

Prison population in Lancashire

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1. Summary

There are five prisons in Lancashire with a combined population of 3,864 as at March 2019. The prison population in Lancashire represents 4.7% of the England and Wales population, excluding immigration removal centres. This figure has remained fairly static over the last six years.

Although the combined operational capacity of these establishments totaled 3,864 in March 2019, the actual *in-use certified normal accommodation* figure was 3,496 for the month. The Lancashire prison population as a percentage of the *in-use certified normal accommodation* figure was 111%, equaling the figure for all prisons in England and Wales (excluding immigration removal centres), which was also 111%. Within Lancashire, HMP Preston had the greatest prison/young offender population as a percentage of the *in-use certified normal accommodation* figure at 162%. HMP Kirkham had the lowest percentage at 98%.

The five Lancashire establishments employ approximately 1,500 people.

2. Prison population

There are five male only prisons in Lancashire. There are no prisons catering for females, young people, or for high risk category A prisoners. A is the highest risk category, whilst D is the lowest risk category.

1. [HMP Garth](#) is a closed category B prison in Lostock ward, Chorley
2. [HMP Kirkham](#) is an open category D prison in Kirkham south ward, Fylde
3. [HMP Lancaster Farms](#) is a closed category C prison in Bulk ward, Lancaster
4. [HMP Preston](#) is a closed category B prison, in St Matthew's ward, Preston
5. [HMP Wymott](#) is a closed category C prison in Lostock ward, Chorley

The operational capacity of a prison represents the total number of prisoners that an establishment can hold, taking into account control, security and operational requirements. It is determined by the Deputy Director of Custody on the basis of operational judgement and experience. Governors, controllers and directors must ensure that the approved operational capacity is not exceeded except on an exceptional basis to accommodate pressing need.

Operational capacity can however be reduced for reasons that include rooms being used for healthcare, training or segregation. This sub-total is categorised as the *baseline certified normal accommodation*. Certified normal accommodation (CNA), or uncrowded capacity, is the Prison Service's own measure of accommodation. It represents the good, decent standard of accommodation that the Prison Service aspires to provide for all prisoners. The *baseline CNA* can be lowered by issues that include building works, or cells that have been damaged and are not available for immediate use. This subset is known as the *In-use certified normal accommodation*.

Table 1 shows a snapshot of the prison population at Lancashire prisons in March of each year.

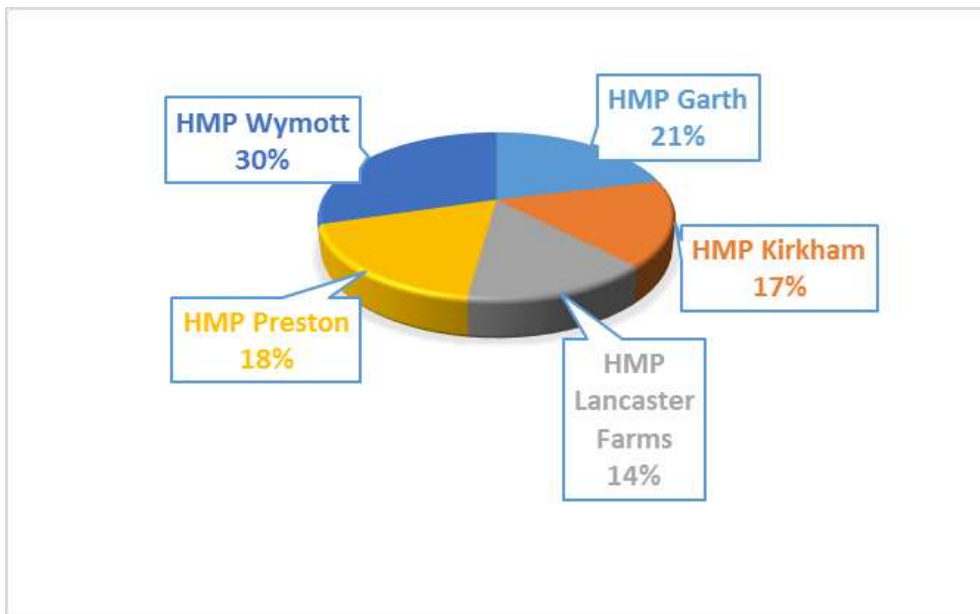
Table 1 Prison population, March 2013 to March 2019

Population in Prison	Mar-13	Mar-14	Mar-15	Mar-16	Mar-17	Mar-18	Mar-19
HMP Garth	793	666	733	837	842	832	818
HMP Kirkham	605	626	598	592	598	567	645
HMP Lancaster Farms	518	400	543	548	556	547	553
HMP Preston	695	699	676	755	722	670	701
HMP Wymott	1,109	1,097	1,121	1,152	1,058	1,156	1,147
Lancashire	3,720	3,488	3,671	3,884	3,776	3,772	3,864
All prisons (England and Wales, excluding immigration removal centres)	83,852	84,443	84,324	85,064	84,652	83,875	82,417
Percentage of prison population in Lancashire	4.4%	4.1%	4.4%	4.6%	4.5%	4.5%	4.7%

Source: [Ministry of Justice: Population in Custody](#)

Notes: [1] The prison unlock figure may be lower than the 'Population', as the 'Population' includes prisoners on authorised absence.

