

7

Crime

- Recorded theft and related offences increased consistently between 2004 and 2009.
- In 2009, one third of all robberies and aggravated burglaries involved a knife or sharp instrument.
- In 2009, the majority of prisoners (52.7%) were aged 29 years and under.
- In 2009 there were 14,547 Gardai, up from 14,411 in 2008.
- Dublin (12.4%) had the highest household victimisation rate followed by the Mid-East (10.4%).



Contents

Introductory text	113
Table 7.1 Recorded offences	115
Table 7.2 Location of robbery and aggravated burglary incidents where firearm or knife/sharp instrument involved, 2009	116
Table 7.3 Traffic offence detections	116
Table 7.4 Persons aged 18 and over by their perception of crime	117
Table 7.5 Households classified by whether they experienced crime, 2006 and 2010	118
Table 7.6 Sentenced prisoners in custody by length of sentence and sex, 28 August 2009	119
Table 7.7 Sentenced prisoners in custody by age and sex, 28 August 2009	119
Table 7.8 Numbers in each rank of the Defence Forces	120
Table 7.9 Numbers in each rank of the Garda Síochána	120
Table 7.10 Type and frequency of seizures of particular drugs	121

Introduction

The statistics in this chapter relate to a number of aspects of justice and defence. They have been obtained from the Garda Síochána, the Prison Service, the Defence Forces, the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform and the Central Statistics Office. Results from the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) ad hoc module on Crime and Victimization are also included.

Crime figures are provided for the number of offences recorded by the Garda Síochána. These are based on the Irish Crime Classification System (ICCS), launched in April 2008, but exclude 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). Details of this new classification system can be found at www.cso.ie. All crime figures are provisional and may be revised, due to the nature of reporting and recording, subsequent to this publication.

The Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) is a large-scale, nationwide survey of households in Ireland. While the primary purpose of the QNHS is to collect information on employment and unemployment it also includes modules each quarter on social topics of interest. A module on Crime and Victimization was included in the three months interviewing period from January to March 2010. This module was previously carried out in 1998, 2003 and 2006. The module contained numerous questions on crime-related topics, divided into two main sections – household and individual questions.

Technical Notes

Table 7.1

Table 7.1 figures are based on data received from the Garda Síochána at the end of quarter 2, 2009. These figures may be updated in further CSO releases.

Table 7.2

Where a weapon is 'involved', that weapon was present on the scene but may not necessarily have been used.

Tables 7.4 and 7.5

Tables 7.4 and 7.5 provide an insight into the incidence and perception of certain crime types in Ireland and are taken from the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) ad hoc modules on Crime and Victimisation as detailed in the introduction.

Table 7.5

'Any crime' refers to victims of burglary, motor vehicle crime, theft of bicycles or vandalism.

Tables 7.6 and 7.7

Figures exclude non-criminal prisoners (eg immigration detainees) and those on trial and on remand.

Tables 7.8 and 7.9

The given 'per 100,000 population' figures are calculated based on 2002 and 2006 census figures and interim population estimates.

Table 7.10

Figures are based on data provided by the Forensic Science Laboratory.

Table 7.1 Recorded offences

Offence	Number					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Homicide offences	98	126	138	132	89	87
Sexual offences	1,752	1,801	1,417	1,366	1,407	1,485
Attempts/threats to murder, assaults, harassments and related offences	13,277	13,687	15,454	17,666	19,151	18,308
Dangerous or negligent acts	12,686	14,720	19,280	21,009	19,587	15,538
Kidnapping and related offences	74	74	81	106	77	146
Robbery, extortion and hijacking offences	2,717	2,424	2,486	2,171	2,299	2,487
Burglary and related offences	24,913	26,381	24,788	23,603	24,684	26,877
Theft and related offences	72,201	73,078	74,500	75,190	76,862	77,040
Fraud, deception and related offences	3,663	4,012	4,176	5,858	5,410	4,943
Controlled drug offences	9,868	13,322	14,234	18,554	23,405	21,991
Weapons and explosives offences	2,154	2,560	3,119	3,595	4,016	4,061
Damage to property and to the environment	37,047	39,728	43,584	43,285	44,626	42,336
Public order and other social code offences	47,791	55,483	56,617	60,586	61,822	57,359
Offences against Government, justice procedures and organisation of crime	6,453	7,792	9,482	11,003	13,289	11,827

