	94.9	88.3	89.5	92.8
Females	%	7.9	5.9	1.0	5.2	5.1	11.7	10.5	7.2
Indigenous	%	16.2	41.9	20.6	23.3	31.5	4.3	25.1	25.2
Non-Indigenous	%	83.0	56.8	78.1	75.4	68.0	92.9	73.8	73.5
Unknown	%	0.7	1.2	1.3	1.3	0.5	2.9	1.1	1.3
Sentenced	%	81.7	68.1	84.3	76.1	80.6	73.0	83.1	78.2
Unsentenced	%	18.3	31.9	15.7	23.9	19.4	27.0	16.9	21.8
Prior imprisonment(d)	%	38.9	61.7	34.2	61.7	75.8	34.2	64.5	55.5
No prior imprisonment(d)	%	61.1	38.3	65.8	38.3	24.2	65.8	35.5	44.5
<b>Total</b>	%	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) For a definition of most serious offence/charge see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 74–77.

(b) Offence data are based on ASOC08, with the exception of data from Qld and WA which are based on ASOC97. See Technical Note.

(c) Includes ASOC Divisions 04, 05, 08, 09 and 11 to 16. See Appendix 1.

(d) Refers to prior adult imprisonment under sentence.

## 2.2 PRISONERS, selected characteristics, 1999-2009

	SEX		INDIGENOUS STATUS		LEGAL STATUS		PRIOR IMPRISONMENT(a)(b)		ALL PRISONERS(c)
	Males	Females	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous(d)	Sentenced	Unsentenced	Prior	No prior	
NUMBER									
1999	20 181	1 357	4 308	17 230	18 332	3 206	na	na	21 538
2000	20 324	1 390	4 104	17 610	17 929	3 785	12 243	9 427	21 714
2001	20 953	1 505	4 447	18 011	18 123	4 335	13 107	9 334	22 458
2002	21 008	1 484	4 498	17 994	18 078	4 414	13 118	9 362	22 492
2003	21 953	1 602	4 829	18 726	18 738	4 817	13 462	9 734	23 555
2004	22 499	1 672	5 048	19 123	19 236	4 935	13 907	10 007	24 171
2005	23 619	1 734	5 656	19 697	20 220	5 133	15 308	9 812	25 353
2006	23 963	1 827	6 091	19 699	20 209	5 581	14 947	10 503	25 790
2007	25 240	1 984	6 630	20 387	21 128	6 096	15 386	11 488	27 224
2008	25 658	1 957	6 706	20 661	21 275	6 340	15 154	12 460	27 615
2009	27 192	2 125	7 386	21 554	22 924	6 393	16 269	13 048	29 317
% CHANGE (FROM PRECEDING YEAR)									
1999	7.5	19.6	15.1	6.6	7.1	15.0	na	na	8.2
2000	0.7	2.4	-4.7	2.2	-2.2	18.1	na	na	0.8
2001	3.1	8.3	8.4	2.3	1.1	14.5	7.1	-1.0	3.4
2002	0.3	-1.4	1.1	-0.1	-0.2	1.8	0.1	0.3	0.2
2003	4.5	8.0	7.4	4.1	3.7	9.1	2.6	4.0	4.7
2004	2.5	4.4	4.5	2.1	2.7	2.4	3.3	2.8	2.6
2005	5.0	3.7	12.0	3.0	5.1	4.0	10.1	-1.9	4.9
2006	1.5	5.4	7.7	—	-0.1	8.7	-2.4	7.0	1.7
2007	5.3	8.6	8.8	3.5	4.5	9.2	2.9	9.4	5.6
2008	1.7	-1.4	1.1	1.3	0.7	4.0	-1.5	8.5	1.4
2009	6.0	8.6	10.1	4.3	7.8	0.8	7.4	4.7	6.2

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

na not available

(a) Refers to prior adult imprisonment under sentence.

(b) Caution should be exercised in comparing data prior to 2008. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 89.

(c) Prisoners with unknown prior imprisonment status are included in totals only.

(d) From 2007 onwards, unknown Indigenous status is included in the totals only. Prior to 2007 these are included in Non-Indigenous.



**2.3****PRISONERS, sex by age**

Age group (years)	MALES			FEMALES			PERSONS		
	no.	%	rate(a)	no.	%	rate(a)	no.	%	rate(a)
Under 18	37	—	24.3	3	0.1	2.1	40	0.1	13.5
18	273	1.0	175.0	14	0.7	9.5	287	1.0	94.5
19	612	2.3	383.8	38	1.8	25.3	650	2.2	209.8
20–24	4 418	16.2	549.6	266	12.5	34.7	4 684	16.0	298.2
25–29	5 088	18.7	640.4	416	19.6	53.8	5 504	18.8	351.1
30–34	4 602	16.9	617.8	390	18.3	52.5	4 992	17.0	335.6
35–39	4 214	15.5	526.7	363	17.1	44.9	4 577	15.6	284.4
40–44	2 963	10.9	390.8	256	12.0	33.4	3 219	11.0	211.2
45–49	1 987	7.3	256.2	186	8.7	23.6	2 173	7.4	138.9
50–54	1 290	4.7	181.9	102	4.8	14.1	1 392	4.7	97.3
55–59	724	2.7	112.3	49	2.3	7.5	773	2.6	59.5
60–64	492	1.8	84.9	30	1.4	5.2	522	1.8	45.0
65 and over	492	1.8	37.3	14	0.7	0.9	506	1.7	17.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>27 192</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>328.8</b>	<b>2 127</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>29 319</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>174.6</b>
Mean age	35.2	..	..	35.4	..	..	35.3	..	..
Median age	33.4	..	..	34.2	..	..	33.4	..	..

.. not applicable

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Rate per 100,000 adult population for that age group. See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 18–24.

## 2.4 PRISONERS, selected most serious offence/charge by selected country of birth(a)

	<i>Homicide and related offences</i>	<i>Acts intended to cause injury</i>	<i>Sexual assault and related offences</i>	<i>Robbery, extortion and related offences</i>	<i>Unlawful entry with intent</i>	<i>Illicit drug offences</i>	<i>Other(b)</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Rate (all offences)(c)</i>
Australia	2 069	4 960	2 974	2 279	2 879	1 824	6 657	23 642	203.3
New Zealand	75	174	89	145	67	62	195	807	187.5
Vietnam	67	38	10	34	33	428	135	745	396.1
United Kingdom and Ireland(d)	101	65	146	36	39	77	145	609	52.3
Lebanon	25	14	8	22	26	58	82	235	272.3
Former Yugoslavia(e)	28	16	14	14	18	57	34	181	92.8
China (excludes SARS and Taiwan)	14	12	4	8	—	76	46	160	53.5
Fiji	11	25	19	25	7	4	37	128	474.7
Philippines	15	11	11	8	5	7	43	100	71.2
Samoa	11	22	20	18	5	4	18	98	577.7
Italy	12	8	11	5	4	28	20	88	39.9
Turkey	13	15	7	4	3	18	23	83	222.4
Iraq	6	8	12	10	4	15	22	77	211.0
Sudan	11	29	10	8	—	—	19	77	433.9
Malaysia	8	4	3	—	—	28	33	76	67.6
Indonesia	3	3	—	3	—	11	52	72	121.7
Romania	3	4	3	—	—	35	27	72	450.1
South Africa	6	5	5	6	4	22	16	64	55.8
Greece	7	4	5	5	3	21	18	63	48.7
Thailand	5	5	—	8	4	16	23	61	162.9
Germany	6	—	24	3	—	10	17	60	49.1
India	17	5	7	3	3	3	22	60	27.4
Cambodia	3	—	3	7	5	27	14	59	208.0
Tonga	10	12	5	10	—	4	15	56	634.5
Hong Kong	4	3	5	5	3	16	22	58	71.1
United States of America	10	6	8	—	—	22	8	54	80.2
Papua New Guinea	7	15	9	5	4	—	8	48	86.9
Singapore	5	—	5	—	3	21	6	40	88.5
Portugal	—	5	6	3	4	3	12	33	182.3
Afghanistan	3	7	5	9	—	—	5	29	157.8
Other	163	162	203	107	77	315	338	1 365	np
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 718</b>	<b>5 637</b>	<b>3 631</b>	<b>2 790</b>	<b>3 200</b>	<b>3 212</b>	<b>8 112</b>	<b>29 300</b>	<b>174.4</b>

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Offence data are based on ASOC08, with the exception of data from Qld and WA which are based on ASOC97. See Technical Note.

(b) Includes ASOC Divisions 04, 05, 08, 09, and 11 to 16. See Appendix 1.

(c) Rate per 100,000 adult population of the country of birth. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 25.

(d) Includes United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Ireland.

(e) Comprises Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, and Montenegro.

**2.5****PRISONERS, legal status and sex by most serious offence/charge(a)(b) .....**

	SENTENCED			UNSENTENCED			ALL PRISONERS		
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
Homicide and related offences	2 053	166	2 219	448	50	498	2 501	216	2 717
Acts intended to cause injury	3 629	211	3 840	1 674	124	1 798	5 303	335	5 638
Sexual assault and related offences	3 035	29	3 064	562	7	569	3 597	36	3 633
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	436	32	468	110	7	117	546	39	585
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	174	9	183	93	8	101	267	17	284
Robbery, extortion and related offences	2 022	103	2 125	624	42	666	2 646	145	2 791
Unlawful entry with intent	2 474	114	2 588	572	49	621	3 046	163	3 209
Theft and related offences	854	173	1 027	219	44	263	1 073	217	1 290
Fraud, deception and related offences	490	205	695	144	37	181	634	242	876
Illicit drug offences	2 090	258	2 348	752	117	869	2 842	375	3 217
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	165	6	171	102	5	107	267	11	278
Property damage and environmental pollution	246	19	265	100	3	103	346	22	368
Public order offences	172	11	183	26	3	29	198	14	212
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	1 271	74	1 345	66	3	69	1 337	77	1 414
Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	2 035	170	2 205	270	29	299	2 305	199	2 504
Miscellaneous offences	163	11	174	99	3	102	262	14	276
Unknown	21	3	24	3	—	3	24	3	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>21 330</b>	<b>1 594</b>	<b>22 924</b>	<b>5 864</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>6 395</b>	<b>27 194</b>	<b>2 125</b>	<b>29 319</b>

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) For a definition of most serious offence/charge see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 74–77.

(b) Offence data are based on ASOC08, with the exception of data from Qld and WA which are based on ASOC97. See Technical Note.

## 2.6 PRISONERS, legal status and prior imprisonment by most serious offence/charge(a)(b)(c)

	SENTENCED IN LAST 12 MONTHS(d)		OTHER SENTENCED		ALL SENTENCED		UNSENTENCED		ALL PRISONERS	
	no.	prior %	no.	prior %	no.	prior %	no.	prior %	no.	prior %
Homicide and related offences	208	24.0	2 011	42.3	2 219	40.6	498	31.3	2 717	38.9
Acts intended to cause injury	2 565	62.2	1 275	68.1	3 840	64.1	1 798	56.6	5 638	61.7
Sexual assault and related offences	965	19.5	2 099	40.0	3 064	33.6	569	37.4	3 633	34.2
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	358	57.0	110	71.8	468	60.5	117	63.2	585	61.0
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	49	36.7	134	60.4	183	54.1	101	53.5	284	53.9
Robbery, extortion and related offences	559	52.1	1 566	68.5	2 125	64.1	666	53.9	2 791	61.7
Unlawful entry with intent	1 377	75.1	1 211	79.1	2 588	77.0	621	71.2	3 209	75.8
Theft and related offences	822	68.1	205	65.9	1 027	67.7	263	66.9	1 290	67.5
Fraud, deception and related offences	500	29.4	195	33.8	695	30.6	181	44.2	876	33.4
Illicit drug offences	1 078	33.4	1 270	33.1	2 348	33.2	869	36.8	3 217	34.2
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	112	54.5	59	49.2	171	52.6	107	57.9	278	54.7
Property damage and environmental pollution	176	60.2	89	61.8	265	60.8	103	43.7	368	56.0
Public order offences	137	64.2	46	58.7	183	62.8	29	58.6	212	62.3
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	1 236	68.3	109	87.2	1 345	69.8	69	58.0	1 414	69.2
Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	1 941	80.9	264	84.5	2 205	81.3	299	65.2	2 504	79.4
Miscellaneous offences	59	47.5	115	30.4	174	36.2	102	20.6	276	30.4
Unknown	16	75.0	8	100.0	24	83.3	—	—	24	83.3
Total	12 158	58.9	10 766	54.3	22 924	56.7	6 392	51.2	29 316	55.5

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Refers to prior adult imprisonment under sentence.

(b) For a definition of most serious offence/charge see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 74–77.

(c) Offence data are based on ASOC08, with the exception of data from Qld and WA which are based on ASOC97. See Technical Note.

(d) Prisoners whose date of aggregate sentence commencement was between 1 July 2008 and 30 June 2009.

## 2.7 SENTENCED PRISONERS, selected most serious offence and sex, 1999-2009(a)(b)

	<i>Homicide and related offences</i>	<i>Acts intended to cause injury</i>	<i>Sexual assault and related offences</i>	<i>Robbery, extortion and related offences</i>	<i>Unlawful entry with intent</i>	<i>Theft and related offences</i>	<i>Fraud, deception and related offences</i>	<i>Illicit drug offences</i>	<i>Offences against justice</i>	<i>Sentenced prisoners</i>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	no.
MALES										
1999	9.0	12.1	12.9	13.2	13.2	5.6	3.7	8.9	9.9	17 208
2000	9.7	11.0	13.0	14.0	11.9	6.0	3.2	9.7	9.1	16 846
2001	10.0	11.9	12.3	13.9	12.0	6.4	2.8	9.9	8.3	16 978
2002	10.4	12.2	11.8	14.5	12.4	6.7	2.6	9.9	7.5	16 958
2003	10.3	13.4	12.0	13.4	12.9	5.5	2.9	9.5	7.1	17 540
2004	9.9	13.6	12.1	12.4	12.8	6.0	2.8	9.7	8.0	17 959
2005	10.0	15.0	12.4	11.0	12.8	5.5	2.8	9.8	8.4	18 920
2006	10.2	15.0	13.2	10.4	12.2	5.2	2.6	9.9	9.1	18 847
2007	10.2	15.8	13.4	9.5	12.2	4.8	2.6	9.9	9.5	19 688
2008	10.4	15.9	14.4	9.6	11.5	3.7	2.5	9.4	9.6	19 861
2009	9.6	17.0	14.2	9.5	11.6	4.0	2.3	9.8	9.5	21 330
FEMALES										
1999	9.4	12.1	1.0	10.2	10.9	8.8	12.4	11.7	14.1	1 124
2000	11.0	9.2	0.9	12.7	10.1	9.4	12.1	13.1	10.8	1 083
2001	11.3	10.6	1.1	12.5	10.0	8.6	12.2	10.6	14.2	1 145
2002	10.9	11.4	0.8	12.5	10.3	11.0	9.7	14.8	10.3	1 120
2003	11.2	11.8	1.1	11.7	10.9	9.1	11.7	13.8	9.1	1 198
2004	10.7	12.1	1.1	7.5	9.9	11.9	12.9	14.6	10.3	1 277
2005	10.5	12.4	1.5	6.5	9.9	11.0	14.6	13.4	11.4	1 300
2006	11.0	13.7	1.5	6.0	9.8	10.9	10.4	14.2	12.8	1 361
2007	10.8	13.2	1.8	6.3	9.9	9.7	11.9	14.7	11.9	1 440
2008	11.2	14.7	1.6	5.7	8.7	8.4	12.2	14.5	11.9	1 409
2009	10.4	13.2	1.8	6.5	7.2	10.9	12.9	16.2	10.7	1 594
PERSONS										
1999	9.1	12.1	12.2	13.0	13.0	5.8	4.2	9.1	10.1	18 332
2000	9.7	10.9	12.3	13.9	11.8	6.2	3.8	9.9	9.2	17 929
2001	10.1	11.8	11.6	13.8	11.9	6.8	3.2	10.2	8.5	18 123
2002	10.4	12.1	11.2	14.4	12.3	7.0	3.0	10.2	7.7	18 078
2003	10.4	13.3	11.3	13.3	12.8	5.7	3.5	9.7	7.3	18 738
2004	10.0	13.7	11.3	12.0	12.7	6.4	3.5	10.0	8.1	19 236
2005	10.1	14.9	11.7	10.8	12.6	5.9	3.5	10.0	8.6	20 220
2006	10.2	14.9	12.4	10.1	12.0	5.6	3.1	10.2	9.3	20 208
2007	10.2	15.6	12.6	9.3	12.0	5.1	3.2	10.3	9.6	21 128
2008	10.4	15.8	13.5	9.3	11.3	4.0	3.1	9.8	9.7	21 276
2009	9.7	16.8	13.4	9.3	11.3	4.5	3.0	10.2	9.6	22 924

(a) For a definition of most serious offence see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 74–76.

(b) Offence data are based on ASOC08, with the exception of data from Qld and WA which are based on ASOC97. See Technical Note.

## 2.8 SENTENCED PRISONERS, sentence length by most serious offence(a)(b) .....

	<i>Periodic detention</i>	<i>Under 3 months</i>	<i>3 &amp; under 6 months</i>	<i>6 &amp; under 12 months</i>	<i>1 &amp; under 2 years</i>	<i>2 &amp; under 5 years</i>
AGGREGATE SENTENCE LENGTH (c)						
Homicide and related offences	12	3	—	—	11	84
Acts intended to cause injury	188	125	261	423	1 075	1 068
Sexual assault and related offences	18	19	33	47	174	689
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	49	15	22	71	158	107
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	3	—	—	3	14	54
Robbery, extortion and related offences	42	3	10	5	88	778
Unlawful entry with intent	45	33	50	133	663	1 101
Theft and related offences	46	65	129	156	314	212
Fraud, deception and related offences	79	28	33	52	145	215
Illicit drug offences	79	23	39	57	252	751
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	14	6	9	12	37	61
Property damage and environmental pollution	11	11	22	22	51	86
Public order offences	15	6	14	20	58	37
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	198	118	179	241	510	92
Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	35	177	333	547	700	326
Miscellaneous offences	—	3	4	11	17	16
Unknown	7	3	4	3	—	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>841</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>1 142</b>	<b>1 803</b>	<b>4 267</b>	<b>5 682</b>

	EXPECTED TIME TO SERVE (d)					
Homicide and related offences	12	3	3	12	65	226
Acts intended to cause injury	188	205	559	954	853	723
Sexual assault and related offences	18	17	68	161	375	1 013
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	49	25	84	126	103	68
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	3	—	7	9	25	61
Robbery, extortion and related offences	42	10	27	109	390	885
Unlawful entry with intent	45	70	217	509	770	727
Theft and related offences	46	88	220	307	190	133
Fraud, deception and related offences	79	41	83	150	145	164
Illicit drug offences	79	44	104	273	481	816
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	14	3	23	28	45	46
Property damage and environmental pollution	11	18	37	55	55	54
Public order offences	15	13	26	46	39	26
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	198	182	394	364	182	20
Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	35	199	480	674	514	245
Miscellaneous offences	—	3	13	13	18	27
Unknown	7	—	—	4	4	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>841</b>	<b>921</b>	<b>2 345</b>	<b>3 794</b>	<b>4 254</b>	<b>5 239</b>

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) For a definition of most serious offence see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 74–76.

(b) Offence data are based on ASOC08, with the exception of data from Qld and WA which are based on ASOC97. See Technical Note.

(c) For information on aggregate sentence length see Explanatory Notes, paragraph 45.

(d) For information on expected time to serve see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 46–69.

## 2.8 SENTENCED PRISONERS, sentence length by most serious offence(a)(b) *continued*

	5 & under 10 years	10 & under 15 years	15 & under 20 years	20 years & over	Life(c)	Other(d)
AGGREGATE SENTENCE LENGTH (e)						
Homicide and related offences	369	214	310	377	805	35
Acts intended to cause injury	526	112	30	10	6	16
Sexual assault and related offences	1 266	525	165	77	14	37
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	40	4	3	—	3	—
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	69	28	7	3	3	—
Robbery, extortion and related offences	850	213	89	34	4	9
Unlawful entry with intent	483	52	16	9	—	3
Theft and related offences	91	13	—	—	—	—
Fraud, deception and related offences	133	7	3	—	—	—
Illicit drug offences	757	248	67	52	23	—
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	30	3	—	—	—	—
Property damage and environmental pollution	45	14	—	3	—	—
Public order offences	18	8	4	—	—	3
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	5	—	—	—	—	—
Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	51	11	4	3	16	3
Miscellaneous offences	37	36	10	11	6	23
Unknown	3	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 773</b>	<b>1 488</b>	<b>708</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>880</b>	<b>129</b>

	5 & under 10 years	10 & under 15 years	15 & under 20 years	20 years & over	Life(c)	Other(d)
EXPECTED TIME TO SERVE (f)						
Homicide and related offences	358	365	265	200	675	35
Acts intended to cause injury	283	38	13	3	6	16
Sexual assault and related offences	987	284	70	20	14	37
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	12	—	—	—	3	—
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	61	10	4	—	3	—
Robbery, extortion and related offences	490	113	36	10	4	9
Unlawful entry with intent	217	20	7	3	—	3
Theft and related offences	42	—	—	—	—	—
Fraud, deception and related offences	31	—	—	—	—	—
Illicit drug offences	401	98	27	18	7	—
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	12	—	—	—	—	—
Property damage and environmental pollution	29	5	—	—	—	—
Public order offences	11	3	—	—	—	3
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	3	—	—	—	—	—
Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	37	5	—	—	11	3
Miscellaneous offences	50	13	11	3	—	23
Unknown	3	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 027</b>	<b>954</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>723</b>	<b>129</b>

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) For a definition of most serious offence see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 74–76.

(b) Offence data are based on ASOC08, with the exception of data from Qld and WA which are based on ASOC97. See Technical Note.

(c) Includes indeterminate life and life with minimum for aggregate sentence length, and indeterminate life for expected time to serve.

(d) Refers to other indeterminate sentences for aggregate sentence length and expected time to serve.

(e) For information on aggregate sentence length see Explanatory Notes, paragraph 45.

(f) For information on expected time to serve see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 46–69.

## 2.8 SENTENCED PRISONERS, sentence length by most serious offence(a)(b) *continued*

	Total	Total (%)	Mean (months)(c)	Median (months)(c)
AGGREGATE SENTENCE LENGTH (d)				
Homicide and related offences	2 220	9.7	175.9	180.1
Acts intended to cause injury	3 840	16.8	35.3	21.0
Sexual assault and related offences	3 064	13.4	89.1	78.0
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	472	2.0	26.4	17.9
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	184	0.8	81.4	72.0
Robbery, extortion and related offences	2 125	9.3	78.0	64.9
Unlawful entry with intent	2 588	11.3	41.4	31.0
Theft and related offences	1 026	4.5	24.2	14.7
Fraud, deception and related offences	695	3.0	36.4	29.3
Illicit drug offences	2 348	10.2	70.8	60.0
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	172	0.7	37.3	30.0
Property damage and environmental pollution	265	1.2	40.6	29.7
Public order offences	183	0.8	35.6	20.0
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	1 343	5.9	12.3	12.0
Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	2 206	9.6	17.2	12.0
Miscellaneous offences	174	0.8	100.7	96.1
Unknown	25	0.1	35.3	26.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>22 930</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>57.9</b>	<b>36.0</b>

	Total	Total (%)	Mean (months)(c)	Median (months)(c)
EXPECTED TIME TO SERVE (e)				
Homicide and related offences	2 219	9.7	140.9	137.8
Acts intended to cause injury	3 841	16.8	23.4	12.3
Sexual assault and related offences	3 064	13.4	64.6	54.0
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	470	2.0	16.4	10.0
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	183	0.8	58.7	48.0
Robbery, extortion and related offences	2 125	9.3	53.3	41.0
Unlawful entry with intent	2 588	11.3	27.1	18.0
Theft and related offences	1 026	4.5	15.8	9.0
Fraud, deception and related offences	693	3.0	21.0	15.0
Illicit drug offences	2 348	10.2	45.1	32.7
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	171	0.7	24.1	18.0
Property damage and environmental pollution	264	1.2	26.5	15.0
Public order offences	182	0.8	22.6	11.9
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	1 343	5.9	7.8	6.0
Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	2 206	9.6	13.7	9.0
Miscellaneous offences	174	0.8	69.5	60.0
Unknown	23	0.1	20.9	12.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>22 920</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>41.4</b>	<b>21.5</b>

(a) For a definition of most serious offence see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 74–76.

(b) Offence data are based on ASOC08, with the exception of data from Qld and WA which are based on ASOC97. See Technical Note.

(c) Prisoners with indeterminate, life with a minimum and periodic detention sentences are excluded from the aggregate sentence length calculations. For expected time to serve, prisoners with indeterminate and periodic detention sentences are excluded. Life with a minimum is included. See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 71–73 and Glossary.

(d) For information on aggregate sentence length see Explanatory Notes, paragraph 45.

(e) For information on expected time to serve see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 46–69.



## 2.9 UNSENTENCED PRISONERS, time on remand by most serious charge(a)(b) . . . . .

	PRISONERS		TIME ON REMAND		
	<i>no.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Mean (months)</i>	<i>Median (months)</i>	<i>90th Percentile (months)</i>
Homicide and related offences	498	7.8	10.6	8.4	22.8
Acts intended to cause injury	1 798	28.1	3.9	2.3	9.5
Sexual assault and related offences	569	8.9	6.2	4.3	15.5
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	117	1.8	3.4	1.5	9.2
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	101	1.6	5.3	3.6	12.5
Robbery, extortion and related offences	666	10.4	5.2	3.7	11.6
Unlawful entry with intent	621	9.7	3.6	2.0	9.3
Theft and related offences	263	4.1	2.6	1.3	6.4
Fraud, deception and related offences	181	2.8	4.4	2.3	11.0
Illicit drug offences	869	13.6	7.0	4.4	16.2
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	107	1.7	3.8	2.9	7.8
Property damage and environmental pollution	103	1.6	3.6	1.8	8.7
Public order offences	29	0.5	3.9	1.9	11.4
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	69	1.1	4.3	0.9	15.7
Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	299	4.7	2.8	0.9	7.0
Miscellaneous offences	102	1.6	5.1	2.5	14.7
Unknown	3	—	0.2	0.2	0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>6 395</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>13.0</b>

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) For a definition of most serious charge see Explanatory Notes, paragraph 77.

(b) Offence data are based on ASOC08, with the exception of data from Qld and WA which are based on ASOC97. See Technical Note.

CHAPTER **3**

**PRISONER CHARACTERISTICS, STATES AND TERRITORIES** .....

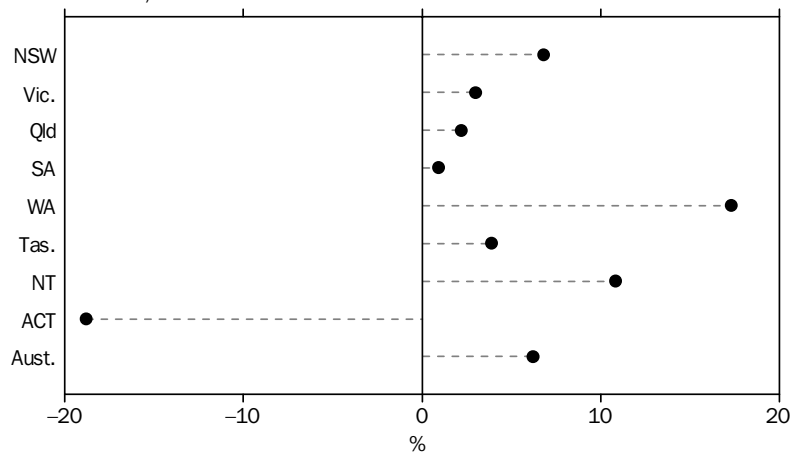
PRISONER SNAPSHOT

At 30 June 2009 nearly three-quarters (72% or 21,213) of the total prisoner population were located in New South Wales (38% or 11,127), Queensland (19% or 5,667) and Western Australia (15% or 4,419).

