

International comparisons of criminal justice statistics 1998

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Main points

Absolute comparisons between recorded crime levels in countries may be misleading; therefore, only comparisons of trends are normally made in this Bulletin.

Information collected for 1998 from 29 countries indicated that:

- Recorded crime rose on average by 5% compared with a fall of 1% in England & Wales.
- England & Wales had one of the lowest homicide rates in Western Europe and London had a below average rate.
- Violent crime recorded by the police rose by 2% on average compared with a fall of 6% in England & Wales.
- Domestic burglaries recorded by the police fell by 1% on average compared with a fall of 6% in England & Wales.
- Thefts of motor vehicles recorded by the police rose by 3% on average compared with a fall of 2% in England & Wales.
- Drug trafficking offences recorded by the police rose by 7% on average compared with a 9% fall in England & Wales.
- A study by the Council of Europe covering 9 European countries (including all parts of the United Kingdom) for selected offences, showed that, in 1995, England & Wales (after Portugal) tended to sentence offenders to the longest terms of imprisonment. However, the use of custody as a sentencing option in England & Wales was found to be similar to that in the majority of the other countries.
- The prison population rate in England & Wales (at 126 prisoners per 100,000 general population in 1998) was the highest *per capita* rate in Western Europe (apart from Portugal (144)). This rate was, however, well below that found in the USA (668) and some Eastern European countries (Russia (690) and the Czech Republic (215)).

Note:

All the tables in this Bulletin are downloadable as Excel spreadsheets from the RDS Website at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/publf.htm>.

Introduction

1. This bulletin brings together statistical information collected by the Home Office on criminal justice as well as that collected by the Council of Europe. It reflects the co-operation that exists between countries both in the sharing of data but also in exploring the different definitions used within statistical collection systems. In making any comparisons it is necessary to be aware that such data will be the outcome of different legal and administrative systems and may also be derived from different statistical data collection processes. Such differences are described in this bulletin and in the European Sourcebook of Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics (Council of Europe, 1999). In view of the many differences, comparisons are usually given here as a percentage change over time rather than as an absolute change on the assumption that other factors will have remained constant over this period.
2. The majority of the data has been collected from official sources in other countries. However we are not in a position to comment about either the accuracy or completeness of the figures provided.
3. In the tables covering crimes recorded by the police, information for England & Wales is by financial year (i.e. 1998 covers the period from 1 April 1998 to 31 March 1999) reflecting the new method introduced in 1999 for the presentation of recorded crime data. In most other countries the basis is the calendar year.

Crime

4. Although it is impossible to gauge the true extent of crime in any country, there are two main measures available. The first is that of offences recorded by the police. The second measures crime from the results of victimisation surveys carried out on a sample of the public. For international comparison purposes, results from the International Crime (Victim) Survey (a comparative research exercise covering over 50 countries) can be examined.

Recorded crime

Total crimes recorded (Table 1)

5. Although most countries collect information on the number of crimes recorded or reported by the police, absolute comparisons of crime levels are often misleading. Recorded crime levels will be affected by many factors including:
 - a) Different legal and criminal justice systems;
 - b) Rates at which crimes are reported to the police and recorded by them;
 - c) Differences in the point at which crime is measured. For some countries, this is the time at which the offence is reported to the police while for others recording does not take place until a suspect is identified and the papers are forwarded to the prosecutor;
 - d) Differences in the rules by which multiple offences are counted;
 - e) Differences in the list of offences that are included in the overall crime figures;
 - f) Changes in data quality.
6. During 1998, recorded crime rose on average by 4.7% in the 29 countries from which data was collected. The slight fall in England & Wales (1%) was therefore below the average. The largest falls were in Denmark (6%), Ireland (6%) and the USA (5%); the largest rises were in South Africa (37%), Northern Ireland (28%), Belgium (18%) and Hungary (17%).

7. Over the period 1994-98, the total number of crimes recorded by the police rose on average by 6% with falls in 11 of the 27 countries for which information was collected. The fall in England & Wales (13%) was one of the highest and similar to that in Ireland (15%), Scotland (14%) and the USA (11%). The highest rises were recorded in Hungary (54%) and South Africa (40%).

Table A Crimes⁽¹⁾ recorded by the police (percentage changes)

Country	1988-98	1994-98	1997-98
England & Wales ⁽²⁾	..	-13	-1
Northern Ireland ⁽³⁾	38	..	28
Scotland	-6	-14	3
Austria	20	-5	0
Belgium ⁽⁴⁾	..	36 ⁽¹⁶⁾	18
Czech Republic	..	14	6
Denmark	-7	-9	-6
Finland	15	0	3
France	14	9	2
Germany ⁽⁵⁾	..	-1	-2
Greece ⁽⁶⁾	24	27	2
Hungary	224	54	17
Ireland (Eire)	-4	-15	-6
Italy	28	12	-1
Luxembourg	22	-7	11
Netherlands	4	-8	0
Norway ⁽⁷⁾	26 ⁽¹⁵⁾	28	3
Poland	126	18	8
Portugal ⁽⁸⁾	..	3	6
Russia	112	-2	8
Spain	-6	2	-1
Sweden ⁽⁹⁾	10	7	0
Switzerland ⁽¹⁰⁾	15	6	-1
Australia ⁽¹¹⁾	..	14	5
Canada ⁽¹²⁾	3	-7	-3
Japan ⁽¹³⁾	24	14	7
New Zealand	22	3	-3
South Africa	..	40	37
U.S.A ⁽¹⁴⁾	-10	-11	-5

See footnotes for Table 1

(15) 1991 - 1998.

(16) 1995 - 1998.

Homicide (Tables 1.1 & 1.2)

8. Since the definition of homicide is similar in most countries, absolute comparisons of rates are possible. In 1998, England & Wales had one of the lowest homicide rates (1.43 per 100,000 population) in Western Europe, similar to France (1.64), Italy (1.60), Portugal (1.52), Ireland (1.41) and Germany (1.19). In Eastern European countries, rates were higher (Poland (1.96), Hungary (2.85), and the Czech Republic (3.04)) with the highest recorded rates in Russia (20.20) and South Africa (57.52).
9. For the cities, the average number of homicides over the period 1996-98 relative to population was lower in London (2.15 per 100,000 population) compared with many other Western European cities. Higher rates were found in Belfast (6.10) and Berlin (4.17). The highest rate was in Washington DC (59.90).

Table B Comparison of homicide⁽¹⁾ in selected cities

City	Number of homicides ⁽¹⁾	Homicides ⁽¹⁾ per 100,000 population of the city
	1996 to 1998	average per year from 1996 to 1998
London	488	2.15
Belfast ⁽²⁾	54	6.10
Edinburgh	24	1.78
Vienna	87	1.83
Brussels	59	1.47
Prague	119	3.28
Copenhagen ⁽⁸⁾	66	4.56
Helsinki	42	2.65
Paris	159	2.52
Berlin ⁽³⁾	431	4.17
Athens	46	1.32
Budapest	159	2.82
Dublin	71	2.23
Rome	131	1.51
Luxembourg Ville	..	..
Amsterdam	171 ⁽¹⁰⁾	7.90 ⁽¹⁰⁾
Oslo	29	1.93
Warsaw ⁽⁴⁾	277	5.67
Lisbon	146	2.65
Moscow ⁽⁴⁾	4,201	17.85
Madrid	269	3.12
Stockholm ⁽⁵⁾	52	2.67
Geneva	13	1.08
Canberra	6	0.64
Ottawa ⁽⁶⁾	24	1.02
Tokyo ⁽⁴⁾	380	1.07
Wellington	10	2.10
Pretoria ⁽⁷⁾	1,512 ⁽⁹⁾	41.12 ⁽⁹⁾
Washington DC	958	59.90

See footnotes for Table 1.2

(9) 1995 - 1997.

