

Crime and Criminal Justice, 2006-2009

Recent work to improve the comparability of statistics on crime and criminal justice reveals some significant developments in criminality in the European Union. This analysis is based on the number of offences recorded by the police for the period 2006-2009 (see Figure 1), with some reference to earlier trends.

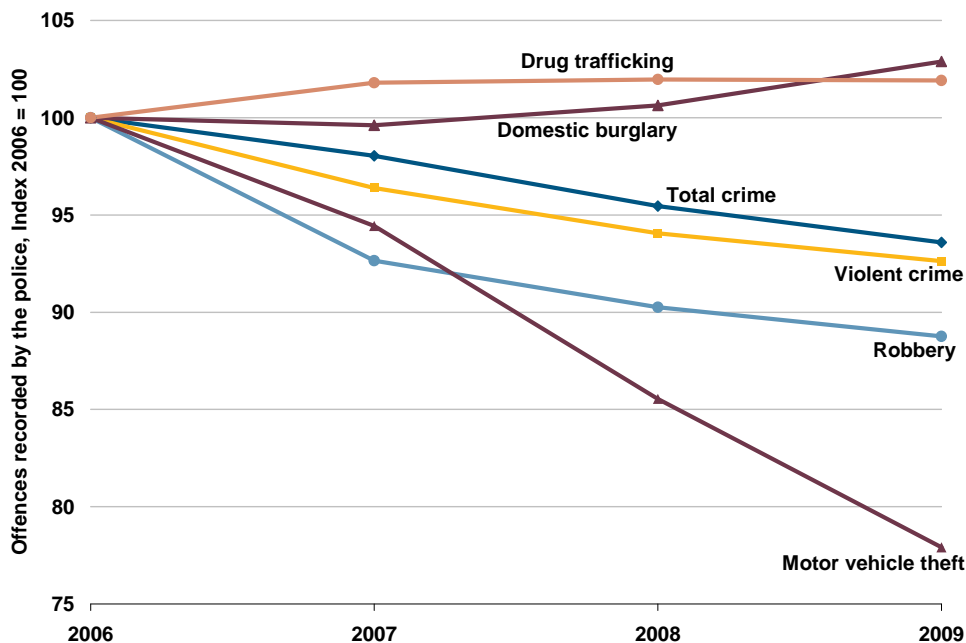
The number of crimes recorded by the police in the European Union has fallen constantly since about 2002, but during the period 2006-2009 this trend showed signs of slowing down. Towards the end of this period, the police recorded more crimes in a number of Member States (particularly, for domestic burglary and drug trafficking).

On the other hand the type of recorded crime which showed the most substantial decrease was theft of motor vehicles.

The highest homicide rates are found in Lithuania and Estonia, and the lowest in Austria, Slovenia, Germany and Spain. Homicide rates for the major cities tend to mirror the national trends while being, in general, rather higher.

The largest prison populations relative to the number of inhabitants are in Latvia and Estonia whereas the smallest are Iceland, Finland, Denmark and Slovenia.

Figure 1: Recorded crime trends in the European Union, 2006-2009*



* for countries where consistent time series are available (25 or 26 EU Member States).

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [crim_gen](#))

Crimes recorded by the police

Introduction

The crime statistics in this publication cover offences recorded by the police in the EU Member States and other countries.

There are differences between countries in systems of legal and criminal justice; in definitions of crimes⁽¹⁾; methods of reporting, recording and counting crimes; and the proportion of reported to unreported crime⁽²⁾. So it is not usually possible to make direct comparisons of crime types and levels between countries: a picture has to be built up by considering trends over time (assuming that background circumstances remain unchanged).

It should also be recognised that these crime figures cannot provide a full description of the extent of crime in Europe as some crime goes unreported, and trends for particular offences may reflect the focus of police activity in those areas.

The EU Safety Survey (due to be conducted in 2013) will provide additional knowledge of crime in the EU. This victim survey will have standardised features which will make it possible to extract EU-wide comparable statistics on people's experience of crime.

Total crime (Table 1)

The figures for total crime⁽³⁾ include offences against the penal or criminal code. Less serious crimes (misdemeanours) are generally excluded.

In most EU countries, crime levels have been decreasing consistently since about 2002 (see Figure 2). This trend continued in the EU as a whole in the period 2006 to 2009, though the tendency was upwards in a number of individual Member States, including Romania, Luxembourg, Denmark, Sweden, Portugal and Finland. Rises were also recorded in Iceland and Liechtenstein.

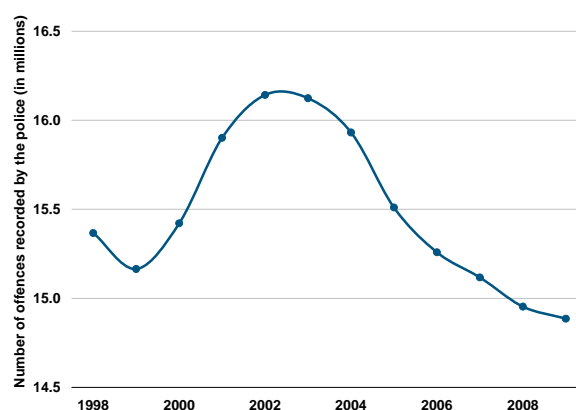
The countries where the decrease in total crime has remained most noticeable since 2006 are Malta, the United Kingdom, Greece, Poland and Cyprus. But underlying these general tendencies there are considerable differences in the development of specific types of crime.

⁽¹⁾ For example, Greece, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Iceland and Liechtenstein do not distinguish "domestic burglary", and count all burglary (in shops, garages etc.). Their figures cannot therefore be compared directly with other countries which only include burglary in a dwelling.

⁽²⁾ For further details of the factors which influence the crime figures, please consult the Methodological Notes on page 15.

⁽³⁾ The figures for violent crime, property crime and drugs offences do not show a complete breakdown of total crime; they are presented as a closer look at selected offences.

Figure 2: Trend for total recorded crime, 1998-2009*



* for countries where consistent time series are available (about a half of the EU Member States).

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [crim_gen](#))

Violent crime (Table 2)

The figures for violent crime include violence against the person (such as physical assault), robbery (stealing by force or threat of force) and sexual offences (including rape and sexual assault). Close analysis of this class of crime is made more difficult because not all Member States use the standard definition but the general trends show a decline in the EU of about 7% for the period 2006-2009 in the number of these offences reported to the police.

At country level, the picture is mixed, with significant rises in Cyprus, Denmark, Luxembourg, Greece and Sweden and notable falls in Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, the United Kingdom, Poland and the Czech Republic.

Homicide (Table 3) is a type of violent crime, and is defined as the intentional killing of a person, including murder, manslaughter, euthanasia and infanticide. It excludes death by dangerous driving, abortion and help with suicide.

Because of its seriousness, homicide is fairly consistently reported, and definitions vary less between countries than for some other types of crime. Homicides are normally counted in numbers of victims (rather than numbers of cases as for other types of crime). The figures are for completed homicides⁽⁴⁾ but, in some countries, the police register any death that cannot immediately be attributed to other causes, as homicide. It may, therefore, be over represented in the statistics.

⁽⁴⁾ Except for Latvia, where the figures include attempted homicide.

