

Press release: 13 357-123/24

Crime in 2023: 3.1% more convictions

Increase primarily due to property offences, especially theft

Vienna, 2024-06-14 – In 2023, Austria recorded 27 268 judicial convictions. An increase of 3.1% compared to 2022. As Statistics Austria further reports, these convictions were based on 44 376 offences, meaning that each conviction involved an average of 1.63 offences. A total of 25 033 individuals were legally convicted, corresponding to an average of 1.09 convictions per person.

“In 2023, 25 033 offenders were convicted by the courts throughout Austria. The total of 27 268 convictions were based on 44 376 offences, 2.0% more than in the previous year. Following the pandemic-related low in convictions in 2020 and 2021, the figures for 2022 and 2023 rose by more than 3.0% in each year, but are still 8.0% below the 2019 level”, says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

As in previous years, the largest groups in 2023 were criminal offences against property of other persons (13 850 or 31.2%) and criminal offences against life and limb (8 206 or 18.5%). The total number of offences against life and limb remained almost unchanged from the previous year (8 203 offences). Increases were observed for specific offences, among others, murder (+21.6%) and assault (+2.5%), while decreases were seen in homicide by gross negligence/negligent homicide (–18.7%) and intentional serious bodily injury (–10.3%). The significant relative increases and decreases in murder/homicide cases are based on small case numbers (see table 1). There was a significant increase in offences against property of other persons (+10.2% or +1 280 offences), particularly theft (+19.7%) as well as business-like theft and theft committed by a criminal association (+26.2%). Offences against the Aliens Police Act also saw a sharp rise (+45.0%), in particular human smuggling. Contrary to the general trend, there were also groups of offences that saw declining numbers in 2023, such as criminal offences relating to due administration of justice (–11.7%) and criminal offences against the reliability of documents and official markings (–7.9%).

Convictions that became final in 2023 can also relate to offences committed in previous years, with the duration of proceedings and the nature of the offence typically being related.

The majority of convicted were male and over 20 years of age

The demographic composition of the persons convicted has hardly changed compared to the previous year. At 84.3% of those convicted in 2023, the majority were male. 85.7% of those convicted were over 20 years old at the time of the offence, 8.8% were young adults aged between 18 and 20 and 5.5% were juveniles aged between 14 and 17. On average in 2023, young adults accounted for 3.5% of the population under the age of criminal responsibility, while the proportion of juveniles was 4.4%. This means that young adults in particular were significantly overrepresented among the convicted.

More than half of the convicted (57.5%) had no previous convictions by an Austrian court at the time of their first conviction in 2023. The remaining 42.5% already had an entry in the criminal record which had not been deleted or expunged (see table 3).

Reconviction rate has fallen to 30.0%

In 2023, the proportion of those who were reconvicted by an Austrian court within four years of being released from prison or convicted was 30.0%. This means that the reconviction rate fell by 1.1 percentage points compared to the previous year. Out of the total of 25 579 individuals convicted or released in 2019, approximately two-thirds (70.0% or 17 894 persons) remained without any further legally binding

convictions within the four-year period, while about one-third of individuals were reconvicted within the four years.

Table 1: Changes in selected offences or groups of offences 2022–2023

Offence or group of offences ¹	2022 ²	2023 ²	Change in %
All offences total	43 494	44 376	2.0
Criminal offences against life and limb	8 203	8 206	0.0
thereof murder	74	90	21.6
thereof bodily harm	4 127	4 229	2.5
thereof homicide by gross negligence/negligent homicide	155	126	-18.7
thereof intentional serious bodily injury	213	191	-10.3
Criminal offences against property of other persons	12 570	13 850	10.2
thereof theft	2 848	3 410	19.7
thereof business-like theft and theft committed by a criminal association	1 234	1 557	26.2
Criminal offences relating to due administration of justice	2 072	1830	-11.7
thereof giving false evidence	862	777	-9.9
thereof falsification of evidence	292	219	-25.0
Criminal offences against the reliability of documents and official markings	2 545	2 344	-7.9
thereof document forgery	649	501	-22.8
Criminal offences against the Aliens Police Act	464	673	45.0
thereof human smuggling	449	648	44.3

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Judicial Criminal Statistics. 2022 and 2023.

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

Table 2: Convicted persons, convictions und offences 2019–2023

Data level	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Absolute number					
Convicted persons	27 284	23 716	23 731	24 466	25 033
Convictions	29 632	25 586	25 626	26 442	27 268
Offences	47 980	42 502	42 475	43 494	44 376
Change to previous year in %					
Convicted persons		-13.1	0.1	3.1	2.3
Convictions		-13.7	0.2	3.2	3.1
Offences		-11.4	-0.1	2.4	2.0

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Judicial Criminal Statistics.

Table 3: Convicts 2023

Characteristics of the person at the time of the first conviction in the reporting year	Convicts		Number of convictions in 2023		
			1	2	3 or more
	absolute	in %	in %	in %	in %
Convicts total	25 033	100.0	92.1	7.1	0.9
Sex					
Men	21 107	84.3	91.8	7.3	0.9
Women	3 926	15.7	93.4	5.9	0.8
Age at the time of offence					
Juveniles (14 to 17 years old)	1 388	5.5	80.8	15.9	3.3
Young adults (18 to 20 years old)	2 204	8.8	88.4	10.5	1.1
Adults (21 years and older)	21 441	85.7	93.2	6.1	0.7

Characteristics of the person at the time of the first conviction in the reporting year	Convicts		Number of convictions in 2023		
			1	2	3 or more
	absolute	in %	in %	in %	in %
Previous convictions					
Without previous convictions	14 399	57.5	94.8	4.8	0.5
With previous convictions	10 634	42.5	88.4	10.2	1.4

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Judicial Criminal Statistics 2023. – Rounding differences were not adjusted.

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

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 the 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 conducted by the Criminal Intelligence Service Austria.

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 have been re-convicted during an individual risk period of four years (e.g. from 01.07.2019 to 30.06.2023).

Further enquiries:

For information on results and methodology, please contact:

Lukas Sramek, Phone: +43 1 711 28-7251, E-mail: lukas.sramek@statistik.gv.at

For interview requests, please contact the press office: presse@statistik.gv.at

Media owner, producer and publisher:

STATISTICS AUSTRIA | Federal Institution under Public Law | Guglgasse 13 | 1110 Vienna | www.statistik.at

Press: Phone: +43 1 711 28-7777 | E-mail: presse@statistik.gv.at

© STATISTICS AUSTRIA