



December 2024 | Legislative Council Staff

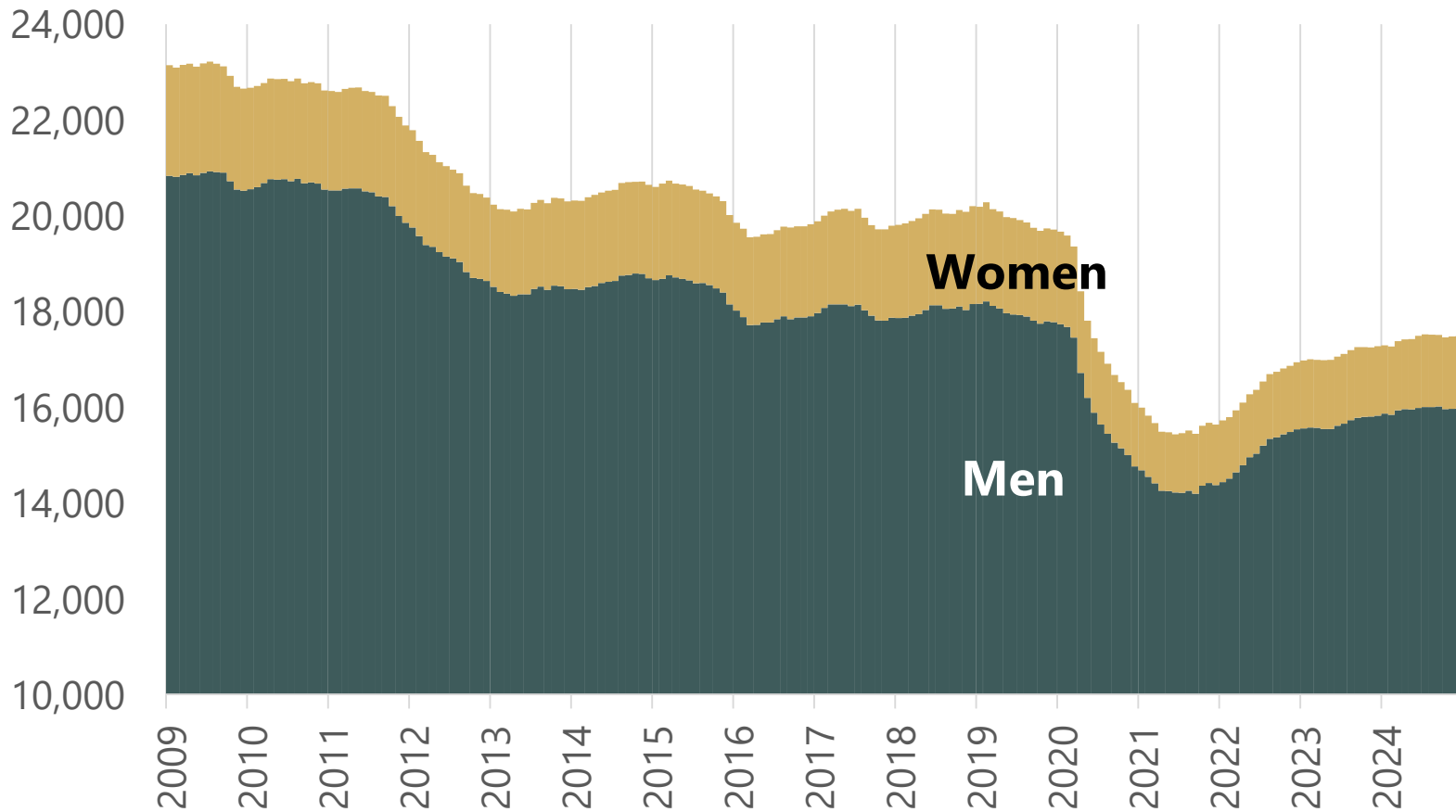
Corrections Populations Forecasts

Presentation to the Joint Judiciary Committee
January 29, 2025

Adult Corrections Populations



Prison population growth continues to slow, to 2.6 percent in FY 2023-24, down from 4.2 percent in FY 2022-23



