

Crime and Criminal Justice

Statistics in focus

POPULATION AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

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Contents

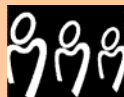
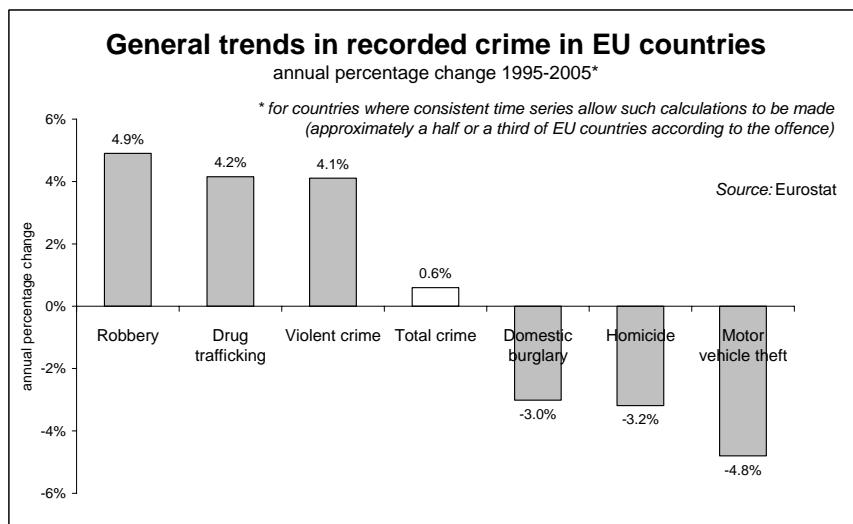
Recent downward trend following long rise in police-recorded crime	2
Crimes recorded by the police.	3
Prison population	10
Police officers	10
Developing EU Statistics on crime and criminal justice.....	10

Measuring the development of crime in the European Union is a difficult task, due to differences in the national information sources. However the political and social importance of crime, together with public concern about the phenomenon, has made it increasingly important to try to obtain an overview of the situation in the EU.

The first available figures are based largely on numbers of crimes reported by the police, and their limitations reflect the fact that the methods and definitions used in the Member States differ considerably. This should be taken into account when using the figures. In the coming years, a more comparable system of crime and criminal justice statistics will be developed.

Main findings

- It is possible to compare trends in total crime over the period 1995-2005 for only about half of the EU Member States. In these 14 countries, the general trend visible in police records for this period suggested an increase of about half a percent per year. In most countries a peak was reached about 2002 and since then the figures have fallen slightly.
- The types of crime which have featured increasingly in the police records include robbery, violent crime and drug trafficking. The incidence of each of these types of crime rose by 4 to 5% per year in the period 1995-2005.
- Types of crime which have become less prevalent include property offences such as domestic burglary and theft of motor vehicles. Police records suggest a decrease of 3% each year for domestic burglary in the countries where consistent figures could be obtained. Motor vehicle thefts dropped more sharply, the general trend being an annual fall of 5% over the period 1995-2005.
- The annual rate for homicides as recorded by the police in the period 2003 to 2005 was about 1.8 per 100 000 population, but rather higher in capital cities (average 2.2).
- The prison population has been rising steadily in the period 1995-2005 to reach an average rate in EU Member States of 124 prisoners per 100 000 population for the years 2003-2005.



Recent downward trend following long rise in police-recorded crime

Any attempt to measure the extent of crime in Europe is complicated by the fact that countries have widely differing methods of recording offences. It would therefore be unwise to make direct comparisons between the levels of crime reported by national police authorities. However, for most EU countries it is possible to observe the general trend in the number of crimes recorded by the police over a given period. From these national trends a general picture emerges, which should, however, be treated carefully and with due attention to the methodological issues involved¹. It should also be emphasised that trends in police figures may reflect the intensity and focus of police activity.

Total crime

About half of the EU Member States can provide fairly consistent police-recorded figures (that is, without major definitional changes) for total crime for each year of the period 1995-2005. By adding together the national figures for these 14 countries, it may be estimated that total crime rose by approximately 0.6% annually over this period. However the reported figures for most countries suggest that a peak was reached about 2002, with a downward trend in the last few years. If the figures for individual Member States from 1995 to 2005 are examined (considering only those with consistent figures extending back at least five years from the end of the period), the greatest overall increases may be found in Slovenia (10% per year), Poland (5%), Malta, Greece and Portugal (all 3%). The EU countries where fewer crimes were recorded included Hungary, Denmark and the Czech Republic (all -2% annually).

Homicide

For certain types of crimes, there is a noticeable downward trend. For example, the number of completed homicides recorded by the police fell by about 3% annually in the Member States where consistent figures could be provided for the period 1995-2005. The biggest falls recorded in countries with consistent data covering at least five years up to 2005 were in Bulgaria (-9% annually), Estonia (-8%), Latvia, Hungary and Greece (all -5%).

Figures for completed homicide may be regarded as more comparable between countries than for some other types of crime, since the definitions vary less. The average of the three years 2003-2005 shows a rate of 1.8 completed homicides per 100 000 head of population in the EU, though there were great differences between the highest figures (recorded in Lithuania at 11 per 100 000 population and Estonia at 9), and the lowest figures in Luxembourg, Austria, Malta, Germany and Sweden (all less than 1).

Homicide rates in the capital cities are, in most cases, rather higher than those for the country as a whole. The highest rates for the period 2003-2005 were recorded in Tallinn (10 homicides annually per 100 000 population), Vilnius (9), and Amsterdam and Bratislava (both 4). The capital cities with the lowest rates were Valletta, Lisbon and Luxembourg City (all less than 1).

