

Sentencing statistics quarterly brief

July to September 2008

England and Wales

Provisional data

Ministry of Justice

Statistics bulletin

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Sentencing Statistics July to September 2008

Introduction

This publication has been prepared by Offender Management & Sentencing Analytical Services (Sentencing Statistics and NOMS Projections) to provide the latest trends in sentencing in England and Wales, based on provisional sentencing data. Key statistics presented are set in the context of sentencing patterns over the last 2 years (since 2006). It considers the total numbers sentenced for indictable offences in all courts as well as a breakdown for magistrates' courts and the Crown Court. The focus is primarily on use of fines, community sentences, immediate custody, suspended sentences and average custodial sentence lengths (ACSL) (which exclude life and indeterminate sentences). Information by offence type and for individual sentences is provided in the accompanying tables.

The previous edition of this publication was delayed due to inconsistencies in trends for Suspended Sentence Orders (SSO's) in this publication and the Probation Statistics brief (www.justice.gov.uk/publications/probationquarterly.htm) these inconsistencies have been rectified and both sets of statistics now show comparable trends. Following the investigations into SSO's affecting the second quarter statistics it has been necessary to revise some of the figures published in the January to March brief - as such this bulletin covers the periods April to June and July to September and revised figures for January to March.

All figures relate to indictable only and triable-either-way offences (taken together these are known as indictable offences).

Statistics quoted in this publication for 2008 are **provisional**. Final 2008 data will be published in the annual bulletin of sentencing statistics at the end of 2009. This provisional data may change in future quarterly briefs.

Key points – July to September 2008

All key points highlighted below are for indictable offences and are comparisons with the third quarter of 2007.

Key points

All courts

- The number of persons sentenced was 77,700 which is a fall of 0.6 per cent on the same quarter in 2007. There was a 10.0 per cent increase in the numbers sentenced at the Crown Court and a fall of 4.0 per cent at magistrates' courts. The number of males sentenced fell by 0.2 per cent and females by 2.5 per cent.
- The number of persons sentenced aged 21 and over was 56,400, a rise of 4.0 per cent on the same quarter in 2007. For other age groups the numbers sentenced fell, juveniles by 10.9 per cent and young adults by 11.2 per cent.
- The number of persons sentenced to immediate custody was 19,700, an increase of 4.7 per cent on the same quarter in 2007. This increase was caused by an 11.7 per cent rise at the Crown court, while at magistrates' courts there was a fall of 4.8 per cent.
- The custody rate for indictable offences at all courts was 25.3 per cent, this is a rise of 0.8 percentage points on 2007, this reflects the rise in the immediate custody rate at the Crown court.
- The average custodial sentence length for all indictable offences was 16.3 months, excluding life/indeterminate sentences. This is a rise of 1.3 months from 2007 and the highest figure recorded in the period since the third quarter of 2006.
- The number of persons sentenced to a Suspended Sentence Order (SSO) was 6,800, a fall of 0.8 per cent on the same quarter in 2007. The use of SSO's has changed in this and the preceding quarter – there has been a 14.8 per cent fall in their use at magistrates' courts while at the Crown Court their use has risen 10.7 per cent to 4,200.
- There were increases in the numbers sentenced for sexual offences, burglary, robbery, theft and handling of stolen goods and drug offences. The biggest increase was for drug offences, up 20.2 per cent.
- The biggest decreases were for fraud and forgery, down 25.7 per cent, criminal damage, down 22.4 per cent, and indictable motoring offences, down by 17.4 per cent.

Magistrates' courts

- There were 56,700 persons sentenced at magistrates' courts this is a fall of 4.0 per cent on the same period in 2007.
 - The immediate custody rate was virtually unchanged at 13.5 per cent. The suspended sentence rate fell from 5.3 to 4.6 per cent, the use of fines rose from 19.9 to 21.7 per cent. While the community sentence rate fell from 38.9 per cent to 37.3 per cent.
 - The average custodial sentence length fell from 2.9 to 2.6 months.

Crown Court

- There were 21,100 persons sentenced at the Crown Court, an increase of 10.0 per cent.
 - There was an increase in the immediate custody rate up from 56.4 to 57.3 per cent.
 - The suspended sentence rate rose slightly to 19.9 per cent.
 - There was a decrease in the fine rate, down to 1.6 per cent.
 - The community sentence rate fell by 0.5 percentage points to 16.6 per cent.
 - The average custodial sentence length rose from 24.4 months to 25.3 months

Table i: Persons sentenced by disposal

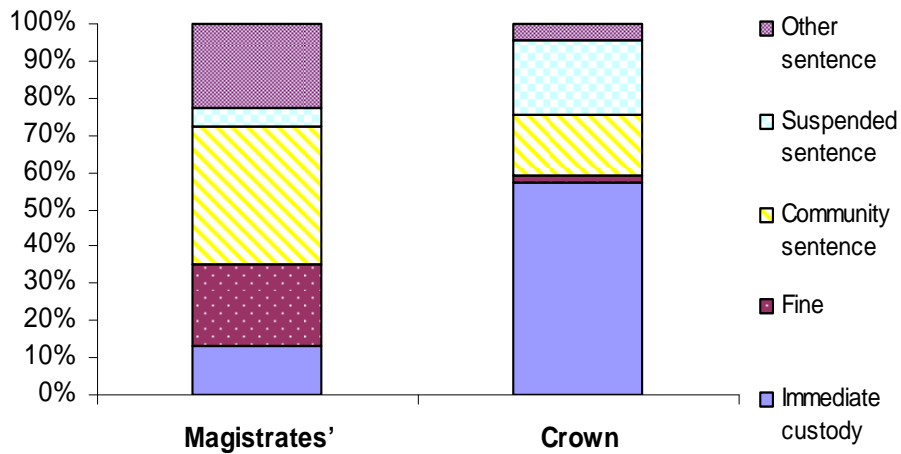
	Magistrates'	Crown	All Courts
Total Sentenced (all ages) <i>(comparing Q3 2008 with Q3 2007)</i>	56,685 <i>-4.0%</i>	21,062 <i>10.0%</i>	77,747 <i>-0.6%</i>
Fine	12,277 <i>4.7%</i>	343 <i>-10.0%</i>	12,620 <i>4.2%</i>
Community sentence	21,151 <i>-7.8%</i>	3,500 <i>6.9%</i>	24,651 <i>-6.0%</i>
Immediate custody	7,643 <i>-4.8%</i>	12,062 <i>11.7%</i>	19,705 <i>4.7%</i>
Suspended sentence	2,627 <i>-14.8%</i>	4,183 <i>10.7%</i>	6,810 <i>-0.8%</i>
Other sentence	12,987 <i>-2.0%</i>	974 <i>5.4%</i>	13,961 <i>-1.5%</i>
Average custodial sentence length (months)⁽¹⁾	2.6 <i>-9.5%</i>	25.3 <i>3.6%</i>	16.3 <i>8.8%</i>

(1) Excludes life sentences and IPPs.

Table ii: Persons sentenced by age and sex

	Magistrates'	Crown	All Courts
Total Sentenced (all ages) <i>(comparing Q3 2008 with Q3 2007)</i>	56,685 <i>-4.0%</i>	21,062 10.0%	77,747 <i>-0.6%</i>
Male	47,793 <i>-4.1%</i>	18,843 11.2%	66,636 <i>-0.2%</i>
Female	8,892 <i>-3.3%</i>	2,219 0.9%	11,111 <i>-2.5%</i>
10-17	10,750 <i>-11.5%</i>	662 0.9%	11,412 <i>-10.9%</i>
18-20	6,870 <i>-14.0%</i>	3,038 <i>-4.0%</i>	9,908 <i>-11.2%</i>
21 and over	39,065 0.4%	17,362 13.3%	56,427 4.0%

Distribution of disposals by court, 2008 Q3 (Figure A)



Explanatory notes

Data sources

The source of the data for this publication is the Courts Proceedings Database, which covers details of every individual sentenced. Data referring to magistrates' courts comes either directly from magistrates' court computer systems, some of which went online with the new LIBRA system, or from police forces. National implementation of LIBRA was completed in February 2009. Data on the Crown Court comes from the Court Service's CREST computer system.

All the statistics shown relate to the principal offence. This is the one attracting the heaviest sentence. Where an offender has been given the same disposal for two or more offences the principle offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

Although care is taken in processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. Therefore, the figures are not necessarily accurate to the last digit shown. Average custodial sentence lengths are extracted to one decimal place.

Where the number of offenders sentenced in a particular group is less than 50, we do not show the percentage change. This is because smaller numbers do not always give a meaningful percentage change. In these cases, the percentage change is denoted with a star (*).

Definitions

Juveniles: offenders aged 10-17 at sentence

Young adults: offenders aged 18-20 at sentence

Adults: offenders aged 21 or over at sentence

Average custodial sentence length: this excludes life and other indeterminate sentences.

Offenders receiving an indeterminate sentence of Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP) for a serious offence would previously have received a lengthy determinate sentence that would have been included in the calculation of average custodial sentence length. These longer sentences are now effectively excluded from the calculation. The IPP's are given for the more serious offences. Therefore, this may result in a decrease in average custodial sentence lengths of more serious offences sentenced at the Crown Court.

