

**Table 6: World Prison Population (PP) Trends for Countries with 50 Largest Prison Systems (2000-2019)**

Ranking	Country	Region	PP Rate (Rank)	2019 PP Total	2000 PP Total	PP Change	% Change
1	USA	North America	639 (1)	2,094,000*	1,937,482	+156,518	+8.1
2	China	Asia	121 (129)	1,710,000*	1,427,407	+282,593	+19.8
3	Brazil	South America	357 (21)	755,274	232,755	+522,519	+224.5
4	Russian Federation	Europe/Asia	344 (25)	602,176*	1,060,404	-458,228	-43.2
5	India	Asia	35 (211)	478,600	272,079	+206,521	+75.9
6	Thailand	Asia	546(4)	366,316*	223,406	+142,910	+64.0
7	Turkey	Europe/Asia	335(29)	200,339***	49,512	+150,827	+304.6
8	Iran	Asia	294(37)	240,000*	158,000 <sup>2</sup>	+82,000	+51.9
9	Indonesia	Asia	85 (160)	256,051*	53,399	+202,752	+379.5
10	Philippines	Asia	200 (72)	215,000	79,299	+135,701	+171.1
11	Mexico	Central America	158 (98)	198,384	154,765	+43,619	+28.2
12	South Africa	Africa	259 (45)	164,129*	171,462	-7,333	-4.3
13	Vietnam	Asia	128 (118)	123,697	55,000 <sup>1</sup>	+68,697	+124.9
14	Ethiopia	Africa	127 (119)	113,727*****	55,209	+58,518	+106.0
15	Egypt	Africa	166(132)	106,000***	56,587 <sup>2</sup>	+49,413	+87.3
16	Argentina	South America	230 (58)	103,209*	37,885	+65,324	+172.4
17	Colombia	South America	2014 (70)	118,513*	51,518	+66,995	+130.0
18	Peru	South America	290 (39)	87,995*	27,734	+60,261	+217.3
19	Myanmar	Asia	171 (90)	92,000*	31,648 <sup>2</sup>	+60,352	+190.7
20	Bangladesh	Asia	52 (200)	83,350*	62,669	+20,681	+33.0
21	Morocco	Africa	237 (51)	85,767	54,288	+31,479	+58.0
22	UK: England & Wales	Europe	133 (114)	82,773*	64,602	+18,171	+28.1
23	Pakistan	Asia	38 (208)	77,275	78,938	-1,663	-2.1
24	Poland	Europe	183 (82)	72,294*	70,544	+1,750	+2.5
25	Malaysia	Asia	212 (66)	59,278*	27,358	+31,920	+116.7
26	Rwanda	Africa	511(6)	65,000	112,000 <sup>3</sup>	-47,000	-42.0
26	Algeria	Africa	153 (102)	65,000	33,992	+31,008	+91.2
28	Nigeria	Africa	30 (215)	71,522*	44,450	+27,072	+60.9
29	Saudi Arabia	Asia	197 (74)	61,000**	23,720	+37,280	+157.2
30	Taiwan	Asia	258 (46)	60,956	56,676	+4,280	+7.6
31	France	Europe	87 (157)	74,255*	48,049	+26,206	+54.5
32	Spain	Europe	124 (125)	59,694*	45,309	14,385	+31.7
33	Germany	Europe	69 (176)	63,643*	70,252	-6,609	-9.4
34	Cuba	Caribbean	510 (7)	47,337*****	55,000 <sup>4</sup>	-7,663	-13.9
35	Venezuela	South America	178 (88)	57,096**	14,196	+42,900	+302.2
36	Uganda	Africa	124 (125)	55,229	21,700	+33,529	+154.5
37	Republic of (South) Korea	Asia	105 (142)	54,744*	62,959	-8,215	-13.0
38	Italy	Europe	89 (156)	59,655*	53,165	+6,490	+12.2
39	Kenya	Africa	105 (142)	53,348	40,010	+13,338	+33.3
40	Ukraine	Europe	148 (105)	55,078	218,800	-163,722	-74.8
41	Japan	Asia	39 (2017)	50,578*	61,242	-10,664	-17.4
42	Iraq	Asia	126 (122)	45,000*****	7,000 <sup>5</sup>	+38,000	+542.9
43	Australia	Oceania	174 (89)	42,974*	21,714	+21,260	+97.9
44	Canada	North America	107 (141)	39,579	35,533	+4,046	+11.4
45	Chile	South America	212 (66)	41,689*	33,050	+8,639	+26.1
46	Ecuador	South America	224 (60)	37,996*	8,029	+29,967	+373.2

47	El Salvador	Central America	566 (2)	39,642	7,754	+31,888	+411.2
48	Cambodia	Asia	220 (63)	36,600	5,502	+31,098	+565.2
49	Tanzania	Africa	59 (193)	35,803	45,611	-9,808	-21.5
50	Belarus	Europe	344 (25)	32,500*	56,590	-24,090	-42.6

All data were extracted from the World Prison Brief database: [https://www.prisonstudies.org/highest-to-lowest/prison\\_population\\_rate?field\\_region\\_taxonomy\\_tid=All](https://www.prisonstudies.org/highest-to-lowest/prison_population_rate?field_region_taxonomy_tid=All)

\*Note: One asterisk denotes that the most up-to-date prison population totals (prior to COVID-19) were released in 2018, two asterisks indicate that the most current prison population totals (prior to COVID-19) were released in 2017, three asterisks denote that the data were last released in 2016 (prior to the pandemic), four asterisks indicate 2015, five asterisks indicate 2014, and six asterisks denote 2012. In other words, 2019 data were not made available for prison population totals for some countries included in this table. In some cases, 2020 data have been updated; however, to avoid the internal threat of “history,” as contamination to these prison population trends, 2020 prison population data were not included in this table. Moreover, some countries did not provide prison population data in 2000, but rather in 1998, (denoted by ∩), 2001 (denoted by ∩), 2002 (∩), 2003(∩), and 2004 (∩).