Ohio's prison population increasing from the pandemic levels

Prison Population
(as of January of each year)

50,534 (2015)
50,652 (2016)
50,557 (2017)
49,578 (2018)
48,922 (2019)
48,599 (2020)
43,695 (2021)
43,460 (2022)
43,623 (2023)
44,928 (2024)
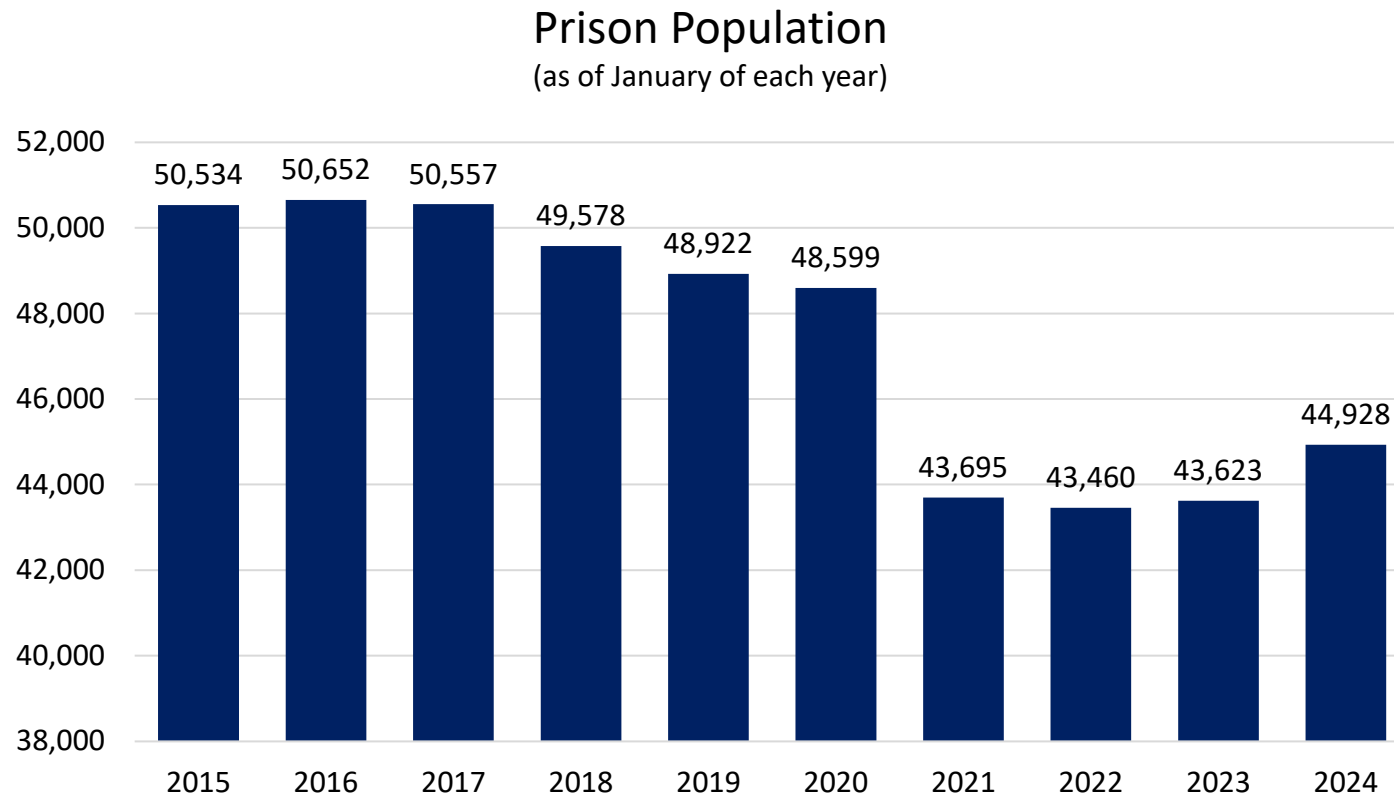
Source: Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

- In January 2024:
  - Ohio's prison population totaled 44,928, an increase of 3.0% (1,305 inmates) from the previous year.
  - The prison system consisted of 28 correctional institutions (three privately operated) and 11,458 institutional staff (not including private prisons), of whom 6,073, or 53%, were correction officers.
  - The daily institutional costs per offender averaged $103.08 and marginal costs, $11.98. Institutional costs are fixed (e.g., staff, maintenance, security). Marginal costs (e.g., food, medical care, clothing) fluctuate with the prison population.
- During the ten-year period from 2015 to 2024, Ohio's prison population has decreased by 11.1% (5,606 inmates).
  - From 2015 to 2017, the population continued to hover around 50,000. For context, the prison population reached an all-time high of 51,273 in November 2008.
  - From 2017 to 2020, the population slowly decreased by an average of 1.3% per year.
  - From 2020 to 2021, the prison population sharply decreased 10.1% (4,904 inmates). This decrease was largely due to the COVID-19 pandemic beginning March 2020.
  - The population remains lower than pre-pandemic levels.