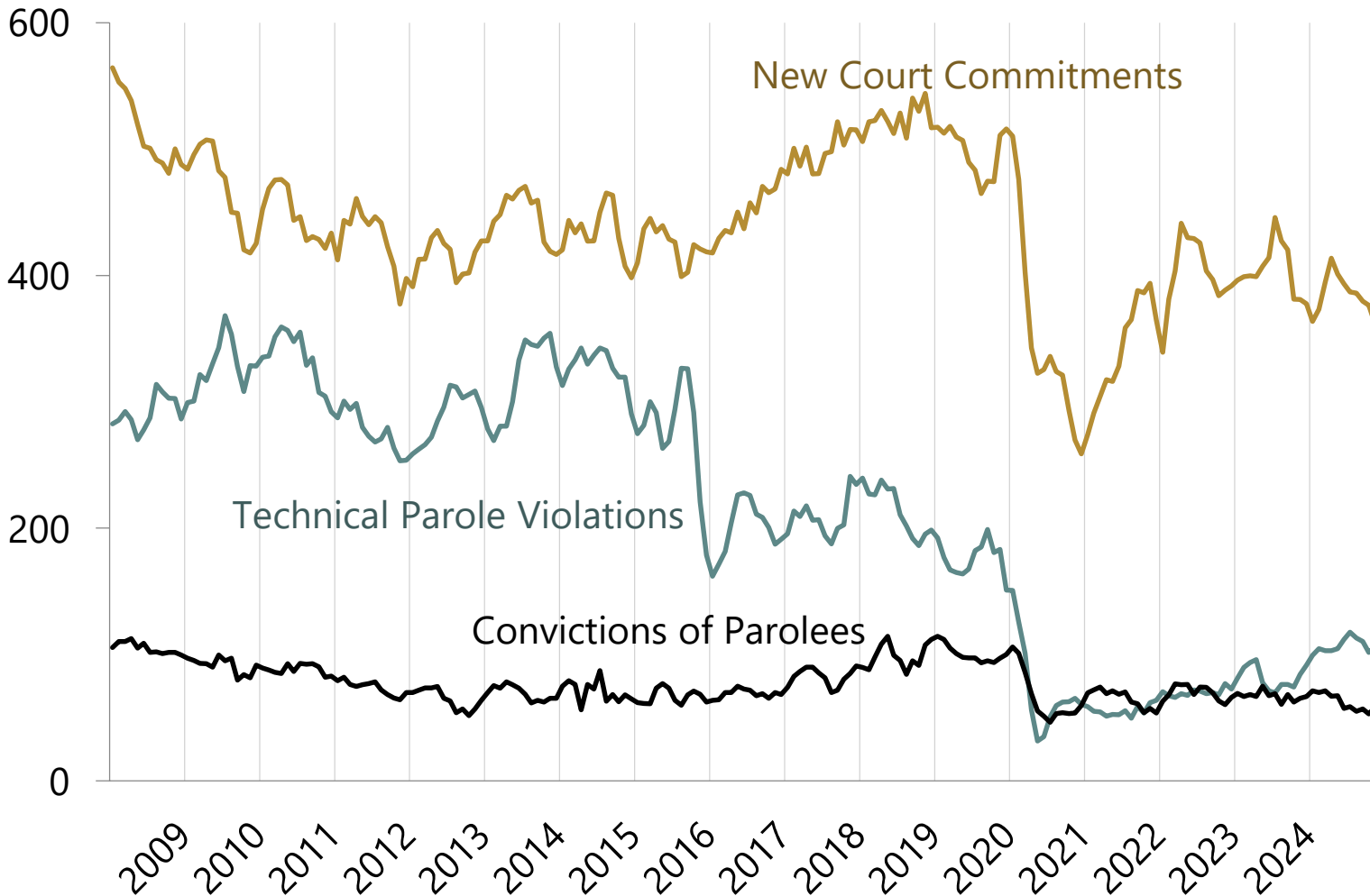
Source: Department of Corrections, Office of Planning and Analysis. Monthly data through December 2024.

Growth in the prison population slowing but still high by historical standards

Fiscal Year	Males	Percent Change	Females	Percent Change	Total	Percent Change
FY 2010-11	20,512	-1.2%	2,098	0.2%	22,610	-1.1%
FY 2011-12	19,152	-6.6%	1,885	-10.2%	21,037	-7.0%
FY 2012-13	18,355	-4.2%	1,780	-5.6%	20,135	-4.3%
FY 2013-14	18,619	1.4%	1,903	6.9%	20,522	1.9%
FY 2014-15	18,655	0.2%	1,968	3.4%	20,623	0.5%
FY 2015-16	17,768	-4.8%	1,851	-5.9%	19,619	-4.9%
FY 2016-17	18,108	1.9%	1,993	7.7%	20,101	2.5%
FY 2017-18	18,125	0.1%	2,011	0.9%	20,136	0.2%
FY 2018-19	17,935	-1.0%	2,016	0.2%	19,951	-0.9%
FY 2019-20	15,886	-11.4%	1,553	-23.0%	17,439	-12.6%
FY 2020-21	14,218	-10.5%	1,216	-21.7%	15,434	-11.5%
FY 2021-22	15,033	5.7%	1,328	9.2%	16,361	6.0%
FY 2022-23	15,618	3.9%	1,436	8.1%	17,054	4.2%
FY 2023-24	15,984	2.3%	1,505	4.8%	17,489	2.6%
FY 2024-25*	15,999	0.1%	1,546	2.7%	17,545	0.3%
FY 2025-26*	16,158	1.0%	1,596	3.2%	17,754	1.2%
FY 2026-27*	16,249	0.6%	1,618	1.3%	17,867	0.6%