Violent crime

The rise in police-reported crime figures between 1995 and 2005 is due to increasing violent crime (comprising violence against the person, robbery and sexual offences). Violent crime increased in most countries where figures could be compared over at least five years up to 2005, with the highest annual rises in France (7%), the Netherlands (6%) and Portugal (5%). The general trend in those EU countries where long series were available was an increase of about 4%.

Figures for robbery rose by about 5% annually to reach a peak around 2003 but have since fallen back slightly. Among countries with comparable data, the greatest annual increases may be observed in Poland and Slovakia (both 8%), France (6%), and Portugal and Sweden (both 5%). On the other hand, decreases were recorded in Romania (-3%) and Germany (-2%).

Domestic burglary

Property crimes, by contrast with crimes against the person, have been falling steadily. Figures are available for two types of property crimes: domestic burglary (or total burglary where domestic burglary cannot be separately identified) and thefts of motor vehicles. Based on the figures for EU countries where there were no definitional changes in domestic burglary rates between 1995 and 2005, the general trend was a fall of 3% a year. The biggest annual falls recorded in countries with comparable series were in Romania (-13%), Bulgaria (-11%) and Belgium (-8%), while an increase was noted in Ireland (5%).

Theft of a motor vehicle

The reduction in the number of motor vehicle thefts, like that in domestic burglary, may perhaps be attributed to improvements in security systems. For the EU countries where the figures for motor vehicle thefts for 1995 and 2005 can be compared, the annual change was calculated to be a fall of about 5%. The most sizeable falls were in Bulgaria (-19%), Belgium (-14%), and the Netherlands and Germany (both -9%).

Drug trafficking

Police records suggest that drug trafficking increased by about 4% each year in the period 1995-2005. In Member States where long series were available (between 5 and 10 years up to 2005), some significant increases were observed, especially in Bulgaria (37% per year), Hungary (30%), Poland (24%), Romania (16%), the Czech Republic and Latvia (both 15%).

¹ See methodological notes on page 11.

Crimes recorded by the police

Table 1 Crimes recorded by the police: Total crime

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

Country	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	General trend		
								available years	annual change	tendency
Belgium	:	1 015 011	988 246	1 042 086	1 026 452	1 017 324	989 153	6	:	^
Bulgaria	196 346	148 915	147 022	146 929	143 921	142 093	137 800	6	-1%	↓
Czech Republic	375 630	391 469	358 577	372 341	357 740	351 629	344 060	11	-2%	↓
Denmark	538 963	504 231	473 290	491 511	486 174	474 419	432 704	11	-2%	↓
Germany	6 668 717	6 264 723	6 363 865	6 507 394	6 572 135	6 633 156	6 391 715	11	:	^
Estonia	39 570	57 799	58 497	53 293	53 595	53 048	52 916	3	:	:
Ireland	102 484	73 276	86 633	106 415	103 360	98 964	101 659	6	:	^
Greece	329 110	369 137	439 629	441 138	441 839	405 627	455 952	11	3%	↑
Spain	1 659 026	1 852 858	2 052 492	2 183 457	2 144 155	2 141 295	2 230 906	1	:	:
France	3 665 320	3 771 849	4 061 792	4 113 882	3 974 694	3 825 442	3 775 838	11	:	^
Italy	2 267 488	2 205 782	2 163 826	2 231 550	2 456 887	2 417 716	2 579 124	2	:	:
Cyprus	4 033	4 340	4 506	4 758	7 256	7 615	7 241	3	:	:
Latvia	39 141	50 199	51 082	49 329	51 773	62 173	51 435	2	:	:
Lithuania	60 819	82 370	79 265	72 646	79 072	84 136	82 074	3	:	:
Luxembourg	28 380	22 816	22 646	26 046	26 163	26 907	25 321	4	:	:
Hungary	502 036	450 673	465 694	420 782	413 343	418 833	436 522	11	-2%	↓
Malta	:	17 016	15 929	17 023	17 739	18 384	18 580	8	3%	↑
Netherlands	1 226 700	1 315 396	1 363 248	1 383 594	1 350 681	1 295 619	1 228 271	11	:	^
Austria	486 433	560 306	522 710	591 584	643 286	643 648	605 272	4	:	:
Poland	974 941	1 266 910	1 390 089	1 404 229	1 466 643	1 461 217	1 379 962	11	5%	↑
Portugal	326 829	363 294	372 170	391 599	417 383	416 420	392 174	11	3%	↑
Romania	297 046	353 745	340 414	312 204	276 841	231 637	208 239	11	:	^
Slovenia	38 178	67 618	74 794	77 218	76 643	86 568	84 379	11	10%	↑
Slovakia	114 579	88 817	93 053	107 373	111 893	131 244	123 563	11	:	^
Finland	381 652	385 797	361 105	364 717	367 343	354 453	339 715	11	-1%	↔
Sweden	1 145 945	1 214 968	1 189 393	1 234 784	1 255 371	1 248 743	1 241 843	11	1%	↔
UK: England & Wales	5 100 241	5 170 843	5 525 024	5 974 960	6 013 759	5 640 573	5 556 513	4	:	:
UK: Scotland	475 697	423 172	421 093	427 034	406 979	438 121	417 785	2	:	:
UK: Northern Ireland	68 808	119 912	139 786	142 496	127 953	118 124	123 194	4	:	:
EU Candidate countries										
Croatia	63 015	68 378	78 351	77 905	80 377	85 416	79 946	11	4%	↑
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	:	19 814	17 139	18 308	22 547	22 663	22 634	6	:	^
Turkey	279 001	339 881	414 385	458 558	499 130	533 018	686 169	1	:	:
EFTA/EEA countries										
Iceland	:	18 584	18 547	19 938	17 515	16 565	12 028	1	:	:
Liechtenstein	:	898	1 086	1 002	1 138	1 043	1 038	10	:	^
Norway	267 925	306 526	299 714	319 523	303 824	287 821	275 684	11	:	^
Switzerland	346 634	317 335	321 713	356 841	379 343	389 415	352 723	11	:	^

: Data not available or not comparable; no visible trend.

| Break in the series.

