

# Predicting Inmate Numbers in NSW

for the  
NSW Department of Corrective Services

- Model used
- Feasibility of accurate predictions
- Difficulties with Court to Prison data

## Sentenced Inmates - Iterative Method

### Need

- Initial inmate population with expected release dates
- Assumed receptions in each time period with release dates

### Method

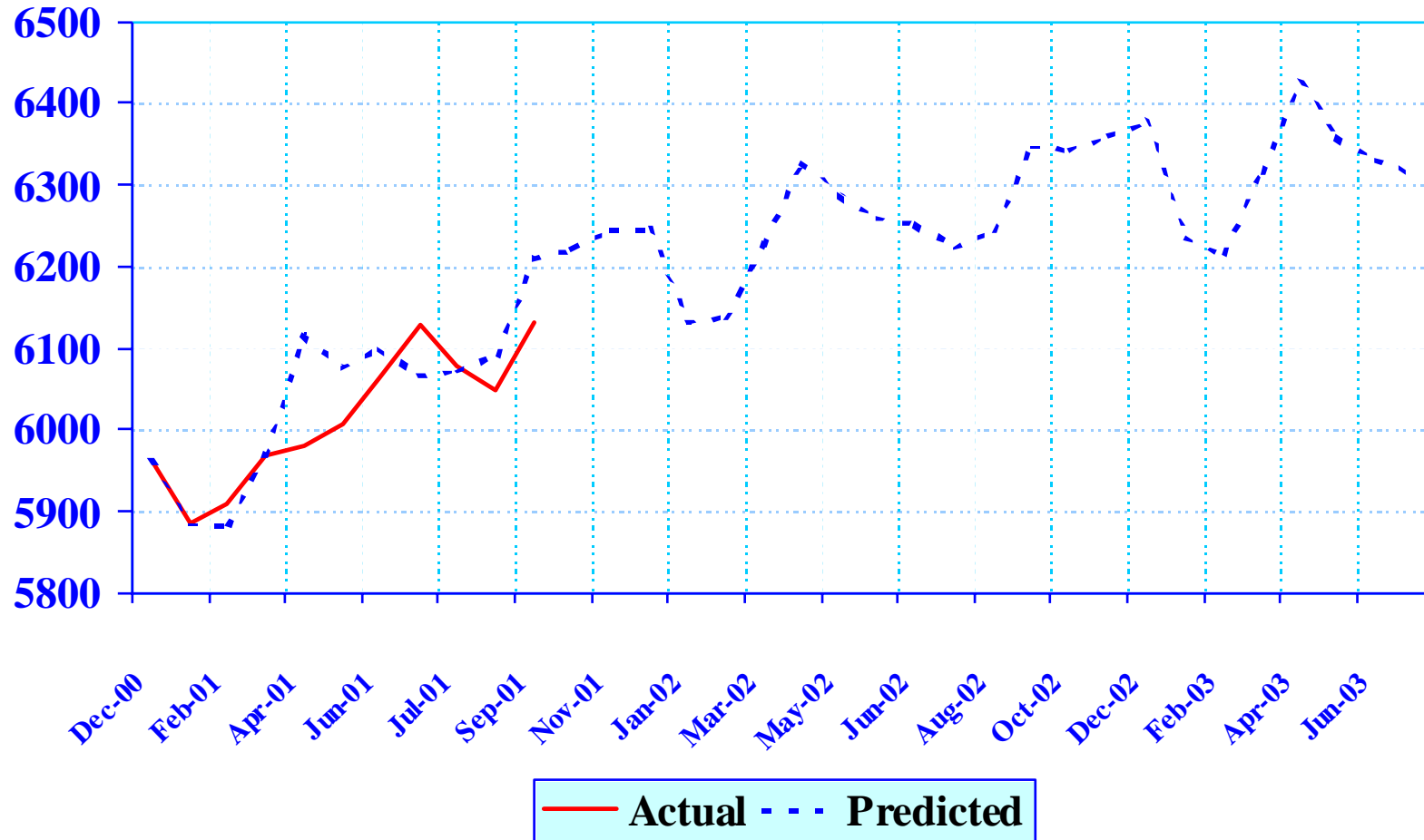
Population at Time =  $i$

= population at Time =  $i-1$

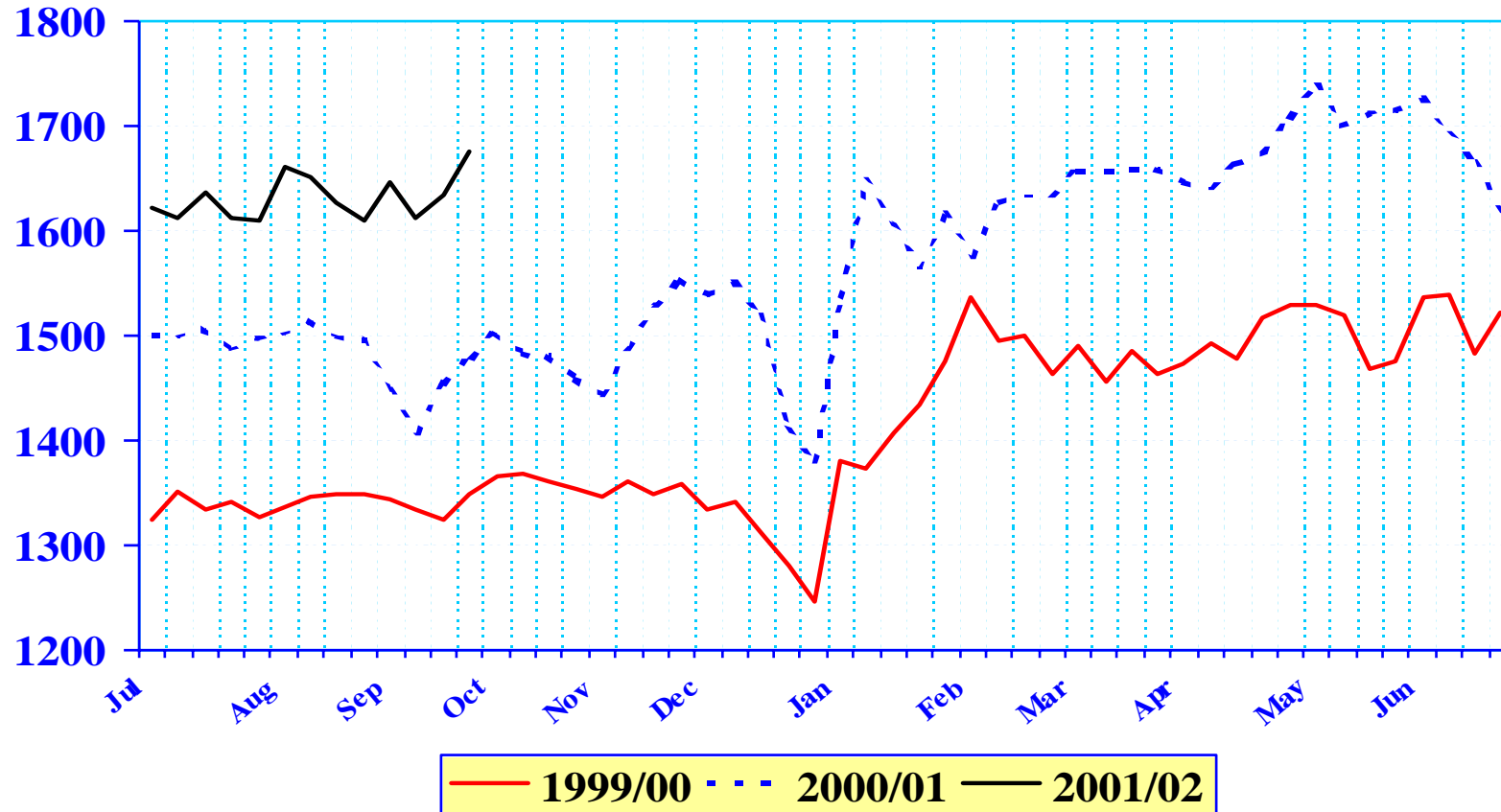
