

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. 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 24% of the offences included in the PCS for 2016 were committed in 2015 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 2016¹

1. In general

The total number of recorded criminal offences increased by 0.7% compared to the previous year (2016: 6.373m cases, 2015: 6.331m cases). The total number of recorded criminal offences excluding offences against foreigners law decreased by 0.7 % compared to the previous year (2016: 5.885m cases 2015: 5.928m cases).

2. Clear-up rate (CR)

The total clear-up rate is 56.2%/54.0% (2015: 56.3%/53.4%). The CR for murder and manslaughter is particularly high at 94.6%, as is the case with regard to crimes related to services, especially fare evasion 99.2% and social benefits fraud 99.4%.

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 14.6%.

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 7,797/7,301 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in 2015 to 7,755/7,161 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in 2016. This is equivalent to a reduction of 0.5%/1.9%.

4. Suspects

In 2016 the number of suspects changed to 2,360,806/2,022,414 (-0.3%/+0.5 % 2015: 2,369,036/2,011,898). Of the total, 593,067/495,849 were female suspects (25.1%/24.5%). The percentage of child suspects (6 to under 14-year-olds) changed by +14.2%/-2.6%, the percentage of juvenile suspects (14 to under 18-year-olds), by -3.8%/+1.3%, and young adults (18 to under 21-year-olds), by +0.3%/+2.1%.

Violent crimes by juvenile suspects increased in 2016 to a total of 22,646 (2015: 20,220). This also applies to dangerous and serious bodily injury, where 18,156 juvenile suspects were recorded (2015: 15,578).

5. Significant changes compared to the previous year

The number of the following offences decreased:

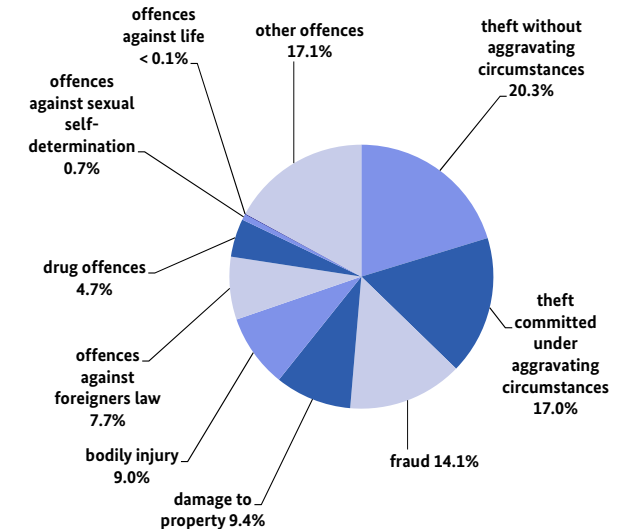
- theft by burglary of a dwelling by 9.5% to 151,265 cases (2015: 167,136 cases)
- shoplifting by 3.3% to 378,448 cases (2015: 391,401 cases)
- economic crime by 5.6% to 57,546 cases (2015: 60,977 cases)

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.

The number of the following offences increased:

- violent crime by 6.7% to 193,542 cases (2015: 181,386 cases)
- drug offences by 7.1% to 302,594 cases (2015: to 282,604 cases)
- offences violating the Weapons Act by 14.8% to 34,443 cases (2015: 30,004 cases)

6. Offences by type as % of total offences (6,372,526 cases)



7. Brief overview of suspects and crime trends

Suspects	Number 2016	Number 2015	Change in %
suspects – total (total offences)	2,360,806	2,369,036	-0.3
male	1,767,739	1,781,388	-0.8
female	593,067	587,648	0.9
German suspects	1,407,062	1,457,172	-3.4
non-German suspects	953,744	911,864	4.6
suspects – total (total offences excluding offences against foreigners law)	2,022,414	2,011,898	0.5
male	1,526,565	1,504,137	1.5
female	495,849	507,761	-2.3
German suspects	1,406,184	1,456,078	-3.4
non-German suspects	616,230	555,820	10.9
including:			
* immigrants	174,438	114,238	52.7

* Immigrants within the meaning of this brochure are suspects who are asylum applicants, quota or civil war refugees or irregular immigrants or whose deportation has been temporarily suspended.

Offence	Number 2016	Number 2015	Change in %
total offences	6,372,526	6,330,649	0.7
total offences excluding offences against foreigners law	5,884,815	5,927,908	-0.7
violent crime - total	193,542	181,386	6.7
<i>including:</i>			
murder, manslaughter and killing a person at his own request	2,418	2,116	14.3
rape and aggravated sexual coercion	7,919	7,022	12.8
robberies	43,009	44,666	-3.7
dangerous and serious bodily injury	140,033	127,395	9.9
intentional simple bodily injury	406,038	375,541	8.1
street crime	1,316,866	1,329,070	-0.9
theft offences - total	2,373,774	2,483,694	-4.4
<i>including:</i>			
motor vehicle theft	36,388	36,507	-0.3
theft of bicycles	332,486	335,174	-0.8
theft of non-cash means of payment	140,907	153,968	-8.5
from the interior / exterior of motor vehicles	313,918	333,248	-5.8
shoplifting	378,448	391,401	-3.3
theft by burglary of a dwelling	151,265	167,136	-9.5
pickpocketing	164,771	168,142	-2.0
fraud offences – total *)	899,043	966,326	-7.0
<i>including:</i>			
merchandise fraud and merchandise credit fraud	294,169	306,246	-3.9
non-payment of a fuel bill	71,516	79,605	-10.2
fraudulent obtaining of services	246,171	279,144	-11.8
economic crime	57,546	60,977	-5.6
damage to property	596,367	577,017	3.4
offences against the Weapons Act	34,443	30,004	14.8
drug offences	302,594	282,604	7.1

Offence	Number 2016	Number 2015	Change in %
computer crime *)	107,751	70,068	x
<i>including:</i>			
high-tech/ computer crime in the narrower sense	82,649	45,793	x
<i>including:</i>			
falsification of legally relevant data, deception in legal transactions in connection with data processing	8,158	7,187	13.5
alteration of data, computer sabotage	4,422	3,537	25.0
data espionage	10,638	9,629	10.5
offences against foreigners law	487,711	402,741	21.1
<i>including:</i>			
unauthorised entry (border crossing) under the Residence Act	248,878	154,188	61.4

Note:

For a more detailed presentation of the police crime statistics for 2016, especially regarding specific crimes/categories of crimes, with individual PCS tables, please visit the BKA website at www.bka.de.

*) Starting in 2016, categories of fraud have been further differentiated in the PCS, so statistics on fraud and computer fraud are not entirely comparable to those of the previous year.

x = Due to changes in the way statistics are collected and/or offences are defined, no comparison between the reporting year and the previous year is possible.

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