General trend (1995-2005 where possible; otherwise, at least 5 years to 2005)

Annual change: constant annual rate of change (in %); see Methodological Notes for further information.

Tendency:

↑ increase of more than 1% per year

↔ stable (increase or decrease of less than 1% per year)

↓ decrease of more than 1% per year

^ not discernible

Source: Eurostat

Table 2 Crimes recorded by the police: Homicide

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. Unlike other offences, the counting unit for homicide is normally the victim. *For exceptions to the standard definition, see the metadata files on the website.*

Country	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	General trend			Rate per 100 000 population average per year from 2003 to 2005		
								available years	annual change	tendency	Country	City	Rate
Belgium	:	205	242	230	190	214	173	6	:	^^	1.85	Brussels	3.28
Bulgaria	461	332	308	255	247	240	196	6	-9%	↓	2.92	Sofia	3.32
Czech Republic	176	174	148	139	159	137	104	11	-4%	↓	:	Prague	:
Denmark	70	79	62	58	82	60	70	11	:	^^	1.31	Copenhagen	2.00
Germany	1 373	960	868	914	820	809	804	7	-4%	↓	0.98	Berlin	1.92
Estonia	246	143	137	142	147	91	113	11	-8%	↓	8.65	Tallinn	9.75
Ireland	53	56	58	59	52	45	58	6	:	^^	1.28	Dublin	2.26
Greece	151	158	139	108	122	109	127	11	-5%	↓	1.08	Athens	1.01
Spain	411	553	577	564	587	520	518	1	:	:	1.34	Madrid	1.82
France	1 336	1 051	1 046	1 119	987	990	976	11	:	^^	1.63	Paris	1.71
Italy	1 042	818	765	691	765	714	601	2	:	:	1.13	Rome	1.12
Cyprus	10	8	7	3	15	15	16	3	:	:	2.10	Lefkosia	1.54
Latvia	281	219	214	207	220	199	127	11	-5%	↓	:	Riga	:
Lithuania	485	408	377	316	385	356	404	3	:	:	11.08	Vilnius	8.92
Luxembourg	2	4	6	4	3	2	4	4	:	:	0.66	Luxembourg	0.87
Hungary	296	205	254	203	228	209	164	11	-5%	↓	1.98	Budapest	1.99
Malta	:	4	5	5	0	7	4	8	:	:	0.91	Valletta	0.00
Netherlands	299	223	265	224	247	223	198	11	:	^^	1.37	Amsterdam	4.43
Austria	78	82	70	65	50	59	54	4	:	:	0.67	Vienna	1.13
Poland	854	855	776	716	663	633	555	11	-4%	↓	1.62	Warsaw	2.40
Portugal	109	116	105	119	149	144	133	8	:	^^	1.36	Lisbon	0.60
Romania	758	581	597	563	551	516	453	11	-4%	↓	2.33	Bucharest	1.31
Slovenia	45	36	15	29	21	29	20	11	:	:	1.17	Ljubljana	1.75
Slovakia	128	143	129	128	146	122	106	11	:	^^	2.32	Bratislava	3.60
Finland	146	146	155	131	103	144	114	11	:	^^	2.30	Helsinki	2.32
Sweden	83	89	84	93	81	105	83	11	:	^^	1.00	Stockholm	:
UK: England & Wales	753	850	891	1 047	904	868	766	4	:	:	1.59	London	2.64
UK: Scotland	132	104	106	126	109	134	101	2	:	:	2.31	Edinburgh	2.41
UK: Northern Ireland	24	48	52	45	33	41	29	4	:	:	2.01	Belfast	3.35
EU Candidate countries													
Croatia	188	111	86	88	76	89	76	11	-8%	↓	1.81	Zagreb	1.91
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	:	51	55	60	70	49	49	6	:	^^	2.76	Skopje	4.54
Turkey	5 684	6 663	5 839	5 683	5 308	4 986	4 971	11	:	^^	7.20	Ankara	4.27
EFTA/EEA countries													
Iceland	0	5	1	4	0	3	3	11	:	:	0.68	Reykjavik	0.80
Liechtenstein	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	11	:	:	0.97	Vaduz	0.00
Norway	42	48	37	46	51	36	33	11	:	^^	0.87	Oslo	1.79
Switzerland	82	69	86	86	73	79	75	11	:	^^	1.03	Berne	1.36

: Data not available or not comparable; no visible trend.

Trend not analysed for countries recording fewer than 20 homicides in any year.

| Break in the series.

General trend (1995-2005 where possible; otherwise, at least 5 years to 2005)

Annual change: constant annual rate of change (in %); see Methodological Notes for further information.

Tendency:

↑ increase of more than 1% per year

↔ stable (increase or decrease of less than 1% per year)

↓ decrease of more than 1% per year

^^ not discernible

Rate per 100 000 population:

calculated using figures for completed homicides only.

