

30 October 2009

**Conviction Statistics / Statistics from the Courts for Minors  
Provisional results. 2008**

**Main Results**

**Conviction Statistics**

- 91.3% of the 196,143 convicted persons recorded in the Central Register of Convicted Persons and Rebels are men and 8.7% are women.
- The average age of the convicted persons is 34.4 years old for men and 33.1 years old for women.
- 70.3% of convicted persons are Spanish.
- Eight in 10 convicted persons have committed a single crime.
- Crimes against road safety account for 44.1% of the total crimes recorded.
- The most frequent penalties are fines (23.6% of the total) and prison (19.8%).

**Statistics from the Courts for Minors (14-17 years old)**

- 84.7% of the 15,919 persons convicted by condemnatory judgment recorded in the Register of Criminal Responsibility of Minors are male and 15.3% are female.
- 30.7% of offenders are aged 17 years old.
- 78.5% of convicted minors are Spanish.
- More than two thirds of punishable offences committed by minors are crimes. The most frequent of these are thefts (39.3% of the total crimes).
- Probation (36.4% of the total) and community service (22%) are the measures most adopted by judges.

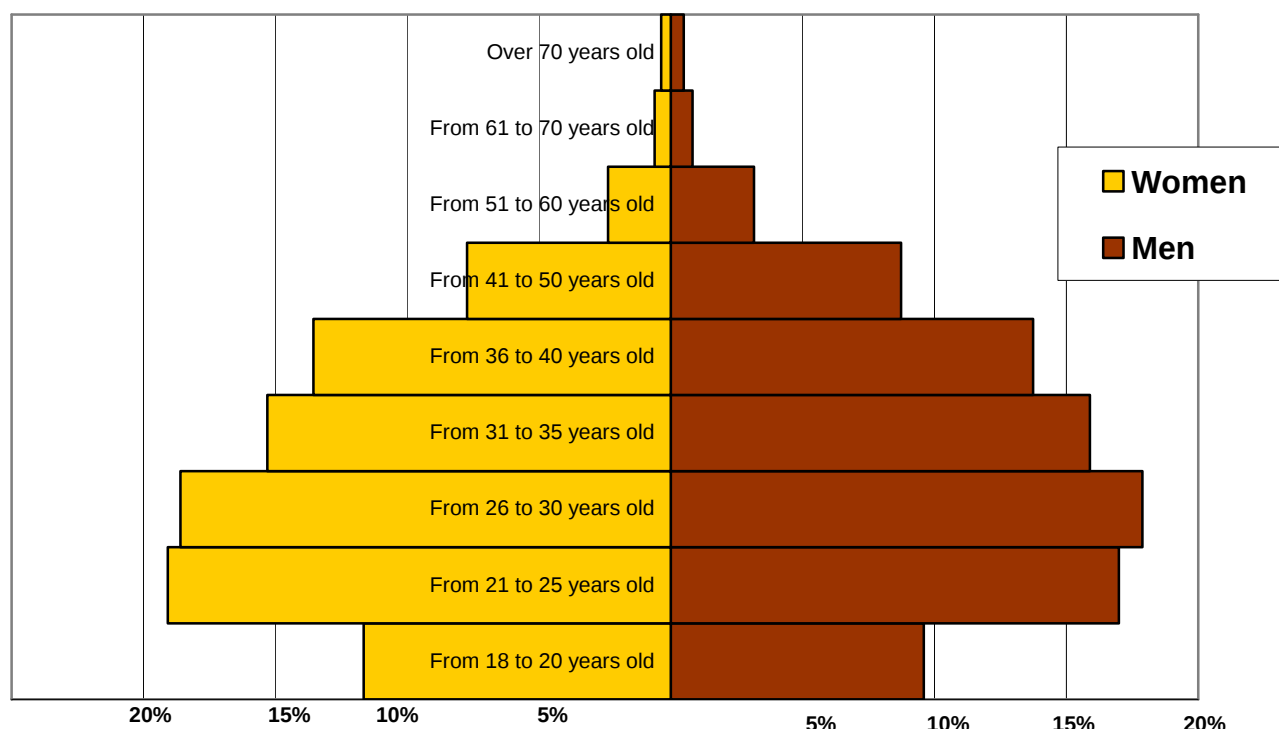
## Conviction Statistics \*

In 2008 a total of 196,143 convicted persons were recorded in the Central Register of Convicted Persons and Rebels, by condemnatory judgment dictated that year and of which the register was notified, accounting for 21.9% more than the previous year.