(10) 1994 - 1996.

Violent crime (Table 1.3)

10. In 1998, violent crime recorded by the police rose on average by 2% with falls in England & Wales (6%), Russia (22%), Ireland (17%), Portugal (8%), USA (6%), Denmark (1%) and Canada (1%). The largest rises were in Northern Ireland (21%), Italy (11%), Luxembourg (11), Scotland (9%), Switzerland (8%) and Australia (8%).
11. For the period 1994-98, the rise was 9% in England & Wales.

Domestic burglary (Table 1.4)

12. In 1998, domestic burglaries fell in England & Wales by 6% compared with an average fall of 1% in the countries covered. The largest falls were in Norway and Portugal (both 11%). Burglaries rose in 10 countries with the highest rises in Northern Ireland (8%) and Japan (7%).
13. Over the period 1994-98, England & Wales with Scotland recorded the highest fall (28%) of all the countries considered.

Theft of a motor vehicle (Table 1.5)

14. In 1998, thefts of a motor vehicle recorded by the police fell by 2% in England & Wales compared with an average rise of 3% for all countries covered. The largest falls were in Germany (15%) and the USA (8%) while the highest rises were in Northern Ireland and Finland (both 20%).
15. Over the period 1994-98, England & Wales recorded the third highest fall (25%) after Germany (40%) and Scotland (32%). The largest rises were in Hungary (52%) and Portugal (47%).

Drug Trafficking (Table 1.6)

16. In 1998, drug trafficking offences recorded by the police rose on average by 7% compared with a 9% fall in England & Wales; the fourth largest fall after Poland (32%) the Netherlands (14%) and Sweden (11%). The highest rises were in Eastern Europe (Hungary (119%) and Czech Republic (30%)).
17. Over the period 1994-98, England & Wales recorded a rise of 16% while on average the figure doubled (98% increase) for all countries considered. The largest rises were in Eastern Europe and the largest falls were in Denmark (35%) and Sweden (38%).

Victimisation rates (Table 2)

18. An estimate of absolute levels of crime may be obtained from the International Crime (Victim) Survey. The latest survey which relates to victims' reports of crimes in 1995¹ indicated that, compared with other industrialised countries, England & Wales had well above average levels of both property and contact crime (i.e. robbery, assault and sexual assault). The most recent report also indicates that comparisons between the trends in victimisation rates from 1988 to 1995 in England & Wales, Finland, Netherlands, Canada and the USA are similar to those in recorded crime. Another survey is due to be conducted in 2000.

Sentencing

19. Information to provide international comparisons of sentencing is not regularly collected by either the Home Office or any international bodies. Many countries do not collect sentencing data or are unable to provide it in a format that enables useful comparisons. A survey by the Council of Europe², however, provides information for 1995 on both the types of sentences imposed and the sentence lengths for specific offences. The survey collected data from 9 European countries (England & Wales, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Portugal and Sweden). Some of its findings are summarised here for three offences (assault, robbery and theft). In comparing sentence lengths, it should be noted that this relates to the sentence length imposed by the court and not the time actually served in custody which may depend upon the remission policy in each country. It is hoped to repeat the survey in 2001.

Assault (Table 3.1)

20. Countries show a wide variation in the type of sentences given for assault. In Scotland, Finland, Germany and Portugal the fine was the most frequent sentence; suspended sentences were most frequently used in Northern Ireland and France; custodial sentences in Denmark and non-custodial in England & Wales. This variation is thought mainly to reflect the severity of assaults included under the definition of "assault" in each country, which may range from minor threats to serious injury.
21. Countries showing a high use of custody imposed shorter sentences. For example, although Denmark sentenced over 60% of those convicted to custody, 93% of these sentences were for under for 6 months. Compared to other countries that sentenced a similar proportion to custody

¹ The 1996 International Crime Victimisation Survey (Home Office Research Findings No. 57) by Pat Mayhew & Philip White.

² European Sourcebook of Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics, 1999 (Council of Europe).

(about one quarter of those sentenced), England & Wales tended to impose longer sentences with 45% for less than 6 months compared to 58% in France and 71% in Sweden.

Robbery (Table 3.2)

22. For England & Wales and the majority of other countries covered, 60-70% of those convicted for robbery were sentenced to custody (in Denmark it was higher at 79%). However, in Germany, it was only 39% with the majority of offenders sentenced to non-custodial or suspended sentences. The Council of Europe's experts have pointed out that possible double counting may have occurred where an offender received two or more sentences, thus distorting the German statistics. For those countries where suspended sentences were available, this was usually the second most frequently used sentence for robbery, while in all parts of the United Kingdom it was the non-custodial sentence.
23. England & Wales tended to impose longer sentences with only 23% of sentences for less than 12 months compared with 33% in Scotland, 52% in Denmark and 58% in France. In Sweden, although there was a similar proportion of short sentences, only 28% were for more than 2 years compared to 56% in England & Wales. Portugal and Germany also showed high proportions of longer sentences with 79% and 63% respectively over 2 years.

Theft (Table 3.3)

24. All parts of the United Kingdom showed a higher use of custody for those sentenced for theft offences (18-27%) to other countries except for Portugal (40%). Elsewhere about 10% were sentenced to custody with the majority fined. For England & Wales, this difference may reflect the high proportion of theft offenders who were cautioned by the police rather than taken to court.
25. For the majority of offenders sentenced to custody, the sentence lengths were under 6 months with the exception of Portugal (5%) and Germany (26%). However again England & Wales imposed longer sentences with 21% over 1 year compared with France (14%), Denmark (2%) and Sweden (9%).

Prison population (Table 4)

26. The prison population in a country reflects:
 - a) The crime rate;
 - b) The extent to which crimes were cleared up;
 - c) The extent to which the accused were remanded in custody;
 - d) The length of pre-trial detention;
 - e) The extent to which courts impose custodial sentences;
 - f) The length of custodial sentences (more precisely, the length of time served); and
 - g) The extent to which custodial sentences were suspended.
27. Each year the Council of Europe collects data from its Member states on the characteristics of their prison population on 1 September and the Home Office supplements this data with that collected from other countries.
28. England & Wales (at 126 prisoners per 100,000 general population in 1998) and Scotland (117) had the highest *per capita* rates in Western Europe, apart from Portugal (144). The high rates in the United Kingdom and Portugal reflect, in part, the longer sentences imposed in these countries.

