

Introductory Note

General characteristics

All convictions by final judgment issued by Italian Judicial Authorities, both offenses and misdemeanors constitute the survey data universe, conducted yearly.

Final judgement convictions of felony registered on the Central Criminal record office Registry are analyzed, referring to variables like type of crime, Authorities emitting the sentences and degree of the sentence, place and time of the felony, principal characteristics of the author (sex, age, birth place), principal security measures, type and length of the penalty, among the principal ones.

The survey started in 1890 and took its current configuration in 1996. From 2007 time series interrupted because of changes in the database of the Central Criminal record office and of different treatments of the data. Central Criminal record office, moreover, provide more information content than in the past, thus allowing more precise analysis.

Definitions used

Under criminal law, offences carry sentences according to their seriousness, denoting them as either felonies or misdemeanors. The latter must not be confused with administrative sanctions, which are issued by public authorities (such as so called fines applied to travelers using public transport without a ticket). A sentence may be issued for one or more felonies and/or one or more misdemeanors. Convicted persons are intended as the persons who receive a final judgement. The convicted person is surveyed in the moment when he/she is recorded on the Judicial Records. According to when the data are extracted, variations may occur due to the constant work of consolidating and validating the Records. People convicted are counted according to the judicial district where the offence was committed, even if they are resident elsewhere. The district of the appeal court is an administrative area that corresponds to the location of the appeal court. They are 29 in Italy with three detached local sections. People convicted for both felonies and misdemeanors are only counted under those sentenced for felonies.

Means of dissemination

ISTAT

Publications: Annuario Statistiche giudiziarie penali (up to 2005), Annuario statistico italiano, other publications on specific themes (Noi Italia, Serie storiche dei 150 anni di Italia)

By computer: Istat Internet portal www.istat.it

OTHER (main)

Eurostat: Money Laundering in Europe, 2011 edition

UNODC: Crime Trend Survey