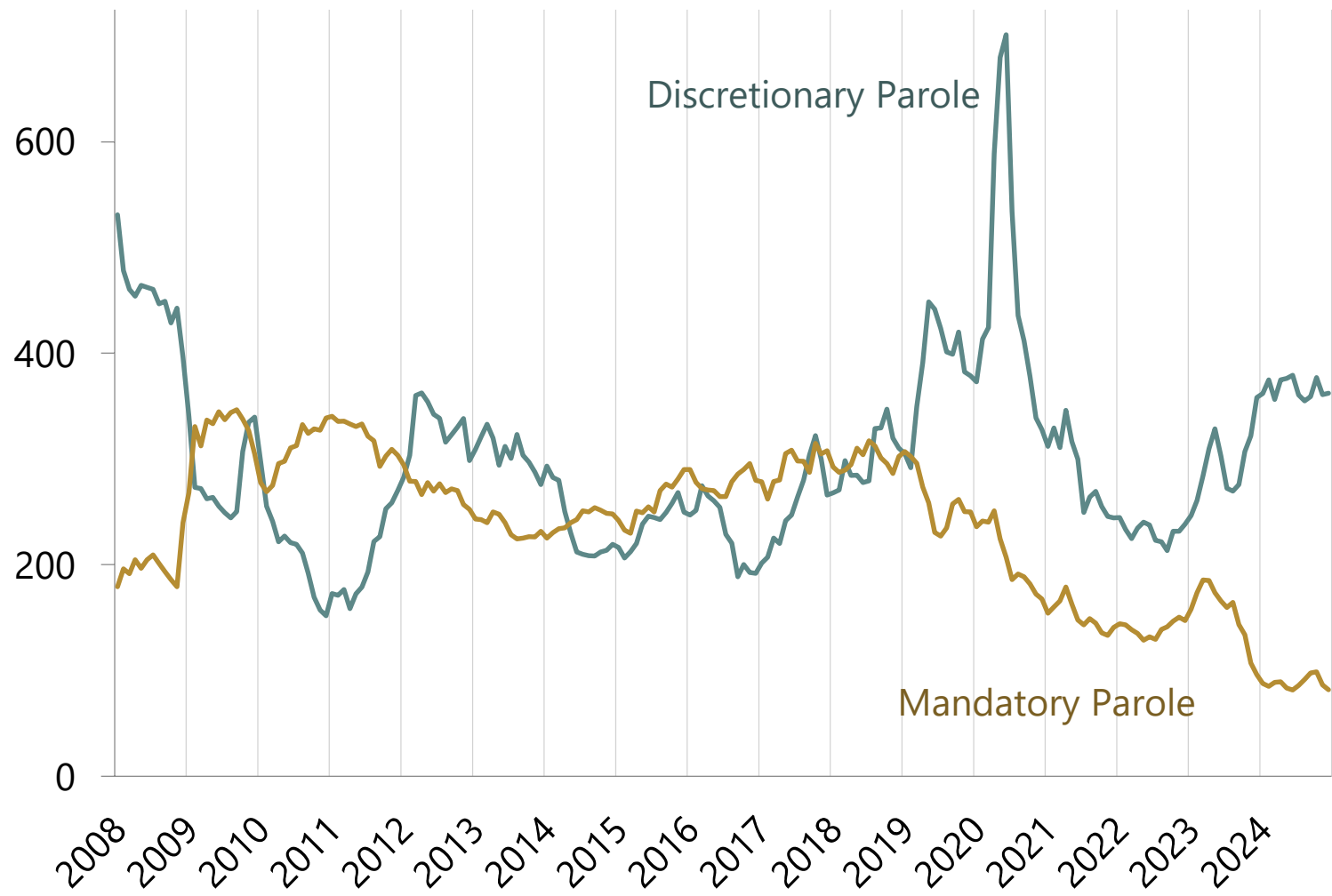
Source: Department of Corrections, Office of Planning and Analysis. *Legislative Council Staff December 2024 forecast.