(England & Wales are at about midpoint in the World Prison Population List³). Of the countries considered in this Bulletin, the prison population rate in England & Wales is exceeded not only by Portugal but also by Hungary (140), New Zealand (143), Poland (153), the Czech Republic (215), South Africa (327) and by the two countries with the highest rates in the world, the USA (668) and Russia (690). The lowest rates in the countries considered here are to be found in Scandinavia (55-63 in all four countries) and Japan (42).

29. Over the period 1994-98, the prison population fell in 10 of the countries considered with the largest falls in Northern Ireland (21%), Finland (15%) and Sweden (15%). The increase in England and Wales (33%) was similar to some Western European countries (Ireland (28%), Netherlands (34%) and Portugal (43%)) but above that in Australia (19%), New Zealand (23%), USA (22%) and South Africa (28%).

Table C Prison population⁽¹⁾ (percentage changes and rates)

Country	1988-98	1994-98	1997-98	rate ⁽¹⁵⁾ per
				100,000 population
				1998
England & Wales ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	31	33	6	126
Northern Ireland ⁽⁴⁾	-20	-21	-4	91
Scotland ⁽⁵⁾	15	8	-1	117
Austria ⁽²⁾	5	1	-1	85
Belgium ⁽⁵⁾	21	5	-8	77
Czech Republic ⁽⁶⁾	-7	18	2	215
Denmark	-1	-5	5	63
Finland ⁽⁷⁾	-30	-15	-5	55
France ⁽⁸⁾	15	0	-2	89
Germany ⁽⁹⁾	..	16	4	95
Greece	71	22	28	68
Hungary ⁽⁶⁾	-31	9	7	142
Ireland (Eire) ⁽¹⁰⁾	34	28	8	71
Italy	44	-4	-1	87
Luxembourg	5	-13	-12	91
Netherlands ⁽¹¹⁾	87	34	-1	75
Norway ⁽⁵⁾	17	-8	-3	56
Poland	-22	-4	3	153
Portugal	75	43	1	144
Russia ⁽⁶⁾	44 ⁽¹⁶⁾	10	0	690
Spain ⁽⁶⁾	53	-6	4	111
Sweden	-3	-15	1	60
Switzerland	21	-4	-6	79
Australia ⁽⁵⁾	55	19	4	98
Canada ⁽¹²⁾	24	1	-3	109
Japan	-3	16	4	42
New Zealand ⁽¹³⁾	58	23	6	143
South Africa ⁽⁵⁾	27	28	5	327
U.S.A. ⁽¹⁴⁾	90	22	4	668

See footnotes for Table 4.

(15) Based on estimates of national population.

(16) 1989 - 1998.

³ World Prison Population List (Home Office Research Findings No. 88) by Roy Walmsley.

Table 1 Crimes⁽¹⁾ recorded by the police

Country	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
England & Wales ⁽²⁾	3,715,767	3,870,748	4,543,611	5,276,173	5,591,717	5,526,255	5,146,383	5,139,307	4,930,687	4,545,337	4,481,817
Northern Ireland ⁽³⁾	55,890	55,147	57,198	63,492	67,532	66,228	67,886	68,808	68,549	59,922	76,644
Scotland	457,921	478,208	518,523	572,921	564,890	517,247	500,110	475,697	451,956	420,642	431,551
Austria	400,621	423,025	457,623	468,832	502,440	493,786	504,568	486,433	485,450	481,549	479,859
Belgium ⁽⁴⁾	314,778	336,377	353,492	382,667	386,474	388,150	577,902	709,836	725,914	818,759	964,122
Czech Republic	..	..	..	..	345,205	398,505	372,427	375,630	394,267	403,654	425,930
Denmark	536,880	536,564	527,421	519,775	563,821	546,894	546,926	538,963	528,488	531,102	499,167
Finland	334,185	389,010	435,154	389,180	389,536	383,268	383,351	381,652	376,788	373,846	383,479
France	3,132,694	3,266,442	3,492,712	3,744,112	3,830,996	3,381,894	3,919,008	3,665,320	3,559,617	3,493,442	3,565,525
Germany ⁽⁵⁾	4,356,726	4,358,573	4,455,333	5,302,796	6,291,519	6,750,613	6,537,748	6,668,717	6,647,598	6,586,165	6,456,996
Greece ⁽⁶⁾	311,179	287,177	330,803	358,998	379,652	358,503	303,311	329,110	349,476	377,811	385,681
Hungary	185,344	225,393	341,061	440,370	447,215	400,935	389,451	502,036	466,050	514,403	600,621
Ireland (Eire)	89,544	86,792	87,658	94,406	95,391	98,979	101,036	102,484	100,785	90,875	85,627
Italy	1,894,327	2,053,522	2,501,640	2,647,735	2,390,539	2,259,903	2,173,448	2,267,488	2,422,991	2,440,754	2,425,745
Luxembourg	22,306	23,689	24,699	25,046	26,746	28,446	29,160	28,380	27,566	24,355	27,155
Netherlands	1,056,740	1,066,130	1,052,510	1,083,730	1,168,490	1,173,643	1,202,482	1,124,466	1,073,843	1,102,900	1,101,500
Norway ⁽⁷⁾	220,338	237,319	235,256	252,362	254,099	244,659	249,615	285,900	292,249	307,949	318,275
Poland	475,273	547,589	883,346	866,095	881,076	852,507	906,157	974,941	897,751	992,373	1,073,042
Portugal ⁽⁸⁾	307,328	330,010	326,572	322,256	321,643	341,122
Russia	1,220,361	1,619,181	1,839,459	2,173,074	2,760,652	2,799,614	2,632,708	2,755,669	2,625,081	2,397,311	2,581,940
Spain	979,839	1,030,996	1,021,050	990,306	934,070	938,612	901,696	908,264	930,780	924,393	917,314
Sweden ⁽⁹⁾	1,086,211	1,144,800	1,218,820	1,199,101	1,195,154	1,191,251	1,112,505	1,145,945	1,175,339	1,196,065	1,190,812
Switzerland ⁽¹⁰⁾	329,667	331,989	354,265	382,661	374,237	371,740	358,028	346,634	356,018	382,769	378,045
Australia ⁽¹¹⁾	1,023,132	1,062,367	1,110,720	1,205,277	1,146,558	1,156,028	1,147,318	1,130,265	1,189,496	1,238,523	1,305,706
Canada ⁽¹²⁾	2,390,007	2,425,936	2,627,193	2,899,988	2,847,981	2,735,626	2,646,209	2,639,654	2,644,893	2,534,766	2,454,881
Japan ⁽¹³⁾	1,641,310	1,673,268	1,636,628	1,707,877	1,742,366	1,801,150	1,784,432	1,782,944	1,812,119	1,899,564	2,033,546
New Zealand	378,122	384,928	409,747	446,417	464,596	462,536	447,525	465,052	477,596	473,547	461,677
South Africa	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,014,589	2,056,569	2,049,100	2,073,049	2,829,874
U.S.A ⁽¹⁴⁾	13,923,100	14,251,400	14,475,613	14,872,900	14,438,200	14,144,800	13,989,500	13,862,727	13,493,863	13,194,571	12,475,634

- (1) More serious offences. In many countries defined as against the 'penal code' or 'criminal code' and excludes less serious crimes (misdemeanours). The range of offences covered differ between each country and comparisons based upon absolute figures are therefore misleading.
- (2) By financial year from 1994 (e.g. 1994 = 1 April 1994 to 31 March 1995); 1998 figure is an estimate due to a change in the counting rules. *England & Wales*
- (3) By financial year from 1997 (e.g. 1997 = 1 April 1997 to 31 March 1998). *Northern Ireland*
- (4) New collection system introduced in 1994, however not all police forces submitted returns in 1994. Data may only be regarded as complete from 1995 onwards. *Belgium*
- (5) Includes former East Germany from 1992 but only part of East Germany in 1991. *Germany*
- (6) Includes misdemeanours and traffic offences. *Greece*
- (7) From 1988 to 1990, crimes investigated by the police; from 1991, crimes recorded by the police. *Norway*
- (8) New unified collection system introduced in 1993 covering the three police forces. From 1995, other police functions e.g. gambling, economic activities, customs and county public finance are included. *Portugal*
- (9) Includes attempts, preparation and conspiracy to commit an offence. *Sweden*
- (10) Figures include selected penal offences and all drugs offences. Penal code offences are estimated to be approximately two-thirds of all offences which also include less serious offences such as shop-lifting, bicycle theft and use of cars for "joyriding". *Switzerland*
- (11) Data for selected violent and property crimes. By financial year until 1992 and calendar year from 1993 onwards. *Australia*
- (12) Includes Criminal Code incidents (violent, property and other crimes within the Criminal Code - e.g. prostitution, arson, mischief). Does not include drugs, traffic, provincial or municipal bylaw violations. *Canada*
- (13) Excludes traffic, professional negligence and offences against special penal codes such as drugs, firearms and sword control offences. *Japan*
- (14) FBI Uniform Crime Index covering murder and non-negligent manslaughter, manslaughter by negligence, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, and theft of motor vehicles but excludes arson and drugs offences. *USA*

Source: *Statistical contacts in each country.*

Table 1.1 Crimes⁽¹⁾ recorded by the police: Homicide⁽²⁾

Country	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	% change 1994-98	% change 1997-98	Rate per
								100,000 population 1998
England & Wales ⁽³⁾	726	745	679	748	750	3	0	1.43
Northern Ireland ⁽³⁾	86	24	39	49	75	-55 ⁽⁹⁾	53	4.44
Scotland	113	137	135	95	100	-12	5	1.95
Austria	88	78	99	66	77	-13	17	0.95
Belgium	121	142	118	145	218	80	2	2.14
Czech Republic	286	277	267	291	313	9	8	3.04
Denmark ⁽¹¹⁾	79	60	69	88	49	-38	-44	0.93
Finland	147	146	156	139	113	-23	-19	2.19
France	1,406	1,336	1,171	963	961	-32	0	1.64
Germany ⁽⁴⁾	1,373	1,373	1,249	1,178	975	-29	-17	1.19
Greece	133	151	169	203	176	32	-13	1.93
Hungary	313	296	271	289	289	-8	0	2.85
Ireland (Eire)	32	53	46	53	51	59	-4	1.41
Italy	1,012	1,047	1,010	928	924	-9	0	1.60
Luxembourg	6	2	4	4	4	-33	0	0.94
Netherlands ⁽⁵⁾	235	273	244	..	..	4 ⁽⁹⁾	..	1.57 ⁽¹⁰⁾
Norway	34	43	43	38	38	12	0	0.86
Poland	915	854	873	807	759	-17	-6	1.96
Portugal	172	123	116	131	152	-12	16	1.52
Russia ⁽⁶⁾	32,286	31,703	29,406	29,285	29,551	-8	9	20.20
Spain	1,053	984	962	1,032	1,040	-1	1	2.61
Sweden ⁽⁵⁾⁽⁷⁾	159	179	199	157	187	25 ⁽⁹⁾	20	2.11
Switzerland	80	82	83	87	76	-5	-13	1.07
Australia	320	356	348	360	333	4	-8	1.78
Canada ⁽⁸⁾	596	588	635	586	555	-7	-5	1.83
Japan ⁽⁶⁾	1,279	1,281	1,218	1,282	1,388	9	8	1.10
New Zealand	73	50	63	89	64	-12	-28	1.68
South Africa	26,832	26,637	25,782	24,588	24,877	-7	1	57.52
U.S.A.	23,310	21,606	19,645	18,208	16,914	-31	-7	6.26

- (1) Definitions of offences vary between countries both due to legal differences and statistical recording methods; comparisons may be affected by these differences.
- (2) Intentional killing of a person excluding attempts: murder, manslaughter (excluding death by dangerous driving), euthanasia and infanticide; excluding abortion and help with suicide.
- (3) By financial year from 1997 (e.g. 1997 = 1 April 1997 to 31 March 1998).
- (4) Including homicides recorded by the ZERV (Central Group for the investigation of crime associated with the government and reunification), which were committed in former East Germany or at the border before reunification of the country.
- (5) Excluding euthanasia.
- (6) Includes attempts.
- (7) Includes all deaths initially reported as homicide to the police. Figures from 1997 onwards are not comparable with previous years due to a change in statistical routines.
- (8) Includes murder, manslaughter and infanticide.
- (9) 1994 - 1996.
- (10) In 1996.
- (11) Includes all deaths initially reported as homicide to the police.