CHANGES IN THE PRISONER POPULATION

Between 2008 and 2009, the prisoner population increased in all states and territories, except the Australian Capital Territory. The highest proportional increases in prisoner numbers were for Western Australia (17%), the Northern Territory (11%), and New South Wales (7%). The increase (6%) in the national prisoner population was strongly influenced by the growth in the Western Australia prisoner population. While Western Australia accounted for 15% of the national prisoner population in 2009 it contributed 38% to the increase in prisoner numbers between 2008 and 2009.

CHANGE IN PRISONER NUMBERS, between 30 June 2008 and 30 June 2009, states and territories



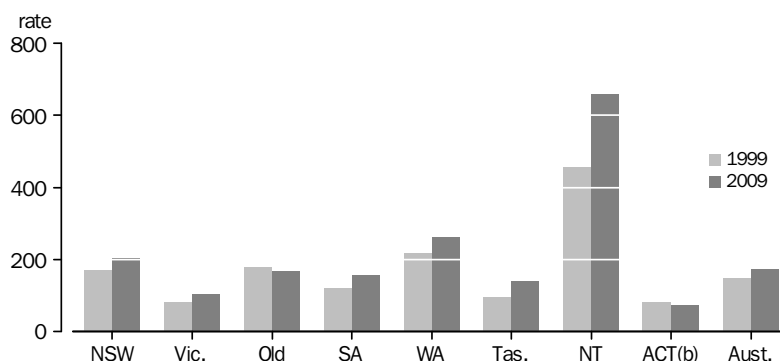
IMPRISONMENT RATES

At 30 June 2009, the Northern Territory continued to have the highest imprisonment rate at 658 prisoners per 100,000 adult population. All states and territories except Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory recorded increased imprisonment rates in the 10 year period from 1999. Tasmania recorded the largest percentage increase in the imprisonment rate between 1999 and 2009, rising 45% (from 96 prisoners per 100,000 adult population to 140 prisoners per 100,000 adult population). This was followed by the Northern Territory increasing by 44% (from 456 to 658 prisoners per 100,000 adults) and South Australia increasing by 29% (from 120 to 155 prisoners per 100,000 adults). The Australian Capital Territory's imprisonment rate decreased by 8% between 1999 and 2009 (from 81 to 75 prisoners per 100,000 adults), followed by Queensland which decreased by 6% (from 179 to 168 prisoners per 100,000 adults).

IMPRISONMENT RATES

*continued*

IMPRISONMENT RATES(a), 30 June 1999 and 30 June 2009, states and territories

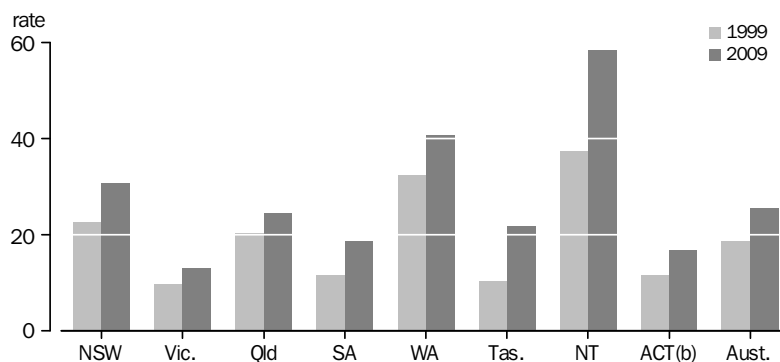


(a) Rate per 100,000 adult population.  
 (b) Data for 1999 for the ACT include ACT prisoners held in NSW prisons. These prisoners are excluded from NSW data.

Sex

Between 1999 and 2009 the female imprisonment rate increased in all states and territories. In the Northern Territory, the female imprisonment rate increased from 38 to 58 female prisoners per 100,000 adult females, while in Western Australia the rate increased from 33 to 41 female prisoners per 100,000 adult females. Tasmania recorded the highest proportional increase in the female imprisonment rate between 1999 and 2009, an increase of 111% (from 10 to 22 female prisoners per 100,000 adult female population).

FEMALE IMPRISONMENT RATES(a), 30 June 1999 and 30 June 2009, states and territories

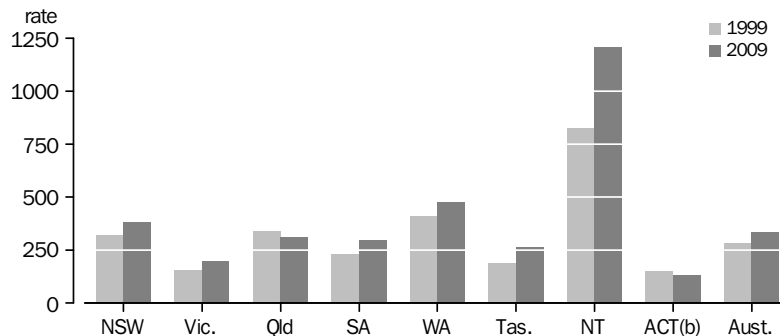


(a) Rate per 100,000 adult female population.  
 (b) Data for 1999 for ACT include ACT prisoners held in NSW prisons. These prisoners are excluded from NSW data.

Between 30 June 1999 and 30 June 2009 the imprisonment rate for males increased in all states and territories, except Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory. The Northern Territory recorded the highest proportional change in male imprisonment rates, an increase of 46% (from 827 to 1,210 prisoners per 100,000 adult males). Male imprisonment rates increased by 41% in Tasmania (from 187 to 264 prisoners per 100,000 adult males) and 27% in South Australia (from 234 to 298 prisoners per 100,000 adult males). The Australian Capital Territory recorded a proportional decrease in male imprisonment rates of 12% (from 153 to 135 prisoners per 100,000 adult males) while Queensland recorded an 8% decrease (from 341 to 314 prisoners per 100,000 adult males).

Sex continued

MALE IMPRISONMENT RATES(a), 30 June 1999 and 30 June 2009, states and territories



(a) Rate per 100,000 male population.

(b) Data for 1999 for ACT include ACT prisoners held in NSW prisons. These prisoners are excluded from NSW data.

AGE

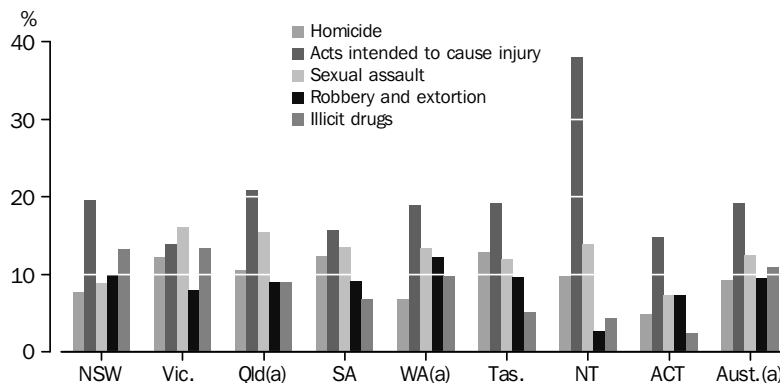
At 30 June 2009, Victorian prisoners had the oldest median age at 35.6 years, more than four years older than the median age of prisoners in the Australian Capital Territory (31.1 years), which had the youngest prisoner population.

MOST SERIOUS OFFENCE/CHARGE

A most serious offence/charge is determined for each prisoner (see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 74–77). At 30 June 2009, with the exception of Victoria, the most prevalent offence/charge for prisoners in all states and territories was acts intended to cause injury. The Northern Territory had the highest proportion of its prisoner population with this offence type, at 38%, double the national figure of 19%.

For Victoria, the most prevalent offence/charge was sexual assault which accounted for 16% of the prisoner population, followed by acts intended to cause injury at 14%. Sexual assault had the next highest proportion of prisoners for Queensland, South Australia and the Northern Territory, as well as nationally. The proportion of prisoners with a most serious offence/charge of illicit drugs was 3% in the Australian Capital Territory and 4% in the Northern Territory, well below the national figure of 11%.

PROPORTION OF SENTENCED PRISONERS, selected most serious offence, states and territories(a)



(a) Offence data for Qld and WA are based on ASOC97. All other jurisdictions' data are based on ASOC08. See Technical Note.

COUNTRY OF BIRTH

For both New South Wales and Victoria, a quarter (25%) of their prisoner populations had been born overseas, compared with the national average of 19%. Tasmania had the lowest proportion of its prisoner population who were born overseas (3%). For New South Wales prisoners, those born in New Zealand accounted for the largest overseas birthplace (3%), followed by prisoners born in Vietnam (3%). In Victoria, Vietnam was the birthplace for the largest proportion of overseas-born prisoners (6%), followed by prisoners born in the United Kingdom and Ireland (2%).

PRIOR IMPRISONMENT

At least half of prisoners in all states and territories had a prior adult imprisonment under sentence. Male prisoners consistently had higher proportions than females with a prior imprisonment, ranging from 77% in the Australian Capital Territory to 51% in Victoria. The highest proportion of female prisoners with a prior imprisonment was 70% in the Australian Capital Territory and the lowest was recorded in Victoria at 39%.

SENTENCED PRISONERS

Western Australia recorded the largest proportional (23%) as well as actual (702) increase in sentenced prisoners between 30 June 2008 and 30 June 2009. The Northern Territory recorded the second highest proportional increase in sentenced prisoners (13% or 97 prisoners). Decreases in the number of sentenced prisoners were recorded in the Australian Capital Territory (12%), South Australia (2%) and Tasmania (less than 1%).

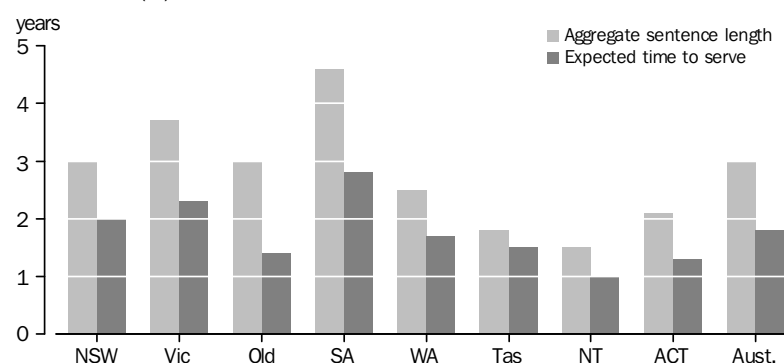
*Aggregate sentence length*

Excluding prisoners with indeterminate, life with a minimum and periodic detention sentences, the median aggregate sentence length for sentenced prisoners was highest in South Australia (4.6 years or 55 months), followed by Victoria (3.7 years or 44 months). The lowest median aggregate sentence length was in the Northern Territory (1.5 years or 18 months).

*Expected time to serve*

Expected time to serve takes into account the earliest date of release for sentenced prisoners. Excluding prisoners with indeterminate, life without a minimum, and periodic detention sentences, the median expected time to serve for sentenced prisoners at 30 June 2009 was highest in South Australia (2.8 years or 33 months), followed by Victoria (2.3 years or 27 months). The lowest median expected time to serve was in the Northern Territory (1 year or 12 months).

SENTENCED PRISONERS, median sentence length, states and territories(a)



(a) Prisoners with indeterminate, life with a minimum and periodic detention sentences are excluded from the aggregate sentence length calculations. For expected time to serve, prisoners with indeterminate, life without a minimum and periodic detention sentences are excluded.

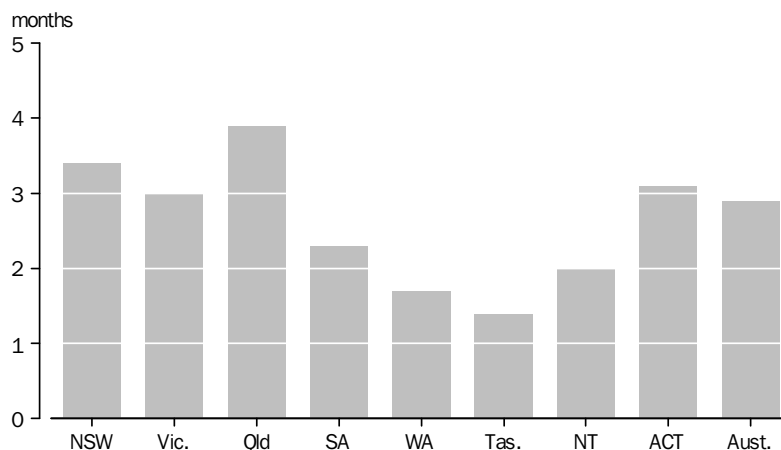
**UNSENTENCED PRISONERS**

Unsentenced prisoners (those on remand) include unconvicted prisoners awaiting a court hearing or trial, convicted prisoners awaiting sentencing and persons awaiting deportation where they are under the administration of corrective services. Of all states and territories, South Australia had the highest proportion (36%) of unsentenced prisoners, while Western Australia had the lowest proportion (16%). The majority of states and territories reported a decrease in the proportion of their prisoner populations on remand, except for South Australia where the proportion increased from 34% to 36% and Tasmania (from 21% to 24%).

*Time on remand*

Time on remand is influenced by a number of factors, particularly the time it takes for a case to come before a court. The median number of months spent on remand by unsentenced prisoners in custody at 30 June 2009 was highest in Queensland (3.9 months), followed by New South Wales (3.4 months). The lowest median number of months spent on remand was in Tasmania (1.4 months) and Western Australia (1.7 months).

**UNSENTENCED PRISONERS, median time on remand, states and territories**



### 3.1 PRISONERS, states and territories by selected characteristics .....

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
NUMBER									
<b>All prisoners</b>	<b>11 127</b>	<b>4 350</b>	<b>5 667</b>	<b>1 960</b>	<b>4 419</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>1 056</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>29 317</b>
Males	10 273	4 068	5 251	1 839	4 078	492	1 011	180	27 192
Females	854	282	416	121	341	43	45	23	2 125
Indigenous	2 374	241	1 576	449	1 790	66	864	26	7 386
Non-Indigenous	8 376	4 109	4 091	1 511	2 629	469	192	177	21 554
Unknown	377	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	377
Sentenced	8 535	3 535	4 513	1 265	3 700	407	819	150	22 924
Unsentenced	2 592	815	1 154	695	719	128	237	53	6 393
Prior imprisonment(a)	5 964	2 165	3 395	1 138	2 373	369	710	155	16 269
No prior imprisonment(a)	5 163	2 185	2 272	822	2 046	166	346	48	13 048
PROPORTIONS (%)									
Males	92.3	93.5	92.7	93.8	92.3	92.0	95.7	88.7	92.8
Females	7.7	6.5	7.3	6.2	7.7	8.0	4.3	11.3	7.2
Indigenous	21.3	5.5	27.8	22.9	40.5	12.3	81.8	12.8	25.2
Non-Indigenous	75.3	94.5	72.2	77.1	59.5	87.7	18.2	87.2	73.5
Unknown	3.4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.3
Sentenced	76.7	81.3	79.6	64.5	83.7	76.1	77.6	73.9	78.2
Unsentenced	23.3	18.7	20.4	35.5	16.3	23.9	22.4	26.1	21.8
Prior imprisonment(a)	53.6	49.8	59.9	58.1	53.7	69.0	67.2	76.4	55.5
No prior imprisonment(a)	46.4	50.2	40.1	41.9	46.3	31.0	32.8	23.6	44.5
<b>All prisoners</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Refers to prior adult imprisonment under sentence.

## 3.2 PRISONERS, states and territories by most serious offence/charge(a) .....

	NSW	Vic.	Qld(b)	SA	WA(b)	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(b)
NUMBER									
Homicide and related offences	856	532	602	241	304	69	103	10	2 717
Acts intended to cause injury	2 166	605	1 186	307	839	103	402	30	5 638
Sexual assault and related offences	981	695	877	264	590	64	147	15	3 633
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	187	63	101	65	116	21	23	9	585
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	138	29	20	47	37	4	5	4	284
Robbery, extortion and related offences	1 123	345	510	179	537	52	30	15	2 791
Unlawful entry with intent	1 061	459	740	230	611	44	50	14	3 209
Theft and related offences	514	256	207	96	147	28	15	27	1 290
Fraud, deception and related offences	339	159	227	39	75	25	8	4	876
Illicit drug offences	1 476	584	510	135	433	28	46	5	3 217
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	152	47	19	24	29	—	4	3	278
Property damage and environmental pollution	99	40	109	35	53	16	15	3	370
Public order offences	129	20	27	15	14	—	6	—	211
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	638	107	268	33	203	39	111	15	1 414
Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	1 146	406	209	246	339	40	91	27	2 504
Miscellaneous offences	122	3	55	4	92	—	—	—	276
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>11 127</b>	<b>4 350</b>	<b>5 667</b>	<b>1 960</b>	<b>4 419</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>1 056</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>29 318</b>

	PROPORTIONS (%)								
Homicide and related offences	7.7	12.2	10.6	12.3	6.9	12.9	9.8	4.9	9.3
Acts intended to cause injury	19.5	13.9	20.9	15.7	19.0	19.3	38.1	14.8	19.2
Sexual assault and related offences	8.8	16.0	15.5	13.5	13.4	12.0	13.9	7.4	12.4
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	1.7	1.4	1.8	3.3	2.6	3.9	2.2	4.4	2.0
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	1.2	0.7	0.4	2.4	0.8	0.7	0.5	2.0	1.0
Robbery, extortion and related offences	10.1	7.9	9.0	9.1	12.2	9.7	2.8	7.4	9.5
Unlawful entry with intent	9.5	10.6	13.1	11.7	13.8	8.2	4.7	6.9	10.9
Theft and related offences	4.6	5.9	3.7	4.9	3.3	5.2	1.4	13.3	4.4
Fraud, deception and related offences	3.0	3.7	4.0	2.0	1.7	4.7	0.8	2.0	3.0
Illicit drug offences	13.3	13.4	9.0	6.9	9.8	5.2	4.4	2.5	11.0
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	1.4	1.1	0.3	1.2	0.7	—	0.4	1.5	0.9
Property damage and environmental pollution	0.9	0.9	1.9	1.8	1.2	3.0	1.4	1.5	1.3
Public order offences	1.2	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.3	—	0.6	—	0.7
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	5.7	2.5	4.7	1.7	4.6	7.3	10.5	7.4	4.8
Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	10.3	9.3	3.7	12.6	7.7	7.5	8.6	13.3	8.5
Miscellaneous offences	1.1	0.1	1.0	0.2	2.1	—	—	—	0.9
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12.3	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) For a definition of most serious offence/charge see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 74–77.

(b) Offence data for Qld and WA are based on ASOC97. All other jurisdictions' data are based on ASOC08. See Technical Note.



### 3.3 IMPRISONMENT RATES(a)(b), states and territories

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
<b>Crude rate</b>									
Males(c)	384.4	198.3	313.6	297.6	476.5	263.5	1 210.1	134.5	328.6
Females(c)	30.7	13.2	24.4	18.7	40.6	21.9	58.4	16.7	24.7
Indigenous(d)	2 591.1	1 158.8	1 732.9	2 596.6	4 075.4	577.5	2 104.2	965.5	2 309.8
Non-Indigenous(d)	156.3	98.7	124.5	121.2	159.1	126.1	160.6	65.8	130.9
Ratio of crude rates(e)	16.6	11.7	13.9	21.4	25.6	4.6	13.1	14.7	17.6
<b>Age standardised rate</b>									
Indigenous(d)	2 153.1	968.4	1 427.2	2 072.4	3 328.7	470.7	1 699.6	759.6	1 890.7
Non-Indigenous(d)	163.9	100.8	128.5	133.4	163.0	146.1	152.5	63.2	135.6
Ratio of age standardised rates(e)	13.1	9.6	11.1	15.5	20.4	3.2	11.1	12.0	13.9
<b>All prisoners</b>	<b>204.1</b>	<b>104.0</b>	<b>167.9</b>	<b>155.1</b>	<b>260.5</b>	<b>139.5</b>	<b>657.6</b>	<b>74.8</b>	<b>174.7</b>

- (a) Rate per 100,000 adult population. See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 21–24 and 26–30.
- (b) For definition of age standardised imprisonment rates see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 31–32.
- (c) Calculated using preliminary ERP based on the 2006 Census of Population and Housing. See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 21–24.
- (d) Imprisonment rates are based on different sources. See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 21–24 and 26–30.
- (e) The ratio of Indigenous to non-Indigenous imprisonment rates is calculated by dividing the Indigenous rate by the non-Indigenous rate.

### 3.4 CRUDE IMPRISONMENT RATES(a)(b), states and territories, 1999–2009

	NSW(c)	Vic.(d)	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT(e)	Aust.
1999	169.8	81.2	178.9	120.4	219.2	96.3	455.5	81.2	149.5
2000	172.2	86.4	167.0	113.1	225.3	111.2	469.3	101.7	150.2
2001	176.2	91.5	165.0	120.2	224.7	98.4	523.1	88.3	153.0
2002	172.4	94.2	168.3	125.3	195.1	120.7	480.1	98.8	150.8
2003	173.2	98.6	181.5	123.6	198.6	126.4	523.2	100.9	155.5
2004	180.5	93.6	176.6	125.0	212.8	122.7	507.6	111.5	157.2
2005	188.6	93.9	175.9	122.6	229.1	149.6	566.6	108.9	162.4
2006	186.7	99.3	178.2	128.9	226.9	137.6	533.0	85.0	163.2
2007	193.2	104.3	173.7	143.9	241.1	140.7	596.4	90.5	169.1
2008	194.7	103.4	168.6	155.8	229.5	136.0	610.5	93.9	168.2
2009	204.1	104.0	167.9	155.1	260.5	139.5	657.6	74.8	174.7

- (a) Rate per 100,000 adult population. See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 21–24 and 26–30.
- (b) The 1999–2008 rates have been rebased. See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 22–23.
- (c) Excludes ACT prisoners held in NSW prisons prior to 2009. From 2009 all ACT prisoners were held in ACT prisons.
- (d) Data prior to 2006 include persons 17 years of age. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 19.
- (e) Includes ACT prisoners held in ACT as well as ACT prisoners held in NSW prisons. From 2009 all ACT prisoners were held in ACT prisons. From 2006, excludes breaches of periodic detention orders greater than three months. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 97.

### 3.5 PRISONERS, selected characteristics by states and territories, 1999–2009 .....

	<i>All prisoners</i>	<i>Mean age</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Indigenous</i>	<i>Known prior imprisonment(a)</i>	<i>Unsentenced</i>
	no.	years	%	%	%	%
NEW SOUTH WALES (b)						
1999	8 433	32.9	6.8	15.0	54.9	15.7
2000	8 547	33.1	6.7	14.6	51.5	17.4
2001	8 846	32.9	7.0	15.1	54.3	18.5
2002	8 759	33.0	6.9	17.2	54.4	18.7
2003	8 881	33.4	6.7	17.6	53.3	20.7
2004	9 329	33.8	7.1	16.9	55.8	20.1
2005	9 819	34.3	7.1	17.1	61.8	20.2
2006	9 822	34.4	7.5	19.9	57.3	21.7
2007	10 285	34.7	7.6	20.0	53.1	22.4
2008	10 510	34.9	7.4	20.4	52.4	23.4
2009	11 127	34.9	7.7	21.3	53.6	23.3
VICTORIA (c)(d)						
1999	2 923	34.6	6.1	4.2	62.8	14.3
2000	3 153	34.5	5.8	4.4	60.4	13.8
2001	3 391	34.4	7.3	4.4	63.0	14.7
2002	3 540	34.8	7.2	4.5	63.0	16.4
2003	3 763	35.2	7.5	4.6	52.9	18.5
2004	3 624	35.8	6.7	5.1	52.6	16.9
2005	3 692	36.0	7.0	6.0	52.2	17.6
2006	3 905	36.1	6.3	5.5	53.0	18.9
2007	4 183	36.4	6.1	5.7	53.3	19.3
2008	4 223	37.1	5.6	5.8	52.1	19.2
2009	4 350	37.5	6.5	5.5	49.8	18.7
QUEENSLAND (e)(f)						
1999	4 710	32.1	5.8	23.5	61.8	13.8
2000	4 482	32.6	5.8	23.4	65.2	15.6
2001	4 517	33.0	6.4	25.4	66.5	20.1
2002	4 721	33.5	6.1	25.1	65.2	20.5
2003	5 243	34.2	6.6	22.7	65.5	20.8
2004	5 240	34.5	6.9	22.8	64.1	22.2
2005	5 354	34.6	6.7	24.9	66.5	20.9
2006	5 562	34.7	7.2	27.1	65.3	22.2
2007	5 567	34.7	7.3	26.1	65.2	23.4
2008	5 544	34.9	7.7	27.0	58.3	22.3
2009	5 667	34.9	7.3	27.8	59.9	20.4

(a) Refers to prior adult imprisonment under sentence.

(b) Prior to 2009 the majority of full-time prisoners sentenced in the ACT were held in NSW prisons and included in data for NSW. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 96.

(c) Data for prior imprisonment prior to 2003 are over-enumerated. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 87.

(d) Data prior to 2006 include persons 17 years of age. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 19.

(e) Data prior to 2003 exclude community custody centres and work camps. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 90.

(f) Caution should be exercised in comparing prior imprisonment data prior to 2008 as data may no longer be comparable. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 89.

**3.5**

## PRISONERS, selected characteristics by states and territories, 1999–2009

*continued*

	<i>All prisoners</i>	<i>Mean age</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Indigenous</i>	<i>Known prior imprisonment(a)</i>	<i>Unsentenced</i>
	no.	years	%	%	%	%
SOUTH AUSTRALIA						
1999	1 396	32.4	4.9	18.3	65.3	20.0
2000	1 299	32.5	5.8	17.3	66.4	27.4
2001	1 389	32.7	5.7	16.6	62.3	34.3
2002	1 461	33.4	5.7	16.6	55.9	33.5
2003	1 455	33.8	7.1	16.8	60.1	32.4
2004	1 485	34.5	6.2	16.8	49.1	34.7
2005	1 473	34.9	6.4	18.0	54.7	33.7
2006	1 567	35.4	6.6	19.1	52.1	34.8
2007	1 771	35.5	6.8	22.0	51.4	35.0
2008	1 942	36.1	6.8	20.6	54.6	33.5
2009	1 960	36.2	6.2	22.9	58.1	35.5
WESTERN AUSTRALIA						
1999	3 048	31.7	7.4	34.0	51.6	12.7
2000	3 124	32.2	7.9	32.1	48.7	15.8
2001	3 170	32.6	6.9	33.8	50.1	17.6
2002	2 800	32.8	6.9	31.1	51.3	17.8
2003	2 899	33.2	7.5	35.1	53.0	15.6
2004	3 169	33.5	8.5	38.4	55.5	15.8
2005	3 482	33.7	7.7	40.4	56.0	15.9
2006	3 526	34.1	7.4	39.7	53.3	16.7
2007	3 847	34.0	8.5	42.9	55.2	19.0
2008	3 766	34.3	7.3	41.2	54.1	20.4
2009	4 419	34.5	7.7	40.5	53.7	16.3
TASMANIA						
1999	343	31.2	5.5	10.5	60.1	11.7
2000	390	31.0	5.1	10.0	57.7	20.5
2001	346	32.2	5.8	11.6	62.7	21.4
2002	427	31.9	7.0	14.3	60.7	20.8
2003	453	33.5	5.3	11.7	58.7	21.6
2004	447	34.0	4.9	13.2	67.8	15.2
2005	551	34.6	5.1	12.7	65.3	23.8
2006	512	34.9	7.4	10.4	66.8	24.8
2007	528	35.0	6.1	12.7	63.4	23.9
2008	515	35.8	8.5	12.6	66.4	20.8
2009	535	35.0	8.0	12.3	69.0	23.9

(a) Refers to prior adult imprisonment under sentence.