Source: CSO

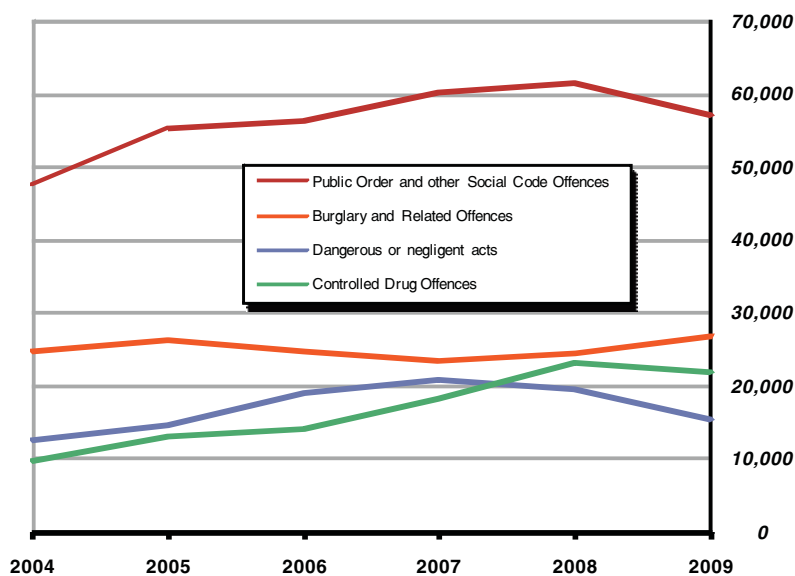
Recorded offences in selected groups

Table 7.2 Location of robbery and aggravated burglary incidents where firearm or knife/sharp instrument involved, 2009

Number and percentage

Location	Firearm involved	Knife/sharp instrument involved
House/flat	39	121
Bank	8	2
Post office	31	12
Betting office	57	35
Chemist	9	47
Licensed premises	8	7
Shop/stall	82	251
Petrol station	14	43
Hotel	4	8
Restaurant	7	12
Supermarket	3	3
Street/road	19	233
Other	32	135
Total	313	909
Percentage of robberies/aggravated burglaries	11.5	33.3

Source: CSO

Table 7.3 Traffic offence detections

Number

Offence	2006	2007	2008
Driving/in charge of vehicle while over legal alcohol limit	17,706	18,527	17,437
Speeding	188,978	192,301	174,185
Seat belt wearing non-compliance	26,687	30,002	28,659
Mobile phone usage (Offence since 1st September, 2006)	6,171	32,454	41,243
Dangerous/careless driving and motorway offences	13,921	41,440	43,915

Source: CSO and An Garda Síochána

Traffic offence detections

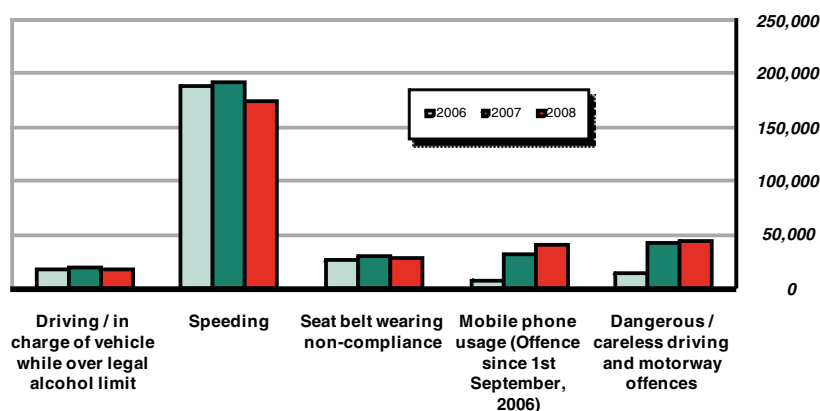


Table 7.4 Persons aged 18 and over by their perception of crime

						%
	Very serious problem	Serious problem	Fairly serious problem	Not a serious problem	Not a problem	Total
Males						
1998	32.5	39.8	24.0	3.3	0.4	100.0
2003	41.6	35.2	19.6	3.2	0.4	100.0
2006	39.9	36.5	19.3	3.9	0.5	100.0
2010	44.8	35.3	15.5	3.0	0.2	100.0
Females						
1998	43.8	36.6	17.7	1.7	0.2	100.0
2003	51.2	32.7	14.5	1.5	0.2	100.0
2006	51.8	33.4	13.1	1.6	0.1	100.0
2010	52.5	32.1	12.5	1.4	0.5	100.0
18-24 years						
1998	28.3	40.2	27.4	3.7	0.5	100.0
2003	32.6	38.8	23.9	4.2	0.5	100.0
2006	30.7	37.8	25.0	5.9	0.7	100.0
2010	33.0	38.6	21.7	3.2	0.7	100.0
25-44 years						
1998	35.3	39.7	22.2	2.5	0.3	100.0
2003	42.1	35.9	18.9	2.7	0.3	100.0
2006	40.5	37.1	18.5	3.5	0.3	100.0
2010	44.5	35.0	15.8	3.2	0.4	100.0
45-64 years						
1998	42.0	37.1	18.6	2.1	0.2	100.0
2003	52.7	31.7	14.1	1.4	0.2	100.0
2006	52.3	33.8	12.6	1.2	0.1	100.0
2010	54.2	32.7	11.2	1.2	0.2	100.0
65 years and over						
1998	49.6	34.1	14.4	1.6	0.2	100.0
2003	60.7	27.9	10.2	1.1	0.1	100.0
2006	63.0	28.3	8.0	0.5	0.1	100.0
2010	61.8	27.9	8.4	0.8	0.2	100.0
TOTAL						
1998	38.3	38.2	20.8	2.5	0.3	100.0
2003	46.5	33.9	17.0	2.3	0.3	100.0
2006	45.9	34.9	16.2	2.7	0.3	100.0
2010	48.7	33.7	14.0	2.2	0.3	100.0

