

# Persons in the criminal justice system (crim\_just)

Reference Metadata in Euro SDMX Metadata Structure (ESMS)  
Compiling agency: European Commission - Eurostat

## Eurostat metadata

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For any question on data and metadata, please contact: [EUROPEAN STATISTICAL DATA SUPPORT](#) [Download](#)

## 1. Contact [Top](#)

<b>1.1. Contact organisation</b>	European Commission - Eurostat
<b>1.2. Contact organisation unit</b>	F4: Income and living conditions; Quality of life
<b>1.5. Contact mail address</b>	European Commission - Eurostat Unit ESTAT.F.4: Income and living conditions; Quality of life L-2920 Luxembourg

## 2. Metadata update [Top](#)

<b>2.1. Metadata last certified</b>	09/07/2018
<b>2.2. Metadata last posted</b>	09/07/2018
<b>2.3. Metadata last update</b>	09/07/2018

## 3. Statistical presentation [Top](#)

### 3.1. Data description

The figures from 2008 onwards for criminal justice system are based on the joint Eurostat-UNODC data collection. It is available at country level for European Union Member States, EFTA countries, EU Candidate countries, and EU Potential Candidates.

The statistics include:

- Persons in the criminal justice system on suspects and offenders by legal status (suspected/prosecuted /convicted) and sex, by legal status and age (juvenile/adult), and by legal status and citizenship (reporting country/foreign country).
- Personnel in the criminal justice system are available by sex such as professional judges, police officers

and adult/juvenile prison staff.

### 3.2. Classification system

Crimes are classified by the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS).  
Regions are classified by Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics (NUTS).  
Legal status is classified according to United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime definitions.

### 3.3. Coverage - sector

Not applicable.

### 3.4. Statistical concepts and definitions

#### SUSPECTS AND OFFENDERS WITHIN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

##### Persons Brought into Formal Contact with the Police and/or Criminal Justice System

*Definition:* May include persons suspected, or arrested or cautioned for a criminal offence, at the national level.

##### Comments by countries- Persons Brought into Formal Contact with the Police and/or Criminal Justice System

DE: *Source: Police Crime Statistics (PCS; table 20). The significant increase of foreign citizens brought into formal contact is influenced by the general population development in Germany*

LT: *Revised data includes persons brought into Formal Contact for all criminal offences (crimes and misdemeanours)*

MT: *Discrepancies are due to missing information regarding gender and age in data collected*

RO: *Persons investigated in files solved by the police / declined to the Prosecutor's Office. Source: General Inspectorate of Romanian Police within the Ministry of Internal Affairs*

FI: *Previous numbers didn't include road traffic violations. Principal offence rule applied, series of offences counted as one*

SE: *All suspected persons*

CH: *Criminal code, Federal Act on Foreign Nationals, Federal Act on Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances. No legal persons*

RS: *The collection of juvenile and adult perpetrators is not a mere sum, because one person may commit a criminal offense in the course of one calendar year as a minor and as an adult*

BA: *All police institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina*

##### Persons Prosecuted

*Definition:* Alleged offenders against whom prosecution commenced in the reporting year. Persons may be prosecuted by the public prosecutor or the law enforcement agency responsible for prosecution, at the national level, irrespective of the case-ending decision.

##### Comments by countries- Persons Prosecuted

DK: *According to a new method of counting prosecutions, data for 2016 and revised data for 2013-2015 do not include prosecutions regarding certain kinds of cases, e.g. cases concluded with a fine*

DE: *Source: Federal Statistical Office; Criminal Court Prosecution Statistics (Strafverfolgungsstatistik; Fachserie 10, Reihe 3; table 1.1; Rechtskräftig Abgeurteilte)*

FR: *Data excluding legal entities (all years)*

LT: *Revised data, includes persons prosecuted for all criminal offences (crimes and misdemeanours)*

NL: *Data exclude legal entities. Data include persons with an unknown age/gender. The figures on prosecution proved to be incomplete*

RO: *Source: Public Ministry*

SE: *All suspected persons who were prosecuted or received fines or a waiver of prosecution from a Prosecutor*

UKC-L: *It is based on principle offence basis.*

UKN: *Data for 2013 refer to Magistrates Court Defendants Dealt With during the period. Data from 2014 onwards are from different source and are not directly comparable with that provided for earlier years*

##### Persons Convicted

*Definition:* Persons found guilty by any legal body authorized to pronounce a conviction under national criminal law, whether or not the conviction was later upheld. The total number of persons convicted should also include persons convicted of serious special law offences but exclude persons convicted of minor road traffic offences, misdemeanours and other petty offences.