Indictable only offences and **triable-either-way offences** are listed in Appendix 4 of Sentencing Statistics England and Wales 2007. This publication is available at <http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/sentencingannual.htm>

Immediate custodial sentences include detention and training orders, young offender institution, unsuspended imprisonment, extended sentences for public protection and indeterminate sentences for public protection¹.

Community sentence – for **adults** the main community sentence, which is supervised by the Probation Service, is the community order introduced by the Criminal Justice Act 2003 for offences committed on or after 4 April 2005. The court must add at least one (but could potentially add all 12) of the following requirements: supervision, unpaid work, specified activities, prohibited activities, accredited programmes, curfew, exclusion, residence, mental health treatment, drug rehabilitation, alcohol treatment and attendance centre requirement for under 25s. For **juveniles** the main community sentences used are the referral order, for first-time offenders who plead guilty on their first court appearance and do not merit a discharge or custodial sentence, and the supervision order (up to 3 years, may have additional requirements) although curfew orders, reparation orders, action plan orders and attendance centre orders are also available. Youth Offending Teams supervise orders for juveniles.

Suspended Sentence – available for **adults** only. It is a sentence of custody of under 12 months, suspended for a period ranging from six months to two years. During the suspension period the court sets a number of requirements, from the same options as are available for the community order, and these are supervised by the Probation Service.

¹ Introduced by the Criminal Justice Act 2003 for offences committed on or after 4 April 2005

Contact points for further information

Current and previous editions of this publication are available for download at www.justice.gov.uk/publications/sentencingquarterly.htm

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Table 1 Males sentenced for indictable offences by type of court, age group, type of sentence and quarter, 2006-2008⁽¹⁾

England and Wales		Males sentenced									Percentage change				
Court, age group and sentence		Q3 2006	Q4 2006	Q1 2007	Q2 2007	Q3 2007	Q4 2007	Q1 2008	Q2 2008	Q3 2008	Q3 2007	Q4 2007	Q1 2008	Q2 2008	Q3 2008
Magistrates' courts															
Juveniles (under 18) ⁽³⁾															
Number sentenced		9,678	9,615	10,405	10,600	10,339	9,771	9,464	9,225	9,203	6.8	1.6	-9.0	-13.0	-11.0
Number given immediate custody		882	775	754	817	820	716	723	758	685	-7.0	-7.6	-4.1	-7.2	-16.5
Number given fines		445	527	562	522	528	550	471	529	492	18.7	4.4	-16.2	1.3	-6.8
Number given community sentences		7,246	7,196	7,799	8,011	7,732	7,370	7,095	6,727	6,776	6.7	2.4	-9.0	-16.0	-12.4
Number given other sentences		1,105	1,117	1,290	1,250	1,259	1,135	1,175	1,211	1,250	13.9	1.6	-8.9	-3.1	-0.7
Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽²⁾		7.2	7.0	7.1	7.0	7.2	7.6	7.3	7.4	7.2	0.0	8.6	4.0	5.0	0.0
Young Adults (18-20)															
Number sentenced		6,996	6,445	7,212	7,133	7,057	6,823	6,506	6,089	6,051	0.9	5.9	-9.8	-14.6	-14.3
Number given immediate custody		939	796	842	898	896	852	723	551	480	-4.6	7.0	-14.1	-38.6	-46.4
Number given fines		1,813	1,660	1,817	1,753	1,647	1,585	1,563	1,481	1,674	-9.2	-4.5	-14.0	-15.5	1.6
Number given community sentences		2,338	2,211	2,451	2,474	2,516	2,441	2,269	2,222	2,161	7.6	10.4	-7.4	-10.2	-14.1
Number given suspended sentences		421	346	394	358	337	393	340	266	281	-20.0	13.6	-13.7	-25.7	-16.6
Number given other sentences		1,485	1,432	1,708	1,650	1,661	1,552	1,611	1,569	1,455	11.9	8.4	-5.7	-4.9	-12.4
Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽²⁾		2.7	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.5	3.7	0.0	-3.9	-3.8	-10.7
Adults (21 and over)															
Number sentenced		31,399	29,149	32,752	31,431	32,445	31,581	33,279	32,332	32,539	3.3	8.3	1.6	2.9	0.3
Number given immediate custody		5,281	4,810	5,195	4,968	5,411	5,395	5,834	5,519	5,499	2.5	12.2	12.3	11.1	1.6
Number given fines		8,352	7,761	8,456	8,101	8,231	7,765	8,086	8,062	8,765	-1.4	0.1	-4.4	-0.5	6.5
Number given community sentences		8,303	7,796	9,213	8,647	8,866	8,774	8,947	8,687	8,711	6.8	12.5	-2.9	0.5	-1.7
Number given suspended sentences		2,233	2,100	2,243	2,215	2,298	2,284	2,268	2,113	1,955	2.9	8.8	1.1	-4.6	-14.9
Number given other sentences		7,230	6,682	7,645	7,500	7,639	7,363	8,144	7,951	7,609	5.7	10.2	6.5	6.0	-0.4
Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽²⁾		2.4	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.1	-4.2	-4.3	-2.6	-2.8	-8.7
The Crown Court															
Juveniles (under 18) ⁽³⁾															
Number sentenced		577	556	606	603	576	598	622	647	609	-0.2	7.6	2.6	7.3	5.7
Number given immediate custody		384	372	374	370	374	372	382	367	385	-2.6	0.0	2.1	-0.8	2.9
Number given fines		1	0	3	2	3	4	1	3	0	*	*	*	*	*
Number given community sentences		173	158	202	195	172	177	216	231	200	-0.6	12.0	6.9	18.5	16.3
Number given other sentences		19	26	27	36	27	45	23	46	24	*	*	*	*	*
Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽²⁾		21.4	22.1	21.0	20.5	21.6	20.2	21.2	21.2	23.5	0.9	-8.6	0.9	3.4	8.8
Young Adults (18-20)															
Number sentenced		2,787	2,791	3,125	2,910	2,918	3,077	2,982	2,903	2,825	4.7	10.2	-4.6	-0.2	-3.2
Number given immediate custody		1,632	1,592	1,768	1,701	1,738	1,766	1,663	1,691	1,681	6.5	10.9	-5.9	-0.6	-3.3
Number given fines		54	39	55	46	49	48	38	44	34	*	*	*	*	*
Number given community sentences		657	667	670	622	556	633	586	662	602	-15.4	-5.1	-12.5	6.4	8.3
Number given suspended sentences		352	397	500	402	475	510	593	373	385	34.9	28.5	18.6	-7.2	-23.2
Number given other sentences		92	96	132	139	100	120	102	133	143	8.7	25.0	-22.7	-4.3	43.0
Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽²⁾		21.3	23.3	20.9	20.0	20.5	20.7	21.3	22.2	22.6	-3.8	-11.2	1.5	11.2	10.2
Adults (21 and over)															
Number sentenced		12,643	12,561	13,734	13,049	13,457	13,639	14,544	15,389	15,409	6.4	8.6	5.9	17.9	14.5
Number given immediate custody		7,594	7,497	7,935	7,569	7,876	8,001	8,654	9,189	9,202	3.7	6.7	9.1	21.4	16.8
Number given fines		269	273	374	302	297	271	317	302	271	10.4	-0.7	-15.2	0.0	-8.8
Number given community sentences		2,275	2,110	2,260	2,027	2,034	1,919	2,106	2,111	2,173	-10.6	-9.1	-6.8	4.1	6.8
Number given suspended sentences		1,898	2,130	2,510	2,510	2,653	2,816	2,854	3,114	3,109	39.8	32.2	13.7	24.1	17.2
Number given other sentences		607	551	655	641	597	632	613	673	654	-1.6	14.7	-6.4	5.0	9.5
Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽²⁾		26.5	26.7	25.9	25.9	25.8	26.7	25.6	26.6	26.4	-2.6	0.0	-1.1	2.7	2.3
All courts															
Juveniles (under 18) ⁽³⁾															
Number sentenced		10,255	10,171	11,011	11,203	10,915	10,369	10,086	9,872	9,812	6.4	1.9	-8.4	-11.9	-10.1
Number given immediate custody		1,266	1,147	1,128	1,187	1,194	1,088	1,105	1,125	1,070	-5.7	-5.1	-2.0	-5.2	-10.4
Number given fines		446	527	565	524	531	554	472	532	492	19.1	5.1	-16.5	1.5	-7.3
Number given community sentences		7,419	7,354	8,001	8,206	7,904	7,547	7,311	6,958	6,976	6.5	2.6	-8.6	-15.2	-11.7
Number given other sentences		1,124	1,143	1,317	1,286	1,286	1,180	1,198	1,257	1,274	14.4	3.2	-9.0	-2.3	-0.9
Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽²⁾		11.4	11.5	11.4	11.1	11.6	11.7	11.8	11.6	13.0	1.8	1.7	3.8	4.6	12.1
Young Adults (18-20)															
Number sentenced		9,783	9,236	10,337	10,043	9,975	9,900	9,488	8,992	8,876	2.0	7.2	-8.2	-10.5	-11.0
Number given immediate custody		2,571	2,388	2,610	2,599	2,634	2,618	2,386	2,242	2,161	2.5	9.6	-8.6	-13.7	-18.0
Number given fines		1,867	1,699	1,872	1,799	1,696	1,633	1,601	1,525	1,708	-9.2	-3.9	-14.5	-15.2	0.7
Number given community sentences		2,995	2,878	3,121	3,096	3,072	3,074	2,855	2,884	2,763	2.6	6.8	-8.5	-6.8	-10.1
Number given suspended sentences		773	743	894	760	812	903	933	639	646	5.0	21.5	4.4	-15.9	-20.4
Number given other sentences		1,577	1,528	1,840	1,789	1,761	1,672	1,713	1,702	1,598	11.7	9.4	-6.9	-4.9	-9.3
Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽²⁾		14.4	16.1	14.9	13.9	14.3	14.5	15.3	17.2	18.0	-0.7	-9.9	2.9	23.4	25.9
Adults (21 and over)															
Number sentenced		44,042	41,710	46,486	44,480	45,902	45,220	47,823	47,721	47,948	4.2	8.4	2.9	7.3	4.5
Number given immediate custody		12,875	12,307	13,130	12,537	13,287	13,396	14,488	14,708	14,701	3.2	8.8	10.3	17.3	10.6
Number given fines		8,621	8,034	8,830	8,403	8,528	8,036	8,403	8,364	9,036	-1.1	0.0	-4.8	-0.5	6.0
Number given community sentences		10,578	9,906	11,473	10,674	10,900	10,693	11,053	10,798	10,884	3.0	7.9	-3.7	1.2	-0.1
Number given suspended sentences		4,131	4,230	4,753	4,725	4,951	5,100	5,122	5,227	5,064	19.8	20.6	7.8	10.6	2.3
Number given other sentences		7,837	7,233	8,300	8,141	8,236	7,995	8,757	8,624	8,263	5.1	10.5	5.5	5.9	0.3
Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽²⁾		16.3	16.7	16.2	16.3	15.9	16.5	15.9	17.1	17.1	-2.5	-1.2	-2.2	4.9	7.5