The national figures indicate (see Figure 3) that Lithuania and Estonia have by far the highest incidence of homicides (over 8 and 5 victims respectively per 100 000 population). The only other EU Member States reporting more than 2 homicides per 100 000 inhabitants were Finland, Bulgaria, Romania and Ireland, while the lowest rates (less than 1 per 100 000) were observed in Austria, Slovenia, Germany and Spain.

Homicide rates for EU capital cities (see Figure 3) are typically rather higher than for the country as a whole. They generally follow the national trends, with the highest figures being recorded in Vilnius (on average almost 8 victims per 100 000 inhabitants) and Tallinn (about 6).

Figure 3: Homicide rate per 100 000 population, average per year, 2007-2009



Notes

Tallinn (Estonia) and Estonia: 2008-2009 only.
 Valetta (Malta): there were no homicides.
 Stockholm (Sweden): figures not available.
 Prague (Czech Republic) and Czech Republic: 2009 only.
 Riga (Latvia) and Latvia: rate not calculated as figures include attempted homicide.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [crim_gen](#), [crim_hom_city](#))

Robbery (Table 4) is another type of violent crime, and is defined as stealing by force or by threat of force. It includes mugging (bag-snatching) and theft with violence.

Whilst police recorded robbery offences have fallen by about 11% since 2006 in the EU as a whole, significant rises were reported in Greece, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Bulgaria, the Netherlands, Hungary, Sweden and particularly in Denmark (where the figures more than doubled).

In contrast, there were sharp falls in Romania, Latvia, Poland, Italy, Estonia, the United Kingdom, and Lithuania.

Property crime

This class of crime covers the stealing or destruction of property. Data for two such types of crime, domestic burglary and theft of a motor vehicle, are presented below.

Domestic burglary (Table 5) is defined as gaining access to a dwelling by force in order to steal goods. It rose by about 3% on average in the EU in the period 2006 to 2009. In the majority of the EU Member States, there were rises of between 5% and 10%, with sharper rises (over 20%) in Denmark, Greece, Sweden and Romania.

Falls of more than 20% were recorded in a few countries including Poland, Estonia, Malta and Cyprus.

Theft of a motor vehicle (Table 6) covers thefts of cars, motorcycles, buses, lorries, construction and agricultural vehicles. The figures have fallen steadily in recent years, perhaps partly as a result of technical improvements in automobile security systems. The great majority of Member States recorded decreases of over 10% in vehicle thefts between 2006 and 2009.

However, some Member States, reported substantial increases, the largest being in Greece and Cyprus (over 20% for the period 2006-2009) and in Romania (which has fewer cars per head than any other EU Member State), with a two-fold rise in the number of offences over this period.

Drugs offences

Drug trafficking (Table 7) is a sub-set of the broader class of drugs offences. It includes the illegal possession, cultivation, production, supplying, transportation, importing, exporting and financing of drug operations)

Drug trafficking has generally been increasing consistently in the EU since 2002. In 2006-2009, these offences continued to increase, with the majority of Member States recording increases of over 10%. However there were falls of over 20% in Hungary and Germany, which have both witnessed a steady gradual decrease in crimes of this type since 2005, and of 12% in Austria, where a similar if less consistent trend is visible.

Police officers

Police officers (Table 8) include criminal police, traffic police, border police, gendarmerie, uniformed police, city guard and municipal police, while excluding civilian staff, customs officers, tax police, military police, secret service police, special duty police reserves, cadets and court police. However, this definition is not uniformly applied and there are some differences between countries in the inclusion of some sectors of their law enforcement personnel in the figures.

Whilst recognising these differences, it is, nevertheless, evident that the number of police officers has remained virtually unchanged in most EU Member States over the period 2006-2009 but rises of over 10% were seen in Hungary, Ireland, Spain and Luxembourg and falls of more than 5% in Latvia, Romania and the Czech Republic.

Prison population

The prison population figures (Table 9) include both adult and juvenile convicted prisoners and pre-trial detainees in all types of prison establishments but exclude non-criminal prisoners held for administrative purposes such as pending investigation into their immigration status.

In 2009, there were over 630 000 prisoners in the EU. This gives a rate of about 129 prisoners per 100 000 population in the EU Member States (averaged over the period 2007-2009). By comparison, the incarceration rate in the USA was much higher, at 784 per 100 000 population.

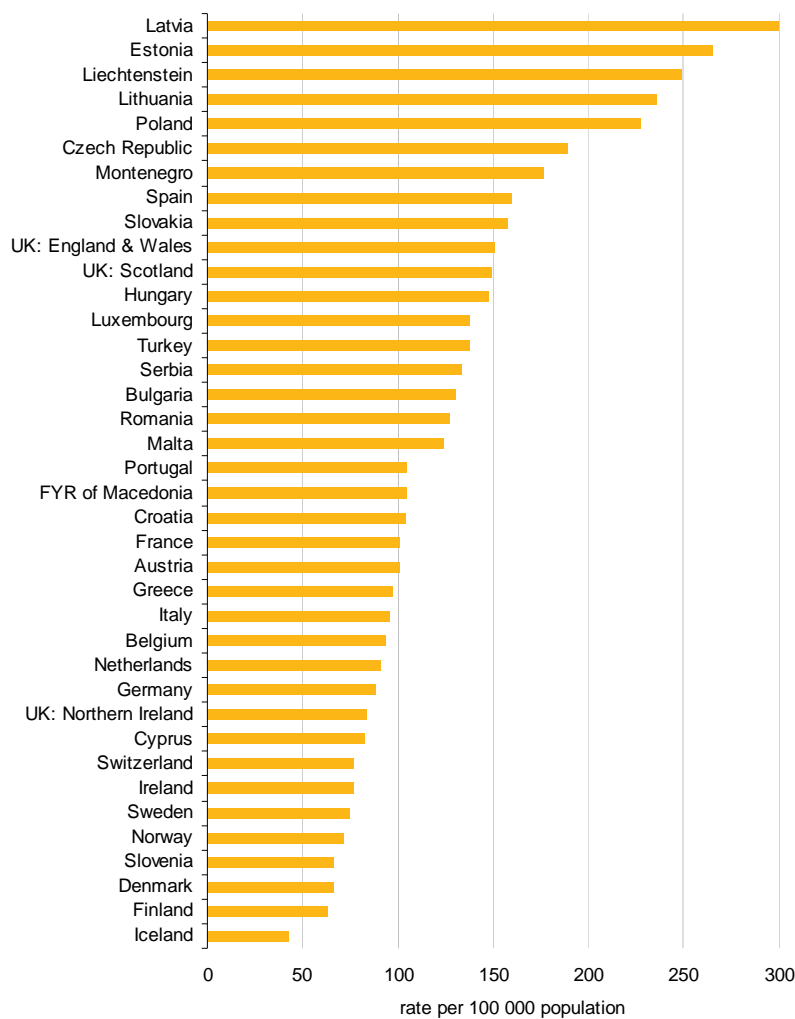
The highest numbers of prisoners in relation to the national population (see Figure 4) are found in Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and Poland (each of

which had over 230 prisoners per 100 000 inhabitants). The Czech Republic and Slovakia had over 150 prisoners per 100 000. Spain and the United Kingdom (except Northern Ireland) also saw steady rises in recent years.