##### Comments by countries- Persons Convicted

DE: *Source: Federal Statistical Office; Criminal Court Prosecution Statistics (Strafverfolgungsstatistik; Fachserie 10, Reihe 3; table 1.1; Rechtskräftig Verurteilte)*

NL: *Data exclude legal entities. Total includes persons with an unknown age*

RO: Source: Superior Council of Magistracy

SE: Only Court convictions, including attempts etc.

UKN: Data from 2014 onwards are from different source and are not directly comparable with that provided for earlier years

## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE PERSONNEL**

### **Police Officers**

*Definition:* Personnel in public agencies as at 31 December whose principal functions are the prevention, detection and investigation of crime and the apprehension of alleged offenders. Data concerning support staff (secretaries, clerks, etc.) are excluded.

### **Comments by countries- Police Officers**

BG: Military Police and Judicial Police personnel excluded

CZ: Data reported are as at November 1st

DK: "Police Personnel" are as at 1. December

HU: Include all operative regular police officers (officers and non-commissioned officers)

DE: Source: Federal Statistical Office, Statistics on public service personnel, Police officers (civil servants) as headcount as at 30 June (excluding trainees) in the functional area police in the public core budget

RO: The data for 2014 and 2015 are not revised and are reported based on the previous request in 2015. Source: General Inspectorate of Romanian Police within the Ministry of Internal Affairs

SE: Only police personal included

NL: Figures include personnel (in training) in the primary process who are involved with law enforcement, investigation, emergency aid, intake and service, and primary support. Overhead (support staff) and fulltime students are

excluded. The numbers reported are FTEs (the number of employees is higher)

UKC-L: The police workforce statistics are a snapshot s at the 31st March each year

UKM: Data as at 31 March. Data are full-time equivalent rather than headcount

UKN: Includes regular and part time

NO: Due to changes in source registers, figures for 2015 and 2016 cannot be stated at this time

BA: 2016 includes all the Police institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina

### **Professional Judges**

*Definition:* Both full-time and part-time officials as at 31 December authorized to hear specifically criminal cases, including in appeal courts, and to make dispositions in a court of law. Please also include authorized associate judges and magistrates

### **Comments by countries- Professional Judges**

CZ: Only criminal justice judges are reported. Data reported are as at January 1st

DE: Data source: Bundesamt für Justiz ([www.bundesjustizamt.de](http://www.bundesjustizamt.de)); Statistics on Judges (Richterstatistik; Arbeitskraftanteile am 31. Dezember des Berichtsjahres); This statistics is done only every two years. The recent reference year 2014 was published in January 2016. Values in this sheet in column 2013 belong to 2012. In 2013 the statistics was not conducted. Likewise values in this sheet in column 2015 belong to 2014. In 2015 the statistics was not conducted

EE: Break in the series: 2016 excludes administrative courts (previously included)

IT: Judges from first to third instance courts (both for adults and juveniles). The data includes not only criminal but also civil and other cases

SE: Number of judges reported previously is the total number of judges in Sweden and not specifically those who deal with criminal cases. These numbers had therefore been revised now to number of judges at district courts, courts of appeal and Supreme Court

UKC-L: These figures cover both Courts and Tribunal Judges, as was reported previously

### **Prison Personnel**

*Definition:* All individuals employed in penal or correctional institutions as at 31 December, including management, treatment, custodial and other (maintenance, food service etc.) personnel

### **Comments by countries- Personnel in adult prison**

DE: Data Source: Federal Ministry of Justice (BMJV), Prison Staff as at 1st September; The Statistics does not distinguish between adult and juvenile prison

