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
- carry out socio-criminological research, criminal police and preventive 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 punishable attempts to commit an offence and drug offences processed by the customs authorities. The PCS do not cover state security offences, traffic offences (except 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 Länder. 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 2015[1]

1. In general

The total number of recorded criminal offences increased by 4.1 % compared to the previous year (2015: 6.331m cases, 2014: 6,082m cases). The total number of recorded criminal offences excluding offences against foreigners law remained almost unchanged (2015: 5,928m cases, 2014: 5,926m cases)

2. Clear-up rate (CR)

The total clear-up rate is 56.3 %/53.4 % (2014: 54.9 %/53.7 %). The CR for murder and manslaughter is particularly high at 94.8 %, as is the case with regard to crimes related to services, especially transport fraud 99.4% and welfare 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 14.1 %.

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 7,530/7,337 (2014) to 7,797/7,301 (2015) cases per 100,000 inhabitants. This is equivalent to a change of +3.5/-0.5 %.

4. Suspects

In 2015 the number of suspects changed to 2,369,036 /2,011,898 (+10.2%/-0.6 % 2014: 2,149,504/2,023,623), 587,648/507,761 of whom were female suspects (24.4% /25.2 %). The percentage of child suspects changed by +16.2 %/-8.1 %, the percentage of juvenile suspects (14 to under 18-year-olds), by +14.5 %/-4.6 %, and young adults (18 to under 21-year-ods), +by +20.4 %/+0.7 %.

Violent crimes by juvenile suspects decreased in 2015 with a total of 20,220 (2014: 21,646). This does also apply to dangerous and serious bodily injury, where 15,578 suspects were recorded (2014: 16,485).

5. Trends in some fields of crime

Crime fields where a fall in numbers was registered:

- street crime by 1.0 % to 1,329,070 cases (2014: 1,342,905 cases);
- damage to property by 4.0 % to 577,017 cases (2014: 601,112 cases);
- theft of bicycles by 1.3 % to 335,174 cases (2014: 339,760 cases);
- non-payment of a fuel bill by 7.8 % to 79,605 cases (2014: 86,358 cases);
- economic crime by 3.5 % to 60,977 cases (2014: 63,194 cases);
- (other forms of) social security fraud by 19.3 % to 17,742 cases (2014: 21,992 cases).

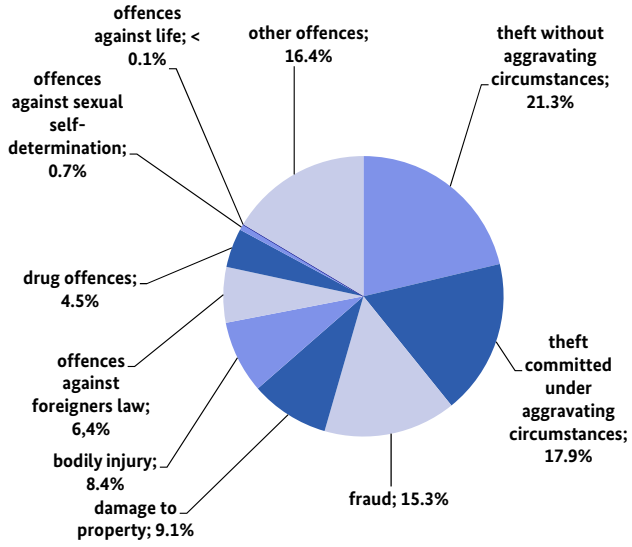
There was an increase in the following crime fields:

- offences against the Residence Act, the Asylum Procedures Act and the Freedom of Movement Act/EU by 157.5 % to 402,741 cases (2014: 156,396 cases);
- shopliftings by 7.1 % to 391,402 cases (2014: 365,373 cases);
- pickpocketing by 7.0 % to 168,142 cases (2014: 157,069 cases);
- theft by burglary of a dwelling by 9.9 % to 167,136 incidents (2014: 152,123 cases);
- drug offences - Narcotics Act by 2.1 % to 282,604 cases (2014: 276,734 cases).

III. Brief information "PCS 2015"

1. Total recorded crime 2015

Break-down of offences in total offences = 6,330,649 cases



[1] The figures for "total number of crimes" and the figures for "total number of crimes excluding violations of foreigners law" are separated by a dash, unless stated otherwise.