### 3.5 PRISONERS, selected characteristics by states and territories, 1999–2009

*continued*

	<i>All prisoners</i>	<i>Mean age</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Indigenous</i>	<i>Known prior imprisonment(a)</i>	<i>Unsentenced</i>
	no.	years	%	%	%	%
.....						
NORTHERN TERRITORY (b)						
1999	618	30.9	3.9	77.2	62.5	11.5
2000	635	31.3	2.4	60.8	59.1	27.2
2001	717	32.0	2.6	63.6	64.0	18.0
2002	667	32.4	3.1	68.8	73.9	15.3
2003	729	32.6	3.0	78.3	80.7	16.0
2004	717	33.0	2.2	77.5	81.7	18.1
2005	820	33.1	3.2	80.9	65.2	16.3
2006	792	33.6	4.4	82.4	68.1	22.3
2007	906	33.2	4.5	84.0	68.5	17.4
2008	953	34.0	4.8	83.2	69.5	24.2
2009	1 056	33.8	4.3	81.8	67.2	22.4
.....						
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY (EXCLUDING ACT PRISONERS HELD IN NSW PRISONS) (c)						
1999	67	31.4	10.4	10.4	14.9	61.2
2000	84	31.0	11.9	9.5	39.3	65.5
2001	82	29.7	6.1	14.6	43.9	64.6
2002	117	29.8	6.8	11.1	35.9	41.0
2003	132	31.2	4.5	3.0	28.8	42.4
2004	160	30.9	7.5	6.3	15.6	46.9
2005	162	32.6	4.9	10.5	63.0	38.9
2006	104	34.5	6.7	12.5	42.3	42.3
2007	137	34.7	8.8	8.0	56.2	38.7
2008	162	32.6	10.5	9.9	68.5	49.4
2009	203	33.5	11.3	12.8	76.4	26.1
.....						
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY PRISONERS HELD IN NSW PRISONS (d)						
1999	125	33.1	5.6	1.0	51.2	—
2000	155	32.0	8.4	6.5	43.2	5.2
2001	129	31.8	9.3	6.2	58.9	—
2002	123	32.5	5.7	9.8	61.0	—
2003	117	33.8	5.1	10.3	77.8	—
2004	118	32.5	5.9	13.6	86.4	—
2005	113	32.9	4.4	8.0	85.8	—
2006	114	33.4	7.0	11.4	68.4	—
2007	100	35.2	4.0	9.0	59.0	—
2008	88	35.5	8.0	11.4	56.8	—
2009	..	..	..	..	..	..

.. not applicable

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Refers to prior adult imprisonment under sentence.

(b) Prior imprisonment data prior to 2005 should be used with caution. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 95.

(c) In 2002, and in 2006, the ACT changed the way it counts periodic detainees. See Explanatory Notes paragraph 97.

(d) Data are a subset of the NSW figures, and are not separately counted in the Australian totals. Prior to 2009 the majority of full-time prisoners sentenced in the ACT were held in NSW prisons. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 96.

**3.5****PRISONERS, selected characteristics by states and territories, 1999–2009***continued*

	<i>All prisoners</i>	<i>Mean age</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Indigenous</i>	<i>Known prior imprisonment(a)</i>	<i>Unsentenced</i>
	no.	years	%	%	%	%
.....						
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY TOTAL (b)						
1999	192	32.3	7.3	4.2	38.5	21.4
2000	239	31.5	9.6	7.5	41.8	26.4
2001	211	30.8	8.1	9.5	53.1	25.1
2002	240	31.2	6.3	10.4	48.8	20.0
2003	249	32.5	4.8	6.4	51.8	22.5
2004	278	31.6	6.8	9.4	45.7	27.0
2005	275	32.7	4.7	9.5	72.4	22.9
2006	218	33.9	6.9	11.9	56.0	20.2
2007	237	34.9	6.8	8.4	57.4	22.4
2008	250	34.0	9.6	10.4	64.4	32.0
2009	203	33.5	11.3	12.8	76.4	26.1

.....						
AUSTRALIA (c)(d)						
1999	21 538	32.7	6.3	20.0	57.9	14.9
2000	21 714	32.9	6.4	18.9	56.4	17.4
2001	22 458	33.0	6.7	19.8	58.4	19.3
2002	22 492	33.4	6.6	20.0	58.3	19.6
2003	23 555	33.8	6.8	20.5	57.2	20.5
2004	24 171	34.2	6.9	20.9	57.5	20.4
2005	25 353	34.5	6.8	22.3	60.4	20.2
2006	25 790	34.7	7.1	23.6	58.0	21.6
2007	27 224	34.9	7.3	24.4	56.5	22.4
2008	27 615	33.4	7.1	24.3	54.9	23.0
2009	29 317	35.3	7.2	25.2	55.5	21.8

(a) Refers to prior adult imprisonment under sentence.

(b) All ACT prisoners, including those held in NSW prisons prior to 2009. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 96.

(c) Caution should be exercised in comparing prior imprisonment data prior to 2008 as data may no longer be comparable. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 89.

(d) Refer to state/territory changes. See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 79–97.

**3.6****PRISONERS, states and territories by sex and age**

Age group (years)	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
MALES									
Under 18	—	—	36	—	—	—	—	—	36
18	104	11	82	14	39	9	11	3	273
19	251	34	145	36	94	14	31	7	612
20–24	1 778	480	916	272	669	96	174	33	4 418
25–29	1 986	726	950	310	797	80	199	40	5 088
30–34	1 663	706	839	303	790	82	187	32	4 602
35–39	1 573	651	779	320	646	72	151	22	4 214
40–44	1 140	493	538	209	409	50	109	15	2 963
45–49	734	349	379	149	263	25	77	11	1 987
50–54	453	263	244	97	154	24	46	9	1 290
55–59	271	142	127	54	99	13	15	3	724
60–64	161	100	110	33	69	11	5	3	492
65 and over	159	113	106	41	49	16	6	3	493
<b>Total</b>	<b>10 273</b>	<b>4 068</b>	<b>5 251</b>	<b>1 838</b>	<b>4 078</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>1 011</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>27 192</b>
Mean age	34.8	37.5	34.9	36.2	34.5	35.2	33.8	33.3	35.2
Median age	33.0	35.6	32.8	34.7	32.6	33.3	32.5	30.9	33.4
FEMALES									
Under 18	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
18	6	—	3	—	—	3	—	—	12
19	13	—	7	3	9	—	3	—	35
20–24	102	28	59	9	53	6	6	3	266
25–29	168	49	87	22	67	12	7	4	416
30–34	149	55	83	22	60	8	8	5	390
35–39	151	46	60	28	62	5	10	—	362
40–44	93	42	52	16	42	5	3	3	256
45–49	92	23	25	11	27	—	4	3	185
50–54	40	19	19	5	11	3	3	—	100
55–59	21	9	12	3	6	—	—	—	51
60–64	10	8	6	3	3	—	—	—	30
65 and over	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>854</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2 115</b>
Mean age	35.8	37.3	34.7	36.0	34.2	33.3	33.7	34.4	35.4
Median age	34.5	36.2	33.0	35.4	33.3	31.2	33.5	33.8	34.2
PERSONS									
Under 18	—	—	39	—	—	—	—	—	39
18	110	11	85	14	39	12	11	3	285
19	264	34	152	39	103	14	34	7	647
20–24	1 880	508	975	281	722	102	180	36	4 684
25–29	2 154	775	1 037	332	864	92	206	44	5 504
30–34	1 812	761	922	325	850	90	195	37	4 992
35–39	1 724	697	839	348	708	77	161	22	4 576
40–44	1 233	535	590	225	451	55	112	18	3 219
45–49	826	372	404	160	290	25	81	14	2 172
50–54	493	282	263	102	165	27	49	9	1 390
55–59	292	151	139	57	105	13	15	3	775
60–64	171	108	116	36	72	11	5	3	522
65 and over	168	113	106	41	49	16	6	3	502
<b>Total</b>	<b>11 127</b>	<b>4 347</b>	<b>5 667</b>	<b>1 960</b>	<b>4 418</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>1 055</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>29 307</b>
Mean age	34.9	37.5	34.9	36.2	34.5	35.0	33.8	33.5	35.3
Median age	33.1	35.6	32.8	34.8	32.7	33.1	32.6	31.1	33.4

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

### 3.7 PRISONERS, states and territories by country of birth .....

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
Australia	8 339	3 251	4 931	1 647	3 771	520	1 014	169	23 642
New Zealand	358	84	218	22	111	6	6	—	805
Vietnam	340	246	50	42	57	—	6	4	745
United Kingdom and Ireland(a)	166	94	102	77	161	5	3	—	608
Lebanon	178	50	3	3	3	—	—	—	237
Former Yugoslavia(b)	75	62	20	5	18	—	—	—	180
China (excludes SARS and Taiwan)	112	28	10	—	9	—	3	—	162
Fiji	90	10	21	3	—	—	3	—	127
Philippines	55	16	22	3	4	—	—	—	100
Samoa	63	6	27	—	3	—	—	—	99
Italy	27	31	4	11	15	—	—	—	88
Turkey	33	47	—	—	—	—	—	—	80
Iraq	57	9	3	—	7	—	—	—	76
Sudan	27	25	12	6	9	—	3	—	82
Malaysia	33	13	15	—	15	—	—	3	79
Indonesia	25	5	—	—	37	—	5	—	72
Romania	19	18	17	4	14	—	—	—	72
South Africa	26	4	13	3	16	3	—	3	68
Greece	19	34	4	—	3	—	—	—	60
Thailand	34	14	6	3	4	—	—	—	61
Germany	24	11	16	5	8	—	—	—	64
India	28	14	4	—	10	3	—	—	59
Cambodia	37	14	—	4	4	—	—	—	59
Tonga	45	5	6	—	—	—	—	—	56
Hong Kong	36	8	5	—	7	—	—	—	56
United States of America	27	5	14	3	5	—	—	—	54
Papua New Guinea	13	3	25	3	—	—	3	—	47
Singapore	16	13	4	—	6	—	—	—	39
Portugal	20	4	—	—	8	—	—	—	32
Afghanistan	16	8	—	3	4	—	—	3	34
Other	789	218	113	111	108	—	8	17	1 364
<b>Total</b>	<b>11 127</b>	<b>4 350</b>	<b>5 665</b>	<b>1 958</b>	<b>4 417</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>1 054</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>29 307</b>

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Includes United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Ireland.

(b) Comprises Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, and Montenegro.

### 3.8 PRISONERS, states and territories by prior imprisonment(a)

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
NUMBER									
<b>Males</b>									
Prior imprisonment	5 593	2 055	3 196	1 080	2 212	342	691	139	15 308
No prior imprisonment	4 680	2 013	2 055	759	1 866	150	320	41	11 884
<i>Total</i>	<i>10 273</i>	<i>4 068</i>	<i>5 251</i>	<i>1 839</i>	<i>4 078</i>	<i>492</i>	<i>1 011</i>	<i>180</i>	<i>27 192</i>
<b>Females</b>									
Prior imprisonment	371	110	199	58	161	27	19	16	961
No prior imprisonment	483	172	217	63	180	16	26	7	1 164
<i>Total</i>	<i>854</i>	<i>282</i>	<i>416</i>	<i>121</i>	<i>341</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>2 125</i>
<b>Persons</b>									
Prior imprisonment	5 964	2 165	3 395	1 138	2 373	369	710	155	16 269
No prior imprisonment	5 163	2 185	2 272	822	2 046	166	346	48	13 048
<i>Total</i>	<i>11 127</i>	<i>4 350</i>	<i>5 667</i>	<i>1 960</i>	<i>4 419</i>	<i>535</i>	<i>1 056</i>	<i>203</i>	<i>29 317</i>
PROPORTIONS (%)									
<b>Males</b>									
Prior imprisonment	54.4	50.5	60.9	58.7	54.2	69.5	68.3	77.2	56.3
No prior imprisonment	45.6	49.5	39.1	41.3	45.8	30.5	31.7	22.8	43.7
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
<b>Females</b>									
Prior imprisonment	43.4	39.0	47.8	47.9	47.2	62.8	42.2	69.6	45.2
No prior imprisonment	56.6	61.0	52.2	52.1	52.8	37.2	57.8	30.4	54.8
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
<b>Persons</b>									
Prior imprisonment	53.6	49.8	59.9	58.1	53.7	69.0	67.2	76.4	55.5
No prior imprisonment	46.4	50.2	40.1	41.9	46.3	31.0	32.8	23.6	44.5
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>

(a) Refers to prior adult imprisonment under sentence.



**3.9****SENTENCED PRISONERS, states and territories by sentence length** .....

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
AGGREGATE SENTENCE LENGTH (a)(b)									
Periodic detention	792	—	—	—	—	—	—	49	841
Under 3 months	160	164	116	31	18	40	100	6	635
3 & under 6 months	427	238	210	34	15	44	163	12	1 143
6 & under 12 months	702	197	303	84	355	61	85	15	1 802
1 & under 2 years	1 698	560	747	117	984	64	83	14	4 267
2 & under 5 years	1 730	884	1 344	306	1 149	81	158	30	5 682
5 & under 10 years	1 679	903	986	319	696	45	132	13	4 773
10 & under 15 years	569	236	333	123	167	10	48	—	1 486
15 & under 20 years	293	181	94	61	60	13	4	—	706
20 years & over	335	120	38	28	20	28	4	4	577
Life(c)	99	48	313	162	195	21	36	3	877
Other(d)	51	4	29	—	41	—	6	—	131
<b>Total</b>	<b>8 535</b>	<b>3 535</b>	<b>4 513</b>	<b>1 265</b>	<b>3 700</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>819</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>22 920</b>
Mean (months)(e)	63.2	64.1	53.2	73.3	46.0	56.6	37.7	43.8	57.9
Median (months)(e)	36.0	44.0	36.0	55.1	30.0	21.2	18.0	25.0	36.0

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
EXPECTED TIME TO SERVE (f)(b)									
Periodic detention	792	—	—	—	—	—	—	49	841
Under 3 months	200	136	366	37	28	34	119	—	920
3 & under 6 months	762	359	550	54	384	65	161	11	2 346
6 & under 12 months	1 511	514	804	142	619	59	117	28	3 794
1 & under 2 years	1 441	639	852	192	946	59	100	25	4 254
2 & under 5 years	1 891	996	846	364	879	82	160	21	5 239
5 & under 10 years	1 105	517	559	214	472	45	105	7	3 024
10 & under 15 years	391	214	160	70	101	7	12	3	958
15 & under 20 years	230	100	25	22	30	20	7	—	434
20 years & over	137	44	9	8	5	22	31	—	256
Life(c)	23	10	313	162	195	14	—	3	720
Other(d)	51	4	29	—	41	—	6	—	131
<b>Total</b>	<b>8 534</b>	<b>3 533</b>	<b>4 513</b>	<b>1 265</b>	<b>3 700</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>818</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>22 917</b>
Mean (months)(e)	45.4	47.7	33.3	48.1	34.0	54.4	36.6	30.4	41.4
Median (months)(e)	23.6	27.0	16.5	33.0	20.0	18.3	12.0	15.8	21.5

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) For information on aggregate sentence length see Explanatory Notes, paragraph 45.

(b) States and territories vary in the degree to which they impose indeterminate sentences, which can impact on the mean and median aggregate sentence lengths and expected times to serve. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 70.

(c) Includes indeterminate life and life with minimum for aggregate sentence length, and indeterminate life for expected time to serve.

(d) Refers to other indeterminate sentences. See Glossary for further information.

(e) Prisoners with indeterminate, life with a minimum and periodic detention sentences are excluded from the aggregate sentence length calculations. For expected time to serve, prisoners with indeterminate and periodic detention sentences are excluded. See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 71–73 and Glossary.

(f) For information on expected time to serve see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 46–69.

**3.10** SENTENCING CHARACTERISTICS, state and territories, 1999–2009

	AGGREGATE SENTENCE LENGTH(a)					SENTENCED IN LAST 12 MONTHS(b)(c)	TOTAL SENTENCED PRISONERS(c)
	Under 1 year	1 & under 5 years	5 & under 10 years	10 years & over	Median		
	%	%	%	%	years	%	no.
NEW SOUTH WALES (d)							
1999	19.8	32.6	18.3	11.1	3.0	na	7 112
2000	17.3	32.3	20.3	11.4	3.3	58.1	7 057
2001	16.1	35.8	20.1	11.3	3.0	55.8	7 206
2002	16.1	37.3	20.1	12.0	3.2	54.9	7 117
2003	14.1	38.5	20.8	12.6	3.4	53.0	7 044
2004	14.3	38.6	21.5	12.6	3.5	51.8	7 458
2005	14.2	38.3	20.8	13.0	3.5	51.0	7 832
2006	14.0	39.2	20.8	13.9	3.4	49.4	7 693
2007	15.2	38.6	20.0	14.0	3.0	53.7	7 985
2008	15.8	38.8	20.0	14.2	3.0	52.0	8 049
2009	15.1	40.2	19.7	14.0	3.0	54.4	8 535
VICTORIA (e)							
1999	30.2	36.7	19.1	12.4	2.3	na	2 506
2000	27.5	39.8	19.0	12.1	2.5	67.4	2 717
2001	25.3	41.2	19.8	12.0	2.8	66.0	2 892
2002	23.5	42.1	21.0	11.9	3.0	64.5	2 961
2003	21.5	43.7	21.2	12.1	3.0	65.2	3 068
2004	18.8	44.7	21.6	13.4	3.0	64.1	3 010
2005	18.0	43.4	23.2	14.0	3.3	61.7	3 043
2006	19.4	41.4	23.5	14.1	3.2	61.3	3 168
2007	19.1	40.8	24.4	14.3	3.3	63.8	3 375
2008	16.9	41.5	25.8	14.4	3.8	59.0	3 413
2009	16.9	40.8	25.5	15.2	3.7	61.8	3 535
QUEENSLAND							
1999	18.9	35.3	25.4	13.6	3.8	na	4 061
2000	16.1	35.1	26.6	13.7	4.0	47.2	3 781
2001	14.1	36.7	26.0	14.0	4.0	42.5	3 610
2002	20.6	32.4	25.0	13.6	3.6	40.5	3 755
2003	19.4	34.2	25.8	12.6	3.5	39.5	4 153
2004	21.5	31.8	26.2	12.4	3.5	39.4	4 079
2005	23.6	32.8	23.9	12.0	3.0	47.2	4 235
2006	26.6	32.9	22.0	11.2	2.5	51.0	4 330
2007	18.0	41.2	22.2	10.8	3.0	56.0	4 265
2008	15.6	44.5	21.4	10.9	3.0	52.3	4 308
2009	13.9	46.3	21.9	10.3	3.0	48.7	4 513

na not available

(a) Excludes periodic detention and indeterminate sentences.

(b) For definition refer to Glossary.

(c) Includes periodic detainees and prisoners with indeterminate sentences.

(d) Prior to 2009 the majority of full-time prisoners sentenced in the ACT were held in NSW prisons and included in data for NSW. From 2009 all ACT prisoners were held in ACT prisons. See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 96.

(e) Data prior to 2006 includes persons 17 years of age. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 86.

**3.10****SENTENCING CHARACTERISTICS, state and territories, 1999–2009** *continued* ..

	AGGREGATE SENTENCE LENGTH(a)					SENTENCED IN LAST 12 MONTHS(b)(c)	TOTAL SENTENCED PRISONERS(c)
	<i>Under 1 year</i>	<i>1 &amp; under 5 years</i>	<i>5 &amp; under 10 years</i>	<i>10 years &amp; over</i>	<i>Median</i>		
	%	%	%	%	years	%	no.
SOUTH AUSTRALIA							
1999	19.8	37.5	24.7	8.6	3.5	na	1 117
2000	9.1	40.7	28.4	10.4	4.2	47.5	943
2001	12.2	36.8	27.3	11.5	4.1	47.8	913
2002	9.4	39.8	26.8	11.8	4.1	44.9	971
2003	8.4	38.6	27.6	13.2	4.5	43.2	983
2004	7.9	31.8	26.2	12.4	5.0	40.5	970
2005	7.0	34.2	27.7	17.0	5.0	37.3	977
2006	8.5	31.8	26.0	18.8	5.1	38.7	1 021
2007	9.6	32.2	27.2	16.9	5.0	41.1	1 152
2008	11.3	36.6	24.3	15.5	4.3	41.0	1 292
2009	11.2	33.6	25.4	16.9	4.8	39.7	1 256
WESTERN AUSTRALIA							
1999	16.1	43.3	22.4	11.3	3.0	na	2 660
2000	13.9	43.0	22.8	12.9	3.5	49.4	2 630
2001	12.2	43.4	22.0	14.3	3.5	46.2	2 613
2002	9.7	41.6	24.0	16.1	4.0	43.4	2 302
2003	9.3	41.9	24.2	16.1	4.0	45.0	2 447
2004	13.8	45.0	19.8	13.7	3.0	44.1	2 668
2005	10.6	54.5	16.6	10.8	2.7	46.0	2 928
2006	8.7	54.8	18.2	10.6	3.0	40.3	2 938
2007	10.4	54.5	18.4	9.4	2.7	43.5	3 117
2008	8.1	56.0	19.1	9.1	2.8	39.9	2 998
2009	10.5	57.6	18.8	6.7	2.5	47.5	3 700
TASMANIA							
1999	40.6	32.0	10.2	6.9	1.0	na	303
2000	31.3	42.9	9.0	7.4	1.8	66.1	310
2001	29.0	39.4	10.3	11.4	1.9	54.0	272
2002	33.9	40.2	9.8	8.6	1.4	65.1	338
2003	30.7	41.7	11.0	10.1	1.7	58.9	355
2004	31.1	42.0	11.6	8.9	1.8	62.5	379
2005	31.4	43.1	11.0	9.0	1.8	60.7	420
2006	31.9	37.9	12.7	12.7	2.3	52.2	385
2007	28.6	40.0	12.9	13.7	2.5	54.0	402
2008	27.5	40.4	14.2	13.0	2.0	52.5	408
2009	35.6	35.6	11.1	12.5	1.8	59.2	407

na not available

(a) Excludes periodic detention and indeterminate sentences.

(b) For definition refer to Glossary.

(c) Includes periodic detainees and prisoners with indeterminate sentences.

**3.10** SENTENCING CHARACTERISTICS, state and territories, 1999–2009 *continued* ..

	AGGREGATE SENTENCE LENGTH(a)					SENTENCED IN LAST 12 MONTHS(b)(c)	TOTAL SENTENCED PRISONERS(c)
	Under 1 year	1 & under 5 years	5 & under 10 years	10 years & over	Median		
	%	%	%	%	years	%	no.
.....							
NORTHERN TERRITORY							
1999	36.7	43.2	9.7	5.3	1.3	na	547
2000	31.4	43.0	12.8	6.3	1.5	64.1	462
2001	32.5	45.6	11.9	4.1	1.7	69.4	588
2002	28.6	46.9	13.5	4.8	1.9	62.8	565
2003	36.3	39.7	13.4	4.4	1.4	66.3	612
2004	36.6	37.8	12.8	6.2	1.5	64.6	587
2005	42.1	33.8	12.8	5.5	1.3	67.3	686
2006	38.7	33.2	14.5	7.2	1.7	61.0	615
2007	44.0	30.3	13.2	7.0	1.3	66.8	748
2008	41.1	31.0	15.4	7.1	1.6	59.4	722
2009	42.5	29.4	16.1	6.8	1.5	63.2	819
.....							
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY PRISONERS HELD IN NSW PRISONS (d)							
1999	6.4	32.8	37.6	19.2	5.9	na	125
2000	10.9	38.1	31.3	17.0	4.5	48.3	147
2001	4.7	48.9	28.7	13.2	4.0	48.0	129
2002	7.3	41.4	31.7	16.2	4.8	41.5	123
2003	4.3	41.9	35.9	14.5	5.0	47.9	117
2004	5.9	44.1	32.2	14.4	4.4	41.5	118
2005	18.6	37.2	24.8	15.0	3.6	47.8	113
2006	14.0	47.4	22.8	12.3	3.1	49.1	114
2007	16.0	52.0	18.0	11.0	2.7	54.0	100
2008	20.0	44.7	23.5	8.2	3.3	48.8	88
2009	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
.....							
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY (e)							
1999	5.3	27.2	31.1	15.9	5.9	na	151
2000	9.1	31.8	26.1	14.2	4.5	48.3	176
2001	3.8	39.9	23.4	10.8	4.0	48.0	158
2002	4.7	26.6	20.3	10.4	4.8	41.5	192
2003	2.6	25.4	21.8	8.8	5.0	47.9	193
2004	3.4	25.6	18.7	8.4	4.4	41.5	203
2005	10.8	19.3	13.2	8.0	3.6	47.8	212
2006	10.3	33.9	14.9	8.0	3.1	49.1	174
2007	13.0	31.0	10.9	6.0	2.7	54.0	184
2008	15.3	25.9	11.8	5.9	3.3	48.8	170
2009	22.0	29.3	8.7	5.3	2.1	74.0	150

.. not applicable

na not available

(a) Excludes periodic detention and indeterminate sentences.

(b) For definition refer to Glossary.

(c) Includes periodic detainees and prisoners with indeterminate sentences.

(d) Data are a subset of the NSW figures, and are not separately counted in the Australian totals. Prior to 2009 the majority of full-time prisoners sentenced in the ACT were held in NSW prisons. Total sentenced prisoners excludes periodic detainees. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 96.

(e) All ACT prisoners, including those held in NSW prisons prior to 2009. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 96.

### 3.10 SENTENCING CHARACTERISTICS, state and territories, 1999–2009 *continued* ..

AGGREGATE SENTENCE LENGTH(a)						SENTENCED IN LAST 12 MONTHS(b)(c)	TOTAL SENTENCED PRISONERS(c)
	<i>Under 1 year</i>	<i>1 &amp; under 5 years</i>	<i>5 &amp; under 10 years</i>	<i>10 years &amp; over</i>	<i>Median</i>		
	%	%	%	%	years	%	no.
.....							
AUSTRALIA							
1999	21.3	35.8	20.6	11.5	3.0	na	18 332
2000	18.3	36.4	21.8	11.9	3.3	55.7	17 929
2001	17.1	38.3	21.4	12.2	3.3	53.5	18 123
2002	17.7	38.0	21.7	12.5	3.3	52.0	18 078
2003	16.6	38.8	22.2	12.6	3.3	50.9	18 738
2004	17.2	38.7	22.1	12.7	3.3	50.1	19 236
2005	17.1	39.8	21.0	12.4	3.0	51.3	20 220
2006	17.6	39.8	21.0	12.9	3.0	50.2	20 210
2007	16.6	41.1	20.8	12.6	3.0	54.2	21 128
2008	15.6	42.3	21.0	12.6	3.0	51.3	21 275
2009	15.6	43.4	20.8	12.1	3.0	53.0	22 915

na not available

(a) Excludes periodic detention and indeterminate sentences.

(b) For definition refer to Glossary.

(c) Includes periodic detainees and prisoners with indeterminate sentences.