New court commitments declining, offset by technical parole violations



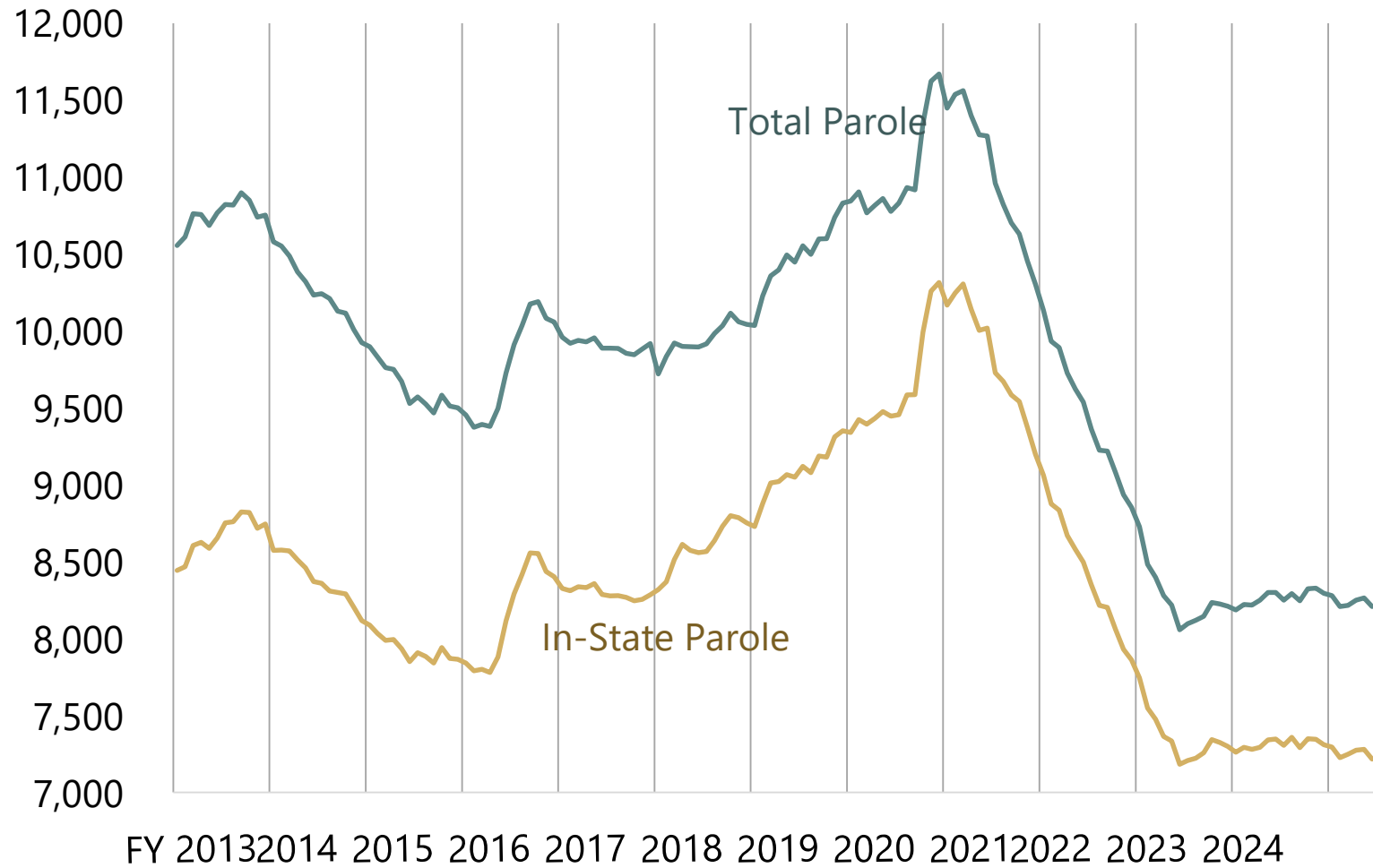
Source: Department of Corrections, Office of Planning and Analysis. Monthly data through December 2024.

Discretionary releases on the rise, offset by mandatory releases



Source: Department of Corrections, Office of Planning and Analysis. Data through December 2024.

