



ORGANISED CRIME
2008 National Situation Report
- Press-Release Summary -

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2. STATISTICAL OVERVIEW

	2008	2007
<u>Number of investigations</u>	575	602
Initial reports	271	295
Completed investigations	286	289
<u>Total number of suspects</u>	9,472	10,356
Newly identified suspects	4,251	4,630
Total number of nationalities	112	113
Percentage of German suspects	41.7 %	42.1 %
Percentage of non-German suspects	58.3 %	57.9 %
Including:		
⇒ Turkish nationals	9.4 %	10.0 %
⇒ Polish nationals	5.3 %	4.6 %
<u>Heterogeneous offender structures</u>	78.4 %	79.4 %
<u>Homogeneous offender structures</u>	21.6 %	20.6 %
<u>Armed suspects</u>	3.7 %	3.0 %
<u>Groups operating in more than one area of crime</u>	32.2 %	31.9 %
<u>Losses identified</u>	691.3 m €	457.5 m €
<u>Estimated profits</u>	663.2 m €	480.6 m. €
<u>Provisionally seized assets</u>	169.9 m €	38.5 m. €

	2008	2007
<u>Offences with international links</u>	87.7 %	85.2 %
<u>Fields of crime</u>		
⇒ Drug trafficking and smuggling	38.6 %	37.0 %
⇒ Crime associated with the business world	16.9 %	15.4 %
⇒ Property crime	13.7 %	16.6 %
⇒ Tax and customs offences	8.0 %	6.1 %
⇒ Facilitation of illegal immigration	5.6 %	7.0 %
⇒ Crime associated with nightlife	4.9 %	4.7 %
⇒ Counterfeiting/forgery	4.3 %	4.7 %
⇒ Violent crime	3.8 %	4.2 %
⇒ Arms trafficking and smuggling	0.7 %	0.7 %
⇒ Environmental crime	0.3 %	0.5 %
⇒ Others	3.2 %	3.1 %
<u>Investigations including:</u>		
Money laundering activities acc. to section 261 German Penal Code	186	172
Witness protection measures	43	47
Confiscation of assets	155	175

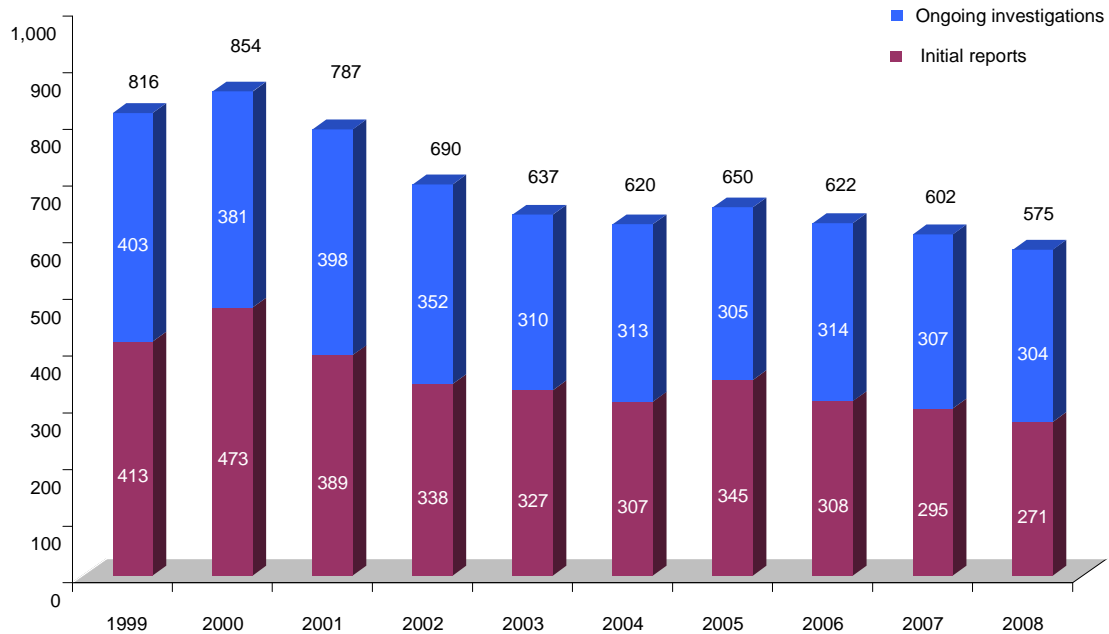
3. THE CRIME SITUATION IN GERMANY

3.1 Investigations

3.1.1 Number of investigations

In the year under review, 575 OC investigations were conducted in Germany. A total of 271 of these investigations were initiated in the year under review (initial reports) and 304 were ongoing investigations instituted in previous years. 286 investigations were completed.