**3.11** UNSENTENCED PRISONERS, states and territories by time on remand .....

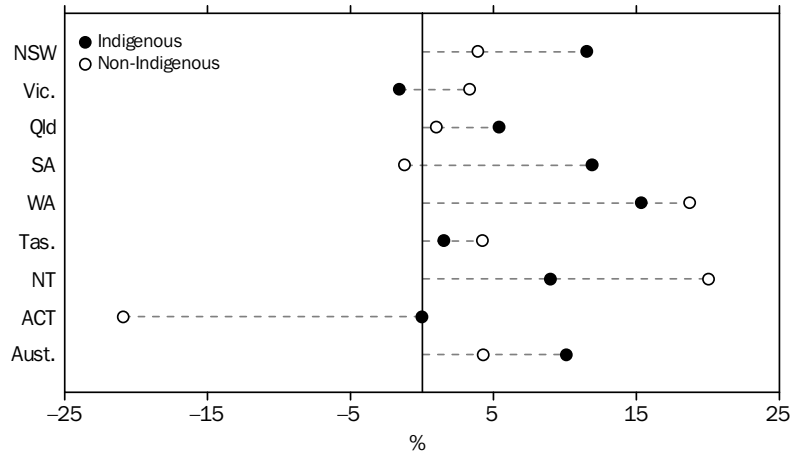
	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
.....									
NUMBER									
Under 1 month	579	168	218	217	274	51	75	16	1 598
1 and under 3 months	632	240	268	187	229	50	75	10	1 691
3 and under 6 months	495	146	263	134	143	22	42	15	1 260
6 and under 12 months	515	151	245	95	58	5	39	9	1 117
1 year and over	371	110	160	62	15	—	6	3	727
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 592</b>	<b>815</b>	<b>1 154</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>719</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>6 393</b>
Mean (months)	5.9	5.9	6.4	4.5	2.7	2.0	3.2	4.7	5.3
Median (months)	3.4	3.0	3.9	2.3	1.7	1.4	2.0	3.1	2.9
90th Percentile (months)	14.4	14.9	14.8	11.1	6.1	4.9	7.9	10.7	12.9
.....									
PROPORTIONS (%)									
Under 1 month	22.3	20.6	18.9	31.2	38.1	39.8	31.6	30.2	25.0
1 and under 3 months	24.4	29.4	23.2	26.9	31.8	39.1	31.6	18.9	26.5
3 and under 6 months	19.1	17.9	22.8	19.3	19.9	17.2	17.7	28.3	19.7
6 and under 12 months	19.9	18.5	21.2	13.7	8.1	3.9	16.5	17.0	17.5
1 year and over	14.3	13.5	13.9	8.9	2.1	—	2.5	5.7	11.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
.....									
— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)									

INDIGENOUS PRISONERS

Caution should be exercised when interpreting movements in Indigenous prisoner numbers as movements may be impacted by the willingness of Indigenous people to self identify.

The number of prisoners who were Indigenous was 7,386 at 30 June 2009. This represented a quarter (25%) of the total prisoner population, compared with 24% at 30 June 2008. Indigenous prisoner numbers increased by 10% between 2008 and 2009.

CHANGE IN PRISONER NUMBERS BY INDIGENOUS STATUS, between 30 June 2008 and 30 June 2009, states and territories



The proportion of prisoners who were Indigenous varied across states and territories. The Indigenous prisoner population in the Northern Territory comprised 82% of the total prisoner population for that territory, while Victoria had the lowest proportion of prisoners who were Indigenous (6%).

IMPRISONMENT RATES

The following imprisonment rates are aged standardised. When comparing rates of imprisonment for Indigenous and non-Indigenous prisoners, it is preferable to use age standardised rates (for further information see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 31–32).

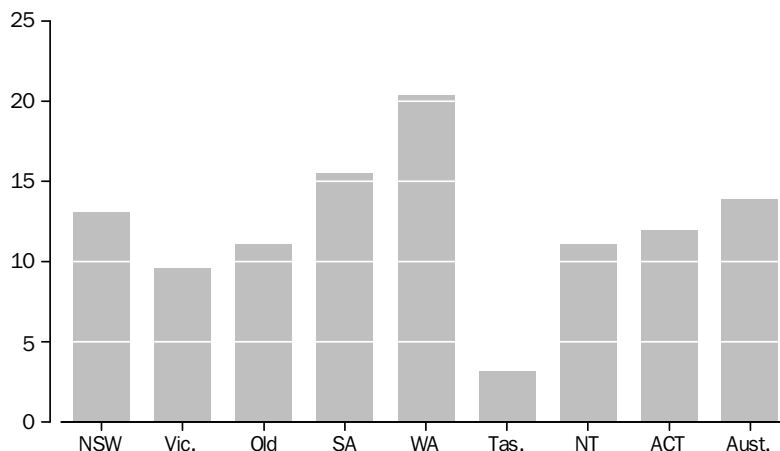
The age standardised imprisonment rate for Indigenous prisoners at 30 June 2009 was 1,891 Indigenous prisoners per 100,000 adult Indigenous population. The equivalent rate for non-Indigenous prisoners was 136 non-Indigenous prisoners per 100,000 adult non-Indigenous population.

The rate of imprisonment for Indigenous prisoners was 14 times higher than the rate for non-Indigenous prisoners at 30 June 2009. In 2008 this difference was 13 times higher for Indigenous prisoners. The highest ratio of Indigenous to non-Indigenous imprisonment rates in Australia was in Western Australia (20 times higher for Indigenous prisoners). Tasmania had the lowest ratio (three times higher for Indigenous prisoners).

IMPRISONMENT RATES

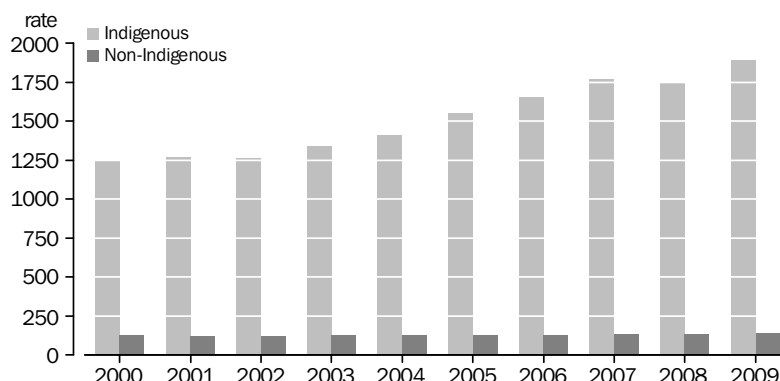
*continued*

RATIO OF INDIGENOUS TO NON-INDIGENOUS AGE STANDARDISED RATES OF IMPRISONMENT



Between 2000 and 2009, Indigenous imprisonment rates increased from 1,248 to 1,891 Indigenous prisoners per 100,000 adult Indigenous population. In contrast, the rate for non-Indigenous prisoners increased from 130 to 136 per 100,000 adult non-Indigenous population.

AGE STANDARDISED IMPRISONMENT RATES (a), Indigenous status



(a) Rate per 100,000 adult population. For definition of age standardised rates, see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 31–32.

SEX

Indigenous males comprised 92% (6,783) of the Indigenous prisoner population at 30 June 2009, similar to non-Indigenous males who accounted for 93% of the non-Indigenous prisoner population. The number of Indigenous male prisoners increased by 10% (644) while the number of non-Indigenous male prisoners increased by 4% (774) from 30 June 2008. The number of Indigenous female prisoners (603) increased by 6% (34) from 30 June 2008, compared with a 9% (119) increase in the non-Indigenous female prisoner population.

AGE

The median age of Indigenous prisoners in Australian prisons at 30 June 2009 was 30.7 years: males had a median age of 30.6 years and females 31.7 years. In comparison, the median age of male and female non-Indigenous prisoners was older at 34.5 and 35.5 years respectively.



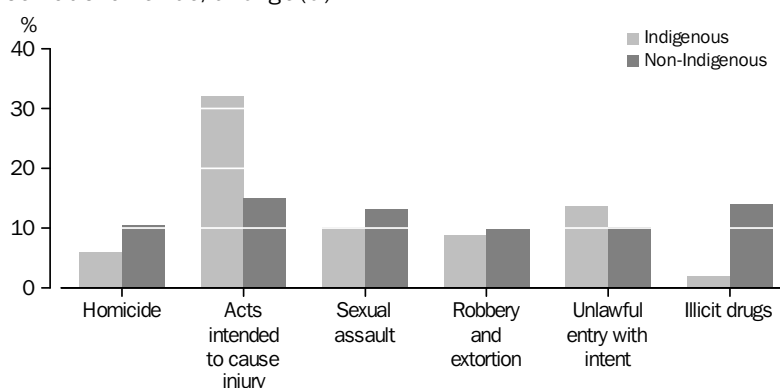
AGE *continued*

The highest proportion of Indigenous prisoners (21%) was in the 25-29 year age group, which was also the age group with the highest proportion of non-Indigenous prisoners (18%).

MOST SERIOUS OFFENCE/CHARGE

Nearly a third (32% or 2,365) of all Indigenous prisoners were sentenced/charged for acts intended to cause injury, and a further 14% (1,010) for unlawful entry with intent. Acts intended to cause injury was also the offence category that accounted for the highest proportion of non-Indigenous prisoners (15% or 3,203), followed by illicit drug offences (14% or 2,987).

PROPORTION OF PRISONERS, Indigenous status by selected most serious offence/charge(a)



(a) Offence data are based on ASOC08, with the exception of data from Qld and WA which are based on ASOC97. See Technical Note.

PRIOR IMPRISONMENT

There were proportionally more Indigenous prisoners than non-Indigenous prisoners with prior imprisonment. Nearly three in four (74%) Indigenous prisoners had a prior adult imprisonment under sentence, compared with one in two (50%) for the non-Indigenous prisoner population.

SENTENCED PRISONERS

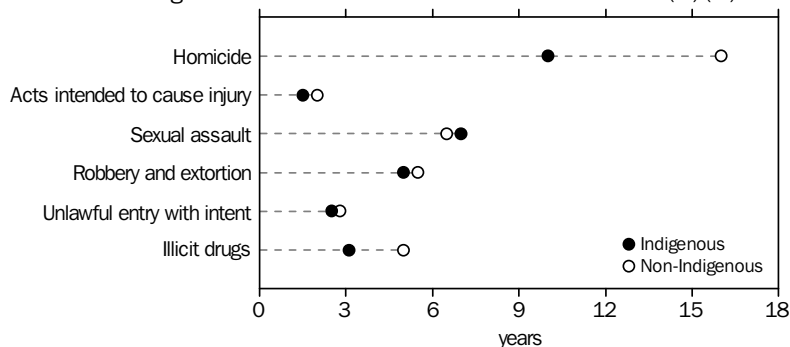
There were 5,811 sentenced Indigenous prisoners at 30 June 2009, a 13% increase since 30 June 2008, compared with a 6% increase in the number of sentenced non-Indigenous prisoners (from 16,062 to 16,986).

*Aggregate sentence length*

Excluding prisoners with indeterminate, life with a minimum and periodic detention sentences, the median aggregate sentence length for Indigenous prisoners was 2 years (24 months), while for non-Indigenous prisoners it was 3.5 years (42 months). This represented no change from 30 June 2008 for both the Indigenous and non-Indigenous prisoner populations.

*Aggregate sentence length  
continued*

SENTENCED PRISONERS, Indigenous status by median aggregate sentence length and selected most serious offence(a)(b)



(a) Prisoners with indeterminate, life with a minimum and periodic detention sentences are excluded from the aggregate sentence length calculations.  
 (b) Offence data are based on ASOC08, with the exception of data from Qld and WA which are based on ASOC97. See Technical Note.

*Expected time to serve*

Expected time to serve takes into account the earliest date of release for sentenced prisoners. Excluding prisoners with indeterminate, life without a minimum, and periodic detention sentences, the median expected time to serve for sentenced Indigenous prisoners was 1.3 years (15 months). The median expected time to serve was highest for the offence category of homicide (8.1 years or 98 months) followed by sexual assault (5 years or 60 months). For the non-Indigenous population the median expected time to serve was 2 years (24 months), with a median of 12 years (144 months) for the offence category of homicide.

UNSENTENCED PRISONERS

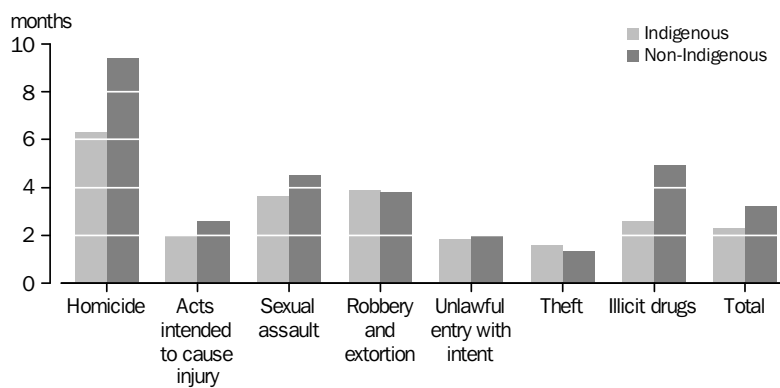
The proportion of prisoners who were unsentenced was the same for both the Indigenous and non-Indigenous prisoner populations (21%). This was a decrease from the proportions of Indigenous and non-Indigenous unsentenced prisoners at 30 June 2008 (23% and 22% respectively).

*Time on remand*

Time on remand is influenced by a number of factors, particularly the time it takes for a case to come before a court. For information about interpreting median time on remand based on a census 'snapshot' see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 71–73. The median number of months spent on remand by unsentenced Indigenous prisoners in custody at 30 June 2009 was 2.3 months, no change from 30 June 2008. For unsentenced non-Indigenous prisoners the median number of months spent on remand was 3.2 months, an increase from the 3 months at 30 June 2008.

*Time on remand  
continued*

UNSENTENCED PRISONERS, median time on remand, selected most serious charge by Indigenous status(a)



(a) Offence data are based on ASOC08, with the exception of data from Qld and WA which are based on ASOC97. See Technical Note.

## 4.1 PRISONERS, Indigenous status and sex by most serious offence/charge(a)(b) ...

	INDIGENOUS		NON-INDIGENOUS		PERSONS (c)	
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
MALES						
Homicide and related offences	394	5.8	2 089	10.4	2 501	9.2
Acts intended to cause injury	2 181	32.2	3 056	15.2	5 303	19.5
Sexual assault and related offences	743	11.0	2 805	14.0	3 597	13.2
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	169	2.5	368	1.8	546	2.0
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	49	0.7	215	1.1	267	1.0
Robbery, extortion and related offences	595	8.8	2 014	10.0	2 646	9.7
Unlawful entry with intent	948	14.0	2 083	10.4	3 046	11.2
Theft and related offences	226	3.3	832	4.1	1 073	3.9
Fraud, deception and related offences	26	0.4	586	2.9	634	2.3
Illicit drug offences	104	1.5	2 658	13.2	2 842	10.5
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	37	0.5	224	1.1	267	1.0
Property damage and environmental pollution	77	1.1	267	1.3	347	1.3
Public order offences	68	1.0	129	0.6	197	0.7
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	379	5.6	950	4.7	1 337	4.9
Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	760	11.2	1 533	7.6	2 305	8.5
Miscellaneous offences	23	0.3	236	1.2	262	1.0
Unknown	4	0.1	18	0.1	22	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>6 783</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>20 063</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>27 192</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### FEMALES

Homicide and related offences	47	7.8	167	11.2	214	10.2
Acts intended to cause injury	184	30.5	147	9.9	335	15.8
Sexual assault and related offences	4	0.7	32	2.1	36	1.7
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	14	2.3	24	1.6	41	1.8
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	3	0.5	14	0.9	17	0.8
Robbery, extortion and related offences	55	9.1	90	6.0	145	6.8
Unlawful entry with intent	62	10.3	100	6.7	162	7.7
Theft and related offences	54	9.0	161	10.8	215	10.2
Fraud, deception and related offences	17	2.8	221	14.8	242	11.4
Illicit drug offences	34	5.6	329	22.1	375	17.6
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	3	0.5	9	0.6	12	0.5
Property damage and environmental pollution	6	1.0	16	1.1	22	1.0
Public order offences	5	0.8	9	0.6	14	0.7
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	29	4.8	47	3.2	79	3.6
Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	85	14.1	110	7.4	199	9.4
Miscellaneous offences	3	0.5	12	0.8	15	0.7
Unknown	—	—	3	0.2	3	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1 491</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2 125</b>	<b>100.0</b>

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) For a definition of most serious offence/charge see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 74–77.

(b) Offence data are based on ASOC08, with the exception of data from Qld and WA which are based on ASOC97. See Technical Note.

(c) Includes prisoners whose Indigenous status is unknown.

## 4.1 PRISONERS, Indigenous status and sex by most serious offence/charge(a)(b)

*continued*

	INDIGENOUS		NON-INDIGENOUS		PERSONS(c)	
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
PERSONS						
Homicide and related offences	441	6.0	2 256	10.5	2 717	9.3
Acts intended to cause injury	2 365	32.0	3 203	14.9	5 638	19.2
Sexual assault and related offences	747	10.1	2 837	13.2	3 633	12.4
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	183	2.5	392	1.8	585	2.0
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	52	0.7	229	1.1	284	1.0
Robbery, extortion and related offences	650	8.8	2 104	9.8	2 791	9.5
Unlawful entry with intent	1 010	13.7	2 183	10.1	3 209	10.9
Theft and related offences	280	3.8	993	4.6	1 290	4.4
Fraud, deception and related offences	43	0.6	807	3.7	876	3.0
Illicit drug offences	138	1.9	2 987	13.9	3 217	11.0
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	39	0.5	233	1.1	278	0.9
Property damage and environmental pollution	83	1.1	283	1.3	366	1.3
Public order offences	73	1.0	138	0.6	214	0.7
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	408	5.5	997	4.6	1 414	4.8
Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	845	11.4	1 643	7.6	2 504	8.5
Miscellaneous offences	25	0.3	248	1.2	276	0.9
Unknown	4	0.1	21	0.1	25	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>7 386</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>21 554</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>29 317</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) For a definition of most serious offence/charge see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 74–77.

(b) Offence data are based on ASOC08, with the exception of data from Qld and WA which are based on ASOC97. See Technical Note.

(c) Includes prisoners whose Indigenous status is unknown.

## 4.2 AGE STANDARDISED IMPRISONMENT RATES(a)(b)(c)(d), states and territories by Indigenous status, 2000-2009

	NSW(e)	Vic.(f)	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT(g)	Aust.
INDIGENOUS									
2000	1 369.8	646.5	1 160.2	1 252.9	2 155.7	389.5	896.8	651.7	1 248.4
2001	1 534.7	667.3	1 192.2	1 198.4	2 172.0	366.0	1 007.8	687.6	1 266.5
2002	1 506.8	705.3	1 211.5	1 235.3	1 740.2	484.2	986.1	792.8	1 261.9
2003	1 548.7	755.4	1 213.2	1 228.8	1 989.9	434.6	1 235.0	562.1	1 339.5
2004	1 546.1	786.8	1 188.5	1 258.5	2 407.0	487.3	1 197.9	899.2	1 411.3
2005	1 631.1	949.4	1 287.7	1 339.4	2 752.3	578.0	1 410.1	853.4	1 554.0
2006	1 861.8	917.8	1 443.6	1 503.1	2 728.1	421.6	1 374.5	846.3	1 656.9
2007	1 955.0	983.8	1 379.6	1 910.3	3 151.0	531.8	1 558.8	686.8	1 771.9
2008	1 969.4	999.9	1 366.8	1 911.9	2 895.0	495.8	1 621.5	819.5	1 750.0
2009	2 153.1	968.4	1 427.2	2 072.4	3 328.7	470.7	1 699.6	759.6	1 890.7
NON-INDIGENOUS									
2000	155.9	85.9	134.8	96.1	160.0	113.2	220.3	89.7	129.5
2001	151.2	87.4	125.9	95.5	149.9	95.6	230.1	72.8	124.8
2002	145.3	89.6	130.2	97.9	137.0	115.6	178.6	80.6	123.2
2003	143.3	95.3	144.9	97.7	132.8	124.1	135.5	87.6	126.5
2004	153.9	91.0	141.1	99.5	136.7	120.4	140.1	87.4	128.9
2005	158.0	90.7	137.1	97.5	143.5	147.7	132.6	90.9	128.4
2006	153.5	95.7	137.0	114.5	144.3	141.9	113.3	70.5	129.1
2007	161.4	100.5	135.8	124.8	145.3	140.7	118.4	80.3	133.1
2008	160.2	99.8	130.5	136.8	142.0	139.9	129.3	81.2	132.7
2009	163.9	100.8	128.5	133.4	163.0	146.1	152.5	63.2	135.6
RATIO OF INDIGENOUS TO NON-INDIGENOUS									
2000	8.8	7.5	8.6	13.0	13.5	3.4	4.1	7.3	9.6
2001	9.0	7.6	9.5	12.5	14.5	3.8	4.4	9.4	10.1
2002	10.4	7.9	9.3	12.6	12.7	4.2	5.5	9.8	10.2
2003	10.8	7.9	8.4	12.6	15.0	3.5	9.1	6.4	10.6
2004	10.0	8.6	8.4	12.6	17.6	4.0	8.6	10.3	10.9
2005	10.3	10.5	9.4	13.7	19.2	3.9	10.6	9.4	12.1
2006	12.1	9.6	10.5	13.1	18.9	3.0	12.1	12.0	12.8
2007	12.1	9.8	10.2	15.3	21.7	3.8	13.2	8.6	13.3
2008	12.3	10.0	10.5	14.0	20.4	3.5	12.5	10.1	13.2
2009	13.1	9.6	11.1	15.5	20.4	3.2	11.1	12.0	13.9

- (a) Rate per 100,000 adult population. See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 21–24 and 26–30.
- (b) For definition of age standardised imprisonment rates see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 31–32.
- (c) Imprisonment rates are based on different sources. See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 21–24 and 26–30.
- (d) The 1999–2008 rates have been rebased. See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 26–30.
- (e) Excludes ACT prisoners held in NSW prisons prior to 2009. From 2009 all ACT prisoners were held in ACT prisons.
- (f) Data prior to 2006 include persons 17 years of age. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 86.
- (g) Includes ACT prisoners held in ACT as well as ACT prisoners held in NSW prior to 2009. From 2006, excludes breaches of periodic detention orders greater than three months. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 97.

**4.3****CRUDE IMPRISONMENT RATES(a)(b)(c), states and territories by Indigenous status, 1999-2009**

	NSW(d)	Vic. (e)	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT(f)	Aust.
INDIGENOUS									
1999	1 769.3	772.6	1 658.5	1 897.1	2 983.6	423.8	1 475.8	437.4	1 758.2
2000	1 750.3	841.1	1 523.5	1 683.6	2 914.0	462.1	1 206.3	940.4	1 664.2
2001	1 832.6	890.1	1 618.4	1 676.8	3 037.7	459.7	1 387.1	1 008.1	1 777.3
2002	1 995.7	921.8	1 623.3	1 716.5	2 404.9	680.7	1 360.4	1 213.0	1 727.6
2003	2 018.5	973.9	1 614.8	1 675.5	2 729.5	573.0	1 648.1	743.5	1 807.8
2004	1 974.0	1 012.9	1 552.5	1 664.8	3 183.8	616.7	1 557.3	1 147.4	1 835.1
2005	2 057.3	1 163.8	1 681.1	1 720.3	3 587.9	708.0	1 812.2	1 100.8	1 999.4
2006	2 313.1	1 144.4	1 844.5	1 889.8	3 474.0	518.5	1 743.7	1 060.4	2 096.6
2007	2 388.7	1 228.6	1 719.5	2 387.8	3 990.0	632.9	1 984.9	795.2	2 215.7
2008	2 398.8	1 221.3	1 704.3	2 392.3	3 642.4	590.6	2 013.5	1 004.6	2 171.0
2009	2 591.1	1 158.8	1 732.9	2 596.6	4 075.4	577.5	2 104.2	965.5	2 309.8
NON-INDIGENOUS									
1999	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2000	148.0	82.9	130.6	86.9	156.9	102.6	241.0	94.4	122.8
2001	149.7	87.7	126.4	89.9	152.4	89.2	250.5	80.6	122.7
2002	143.0	89.4	129.5	91.2	137.8	106.1	197.8	88.4	120.8
2003	140.3	94.5	143.3	90.2	132.3	114.5	150.9	95.3	123.2
2004	149.9	89.2	138.0	91.1	134.5	109.1	152.5	102.0	124.4
2005	153.0	88.7	133.9	88.9	140.1	132.8	145.2	95.9	125.2
2006	148.0	94.3	133.4	103.7	140.5	126.8	125.1	74.0	125.5
2007	154.8	98.9	131.8	113.5	141.2	124.5	127.7	83.7	129.0
2008	153.1	97.8	126.5	124.3	138.5	122.4	137.1	85.0	128.3
2009	156.3	98.7	124.5	121.2	159.1	126.1	160.6	65.8	130.9

na not available

(a) Rate per 100,000 adult population. See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 21–24 and 26–30.

(b) Imprisonment rates are based on different sources. See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 21–24 and 26–30.

(c) The 1999–2008 rates have been rebased. See Explanatory Notes, 26–30.

(d) Excludes ACT prisoners held in NSW prisons prior to 2009. From 2009 all ACT prisoners were held in ACT prisons.

(e) Data prior to 2006 include persons 17 years of age. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 86.

(f) Includes ACT prisoners held in ACT as well as ACT prisoners held in NSW prisons prior to 2009. From 2009 all ACT prisoners were held in ACT prisons. From 2006, excludes breaches of periodic detention orders greater than three months. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 97.

## 4.4 PRISONERS, sex and Indigenous status by age .....

Age group (years)	MALES			FEMALES			PERSONS		
	no.	%	rate(a)	no.	%	rate(a)	no.	%	rate(a)
INDIGENOUS									
Under 18	13	0.2	201.9	—	—	—	13	0.2	103.5
18	109	1.6	1 713.6	7	1.2	116.8	116	1.6	938.8
19	229	3.4	3 719.9	19	3.2	331.2	248	3.4	2 085.4
20–24	1 460	21.5	5 796.2	97	16.1	401.1	1 557	21.1	3 153.6
25–29	1 436	21.2	6 974.6	139	23.1	680.3	1 575	21.3	3 839.5
30–34	1 199	17.7	6 885.3	124	20.7	694.5	1 323	17.9	3 751.3
35–39	1 038	15.3	5 897.1	108	17.9	569.6	1 146	15.5	3 134.3
40–44	639	9.4	4 194.0	62	10.3	370.2	701	9.5	2 191.9
45–49	373	5.5	2 815.1	32	5.3	219.0	405	5.5	1 453.7
50–54	181	2.7	1 678.6	7	1.2	60.1	188	2.5	838.4
55–59	55	0.8	680.5	4	0.7	44.9	59	0.8	347.2
60–64	33	0.5	594.1	3	0.3	47.6	36	0.5	303.7
65 and over	18	0.3	234.1	—	—	—	18	0.3	100.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>6 783</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4 230.3</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>359.1</b>	<b>7 385</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2 251.5</b>
Mean age	32.1	..	..	32.3	..	..	32.1	..	..
Median age	30.6	..	..	31.7	..	..	30.7	..	..
NON-INDIGENOUS									
Under 18	24	0.1	16.4	—	—	—	24	0.1	8.4
18	143	0.7	95.5	7	0.5	4.9	150	0.7	51.5
19	344	1.7	224.4	19	1.3	13.1	363	1.7	121.9
20–24	2 897	14.4	372.0	163	10.9	22.0	3 060	14.2	201.1
25–29	3 602	18.0	465.4	274	18.4	36.4	3 876	18.0	253.9
30–34	3 355	16.7	461.2	260	17.4	35.9	3 615	16.8	248.9
35–39	3 141	15.7	401.5	251	16.8	31.8	3 392	15.7	215.7
40–44	2 295	11.4	308.9	190	12.7	25.4	2 485	11.5	166.5
45–49	1 587	7.9	208.2	151	10.1	19.5	1 738	8.1	113.1
50–54	1 093	5.4	156.5	93	6.2	13.1	1 186	5.5	84.2
55–59	662	3.3	104.0	42	2.8	6.5	704	3.3	54.9
60–64	455	2.3	79.3	28	1.9	4.9	483	2.2	42.1
65 and over	465	2.3	35.5	13	0.9	0.8	478	2.2	16.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>20 063</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>247.0</b>	<b>1 491</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>17.9</b>	<b>21 554</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>130.9</b>
Mean age	36.4	..	..	36.7	..	..	36.4	..	..
Median age	34.5	..	..	35.5	..	..	34.5	..	..

