

Prison Recidivism

2010 cohort

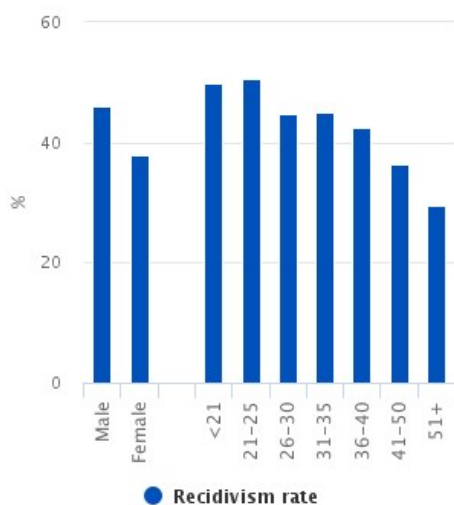
Offender numbers classified by whether there was a re-offence within three years, 2010 cohort

	Reoffence within three years			Recidivism ¹ rate
	Yes	No	Total	%
Total offenders	4,208	5,131	9,339	45.1
Sex				
Male	3,794	4,451	8,245	46.0
Female	414	680	1,094	37.8
All persons age group				
<21 years	530	535	1,065	49.8
21-25	1,270	1,234	2,504	50.7
26-30	874	1,081	1,955	44.7
31-35	617	752	1,369	45.1
36-40	398	539	937	42.5
41-50	391	682	1,073	36.4
51+	128	308	436	29.4

¹ See Background Notes.

45% of prisoners released in 2010 reoffended within three years

Figure 1: Prison recidivism rate by gender and age, 2010



Source: CSO Ireland

This release examines the reoffending behaviour of prisoners released from the custody of the Irish Prison Service in 2010, based on crime incident and court conviction data up to the end of 2015.

The rate of reoffending, or recidivism, for prisoners released in 2010 was 45.1%, a decrease of 2.4% on the previous year's figure. The rate of recidivism was higher for males (46.0%) than for females (37.8%) and was generally higher for prisoners released at a younger age, with 49.8% in the 'under 21' age category reoffending compared to 29.4% in the '51 and over' age category. Individuals who had been imprisoned for *Burglary and related offences* showed the highest rate of recidivism (68.6%). See *Table 1*

For the purposes of the release recidivism is defined as an individual committing a criminal offence (a 're-offence') within a three year period following their release from prison and being subsequently convicted for that offence. The CSO used a matching process to match prisoners released in 2010 to crime incident and court outcome datasets in order to identify re-offences and re-convictions. Further detail regarding the methods used to measure recidivism in this release is provided in the *Background Notes*.

Prison Recidivism 2010 cohort (full)



The CSO resumed publication of Recorded Crime statistics in June 2015, following a comprehensive review of the quality of Garda Síochána crime data and on foot of the Garda Inspectorate report on Crime Investigation (11th November 2014). The latest CSO review on the quality of PULSE data was published on 28th September 2016 (link below). When interpreting Recorded Crime statistics (including recidivism) the CSO advises that the findings of these reviews should be taken into account.

<http://www.cso.ie/en/media/csoie/releasespublications/documents/crimejustice/2016/reviewofcrime.pdf>

Recidivism down among younger offenders

The overall recidivism rate for the 2010 cohort was 45.1%, a decrease of 2.4% from 47.5% in 2009. Male reoffending fell from 48.2% to 46.0% while the rate for females fell from 41.2% to 37.8%. See *table 1*.

The rate of recidivism among prisoners in younger age groups decreased compared to the previous release (54.4% to 49.8%, down 4.6% among those under 21) while the rate among older prisoners increased (24.8% to 29.4%, up 4.6% among those aged 51 and over). This characteristic was observed in both male and female cohorts. The contrast was particularly apparent among female offenders where recidivism among under 21s fell nearly 13% while recidivism for those aged 51 and over rose almost 9%.

Reoffending rates disaggregated by the initial imprisonment offences are also shown in Table 1. The highest rates of recidivism were among prisoners whose initial offence was in *Group 6 Robbery, extortion and hijacking offences*, *Group 7 Burglary and related offences* and *Group 8 Theft and related offences*. Recidivism in each of these groups was measured at over 60%, as was the case in the previous year.

Type of reoffending

Most re-offences following imprisonment fell into either *Group 13 Public Order and Other Social Code Offences* (34.2%), *Group 08 Theft and Related Offences* (17.9%) or *Group 10 Controlled Drug Offences* (13.4%). See *table 2*.

