



Statistical Publication

NSW Inmate Population: Visualising the Trends

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**Statistical Publication No.9
November 1994
ISSN 0814 1215**

NSW Department of Corrective Services

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to thank the Staff of the Research and Statistics Unit involved with the compilation of these statistics:

Ed Dickson who typed the report; Barabra Thompson for checking the report.

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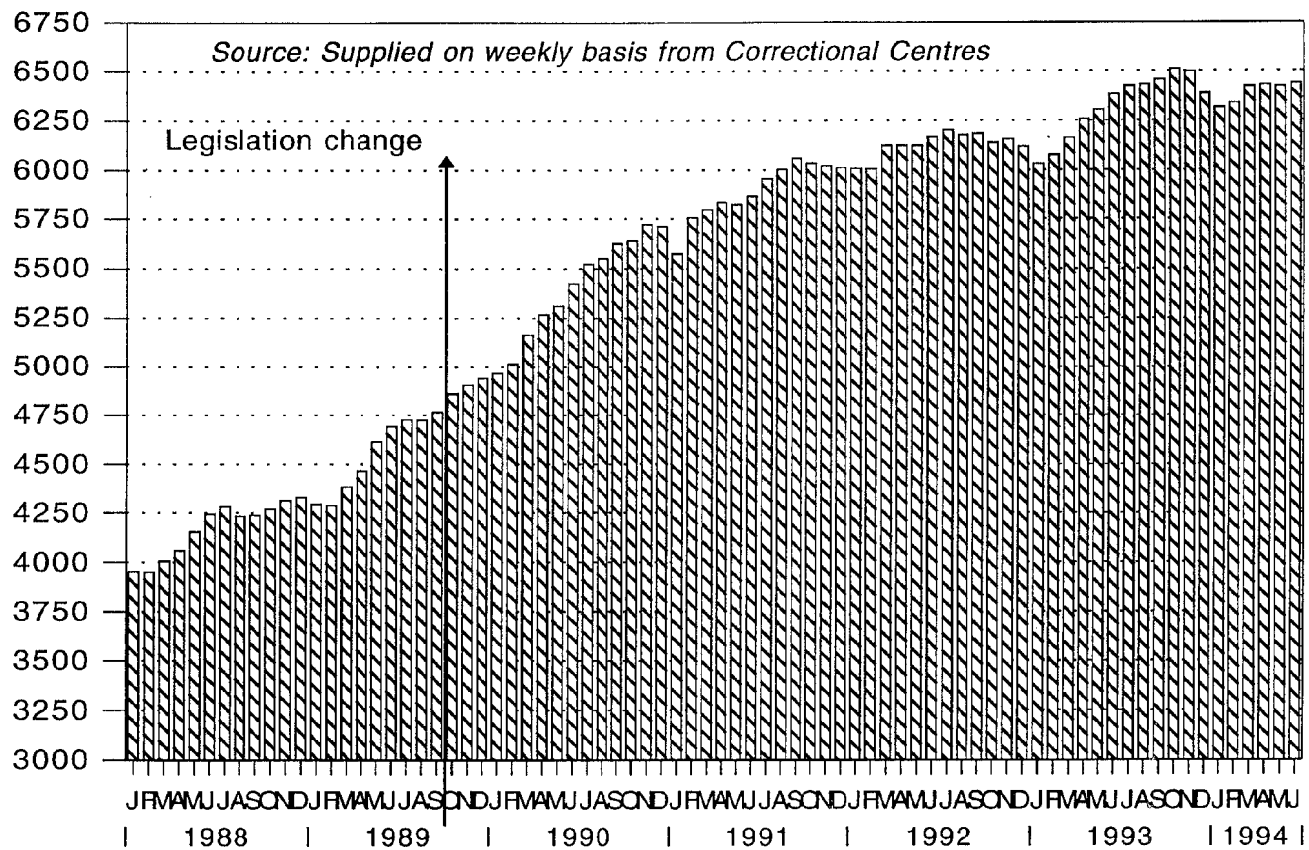
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I. TOTAL IN FULL-TIME CUSTODY

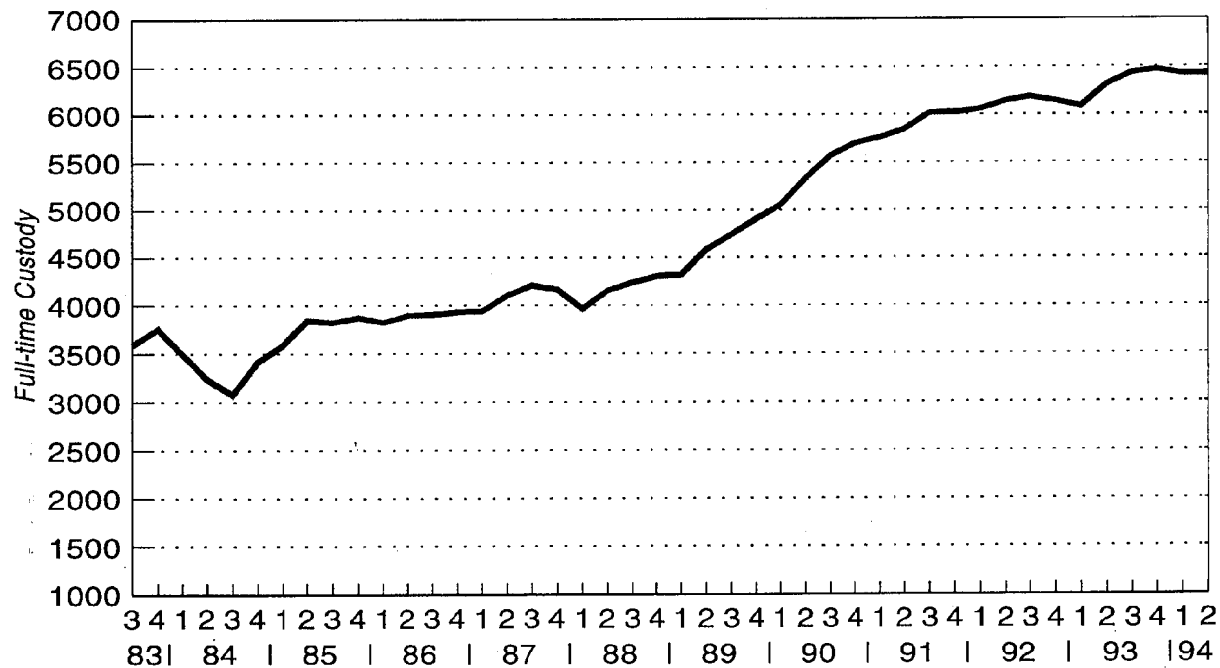
- Numbers were increasing prior to the introduction of the Sentencing Act (1989) on 25th September 1989. This trend has continued for the last five years.
- The increase in the correctional centre population attributable to the introduction of the Sentencing Act, was predicted to be most marked during the period 4 - 17 months after the introduction of the legislation, i.e., from February 1990 to March 1991 (Gorta & Eyland, 1990). This prediction is clearly confirmed in the daily average number of inmates graph.
- It is common for the correctional centre population to decrease or remain fairly constant in December, January and February each year (except 1989/90 following the introduction of the Sentencing Act). This cyclic pattern is quite evident from 1990 onwards.
- The population in 1994 (to June) has remained fairly static at a level below that of the all - time high reached in 1993.

Daily Average Number of Inmates in NSW Correctional Centres (excludes Periodic Detainees)



Research & Statistics, NSW Department of Corrective Services.

Quarterly Daily Average of Inmates July 1983 to June 1994



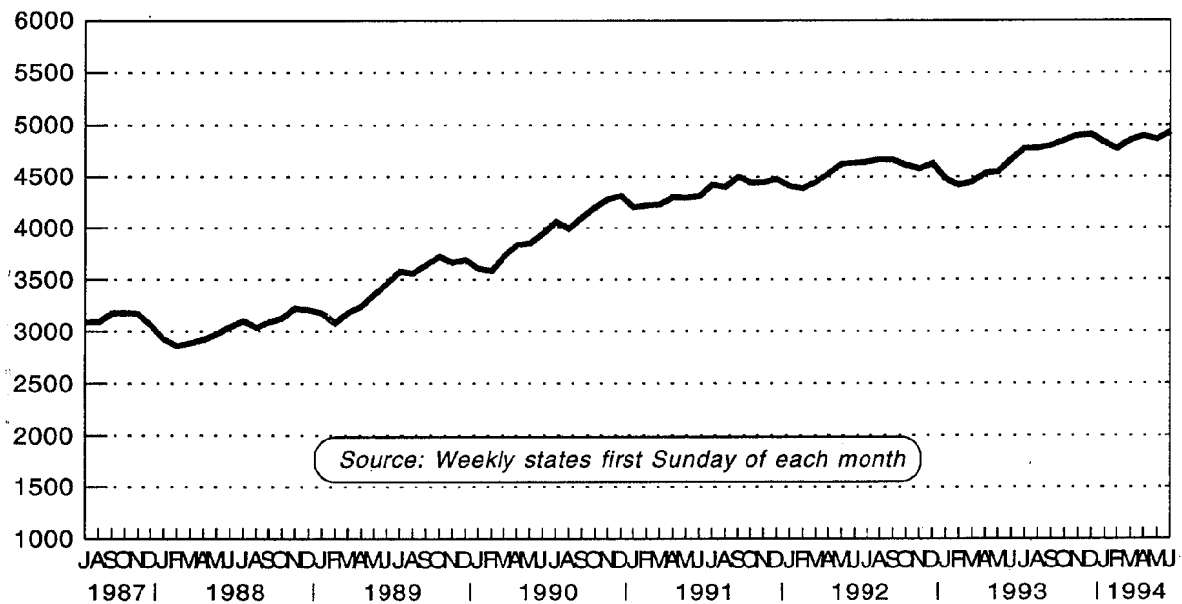
Quarterly averages by year

Research & Statistics, NSW Department of Corrective Services

II. MALE INMATES IN FULL-TIME CUSTODY

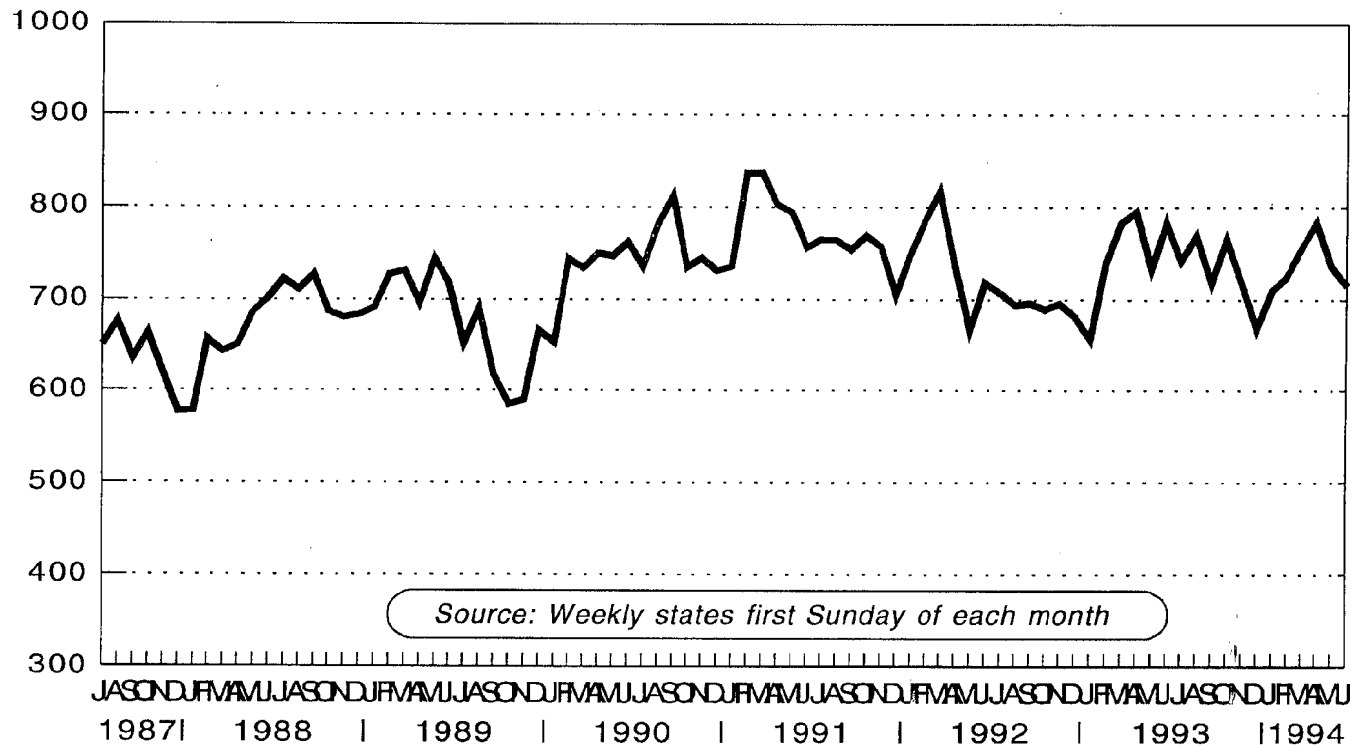
- Sentenced male inmates comprise the largest segment of the NSW correctional centre population. Hence trends in the number of sentenced male are closely reflected in the trends for the total number of inmates in full-time custody.
- The number of male sentenced inmates has increased by approximately 2000 (66%) in less than 6 years (from January 1990 to June 1994).
- The greatest rate of increase in sentenced males was between January 1989 and November 1990, as predicted from previous calculations on the effect of the introduction of the "Truth In Sentencing" legislation.
- The number of male inmates or remand awaiting trial or deportation has continue to fluctuate quite markedly, with a cyclic pattern of low numbers being held at the end of each year.
- The number of male appellants increased sharply following the introduction of the Sentencing Act. In the 4 years of this increase, the number of male appellants increased from approximately 250 to 550 (120%).
- The number of male appellants has now fallen to a level that was experienced by the end of 1991.

