

Persons suspected of offences

The statistics of persons suspected of offences is based on the persons registered by Swedish Police, Swedish Custom and Swedish Prosecution Authority as suspected of offences. The statistics gives an overview of the number of people suspected of offences in Sweden, type of crime and how the persons are distributed by sex and age. The statistics do not include persons who have not reached the age of criminal responsibility (15 years).

Revision of the statistics

The statistics of persons suspected of offences were revised in 2018 to improve the quality and usability of the statistics. The revised statistics include all persons suspected of offences, while the previous statistics only included the persons still suspected after a crime investigation. The revised statistics are therefore not comparable with the previous statistics. The revised statistics replace the previous statistics and are available from 2007.

Summary of the results 2020

During 2020, 200,000 persons were suspected of offences, which is an increase since 2019 with 10,700 persons (+6 %). Over a period of ten years (2011–2020) the number has increased with 8,340 persons (+4 %).

Persons suspected of offence in proportion of the population has instead decreased since 2011, from 2,430 to 2,330 persons per 100 000 persons of the population that has reached the age of criminal responsibility (15 years).

Compared with 2019, the number of suspects has increased for all reported offence categories, except for traffic offences where the number of suspects remains unchanged. The offence categories which showed the largest increase compared to 2019 were fraud (+23 %), crimes against the Narcotics Drugs (Penal) Act (+10 %), and criminal damage (+10 %).

Of the persons suspected of offences during 2020, 45,000 were women and 154,000 were men, this gives a distribution of 23 per cent women and 77 per cent men. The distribution of women and men has been approximately the same over the past 10 years.

Of the persons suspected of offence in 2020 a majority (80 %) was aged 21 and over at the time of the crime. Persons aged 15 to 20 years account for 20 per cent of the total, whilst at the same time accounting for 7 per cent of the population. Among older age groups, persons aged 50 and over accounted for 18 per cent of the registered suspects in 2020 and 38 per cent of the population. Thus the number of registered suspects in relation to population size is greater among younger age groups than it is among older segments of the population.

Among registered youth suspects aged 15 to 20 years, crimes against person, drug and theft offences constitute the most common offence types, whereas offences against the Road Traffic Offences Act also is a common type of offence among those aged 20 and over.

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