

Justice and Defence

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6

Justice and Defence

Introduction

The statistics in this chapter relate to a number of aspects concerning justice and defence. They have been obtained from the annual reports of the Garda Síochana, the Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform, the Courts Service and the Defence Forces.

Crime figures up to 1999 reflect an old classification of crimes as indictable/non-indictable. With the introduction of the PULSE information system in the Garda Síochana, a new classification of crimes as headline/non-headline has been introduced. The 2000 figures therefore refer to the new classification of headline crimes. While this category reflects to a large extent what in the past was defined as indictable crime, the terms are not identical and therefore direct comparisons cannot be made between years prior to 2000 and subsequent years.

There were 86,621 headline offences recorded in 2001 of which 42 per cent were detected. The crime rates for the North-Central and South-Central Dublin Garda Divisions at 124 per 1,000 population and 97 per 1,000 population respectively are over four times higher than the next highest Division.

The average daily number of prisoners in custody has increased significantly from 2,191 in 1996 to 2,948 in 2000. Table 6.12 presents information on asylum applications. There were over ten thousand applications in both 2000 and 2001.

Incidence of crime

The number of indictable crimes recorded from 1950 had risen by a factor of almost seven by the latter half of the 1990's. However caution is required in looking at trends in crimes and offences over time, particularly when talking about the number of indictable offences. There can be changes in recording rules and practices, enforcement practices, and levels of reporting by the public. There were also changes in the definition of offences.

There have been significant variations in trend since 1950. Crimes recorded doubled over the period 1950-1969, doubled again between 1969 and 1976 and nearly doubled again between 1976 and 1983. Since then, the figures have become more volatile and between 1995 and 1999, there was an overall decline of 21%. A significant decline in crime rates can be seen in the Dublin North Central and South Central Garda divisions, where the crime rate dropped by about 50% in the latter half of the decade. The detection rate has also increased by a third over the 1990s.

Table 6.1

The effect of a change in classification from indictable offences to headline offences is outlined in the chapter introduction.

Figures for 1999 refer to the period January-September only.

Table 6.4

Rape Section 4 is a broader definition of the offence than that used in previous legal definitions. The victim may be male or female.

Table 6.11

Annual figures refer to the period from 1 August in the previous year to 31 July in the current year.

In some cases Interim Barring Orders have been granted on foot of an application for Protection Orders and vice versa.

Table 6.12

The figures in this table refer to first instance recommendations only. Figures for decisions on asylum applications granted and refused in any year may pertain to applications received in earlier years.

Table 6.14

Figures as at 31 March. Personnel in the naval forces have been entered at equivalent army rank.

Table 6.1 Indictable/headline offences and murders recorded, 1950-2001

Year	Indictable/headline offences recorded	Number of murders	Year	Indictable/headline offences recorded	Number of murders
1950	12,231	9	1976	54,382	19
1951	14,127	4	1977	62,946	25
1952	14,720	7	1978	62,000	15
1953	15,062	9	1979	64,057	22
1954	11,917	3	1980	72,782	21
1955	11,531	4	1981	89,400	24
1956	12,782	3	1982	97,616	24
1957	14,037	8	1983	102,387	23
1958	16,567	6	1984	99,727	23
1959	17,865	8	1985	91,285	25
1960	15,375	3	1986	86,574	14
1961	14,818	10	1987	85,358	29
1962	15,307	3	1988	89,544	20
1963	16,203	4	1989	86,792	17
1964	17,700	6	1990	87,658	17
1965	16,736	7	1991	94,406	23
1966	19,029	7	1992	95,391	25
1967	20,558	8	1993	98,979	23
1968	23,104	10	1994	101,036	25
1969	25,972	6	1995	102,484	43
1970	30,756	11	1996	100,785	42
1971	37,781	9	1997	90,875	38
1972	39,237	21	1998	85,627	38
1973	38,022	21	1999	81,274	38
1974	40,096	50	2000	73,276	39
1975	48,387	23	2001	86,621	52

