

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 22.5% of the offences included in the PCS for 2018 were committed in 2017 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 2018¹

1. In general

The total number of recorded criminal offences decreased by 3.6 % compared to the previous year (2018: 5.556m cases, 2017: 5.762m cases). The total number of recorded criminal offences excluding offences against foreigners law decreased by 3.4 % compared to the previous year (2018: 5.392m cases, 2017: 5.582m cases).

2. Clear-up rate (CR)

The total clear-up rate is 57.7 %/56.5 % (2017: 57.1 %/55.7 %). The CR for murder and manslaughter is particularly high at 96.1 %, as is the case with regard to crimes related to services, especially fare evasion 99.1 % and social benefits fraud 99.2 %. 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 15.4 %.

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 6,982/6,764 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in 2017 to 6,710/6,513 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in 2018. This is equivalent to a reduction of -3.9 %/-3.7 %.

4. Suspects

In 2018 the number of suspects changed to 2,051,266/1,931,079 -2.9 %/-2.2 %, 2017: 2,112,715/1,974,805). Of the total, 510,136/469,360 were female suspects (24.9 %/24.3 %). The number of child suspects (6 to under 14-year-olds) changed by -5.7 %/-1.6 %, the number of juvenile suspects (14 to under 18-year-olds), by -6.8 %/-4.6 %, and young adults (18 to under 21-year-olds), by -5.1 %/-3.4 %. Violent crimes by juvenile suspects decreased in 2018 to a total of 22,582 (2017: 23,135). This also applies to dangerous and serious bodily injury, where 17,756 juvenile suspects were recorded (2017: 18,414).

5. Significant changes compared to the previous year

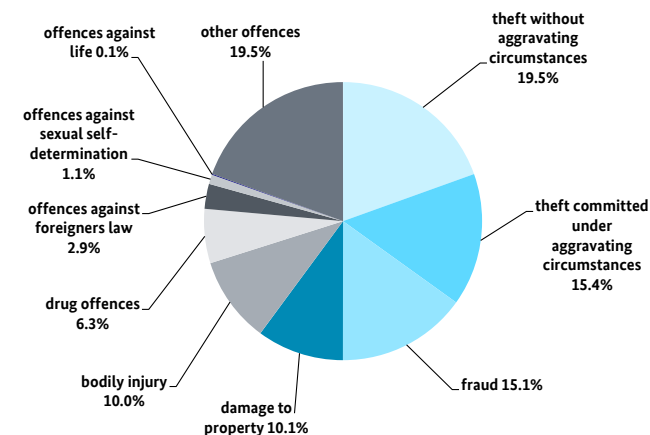
The number of the following offences decreased:

- pickpocketing by 18.2 % to 104,196 cases (2017: 127,376 cases)
- theft by burglary of a dwelling by 16.3 % to 97,504 cases (2017: 116,540 cases)
- thefts (total) from the exterior/interior of motor vehicles by 10.7 % to 247,311 cases (2017: 276,928 cases)
- robberies by 5.4 % to 36,765 cases (2017: 38,849 cases)

The number of the following offences increased:

- offences against the Weapons Act by 5.5 % to 40,104 cases (2017: 38,001 cases)
- drug offences by 6.1 % to 350,662 cases (2017: 330,580 cases)
- dissemination of writings depicting pornography by 13.6 % to 11,435 cases (2017: 10,066 cases)

6. Offences by type as % of total offences (5,555,520 cases)



7. Brief overview of suspects and crime trends

Suspects	Number 2018	Number 2017	Change in %
suspects – total (total offences)	2,051,266	2,112,715	-2.9
male	1,541,130	1,586,137	-2.8
female	510,136	526,578	-3.1
German suspects	1,342,886	1,376,450	-2.4
non-German suspects	708,380	736,265	-3.8
suspects – total (total offences excluding offences against foreigners law)	1,931,079	1,974,805	-2.2
male	1,461,719	1,493,423	-2.1
female	469,360	481,382	-2.5
German suspects	1,341,879	1,375,448	-2.4
non-German suspects	589,200	599,357	-1.7
including:			
* immigrants	165,769	167,268	-0.9

* Immigrants within the meaning of this brochure are suspects who are "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" (2017) and from 2018 (new definition) "asylum seekers", "persons entitled to protection and asylum, refugees admitted under quota provisions", "persons under a temporary suspension of deportation", "" and "illegal migrants".

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.

Offence	Number 2018	Number 2017	Change in %
total offences	5,555,520	5,761,984	-3.6
total offences excluding offences against foreigners law	5,392,457	5,582,136	-3.4
violent crime - total	185,377	188,946	-1.9
<i>including:</i>			
murder, manslaughter and killing a person at his own request	2,471	2,379	3.9
rape, sexual coercion and sexual assault in especially serious cases including resulting in death *)	9,234	11,282	-18.2
robberies	36,756	38,849	-5.4
dangerous and serious bodily injury	136,727	137,058	-0.2
intentional simple bodily injury	389,791	394,610	-1.2
street crime	1,131,088	1,203,124	-6.0
dissemination of writings depicting pornography	11,435	10,066	13.6
theft offences - total	1,936,315	2,092,994	-7.5
<i>including:</i>			
motor vehicle theft	30,232	33,263	-9.1
theft of bicycles	292,015	300,006	-2.7
theft of non-cash means of payment	106,240	120,351	-11.7
theft from the interior / exterior of motor vehicles	247,311	276,928	-10.7
shoplifting	339,021	353,384	-4.1
theft by burglary of a dwelling	97,504	116,540	-16.3
pickpocketing	104,196	127,376	-18.2
fraud offences - total *)	840,783	910,352	-7.6
<i>including:</i>			
merchandise fraud and merchandise credit fraud	295,129	292,617	0.9
non-payment of a fuel bill	72,424	71,481	1.3
fraudulent obtaining of services	213,443	245,696	-13.1
economic crime	50,550	74,070	-31.8
damage to property	560,977	577,010	-2.8
offences against the Weapons Act	40,104	38,001	5.5

Offence	Number 2018	Number 2017	Change in %
drug offences	350,662	330,580	6.1
computer crime	110,475	108,510	1.8
<i>including:</i>			
falsification of legally relevant data, deception in legal transactions in connection with data processing	8,541	8,352	2.3
alteration of data, computer sabotage	2,875	3,596	-20.1
data espionage, interception of data and handling stolen data	8,762	9,600	-8.7
computer fraud (sect 263a PC)	89,901	86,372	4.1
<i>including:</i>			
computer fraud using unlawfully obtained payment card data (sect. 263a PC)	7,765	9,065	-14.3
fraud by obtaining service on credit (sec. 263a PC)	7,514	7,428	1.2
offences against foreigners law	163,063	179,848	-9.3
<i>including:</i>			
unauthorised entry (border crossing) under the Residence Act	39,476	50,147	-21.3

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.

*) = Content-related change, a comparison with the previous year may be possible in a limited way

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