Noticeable increases in prison populations may also be observed in some of the EU candidate or potential candidate countries, such as Turkey, Montenegro, Croatia, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

On the other hand, Iceland, Finland, Denmark and Slovenia had the lowest numbers of prisoners per head of population in Europe, with fewer than 70 prisoners per 100 000 population, while the rate in Sweden and Norway was marginally higher.

Figure 4: Prison population rate per 100 000 population, average per year, 2007-2009



Source: Eurostat (online data code: [crim_pris](#))

Tables

Table 1: Crimes recorded by the police: Total crime, 2003-2009

These figures include offences against the penal code (or criminal code). Less serious crimes (misdemeanours) are generally excluded. *For exceptions to the standard definition, see the metadata files on the Eurostat website.*

Country								Index (base year 2006 = 100)		
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
Belgium	1 001 818	1 005 925	992 375	1 014 349	1 021 184	1 024 390	1 044 242	101	101	103
Bulgaria	143 921	142 093	137 800	136 410	134 685	126 673	138 105	99	93	101
Czech Republic	357 740	351 629	344 060	336 446	357 391	343 799	332 829	106	102	99
Denmark	486 174	474 419	432 704	425 093	445 271	476 953	491 792	105	112	116
Germany	6 572 135	6 633 156	6 391 715	6 304 223	6 284 661	6 114 128	6 054 330	100	97	96
Estonia	53 595	53 048	52 916	51 834	50 375	50 977	48 359	97	98	93
Ireland	103 462	99 244	102 206	103 178	:	:	:	:	:	:
Greece	441 839	405 627	455 952	463 750	423 422	417 391	386 893	91	90	83
Spain	2 144 155	2 141 295	2 230 906	2 267 114	2 309 859	2 371 535	2 335 034	102	:	:
France	3 974 694	3 825 442	3 775 838	3 725 588	3 589 293	3 558 329	3 521 256	96	96	95
Italy	2 456 887	2 417 716	2 579 124	2 771 490	2 933 146	2 709 888	2 629 831	106	98	95
Cyprus	7 256	7 615	7 212	7 917	7 556	7 341	7 104	95	93	90
Latvia	51 773	62 173	51 435	62 328	55 620	57 475	56 748	89	92	91
Lithuania	79 072	84 136	82 074	75 474	67 990	71 972	76 291	90	95	101
Luxembourg	26 163	26 907	25 321	25 913	28 252	28 210	32 378	109	109	125
Hungary	413 343	418 833	436 522	425 941	426 914	408 407	394 034	100	96	93
Malta	17 739	18 384	18 580	16 527	15 005	13 803	11 953	91	84	72
Netherlands	1 369 271	1 319 482	1 336 860	1 285 535	1 286 849	1 261 340	1 232 482	100	98	96
Austria	643 286	643 648	605 272	589 495	594 240	572 695	591 597	101	97	100
Poland	1 466 643	1 461 217	1 379 962	1 287 918	1 152 993	1 082 057	1 129 577	90	84	88
Portugal	417 383	416 420	392 714	399 563	398 575	430 486	426 040	100	108	107
Romania	276 841	231 637	208 239	232 658	281 457	289 331	299 889	121	124	129
Slovenia	76 643	86 568	84 379	90 354	88 197	81 917	87 465	98	91	97
Slovakia	111 893	131 244	123 563	115 152	110 802	104 758	104 905	96	91	91
Finland	443 481	445 465	432 302	416 131	435 824	440 711	431 598	105	106	104
Sweden	1 255 371	1 248 743	1 241 843	1 224 958	1 306 324	1 377 854	1 405 626	107	112	115
UK: England & Wales	6 013 759	5 637 511	5 555 172	5 427 558	4 951 173	4 702 717	4 338 604	91	87	80
UK: Scotland	406 979	438 121	417 785	419 257	385 509	377 433	338 028	92	90	81
UK: Northern Ireland	127 953	118 124	123 194	121 144	108 468	110 094	109 139	90	91	90
EFTA countries										
Iceland	17 515	16 565	12 028	13 483	13 038	14 578	15 966	97	108	118
Liechtenstein	1 138	1 043	1 059	1 189	1 075	1 112	1 216	90	94	102
Norway	303 824	287 821	275 684	277 016	271 712	264 199	277 121	98	95	100
Switzerland	379 343	389 415	352 723	335 157	326 232	323 235	676 309	97	96	:
EU candidate countries										
Montenegro	8 613	8 227	9 579	9 564	9 258	8 277	8 101	97	87	85
Croatia	80 377	85 416	79 946	81 049	75 857	74 571	73 497	94	92	91
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	22 547	22 663	22 634	22 024	26 224	28 327	:	119	129	:
Turkey	495 886	528 576	668 559	978 383	946 207	986 319	:	97	101	:
EU potential candidates										
Albania	:	:	:	:	:	58 063	:	:	:	:
Bosnia & Herzegovina	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Serbia	90 419	99 866	102 093	99 244	104 862	106 031	102 369	106	107	103
Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99	:	:	:	:	:	36 196	33 131	:	:	:

: Data not available.

| Break in the series.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [crim_gen](#))

Table 2: Crimes recorded by the police: Violent crime, 2003-2009

These figures include violence against the person (such as physical assault), robbery (stealing by force or by threat of force), and sexual offences (including rape and sexual assault). *For exceptions to the standard definition, see the metadata files on the Eurostat website.*