Source: *Statistical contacts in each country.*

Table 1.2 Comparison of homicide⁽¹⁾ in selected cities

City	Number of homicides ⁽¹⁾									Homicides ⁽¹⁾ per 100,000 population of the city								
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
London	184	184	175	160	169	167	139	190	159	2.50	2.50	2.40	2.20	2.30	2.20	1.85	2.51	2.09
Belfast ⁽²⁾	26	55	51	42	34	9	20	16	18	8.80	18.50	17.20	14.10	11.50	3.00	5.70	5.40	6.10
Edinburgh	12	8	9	11	9	18	6	8	10	2.73	1.82	2.05	2.49	2.03	4.02	1.34	1.78	2.22
Vienna	35	38	29	35	28	26	35	25	27	2.30	2.50	1.80	2.20	1.80	1.60	2.20	1.60	1.69
Brussels	..	..	..	..	19	15	17	20	22	..	..	..	..	2.00	1.58	1.79	2.11	2.31
Prague	32	21	35	38	34	37	28	40	51	2.60	1.80	2.90	3.10	2.80	3.00	2.30	3.30	4.25
Copenhagen ⁽⁸⁾	20	10	12	14	14	9	24	34	8	3.60	1.80	2.20	2.50	2.50	1.60	5.03	7.02	1.64
Helsinki	23	23	26	11	13	13	23	11	8	4.69	4.67	5.23	2.19	2.56	2.52	4.38	2.07	1.49
Paris	91	80	75	80	88	102	63	46	50	3.70	3.71	3.47	3.41	4.00	4.73	2.96	2.16	2.44
Berlin ⁽³⁾	..	94	109	152	138	125	121	150	160	..	2.70	3.20	4.40	3.90	3.60	3.49	4.34	4.67
Athens	2	4	3	1	1	13	15	14	17	0.17	0.34	0.25	0.08	0.08	1.12	1.29	1.20	1.46
Budapest	31	51	52	53	70	60	41	59	59	1.50	2.50	2.60	2.60	3.50	3.10	2.20	3.10	3.17
Dublin	11	12	22	8	14	26	19	21	31	1.10	1.20	2.10	0.80	1.30	2.50	1.80	2.02	2.87
Rome	80	57	45	40	45	43	53	39	39	2.90	2.10	1.60	1.50	1.60	1.60	2.00	1.50	1.02
Luxembourg Ville	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Amsterdam	57	26	51	50	61	64	46	..	..	8.20	3.70	7.10	6.90	8.40	8.90	6.40	..	..
Oslo	13	18	24	21	3	10	9	12	8	2.81	3.85	5.07	4.39	0.62	2.04	1.81	2.39	1.59
Warsaw ⁽⁴⁾	60	56	90	67	111	88	90	98	89	3.62	3.38	5.43	4.07	6.76	5.37	5.51	6.02	5.49
Lisbon	..	..	..	50	59	47	65	48	33	..	..	..	2.70	3.20	2.60	3.50	2.60	1.84
Moscow ⁽⁴⁾	441	501	925	1,404	1,820	1,702	1,544	1,477	1,180	..	..	10.33	15.80	20.70	19.53	17.82	17.10	18.64
Madrid	73	54	45	90	95	78	82	93	94	2.33	1.79	1.49	2.96	3.12	2.57	2.86	3.24	3.26
Stockholm ⁽⁵⁾	25	49	61	68	63	55	22	11	19	3.70	3.40	4.20	4.70	4.30	3.80	3.00	2.00	3.00
Geneva	9	6	2	4	4	5	2	8	3	2.30	1.60	0.50	1.00	1.00	1.20	0.50	2.00	0.74
Canberra	..	..	..	2	3	1	1	4	1	..	..	..	0.66	0.99	0.32	0.32	1.29	0.32
Ottawa ⁽⁶⁾	..	15	13	12	12	24	11	9	4	..	2.08	1.77	1.59	1.57	3.11	1.42	1.13	0.50
Tokyo ⁽⁴⁾	111	110	121	127	139	142	117	131	132	0.90	0.90	1.00	1.10	1.20	1.20	1.00	1.10	1.10
Wellington	2	1	4	2	5	2	2	4	4	1.50	0.70	2.90	1.40	3.60	1.40	1.30	2.50	2.50
Pretoria ⁽⁷⁾	483	502	483	527	..	..	..	..	..	39.40	40.96	39.40	43.00	..
Washington DC	472	482	443	454	399	360	397	301	260	77.80	80.60	75.20	78.50	70.00	64.98	73.11	56.89	49.15

- (1) Intentional killing of a person excluding attempts: murder, manslaughter (excluding death by dangerous driving), euthanasia and infanticide; excluding abortion and help with suicide.
- (2) By financial year from 1996 (e.g. 1996 = 1 April 1996 to 31 March 1997).
- (3) Including homicides recorded by the ZERV (Central Group for the investigation of crime associated with the government and reunification), which were committed in former East Germany or at the border before reunification of the country.

Source: Statistical contacts in each country.

- (4) Including attempts.
- (5) Includes all deaths initially reported as homicide to the police. 1997 figures are not comparable with previous years due to a change in statistical routines.
- (6) Census metropolitan area. Includes murder, manslaughter and infanticide.
- (7) Including rural areas.
- (8) Includes all deaths initially reported as homicide to the police.

Table 1.3 Crimes⁽¹⁾ recorded by the police: Violent crime⁽²⁾

Country						% change	% change
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1994-98	1997-98
England & Wales ⁽³⁾	303,742	319,675	348,032	352,873	331,843	9	-6
Northern Ireland ⁽⁴⁾	7,693	8,368	9,110	7,837	9,496	18 ⁽¹⁵⁾	21
Scotland	23,382	24,360	25,178	23,656	25,725	10	9
Austria	49,074	46,560	46,476	46,942	48,200	-2	3
Belgium ⁽⁵⁾	50,033	66,749	54,065	60,605	61,882	24	2
Czech Republic	20,177	21,712	22,825	23,223	23,464	16	1
Denmark	14,816	13,440	13,405	13,963	13,754	-7	-1
Finland	22,844	24,884	27,320	27,586	28,293	24	3
France	155,869	165,381	178,363	189,203	193,480	24	2
Germany ⁽⁶⁾	156,272	170,170	179,455	186,447	186,306	19 ⁽¹⁶⁾	4 ⁽¹⁸⁾
Greece	9,081	8,693	8,149	8,766	9,312	3	6
Hungary	26,035	25,731	24,674	26,987	28,414	9	7
Ireland (Eire) ⁽⁷⁾	5,046	5,764	6,554	5,488	4,515	-11	-17
Italy ⁽⁸⁾	57,161	56,444	61,459	64,822	71,752	26	11
Luxembourg ⁽⁹⁾	5,665	5,274	5,400	4,471	4,949	-13	11
Netherlands	65,856	64,606	66,660	74,400	76,600	16	3
Norway	14,719	15,247	17,969	17,396	18,445	25	6
Poland ⁽¹⁰⁾	54,470	56,476	60,322	66,927	70,001	29	5
Portugal	17,098	17,016	15,494	16,733	15,463	-10	-8
Russia ⁽¹¹⁾	190,483	180,793	161,644	119,041	92,697	-51	-22
Spain	81,318	79,200	86,949	87,775	91,099	12	4
Sweden ⁽¹²⁾	65,235	66,369	65,863	68,310	72,080	10	6
Switzerland	5,922	5,960	6,849	7,385	7,939	34	8
Australia ⁽¹³⁾	28,826	130,382	146,030	160,574	173,250	33 ⁽¹⁷⁾	8
Canada ⁽¹⁴⁾	303,745	295,702	296,746	296,890	295,369	-3	-1
Japan	36,515	35,860	37,506	40,570	41,751	14	3
New Zealand	41,337	41,981	42,250	42,191	42,590	3	1
South Africa	596,043	627,271	640,354	645,737	661,779	11	2
U.S.A.	1,857,670	1,798,792	1,688,540	1,636,096	1,531,044	-18	-6

- (1) Definitions of offences vary between countries both due to legal differences and statistical recording methods; comparisons may be affected by these differences.
- (2) Violence against the person, robbery and sexual offences.
- (3) By financial year (e.g. 1994 = 1 April 1994 to 31 March 1995).
- (4) By financial year from 1997 (e.g. 1997 = 1 April 1997 to 31 March 1998).
- (5) Excludes robbery.
- (6) 1998 figures are not comparable with previous years due to a change in the law.
- (7) Includes homicide, other violence against the person, intimidation, abduction and false imprisonment, sexual offences, robbery and aggravated burglary.
- (8) Includes homicide, injuries, sexual assault, robbery, extortion and kidnapping.
- (9) Includes homicide, murder, rebellion, intimidation, other violence against the person and sexual offences.
- (10) Includes homicide, rape, fighting and battery, causing bodily injury and robbery.
- (11) Violence against the person, aggravated assault and sexual offences only.
- (12) Includes attempts, preparation and conspiracy to commit an offence.
- (13) In 1994, only sexual assaults included. From 1995, all assaults included (murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, driving causing death, sexual assault, kidnapping and abduction, robbery, blackmail and extortion).
- (14) Includes homicide, attempted murder, sexual and non-sexual assault, other sexual offences, abduction and robbery.
- (15) 1994 - 1996.
- (16) 1994 - 1997.
- (17) 1995 - 1998.
- (18) 1996 - 1997.