Male Inmate Population Sentenced (excludes appellants) July 1987 to June 1994



Research & Statistics, NSW Department of Corrective Services

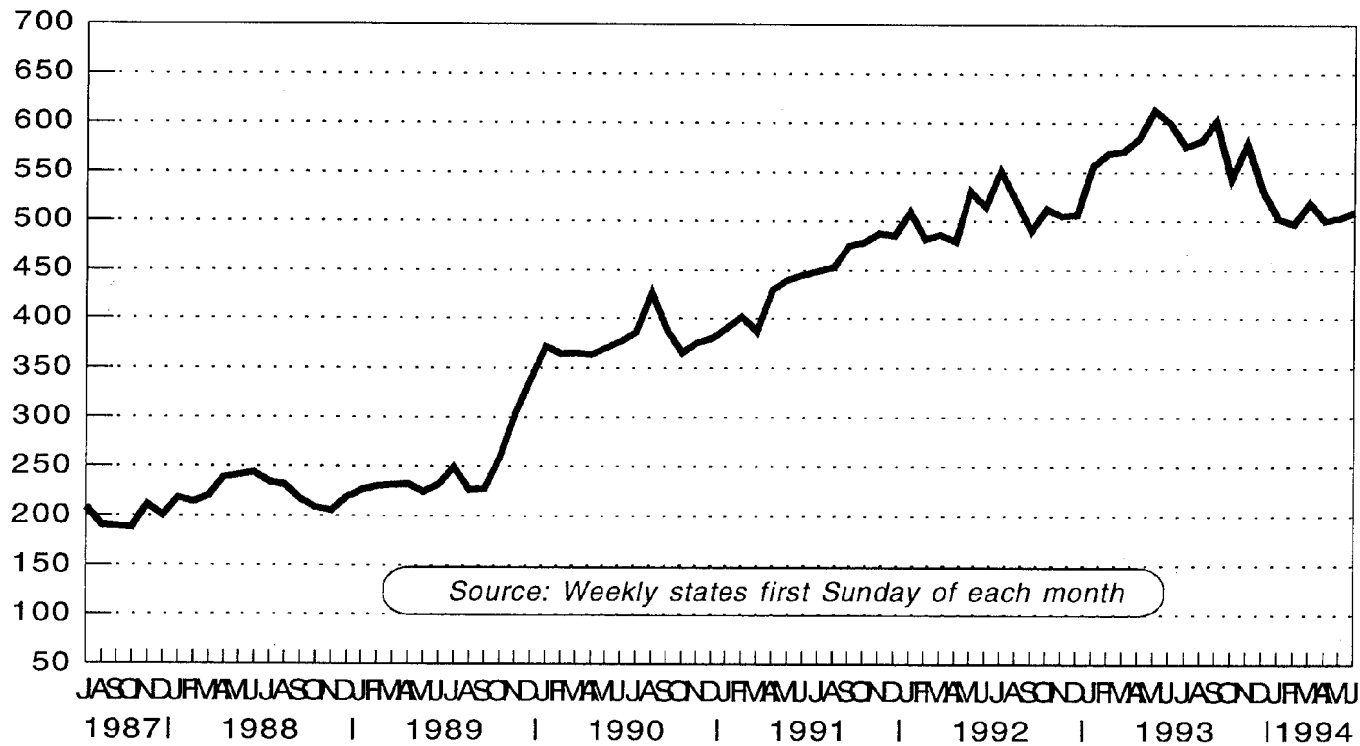
N.S.W. Male Inmate Population Remands, Trials and Deportees July 1987 to June 1994



Source: Weekly states first Sunday of each month

Research & Statistics, NSW Department of Corrective Services

N.S.W. Male Inmate Population Appellants Only July 1987 to June 1994

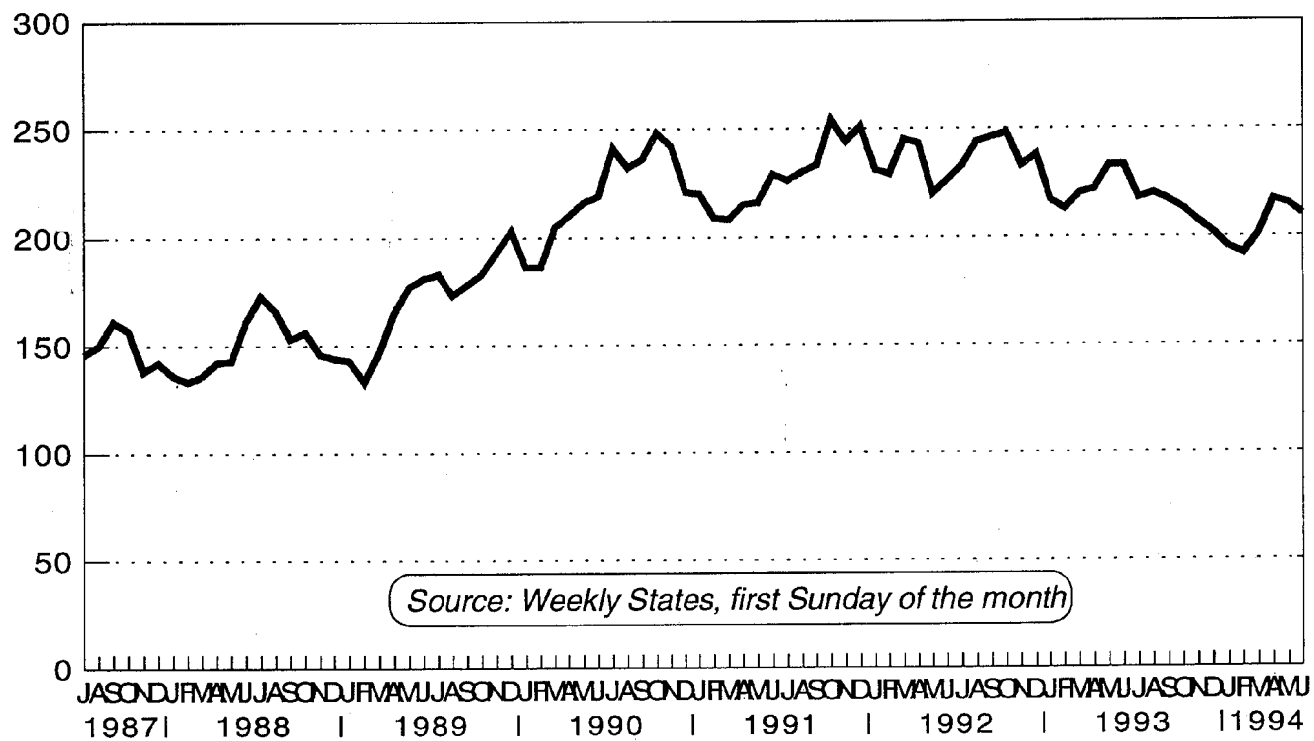


Research & Statistics, NSW Department of Corrective Services

III. FEMALE INMATES IN FULL-TIME CUSTODY

- Trends in the numbers of female inmates are not as easy to discern as those in the numbers of male prisoners because of the small numbers involved.
- There was a substantial increase in female inmate number from January 1989 to the end of 1990 with a particular increase in sentenced females between January, 1989 and March, 1990, as for the males, consistent with the predicted effects of the "Truth in Sentencing" Legislation. The total number of female inmates has recently fallen to levels experienced in early 1990.
- The number of female inmates on remand or awaiting trial or deportation has fluctuated between 40 and 75.
- The number of female appellants has increased yet remained comparatively low in total numbers.

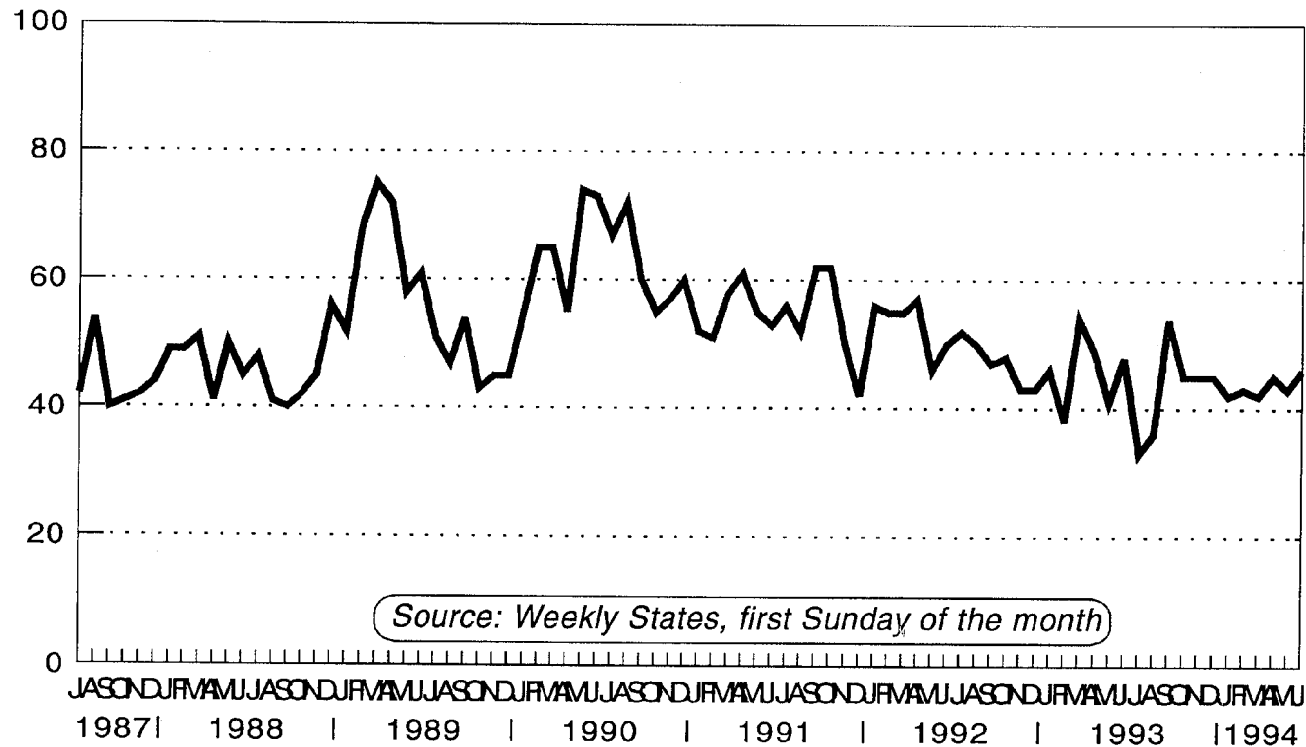
N.S.W. Female Inmate Population Sentenced (excludes appellants) July 1987 to June 1994



Source: Weekly States, first Sunday of the month

Research & Statistics, NSW Department of Corrective Services

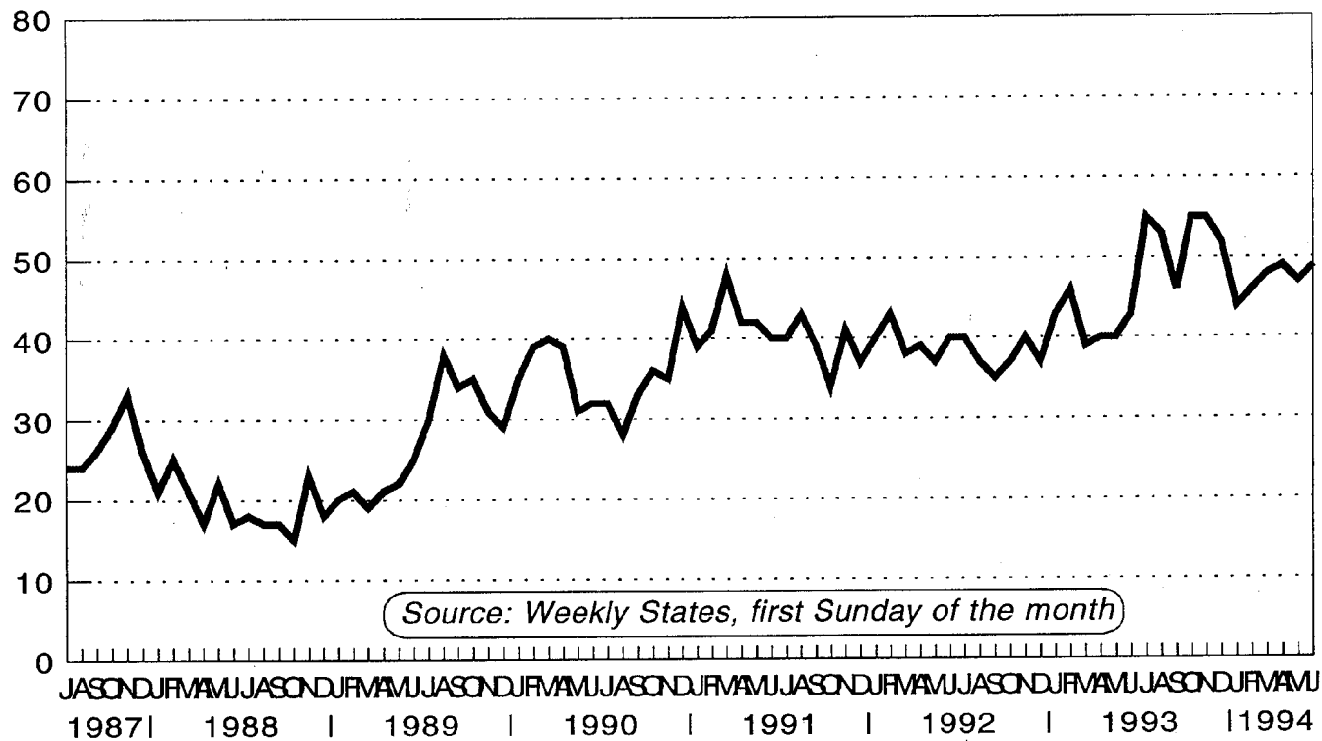
N.S.W. Female Inmate Population Remands, Trials and Deportees July 1987 to June 1994