(1) 2008 data is provisional.

(2) Excludes life and indeterminate sentences. Offenders receiving an indeterminate sentence for public protection for a serious offence committed from 4 April 2005 would be included in the average custodial sentence length and are no longer. This may result in a decrease in average custodial sentence lengths.

(3) Suspended sentences are not available for juveniles

* Number too small to give a meaningful percentage change

Table 2 Females sentenced for indictable offences by type of court, age group, type of sentence and quarter, 2006-2008⁽¹⁾

England and Wales	Females sentenced									Percentage change				
	Q3 2006	Q4 2006	Q1 2007	Q2 2007	Q3 2007	Q4 2007	Q1 2008	Q2 2008	Q3 2008	Q3 2007	Q4 2007	Q1 2008	Q2 2008	Q3 2008
Magistrates' courts														
Juveniles (under 18) ⁽³⁾														
Number sentenced	1,669	1,638	1,786	1,855	1,806	1,616	1,572	1,556	1,547	8.2	-1.3	-12.0	-16.1	-14.3
Number given immediate custody	71	68	56	62	64	63	70	79	64	-9.9	-7.4	25.0	27.4	0.0
Number given fines	38	40	45	56	60	37	40	35	39	*	*	*	*	*
Number given community sentences	1,350	1,324	1,453	1,494	1,462	1,321	1,265	1,224	1,241	8.3	-0.2	-12.9	-18.1	-15.1
Number given other sentences	210	206	232	243	220	195	197	218	203	4.8	-5.3	-15.1	-10.3	-7.7
Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽²⁾	6.3	6.9	5.9	6.2	6.4	6.0	6.1	6.7	6.5	1.2	-13.0	4.3	8.3	2.0
Young Adults (18-20)														
Number sentenced	981	832	945	904	936	934	909	846	819	-4.6	12.3	-3.8	-6.4	-12.5
Number given immediate custody	71	72	74	72	80	77	56	56	44	12.7	6.9	-24.3	-22.2	*
Number given fines	181	145	151	163	138	157	135	139	147	-23.8	8.3	-10.6	-14.7	6.5
Number given community sentences	346	276	336	317	348	334	334	300	292	0.6	21.0	-0.6	-5.4	-16.1
Number given suspended sentences	43	54	50	33	44	57	44	23	28	*	*	*	*	*
Number given other sentences	340	285	334	319	326	309	340	328	308	-4.1	8.4	1.8	2.8	-5.5
Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽²⁾	2.8	2.4	2.2	2.4	2.6	2.3	2.1	2.2	1.8	-8.0	-2.5	-3.0	-10.2	-30.1
Adults (21 and over)														
Number sentenced	6,288	5,773	6,575	6,469	6,457	6,709	6,668	6,639	6,526	2.7	16.2	1.4	2.6	1.1
Number given immediate custody	757	679	713	736	759	798	849	835	871	0.3	17.5	19.1	13.5	14.8
Number given fines	1,103	1,056	1,148	1,149	1,126	1,122	1,079	1,113	1,160	2.1	6.3	-6.0	-3.1	3.0
Number given community sentences	1,955	1,757	2,058	2,049	2,025	2,119	2,033	1,960	1,970	3.6	20.6	-1.2	-4.3	-2.7
Number given suspended sentences	455	410	457	440	406	468	441	421	363	-10.8	14.1	-3.5	-4.3	-10.6
Number given other sentences	2,018	1,871	2,199	2,095	2,141	2,202	2,266	2,310	2,162	6.1	17.7	3.0	10.3	1.0
Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽²⁾	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.1	1.9	-2.8	-1.0	-1.4	-1.7	-6.9
The Crown Court														
Juveniles (under 18) ⁽³⁾														
Number sentenced	55	49	65	60	80	57	42	60	53	45.5	*	*	0.0	-33.8
Number given immediate custody	26	19	33	25	45	25	18	25	17	*	*	*	*	*
Number given fines	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	*	*	*	*
Number given community sentences	19	24	27	27	31	26	21	30	28	*	*	*	*	*
Number given other sentences	7	5	5	8	4	6	3	5	8	*	*	*	*	*
Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽²⁾	15.7	22.7	19.0	15.1	17.7	12.6	22.2	19.4	14.9	12.7	-44.5	17.0	28.4	-15.8
Young Adults (18-20)														
Number sentenced	268	238	214	210	247	244	234	247	213	-7.8	2.5	9.3	17.6	-13.8
Number given immediate custody	86	74	69	66	97	92	71	90	77	12.8	24.3	2.9	36.4	-20.6
Number given fines	2	0	1	4	1	1	1	1	2	*	*	*	*	*
Number given community sentences	93	94	71	76	66	78	83	80	70	-29.0	-17.0	16.9	5.3	6.1
Number given suspended sentences	65	52	53	50	62	57	55	50	48	*	*	3.8	*	*
Number given other sentences	22	18	20	14	21	16	24	26	16	*	*	*	*	*
Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽²⁾	19.4	20.8	22.3	22.1	17.2	21.8	20.2	19.0	17.5	-11.3	4.8	-9.5	-13.9	1.7
Adults (21 and over)														
Number sentenced	1,647	1,605	1,697	1,764	1,873	1,847	2,040	2,127	1,953	13.7	15.1	20.2	20.6	4.3
Number given immediate custody	633	567	608	654	666	695	775	827	700	5.2	22.6	27.5	26.5	5.1
Number given fines	24	22	43	20	31	28	28	21	36	*	*	*	*	*
Number given community sentences	447	444	429	440	414	380	471	464	427	-7.4	-14.4	9.8	5.5	3.1
Number given suspended sentences	415	443	472	511	587	609	610	684	661	41.4	37.5	29.2	33.9	12.6
Number given other sentences	128	129	145	139	175	135	156	131	129	36.7	4.7	7.6	-5.8	-26.3
Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽²⁾	23.2	20.2	21.9	20.6	21.5	18.6	20.6	19.5	19.9	-7.3	-7.9	-5.7	-5.3	-7.4
All Courts														
Juveniles (under 18) ⁽³⁾														
Number sentenced	1,724	1,687	1,851	1,915	1,886	1,673	1,614	1,616	1,600	9.4	-0.8	-12.8	-15.6	-15.2
Number given immediate custody	97	87	89	87	109	88	88	104	81	12.4	1.1	-1.1	19.5	-25.7
Number given fines	41	41	45	56	60	37	40	35	39	*	*	*	*	*
Number given community sentences	1,369	1,348	1,480	1,521	1,493	1,347	1,286	1,254	1,269	9.1	-0.1	-13.1	-17.6	-15.0
Number given other sentences	217	211	237	251	224	201	200	223	211	3.2	-4.7	-15.6	-11.2	-5.8
Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽²⁾	8.8	10.4	10.7	8.7	11.0	7.9	9.3	9.6	8.3	24.7	-23.8	-12.5	10.3	-24.5
Young Adults (18-20)														
Number sentenced	1,249	1,070	1,159	1,114	1,183	1,178	1,143	1,093	1,032	-5.3	10.1	-1.4	-1.9	-12.8
Number given immediate custody	157	146	143	138	177	169	127	146	121	12.7	15.8	-11.2	5.8	-31.6
Number given fines	183	145	152	167	139	158	136	140	149	-24.0	9.0	-10.5	-16.2	7.2
Number given community sentences	439	370	407	393	414	412	417	380	362	-5.7	11.4	2.5	-3.3	-12.6
Number given suspended sentences	108	106	103	83	106	114	99	73	76	-1.9	7.5	-3.9	-12.0	-28.3
Number given other sentences	362	303	354	333	347	325	364	354	324	-4.1	7.3	2.8	6.3	-6.6
Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽²⁾	11.9	11.7	11.8	11.8	10.4	12.7	11.6	12.4	11.7	-12.2	8.0	-1.6	5.2	12.1
Adults (21 and over)														
Number sentenced	7,935	7,378	8,272	8,233	8,330	8,556	8,708	8,766	8,479	5.0	16.0	5.3	6.5	1.8
Number given immediate custody	1,390	1,246	1,321	1,390	1,425	1,493	1,624	1,662	1,571	2.5	19.8	22.9	19.6	10.2
Number given fines	1,127	1,078	1,191	1,169	1,157	1,150	1,107	1,134	1,196	2.7	6.7	-7.1	-3.0	3.4
Number given community sentences	2,402	2,201	2,487	2,489	2,439	2,499	2,504	2,424	2,397	1.5	13.5	0.7	-2.6	-1.7
Number given suspended sentences	870	853	929	951	993	1,077	1,051	1,105	1,024	14.1	26.3	13.1	16.2	3.1
Number given other sentences	2,146	2,000	2,344	2,234	2,316	2,337	2,422	2,441	2,291	7.9	16.9	3.3	9.3	-1.1
Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽²⁾	11.7	10.3	11.0	10.7	11.1	9.7	10.8	10.6	9.8	-5.4	-6.5	-1.6	-0.8	-11.5