Source: Garda Síochána

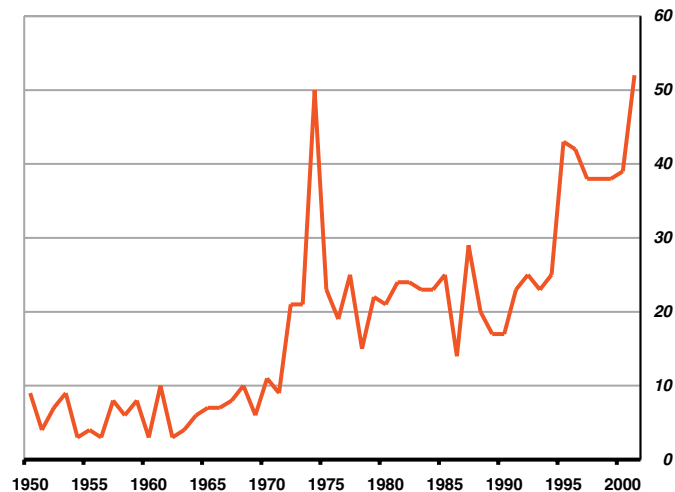
Murders recorded, 1950-2001

Table 6.2 Headline offences and detection rate, 2001

Offence group	Number		
	Recorded	Detected	Detection rate %
Homicide	75	65	87
Assault	3,841	2,882	75
Sexual	1,956	1,389	71
Arson	1,407	321	23
Drugs	2,398	2,390	100
Larceny	45,700	17,657	39
Burglary	24,036	6,719	28
Robbery	2,879	1,137	39
Fraud	3,502	2,780	79
Other	827	611	74
Total	86,621	35,951	42

Source: Garda Síochána Annual Report

Table 6.3 Homicide victims by age and sex, 2000

Age	Murder		Manslaughter	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 - 10	6	2	0	0
11 - 20	5	1	2	0
21 - 30	6	3	3	1
31 - 40	8	2	3	0
41 - 50	0	1	4	0
51 - 60	2	0	1	0
61 - 70	0	0	0	0
71 and over	2	1	2	1
Total	29	10	15	2

Source: Garda Síochána Annual Report

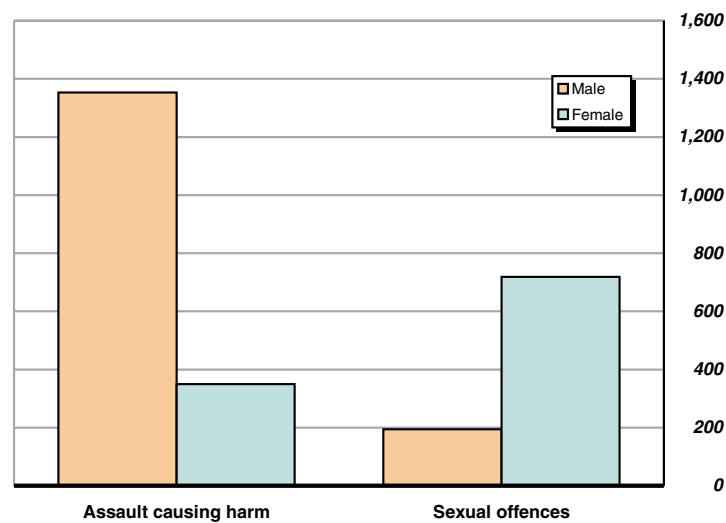
Victims of assault and sexual offences by sex, 2000

Table 6.4 Victims of assault and sexual offences by sex, 2000

	<i>Number</i>		
	Male	Female	Total
Assault causing harm	1,353	350	1,703
Sexual offences	194	719	913
Sexual assault	141	408	549
Aggravated sexual assault	3	9	12
Sexual offence involving mentally impaired person	1	2	3
Gross indecency	3	0	3
Buggery	23	0	23
Unlawful carnal knowledge	0	15	15
Rape Section 4	21	31	52
Rape of a female	0	238	238
Incest	2	16	18

