

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
- carry out socio-criminological research and criminal police measures.

2. Contents

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 attempts subject to punishment and drug offences processed by the customs authorities. The PCS do not cover state security offences, traffic offences (with exception to offences against 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 offences against 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 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.

Crime trends in 2012

1. In general

The total number of recorded criminal offences increased by 0.1 % compared to the previous year (2012: 5,997m incidents, 2011: 5,990m incidents). Once again this figure fell below the 6 million mark.

2. Clear-up rate

The total clear-up rate is 54.4 % (2011: 54.7 %, 2010: 56 %, 2009: 55.6 %, 2008: 54.8 %, 2007: 55 %). The clear-up rate for murder and manslaughter is particularly high at 96.0 %, as is the case with regard to crimes related to services, especially transport fraud and welfare fraud (98.9 %).

The clear-up rate for theft offences with aggravated circumstances (e.g. bicycle theft, domestic burglary, theft of non-cash means of payment) is particularly low, at 14.8 %.

3. Offence rate

The offence rate (criminal offences committed per 100,000 inhabitants) is an indicator of the threat posed by crime. The offence rate fell slightly compared to the previous year (2012: 7,327 - 2011: 7,328).

4. Suspects

The number of suspects fell by 0.9 % to 2,094,118 in 2012, 531,928 of whom were female suspects (25.4 %). The percentage of other groups of suspects also fell: children (6 to under 14-year-olds) -11.9 %, juveniles (14 to under 18-year-olds) -6.7 %, young adults (18 to under 21-year-olds), -4.0 %.

The fall in violent crimes by juvenile suspects recorded in recent years continued in 2012 with a total of 27,095 (2011: 31,730). This applies in particular to dangerous and serious bodily injury, where 21,066 suspects were recorded (2011: 25,222).

5. Trends in some fields of crime

Crime fields where a fall in numbers was registered, amongst others:

- Theft of vehicles by 9.3 % to 37,238 incidents (2011:41.057),
- theft of non-cash means of payment by 7.6 % to 129,976 incidents (2011: 140,628),

- violent crime by 1.0 % to 195,143 incidents (2011: 197,030); there was a significant decrease in this area with regard to dangerous and serious bodily injury (-2.2 % to 136,077 incidents),
- street crime by 1.9 % to 1,357,134 incidents (2011: 1,382,949),
- fraudulent failure to supply goods as agreed by 12.0 % to 76,972 incidents (2011: 87,419),
- damage to property by 2.1 % to 673,704 incidents (2011: 68,294),
- criminal offences against sexual self-determination by 2.0 % to 45,824 incidents (2011: 47,078).

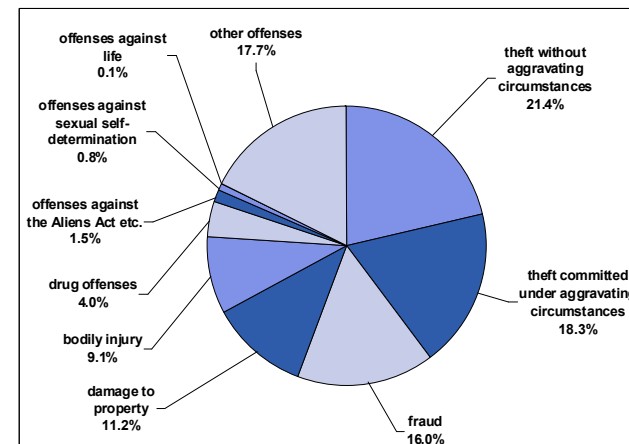
There was an increase in the following crime fields:

- theft in/from dwellings by 7.4 % to 201,303 incidents (2011: 187,409),
- fraud by means of unlawfully obtained payment card data by 22.4 % to 19,652 incidents (2011: 16,061),
- non-payment of fuel bill by 5.5 % to 89,769 incidents (2011: 85,065),
- computer crime by 3.4 % to 87,871 incidents (2011: 84,981),
- resistance to public authority by 3.5% to 23,628 incidents (2011: 22,839),
- competition-related offences, corruption and criminal offences by a public official by 8.5% to 5,684 incidents (2011: 5,241).

Brief information " PCS 2012"

1. Total recorded crime in 2012

Break-down of offences in total offences = 5,997,040 incidents.



2. Brief overview of crime trends and suspects

Offences	Number 2012	Number 2011	Change in %
Offences - total			
cases recorded	5,997,040	5,990,679	0.1
cases cleared up	3,259,822	3,276,153	-0.5
violent crime - total	195,143	197,030	-1.0
<i>including:</i>			
murder and manslaughter	2,126	2,174	-2.2
rape and aggravated sexual coercion (sects. 177 (2. 3 and 4), 178 PC)	8,031	7,539	6.5
robberies	48,711	48,021	1.4
dangerous and serious bodily injury	136,077	139,091	-2.2
slight bodily injury with intent	383,928	374,367	2.6
street crime	1,357,134	1,382,949	-1.9
theft offences - total	2,379,725	2,403,781	-1.0
<i>including:</i>			
motor vehicle theft	37,238	41,057	-9.3
theft of bicycles	326,159	328,748	-0.8
theft of non-cash means of payment	129,976	140,628	-7.6
shoplifting	361,759	385,463	-6.1
Theft in/from office, workshops, storage premises etc.	145,883	147,936	-1.4
theft in/from dwellings	201,303	187,409	7.4
<i>including:</i>			
theft by burglary of a dwelling	144,117	132,595	8.7
from the exterior / interior of motor vehicles	343,460	No comparison to previous year possible	
fraud offences - total	958,515	934,882	2.5
<i>including:</i>			
obtaining goods by fraud or fraudulent failure to supply goods as agreed	272,117	277,469	-1.9
fraud using unlawfully obtained debit cards without PIN	15,471	13,589	13.8
fraud using unlawfully obtained credit cards	8,182	8,886	-7.9
fraud using unlawfully obtained payment card data	19,652	16,061	22.4
fraudulent obtaining of services	256,545	246,944	3.9
account opening and transfer fraud	19,519	20,608	-5.3

Offences	Number 2012	Number 2011	Change in %
computer crime	87,871	84,981	3.4
<i>including:</i>			
high-tec/computer crime in the narrower sense	63,959	59,494	7.5
<i>including:</i>			
computer fraud	24,817	26,723	-7.1
fraud involving authorization to access communication services	2,952	4,730	-37.6
falsification of legally relevant data, deception in legal transactions in connection with data processing	8,539	7,671	11.3
alteration of data, computer sabotage	10,857	4,644	133.8
data espionage	16,794	15,726	6.8
damage to property	673,704	688,294	-2.1
offences against the Aliens Act and the Asylum Procedures Act. and the Freedom of Movement Act/E.U	89,029	78,324	13.7
<i>including:</i>			
illegal entry (border crossing) under the Aliens Act	26,110	24,002	8.8
offences against the Weapons Act	32,665	34,464	-5.2
drug offences - total	237,150	236,478	0.3
suspects - total	2,094,118	2,112,843	-0.9
male	1,562,190	1,574,799	-0.8
female	531,928	538,044	-1.1
German suspects - total	1,591,728	1,628,314	-2.2
non-German suspects - total	502,390	484,529	3.7
total suspects by age			
children (<14)	75,449	85,600	-11.9
juveniles (14<18)	200,257	214,736	-6.7
young adults (18<21)	196,255	204,491	-4.0
adults	1,622,157	1,608,016	0.9

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