2002-2004: Madrid & Spain

2004-2005: Rome & Italy, Edinburgh & UK: Scotland

Source: Eurostat

Table 3 Crimes recorded by the police: Violent crime

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 website.

Country	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	General trend		
								available years	annual change	tendency
Belgium	:	95 019	94 985	100 746	100 799	98 892	99 800	6	:	^^
Bulgaria	:	11 018	10 950	12 176	12 796	11 284	10 623	6	:	^^
Czech Republic	21 712	21 996	21 709	23 555	22 358	23 579	21 684	11	:	^^
Denmark	14 919	17 892	18 081	18 832	19 283	19 443	19 135	11	3%	↑
Germany	170 170	187 103	188 413	197 492	204 124	211 172	212 832	11	2%	↑
Estonia	813	676	643	:	2 411	3 287	4 755	3	:	:
Ireland	5 764	5 676	8 548	11 976	9 968	9 223	8 790	6	:	^^
Greece	8 693	9 105	9 501	7 507	10 140	10 145	10 271	11	:	^^
Spain	103 039	109 665	121 094	120 581	109 798	108 820	112 426	1	:	:
France	165 381	243 166	279 324	288 927	292 658	292 088	307 501	11	7%	↑
Italy	98 837	106 051	107 032	106 624	111 165	131 044	135 681	2	:	:
Cyprus	198	185	200	203	294	383	:	0	:	:
Latvia	:	3 937	3 761	3 407	3 200	3 366	2 879	7	:	^^
Lithuania	3 838	5 418	5 144	5 492	6 042	6 566	6 561	3	:	:
Luxembourg	:	1 768	1 689	2 069	2 124	2 433	2 367	4	:	:
Hungary	25 773	29 145	30 820	31 221	31 484	33 364	32 760	11	3%	↑
Malta	:	:	:	:	:	406	403	2	:	:
Netherlands	65 284	91 738	101 320	104 336	106 410	109 887	110 509	11	6%	↑
Austria	:	112 427	103 743	121 320	148 758	172 115	148 748	4	:	:
Poland	53 197	79 763	76 235	74 875	77 152	74 614	68 141	11	3%	↑
Portugal	17 028	19 730	21 554	22 945	23 414	24 266	23 241	11	5%	↑
Romania	9 212	7 703	7 943	7 130	6 281	6 388	6 469	11	-4%	↓
Slovenia	1 906	1 594	2 807	3 070	2 893	2 928	2 856	6	:	^^
Slovakia	10 990	13 549	14 450	15 020	13 724	13 755	12 906	11	:	^^
Finland	28 218	34 291	33 355	34 186	35 293	36 450	37 105	11	2%	↑
Sweden	70 655	79 521	80 084	83 630	87 671	89 768	97 485	11	3%	↑
UK: England & Wales	310 936	733 387	813 121	1 004 599	1 123 710	1 200 991	1 220 198	4	:	:
UK: Scotland	24 360	27 047	27 605	30 819	28 690	29 341	28 407	2	:	:
UK: Northern Ireland	8 368	24 323	29 757	32 421	32 735	32 512	34 408	4	:	:
EU Candidate countries										
Croatia	:	6 211	7 584	8 802	10 032	11 292	12 405	8	16%	↑
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	:	538	493	702	860	1 094	1 133	6	20%	↑
Turkey	55 001	82 322	98 388	106 518	107 767	118 813	139 001	1	:	:
EFTA/EEA countries										
Iceland	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	0	:	:
Liechtenstein	:	83	85	82	109	96	107	10	:	^^
Norway	15 335	19 374	19 217	20 414	20 039	21 360	21 381	11	3%	↑
Switzerland	6 042	8 152	8 653	9 265	10 151	11 917	11 544	11	6%	↑

: Data not available or not comparable; no visible trend.

| Break in the series.

General trend (1995-2005 where possible; otherwise, at least 5 years to 2005)

Annual change: constant annual rate of change (in %); see Methodological Notes for further information.

Tendency:

↑ increase of more than 1% per year

↔ stable (increase or decrease of less than 1% per year)

↓ decrease of more than 1% per year

^^ not discernible

Source: Eurostat

Table 4 Crimes recorded by the police: Robbery

Robbery is a sub-set of "violent crime" (see Table 3). It 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 not included. *For exceptions to the standard definition, see the metadata files on the website.*

