



Fact sheet – Statistical activity and published results

Statistics on the Execution of Sanctions

Description

The Statistics on the Execution of Sanctions provide information on the execution of sentences and measures (including accelerated sentences) in a penal institution (prison, facility for the execution of measures, detention centres). They provide information on all admissions and releases, the duration of stay and the average number of inmates. Persons detained for reasons other than the execution of sentences or measures (e.g. remand or preventive detention) are not included. The statistics exclude individuals serving their sentences in private facilities such as care homes or forensic psychiatric clinics, as these institutions do not share their data.

Methodology

Methodology used:
Exhaustive survey

Characteristics recorded:

- Socio-demographic characteristics (sex, age, nationality, residence status)
- Canton responsible for the execution of sentences and measures
- Year of admission / incarceration
- Year of discharge / release
- Duration of stay
- Form of sentence execution (normal custody, semi-detention, day-release employment)
- Reasons for release
- Judicial process characteristics (executed final sentence or executed primary sanction, canton in which the court is based, main offence)

The statistics are augmented with relevant data from the Criminal Conviction Statistics.

Data retention: The data is stored for a period exceeding 30 years to allow for long-term studies on recidivism.

Survey date / period:
Ongoing since 1984

Periodicity:
Annual

Degree of regionalisation:
Switzerland

Revision policy

The statistical data are subject to a routine annual revision process. Data already published for previous years are supplemented and revised as appropriate.

Legal basis

Ordinance of 30 April 2025 on Federal Statistics (SR 431.011)

Organisation

Federal Statistical Office (FSO)

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