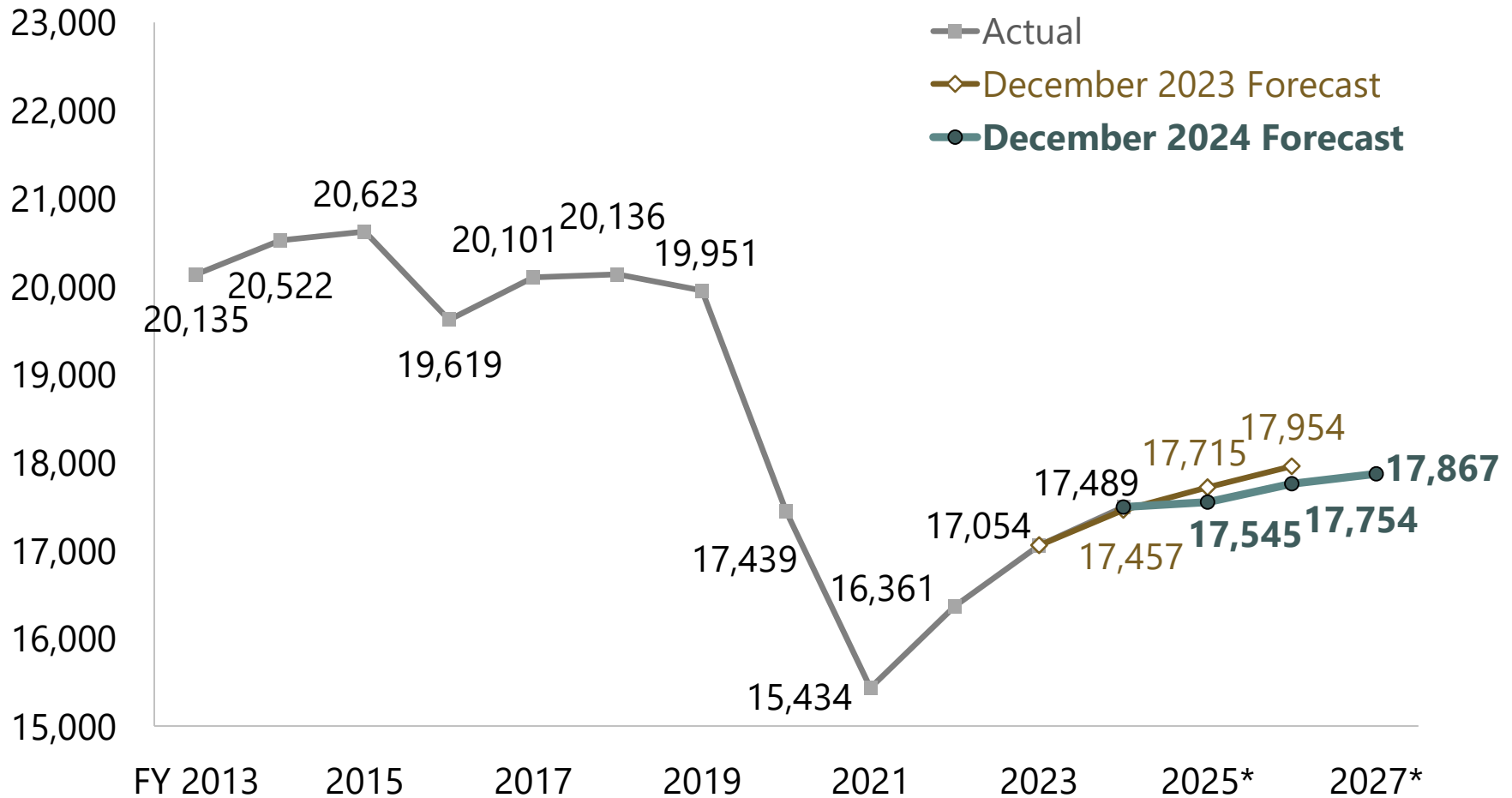
Parole population stable



Source: Department of Corrections, Office of Planning and Analysis. Data through December 2024.