Number of OC investigations



In comparison to the previous year, the number of OC investigations decreased by 4.5 %. The decline in the number of initial reports amounted to -8.1 %.

The table below illustrates the regional distribution of the OC investigations. Assignment of the investigations conducted by the federal authorities to the federal states is based on the location of the respective public prosecutor's office.

	Fed. State	BKA	Fed.Pol.	Customs	Total
North Rhine-Westphalia	58	12	0	9	79
Bavaria	63	4	2	9	78
Berlin	62	3	3	8	76
Lower Saxony	41	7	1	11	60
Hesse	40	11	1	6	58
Baden-Württemberg	44	1	2	5	52
Hamburg	35	2	2	3	42
Saxony	11	1	6	8	26
Rhineland-Palatinate	22	0	1	1	24
Brandenburg	15	0	1	7	23
Schleswig-Holstein	17	0	1	1	19
Saxony-Anhalt	9	0	0	4	13
Mecklenburg-West.-Pomerania	7	1	2	2	12
Saarland	11	1	0	0	12
Thuringia	1	0	0	0	1
Bremen	0	0	0	0	0
Total	436	43	22	74	575

A significant increase in the number of investigations conducted in Berlin and Hamburg is seen alongside with a partly considerable decrease of investigations in North Rhine-Westphalia, Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg. In the year under review, no OC investigation was conducted in the federal state of Bremen (compared to four investigations in 2007). Compared to the previous year, the changes in the figures of the federal authorities were only very slight (BKA: +2, Fed.Pol: -2, Customs: 0).

3.1.2 OC relevance of the investigations

The working definition of "organised crime", adopted by the Working Party of Police and Judicial Authorities (AG Justiz/Polizei) in May 1990, serves as the basis for the selection of the OC investigations relevant for the National Situation Report on Organised Crime.

"Organised crime is the planned commission of criminal offences determined by the pursuit of profit and power which, individually or as a whole, are of considerable importance if more than two persons, each with his/her own assigned tasks, collaborate for a prolonged or indefinite period of time,

- a) by using commercial or business-like structures,
- b) by using force or other means of intimidation or
- c) by exerting influence on politics, the media, public administration, judicial authorities or the business sector."

3.1.5 Confiscation of assets

With approx. 27 % in the year under review, the percentage of investigations, where measures to secure assets were taken, was slightly lower than in the previous year (2007: approximately 29%) and slightly higher than in the years 2003-2006 (2006: 25.9 %, 2005: 25.4 %, 2004: 24.2%, 2003: 25.3%). In this context, assets totalling approximately EUR 169.9 million were provisionally seized (pared to EUR 38.5 million in 2007). This extraordinary increase in assets seized is mainly a consequence of two investigations during which considerable assets in the amount of EUR 85 million and approximately EUR 25.5 million were provisionally seized. The largest amounts were provisionally secured in connection with investigations into crimes associated with the business world (approx. EUR 135.9 million).