Source: *Statistical contacts in each country.*

Table 1.4 Crimes⁽¹⁾ recorded by the police: Domestic burglary⁽²⁾

Country	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	% change	% change
						1994-98	1997-98
England & Wales ⁽³⁾	661,194	638,631	581,985	501,593	472,960	-28	-6
Northern Ireland ⁽⁴⁾	9,454	9,774	8,530	7,155	7,725	-10 ⁽¹⁰⁾	8
Scotland ⁽⁵⁾	53,116	44,725	40,814	36,792	38,033	-28	3
Austria	14,160	13,721	13,849	12,826	11,811	-17	-8
Belgium ⁽⁵⁾	156,864	187,739	180,104	143,769	63,022	-8 ⁽¹¹⁾	-20 ⁽¹²⁾
Czech Republic	14,804	13,936	13,538	13,068	12,752	-14	-2
Denmark	106,339	106,533	109,882	111,449	101,933	-4	-9
Finland	12,829	11,512	10,311	10,436	10,291	-20	-1
France	246,641	237,624	236,272	213,561	207,274	-16	3
Germany	210,982	211,221	195,801	182,009	166,742	-21	-8
Greece ⁽⁶⁾	34,011	42,377	42,825	44,286	43,228	30	-2
Hungary	21,061	22,372	30,116	31,269	30,515	45	-2
Ireland (Eire)	18,713	18,506	17,672	16,970	15,840	-15	-7
Italy	198,401	212,477	230,258	237,445	246,804	24	4
Luxembourg	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Netherlands ⁽⁶⁾	498,000	472,709	443,605	487,500	487,300	-2	0
Norway	18,213	19,544	19,107	16,923	15,106	-17	-11
Poland ⁽⁷⁾	57,120	62,011	65,945	70,187	74,137	30	6
Portugal	23,129	21,969	22,798	24,202	21,515	-7	-11
Russia	21,556	19,303	17,490	35,905	40,219	87	12
Spain	..	..	..	84,430	82,335	..	-2
Sweden ⁽⁸⁾	17,670	16,701	16,835	18,359	17,645	0	-4
Switzerland	66,466	67,044	74,321	82,559	83,416	26	1
Australia	240,765	256,772	269,554	284,974	295,699	23	4
Canada ⁽⁹⁾	227,199	235,129	242,639	233,724	220,889	-3	-5
Japan	247,661	234,586	223,590	221,678	237,703	-4	7
New Zealand	46,415	46,594	48,912	49,376	49,481	7	0
South Africa ⁽⁹⁾	228,021	244,063	246,438	249,375	..	9 ⁽¹¹⁾	1 ⁽¹²⁾
U.S.A.	2,712,774	2,593,784	2,506,400	2,460,526	2,329,950	-14	-5

(1) Definitions of offences vary between countries both due to legal differences and statistical recording methods; comparisons may be affected by these differences.

(2) Gaining access to a dwelling by the use of force to steal goods.

(3) By financial year (e.g. 1994 = 1 April 1994 to 31 March 1995).

(4) By financial year from 1997 (e.g. 1997 = 1 April 1997 to 31 March 1998).

(5) Until 1997 includes burglary in non-domestic premises (e.g. shop, garage, hotel).

(6) Includes burglary in non-domestic premises (e.g. shop, garage, hotel).

(7) Includes burglary from garrets and basements in blocks of flats.

(8) Includes attempts, preparation and conspiracy to commit an offence.

(9) Includes attempts.

(10) 1994 - 1996.

(11) 1994 - 1997.

(12) 1996 - 1997.

Source: *Statistical contacts in each country.*

Table 1.5 Crimes⁽¹⁾ recorded by the police: Theft of a motor vehicle⁽²⁾

Country	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	% change	
						1994-98	1997-98
England & Wales ⁽³⁾	524,094	513,927	466,783	400,524	390,891	-25	-2
Northern Ireland ⁽⁴⁾	8,974	7,794	8,404	8,090	9,705	-6 ⁽¹¹⁾	20
Scotland ⁽⁵⁾	41,962	37,514	34,161	28,646	28,433	-32	-1
Austria	4,248	3,693	3,750	3,848	4,092	-4	6
Belgium	32,806	37,603	33,598	35,242	36,555	11	4
Czech Republic	25,615	25,059	27,517	29,422	27,889	9	-5
Denmark	34,470	35,652	41,922	41,227	37,565	9	-9
Finland	21,043	19,772	20,261	22,015	26,404	25	20
France	484,179	453,525	443,767	417,360	415,930	-14	0
Germany	272,357	262,620	225,787	190,585	162,518	-40	-15
Greece ⁽⁶⁾	10,165	12,814	12,498	6,568	7,510	23 ⁽¹¹⁾	14
Hungary ⁽⁷⁾	10,045	12,132	16,168	14,413	15,255	52	6
Ireland (Eire)	12,039	11,754	13,405	13,589	13,793	15	2
Italy	302,490	305,438	317,897	301,233	309,113	2	3
Luxembourg	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Netherlands ⁽⁷⁾	46,045	40,902	36,772	37,308	..	-19 ⁽¹²⁾	1 ⁽¹³⁾
Norway	20,816	22,519	21,447	20,019	21,672	4	8
Poland ⁽⁷⁾	45,999	54,807	50,799	56,871	65,399	42	15
Portugal	18,340	17,334	19,993	22,792	26,965	47	18
Russia	46,782	48,532	41,712	35,778	35,448	-24	-1
Spain	99,768	98,847	113,916	133,330	136,084	36	2
Sweden ⁽⁸⁾	66,234	70,299	71,567	78,826	76,921	16	-2
Switzerland ⁽⁹⁾	23,765	21,956	20,946	21,534	..	-9 ⁽¹²⁾	3 ⁽¹³⁾
Australia	119,760	126,919	122,931	130,406	131,572	10	1
Canada ⁽⁵⁾	159,469	161,696	180,123	177,130	165,799	4	-6
Japan	663,737	664,508	687,960	696,370	705,431	6	1
New Zealand ⁽¹⁰⁾	25,780	28,510	29,991	30,776	29,731	15	-3
South Africa	104,302	101,056	96,715	100,637	107,513	3	7
U.S.A.	1,539,287	1,472,441	1,394,238	1,354,189	1,240,754	-19	-8

(1) Definitions of offences vary between countries both due to legal differences and statistical recording methods; comparisons may be affected by these differences.

(2) All land vehicles with an engine that run on the road which are used to carry people (including cars, motor cycles, buses, lorries, construction and agricultural vehicles, etc.).

