

VICTIMISATION RATES

The risk of being victim of a physical assault or other types of crime is one of the main factors shaping personal security and quality of life. While comparisons of crime statistics based on police records are potentially affected by cross-country differences in reporting practices, greater comparability can be achieved through household surveys designed to assess people's experience with victimisation.

Respondents to the surveys used here are asked about victimisation by ten types of conventional crimes that they themselves, or other members of their households, may have experienced in the previous year. These conventional crimes cover vehicle-related crimes, burglary, theft of personal property, and contact crimes. Also covered, but more difficult to measure, are non-conventional crimes such as drug-related problems, hate crime, street level corruption and consumer fraud.

Definition

Crime statistics shown here are based on the 2005 International Crime Victim Survey (ICVS), run by a consortium coordinated by the United Nations Interregional Criminal Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) and the United

Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). ICVS data for European countries are drawn from the European Survey on Crime and Safety, organised by a consortium led by Gallup Europe. Previous waves of this survey were conducted in 1989, 1992, 1996 and 2000, and most results can be compared across waves.

Comparability

While survey results are based on representative samples, they are affected by design features such as mode of interviewing and period of fieldwork. Samples sizes are usually limited to 2 000 people in most countries.

Comparability problems are higher for non-conventional crimes (especially those experienced by a small minority of people) and for sexual crimes (due to differences across countries in perceptions of what is unacceptable sexual behaviour).

Most recent data refer to surveys undertaken in either 2004 or 2005. Earlier data refer to 2000 for all countries except Austria (1996), Italy and New Zealand (1992) and Norway, Germany and Spain (1989).

Overview

Almost 16% of the population of OECD countries reported having been victim of a conventional crime in 2004-2005. Crime victimisation is above 20% in Ireland, New Zealand, Iceland and the United Kingdom, closely followed by the Netherlands, Denmark, Mexico, Switzerland and Belgium, but is at or below 10% in Hungary, Japan and Spain. Since 2000, victimisation rates have declined by 3 points on average, with falls in 18 out of the 20 OECD countries for which information is available.

When looking at various types of crimes, less than 3% of the population reported having been victim of an assault or threat, ranging from around 5% or more in the United Kingdom, Iceland, Ireland and New Zealand, to less than 1% in Japan, Italy and Portugal. On average, around 1% of the population declared having been victim of a robbery, with higher levels in Mexico and Ireland. Sexual offences against women are reported by around 2% of respondents, while 10% of respondents declared having experienced some types of consumer fraud, ranging from close to 25% in Greece to less than 2% in Japan. The share of people reporting a personal experience of corruption is small on average, but much higher in Greece and Mexico. In general, the share of people reporting fear of crime and assaults is much higher than the prevalence of crime victimisation, with some of the countries reporting lower victimisation also reporting higher fear of crime, and *vice versa*.

Sources

- International Crime Victims Surveys, March 2002, www.unicri.it/icvs.
- European Survey on Crime and Safety, Gallup Europe, www.unicri.it/icvs.

Further information

Analytical publications

- Van Djik J., J. Van Kesteren and P. Smit Paul (2008), "Criminal Victimization in International Perspective – Key Findings from the 2004-2005 International Crime Victims Survey and European Survey on Crime and Safety", WODC Publication No. 257, January.
- Alvazzi del Frate, A. (2003), "The Voice of Victims of Crime: Estimating the True Level of Conventional Crime", *Forum on Crime and Society*, UNODC, Vienna, Vol. 3.
- OECD (2003), *Society at a Glance: OECD Social Indicators, 2002 Edition*, OECD, Paris.

Websites

- EUICS Consortium, www.europeansafetyobservatory.eu/euics_rp.htm.
- OECD Social and Welfare Statistics, www.oecd.org/statistics/social.
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, www.unodc.org.