3.1.6 Money laundering activities

Money laundering activities

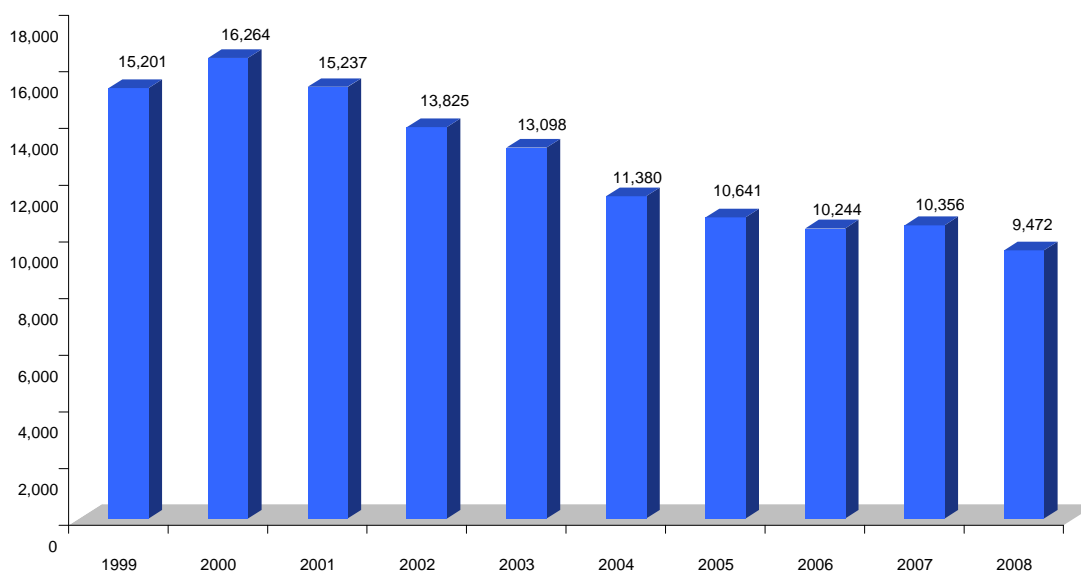
In 241 investigations, information was obtained suggesting money laundering activities (in criminological terms). In 186 cases, investigations were conducted into money laundering pursuant to section 261 of the German Penal Code. In 92 investigations, a total of 511 suspicious transaction reports were filed pursuant to section 11 subsection 1 of the German Money Laundering Act.

3.2 Suspects

Total number of suspects

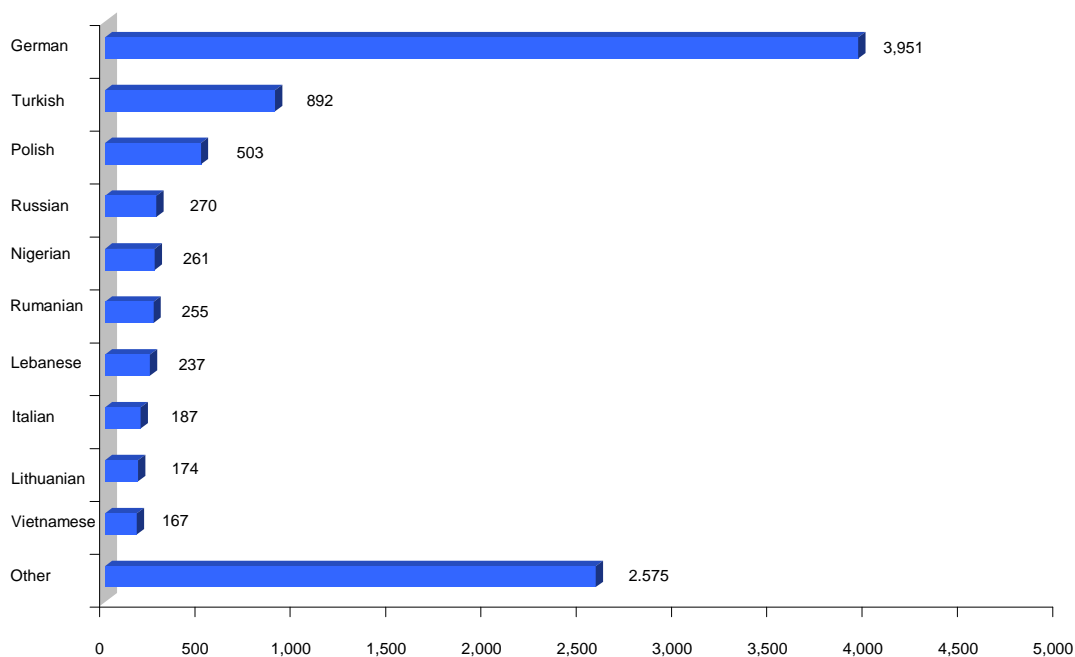
A total of 9,472 suspects were investigated in the year under review (as compared to 10,356 suspects in 2007).