Source: Weekly States, first Sunday of the month

Research & Statistics, NSW Department of Corrective Services

N.S.W. Female Inmate Population Appellants Only July 1987 to June 1994

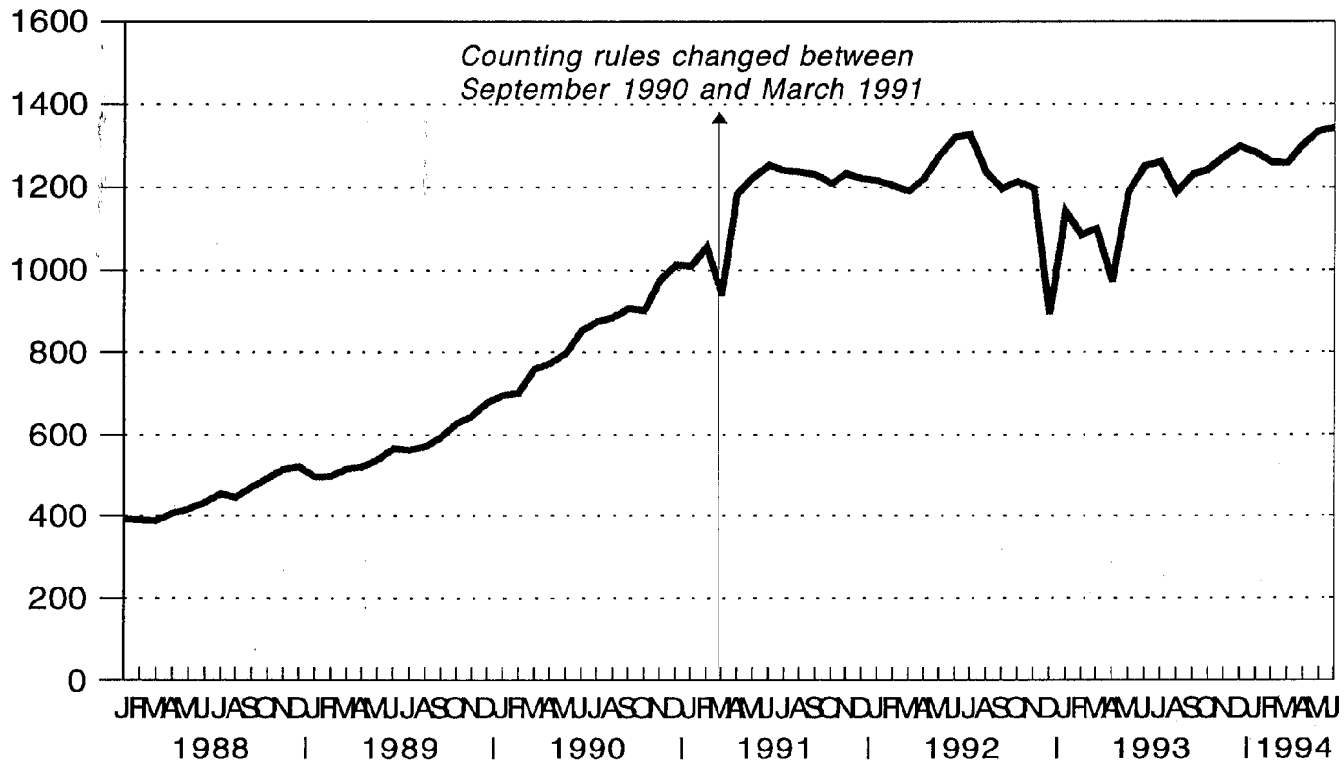


Research & Statistics, NSW Department of Corrective Services

IV. PERIODIC DETAINEES

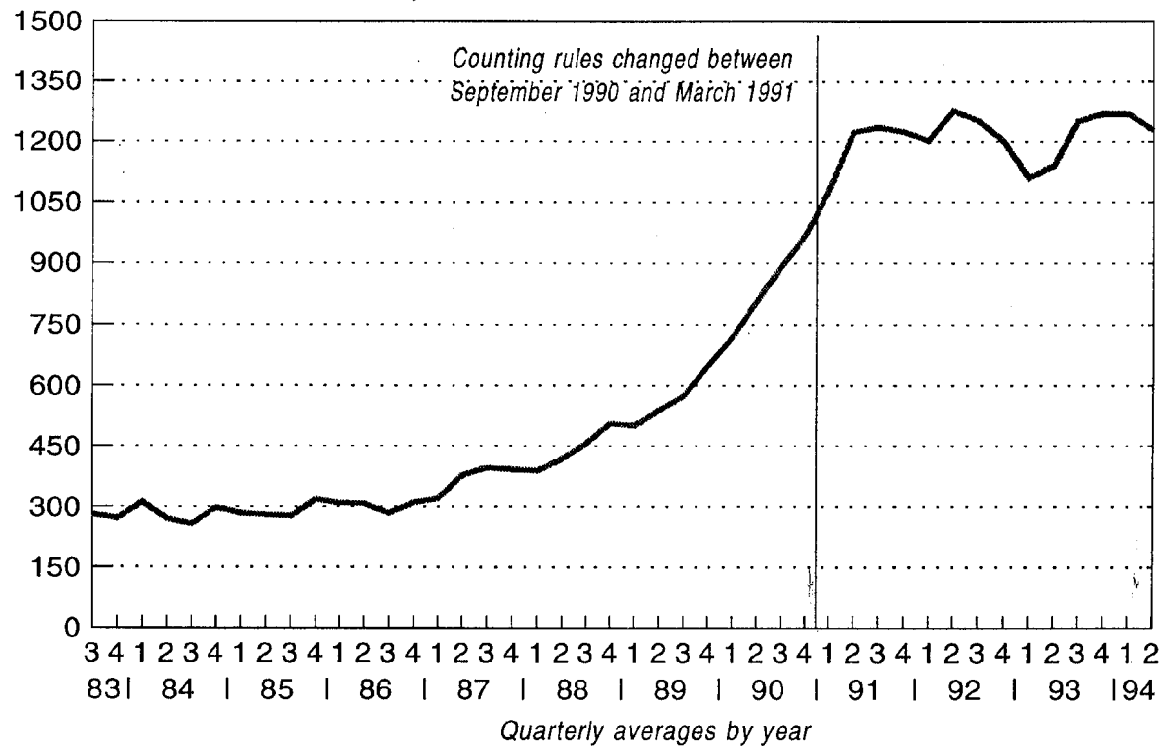
- Changes in counting rules makes the examination of trends in the numbers of periodic detainees difficult to examine.
- Prior to October 1990 the number of Periodic Detention warrants for inclusion in the Weekly States report was accepted without question as notified to the Research and Statistics Unit. Since that time efforts have been made to standardise the definition of "live warrant" and to include all live warrants in the count. This has led to unavoidable sudden increases in the number of warrants appearing in the Weekly States report as the counting rules changed at a particular Periodic Detention Centre (PDC), or when a collection of old warrants, previously omitted from the Weekly States report, was included. Most of these jumps were in October or November 1990, although in late February 1991 there was an occurrence when 96 live warrants had previously not been counted were notified to the Research and Statistics Unit for the first time.
- The numbers of periodic detainees increased from the beginning of 1989 up until the counting rules were changed in October 1990. Since March 1991 the numbers of live warrants fro periodic detainees have fluctuated around their new high.
- The numbers of female periodic detainees have risen to a new high by June 1994 although the numbers overall are low compared to the male detainees.

Daily Average Number of Periodic Detainees in New South Wales From January 1988 to June 1994



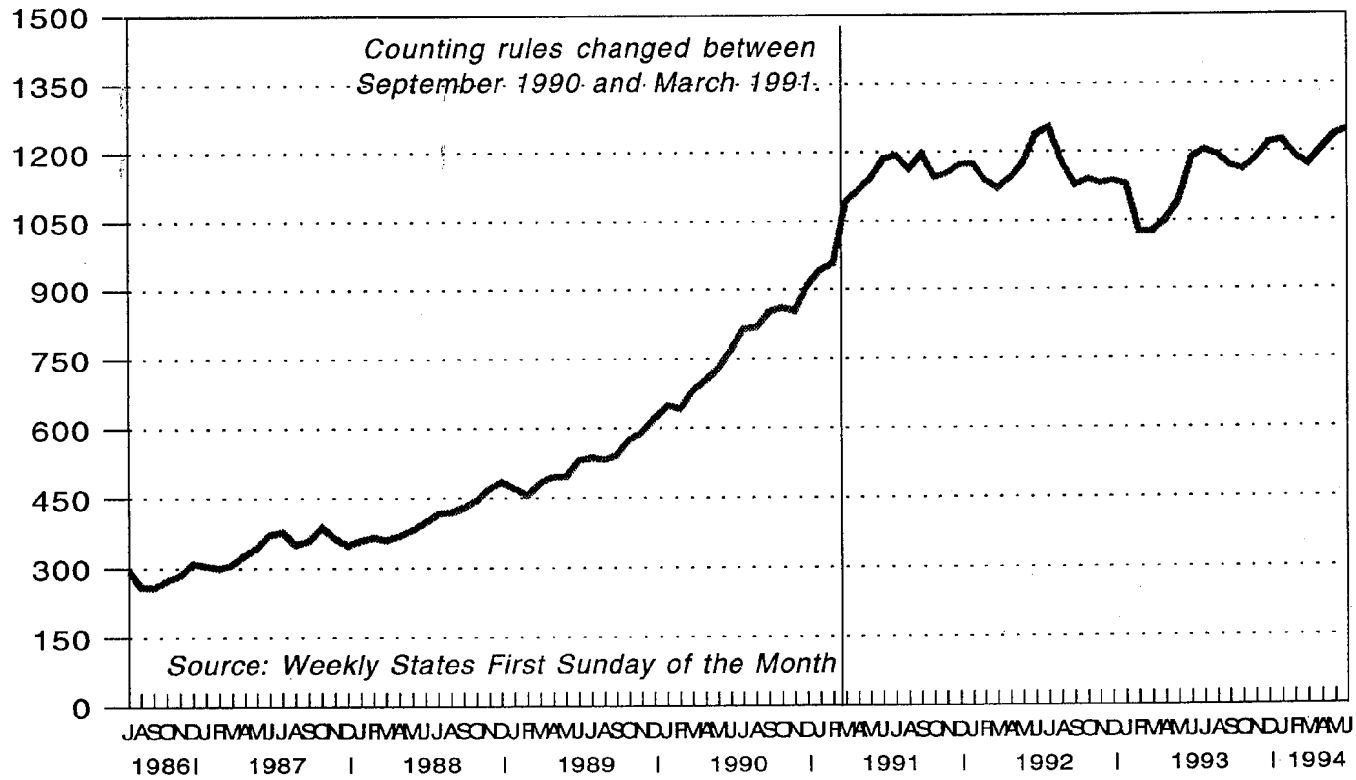
Research & Statistics Unit, Department of Corrective Services

Quarterly Daily Average Number of Periodic Detainees July 1983 to June 1994



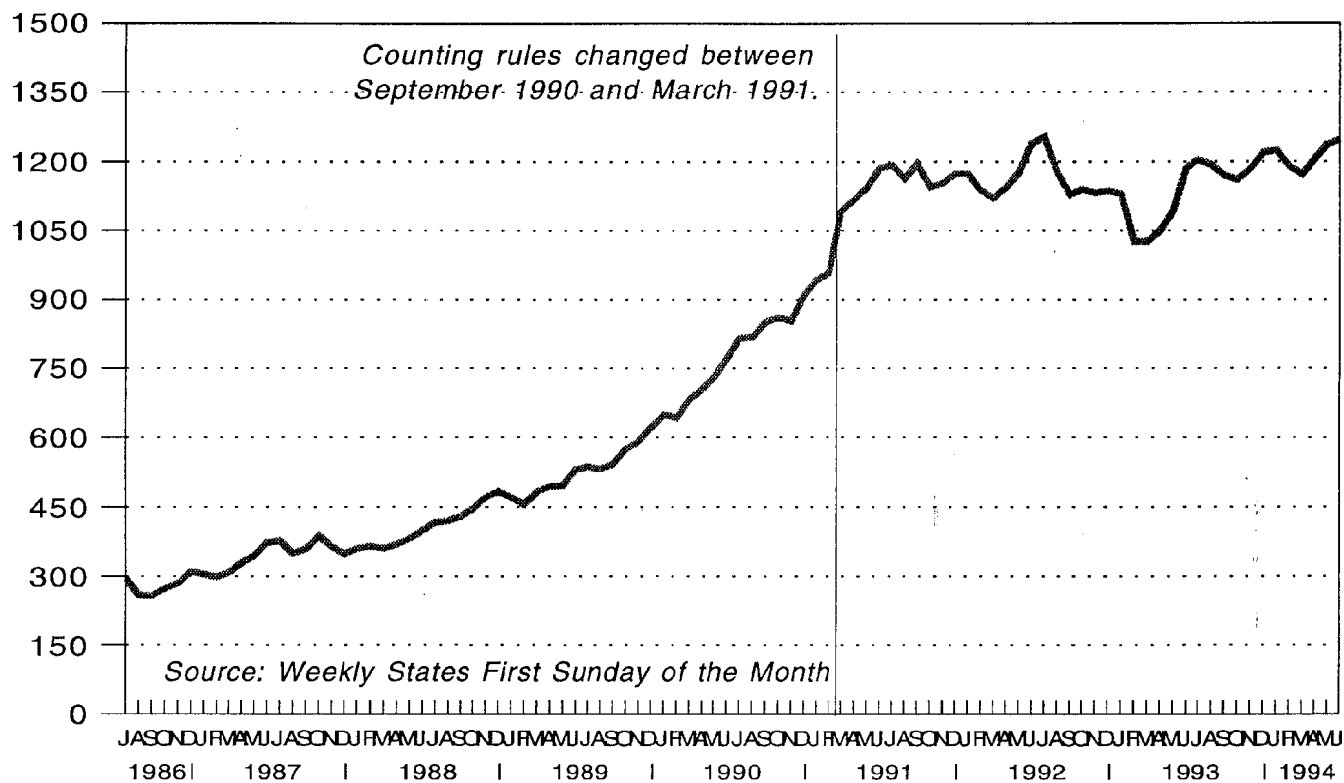
Research & Statistics Unit, NSW Department of Corrective Services

Total Number of Periodic Detainees in New South Wales



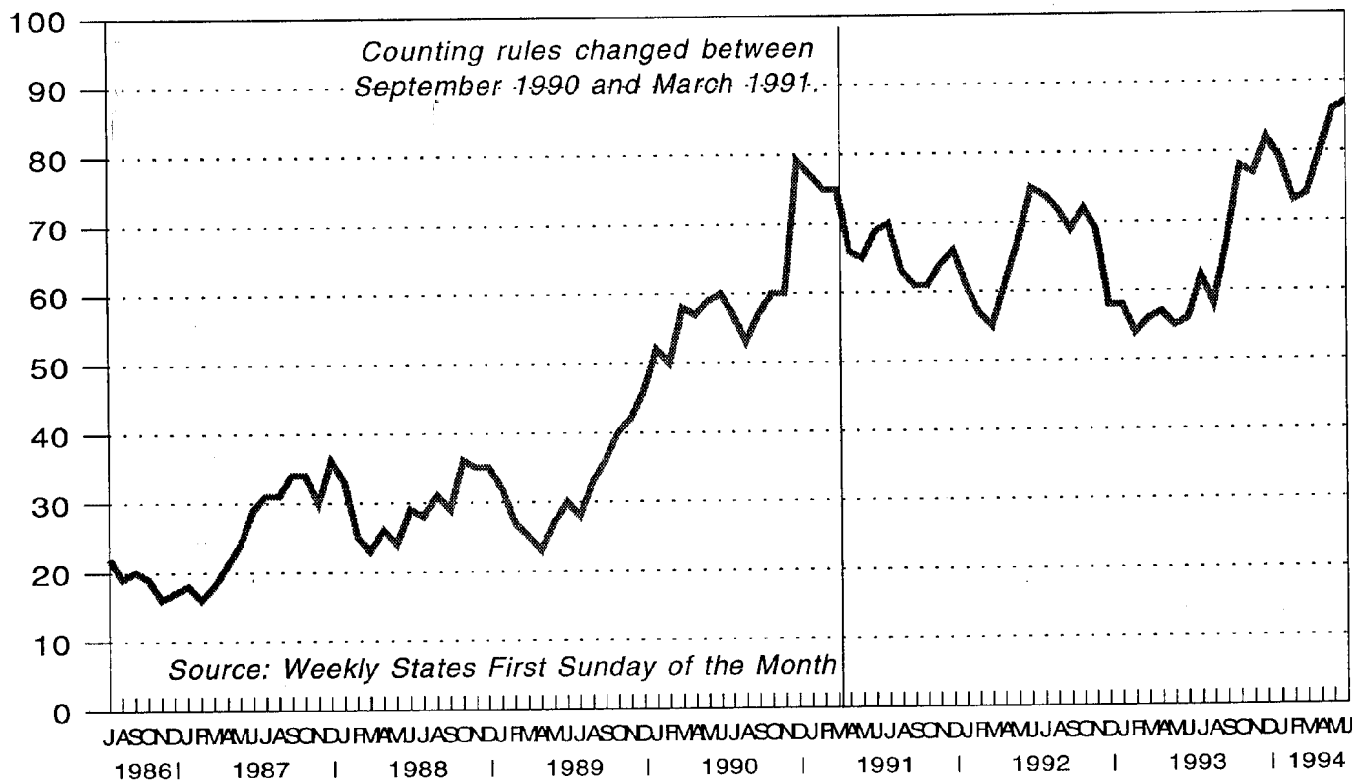
Research & Statistics, NSW Department of Corrective Services