Prison population expected to rise slowly

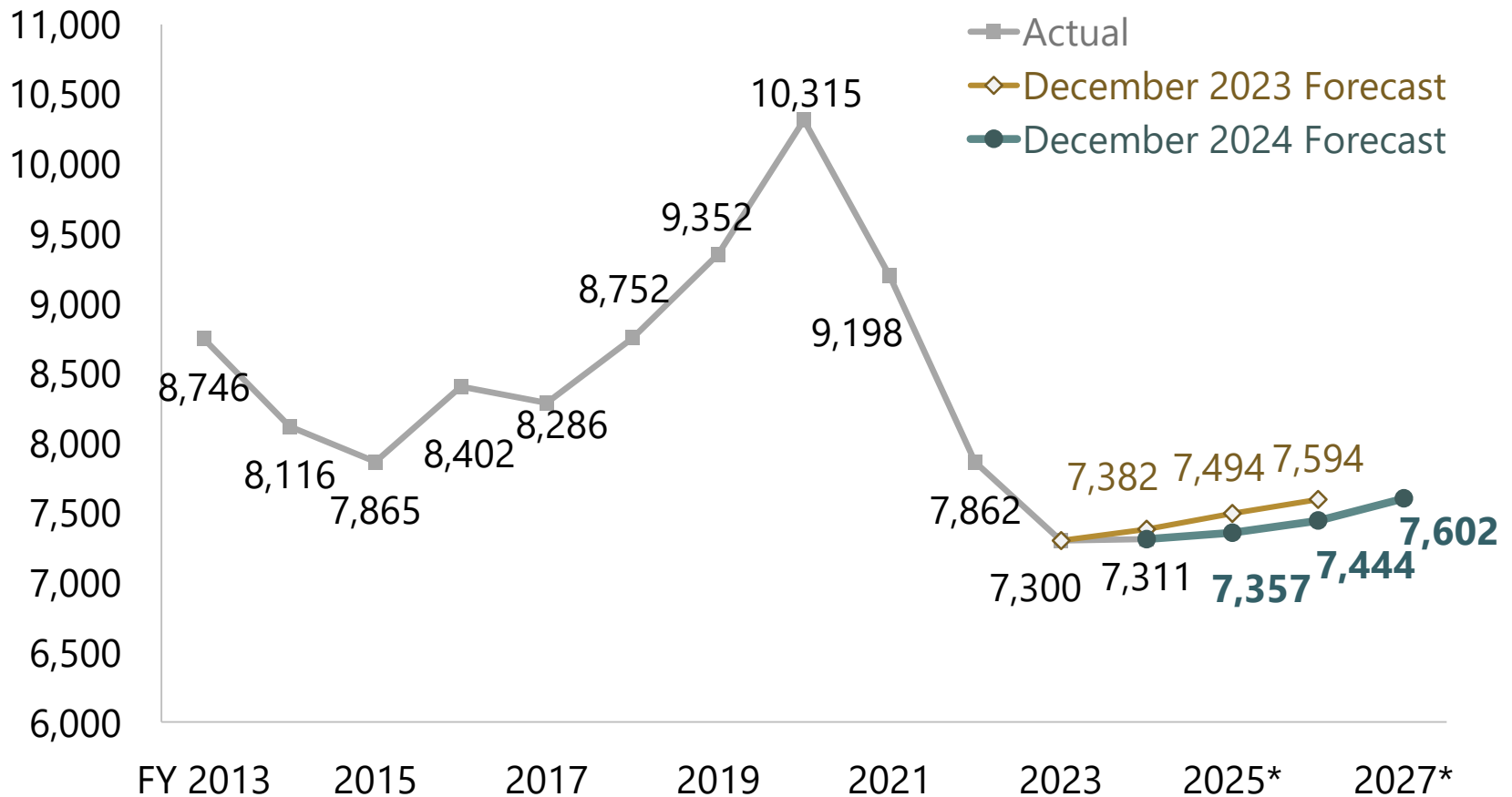
Adult Inmate Population Forecasts as of June 30



Source: Department of Corrections, Office of Planning and Analysis and *Legislative Council Staff December 2024 forecast.

Parole caseload expected to rise slowly

Adult Parole Caseload Forecasts as of June 30



Source: Department of Corrections, Office of Planning and Analysis and *Legislative Council Staff December 2024 forecast.

Forecast expects current patterns to persist

- **This forecast always contains (bidirectional) error**

- Before 2020, current year forecast error averaged about 1.7 percent, or 328 inmates
- Forecast error from the 2023 forecast was 0.2 percent, or 32 inmates in June 2024

- **Prison and parole populations have stabilized, but risk remains**

- The forecast assumes that the population will return to pre-pandemic patterns of relative stability with slower growth and some periods of decline
- The possibility of unforeseen disruptors raises risk
- Small deviations in the timing and extent of assumed adjustments can contribute to large population changes