.. not applicable

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Rate per 100,000 adult population for that age group. See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 18–24.



## 4.5 PRISONERS, legal status, prior imprisonment and Indigenous status by most serious offence/charge(a)(b)(c)

	SENTENCED IN LAST 12 MONTHS (d)		OTHER SENTENCED		ALL SENTENCED		UNSENTENCED		ALL PRISONERS	
	no.	prior %	no.	prior %	no.	prior %	no.	prior %	no.	prior %
INDIGENOUS										
Homicide and related offences	26	50.0	333	66.1	359	64.9	82	47.6	441	61.7
Acts intended to cause injury	1 147	77.2	524	83.8	1 671	79.3	694	69.2	2 365	76.3
Sexual assault and related offences	119	46.2	478	68.6	597	64.2	150	56.7	747	62.7
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	123	82.9	35	80.0	158	82.3	25	76.0	183	81.4
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	9	44.4	22	68.2	31	61.3	21	71.4	52	65.4
Robbery, extortion and related offences	106	65.1	377	72.1	483	70.6	167	65.9	650	69.4
Unlawful entry with intent	433	76.9	402	78.9	835	77.8	175	70.9	1 010	76.6
Theft and related offences	170	80.0	57	66.7	227	76.7	53	73.6	280	76.1
Fraud, deception and related offences	27	63.0	7	50.0	34	60.6	10	70.0	44	62.8
Illicit drug offences	51	47.1	49	69.4	100	58.0	38	63.2	138	59.4
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	18	61.1	3	75.0	21	63.6	17	70.6	38	66.7
Property damage and environmental pollution	45	60.0	17	76.5	62	64.5	21	57.1	83	62.7
Public order offences	53	81.1	8	62.5	61	78.7	12	66.7	73	76.7
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	350	83.1	41	92.7	391	84.1	17	76.5	408	83.8
Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	668	85.6	94	87.2	762	85.8	83	81.9	845	85.4
Miscellaneous offences	9	85.7	7	87.5	16	86.7	8	80.0	24	84.0
Unknown	3	100.0	—	—	3	100.0	—	—	3	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 357</b>	<b>77.3</b>	<b>2 454</b>	<b>75.0</b>	<b>5 811</b>	<b>76.3</b>	<b>1 573</b>	<b>67.5</b>	<b>7 384</b>	<b>74.4</b>
NON-INDIGENOUS										
Homicide and related offences	179	20.7	1 676	37.6	1 855	36.0	401	28.9	2 256	34.7
Acts intended to cause injury	1 393	50.8	750	57.2	2 143	53.1	1 060	50.3	3 203	52.1
Sexual assault and related offences	831	16.0	1 620	31.6	2 451	26.3	386	32.4	2 837	27.1
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	232	44.0	74	68.9	306	50.0	86	64.0	392	53.1
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	40	35.0	112	58.9	152	52.6	77	50.6	229	52.0
Robbery, extortion and related offences	449	49.4	1 186	67.4	1 635	62.4	469	52.9	2 104	60.3
Unlawful entry with intent	938	74.6	806	79.5	1 744	76.9	439	72.2	2 183	76.0
Theft and related offences	645	65.7	148	65.5	793	65.7	200	67.5	993	66.1
Fraud, deception and related offences	456	28.5	189	33.9	645	30.1	162	45.1	807	33.1
Illicit drug offences	1 016	33.1	1 212	31.8	2 228	32.4	759	38.9	2 987	34.0
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	92	54.3	55	49.1	147	52.4	86	58.1	233	54.5
Property damage and environmental pollution	131	60.3	72	58.3	203	59.6	80	41.3	283	54.4
Public order offences	84	53.6	38	57.9	122	54.9	16	56.3	138	55.1
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	879	62.8	68	83.8	947	64.3	50	54.0	997	63.8
Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	1 266	78.6	170	82.9	1 436	79.1	207	61.4	1 643	76.9
Miscellaneous offences	52	42.3	107	26.2	159	31.4	89	14.6	248	25.4
Unknown	13	69.2	7	100.0	20	80.0	3	100.0	23	82.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>8 696</b>	<b>52.4</b>	<b>8 290</b>	<b>48.2</b>	<b>16 986</b>	<b>50.4</b>	<b>4 570</b>	<b>48.1</b>	<b>21 556</b>	<b>49.9</b>

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Offence data are based on ASOC08, with the exception of data from Qld and WA which are based on ASOC97. See Technical Note.

(b) For a definition of most serious offence/charge see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 74–77.

(c) Refers to prior adult imprisonment under sentence.

(d) Prisoners whose date of aggregate sentence commencement was between 1 July 2008 and 30 June 2009.

## 4.6 INDIGENOUS SENTENCED PRISONERS, sentence length by most serious offence(a)(b)

	<i>Periodic detention</i>	<i>Under 3 months</i>	<i>3 &amp; under 6 months</i>	<i>6 &amp; under 12 months</i>	<i>1 &amp; under 2 years</i>	<i>2 &amp; under 5 years</i>
AGGREGATE SENTENCE LENGTH (c)						
Homicide and related offences	—	—	—	—	—	18
Acts intended to cause injury	30	64	139	216	531	497
Sexual assault and related offences	—	3	4	8	21	131
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	—	3	8	38	64	35
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	—	—	—	—	3	11
Robbery, extortion and related offences	4	—	—	—	24	192
Unlawful entry with intent	5	12	18	55	229	341
Theft and related offences	3	20	27	28	79	49
Fraud, deception and related offences	4	3	—	3	13	8
Illicit drug offences	4	3	6	4	8	51
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	—	3	—	5	7	5
Property damage and environmental pollution	—	4	7	9	15	17
Public order offences	—	—	6	11	29	10
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	18	41	74	80	145	32
Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	6	64	113	199	268	95
Miscellaneous offences	—	—	—	—	3	3
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>1 439</b>	<b>1 495</b>

	EXPECTED TIME TO SERVE (d)					
Homicide and related offences	—	3	—	—	12	55
Acts intended to cause injury	30	118	275	471	396	284
Sexual assault and related offences	—	3	9	18	55	202
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	—	8	38	52	39	18
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	—	—	—	3	4	14
Robbery, extortion and related offences	4	4	6	24	94	200
Unlawful entry with intent	5	26	73	183	237	225
Theft and related offences	3	29	42	70	41	28
Fraud, deception and related offences	4	4	4	11	5	5
Illicit drug offences	4	5	6	17	27	35
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	—	—	4	3	11	—
Property damage and environmental pollution	—	10	9	17	8	12
Public order offences	—	8	12	17	16	5
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	18	59	137	106	61	9
Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	6	73	182	237	182	71
Miscellaneous offences	—	—	—	—	4	—
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>797</b>	<b>1 229</b>	<b>1 192</b>	<b>1 163</b>

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) For a definition of most serious offence see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 74–76.

(b) Offence data are based on ASOC08, with the exception of data from Qld and WA which are based on ASOC97. See Technical Note.

(c) For information on aggregate sentence length see Explanatory Notes, paragraph 45.

(d) For information on expected time to serve see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 46–69.

## 4.6 INDIGENOUS SENTENCED PRISONERS, sentence length by most serious offence(a)(b) *continued*

	5 & under 10 years	10 & under 15 years	15 & under 20 years	20 years & over	Life(c)	Other(d)
AGGREGATE SENTENCE LENGTH (e)						
Homicide and related offences	91	44	40	36	119	10
Acts intended to cause injury	149	28	10	3	—	5
Sexual assault and related offences	245	114	31	17	6	17
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	8	—	—	—	—	—
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	10	5	—	—	—	—
Robbery, extortion and related offences	187	43	18	7	—	4
Unlawful entry with intent	146	20	8	—	—	—
Theft and related offences	20	—	—	—	—	—
Fraud, deception and related offences	—	—	—	—	—	—
Illicit drug offences	23	—	—	—	—	—
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	3	—	—	—	—	—
Property damage and environmental pollution	7	3	—	—	—	—
Public order offences	3	—	—	—	—	—
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	3	—	—	—	—	—
Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	11	—	—	—	3	3
Miscellaneous offences	—	3	—	—	—	5
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>906</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>44</b>

	5 & under 10 years	10 & under 15 years	15 & under 20 years	20 years & over	Life(c)	Other(d)
EXPECTED TIME TO SERVE (f)						
Homicide and related offences	78	47	25	35	94	10
Acts intended to cause injury	74	14	4	—	—	5
Sexual assault and related offences	207	63	13	4	6	17
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	10	—	—	—	—	—
Robbery, extortion and related offences	102	33	12	—	—	4
Unlawful entry with intent	74	11	—	—	—	—
Theft and related offences	14	—	—	—	—	—
Fraud, deception and related offences	—	—	—	—	—	—
Illicit drug offences	6	—	—	—	—	—
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	3	—	—	—	—	—
Property damage and environmental pollution	4	—	—	—	—	—
Public order offences	—	—	—	—	—	—
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	6	—	—	—	3	3
Miscellaneous offences	3	—	—	—	—	5
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>44</b>

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) For a definition of most serious offence see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 74–76.

(b) Offence data are based on ASOC08, with the exception of data from Qld and WA which are based on ASOC97. See Technical Note.

(c) Includes indeterminate life and life with minimum for aggregate sentence length, and indeterminate life for expected time to serve.

(d) Refers to other indeterminate sentences for aggregate sentence length and expected time to serve.

(e) For information on aggregate sentence length see Explanatory Notes, paragraph 45.

(f) For information on expected time to serve see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 46–69.

## 4.6 INDIGENOUS SENTENCED PRISONERS, sentence length by most serious offence(a)(b) *continued*

	Total	Total (%)	Mean (months)(c)	Median (months)(c)
AGGREGATE SENTENCE LENGTH (d)				
Homicide and related offences	358	6.2	146.8	120.1
Acts intended to cause injury	1 672	28.8	28.7	18.0
Sexual assault and related offences	597	10.3	93.7	84.0
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	156	2.7	21.8	15.0
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	29	0.5	67.9	55.4
Robbery, extortion and related offences	479	8.3	74.5	60.1
Unlawful entry with intent	834	14.4	39.8	29.4
Theft and related offences	226	3.9	23.5	14.5
Fraud, deception and related offences	31	0.6	22.6	18.0
Illicit drug offences	99	1.7	43.9	36.7
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	23	0.4	20.7	16.5
Property damage and environmental pollution	62	1.1	28.4	18.0
Public order offences	59	1.0	23.8	17.0
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	393	6.7	12.0	11.0
Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	762	13.1	14.9	12.0
Miscellaneous offences	14	0.3	52.2	28.6
Unknown	—	0.1	5.7	4.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5 794</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>42.9</b>	<b>24.0</b>

	Total	Total (%)	Mean (months)(c)	Median (months)(c)
EXPECTED TIME TO SERVE (e)				
Homicide and related offences	359	6.2	122.5	97.7
Acts intended to cause injury	1 671	28.8	19.5	11.8
Sexual assault and related offences	597	10.3	70.2	60.0
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	155	2.7	13.6	9.1
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	31	0.5	46.4	35.9
Robbery, extortion and related offences	483	8.3	52.8	39.6
Unlawful entry with intent	834	14.4	26.9	17.7
Theft and related offences	227	3.9	16.8	9.0
Fraud, deception and related offences	33	0.6	13.6	10.2
Illicit drug offences	100	1.7	25.9	22.6
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	21	0.4	14.3	13.2
Property damage and environmental pollution	60	1.1	18.6	11.0
Public order offences	58	1.0	17.2	9.0
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	390	6.7	8.1	6.0
Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	763	13.1	12.0	8.6
Miscellaneous offences	12	0.3	38.0	21.2
Unknown	—	0.1	20.1	19.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>5 794</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>31.5</b>	<b>15.0</b>

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) For a definition of most serious offence see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 74–76.

(b) Offence data are based on ASOC08, with the exception of data from Qld and WA which are based on ASOC97. See Technical Note.

(c) Prisoners with indeterminate, life with a minimum and periodic detention sentences are excluded from the aggregate sentence length calculations. For expected time to serve, prisoners with indeterminate and periodic detention sentences are excluded. See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 71–73 and Glossary.

(d) For information on aggregate sentence length see Explanatory Notes, paragraph 45.

(e) For information on expected time to serve see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 46–69.

## 4.7 NON-INDIGENOUS SENTENCED PRISONERS, sentence length by most serious offence(a)(b)

	<i>Periodic detention</i>	<i>Under 3 months</i>	<i>3 &amp; under 6 months</i>	<i>6 &amp; under 12 months</i>	<i>1 &amp; under 2 years</i>	<i>2 &amp; under 5 years</i>
AGGREGATE SENTENCE LENGTH (c)						
Homicide and related offences	12	3	—	—	10	64
Acts intended to cause injury	158	60	115	206	529	569
Sexual assault and related offences	15	18	29	38	147	554
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	48	11	14	32	93	72
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	3	—	—	—	11	43
Robbery, extortion and related offences	38	3	8	4	64	583
Unlawful entry with intent	40	21	32	77	430	759
Theft and related offences	43	44	101	126	233	162
Fraud, deception and related offences	74	22	30	50	128	200
Illicit drug offences	73	20	33	52	240	696
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	12	4	8	7	29	56
Property damage and environmental pollution	9	7	15	13	36	69
Public order offences	15	5	8	9	29	27
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	178	77	104	159	363	60
Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	29	113	219	344	431	230
Miscellaneous offences	—	—	4	11	14	13
Unknown	6	—	3	—	—	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>753</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>723</b>	<b>1 128</b>	<b>2 787</b>	<b>4 162</b>

	EXPECTED TIME TO SERVE (d)					
Homicide and related offences	12	3	—	11	52	169
Acts intended to cause injury	158	86	271	473	455	439
Sexual assault and related offences	15	16	58	137	316	809
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	48	16	46	73	63	49
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	3	—	6	7	21	47
Robbery, extortion and related offences	38	6	21	85	293	683
Unlawful entry with intent	40	44	144	322	531	501
Theft and related offences	43	58	174	237	148	104
Fraud, deception and related offences	74	34	78	133	135	158
Illicit drug offences	73	39	96	253	450	774
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	12	3	18	24	34	46
Property damage and environmental pollution	9	8	28	38	47	42
Public order offences	15	5	14	29	23	21
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	178	123	257	254	120	11
Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	29	124	297	435	330	174
Miscellaneous offences	—	—	13	11	14	27
Unknown	6	—	—	3	3	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>753</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>1 521</b>	<b>2 525</b>	<b>3 035</b>	<b>4 058</b>

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) For a definition of most serious offence see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 74–76.

(b) Offence data are based on ASOC08, with the exception of data from Qld and WA which are based on ASOC97. See Technical Note.

(c) For information on aggregate sentence length see Explanatory Notes, paragraph 45.

(d) For information on expected time to serve see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 46–69.

## 4.7 NON-INDIGENOUS SENTENCED PRISONERS, sentence length by most serious offence(a)(b) *continued*

	5 & under 10 years	10 & under 15 years	15 & under 20 years	20 years & over	Life(c)	Other(d)
AGGREGATE SENTENCE LENGTH (e)						
Homicide and related offences	278	169	270	340	685	25
Acts intended to cause injury	377	84	20	8	6	11
Sexual assault and related offences	1 017	411	134	60	8	20
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	31	3	3	—	3	—
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	59	23	7	3	3	—
Robbery, extortion and related offences	660	170	70	27	4	5
Unlawful entry with intent	335	31	8	8	—	3
Theft and related offences	71	12	—	—	—	—
Fraud, deception and related offences	131	7	3	—	—	—
Illicit drug offences	725	247	67	52	23	—
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	29	3	—	—	—	—
Property damage and environmental pollution	38	13	—	3	—	—
Public order offences	16	7	3	—	—	3
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	4	—	—	—	—	—
Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	40	10	4	3	13	—
Miscellaneous offences	36	34	10	11	6	18
Unknown	3	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 850</b>	<b>1 224</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>751</b>	<b>88</b>

	5 & under 10 years	10 & under 15 years	15 & under 20 years	20 years & over	Life(c)	Other(d)
EXPECTED TIME TO SERVE (f)						
Homicide and related offences	279	318	240	164	581	25
Acts intended to cause injury	209	24	9	3	6	11
Sexual assault and related offences	778	221	57	16	8	20
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	10	—	—	—	3	—
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	51	10	4	—	3	—
Robbery, extortion and related offences	386	80	24	10	4	5
Unlawful entry with intent	141	9	6	3	—	3
Theft and related offences	28	—	—	—	—	—
Fraud, deception and related offences	31	—	—	—	—	—
Illicit drug offences	393	98	27	18	7	—
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	11	—	—	—	—	—
Property damage and environmental pollution	25	5	—	—	—	—
Public order offences	10	3	—	—	—	3
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	3	—	—	—	—	—
Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	31	5	—	—	8	—
Miscellaneous offences	47	13	11	3	—	18
Unknown	3	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 436</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>85</b>

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) For a definition of most serious offence see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 74–76.

(b) Offence data are based on ASOC08, with the exception of data from Qld and WA which are based on ASOC97. See Technical Note.

(c) Includes indeterminate life and life with minimum for aggregate sentence length, and indeterminate life for expected time to serve.

(d) Refers to other indeterminate sentences for aggregate sentence length and expected time to serve.

(e) For information on aggregate sentence length see Explanatory Notes, paragraph 45.

(f) For information on expected time to serve see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 46–69.

## 4.7 NON-INDIGENOUS SENTENCED PRISONERS, sentence length by most serious offence(a)(b) *continued*

	Total	Total (%)	Mean (months)(c)	Median (months)(c)
AGGREGATE SENTENCE LENGTH (d)				
Homicide and related offences	1 856	10.9	182.0	192.1
Acts intended to cause injury	2 143	12.6	41.0	24.0
Sexual assault and related offences	2 451	14.4	88.3	78.0
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	310	1.8	29.2	18.0
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	152	0.9	84.2	72.0
Robbery, extortion and related offences	1 636	9.6	79.1	66.0
Unlawful entry with intent	1 744	10.3	42.1	33.3
Theft and related offences	792	4.7	24.6	14.9
Fraud, deception and related offences	645	3.8	37.7	30.0
Illicit drug offences	2 228	13.1	72.1	60.0
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	148	0.9	40.2	34.0
Property damage and environmental pollution	203	1.2	44.3	34.5
Public order offences	122	0.7	42.5	24.0
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	945	5.6	12.5	12.0
Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	1 436	8.5	18.4	12.0
Miscellaneous offences	157	0.9	104.3	96.1
Unknown	17	0.1	41.6	37.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>16 985</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>63.6</b>	<b>42.0</b>

	Total	Total (%)	Mean (months)(c)	Median (months)(c)
EXPECTED TIME TO SERVE (e)				
Homicide and related offences	1 854	10.9	144.9	144.0
Acts intended to cause injury	2 144	12.6	26.9	14.8
Sexual assault and related offences	2 451	14.4	63.5	53.5
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	308	1.8	18.1	11.8
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	152	0.9	61.2	51.7
Robbery, extortion and related offences	1 635	9.6	53.4	41.3
Unlawful entry with intent	1 744	10.3	27.2	18.6
Theft and related offences	792	4.7	15.5	9.0
Fraud, deception and related offences	643	3.8	21.7	15.8
Illicit drug offences	2 228	13.1	46.1	33.3
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	148	0.9	25.8	19.6
Property damage and environmental pollution	202	1.2	28.9	18.0
Public order offences	123	0.7	25.8	13.0
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	946	5.6	7.6	6.0
Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	1 436	8.5	14.6	9.3
Miscellaneous offences	157	0.9	71.7	61.9
Unknown	19	0.1	21.1	12.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>16 982</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>45.2</b>	<b>24.0</b>

(a) For a definition of most serious offence see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 74–76.

(b) Offence data are based on ASOC08, with the exception of data from Qld and WA which are based on ASOC97. See Technical Note.

(c) Prisoners with indeterminate, life with a minimum and periodic detention sentences are excluded from the aggregate sentence length calculations. For expected time to serve, prisoners with indeterminate and periodic detention sentences are excluded. See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 71–73 and Glossary.

(d) For information on aggregate sentence length see Explanatory Notes, paragraph 45.

(e) For information on expected time to serve see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 46–69.

## 4.8 UNSENTENCED PRISONERS, time on remand and Indigenous status by most serious charge(a)(b)

	PRISONERS		TIME ON REMAND		
	no.	%	Mean (months)	Median (months)	90th Percentile (months)
INDIGENOUS					
Homicide and related offences	82	5.2	8.9	6.3	19.7
Acts intended to cause injury	694	44.1	3.3	2.0	7.9
Sexual assault and related offences	150	9.5	5.3	3.6	13.6
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	25	1.6	3.3	0.7	11.5
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	21	1.3	4.2	3.4	8.3
Robbery, extortion and related offences	167	10.6	5.3	3.9	11.1
Unlawful entry with intent	175	11.1	3.3	1.8	8.3
Theft and related offences	53	3.4	2.7	1.6	7.1
Fraud, deception and related offences	10	0.6	5.2	2.7	18.6
Illicit drug offences	38	2.4	3.6	2.6	9.0
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	17	1.1	2.5	1.1	5.3
Property damage and environmental pollution	21	1.3	2.9	1.2	5.3
Public order offences	12	0.8	4.1	1.5	9.0
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	17	1.1	4.3	0.9	25.6
Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	83	5.3	2.0	0.6	4.5
Miscellaneous offences	10	0.6	2.5	0.7	12.2
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 575</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>9.4</b>
NON-INDIGENOUS					
Homicide and related offences	401	8.8	11.1	9.4	23.4
Acts intended to cause injury	1 060	23.2	4.3	2.6	10.5
Sexual assault and related offences	386	8.4	6.7	4.5	16.7
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	86	1.9	3.6	1.6	8.5
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	77	1.7	5.7	3.7	14.5
Robbery, extortion and related offences	469	10.3	5.3	3.8	11.9
Unlawful entry with intent	439	9.6	3.8	2.0	9.5
Theft and related offences	200	4.4	2.6	1.3	6.4
Fraud, deception and related offences	162	3.5	4.4	2.2	11.0
Illicit drug offences	759	16.6	7.4	4.9	18.3
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	86	1.9	4.2	3.1	7.8
Property damage and environmental pollution	80	1.8	3.8	2.3	9.5
Public order offences	16	0.4	3.7	3.1	11.5
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	50	1.1	4.4	1.1	15.7
Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	207	4.5	3.2	1.0	7.8
Miscellaneous offences	89	1.9	5.5	3.0	16.1
Unknown	3	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 570</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>14.2</b>

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) For definition of most serious charge see Explanatory Notes, paragraph 77.

(b) Offence data are based on ASOC08, with the exception of data from Qld and WA which are based on ASOC97. See Technical Note.



## EXPLANATORY NOTES .....

### INTRODUCTION

**1** This publication presents information about prisoners held in custody in Australian prisons at 30 June 2009. A range of information is presented on the demographic and legal characteristics of prisoners such as age, sex, country of birth, Indigenous status, legal status, most serious offence/charge and length of sentence being served.

**2** The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has developed national standards for corrective services statistics to ensure the comparability of data between states and territories. While efforts have been made to attain maximum comparability between states and territories, some issues with jurisdictional comparability remain due to different legislative and administrative recording practices in the states and territories. Further detail on these differences is provided in paragraphs 79–97 and in the Technical Note.

### REFERENCE PERIOD

**3** The National Prisoner Census is a census of all persons in the legal custody of adult corrective services in all states and territories as at midnight 30 June 2009.

### SCOPE

**4** The scope of the statistics in this publication includes all persons remanded or sentenced to adult custodial corrective services agencies in each state and territory in Australia.

**5** Included in the National Prisoner Census are prisoners in the legal custody of corrective services but who, at the time of the census, were:

- absent on an authorised temporary leave permit
- absent from the correctional facility on a work release permit or program
- located in secure wards in a hospital outside the correctional facility
- periodic detainees.

**6** Excluded from the collection are:

- prisoners who were unlawfully absent from corrective services legal custody, e.g. escapees or prisoners who failed to return from an authorised temporary absence from a correctional facility
- prisoners whose legal custody had been transferred to another agency, e.g. police or mental health institutions.

**7** The count of periodic detainees covers the number of persons with an active periodic detainee warrant. However, periodic detainees who have breached orders may be excluded. From 2006, Australian Capital Territory data excludes breaches of orders greater than three months.

### *Types of facilities*

**8** The types of correctional facilities and programs where prisoners are held varies between the states and territories.

**9** Included in the collection are:

- gazetted adult prisons in all jurisdictions
- periodic detention centres in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory
- community custody centres and work camps in Queensland
- cells in court complexes administered by corrective services in New South Wales
- transitional centres in New South Wales
- lock-ups in Western Australia operated by the police but designated as a prison by the Chief Executive Officer of Corrective Services

<i>Types of facilities continued</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ gazetted police prisons in the Northern Territory which are administered and controlled by the Director of Corrective Services.</li> </ul> <p><b>10</b> Excluded from the collection are persons held in facilities administered and controlled by other agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ police lock-ups, police prisons and cells in court complexes</li> <li>■ immigration detention centres</li> <li>■ home detention programs</li> <li>■ military prisons</li> <li>■ mental health facilities</li> <li>■ juvenile facilities, including those under the authority of adult corrective services.</li> </ul>
Age	<p><b>11</b> In all states and territories except Queensland, persons remanded or sentenced to adult custody are aged 18 years and over. Persons under 18 years are treated as juveniles in most Australian courts and are only remanded or sentenced to custody in adult prisons in exceptional circumstances. In Queensland 'adult' refers to persons aged 17 years and over.</p>
DATA SOURCE	<p><b>12</b> Statistics in this publication are derived from information on each prisoner collected by the ABS from administrative records held by corrective services agencies within each state and territory.</p>
JURISDICTION OF CUSTODY	<p><b>13</b> Persons included in the National Prisoner Census were counted in the state or territory in which they were held in custody regardless of which state or territory imposed the sentence being served.</p>
INDIGENOUS IDENTIFICATION	<p><b>14</b> The ABS conducts an ongoing program of quality assurance to monitor and improve the quality of Indigenous Status data in corrective services agencies. Whilst the ABS has published Indigenous status data in Prisoners in Australia for a number of years, quality assurance is required to better understand the level of accuracy over time.</p> <p><b>15</b> The quality of the Indigenous status information collected and recorded in corrective services agencies is assessed against the ABS Standard Indigenous Question (SIQ). The SIQ is based upon self-identification by the individual who comes into contact with corrective services agencies. The SIQ requires individuals to be asked "Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?". The answers to the SIQ can be 'No', 'Yes, Aboriginal', or 'Yes, Torres Strait Islander'. If the offender is of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin, both responses should be identified. If an offender does not supply an answer to this question, or is not asked, the Indigenous status field should be recorded as 'not stated'.</p> <p><b>16</b> For custodial corrections, current indications are that corrective services agencies in all states and territories, except Western Australia, ask the SIQ as described above.</p> <p><b>17</b> Some persons in custody are recorded with an unknown Indigenous status on the information systems of corrective services agencies as their status has not been able to be obtained. Unknowns accounted for 1.3% of all records in 2009.</p>
IMPRISONMENT RATES	<p><b>18</b> Imprisonment rates enable comparison of prisoner populations across states and territories at a point in time, as well as over time. Prisoner rates are expressed per 100,000 adult population, which is in accord with international, state and territory practices.</p> <p><b>19</b> From the 2006 issue of this publication, the adult population figures used in the calculation of rates are for persons aged 18 years and over for all states and territories except for Queensland, where the adult population used is that of persons aged 17 years and over (see paragraph 11). For the 2004 and 2005 issues of this publication, the adult population figures used in the calculation of rates were for persons aged 18 years and</p>

## IMPRISONMENT RATES

*continued*

over for all states and territories, except for Victoria and Queensland, where the adult population used was that of persons aged 17 years and over. In issues prior to 2004, rates for all states and territories included in this publication were calculated using adult population figures for persons aged 17 years and over.

