



**An  
Phríomh-Oifig  
Staidrimh**

Central  
Statistics  
Office

**Standard Report  
on  
Methods and Quality  
for  
Recorded Crime**



# **Standard Report on Methods and Quality for Recorded Crime**

**<Quarterly>**

Last edited: <30-06-2022>

CENTRAL STATISTICS OFFICE

Skehard Road, Cork

021 4545000

[www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie)



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## 1 Overview

The Central Statistics Office (CSO) compiles and publishes **Recorded Crime** statistics in Ireland on a quarterly basis.

Recorded Crime statistics provide information relating to the frequency, type and distribution of crimes as recorded by An Garda Síochána (AGS) on its PULSE (Police Using Leading Systems Effectively) crime incident database system

Recorded Crime statistics refer only to crime incidents reported to or which become known to An Garda Síochána and recorded as such. This is only one part of a picture of criminal behaviour in Ireland. Other aspects (and other sources of information) are presented in separate CSO releases and publications.

Statistical output is disseminated via the electronic publication and via PxStat, the online statistical dissemination tool of CSO.

Key users of the outputs are AGS, the Department of Justice and Equality, Policing Authority, NGOs, researchers, media and the general public.

**Please note that a categorization of “Statistics Under Reservation” has been applied to Recorded Crime statistics to reflect the fact that there are data quality issues in the underlying sources used to compile these statistics. Further information is available here [Under Reservation FAQ page](#).**

## 2 General Information

### 2.1 Statistical Category

Administrative data (source: An Garda Síochána PULSE dataset).

### 2.2 Area of Activity

Crime and Criminal Justice. Recorded Crime statistics are the official source of statistical data relating to crimes recorded by An Garda Síochána, Ireland’s national policing service.

### 2.3 Organisational Unit Responsible, Persons to Contact

The Recorded Crime release falls under the remit of the Social and Demographic Statistics Directorate, headed by Richard McMahon, Assistant Director General. Keith McSweeney is the Senior Statistician with responsibility for Social Analysis.

If you have any queries on this report, please contact:

Jim Dalton	Tel: +353214535623	Email: <a href="mailto:jim.dalton@csso.ie">jim.dalton@csso.ie</a>
Felix Coleman	Tel: +353214535129	Email: <a href="mailto:felix.coleman@csso.ie">felix.coleman@csso.ie</a>

### 2.4 Objectives and Purpose; History

In July 2004 the Expert Group on Crime Statistics reported to the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform and recommended that the compilation of reported crime statistics should be transferred from the Garda Síochána to a dedicated and independent external statistical unit.

Following discussions with the Director General of the Central Statistics Office (CSO) it was agreed that such a unit should be established within the CSO.



Headline Crime Statistics were first published by CSO in Quarter 3 2006. The release was based on data from the period 2003 to 2006. The Headline Crime Statistics release was replaced by the Recorded Crime release in Quarter 1 2008.

The primary purpose of the Recorded Crime statistical publication is to provide an accurate and objective short-term indicator of the level of recorded crime in Ireland. More generally, used in conjunction with other indicators published by CSO it can be used to give an insight into the crime and justice landscape in Ireland.

## **2.5 Periodicity**

Released each quarter.

## **2.6 Client**

Produced to meet national user needs. There is currently no Eurostat regulation for the data.

## **2.7 Users**

An Garda Síochána, Department of Justice & Equality, Policing Authority, user policymakers, agencies and NGOs, United Nations, Eurostat, members of the public, media, researchers

## **2.8 Legal basis**

Section 47 of the Garda Síochána Act 2005 makes provision for information concerning offences, criminal proceedings etc. to be made available to the CSO. Activities of the CSO are governed by the Statistics Act 1993.

# **3 Statistical Concepts, Methods**

## **3.1 Subject of the Statistics**

Crime incidents reported to or which become known to An Garda Síochána.

## **3.2 Units of Observation/Collection Units/Units of Presentation**

The principle counting unit for crimes used in Recorded Crime statistics is the crime incident (see <https://www.garda.ie/en/about-us/publications/policy-documents/guide-to-how-crime-is-counted-and-recorded.pdf> for definition).

CSO counts valid primary crime incidents recorded within the Republic of Ireland.

## **3.3 Data Sources**

Crime incident data from PULSE (Police Using Leading Systems Effectively, the crime incident database of An Garda Síochána, Ireland's national policing service).

## **3.4 Reporting Unit/Respondents**

## **3.5 Type of Survey/Process**

Administrative Data

## **3.6 Characteristics of the Sample/Process**

### **3.6.1 Population and Sampling Frame**

### **3.6.2 Sampling Design**

## **3.7 Survey Technique/Data Transfer**

A secure VPN (virtual private network) was created between the CSO and An Garda Síochána for the electronic transfer of data between the two organisations on a regular basis.

## **3.8 Questionnaire (including explanations)**

## **3.9 Participation in the Survey**



### **3.10 Characteristics of the Survey/Process and its Results**

#### **3.11 Classifications used**

Recorded Crime statistics are disaggregated by crime incident type, by the time period of the date the incident became known to AGS, and by Garda administrative areas.

The Recorded Crime standard release uses a condensed version of the Irish Crime Classification System (ICCS) with elements of Group 4 (Dangerous or Negligent Acts), and all of Groups 14 (Road and Traffic Offences (Not Elsewhere Classified)) and 16 (Offences Not Elsewhere Classified) removed.

[https://www.cso.ie/en/media/csoie/methods/recordedcrime/ICCSq\\_V2.0.pdf](https://www.cso.ie/en/media/csoie/methods/recordedcrime/ICCSq_V2.0.pdf)

#### **3.12 Regional Breakdown of Results**

Crime incidents are classified geographically using the relevant Garda subdistrict (station) and statistics are then aggregated up to Division and Region.