Victimisation by type of crime and fear of crime

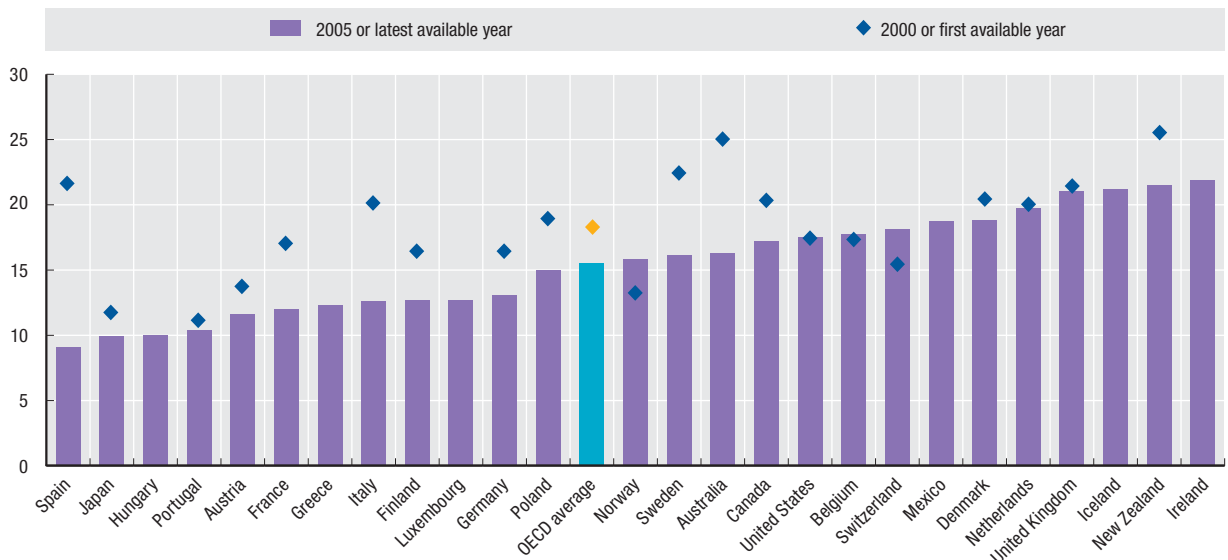
Percentage, one-year prevalence among the entire population, 2005 or latest available year