Table 4 Crimes recorded by the police: Violent crime

Country	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Index (base year 2006 = 100)		
								2007	2008	2009
Belgium	100 876	101 555	104 316	107 369	108 689	112 666	115 019	101	105	107
Bulgaria	12 796	11 284	10 623	8 766	8 696	8 538	9 229	99	97	105
Czech Republic	22 763	24 025	22 079	19 454	19 976	18 187	17 367	103	93	89
Denmark	19 283	19 443	19 135	19 670	20 673	24 928	26 320	105	127	134
Germany	204 124	211 172	212 832	215 471	217 923	210 885	208 446	101	98	97
Estonia	2 411	3 287	4 755	5 154	5 834	9 082	7 406	113	:	:
Ireland	9 955	9 362	8 906	8 980	17 586	19 152	18 614	:	:	:
Greece	10 140	10 145	10 271	10 427	10 851	11 220	12 242	104	108	117
Spain	109 798	108 820	112 426	114 205	113 473	116 567	112 926	99	102	99
France	292 658	292 088	307 501	326 065	324 765	331 778	341 942	100	102	105
Italy	111 165	131 764	136 322	145 209	153 997	146 598	131 610	106	101	91
Cyprus	294	383	325	319	301	319	452	94	100	142
Latvia	3 200	3 366	2 879	2 750	1 919	1 928	1 866	70	70	68
Lithuania	6 042	6 566	6 561	5 498	4 754	4 372	4 204	86	80	76
Luxembourg	2 124	2 433	2 367	2 471	3 233	3 197	3 264	131	129	132
Hungary	31 484	33 364	32 760	29 728	29 645	33 035	32 046	100	111	108
Malta	:	406	403	390	422	382	376	108	98	96
Netherlands	106 410	109 887	131 860	131 388	131 495	126 679	126 770	100	96	96
Austria	148 758	172 115	148 748	135 121	133 546	129 613	134 142	99	96	99
Poland	77 152	74 614	68 141	61 399	54 629	52 122	51 128	89	85	83
Portugal	23 414	24 266	23 232	24 157	21 734	24 455	24 421	90	101	101
Romania	6 281	6 388	6 469	7 240	7 044	6 842	6 781	97	95	94
Slovenia	2 893	2 928	2 856	3 069	3 087	2 638	2 804	101	86	91
Slovakia	13 724	13 755	12 906	10 896	9 620	9 030	8 337	88	83	77
Finland	35 293	36 450	37 105	38 037	41 664	42 215	39 595	110	111	104
Sweden	83 782	86 107	94 205	98 154	104 627	108 448	111 702	107	110	114
UK: England & Wales	1 133 506	1 201 967	1 219 861	1 205 065	1 099 321	1 035 008	1 001 322	91	86	83
UK: Scotland	27 423	27 400	26 558	27 618	25 182	24 777	21 632	91	90	78
UK: Northern Ireland	32 735	32 512	34 408	35 223	32 545	32 694	33 100	92	93	94
EFTA countries										
Iceland	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Liechtenstein	109	96	107	88	86	93	95	98	106	108
Norway	20 039	21 360	21 381	22 591	23 205	23 848	24 261	103	106	107
Switzerland	10 151	11 917	11 544	12 784	13 537	12 560	15 360	106	98	:
EU candidate countries										
Montenegro	3 940	4 281	3 787	3 537	3 070	2 577	3 205	87	73	91
Croatia	10 032	11 292	12 405	13 235	12 966	12 985	12 220	98	98	92
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	860	1 094	1 133	993	1 037	905	:	104	91	:
Turkey	103 685	114 594	125 377	164 972	140 416	167 323	:	85	101	:
EU potential candidates										
Albania	:	:	:	:	:	241	:	:	:	:
Bosnia & Herzegovina	:	:	:	:	:	1 510	1 841	:	:	:
Serbia	25 513	27 950	29 068	28 864	29 316	29 582	32 061	102	102	111
Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99	:	:	:	:	:	17 186	16 199	:	:	:

: Data not available.

| Break in the series.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [crim_gen](#))

Table 3: Crimes recorded by the police: Homicide, 2003-2009

This is defined as intentional killing of a person, including murder, manslaughter, euthanasia and infanticide. Attempted (uncompleted) homicide is excluded. Causing death by dangerous driving, abortion and help with suicide are also excluded. The counting unit for homicide is normally the victim (rather than the case). For exceptions to the standard definition, see the metadata files on the Eurostat website.

Country	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Rate per 100 000 population, average per year, 2007-2009		
								Country	City	
Belgium	230	268	224	226	213	199	185	1.87	Brussels	3.09
Bulgaria	247	240	196	183	169	172	150	2.14	Sofia	2.06
Czech Republic	:	:	:	:	:	:	105	1.00	Prague	2.74
Denmark	82	60	70	45	76	79	79	1.42	Copenhagen	1.81
Germany	859	868	869	808	757	722	706	0.89	Berlin	1.93
Estonia	147	91	113	91	93	84	70	5.74	Tallinn	6.03
Ireland	52	46	65	68	85	89	92	2.02	Dublin	2.33
Greece	116	111	132	110	128	139	144	1.22	Athens	1.98
Spain	587	520	518	476	482	408	412	0.96	Madrid	1.14
France	987	990	976	879	826	839	699	1.27	Paris	1.40
Italy	765	767	648	663	685	654	626	1.10	Rome	1.20
Cyprus	15	15	15	12	11	9	16	1.52	Lefkosia	0.86
Latvia	220	199	127	148	117	119	109	:	Riga	:
Lithuania	385	356	404	302	284	304	252	8.31	Vilnius	7.90
Luxembourg	3	2	4	9	7	7	5	1.31	Luxembourg	4.24
Hungary	228	209	164	175	137	147	139	1.40	Budapest	1.55
Malta	0	7	4	0	4	6	4	1.14	Valletta	0.00
Netherlands	247	223	197	159	164	176	179	1.05	Amsterdam	3.65
Austria	50	59	54	60	45	46	43	0.54	Vienna	1.07
Poland	663	633	555	490	525	460	493	1.29	Warsaw	1.85
Portugal	149	144	135	155	185	124	130	1.38	Lisbon	0.48
Romania	551	516	453	438	416	493	421	2.06	Bucharest	1.01
Slovenia	21	29	20	12	24	11	13	0.79	Ljubljana	0.49
Slovakia	146	122	106	89	89	94	84	1.65	Bratislava	2.65
Finland	103	144	113	112	128	132	116	2.36	Helsinki	1.76
Sweden	83	109	81	93	114	82	92	1.05	Stockholm	:
UK: England & Wales	904	868	764	758	774	657	615	1.25	London	1.92
UK: Scotland	109	138	101	122	111	97	85	1.89	Edinburgh	1.55
UK: Northern Ireland	33	41	29	24	30	26	22	1.47	Belfast	1.74
EFTA countries										
Iceland	0	3	3	0	2	0	1	0.32	Reykjavik	0.50
Liechtenstein	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1.88	Vaduz	0.00
Norway	51	36	33	33	30	34	29	0.65	Oslo	1.61
Switzerland	73	79	75	60	51	54	51	0.66	Berne	0.81
EU candidate countries										
Montenegro	20	14	22	25	10	23	24	3.02	Podgorica	4.73
Croatia	76	89	76	75	66	74	56	1.47	Zagreb	1.10
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	70	49	49	45	42	36	:	1.91	Skopje	3.23
Turkey	5 308	4 986	4 973	4 763	3 080	2 751	:	4.16	Ankara	4.03
EU potential candidates										
Albania	:	:	:	:	:	139	:	4.38	Tirana	:
Bosnia & Herzegovina	:	:	:	:	:	68	67	1.76	Sarajevo	:
Serbia	176	164	157	160	182	145	161	2.21	Belgrade	2.39
Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99	:	:	:	:	:	77	56	3.07	Pristina	1.70

: Data not available.

| Break in the series.

Rate per 100 000 population calculated using figures for completed homicide only.

Rate for Latvia not calculated as figures include attempted homicide.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [crim_gen](#), [crim_hom_city](#))

Table 4: Crimes recorded by the police: Robbery, 2003-2009

Robbery is defined as stealing from a person with force or threat of force, including muggings (bag-snatching) and theft with violence. Pick-pocketing, extortion and blackmailing are generally excluded. For exceptions to the standard definition, see the metadata files on the Eurostat website.