Development of the total number of suspects



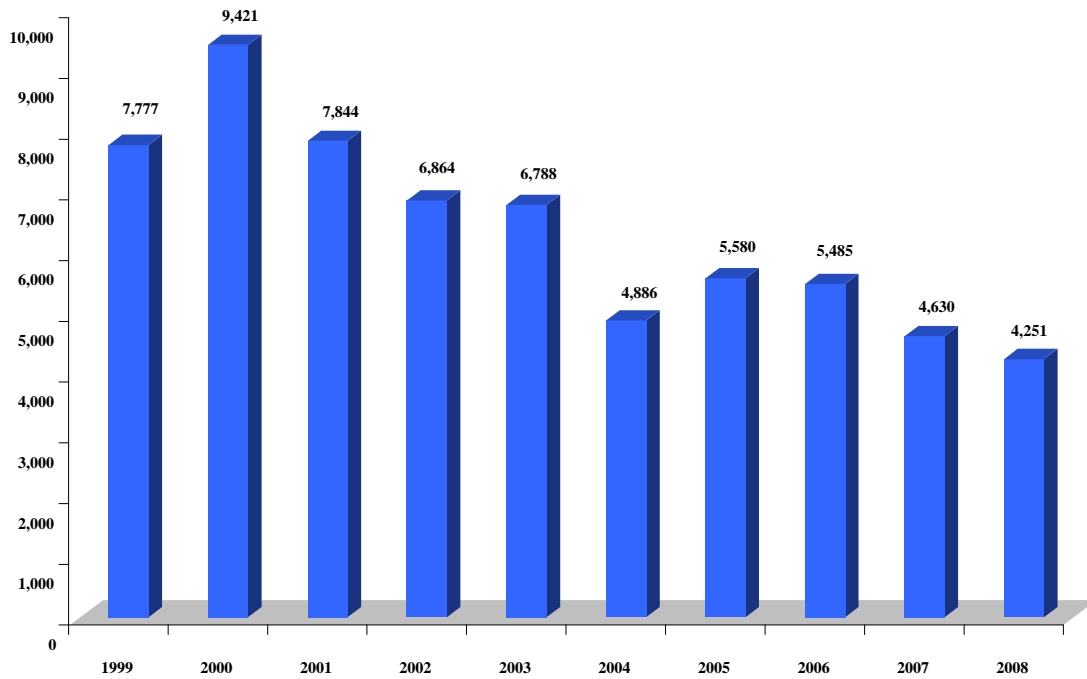
Consequently, the total number of OC suspects dropped by approximately 8.5 % compared to the previous year.

Total number of suspects by nationality



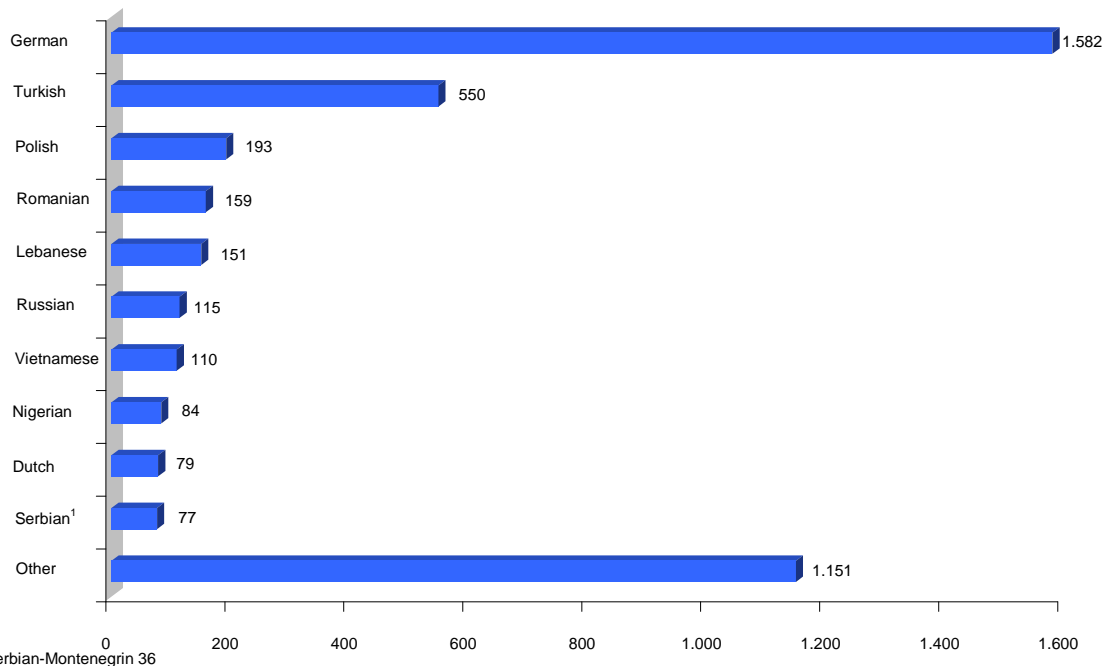
With 41.7 % (compared to 42.1% in 2007), German nationals continued to make up the largest group among the total number of suspects. 22.3 % of the German suspects (compared to 18.4 % in 2007) were nationals of a different country at birth.

