

QUALITY REPORT FOR STATISTICAL SURVEY

**Statistical Report on Accused Legal Entities against Which Criminal
Proceedings Have Been Validly Concluded (SP-2 form)
for 2024**

Organisational unit: Demographic and Social Statistics Directorate / Crime Administration System
and Social Protection Statistics Department

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0. Basic information

- Purpose and subject of the survey

The objective is to obtain indicators on accused legal entities and legal entities recognised as responsible for committing criminal offences, which are an important tool in studying the structure of criminality and decisions of criminal prosecution bodies.

The survey contains data on the criminal offence, acquisition, type and reasons of the decision, pronounced sanctions and other measures as well as the duration of proceedings. Survey results may serve as a basis for the quality analysis of criminality in the Republic of Croatia. Information on number of accused and convicted legal entities, type of criminal offence, type of court's decision, pronounced legal sanctions and other measures and historical comparison of the number of accused and convicted legal entities can be particularly interesting and useful.

- Reference period

Calendar year

- Legal acts and other agreements

European level: an agreement between countries (gentlemen's agreement) reached at the Eurostat Working Group on Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics enables harmonisation of the methodology between EU Member States, which allows for comparative analysis of crime statistics.

National level:

Act on the Responsibility of Legal Entities for Criminal Offences (NN, Nos 151/03, 110/07, 45/11, 143/12, 114/22 and 114/23),

Criminal Code (NN, Nos 125/11, 144/12, 56/15, 61/15 – correction, 101/17, 118/18, 126/19, 84/21, 114/22, 114/23 and 36/24),

Criminal Procedure Act (NN, Nos 152/08, 76/09, 80/11, 121/11 – revised text, 91/12, 143/12, 56/13, 145/13, 152/14, 70/17, 126/19, 130/20, 80/22, 36/24 and 72/25),

Act on the Office for the Suppression of Corruption and Organized Crime (NN, Nos 76/09, 116/10, 145/10, 57/11, 136/12, 148/13 and 70/17)

Areas and Seats of Courts Act (NN, Nos 67/18 and 21/22),

Official Statistics Act (NN, Nos 25/20 and 155/23)

- Classification system

Classification of Criminal Offences of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics (based on articles/paragraphs/items of the Criminal Code and their interrelationship).

- Concepts and definitions

1) Perpetrator – Reporting unit presents data on the name and seat of an accused/convicted legal entity. Accused legal entity is every legal entity against which criminal proceedings have been concluded with a valid court decision, by which the indictment has been dropped, the proceedings have been terminated, the legal entity has been acquitted, the charges have been rejected or the legal entity has been recognised as responsible. Convicted legal entity is every legal entity against which criminal proceedings have been concluded with a valid court decision by which the legal entity has been recognised as responsible.

2) Criminal offence – collected data refer to the criminal offence as defined in the Criminal Code, applied regulation and the year in which the criminal offence was committed. Principle of legality laid down in Article 2 of the Criminal Code: "No one shall be punished, and no criminal sanction shall be applied, for conduct which did not constitute a criminal offense under a statute or

international law at the time it was committed and for which the type and range of punishment by which the perpetrator can be punished has not been prescribed by statute.”

- 3) Data on court's decision – type of decision and reasons – the criminal procedure may be concluded by a valid court's decision on the rejection of an indictment, termination of criminal procedure, judgement of acquittal, judgement rejecting charges, judgement based on mutual agreement of parties of the accused legal entity has been recognised as responsible.
 - 4) Criminal penalties and other measures – Data on type and amount of the pronounced penalty and other measures are collected as stated in the valid decision (fine, termination of a legal entity, security measure, confiscation of pecuniary benefit acquired through a criminal offence).
 - 5) Date of filing the crime report, date of filing a charge and date of making valid decision – Date of filing the crime report is the date of the receipt of the crime report in a competent court. Date of filing a charge is an exact date when a charge or a private lawsuit has been registered in the court's register, whereas date of making valid decision is the date when the court made a valid decision based on the indictment.
- Statistical unit

The statistical unit is an accused legal entity and a legal entity recognised as responsible for a committed criminal offence.

- Statistical population

The coverage is full (all legal entities perpetrators of criminal offences that were accused or recognised as responsible in a particular year).

1. Relevance

1.1. Data users

National users: ministries and other state administration bodies, civil society organisations specialised in combat against violence, academic community, the media

International users: Eurostat, (Statistical Office of the European Union), UN Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

1.1.1. User needs

National users: ministries and other state administration bodies are primarily interested in data on accused legal entities or legal entities recognised as responsible for the purpose of preparing reports or declarations related to international documents (e.g., for corruptive criminal offences). Regular data users of justice administration statistics are persons who are already familiar with this domain to a relevant degree (professors, judges, state attorneys, students).