**20** Imprisonment rate data for the Australian Capital Territory are calculated on the basis of the total number of Australian Capital Territory prisoners held in New South Wales prisons (prior to 2009) as well as in the Australian Capital Territory. New South Wales imprisonment rates data are only based on the count of New South Wales prisoners held in New South Wales prisons. For more information about Australian Capital Territory prisoners held in New South Wales prisons refer Explanatory Notes, paragraph 96.

**21** Rates for the adult prisoner population are calculated using the estimated resident population (ERP) for each of the states and territories, and total Australia (see *Australian Demographic Statistics* (cat. no. 3101.0)). All estimates and projections for the Australian Capital Territory exclude Jervis Bay Territory. All estimates and projections for Australia exclude the external territories of Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

**22** As the population changes over time the denominator used for the calculation of rates varies, depending on the reference period. The ERP series are revised every five years to incorporate additional information available from the latest Census of Population and Housing. The rates per 100,000 adult persons (excluding Indigenous rates) presented in this issue are based on the following ERPs:

- Rates for 1999 to 2001 use final ERP data based on the 2001 Census of Population and Housing;
- Rates for 2002 to 2006 use final ERP data based on the 2006 Census of Population and Housing;
- Rates for 2007 are based on the revised ERP data derived from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing;
- Rates for 2008 and 2009 are preliminary ERP data based on the 2006 Census of Population and Housing.

**23** For population estimates and information on the methodology used to produce the ERP, see *Australian Demographic Statistics* (cat. no. 3101.0). Data are sourced from the March 2009 release of this same issue.

**24** A change to the way in which national imprisonment rate data for prisoners aged under 18 is calculated was made in this issue. Previously the denominator used was the ERP for Queensland, as most prisoners aged under 17 are in custody in Queensland due to their different adult definition. From the 2009 issue, the ERP used to derive this data item is now based on the national ERP for persons aged 17 years of age which is a more accurate representation of this population group. This affects data in Tables 2.3 and 4.4.

*Country of birth*

**25** Imprisonment rates by birthplace are calculated using data for June 2008 ERP by Country of Birth from *Migration, Australia 2007–08* (cat. no. 3412.0).

*Indigenous imprisonment rates*

**26** Rates for the Indigenous and non-Indigenous adult population have been revised in this issue due to the rebasing of estimates and projections for the Indigenous population in September 2009. Rebased estimates (for the period 1986–2006) and projections (2007–2021) of the Indigenous population are based on data from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing and use assumptions about future fertility, paternity, life expectancy at birth and migration.

**27** The data supersede previously published ABS estimates and projections and, as a result, Indigenous imprisonment rates previously published in *Prisoners in Australia* for the years 1999–2008 have been revised accordingly.

*Indigenous imprisonment  
rates continued*

**28** The projections used in this issue are based on Series B, which is one of two main projection series (Series A and B) that have been published for the years 2007 to 2021. Both of these series assume an annual decline of 0.5% in fertility rates; an annual increase of 1% in paternity rates; constant interstate migration at levels observed in the 2006 Census; and zero net overseas migration with no arrivals and no departures. Two different assumptions were made about future Indigenous life expectancy at birth for Australia:

- in Series A, Indigenous life expectancy at birth will remain constant at 67.3 years for males and 73.0 years for females for the duration of the projection period; and
- in Series B, Indigenous life expectancy at birth will increase by 0.3 years per year for both males and females, reaching 72.1 years for males and 77.8 years for females by 2021. This equates to an increase in life expectancy at birth of 5 years over the 15 year projection period for both males and females.

**29** The impact of re-basing Indigenous imprisonment rate data using Series B projections is small at the national level, with some differences more apparent in the state and territory data. The decision to use Series B as the denominator in the calculation of Indigenous imprisonment rates for Prisoners in Australia followed consultation with the National Corrective Services Statistics Advisory Group and other stakeholders.

**30** For further information see *Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 1991 to 2021* (cat. no. 3238.0).

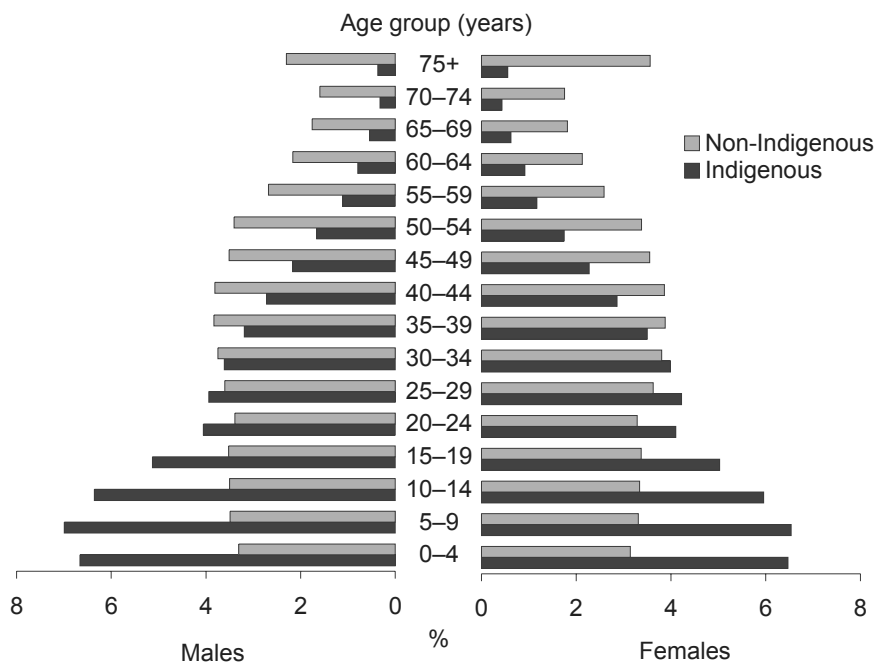
*Age standardisation of  
imprisonment rates*

**31** Age standardisation is a statistical method that adjusts crude rates to account for age differences between study populations.

**32** There are differences in the age distributions between Australia's Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations with the former having a much younger population. In 2001, the proportion of Indigenous people aged 18 years and over was 54.6%, compared with 75.8% of non-Indigenous people (and 75.3% of the total Australian population). The diagram below illustrates the differences in age distributions.

Age standardisation of  
imprisonment rates *continued*

### 33 ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION, AUSTRALIA - 30 JUNE 2001



**34** Due to these differing age profiles, using crude rates to examine differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations may lead to erroneous conclusions being drawn about variables that are correlated with age.

**35** By making comparisons across age groups, we know that imprisonment rates decrease in older age groups, i.e. that the imprisonment rate is correlated with age. If we compare overall imprisonment rates between Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons, it is likely that the imprisonment rate in the Indigenous population will be higher because of the larger proportion of young people in the Indigenous population.

**36** Age standardised Indigenous and non-Indigenous imprisonment rates have been presented in Tables 3.3 and 4.2 of this publication. Ratios of the rates are also included in these tables. The standard population against which each population is age standardised is the total Australian Estimated Resident Population at 30 June 2001. The standard population is revised every ten years; the next revision will be based on data from the 2011 Census.

#### CLASSIFICATIONS

*Australian Standard Offence  
Classification*

**37** The offence categories used for national corrective services statistics in this publication are classified to the division level of the *Australian Standard Offence Classification (ASOC), 2008 (Second edition)* (cat. no. 1234.0). Offence information in previous issues was based on the *Australian Standard Offence Classification, 1997* (cat. no. 1234.0). ASOC provides a national framework for classifying offences for statistical purposes, and was first released in 1997. In 2008 the ABS released the second edition of ASOC, which reflects changes that have occurred in criminal legislation since the first edition was released, as well as satisfying emerging user requirements for offence data.

**38** For this issue, six jurisdictions (New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory) provided offence data based on ASOC08. The offence data for Queensland and Western Australia are based on ASOC97. Further information about the effects of changing to ASOC08 is presented in the Technical Note.

<p><i>Australian Standard Offence Classification continued</i></p>	<p><b>39</b> Some corrective services agencies have not fully implemented any version of ASOC. Data from these jurisdictions are coded to the defunct <i>Australian National Classification of Offences (ANCO), 1985</i> (cat. no. 1234.0). ANCO data is mapped by jurisdictions to the relevant ASOC category. Where there is no direct concordance between the two classifications, the ANCO codes have been mapped as closely as possible to the relevant ASOC categories.</p>
<p><i>National Offence Index</i></p>	<p><b>40</b> The National Offence Index (NOI) is a ranking of all ASOC groups and supplementary ASOC codes (ASOC divisions and/or ASOC subdivisions). This ranking is based on the concept of seriousness of offence, with a ranking of 1 relating to the ASOC code containing the most serious offence. The NOI was introduced into the Prisoners collection in 2006, and was revised in 2009 to accommodate the changes made in ASOC08. The NOI is used to determine the most serious charge for unsentenced prisoners in all states and territories, except Western Australia, and determining the most serious offence in Tasmania due to the use of global sentencing. For further information about determining the most serious charge in Western Australia, see paragraph 77, and for global sentencing in Tasmania see paragraph 75.</p>
<p><i>Standard Australian Classification of Countries</i></p>	<p><b>41</b> Country of birth information is classified according to the <i>Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), Second Edition</i> (cat. no. 1269.0).</p>
<p>COUNTING METHODOLOGY</p> <p><i>Episode</i></p>	<p><b>42</b> An episode is defined as the period from an offender's latest date of reception into the custody of a corrective services agency for a particular offence(s)/charge(s) until the person is released from custody. When a prisoner breaches parole conditions and is returned to custody, a new episode is deemed to have commenced and a new reception date is provided. Differences in the application of this rule occur in Western Australia. Further detail on these differences is provided in paragraph 64.</p> <p><b>43</b> In consultation with the National Corrective Services Statistics Advisory Group, the definition of episode changed from the 2003 Prisoner Census to maximise data comparability across states and territories. There was no change to the data provided by New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and the Northern Territory as these jurisdictions had always provided data based on the definition of an episode as outlined in paragraph 42. These jurisdictions accounted for 65% of the prisoner population in 2002. Prior to 2003, Queensland, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory treated persons who breached parole and returned to custody as continuing a prior episode. These jurisdictions now provide data based on the standard definition of episode. In Western Australia, as noted in the previous paragraph, there remain differences in the application of the national counting rule. As the revised definition of episode only impacts on prisoners who have breached parole, the impact of this change in definition on time series data is low at the national level.</p>
<p><i>Legal status</i></p>	<p><b>44</b> The legal status of an offender is determined by the warrant(s) or court order(s) which provide the legal basis for the detention in custody of the offender. Some offenders may have more than one type of warrant issued against them; therefore it is possible for an offender to have dual status (e.g. under sentence for some offences and awaiting appeal results for others, or under sentence and awaiting deportation). The counting rules for determining the legal status of an offender are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ If the prisoner has been sentenced for any offence then this takes precedence over any other offence(s)/charge(s) for which the prisoner is unsentenced.</li> <li>■ If the sentenced prisoner has appealed against all of his/her sentences then that prisoner is counted as under sentence.</li> </ul>

*Aggregate sentence*

**45** The aggregate sentence is the longest period that the convicted prisoner may be detained for the current sentenced offences in the current episode. Charges pending which are likely to extend the current episode are ignored. Where a new episode is counted when a person returns to prison from a breach of parole, the unexpired sentence of the prior episode is usually incorporated into the aggregate sentence for the new episode.

*Expected time to serve*

**46** The expected time to serve is the period of imprisonment which a convicted prisoner is expected to serve and in most cases refers to the time between the date of reception for this episode (see paragraphs 42–43) and the earliest date of release for sentenced prisoners.

**47** Date of reception is defined as the date the prisoner was received into prison in a state or territory for the current episode. Counting rules for persons returning to custody from an escape attempt or parole are as follows:

- If an offender escapes from custody and is recaptured and returned to custody, the date of reception is the date the person originally entered into custody prior to the escape
- If parole is revoked resulting in an offender returning to custody, the date of reception is the date the person was returned to custody. That is, a new episode is deemed to have commenced.

**48** There are some state and territory variations:

- In Tasmania, if an offender escapes from custody and is recaptured and returned to custody, the date of reception is the date the person was returned to custody. That is, a new episode is deemed to have commenced
- In Western Australia, if an offender is returned to prison as a result of a parole breach the date of reception is the original reception date (see paragraph 64).

**49** The minimum term is the period that must be served before the prisoner is eligible for release from custody to parole, and the difference between the maximum and minimum term is the period that will be served on parole if the prisoner is released at his or her earliest eligibility date. While parole is generally granted at the earliest eligibility date, prisoners may be denied parole for some or all of the period up to the expiry of their maximum term. For both fixed and maximum-minimum sentences, the period actually served in custody may be less than the stated time to serve where administrative mechanisms such as sentence remissions are applied.

**50** The time a prisoner is expected to serve in custody depends upon the sentence(s) originally handed down, the system of remissions and the forms of parole available in the various states and territories and whether any time was spent in custody prior to reception (for example, time on remand or in police custody). The rules governing date of release are complex and differ between the states and territories. The calculation of the earliest date of release in each state and territory is described in paragraphs 51–69.

## NEW SOUTH WALES

**51** In New South Wales significant legislative amendments came into force on 3 April 2000, repealing a number of Acts of Parliament which were administered by the Department of Corrective Services, namely:

- *Correctional Centres Act 1952*
- *Sentencing Act 1989*
- *Periodic Detention of Prisoners Act 1981*
- *Home Detention Act 1996*
- *Community Service Orders Act 1979.*

**52** These Acts were replaced by the following:

- *Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999*

Expected time to serve  
continued

■ *Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999.*

**53** The consolidation of the sentencing legislation into two Acts was achieved with only minor changes of substance to existing law. Under current legislation a court, in setting a term of imprisonment, is required to first set a 'Non-Parole' period and then a 'Sentence' period. Alternatively a court may decline to set a 'Non-Parole' period. These sentences are referred to as 'Sentence/Non-Parole' and 'Sentence/Parole declined' sentence types respectively.

**54** Those prisoners with a sentence of three years or less, being a sentence that has a non-parole period, are automatically released from custody at the expiry of the non-parole term. Those with a non-parole term greater than three years may be released by the NSW Parole Board at any time after serving the non-parole term.

VICTORIA

**55** In Victoria, the calculation of expected time to serve is based on either the non-parole period set by court or the aggregate sentence. Time spent in detention prior to the commencement of the sentence counts toward the time expected to be served under sentence. Under the provisions of the *Sentencing Act 1991* (as amended), the sentencing rules in Victoria are as follows:

- If a sentence of Life or a term of two years or more is imposed, the court must fix a period during which the offender is not eligible to be released on parole, unless it considers that the nature of the offence or the past history of the offender make the fixing of such a period inappropriate.
- If a sentence of less than two years but not less than one year is imposed, the court may set a non-parole period.
- The non-parole period must be at least six months less than the term of imprisonment and must be in respect of the aggregate sentence that the offender is liable to serve under all the sentences imposed.

**56** Expected time to serve is not calculated for prisoners sentenced to an Indefinite term or to Life where no minimum term has been fixed.

QUEENSLAND

**57** In Queensland, with the exception of sentences of indefinite length such as Life, earliest release date calculations are based on the date an offender was eligible for parole.

**58** Release dates are calculated as follows:

- Unless otherwise specified by the court, the parole eligibility date is at 80% of the aggregate sentence length for serious violent offenders and half the aggregate sentence length for others.
- The *Corrective Services Act 2006 (Qld)* commenced on 26 August 2006. One key provision in the new legislation relates to the management of offenders subject to Court-ordered Parole. This new order provides courts with the power to specify a parole release date for persons who are sentenced to a term of imprisonment of 3 years or less.
- The earliest discharge date indicates when an offender might be discharged if remissions on each term of imprisonment are granted. For those prisoners ineligible for remission, this date would be the same as the full-time discharge date.



*Expected time to serve*  
*continued*

- The revised *Corrective Services Act 2000 (Qld)* commenced on 1 July 2001. Offenders convicted of an offence that was committed on or after 1 July 2001 and sentenced to a term of imprisonment are not eligible to have that term remitted. Offenders convicted of an offence that was committed prior to the commencement of this Act and sentenced to a term of imprisonment of two months or more are eligible to be considered for a remission of up to one-third of that term of imprisonment. This provision was extinguished by the *Corrective Services Act 2006 (Qld)*.
- Prisoners with life sentences are eligible to apply for parole:
  - if the prisoner is serving a life sentence under the *Criminal Code section 305(2)15* – once the prisoner has served 20 years or longer
  - if the prisoner is serving a life sentence under another code – once the prisoner has served 15 years.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**59** In South Australia, the Truth in Sentencing legislation implemented on 1 August 1994 changed the way in which release dates are calculated in comparison to previous years. The major changes to the sentencing legislation affected by the Truth in Sentencing were: the abolition of remissions; the requirement for prisoners with an aggregate sentence of five years or more to formally apply to the Parole Board for release on parole; the ability of the Parole Board to release prisoners with an aggregate sentence of five years or more at its discretion; and directions for the judiciary to take the abolition of remissions into account when ordering sentences. Prisoners with a non-parole period (NPP) and an aggregate sentence of less than five years continue to be paroled automatically. Release dates for prisoners are now calculated as follows:

- Where a prisoner has not had a NPP, the earliest date of release is the aggregate sentence end date.
- Where a prisoner has a NPP and an aggregate sentence of less than five years, the earliest date of release is the end date of the NPP.
- Where a prisoner has a NPP, and an aggregate sentence of five years or more, the earliest date of release is the earliest date the prisoner can be released by the Parole Board. If this date has expired and no further release date has been set by the Parole Board, the earliest date of release becomes the aggregate sentence end date, which in the case of Life or Other indeterminate sentences would be unknown.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**60** In Western Australia, expected time to serve is determined differently depending on whether sentences are less than 12 months or sentences are 12 months or more.

*Sentences less than 12 months*

**61** For sentences less than 12 months expected time to serve is determined as follows:

- Before 31 August 2003: the expected time to serve is calculated between the sentence start date and the two-thirds time date or effective date of release (EDR).
- On or after 31 August 2003: the calculation of the expected time to serve is based on half of the maximum sentence as the prisoner may be released on Short Term Parole at the Earliest Eligibility date (EED) after serving 50% of the sentence.

*Sentences 12 months or more*

**62** For sentences 12 months or more expected time to serve is determined as follows:

- Sentence Imposed before 31 August 2003:

*Expected time to serve**continued*

- Where no parole term is specified, the minimum sentence is calculated between the sentence start date and the two-thirds time date or effective date of release (EDR). If that Minimum Sentence is more than 12 months, the prisoner will be eligible for release on a Re-Entry Release Order (release is subject to approval by the Prisoners Review), and the expected time to serve is calculated up till the Re-Entry Release Eligibility date (RRED). If the Minimum Sentence is 12 months or less, the expected time to serve is calculated between the sentence start date and the two-thirds time date or effective date of release (EDR).
- Where a parole term has been specified, the minimum sentence is calculated between the sentence start date and the Earliest Eligibility Date (EED). If that Minimum Sentence is more than 12 months, the prisoner will be eligible for release on a Re-Entry Release Order (release is subject to approval by the Prisoners Review Board), and the expected time to serve is calculated up till the Re-Entry Release Eligibility date (RRED). If that Minimum Sentence is 12 months or less, the expected time to serve is calculated between the sentence start date and the Earliest Eligibility Date (EED).
- Sentence Imposed on or after 31 August 2003:
  - Where no parole term is specified:
    - For sentences equalling 12 months, the prisoner must serve the full term and the expected time to serve is calculated up till the sentence expiry date (maximum date).
    - For sentences greater than 12 months the prisoner will be eligible for release on a Re-Entry Release Order (release is subject to approval by the Prisoners Review), and the expected time to serve is calculated up till the Re-Entry Release Eligibility date (RRED).
  - Where a parole term has been specified:
    - For prisoners sentenced before 29 January 2007, the minimum sentence is calculated between the sentence start date and the Earliest Eligibility Date (EED)
    - If that Minimum Sentence is more than 12 months, the prisoner will be eligible for release on a Re-Entry Release Order (release is subject to approval by the Prisoners Review Board), and the expected time to serve is calculated up till the Re-Entry Release Eligibility date (RRED).
    - If that Minimum Sentence is 12 months or less, the expected time to serve is calculated between the sentence start date and the Earliest Eligibility Date (EED)
    - Prisoners sentenced to a parole term on or after 29 January 2007 are not eligible for release on a Re-Entry Release Order and the expected time to serve is calculated between the sentence start date and the Earliest Eligibility Date (EED).

**63** If EED or RRED have passed, any release date set by the Prisoners Review Board is taken into account. If the Prisoners Review Board has not set a release date but has set a review date, that review date is used. If there are no such dates, the EDR (for sentences imposed before 31 August 2003 and) or sentence expiry date (for sentences imposed on/after 31 August 2003) is used.

**64** Where prisoners were returned to prison partly or wholly as a result of breach or suspension of early release orders, a new episode is not deemed to have commenced and the date of reception is based on the date the person originally entered into custody, prior to being released on the early release order. Therefore, time spent in prison for the original sentence has continued to be included in the calculation of expected time to serve and aggregate sentence length data and may result in a higher mean and median duration for these data items in comparison with other states and territories (see

*Expected time to serve  
continued*

paragraph 71). In light of legislative changes effective from 31 August 2003, it is essential for Western Australia to have a continuous series of comparable information to enable the monitoring and evaluation of the impact of the legislation, therefore it cannot comply with the current ABS counting rule.

TASMANIA

**65** In Tasmania the calculation of expected time to serve is based on the totality of the sentence liable to be served minus one-third, but shall not operate so as to reduce the sentence below three months.

**66** From 1 October 2002, as a result of legislative change, the courts are required to set a term of imprisonment comprising a maximum term and a minimum term. Prior to the legislative change, the courts set a fixed term of imprisonment.

NORTHERN TERRITORY

**67** In the Northern Territory sentence remissions for new prisoners were abolished on 1 July 1996. Expected time to serve is therefore calculated as follows:

- Prisoners whose sentences commenced prior to 1 July 1996 will be discharged with one-third remissions or at the expiry of the non-parole period, as approved by the Northern Territory Parole Board. If the parole date has elapsed, the date eligible for remission is used (if applicable) or else the full-term expiry date is used.
- Prisoners sentenced after 1 July 1996 have an expected time to serve based on their non-parole period (if this date has elapsed the EDR becomes the full-term expiry date), a fixed release date or an earliest release date based on a suspension of sentence after a set period of time.

**68** Following the commencement of the *Sentencing (Crime of Murder) and Parole Reform Act 2003 (NT)* on 11 February 2004, prisoners receiving or currently serving a mandatory life sentence for murder can now be considered for release on parole after serving 20 or 25 years. Prior to sentencing legislation amendments in 2004, prisoners sentenced for murder were given a mandatory life sentence without the possibility of receiving an earliest date of release, e.g. parole.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

**69** Prisoners sentenced in the Australian Capital Territory and who were held in New South Wales prisons were subject to New South Wales calculations for date of release. As at 30 June 2009, Australian Capital Territory prisoners were no longer held in New South Wales prisons.

*Impact of indeterminate  
sentences*

**70** While all states and territories have access to indeterminate sentences as a sentencing option, the degree to which that sentencing option is utilised varies considerably across states and territories, particularly for homicide. This can impact on mean and median aggregate sentence length and expected time to serve data as prisoners with an indeterminate sentence are excluded from these calculations. For 2009, at least half of prisoners with a most serious offence of homicide had an indeterminate sentence in Western Australia (63%), South Australia (63%) and Queensland (50%). For the Australian Capital Territory, the proportion was closer to the national average of 26%. However, the proportions in the remaining states of New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and the Northern Territory were 10% or less.

*Mean/median sentence length  
and time on remand*

**71** Calculations of mean and median sentence lengths and time on remand are affected by the reference period used. For the Prisoner Census, information relates to the characteristics of prisoners at a point in time (the night of 30 June), rather than the total prisoner population during the year. During a year, a large proportion of prisoners who go through the prison system serve short sentences (i.e. less than a year) or are on remand for shorter periods of time, while at any point in time the majority tend to be

*Mean/median sentence length  
and time on remand continued*

prisoners serving longer sentences or who have been on remand for long periods of time. The impact of this is that when the total population of prisoners during a year is considered, the large number of short sentences and short periods of time on remand will result in lower mean and median sentence length and time on remand values compared with means and medians calculated from point in time data.

**72** Mean and median aggregate sentence length exclude indeterminate, life with a minimum and periodic detention sentences.

**73** Between 1995 and 2001, prisoners who had a 'Life with minimum' sentence were not included as part of the calculation of the mean and median sentence lengths for prisoners' expected time to serve in prison. From 2002 they have been included. Their inclusion has slightly increased the mean for the expected time to serve, but has had a negligible impact on the median value for expected time to serve.

MOST SERIOUS  
OFFENCE/CHARGE  
*Sentenced prisoners*

**74** For sentenced prisoners in all states and territories except Tasmania, the Most Serious Offence (MSO) is the offence for which the prisoner has received the longest sentence in the current episode for a single count of the offence, regardless of the possible result of any appeals, and regardless of whether the sentence for that offence has actually expired at census date. Where sentences are equal, or the longest sentence cannot be determined, the MSO is the offence with the lowest (numerical) Australian Standard Offence Classification (ASOC) code. For example, if a prisoner has two offences coded at the ASOC Group level: 0711 Unlawful entry with intent, and 0412 Dangerous or negligent driving, the MSO would be allocated as 0412 Dangerous or negligent driving, as this is the lowest ASOC code.

**75** In Tasmania, magistrates and judges have the capacity to provide global sentencing, i.e. a combined sentence for all offences. An individual offence will not have an identified period of imprisonment, so it is not possible to identify the offence with the longest period of imprisonment. The MSO is therefore determined by applying the National Offence Index (NOI).

**76** From 2004, the MSO for prisoners who have breached parole and returned to prison is determined only from the breach offence and any new offence(s) committed while on parole (the original MSO is excluded from the determination). This differs in Western Australia where offences from previous episodes are considered in the selection of MSO, due to the episode definition applied by Western Australia (see paragraph 64).