(1) 2008 data is provisional.

(2) Excludes life and indeterminate sentences. Offenders receiving an indeterminate sentence for public protection for a serious offence committed from 4 April 2005 would be included in the average custodial sentence length and are no longer. This may result in a decrease in average custodial sentence lengths.

(3) Suspended sentences are not available for juveniles

* Number too small to give a meaningful percentage change

Table 3 Persons sentenced for indictable offences by type of court, age group, type of sentence and quarter, 2006-2008⁽¹⁾

England and Wales	Persons sentenced									Percentage change				
	Q3 2006	Q4 2006	Q1 2007	Q2 2007	Q3 2007	Q4 2007	Q1 2008	Q2 2008	Q3 2008	Q3 2007	Q4 2007	Q1 2008	Q2 2008	Q3 2008
Magistrates' courts														
Juveniles (under 18) ⁽³⁾														
Number sentenced	11,347	11,253	12,191	12,455	12,145	11,387	11,036	10,781	10,750	7.0	1.2	-9.5	-13.4	-11.5
Number given immediate custody	953	843	810	879	884	779	793	837	749	-7.2	-7.6	-2.1	-4.8	-15.3
Number given fines	483	567	607	578	588	587	511	564	531	21.7	3.5	-15.8	-2.4	-9.7
Number given community sentences	8,596	8,520	9,252	9,505	9,194	8,691	8,360	7,951	8,017	7.0	2.0	-9.6	-16.3	-12.8
Number given other sentences	1,315	1,323	1,522	1,493	1,479	1,330	1,372	1,429	1,453	12.5	0.5	-9.9	-4.3	-1.8
Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽²⁾	7.2	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.2	7.4	7.2	7.3	7.2	-0.4	6.2	3.7	4.5	0.4
Young Adults (18-20)														
Number sentenced	7,977	7,277	8,157	8,037	7,993	7,757	7,415	6,935	6,870	0.2	6.6	-9.1	-13.7	-14.0
Number given immediate custody	1,010	868	916	970	976	929	779	607	524	-3.4	7.0	-15.0	-37.4	-46.3
Number given fines	1,994	1,805	1,968	1,916	1,785	1,742	1,698	1,620	1,821	-10.5	-3.5	-13.7	-15.4	2.0
Number given community sentences	2,684	2,487	2,787	2,791	2,864	2,775	2,603	2,522	2,453	6.7	11.6	-6.6	-9.6	-14.4
Number given suspended sentences	464	400	444	391	381	450	384	289	309	-17.9	12.5	-13.5	-26.1	-18.9
Number given other sentences	1,825	1,717	2,042	1,969	1,987	1,861	1,951	1,897	1,763	8.9	8.4	-4.5	-3.7	-11.3
Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽²⁾	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.4	1.7	-2.3	-5.1	-5.6	-12.6
Adults (21 and over)														
Number sentenced	37,687	34,922	39,327	37,900	38,902	38,290	39,947	38,971	39,065	3.2	9.6	1.6	2.8	0.4
Number given immediate custody	6,038	5,489	5,908	5,704	6,170	6,193	6,683	6,354	6,370	2.2	12.8	13.1	11.4	3.2
Number given fines	9,455	8,817	9,604	9,250	9,357	8,887	9,165	9,175	9,925	-1.0	0.8	-4.6	-0.8	6.1
Number given community sentences	10,258	9,553	11,271	10,696	10,891	10,893	10,980	10,647	10,681	6.2	14.0	-2.6	-0.5	-1.9
Number given suspended sentences	2,688	2,510	2,700	2,655	2,704	2,752	2,709	2,534	2,318	0.6	9.6	0.3	-4.6	-14.3
Number given other sentences	9,248	8,553	9,844	9,595	9,780	9,565	10,410	10,261	9,771	5.8	11.8	5.7	6.9	-0.1
Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽²⁾	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.1	-1.0	-3.2	-1.2	-2.0	-7.8
The Crown Court														
Juveniles (under 18) ⁽³⁾														
Number sentenced	632	605	671	663	656	655	664	707	662	3.8	8.3	-1.0	6.6	0.9
Number given immediate custody	410	391	407	395	419	397	400	392	402	2.2	1.5	-1.7	-0.8	-4.1
Number given fines	4	1	3	2	3	4	1	3	0	*	*	*	*	*
Number given community sentences	192	182	229	222	203	203	237	261	228	5.7	11.5	3.5	17.6	12.3
Number given other sentences	26	31	32	44	31	51	26	51	32	*	*	*	*	*
Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽²⁾	20.8	21.6	20.8	20.1	21.2	19.7	21.2	21.1	23.1	1.8	-8.7	2.0	4.8	9.1
Young Adults (18-20)														
Number sentenced	3,055	3,029	3,339	3,120	3,165	3,321	3,216	3,150	3,038	3.6	9.6	-3.7	1.0	-4.0
Number given immediate custody	1,718	1,666	1,837	1,767	1,835	1,858	1,734	1,781	1,758	6.8	11.5	-5.6	0.8	-4.2
Number given fines	56	39	56	50	50	49	39	45	36	*	*	*	*	*
Number given community sentences	750	761	741	698	622	711	669	742	672	-17.1	-6.6	-9.7	6.3	8.0
Number given suspended sentences	417	449	553	452	537	567	648	423	413	28.8	26.3	17.2	-6.4	-23.1
Number given other sentences	114	114	152	153	121	136	126	159	159	6.1	19.3	-17.1	3.9	31.4
Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽²⁾	21.3	23.1	21.0	20.1	20.4	20.7	21.2	22.1	22.3	-4.4	-10.4	1.1	9.7	9.5
Adults (21 and over)														
Number sentenced	14,290	14,166	15,431	14,813	15,330	15,486	16,584	17,516	17,362	7.3	9.3	7.5	18.2	13.3
Number given immediate custody	8,227	8,064	8,543	8,223	8,542	8,696	9,429	10,016	9,902	3.8	7.8	10.4	21.8	15.9
Number given fines	293	295	417	322	328	299	345	323	307	11.9	1.4	-17.3	0.3	-6.4
Number given community sentences	2,722	2,554	2,689	2,467	2,448	2,299	2,577	2,575	2,600	-10.1	-10.0	-4.2	4.4	6.2
Number given suspended sentences	2,313	2,573	2,982	3,021	3,240	3,425	3,464	3,798	3,770	40.1	33.1	16.2	25.7	16.4
Number given other sentences	735	680	800	780	772	767	769	804	783	5.0	12.8	-3.9	3.1	1.4
Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽²⁾	26.3	26.2	25.6	25.5	25.5	26.1	25.2	26.0	26.0	-3.2	-0.5	-1.6	1.9	2.1
All Courts														
Juveniles (under 18) ⁽³⁾														
Number sentenced	11,979	11,858	12,862	13,118	12,801	12,042	11,700	11,488	11,412	6.9	1.6	-9.0	-12.4	-10.9
Number given immediate custody	1,363	1,234	1,217	1,274	1,303	1,176	1,193	1,229	1,151	-4.4	-4.7	-2.0	-3.5	-11.7
Number given fines	487	568	610	580	591	591	512	567	531	21.4	4.0	-16.1	-2.2	-10.2
Number given community sentences	8,788	8,702	9,481	9,727	9,397	8,894	8,597	8,212	8,245	6.9	2.2	-9.3	-15.6	-12.3
Number given other sentences	1,341	1,354	1,554	1,537	1,510	1,381	1,398	1,480	1,485	12.6	2.0	-10.0	-3.7	-1.7
Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽²⁾	11.2	11.4	11.4	10.9	11.5	11.4	11.6	11.4	12.6	3.1	0.3	2.4	4.7	9.1
Young Adults (18-20)														
Number sentenced	11,032	10,306	11,496	11,157	11,158	11,078	10,631	10,085	9,908	1.1	7.5	-7.5	-9.6	-11.2
Number given immediate custody	2,728	2,534	2,753	2,737	2,811	2,787	2,513	2,388	2,282	3.0	10.0	-8.7	-12.8	-18.8
Number given fines	2,050	1,844	2,024	1,966	1,835	1,791	1,737	1,665	1,857	-10.5	-2.9	-14.2	-15.3	1.2
Number given community sentences	3,434	3,248	3,528	3,489	3,486	3,486	3,272	3,264	3,125	1.5	7.3	-7.3	-6.4	-10.4
Number given suspended sentences	881	849	997	843	918	1,017	1,032	712	722	4.2	19.8	3.5	-15.5	-21.4
Number given other sentences	1,939	1,831	2,194	2,122	2,108	1,997	2,077	2,056	1,922	8.7	9.1	-5.3	-3.1	-8.8
Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽²⁾	14.3	15.8	14.7	13.8	14.1	14.4	15.1	16.9	17.6	-1.5	-8.7	3.1	22.5	25.0
Adults (21 and over)														
Number sentenced	51,977	49,088	54,758	52,713	54,232	53,776	56,531	56,487	56,427	4.3	9.6	3.2	7.2	4.0
Number given immediate custody	14,265	13,553	14,451	13,927	14,712	14,889	16,112	16,370	16,272	3.1	9.9	11.5	17.5	10.6
Number given fines	9,748	9,112	10,021	9,572	9,685	9,186	9,510	9,498	10,232	-0.6	0.8	-5.1	-0.8	5.6
Number given community sentences	12,980	12,107	13,960	13,163	13,339	13,192	13,557	13,222	13,281	2.8	9.0	-2.9	0.4	-0.4
Number given suspended sentences	5,001	5,083	5,682	5,676	5,944	6,177	6,173	6,332	6,088	18.9	21.5	8.6	11.6	2.4
Number given other sentences	9,983	9,233	10,644	10,375	10,552	10,332	11,179	11,065	10,554	5.7	11.9	5.0	6.7	0.0
Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽²⁾	15.8	16.0	15.7	15.7	15.5	15.8	15.3	16.4	16.4	-2.1	-1.1	-2.6	4.5	6.1

