

# **Facts and Data 2001**

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE  
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

## PREFACE



Austria is among the world's safest countries. This was established this year by the International Institute for Management Development in a study on international competitiveness of industrial countries. In comparison with 49 countries Austria was ranked number one in the categories "Safety from threats and violence" and "Personal safety and protection of property". This result confirms the reforms and the efficiency of our efforts in the past years. The main focus of internal security is directed at combatting organised crime, in particular drugs and trafficking in human beings. To succeed, the Interior

Ministry and the law enforcement authorities need new, efficient structures. The touchstones by which we, the bearers of political responsibility, will be judged are whether we can cope with the phenomenon of legal and illegal migration and with the increasing stream of asylum-seekers, whether we succeed in the fight against organised crime and terrorism.

In 2001, a number of reforms were introduced by means of which the Interior Ministry and the law enforcement authorities are preparing for the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The new Federal Criminal Investigation Department took up operation. The reform of the Federal Police Headquarters Vienna was launched. The criminal service was reformed. The reform of the State Police shall be completed yet this year.

**Dr. Ernst Strasser**  
**Federal Minister of the Interior**

## **CRIME IN AUSTRIA 2001**

**Criminal offences recorded by the police declined by 7.7% in 2001, as compared to 2000. Police and gendarmerie investigated 2.1% more suspects.**

According to the "Crime Report 2001 – Statistics and Analysis", the law enforcement authorities in Austria recorded 522,710 criminal offences liable to prosecution, of these 418,967 misdemeanours and 103,743 crimes.

Since 1 February 2000, the criminal offence figures have been collected electronically ("crime statistics online"); previously count sheets had been used. The following comparison of the offence figures therefore relates to February to December 2000 and 2001.

Between February and December 2001 476,921 criminal offences were recorded, i.e. 40,008 cases less than in 2000 (516,929 cases). This corresponds to a decline of 7.7%. The law enforcement saw a decline mainly with respect to bodily injury, burglary, fraud, affray and murder. Thefts and drug offences, intentional endangering of public safety and counterfeiting of money (art. 232 and 233 (1) Criminal Code) were increasing.

The increase in the counterfeiting of money and the passing of counterfeit money was mainly due to the currency switchover, as criminals tried to bring their stocks of counterfeit old currencies on the market until the end of the dual currency phase.

### **Half of all criminal offences were solved**

Person-related crimes (homicides/attempted homicides, crimes against liberty as well as sexual crimes) have a traditionally high clear-up rate, whereas for anonymous crimes (mass offences like theft and burglary) the clear-up rate is low. 218,198 of all 522,710 criminal offences recorded last year were cleared up. This is a clear-up rate of 41.7%. In 2000 (February to December), 48.7% of all offences were cleared up. With offences against property, the clear-up rate declined by 7.5%. This decline was mainly due to the fact that in 2001, compared to 2000, almost no large-scale frauds occurred where it was possible to clear up hundreds of offences by arresting one criminal. For example, fraudulent activities involving Euro cheques did not occur any more, as Euro cheques were hardly in use last year; since 1 January 2002, they have been invalid. In the case of homicides/attempted homicides the clear-up rate of over 88% was almost as high as in 2000. For offences against liberty liable to prosecution the rate slightly increased to 91.9%.

### **Austria is among the safest countries in the world**

Police and gendarmerie investigated a greater number of criminal suspects. The number of suspects increased by 3,894 to 185,649 (+2.1%) from 2000 to 2001 (February to December). The number of foreign suspects increased by 3%.

47,912 of the 203,877 criminal suspects did not have Austrian citizenship (23.5%). This is an increase in the share of foreign suspects among all criminal suspects by 4.3%, compared to 2000 (February to December). By international comparison, Austria's crime rate has been among the lowest for years.

### **Car theft**

The number of car thefts declined. In 2001, the law enforcement authorities recorded 5,623 car thefts in Austria, which was a decline by 612 cases (-10%), compared to the previous year (6,235). This figure also included the cars (1,407) that were stolen from Austrians abroad. With a clear-up rate of 7%, the chances of getting back a car stolen abroad are slim. The cars most frequently stolen were of the makes VW, Audi, Mercedes, BMW, Opel, Ford and Skoda. Last year, 302 stolen cars totalling in value € 5.453,000 were seized at the Austrian borders. In the car theft statistics Austria continues to rank in the lower third among EU member states. Almost half of all stolen cars (44%) could be found. In the future, data on car thefts shall be electronically recorded in a database.

## CRIME STATISTICS 2001

Major figures of the crime statistics 2001 (on the basis of police reports made)

### CRIME FREQUENCY COUNT

(Criminal offences per 100,000 inhabitants)

Frequency count  
by international comparison

	Recorded cases	Frequency count
Austria	522,710	6,481
Germany	6.363,865	7,736
Denmark	473,298	9,102
Switzerland	317,466	7,030

From 2000 to 2001 (period under review February to December), the total crime rate declined by 7.7%, or 40,008 cases.