Country	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Index (base year 2006 = 100)		
								2007	2008	2009
Belgium	28 020	24 255	24 033	22 873	21 109	22 726	23 424	92	99	102
Bulgaria	4 933	4 131	3 754	2 875	2 996	2 868	3 596	104	100	125
Czech Republic	5 508	6 107	5 550	4 783	4 856	4 641	4 687	102	97	98
Denmark	5 884	5 733	5 199	5 048	5 784	10 747	12 738	115	213	252
Germany	59 782	59 732	54 841	53 696	52 949	49 913	49 317	99	93	92
Estonia	1 885	1 632	1 298	1 005	887	909	726	88	90	72
Ireland	1 719	1 478	1 138	1 250	2 173	2 299	2 367	:	:	:
Greece	2 083	2 339	2 084	2 463	2 823	3 293	4 715	115	134	191
Spain	92 980	88 413	90 104	90 591	89 884	93 186	90 407	99	103	100
France	125 286	119 641	124 600	127 190	112 885	106 633	112 765	89	84	89
Italy	70 625	66 643	65 724	71 762	74 130	64 535	50 732	103	90	71
Cyprus	66	100	73	66	69	62	111	105	94	168
Latvia	2 503	2 467	2 163	2 248	1 468	1 441	1 516	65	64	67
Lithuania	4 919	5 323	5 206	4 343	3 802	3 452	3 363	88	79	77
Luxembourg	374	339	351	263	331	260	365	126	99	139
Hungary	3 289	3 227	2 982	2 709	3 119	3 128	3 144	115	115	116
Malta	195	265	256	222	200	147	202	90	66	91
Netherlands	20 018	17 683	16 247	13 785	13 511	13 034	16 283	98	95	118
Austria	4 434	4 798	4 770	5 095	5 036	4 786	4 577	99	94	90
Poland	44 086	41 287	36 347	29 472	22 766	21 085	20 583	77	72	70
Portugal	19 767	21 051	20 183	20 870	18 427	20 807	20 462	88	100	98
Romania	2 782	3 087	3 326	4 078	2 496	2 464	2 541	61	60	62
Slovenia	349	398	429	525	450	386	481	86	74	92
Slovakia	1 918	2 156	1 919	1 594	1 429	1 371	1 358	90	86	85
Finland	2 045	2 017	1 814	1 700	1 784	1 696	1 640	105	100	96
Sweden	8 575	8 590	9 398	8 584	8 673	8 909	9 570	101	104	111
UK: England & Wales	103 736	91 010	98 198	101 376	84 748	80 134	75 101	84	79	74
UK: Scotland	4 159	3 736	3 553	3 578	3 064	2 963	2 496	86	83	70
UK: Northern Ireland	1 973	1 487	1 744	1 574	1 143	1 283	1 276	73	82	81
EFTA countries										
Iceland	39	35	49	50	42	43	60	84	86	120
Liechtenstein	3	2	1	4	5	1	2	125	25	50
Norway	1 437	1 596	1 448	1 388	1 464	1 598	1 776	105	115	128
Switzerland	4 344	4 749	3 977	4 088	4 481	4 220	3 530	110	103	:
EU candidate countries										
Montenegro	3 908	4 239	3 752	3 494	3 040	2 542	1 822	87	73	52
Croatia	1 236	1 622	1 560	1 445	1 272	1 259	1 411	88	87	98
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	573	783	709	503	521	458	:	104	91	:
Turkey	4 776	10 825	15 083	21 555	12 634	8 853	:	59	41	:
EU potential candidates										
Albania	:	:	:	:	:	50	:	:	:	:
Bosnia & Herzegovina	:	:	:	:	:	1 363	1 727	:	:	:
Serbia	21 126	22 893	23 854	23 785	24 272	24 717	27 285	102	104	115
Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99	:	:	:	:	:	452	174	:	:	:

: Data not available.

| Break in the series.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [crim_gen](#))

Table 5: Crimes recorded by the police: Domestic burglary, 2003-2009

Domestic burglary is defined as gaining access to a dwelling by the use of force to steal goods. For exceptions to the standard definition, see the metadata files on the Eurostat website.

Country	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Index (base year 2006 = 100)		
								2007	2008	2009
Belgium	64 065	57 544	57 107	63 971	62 906	63 691	69 277	98	100	108
Bulgaria	28 210	25 565	22 379	23 460	22 208	19 980	23 682	95	85	101
Czech Republic	12 164	11 670	10 361	9 603	9 163	9 111	9 616	95	95	100
Denmark	33 879	32 956	29 439	31 204	36 342	43 974	48 670	116	141	156
Germany	123 280	124 155	109 736	106 107	109 128	108 284	113 800	103	102	107
Estonia	6 495	5 752	4 766	3 928	3 096	3 321	3 027	79	85	77
Ireland	16 436	16 148	17 012	15 513	23 566	24 864	26 273	:	:	:
Greece	31 181	26 489	30 207	32 407	37 917	44 150	47 163	117	136	146
Spain	88 128	81 552	81 495	80 981	72 723	82 135	84 701	90	101	105
France	216 797	202 880	181 503	177 840	165 780	166 250	179 408	93	93	101
Italy	173 097	112 112	122 250	143 726	169 367	153 080	152 804	118	107	106
Cyprus	3 159	3 311	2 812	3 084	2 656	2 576	2 443	86	84	79
Latvia	5 327	6 031	4 310	4 624	3 654	3 538	4 133	79	77	89
Lithuania	8 573	9 174	7 065	6 637	5 516	6 076	5 799	83	92	87
Luxembourg	2 206	2 100	1 486	1 838	2 030	1 731	1 843	110	94	100
Hungary	19 366	18 671	17 786	16 856	17 415	19 239	17 625	103	114	105
Malta	682	782	1 113	856	735	674	667	86	79	78
Netherlands	103 577	95 952	93 308	87 291	87 356	89 157	92 256	100	102	106
Austria	13 429	20 276	21 227	18 945	20 040	18 648	21 248	106	98	112
Poland	65 172	66 795	59 325	46 610	37 644	31 481	32 977	81	68	71
Portugal	21 963	22 587	21 840	23 314	22 324	29 655	26 027	96	127	112
Romania	10 063	10 002	9 135	9 165	10 829	10 285	11 574	118	112	126
Slovenia	2 368	2 750	2 286	2 220	2 282	2 031	2 216	103	91	100
Slovakia	2 642	3 023	2 809	2 602	2 437	2 118	2 330	94	81	90
Finland	7 373	7 901	7 281	5 923	6 532	5 978	6 497	110	101	110
Sweden	17 344	17 573	16 654	15 005	16 936	18 176	20 463	113	121	136
UK: England & Wales	402 345	321 507	300 517	292 260	280 694	284 440	268 595	96	97	92
UK: Scotland	24 828	23 613	21 232	20 429	17 465	17 223	16 727	85	84	82
UK: Northern Ireland	8 944	7 302	7 259	6 831	6 712	7 351	7 270	98	108	106
EFTA countries										
Iceland	2 889	2 769	2 244	2 365	2 277	2 731	3 524	96	115	149
Liechtenstein	123	121	97	120	102	93	168	85	78	140
Norway	10 475	8 613	8 136	7 268	6 777	8 125	9 035	93	112	124
Switzerland	68 551	70 370	61 194	56 706	57 493	55 688	25 393	101	98	:
EU candidate countries										
Montenegro	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Croatia	4 125	3 734	3 396	2 981	3 094	2 714	2 777	104	91	93
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	1 088	1 275	1 146	1 367	1 590	1 346	:	116	98	:
Turkey	31 971	36 639	57 389	89 334	73 475	69 709	:	82	78	:
EU potential candidates										
Albania	:	:	:	:	:	30	:	:	:	:
Bosnia & Herzegovina	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Serbia	6 890	7 611	7 738	6 224	6 184	6 353	6 121	99	102	98
Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99	:	:	:	:	:	3 959	3 581	:	:	:

: Data not available.

| Break in the series.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [crim_gen](#))

Table 6: Crimes recorded by the police: Theft of a motor vehicle, 2003-2009

Motor vehicles include all land vehicles with an engine that run on the road which are used to carry people (including cars, motor cycles, buses, lorries, construction and agricultural vehicles, etc.). For exceptions to the standard definition, see the metadata files on the Eurostat website.