Youth Corrections Population Forecast



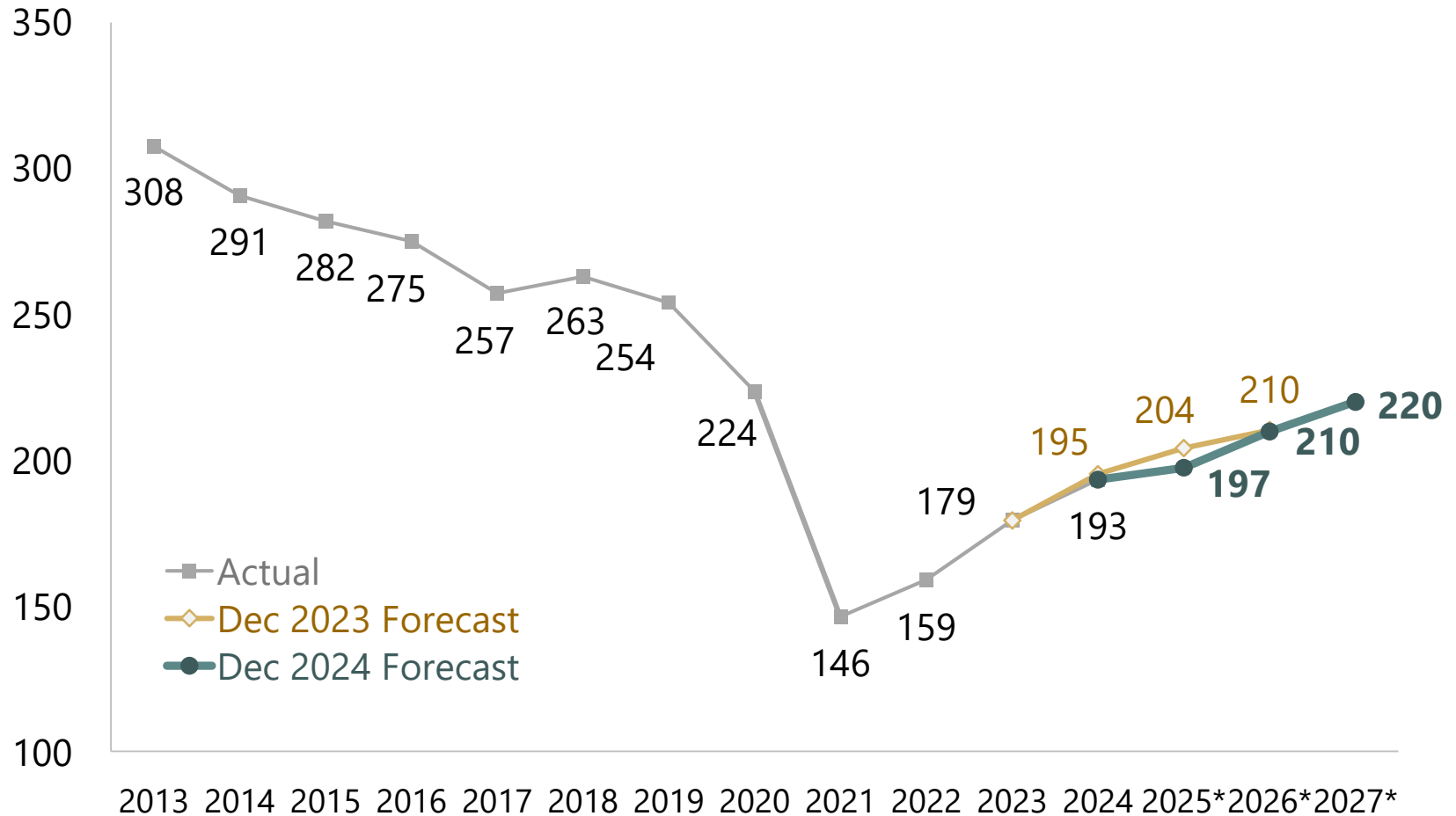
DYS detention and commitment populations reverse longstanding trends

Fiscal Year	Detention	Percent Change	Commitment	Percent Change	Parole	Percent Change
FY 2012-13	307.6	-2.8%	851.0	-13.4%	331.6	-8.7%
FY 2013-14	290.6	-5.5%	797.4	-6.3%	281.3	-15.2%
FY 2014-15	281.8	-3.0%	740.0	-7.2%	245.6	-12.7%
FY 2015-16	275.0	-2.4%	692.6	-6.4%	246.6	0.4%
FY 2016-17	257.1	-6.5%	651.1	-6.0%	220.4	-10.6%
FY 2017-18	262.8	2.2%	646.8	-0.7%	210.1	-4.7%
FY 2018-19	253.9	-3.4%	577.6	-10.7%	213.9	1.8%
FY 2019-20	223.5	-12.0%	454.8	-21.3%	207.0	-3.2%
FY 2020-21	146.2	-34.6%	341.2	-25.0%	163.5	-21.0%
FY 2021-22	158.8	8.6%	283.0	-17.1%	110.5	-32.4%
FY 2022-23	179.2	12.8%	257.5	-9.0%	106.1	-4.0%
FY 2023-24	193.2	7.8%	264.8	2.8%	95.7	-9.8%
FY 2024-25*	197.3	2.1%	269.8	1.9%	104.0	9.1%
FY 2025-26*	209.7	6.3%	264.7	-1.9%	109.2	4.6%
FY 2026-27*	219.9	4.9%	257.1	-2.8%	108.4	-0.7%

Source: CDHS Division of Youth Services and *Legislative Council Staff December 2024 forecast.