### ALL CRIMINAL OFFENCES LIABLE TO PROSECUTION

#### Absolute figures

Criminal offences	2001	Feb. to Dec. 2001	Feb. to Dec. 2000	Change in %
Crimes	103,743	95,078	104,489	-9%
Misdemeanours	418,967	381,843	412,440	-7.4%
Total	522,710	476,921	516,929	-7.7%

## CRIME STATISTICS 2001

### Major offences

(Comparison February to December 2000 with 2001)

#### HOMICIDES/ATTEMPTED HOMICIDES

Criminal offences	2001	Feb. to Dec. 2000	Feb. to Dec. 2001	Change in %
Murder (art. 75)	150	165	144	-12.7%
Grievous bodily injury (art. 84)	2,970	3,318	2,713	-18.2%

#### SEXUAL OFFENCES

Rape (art. 201)	574	536	526	-1.9%
Sexual duress (art. 202)	499	447	461	3.1%
Sexual intercourse with minors (art. 206)	176	257	152	-40.9%
Sexual abuse of minors (art. 207)	528	562	489	-13%

#### OFFENCES AGAINST ANOTHER'S PROPERTY

Aggravated damage to property (art. 126)	6,307	6,772	5,733	-15.3%
Aggravated theft (art. 128)	5,378	4,580	4,897	6.9%
Burglary (art. 129)	83,526	81,272	76,781	-5.5%
Robbery (art. 142)	1,593	1,523	1,477	-3.0%
Aggravated robbery (art. 143)	749	818	699	-14.5%
Aggravated fraud (art. 147)	5,249	6,330	4,821	-23.8%

The **Criminal Advisory Service** gives advice to the population free of charge. The number of personal consultations by officers increased from 53,755 in 2000 to 63,848 in 2001. An increasing number of consultations were held in the citizens' homes. 12,866 consultations took place in the official consultation rooms, which is an increase of more than 20%, compared to 2000.

## **PROTECTION OF THE CONSTITUTION (INTERNAL SECURITY)**

**In 2001, there were as many right-wing extremist acts as in 2000. Left-wing extremist acts declined sharply.**

In 2001, 335 right-wing extremist-motivated acts took place, which lead to 528 police reports. Most reports were made for violation of the law banning Nazi activities (269) as well as for violation of the Criminal Code (133). Criminal offences in the field of left-wing extremism declined drastically, compared to 2000. 52 offences were recorded.

The terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 in the USA gave rise to comprehensive additional security measures also in Austria. The Austrian Federal Government and the National Council declared the cooperation of the intelligence services, the military and police forces as well as the formation and strengthening of special task forces a matter of foremost concern. Because of the worldwide investigations, the State Police had to handle numerous inquiries and investigation requests by foreign law enforcement authorities. Moreover, the officers checked more than 850 clues from the Austrian population. The investigations showed that there was no involvement of Austria in the terrorist attacks in the USA. The investigation of banks did not reveal any connection between the alleged terror funds of Osama bin Laden, or the al-Qaeda organization, and Austrian bank accounts.

The worldwide anthrax fear following the attacks in the USA gave rise to 400 suspicious cases in Austria. Apart from one positive test result in a mailbag of the US embassy, all other reports of suspected anthrax turned out to be unfounded.

## **CRIME RELATED TO TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS 2001**

**In 2001, 6.4% more persons who had entered Austria illegally were detained than in the previous year.**

In 2001, 48,659 persons (+6.4%) who had illegally entered or stayed in Austria were detained.

This increase was mainly due to the migration wave from Afghanistan. 2,294 of the detained persons were traffickers.

The illegal immigrants came from 138 countries, most of them from Afghanistan (7,665), Romania (7,449), Ukraine (5,390), Yugoslavia (3,517) and Iraq (2,443). In 2001, on each trip a trafficker brought on average six to seven persons illegally to Austria. In 2000, this figure was still down at about four persons. Since 1993, the number of persons entering Austria illegally has been increasing steadily. In 1993, the number of detentions had been one twentieth of that in 2001. More than 16,500 of the detained persons had come to Austria across internal borders (Schengen countries), in particular from Italy. These people were mainly Romanian and Ukrainian citizens.

### **Special Border Commission (SOKO)**

After the enormous increase in trafficked people from Asia, in March 2001 the Special Border Commission was established, which is headed by the Director of Security for Burgenland. During the first 11 months the team of the SOKO team made 177 reports, 80 arrests, 60 house searches and 120 detentions according to the provisions of aliens law. The SOKO officers obtained six international arrest warrants; six traffickers were arrested in Germany due to SOKO investigations.

## DRUG-RELATED CRIME 2001

**In 2001, the law enforcement authorities seized more cocaine, heroin and ecstasy and less cannabis.**

In 2001, 21,862 cases pursuant to the Addictive Drugs Act were reported. 21,302 cases referred to offences in connection with addictive drugs, which is an increase of 20% compared to the previous year (18,125), and 560 cases related to offences involving psychotropic substances.

