I. General information on police crime statistics (PCS)

1. Importance

Police crime statistics serve to

- monitor crime and individual types of offences, the size and composition of the circle of suspects and fluctuations in crime rates,
- gather information for law enforcement purposes, for organisational planning and decision-making and to
- carry out socio-criminological research, criminal police and preventive measures.

2. Content

The police crime statistics are so-called outgoing statistics. This means that the statistics contain only those offences which have come to police attention, been processed by the police and, before compilation begins, passed to the public prosecutor's office. These statistics also include punishable attempts to commit an offence and drug offences processed by the customs authorities. The time needed to conduct investigations means that about 22% of the offences included in the PCS for 2017 were committed in 2016 or earlier.

The PCS do not cover state security offences, traffic offences (except violations of Sections 315 and 315b of the Penal Code and Section 22a of the Road Traffic Act), criminal offences committed outside the Federal Republic of Germany and violations of the criminal laws of the individual German states (*Länder*) with the exception of the relevant provisions in the data protection legislation of the states. The PCS also do not include offences which do not fall within the competence of the police (e.g. financial and tax offences) or which are reported directly to the public prosecutor's office and are investigated exclusively by the public prosecutor's office (e.g. perjury).

The PCS contain, in particular, information on:
- the type and number of recorded criminal offences,
- the date and place of the offence,
- the victims and criminal damage,
- the clear-up rate,
- the suspects' age, gender, nationality and other characteristics.

3. Validity

The PCS only cover those criminal offences which have been recorded by the police and therefore by definition do not contain undetected criminal offences. The number of recorded cases differs from offence to offence and is also dependent on the extent to which offences are reported to the police.

II. Crime trends in 2017[1]

1. In general

The total number of recorded criminal offences decreased by 9.6 % compared to the previous year (2017: 5.762m cases, 2016: 6.373m cases). The total number of recorded criminal offences excluding offences against foreigners law decreased by 5.1 % compared to the previous year (2017: 5.582 cases, 2016: 5.885m cases).

2. Clear-up rate (CR)

The total clear-up rate is 57.1 %/55.7 % (2016: 56.2 %/54.0 %). The CR for murder and manslaughter is particularly high at 95.6%, as is the case with regard to crimes related to services, especially fare evasion 99.2 % and social benefits fraud 99.1 %.
The CR for theft offences with aggravated circumstances (e.g. bicycle theft, theft by burglary of a dwelling, theft of non-cash means of payment) is particularly low, at 15.1 %.

3. Offence rate (OR)

The offence rate (criminal offences committed per 100,000 inhabitants) is an indicator of the threat posed by crime. The OR changed from 7,755/7,161 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in 2016 to 6,982/6,764 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in 2016. This is equivalent to a reduction of 10.0 %/5.5 %.

4. Suspects

In 2017 the number of suspects changed to 2,112,715/1,974,805 (-10.5 %/-2.4 %, 2016: 2,360,806/2,022,414). Of the total, 526,578/481,382 were female suspects (24.9 %/24.4 %). The number of child suspects (6 to under 14-year-olds) changed by -17.3 %/+14.4 %, the number of juvenile suspects (14 to under 18-year-olds), by -9.3 %/+2.6 %, and young adults (18 to under 21-year-olds), by -15.8 %/-1.9 %.Violent crimes by juvenile suspects increased in 2017 to a total of 23,135 (2016: 22,646). This also applies to dangerous and serious bodily injury, where 18,414 juvenile suspects were recorded (2016: 18,156).

5. Significant changes compared to the previous year
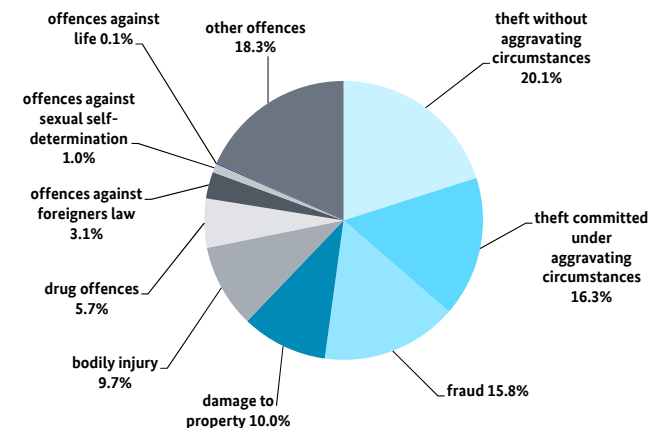
The number of the following offences increased:
- drug offences by 9.2 % to 330,580 cases (2016: 302,594 cases)
- economic crime by 28.7 % to 74,070 cases (2016: 57,546 cases)
- offences violating the Weapons Act by 10. 3% to 38,001 cases (2016: 34,443 cases)
- dissemination of writings depicting pornography by 12.9 % to 10,066 cases (2016: 8,917 cases)

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[1] The figures for "total number of crimes" and the figures for "total number of crimes excluding offences against foreigners law" are separated by a slash (/), unless stated otherwise.