Country	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Index (base year 2006 = 100)		
								2007	2008	2009
Belgium	36 297	29 926	26 809	26 848	24 872	23 264	21 853	93	87	81
Bulgaria	1 488	1 268	785	640	448	430	388	70	67	61
Czech Republic	25 331	24 230	23 040	20 996	20 329	18 893	14 770	97	90	70
Denmark	34 037	31 525	25 887	25 183	25 868	26 804	25 236	103	106	100
Germany	109 846	107 920	96 451	90 224	92 628	89 036	87 693	103	99	97
Estonia	2 099	1 840	1 929	1 239	1 007	1 035	934	81	84	75
Ireland	12 463	13 527	13 271	12 642	13 534	14 307	13 666	:	:	:
Greece	5 865	5 568	5 860	6 799	7 494	7 834	9 097	110	115	134
Spain	138 829	126 902	120 946	117 663	107 786	96 314	78 283	92	82	67
France	328 678	285 680	260 538	243 153	224 658	211 484	207 947	92	87	86
Italy	221 543	270 129	265 975	280 167	277 549	229 961	213 407	99	82	76
Cyprus	1 569	1 475	1 610	1 780	2 025	1 786	2 170	114	100	122
Latvia	3 369	2 960	2 023	2 168	1 729	1 868	1 825	80	86	84
Lithuania	7 022	6 330	4 541	3 460	2 848	2 553	1 967	82	74	57
Luxembourg	453	526	464	523	454	343	365	87	66	70
Hungary	12 240	10 969	10 770	10 058	15 017	16 539	11 212	149	164	111
Malta	887	798	672	584	388	398	401	66	68	69
Netherlands	34 271	30 652	26 841	21 244	21 059	21 342	20 798	99	100	98
Austria	7 720	8 156	11 089	8 959	7 802	9 049	9 289	87	101	104
Poland	54 291	51 150	45 292	30 529	21 284	17 669	17 271	70	58	57
Portugal	29 934	29 237	25 716	24 495	23 957	25 259	22 523	98	103	92
Romania	1 127	1 120	1 082	1 266	1 817	2 355	2 967	144	186	234
Slovenia	682	704	873	852	839	582	588	98	68	69
Slovakia	5 295	6 000	5 591	5 525	4 719	4 135	3 779	85	75	68
Finland	21 922	19 326	16 791	15 276	14 827	13 804	12 188	97	90	80
Sweden	67 199	60 980	56 719	51 639	49 249	44 717	40 359	95	87	78
UK: England & Wales	291 858	242 732	214 182	193 384	170 008	147 235	117 812	88	76	61
UK: Scotland	17 843	15 633	14 041	15 000	12 105	11 551	9 304	81	77	62
UK: Northern Ireland	5 369	4 456	3 721	3 418	3 336	2 954	2 975	98	86	87
EFTA countries										
Iceland	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Liechtenstein	14	16	10	7	7	16	7	100	229	100
Norway	20 130	17 867	15 350	14 619	12 571	11 901	12 014	86	81	82
Switzerland	:	:	:	:	:	:	9 115	:	:	:
EU candidate countries										
Montenegro	78	67	121	98	98	85	121	100	87	123
Croatia	2 338	2 462	2 274	2 033	2 069	1 927	1 828	102	95	90
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	560	827	567	365	413	581	:	113	159	:
Turkey	25 443	25 667	33 344	33 091	24 153	17 988	:	73	54	:
EU potential candidates										
Albania	:	:	:	:	:	28	:	:	:	:
Bosnia & Herzegovina	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Serbia	3 056	3 572	3 472	3 533	4 075	3 773	3 618	115	107	102
Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99	:	:	:	:	:	464	393	:	:	:

: Data not available.

| Break in the series.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [crim_gen](#))

Table 7: Crimes recorded by the police: Drug trafficking, 2003-2009

Drug trafficking includes illegal possession, cultivation, production, supplying, transportation, importing, exporting, financing etc. of drug operations which are not solely in connection with personal use. For exceptions to the standard definition, see the metadata files on the Eurostat website.

Country	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Index (base year 2006 = 100)		
								2007	2008	2009
Belgium	9 751	10 584	11 419	11 826	12 674	13 061	13 428	107	110	114
Bulgaria	2 006	2 412	2 720	2 824	2 844	2 857	3 662	101	101	130
Czech Republic	3 497	2 803	2 706	2 668	2 639	2 812	3 046	99	105	114
Denmark	2 667	3 158	2 738	2 917	3 258	3 237	2 849	112	111	98
Germany	73 375	75 347	72 002	64 865	64 093	55 905	50 965	99	86	79
Estonia	604	494	686	981	1 449	1 558	1 042	148	159	106
Ireland	2 430	2 273	2 751	3 160	3 824	4 028	4 091	:	:	:
Greece	10 904	8 838	10 183	9 600	9 271	11 861	12 335	97	124	128
Spain	11 742	11 947	11 968	12 711	14 098	14 574	14 345	111	115	113
France	6 094	6 296	6 108	5 792	5 797	6 128	6 007	100	106	104
Italy	37 288	30 053	32 059	32 306	34 439	34 082	34 101	107	105	106
Cyprus	475	514	611	653	876	780	705	134	119	108
Latvia	997	1 148	1 049	997	1 434	2 512	2 307	144	252	231
Lithuania	509	711	999	704	765	793	874	109	113	124
Luxembourg	1 133	1 342	1 326	1 201	1 448	1 343	2 232	121	112	186
Hungary	3 387	6 678	7 626	6 740	4 676	5 464	4 801	69	81	71
Malta	:	78	113	123	149	180	187	121	146	152
Netherlands	15 633	15 662	19 384	19 769	19 465	18 672	18 188	98	94	92
Austria	2 506	2 443	2 337	2 377	2 473	1 980	2 099	104	83	88
Poland	2 577	3 296	3 608	3 220	3 926	3 317	3 975	122	103	123
Portugal	3 739	3 654	3 536	3 610	3 265	3 710	4 260	90	103	118
Romania	1 131	1 775	2 441	3 079	2 796	3 621	3 228	91	118	105
Slovenia	775	997	1 026	1 590	1 429	1 434	2 096	90	90	132
Slovakia	734	711	843	411	488	524	602	119	127	146
Finland	5 974	5 269	5 177	4 837	5 115	5 659	6 335	106	117	131
Sweden	5 129	4 905	4 670	6 449	6 918	7 997	8 192	107	124	127
UK: England & Wales	24 628	24 190	25 276	26 550	28 330	29 894	33 009	107	113	124
UK: Scotland	9 044	9 333	9 613	10 890	9 827	10 315	9 223	90	95	85
UK: Northern Ireland	405	375	349	473	529	607	668	112	128	141
EFTA countries										
Iceland	149	165	95	92	104	104	101	113	113	110
Liechtenstein	364	459	435	285	225	210	357	79	74	125
Norway	16 152	16 814	17 118	19 156	19 086	17 547	18 616	100	92	97
Switzerland	7 806	7 803	7 076	6 296	6 297	7 317	18 346	100	116	:
EU candidate countries										
Montenegro	299	355	294	438	549	460	398	125	105	91
Croatia	7 992	7 529	8 186	8 346	7 952	7 882	7 063	95	94	85
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	397	357	390	315	451	415	:	143	132	:
Turkey	5 036	6 720	7 550	10 508	13 649	15 366	:	130	146	:
EU potential candidates										
Albania	:	:	:	:	:	274	:	:	:	:
Bosnia & Herzegovina	:	:	:	:	:	1 519	1 584	:	:	:
Serbia	2 492	4 116	5 256	5 505	5 414	6 049	5 500	98	110	100
Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99	:	:	:	:	:	314	364	:	:	:

: Data not available.

| Break in the series.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [crim_gen](#))

Table 8: Number of police officers, 2003-2009

All ranks of police officers including criminal police, traffic police, border police, gendarmerie, uniformed police, city guard, municipal police. Excluding civilian staff, customs officers, tax police, military police, secret service police, part-time officers, special duty police reserves, cadets, court police. *For exceptions to the standard definition, see the metadata files on the Eurostat website.*

Country	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Index (base year 2006 = 100)		
								2007	2008	2009
Belgium	36 318	37 008	38 911	38 963	38 718	38 581	39 861	99	99	102
Bulgaria	:	:	:	:	:	33 800	30 807	:	:	:
Czech Republic	46 616	47 232	45 498	46 032	44 101	42 117	43 472	96	91	94
Denmark	10 352	10 483	10 728	10 819	10 841	10 743	10 850	100	99	100
Germany	245 415	246 756	248 188	250 284	250 353	247 619	245 752	100	99	98
Estonia	3 553	3 520	3 412	3 238	3 247	3 218	3 183	100	99	98
Ireland	12 017	12 209	12 265	12 954	13 755	14 411	14 547	106	111	112
Greece	52 123	50 171	49 696	48 521	51 152	50 798	:	105	105	:
Spain	194 973	198 072	202 365	209 163	214 935	224 086	231 801	103	107	111
France	233 250	235 792	234 966	241 998	238 478	228 402	243 900	99	94	101
Italy	249 714	250 237	249 313	246 775	247 510	245 152	:	100	99	:
Cyprus	4 773	4 903	4 999	5 125	5 139	5 280	5 353	100	103	104
Latvia	9 796	9 902	9 920	9 568	8 222	8 410	7 114	86	88	74
Lithuania	11 910	11 526	11 216	11 301	11 173	11 018	10 957	99	97	97
Luxembourg	1 304	1 352	1 403	1 447	1 519	1 555	1 603	105	107	111
Hungary	29 518	29 516	28 627	28 636	26 334	33 698	33 487	92	118	117
Malta	1 845	1 775	1 789	1 755	1 933	1 884	1 847	110	107	105
Netherlands	36 907	35 996	35 284	35 324	35 363	35 463	36 498	100	100	103
Austria	26 634	27 111	27 111	26 623	26 623	26 623	26 623	100	100	100
Poland	99 919	100 770	100 654	99 083	98 337	100 648	98 955	99	102	100
Portugal	47 258	47 647	46 929	47 573	47 276	47 518	49 152	99	100	103
Romania	45 690	45 770	46 875	50 265	50 453	50 339	45 779	100	100	91
Slovenia	7 526	7 618	7 881	7 857	7 971	7 779	7 842	101	99	100
Slovakia	13 667	14 079	14 345	14 361	14 134	14 059	14 498	98	98	101
Finland	8 288	8 247	8 237	8 312	8 156	8 191	8 308	98	99	100
Sweden	16 292	16 891	17 073	17 423	17 866	18 321	19 144	103	105	110
UK: England & Wales	133 366	139 200	141 230	141 381	140 514	140 230	142 151	99	99	101
UK: Scotland	15 482	16 001	16 221	16 234	16 221	17 048	17 409	100	105	107
UK: Northern Ireland	8 986	8 936	8 579	8 354	6 140	7 302	7 758	73	87	93
EFTA countries										
Iceland	678	671	679	688	683	646	667	99	94	97
Liechtenstein	84	87	92	96	93	83	88	97	86	92
Norway	8 062	8 169	7 485	7 506	7 453	7 505	7 642	99	100	102
Switzerland	15 155	15 473	16 444	16 649	16 199	16 326	17 058	97	98	102
EU candidate countries										
Montenegro	:	:	:	:	:	:	5 454	:	:	:
Croatia	19 622	19 634	19 898	19 790	20 424	19 823	20 204	103	100	102
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	8 357	9 231	9 815	9 776	9 599	9 905	:	98	101	:
Turkey	318 189	327 371	330 310	325 738	329 533	341 770	:	101	105	:
EU potential candidates										
Albania	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Bosnia & Herzegovina	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Serbia	:	:	:	:	:	:	32 562	:	:	:
Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

: Data not available.

| Break in the series.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [crim_plce](#))

Table 9: Prison population, 2003-2009

Total number of adult and juvenile prisoners (including pre-trial detainees) at 1 September (or nearest available date). Including offenders held in Prison Administration facilities, other facilities, juvenile offenders institutions, drug addicts institutions and psychiatric or other hospitals. Excluding non-criminal prisoners held for administrative purposes (for example, people held pending investigation into their immigration status). *For exceptions to the standard definition, see the metadata files on the Eurostat website.*