(1) 2008 data is provisional.

(2) Excludes life and indeterminate sentences. Offenders receiving an indeterminate sentence for public protection for a serious offence committed from 4 April 2005 would previously have been included in the average custodial sentence length and are no longer. This may result in a decrease in average custodial sentence lengths.

(3) Suspended sentences are not available for juveniles

* Number too small to give a meaningful percentage change

Table 4 Persons sentenced for indictable offences (all ages) by type of court, type of sentence and quarter, 2006-2008⁽¹⁾

England and Wales	Persons sentenced										Percentage change				
	Q3 2006	Q4 2006	Q1 2007	Q2 2007	Q3 2007	Q4 2007	Q1 2008	Q2 2008	Q3 2008	Q3 2007	Q4 2007	Q1 2008	Q2 2008	Q3 2008	
Magistrates' courts															
Males															
Number sentenced	48,073	45,209	50,369	49,164	49,841	48,175	49,249	47,646	47,793	3.7	6.6	-2.2	-3.1	-4.1	
Number given immediate custody	7,102	6,381	6,791	6,683	7,127	6,963	7,280	6,828	6,664	0.4	9.1	7.2	2.2	-6.5	
Number given fines	10,610	9,948	10,835	10,376	10,406	9,900	10,120	10,072	10,931	-1.9	-0.5	-6.6	-2.9	5.0	
Number given community sentences	17,887	17,203	19,463	19,132	19,114	18,585	18,311	17,636	17,648	6.9	8.0	-5.9	-7.8	-7.7	
Number given suspended sentences	2,654	2,446	2,637	2,573	2,635	2,677	2,608	2,379	2,236	-0.7	9.4	-1.1	-7.5	-15.1	
Number given other sentences	9,820	9,231	10,643	10,400	10,559	10,050	10,930	10,731	10,314	7.5	8.9	2.7	3.2	-2.3	
Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽²⁾	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.7	-2.2	-1.9	-2.6	-3.4	-8.0	
Females															
Number sentenced	8,938	8,243	9,306	9,228	9,199	9,259	9,149	9,041	8,892	2.9	12.3	-1.7	-2.0	-3.3	
Number given immediate custody	899	819	843	870	903	938	975	970	979	0.4	14.5	15.7	11.5	8.4	
Number given fines	1,322	1,241	1,344	1,368	1,324	1,316	1,254	1,287	1,346	0.2	6.0	-6.7	-5.9	1.7	
Number given community sentences	3,651	3,357	3,847	3,860	3,835	3,774	3,632	3,484	3,503	5.0	12.4	-5.6	-9.7	-8.7	
Number given suspended sentences	498	464	507	473	450	525	485	444	391	-9.6	13.1	-4.3	-6.1	-13.1	
Number given other sentences	2,568	2,362	2,765	2,657	2,687	2,706	2,803	2,856	2,673	4.6	14.6	1.4	7.5	-0.5	
Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽²⁾	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.5	2.2	-4.2	-5.5	0.1	1.3	-8.1	
Persons															
Number sentenced	57,011	53,452	59,675	58,392	59,040	57,434	58,398	56,687	56,685	3.6	7.4	-2.1	-2.9	-4.0	
Number given immediate custody	8,001	7,200	7,634	7,553	8,030	7,901	8,255	7,798	7,643	0.4	9.7	8.1	3.2	-4.8	
Number given fines	11,932	11,189	12,179	11,744	11,730	11,216	11,374	11,359	12,277	-1.7	0.2	-6.6	-3.3	4.7	
Number given community sentences	21,538	20,560	23,310	22,992	22,949	22,359	21,943	21,120	21,151	6.6	8.8	-5.9	-8.1	-7.8	
Number given suspended sentences	3,152	2,910	3,144	3,046	3,085	3,202	3,093	2,823	2,627	-2.1	10.0	-1.6	-7.3	-14.8	
Number given other sentences	12,388	11,593	13,408	13,057	13,246	12,756	13,733	13,587	12,987	6.9	10.0	2.4	4.1	-2.0	
Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽²⁾	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.6	-4.2	-3.8	-2.5	-3.0	-9.5	
The Crown Court															
Males															
Number sentenced	16,007	15,908	17,465	16,562	16,951	17,314	18,148	18,939	18,843	5.9	8.8	3.9	14.4	11.2	
Number given immediate custody	9,610	9,461	10,077	9,640	9,988	10,139	10,699	11,247	11,268	3.9	7.2	6.2	16.7	12.8	
Number given fines	324	312	432	350	349	323	356	349	305	7.7	3.5	-17.6	-0.3	-12.6	
Number given community sentences	3,105	2,935	3,132	2,844	2,762	2,729	2,908	3,004	2,975	-11.0	-7.0	-7.2	5.6	7.7	
Number given suspended sentences	2,250	2,527	3,010	2,912	3,128	3,326	3,447	3,487	3,474	39.0	31.6	14.5	19.7	11.1	
Number given other sentences	718	673	814	816	724	797	738	852	821	0.8	18.4	-9.3	4.4	13.4	
Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽²⁾	25.4	25.8	24.8	24.7	24.7	25.4	24.8	25.8	25.7	-2.7	-1.4	-0.2	4.5	3.9	
Females															
Number sentenced	1,970	1,892	1,976	2,034	2,200	2,148	2,316	2,434	2,219	11.7	13.5	17.2	19.7	0.9	
Number given immediate custody	745	660	710	745	808	812	864	942	794	8.5	23.0	21.7	26.4	-1.7	
Number given fines	29	23	44	24	32	29	29	22	38	*	*	*	*	*	
Number given community sentences	559	562	527	543	511	484	575	574	525	-8.6	-13.9	9.1	5.7	2.7	
Number given suspended sentences	480	495	525	561	649	666	665	734	709	35.2	34.5	26.7	30.8	9.2	
Number given other sentences	157	152	170	161	200	157	183	162	153	27.4	3.3	7.6	0.6	-23.5	
Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽²⁾	22.3	20.5	21.8	20.6	20.8	18.8	20.6	19.5	19.6	-6.8	-8.4	-5.1	-5.1	-5.7	
Persons															
Number sentenced	17,977	17,800	19,441	18,596	19,151	19,462	20,464	21,373	21,062	6.5	9.3	5.3	14.9	10.0	
Number given immediate custody	10,355	10,121	10,787	10,385	10,796	10,951	11,563	12,189	12,062	4.3	8.2	7.2	17.4	11.7	
Number given fines	353	335	476	374	381	352	385	371	343	7.9	5.1	-19.1	-0.8	-10.0	
Number given community sentences	3,664	3,497	3,659	3,387	3,273	3,213	3,483	3,578	3,500	-10.7	-8.1	-4.8	5.6	6.9	
Number given suspended sentences	2,730	3,022	3,535	3,473	3,777	3,992	4,112	4,221	4,183	38.4	32.1	16.3	21.5	10.7	
Number given other sentences	875	825	984	977	924	954	921	1,014	974	5.6	15.6	-6.4	3.8	5.4	
Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽²⁾	25.5	25.5	24.6	24.4	24.4	24.9	24.5	25.3	25.3	-4.2	-2.2	-0.5	3.8	3.6	
All Courts															
Males															
Number sentenced	64,080	61,117	67,834	65,726	66,792	65,489	67,397	66,585	66,636	4.2	7.2	-0.6	1.3	-0.2	
Number given immediate custody	16,712	15,842	16,868	16,323	17,115	17,102	17,979	18,075	17,932	2.4	8.0	6.6	10.7	4.8	
Number given fines	10,934	10,260	11,267	10,726	10,755	10,223	10,476	10,421	11,236	-1.6	-0.4	-7.0	-2.8	4.5	
Number given community sentences	20,992	20,138	22,595	21,976	21,876	21,314	21,219	20,640	20,623	4.2	5.8	-6.1	-6.1	-5.7	
Number given suspended sentences	4,904	4,973	5,647	5,485	5,763	6,003	6,055	5,866	5,710	17.5	20.7	7.2	6.9	-0.9	
Number given other sentences	10,538	9,904	11,457	11,216	11,283	10,847	11,668	11,583	11,135	7.1	9.5	1.8	3.3	-1.3	
Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽²⁾	15.6	16.2	15.7	15.5	15.4	15.9	15.5	16.7	17.0	-1.4	-1.7	-1.0	7.5	10.5	
Females															
Number sentenced	10,908	10,135	11,282	11,262	11,399	11,407	11,465	11,475	11,111	4.5	12.6	1.6	1.9	-2.5	
Number given immediate custody	1,644	1,479	1,553	1,615	1,711	1,750	1,839	1,912	1,773	4.1	18.3	18.4	18.4	3.6	
Number given fines	1,351	1,264	1,388	1,392	1,356	1,345	1,283	1,309	1,384	0.4	6.4	-7.6	-6.0	2.1	
Number given community sentences	4,210	3,919	4,374	4,403	4,346	4,258	4,207	4,058	4,028	3.2	8.7	-3.8	-7.8	-7.3	
Number given suspended sentences	978	959	1,032	1,034	1,099	1,191	1,150	1,178	1,100	12.4	24.2	11.4	13.9	0.1	
Number given other sentences	2,725	2,514	2,935	2,818	2,887	2,863	2,986	3,018	2,826	5.9	13.9	1.7	7.1	-2.1	
Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽²⁾	11.4	10.5	11.1	10.7	11.0	9.9	10.8	10.7	9.9	-3.5	-6.1	-2.3	0.0	-10.0	
Persons															
Number sentenced	74,988	71,252	79,116	76,988	78,191	76,896	78,862	78,060	77,747	4.3	7.9	-0.3	1.4	-0.6	
Number given immediate custody	18,356	17,321	18,421	17,938	18,826	18,852	19,818	19,987	19,705	2.6	8.8	7.6	11.4	4.7	
Number given fines	12,285	11,524	12,655	12,118	12,111	11,568	11,759	11,730	12,620	-1.4	0.4	-7.1	-3.2	4.2	
Number given community sentences	25,202	24,057	26,969	26,379	26,222	25,572	25,426	24,698	24,651	4.0	6.3	-5.7	-6.4	-6.0	
Number given suspended sentences	5,882	5,932	6,679	6,519	6,862	7,194	7,205	7,044	6,810	16.7	21.3	7.9	8.1	-0.8	
Number given other sentences	13,263	12,418	14,392	14,034	14,170	13,710	14,654	14,601	13,961	6.8	10.4	1.8	4.0	-1.5	
Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽²⁾	15.2	15.7	15.3	15.1	15.0	15.3	15.1	16.2	16.3	-1.4	-2.2	-1.3	7.6	8.8	