Continued increases expected in detention population

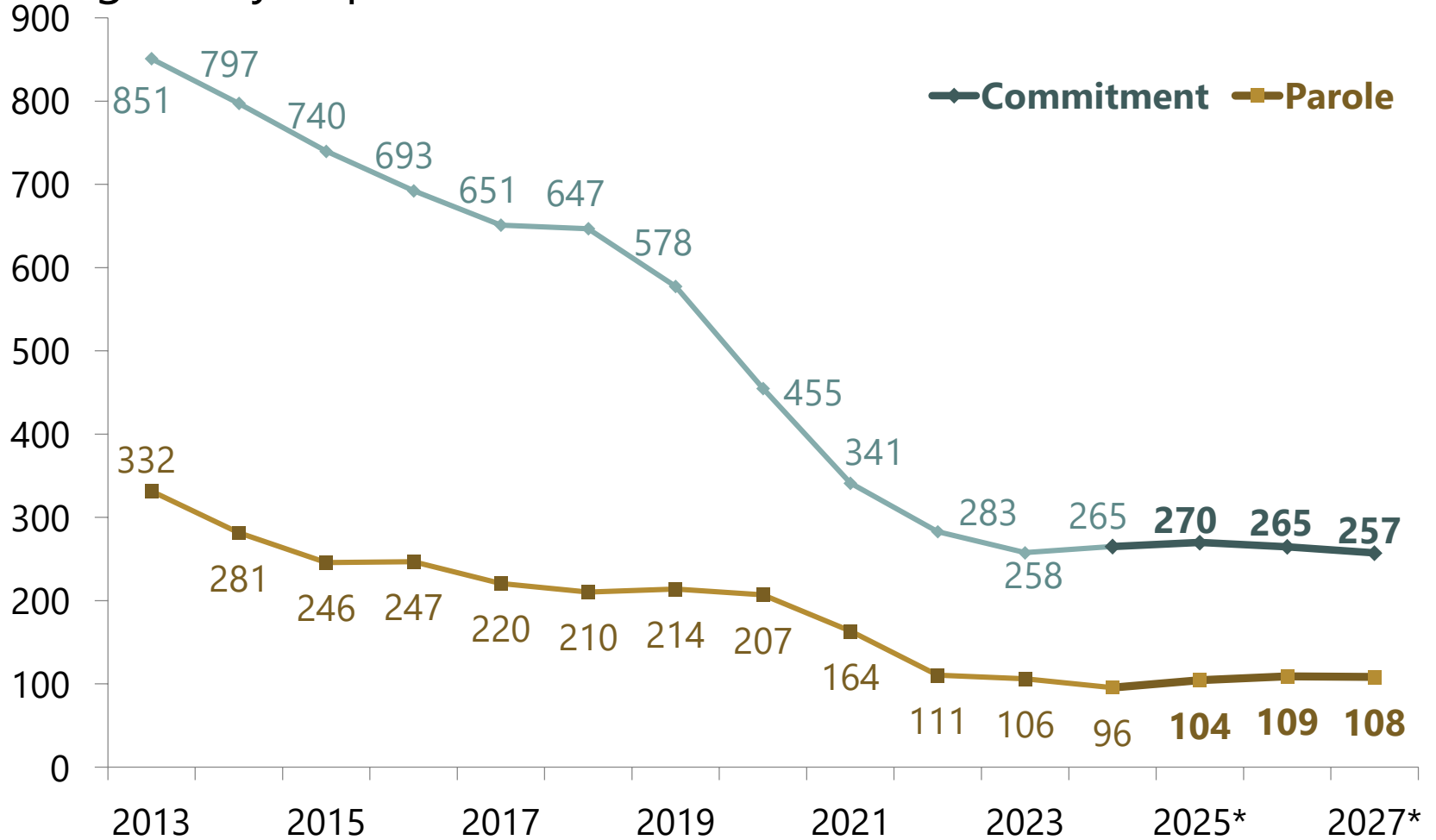
Average Daily Population



Source: CDHS Division of Youth Services and *Legislative Council Staff December 2024 forecast.

DYS commitment and parole populations expected to increase modestly

Average Daily Populations



Source: CDHS Division of Youth Services and *Legislative Council Staff December 2024 forecast.

Questions?

Elizabeth Ramey

Principal Economist

Elizabeth.Ramey@coleg.gov | 303-866-3522

