



METHODOLOGICAL EXPLANATION

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DECISIONS OF PROSECUTORS AND COURTS IN CRIMINAL MATTERS

This methodological explanation relates to the data releases:

Decisions of prosecutors and courts in criminal matters, Slovenia, annually (First release)

Decisions of prosecutors and courts in criminal matters, Slovenia, annually (Electronic release)



June 2022

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1 PURPOSE

The purpose of statistical surveys is to disseminate data on denounced, accused and convicted persons.

Key statistics:

- Denounced adults and juveniles by criminal offences
- Accused adults and juveniles by criminal offences
- Convicted adults and juveniles by criminal offences

2 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- [Annual Programme of Statistical Surveys \(LPSR\)](#) (only in Slovene)
- [National Statistics Act \(OJ RS, No. 45/95 and 9/01\)](#)
- Partnership agreement (with the Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia and the State Prosecutors Office of the Republic of Slovenia)

3 UNIT DESCRIBED BY THE PUBLISHED DATA

Units described by the published data are perpetrators of criminal offences.

4 SELECTION OF OBSERVATION UNIT

Units described by the published data are perpetrators of criminal offences. When more than one perpetrator participates in committing one criminal offence, each participant is a separate observation unit. If one perpetrator commits several criminal offences, all criminal offences are monitored. The published data follow the principle of the **main criminal offence**, which means that only the main criminal offense of the perpetrator is published (when committing several offences). The main criminal offence is the one for which the maximum sentence is provided by law. If two or more crimes have the same punishment, the main criminal offence is the one for which the court imposed the maximum sentence or the one which the public prosecutor or the judge considers to be the main offence.

The selection of observation units is complete; this means that all legally reported natural and legal persons and persons against whom a prosecutorial decision has been made are included in the investigation (for 2021, the number of observed units was about 37,000).

5 SOURCES AND METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION

Data is collected annually.

In addition to administrative, we also use **statistical sources** which are derived from following research:

- DEM-PREB / ČL "Composition of population";
- SEL-SOC "Socio-economic characteristics of population and migrants";
- SPR / L "Statistical Business Register".

Data on the denounced persons are obtained from **the administrative source**, namely from the electronic records of the Supreme State Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Slovenia (VDTRS) at the beginning of the current year for the previous (reference) year.

Data on the accused and convicted persons are obtained from **the administrative source**, namely from the electronic records of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia (VSRS) at the beginning of the current year for the previous (reference) year.

The main purpose of data collection is to review the alleged, accused and convicted offenders. The added value of the data collected and arranged in Slovenia is represented by demographic data of natural persons (sex, age, citizenship, municipality of permanent residence, etc.) and legal entities (main activity according to the SKD).

6 DEFINITIONS

Crime in the sense of statistical surveying comprises the whole procedure from filing of the charge for a criminal offence to the conclusion of the legal proceedings at the competent body (the prosecutor or the judge).

A criminal offence is an unlawful activity that is - owing to the danger it involves - determined as such by the legislation, which at the same time determines its elements. Criminal offences are defined in penal codes. In cases when persons were tried for committing criminal offences as defined by the Penal Code of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia and the Penal Code of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the data by groups of criminal offences were converted according to the Penal Code of the Republic of Slovenia. The basis for classifying criminal offences is the latest valid Penal Code. At each change of the Penal Code the code list of criminal offences, according to which the data are published, is updated.

Adult perpetrators are persons who had reached 18 years of age by the time they committed the criminal offence.

Juvenile perpetrators are persons who had reached 14 years of age but not yet 18 by the time they committed the criminal offence.

Legal persons are responsible for the crimes by offenders who execute them in the name, on behalf or for the benefit of a legal person.

A person is denounced when the office of the prosecutor starts prosecuting them on suspicion of committing a crime. In crime statistics monitored by SURS denounced persons are those adults against whom the public prosecutor issued the following types of decisions: direct indictment after obtained consent, indictment (directly, after investigative actions, after investigation), bill of indictment (directly, after investigative actions), or proposal to impose a security measure. Denounced juveniles are those persons against whom a decision proposing an educational measure or sentence was issued by the public prosecutor.

A person is accused when the indictment against them becomes final.

A person is convicted when it is determined with the final judgment against them that they are legally responsible for committing a specific crime.

7 EXPLANATIONS

7.1 CLASSIFICATIONS

The basis for the classification of criminal offenses is the Criminal Code; the data are presented according to the lowest level of the crime (paragraph, point), otherwise in accordance with the Criminal Code.

7.2 DATA PROCESSING

DATA EDITING

Data were statistically edited with the combination of systematic corrections and imputation procedures. The following imputation methods were used: logical imputations and hot-deck imputations.

For more, see the general methodological explanations [Statistical data editing](#).

WEIGHTING

Due to full coverage, we did not use data weighting procedures.

SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT

Seasonal adjustment is not applicable.

7.3 INDICES

Indices are not published.

7.4 PRECISION

Due to full coverage, precision is not calculated.

7.5 OTHER EXPLANATIONS

8 PUBLISHING

SiStat Database: [Quality of life](#) - Crime (absolute data)

- First Release (Quality of Life, Crime): »Decisions of prosecutors and courts in criminal matters, Slovenia, annually«
- Electronic Release (Quality of Life, Crime): »Decisions of prosecutors and courts in criminal matters, Slovenia, annually«
- Eurostat, Statistical Office of the European Union
- United Nations (UN)

9 REVISION OF THE DATA

9.1 PUBLISHING OF PRELIMINARY AND FINAL DATA

Provisional data are not disseminated. Only final data are published.

9.2 FACTORS INFLUENCING COMPARABILITY OVER TIME

The provisions of the special section of the Criminal Code, on the basis of which criminal offences are classified, are changing, but with the tracking of changes (updating the register of criminal offenses) we ensure their comparability.

On 15 May 2012 the amendment to the Criminal Procedure Act (ZKP-K, Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 91/11) entered into force. Amendment enabled the implementation of simplified forms of criminal proceedings and more economical course of the main hearings, rather than breaks in the time series.

10 OTHER METHODOLOGICAL MATERIALS

Methodological materials on SURSs website are available at <https://www.stat.si/statweb/en/Methods/QuestionnairesMethodologicalExplanationsQualityReports>.

- Questionnaire:
 - SURS does not collect data for this survey by using a questionnaire.
- Research Quality Report:
 - Statistics of Prosecutor's Offices (KRIM-TOŽ)
 - Statistics of the courts (KRIM_SOD)

area: Quality of life, sub-area: Crime

- Methodological explanations:
 - Decisions of prosecutors' offices and courts in criminal matters

area: Quality of life, sub-area: Crime