EL: These numbers include also the "juvenile prison personnel"

LV: Previously provided data has changed because it was counted manually. The revised data is processed and prepared by using resource management system "Horizon"

MT: Figures include juvenile prison personnel. Officers carrying out duties at the Juvenile prison also carry out duties at the adult prison depending on necessity and demand

PT: Counts only the employers working in prisons, leaving out the people who work in the central services

SK: Without GD of Corps of Prison and Court Guard

FI: Medical and paramedical staff is not employed by the prison administration since 2016

SEL: Total number of staff working inside prison and remand institutions (incl. administration, management, treatment, medical care, maintenance, food service etc.)

UKC-L: Figures are based on headcount and reflect position as at 31 December each year. Methodology used for revised historical figures does not necessarily match the approach used previously

NO: Includes all prison personnel, in both adult and juvenile units. Figures have been rounded. Due to changes in source registers, figures for 2015 and 2016 cannot be stated at this time

### Comments by countries- Personnel in juvenile prison

DE: Data Source: Federal Ministry of Justice (BMJV), Prison Staff as at 1st September ; The Statistics does not distinguish between Adult and Juvenile Prison

IT: Data refer to personnel of Prisons for minors, first centre Aid, Public Community; Data exclude personal of private Community. It is included penitentiary policemen that works with minors

LV: Previously provided data has changed because it was counted manually. The revised data is processed and prepared by using resource management system "Horizon"

MT: Revise 2013-2014 data to "not available". Data for 2016 are "not available". Figures include juvenile prison personnel. Officers carrying out duties at the Juvenile prison also carry out duties at the adult prison depending on necessity and demand

PT: Counts only the employers working in educational centres, leaving out the people who work in the central services

FI: There are no specific institutions for young offenders

SE: One year labour force (Two persons working 50% is one year labour force incl. administration, management, treatment, medical care etc.)

UKC-L: Figures are based on headcount and reflect position as at 31 December each year. Methodology used for revised historical figures does not necessarily match the approach used previously

ME: Officers for work with juveniles are not separately separated in the Institute for execution of criminal sanctions

More details in methodological rules are available in explanatory text (metadata) attached to [Crime and Criminal Justice \(crim\)](#) database section **10.6**

### 3.5. Statistical unit

There are three different statistical units:

- Offence: reported criminal act
- Case: criminal trial, and other types of court hearings
- People, depending on the stype of statistics: employees, victims, offenders, suspects, prosecuted, convicted, prisoners

The following list shows the statistical unit for persons in the criminal justice system database table:

Label	Code	Unit
Suspects and offenders by sex - number and rate for the relevant sex group	crim_just_sex	people
Suspects and offenders by age - number and rate for the relevant age group	crim_just_age	people
Suspects and offenders by citizenship	crim_just_ctz	people
Personnel in the criminal justice system by sex - number and rate for the relevant sex group	crim_just_job	people

### 3.6. Statistical population

For administrative data, the statistical population for each statistic is the complete register (all the relevant records). The group of individuals depends on the type of unit (see 3.5).

For people, all ages and nationalities are usually counted.

### 3.7. Reference area

European Union Member States, EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland, EU Candidate countries Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Turkey, Serbia, and the EU Potential Candidate countries Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo.

Certain territories are excluded and more details are provided in metadata attached to [Crime and Criminal Justice \(crim\)](#) database section **10.6**

England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland (United Kingdom) are different territories of jurisdiction for criminal law, and separate figures are presented.

### 3.8. Coverage - Time

The current tables are available from 2008 onwards.

### 3.9. Base period

Publications 2008 – 2015 used 2008 as base year.

## 4. Unit of measure

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- Absolute number.
- Rate by 100.000 population size.

Population size defined as resident population January 1<sup>st</sup> according to Eurostat database population figures.

## 5. Reference Period

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The standard reference period is the calendar year.

For criminal justice personnel the standard reference date is 31 December.