(3) By financial year (e.g. 1994 = 1 April 1994 to 31 March 1995).

(4) By financial year from 1997 (e.g. 1997 = 1 April 1997 to 31 March 1998).

(5) Includes attempts.

(6) Includes boats until 1996.

(7) Cars only.

(8) Includes attempts, preparation and conspiracy to commit an offence.

(9) Estimated figures, including attempts.

(10) Excludes motorcycles.

(11) 1994 - 1996.

(12) 1994 - 1997.

(13) 1996 - 1997.

Source: Statistical contacts in each country.

Table 1.6 Crimes⁽¹⁾ recorded by the police: Drug trafficking⁽²⁾

Country	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	% change	
						1994-98	1997-98
England & Wales ⁽³⁾	18,340	21,272	22,122	23,336	21,306	16	-9
Northern Ireland ⁽³⁾	156	358	204	176	193	31 ⁽¹¹⁾	10
Scotland	5,918	7,974	6,957	8,180	8,490	43	4
Austria	11,963	11,635	14,923	16,808	15,906	33	-5
Belgium	2,842	6,896	8,362	11,072	10,158	257	-8
Czech Republic ⁽⁴⁾	186	309	608	789	1,029	453	30
Denmark	273	291	354	171	178	-35	4
Finland	5,936	9,052	7,868	8,323	9,461	59	14
France	70,735	79,052	79,617	86,961	92,858	31	7
Germany	45,088	54,889	65,615	69,093	68,994	53	0
Greece ⁽⁵⁾	1,837	2,930	4,272	5,970	6,574	258	10
Hungary	256	429	440	943	2,068	708	119
Ireland (Eire) ⁽⁶⁾	131	826	958	1,637	1,766	113 ⁽¹²⁾	8
Italy	38,290	38,269	38,954	41,420	43,014	12	4
Luxembourg ⁽⁵⁾	751	764	864	805	825	10	2
Netherlands	4,040	3,473	6,593	5,700	..	41 ⁽¹³⁾	-14 ⁽¹⁵⁾
Norway	14,842	23,567	27,657	34,705	38,774	161	12
Poland	127	284	494	994	676	432	-32
Portugal	4,517	4,509	3,879	3,390	3,538	-22	4
Russia ⁽⁵⁾	74,798	79,819	96,645	185,832	190,127	154	2
Spain	15,608	15,118	15,307	14,274	13,263	-15	-7
Sweden ⁽⁷⁾	815	689	635	561	502	-38	-11
Switzerland	2,465	2,171	2,515	3,253	3,734	51	15
Australia ⁽⁸⁾	24,994	24,313	23,348	-7 ⁽¹⁴⁾	-4
Canada	17,874	17,394	17,913	17,299	17,727	-1	2
Japan ⁽⁹⁾	3,329	2,982	2,678	2,359	2,712	2	15
New Zealand ⁽⁵⁾	14,790	12,274	12,658	14,532	15,158	-10	4
South Africa ⁽⁵⁾	47,323	40,782	39,241	42,805	39,830	-16	-7
U.S.A. ⁽¹⁰⁾	22,023	24,915	27,457	33,160	37,322	69	13

(1) Definitions of offences vary between countries both due to legal differences and statistical recording methods; comparisons may be affected by these differences.

(2) Illegal importing, exporting, supplying, transportation, etc. of narcotic drugs.

(3) By financial year from 1997 (e.g. 1997 = 1 April 1997 to 31 March 1998).

(4) Number of people prosecuted.

(5) All drugs offences.

(6) Importation only in 1994.

(7) Includes attempts, preparation and conspiracy to commit an offence.

(8) By financial year (e.g. 1994 = 1 July 1993 to 30 June 1994).

(9) Excluding amphetamines.

(10) Arrests by Drug Enforcement Agency.

(11) 1994 - 1996. (12) 1995 - 1997. (13) 1994 - 1997. (14) 1996 - 1998. (15) 1996 - 1997.

Source: *Statistical contacts in each country.*

Table 2 **Victimisation risk**

Country	Percentage victim once or more in 1995			
	Overall	Contact crime⁽¹⁾	Theft of a car	Burglary (inc. attempts)
England & Wales	31	3.6	3.0	6.1
Northern Ireland	17	1.5	1.9	2.5
Scotland	26	2.7	2.2	3.6
Austria	19	1.6	0.2	1.3
Finland	19	2.9	0.6	1.2
France	25	2.2	1.8	3.9
Netherlands	31	1.9	0.4	5.1
Sweden	24	3.4	1.5	2.0
Switzerland	27	2.3	0.1	2.2
Canada	25	3.5	2.1	4.9
U.S.A	24	2.7	1.7	5.3

(1) Robbery, assaults with force and sexual assaults (against women only).

Source: *The 1996 International Crime Victimization Survey (Home Office Research Findings No.57)*.

Table 3.1 Sentencing and sentence lengths: Assault, 1995

	England & Wales	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Denmark	Finland	France	Germany	Portugal	Sweden
SENTENCING									
Total number sentenced per 100,000 population	53	39	249	79	150	68	53	27	106
Percentage of which were:									
Fined	14%	22%	57%	7%	75%	26%	55%	60%	29%
Non-custodial sentences	58%	23%	29%	7%	2%	12%	23%	1%	24%
Suspended sentences	2%	34%	..	26%	14%	42%	15%	30%	19%
Unsuspending sentences	27%	21%	13%	60%	9%	20%	6%	8%	28%
SENTENCE LENGTHS									
Number of unsuspended sentences	7,335	..	1,716	2,395	..	7,795	2,397	188	2,586
Percentage of which were:									
under 6 months	45%	..	58%	93%	..	58%	16%	11%	71%
6 and less than 12 months	20%	..	20%	5%	..	24%	40%	42%	12%
12 and less than 24 months	18%	..	9%	2%	..	..	20%	27%	12%
24 and less than 60 months	15%	..	9%	1%	..	17% ⁽¹⁾	17%	17%	2%
60 months and over	2%	..	4%	0%	..	1%	2%	3%	0%
Life (absolute number)	13	..	0	0	..	1	0	..	..

(1) Sentence length of 12 and less than 60 months

Source: Council of Europe.

Table 3.2 Sentencing and sentence lengths: Robbery, 1995

	England & Wales	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Denmark	Finland	France	Germany	Portugal	Sweden
SENTENCING									
Total number sentenced per 100,000 population	10	12	13	10	9	11	12	16	6
Percentage of which were:									
Fined	1%	0%	8%	0%	1%	1%	1%	2%	0%
Non-custodial sentences	36%	15%	27%	2%	4%	9%	24%	..	36%
Suspended sentences	0%	23%	..	18%	29%	25%	37%	30%	4%
Unsuspending sentences	63%	62%	65%	79%	66%	65%	39%	68%	60%
SENTENCE LENGTHS									
Number of unsuspended sentences	3,259	..	433	409	..	4,063	3,131	1,067	338
Percentage of which were:									
under 6 months	12%	..	16%	23%	..	30%	0%	1%	16%
6 and less than 12 months	11%	..	17%	29%	..	28%	11%	1%	9%
12 and less than 24 months	22%	..	15%	31%	..	..	25%	20%	44%
24 and less than 60 months	41%	..	24%	16%	..	31% ⁽¹⁾	47%	45%	26%
60 months and over	15%	..	28%	1%	..	11%	15%	34%	2%
Life (absolute number)	2	..	0	0	..	5	0	..	..