There was a peak in prison populations in 2016 and since then numbers have reduced slightly, however rising again in 2019.



Neighbouring prisons Wymott and Garth in Leyland account for 51% of inmates in Lancashire.

Please note that the Ministry of Justice website also has [offender management caseload statistics](#).

Weekly and monthly figures are available on the [Ministry of Justice](#) website.

Table 2 Prison/young offender institution normal accommodation, March 2019

Prison/young offender Institution	Baseline ^[2] certified normal accommodation (CNA) ^[3]	In-use certified normal accommodation (CNA) ^[4]	Operational capacity ^[1]	Population ^[5] ^[6]	Population as a percentage of in-use certified normal accommodation (CNA)
HMP Garth	812	812	845	818	101%
HMP Kirkham	657	657	657	645	98%
HMP Lancaster Farms	495	495	560	553	112%
HMP Preston	433	433	811	701	162%
HMP Wymott	1,099	1,099	1,169	1,147	104%
Lancashire total	3,496	3,496	4,042	3,864	111%
All prisons (England and Wales, excluding immigration removal centres)	78,952	74,465	86,473	82,417	111%

Notes:

[1] Operational capacity is the total number of prisoners an establishment can hold, taking into account control, security and operational requirements. It is determined by the Deputy Director of Custody on the basis of operational judgement and experience. Governors, controllers and directors must ensure that the approved operational capacity is not exceeded except on an exceptional basis to accommodate pressing need. Operational capacity varies over time and we only present here the figures for the most recent month.

[2] Baseline CNA is the sum total of all certified accommodation in an establishment except, normally: Cells in punishment or segregation units; Healthcare cells or rooms in training prisons and YOIs that are not routinely used to accommodate long stay patients.

[3] Certified Normal Accommodation (CNA), or uncrowded capacity, is the Prison Service's own measure of accommodation. CNA represents the good, decent standard of accommodation that the Service aspires to provide all prisoners.

[4] In-use CNA is baseline CNA less those places not available for immediate use, for example: damaged cells, cells affected by building works.

[5] The prison unlock figure may be lower than the 'Population', as the 'Population' includes prisoners on authorised absence.

[6] Figures are compiled from data relating to the last Friday in the month.

Source: [Ministry of Justice: Population in Custody](#)

3. Prison, young offender and police cell inspections

The list of [prison inspection reports](#) includes reports for the five Lancashire prisons.

4. The wider impact of prisons in Lancashire

In addition to their core custodial, training and rehabilitation functions, all prisons have a wider impact on the local community. They offer an important source of local employment, purchase goods and services, cater for visiting friends and family, and may offer their own services to the local area. For instance, Kirkham prison covers a substantial 180 acres and is located in the western part of the county that contains a large amount of good quality agricultural land. A significant proportion of the site is used for agriculture and horticulture and the prison has a farm shop that is open to the public. The [Kirkham Enterprises](#) web page provides information on the prison's commercial services and their wider role in the local community.

In the present economic climate, it is more critical than ever that ex-offenders are able to improve their skills and employability as they face particular difficulties. At a time of high levels of unemployment, it is a real challenge for ex-offenders to successfully integrate back into society and schemes to improve their skill levels, confidence and general employability are of vital importance.

The [ONE3ONE](#) website highlights some of the commercial activities undertaken by prisoners. The website mentions that they have a litho print workshop at Wymott, textile workshops at Garth, Preston and Wymott, plus laundry facilities at Wymott.

Prisons are important source of local employment, and the [national offender management service workforce statistics](#) (table 10) has details of operational and non-operational staff numbers. In March 2018, there were just over 1,500 staff at the five sites in Lancashire listed in table 12.

5. Involvement in the community

The [Cumbria and Lancashire Community Rehabilitation Company \(CRC\)](#) website details its roles and responsibilities as a part of the criminal justice service. The [community payback](#) (formerly known as Community Service) section of the website mentions that nationally over eight million hours of work are completed every year by offenders on a community sentence. This equates to approximately £45 million of free labour provided to local communities as offenders pay back for the crimes they have committed.

The [Margaret Carey Foundation](#) is a charitable trust which rescues scrapped bicycles and wheelchairs that are no longer in use, and sets up workshops where prisoners clean, adjust and repair them to a high standard. The refurbished bikes and wheelchairs are then given to communities in need, in England and in developing countries. The foundation has workshops at HMP Garth and HMP Kirkham. In January 2012 started a bike workshop working with young offenders at Lancaster Farms.