Country	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	General trend		
								available years	annual change	tendency
Belgium	:	25 949	26 593	27 980	25 655	21 907	21 234	6	:	^^
Bulgaria	5 737	4 266	4 069	4 665	4 933	4 131	3 754	6	:	^^
Czech Republic	3 978	4 699	4 372	5 468	5 508	6 107	5 550	11	4%	↑
Denmark	4 112	5 915	5 872	6 033	5 884	5 733	5 199	11	3%	↑
Germany	:	59 414	57 108	58 867	59 782	59 732	54 841	10	-2%	↓
Estonia	:	4 754	4 475	:	1 885	1 632	1 298	3	:	:
Ireland	:	1 397	1 744	1 688	1 714	1 483	1 146	6	:	^^
Greece	1 600	1 707	1 939	2 131	2 320	2 400	2 383	11	4%	↑
Spain	87 255	94 831	106 491	104 380	92 980	88 413	90 104	1	:	:
France	:	109 836	134 281	133 137	125 286	119 641	124 600	9	6%	↑
Italy	69 535	67 424	66 671	68 248	70 625	66 643	65 724	2	:	:
Cyprus	22	39	39	36	66	100	84	3	:	:
Latvia	:	3 160	3 059	2 664	2 503	2 467	2 163	7	:	^^
Lithuania	2 837	4 374	4 185	4 535	4 919	5 323	5 206	3	:	:
Luxembourg	252	307	257	367	374	339	351	4	:	:
Hungary	2 657	3 494	3 319	3 389	3 289	3 227	2 982	11	:	^^
Malta	:	146	160	156	195	265	256	8	:	^^
Netherlands	15 735	19 004	21 174	20 647	20 018	17 683	15 463	11	:	^^
Austria	:	3 034	2 824	3 638	4 434	4 798	4 770	4	:	:
Poland	20 252	43 255	41 208	40 345	44 086	41 287	36 347	11	8%	↑
Portugal	14 396	17 156	18 585	19 764	19 767	21 051	20 183	11	5%	↑
Romania	4 154	3 280	3 467	3 025	2 782	3 087	3 326	11	-3%	↓
Slovenia	292	474	503	449	349	398	429	11	:	^^
Slovakia	:	1 264	1 366	1 578	1 918	2 156	1 919	9	8%	↑
Finland	:	2 600	2 157	2 120	2 045	2 017	1 814	9	:	^^
Sweden	5 747	8 999	8 538	8 974	8 575	8 590	9 398	11	5%	↑
UK: England & Wales	68 074	95 154	121 359	110 271	103 736	90 747	98 204	4	:	:
UK: Scotland	5 330	4 420	4 228	4 938	4 159	3 736	3 553	2	:	:
UK: Northern Ireland	1 539	1 767	2 222	2 497	1 973	1 487	1 744	4	:	:
EU Candidate countries										
Croatia	464	802	801	1 204	1 236	1 622	1 560	11	14%	↑
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	:	296	266	463	573	783	709	6	25%	↑
Turkey	1 809	1 858	3 073	3 864	4 776	10 825	15 075	:	:	:
EFTA/EEA countries										
Iceland	:	34	39	32	39	35	49	1	:	:
Liechtenstein	:	2	1	1	3	2	1	10	:	^^
Norway	891	1 635	1 392	1 548	1 437	1 596	1 448	11	6%	↑
Switzerland	:	2 178	2 256	2 445	2 685	2 933	2 595	9	:	^^

: Data not available or not comparable; no visible trend.

| Break in the series.

General trend (1995-2005 where possible; otherwise, at least 5 years to 2005)

Annual change: constant annual rate of change (in %); see Methodological Notes for further information.

Tendency:

↑ increase of more than 1% per year

↔ stable (increase or decrease of less than 1% per year)

↓ decrease of more than 1% per year

^^ not discernible

Source: Eurostat

Table 5 Crimes recorded by the police: Domestic burglary

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 website.

Country	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	General trend		
								available years	annual change	tendency
Belgium	:	85 604	81 379	88 234	70 826	60 784	60 624	6	-8%	↓
Bulgaria	80 671	39 455	36 269	31 639	28 210	25 565	22 379	6	-11%	↓
Czech Republic	32 476	23 813	21 100	23 359	22 292	20 122	16 872	11	-6%	↓
Denmark	32 363	32 846	32 274	35 557	33 879	32 956	29 439	11	:	↔
Germany	211 221	140 015	133 722	130 055	123 280	124 155	109 736	11	-6%	↓
Estonia	8 175	7 285	7 652	7 356	6 495	5 752	4 766	11	:	↔
Ireland	18 506	13 376	14 877	15 474	16 129	16 273	17 958	6	5%	↑
Greece	42 377	31 840	31 903	31 805	31 181	26 489	30 207	11	-5%	↓
Spain	76 610	90 518	99 066	93 751	88 128	81 552	81 495	1	:	:
France	237 624	186 492	210 850	224 223	216 797	202 880	181 503	11	:	↔
Italy	212 477	207 317	183 496	169 430	173 097	:	:	0	:	:
Cyprus	1 002	1 010	792	1 228	3 159	3 311	2 828	3	:	:
Latvia	:	5 614	5 439	5 177	5 327	6 031	4 310	7	:	↔
Lithuania	7 462	9 203	8 647	6 989	8 573	9 174	7 065	3	:	:
Luxembourg	3 249	2 081	1 947	1 992	2 206	2 100	1 486	4	:	:
Hungary	22 372	26 866	26 194	22 907	19 366	18 671	17 786	11	-5%	↓
Malta	:	784	618	679	682	782	1 113	7	:	↔
Netherlands	118 115	91 420	90 284	101 920	103 577	95 952	92 890	11	:	↔
Austria	13 721	13 262	13 008	12 674	13 429	20 276	21 227	4	:	:
Poland	62 011	77 397	72 167	67 290	65 172	66 795	59 325	11	:	↔
Portugal	21 981	21 153	20 806	19 989	21 963	22 587	22 840	11	:	↔
Romania	31 163	19 024	17 551	12 001	10 063	10 002	9 135	11	-13%	↓
Slovenia	1 361	3 274	2 522	3 051	2 368	2 750	2 286	6	:	↔
Slovakia	4 480	3 248	3 144	2 785	2 642	3 023	2 809	11	-5%	↓
Finland	11 512	9 264	7 957	7 406	7 373	7 901	7 281	11	-5%	↓
Sweden	16 701	17 581	15 169	16 562	17 344	17 573	16 654	11	:	↔
UK: England & Wales	643 645	402 984	430 347	437 583	402 345	321 461	300 555	4	:	:
UK: Scotland	44 725	32 684	30 181	29 623	24 828	23 613	21 232	2	:	:
UK: Northern Ireland	9 774	8 375	9 064	10 125	8 944	7 302	7 259	4	:	:
EU Candidate countries										
Croatia	:	2 957	4 037	4 174	4 125	3 734	3 396	6	:	↔
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	:	981	1 036	792	1 088	1 275	1 146	6	:	↔
Turkey	:	20 493	28 812	29 042	31 971	36 639	57 350	1	:	:
EFTA/EEA countries										
Iceland	:	2 407	2 857	3 208	2 889	2 769	2 244	1	:	:
Liechtenstein	142	95	72	87	123	121	97	11	:	↔
Norway	18 382	10 402	9 641	10 482	10 475	8 613	8 136	11	-8%	↓
Switzerland	67 044	60 384	57 375	60 822	68 551	70 370	61 194	11	:	↔

: Data not available or not comparable; no visible trend.

| Break in the series.