Source: CSO

Table 7.5 Households classified by whether they experienced crime, 2006 and 2010

Number and percentage

	2006				2010			
	All households	Household burglary	Vandalism	Victims of any crime	All households	Household burglary	Vandalism	Victims of any crime
Region	'000	%	%	%	'000	%	%	%
Border	166.6	1.7	4.1	7.7	190.6	3.0	1.9	5.9
Midland	88.4	4.2	2.8	8.7	102.2	3.2	5.0	9.6
West	151.2	1.9	3.4	7.8	162.5	2.4	2.6	5.6
Dublin	428.0	4.4	8.1	18.0	434.4	3.5	4.6	12.4
Mid-East	154.6	3.9	3.6	10.9	187.5	3.8	2.9	10.4
Mid-West	132.4	3.5	5.1	11.2	141.9	2.9	3.6	7.4
South-East	167.4	3.3	2.5	7.7	187.7	3.3	2.7	7.4
South-West	225.2	1.9	3.1	7.7	244.2	1.6	2.9	5.9
Household composition								
1 adult, no children	331.7	3.2	4.1	8.9	318.5	3.3	2.5	6.4
2 adults, no children	388.1	3.2	4.5	9.8	430.0	2.7	3.2	7.7
3 or more adults, no children	284.1	2.9	5.2	12.5	197.5	2.6	2.9	8.7
1 adult with children	60.4	3.3	7.8	14.6	99.6	2.2	6.0	10.5
2 adults with 1-3 children	284.2	3.4	5.1	12.8	465.1	3.2	3.5	9.7
Other households with children	165.2	3.6	5.0	14.0	140.3	3.8	4.4	11.4
Urban/rural location								
Urban areas	912.8	3.7	6.7	14.6	987.3	3.1	4.5	10.6
Rural areas	601.0	2.5	2.0	6.3	663.7	2.8	1.7	5.7
All households	1,513.8	3.2	4.8	11.3	1,651.0	3.0	3.4	8.6

Source: CSO

Percentage of households that were victims of crime, by region



Table 7.6 Sentenced prisoners in custody by length of sentence and sex, 28 August 2009*Number and percentage*

Length of sentence	Male		Female		Total	%
		%		%		
Life	271	9	6	6	277	8
10 years or more	265	8	3	3	268	8
5 to 10 years	754	24	19	19	773	24
3 to 5 years	724	23	19	19	743	23
2 to 3 years	369	12	18	18	387	12
1 to 2 years	399	13	17	17	416	13
6 to 12 months	289	9	11	11	300	9
Under 6 months	103	3	8	8	111	3
Total	3,174	100	101	100	3,275	100

*Source: Irish Prison Service***Table 7.7 Sentenced prisoners in custody by age and sex, 28 August 2009***Number*

Age	Male	Female	Total
16-17	44	0	44
18-20	266	7	273
21-24	640	12	652
25-29	732	25	757
30-39	854	36	890
40-49	402	15	417
50 and over	236	6	242
Total	3,174	101	3,275

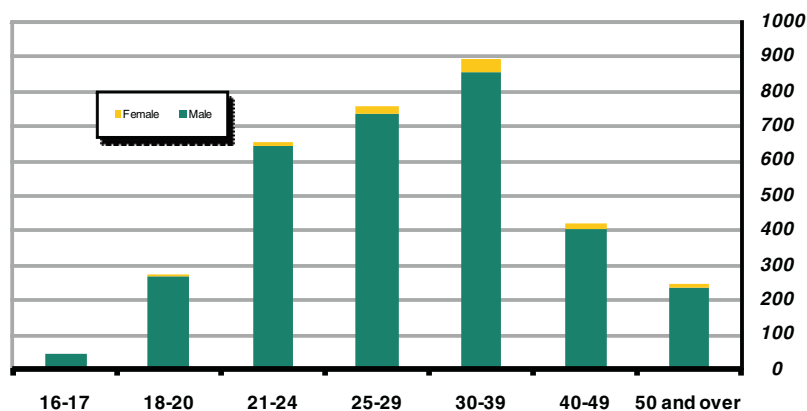
*Source: Irish Prison Service***Age and sex of prisoners, 28 August 2009**

