STATISTICS DENMARK

Documentation of statistics for Reported Criminal Offences (Quarterly) 2026 Quarter 2

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STATISTICS DENMARK

1 Introduction

The purpose of the statistics is to show the number of criminal offenses in violation of the penal code and the special laws (except those contained in the Danish Road Traffic Act) to the police. The statistics on reported criminal offences date back to 1921, but are in its present form comparable from 1995 onwards.

2 Statistical presentation

The statistics are a quarterly statement of the number of offences of penal code and special laws/legislation reported to the police or discovered by the police itself. The reported criminal offences can be broken down by type of offenses and geographical on regions and municipalities.

2.1 Data description

The statistics on reported criminal offences form part of the Danish System of Criminal Statistics. The System of Criminal Statistics includes data on criminal cases from the reported offences and charges to the convictions plus arrests and imprisonments. The statistics on reported criminal offences is a case statistics and shows the number of offences of penal code and special laws/legislation (except the Road Traffic Act) reported to the police. The statistics include all criminal offences reported to the police in Denmark (exclusive of Greenland and the Faroe Islands). The reported offence is identified by a journal number which can be used by linking to other areas of the crime statistics. Other key variables are the code number of the reported criminal offence and the date and place (municipality) of the criminal offence.

2.2 Classification system

Municipalities and regions plus grouping of the codes of the criminal offences. A distinction is made between the penal code and special law/legislation. The penal code is divided into four subgroups:

- Sexual offences
- Crimes of violence
- Offences against property
- Other offences

The most special laws/legislation are referred to as single acts, while the rest are categorized as 'Other special laws/legislations'. The grouping can be seen here: Violations of the penalcode .

The provisions of the Danish Criminal Code regarding sexual offences went through essential amendments taking effect from 1 July 2013. The amendments resulted in e.g. more categories of sexual offences than previously being placed under the provisions about rape (section 216). See more: Rape

2.3 Sector coverage

Not relevant.

2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

Reported criminal offence: A reported criminal offence is a violation of the law which has been reported or by other ways has come to the knowledge of the police.

Type of offence: Type of offence describes the kind of the reported offence. The criminal offences are divided into the penal code and special law/legislation. Violations of the penal code are grouped in sexual offences, crimes of violence, offences against property and other offences. The most special laws/legislation are referred to as single acts, while the rest are categorized as 'Other special laws/legislations'.

2.5 Statistical unit

The unit in the statistics is the criminal case - here as a reported criminal offence. A violation of the law committed by more than one person is registered as one offence only - and if a violation of the law includes more than a single victim it will also be registered as one offence. If more than one person has reported the violation of the law to the police, more than one reported criminal offence can in exceptional cases be registered.

2.6 Statistical population

Violations of the penal code and the special laws (except the Road Traffic Act) in Denmark (except the Faroe Islands and Greenland), which has been reported or discovered by the police itself.

2.7 Reference area

Denmark, except the Faroe Islands and Greenland.

2.8 Time coverage

The statistics cover the time period from 1995 onwards.

2.9 Base period

Not relevant.

2.10 Unit of measure

Number of reported criminal offences.

2.11 Reference period

01-04-2026 - 30-06-2026

2.12 Frequency of dissemination

The statistics are published quarterly.

2.13 Legal acts and other agreements

The Act on Statistics Denmark § 6. There is no EU Regulation related to this statistics.

2.14 Cost and burden

The statistics are based on administrative registers. There is no direct burden to the compilation of these statistics.

2.15 Comment

Additional information on reported crimes can be found on the subject page or by contacting Statistics Denmark.

3 Statistical processing

The source of the statistics is The Central Register of Reported Criminal Offences - administered by the National Commissioner of the Danish Police. Data are delivered quarterly via system-to-system transmission.

The data go through a probability check in form of a comparison with data from the previous year, key variables are checked for valid values and irrelevant offences are deleted.

3.1 Source data

The Central Register of Reported Criminal Offences - administered by the National Commissioner of the Danish Police.

3.2 Frequency of data collection

Quarterly

3.3 Data collection

System-to-system transmission

3.4 Data validation

The data go through a probability check in form of a comparison with data from the previous year. Explanations of possible big deflections in the distribution of key variables are looked for, possible by contacting the National Police.

3.5 Data compilation

Key variables are checked for valid values. Irrelevant offences are deleted, e.g. offences committed at Greenland or the Faroe Islands. The code numbers of the reported criminal offences are converted to a to a Statistics Denmark-code, which is hierarchically constructed.

3.6 Adjustment

No further corrections of data than mentioned in "Data validation" and "Data compilation" are done.

4 Relevance

The statistics are used broadly by the authorities, organizations, researchers, the press etc. as a basis for public and private planning, training, research and public debate. Views and suggestions from key users are taken into consideration in the preparation of the statistics.