(1) 2008 data is provisional.

(2) Excludes life and indeterminate sentences. Offenders receiving an indeterminate sentence for public protection for a serious offence committed from 4 April 2005 would be included in the average custodial sentence length and are no longer. This may result in a decrease in average custodial sentence lengths.

(3) Suspended sentences are not available for juveniles

* Number too small to give a meaningful percentage change

Table 5 Persons sentenced for indictable offences by type of court, type of sentence (detailed) and quarter, 2006-2008⁽¹⁾

England and Wales	Persons sentenced									Percentage change					
	Q3 2006	Q4 2006	Q1 2007	Q2 2007	Q3 2007	Q4 2007	Q1 2008	Q2 2008	Q3 2008	Q3 2007	Q4 2007	Q1 2008	Q2 2008	Q3 2008	
Magistrates' courts															
Immediate custodial sentences															
Detention and training order	953	843	810	879	884	779	793	837	749	-7.2	-7.6	-2.1	-4.8	-15.3	
Young offender institution	1,010	868	916	970	976	929	779	608	524	-3.4	7.0	-15.0	-37.3	-46.3	
Unsuspended imprisonment	6,038	5,489	5,908	5,704	6,170	6,193	6,683	6,356	6,370	2.2	12.8	13.1	11.4	3.2	
Total immediate custody	8,001	7,200	7,634	7,553	8,030	7,901	8,255	7,801	7,643	0.4	9.7	8.1	3.3	-4.8	
Community sentences															
Community rehabilitation order	366	312	373	339	316	274	271	264	265	-13.7	-12.2	-27.3	-22.1	-16.1	
Supervision order	1,726	1,725	1,890	1,893	1,799	1,624	1,513	1,438	1,263	4.2	-5.9	-19.9	-24.0	-29.8	
Community punishment order	543	408	360	303	314	340	294	283	314	-42.2	-16.7	-18.3	-6.6	0.0	
Attendance centre order	433	418	415	477	437	477	425	406	329	0.9	14.1	2.4	-14.9	-24.7	
Community punishment and rehabilitation order	265	231	272	225	261	208	231	185	275	-1.5	-10.0	-15.1	-17.8	5.4	
Curfew order	934	850	926	969	920	985	960	831	1,068	-1.5	15.9	3.7	-14.2	16.1	
Reparation order	419	414	450	510	446	459	488	418	456	6.4	10.9	8.4	-18.0	2.2	
Action plan order	590	569	620	690	625	527	518	467	479	5.9	-7.4	-16.5	-32.3	-23.4	
Drug treatment and testing order	22	14	7	5	4	1	2	4	2	*	*	*	*	*	
Referral order ⁽²⁾	4,083	4,137	4,504	4,563	4,461	4,197	4,018	3,951	3,880	9.3	1.5	-10.8	-13.4	-13.0	
Community order ⁽³⁾	12,157	11,482	13,493	13,018	13,366	13,267	13,223	12,873	12,820	9.9	15.5	-2.0	-1.1	-4.1	
Total community sentences	21,538	20,560	23,310	22,992	22,949	22,359	21,943	21,120	21,151	6.6	8.8	-5.9	-8.1	-7.8	
Other sentences															
Absolute or conditional discharge	9,361	8,680	10,842	10,423	10,634	10,246	10,253	10,319	9,473	13.6	18.0	-5.4	-1.0	-10.9	
Fine	11,932	11,189	12,179	11,744	11,730	11,216	11,374	11,359	12,277	-1.7	0.2	-6.6	-3.3	4.7	
Suspended sentence ⁽⁴⁾	3,152	2,910	3,144	3,046	3,085	3,202	3,093	2,823	2,627	-2.1	10.0	-1.6	-7.3	-14.8	
Otherwise dealt with	3,027	2,913	2,566	2,634	2,612	2,510	3,480	3,265	3,514	-13.7	-13.8	35.6	24.0	34.5	
Total other sentences	27,472	25,692	28,731	27,847	28,061	27,174	28,200	27,766	27,891	2.1	5.8	-1.8	-0.3	-0.6	
The Crown Court															
Immediate custodial sentences															
S90-92 PCC(S) Act 2000	103	109	109	82	119	84	114	99	128	15.5	-22.9	4.6	20.7	7.6	
Detention and training order	278	244	259	272	263	277	245	261	263	-5.4	13.5	-5.4	-4.0	0.0	
Young offender institution	1,668	1,605	1,753	1,693	1,772	1,781	1,634	1,666	1,707	6.2	11.0	-6.8	-1.6	-3.7	
Unsuspended imprisonment	8,306	8,163	8,666	8,338	8,642	8,809	9,570	10,163	9,964	4.0	7.9	10.4	21.9	15.3	
Total immediate custody	10,355	10,121	10,787	10,385	10,796	10,951	11,563	12,189	12,062	4.3	8.2	7.2	17.4	11.7	
Community sentences															
Community rehabilitation order	73	67	79	60	45	37	49	51	54	*	*	*	-15.0	*	
Supervision order	81	82	85	104	79	84	99	110	94	-2.5	2.4	16.5	5.8	19.0	
Community punishment order	123	97	114	47	36	37	63	74	56	-70.7	-61.9	-44.7	*	*	
Attendance centre order	1	1	1	1	0	2	1	0	3	*	*	*	*	*	
Community punishment and rehabilitation order	58	56	54	45	42	33	52	45	48	*	*	-3.7	*	*	
Curfew order	58	46	67	44	54	63	49	68	59	-6.9	*	*	*	9.3	
Reparation order	1	3	2	0	1	0	0	4	0	*	*	*	*	*	
Action plan order	3	7	7	5	3	5	1	6	3	*	*	*	*	*	
Drug treatment and testing order	21	7	4	6	3	0	1	0	1	*	*	*	*	*	
Community order ⁽³⁾	3,245	3,131	3,246	3,075	3,010	2,952	3,168	3,220	3,182	-7.2	-5.7	-2.4	4.7	5.7	
Total community sentences	3,664	3,497	3,659	3,387	3,273	3,213	3,483	3,578	3,500	-10.7	-8.1	-4.8	5.6	6.9	
Other sentences															
Absolute or conditional discharge	447	402	520	496	483	478	501	493	493	8.1	18.9	-3.7	-0.6	2.1	
Fine	353	335	476	374	381	352	385	371	343	7.9	5.1	-19.1	-0.8	-10.0	
Suspended sentence ⁽⁴⁾	2,730	3,022	3,535	3,473	3,777	3,992	4,112	4,221	4,183	38.4	32.1	16.3	21.5	10.7	
Otherwise dealt with	428	423	464	481	441	476	420	521	481	3.0	12.5	-9.5	8.3	9.1	
Total other sentences	3,958	4,182	4,995	4,824	5,082	5,298	5,418	5,606	5,500	28.4	26.7	8.5	16.2	8.2	
All courts															
Immediate custodial sentences															
S90-92 PCC(S) Act 2000	103	109	109	82	119	84	114	99	128	15.5	-22.9	4.6	20.7	7.6	
Detention and training order	1,231	1,087	1,069	1,151	1,147	1,056	1,038	1,098	1,012	-6.8	-2.9	-2.9	-4.6	-11.8	
Young offender institution	2,678	2,473	2,669	2,663	2,748	2,710	2,413	2,274	2,231	2.6	9.6	-9.6	-14.6	-18.8	
Unsuspended imprisonment	14,344	13,652	14,574	14,042	14,812	15,002	16,253	16,517	16,334	3.3	9.9	11.5	17.6	10.3	
Total immediate custody	18,356	17,321	18,421	17,938	18,826	18,852	19,818	19,988	19,705	2.6	8.8	7.6	11.4	4.7	
Community sentences															
Community rehabilitation order	439	379	452	399	361	311	320	315	319	-17.8	-17.9	-29.2	-21.1	-11.6	
Supervision order	1,807	1,807	1,975	1,997	1,878	1,708	1,612	1,548	1,357	3.9	-5.5	-18.4	-22.5	-27.7	
Community punishment order	666	505	474	350	350	377	357	357	370	-47.4	-25.3	-24.7	2.0	5.7	
Attendance centre order	434	419	416	478	437	479	426	406	332	0.7	14.3	2.4	-15.1	-24.0	
Community punishment and rehabilitation order	323	287	326	270	303	241	283	230	323	-6.2	-16.0	-13.2	-14.8	6.6	
Curfew order	992	896	993	1,013	974	1,048	1,009	899	1,127	-1.8	17.0	1.6	-11.3	15.7	
Reparation order	420	417	452	510	447	459	488	422	456	6.4	10.1	8.0	-17.3	2.0	
Action plan order	593	576	627	695	628	532	519	473	482	5.9	-7.6	-17.2	-31.9	-23.2	
Drug treatment and testing order	43	21	11	11	7	1	3	4	3	*	*	*	*	*	
Referral order ⁽²⁾	4,083	4,137	4,504	4,563	4,461	4,197	4,018	3,951	3,880	9.3	1.5	-10.8	-13.4	-13.0	
Community order ⁽³⁾	15,402	14,613	16,739	16,093	16,376	16,219	16,391	16,093	16,002	6.3	11.0	-2.1	0.0	-2.3	
Total community sentences	25,202	24,057	26,969	26,379	26,222	25,572	25,426	24,698	24,651	4.0	6.3	-5.7	-6.4	-6.0	
Other sentences															
Absolute or conditional discharge	9,808	9,082	11,362	10,919	11,117	10,724	10,754	10,812	9,966	13.3	18.1	-5.4	-1.0	-10.4	
Fine	12,285	11,524	12,655	12,118	12,111	11,568	11,759	11,730	12,620	-1.4	0.4	-7.1	-3.2	4.2	
Suspended sentence ⁽⁴⁾	5,882	5,932	6,679	6,519	6,862	7,194	7,205	7,044	6,810	16.7	21.3	7.9	8.1	-0.8	
Otherwise dealt with	3,455	3,336	3,030	3,115	3,053	2,986	3,900	3,788	3,995	-11.6	-10.5	28.7	21.6	30.9	
Total other sentences	31,430	29,874	33,726	32,671	33,143	32,472	33,618	33,374	33,391	5.5	8.7	-0.3	2.2	0.7	

