

**Documentation of statistics for  
Convicted Persons 2014**

## 1 Introduction

The purpose of "Convicted persons" is to analyze the number of persons who have been found guilty in violation of the penal code and the special laws (among these the Danish Road Traffic Act). The statistics on convicted persons was published for the first time for the year 1995. Since then it has been published for the years 1998, 2000, 2002 and 2004 and hereafter annually.

## 2 Statistical presentation

The statistics on convicted persons form part of the criminal statistics. The criminal statistics include statistics on criminal cases from reported crimes and victims to convictions and also arrests and imprisonments. The statistics shed light on the number of persons who have been convicted for violation of the penal code, the road traffic act and other special legislation. The convictions include imprisonments, fines and withdrawals of charges. However, the statistics does not contain information on fines below a certain amount for violation of the road traffic act and most of the other special laws.

### 2.1 Data description

The statistics on convicted persons form part of the criminal statistics. The criminal statistics include statistics on criminal cases from reported crimes and victims to convictions and also arrests and imprisonments.

The statistics on convicted persons are person-based statistics, which shed light on the number of persons convicted for violation of the penal code, the road traffic act and other special legislation. The convictions include imprisonments, fines and withdrawals of charges. The statistics do not contain information on all fines as fines for violation of the road traffic act less than DKK 2,500 and fines of less than DKK 1,000 for the violation of most of the other special laws are not registered in the Central Criminal Register, which is the data source of the statistics.

The conviction concerns the main case as more than one case can be decided in the same conviction. The police chooses one of the cases (typically the most serious) as the main case in a complex of cases. One perpetrator can have one or several convictions during a year.

In the published statistics the convicted persons are classified into sex, age, municipality, national origin, country of origin and type of offence and conviction. For the purpose of comparing the level of criminality among different groups of national origin a standardised index of criminality is calculated. In calculating the index adjustments of the different age and socio-economic composition in the groups are made.

### 2.2 Classification system

Origin, municipalities and regions plus grouping of the types of decisions and of codes of the criminal offences. The criminal offences are divided into the penal code, the road traffic act and special law/legislation. The penal code is furthermore divided into four subgroups: 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 categorised as 'Other special laws/legislations'.

### 2.3 Sector coverage

Not relevant for these statistics.

## 2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

**Type of sentence:** Type of sentence describes the kind of conviction that has been made. It includes unsuspended and suspended imprisonment, fines, withdrawals of charges, prosecution dropped, preventive measures, acquittals etc. A main distinction is made between guilty and not-guilty types of sentences. Acquittals and prosecution dropped are considered as not-guilty types of sentences while all other types of sentences are considered as guilty types of sentences. In the statistics on convicted persons only guilty types of sentences are included.

**Type of offence:** Type of offence describes the kind of law violation which the conviction concerns. The criminal offences are divided into the penal code, the road traffic act 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'.

**Origin:** Origin states whether a person is immigrant, descendant or of Danish origin. For immigrants and descendant it is also stated which country they origin from and whether it is a western or a non-western country.

## 2.5 Statistical unit

The unit in the statistics on convicted persons is persons. One person can be represented several times in the statistics if the person has been convicted for more than one type of offence. E.g., if a person has been convicted for violation of the penal code but also for violation of the road traffic act the person will count both under the penal code and the road traffic act. Similarly, if a person has been convicted for more than one of the main groups of penal code offences, e.g. both crimes of violence and offences against property, the person will count both places. Finally, if a person has been convicted for more than one type of violence offences, the person will only count under the type of violence offence for which the most severe penalty has been sentenced. Similar circumstances applies to subgroups of sexual offences, offences against property, other penal code offences, road traffic act offences and special law offences.

## 2.6 Statistical population

The population covered by the statistics is persons, who have been found guilty in one or several violations of the penal code, the road traffic act and/or the special laws during a calendar year. All convictions registered in the Central Criminal Register before data are delivered to Statistics Denmark, are covered by the statistics. The data are typically delivered about 1 February following the relevant calendar year.

All convictions concerning violation of the penal code, the firearms act, act on hunting, euphoriant act and specific violations of the aliens act, act on customs duties and act on the prevention of cruelty to animals are included in the statistics.

Decisions concerning other special laws than the above mentioned are also included in the statistics except for fines less than DKK 1,000. Similarly, fines less than DKK 2,500 for violation of the road traffic act are not included in the statistics. However, fines less than DKK 1,000/DKK 2,500 are included in the statistics provided the fine is a reduced fine and the normal amount is higher than the mentioned amounts. Only persons who are residents of Denmark 1 January and/or 31 December the year in question are covered by the statistics. That is, persons both immigrated and emigrated during the year, are not included.

## **2.7 Reference area**

Denmark, except the Faroe Islands and Greenland.

## **2.8 Time coverage**

The statistics covers the period from 1995 and onwards.

## **2.9 Base period**

Not relevant for these statistics.

## **2.10 Unit of measure**

Number.

## **2.11 Reference period**

01-01-2014 - 31-12-2014

## **2.12 Frequency of dissemination**

Annual.

## **2.13 Legal acts and other agreements**

The Act on Statistics Denmark section 6.

There is no EU Regulation related to the statistics on convictions.

## **2.14 Cost and burden**

There is no response burden as the statistics are based on registers.

## **2.15 Comment**

Convictions have a [Subject page](#).

## **3 Statistical processing**

Data come from different registers of Statistics Denmark. Data from the registers are delivered yearly via System-to-system transmission. Data are already validated. However, central variables go through a probability check in form of a comparison with data from the previous year. Data from Statistics Denmark's register of convictions are linked to data from Statistics Denmark's population register and Statistics Denmark's income register.

### **3.1 Source data**

Following registers operated by Statistics Denmark: the Register of Convictions, the Population Register and the Income Register.

### **3.2 Frequency of data collection**

Annual.

### **3.3 Data collection**

System-to-system transmission.

### **3.4 Data validation**

The statistics are based on data from other statistical registers in Statistics Denmark and therefore already validated. However, central variables go through a probability check in form of a comparison with data from the previous year. Efforts are made to provide explanations in case that big deflections in the distribution of key variables occur. For instance, changes in the legislation or in the administrative praxis may cause fluctuations in the distributions.

### **3.5 Data compilation**

Data from Statistics Denmark's register of convictions are linked to data from Statistics Denmark's population register and Statistics Denmark's income register. Only persons who are residents of Denmark 1 January and/or 31 December the year in question are selected to the statistics. Data on the main occupation for the year previous to the actual year are linked to these persons. Variables telling whether a person has been convicted or not, and if so, which types of crimes the person has committed, are calculated.

### **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. The tables in the statbank.dk are used frequently. Views and suggestions from key users are taken into consideration in the preparation of the statistics.

### **4.1 User Needs**

Users are ministries (especially the Ministry of Justice), the local police authorities, courts, municipalities and counties, different organisations, educational institutions, research or scientific institutions, the media, private companies and private individuals.

Applications are public and private planning, education, research/scientific and public debate.

## **4.2 User Satisfaction**

The statistics on convicted persons are often used by the press and the tables on statbank.dk are used frequently. In connection with the preparation of the annual publications "Kriminalitet" (Criminality) and "Indvandrere i Danmark" (Immigrants in Denmark) consulting meetings with key users of the statistics are held. Forwarded views and suggestions are taken into consideration in the planning of the statistics.

## **4.3 Data completeness rate**

Not relevant for these statistics.

## **5 Accuracy and reliability**

The reliability of the statistics on convicted persons is considered to be good. The data are delivered from some of Statistics Denmark's registers which are already quality assured.