2. Brief overview of crime trends and suspects

Offence	Number 2015	Number 2014	Change in %
total offences	6,330,649	6,082,064	4.1
cases cleared up	3,564,811	3,336,398	6.8
total offences excluding offences against aliens legislation	5,927,908	5,925,668	0.0
cases cleared up	3,163,331	3,181,194	-0.6
violent crime - total	181,386	180,955	0.2
including:			
murder and manslaughter	2,116	2,179	-2.9
rape and aggravated sexual coercion (sects. 177 (2, 3 and 4), 178 PC)	7,022	7,345	-4.4
robberies	44,666	45,475	-1.8
dangerous and serious bodily injury, female genital mutilation	127,395	125,752	1.3
(intentional simple) bodily injury	375,541	374,576	0.3
street crime	1,329,070	1,342,905	-1.0
theft offences - total	2,483,694	2,440,060	1.8
including:			
motor vehicle theft	36,507	36,388	0.3
theft of bicycles	335,174	339,760	-1.3
theft of non-cash means of payment	153,968	144,358	6.7
from the interior / exterior of motor vehicles	131,636	136,120	-3.3
shoplifting	391,401	365,373	7.1
theft in/from office, workshops, storage premises etc.	333,248	332,773	0.1
theft in/from dwellings	221,708	207,561	6.8
including:			
theft by burglary of a dwelling	167,136	152,123	9.9
fraud offences - total	966,326	968,866	-0.3
including:			
obtaining goods by fraud or fraudulent failure to supply goods as agreed	306,246	292,031	4.9
fraudulent obtaining of services	279,144	274,322	1.8
fraud using unlawfully obtained debit cards without PIN	18,487	16,069	15.0
fraud using unlawfully obtained credit cards	8,505	8,840	-3.8
fraud using unlawfully obtained payment card data	14,657	17,348	-15.5
account opening and transfer fraud	24,971	25,400	-1.7
damage to property	577,017	601,112	-4.0
offences against the Weapons Act	30,004	30,785	-2.5
drug offences - total	282,604	276,734	2.1

Offence	Number 2015	Number 2014	Change in %
computer crime	70,068	73,907	-5.2
including:			
high-tech/ computer crime in the narrower sense	45,793	49,925	-8.3
thereof:			
computer fraud	23,562	22,308	5.6
fraud involving authorization to access communication services	1,878	2,054	-8.6
falsification of legally relevant data. deception in legal transactions in connection with data processing	7,187	8,009	-10.3
alteration of data, computer sabotage	3,537	5,667	-37.6
data espionage	9,629	11,887	-19.0
offences against the Residence Act and the Asylum Procedures Act and the Freedom of Movement Act/EU	402,741	156,396	157.5
including:			
illegal entry (border crossing) under the Residence Act	154,188	49,714	210.2

Suspects	Number 2015	Number 2014	Change in %
suspects – total (total offences)	2,369,036	2,149,504	10.2
male	1,781,388	1,597,241	11.5
female	587,648	552,263	6.4
German suspects	1,457,172	1,532,112	-4.9
non-German suspects	911,864	617,392	47.7
suspects – total (total offences excluding offences against foreigners law)	2,011,898	2,023,623	-0.6
male	1,504,137	1,505,753	-0.1
female	507,761	517,870	-2.0
German suspects	1,456,078	1,531,013	-4.9
non-German suspects	555,820	492,610	12.8
including:			
* immigrants	114,238	59,912	90.7

* Immigrants within the meaning of this brochure are suspects who are asylum applicants, on exceptional leave to stay, quota or civil war refugees or irregulars.

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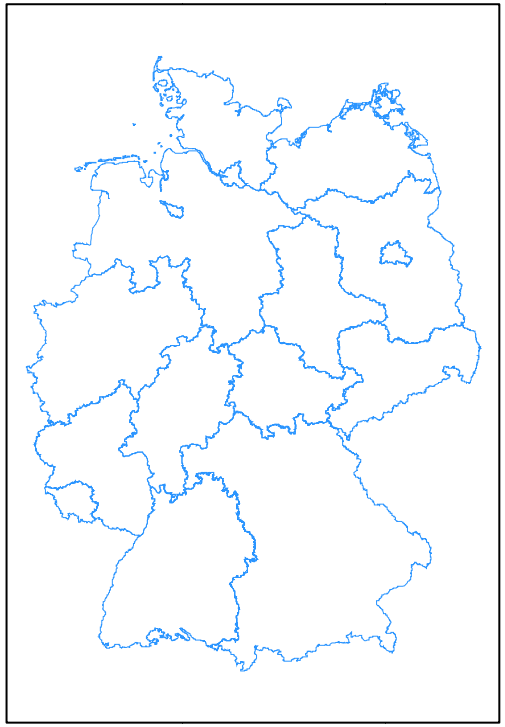
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