

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 2021

In 2021, 192,092 persons were suspected of offences, which was 4 percent lower than in 2020. In comparison with 2012, the total number of suspects has increased by 3 percent in 2021.

Compared with 2012, the persons suspected of offences in proportion of the population decreased by 5 percent in 2021, and amounted to 2,240 suspects per 100,000 people in the population that have reached the age of criminal responsibility (15 years) in 2021.

Of the persons suspected of offences in 2021, 36 per cent were suspected of crimes against persons, 29 per cent of drug offenses, 18 per cent of traffic offenses and 16 per cent of theft offenses. Smaller proportions, of 10 and 5 percent, respectively, were suspected of fraud and criminal damage. Compared with 2020, the number of suspects decreased for all reported offense categories in 2021. The offence categories that decreased the most were theft offenses (-10%), followed by criminal damage (-9%) and traffic offenses (-8%). The other offence categories decreased between 1 and 5 percent.

Of the persons suspected of offences in 2021, 43,803 were women and 147,744 men, which gave a sex distribution of 23 percent women and 77 percent men (which is about the same level as for the past 10 years). Compared with 2020, the number of women suspected of offences in 2021 decreased by 3 percent and the number of suspected men by 4 percent. In comparison with 2021 and 2012, the number of suspected women has increased by 13 percent, while the number of suspected men has remained unchanged.

Of the persons suspected of offences in 2021, 43 percent were under the age of 30 at the time of the crime. Young people (15–20 years) accounted for 19 per cent of all suspects. An almost equal proportion (18%) were aged 50 or older. The largest proportion of suspects was found in the age range 30–49 years (38%). The age distribution was similar for suspect women and suspect men in 2021.