

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 to
- 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 24.5 % of the offences included in the PCS for 2023 were committed in 2022 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 2023

1. In general

The total number of recorded criminal offences increased by 5.5 % compared to the previous year (2023: 5,940,667 cases, 2022: 5,628,584 cases).

2. Clear-up rate (CR)

The total clear-up rate is 58.4 % (2022: 57.3 %). The CR for murder and manslaughter is particularly high at 93.9 %, as is the case with regard to crimes related to services, especially fare evasion 98.6 % and social benefits fraud 98.1 %.

The CR (31.8 %) for theft offences is particularly low.

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 6,762.1 (2022) to 7,042.1 (2023). This corresponds to an increase of 4.1%.

4. Suspects

In 2023 the number of suspects changed to 2,246,767 % (+ 7.3 %, 2022: 2,093,782). Of the total, 571.226 were female suspects (25.4 %). The number of child suspects (6 to under 14-year-olds) changed by + 12.0 %, the number of juvenile suspects (14 to under 18-year-olds), by + 9.5 % and young adults (18 to under 21-year-olds) by + 6.5 %. Violent crimes by juvenile suspects increased in 2023 to a total of 30,244 (2022: 26,441).

5. Significant changes compared to the previous year

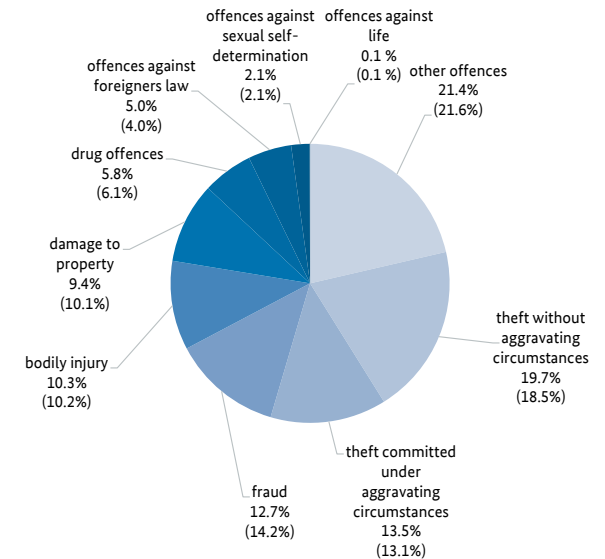
The number of the following offences increased:

- economic crime (-46.8 %, -34,189 offences)
- alteration of data, computer sabotage (-33.6 %, - 1,158 offences)
- falsification of legally relevant data, deception in legal transactions in connection with data processing (- 21.1 %, - 2,757 offences)
- data espionage, interception of data including preparatory acts and handling stolen data (- 17.6 %, - 2,330 offences)
- fraud (- 5.9 %, - 46,923 offences), including
 - fraud by obtaining service on credit (- 16.3 %, - 804 offences)
 - merchandise fraud and merchandise credit fraud (-7.5 %, - 21,268 offences)

The number of the following offences decreased:

- computer fraud using unlawfully obtained payment card data (+ 60.3 %, + 8,130 offences)
- offences against the Residence Act, the Asylum Act and the Freedom of Movement Act E.U. (+ 32.4 %, + 73,080 offences), including
 - unauthorised entry (border crossing) (+ 40.4 %, + 26,822 offences)
 - unauthorised stay (+ 28.6 %, + 41,564 offences)
- dissemination, acquisition, possession and production of juvenile pornographic content (+ 31.2 %, + 2,105 offences)
- cocaine including crack (+ 29.1 %, + 8,322 offences)
- total number of shopliftings (+ 23.6 %, + 81,427 offences)

6. Offences by type as % of total offences (5,628,584 cases)



7. Brief overview of suspects and crime trends

Suspects	Number 2023	Number 2022	Change in %
suspects – total (total offences)	2,246,767	2,093,782	7.3
male	1,675,541	1,565,240	7.0
female	571,226	528,542	8.1
German suspects	1,323,498	1,309,906	1.0
non-German suspects	923,269	783,876	17.8

Offence	Number 2023	Number 2022	Change in %
total offences	5,940,667	5,628,584	5.5
total offences excluding offences against foreigners law	5,641,758	5,402,755	4.4
violent crime - total	214,099	197,202	8.6
<i>including:</i>			
murder, manslaughter and killing a person at his own request	2,282	2,236	2.1
rape, sexual coercion and sexual assault in especially serious cases including resulting in death	12,186	11,896	2.4
robberies	44,857	38,195	17.4
dangerous and serious bodily injury	154,541	144,663	6.8
intentional simple bodily injury	429,157	399,699	7.4
sexual abuse of children	16,375	15,520	5.5
street crime	1,114,817	1,084,688	2.8
dissemination of writings depicting pornography	59,205	54,188	9.3
theft offences - total	1,971,435	1,780,783	10.7
<i>including:</i>			
motor vehicle theft	29,985	25,511	17.5
theft of bicycles	264,062	265,562	-0.6
theft of non-cash means of payment	106,849	97,789	9.3
theft from the interior / exterior of motor vehicles	253,695	235,732	7.6
shoplifting	426,096	344,669	23.6
theft by burglary of a dwelling	77,819	65,908	18.1
pickpocketing	109,314	98,512	11.0
fraud offences – total	754,489	801,412	-5.9
<i>including:</i>			
merchandise fraud and merchandise credit fraud	262,052	283,320	-7.5
non-payment of a fuel bill	96,435	85,260	13.1
fraudulent obtaining of services	148,218	133,915	10.7
economic crime	38,925	73,114	-46.8
damage to property	556,189	568,887	-2.2

Offence	Number 2023	Number 2022	Change in %
offences against the Weapons Act	35,799	33,685	6.3
drug offences	346,877	340,677	1.8
Cybercrime*)	134,407	136,865	-1.8
<i>including:</i>			
falsification of legally relevant data, deception in legal transactions in connection with data processing	10,286	13,043	-21.1
alteration of data, computer sabotage	2,293	3,451	-33.6
data espionage, interception of data and handling stolen data	10,876	13,206	-17.6
computer fraud (sect 263a PC)	110,952	107,165	3.5
<i>including:</i>			
computer fraud using unlawfully obtained payment card data (sect, 263a PC)	21,617	13,487	60.3
fraud by obtaining service on credit (sect, 263a PC)	4,114	4,918	-16.3
offences against foreigners' law	298,909	225,829	32.4
<i>including:</i>			
unauthorised entry (border crossing) under the Residence Act	93,158	66,336	40.4
unauthorised stay under the Residence Act	187,059	145,495	28.6

Note:

For a more detailed presentation of the police crime statistics for 2023, especially regarding specific crimes/categories of crimes, with individual PCS tables, please visit the BKA website at www.bka.de.

*) = Content-related change, a comparison with the previous year may be possible in a limited way

Version: V 1,0

Published by:

Bundeskriminalamt
Abteilung IZ / Referat IZ 33
65173 Wiesbaden
www.bka.de



Federal Criminal Police Office



Police Crime Statistics 2023

Federal Republic of Germany