The increase was greatest in Salzburg (104.87%) and in Carinthia (61.58%). In the Federal Capital of Vienna the rate increased by 18.71%.

The amount of seized cocaine quadrupled compared to 2000; heroin increased by 25%, 2000 already being a "record year", and the increase in seized ecstasy was 58%.

Police and gendarmerie removed addictive drugs amounting to € 15 million (ATS 200 million) from the illegal drug market. Organised drug traffic in Austria is dominated mainly by foreign criminal groups. These groups use Austria because of its geographical position as transit country to ship the drugs to other European countries. Austrians are seen to smuggle and deal with heroin, cocaine and ecstasy only now and then.

### DRUGS SEIZED

Amounts seized	2001	2000	Change in %
Cocaine	108 kg	20 kg	+430%
Heroin	288 kg	230 kg	+25%
Cannabis weed	282 kg	1,562 kg	-82%
Cannabis resin	138 kg	243 kg	-43%
LSD trips (units)	572	865	-33%
Ecstasy (tablets)	256,299	162,093	+58%

## **ASYLUM AND ALIENS MATTERS**

**The number of asylum applications increased by 64.8% in 2001, compared to the previous year.**

In 2001, 13,007 asylum-seekers from 76 countries were admitted to state aid. As per 31 December 2001, a total of 4,679 persons from 63 countries were under state care. The state pays for accommodation, food and medical care (including health insurance).

(Budget 2001: approx. ATS 323 million/approx. € 23 million.)

The Federal Ministry of the Interior runs six places to take care of a total of about 2,000 asylum-seekers (in Traiskirchen, Reichenau, Vorderbrühl, Bad Kreuzen, Thalham and Vienna). Asylum-seekers can also be accommodated in appointed inns.

The Fund for the Support of Refugees gives financial aid to those entitled to asylum, to displaced persons from Bosnia and to refugees, as well as to asylum-seekers for the procurement of living accommodation, renovation of flats, rent subsidies, for attending a German language course or a short-term training course.

In 2001, the Fund received € 918,863 from the Interior Ministry and € 65,405.55 from UNHCR. These amounts were used to support 1,696 asylum-seekers.

The Advisory Board for Asylum and Migration Issues advises the Federal Minister of the Interior in asylum or migration matters and in granting residence permits on a humanitarian basis. Of the 405 cases (777 persons), which were handled by the Advisory Board in 2001, deliberations were held in 46 cases (90 persons). In 37 cases (70 persons) the Advisory Board made a recommendation for granting a residence permit on a humanitarian basis. In four cases (11 persons) the Advisory Board decided against such a recommendation. In five cases (9 persons) other solutions were found.

### **ASYLUM STATISTICS 2001**

In 2001, 30,135 persons applied for asylum in Austria (2000: 18,284), which is an increase of 64.8%. The asylum-seekers came from 100 countries (2000: 97). 25,804 asylum proceedings were completed, in 1,113 cases asylum was granted. 3,643 requests were rejected.

### **MEASURES OF THE ALIENS DEPARTMENT**

In 2001, rejections at the border, returns to transit country, expulsions and deportations occurred less frequently, while residence bans and cases of custody pending deportation increased. Due to the crisis in Afghanistan, the Afghans were the leading nationality with 7,665 persons as regards trafficking and trafficked persons as well as other illegal aliens.

Rejection at the border (art. 52 FrG - Aliens Act)	17,595	-8%
Return to transit country (art. 55 FrG)	6,338	-25%
Expulsion (art. 33, 34 FrG)	6,204	-35%

Residence ban (art. 36 FrG)	16,387	+29%
Custody pending deportation (art. 61 FrG)	17,306	+21%
Deportation (art. 56 FrG)	8,324	-14%

## **MIGRATION**

For 2002 the Residence Ordinance provides for the following maximum figures:

Burgenland	230
Carinthia	85
Lower Austria	1,575
Upper Austria	1,290
Salzburg	345
Styria	770
Tyrol	455
Vorarlberg	315
Vienna	3,215

## **ASYLUM APPLICATIONS**

The major countries of origin

Afghanistan	12,957
Iraq	2,113
Turkey	1,876
India	1,804
FRY	1,649
Armenia	1,259
Nigeria	1,037
Bangladesh	949
Macedonia	935
Iran	733
Georgia	596
Pakistan	487

## **PERSONNEL OF THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR**

### **FEDERAL POLICE**

The staff of the Federal Police comprises approx. 15,150 women and men, of which about 10,000 are employed in police service, about 2,400 in criminal service and about 2,750 in general administration.

### **FEDERAL GENDARMERIE**

The staff of the Federal Gendarmerie comprises approx. 14,700 gendarmes and non-civil servants, plus approx. 750 civilian employees.

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