International users are mostly focused on particular general indicators (e.g., a total number of reported legal entities) and on certain specific phenomena within the domain of crime statistics.

1.1.2. User satisfaction

The first survey on satisfaction of users of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics was carried out in 2013, then in 2015, and the most recent one at the end of 2022. The results can be checked out on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics <https://dzs.gov.hr/highlighted-themes/quality/user-satisfaction-surveys/686>

Justice administration statistics are often quoted in eminent legal journals in the Republic of Croatia (e.g., in the “Croatian Annual of Criminal Sciences and Practice”).

1.2. Completeness

The domain encompassed by the SP-2 survey is legally regulated. Criminal prosecution and criminal procedure are regulated primarily by the Criminal Procedure Act, which is an organic law. That law strictly regulates aspects which are an important part of the SP-2 form (whether a criminal prosecution is carried out on the basis of official duty or not, which decisions can be made by court and on which grounds, etc.). The Criminal Code, which contains a catalogue of criminal offences (it is a basis for the Classification of criminal offences of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics) is also an organic law. Eurostat (Statistical Office of the European Union) and the UN Office for Drugs and Crime send a voluminous joint questionnaire to countries entitled "UNODC Surveys on Crime Trends and the Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (UN-CTS questionnaire)" is currently the main methodological framework used in justice administration statistics, which allows for international comparability of data. The definitions of criminal offences are in line with the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes, which ensures consistency in pairing of national criminal offences with their international categories. SP-2 survey results make a basis for filling in a part of the questionnaire that refer to accused legal entities and legal entities recognised as responsible for committing criminal offences, which enables the conduct of statistical data processing in line with the European standards.

The Croatian Bureau of Statistics completely relies on administrative data provided by competent county and municipal courts. Taking into account available data, the Bureau analyses and compiles the number of accused legal entities in relation to the previous year as well as the number of legal entities recognised as responsible.

In addition, the statistical analysis also includes criminal offences against economy, identifying legal entities recognised as responsible and to which fines were imposed accordingly.

1.2.1. Data completeness rate

The indicator is not applicable.

2. Accuracy and reliability

2.1. Sampling error

Not applicable (the survey is not based on the sample).

2.1.1. Sampling error indicators

The indicator is not applicable.

2.2. Non-sampling error

No errors were detected in relation to overcoverage and undercoverage. The survey coverage is full, since it is regulated by national legal acts and no non-response errors by units occurred. Nonresponse related errors for key variables are resolved by contacting reporting units. Imputations are not implemented.

2.2.1. Coverage error

The coverage is full. The survey is not based on the sample, while coverage is regulated by legal acts (primarily by the Act on Areas and Seats of Courts).

2.2.2. Overcoverage rate

The indicator is not applicable.

2.2.3. Measurement error

The Croatian Bureau of Statistics uses administrative data provided by the courts of the Republic of Croatia on criminal procedures against legal entities perpetrators of criminal offences. Taking into account these data, the Bureau prepares statistical reports on the number of accused legal entities compared to the previous year as well as on the number of legal entities recognised as responsible.

Reporting units submit the SP-2 forms in printed form, which are then entered manually into the Generator, which is a standard application for data storage and processing of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics. Errors during entering of numerical values are detected in data verification and resolved by contacting the reporting units.

Apart from the statistical analysis, the data also include criminal offences against economy, identifying legal entities recognised as responsible and presenting the imposed fines.

2.2.4. Nonresponse error

The survey coverage is full and no nonresponse errors by units occurred. Nonresponse related errors for key variables are resolved by contacting reporting units.

A competent municipal/county court fills in the SP-2 form for every accused legal entity for which it made a valid decision in the criminal procedure.

During the reference year, courts, for which a significant decrease in filled in SP-2 forms has been noticed compared to the same time period in one or more previous years, are contacted in order to determine whether a lower incidence (lower number of reports) or a delay in submission of SP-2 forms actually occurred.

Reporting units submit the SP-2 forms in printed form, which are then entered manually into the Generator, which is a standard application for data storage and processing of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics. The entered forms are then checked by applying predefined data validation rules.

2.2.5. Unit nonresponse rate

The indicator is not applicable.

2.2.6. Item nonresponse rate

The indicator is not applicable.

2.2.7. Processing error

Imputations are not implemented, whereas the missing or misclassified data are corrected by contacting the reporting units.