(1) 2008 data is provisional.

(2) Referral orders now include numbers of extension of referral orders, and may therefore not be the same as previously published figures.

(3) Community orders were introduced by the Criminal Justice Act 2003 for offences committed from 4 April 2005.

(4) Fully suspended sentence for offences committed prior to 4 April 2005, suspended sentence order for offences committed from 4 April 2005.

* Number too small to give a meaningful percentage change

Table 6 Persons sentenced for indictable offences at all courts by offence group and quarter, and sentence length, 2006-2008

England and Wales	Persons sentenced									Percentage change				
	Q3 2006	Q4 2006	Q1 2007	Q2 2007	Q3 2007	Q4 2007	Q1 2008	Q2 2008	Q3 2008	Q3 2007	Q4 2007	Q1 2008	Q2 2008	Q3 2008
Violence against the person	10,563	10,248	10,848	10,237	10,535	10,456	10,361	9,924	9,828	-0.3	2.0	-4.5	-3.1	-6.7
Sexual offences	1,221	1,289	1,323	1,237	1,200	1,294	1,287	1,319	1,265	-1.7	0.4	-2.7	6.6	5.4
Burglary	5,868	5,669	5,965	5,785	6,132	5,667	5,789	5,818	6,201	4.5	0.0	-3.0	0.6	1.1
Robbery	2,124	2,052	2,237	2,200	2,186	2,239	2,118	2,060	2,215	2.9	9.1	-5.3	-6.4	1.3
Theft and handling stolen goods	24,188	23,140	26,784	26,189	26,269	26,255	27,294	27,200	27,392	8.6	13.5	1.9	3.9	4.3
Fraud and forgery	4,432	4,119	4,945	4,868	5,144	4,940	5,005	4,438	3,824	16.1	19.9	1.2	-8.8	-25.7
Criminal damage	3,194	3,000	3,336	3,108	3,127	2,762	2,628	2,368	2,427	-2.1	-7.9	-21.2	-23.8	-22.4
Drug offences	9,652	9,030	10,770	10,920	11,155	11,655	12,574	13,242	13,408	15.6	29.1	16.8	21.3	20.2
Other (excluding motoring offences)	12,262	11,347	11,414	11,042	11,159	10,353	10,565	10,473	10,127	-9.0	-8.8	-7.4	-5.2	-9.2
Indictable motoring offences	1,484	1,358	1,494	1,402	1,284	1,275	1,241	1,218	1,060	-13.5	-6.1	-16.9	-13.1	-17.4
Total indictable offences	74,988	71,252	79,116	76,988	78,191	76,896	78,862	78,060	77,747	4.3	7.9	-0.3	1.4	-0.6

England and Wales	Average custodial sentence length ⁽²⁾									Percentage change				
	Q3 2006	Q4 2006	Q1 2007	Q2 2007	Q3 2007	Q4 2007	Q1 2008	Q2 2008	Q3 2008	Q3 2007	Q4 2007	Q1 2008	Q2 2008	Q3 2008
Violence against the person	16.9	16.6	17.5	17.3	16.2	16.6	17.4	16.9	16.5	-4.1	0.5	-0.6	-2.3	2.1
Sexual offences	41.3	42.2	41.8	42.7	43.5	43.6	40.9	41.6	42.4	5.5	3.2	-2.2	-2.4	-2.7
Burglary	16.8	17.5	17.5	15.8	16.5	16.8	17.1	16.5	16.7	-1.9	-3.8	-2.1	4.3	1.0
Robbery	31.7	31.8	29.8	30.0	30.7	34.8	31.7	30.9	31.2	-3.2	9.3	6.6	3.2	1.7
Theft and handling stolen goods	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.0	4.2	3.9	4.3	4.1	4.3	-2.9	-8.2	1.3	3.2	1.5
Fraud and forgery	10.9	11.5	10.1	10.3	9.9	9.7	10.2	10.5	10.3	-9.1	-15.1	1.5	2.1	4.2
Criminal damage	12.1	14.6	11.6	12.6	11.9	14.5	11.7	13.0	12.0	-1.9	-0.8	0.7	3.3	1.0
Drug offences	33.0	34.2	31.7	31.8	32.4	31.8	32.8	32.9	32.6	-1.8	-7.0	3.5	3.6	0.9
Other (excluding motoring offences)	9.0	9.8	9.6	9.5	9.4	9.6	8.7	9.3	9.2	3.9	-2.0	-8.9	-2.3	-2.0
Indictable motoring offences	9.1	9.6	8.7	8.8	8.7	9.0	8.6	8.9	8.9	-4.0	-6.0	-0.9	1.1	2.2
Total indictable offences	15.2	15.7	15.3	15.1	15.0	15.3	15.2	15.1	15.1	-1.7	-2.1	-0.7	0.4	0.8

(1) 2008 data is provisional.