General trend (1995-2005 where possible; otherwise, at least 5 years to 2005)

Annual change: constant annual rate of change (in %); see Methodological Notes for further information.

Tendency:

↑ increase of more than 1% per year

↔ stable (increase or decrease of less than 1% per year)

↓ decrease of more than 1% per year

↔ not discernible

Source: Eurostat

Table 6 Crimes recorded by the police: Theft of a motor vehicle

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

Country	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	General trend		
								available years	annual change	tendency
Belgium	:	49 433	45 038	40 156	32 934	27 347	24 307	6	-14%	↓
Bulgaria	2 451	2 422	2 076	2 196	1 488	1 268	785	6	-19%	↓
Czech Republic	27 327	25 539	23 539	26 143	25 331	24 230	23 040	11	-2%	↓
Denmark	46 174	41 740	37 444	37 390	34 037	31 525	25 887	11	-6%	↓
Germany	262 620	127 750	121 533	116 230	109 846	107 920	96 451	11	-9%	↓
Estonia	1 955	2 322	2 818	2 628	2 099	1 840	1 929	11	:	↔
Ireland	11 754	16 140	14 710	14 111	12 487	13 579	13 301	6	:	↔
Greece	:	5 702	5 459	5 385	5 865	5 568	5 860	10	:	↔
Spain	98 848	144 509	158 898	156 232	138 829	126 902	120 946	1	:	:
France	453 525	401 057	418 983	382 148	328 678	285 680	260 538	11	-5%	↓
Italy	305 438	243 890	235 946	232 564	221 543	:	:	0	:	:
Cyprus	543	1 237	1 441	1 206	1 569	1 475	1 610	3	:	:
Latvia	2 774	2 932	2 769	2 845	3 369	2 960	2 023	11	:	↔
Lithuania	5 206	5 991	6 626	6 484	7 022	6 330	4 541	3	:	:
Luxembourg	1 196	542	496	519	453	526	464	4	:	:
Hungary	18 363	14 437	12 547	11 541	12 229	10 942	10 736	11	-8%	↓
Malta	:	1 051	848	707	887	798	672	8	-7%	↓
Netherlands	40 902	46 634	43 068	42 428	34 271	30 652	25 928	7	-9%	↓
Austria	6 095	8 601	5 740	5 489	7 720	8 156	11 089	4	:	:
Poland	50 684	68 062	59 458	53 674	54 291	51 150	45 292	11	:	↔
Portugal	17 360	26 428	26 162	30 250	29 934	29 237	25 716	11	:	↔
Romania	2 687	2 149	1 952	1 297	1 127	1 120	1 082	11	-8%	↓
Slovenia	1 425	1 291	1 222	1 180	945	1 035	1 150	11	-5%	↓
Slovakia	7 696	6 073	5 344	5 099	5 295	6 000	5 591	11	-4%	↓
Finland	19 772	26 391	22 583	23 115	21 922	19 326	16 791	11	:	↔
Sweden	70 299	75 125	73 309	75 593	67 199	60 980	56 719	11	:	↔
UK: England & Wales	508 450	338 796	328 115	318 507	291 858	242 661	214 211	4	:	:
UK: Scotland	37 514	26 238	23 208	22 495	17 843	15 633	14 041	2	:	:
UK: Northern Ireland	7 794	10 806	11 635	8 410	5 369	4 456	3 721	4	:	:
EU Candidate countries										
Croatia	:	2 055	2 222	2 404	2 338	2 462	2 274	6	:	↔
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	:	730	511	576	560	827	567	6	:	↔
Turkey	15 192	15 276	20 535	20 740	25 443	25 667	33 284	1	:	:
EFTA/EEA countries										
Iceland	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	0	:	:
Liechtenstein	:	6	8	7	14	16	10	9	:	↔
Norway	20 817	21 285	18 833	22 595	20 130	17 867	15 350	11	:	↔
Switzerland	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	0	:	:

: Data not available or not comparable; no visible trend.

| Break in the series.

General trend (1995-2005 where possible; otherwise, at least 5 years to 2005)

Annual change: constant annual rate of change (in %); see Methodological Notes for further information.