Most reoffenders were convicted for offences which fell into a different crime group than their initial imprisonment offence. 21.9% were convicted for offences of the same crime type.

Majority of reoffences occur within six months of release

Of the 4,208 individuals who were found to have reoffended 60.8% reoffended within six months their official release date and an additional 16.7% within one year. See *table 3*.

The time taken to reoffend was shorter among younger offenders. In the under 21 age category, the reoffending rate was 49.8%, but of those who did reoffend 94.2% had done so within one year. The figure fell to 67.2% among reoffenders aged 51 and over.

Prison Recidivism 2010 cohort (full)



Table 1 Offender numbers classified by sex, age group, initial imprisonment offence and whether there was a re-offence within three years, 2009 and 2010 cohort

	2009 cohort				2010 cohort				Recidivism rate	Absolute change
	Re-offence within three years			Recidivism ¹ rate	Re-offence within three years			Recidivism rate		
	Yes	No	Total		Yes	No	Total			
Total offenders	3,563	3,944	7,507	47.5	4,208	5,131	9,339	45.1	-2.4	
Sex										
Male	3,254	3,503	6,757	48.2	3,794	4,451	8,245	46.0	-2.1	
Female	309	441	750	41.2	414	680	1,094	37.8	-3.4	
Male age group										
<21 years	465	376	841	55.3	502	472	974	51.5	-3.8	
21-25	1,027	867	1,894	54.2	1,166	1,063	2,229	52.3	-1.9	
26-30	689	712	1,401	49.2	783	919	1,702	46.0	-3.2	
31-35	444	517	961	46.2	538	641	1,179	45.6	-0.6	
36-40	270	343	613	44.0	344	468	812	42.4	-1.7	
41-50	286	445	731	39.1	350	593	943	37.1	-2.0	
51+	73	243	316	23.1	111	295	406	27.3	+4.2	
Female age group										
<21 years	31	40	71	43.7	28	63	91	30.8	-12.9	
21-25	99	100	199	49.7	104	171	275	37.8	-11.9	
26-30	63	100	163	38.7	91	162	253	36.0	-2.7	
31-35	54	71	125	43.2	79	111	190	41.6	-1.6	
36-40	27	48	75	36.0	54	71	125	43.2	+7.2	
41-50	24	70	94	25.5	41	89	130	31.5	+6.0	
51+	11	12	23	47.8	17	13	30	56.7	+8.8	
All persons age group										
<21 years	496	416	912	54.4	530	535	1,065	49.8	-4.6	
21-25	1,126	967	2,093	53.8	1,270	1,234	2,504	50.7	-3.1	
26-30	752	812	1,564	48.1	874	1,081	1,955	44.7	-3.4	
31-35	498	588	1,086	45.9	617	752	1,369	45.1	-0.8	
36-40	297	391	688	43.2	398	539	937	42.5	-0.7	
41-50	310	515	825	37.6	391	682	1,073	36.4	-1.1	
51+	84	255	339	24.8	128	308	436	29.4	+4.6	
Initial Imprisonment offence										
01 Homicide offences	12	25	37	32.4	9	22	31	29.0	-3.4	
02 Sexual offences	19	71	90	21.1	12	74	86	14.0	-7.2	
03 Attempts/Threats to murder, assaults, harassments and related offences	256	199	455	56.3	308	233	541	56.9	+0.7	
04 Dangerous or negligent acts	292	516	808	36.1	315	590	905	34.8	-1.3	
05 Kidnapping and related offences	7	5	12	58.3	3	4	7	42.9	-15.5	
06 Robbery, extortion and hijacking offences	25	13	38	65.8	29	14	43	67.4	+1.7	
07 Burglary and related offences	128	55	183	69.9	157	72	229	68.6	-1.4	
08 Theft and related offences	481	252	733	65.6	570	333	903	63.1	-2.5	
09 Fraud, deception and related offences	41	110	151	27.2	59	132	191	30.9	+3.7	
10 Controlled drug offences	228	260	488	46.7	319	366	685	46.6	-0.2	
11 Weapons and explosives offences	99	56	155	63.9	112	85	197	56.9	-7.0	
12 Damage to property and to the environment	198	128	326	60.7	234	164	398	58.8	-1.9	
13 Public order and other social code offences	716	467	1,183	60.5	789	573	1,362	57.9	-2.6	
14 Road and traffic offences (NEC)	543	1,288	1,831	29.7	754	1,962	2,716	27.8	-1.9	
15 Offences against Government, justice procedures and organisation of crime	373	243	616	60.6	457	338	795	57.5	-3.1	
16 Offences not elsewhere classified	145	256	401	36.2	81	169	250	32.4	-3.8	

¹ See Background Notes.