## 6. Institutional Mandate

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### 6.1. Institutional Mandate - legal acts and other agreements

The 2004 Hague Programme November: Strengthening freedom, justice and security in the European Union.  
The Hague Programme, OJ C 53 of 3.3.2005, p.11 at

[http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52005XG0303\(01\)](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52005XG0303(01))

The 2009 Stockholm Programme: An open and secure Europe serving and protecting citizens.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/JOHtml.do?uri=OJ:C:2010:115:SOM:EN:HTML>

### 6.2. Institutional Mandate - data sharing

Not applicable.

## 7. Confidentiality

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### 7.1. Confidentiality - policy

[Regulation \(EC\) No 223/2009 on European statistics](#) (recital 24 and Article 20(4)) of 11 March 2009 (OJ L 87, p. 164), stipulates the need to establish common principles and guidelines ensuring the confidentiality of data used for the production of European statistics and the access to those confidential data with due account for technical developments and the requirements of users in a democratic society.

### 7.2. Confidentiality - data treatment

Not applicable.

## 8. Release policy

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### 8.1. Release calendar

In general, data are released approximately 18 months after the reference year.

### 8.2. Release calendar access

Not applicable.

### 8.3. Release policy - user access

In line with the Community legal framework and the [European Statistics Code of Practice](#) Eurostat disseminates European statistics on Eurostat's website (see item 10 - 'Accessibility and clarity') respecting professional independence and in an objective, professional and transparent manner in which all users are treated equitably. The detailed arrangements are governed by the [Eurostat protocol on impartial access to Eurostat data for users](#).

## 9. Frequency of dissemination

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Annual.

<b>10. Accessibility and clarity</b>	<a href="#">Top</a>
<b>10.1. Dissemination format - News release</b>	
Ad hoc news releases 2-3 times per year.	
<b>10.2. Dissemination format - Publications</b>	
"Crime and Criminal Justice" - <a href="#">Statistics Explained</a> published May 2017 Publication Crime section - <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/crime/publications">http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/crime/publications</a>	
<b>10.3. Dissemination format - online database</b>	
Tables are available on-line in Eurostat webpage <a href="#">Crime Database</a> and are updated annually.	
<b>10.4. Dissemination format - microdata access</b>	
Not applicable.	
<b>10.5. Dissemination format - other</b>	
Statistics Explained articles.	
<b>10.6. Documentation on methodology</b>	
<p>Each country determines the methodology and is responsible for its documentation and which authority or statistical office that should collect, check, and send data and documentation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More details (as listed below) in methodological rules are available in metadata attached to <a href="#">Crime and Criminal Justice (crim)</a> database section <b>10.6</b></li> </ul> <p>Geographical coverage Methodological rules – Stage of data collection Methodological rules – Counting unit Methodological rules – Use of Principal Offence Rule Methodological rules – Counting of persons for multiple (serial) offences of the same type Methodological rules – Counting the same person multiple times in the same year Methodological rules – Adult and juvenile age thresholds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">EU guidelines for the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes — 2017 edition</a> This booklet presents the structure of the ICCS, its classification principles and its relations to existing classifications, to facilitate the implementation of the ICCS. It provides a brief overview of concrete organizational and technical tasks for a successful implementation of the ICCS at the national level, which should engage all crime data users and data providers. In addition, an implementation strategy through the creation of a correspondence table, a tabulation of all offence categories in the ICCS linked to all offences on the national level, is briefly <i>described</i>.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Monitoring EU crime policies using the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS)</a> This publication is the second in a series of Eurostat booklets to support the implementation of the ICCS, with the first booklet providing general remarks, a roadmap for the implementation as well as translations of ICCS category titles in all official EU languages. The overall purpose of this second booklet is to describe how the specific criminal offences defined in the legislation passed at EU level should be mapped to the ICCS. For these offences, a common approach towards the alignment with the ICCS needs to be developed, where possible, to ensure that all EU Member States treat these offences consistently when applying the ICCS at national level.</li> </ul>	
<b>10.7. Quality management - documentation</b>	
Not applicable.	