Number of Male Periodic Detainees in New South Wales



Research & Statistics, NSW Department of Corrective Services

Number of Female Periodic Detainees in New South Wales



Research & Statistics, NSW Department of Corrective Services

V. FINE DEFAULTERS

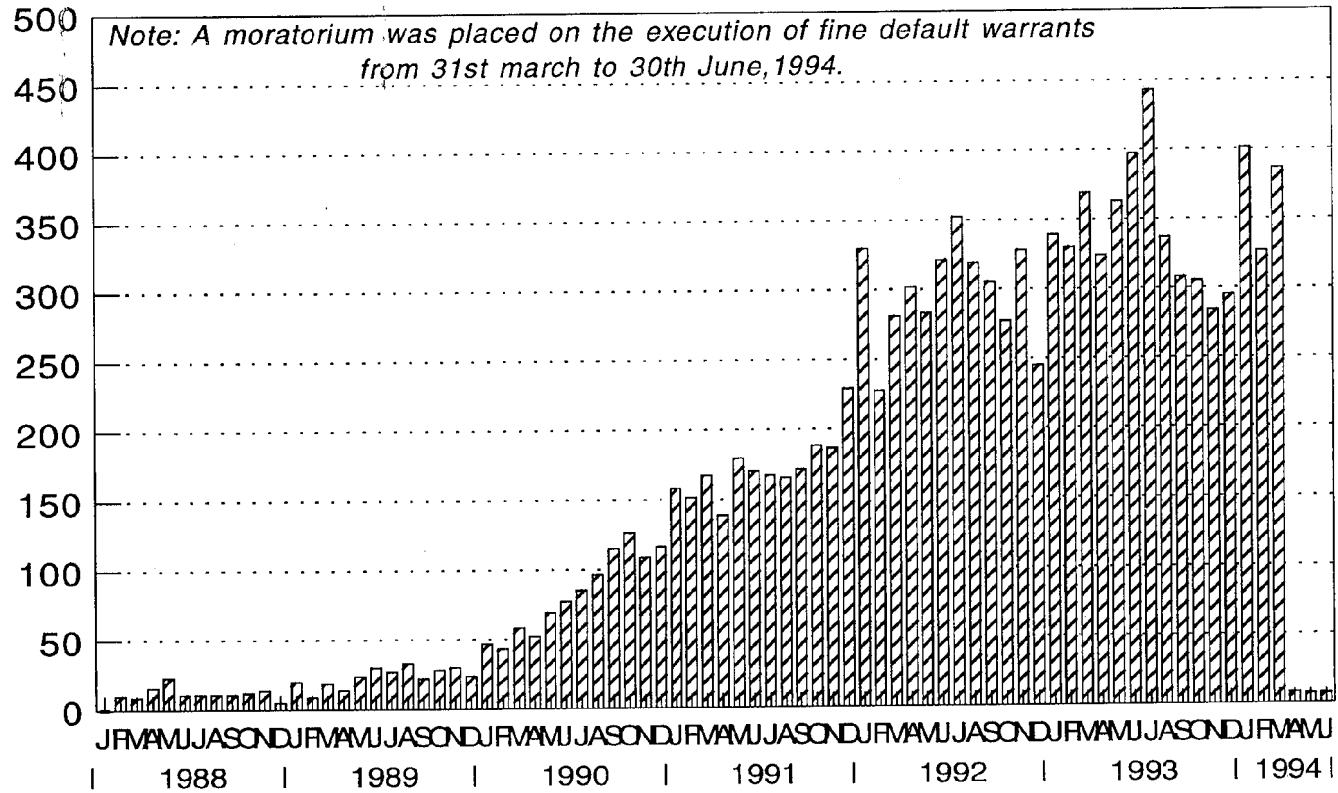
Fine Defaulters Received

- The moratorium on the reception of fine defaulters into NSW correctional centres at the end of 1987 and the legislative amendments introduced in January 1988 reduced the receptions of fine defaulters into NSW correctional centres. There was a further moratorium between March and June 1994.
- The number of inmates received into NSW correctional centres for the sole reason of default of fine generally increased between 1989 and 1993.
- These numbers represent a reduction from the high of 553 fine defaulters received in September 1983, although recent highs have reached over 400 fine defaulters received.

Fine Defaulters Present on a Given Day.

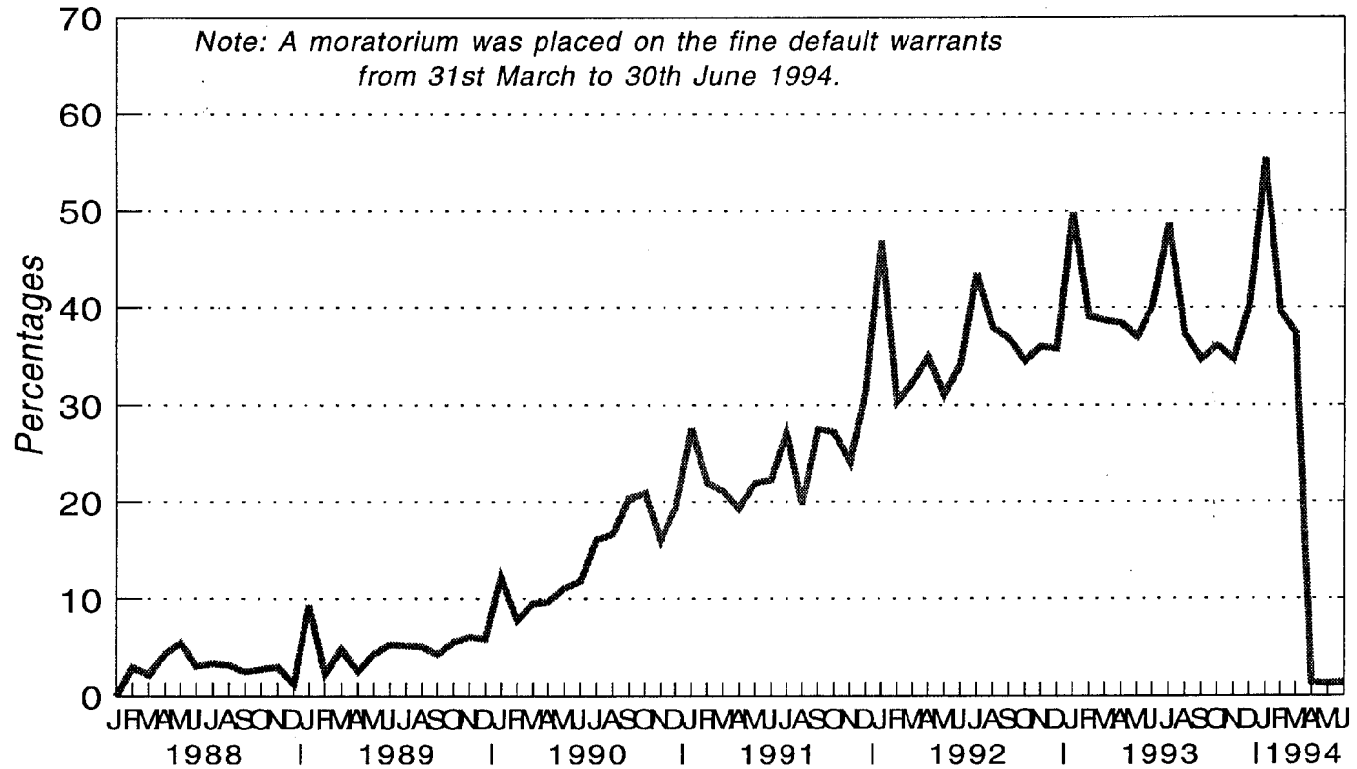
- The numbers of inmates held in correctional centres on a given day for the sole reason of default of fine has only been collected since November 1991. The relatively low numbers present on any one day combined with the large number received clearly illustrates the large flow of these kind of inmates through the correctional centres for relatively short periods of stay.
- Note that the current rate changed from \$50.00 a day to \$100.00 a day on 1/12/92,

Number of Fine Defaulters Received January 1988 to June 1994



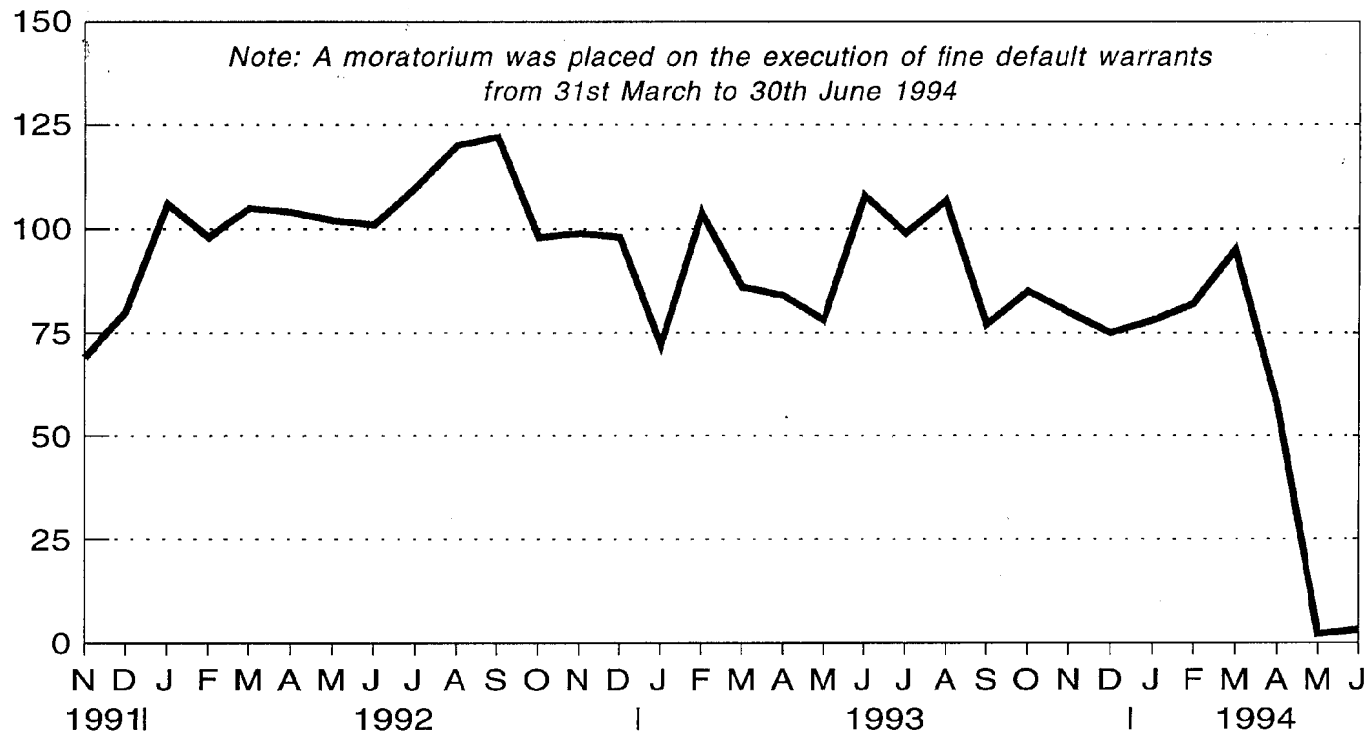
Research & Statistics, NSW Department of Corrective Services

Fine Defaulters Received as a Percentage of Total Sentenced Reception January 1988 - June 1994



Research & Statistics, NSW Department of Corrective Services

Number of Fine Defaulters in NSW from 3rd November 1991



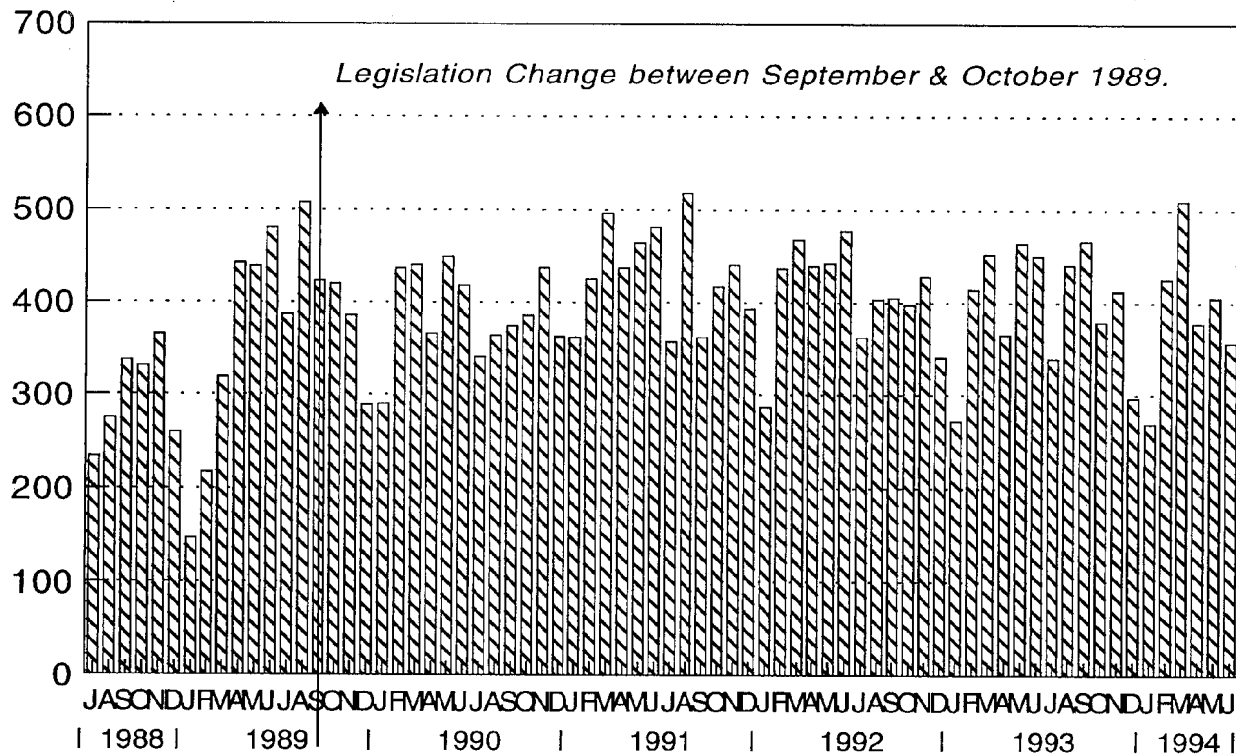
Research & Statistics, NSW Department of Corrective Services

