

XXVI. CRIMINALITY AND JUSTICE

Statistical surveys in the field of criminality and justice are organized and conducted by the Ministry of Interior, National Statistical Institute and Ministry of Justice.

Object, scope and units of survey

Statistical survey on registered criminality

Objects of survey are registered criminal and discovered economic offences and persons suspected. Units of survey are registered criminal and discovered economic offences. Technical units of survey and source of information are the Territorial Offices at the Ministry of Interior, where committed criminal and economic offences are registered.

Statistical survey on punished criminality

Object of survey is the activity of regional, district and martial courts in penal cases. Units of survey are convicted persons with effective sentences and crimes ending with a sentence. Technical unit of survey and source of information are regional, district and martial courts.

Statistical survey on imprisoned persons

Objects of survey are imprisoned persons (accused, defendants and convicted) at prisons and penitentiaries. Unit of survey and source of information are prisons and investigation detention facility.

In usage data about the registered criminality the following should be kept in mind:

Registered offences (Tables 1 and 2) are the offences for which a police procedure had started, the preliminary checks finished and conditions are found to start a legal procedure or administrative penalty to be imposed.

Cases, which should be terminated, according to the police procedures or preliminary checks (following the order of Penal Code and Penal Procedure Code), are not included in the registered criminality.

Discovered offence (Tables 1 and 2) is the criminal act in which the offender is caught at place of crime, confess the crime personally or is discovered by the police and results from the preliminary checks and police procedures are presented to the prosecutor, including cases in which administrative penalties should be imposed.

Category 'Suspects' (Tables 3, 4 and 5) includes persons for whom police has collected sufficient incriminating data and proofs for the crimes they have committed. The total number of suspects includes children under the age of 14 and also those who cannot be put to justice because of death, illness or escape.

Data on punished criminality (crimes with effective sentences and convicted persons) is obtained through processing of information of the regional, district and martial courts, proceedings in penal cases. Data on activity of the martial courts is included since 1998. Data about the results of proceedings of the Supreme Court of Cassation is excluded.

The number of the crimes and the convicted persons referring to a certain reporting year covers those cases in which the sentence has come into force in the same year.

The indicator 'Crimes with penalty inflicted' (Table 7) covers all crimes ending with conviction, irrespective of the number of persons who committed the crime.

The indicator 'Convicted persons' (Tables 8, 9, 10 and 11) covers all persons convicted, including probationary convicted persons.

The age of the convicted persons is shown in completed years (Table 10) at the moment of crime.

Minor persons convicted are included in the total number of convicted persons.

When using information about prisons and investigation detention facility one should keep in mind that the indicator 'Accused persons' (Table 12) includes all detained persons till the moment of handing of the indictment.

The indicator 'Defendants' (Table 12) includes detained persons, who were handed the indictment, but are not convicted with sentences come into force.

The indicator 'Convicted persons' (Table 12) covers all persons convicted with sentences come into force that are at prisons.

Sources of data

Data source about registered criminal and discovered economic offences and suspects is the Ministry of Interior.

Data source about the punished criminality (crimes and convicted persons with effective sentences) is the National Statistical Institute.

Data source about the imprisoned persons is General Directory 'Central Prison Administration' at the Ministry of Justice.

More information on punished criminality (crimes and convicted persons with sentences come into force) can be found in the annual NSI publication 'Crimes and Convicted Persons'.