Development of the number of newly identified suspects



A decline in the number of suspects identified for the first time was recorded inter alia for German (from 1,859 to 1,582), Polish (from 245 to 193), Nigerian (from 165 to 84) and Russian (from 121 to 73) suspects. On the other hand, significant rises were established for Turkish (from 486 to 550), Romanian (from 101 to 159), Russian (from 63 to 115) and Vietnamese (from 56 to 110) suspects.

Number of newly identified suspects by nationality



¹ Serbian-Montenegrin 36

3.3 Group structures

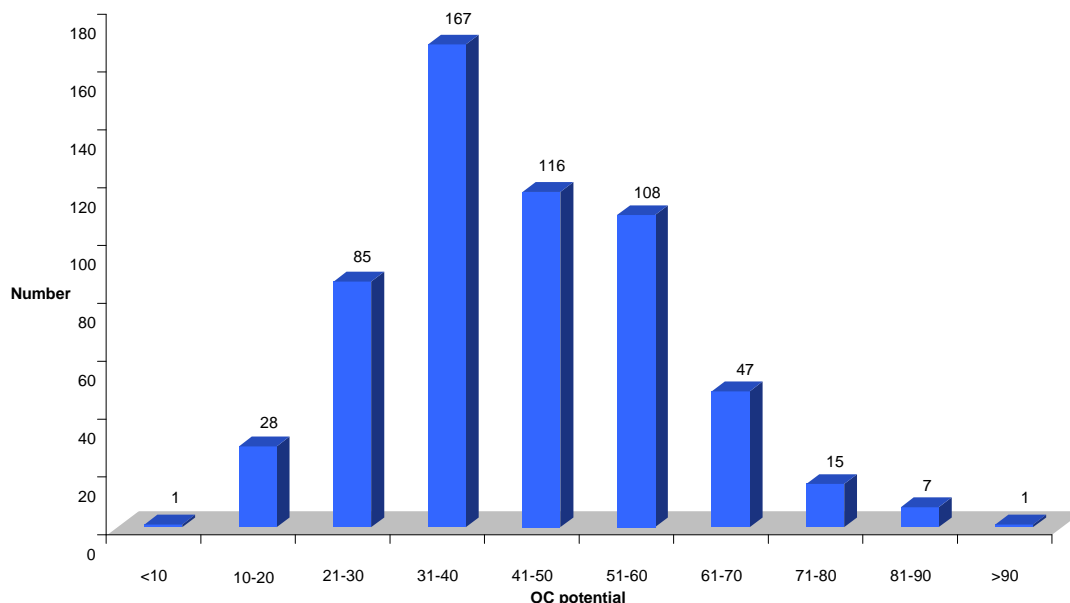
Composition of the groups of perpetrators

As in the previous year, the average number of suspects per group was 17 persons. As in previous years, the proportion of OC groups consisting of more than 50 suspects (23 groups in total, including 8 groups with more than 100 suspects) was relatively small (4 %).

OC potential of the groups of perpetrators

In addition to checking all reported investigations for OC relevance, OC groups are assessed in terms of their level of organisation and professionalism, which is expressed by the so-called "OC potential". The OC potential is calculated by counting and weighting the applicable indicators taken from the list of "General indicators for identifying OC-relevant cases".