Source: Weekly States first Sunday of each month

VI. SENTENCED INMATE RECEPTIONS

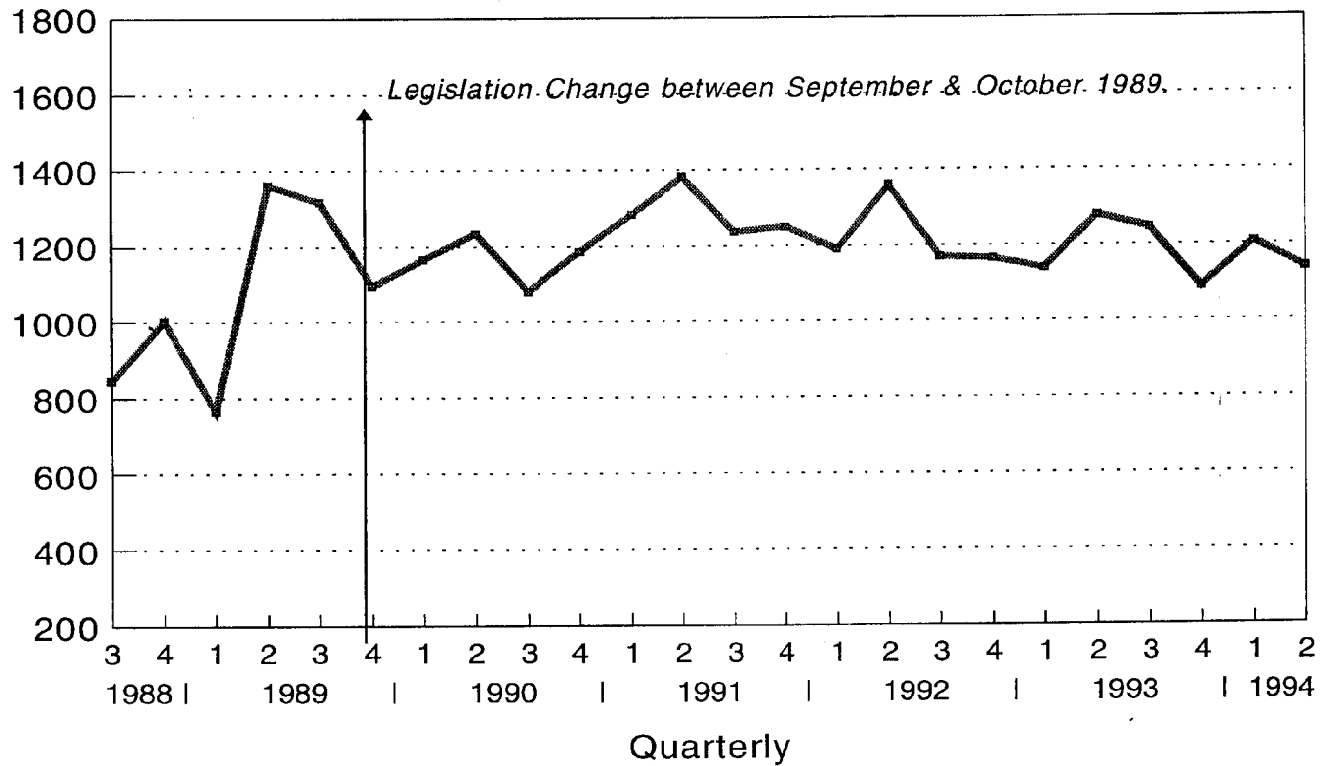
- The number of new sentenced receptions received each month fluctuates.
- The lowest numbers of sentenced receptions are in January and July each year, corresponding to court vacations.
- The quarterly number of new sentenced receptions has continued to fluctuate around 1200 since the introduction of the Sentencing Act (1989).
- When sentenced receptions are graphed according to season, the number of sentenced inmates received in 1993/94 (By season) closely matches or is slightly less than corresponding periods for the last two years. (Spring = Sept, Oct, Nov; Summer = Dec, Jan, Feb; Autumn = Mar, Apr, May; Winter = Jun, Jul, Aug)

Number of New Sentenced Receptions July 1988 to June 1994 (excludes Fine Defauers and Periodic Detainees)



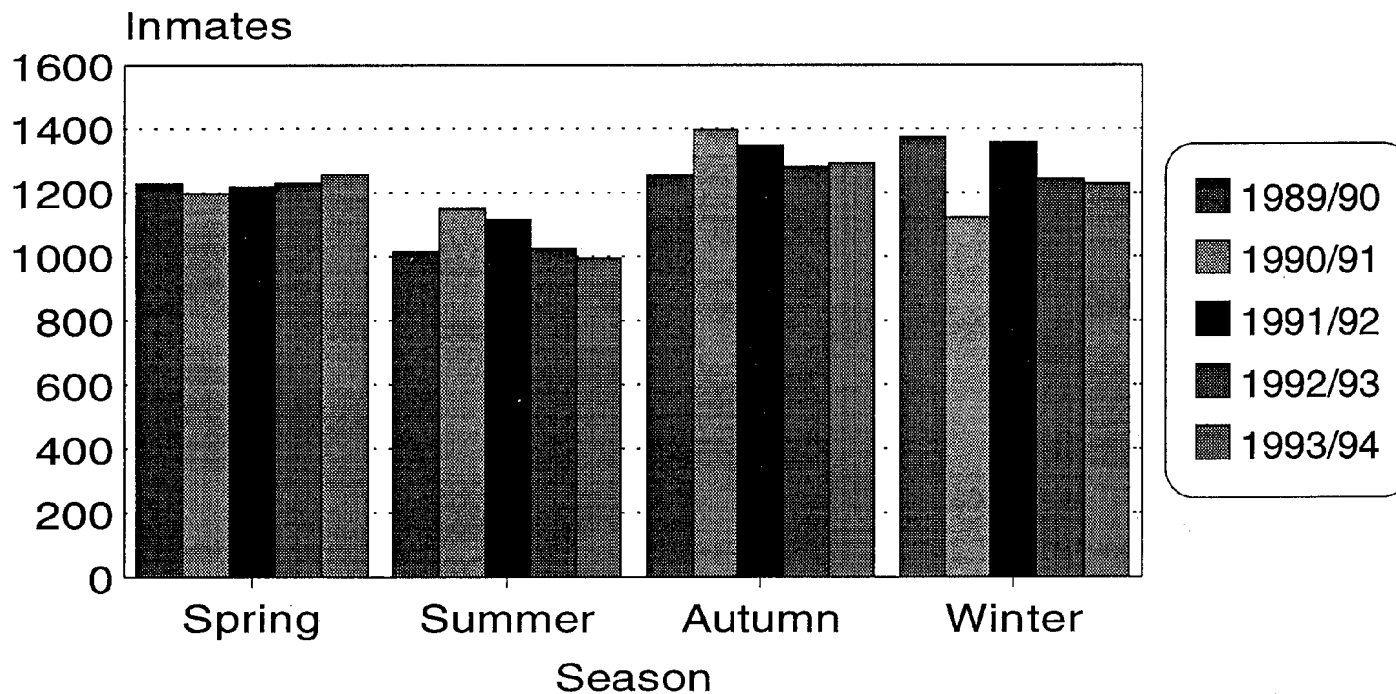
Research & Statistics, NSW Department of Corrective Services
 N.B.: Numbers of Periodic Detainees were not available from January 1988 to June 1988.

Quarterly Number of New Sentenced Receptions
July 1988 to June 1994
(excludes Fine Defaulters and Periodic Detainees)



Research & Statistics, NSW Department of Corrective Services.

Seasonal Trends in Number of Inmates Received into NSW Correctional Centres Spring 1989 to Autumn 1994 (excluding PDC & Fine Defaulters)



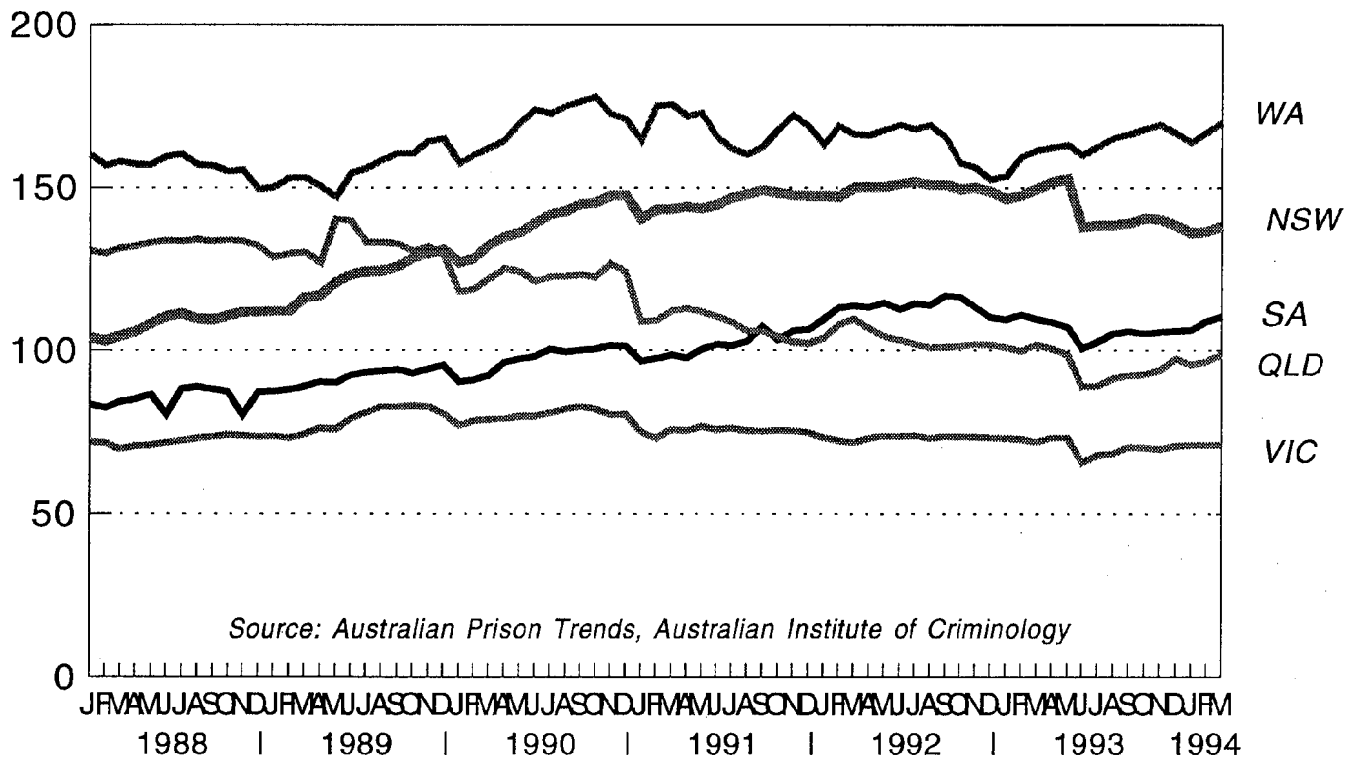
Graph prepared by Research & Statistics, NSW Department of Corrective Services.

VII. IMPRISONMENT RATE PER 100,000 ADULT POPULATION - NSW COMPARED TO OTHER STATES WITHIN AUSTRALIA

- NSW imprisons a higher proportion of its adult population (183.4 per 100,000 as at March 1994) than does Victoria (71.0), Queensland (98.7), or South Australia (110.3)
- NSW (138.4) Imprisons a lower proportion of its adult population than does Western Australia (169.9), or the Northern Territory (422.4, not shown on the graph).
- NSW used to imprison a lower proportion of its adult population than Queensland, but since the end of 1989 NSW has been imprisoning a higher proportion of its adult population than Queensland
- Both NSW and South Australia exhibit an increasing imprisonment rate trend compared to Victoria which has had very little variation and Queensland which has shown a drop in imprisonment rates (change in counting rules may confound these trends).

Australian Institute of Criminology

Imprisonment Rate per 100,000 Adult Population January 1988 to March 1994



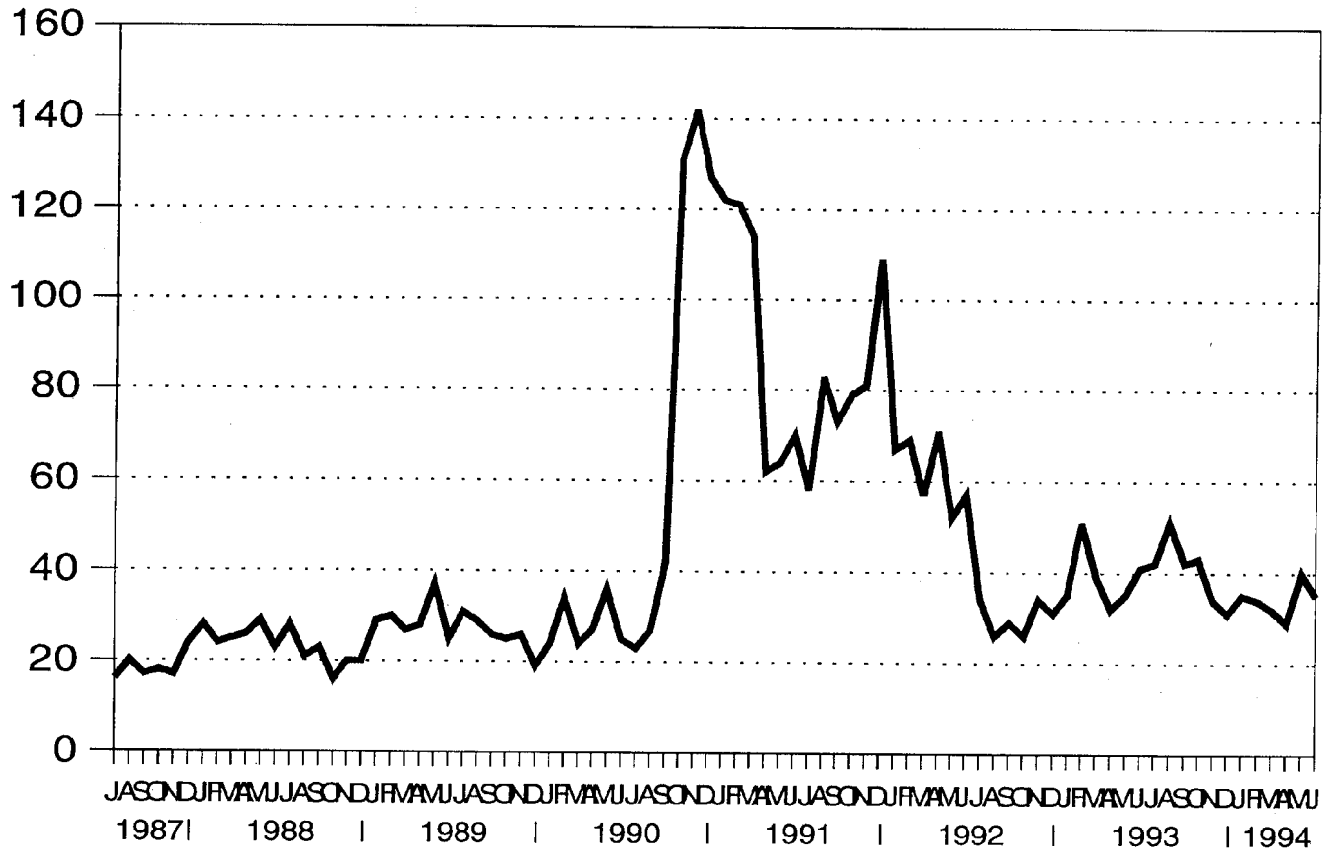
Source: Australian Prison Trends, Australian Institute of Criminology