+ assumed receptions in period  $i$

- discharges in period

## Sentenced Inmates - projection made on 2/3/01

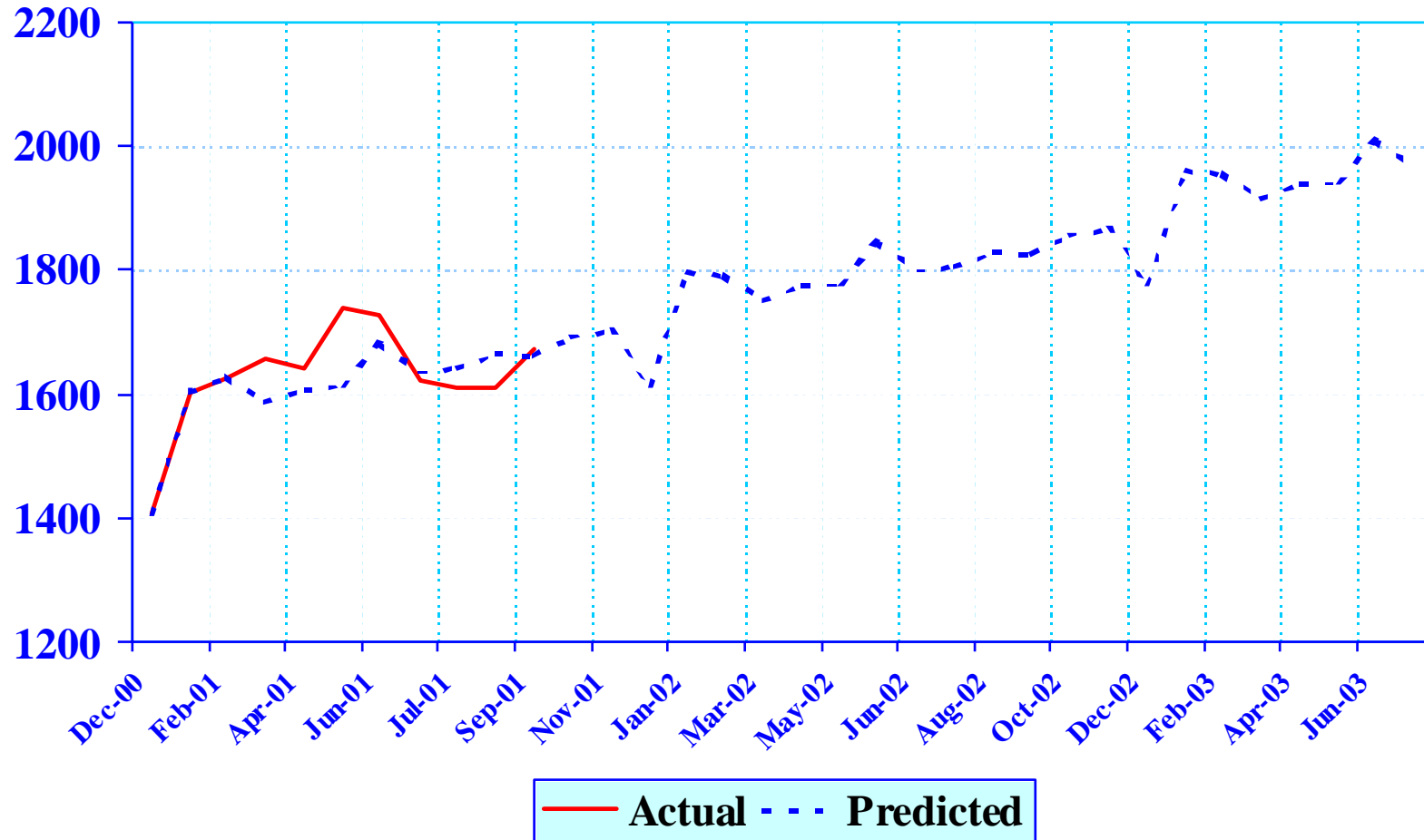


## Remand Inmates each Sunday

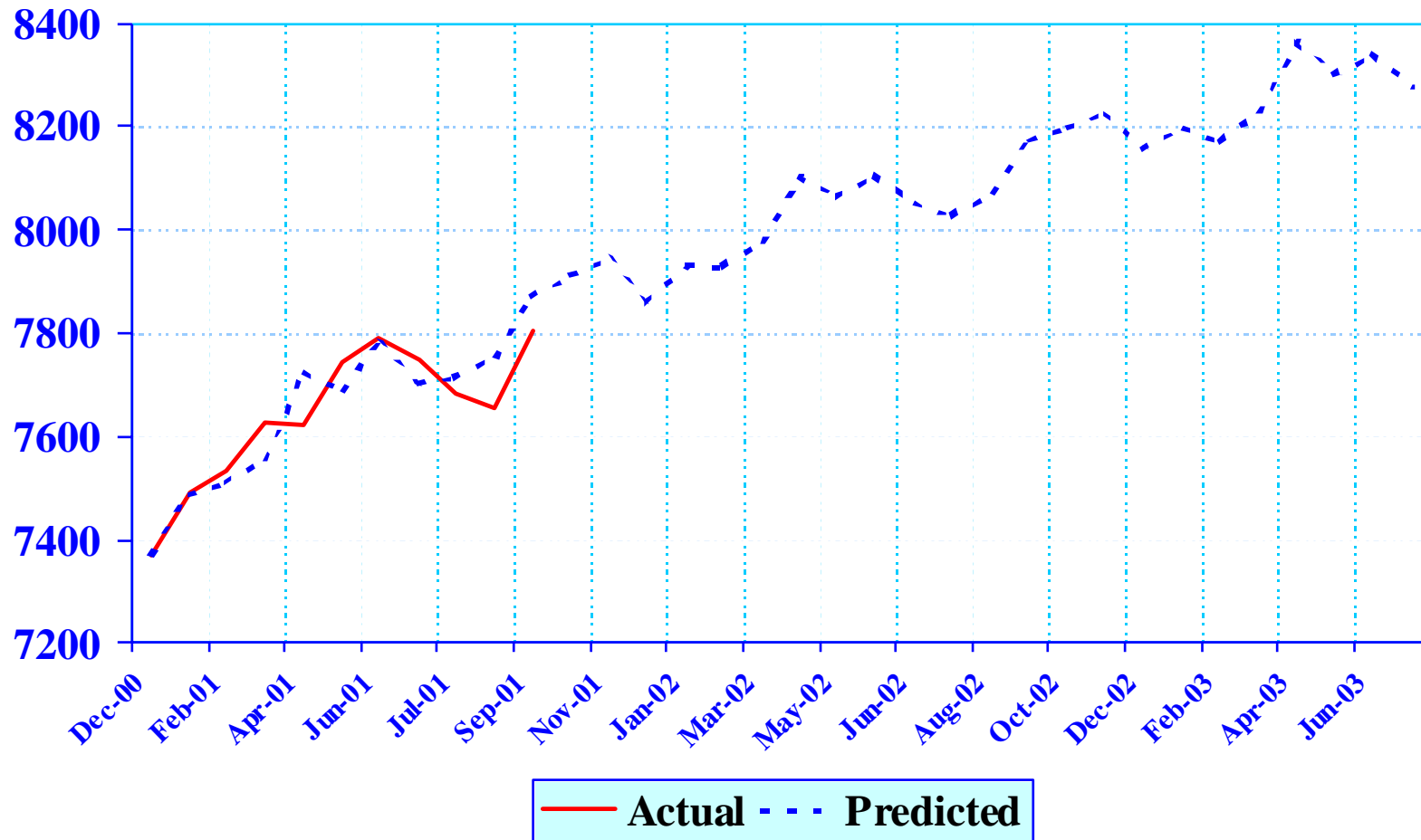


Unsentenced receptions similar in 1999/00 and 2000/01

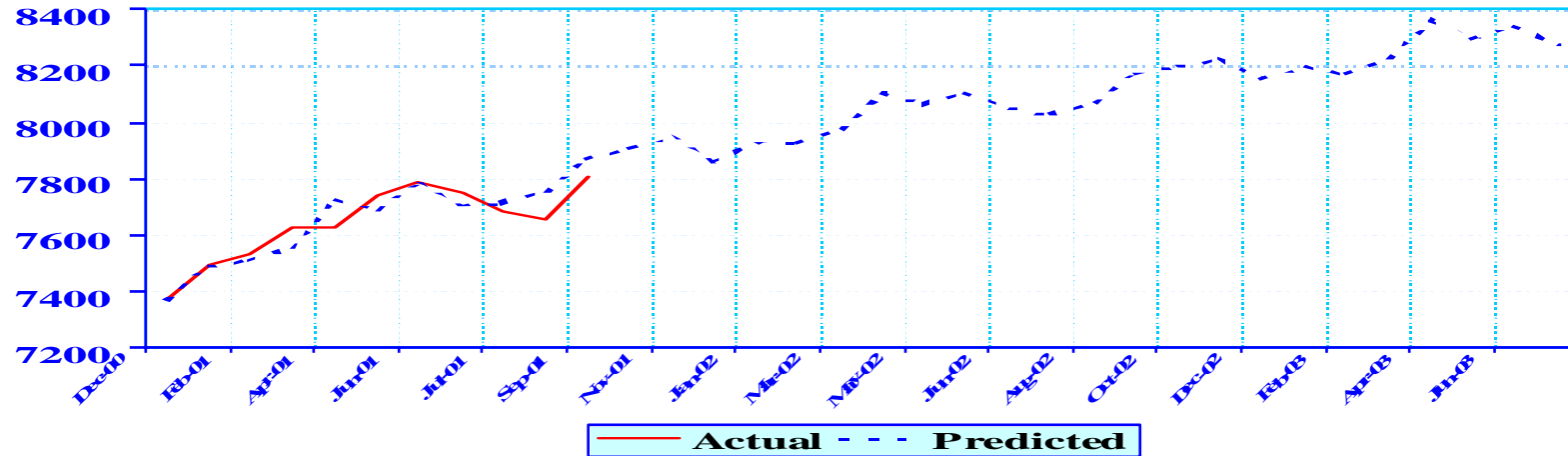
## Remand Inmates - projection made on 2/3/01



## Total Inmates - projection made on 2/3/01



**Total Inmates - projection made on 2/3/01**



## Advantages of 28 day Projections

- Give early warning when assumptions stop applying.