Prison Recidivism 2010 cohort (full)



Table 2 Re-offender numbers classified by initial imprisonment offence and subsequent re-offence, 2010 cohort

	Subsequent re-offence															Total
	01 Homicide offences	02 Sexual offences	03 Attempts/ Threats to murder, assaults, harassments and related offences	04 Dangerous or negligent acts	05 Kidnapping and related offences	06 Robbery, extortion and hijacking offences	07 Burglary and related offences	08 Theft and related offences	09 Fraud, deception and related offences	10 Controlled drug offences	11 Weapons and explosives offences	12 Damage to property and to the environment	13 Public order and other social code offences	15 Offences against Government, justice procedures and Organisation of Crime	16 Offences not elsewhere classified	
Total re-offenders	5	7	171	416	3	90	255	755	45	564	115	153	1,439	180	10	4,208
Initial Imprisonment offence																
01 Homicide offences	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	4	1	0	9
02 Sexual offences	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	3	2	0	12
03 Attempts/Threats to murder, assaults, harassments and related offences	0	0	23	38	0	6	17	40	5	36	12	10	109	12	0	308
04 Dangerous or negligent acts	0	0	13	67	0	4	10	47	2	42	10	6	102	11	1	315
05 Kidnapping and related offences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	3
06 Robbery, extortion and hijacking offences	0	0	0	2	0	3	1	7	0	10	0	0	6	0	0	29
07 Burglary and related offences	0	0	3	5	0	3	38	29	1	15	5	6	44	8	0	157
08 Theft and related offences	0	2	15	22	1	17	52	192	8	51	12	22	144	30	2	570
09 Fraud, deception and related offences	1	0	1	7	0	0	6	8	7	5	4	4	15	1	0	59
10 Controlled drug offences	1	0	15	20	0	6	21	44	2	100	7	8	89	5	1	319
11 Weapons and explosives offences	0	0	10	8	0	5	11	17	0	13	6	6	29	7	0	112
12 Damage to property and to the environment	0	1	13	16	0	4	19	45	0	19	10	12	82	12	1	234
13 Public order and other social code offences	2	2	31	47	1	14	24	86	4	75	18	31	427	27	0	789
14 Road and traffic offences (NEC)	1	1	35	140	0	16	31	122	11	138	19	18	200	19	3	754
15 Offences against Government, justice procedures and organisation of crime	0	0	7	29	0	11	19	105	4	48	8	25	154	45	2	457
16 Offences not elsewhere classified	0	0	5	13	0	1	6	11	1	8	3	4	29	0	0	81

Prison Recidivism 2010 cohort (full)



Table 3 Re-offender numbers classified by time period to first re-offence, sex and age group, 2010 cohort

	Reoffended	Time period to first re-offence					Did not reoffend	Total
		< 6 months ¹	6<12	12<18	18<24	24<36		
Total re-offenders	4,208	2,561	703	393	257	294	5,131	9,339
Sex								
Male	3,794	2,304	630	360	232	268	4,451	8,245
Female	414	257	73	33	25	26	680	1,094
Male age group								
<21 years	502	408	64	18	9	3	472	974
21-25	1,166	739	188	97	76	66	1,063	2,229
26-30	783	420	145	86	54	78	919	1,702
31-35	538	303	94	56	39	46	641	1,179
36-40	344	186	70	42	20	26	468	812
41-50	350	195	47	47	25	36	593	943
51+	111	53	22	14	9	13	295	406
Female age group								
<21 years	28	26	1	1	0	0	63	91
21-25	104	73	22	4	1	4	171	275
26-30	91	51	13	12	9	6	162	253
31-35	79	48	16	4	5	6	111	190
36-40	54	31	9	6	4	4	71	125
41-50	41	21	8	5	3	4	89	130
51+	17	7	4	1	3	2	13	30
All persons age group								
<21 years	530	434	65	19	9	3	535	1,065
21-25	1,270	812	210	101	77	70	1,234	2,504
26-30	874	471	158	98	63	84	1,081	1,955
31-35	617	351	110	60	44	52	752	1,369
36-40	398	217	79	48	24	30	539	937
41-50	391	216	55	52	28	40	682	1,073
51+	128	60	26	15	12	15	308	436

¹ Includes those who re-offended before official release date.

Prison Recidivism 2010 cohort (full)



Background Notes

Introduction

The Prison Recidivism, 2010 release provides figures for the re-offending rates of those released from the custody of the Irish Prison Service in 2010. These figures were produced using a combination of Garda Síochána and Prison Service records, based on the Irish Crime Classification System (ICCS).