4.1 User Needs

Users: Ministries (especially the Ministry of Justice), the local police authorities, courts, municipalities and counties, different organizations, educational institutions, research or scientific institutions, the media, private firms and private individuals. Applications: Public and private planning, education, research/science and public debate.

4.2 User Satisfaction

The statistics are often used by the media, and the tables in the StatBank are frequently consulted.

4.3 Data completeness rate

Not relevant

5 Accuracy and reliability

The statistics are made based on the data recorded at the time the extract is made. There is also produced an annual statistics for this area which is more complete. Comparisons between the quarterly statistics and the annual statistics reveal that the quarterly statistics under-estimate the number of reported criminal offences with approximately 8 percentage. There is, from quarter to quarter, a shift in the data; part of the registered reported crimes in a given quarter may refer to a previous quarter.

The statistics do not include information on the hidden criminality, i.e. committed criminal offences not reported to the police.

5.1 Overall accuracy

The data come from a single administrative register system storing information on all reported crimes. The statistics are made based on the data recorded at the time the extract is made. There is also produced an annual statistics for this area, which is more complete because it includes reviews that are registered too late to be included in the individual quarters. Comparisons between the quarterly statistics and the annual statistics reveal that the quarterly statistics under-estimate the number of reported criminal offences with approximately 8 percentage.

There is, from quarter to quarter, a shift in the data; part of the registered reported crimes in a given quarter may refer to a previous quarter. In the last 8 quarters 16-21 per cent. of registered reported crimes in one quarter, concerned a previous quarter.

5.2 Sampling error

Not relevant to this statistics.

5.3 Non-sampling error

For example, victim surveys show that the statistics on reported criminal offences underestimate the actual crime rate, as far from all violations are reported to the police. A reliable total figure for this so-called hidden crime cannot be given, as the tendency to report depends, among other things, on the nature of the violation.

The Ministry of Justice and others regularly conduct interview-based victim surveys, where questions are asked whether a crime has been reported to the police. These surveys show, for example, that 57 percent of cases of violence were not reported to the police in 2024.

The victim surveys can be found on the Ministry of Justice's website (in Danish).

5.4 Quality management

Statistics Denmark follows the recommendations on organisation and management of quality given in the Code of Practice for European Statistics (CoP) and the implementation guidelines given in the Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System (QAF). A Working Group on Quality and a central quality assurance function have been established to continuously carry through control of products and processes.

5.5 Quality assurance

Statistics Denmark follows the principles in the Code of Practice for European Statistics (CoP) and uses the Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System (QAF) for the implementation of the principles. This involves continuous decentralized and central control of products and processes based on documentation following international standards. The central quality assurance function reports to the Working Group on Quality. Reports include suggestions for improvement that are assessed, decided and subsequently implemented.

5.6 Quality assessment

The statistics are based on a central administrative register and cover all reported offences, except for offences under the Traffic Act. This ensures high coverage and timeliness. However, the quality of the data is affected by when reports are registered and whether the matter is reported at all. Quarterly reports underestimate the level in relation to annual statistics, and the number of unreported offences varies with the nature of the offence. Data is checked by comparison with previous periods, and the police classifications are converted to a uniform structure. The groupings used are continuously adjusted in accordance with applicable legislation, and this may affect comparability over time. The statistics are published quickly and without delay.

5.7 Data revision - policy

Statistics Denmark revises published figures in accordance with the Revision Policy for Statistics Denmark. The common procedures and principles of the Revision Policy are for some statistics supplemented by a specific revision practice.

5.8 Data revision practice

The figures are not revised.

6 Timeliness and punctuality

The publishing time for the statistics is about 20 days. The statistics are usually published without delay in relation to the scheduled date.

6.1 Timeliness and time lag - final results

Only final figures are published and are no later revised. The publishing time for the statistics is about 20 days.

6.2 Punctuality

The statistics are usually published without delay in relation to the scheduled date.

7 Comparability

The statistics have been prepared on the same basis since 1995. Due to changes in the grouping of the criminal offences caution should be shown by comparing figures over time before this year.

7.1 Comparability - geographical

No international comparable quarterly based statistics are available.

Eurostat collects annual data from the member states on reported criminal offences and publishes statistics based on this. However, according to the EUROSTAT metadata, the range of items included in the different groups of crime differs between countries and comparisons based upon absolute figures are therefore misleading.

STATISTICS DENMARK

7.2 Comparability over time

Due to the introduction of the new penal code in 1933, it has only been possible to make comparisons with earlier estimations (back to 1921) at group level, e.g. the groups of Sexual offences, Crimes of violence, Offences against property and Other (penal code) offences.