Research & Statistics, NSW Department of Corrective Services

VIII. SEGREGATION AND PROTECTION

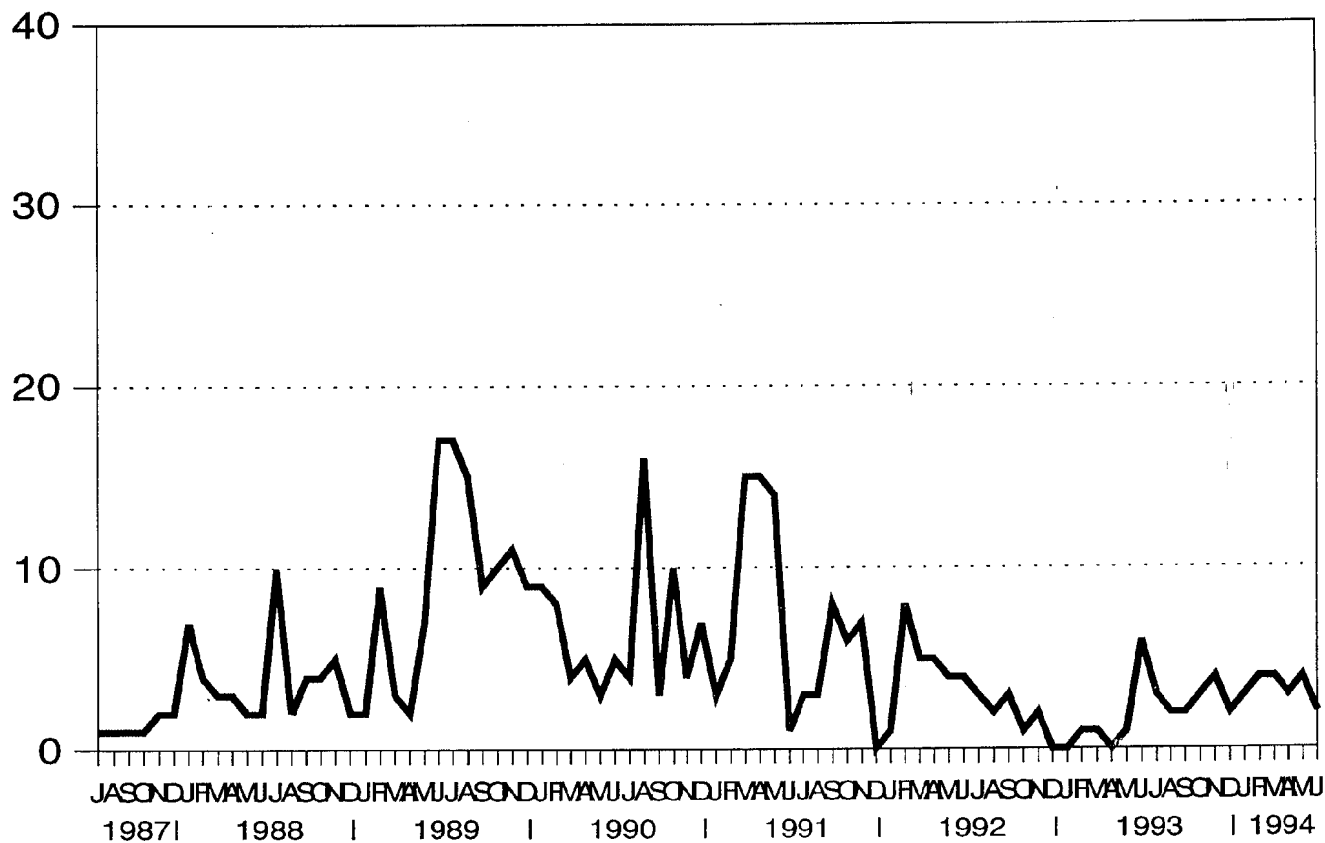
- Inmates may be segregated from other inmates for the safety of another inmate, or of a custodial officer or for the security of the correctional centre or for the preservation of good order and discipline within the correctional centre (Section 22, Prisons Act).
- Some inmates are separated from other inmates "on protection" at their own request.
- The number of male inmates on segregation increased markedly during September 1991 - the time of the prison disturbances related to the introduction of new prisoner property regulations.
- Recent numbers of males on segregation have approximately returned to pre September 1990 levels.
- The number of male inmates seeking protection fell to almost 300 in 1992 but have risen to around 450 in 1994 (still a decrease of 30% since 1991).

Number of Male Inmates on Segregation



Research & Statistics Unit, NSW Department of Corrective Services
Source: Weekly States, first Sunday of each month

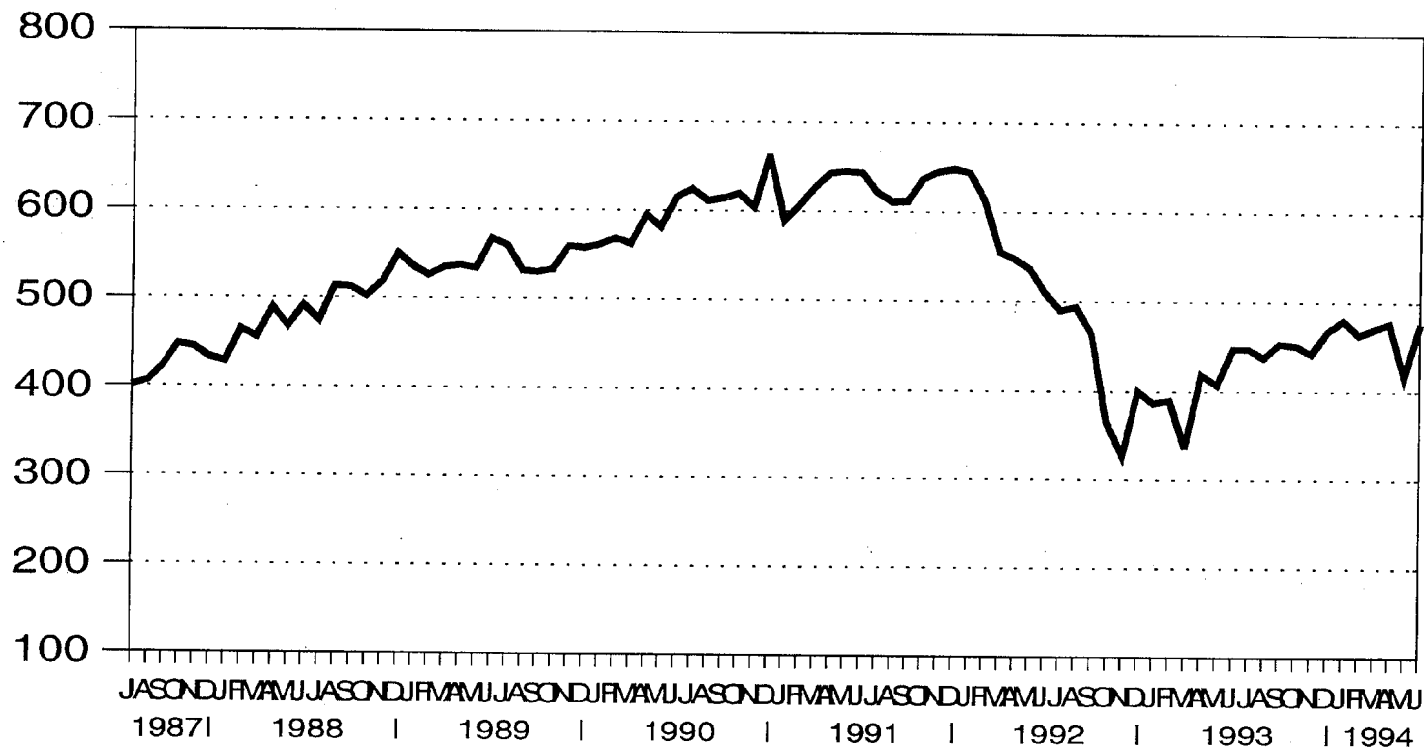
Number of Female Inmates on Segregation



Research & Statistics Unit, NSW Department of Corrective Services
Source: Weekly States, first Sunday of each month

Number of Male Inmates on Protection

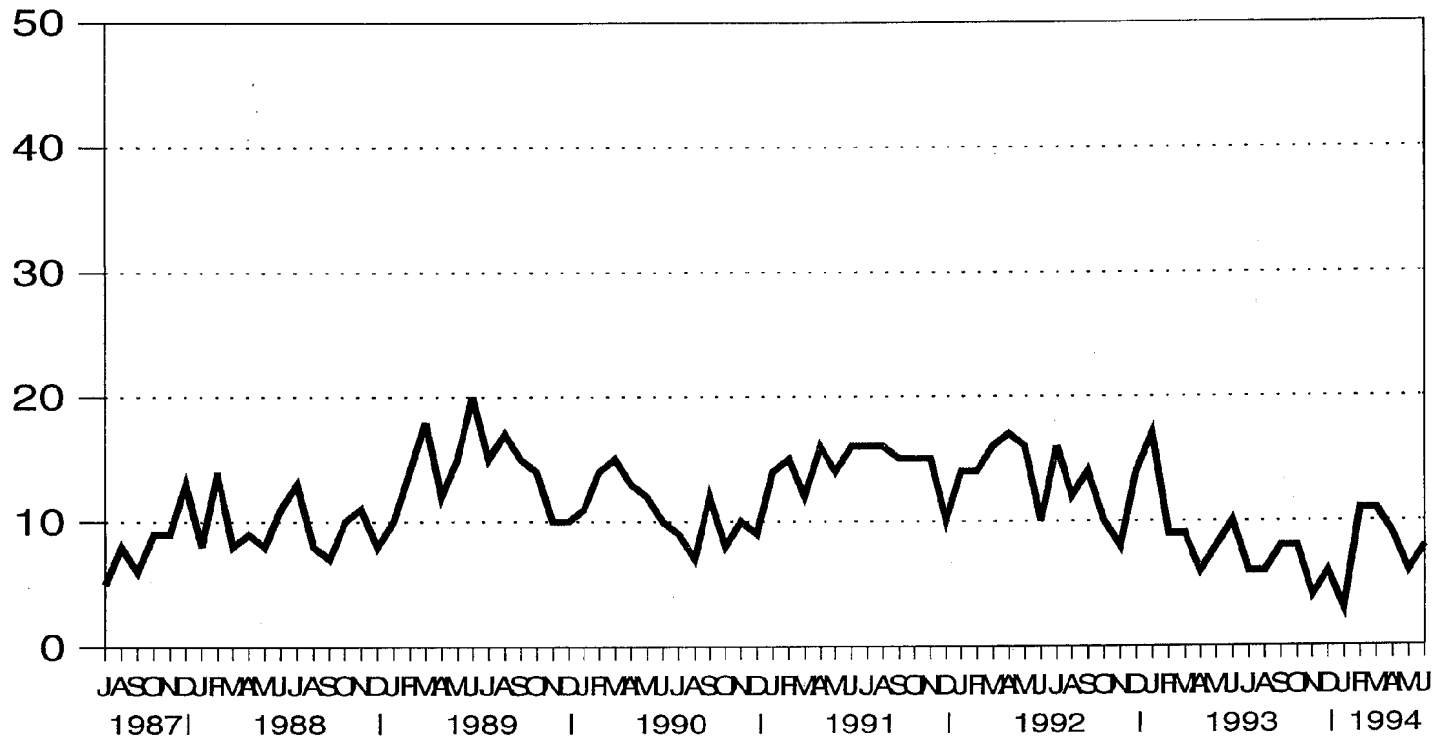
(On protection: at inmate's own request)



Research & Statistics Unit, NSW Department of Corrective Services
Source: Weekly States, first Sunday of each month

Number of Female Inmates on Protection

(On protection: at inmate's own request)