Tendency:

↑ increase of more than 1% per year

↔ stable (increase or decrease of less than 1% per year)

↓ decrease of more than 1% per year

↔ not discernible

Source: Eurostat

Table 7 Crimes recorded by the police: Drug trafficking

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 website.*

Country	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	General trend		
								available years	annual change	tendency
Belgium	:	12 255	11 171	11 473	10 866	11 722	12 408	6	:	^
Bulgaria	:	424	1 487	1 648	2 006	2 412	2 720	6	37%	↑
Czech Republic	309	1 276	1 418	1 444	1 708	1 710	1 644	11	15%	↑
Denmark	:	942	889	1 053	1 091	1 066	961	6	:	^
Germany	54 889	76 594	79 787	76 038	73 375	75 347	72 002	11	2%	↑
Estonia	12	306	628	632	604	494	686	3	:	:
Ireland	:	1 737	2 198	2 632	2 411	2 236	2 674	6	:	^
Greece	2 930	7 785	9 693	10 001	10 556	7 761	8 393	11	10%	↑
Spain	15 119	11 496	12 160	12 133	11 742	11 947	11 968	1	:	:
France	5 661	4 254	4 047	5 165	6 094	6 296	6 108	6	10%	↑
Italy	38 269	34 800	36 045	37 965	37 288	30 053	32 059	2	:	:
Cyprus	157	289	397	433	475	514	612	3	:	:
Latvia	271	655	830	629	997	1 148	1 049	11	15%	↑
Lithuania	60	85	160	212	370	673	977	3	:	:
Luxembourg	764	1 226	1 077	1 321	1 133	1 342	1 326	4	:	:
Hungary	84	596	857	819	599	907	1 197	11	30%	↑
Malta	:	:	:	:	:	78	113	2	:	:
Netherlands	4 248	7 474	10 380	12 683	15 592	15 664	15 305	11	11%	↑
Austria	2 058	1 503	2 399	2 320	2 506	2 443	2 337	4	:	:
Poland	284	1 806	2 219	2 371	2 577	3 296	3 608	11	24%	↑
Portugal	4 512	3 214	3 853	4 053	3 739	3 654	3 535	11	:	^
Romania	368	561	658	1 074	1 131	1 775	2 441	11	16%	↑
Slovenia	310	939	1 140	1 162	775	997	1 026	11	11%	↑
Slovakia	606	604	652	674	734	711	843	11	:	^
Finland	9 052	13 445	14 869	6 617	5 974	5 269	5 177	4	:	:
Sweden	6 924	4 395	5 086	5 259	5 129	4 905	4 670	7	:	^
UK: England & Wales	21 272	19 820	19 686	22 435	24 628	24 098	25 279	4	:	:
UK: Scotland	7 974	8 761	10 293	10 327	9 044	9 333	9 613	2	:	:
UK: Northern Ireland	358	228	210	291	405	375	349	4	:	:
EU Candidate countries										
Croatia	:	7 338	8 609	8 717	7 992	7 529	8 186	6	:	^
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	:	410	335	273	397	357	390	6	:	^
Turkey	2 457	4 009	4 798	5 662	5 740	7 789	8 623	1	:	:
EFTA/EEA countries										
Iceland	:	103	117	121	149	165	95	1	:	:
Liechtenstein	:	269	387	447	364	459	435	10	14%	↑
Norway	10 793	17 579	19 945	19 294	16 152	16 814	17 118	11	4%	↑
Switzerland	7 685	7 549	7 416	7 877	7 806	7 803	7 076	7	:	^

: Data not available or not comparable; no visible trend.

| Break in the series.

General trend (1995-2005 where possible; otherwise, at least 5 years to 2005)

Annual change: constant annual rate of change (in %); see Methodological Notes for further information.

Tendency:

↑ increase of more than 1% per year

↔ stable (increase or decrease of less than 1% per year)

↓ decrease of more than 1% per year

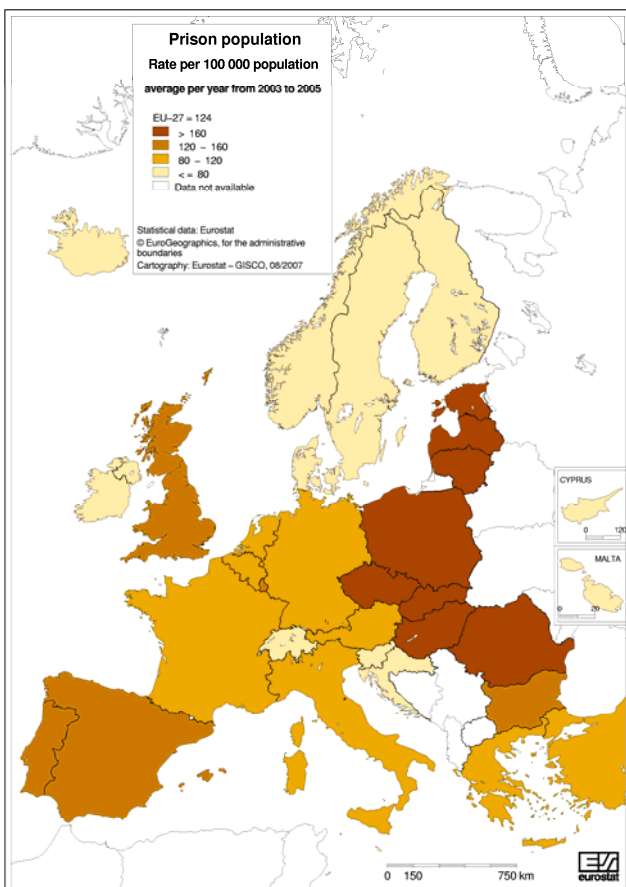
^ not discernible

Source: Eurostat

Prison population

The prison population (including pre-trial detainees) in EU countries is estimated to be rising by about 2% annually. Most countries have reasonably long series of consistent data, showing a fairly constant general trend over the last ten years. Particularly steep rises have occurred in Cyprus (10% per year), Slovenia (7%), Austria (5%), the Netherlands, Ireland, Poland and Malta and UK: England & Wales (all 4%). Prison populations have fallen in Lithuania (-5% annually), Latvia and the Czech Republic (both -4%).