The definition of violent crime was changed in 1979. Violent crime is henceforward only to include acts which are intentional physical attacks or threats, while other types of violent crime should be included in the category 'Other crimes'. The change resulted in a decrease in the number of violent crimes of approximately 800 and a corresponding increase in the number of 'Other crimes'.

In 1981, the classification of the groups Sexual offences and Other crimes was changed.

As a consequence of law amendments or wishes for more information on specific kind of offences the division of type of offences has been altered during the years

Among major changes are: In 1986, offences against public decency was divided into a number of more specific types of offences. In 1989, amendments to the penal code took effect which concerned the crimes of violence especially in respect of sections 244-246. This caused a break in the statistics which it is difficult to assess the extent of. Lack of registration of vehicle and offences against departmental order regarding registration of vehicles were until 2012 classed with the Road Traffic Act. Hereafter with the Tax Act. It caused an increase of 2,-4,000 annual reported criminal offences. Section 265 regarding restraining order in the Penal Code is replaced by the law on expulsion, restraining order and ban on stay in 2012 under the special laws. In 2013, the chapter on sexual offences in the Penal Code was amended. This caused changes in the statistics in the grouping of this kind of offences.

The provisions of the Danish Criminal Code regarding sexual offences went through essential amendments taking effect from 1 July 2013. The amendments resulted in e.g. more categories of sexual offences than previously being placed under the provisions about rape (section 216). See more: Rape

A new concept of consent regarding rape is taking effect from 1st of January 2021 which has resulted in new ways for the police to register offences regarding rape. This has to be taken into account when comparing data over time.

A new concept regarding stalking is taking effect from 1st of January 2022. Stalking is included in the category 'Coercive control etc'. The increasing number of offences in this category is due to this new concept.

From 4 July 2023 ‘by false pretences’ (intercourse or other sexual act) is considered rape.

On January 1, 2018, the special burglary-section 276a was introduced into the Criminal Code. The new section meant that the removal of things from a foreign house was now also termed burglary, only the presence in the house had been unjustified. It was therefore no longer a condition for the presence to be obtained by force for example by breaking up windows or doors. In practice, it meant that a large number of reported crimes that were previously theft were now categorized as burglaries.

Since 1 January 1990, the reports have been issued by the Central Register of Reported Offences.

7.3 Coherence - cross domain

The statistics on reported criminal offences are also published annually. On account of its function as an administrative register, the reported criminal offence register is continuously updated and there will consequently be some variation in the number of annually reported criminal offences depending on whether the figure is computed as the sum of the quarterly extracts or the annual extract. The annual statistics exceeded the sum of the four quarters by 8 percent in 2025.

Besides Statistics Denmark, the statistics on reported criminal offencesare also published by the National Commissioner of the Danish Police. There could be small differences in the figures, because Statistics Denmark excludes, e.g., administrative information, which cannot be defined as real 'reported criminal offences'.

7.4 Coherence - internal

Data are internally consistent.

8 Accessibility and clarity

The statistics are publiced in the StatBank under the subject Reported criminal offences. For further information, go to the subject page.

8.1 Release calendar

The publication date appears in the release calendar. The date is confirmed in the weeks before.

8.3 User access

Statistics are always published at 8:00 a.m. at the day announced in the release calendar. No one outside of Statistics Denmark can access the statistics before they are published.

8.2 Release calendar access

The Release Calender can be accessed on our English website: Release Calender.

8.4 News release

There is no news release linked to this statistics.

8.5 Publications

The statistics were included up to and including the reference year 2023 in the annual publication Kriminalitet (Criminality)

8.6 On-line database

The statistics are published in the StatBank under the subject Reported criminal offences, where the following tables can be found with quarterly figures:

- STRAF10: Reported criminal offences by type of offence
- STRAF11: Reported criminal offences by region and type of offence

8.7 Micro-data access

Data on reported criminal offences are kept as ready-made quarterly and annual files containing basic information at journal number level. Furthermore, detailed tables are available at code number level for the specific crime codes of the reported criminal offence and counties.

8.8 Other

Data are not available in other ways.

8.9 Confidentiality - policy

Data Privacy Policy for Statistics Denmark is applied.

8.10 Confidentiality - data treatment

The statistics on reported criminal offences does not include information identifying persons or enterprises. Therefore no aggregation or similar is done to secure confidentiality. However, the classification of the criminal offences is very detailed. Hence, they are grouped in the publishing in order to improve clarity.

8.11 Documentation on methodology

A description of the statistical method may be found on the subject page: Concepts and sources of the statistics (Danish only).

8.12 Quality documentation

Results from the quality evaluation of products and selected processes are available in detail for each statistics and in summary reports for the Working Group on Quality.

9 Contact

The administrative placement of these statistics is in the division of Personal Finances and Welfare, Social Statistics. The contact person is Iben Birgitte Pedersen, tel.: + 45 2360 3711 and e-mail: IPE@dst.dk.