

# Processed offences

1,620,000 offences were processed in Sweden in 2020, which represents an increase of 47 500 processed offences by comparison with the figure for 2019. Of the investigated offences 30% were person-based cleared during 2020, which is the same rate compared with the result of 2019. Of the total number of processed offences during the year 14% were person-based cleared during 2020, which is also the same rate compared with the result of 2019.

The processed offences describe the total outflow of crimes handled by the police, prosecutor or other investigative authority over the course of the year in which a decision has been taken. However, the offences may have been reported the same year or during a previous year. The statistics are broken down based upon investigated and uninvestigated offences. Investigated offences are processed offences where an investigation has been initiated and where a decision has been taken with respect to the offence during the reporting year. Investigation means preliminary investigation, simplified investigation, or an investigation under the Youthful Offenders Act. Uninvestigated offences are processed offences where a decision has been taken with respect to the offence during the course of the reporting year without a criminal investigation having been initiated.

The statistic presents two measures, the prosecution rate and the person-based clearance rate. The statistic can be primarily used as a rough indicator of the ability of the police and other criminal investigatory authorities, to prosecute crimes that have been investigated. The prosecution rate reports person-based clearances during the course of the year expressed as a percentage of investigated offences during the same period, removing, however, offences subject to investigation-limitation decisions during the year. The person-based clearance rate reports person-based clearances during the course of the year expressed as a percentage of processed offences during the same year.

## Processed offences – broken down on the basis of investigated and uninvestigated offences

1,620,000 offences were processed in 2020. A majority (83%) of the processed offences were reported during the same year, while 13% of the offences were reported in 2019. The remaining offences were reported prior to this.

For 51% of the processed offences in 2019, an investigation had been carried out, while the other (49%) were uninvestigated. This represents a change compared to the previous year when the investigated offences accounted for 49% and uninvestigated offences for 51%.

Of the total number of processed offences during the year, 14% were person-based cleared while 6% were subject to investigation-limitation decisions. An investigation-limitation decision can occur both during the investigation or without any investigation having been initiated (the latter are commonly referred to as uninvestigated offences). Of the processed offences, there was a limited preliminary investigation of 88% after an investigation had been commenced, and in 12% of the cases no investigation had been commenced.

For the remaining processed offences, other types of decisions were taken; for example, amongst other processed offences which were investigated, there were offences for which the

file was closed due to the fact that no investigation results had been achieved, or since it was concluded, after the investigation, that a crime had not been committed. Other processed offences which were uninvestigated also includes, for example, offences for which the matter was closed due to a lack of investigation data or due to the fact that the offence was committed abroad.

Figure 1 below reports all processed offences broken down based on the processing categories ‘investigated’ and ‘uninvestigated offences’, and the decision types ‘person-based clearances’ and ‘offences with a limited preliminary investigation’.