The number of the following offences decreased:
- shoplifting by 6.6 % to 353,384 cases (2016: 378,448 cases)
- pickpocketing by 22.7 % to 127,376 cases (2016: 164,771 cases)
- theft by burglary of a dwelling by 23.0 % to 116,540 cases (2016: 151,265 cases)

6. Offences by type as % of total offences (5,761,984 cases)

7. Brief overview of suspects and crime trends

Suspects	Number 2017	Number 2016	Change in %
suspects – total (total offences)	2,112,715	2,360,806	-10.5
male	1,586,137	1,767,739	-10.3
female	526,578	593,067	-11.2
German suspects	1,376,450	1,407,062	-2.2
non-German suspects	736,265	953,744	-22.8
suspects – total (total offences excluding offences against foreigners law)	1,974,805	2,022,414	-2.4
male	1,493,423	1,526,565	-2.2
female	481,382	495,849	-2.9
German suspects	1,375,448	1,406,184	-2.2
non-German suspects	599,357	616,230	-2.7
including:			
* immigrants	167,268	174,438	-4.1

* Immigrants within the meaning of this brochure are suspects who are asylum applicants, quota or civil war refugees or irregular immigrants or whose deportation has been temporarily suspended (2016) and from 2017 (new definition) "asylum seekers", "persons entitled to international/national protection and asylum", "persons under a temporary suspension of deportation", "refugees admitted under quota provisions" and "illegal migrants".

Offence	Number 2017	Number 2016	Change in %
total offences	5,761,984	6,372,526	-9.6
total offences excluding offences against foreigners law	5,582,136	5,884,815	-5.1
violent crime - total	188,946	193,542	-2.4
including:			
murder, manslaughter and killing a person at his own request	2,379	2,418	-1.6
rape and sexual coercion / sexual assaults	11,282	7,919	x
robberies	38,849	43,009	-9.7
dangerous and serious bodily injury	137,058	140,033	-2.1
intentional simple bodily injury	394,610	406,038	-2.8
street crime	1,203,124	1,316,866	-8.6
theft offences - total	2,092,994	2,373,774	-11.8
including:			
motor vehicle theft	33,263	36,388	-8.6
theft of bicycles	300,006	332,486	-9.8
theft of non-cash means of payment	120,351	140,907	-14.6
theft from the interior / exterior of motor vehicles	276,928	313,918	-11.8
shoplifting	353,384	378,448	-6.6
theft by burglary of a dwelling	116,540	151,265	-23.0
pickpocketing	127,376	164,771	-22.7
fraud offences – total	910,352	899,043	1.3
including:			
merchandise fraud and merchandise credit fraud	292,617	294,169	-0.5
non-payment of a fuel bill	71,481	71,516	0,0
fraudulent obtaining of services	245,696	246,171	-0.2
economic crime **)	74,070	57,546	28.7
damage to property	577,010	596,367	-3.2
offences against the Weapons Act	38,001	34,443	10.3
drug offences	330,580	302,594	9.2

Offence	Number 2017	Number 2016	Change in %
computer crime	108,510	107,751	0.7
including:			
falsification of legally relevant data, deception in legal transactions in connection with data processing	8,352	8,158	2.4
alteration of data, computer sabotage	3,596	4,422	-18.7
data espionage, interception of data and handling stolen data	9,600	10,638	x
computer fraud (sect 263a PC)	86,372	84,060	2.8
including:			
computer fraud using unlawfully obtained payment card data (sect. 263a PC)	9,065	9,982	-9.2
fraud by obtaining service on credit (sec. 263a PC)	7,428	5,948	24.9
offences against foreigners law	179,848	487,711	-63.1
including:			
unauthorised entry (border crossing) under the Residence Act	50,147	248,878	-79.9

Note:
For a more detailed presentation of the police crime statistics for 2017, especially regarding specific crimes/categories of crimes, with individual PCS tables, please visit the BKA website at www.bka.de.
x = Due to changes in the way statistics are collected and/or offences are defined, no comparison between the reporting year and the previous year is possible.

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