

News Release

ENHANCING INMATES' EMPLOYABILITY TO PREVENT RE-OFFENDING

The Singapore Prison Service (SPS) today released key statistical data that reaffirms its commitment to rehabilitate inmates through enhancing their employability and reduce their risk of re-offending.

Recidivism Rates Remain Low and Stable

2. The overall recidivism rate¹ for the 2014 release cohort remained low and stable (Table 1). This could be attributed to inmates securing gainful and stable employment, family and community support as well as inmates' personal resolve not to re-offend.

Table 1: Overall Recidivism Rate

2012 Release Cohort	2013 Release Cohort	2014 Release Cohort
27.6%	25.9%	26.5%

3. SPS works closely with partners such as the Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises (SCORE) to rehabilitate and prepare inmates for release, by providing skills training opportunities. Superintendent of Prisons Loo Sook Nee (Senior Assistant Director, Programme Management, Rehabilitation and Reintegration Division) said, "SPS prepares inmates for a life without re-offending through providing effective rehabilitation and reintegration programmes. Apart from this, we work closely with partners such as SCORE to provide inmates with skills training to improve their chances of securing jobs. This enables inmates to support themselves and their families after their release".

High Percentage of Inmates Secure Jobs Before Release

4. Apart from providing skills training opportunities, SCORE also works closely with employers to arrange job interviews for inmates to help them secure jobs prior to their release. In 2016, 96% of inmates who were referred to SCORE secured a job before their release (Table 2). This percentage has remained consistently high over the past three years.

¹ Recidivism rate is defined as the percentage of local inmates detained, convicted and imprisoned again for a new offence within two years from their release.

Table 2: Percentage of inmates referred to SCORE and secured a job prior to release

2014	2015	2016
96%	95%	96%

Improving Employment Opportunities through Skills Training

5. To ensure that inmates have the required skills to re-enter the workforce, SCORE offers skills training that is aligned to the national Workforce Skills Qualifications (WSQ) framework for suitable inmates. Examples of such training include the WSQ Certificate in Generic Manufacturing and WSQ Certificate in Food & Beverage Operations.

Strong Employer Support in Hiring Ex-offenders

6. Strong support from the community, including employers, is crucial in the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders. SCORE actively engages potential employers to support the hiring of ex-offenders. Apart from helping inmates to secure jobs, SCORE also provides job retention support for up to 12 months to ex-offenders.

7. In 2016, the number of employers registered with SCORE increased by 7.3% from 4,745 to 5,093 (Table 3). This reflected the community's increased acceptance of inmates and ex-offenders as well as commitment to giving them second chances.

Table 3: Number of Employers Registered with SCORE

2014	2015	2016
4,433	4,745	5,093

8. "The training opportunities in the prison and the strong support shown by our employers who hire ex-offenders have helped many ex-offenders re-enter the workforce. Being gainfully employed is an important factor in their successful reintegration. It is a key step for them to contribute to their families and society," said Mr Arputhasamy Nathan, Senior Assistant Director, Retention Support, SCORE.

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About the Singapore Prison Service

SPS is an agency under the Ministry of Home Affairs. As a key member of the Home Team, SPS operates a secure and exemplary prison system. SPS protects society through the safe custody and rehabilitation of inmates, cooperating with its partners in aftercare and prevention. The SPS is committed to realising its Captains of Lives vision. Its team of uniformed officers and civilian staff work together to realise its vision of steering offenders towards becoming responsible citizens with the help of their family and the community.

About Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises (SCORE)

Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises (SCORE) was established as a statutory board under the Ministry of Home Affairs in 1976. SCORE plays an important role in the Singapore correctional system through the provision of rehabilitation and aftercare services to inmates and ex-offenders, hence contributing to a safer Singapore. SCORE adopts a multi-faceted approach to rehabilitation and reintegration focusing on training, employment assistance, development of aftercare sector, and community engagement.