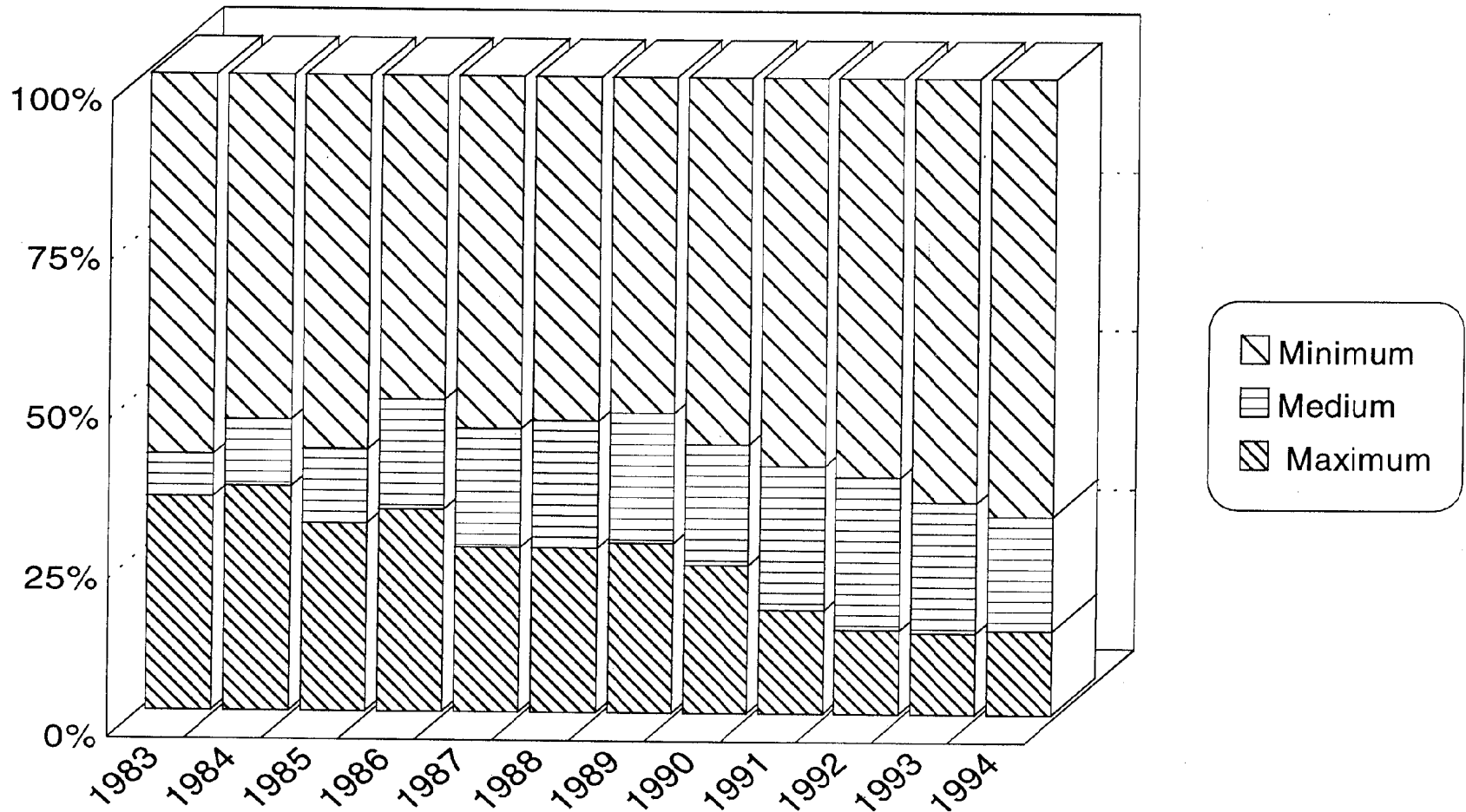
Research & Statistics Unit, NSW Department of Corrective Services
Source: Weekly States, first Sunday of each month

IX. INMATE CLASSIFICATION

- The following graphs show trends in inmate security classification as at Census day (30th June) each year from 1983 to 1994.
- From these graphs it can be seen that the percentage of the correctional centre population classified as maximum security (A1, A2) has decreased while the percentage classified as medium (B) has increased. There has been a substantial increase in the number of inmates held as minimum security inmates (C1, C2, C3) to reach a new high of 69%.
- In 1994 the percentage of C3 inmates (the lowest security rating) was the highest and the percentage of maximum security inmates was the lowest for the last 10 years.

NSW INMATES

Security Classification at 30 June each year

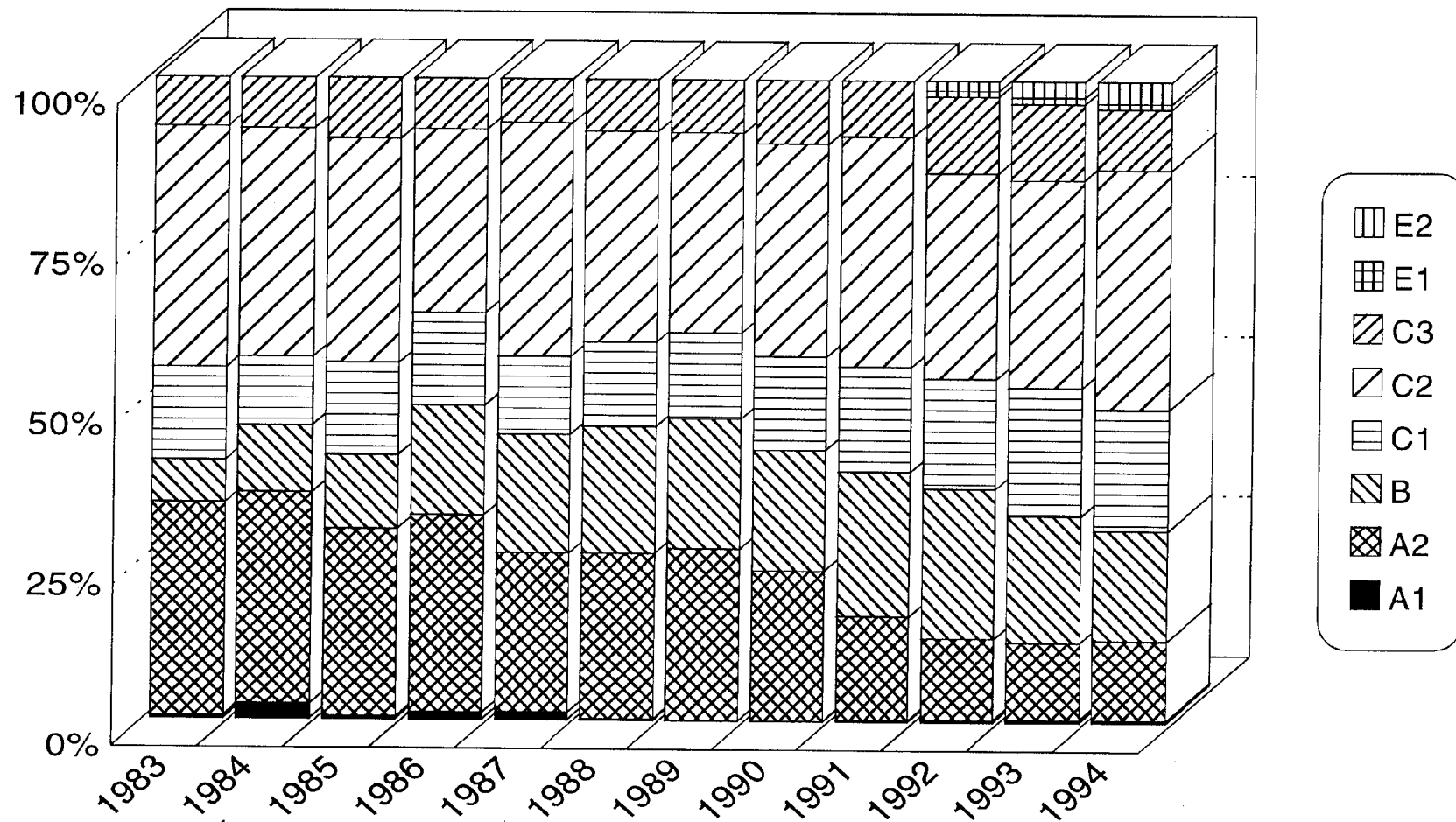


Graph prepared by: Research & Statistics, NSW Department of Corrective Services.
Source: NSW Prison Census.

NSW INMATES

Security Classification at 30 June each year

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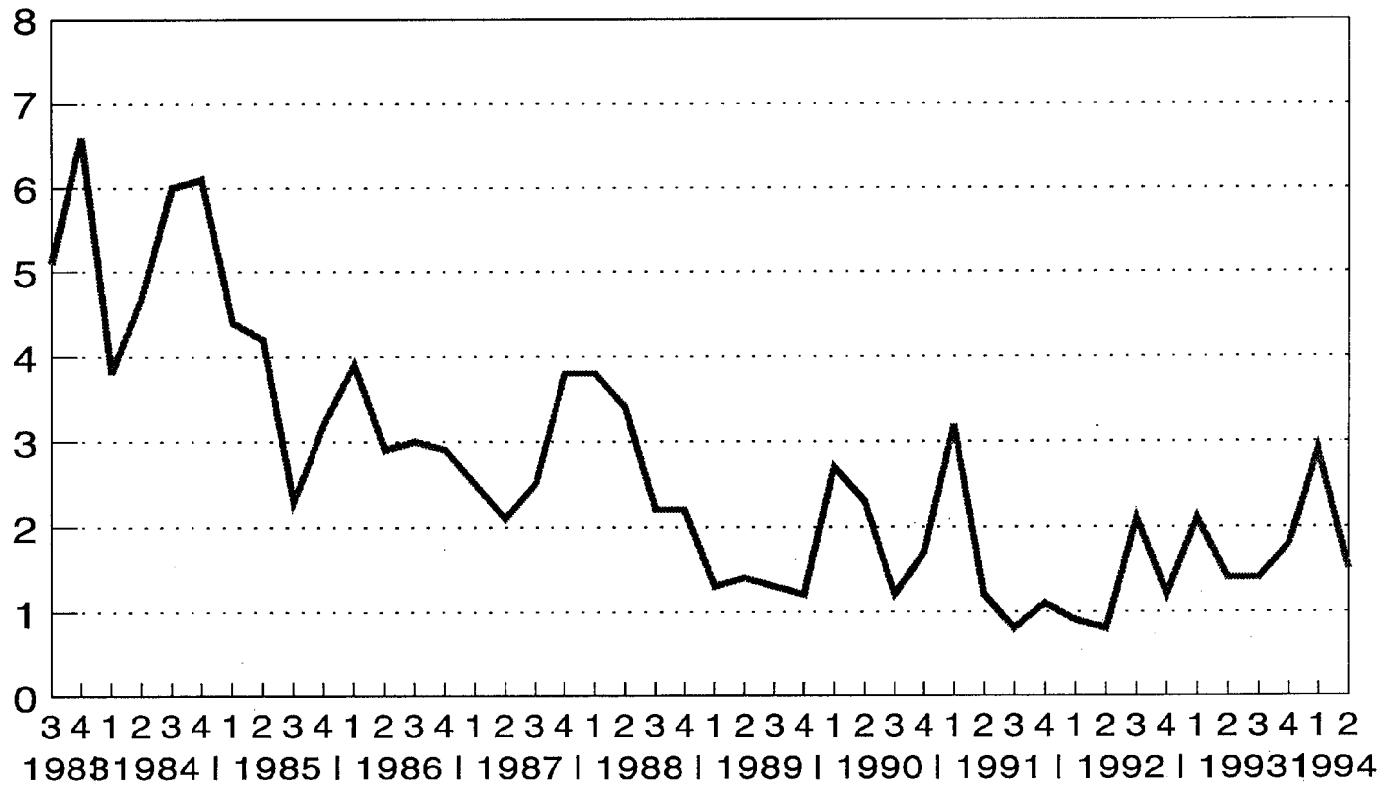


Graph prepared by: Research & Statistics, NSW Department of Corrective Services.
 Source: NSW Prison Census.

X. ESCAPE RATE

- The escape rate, measured as the number of escapes per 100 inmate years, is calculated by dividing the number of escapes in a year by the average number of inmates held in that year and multiplying by 100.
- Following four quarters (12 months) during 1991/92 where the escape rate remained lower than any quarterly escape rate previously recorded in NSW, in recent months the escape rate has again risen, only to fall in the second quarter of 1994 to levels almost equalling those for early 1991.

Escape Rate for each Quarter July 1983 - June 1994



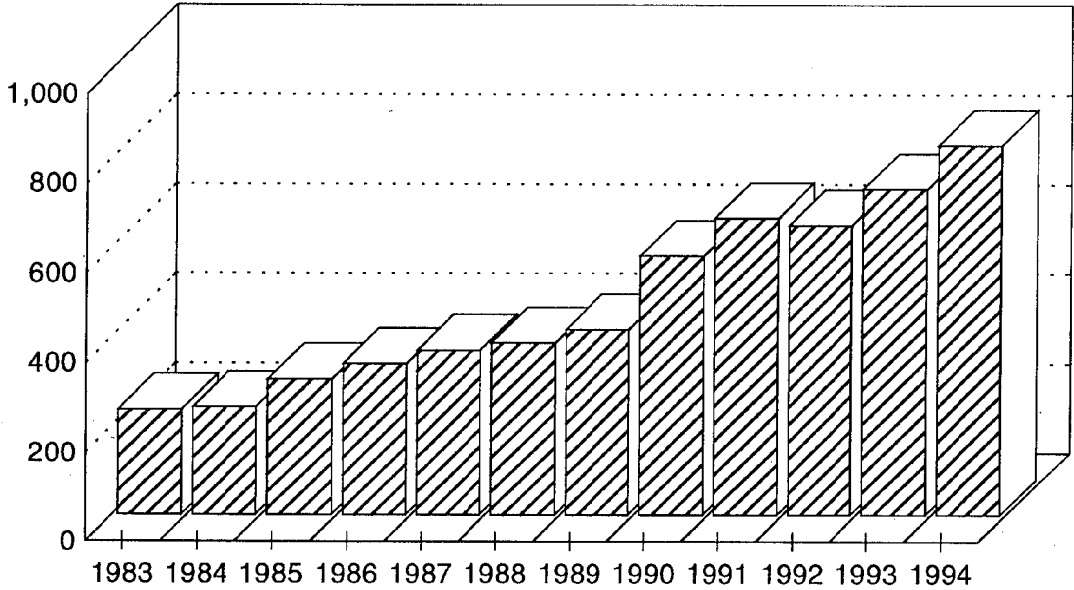
Research & Statistics, NSW Department of Corrective Services
Escape rate: Number of escapes divided by the daily average, multiplied by 100

XI. A SNAPSHOT OF THE NSW INMATE POPULATION, 30 JUNE 1994

On any given day the NSW inmate population is composed of:

- Around ten percent identifying themselves as being from Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent;
- Twenty seven percent being aged 24 years or younger;
- Fifty percent never having married;
- Fifty six percent having a minimum and additional term to serve, and;
- Thirty percent of those sentenced to either a fixed or minimum term of imprisonment having an aggregate sentence (minimum plus additional term) of at least 2 years but less than 5 years;

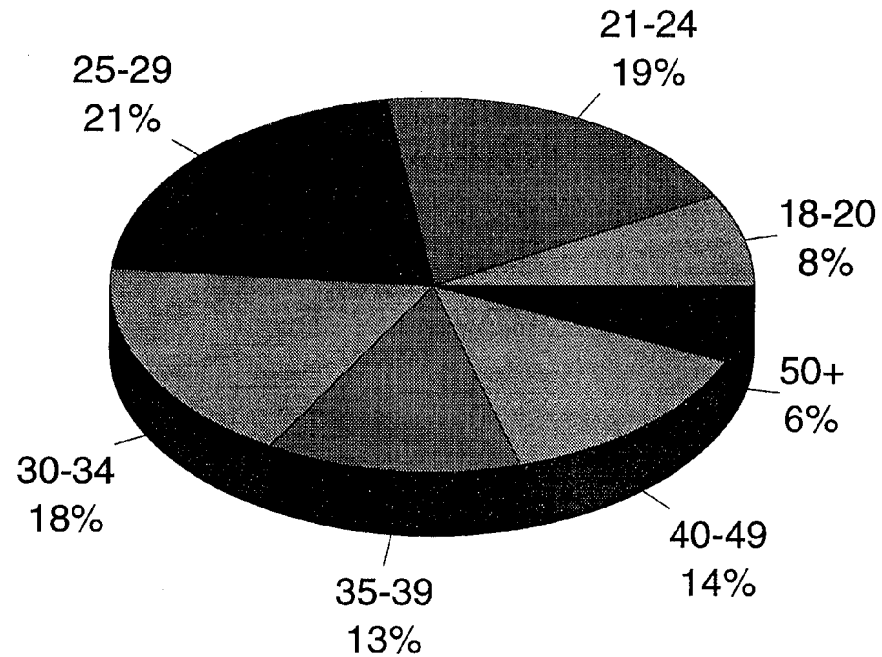
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders in NSW Correctional Centres 30th June at each year



Graph prepared by: Research & Statistics, NSW Department of Corrective Services.
Source: NSW Prison Census.