Data in the standard publication includes a breakdown by Garda Region. Divisional and other breakdowns are available on PxStat.

## **4 Production of the Statistics, Data Processing, Quality Assurance**

### **4.1 Data Capture**

Crime incident records are created and maintained by AGS on PULSE. See

<https://www.garda.ie/en/about-us/publications/policy-documents/guide-to-how-crime-is-counted-and-recorded.pdf>

The CSO receives a copy of PULSE incident record microdata, with a subset of data fields, electronically once each quarter and updates all statistical records with information as contained in the most recent dataset.

### **4.2 Coding**

#### **4.3 Data Editing**

Up to Q4 2017, CSO carried out two edits on the source data for statistical purposes. One related to the counting of sex and fraud offences in a series where there is the same victim and same offender. The second related to age-specific offences e.g. abduction vs kidnapping.

Since Q4 2017, CSO implements an automatic check on sex and fraud offences (Groups 2 and 9) reported between January 1st 2003 and June 30th 2017 to reconcile scenarios where a continuous series involving the same victim and same offender would be counted multiple times due to how they are recorded in the source data. The edit is for statistical purposes only, and is in accordance with the Crime Counting Rules. An Garda Síochána introduced additional quality control procedures for incidents reported after July 1st 2017. These quality control procedures negate the need for CSO to continue to implement the automatic correction.

Since Q4 2017, CSO no longer edits age-specific offences reported after July 1st 2017. This was due to the absence of any corrections for several years due to better data collection. A correction is still applied to errors found in incidents reported prior to July 1st 2017.

#### **4.4 Imputation (for Non-Response or Incomplete Data Sets)**

#### **4.5 Grossing and Weighting**

#### **4.6 Computation of Outputs, Estimation Methods Used**

#### **4.7 Other Quality Assurance Techniques Used**

## **5 Quality**



## **5.1 Relevance**

Recorded Crime statistics provide information relating to the frequency, type and distribution of crimes as recorded by An Garda Síochána (AGS) on its PULSE (Police Using Leading Systems Effectively) crime incident database system. Key users of the outputs are AGS, the Department of Justice and Equality, Policing Authority, NGOs, researchers, media and the general public.

## **5.2 Accuracy and Reliability**

### **5.2.1. Sampling Effect & representivity**

### **5.2.2. Non-Sampling Effects**

#### **5.2.2.1 Quality of the Data Sources used**

The CSO (Central Statistics Office) has carried out four reviews of the accuracy of Garda PULSE data. The most recent review based on 2019 data was published in July 2021. The quality report is available on the CSO website at the following location:

<https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-rqcs/reviewofthequalityofrecordedcrimestatistics2020/>

Please note that a categorization of “Statistics Under Reservation” has been applied to Recorded Crime statistics to reflect the fact that there are data quality issues in the underlying sources used to compile these statistics. Further information is available at

<https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/crime/statisticsunderreservationfaqs/> .

#### **5.2.2.2 Register Coverage**

#### **5.2.2.3 Non-response (Unit and Item)**

#### **5.2.2.4 Measurement Errors**

#### **5.2.2.5 Processing Errors**

#### **5.2.2.6 Model-related Effects**

## **5.3 Timeliness and Punctuality**

### **5.3.1 Provisional Results**

### **5.3.2 Final Results**

Statistics are published by the end of the third month succeeding the quarter, i.e. Q4 published in March. Statistics for previous periods are revised on each publication, due to the potential for reclassification/invalidation etc. of incidents.

## **5.4 Coherence**

Recorded Crime statistics refer only to crime incidents reported to or which become known to An Garda Síochána and recorded as such. Some offence types are processed by organisations other than the Gardaí (e.g. revenue, local authorities etc).

Recorded Crime statistics are used to compile further statistics on victims and suspected offenders, see

<https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/crimeandjustice/recordedcrimevictimsandsuspectedoffenders/> , and on detection rates, see

<https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/crimeandjustice/recordedcrimedetection/> .

Other statistics, such as the CSO Crime and Victimization (C&V) Survey, see <https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/crimeandjustice/crimeandvictimisation> are derived from an alternative



source and will not correspond with Recorded Crime statistics. One of the purposes of C&V is to estimate the extent to which crime is under reported to An Garda Síochána.

## 5.5 Comparability

Several factors have the potential to influence the comparability of Recorded Crime statistics over time and across Garda geographical areas. These include but are not limited to:

- Changes in Garda operational activity
- Changes to legislation
- Changes in reporting levels by victims
- Changes to Garda station boundaries

Differences in legislation, definitions and recording procedures in different countries will greatly affect international comparisons.

## 5.6 Accessibility and Clarity

### 5.6.1 Assistance to Users, Special Analyses

Data on data collection process at source: <https://www.garda.ie/en/about-us/publications/policy-documents/guide-to-how-crime-is-counted-and-recorded.pdf>

The CSO publication is available on our website and includes detailed notes on the information supplied. For special analysis, please contact [crime@cs0.ie](mailto:crime@cs0.ie)

### 5.6.2 Revisions

Statistics are published by the end of the third month succeeding the quarter, i.e. Q4 published in March. Statistics for previous periods are revised on each publication, due to the potential for reclassification/invalidation etc. of incidents.

Revisions due to processing errors are notified in line with policy.

### 5.6.3 Publications

<https://www.cs0.ie/en/statistics/crimeandjustice/recordedcrime-statisticsunderreservation/>

EU level data is available via the Eurostat website:

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/crime/database>

### 5.6.4 Confidentiality

All data are treated as strictly confidential in accordance with the Statistics Act, 1993.

## 6 Additional documentation and publications

Additional information relating to An Garda Síochána can be obtained from their website [www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie)