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# Convictions increased by 3.2% in 2022

## Increase primarily due to property offences and offences against life and limb

Vienna, 2023-06-07 – In 2022, Austria recorded 26 442 judicial convictions. After the decrease in convictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 (25 586) and 2021 (25 626), there was a 3.2% increase in convictions in 2022. According to Statistics Austria, these 26 442 convictions in 2022 were based on 43 494 offences, meaning that each conviction involved an average of 1.64 offences. A total of 24 466 individuals were legally convicted, corresponding to an average of 1.08 convictions per person.

Overall, the number of offences increased by 2.4% compared to 2021 (see tables 1 and 2). In 2022, the largest groups were, as in 2021, offences against property (12 570 or 28.9%) and offences against life and limb (8 203 or 18.9%). Offences against life and limb increased by 11.4% from 2021 to 2022, while property offences increased by 3.4%. Further rises were observed in theft (+10.8%), robbery/aggravated robbery (+16%), bodily harm (+8.7%), severe bodily harm (+17.4%), and negligent bodily harm (+11.3%). A significant increase was particularly noted in offences against the Foreigners' Police Act (+71.9%) and document forgery (24.8%). Contrary to the general trend, there were also offences with declining numbers in 2022, such as offences against the Narcotic Substances Act (–11.9%), fraud offences (–10.4%) and murder (–15.9%; see table 2). However, some of the final judgements rendered in 2022 may relate to offences committed in previous years, and the duration of the court proceedings is typically related to the type of offence.

### The majority of convicted individuals in 2022 was male and over 20 years old

Among the individuals convicted in 2022, 84.8% were male, and 85.3% were over 20 years old at the time of the offence. 5.7% were between 14 and 17 years old at the time of the offence, 9.0% were between 18 and 20 years old. 7.2% of the convicted individuals were convicted more than once in 2022, with 88.6% of them being male. More than half of the convicted individuals (57.5%) had no previous convictions by an Austrian court at the time of their first conviction in 2022. The remaining 42.5% already had an entry in the criminal record which had not been deleted or expunged (see table 3), representing a reduction of 1.8 percentage points compared to the previous year.

### Little change compared to previous year in reconviction rate

In 2022, the reconviction rate was 31.1%, a reduction of 0.1 percentage points compared to the previous year. The reconviction statistics monitor all individuals released or legally convicted (excluding those sentenced to unconditional imprisonment or institutional confinement, explanations see box “Information on methods” below) in a particular year for a period of four years regarding subsequent convictions by Austrian courts. Out of the total of 26 017 individuals convicted or released in the year 2018, approximately two-thirds (68.9%) remained without any further legally binding convictions within the four-year period, while about one-third of individuals were reconvicted within the four years.

For detailed results and further information please refer to our [website](#).

**Table 1: Convicted persons, convictions und offences 2018–2022**

Data level	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Absolute number</b>					
Convicted persons	27 655	27 284	23 716	23 731	24 466
Convictions	30 157	29 632	25 586	25 626	26 442
Offences	48 830	47 980	42 502	42 475	43 494
<b>Change to previous year in %</b>					
Convicted persons	.	-1.3	-13.1	0.1	3.1
Convictions	.	-1.7	-13.7	0.2	3.2
Offences	.	-1.7	-11.4	-0.1	2.4

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Judicial Criminal Statistics.

**Table 2: Changes in selected offences or groups of offences 2021–2022**

Offence or group of offences <sup>1</sup>	2021 <sup>2</sup>	2022 <sup>2</sup>	Change in %
<b>All offences total</b>	<b>42 457</b>	<b>43 494</b>	<b>2.4</b>
<b>Crimes against life and limb</b>	7 361	8 203	11.4
thereof murder <sup>2</sup>	88	74	-15.9
thereof bodily harm	3 795	4 127	8.7
thereof grievous bodily harm	1 649	1 936	17.4
thereof negligent bodily harm	999	1 112	11.3
<b>Crimes against property</b>	12 161	12 570	3.4
thereof theft	4 831	5 355	10.8
thereof robbery, aggravated robbery	551	639	16.0
thereof fraud overall	2 440	2 186	-10.4
<b>Crimes against the reliability of documents and evidence</b>	2 263	2 545	12.5
thereof document forgery	520	649	24.8
<b>Offences under the Narcotic Substances Act</b>	7 276	6 413	-11.9
<b>Offences under the Foreigners' Police Act 2005</b>	270	464	71.9

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Judicial Criminal Statistics. 2021 and 2022.

1) Includes attempts. – 2) Year of conviction, crime might have been committed in a previous year.

**Table 3: Convicts 2022**

Characteristics of the person at the time of the first conviction in the reporting year	Convicts		Number of convictions in 2022		
	absolute	in %	1 in %	2 in %	3 or more in %
Convicts total	24 466	100.0	92.7	6.5	0.7
<b>Sex</b>					
Men	20 759	84.8	92.4	6.8	0.8
Women	3 707	15.2	94.5	5.2	0.3
<b>Age at the time of offence</b>					
Juveniles (14 to 17 years old)	1 399	5.7	80.3	16.4	3.4
Young adults (18 to 20 years old)	2 199	9.0	89.4	9.5	1.1
Adults (21 years and older)	20 868	85.3	93.9	5.6	0.5
<b>Previous convictions</b>					
Without previous convictions	14 080	57.5	95.3	4.3	0.4
With previous convictions	10 386	42.5	89.3	9.5	1.2

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Judicial Criminal Statistics 2022.

**Information on methods, definitions: Judicial criminal statistics** are based on the criminal records file maintained by the Federal Ministry of the Interior. It classifies final convictions which are handed down by the Austrian courts in accordance with the Austrian Criminal Code or supplementary criminal laws. In the case of proceedings instituted on account of multiple punishable acts, the conviction is classified according to the offence that is decisive in terms of the punishment imposed ("principal offence"). Since 2012, Statistics Austria has been obtaining information on the "principal offence" from the courts. In addition, all convicted offences have been made available for statistical purposes since reporting year 2012.

Since these statistics are derived from the criminal records file, Judicial crime statistics can only provide information on **convicted offenders**, but not about judicial outcomes other than convictions, or any information about victims of crime. Statistics on crime victims are available from Police crime statistics conducted by the Austrian Federal criminal police office (statistics on police reports, available in German only).

Statistics on **reconvictions** are based on persons being legally convicted (except for unconditional prison sentences) or released from prison during the base year. The statistics show how many of the persons concerned were convicted again during an individual risk period of four years (e.g. from 01.07.2018 to 30.06.2022).

**If you have any questions on this topic, please contact:**

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