(2) Excludes life and indeterminate sentences. Offenders receiving an indeterminate sentence for public protection for a serious previously have been included in the average custodial sentence length and are no longer. This may result in a decrease in average custodial sentence lengths.

Table 7 Persons sentenced for indictable offences at all courts by quarter, type of sentence and offence group, 2006-2008⁽¹⁾

England and Wales		Persons sentenced and percentages											
		Violence against the person	Sexual offences	Burglary	Robbery	Theft and handling stolen goods	Fraud and forgery	Criminal damage	Drug offences	Other (excluding motoring offences)	Motoring offences	Total	
Q3 2006	Total number sentenced	10,563	1,221	5,868	2,124	24,188	4,432	3,194	9,652	12,262	1,484	74,988	
	% given fines	5.0	4.0	1.9	*	13.2	12.3	10.3	33.1	33.7	24.1	16.6	
	% given community sentences	40.1	25.3	43.7	38.0	36.8	35.2	48.6	22.7	21.4	27.1	33.5	
	% given suspended sentences	15.6	4.7	8.0	3.1	6.5	11.1	3.9	5.2	6.0	14.4	7.8	
	% given immediate custody	29.5	59.1	40.7	57.0	19.7	22.7	10.8	19.1	20.0	30.0	24.4	
	% given other sentences	9.8	6.9	5.8	1.9	23.8	18.6	26.5	19.9	18.9	4.4	17.6	
	Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽²⁾	16.9	41.3	16.8	31.7	4.4	10.9	12.1	33.0	9.0	9.1	15.2	
	Q4 2006	Total number sentenced	10,248	1,289	5,669	2,052	23,140	4,119	3,000	9,030	11,347	1,358	71,252
		% given fines	5.1	3.2	1.5	*	13.0	12.9	10.5	33.0	34.2	26.0	16.5
		% given community sentences	39.7	26.6	42.5	36.7	38.1	31.5	49.9	22.3	22.0	28.1	33.8
% given suspended sentences		15.8	8.5	9.5	4.2	6.4	11.1	4.0	5.6	6.7	15.6	8.3	
% given immediate custody		29.0	55.1	39.9	57.2	19.4	26.4	10.3	19.1	18.4	26.4	24.0	
% given other sentences		10.5	6.7	6.5	1.8	23.2	18.0	25.3	20.0	18.7	3.8	17.4	
Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽²⁾		16.6	42.2	17.5	31.8	4.3	11.5	14.6	34.2	9.8	9.6	15.7	
Q1 2007		Total number sentenced	10,848	1,323	5,965	2,237	26,784	4,945	3,336	10,770	11,414	1,494	79,116
		% given fines	5.0	3.4	2.0	*	13.7	12.0	9.5	32.1	32.5	24.7	16.3
		% given community sentences	38.6	26.0	43.6	39.9	38.1	33.0	45.0	23.2	23.3	26.1	34.0
	% given suspended sentences	16.6	9.0	9.6	4.5	6.2	10.2	3.9	6.2	7.7	15.6	8.4	
	% given immediate custody	29.6	56.2	39.4	53.7	17.9	24.5	10.2	18.1	18.8	27.7	23.2	
	% given other sentences	10.3	5.5	5.4	1.6	24.2	20.3	31.4	20.4	17.6	6.0	18.2	
	Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽²⁾	17.5	41.8	17.5	29.8	4.2	10.1	11.6	31.7	9.6	8.7	15.3	
	Q2 2007	Total number sentenced	10,237	1,237	5,785	2,200	26,189	4,868	3,108	10,920	11,042	1,402	76,988
		% given fines	4.5	2.3	1.9	*	13.3	11.6	9.6	31.7	32.2	22.7	16.0
		% given community sentences	39.3	27.2	44.1	39.0	38.6	32.7	46.2	23.0	22.8	27.9	34.1
% given suspended sentences		16.7	9.0	9.4	4.9	6.2	11.9	4.0	5.8	7.7	15.3	8.4	
% given immediate custody		29.1	55.2	38.6	54.2	18.1	25.2	10.6	18.4	18.9	27.9	23.2	
% given other sentences		10.3	6.4	6.1	1.5	23.8	18.7	29.5	21.1	18.4	6.2	18.2	
Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽²⁾		17.3	42.7	15.8	30.0	4.0	10.3	12.6	31.8	9.5	8.8	15.1	
Q3 2007		Total number sentenced	10,535	1,200	6,132	2,186	26,269	5,144	3,127	11,155	11,159	1,284	78,191
		% given fines	5.0	2.0	2.0	*	12.9	10.4	9.8	31.9	31.5	23.7	15.7
		% given community sentences	37.5	27.8	42.9	39.8	38.2	30.6	45.1	22.9	22.0	25.5	33.4
	% given suspended sentences	17.1	8.2	10.2	5.3	6.2	12.6	4.6	6.1	8.1	15.3	8.7	
	% given immediate custody	29.9	56.5	39.5	53.0	18.8	27.2	11.0	18.6	19.8	30.4	24.0	
	% given other sentences	10.4	5.5	5.4	1.6	23.9	19.1	29.5	20.5	18.5	5.2	18.1	
	Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽²⁾	16.2	43.5	16.5	30.7	4.2	9.9	11.9	32.4	9.4	8.7	15.0	
	Q4 2007	Total number sentenced	10,456	1,294	5,667	2,239	26,255	4,940	2,762	11,655	10,353	1,275	76,896
		% given fines	4.6	2.9	1.9	*	12.6	11.4	9.7	31.8	28.9	21.0	15.3
		% given community sentences	37.7	27.0	41.3	38.0	37.4	30.3	44.4	23.5	23.4	25.1	33.1
% given suspended sentences		17.7	8.5	11.8	5.7	6.9	13.4	4.6	6.0	8.7	18.0	9.3	
% given immediate custody		30.5	54.1	39.4	54.5	19.5	27.3	11.5	18.5	20.6	30.1	24.4	
% given other sentences		9.5	7.5	5.6	1.4	23.6	17.5	29.9	20.2	18.5	5.8	17.8	
Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽²⁾		16.6	43.6	16.8	34.8	3.9	9.7	14.5	31.8	9.6	9.0	15.3	
Q1 2008		Total number sentenced	10,361	1,287	5,789	2,118	27,294	5,005	2,628	12,574	10,565	1,241	78,862
		% given fines	4.4	1.6	1.7	*	12.5	11.1	9.8	31.0	28.1	20.4	15.2
		% given community sentences	37.4	28.1	39.0	36.0	36.3	28.0	43.2	23.0	23.1	27.7	32.1
	% given suspended sentences	18.2	8.9	10.4	4.8	6.6	13.0	4.4	5.9	9.0	18.6	9.1	
	% given immediate custody	30.2	56.8	42.0	57.5	20.0	29.2	11.6	18.6	22.0	29.4	25.1	
	% given other sentences	9.7	4.5	6.9	1.7	24.7	18.7	31.1	21.4	17.8	4.0	18.5	
	Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽²⁾	17.4	40.9	17.1	31.7	4.3	10.2	11.7	32.8	8.7	8.6	15.2	
	Q2 2008	Total number sentenced	9,924	1,319	5,818	2,060	27,200	4,438	2,368	13,242	10,473	1,218	78,060
		% given fines	3.8	2.4	1.6	*	12.5	11.2	10.8	31.2	27.2	20.0	15.3
		% given community sentences	35.5	26.7	40.2	32.5	36.2	26.7	44.3	22.5	22.8	25.7	31.5
% given suspended sentences		17.8	7.4	10.3	5.6	6.1	15.2	4.8	5.7	9.7	18.2	9.0	
% given immediate custody		33.3	58.4	41.6	59.5	19.3	29.5	11.3	19.1	23.8	29.7	25.5	
% given other sentences		9.6	5.2	6.3	2.2	25.9	17.4	28.8	21.4	16.5	6.4	18.7	
Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽²⁾		16.9	41.6	16.5	30.9	4.1	10.5	13.0	32.9	9.3	8.9	15.1	
Q3 2008		Total number sentenced	9,828	1,265	6,201	2,215	27,392	3,824	2,427	13,408	10,127	1,060	77,748
		% given fines	3.8	1.7	1.7	*	13.1	12.8	12.3	35.2	28.7	21.2	16.4
		% given community sentences	35.7	25.9	38.9	33.2	36.4	26.4	43.2	22.6	22.6	26.6	31.6
	% given suspended sentences	18.1	9.0	10.3	4.2	5.7	15.4	4.3	5.5	9.8	16.9	8.7	
	% given immediate custody	34.3	57.9	42.1	60.7	18.8	30.0	11.5	16.9	23.9	30.7	25.3	
	% given other sentences	8.0	5.5	7.0	1.9	25.9	15.4	28.7	19.9	14.9	4.6	17.9	
	Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽²⁾	16.5	42.4	16.7	31.2	4.3	10.3	12.0	32.6	9.2	8.9	15.1	

(1) 2008 data is provisional.

(2) Excludes life and indeterminate sentences. Offenders receiving an indeterminate sentence for public protection for a serious offence committed from 4 April 2005 would previously have been included in the average custodial sentence length and are no longer. This may result in a decrease in average custodial sentence lengths.