Classification of the groups according to their OC potential

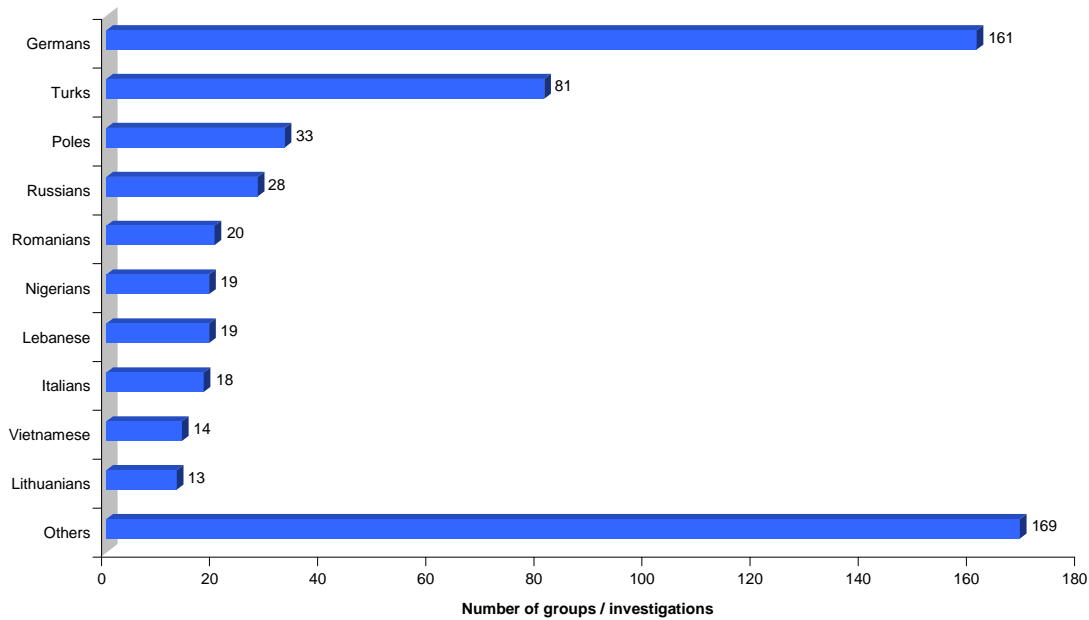


The average OC potential of all groups amounted to 43.7 points and was therefore only slightly higher than in previous years (43.3 points in 2007, 42.9 points in 2006, 42.3 points in 2005, 41.3 points in 2004 and 41.5 points in 2003). Likewise, the distribution of the values among the different categories has only changed slightly for years. Groups with a medium level of OC potential continue to make up the largest proportion by far. On the other hand, the percentage of groups with a comparatively high OC potential has been relatively low for years.

Dominating ethnicities and phenomena

The following chart illustrates the investigations into OC groups broken down by ethnic criteria. For classification purposes, the decisive criterion is the ethnic group that determines the criminal activity of the group without necessarily representing the majority of group members.

Group structures



As in previous years, organised crime in Germany was dominated by German and Turkish OC groups. These are followed by Polish and Russian OC groups. However, the ranking order of the following nationalities frequently changes.

In the year under review, the number of Turkish (2007: 77), Russian (2007: 23), Lebanese (2007: 13), Vietnamese (2007: 11) and Lithuanian OC groups (2007: 10) rose, whereas the number of German (2007: 181), Italian (2007: 19) and Nigerian (2007: 20) OC groups dropped. Compared to the previous year, the number of Romanian OC groups remained constant at 20.

The following table provides an overview of the most important data concerning suspects and groups (figures for the previous year in brackets):

Dominating nationality	No. of groups/ investigations	OC potential	Total number of suspects	Proportion of the total number of suspects	Newly identified suspects
German	161 (181)	46.8 (42.9)	3,951 (4,356)	41.7 % (42.1 %)	1,582 (1,859)
Turkish	81 (77)	40.5 (43.2)	892 (1.037)	9.4 % (10.0 %)	550 (486)
Polish	33 (35)	41.4 (43.3)	503 (481)	5.3 % (4.6 %)	193 (245)
Russian	28 (23)	42.6 (47.5)	270 (226)	2.9 % (2.2 %)	115 (63)
Romanian	20 (20)	43.5 (40.4)	255 (213)	2.7 % (2.1 %)	159 (101)
Lebanese	19 (13)	41.4 (45.0)	237 (344)	2.5 % (3.3 %)	151 (123)
Nigerian	19 (20)	44.9 (44.7)	261 (300)	2.8 % (2.9 %)	84 (165)
Italian	18 (19)	43.4 (49.3)	187 (294)	2.0 % (2.8 %)	73 (91)
Vietnamese	14 (11)	44.9 (41.2)	167 (95)	1.8 % (0.9 %)	110 (56)
Lithuanian	13 (10)	41.1 (41.8)	174 (188)	1.8 % (1.8 %)	73 (121)
Bosnian-Herzegov.	12 (13)	39.2 (46.7)	90 (125)	1.0 % (1.2 %)	32 (80)
Serbian	12 (7)	42.3 (42.0)	111 (88)	1.2 % (0.8 %)	77 (57)
Serbian-Montenegr.	12 (19)	49.1 (52.8)	130 (258)	1.4 % (2.5 %)	36 (82)
Iraqi	9 (5)	36.4 (30.9)	133 (73)	1.4 % (0.7 %)	73 (58)