Table 7.8 Numbers in each rank of the Defence Forces

Number

Rank	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Commissioned Officers	1,270	1,303	1,336	1,348	1,360	1,345	1,378	1,347
Lieutenant-General	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Major-General	3	3	2	2	2	3	3	2
Brigadier-General	9	8	8	8	8	10	9	8
Colonel	38	41	42	43	43	44	45	32
Lieutenant-Colonel	140	145	151	149	153	159	155	141
Commandant	442	423	429	423	401	391	380	358
Captain	327	324	336	365	393	358	361	398
Lieutenant	211	257	234	235	239	226	289	355
2nd Lieutenant	99	101	133	122	120	153	135	52
Non-Commissioned Officers	3,962	3,967	3,960	3,934	3,919	3,817	3,845	3,682
Sergeant-Major	49	47	47	46	45	44	45	37
Battalion Quartermaster-Sergeant	48	52	52	53	48	45	50	40
Company Sergeant	265	271	256	260	263	254	257	251
Company Quartermaster-Sergeant	279	278	279	278	271	281	281	262
Sergeant	1,354	1,395	1,364	1,383	1,354	1,400	1,399	1,331
Corporal	1,967	1,924	1,962	1,914	1,938	1,793	1,813	1,761
Private	5,194	5,090	5,119	5,038	5,088	5,162	5,087	4,813
Cadet	133	138	136	125	112	110	98	91
TOTAL PERMANENT DEFENCE FORCE	10,559	10,498	10,551	10,445	10,479	10,434	10,408	9,933
Permanent personnel per 100,000 population	270	264	261	253	248	240	235	223
Total Reserve Defence Force	13,365	13,941	13,167	10,368	9,506	8,793	8,042	6,998
Reserve of Officers (First Line)	186	179	177	177	155	144	142	123
Reserve of Men (First Line)	267	230	223	224	217	241	229	231
Reserve (Second Line) All Ranks	12,912	13,532	12,767	9,967	9,134	8,408	7,671	6,644

Source: Defence Forces

Table 7.9 Numbers in each rank of the Garda Síochána

Number

Year	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Commissioner ranks	13	13	13	13	13	14	15	14	15	15	14
Chief Superintendents	46	46	47	47	47	47	47	46	52	52	39
Superintendents	168	169	170	171	173	168	173	166	185	187	167
Inspectors	263	293	289	294	294	291	289	287	330	344	317
Sergeants	1,876	1,897	1,933	1,928	1,946	1,950	1,926	1,945	2,083	2,229	2,078
Gardaí	9,092	9,222	9,362	9,447	9,545	9,739	9,815	10,496	11,090	11,584	11,932
Total	11,458	11,640	11,814	11,900	12,018	12,209	12,265	12,954	13,755	14,411	14,547
Garda personnel per 100,000 population	306	307	307	304	302	302	297	306	317	326	326

Source: Garda Síochána

Table 7.10 Type and frequency of seizures of particular drugs*Quantity and number*

Drug		2008		2009	
		Quantity seized	No. of seizures	Quantity seized	No. of seizures
Alprazolam	Tablets	4,004	41	38,415	42
Amphetamine	Powder (gms)	8,003	126	36,508	72
	Tablets	946		0	
BZP	Powder (gms)	15,054	192	4,371	348
	Tablets	18,207		309,237	
	Capsules	0		2,360	
Cannabis	Resin (gms)	5,229,142	3,126	1,538,226	1,109
	Herbal (gms)	928,934	2,366	572,333	981
	Plants	3,509	160	3,750	224
Cocaine	Powder (gms)	167,372	1,310	118,259	635
Diamorphine (Heroin)	Powder (gms)	207,332	1,611	78,668	1,455
Diazepam	Tablets	67,675	162	114,158	270
	Powder (gms)	46		3	
Dihydrocodeine	Tablets	114	10	760	9
Ecstasy	Tablets	96,224	730	18,711	90
	Powder and Crystals (gms)	1,203		3,288	
	Powder (gms)	1			
Flunitrazepam (Rohypnol)	Tablets	27	7	152	7
Flurazepam	Tablets	41	26	50	34
	Capsules	120		339	
Lorazepam	Tablets	0	0	41,524	14
LSD	Units	120	10	1,122	4
Methadone	Liquid (ml)	1,707	9	2,014	15
	Tablets	3,147	21	732	11
Methylamphetamine	Powder (gms)	4,632	25	1,120	25
Temazepam	Tablets	12,306	7	5	5

Source: Forensic Science Laboratory, Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform

Permanent personnel per 100,000 population