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Singapore Prison Service Annual Statistics 2016

Convicted Penal Inmate Population as at 31 December of each year²

Category		2014	2015	2016
Total Convicted Penal Population		9,754	9,602	9,502
Gender	Male	8,886	8,783	8,623
	Female	868	819	879
Age Group				
Age Group	Below 21	261	247	278
	21 – 30	1,511	1,459	1,532
	31 – 40	2,156	2,071	1,971
	41 – 50	3,121	2,995	2,875
	51 – 60	2,287	2,320	2,265
	Above 60	418	510	581
Education Level³				
Education Level³	No Education	155	157	161
	Primary	3,811	3,652	3,496
	Secondary	4,686	4,665	4,591
	Pre – U	146	158	193
	Vocational	644	657	695
	Tertiary & Above	312	313	366
Main Offence Group⁴				
Main Offence Group⁴	Crimes Against Person	575	560	607
	Property Crimes	1,238	1,136	1,005
	Commercial Crimes	537	488	508
	Drug Offences	6,527	6,675	6,666
	Immigration Offences	184	134	123
	Crime Against Public Order	174	129	147
	Customs Offences	171	88	215
	Traffic Offences	69	73	72
	Other Offences ⁵	279	319	159

² Convicted penal inmate population refers to the number of inmates who have already been charged and are within the inmate population as at the end of the respective year.

³ As declared by inmates upon admission.

⁴ Inmates are tracked based on index (i.e. most serious) offence.

⁵ Examples of "Other Offences" include National Registration Offences, National Service Related Offences and Telecommunication & Computer Related Offences.

Convicted Penal Admissions as at 31 December of each year⁶

Category		2014	2015	2016
Total Convicted Penal Admissions		11,595	10,635	10,211
Gender	Male	9,631	9,084	8,880
	Female	1,964	1,551	1,331
Admission⁷ Age Group	Below 21	446	478	429
	21 - 30	3,553	3,324	3,052
	31 - 40	3,035	2,782	2,612
	41 - 50	2,685	2,345	2,326
	51 - 60	1,532	1,328	1,431
	Above 60	344	378	361
Education Level⁸	No Education	239	171	144
	Primary	4,152	3,347	3,036
	Secondary	5,388	5,233	5,103
	Pre - U	233	237	358
	Vocational	771	852	815
	Tertiary & Above	812	795	755
Main Offence Group⁹	Crimes Against Person	1,004	1,043	1,060
	Property Crimes	2,044	1,773	1,628
	Commercial Crimes	1,306	923	883
	Drug Offences	1,899	2,097	2,126
	Immigration Offences	2,023	1,408	1,020
	Crime Against Public Order	635	608	770
	Customs Offences	612	305	347
	Traffic Offences	905	921	964
	Other Offences ¹⁰	1,167	1,557	1,413

⁶ Convicted Penal Admission figures refers to the number of inmate admissions for the calendar year.

⁷ Age as at admission.

⁸ As declared by inmates upon admission.

⁹ Inmates are tracked based on index (i.e. most serious) offence.

¹⁰ Examples of "Other Offences" include National Registration Offences, National Service Related Offences, and Telecommunication & Computer Related Offences.

Remand population as at 31 December of each year¹¹

Category		2014	2015	2016
Total Remand Population		1,306	1,255	1,144
Gender	Male	1,183	1,133	1,007
	Female	123	122	137
Age Group				
Age Group	Below 21	62	65	49
	21 - 30	355	371	349
	31 - 40	333	320	318
	41 - 50	360	307	250
	51 - 60	157	157	140
	Above 60	39	35	38
Education Level¹²				
Education Level¹²	No Education	33	21	19
	Primary	422	401	328
	Secondary	661	627	606
	Pre - U	19	32	28
	Vocational	98	99	87
	Tertiary & Above	73	75	76
Main Offence Group¹³				
Main Offence Group¹³	Crimes Against Person	124	94	157
	Property Crimes	207	204	206
	Commercial Crimes	81	67	74
	Drug Offences	707	683	580
	Immigration Offences	36	39	36
	Crime Against Public Order	48	64	36
	Customs Offences	12	9	22
	Traffic Offences	7	7	11
	Other Offences ¹⁴	84	88	22

¹¹ Remand population figures refer to the number of remand inmates who are within the prison population as at the end of the respective year.

