

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 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.

Crime trends in 2013

1. In general

The total number of recorded criminal offences decreased by 0.6% compared to the previous year (2013: 5.962m incidents, 2012: 5.997m incidents). Once again this figure stayed below the 6 million mark.

2. Clear-up rate

The total clear-up rate is 54.5 % (2012: 54.4 %, 2011: 54.7 %, 2010: 56 %). The clear-up rate for murder and manslaughter is particularly high at 95.8 %, as is the case with regard to crimes related to services, especially transport fraud and welfare fraud (99.1 %).

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. According to the 2011 census,¹ the offence rate is 7,404 cases per 100,000 inhabitants.

4. Suspects

With a slight increase to 2,094,160 suspects, 539,061 of whom were female (25.7 %), the number of suspects remained almost constant in 2013. The percentage of other groups of suspects also fell: children (6 to under 14-year-olds) -8.2 %, juveniles (14 to under 18-year-olds) -5.0 %, young adults (18 to under 21-year-olds), -3.8 %.

The fall in violent crimes by juvenile suspects recorded in the previous year continued in 2013 with a total of 23,868 (2012: 27,095). This applies in particular to dangerous and serious bodily injury, where 18,179 suspects were recorded (2012: 21,066).

5. Trends in some fields of crime

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

- Theft of mopeds and motorcycles by 14.9 % to 28,299 incidents (2012: 33,273),
- street crime by 3.5 % to 1,309,807 incidents (2012: 1,357,134);

- violent crime by 5.3 % to 184,847 incidents (2012: 195,143); there was a significant decrease in this area with regard to dangerous and serious bodily injury (-6.0 % to 127,869 incidents);
- damage to property by 7.7 % to 621,699 incidents (2012: 673,704);
- economic crime by 12.4 % to 71,663 incidents (2012: 81,793).

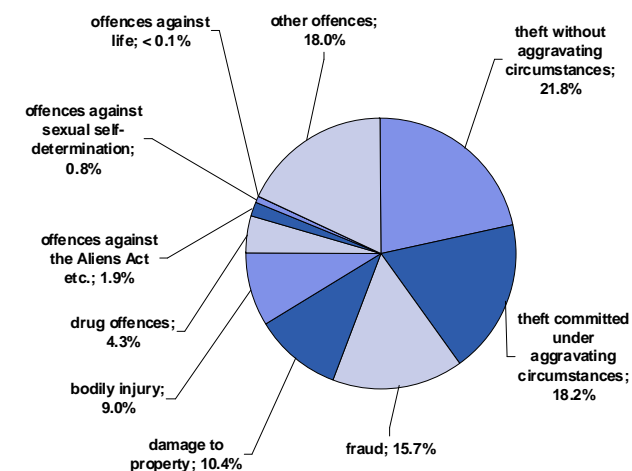
There was an increase in the following crime fields:

- theft in/from dwellings by 3.5 % to 208,292 incidents (2012: 201,303);
- distribution of pornographic material (products) by 23.1 to 9,488 incidents (2012: 7,709);
- drug offences - Narcotics Act by 6,2 to 253,525 incidents (2012: 237,150);
- pickpocketing by 15.6 % to 135,617 incidents (2012: 117,277);
- fraudulent failure to supply goods as agreed by 21.8 to 93,741 incidents (2012: 76,972);
- investment fraud under Sect. 263 PC by 31.9 to 6,121 incidents (2012: 4,642).

Brief information " PCS 2013"

1. Total recorded crime in 2013

Break-down of offences in total offences = 5,961,662 incidents.



¹ It is not possible to compare the offence rate with previous years because the underlying data have changed according to the 2011 census.

2. Brief overview of crime trends and suspects

Offences	Number 2013	Number 2012	Change in %
Offences - total			
cases recorded	5,961,662	5,997,040	-0.6
cases cleared up	3,249,396	3,259,822	-0.3
violent crime - total	184,847	195,143	-5.3
<i>including:</i>			
murder and manslaughter	2,122	2,126	-0.2
rape and aggravated sexual coercion (secs. 177 (2, 3 and 4), 178 PC)	7,408	8,031	-7.8
robberies	47,234	48,711	-3.0
dangerous and serious bodily injury	127,869	136,077	-6.0
slight bodily injury with intent	378,747	383,928	-1.3
street crime	1,309,807	1,357,134	-3.5
theft offences - total	2,382,743	2,379,725	0.1
<i>including:</i>			
motor vehicle theft	37,427	37,238	0.5
theft of bicycles	316,857	326,159	-2.9
theft of non-cash means of payment	136,034	129,976	4.7
from the exterior / interior of motor vehicles	332,605	343,460	-3.2
shoplifting	356,152	361,759	-1.5
Theft in/from office, workshops, storage premises etc.	140,186	145,883	-3.9
theft in/from dwellings	208,292	201,303	3.5
<i>including:</i>			
theft by burglary of a dwelling	149,500	144,117	3.7
fraud offences - total	937,891	958,515	-2.2
<i>including:</i>			
obtaining goods by fraud or fraudulent failure to supply goods as agreed	290,684	272,117	6.8
fraud using unlawfully obtained debit cards without PIN	16,434	15,471	6.2
fraud using unlawfully obtained credit cards	8,021	8,182	-2.0
fraud using unlawfully obtained payment card data	20,700	19,652	5.3
fraudulent obtaining of services	238,547	256,545	-7.0
account opening and transfer fraud	3,621	4,574	-20.8

Offences	Number 2013	Number 2012	Change in %
computer crime	88,722	87,871	1.0
<i>including:</i>			
high-tec/computer crime in the narrower sense	64,426	63,959	0.7
<i>including:</i>			
computer fraud	23,242	24,817	-6.3
fraud involving authorization to access communication services	2,730	2,952	-7.5
falsification of legally relevant data, deception in legal transactions in connection with data processing	9,779	8,539	14.5
alteration of data, computer sabotage	12,766	10,857	17.6
data espionage	15,909	16,794	-5.3
damage to property	621,699	673,704	-7.7
offences against the Aliens Act and the Asylum Procedures Act. and the Freedom of Movement Act/E.U	110,555	89,029	24.2
<i>including:</i>			
illegal entry (border crossing) under the Aliens Act	33,796	26,110	29.4
offences against the Weapons Act	31,440	32,665	-3.8
drug offences - total	253,525	237,150	6.9
suspects - total	2,094,160	2,094,118	<0.1
male	1,555,099	1,562,190	-0.5
female	539,061	531,928	1.3
German suspects - total	1,555,711	1,591,728	-2.3
non-German suspects - total	538,449	502,390	7.2
total suspects by age			
children (<14)	69,275	75,449	-8.2
juveniles (14<18)	190,205	200,257	-5.0
young adults (18<21)	188,670	196,255	-3.9
adults	1,646,010	1,622,157	1.5

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