Source: Garda Síochána Annual Report

Table 6.5 Robberies and aggravated burglaries

	<i>Number</i>				
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Involving firearms	481	252	221	290	203
Robbery with use of firearm	152	88	61	133	152
Aggravated burglary with use of firearm	329	164	160	157	51
Involving use of syringe	1,104	893	442	384	361
Robbery with use of syringe	687	590	318	274	320
Aggravated burglary with use of syringe	417	303	124	110	41

Source: Garda Síochána Annual Report

Number of robberies and aggravated burglaries

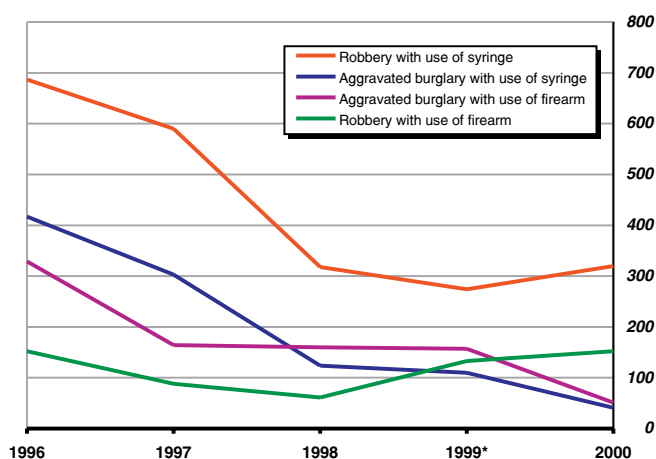


Table 6.6 Crime rate per Garda Division*Per 1,000 population*

Garda Division	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Eastern Region					
Carlow/Kildare	19	21	20	19	18
Laois/Offaly	12	13	11	13	13
Longford/Westmeath	20	17	17	18	17
Louth/Meath	25	24	22	20	16
Dublin Metropolitan Region					
Eastern	41	37	28	26	24
North-Central	227	188	147	139	124
Northern ¹	26	24	22	20	20
South Central	180	151	124	113	97
Southern	36	30	30	27	24
Western ¹	–	–	25	24	23
Northern Region					
Cavan/Monaghan	8	9	10	10	9
Donegal	11	12	10	11	8
Sligo/Leitrim	12	13	13	13	15
South Eastern Region					
Tipperary	11	12	11	11	10
Waterford/Kilkenny	18	20	19	21	20
Wexford/Wicklow	17	16	16	18	16
Southern Region					
Cork City ¹	39	31	29	26	21
Cork North ¹	14	13	14	12	10
Cork West	9	10	10	11	9
Cork East ¹	29	–	–	–	–
Kerry	13	11	12	11	10
Limerick	21	19	19	18	17
Western Region					
Clare	11	12	12	10	8
Galway West	18	16	16	15	13
Mayo	8	9	8	9	9
Roscommon/Galway East	9	8	9	9	8

¹ Comparisons with 1996 and 1997 are approximate because divisional boundaries were altered.

Source: Garda Síochána Annual Report

Table 6.7 Numbers in each rank of the Garda Síochána

Year	Number				
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Commissioner ranks	12	12	13	13	13
Chief Superintendents	44	44	46	46	46
Superintendents	163	163	168	168	169
Inspectors	251	263	262	263	293
Sergeants	1,862	1,844	1,866	1,876	1,897
Gardaí	8,484	8,462	8,880	9,092	9,222
Total	10,816	10,788	11,235	11,458	11,640

Source: Garda Síochána Annual Report

Table 6.8 Average daily number of prisoners in custody

Institution	Number				
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Arbour Hill	126	139	139	138	139
Castlerea	–	25	109	195	190
Cloverhill	–	–	–	–	213
Cork	266	268	262	271	267
Curragh	–	72	94	93	94
Fort Michael	101	101	101	100	89
Limerick (male)	127	132	182	226	225
Limerick (female)	9	12	12	14	13
Loughan House	71	70	48	56	66
Mountjoy (male)	620	650	729	826	723
Mountjoy (female)	39	51	59	70	59
Portlaoise	152	164	155	148	167
St Patrick's	192	208	187	194	193
Shanganagh Castle	47	48	41	39	28
Shelton Abbey	47	47	47	46	25
Training Unit	74	85	85	87	89
Wheatfield	320	350	360	368	368
Total	2,191	2,422	2,610	2,871	2,948