The statistics include all persons who are registered in the central criminal register at the time the extract to Statistics Denmark is done, typically about 1 February following the relevant calendar year. A number of convictions have been sentenced during the calendar year, yet, they are not necessarily registered before the time of extraction. That implies that the total number of convictions presumably is under-estimated. The exact size is not known but is regarded as limited and of the same extent each year.

The statistics are only published as final figures and are not later revised.

### **5.1 Overall accuracy**

The reliability of the statistics on convicted persons is considered to be good. The data on convictions come from a single administrative register and Statistics Denmark receives a single total extract including all the convicted criminal offences in Denmark. The statistics include all convictions registered in the central criminal register at the time the extract to Statistics Denmark is done, typically about 1 February following the relevant calendar year. A number of convictions made during the calendar year have not been registered before the time of extraction. This implies that the total number of convictions presumably is under-estimated. The exact size is not known but is regarded as limited and of the same extent each year.

### **5.2 Sampling error**

There is no sampling error as the statistics are compiled on the basis of registers.

### **5.3 Non-sampling error**

The statistics include all persons who have got one or several convictions which have been registered in the central criminal register at the time the extract to Statistics Denmark is done, typically about 1 February following the relevant calendar year. A number of convictions have been sentenced during the calendar year, yet, they are not necessarily registered before the time of extraction. That implies that the total number of convictions presumably is under-estimated. The exact size is not known but is regarded as limited and of the same extent each year.

The statistics does not include all fines as fines below DKK 2,500 for violation of the road traffic act and fines below DKK 1,000 for violation of the main part of the other special laws are not registered in the central criminal register.

### **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 reliability of the statistics on convicted persons is considered to be good. The data on convictions come from a single administrative register and Statistics Denmark receives a single total extract including all the convicted criminal offences in Denmark. The statistics include all convictions registered in the central criminal register at the time the extract to Statistics Denmark is done, typically about 1 February following the relevant calendar year. A number of convictions have been sentenced during the calendar year, yet, they are not necessarily registered before the time of extraction. This implies that the total number of convictions presumably is under-estimated. The exact size is not known but is regarded as limited and of the same extent each year.

The statistics does not include all fines as fines below DKK 2,500 for violation of the road traffic act and fines below DKK 1,000 for violation of the main part of the other special laws are not registered in the central criminal register.

Police activity such as speed controls or special efforts in the night life can in itself affect the number of convicted persons. Therefore, one need to take this into account when studying the development in the number of persons convicted (typically fines) for violation of the road traffic act and other special laws such as police regulation and euphoriants act.

There is no sampling error as the statistics are compiled on the basis of registers.

The statistics are only published as final figures and are not later revised.

In order to obtain information about reliability of the data from the Population Register please consult the documentation of statistics "Immigrants and descendants". Likewise, in order to obtain information about the reliability of the data from the income register, please consult the documentation of statistics "Income statistics".

## 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

Only final figures are published and are not later revised.

## 6 Timeliness and punctuality

The statistics are published approximately 11 months after the end of the reference period. The punctuality is very high as the statistics usually are published without delay in relation to the scheduled time.

### 6.1 Timeliness and time lag - final results

Only final figures are published and are not later revised. The statistics are published approximately 11 months after the end of the reference period. Time of publication the last five years has been between 10 months and 22 days to 11 months and 7 days.



## **6.2 Punctuality**

The punctuality is very high as the statistics usually are published without delay in relation to the scheduled time.

## **7 Comparability**

Since 1995, the statistics has been prepared on the same data source. In general the statistics is therefore comparable during time. 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. An overview of new and ceased type of offences can be found in this annex (in Danish only): Development in types of offences.

Fines for violation of the road traffic act below DKK 2,500 are not included in the statistics as from 2012. In the period 2001-2011 the limit was DKK 1,500 and before 2001 DKK 1,000.

### **7.1 Comparability - geographical**

There is no international comparable statistics.