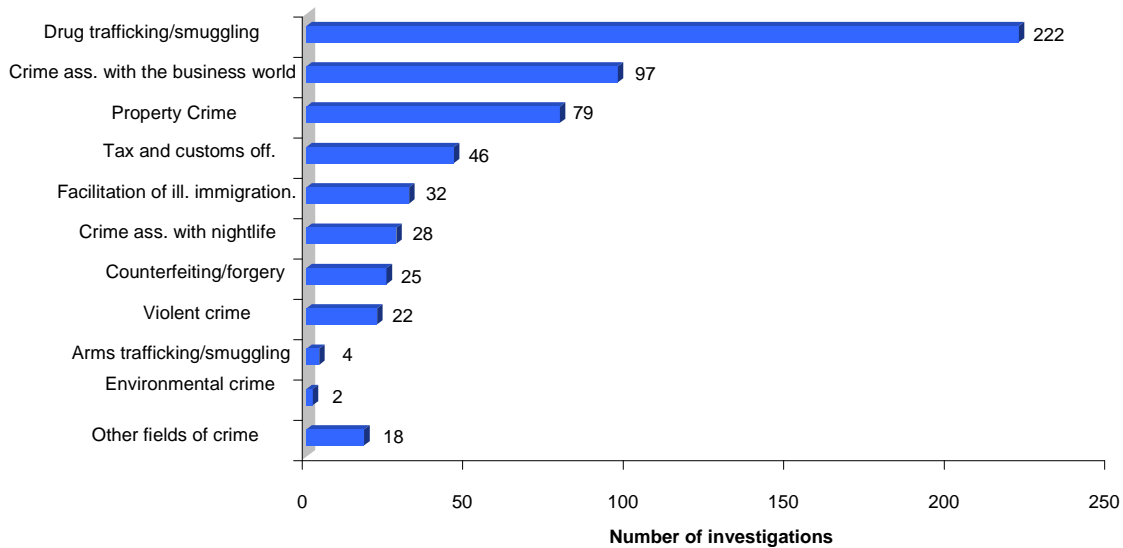
3.3.1 OC groups dominated by German nationals

The proportion of German suspects (41.7 %) remained at the same level as in the previous year. When considering the percentage of German nationals involved in organised crime, it has to be taken into account that, at birth, a substantial number of German suspects were nationals of a country other than Germany.

In the year under review, 881 German suspects (22.3 %) had a different nationality when born. In comparison to the previous year (2007: 18.4 %), the percentage rose. As in the past years under review, the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, Turkey and Poland continued to be the most important countries of origin of these suspects.

3.4 Fields of crime

Main fields of crime of the OC groups



With a percentage of 38.6%, drug trafficking and smuggling continued to make up the largest share of organised crime in Germany. Besides, offences associated with the business world (16.9%) and property-related offences (13.7%) are of particular importance. Their ranking order changed, as investigations concerning crime associated with the business world are now number two in comparison to the previous year. Facilitation of illegal immigration and tax and customs offences also moved to another position of the ranking order, since investigations concerning tax and customs offences are now number four and facilitation of illegal immigration has dropped to number five.

The importance of the other fields of crime is largely similar to the distribution of previous years.

The following table provides an overview of the most important data concerning the different fields of crime (figures for the previous year in brackets):

Fields of crime	Number of groups/ investigations	Percentage in relation to OC in total	OC potential of the groups
Drug trafficking/smuggling	222 (223)	38.6 % (37.0 %)	43.1 (44.0)
Crime associated with the business world	97 (93)	16.9 % (15.4 %)	45.8 (44.3)
Property crime	79 (100)	13.7 % (16.6 %)	44.1 (41.7)
Tax and customs offences	46 (37)	8.0 % (6.1 %)	43.9 (44.8)
Facilitation of illegal immigration	32 (42)	5.6 % (7.0 %)	38.5 (36.3)
Crime associated with nightlife	28 (28)	4.9 % (4.7 %)	47.7 (48.3)
Counterfeiting/forgery	25 (28)	4.3 % (4.7 %)	33.4 (36.1)
Violent crime	22 (25)	3.8 % (4.2 %)	48.8 (46.1)
Arms trafficking/smuggling	4 (4)	0.7 % (0.7 %)	34.5 (39.8)
Environmental crime	2 (3)	0.3 % (0.5 %)	66.2 (56.6)
Other fields of crime	18 (19)	3.1 % (3.2 %)	47.2 (49.0)

Modi operandi

In the year under review, 32.2 % of the groups of perpetrators were active in more than one field of crime. Thus, there was a further increase in comparison to the previous years (31.9 % in 2007 and 24.6% in 2006).