Source: Irish Prisons Service Report

TABLE 6.7

TABLE 6.8

Table 6.9 Prisoners in custody by age and sex, 1 June 2001

Number

Age	Male	Female	Total
15 - 16	20	5	25
17 - 20	438	8	446
21 - 24	572	21	593
25 - 29	573	14	587
30 - 39	575	9	584
40 - 49	246	4	250
50 and over	215	5	220
Total	2,639	66	2,705

Source: Irish Prisons Service Report

TABLE 6.9

TABLE 6.10

Table 6.10 Prisoners by length of sentence and sex, 1 June 2001

Number

Sentence	Male	Female	Total
Life	114	4	118
10 years or more	194	0	194
5 up to 10 years	602	9	611
3 up to 5 years	465	12	478
2 up to 3 years	248	6	254
1 up to 2 years	441	14	455
6 - 12 months	355	12	367
under 6 months	220	9	228
Total	2,639	66	2,705

Source: Irish Prisons Service Report

Age and sex profile of prisoners in custody, 1 June 2001

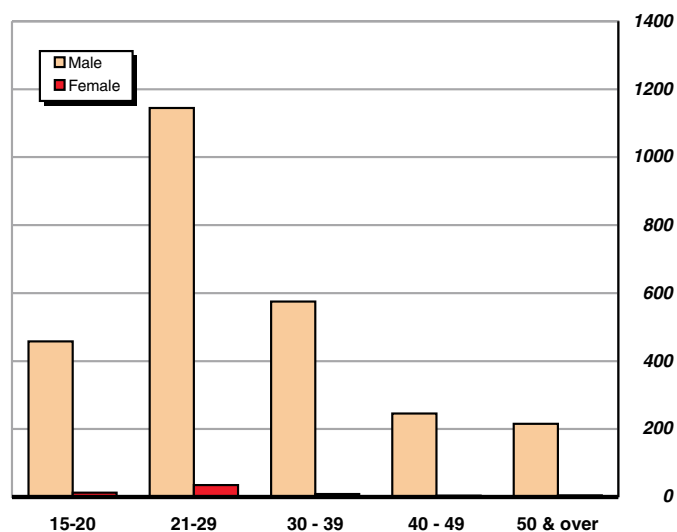


Table 6.11 Applications under the Domestic Violence Act

	<i>Number</i>				
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Barring orders					
Applications	5,217	4,792	4,668	4,908	4,470
Granted	2,145	2,004	2,219	2,319	2,067
Protection orders					
Applications	4,352	4,409	3,619	4,381	4,263
Granted	3,781	3,474	3,390	3,467	3,711
Safety orders					
Applications	1,792	1,779	2,039	2,336	2,903
Granted	739	837	970	988	1,232
Interim barring orders					
Applications	589	733	1,120	1,119	1,159
Granted	543	677	1,002	415	1,007

Source: Courts Service Annual Report

TABLE 6.11

TABLE 6.12

Table 6.12 Details of asylum applications, 1995-2001

	<i>Number</i>		
Year	Applications	Granted asylum	Refused asylum
1995	424	15	43
1996	1,179	36	32
1997	3,883	209	304
1998	4,626	128	1,202
1999	7,724	166	4,737
2000	10,938	211	6,282
2001	10,325	458	6,501