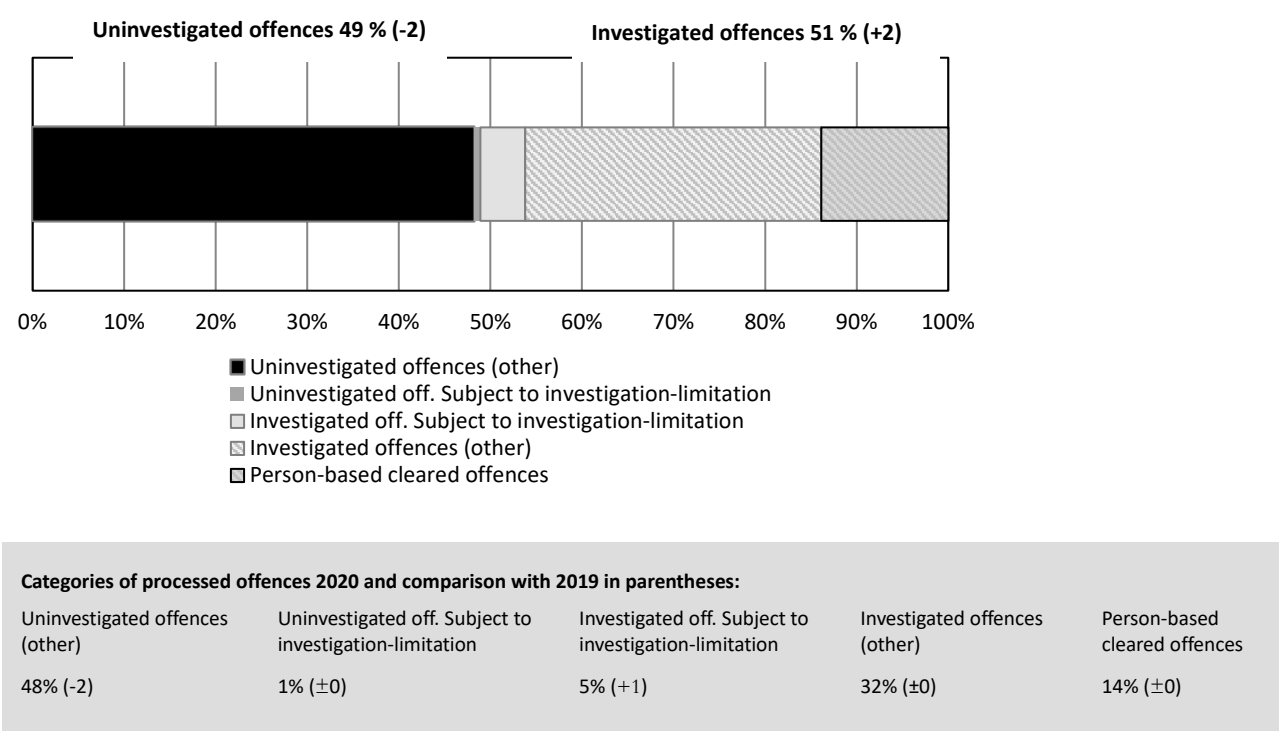


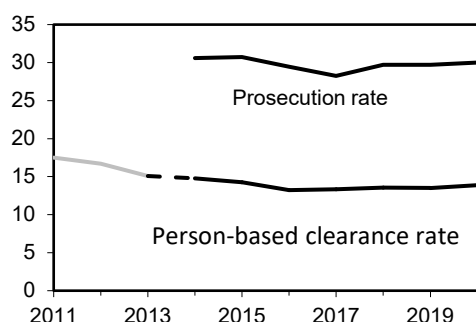
Figure 1. All processed offences for 2020 broken down based on the processing categories ‘investigated’ and ‘uninvestigated’ offences, and the decision types ‘person-based clearances’ and ‘offences subject to investigation-limitation decisions. The parenthesis in the figure presents the comparison with the result of 2019 in percentage point.

## Person-based clearances, prosecution rate, and person-based clearance rate

Person-based cleared offences are processed offences for which at least one suspect has been prosecuted through the commencement of a prosecution, the issuance of a summary sanction order or a waiver of prosecution. In 2020, person-based cleared offences were achieved for 224,000 offences.

In 2020, the prosecution rate was 30%, which is the same rate compared with the result of 2019. The prosecution rate reports the person-based clearances expressed as a percentage of all investigated offences, excluding offences subject to investigation-limitation decisions.

The person-based clearance rate was 14% in 2020, which is the same rate compared with the result of 2019. The person-based clearance rate reports the person-based cleared offences as a percentage of all investigated offences.



*Figure 2. Prosecution rate 2014–2020 and trend in the person-based clearance rate for all crimes, 2011–2020. The change in the illustration of trend for person-based clearance is due to a revision of the statistic. Contact The Division for Crime Statistics for detailed information.*

There are large differences in the prosecution rate and person-based clearance rate between various types of offences. To a certain extent, this is a consequence of the fact that the offences differ to varying degrees as to how difficult they are to clear. Table 1 sets forth first the levels for processed offences and investigated offences and the percentage of investigated offences out of the total number of processed offences. The number of person-based clearances and the person-based and prosecution rate for 2020 are then reported. The reporting is provided for all offences as well as for 7 broad categories of offences.

The patterns which can be noted in the table include that, for the categories of offences in which a low share of the processed offences are investigated, the difference between the prosecution rate and the person-based clearance rate is greater than for categories of offences in which a large portion of the processed offences are investigated. For example, for narcotics offences in which there is often a suspect and in almost all cases an investigation is carried out (99% of the offences 2020), there is a small difference between the prosecution rate and the person-based clearance rate as compared with other categories of offences.

Type of offences	Processed offences	Investigated offences	Investigated in percentage of processed	Person-based cleared offences	Person-based clearance rate	Prosecution rate
	Number	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Percentage
Total Number of Offences	1 620 000	825 000	51 ↑	224 000	14 →	30 →
Crimes against Life and Health Ch. 3	95 800	81 100	85 →	10 700	11 ↑	13 ↑
Sexual Offences Ch. 6	25 400	22 700	89 →	5 100	20 ↑	23 ↑
Theft, Robbery and Other Offences of Stealing. Ch. 8	426 000	120 000	28 ↑	24 800	6 →	23 →
Fraud and Other Acts of Dishonesty. Ch. 9	229 000	98 000	43 ↑	12 900	6 ↓	16 ↓
Criminal Damage Ch. 12	235 000	25 100	11 →	3 930	2 →	18 ↑
Special Traffic Offences Act	87 100	67 700	78 →	42 100	48 ↓	68 →
Penal Law on Narcotics	127 000	126 000	99 ↑	56 700	45 ↓	51 ↓

The arrows indicate the direction of the change as compared with 2019. (↑=Increase; ↓=decrease; →=unchanged)

*Overview of processed offences, investigated offences, the share of investigated offences as a percentage of processed offences, and the number of person-based clearances, person-based clearance rate and prosecution rate, 2020.*

As an element of the work involved in adapting the products in the crime statistics to the target groups and ensuring the quality of these products, starting with the 2014 reporting year, Brå has published statistics regarding Processed Offences. The statistics are a revision of the previously statistics for Cleared Offences thus replaced these statistics. The purpose of the statistics is to provide an overall impression of the processing of crimes by the investigative authorities. The primary purpose of the revision is to increase the relevancy of the statistics and improve the reliability of the various categories and scales employed in the statistics.

The processed offences thus describe the total outflow of crimes handled by the police, prosecutor or other investigative authority over the course of the year in which a decision has been taken. However, the offences may have been reported the same year or during a previous year.

Among other things, the statistics are broken down based upon investigated and uninvestigated offences. Investigated offences are processed offences where an investigation has been initiated and where a decision has been taken with respect to the offence during the reporting year. Investigation means preliminary investigation, simplified investigation, or an investigation under the Youthful Offenders Act. Uninvestigated offences are processed

offences where a decision has been taken with respect to the offence during the course of the reporting year without a criminal investigation having been initiated.

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