Groups active in more than one field of crime continued to display, on average, a higher OC potential than groups active in only one field of crime (49.6 points compared to 40.9 points).

A total of 504 (87.7 %) of the investigations analysed showed links to other countries, i.e. at least one crime scene was located outside Germany. There were supraregional links in 51 investigations (8.9 %), while merely regional links were established in 20 investigations (3.5 %).

The international links referred to a total of 120 countries. The modi operandi established involved above all the Netherlands (182 investigations), Poland (103), Italy (95), Belgium (85), Spain (83), Turkey (80), Switzerland (79), France (78) and Austria (76). The high number of investigations involving the Netherlands results from the particular role the Netherlands play in drug crime.

3.4.1 Drug trafficking and smuggling

As in previous years, OC groups in Germany were mainly active in the field of drug trafficking and smuggling, the proportion of which continued to increase over the past years (32.1 % in 2004, 34.6 % in 2005, 35.2 % in 2006, 37% in 2007 and 38.6% in 2008).

Drug trafficking and smuggling are still dominated by German and Turkish OC groups, although the proportion of groups dominated by German nationals continued to drop (26.9% in 2007 and 34.4% in 2006).

3.4.2 Crime associated with the business world

In addition to drug trafficking and smuggling, crime associated with the business world also belongs to the dominating fields of crime and accounts for 16.9 % of all OC investigations (in comparison to 15.4 % in 2007). In the previous year, crime associated with the business world was still preceded by property crime but meanwhile, it has risen to number two of the ranking list.

In the period under review, losses totalling approx. EUR 467 million were caused (compared to EUR 327 million in 2007). The profits were estimated at approx. EUR 390 million (compared to EUR 235 million in 2007). During the year under review, mainly investment offences (19 investigations), financing offences (9 investigations), insolvency offences (six investigations) and offences related to fraudulent account opening (six investigations) were committed. In particular, the increase in investigations concerning investment offences (14 investigations in 2007) and the decrease in financing offences (16 investigations in 2007) should be emphasized. Furthermore, computer fraud (four investigations), labour offences (three investigations) and competition-related offences (three investigations) played a role within the field of crime associated with the business world.

Offence-specific modi operandi are still dominant and account for approx. 62 % of the investigations (compared to approximately 72 % in 2007) but modi operandi involving more than one area of crime increased significantly.

With 49.5 %, the proportion of German OC groups was higher than in the years 2007 (47.3%) and 2006 (45.2 %).

3.4.3 Property crime

With a proportion of almost 13.7 % (approximately 17 % in 2007), property crime is now the third largest field of crime, following crime associated with the business world.

The main emphasis is placed on motor vehicle-related property offences (52 out of 79 investigations). In most cases, vehicles were stolen in Germany and transported to Ukraine, Russia, Poland or Lithuania.

3.4.4 Tax and customs offences

In the year under review, a total of 46 OC investigations were conducted in the field of tax and customs offences (37 in 2007 and 47 in 2006).

Cigarette smuggling (30 investigations) continued to be the main activity of OC groups operating in this area. The investigations mainly concerned cigarette smuggling from Russia and Ukraine to Germany via Poland.

Further main activities were tax offences, in particular offences related to turnover tax and petroleum tax as well as alcohol smuggling.

With approx. 89.1 %, the proportion of groups focusing on one specific type of crime was very high, as in previous years. In particular, OC groups dominated by German, Polish, Vietnamese and Russian nationals were of importance.

3.4.5 Facilitation of illegal immigration

In the year under review, 32 groups, whose main activity was facilitation of illegal immigration, were under investigation (compared to 42 groups in 2007 and 51 groups in 2006). A conspicuously high number of OC groups dominated by Iraqi nationals (eight groups) and Vietnamese nationals (eight groups) have been identified.

As a logical consequence, the illegal immigrants identified in the investigations conducted during the year under review primarily stemmed from Vietnam and Iraq. Most of the Vietnamese illegal immigrants were smuggled to the United Kingdom and Germany. The “most popular” destination countries of the Iraqi illegal immigrants were Sweden, Denmark and Germany.

