

**Documentation of statistics for  
Convictions 2015**

## 1 Introduction

The purpose of "Convictions for criminal offences" is to analyse the number of convictions for criminal offences in connection with offences against the penal code and the special laws (among these the Danish Road Traffic Act (Færdselsloven) and other similar special laws). The statistics on convictions for criminal offences date back to 1832, in which year they were first published. Until 1979, the statistics were based on manual reports on convictions held in either penal files, imprisonment files or release files for each of the offenders. Since the establishment of the Central Criminal Register on 1 January 1979, the reports have been submitted electronically with person information on convictions.

## 2 Statistical presentation

The statistics on convictions for criminal offences 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 convictions for violation of the penal code, the road traffic act and other special legislation. Convictions consist of imprisonments, fines, withdrawals and also acquittals.

However, the statistics do 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 convictions for criminal offences 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 convictions for criminal offences are person-based case statistics, which shed light on the number of convictions for violation of the penal code, the road traffic act and other special legislation. Convictions consist of imprisonments, fines, withdrawals and also acquittals. A main distinction is made between guilty decisions (the person has been found guilty) and not-guilty decisions (the person has not been found guilty). 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. In general, the statistics is distributed by the type of offence etc. of the main cases and the total number of cases are only shown in some few tables. However, the majority of decisions only concerns one case. One person can have one or several convictions during a year.

The published statistics distributes the convictions by type of offence, type of conviction and in case of an imprisonment, the length of sentence, sex, age and municipality of the convicted person.

## **2.2 Classification system**

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 categorized as 'Other special laws/legislations'.

## **2.3 Sector coverage**

Not relevant

## **2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions**

**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'.

**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 type of sentence. Acquittals and prosecution dropped constitute not-guilty type of sentence while all other type of sentence constitute guilty type of sentence.

## **2.5 Statistical unit**

The unit in the statistics on convictions is a decision concerning violations of the penal code, the road traffic act or the special legislation. The decision can be conferred by the court, the prosecution and the commissioner of police. The decision could be a statement by the prosecution about either giving up the charge, different forms of withdrawal of charges or the issue of fines and warnings. Decisions made by the court could concern imprisonment, fines and warnings, and also the conditional withdrawal of charges or acquittal.

## **2.6 Statistical population**

The population covered by the statistics is convictions made during a calendar year and registered in the Central Criminal Register. If the extract from the register to Statistics Denmark is made before the conviction is registered it will not be included in the statistics.

## **2.7 Reference area**

Denmark, except the Faroe Islands and Greenland

## **2.8 Time coverage**

The statistics covers the period from 1980 and onwards

## **2.9 Base period**

Not relevant to this statistics.

## **2.10 Unit of measure**

Number

## **2.11 Reference period**

01-01-2015 - 31-12-2015

## **2.12 Frequency of dissemination**

Annual

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

The Act on Statistics Denmark §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. Data are compiled by the National Commissioner of the Danish Police.

## **2.15 Comment**

Convictions have a [Subject page](#)

## **3 Statistical processing**

The source of the statistics is The Central Criminal Register - administered by the National Commissioner of the Danish Police. Data are delivered yearly 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 decisions are deleted. Based on the reported data the length of unsuspended and suspended sentences are calculated.

### **3.1 Source data**

Since 1979, the Central Criminal Register - administered by the National Commissioner of the Danish Police.

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

Annual

### **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 the distribution of key variables are looked for, possible by contacting the National Police, the central criminal register or other relevant bodies.

### **3.5 Data compilation**

Key variables are checked for valid values. Irrelevant decisions are deleted, e.g. decision with irrelevant type of offence or decisions made by courts in Greenland or the Faroe Islands. The code numbers of the type of decision and the type of offence are converted to Statistics Denmark-codes, which are hierarchically constructed. Based on the reported data the length of unsuspended and suspended sentences are calculated. In case of partly suspended sentences the length of the sentence is divided into an unsuspended part and a suspended part.

### **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 firms and private individuals.

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

### **4.2 User Satisfaction**

The statistics on convictions are often used by the press and the tables on statbank.dk are used frequently. In connection with the preparation of the annual publication Kriminalitet (Criminality) a consulting meeting with key users of the statistics is hold. Forwarded views and suggestions are taking into consideration in the planning of the statistics.

### **4.3 Data completeness rate**

Not relevant to this statistics.

## **5 Accuracy and reliability**

The reliability of the statistics on convicted criminal offences is considered to be good. The data come from a single administrative register and Statistics Denmark receives a single total extract annually.

The statistics include all convictions registered in the central criminal register at the time the extract is done, typically about February 1st following the relevant year. A number of convictions made during the year will happen not to be registered at that time. That implies that the total number of convictions presumably is under-estimated.

The statistics is only published as final figures.

### **5.1 Overall accuracy**

The reliability of the statistics on convicted criminal offences is considered to be good. The data 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 February 1st following the relevant calendar year. A number of convictions made during the calendar year will happen not to be 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.

### **5.2 Sampling error**

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

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

The statistics include all convictions registered in the central criminal register at the time the extract to Statistics Denmark is done, typically about February 1st following the relevant calendar year. A number of convictions made during the calendar year will happen not to be 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.

There is no unit non-response or item non-response

#### **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 criminal offences is considered to be good. The data 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 February 1st following the relevant calendar year. A number of convictions made during the calendar year will happen not to be 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.

By studying the development in the number of convictions (typical fines) for violation of the road traffic act and other special laws as police regulation and euphoriant act it has to be considered that the activity of the police in the form of e.g. speed controls or special efforts in the night life by itself can affect the number of convictions. An increase in the number of convictions in these areas does not necessarily reflect an increase in the number of violations but can also reflect that a greater proportion are discovered and registered.

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

#### **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.

## **6 Timeliness and punctuality**

The statistics are published approximately 3 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. The statistics are published within 6 months after the end of the reference period. Time of publication the last 5 years has been between 2 months and 27 days and 5 months and 24 days.

2015: 2 months 29 days 2014: 2 months 27 days 2013: 5 months 23 days 2012: 5 months 24 days  
2011: 5 months 22 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 1979, 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 ceases type of offences can be found in this annex (in danish): [Development type of offences](#).

### **7.1 Comparability - geographical**

EUROSTAT and UN collect annual data from the member states on convictions for specific type of offences and publish statistics based on this. However, the range of items included in the different groups of crime can differ between countries and comparisons based upon absolute figures should be made with caution.



## 7.2 Comparability over time

Since 1979, 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 ceases type of offences can be found in this annex (in danish): [Development type of offences](#).

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.

Section 265 regarding restraining order in the Penal Code is replaced by the law on expulsion, restraining order and ban on stay in 2012.

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.

As from July 1st 2001 lenient imprisonment was abolishes. This implies that the statistics on number and length of the sentences on and after 2001 not are comparable with the previous years as short and long sentences now are grouped together.

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. These changes together with changes (increases) in the size of the fines for violations of the road traffic act affect the number of fines included in the statistics.

From 2006 to 2007 there was a decrease in the number of convictions. Probably this has to be seen in relation to the reform of the organization of the police and the courts which took place in 2007 and which can have caused delay in the work of the police and the courts.

Law amendments and changes in the administrative praxis may have affected the development in the number of different kind of convictions and new type of convictions can have occurred as well. For a description of this, please consult the high quality documentation (in danish) in TIMES of the variable [AFG\\_AFGTYP3](#).

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

The National Commissioner of the Danish Police publishes statistics about reported offences with guilty convictions for violation of the penal code. This statistics is based on the Administrative System of the National Police. Both the statistics published by Statistics Denmark and by the National Commissioner consists of decisions made in the period concerned. However, the statistics published by the National Commissioner comprised all cases in which a guilty decision has been made while the unit in the statistics published by Statistics Denmark is the main case as more than one case can be decided in the same conviction. Besides this, the grouping of types of offence in the statistics published by the National Commissioner differs from that in the statistics published by Statistics Denmark. The statistics published by the National Commissioner are not divided by type of decision or by sex and age of the convicted persons as the statistics of Statistics Denmark. On the other hand, it is possible to divide the statistics from the National Commissioner by police district and by quarter, half-year and the whole year.

### **7.4 Coherence - internal**

Data are internally consistent.

## **8 Accessibility and clarity**

The statistics on convictions are published in: [News from Statistics Denmark](#), [Statistical Yearbook](#), [Statistisk Tiårsoversigt \(Statistical Ten-Year Review\)](#) (danish only), the publication [Kriminalitet \(Criminality\)](#) (danish only) and in [StatBank](#).

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

Taylor made statistics can be prepared on bases of the ready-made files and through Statistics Denmark's Division of Research Service it is possible for researchers to be granted access to anonymized data.

Tables with information on convictions for selected types of offences are annually delivered to EUROSTAT.

### **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 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.

### **8.4 News release**

The statistics on convictions are published in: [News from Statistics Denmark](#)

## 8.5 Publications

The statistics are annually published in [Statistical Yearbook](#), [Statistisk Tiårsoversigt \(Statistical Ten-Year Review\)](#) (danish only) and in the publication [Kriminalitet \(Criminality\)](#) (danish only).

## 8.6 On-line database

The statistics are published in [StatBank](#)

## 8.7 Micro-data access

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

## 8.8 Other

Tables with information on convictions for selected types of offences are annually delivered to EUROSTAT. 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 Convictions the guidelines in Statistics Denmark's [Data Confidentiality Policy](#) are followed.

## 8.10 Confidentiality - data treatment

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

## 8.11 Documentation on methodology

Documentation of the variables in the statistics is available in TIMES4. For selected variables High Quality Documentation is available.

A description of the statistical method may be found in the annual publication Kriminalitet (Criminality): [Concepts and sources of the statistisc \(danish only\)](#).

## 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**

Organizational the statistics are placed in the Population and Education unit. The person responsible for the statistics is Lisbeth Lavrsen, tel. 3917 3103, e-mail:lil@dst.dk

### **9.1 Contact organisation**

Statistics Denmark

### **9.2 Contact organisation unit**

Population and Education, Social Statistics

### **9.3 Contact name**

Lisbeth Lavrsen

### **9.4 Contact person function**

Responsible for the statistics

### **9.5 Contact mail address**

Sejrøgade 11, 2100 Copenhagen

### **9.6 Contact email address**

[lil@dst.dk](mailto:lil@dst.dk)

### **9.7 Contact phone number**

+45 3917 3103

### **9.8 Contact fax number**

+45 39 17 39 99