

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 22.6 % of the offences included in the PCS for 2019 were committed in 2018 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 2019¹

1. In general

The total number of recorded criminal offences decreased by 2.1 % compared to the previous year (2019: 5.436m cases, 2018: 5.556m cases). The total number of recorded criminal offences excluding offences against foreigners' law decreased by 2.3 % compared to the previous year (2019: 5.271m cases, 2018: 5.392m cases).

2. Clear-up rate (CR)

The total clear-up rate is 57.5 %/56.2 % (2018: 57.7 %/56.5 %). The CR for murder and manslaughter is particularly high at 94.0 %, as is the case with regard to crimes related to services, especially fare evasion 98.9 % 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 14.8 %.

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 6,710/6,513 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in 2018 to 6,548/6,349 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in 2019. This is equivalent to a reduction of -2.4 %/-2.5 %.

4. Suspects

In 2019 the number of suspects changed to 2,019,211/1,896,221 (-1.6 %/-1.8 %, 2018: 2,051,266/1,931,079). Of the total, 504,544/463,350 were female suspects (25.0 %/24.4 %). The number of child suspects (6 to under 14-year-olds) changed by +3.2 %/+5.7%, the number of juvenile suspects (14 to under 18-year-olds), by -0.2%/+0.2 %, and young adults (18 to under 21-year-olds), by -4.2%/-3.4 %. Violent crimes by juvenile suspects increased in 2019 to a total of 23,619 (2018: 22,582). This also applies to dangerous and serious bodily injury, where 18,434 juvenile suspects were recorded (2018: 17,756).

5. Significant changes compared to the previous year

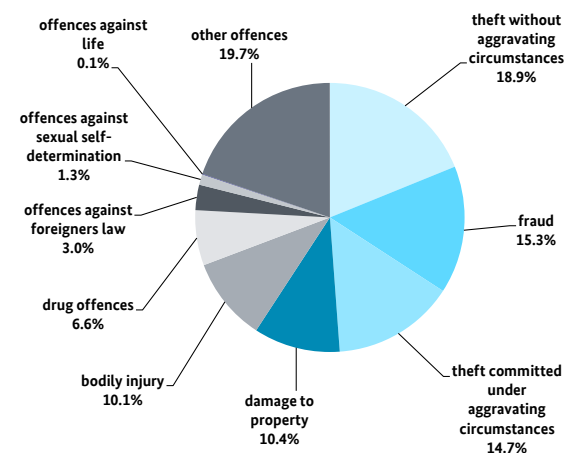
The number of the following offences decreased:

- economic crime by 19.9 % to 40,484 cases (2018: 50,550 cases)
- theft by burglary of a dwelling by 10.6 % to 87,145 cases (2018: 97,504 cases)
- thefts (total) from the exterior/interior of motor vehicles by 10.2% to 222,129 cases (2018: 247,311 cases)
- pickpocketing by 9.7 % to 94,106 cases (2018: 104,196 cases)

The number of the following offences increased:

- sexual abuse of children by 10.9 % to 13,670 cases (2018: 12,321 cases)
- computer fraud (sect. 263a PC) by 12.1 % to 100,814 cases (2018: 89,901 cases)
- dissemination of writings depicting pornography by 51.6 % to 17,336 cases (2018: 11,435 cases)

6. Offences by type as % of total offences (5,436,401 cases)



7. Brief overview of suspects and crime trends

| Suspects | Number 2019 | Number 2018 | Change in % |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| suspects – total (total offences) | 2,019,211 | 2,051,266 | -1.6 |
| male | 1,514,667 | 1,541,130 | -1.7 |
| female | 504,544 | 510,136 | -1.1 |
| German suspects | 1,319,950 | 1,342,886 | -1.7 |
| non-German suspects | 699,261 | 708,380 | -1.3 |
| suspects – total (total offences excluding offences against foreigners law) | 1,896,221 | 1,931,079 | -1.8 |
| male | 1,432,871 | 1,461,719 | -2.0 |
| female | 463,350 | 469,360 | -1.3 |
| German suspects | 1,318,980 | 1,341,879 | -1.7 |
| non-German suspects | 577,241 | 589,200 | -2.0 |
| <i>including:</i> | | | |
| * immigrants | 151,009 | 165,769 | -8.9 |