¹² As declared by inmates upon admission.

¹³ Inmates are tracked based on index (most serious) offence only.

¹⁴ Examples of "Other Offences" include National Registration Offences, National Service Related Offences, and Telecommunication & Computer Related Offences.

DRC inmate population as at 31 December of each year¹⁵

Category		2014	2015	2016
Total DRC Population		1,400	1,419	1,464
Gender	Male	1,146	1,121	1,199
	Female	254	298	265
Age Group				
Age Group	Below 21	79	76	88
	21 – 30	577	633	640
	31 – 40	370	344	407
	41 – 50	195	206	202
	51 – 60	160	132	96
	Above 60	19	28	31
Education Level¹⁶				
Education Level¹⁶	No Education	11	6	11
	Primary	324	308	269
	Secondary	787	821	805
	Pre – U	24	22	46
	Vocational	179	178	221
	Tertiary & Above	75	84	112

¹⁵ The DRC Regime is meant for local inmates only. The figures refer to the number of DRC inmates who are among the inmate population as at the end of the respective year.

¹⁶ As declared by inmates upon admission.

DRC Inmate Admissions as at 31 December of each year¹⁷

Category		2014	2015	2016
Total DRC Admissions		1,139	1,213	1,263
Gender	Male	919	942	1,017
	Female	220	271	246
Admission Age Group¹⁸	Below 21	88	87	99
	21 - 30	505	569	593
	31 - 40	288	288	329
	41 - 50	150	162	157
	51 - 60	94	90	67
	Above 60	14	17	18
Education Level¹⁹	No Education	11	4	11
	Primary	253	247	220
	Secondary	639	712	683
	Pre - U	19	23	43
	Vocational	151	148	200
	Tertiary & Above	66	79	106

¹⁷ The figures refer to the number of DRC inmates admissions for the calendar year.

¹⁸ Age as at admission.

¹⁹ As declared by inmates upon admission.

Criminal Law Detainee (CLD) Population as at 31 December of each year²⁰

Category		2014	2015	2016
Total CLD Population		136	118	109
Gender	Male	134	117	109
	Female	2	1	0
Age Group				
Age Group	Below 21	7	5	2
	21 - 30	57	55	55
	31 - 40	43	38	35
	41 - 50	22	15	12
	51 - 60	6	4	4
	Above 60	1	1	1
Education Level²¹				
Education Level²¹	No Education	5	4	2
	Primary	27	22	17
	Secondary	93	82	77
	Pre - U	1	2	2
	Vocational	9	7	10
	Tertiary & Above	1	1	1
Type of Criminal Activity				
Type of Criminal Activity	Secret Societies	99	89	91
	Unlicensed Money-lending	22	16	12
	Drug Trafficking	10	8	5
	Others	5	5	1

Releases – Convicted Penal Releases

Category		2014	2015	2016
Total Convicted Penal		11,955	10,807	10,371
Gender	Male	9,981	9,206	9,089
	Female	1,974	1,601	1,282

Releases – DRC Releases

Category		2014	2015	2016
Total DRC Releases		1,350	1,172	1,220
Gender	Male	1,098	942	949
	Female	252	230	271

²⁰ The CLD population refers to the number of persons detained under the Criminal Law (Temporary Provision) Act and are among the population as at the end of the respective year.

²¹ As declared by inmates upon admission.