	All conventional victimisation	Victimisation by:												Fear of crime Feeling unsafe or very unsafe on the street after dark
		Conventional crimes									Non-conventional crimes			
		Vehicle-related crimes				Burglary and other thefts			Contact crimes		Consumer fraud	Corruption		
		Theft of cars	Theft from or out of cars	Motor-cycle theft	Bicycle theft	Burglary with entry	Attempted burglary	Theft of personal property and pick-pocketing	Robbery	Sexual offences against women			Assaults or threats	
Australia	16.3	1.1	4.5	0.1	1.2	2.5	2.4	3.6	0.9	..	3.4	27
Austria	11.6	0.1	2.4	0.0	2.0	0.9	1.4	3.4	0.4	2.2	1.8	8.1	0.6	19
Belgium	17.7	0.5	4.2	0.1	4.2	1.8	2.4	3.4	1.2	0.9	3.6	8.0	0.5	26
Canada	17.2	0.8	4.8	0.2	2.7	2.0	1.7	4.0	0.8	2.3	3.0	7.4	0.6	17
Denmark	18.8	1.3	2.6	0.3	6.0	2.7	1.6	3.3	0.9	1.9	3.3	15.7	1.0	17
Finland	12.7	0.4	2.2	0.1	5.2	0.8	0.5	2.3	0.3	1.4	2.2	5.2	0.0	14
France	12.0	0.6	3.2	0.3	0.9	1.6	1.2	3.3	0.8	0.4	2.1	10.2	1.1	21
Germany	13.1	0.2	2.0	0.2	3.4	0.9	1.3	3.0	0.4	2.4	2.7	11.7	0.6	30
Greece	12.3	0.3	1.8	0.6	2.1	1.8	1.7	5.3	1.4	1.7	2.4	24.7	13.5	42
Hungary	10.0	0.2	2.1	0.0	1.7	1.7	0.8	3.0	0.9	0.1	1.2	19.7	4.9	26
Iceland	21.2	1.0	3.8	0.1	4.6	1.6	1.6	6.9	0.8	3.0	5.9	12.9	0.3	6
Ireland	21.9	1.2	5.2	0.3	2.5	2.3	1.7	7.2	2.2	3.8	4.9	8.0	0.3	27
Italy	12.6	1.0	2.4	1.0	2.1	2.1	2.5	2.4	0.3	0.7	0.8	5.9	0.4	35
Japan	9.9	0.1	1.1	0.7	5.1	0.9	0.7	0.3	0.2	1.3	0.6	1.9	0.2	35
Luxembourg	12.7	0.6	2.8	0.0	1.6	1.7	2.7	2.9	0.7	0.6	2.3	9.8	0.4	36
Mexico	18.7	0.9	4.1	0.0	3.7	3.0	3.0	4.3	3.0	1.5	2.2	7.2	13.3	34
Netherlands	19.7	1.0	3.9	0.4	6.6	1.3	1.4	3.7	0.5	1.9	4.3	7.0	0.2	18
New Zealand	21.5	1.8	6.6	0.1	1.4	3.2	3.1	4.1	1.1	2.5	4.9	7.7	0.5	30
Norway	15.8	0.7	2.6	0.3	4.2	1.2	0.9	4.8	0.8	2.5	2.9	9.7	0.4	14
Poland	15.0	0.7	3.9	0.1	2.6	1.4	1.1	3.5	1.3	1.3	3.0	16.1	4.4	33
Portugal	10.4	1.5	5.0	0.0	0.5	1.4	0.8	1.6	1.0	0.5	0.9	8.2	1.0	34
Spain	9.1	1.0	2.7	0.3	0.7	0.8	0.4	2.1	1.3	0.3	1.6	10.8	0.3	33
Sweden	16.1	0.5	4.2	0.6	5.0	0.7	0.1	2.4	1.1	3.3	3.5	13.7	0.1	19
Switzerland	18.1	0.2	2.9	0.6	4.6	1.6	1.2	5.9	0.8	2.9	2.5	7.3	0.5	..
United Kingdom	21.0	1.8	5.8	0.7	2.7	3.3	2.6	5.7	1.3	1.9	5.4	31
United States	17.5	1.1	5.2	0.0	2.9	2.5	2.6	4.8	0.6	3.6	4.3	12.5	0.5	19
OECD average	15.5	0.8	3.5	0.3	3.1	1.8	1.6	3.7	1.0	1.8	2.9	10.4	1.9	26

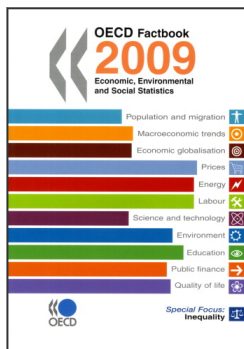
StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/544645204414>

Victimisation rates

Percentage, one-year prevalence among the entire population



StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/538832788213>



From:
OECD Factbook 2009
Economic, Environmental and Social Statistics

Access the complete publication at:
<https://doi.org/10.1787/factbook-2009-en>

Please cite this chapter as:

OECD (2009), "Victimisation rates", in *OECD Factbook 2009: Economic, Environmental and Social Statistics*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/factbook-2009-96-en>

This work is published under the responsibility of the Secretary-General of the OECD. The opinions expressed and arguments employed herein do not necessarily reflect the official views of OECD member countries.

This document and any map included herein are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

You can copy, download or print OECD content for your own use, and you can include excerpts from OECD publications, databases and multimedia products in your own documents, presentations, blogs, websites and teaching materials, provided that suitable acknowledgment of OECD as source and copyright owner is given. All requests for public or commercial use and translation rights should be submitted to rights@oecd.org. Requests for permission to photocopy portions of this material for public or commercial use shall be addressed directly to the Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) at info@copyright.com or the Centre français d'exploitation du droit de copie (CFC) at contact@cfcopies.com.