### **7.2 Comparability over time**

Police activity such as speed controls or special efforts in the night life can in itself affect the number of convicted persons. Therefore, one need to take this into account when studying the development in the number of persons convicted (typically fines) for violation of the road traffic act and other special laws such as police regulation and euphoricants act. An increase in the number of persons convicted in these areas does not necessarily reflect an increase in the number of persons committing this kind of crimes but can also reflect that a greater proportion is discovered and registered.

Fines for violation of the road traffic act below DKK 2,500 are not included in the statistics as from 2012. In the period 2001-2011 the limit was DKK 1,500 and before 2001 DKK 1,000.

### **7.3 Coherence - cross domain**

The statistics on convicted persons build on the same data source as the statistics on convictions. As regards convictions the unit is the criminal conviction while the unit is the person in convicted persons. Convictions include all convictions while convicted persons only include persons who have been found guilty. Furthermore, convicted persons only include persons who are residents of Denmark 1 January and/or 31 December the year in question. Convictions also include persons immigrated and emigrated during the same year as well as tourists and others without a Danish personal identification number.

### **7.4 Coherence - internal**

Data are internally consistent.

## 8 Accessibility and clarity

The statistics on convicted persons are published in: The publication "[Kriminalitet](#)" (Criminality), the publication "[Indvandrere i Danmark](#)" (Immigrants in Denmark, as from 2005), in [Statistical Yearbook](#), and in [StatBank](#).

Statistics for the years 1995, 1998, 2000, 2002 and 2004 are published in "Sociale forhold, sundhed og retsvæsen" (Social conditions, health and justice) appearing in the Statistical News series.

At Statistics Denmark's webpage the statistics furthermore are presented on its [Subject page](#).

Taylor made statistics can be produced on the basis of data from different registers, moreover through Statistics Denmark's Division of Research Service it is possible for researchers to be granted access to anonymised data.

### 8.1 Release calendar

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

### 8.2 Release calendar access

The Release Calendar can be accessed on our English website: [Release Calendar](#).

### 8.3 User access

Statistics are always published at 9:00 a.m. at the day announced in the release calendar. No one outside of Statistics Denmark can access the statistics before they are published. Theme publications etc. may be published at other times of the day. The National Statistician can decide that such publications may be released before their official publication time, e.g. to the media and other stakeholders.

### 8.4 News release

There is no news release linked to this statistics.

### 8.5 Publications

The statistics on convicted persons are published in: The publication "[Kriminalitet](#)" (Criminality), the publication "[Indvandrere i Danmark](#)" (Immigrants in Denmark, as from 2005) and [Statistical Yearbook](#).

### 8.6 On-line database

The statistics are published in [StatBank](StatBank)(<http://www.statbank.dk/10338>).

### **8.7 Micro-data access**

Data on convicted persons are kept as ready-made files containing basic information at individual level. Taylor made statistics can be prepared on the basis of the ready-made files. Through Statistics Denmark's Division of Research Service it is possible for researchers to be granted access to anonymised data, i.e., data for which all identification details such as ID numbers have been removed.

### **8.8 Other**

Final data are available to Customer Centre, The Division of Research Services and other users in Statistics Denmark in the form of module data.

### **8.9 Confidentiality - policy**

In the preparing of Convicted persons the guidelines in Statistics Denmark's [Data Confidentiality Policy](#) are followed.

### **8.10 Confidentiality - data treatment**

The published statistics on convicted persons is distributed by no other characteristics than municipality, sex, age and origin. This ensures that convicted persons not can be related to individuals.

### **8.11 Documentation on methodology**

Documentation of the variables in the statistics is available in [TIMES](#) (in Danish only). The method used in calculating the standardised criminality index is described in the paper [Indirect standardisation](#) (in 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 are in the division of Population and Education. The person responsible is Lisbeth Lavrsen, tel. +45 3917 3103, e-mail: [lil@dst.dk](mailto:lil@dst.dk)

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