Country	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Index (base year 2005 = 100)			Rate per 100 000 population average per year, 2007-2009
								2007	2008	2009	
Belgium	9 308	9 249	9 330	9 573	9 950	9 804	10 105	104	102	106	93
Bulgaria	10 056	10 935	11 399	11 452	10 792	9 922	9 167	94	87	80	130
Czech Republic	17 180	18 303	19 003	18 904	19 110	20 471	19 371	101	108	102	189
Denmark	3 641	3 767	4 041	3 932	3 646	3 530	3 715	93	90	94	66
Germany	79 183	79 329	79 519	77 166	73 319	73 203	72 043	95	95	93	89
Estonia	4 352	4 575	4 410	4 310	3 466	3 656	3 555	80	85	82	265
Ireland	2 986	3 138	3 151	3 191	3 321	3 544	3 275	104	111	103	77
Greece	8 555	8 760	9 871	10 280	10 864	:	:	106	:	:	97
Spain	56 096	59 375	61 054	64 021	67 100	73 558	76 079	105	115	119	160
France	55 407	59 246	59 197	59 522	60 403	64 003	66 178	101	108	111	101
Italy	54 237	56 068	59 523	39 005	48 693	58 127	64 791	125	149	166	96
Cyprus	355	546	536	599	646	646	670	108	108	112	83
Latvia	8 222	7 666	6 998	6 636	6 548	6 873	7 055	99	104	106	301
Lithuania	8 957	7 838	7 951	7 982	7 770	7 736	8 332	97	97	104	236
Luxembourg	455	577	735	738	666	674	679	90	:	:	138
Hungary	16 507	16 543	15 720	14 740	14 743	14 626	15 253	100	99	103	148
Malta	278	298	294	375	382	662	494	102	177	132	125
Netherlands	15 194	17 397	17 867	16 456	15 605	14 752	14 555	95	90	88	91
Austria	7 816	9 000	8 955	8 780	8 887	7 899	8 423	101	90	96	101
Poland	80 692	79 344	82 656	87 669	90 199	84 549	85 598	103	96	98	228
Portugal	13 635	12 956	12 687	12 446	11 587	10 807	11 099	93	87	89	105
Romania	42 815	39 031	36 700	34 038	29 390	26 212	26 616	86	77	78	127
Slovenia	1 099	1 126	1 132	1 127	1 336	1 318	1 360	119	117	121	66
Slovakia	8 829	9 504	9 289	8 657	8 235	8 313	9 033	95	96	104	158
Finland	3 463	3 535	3 883	3 477	3 370	3 457	3 231	97	99	93	63
Sweden	6 726	7 291	7 016	7 151	6 740	6 806	6 976	94	95	98	74
UK: England & Wales	73 657	74 488	76 190	77 982	79 734	83 194	83 454	102	107	107	151
UK: Scotland	6 606	6 776	6 856	7 187	7 377	7 827	7 964	103	109	111	149
UK: Northern Ireland	1 128	1 219	1 325	1 501	1 484	1 490	1 465	99	99	98	83
EFTA countries											
Iceland	112	115	119	119	115	140	148	97	118	124	43
Liechtenstein	67	59	62	48	38	78	149	79	163	310	249
Norway	2 944	3 028	3 124	3 250	3 420	3 387	3 403	105	104	105	72
Switzerland	5 214	5 977	6 137	5 888	5 715	5 780	6 084	97	98	103	77
EU candidate countries											
Montenegro	744	802	816	852	961	1 255	:	113	147	:	177
Croatia	2 803	3 010	3 485	3 833	4 290	4 734	4 891	112	124	128	105
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	1 545	1 791	2 081	2 090	2 050	2 235	:	98	107	:	105
Turkey	63 796	58 016	55 966	70 524	90 732	103 435	:	129	147	:	138
EU potential candidates											
Albania	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Bosnia & Herzegovina	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Serbia	7 128	7 653	8 078	7 862	8 970	9 701	10 795	114	123	137	133
Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

: Data not available.

| Break in the series.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [crim_pris](#))

METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Developing EU Statistics on crime and criminal justice

Eurostat received a mandate under the 2004 *Hague Programme*⁽¹⁾: *strengthening freedom, security and justice in the European Union* to develop comparable statistics on crime and criminal justice, and a series of measures towards this end were undertaken under the *2006-10 Action Plan on Developing a comprehensive and coherent EU strategy to measure crime and criminal justice*⁽²⁾.

Following the conclusion of the Action Plan, the system is being enhanced and extended as part of the implementation of the 2009 *Stockholm Programme*⁽³⁾: *An open and secure Europe serving and protecting citizens*.

Data collection

The methodology used in this publication draws upon that developed by the European Sourcebook of Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics⁽⁴⁾, in particular the definition and measurement of criminal offences, and upon the Surveys on Crime Trends conducted by the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime⁽⁵⁾.

Countries were asked to adhere to a standard definition when assembling the figures and to provide details of any divergences.

Figures for the United Kingdom are reported separately (as UK: England & Wales, UK: Scotland and UK: Northern Ireland), owing to the existence of three separate jurisdictions.

Comparisons

The data are taken from information recorded or reported by the police. Comparisons of crime levels based on the absolute figures would be misleading, since they are affected by many factors, including:

- different legal and criminal justice systems
- rates at which crimes are reported to the police and recorded by them
- differences in the point at which crime is measured (for example, when reported to the police, on identification of suspects, etc.)
- differences in the rules by which multiple offences are counted
- differences in the list of offences that are included in the overall crime figures

Figures for the prison population may also be affected by many factors, including:

- number of cases dealt with by the courts
- the percentage receiving a custodial sentence
- the length of the sentences imposed
- the size of the population on remand
- the date of the survey, especially where amnesties apply

For these reasons, direct comparisons of crime levels in different countries should be avoided. Rates per head of population (which might imply that such comparisons could be made) are therefore not presented in this publication, except in the case of homicide and the prison population, where the figures may be more readily comparable. In these cases, rates per 100 000 head of population averaged over 3 years have been calculated.

Caution should also be exercised when considering low numbers for some crimes. For example, for homicide, the rate may vary considerably from year to year. This is especially true for small countries or cities where there may be no homicides recorded in one year and two or more the following year.

As a general rule, comparisons should be based upon trends rather than upon levels, on the assumption that the characteristics of the recording system within a country remain fairly constant over time. Even here, however, there are many exceptions as methods change, causing breaks in the series, indicated using the symbol '|'. The symbol ':' is used for some countries to indicate that definitional changes make such a comparison impossible. Fuller information on these changes is given on the Eurostat website.

Where national series without definitional changes are available for the years between 2006 and 2009, indices have been calculated using the 2006 figure as a base, in order to make it easier to follow the trends:

$$\text{Crime index } I_i = (C_i/C_{\text{base}}) * 100$$

I_i = index number for year i

C_i = number of offences recorded by the police for year i

C_{base} = number of offences recorded by the police for the base year

Eurostat website

The website allows users access to the data and the metadata. There are tables on total crime from 1950 onwards and from 1993 for some specific offences, from 1993 for the number of police officers and from 1987 for the prison population. As already noted above, comparability of the figures between countries is difficult to achieve and **users are strongly advised to consult the metadata files when referring to the figures**. The metadata files contain additional information on the precise definition of the offence used by each country.

⁽¹⁾ [The Hague Programme Official Journal](#) C 53 of 3.3.2005, p.11

⁽²⁾ [Commission communication COM/2006/437](#) final

⁽³⁾ [Stockholm Programme Official Journal](#) C115 of 4.5.2010, p.1

⁽⁴⁾ European Sourcebook of Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics <http://www.europeansourcebook.org/index.html>

⁽⁵⁾ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/index.html>

Further information

Eurostat Website: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>

Data on 'Crime and criminal justice'

<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/crime/data/database>

Further information about 'Crime and criminal justice'

<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/crime/introduction>

Journalists can contact the media support service:

Bech Building, Office A4/125, L-2920 Luxembourg

Tel.: (352) 4301 33408

Fax: (352) 4301 35349

E-mail: eurostat-mediasupport@ec.europa.eu

European Statistical Data Support:

With the members of the 'European statistical system', Eurostat has set up a network of support centres in nearly every Member State and in some EFTA countries.

Their role is to provide help and guidance to Internet users of European statistics.

Contact details for this support network can be found on the Eurostat website at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/>.

All Eurostat publications can be ordered via the 'EU Bookshop':

<http://bookshop.europa.eu/>.

Manuscript completed on: 18.01.2012

Data extracted on: 17.01.2012

ISSN 1977-0316

Catalogue number: KS-SF-12-006-EN-N

© European Union, 2012