<b>11. Quality management</b>	<a href="#">Top</a>
<b>11.1. Quality assurance</b>	
Data are provided to Eurostat by a contact designated by each country. Notably, this contact can be another authority than the national statistical office. Each country determine its own procedures for gathering data from several different authorities (see metadata attached to <a href="#">Crime and Criminal Justice (crim)</a> database point <b>10.6</b> ).	
<b>11.2. Quality management - assessment</b>	
No assessment has been made.	

<b>12. Relevance</b>	<a href="#">Top</a>
<b>12.1. Relevance - User Needs</b>	

The need to provide information on the development of crime in the European Union was recognised in the Hague Programme adopted by the European Council in 2004.

Some EU institutional users communicate statistical needs to Eurostat on a regular basis.

### 12.2. Relevance - User Satisfaction

No user satisfaction survey has been done .

### 12.3. Completeness

Data is missing for some countries, for some or all years, in nearly all tables, for all types of statistics.

## 13. Accuracy [Top](#)

### 13.1. Accuracy - overall

Principally, administrative crime statistics indicates the registration and handling of cases by authorities. Relative to the administrative data used, the accuracy is largely unknown. Relative to total crime occurrence, it is generally considered that administrative crime statistics is less accurate.

### 13.2. Sampling error

Not applicable - data are from administrative records.

### 13.3. Non-sampling error

Data from administrative records are likely to contain some random errors (mistakes) as well as systematic errors (bias).

## 14. Timeliness and punctuality [Top](#)

### 14.1. Timeliness

Data for the reference year 2016 was published in July 2018.

### 14.2. Punctuality

No delay in 2018.

## 15. Coherence and comparability [Top](#)

### 15.1. Comparability - geographical

Comparability is affected by many factors, such as differences in:

- Legal system and criminal justice system
- Legislation, criminal law and legal definitions
- Organisation and efficiency of police, prosecution, courts and prisons
- Recording stage, input-, process- or output data
- Recording system, reporting system, and production system
- Relation between national crime definition and international statistical definition
- Statistical unit and statistical population
- Statistical definition, reference time, counting methods and calculation methods
- Reporting rate for the crime

### 15.2. Comparability - over time

See the list of factors in 15.1. Changes in any of the factors can affect the comparability over time.

### 15.3. Coherence - cross domain

Not examined.

### 15.4. Coherence - internal

The internal coherence of the data is checked with basic validation rules (see section 18.4. Data validation). Figures for categories may not add up to the total, because information for some categories is missing.

## 16. Cost and Burden [Top](#)

Not estimated.

## 17. Data revision [Top](#)

### 17.1. Data revision - policy



Revisions to the data are possible at any time, but only based on new data received from national contact.

#### 17.2. Data revision - practice

Revisions are incorporated into the database after being confirmed by national contact.

### 18. Statistical processing

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#### 18.1. Source data

Data source: prosecution

The source data type is records in administrative registers.

#### 18.2. Frequency of data collection

Annual.

#### 18.3. Data collection

Since their data requests largely overlap, Eurostat cooperates with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Eurostat forward the United Nations request (Survey on Crime Trends), with the addition of the European Union request, to EU Member States, EFTA Countries, EU Candidate Countries, and EU Potential Candidates. In each country, figures from different authorities are collected into one file. The files are sent to Eurostat by a common procedure, the electronic Data file Administration and Management Information System.

#### 18.4. Data validation

The data are checked for completeness, internal consistency, and consistency over time and coherence with other relevant data sources. For internal consistency the following are checked:

- The sum of the subtotals (e.g. men and women) to the total.
- Large revisions (new figures for earlier years)
- Large variation between years
- Large change from previous to current reference year- Inconsistencies between data and metadata

Any issue revealed by the checking is pointed out to the national contact, by email. The national contact may either confirm the validity of data or send new data. No editing, estimation, imputation, weighting, seasonal adjustment, or other statistical modifications are carried out by Eurostat.

#### 18.5. Data compilation

EU totals are not published in the database.

#### 18.6. Adjustment

No adjustments are made.

### 19. Comment

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None.

### Related metadata

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### Annexes

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