* Immigrants within the meaning of this brochure are suspects who are "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 2019 | Number 2018 | Change in % |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| total offences | 5,436,401 | 5,555,520 | -2.1 |
| total offences excluding offences against foreigners law | 5,270,782 | 5,392,457 | -2.3 |
| violent crime - total | 181,054 | 185,377 | -2.3 |
| <i>including:</i> | | | |
| murder, manslaughter and killing a person at his own request | 2,315 | 2,471 | -6.3 |
| rape, sexual coercion and sexual assault in especially serious cases including resulting in death | 9,426 | 9,234 | 2.1 |
| robberies | 36,052 | 36,756 | -1.9 |
| dangerous and serious bodily injury | 133,084 | 136,727 | -2.7 |
| intentional simple bodily injury | 386,517 | 389,791 | -0.8 |
| sexual abuse of children | 13,670 | 12,321 | 10.9 |
| street crime | 1,075,143 | 1,131,088 | -4.9 |
| dissemination of writings depicting pornography | 17,336 | 11,435 | 51.6 |
| theft offences - total | 1,822,212 | 1,936,315 | -5.9 |
| <i>including:</i> | | | |
| motor vehicle theft | 28,132 | 30,232 | -6.9 |
| theft of bicycles | 277,874 | 292,015 | -4.8 |
| theft of non-cash means of payment | 97,279 | 106,240 | -8.4 |
| theft from the interior / exterior of motor vehicles | 222,129 | 247,311 | -10.2 |
| shoplifting | 325,786 | 339,021 | -3.9 |
| theft by burglary of a dwelling | 87,145 | 97,504 | -10.6 |
| pickpocketing | 94,106 | 104,196 | -9.7 |
| fraud offences – total | 832,966 | 840,783 | -0.9 |
| <i>including:</i> | | | |
| merchandise fraud and merchandise credit fraud | 290,707 | 295,129 | -1.5 |
| non-payment of a fuel bill | 70,498 | 72,424 | -2.7 |
| fraudulent obtaining of services | 200,901 | 213,443 | -5.9 |
| economic crime | 40,484 | 50,550 | -19.9 |
| damage to property | 563,062 | 560,977 | 0.4 |

| Offence | Number 2019 | Number 2018 | Change in % |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| offences against the Weapons Act | 38,674 | 40,104 | -3.6 |
| drug offences | 359,747 | 350,662 | 2.6 |
| computer crime | 123,006 | 110,475 | 11.3 |
| <i>including:</i> | | | |
| falsification of legally relevant data, deception in legal transactions in connection with data processing | 8,877 | 8,541 | 3.9 |
| alteration of data, computer sabotage | 3,183 | 2,875 | 10.7 |
| data espionage, interception of data and handling stolen data | 9,926 | 8,762 | 13.3 |
| computer fraud (sect 263a PC) | 100,814 | 89,901 | 12.1 |
| <i>including:</i> | | | |
| computer fraud using unlawfully obtained payment card data (sect. 263a PC) | 9,489 | 7,765 | 22.2 |
| fraud by obtaining service on credit (sect. 263a PC) | 9,470 | 7,514 | 26.0 |
| offences against foreigners' law | 165,619 | 163,063 | 1.6 |
| <i>including:</i> | | | |
| unauthorised entry (border crossing) under the Residence Act | 38,210 | 39,476 | -3.2 |
| unauthorised stay under the Residence Act | 108,067 | 106,860 | 1.1 |

Note:

For a more detailed presentation of the police crime statistics for 2019, especially regarding specific crimes/categories of crimes, with individual PCS tables, please visit the BKA website at www.bka.de.

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Police Crime Statistics 2019

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