The term “offences” in this report refers only to crime incidents known to An Garda Síochána and recorded as such in the Garda PULSE (Police Using Leading Systems Effectively) system. Because of timing issues with respect to the extraction of data, figures may be revised subsequent to this publication.

Data collection

The production of these statistics involved the combination of Garda PULSE and Prison PRIS (Prison Computer System) data. Since there is no direct link between the two systems, a statistical matching protocol was devised by the CSO to match Prison and Garda records. For this report, prison releases from 2010 were linked from Prison PRIS to their corresponding entries in the Garda PULSE system. Numerous quality control tests were then conducted to verify the accuracy of this matching system, in addition to various consultations with academics specializing in criminology.

Recidivism/Reoffending

For this report, a re-offender is defined as an individual who committed a recorded offence within three years of prison release date; and who is subsequently convicted in court proceedings. For example, if a person is released on December 31st 2010, and committed an offence on the December 31st 2013, they would be considered as having reoffended within three years if the court proceedings lead to a conviction. Offences such as some road traffic offences are not included in the definition of recidivism.

Court proceedings leading to a conviction

From Garda PULSE, the court date is used to mark the commencement of criminal proceedings. Court proceedings leading to a conviction do not include those cases where appeals are pending. The fact that an individual is suspected of committing an offence is not enough evidence for re-offender status to be designated; a conviction must have been secured.

Crime recording

Incidents reported or which become known to members of An Garda Síochána are recorded when, on the balance of probability, a Garda determines that a criminal offence defined by law has taken place, and there is no credible evidence to the contrary. If it is subsequently determined that a criminal offence did not take place, the criminal offence recorded is invalidated and is not counted in the statistics. If a person makes a report and subsequently withdraws it by stating that the criminal act did not take place, then this too is invalidated unless there is evidence to suggest that, by reasonable probability, the offence has taken place.

For criminal offences where victim confirmation is required (e.g. assault, fraud), a criminal offence is recorded only where the victim confirms the offence or where there is evidence to suggest that by reasonable probability it occurred. Another important feature of a recorded offence is that it is based on the date reported to, or that it became known to, the Gardaí. This has major implications for some offence types. Notable amongst these are sexual offences, as it has often been the case that such incidents have been reported to An Garda Síochána many years (sometimes decades) after the event(s). Thus a sexual assault, which occurred in 1960, would be included in the statistics for 2009 if it was first reported in that year.

Crime Classification

A criminal offence is classified as a particular offence type at the initial recording of that offence. However, upon investigation, it may later become apparent that an alternative offence type should be used. In this event, the record is amended to reflect this. Re-classification on the basis of court proceedings only occurs in relation to homicide offences. A murder offence is reclassified as manslaughter when a charge of manslaughter commences or when a murder charge results in a conviction for manslaughter. It is also possible, though more rare, that an incident originally classified as manslaughter may be re-classified as murder. Also, a re-classification to a homicide offence occurs when, for example, a serious assault has been recorded and, some time later, the victim dies as a consequence of the assault.

General Counting Rules

Prison Recidivism 2010 cohort (full)



Crime counting rules are applied to all criminal offences for the purposes of the statistics. The following are the main rules relevant to the quarterly figures:

Primary Offence Rule: Where two or more criminal offences are disclosed in a single episode, it is the primary criminal offence that is counted. The primary offence is that offence which the greater penalty may apply. Where offences have similar penalties, offences against the person take precedence over offences against property for the purpose of determining the primary offence.

One Offence Counts Per Victim: One offence counts per victim involved with the exceptions of cheque/credit card fraud and burglary. Under certain circumstances, the cheque/credit card exception necessitates that a series of these offences counts as one crime where the originating bank ultimately suffers the loss. The burglary exception dictates that one burglary offence is counted where property belonging to two or more victims is stolen (or damaged) during a single burglary.

Continuous Series Involving the Same Victim and Same Offender: A continuous series of offences against the same victim involving the same offender counts as one offence.