The Member States with the highest number of prisoners relative to the general population over the period 2003-2005 were the three Baltic States, Estonia and Latvia (both 329 prisoners per 100 000 head of population) and Lithuania (239), followed by Poland (212), Romania (182), the Czech Republic (178), Slovakia (171) and Hungary (161). The lowest rates were found in Slovenia (56 per 100 000 population), Cyprus (65), Finland (69), Denmark (70), Malta (71), UK: Northern Ireland (71), Ireland (76) and Sweden (79).



Police officers

It is difficult to compare the numbers of police officers in different countries, as definitions vary. The figures available for most countries include all 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.

In the Member States which were able to supply figures without definitional changes for the period 1995-2005, no discernible trend could be observed.

Member States whose police forces are growing faster than most include Luxembourg, Cyprus and Spain (all 3% per year) and Ireland, the Netherlands, Slovenia and Greece (all 2%), while the greatest falls were in UK: Northern Ireland and Estonia (both -4%) and Lithuania (-3%).

Developing EU Statistics on crime and criminal justice

It has long been recognised that measuring the development of crime in the European Union is an extremely difficult task, due to the differences in the national information sources. However, the political and social importance of crime, together with public concern about the phenomenon, has made it increasingly important to try to obtain an overall view of the situation in the EU. This was recognised in the Hague Programme¹ adopted by the European Council in 2004, which proposed that Eurostat should *establish European instruments for collecting, analysing and comparing information on crime and victimisation and their respective trends in Member States, using national statistics and other sources of information as agreed indicators*. The first results of the work done since then are presented in this publication. Its limitations reflect the fact that the methods and definitions used in the Member States differ considerably. This should be taken into account when using the figures. In the coming years, Eurostat in partnership with the statistical authorities of the Member States and the Commission's Directorate-General for Justice, Freedom and Security will develop a more comparable system of crime and criminal justice statistics, as outlined in the Commission communication² *Developing a comprehensive and coherent EU strategy to measure crime and criminal justice: an EU Action Plan 2006-2010*.

¹ [The Hague Programme](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/) Official Journal C 53 of 3.3.2005, p.11 at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/>

² [Commission communication](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/) COM/2006/437 final at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/>

➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Data collection

The information presented in this publication represents the first results of a collection of data from European countries. The methodology used draws upon that developed by the European Sourcebook of Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics¹, 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 Crime². Data up to reference year 2005 were provided to Eurostat by a network of contact persons nominated by the national statistical authorities of the countries.

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

Most of 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, report to the police, identification of suspect, 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 (or other early or executive release arrangements) 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.

¹ [European Sourcebook of Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics](http://www.europeansourcebook.org/index.html)
<http://www.europeansourcebook.org/index.html>

² [United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime](http://www.unodc.org/)
<http://www.unodc.org/>

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 period 1995-2005 where possible; otherwise, at least 5 years to 2005), general trends for specific crime types (and total crime) have been estimated using the following exponential function to fit the observations:

$$\text{Crime type} = a * e^{(b * \text{time})}$$

This results in an estimate of the *annual change rate* as $e^{(b)-1}$, which is constant over time.

The *general trends* thus obtained have been classified into four groups to indicate the *tendency*: increasing, decreasing, stable (less than 1% annual change), not discernible (where the R² value in conjunction with the length of the time series and visual evidence suggested that there was no discernible trend). General trends for the EU were calculated by totalling the figures for countries where there were no definitional changes, and applying the same formula.

Eurostat website - data, metadata and analysis files

Fuller information is supplied on the Eurostat website. The website allows users access to the data, the metadata and the charts on which the analysis has been based.

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.

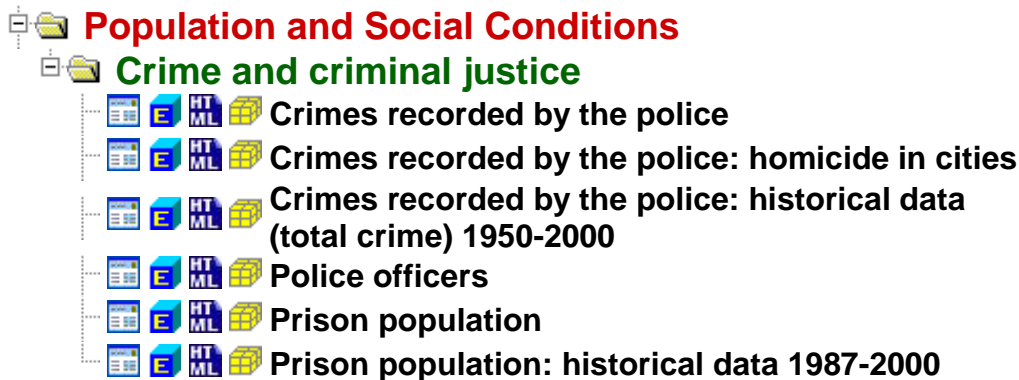
For each table, notes are provided on the definitions which countries were asked to observe in assembling the figures. The relevant SDDS (Special Data Dissemination Standard format) metadata files provide details of the divergence of national figures from the proposed standard definition. As already noted above, comparability of the figures between countries is difficult to achieve and *users are strongly advised to consult the SDDS metadata files when referring to the figures*.

Data on other countries

In addition to the countries considered in this document (EU Member States, candidate countries and EFTA/EEA countries), information has also been collected (and is available via the Eurostat website) for some other countries: Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Russian Federation, U.S.A., South Africa. For fuller information on these and other non-EU countries, users should consult the UNODC website.

Further information:

Data: [EUROSTAT Website/Home page/Population and social conditions/Data](#)



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