Number of Capital Executions as at 31 December of each year

Executions	2014	2015	2016
Murder	0	1	2
Firearms	0	0	0
Drug	2	3	2
Total	2	4	4

Major Incidents

Major Incidents ²²	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016 (up till Dec'16)
Escape Rate per 10,000	0	0	0
Assault Rate ²³ per 10,000	36.6	30.0	20.9

Recidivism Rates²⁴

Recidivism	Release Cohort 2012	Release Cohort 2013	Release Cohort 2014
Overall	27.6%	25.9%	26.5%
Penal	27.5%	24.7%	25.8%
DRC	28.3%	31.9%	30.1%

Emplacement and Completion Rates for Community Based Programmes (CBP) as at 31 December of each year

Emplacement Number	2014	2015	2016
CBP for Penal inmates	1,011	886	918
CBP for DRC inmates	885	1,003	999

Completion Rates ²⁵	2014	2015	2016
CBP for Penal inmates	96.7%	96.9% 96.0%	98.2% 98.1%
CBP for DRC inmates	88.2%	81.7% 87.1%	88.2% 88.3%

²² Major incidents are measured per fiscal year (FY) as published in the annual Budget Book.

²³ The assault rate refers to assault cases perpetrated by inmates who are charged under aggravated prison offences. Such cases would include any attack by inmates on prisons officers, or assaults by inmates on fellow inmates in which serious injuries are sustained by the victim(s).

²⁴ Recidivism Rate is defined as the percentage of local inmates detained, convicted and imprisoned again for a new offence within two years from their release.

²⁵ The completion rates for penal and DRC inmates as at 31 December 2015 have been amended to 96.0% and 87.1%, respectively. The completion rates for penal and DRC inmates as at 31 December 2016 have been amended to 98.1% and 88.3%, respectively. The variances of between 0.1 and 5.4 percentage points were due to data transference errors. The amended completion rates and accompanying footnote have been reflected in SPS Annual Stats Release 2015 in the SPS website.

Vocational Programmes as at 31 December of each year

Employability Skills Training²⁶			
Yearly Enrolment	2014	2015	2016
No. of training places	21,093	26,660	22,945
No. of inmates trained²⁷	5,482	5,137	5,131

Work Programmes²⁸			
Engaged in Work Programmes	2014	2015	2016
Average No. of Inmates	4,245	4,065	3,742

Academic Programmes as at 31 December of each year

Yearly Enrolment	2014	2015	2016
Other Courses²⁹	1,126	704	803
N Level	98	101	129
O Level	91	108	97
A Level	23	30	42
Total	1338	943	1,071

²⁶ Employability Skills Training Programmes are provided by SCORE to equip inmates with relevant job skills. SCORE's training system is aligned to Workforce Singapore's WSQ framework. Examples of training offered includes Workplace Literacy and Numeracy (WPLN), Employability Skills, Certified Service Professional (CSP) and Certified Operations Specialist (COS). Vocational skills training such as the National ITE Certificate (NITEC) in Electronics, WSQ Operate Forklift and Certificate in Generic Manufacturing (CGM) were also conducted.

²⁷ Inmates may attend more than one training course.

²⁸ Work programmes aim to impart vocational and employability skills through on-the-job training. Discipline and positive work ethics and values are inculcated by immersing inmates in real work environment within prisons.

²⁹ Other courses include short term courses such as English literacy classes and basic education programmes (primary to secondary level).

Academic Results

GCE 'N' Levels Results of Prisons Candidates (At least 1 'N' Pass)		
2014	2015	2016
100%	100%	100%
GCE 'N' Levels Results of Prisons Candidates (10 points or less in best 3 subjects)		
2014	2015	2016
78.4%	80.2%	77.3%
GCE 'N' Levels Results of Prisons Candidates (19 points or less in ELMAB3 - English, Mathematics and Best 3)		
2014	2015	2016
66.3%	75.6%	69.1%
GCE 'O' Levels Results of Prisons Candidates (At least 1 'O' Level Pass)		
2014	2015	2016
100%	100%	100%
GCE 'O' Levels Results of Prisons Candidates (At least 3 'O' Level Pass)		
2014	2015	2016
90.0%	85.5%	77.8%
GCE 'O' Levels Results of Prisons Candidates (5 or more 'O' Level Pass)		
2014	2015	2016
54.4%	45.3%	43.5%