*Unsentenced prisoners*

**77** Prior to 2006, all states and territories applied the Most Serious Charge (MSC) for unsentenced prisoners by determining the charge which carries the longest statutory maximum penalty. From 2006, the NOI has been used by Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory. From 2007, the Northern Territory also applied the NOI, and in 2008, New South Wales introduced it. Western Australia continues to apply the charge which carries the longest statutory maximum penalty; where penalties are equal, the MSC is the charge with the lowest ANCO code. There are some state and territory variations:

- In New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, if a prisoner is convicted but as yet unsentenced for at least one charge, the MSC is selected from those offences for which convictions have been recorded.
- In Western Australia the MSC is always determined by calculating the lowest ANCO Code.

COURT OF  
SENTENCE/REMAND

**78** The court of sentence/remand data (available in Publication Datacubes 4, 11 and 12) refer to whether the offender was sentenced or remanded to custody by the Supreme Court, the District or County Court or the Lower Courts such as the Magistrates' or Children's Courts. The rules adopted for coding the level of court are:

COURT OF  
SENTENCE/REMAND *continued*

- Where an episode comprises orders/sentences of various levels of court, the level of court relating to the most serious offence (MSO) is recorded.
- An appeal court is recorded when it has altered the length of sentence of the MSO/charge.
- For prisoners not under sentence, the level of court which has issued the most recent remand in custody warrant is recorded.
- Prisoners held under a Department of Immigration order or under the authority of the Parole Board are recorded as 'other'.

DATA COMPARABILITY AND  
SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

**79** National corrections statistics are compiled in order to maximise comparability across states and territories. Although differences have been overcome through the introduction of national standards, some legislative, interpretive and processing differences remain.

*New South Wales*

**80** In New South Wales, the Kariong juvenile facility operates under the authority of Adult Corrective Services. These prisoners are excluded from this collection.

**81** In September 2007, NSW opened the Wellington Correctional Centre. The focus of this facility is to accommodate maximum security prisoners from across NSW, as well as prisoners with lower security classifications from surrounding areas.

**82** In September 2006, NSW opened the Compulsory Drug Treatment Correctional Centre (CDTCC). The CDTCC is an interagency endeavour – primarily between the Department of Corrective Services, Justice Health and the Attorney-General's Department. A multidisciplinary team at the Centre ensures treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration of male participants who have repeatedly offended in order to support a drug dependence.

**83** Amendments to the Bail Amendment (Repeat Offenders) Act 2002 restrict the availability of bail for three classes of defendant:

- those accused of having committed another offence while on bail or parole, or serving a sentence for another offence;
- those who have a previous conviction for absconding on bail; and
- those who are charged with an indictable offence who already stand convicted of an earlier indictable offence. The movement seen in Weapons offences (Division 11) was unexpected and was attributable to coding improvements made in NSW at that time.

*Victoria*

**84** The Judy Lazarus Transition Centre was opened in April 2007. The Centre provides a supervised pathway back into society for selected male prisoners nearing the end of their sentence.

**85** In March 2006, Victoria opened Marngoneet Correctional Centre, Lara. The focus of this facility is to provide intensive treatment and offender management programs for males that have a minimum of six months of their sentence left to serve when they arrive there. The Metropolitan Remand Centre at Ravenhall was opened in April 2006. This facility provides increased capacity to hold prisoners awaiting trial or sentencing.

**86** On 1 July 2005, the Children and Young Persons (Age Jurisdiction) Act 2004 came into force in Victoria. This Act changed the definition of a child from a person under 17 years of age to a person under 18 years of age. As a consequence the definition of an adult also changed for corrective services data to a person aged 18 years and over. Data prior to 2006 includes persons aged 17 years.

**87** For 2002 and previous years, when a prisoner was held on remand and then sentenced to a term of imprisonment as part of the one episode, the time on remand was considered a separate episode of imprisonment for the purposes of determining whether a prisoner had known prior adult imprisonment. This practice was inconsistent

*Victoria continued*

with the national counting rule for the Prisoner Census and resulted in an inflated number (and proportion) of Victoria's prisoner population with known prior adult imprisonment under sentence. From 2003 the national counting rule was adopted for recording known prior adult imprisonment in Victoria.

*Queensland*

**88** The Corrective Services Act 2006 (Qld) commenced on 26 August 2006. One key provision in the new legislation relates to the management of offenders subject to Court-ordered Parole. This new order ensures that offenders serve 100% of their sentence under supervision, either in a correctional centre or under community supervision. This new order provides courts with the power to specify a parole release date for persons who are sentenced to a term of imprisonment of 3 years or less. Court-ordered Parole is not available to sex offenders or serious violent offenders.

**89** In September 2005, Queensland implemented a new offender management system – the Integrated Offender Management System (IOMS). As a consequence prior imprisonment data were understated. The ABS imputed prior imprisonment data for 2006 and 2007 as an interim measure. During 2008 changes were implemented to the IOMS system and business processes to improve the quality of the prior imprisonment data. Comparisons to data prior to 2008 should be used with caution as the data may no longer be comparable.

**90** Commencing from 2003, the prisoner census includes those prisoners who are held in community custody centres and work camps in Queensland.

*Western Australia*

**91** The large increase in prisoners from 2008 was due to fewer offenders being granted parole by the Prisoner Review Board, increased incarcerations by the courts and the impact of the *Truth in Sentencing* legislation. Implemented on 23 September 2008, the *Truth in Sentencing* legislation refers to the *Sentencing Act (WA) 1995, Transitional Provisions* which removes the automatic 1/3 discount for each and every offence that appears in WA Statute books.

*Tasmania*

**92** The Risdon Prison Complex in Tasmania was opened on 28 August 2006. This complex includes the Mary Hutchinson Women's Prison which was opened in May 2006. A men's maximum/ medium security facility was also built within the complex.

**93** The growth in the prison population in Tasmania recorded for 2005 has primarily resulted from an increase in the number of remand receptions over the 2004–2005 period. There had been no specific policy change causing this increase in remand receptions.

**94** From 2003, the most serious offence/charge data for Tasmania has been determined by the application of the National Offence Index as the longest sentence can no longer be attributed to a single offence (see paragraph 75).

*Northern Territory*

**95** In 2005, Northern Territory implemented new quality assurance processes in the extraction of their prior imprisonment data. The result of these processes has been an improvement in the quality of prior adult imprisonment under sentence data.

*Australian Capital Territory*

**96** Prior to 2009, persons sentenced to full-time custody by the Australian Capital Territory were usually held in New South Wales prisons. A new prison facility to house persons sentenced to full-time custody, the Alexander Maconochie Centre, began taking prisoners on 30 March 2009. As at 30 June 2009, all Australian Capital Territory prisoners held in New South Wales prisons had been relocated to the new Alexander Maconochie Centre.

*Australian Capital Territory*  
*continued*

**97** In 2002, all periodic detainees with a current warrant were included in the census count (i.e. including those who were in breach of an order). Consequently, the periodic detainee population increased from 2002. In 2006 periodic detainees who were in breach of an order for more than three months were excluded from counts to ensure consistency with the scope of this collection. Consequently, the periodic detainee population decreased from 2006.

CONFIDENTIALITY

**98** Table cells containing small values have been randomly adjusted to avoid releasing confidential information. Due to this randomisation process, totals may vary slightly across tables.

ADDITIONAL DATA

**99** A set of additional tables containing extra state and territory information is available on the ABS website. Special tabulations may be produced on request to meet individual user requirements. For further information, contact the National Centre for Crime and Justice Statistics by email through <crime.justice@abs.gov.au> or the contact person listed on the front cover of this publication.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

*ABS publications*

**100** Other ABS publications which may be of interest include:

- Australian Demographic Statistics* (cat. no. 3101.0) – issued quarterly
- Australian Social Trends* (cat. no. 4102.0) – issued annually
- Australian Standard Offence Classification (ASOC), 2008 (Second edition)* (cat. no. 1234.0)
- Corrective Services, Australia* (cat. no. 4512.0) – issued quarterly
- Crime and Safety, Australia* (cat. no. 4509.0) – irregular
- Criminal Courts, Australia* (cat. no. 4513.0) – issued annually
- Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 1991 to 2021* (cat. no. 3238.0)
- General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia* (cat. no. 4159.0) – irregular
- Information Paper: Measuring Crime Victimisation, Australia: The Impact of Different Collection Methodologies* (cat. no. 4522.0.55.001) – single issue
- Information Paper: National Criminal Justice Statistical Framework* (cat. no. 4525.0) – single issue
- Information Paper: National Information Development Plan for Crime and Justice Statistics 2005* (cat. no. 4520.0) – single issue
- Measuring Australia's Progress* (cat. no. 1370.0) – issued annually
- Migration, Australia* (cat. no. 3412.0) – issued annually
- National Offence Index, 2009* (cat. no. 1234.0.55.001) – irregular
- Personal Fraud* (cat. no. 4528.0) – irregular
- Personal Safety Survey, Australia* (cat. no. 4906.0) – irregular
- Recorded Crime - Victims, Australia* (cat. no. 4510.0) – issued annually
- Recorded Crime - Offenders, Selected states and territories* (cat. no. 4519.0) – issued annually
- Sexual Assault in Australia: A Statistical Overview* (cat. no. 4523.0) – single issue
- Standard Australian Classification of Countries* (cat. no. 1269.0) – irregular
- Working Papers in Econometrics and Applied Statistics: No 2003/2 Dynamics in Repeat Imprisonment: Utilising Prison Census Data* (cat. no. 1351.0)

**101** Current publications and other products released by the ABS are available from the ABS website <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>. The ABS also provides a Release Calendar on the website detailing products to be released in the next six months. The National Centre for Crime and Justice Statistics within the ABS releases *Crime and Justice News* (cat. no. 4500.0), an annual newsletter that is published on the ABS website. The National Centre for Crime and Justice Statistics can be contacted by email <crime.justice@abs.gov.au>.

ABS publications continued

- 102** Non-ABS sources which may be of interest include:
- Australian Institute of Criminology, *List of Publications* – irregular  
<<http://www.aic.gov.au>>
  - Crime Research Centre, University of Western Australia, *Crime and Justice Statistics for Western Australia* – issued bi-annually  
<<http://www.crc.law.uwa.edu.au>>
  - Department of Corrective Services, New South Wales, *NSW Inmate Census* – irregular  
<<http://www.dcs.nsw.gov.au>>
  - Department of Justice, Northern Territory, *Northern Territory Quarterly Crime and Justice Statistics* – issued quarterly  
<<http://www.nt.gov.au/justice/>>
  - Department of Justice, Victoria, *Statistical Profile of the Victorian Prison System* – issued annually  
<<http://www.justice.vic.gov.au>>
  - NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, *New South Wales Criminal Courts Statistics* – issued annually  
<<http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au>>
  - Office of Crime Statistics and Research, South Australia, *Crime and Justice in South Australia* – issued annually  
<<http://www.ocsar.sa.gov.au>>
  - Steering Committee for the Review of Commonwealth/State Service Provision, *Report on Government Services* – issued annually  
<<http://www.pc.gov.au>>



APPENDIX 1

**AUSTRALIAN STANDARD OFFENCE  
CLASSIFICATION (ASOC) 2008 .....**



**A1.1**

<i>Code</i>	<i>Division/Subdivision (a)</i>
<b>01</b>	<b>Homicide and related offences</b> Murder Attempted murder Manslaughter and driving causing death
<b>02</b>	<b>Acts intended to cause injury</b> Assault Other acts intended to cause injury
<b>03</b>	<b>Sexual assault and related offences</b> Sexual assault Non-assaultive sexual offences
<b>04</b>	<b>Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons</b> Dangerous or negligent operation of a vehicle Other dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons
<b>05</b>	<b>Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person</b> Abduction and kidnapping Deprivation of liberty/false imprisonment Harassment and threatening behaviour
<b>06</b>	<b>Robbery, extortion and related offences</b> Robbery Blackmail and extortion
<b>07</b>	<b>Unlawful entry with intent/burglary, break and enter</b> Unlawful entry with intent/burglary, break and enter
<b>08</b>	<b>Theft and related offences</b> Motor vehicle theft and related offences Theft (except motor vehicles) Receive or handle proceeds of crime Illegal use of property (except motor vehicles)
<b>09</b>	<b>Fraud, deception and related offences</b> Obtain benefit by deception Forgery and counterfeiting Deceptive business/government practices Other fraud and deception offences
<b>10</b>	<b>Illicit drug offences</b> Import or export illicit drugs Deal or traffic in illicit drugs Manufacture or cultivate illicit drugs Possess and/or use illicit drugs Other illicit drug offences
<b>11</b>	<b>Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences</b> Prohibited weapons/explosives offences Regulated weapons/explosives offences
<b>12</b>	<b>Property damage and environmental pollution</b> Property damage Environmental pollution
<b>13</b>	<b>Public order offences</b> Disorderly conduct Regulated public order offences Offensive conduct
<b>14</b>	<b>Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences</b> Driver licence offences Vehicle registration and roadworthiness offences Regulatory driving offences Pedestrian offences

(a) Refers to *Australian Standard Offence Classification, 2008* (cat. no. 1234.0).

**A1.1**

Code Division/Subdivision (a)

**15 Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations**

- Breach of custodial order offences
- Breach of community-based orders
- Breach of violence and non-violence orders
- Offences against government operations
- Offences against government security
- Offences against justice procedures

**16 Miscellaneous offences**

- Defamation, libel and privacy offences
- Public health and safety offences
- Commercial/industry/financial regulation
- Other miscellaneous offences

(a) Refers to *Australian Standard Offence Classification, 2008* (cat. no. 1234.0).



**A2.1** ASOC 2008 – ASOC 1997 CONCORDANCE

2008 Group Code	Description	1997 Group Code	Description
0111	Murder	0111	Murder
		0121(a)	Conspiracy to murder
0121	Attempted murder	0121(a)	Conspiracy to murder
		0122	Attempted murder
0131	Manslaughter	0131	Manslaughter
0132	Driving causing death	0132	Driving causing death
0211	Assault resulting in serious injury	0211(a)	Aggravated assault
0212	Assault not resulting in serious injury	0211(a)	Aggravated assault
0213(b)	Common assault	0212	Non-aggravated assault
0291(b)	Stalking	1611(a)	Harassment and private nuisance
		0299	Acts intended to cause injury, nec
0299	Acts intended to cause injury, nec	0299	Acts intended to cause injury, nec
0311	Aggravated sexual assault	0311(a)	Aggravated sexual assault
0312	Non-aggravated sexual assault	0312(a)	Non-aggravated sexual assault
0321	Non-assaultive sexual offences against a child	0321	Non-assaultive sexual offences against a child
0322(b)	Child pornography offences	1323(a)	Censorship offences
0323(b)	Sexual servitude offences	0311(a)	Aggravated sexual assault
		0312(a)	Non-aggravated sexual assault
		0329(a)	Non-assaultive sexual offences, nec
		0521(a)	Deprivation of liberty/false imprisonment
		0621(a)	Blackmail and extortion
		1324(a)	Prostitution offences
		1692(a)	Immigration regulation offences
0329	Non-assaultive sexual offences, nec.	0329(a)	Non-assaultive sexual offences, nec.
0411	Driving under the influence of alcohol or other substance	0411	Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs
0412	Dangerous or negligent operation (driving) of a vehicle	0412	Dangerous or negligent operation (driving) of a vehicle
0491	Neglect or ill-treatment of person under care	0491	Neglect of person under care
0499	Other dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons, nec	0499	Other dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons, nec
0511	Abduction and kidnapping	0511	Abduction and kidnapping
0521	Deprivation of liberty/false imprisonment	0521(a)	Deprivation of liberty/false imprisonment
0531(b)	Harassment and private nuisance	1611(a)	Harassment and private nuisance
0532(b)	Threatening behaviour	1613	Threatening behaviour
0611	Aggravated robbery	0611	Aggravated robbery
0612	Non-aggravated robbery	0612	Non-aggravated robbery
0621	Blackmail and extortion	0621(a)	Blackmail and extortion
0711	Unlawful entry with intent/burglary, break and enter	0711	Unlawful entry with intent/burglary, break and enter
0811	Theft of a motor vehicle	0811	Theft of a motor vehicle
		1315(a)	Conspiracy
0812	Illegal use of a motor vehicle	0812	Illegal use of a motor vehicle

**A2.1** ASOC 2008 – ASOC 1997 CONCORDANCE *continued*

2008 Group Code	Description	1997 Group Code	Description
0813	Theft of motor vehicle parts or contents	0813	Theft of motor vehicle parts or contents
0821	Theft from a person (excluding by force)	1315(a) 0821	Conspiracy Theft from a person (excluding by force)
0822	Theft of intellectual property	1315(a) 0822	Conspiracy Theft of intellectual property
0823	Theft from retail premises	1315(a) 0823	Conspiracy Theft from retail premises
0829	Theft (except motor vehicles), nec	1315(a) 0829	Conspiracy Theft (except motor vehicles), nec
0831	Receive or handle proceeds of crime	0915 1315(a) 0831	Fare evasion Conspiracy Receiving or handling proceeds of crime
0841	Illegal use of property (except motor vehicles)	1315(a) 0841	Conspiracy Illegal use of property (except motor vehicles)
0911	Obtain benefit by deception	1315(a) 0911 0914	Conspiracy Cheque or credit card fraud Prescription drug fraud
0921	Counterfeiting of currency	0919(a) 1315(a) 0921(a)	Fraud, nec Conspiracy Counterfeiting currency and related offences
0922(b)	Forgery of documents	1315(a) 0912(a)	Conspiracy Make, use or possess equipment to make false/illegal financial instrument
0923(b)	Possess equipment to make false/illegal instruments	0919(a) 0921(a)	Fraud, nec Counterfeiting currency and related offences
0931	Fraudulent trade practices	1315(a) 0912(a)	Conspiracy Make, use or possess equipment to make false/illegal financial instrument
0932(b)	Misrepresentation of professional status	0921(a)	Counterfeiting currency and related offences
0933(b)	Illegal non-fraudulent trade practices	1315(a) 0913	Conspiracy Fraudulent trade practices
0991	Dishonest conversion	1315(a) 0991	Conspiracy Misrepresentation of professional status
0999	Other fraud and deception offences, nec	1315(a) 1314 1315(a) 0931 1315(a) 0999	Conspiracy Non-fraudulent trade practices Conspiracy Dishonest conversion Conspiracy Deception offences, nec

**A2.1** ASOC 2008 – ASOC 1997 CONCORDANCE *continued*

2008 Group Code	Description	1997 Group Code	Description
1011	Import illicit drugs	1011	Import illicit drugs
		1315(a)	Conspiracy
1012	Export illicit drugs	1012	Export illicit drugs
		1315(a)	Conspiracy
1021	Deal or traffic in illicit drugs - commercial quantity	1021	Deal or traffic in illicit drugs - commercial quantity
		1315(a)	Conspiracy
1022	Deal or traffic in illicit drugs - non-commercial quantity	1022	Deal or traffic in illicit drugs - non-commercial quantity
		1315(a)	Conspiracy
1031	Manufacture illicit drugs	1031(a)	Manufacture or cultivate illicit drugs
		1315(a)	Conspiracy
1032(b)	Cultivate illicit drugs	1031(a)	Manufacture or cultivate illicit drugs
		1315(a)	Conspiracy
1041	Possess illicit drug	1041	Possess illicit drug
1042	Use illicit drug	1042	Use illicit drug
1099	Illicit drug offences, nec.	1099	Illicit drug offences, nec.
1111	Import or export prohibited weapons/explosives	1111	Import or export prohibited weapons/explosives
1112	Sell, possess and/or use prohibited weapons/explosives	1112	Sell, possess and/or use prohibited weapons/explosives
1119	Prohibited weapons/explosives offences, nec	1119	Prohibited weapons/explosives offences, nec
1121	Unlawfully obtain or possess regulated weapons/explosives	1121	Unlawfully obtain or possess regulated weapons/explosives
1122	Misuse of regulated weapons/explosives	1122	Misuse of regulated weapons/explosives
1123	Deal or traffic regulated weapons/explosives offences	1123	Deal or traffic regulated weapons/explosives offences
1129	Regulated weapons/explosives offences, nec.	1129	Regulated weapons/explosives offences, nec.
1211	Property damage by fire or explosion	1211	Property damage by fire or explosion
1212	Graffiti	1212	Graffiti
1219	Property damage, nec.	1219	Property damage, nec.
1221	Air pollution offences	1221	Air pollution offences
1222	Water pollution offences	1222	Water pollution offences
1223	Noise pollution offences	1223	Noise pollution offences
1224(b)	Soil pollution offences	1229(a)	Environmental pollution offences, nec
1229	Environmental pollution offences, nec	1229(a)	Environmental pollution offences, nec
1311	Trespass	1311	Trespass
1312	Criminal intent	1314	Criminal intent
1313	Riot and affray	1319(a)	Disorderly conduct, nec
1319	Disorderly conduct, nec.	1319(a)	Disorderly conduct, nec.
1321	Betting and gambling offences	1321	Betting and gambling offences
1322	Liquor and tobacco offences	1322(a)	Liquor and tobacco offences
1323	Censorship offences	1323(a)	Censorship offences

**A2.1** ASOC 2008 – ASOC 1997 CONCORDANCE *continued*

2008 Group Code	Description	1997 Group Code	Description
1324	Prostitution offences	1324(a)	Prostitution offences
1325	Offences against public order sexual standards	1325	Offences against public order sexual standards
1326(b)	Consumption of legal substances in regulated spaces	1322(a)	Liquor and tobacco offences
1329	Regulated public order offences, nec.	1329	Regulated public order offences, nec.
1331(b)	Offensive language	1312	Offensive language
1332(b)	Offensive behaviour	1313	Offensive behaviour
1333(b)	Vilify or incite hatred on racial, cultural or ethnic grounds	1319(a)	Disorderly conduct, nec
1334(b)	Cruelty to animals	1319(a)	Disorderly conduct, nec
1411	Drive while licence disqualified or suspended	1411	Driving while licence cancelled or suspended
1412	Drive without a licence	1412	Driving without a licence
1419	Driver licence offences, nec.	1419	Driving licence offences, nec.
1421	Registration offences	1421	Registration offences
1422	Roadworthiness offences	1422	Roadworthiness offences
1431	Exceed the prescribed content of alcohol or other substance limit	1431	Exceeding the prescribed content of alcohol limit
1432	Exceed the legal speed limit	1432	Exceeding legal speed limit
1433	Parking offences	1433	Parking offences
1439	Regulatory driving offences, nec.	1439	Regulatory driving offences, nec.
1441	Pedestrian offences	1441	Pedestrian offences
1511	Escape custody offences	1511	Escape custody offences
1512	Breach of home detention	1519(a)	Breach of justice order, nec
1513	Breach of suspended sentence	1519(a)	Breach of justice order, nec
1521	Breach of community service order	1519(a)	Breach of justice order, nec
1522	Breach of parole	1513	Breach of parole
1523	Breach of bail	1512	Breach of bail
1524(b)	Breach of bond - probation	1519(a)	Breach of justice order, nec
1525(b)	Breach of bond - other	1519(a)	Breach of justice order, nec
1529	Breach of community-based order, nec	1519(a)	Breach of justice order, nec
1531	Breach of violence order	1514	Breach of domestic violence order
		1515(a)	Breach of other restraining order
1532(b)	Breach of non-violence order	1515(a)	Breach of other restraining order
1541	Resist or hinder government official (excluding police officer, justice official or government security officer)	1541	Resist or hinder government official (excluding police officer, justice official or government security officer)
1542(b)	Bribery involving government officials	0941	Bribery involving government officials
1543(b)	Immigration offences	1692(a)	Immigration regulation offences
1549	Offences against government operations, nec.	1549	Offences against government operations, nec.
1551(b)	Resist or hinder government officer concerned with government security	1531	Resist or hinder government officer concerned with government security
1559(b)	Offences against government security, nec.	1539	Offences against government security, nec.
		1315(a)	Conspiracy



**A2.1** ASOC 2008 – ASOC 1997 CONCORDANCE *continued*

2008 Group Code	Description	1997 Group Code	Description
1561(a)	Subvert the course of justice	1521	Subvert the course of justice
		1315(b)	Conspiracy
1562(a)	Resist or hinder police officer or justice official	1522	Resist or hinder police officer or justice official
1563(a)	Prison regulation offences	1523	Prison regulation offences
1569(a)	Offences against justice procedures, nec.	1529	Offences against justice procedures, nec.
1611	Defamation and libel	1614	Defamation and libel
1612	Offences against privacy	1612	Offences against privacy
1621	Sanitation offences	1621	Sanitation offences
1622	Disease prevention offences	1622	Disease prevention offences
1623	Occupational health and safety offences	1623	Occupational health and safety offences
1624	Transport regulation offences	1624	Transport offences
1625	Dangerous substances offences	1625	Dangerous substances offences
1626	Licit drug offences	1626	Licit drug offences
1629	Public health and safety offences, nec.	1629	Public health and safety offences, nec.
1631	Commercial/industry/financial regulation	1631	Commercial/industry/financial regulation
1691	Environmental regulation offences	1691	Environmental regulation offences
1692	Bribery (excluding government officials)	0949	Bribery, nec
1693	Quarantine offences	1693	Quarantine offences
1694	Import/export regulations	1694	Import/export regulations
1695	Procure or commit illegal abortion	1695	Procure or commit illegal abortion
1699	Miscellaneous offences, nec.	1699	Miscellaneous offences, nec.

(a) New group has been added in ASOC 2008.

(b) ASOC 1997 group has been partially split across more than one ASOC 2008 group.

## DATA CUBES

Additional data, other than what are available in this publication, are available in the form of datacubes on the ABS website <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>. A summary of what is available is as follows, with data in each table cross-classified by state and territory.

## PUBLICATION DATACUBES

*All prisoners*

1 Prisoners, security classification by sex

2 Prisoners, sex and prison location

*Sentenced prisoners*

3 Sentenced prisoners, most serious offence

4 Sentenced prisoners, sex by level of court of sentence

5 Sentenced prisoners, sentence length by most serious offence

*Periodic detainees*

6 Periodic detainees, most serious offence

7 Periodic detainees, sex by age

8 Periodic detainees, sex and mean and median age

9 Periodic detainees, aggregate sentence length

*Unsentenced prisoners*

10 Unsentenced prisoners, most serious charge

11 Unsentenced prisoners, level of court of remand

12 Unsentenced prisoners, level of court by mean and median time on remand

*Indigenous status*

13 Prisoners, Indigenous status by most serious offence/charge

14 Prisoners, Indigenous status by sex and age

15 Prisoners, Indigenous status by sex and mean and median age

16 Prisoners, Indigenous status by sex and prior imprisonment

17 Sentenced prisoners, Indigenous status by aggregate sentence length

18 Sentenced prisoners, Indigenous status by sex and mean and median aggregate sentence length

19 Sentenced prisoners, Indigenous status by expected time to serve

20 Sentenced prisoners, Indigenous status by sex and mean and median expected time to serve

## ASOC CHANGE DATACUBES

*Estimated impact of classification changes*

1 Estimated impact of classification changes, Prisoners, New South Wales

2 Estimated impact of classification changes, Prisoners, Victoria

3 Estimated impact of classification changes, Prisoners, Tasmania

4 Estimated impact of classification changes, Prisoners, Northern Territory

INTRODUCTION

**1** From this issue, offence data for 2009 and onwards presented in this publication will largely be compiled and presented according to revised offence classifications. In 2009, the *Australian Standard Offence Classification (ASOC), 2008 (Second edition)* (cat. no. 1234.0), and the *National Offence Index (NOI) 2009* (cat. no. 1234.0.55.001), were introduced into the Prisoner Census collection. The classification changes affect the most serious offence for sentenced prisoners, and the most serious charge for unsentenced prisoners. Previous issues of this publication were based on the *Australian Standard Offence Classification (ASOC) 1997* (cat. no. 1234.0) and the 2002 National Offence Index (NOI).