- Indicate when a fluctuation is not likely to be a trend change.

# Factors most affecting inmate numbers

- **Legislation** (eg increased sentences)
- **Policing policy** (eg targeting offenders who will go to prison)
- **Courts administration** (eg number of courts operating, certain types of cases targeted)

## Difficulties with Court to Prison data

- Not all receptions into prison are from court (Police, Parole Board)
- Inmates may have sentences from multiple courts

In 1999 16% of sentenced receptions had a MSO from the Parole Board.

On 8<sup>th</sup> October 2001  
15% of sentenced inmates had multiple convictions,  
11% had multiple convictions other than from the Parole Board.

## Difficulties with Court to Prison data

Court\* – cases with custodial sentence in 1999

- 7121 from Local Courts
- 1898 from Higher Courts

\*Data from BOCSAR Court Statistics

Prison – sentenced receptions in 1999

- 4998 from Local Courts
- 1698 from Higher Courts
- 1168 from Parole Board
- 266 from Drug Court

## Difficulties with Court to Prison data

- Many unsentenced inmates received are released on bail
- Remand inmates can be remanded to multiple courts

Generally about **half** the unsentenced inmates received are released on bail within a month.

On 8<sup>th</sup> October 2001 **18%** of the remand inmates had multiple remand orders.

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## NSW

for the

## NSW Department of Corrective Services

**Total Inmates - projection made on 2/3/01**