2.2.8. Imputation rate

The indicator is not applicable.

2.2.9. Model assumption error

Not applicable, because the survey is not based on the sample.

2.3. Data revision

2.3.1. Data revision – policy

The users of statistical data are informed about revisions on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics, on the link [https://dzs.gov.hr/General Revision Policy of the CBS](https://dzs.gov.hr/General%20Revision%20Policy%20of%20the%20CBS).

2.3.2. Data revision – practice

Provisional figures are not published in this survey and therefore regular revisions are not applicable.

If necessary, a correction of released statistical data can be issued.

2.3.3. Data revision – average size

The indicator is not applicable.

2.4. Seasonal adjustment

Seasonal adjustment of data is not carried out.

3. Timeliness and punctuality

3.1. Timeliness

April for the previous year data.

3.1.1. Time lag – first results

The indicator is not applicable.

3.1.2. Timeliness – final results

Timeliness of final results is T + 4 months.

3.2. Punctuality

There are no deviations between planned and realised issues.

3.2.1. Punctuality – delivery and publication

The indicator is not applicable.

4. Accessibility and clarity

The First Release [Legal Entities Perpetrators of Criminal Offences, by Type of Decision, 2024](#) is issued at the annual level and it is available on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics.

4.1. News release

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4.2. Online database

Online database does not exist.

4.3. Microdata access

Conditions under which certain users can have access to microdata are regulated by the [Ordinance on the Conditions and Terms of Access and Use of Confidential Statistical Data of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics for Scientific Purposes](#) (NN, No. 5/23).

4.4. Documentation on methodology

Basic notes on methodology are given in the First Release Legal Entities of Criminal Offences, by Type of Decision, 2024 (in the part Notes on Methodology).

5. Coherence and comparability

5.1. Asymmetry for mirror flows statistics

Not applicable.

5.2. Comparability over time

Criminal Code has a key influence on comparability over time of statistical data on criminal proceedings against legal entities since it defines a catalogue of criminal offences in the national system of criminal justice.

The current Criminal Code (NN, Nos 125/11, 144/12, 56/15, 61/15, 101/17, 118/18, 126/19, 84/21, 114/22, 114/23 and 36/24) entered into force on 1 January 2013, whereas the previous Penalty Code was in force from the beginning of 1998 (NN, No. 110/97 and subsequent revisions). The comparability of various criminal codes is achieved by methodological pairing of identical criminal offences, irrespective of a legal framework in which they were regulated. These criminal offences are presented according to the actual Criminal Code, while those that cannot be paired are presented separately. Changes in the crime legislation, e.g., transferring certain criminal offences to the domain of misdemeanour legislature, can affect the contingent of legal entities included in the SP-2 survey. This kind of methodological adjustments are always transparently explained to users, which ensures consistency in interpretation of statistical data on criminal proceedings against legal entities.

5.2.1. Length of comparable time series

Length of comparable time series is 15 years.

5.2.2. Reasons for break in time series

There were no breaks in time series so far concerning the SP-2 survey data, which was achieved by methodological pairing of criminal offences in new classifications. When the new classification of criminal offences is created (usually when the new Criminal Code enters into force), items in the new classification are paired with items of the previous classification of criminal offences if they correspond to each other as regards their legal grounds. Classification items that cannot be paired are presented separately. This makes it possible for criminal offences referred to in the previous Criminal Code, if it is applied to a legal entity as a more lenient regulation, can be presented according to the new classification of criminal offences, which brings about consistency in analysis and interpretation of statistical data on criminal processing against legal entities.

5.3. Coherence – short-term and structural data

The indicator is not applicable.

5.4. Coherence – national accounts

The indicator is not applicable.

5.5. Coherence – administrative sources

The indicator is not applicable.

6. Cost and burden

6.1. Cost

Costs of printing the forms and postal costs paid at sending them to reporting units.

A proportional part of costs that refers to working hours of a person engaged in the survey in the Crime Administration System and Social Protection Statistics Department can also be included in the costs of data processing and dissemination. In addition, a certain contingent of man/hour includes persons engaged in this survey in the Publishing Department and IT Directorate.

During 2024, conditions and active preparations were realised for direct data extraction from the data base of the Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation, which was realised at the beginning of 2025 and therefore it is expected that particular costs will be reduced (e.g., printing of forms and postal costs).

6.2. Burden

Burden on reporting units depends on the number of accused/convicted legal entities in a calendar year. A statistical form consists of 16 questions, which is filled in by marking one of the offered answers.

The submission periodicity is the whole year, so the burden is evenly arranged and reporting fatigue avoided.