**2** ASOC08 was adopted to provide a more contemporary classification system, taking into account significant legislative changes that have occurred at state and territory level since the first edition was released, as well as satisfying emerging user requirements for offence data. NOI was updated largely to reflect changes made to ASOC.

IMPACT ON 2009 DATA AND TIME SERIES

**3** All jurisdictions implemented ASOC08 and NOI09 for the provision of offence data for the 2009 Prisoner Census, with the exception of Western Australia and Queensland. ASOC97 and NOI02 will continue to be used for these jurisdictions. Introducing ASOC08 and NOI09 involved remapping local jurisdictional offence codes to the new classification. This process has had some level of impact to the time series, and to comparability across jurisdictions given some have not yet implemented these changes.

**4** The total number of offence divisions has not changed between the two versions of ASOC, and only minor changes have been made to division titles. However, ASOC08 includes three additional subdivisions and 16 additional groups. A few subdivisions and groups have been moved and are now inclusions in other subdivisions and groups. Table 1 below provides a summary view of the major expected changes between divisions. Changes have also been made to the inclusions and exclusions of the classification to improve coding; refer to Appendices 1 and 2. Further detailed information relating to the conceptual changes between ASOC97 and ASOC08 is available in *Australian Standard Offence Classification (ASOC), 2008 (Second edition)* (cat. no. 1234.0).

TABLE 1 EXPECTED MAJOR ASOC CHANGES (a)

ASOC Division	EXPECTED MAJOR CHANGE
01 Homicide and related offences	nil -
02 Acts intended to cause injury	+ ASOC: From Division 16 - Inclusion of stalking. + NOI: Relative change in rankings of serious assault resulting in injury (0211) and aggravated robbery (0611) - expect increase in assaults if co-occur with aggravated robbery, and a decrease in robbery counts.
03 Sexual assault and related offences	+ ASOC: From Division 13 - Inclusion of child pornography and sexual servitude offences (potentially from Divisions 05, 06, 13 and 16).
04 Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	+ NOI: Expect increase where driving under the influence of alcohol or other substance (0411) and dangerous or negligent operation (driving) of a vehicle (0412) co-occurs with other offences such as 0611, 0711, 0812 and 0829, as NOI rankings have moved from 89 and 90 to 37 and 38 respectively.
05 Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	+ ASOC: From Division 16 - Inclusion of harassment and private nuisance and threatening behaviour. + NOI: Expect some increase in Abduction/kidnapping (051) and Deprivation of liberty/false imprisonment (052) where aggravated assault has been remapped to 0212. ASOC 0511 and 0521 are ranked above 0212 on the NOI, and are likely to be selected as the most serious offence when offences are remapped and co-occur. - NOI: Conversely, may decrease where 0531 co-occurs with offences in Divisions 07, 08, 09 or 11, or groups 1211, 1542, 1559, 1561, 1612, 1631, 1694 or 1695. Has moved from rank 39 to 82.
06 Robbery, extortion and related offences	- ASOC: From Divisions 05, 06, 13 and 16 - Decrease due to the exclusion of sexual servitude offences. - NOI: Expect decrease where co-occurs with assault offences as serious assault resulting in injury is now ranked above aggravated robbery in the NOI.
07 Unlawful entry with intent	- NOI: Expect decrease where co-occurs with driving under the influence of alcohol or other substance (0411) and dangerous or negligent operation (driving) of a vehicle (0412) as these have moved from NOI rankings of 89 and 90 to 37 and 38 respectively.
08 Theft and related offences	+ ASOC: From Division 09 - Expect increase due to inclusion of fare evasion. Further possible increases where Theft from retail premises (0823) co-occurs with other offences, as it has moved from a NOI ranking of 138 to 74 (impacts on some co-occurring offences in Divisions 10, 13, 15 and 16). - NOI: May be offset by decreases where theft co-occurs with driving under the influence of alcohol or other substance (0411) and dangerous or negligent operation (driving) of a vehicle (0412), as these have moved from NOI rankings of 89 and 90 to 37 and 38 respectively.
09 Fraud, deception and related offences	- ASOC: Removal of fare evasion (to Division 08) and bribery involving government officials (to Division 15).
10 Illicit drug offences	nil -
11 Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	nil -
12 Property damage and environmental pollution	nil -
13 Public order offences	- ASOC: Removal of child pornography and sexual servitude (both to Division 03) and conspiracy offences to other divisions (Not all conspiracy offences have moved out of Division 13 with some recoded to 1312).
14 Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	nil -
15 Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	+ ASOC: From Division 16 - Inclusion of immigration offences; from Division 09 - Bribery involving government officials.
16 Miscellaneous offences	- ASOC: Removal of harassment and private nuisance (to Divisions 02 or 05), threatening behaviour (to Division 05), and immigration offences (Divisions 03 or 15).

(a) All divisions other than Division 01 and Division 13 may experience some increase due to inclusion of conspiracy offences with actual offences. Further changes may have also impacted on Division counts in addition to those major changes represented here.

*Analysis of impacts*

**5** Four jurisdictions (New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and the Northern Territory) supplied 2009 data coded to both ASOC97 and ASOC08, which enabled an assessment of the impact of the changes to the classification on the prisoner census data. It should be noted that as part of implementation, jurisdictions also rectified a number of codes that were miscoded in previous years.

Analysis of impacts continued

6 Table 2 shows the results of this analysis, providing estimated changes to the total division level movement summed across those four jurisdictions that provided dual-coded data. The table provides a count of prisoners at 30 June 2009 based on classifying most serious offence/charge to ASOC97 and ASOC08. The differences between the two populations largely reflects the impact of the change from ASOC97 to ASOC08 and some changes as a result of correcting miscoding errors in ASOC97.

TABLE 2 ESTIMATED IMPACT OF CLASSIFICATION CHANGES, PRISONERS 2009(a), combined selected states and territories(b)

ASOC Division	Prisoners	Prisoners	DIVISIONAL	
	(ASOC97)	(ASOC08)	CHANGE(c)	.....
	no.	no.	no.	%
01 Homicide and related offences	1 553	1 560	7	0.5
02 Acts intended to cause injury	3 066	3 276	210	6.8
03 Sexual assault and related offences	1 828	1 887	59	3.2
04 Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	266	294	28	10.5
05 Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	138	176	38	27.5
06 Robbery, extortion and related offences	1 650	1 550	-100	-6.1
07 Unlawful entry with intent	1 616	1 614	-2	-0.1
08 Theft and related offences	811	813	2	0.2
09 Fraud, deception and related offences	540	531	-9	-1.7
10 Illicit drug offences	2 106	2 134	28	1.3
11 Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences(d)	246	204	-42	-17.1
12 Property damage and environmental pollution(d)	189	170	-19	-10.1
13 Public order offences(d)	271	156	-115	-42.4
14 Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	894	895	1	0.1
15 Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	1 690	1 683	-7	-0.4
16 Miscellaneous offences	204	125	-79	-38.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>17 068</b>	<b>17 068</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>

- .. not applicable
- (a) Includes rectification of miscoding of records not a direct result of changes to ASOC.
- (b) New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and the Northern Territory.
- (c) Represents difference directly as a result of ASOC08, and rectification of miscoding errors.
- (d) There were substantial impacts in these divisions due to the rectification of miscoding errors in some jurisdictions, in addition to classification changes.

7 Table 2 shows that some prisoner counts have moved between most serious offence/charge categories as a result of the classification and rectification of miscoding changes, however it also illustrates that the total number of prisoners for the combined four states and territories has not been impacted by the classification changes. Four divisions (05, 11, 13 and 16) recorded changes of 15% or greater, however this was largely due to small numbers. All other divisions recorded changes below 15%. The impact of these changes overall to offence data for the four combined jurisdictions has been relatively small.

8 Table 3 below provides an overview of the changes to the most serious offence/charge counts for all prisoners from 2008 to 2009 with and without the classification changes. To illustrate, the table shows that the number of prisoners in 2009 increased by 6% from 2008 (from 27,615 prisoners in 2008 to 29,317 prisoners in 2009). The rise in prisoner numbers has not been impacted by the classificatory changes. However, given subdivision and group changes have occurred within divisions as a result of changes to ASOC08 and NOI09, the allocation of the most serious offence/charge for prisoners in some cases will be different than if they were classified to ASOC97 and NOI02. The correction of miscoding errors in 2009 also could have resulted in changes between divisions, however these were not significant in most cases. For example, the table shows that the number of prisoners with a most serious offence/charge of acts intended to cause injury increased by 13%. Approximately 4% of this change can be

*Analysis of impacts continued*

attributed to changes to the classification and/or miscoding rather than an actual increase in prisoners for this offence type. Excluding these classification changes, the estimated increase in prisoners for this offence type from 2008 to 2009 would be approximately 8% rather than 13%.

**9** However, the interpretation of these movements is further complicated. South Australia was unable to provide a dual-coded file, and the Australian Capital Territory was only able to supply a partial dual-coded file, therefore all classificatory impacts could not be measured. Furthermore, the most serious offence/charge data for Queensland and Western Australia still reflect counts based on ASOC97 rather than ASOC08. Had these jurisdictions implemented ASOC08 the movements across divisions would have altered. It is anticipated that the level of movements across offence types would be similar to the larger jurisdictions. Caution should therefore be exercised when using these estimates as the accuracy of the level of movement cannot be fully ascertained as the movements do not include changes that would have occurred if Queensland and Western Australia had moved to ASOC08 and do not reflect any measures for South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory. The data should be used as a guide to interpret the level of movements of most serious offence/charge counts between 2009 and earlier years and between jurisdictions.

TABLE 3 INDICATIVE IMPACT OF CLASSIFICATION CHANGES, PRISONERS, 2009, Australia

ASOC Division	ALL PRISONERS		CHANGE FROM 2008 TO 2009		Classification impacts ASOC97 to ASOC08(a)	Indicative change (excluding classification impacts) 2008 to 2009
	2008	2009	no.	%		
01 Homicide and related offences	2 712	2 717	5	0.2	0.3	-0.1
02 Acts intended to cause injury	2 713	5 638	630	12.6	4.2	8.4
03 Sexual assault and related offences	3 411	3 633	222	6.5	1.7	4.8
04 Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	448	585	137	30.6	6.3	24.3
05 Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	212	284	72	34.0	18.9	15.1
06 Robbery, extortion and related offences	2 682	2 791	109	4.1	-3.7	7.8
07 Unlawful entry with intent	3 138	3 209	71	2.3	-0.1	2.3
08 Theft and related offences	1 159	1 290	131	11.3	0.2	11.1
09 Fraud, deception and related offences	871	876	5	0.6	-1.0	1.6
10 Illicit drug offences	2 885	3 217	332	11.5	1.0	10.5
11 Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	251	278	27	10.8	-16.7	27.5
12 Property damage and environmental pollution	354	368	14	4.0	-5.4	9.3
13 Public order offences	300	212	-88	-29.3	-38.3	9.0
14 Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	1 411	1 414	3	0.2	0.1	0.1
15 Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	2 407	2 504	97	4.0	-0.3	4.3
16 Miscellaneous offences	359	276	-83	-23.1	-22.6	-0.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>27 615</b>	<b>29 317</b>	<b>1 702</b>	<b>6.2</b>	..	..

.. not applicable

(a) Classification impacts are based on the change observed across the four combined jurisdictions who provided dual-coded extracts, and include changes due to miscoding.

**10** The following tables provide a summary view of the estimated impacts of implementing the classificatory changes by comparing individual selected state and territory 2009 prisoner data by most serious offence/charge for each division, comparing counts based on what the data would have looked like using ASOC97 and what the data are now reflecting using ASOC08. These differences also include changes as a result of miscoding. These tables are only presented for jurisdictions who implemented ASOC08

*Analysis of impacts continued*

in 2009 and were able to supply dual coded files. Further tables are available on the ABS website for these same selected states and territories showing the indicative impacts of these classification changes to the prisoner movements of the most serious offence/charge data between 2008 and 2009 for New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and the Northern Territory. These tables should only be used as a guide when comparing state and territory offence data.

TABLE 4 ESTIMATED IMPACT OF CLASSIFICATION CHANGES, PRISONERS 2009(a), New South Wales

ASOC DIVISION	Prisoners	Prisoners	DIVISIONAL	
	(ASOC97)	(ASOC08)	CHANGE(b)	.....
	no.	no.	no.	(%)
01 Homicide and related offences	849	856	7	0.8
02 Acts intended to cause injury	2 006	2 166	160	8.0
03 Sexual assault and related offences	931	981	50	5.4
04 Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	170	187	17	10.0
05 Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	107	138	31	29.0
06 Robbery, extortion and related offences	1 187	1 123	-64	-5.4
07 Unlawful entry with intent	1 067	1 061	-6	-0.6
08 Theft and related offences	514	514	—	—
09 Fraud, deception and related offences	341	339	-2	-0.6
10 Illicit drug offences	1 448	1 476	28	1.9
11 Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences(c)	193	152	-41	-21.2
12 Property damage and environmental pollution	103	99	-4	-3.9
13 Public order offences(c)	234	129	-105	-44.9
14 Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	640	638	-2	-0.3
15 Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	1 158	1 146	-12	-1.0
16 Miscellaneous offences	179	122	-57	-31.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>11 127</b>	<b>11 127</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>

.. not applicable

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Includes rectification of miscoding of records not a direct result of changes to ASOC.

(b) Represents difference directly as a result of ASOC08, and rectification of miscoding errors.

(c) There were substantial impacts in these divisions due to the rectification of miscoding errors, in addition to classification changes.

TABLE 5 ESTIMATED IMPACT OF CLASSIFICATION CHANGES, PRISONERS 2009(a), Victoria

ASOC DIVISION	Prisoners	Prisoners	DIVISIONAL	
	(ASOC97)	(ASOC08)	CHANGE(b)	.....
	no.	no.	no.	(%)
01 Homicide and related offences	532	532	—	—
02 Acts intended to cause injury	557	605	48	8.6
03 Sexual assault and related offences	694	695	1	0.1
04 Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	62	63	1	1.6
05 Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	26	29	3	11.5
06 Robbery, extortion and related offences	378	345	-33	-8.7
07 Unlawful entry with intent	447	459	12	2.7
08 Theft and related offences	250	256	6	2.4
09 Fraud, deception and related offences	163	159	-4	-2.5
10 Illicit drug offences	584	584	—	—
11 Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	48	47	-1	-2.1
12 Property damage and environmental pollution(c)	57	40	-17	-29.8
13 Public order offences	22	20	-2	-9.1
14 Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	107	107	—	—
15 Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	404	406	2	0.5
16 Miscellaneous offences	19	3	-16	-84.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 350</b>	<b>4 350</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>

- .. not applicable (b) Represents difference directly as a result of ASOC08, and rectification of miscoding errors.
- nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
- (a) Includes rectification of miscoding of records not a direct result of changes to ASOC. (c) There were substantial impacts in this division due to the rectification of miscoding errors, in addition to classification changes.

TABLE 6 ESTIMATED IMPACT OF CLASSIFICATION CHANGES, PRISONERS 2009(a), Tasmania

ASOC DIVISION	Prisoners	Prisoners	DIVISIONAL	
	(ASOC97)	(ASOC08)	CHANGE(b)	.....
	no.	no.	no.	(%)
01 Homicide and related offences	69	69	—	—
02 Acts intended to cause injury	102	103	1	1.0
03 Sexual assault and related offences	58	64	6	10.3
04 Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	9	21	12	133.3
05 Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	—	3	3	-
06 Robbery, extortion and related offences	53	52	-1	-1.9
07 Unlawful entry with intent	49	44	-5	-10.2
08 Theft and related offences	33	28	-5	-15.2
09 Fraud, deception and related offences	27	25	-2	-7.4
10 Illicit drug offences	27	28	1	3.7
11 Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	—	—	—	-
12 Property damage and environmental pollution	16	16	—	—
13 Public order offences	8	—	-8	-100.0
14 Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	39	39	—	—
15 Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	39	40	1	2.6
16 Miscellaneous offences	3	—	-3	-100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>

- .. not applicable (b) Represents difference directly as a result of ASOC08, and rectification of miscoding errors.
- nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
- (a) Includes rectification of miscoding of records not a direct result of changes to ASOC.



TABLE 7 ESTIMATED IMPACT OF CLASSIFICATION CHANGES, PRISONERS 2009(a), Northern Territory

	<i>Prisoners</i>	<i>Prisoners</i>	DIVISIONAL	
	(ASOC97)	(ASOC08)	CHANGE(b)	
	no.	no.	no.	(%)
01 Homicide and related offences	103	103	—	—
02 Acts intended to cause injury	401	402	1	0.2
03 Sexual assault and related offences	145	147	2	1.4
04 Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	25	23	-2	-8.0
05 Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	4	5	1	25.0
06 Robbery, extortion and related offences	32	30	-2	-6.3
07 Unlawful entry with intent	53	50	-3	-5.7
08 Theft and related offences	14	15	1	7.1
09 Fraud, deception and related offences	9	8	-1	-11.1
10 Illicit drug offences	47	46	-1	-2.1
11 Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	4	4	—	—
12 Property damage and environmental pollution	13	15	2	15.4
13 Public order offences	6	6	—	—
14 Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	108	111	3	2.8
15 Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	89	91	2	2.2
16 Miscellaneous offences	3	—	-3	-100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 056</b>	<b>1 056</b>	<b>. .</b>	<b>. .</b>

. . not applicable

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Includes rectification of miscoding of records not a direct result of changes to ASOC.

(b) Represents difference directly as a result of ASOC08, and rectification of miscoding errors.

## GLOSSARY

<b>90th percentile</b>	A percentile is a value that divides the distribution of a particular data item into 100 groups having equal frequencies. The 90th percentile indicates that 90 percent of the values of the data item lie at or below the 90th percentile.
<b>Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person</b>	Acts intended to threaten or harass, or acts that unlawfully deprive another person of their freedom of movement, that are against that person's will or against the will of any parent, guardian or other person having lawful custody or care of that person.
<b>Acts intended to cause injury</b>	Acts, excluding attempted murder and those resulting in death, which are intended to cause non-fatal injury or harm to another person and where there is no sexual or acquisitive element.
<b>Adult prisoner</b>	An adult prisoner is a person who is aged 18 years and over in all states and territories except Queensland where an adult prisoner is a person aged 17 years and over (see Explanatory Notes, paragraph 11).
<b>Age standardisation</b>	Age standardisation is a statistical method that adjusts crude rates to account for age differences between study populations. Age standardisation enables better comparisons between different populations. In the context of such a comparison, the key variable of interest is the ratio of rates, rather than the age standardised rates alone (see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 31–32).
<b>Aggregate sentence</b>	The longest period that the convicted prisoner may be detained for the current sentenced offences in the current episode.
<b>Country of birth</b>	Country of birth information is classified according to the <i>Standard Classification of Countries (SACC), Second edition</i> (cat. no. 1269.0) (see Explanatory Notes, paragraph 41).
<b>Crude imprisonment rates</b>	Crude imprisonment rates are calculated by dividing the number of prisoners in the reference period, by the total adult population, multiplied by 100,000 to give a crude rate per 100,000 adult population. Crude rates measure the actual rates of imprisonment and are not adjusted for any differences in population structures that may influence the rates. As such, it is preferable to use age standardised rates when comparing rates of imprisonment for Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations.
<b>Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons</b>	Dangerous or negligent acts which, though not intended to cause harm, actually or potentially result in injury to oneself or another person.
<b>Date of reception</b>	The date the prisoner was received into prison for the current episode.
<b>Episode</b>	A continuous period of imprisonment (see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 42–43).
<b>Expected time to serve</b>	The period of imprisonment that a convicted prisoner is expected to serve. In most cases this refers to the time between the date of reception for this episode and the earliest date of release (see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 46–69).
<b>Fine default only</b>	A type of sentence where persons are serving a sentence for non-payment of a fine and are subject to no other sentence type at the time. Offenders who are serving fine default sentences while on remand are counted as sentenced (fine default) prisoners. Offenders who are serving fine default sentences concurrently with other sentences of imprisonment are counted under the other sentence type and not as fine default only prisoners.

<b>Fixed term</b>	A type of sentence where there is no minimum term or non-parole period set. The prisoner is required to serve the whole sentence, less any remission allowed, in custody and when released from custody is not subject to any further correctional intervention.
<b>Fraud, deception and related offences</b>	Offences involving a dishonest act or omission carried out with the purpose of deceiving to obtain a benefit.
<b>Homicide and related offences</b>	The unlawful killing, attempted unlawful killing or conspiracy to kill another person.
<b>Illicit drug offences</b>	The possession, sale, dealing or trafficking, importing or exporting, manufacture or cultivation of drugs or other substances prohibited under legislation.
<b>Imprisonment rate</b>	Imprisonment rates are expressed as the number of persons in prison per 100,000 adult population. Imprisonment rates enable comparison of prisoner populations across states and territories.
<b>Indeterminate sentences</b>	Types of sentences where persons are sentenced to life imprisonment with no prescribed minimum time to serve. This does not necessarily mean, however, that the person will be held in custody for the term of their natural life. This category includes Indeterminate – life; Indeterminate – Governor's/HM Pleasure; or Indeterminate – subject to ministerial/administrative decision.
<b>Indigenous prisoners</b>	Indigenous prisoners are those prisoners who self identified as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin at the time of reception.
<b>Jurisdiction</b>	The state or territory in which a prisoner is held in custody, regardless of which state or territory has imposed the sentence being served (see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 13 and 96).
<b>Legal status</b>	The legal status of an offender is determined by the warrant/s or court order/s which provide the legal basis for the detention in custody of the offender. The legal status of sentenced includes: no appeal current; awaiting appeal; unfit to plead; not guilty on grounds of insanity; preventative detention. A legal status of unsentenced includes: unconvicted awaiting court hearing or trial; awaiting sentence; and awaiting deportation.
<b>Level of court</b>	A separate tier of the court system, each of which is established under legislation and has certain prescribed powers. Court levels are distinguished from one another on the basis of the extent of their legal powers.
<b>Life with minimum</b>	A type of sentence where persons are sentenced to life imprisonment, where a minimum time to serve in custody has been specified by the court.
<b>Maximum-minimum (or max-min)</b>	A type of sentence where persons may be eligible to be released on parole after serving a minimum term in custody, and who must be released once a maximum term has been served.
<b>Mean</b>	The arithmetic average.
<b>Median</b>	The middle value of a set of values when the values are sorted in order.
<b>Miscellaneous offences</b>	Offences involving the breach of statutory rules or regulations governing activities, where such offences are not explicitly dealt with under any other division of ASOC, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ harassment and related offences</li> <li>■ public health and safety offences</li> <li>■ commercial/industry/financial regulations.</li> </ul>
<b>Most serious charge</b>	Historically, for unsentenced prisoners, whether convicted or not, the most serious charge is the charge which carries the longest statutory maximum penalty. From 2006, the Prisoner Census moved towards the use of the National Offence Index for determining most serious charge (see Explanatory Notes, paragraph 77).
<b>Most serious offence</b>	For sentenced prisoners, the most serious offence is the offence for which the prisoner has received the longest sentence in the current episode for a single count of the offence, except for Tasmania (see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 74–76).

<b>Offences against justice procedures, government security and operations</b>	An act or omission that is deemed to be prejudicial to the effective carrying out of justice procedures or any government operations. This includes general government operations as well as those specifically concerned with maintaining government security.
<b>Other indeterminate sentence</b>	Includes two sentence types: Indeterminate – Governor's/HM Pleasure or Indeterminate – subject to ministerial/administrative decision.
<b>Other sentence</b>	An indeterminate sentence determination whereby persons are declared as habitual criminals, or persons are either permanently or temporarily deemed not responsible for their actions because of a mental disorder or intellectual disability. Such prisoners are detained and do not have a release date set. That is, the prisoner may be released at any time, at the discretion of the administrative body within each jurisdiction responsible for making that decision. This includes all Indeterminate sentences, except for Indeterminate – Life.
<b>Periodic detention</b>	A type of sentence where persons are in custody for two consecutive days in a week (periodic detainee week), but remain at liberty during the rest of the week. This sentencing option is only available to New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory courts.
<b>Prior imprisonment</b>	Persons known to have been imprisoned under sentence in an adult prison. Prior sentence of periodic detention is included as prior imprisonment. Prisoners who have had previous adult imprisonment in another state or territory may not be counted as having prior imprisonment.
<b>Prisoner</b>	A person held in custody. For the purposes of this collection, prisoners are those whose confinement is the responsibility of a corrective services agency.
<b>Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences</b>	Offences involving prohibited or regulated weapons and explosives.
<b>Property damage and environmental pollution</b>	The wilful and unlawful destruction, damage or defacement of public or private property, or the pollution of property or a definable entity held in common by the community.
<b>Public order offences</b>	<p>Offences involving personal conduct that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ involves or may lead to a breach of public order and decency</li> <li>■ is indicative of criminal intent</li> <li>■ is otherwise regulated or prohibited on moral or ethical grounds.</li> </ul> <p>In general these offences do not involve a specific victim or victims, however some offences, such as offensive language and offensive behaviour, may be directed towards a single victim.</p>
<b>Remand prisoners (remandees)</b>	Remand prisoners are those persons who have been placed in custody while awaiting the outcome of their court hearing. They may be unconvicted (remanded in custody for trial), convicted but awaiting sentence (remanded in custody for sentence) or awaiting deportation. Some sentenced prisoners also have active remand warrants against them. In such cases, these prisoners are counted as sentenced.
<b>Robbery, extortion and related offences</b>	Acts intended to unlawfully gain money, property or other thing of value from, or to cause detriment to, another person by using the threat of force or any other coercive measure.
<b>Sentenced in the last 12 months</b>	Prisoners whose date of aggregate sentence commenced between 1 July in the preceding year and 30 June in the current year. The date the aggregate sentence commenced is based on a determination made by a sentencing judicial officer. This date may take into consideration time on remand or sentences currently being served.

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<b>Sentenced prisoners</b>	Sentenced prisoners are those persons who have received a term of imprisonment from a court. This includes offenders who have been given an indeterminate sentence or custodial order, for example, persons detained under the 'Governor's/HM's Pleasure' and 'Forensic Patients', or those who have received a life sentence. Also included are periodic detainees in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.
<b>Sexual assault and related offences</b>	Acts of a sexual nature against another person which are non-consensual or consent is proscribed.
<b>Theft and related offences</b>	The unlawful taking or obtaining of money or goods not involving the use of force, threat of force or violence, coercion or deception, with the intent to permanently or temporarily deprive the owner or possessor of the use of the money or goods, or the receiving or handling of money or goods obtained unlawfully.
<b>Time on remand</b>	For unsentenced prisoners, time on remand is calculated as the period between the date of reception and the prisoner census date. It represents only that period of time spent on remand up to 30 June of the reference year.
<b>Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences</b>	Offences relating to vehicle and most forms of road traffic, including offences pertaining to the licensing, registration, roadworthiness or use of vehicles, bicycle offences and pedestrian offences.
<b>Unlawful entry with intent/burglary, break and enter</b>	The unlawful entry of a structure with the intent to commit an offence where the entry is either forced or unforced.
<b>Unsentenced prisoners</b>	A legal status indicating that a person is confined to custody on remand while awaiting the outcome of their trial. They may be unconvicted (remanded in custody for trial), convicted but awaiting sentence (remanded in custody for sentence) or awaiting deportation.





## FOR MORE INFORMATION . . .

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