Source: Office of the Refugee Applications Commissioner

Applications under the Domestic Violence Act

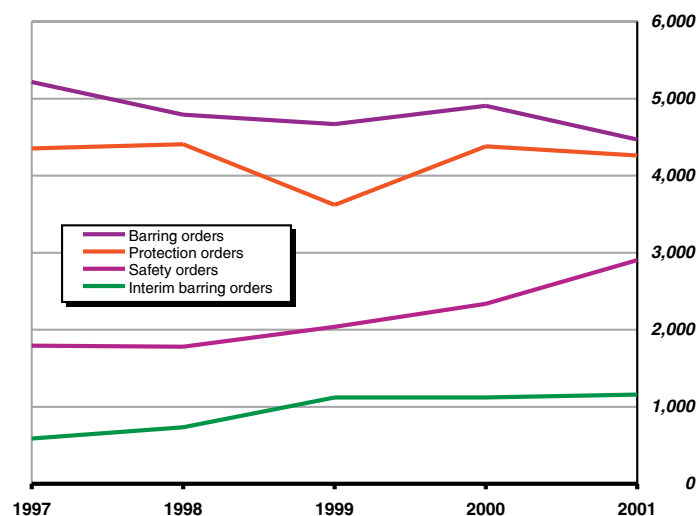


Table 6.13 Defence Forces (permanent and reserve), 1960-2001

Year	Number	
	Permanent Defence Force	Reserve Defence Force
1960	8,965	24,569
1965	8,199	21,946
1970	8,574	20,253
1975	12,059	17,221
1980	13,383	19,249
1985	13,778	16,358
1990	13,233	15,982
1995	12,742	16,188
2000	10,958	13,967
2001	10,675	13,076

Source: Defence Forces

TABLE 6.13

Numbers in the Defence Forces

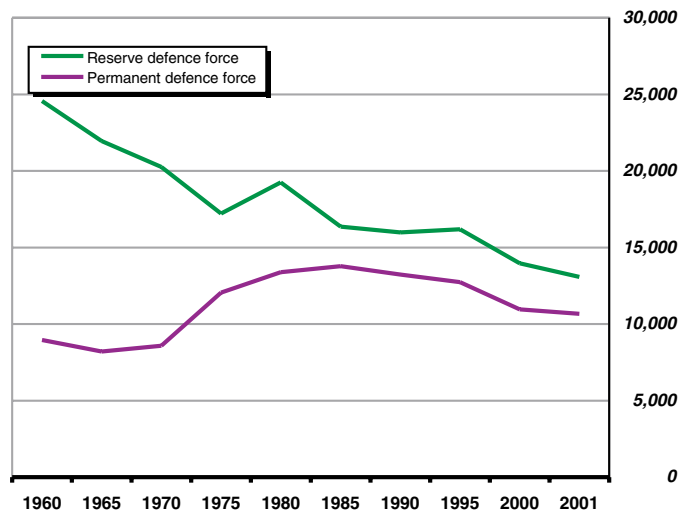


Table 6.14 Numbers in each rank of the Defence Forces

Rank	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Commissioned Officers	1,432	1,346	1,296	1,246	1,243
Lieutenant-General	1	1	1	1	1
Major-General	2	3	2	3	3
Brigadier-General	9	8	9	7	8
Colonel	38	38	36	32	37
Lieutenant-Colonel	143	133	133	130	131
Commandant	451	429	434	444	440
Captain	527	486	434	392	355
Lieutenant	201	183	176	165	174
2nd Lieutenant	60	65	71	72	94
Non-Commissioned Officers	10,669	10,088	9,913	9,712	9,389
Sergeant-Major	43	43	40	45	48
Battalion Quartermaster-Sergeant	51	50	46	48	51
Company Sergeant	252	235	229	236	248
Company Quartermaster-Sergeant	352	315	293	273	258
Sergeant	1,556	1,403	1,346	1,336	1,291
Corporal	2,494	2,243	2,148	2,179	2,089
Private	5,849	5,715	5,715	5,476	5,296
Cadet	72	84	96	119	108
Total					
Reserve Defence Force	15,275	14,854	14,514	13,967	13,097
Reserve of Officers (First Line)	203	215	203	194	179
Reserve of Men (First Line)	307	293	280	283	287
Reserve: (Second Line) All Ranks	14,765	14,346	14,031	13,490	12,631

Source: Defence Forces

TABLE 6.14