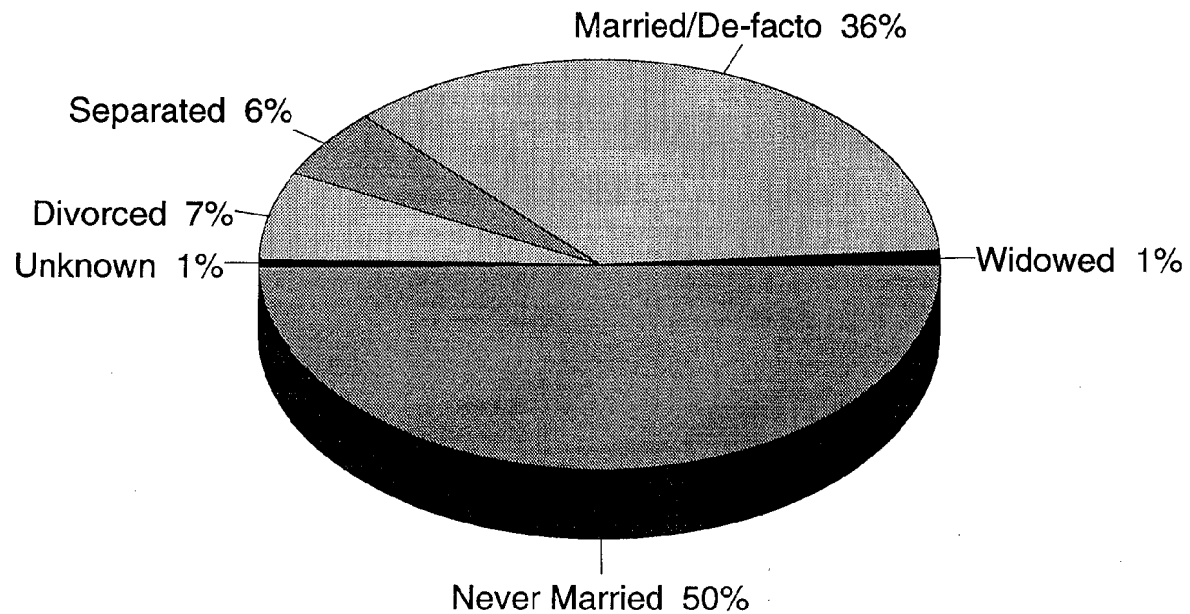
Age of NSW Inmates

30 June 1994



Graph prepared by: Research & Statistics, NSW Department of Corrective Services.
Source: NSW Prison Census

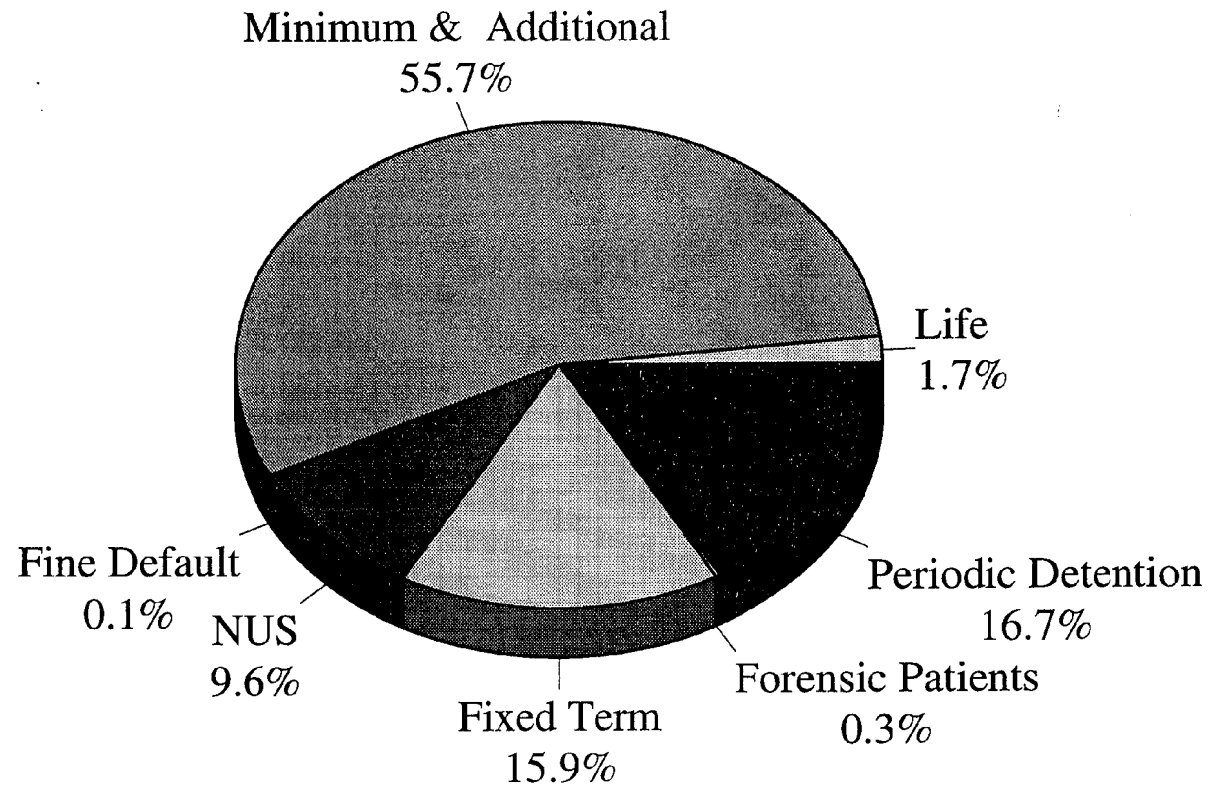
Marital Status of NSW Inmates 30 June 1994



Graph prepared by: Research & Statistics, NSW Department of Corrective Services.
Source: NSW Prison Census.

Sentence Type for NSW Inmates

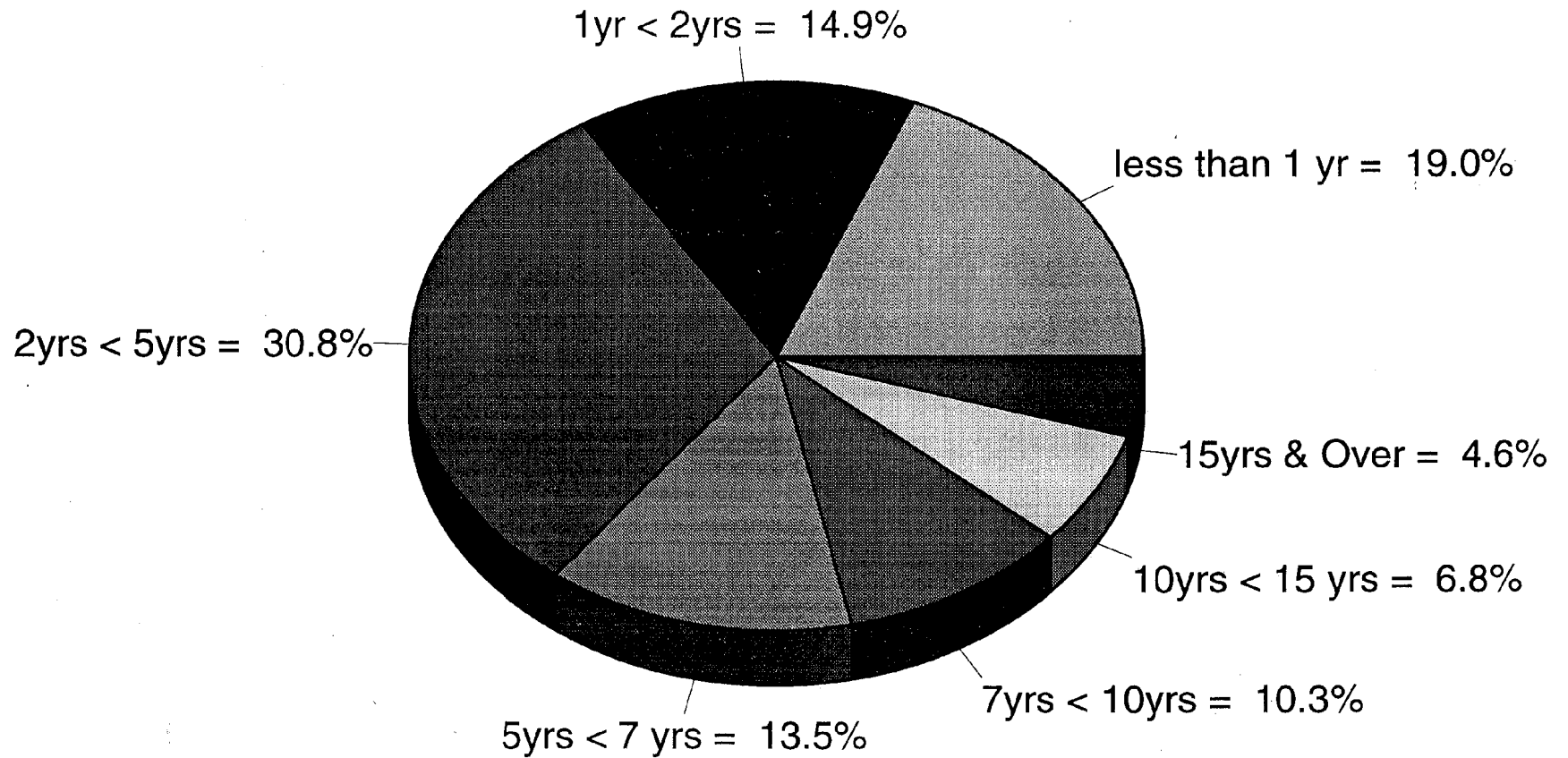
30 June 1994



Source: NSW Prison Census.

Graph prepared by: Research & Statistics, NSW Department of Corrective Services.

Aggregate Sentence* for NSW Inmates June 1994



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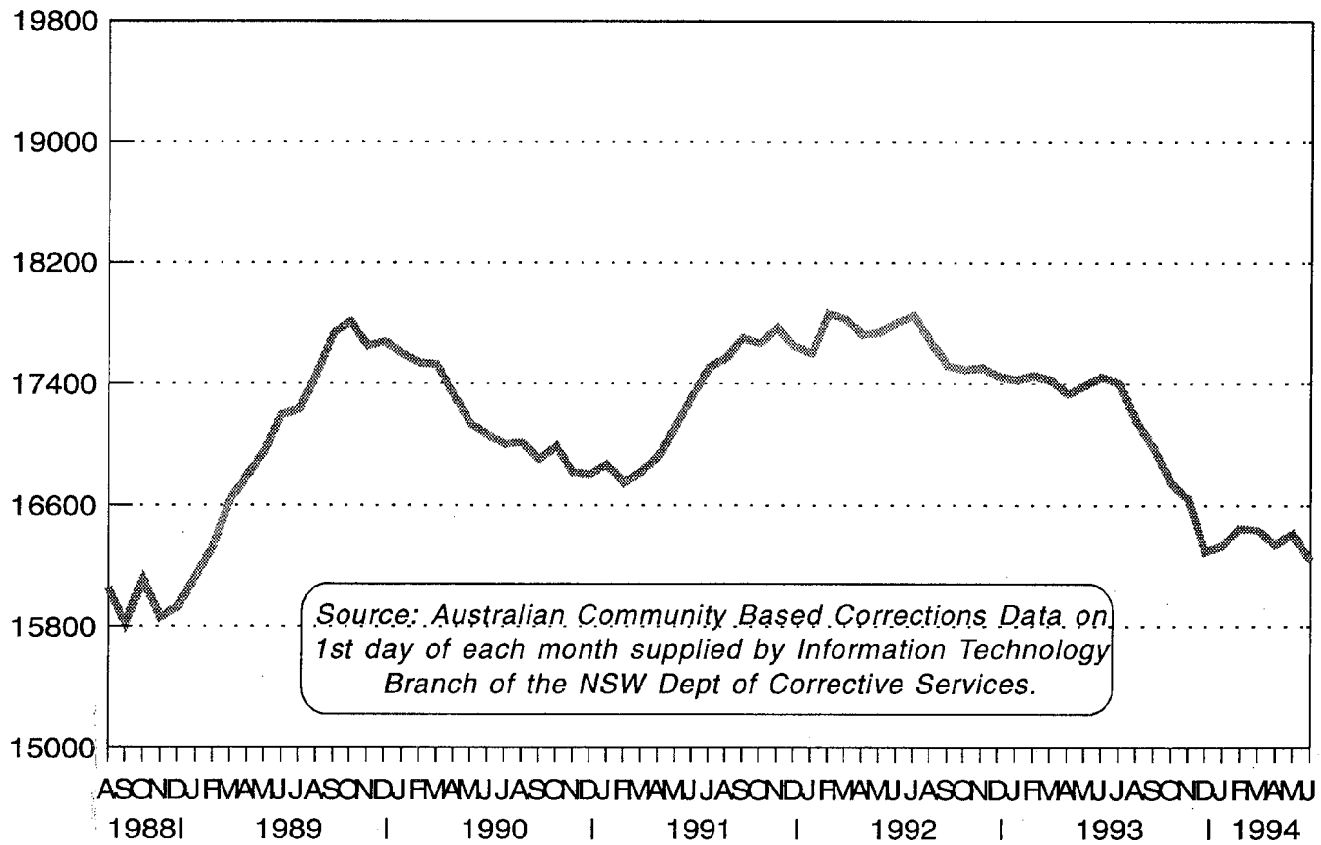
Inmates sentenced to either a fixed or minimum term of imprisonment (Excluding life, forensic patient and periodic detention)

* (Minimum + Additional Term).

XII. PERSONS UNDER COMMUNITY SUPERVISION IN NSW

- The data in this graph are drawn from the NSW Probation Service database physically located on the NSW Department of Corrective Services computer mainframe.
- There was an increasing number of persons under community supervision which, since a decline in 1990, reached levels equivalent to that reached following the introduction of the NSW Sentencing Act (1989). However recently these numbers have fallen to level found in early 1989.

Total Number of Persons Under Community Supervision in NSW from August 1988 to June 1994



Source: Australian Community Based Corrections Data on 1st day of each month supplied by Information Technology Branch of the NSW Dept of Corrective Services.

Research & Statistics, NSW Dept of Corrective Services.