ICCSq Offence Groups

01 Homicide offences	Murder Manslaughter Infanticide Manslaughter (traffic fatality) Dangerous driving causing death
02 Sexual offences	Rape of a male or female Rape Section 4 Unlawful carnal knowledge / Criminal law (Sexual Offences Act) 2006 Buggery Sexual offence involving mentally impaired person Aggravated sexual assault Sexual assault Incest Child pornography offences Child pornography – obstruction of warrant Gross indecency
03 Attempts or threats to murder, assaults, harassments and related offences	Murder-attempt Murder-threat Assault causing harm Poisoning Assault or obstruction of Garda/official, resisting arrest Minor assault Coercion Harassment, stalking, threats Demanding payment of debt causing alarm Housing Act Menacing phone calls Incitement to hatred offences
04 Dangerous or negligent acts	Dangerous driving causing serious bodily harm Driving/In charge of a vehicle while over legal alcohol limit Driving/In charge of a vehicle under the influence of drugs Endangerment with potential for serious harm or death Abandoning a child, child neglect and cruelty Unseaworthy/dangerous use of boat or ship False alarm/interference with aircraft or air transport facilities Endangering traffic offences
05 Kidnapping and	False imprisonment

Prison Recidivism 2010 cohort (full)



related offences	Abduction of person under 16 years of age Human trafficking offences
06 Robbery, extortion and hijacking offences	Robbery of an establishment or institution Robbery of cash or goods in transit Robbery from the person Blackmail or extortion Carjacking, hijacking/unlawful seizure of aircraft/vessel
07 Burglary and related offences	Aggravated burglary Burglary (not aggravated) Possession of an article (with intent to burgle, steal, demand)
08 Theft and related offences	Theft/Unauthorised taking of vehicle Interfering with vehicle (with intent to steal item or vehicle) Theft from person Theft from shop Theft from vehicle Theft/ Unauthorised taking of a pedal cycle Theft of, or interference with, mail Handling or possession of stolen property Theft of other property
09 Fraud, deception and related offences	Fraud, deception, false pretence offences Forging an instrument to defraud Possession of an article for use in fraud, deception or extortion Falsification of accounts Offences under the Companies Act Offences under the Investment Intermediaries Act Offences under the Stock Exchange Act Money laundering Embezzlement Fraud against the European Union Importation/Sale/Supply of tobacco Counterfeiting notes and coins Counterfeiting of goods Bad debts criminal (Debtors Ireland) Corruption (involving public office holder)
10 Controlled drug offences	Importation of drugs Cultivation or manufacture of drugs Possession of drugs for sale or supply Possession of drugs for personal use Forged or altered prescription offences Obstruction under the Drugs Act
11 Weapons and explosives offences	Causing an explosion Making of explosives Possession of explosives Chemical weapons offences Discharging a firearm Possession of a firearm Possession of offensive weapons (not firearms) Fireworks offences (for sale, igniting etc.)
12 Damage to property and to the environment	Arson Criminal damage (not arson) Litter offences
13 Public order and other social code offences	Affray/Riot/Violent disorder Public order offences Drunkenness offences Air rage-disruptive or drunken behaviour on aircraft Forcible entry and occupation (not burglary)

Prison Recidivism 2010 cohort (full)



Trespass on lands or enclosed areas
 Liquor licensing offences
 Registered clubs offences
 Special restaurant offences
 Provision of intoxicating liquor to under 18 year olds
 Purchase or consumption of alcohol by under 18 year olds
 Sale of intoxicating liquor to under 18 year olds
 Brothel keeping
 Organisation of prostitution
 Prostitution, including soliciting etc.
 Offences under the Betting Acts
 Collecting money without permit,
 unauthorised collection
 Offences under Gaming and Lotteries Acts
 Permit/License offences for casual/street
 trading
 Allowing a child (under 16 years) to beg
 Bigamy
 Bestiality
 Indecency
 Begging

14 Road and traffic offences (NEC)

Driving licence-failure to have, produce, etc.
 Insurance-failure to have, produce, display, etc.
 No tax, non-display of tax, unregistered vehicle etc.
 Misuse of Trade Licence
 Misuse of trailers, weight and other offences
 Obstruction under road traffic acts
 Other road offences
 Road transport - carriage of goods offences
 Public service vehicle offences
 Light rail offences (Luas)

15 Offences against Government, justice procedures and organisation of crime

Treason
 Breaches of Offences Against the State Acts
 Breaches of Official Secrets Act
 Impersonating member of An Garda Síochána
 Electoral offences including personation
 Public mischief-annoying phone calls, wasting police time
 Criminal Assets Bureau offences
 Non compliance with Garda direction
 Criminal organisation offences (organised crime)
 Conspiracy to commit a crime
 Perjury
 Interfering with a jury (embracery)
 Assisting offenders
 Public mischief, pervert course of justice, conceal offence
 Escape or help to escape from custody
 Prison offences
 Breach of Domestic Violence Order (protection, safety, barring)
 Breach of order under Family Law Act
 Breach of bail
 Failure to comply under Sex Offenders Act
 Other failure to comply with court order, jury summons, warrant etc.

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