(1) Sentence length of 12 and less than 60 months

Source: Council of Europe.

Table 3.3 Sentencing and sentence lengths: Theft⁽¹⁾, 1995

	England & Wales	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Denmark	Finland	France	Germany	Portugal	Sweden
SENTENCING									
Total number sentenced per 100,000 population	249	195	433	556	627	167	234	81	374
Percentage of which were:									48
Fined	24%	24%	41%	73%	87%	10%	60%	18%	48%
Non-custodial sentences	56%	39%	32%	6%	1%	17%	18%	2%	33%
Suspended sentences	0%	19%	..	11%	6%	6%	13%	39%	10%
Unsuspending sentences	20%	18%	27%	11%	6%	6%	8%	40%	10%
SENTENCE LENGTHS									
Number of unsuspended sentences	25,354	..	6,044	3,084	..	30,754	12,862	2,928	3,201
Percentage of which were:									
under 6 months	61%	..	70%	88%	..	59%	26%	5%	63%
6 and less than 12 months	18%	..	24%	10%	..	26%	40%	11%	26%
12 and less than 24 months	16%	..	4%	2%	..	..	23%	44%	8%
24 and less than 60 months	5%	..	2%	0%	..	14% ⁽²⁾	11%	28%	1%
60 months and over	0%	..	0%	0%	..	0%	0%	11%	0%
Life (absolute number)	1	..	0	0	..	2	0	..	..

(1) Includes burglary offences as these may not be identified separately in the court statistics in many countries.

(2) Sentence length of 12 and less than 60 months.

Source: Council of Europe.

Table 4 Prison population⁽¹⁾

Country	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
England & Wales ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	50,099	48,481	45,649	46,310	46,350	45,633	49,392	51,265	55,537	61,940	65,771
Northern Ireland ⁽⁴⁾	1,901	1,815	1,733	1,996	1,811	1,902	1,911	1,740	1,640	1,581	1,516
Scotland ⁽⁵⁾	5,229	4,986	4,724	4,839	5,257	5,637	5,585	5,626	5,862	6,084	6,018
Austria ⁽²⁾	6,565	6,325	6,527	6,714	6,913	7,099	6,806	6,180	6,778	6,946	6,891
Belgium ⁽⁵⁾	6,497	6,688	6,549	6,194	6,869	7,489	7,489	7,693	7,935	8,522	7,860
Czech Republic ⁽⁶⁾	23,615	22,365	8,231	12,730	13,967	16,567	18,753	19,508	20,860	21,560	22,067
Denmark	3,362	3,378	3,205	3,404	3,406	3,370	3,508	3,421	3,194	3,170	3,340
Finland ⁽⁷⁾	4,054	3,721	3,252	3,427	3,175	3,432	3,322	3,092	3,248	2,976	2,836
France ⁽⁸⁾	46,423	45,102	47,449	48,675	49,323	51,134	53,758	53,178	54,014	54,442	53,607
Germany ⁽⁹⁾	52,076	51,729	48,792	49,658	..	65,838	67,626	68,408	71,047	75,026	78,324
Greece	4,178	4,593	5,133	5,321	6,602	7,135	5,835	5,831	5,270	5,577	7,129
Hungary ⁽⁶⁾	20,821	15,928	12,319	14,810	15,913	13,196	13,143	12,455	12,763	13,405	14,366
Ireland (Eire) ⁽¹⁰⁾	1,953	1,980	2,108	2,114	2,155	2,801	2,053	2,032	2,139	2,424	2,620
Italy	34,675	30,594	32,588	32,813	46,152	51,231	52,041	49,102	48,747	50,197	49,864
Luxembourg	372	349	386	365	408	418	452	453	427	443	392
Netherlands ⁽¹¹⁾	6,254	6,155	6,892	7,302	7,495	8,037	8,737	10,329	11,931	11,770	11,699
Norway ⁽⁵⁾	2,113	2,208	2,397	2,548	2,477	2,650	2,670	2,610	2,602	2,536	2,466
Poland	75,995	56,528	46,606	57,083	61,040	61,895	61,694	65,819	57,320	57,424	59,180
Portugal	8,168	8,593	9,169	8,171	9,183	11,079	10,023	11,829	13,743	14,167	14,330
Russia ⁽⁶⁾	..	698,900	714,700	722,636	750,280	844,870	920,685	1,017,372	1,051,515	1,009,863	1,009,172
Spain ⁽⁶⁾	28,917	30,947	33,058	37,857	41,894	46,076	47,144	44,956	42,105	42,756	44,370
Sweden	5,427	5,277	5,300	5,203	5,249	5,697	6,210	6,285	5,768	5,221	5,290
Switzerland	4,679	4,714	5,074	5,688	5,400	5,627	5,891	5,655	5,820	5,980	5,648
Australia ⁽⁵⁾	11,849	12,496	13,668	14,176	14,316	15,003	15,470	16,142	16,922	17,661	18,344
Canada ⁽¹²⁾	26,634	27,466	29,150	29,224	30,723	31,709	32,803	33,629	33,806	34,089	32,970
Japan	54,344	51,829	48,243	45,749	44,876	45,057	45,573	46,535	48,395	50,600	52,830
New Zealand ⁽¹³⁾	3,458	3,750	4,167	4,278	4,369	4,600	4,413	4,685	4,983	5,152	5,450
South Africa ⁽⁵⁾	111,481	111,557	110,194	101,775	102,268	111,798	110,933	110,069	118,731	134,202	141,441
U.S.A. ⁽¹⁴⁾	949,659	1,076,670	1,148,702	1,219,014	1,295,150	1,369,185	1,476,621	1,585,589	1,646,030	1,725,842	1,802,496

- (1) At 1 September.
- (2) At 31 August.
- (3) Includes prisoners held in police cells until 1995.
- (4) Annual averages in 1988, 1989 and 1991.
- (5) Average daily population.
- (6) At 31 December.
- (7) At 1 January.
- (8) Metropolitan and overseas departments.
- (9) 1988 to 1991 includes only Western part of Germany; from 1993 former East Germany included.
- (10) Average daily population in 1990.
- (11) At 30 September.
- (12) Annual average by financial year (1 April - 31 March).
- (13) Annual averages.
- (14) At 30 June.

Source: Statistical contacts in each country.

Notes

1. The Home Office has been collecting and publishing data from other countries on the number of crimes recorded by the police and the prison population since 1993. The number of countries covered and the comparability of the data received has improved since then through closer liaison with the officials abroad. Although the information received is double-checked with the countries supplying the data, the Home Office cannot guarantee that the data presented is completely accurate or comparable.
2. The authors would like to thank the data suppliers in each country for their assistance in preparing this Bulletin.
3. The tables in this Bulletin are available as Excel spreadsheets from the RDS Website at

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