Of the total convicted persons, 91.3% were male and 8.7% were female. The conviction rate per 1,000 inhabitants stood at 4.25, as compared with the 3.56 registered in 2007.

By age, it can be observed that the most frequent age group is 26-30 years old for men (17.8% of the total), whereas for women it is the group aged 21-25 years old (19.0%).

The average age of convicted persons is 34.3 (34.4 years old for men and 33.1 years old for women).



## Seven out of 10 convicted persons are Spaniards

The majority of convicted persons in 2008 were of Spanish nationality (70.3% of the total as compared with 70.8% the previous year). Among foreign nationals, Americans represented the majority (38.7% of the total foreign nationals).

\* The results of the statistics for the year 2007 have been reviewed, and have been made final. The aforementioned results can be consulted at [http://www.ine.es/en/welcome\\_en.htm](http://www.ine.es/en/welcome_en.htm)

Of the total convicted persons, 80.2% had committed a single crime (77.5% the previous year) and 19.8% had committed more than one crime (22.5% in 2007).

Among those convicted for committing a single crime and considering type of crime, the most numerous group was persons convicted for crimes *against road safety* (48.3% of the total), followed by those convicted of the crime of *injuries* (12.7%) and considering those convicted of *theft* (8.4%).

## **Andalucía, the Autonomous Community with the most convicted persons registered**

Considering place of sentencing, in 2008 Andalucía was the Autonomous Community with the most convicted persons registered (21.3% of the total). It was followed by Cataluña (15.1%), Comunitat Valenciana (11.8%) and Comunidad de Madrid (10.5%).

Cataluña was the Autonomous Community with the most foreign convicted persons (18.8% of the total) followed by Andalucía (15.3%).

The autonomous cities of Ceuta (23.39) and Melilla (10.46) registered the highest values in the rate of convicted persons recorded per 1,000 inhabitants. Conversely, Castilla y León (2.66) and Castilla-La Mancha (2.98) presented the lowest values.

## **The total number of crimes recorded increases 17.1% in 2008**

In 2008 a total of 250,201 crimes committed were recorded, 17.1% more than the previous year. The *ratio* of crimes per 1,000 inhabitants was 5.42, as compared with 4.73 in 2007.

Considering typology, the most numerous group was persons convicted for *crimes against road safety* (44.1% of the total), those convicted of the crime of *injuries* (13.4%), those convicted of *theft* (9.5%), *attacks against public authority* (4.6%), and *breaking of a restraining order* (4.1%).

With regard to the previous year, it is worth noting the increase in frequency of *crimes against road safety* (up from 26.7% of the total in 2007 to 44.1% in 2008), along with a decrease in frequency of *crimes of injuries* (down from 18.2% to 13.4%).

The number of crimes per convicted person was 1.27 as compared with 1.33 recorded in 2007. By sex, this relationship was greater in males (1.28) than in females (1.18), in a similar way to the previous year (1.34 of men as compared with 1.25 of women).

Of the total crimes committed, 94.5% were consummated and 4.5% were tentative. In 1.0% no degree was recorded.

## **The most frequent penalties are fines, prison and community service**

In 2008 a total of 592,012 penalties were imposed in sentences passed and recorded in the Register, for an increase of 33.6% as compared with the previous year.

54.0% of penalties imposed (both main and accessory punishments) were *punishments restricting other rights*, 23.6% were *fines*, 22.1% were *punishments restricting freedom* and 0.3% were *deportations*.

Among punishments restricting other rights, the most frequent one was community service (15.2% of the total penalties). Among punishments restricting freedom, the most frequent one was *prison* (19.8% of the total).

By sex of the offender, 21.8% of total of penalties imposed on males were *punishments restricting freedom*, and in particular, 19.8% were *prison* terms. Among women, 26.7% of the total were *punishments restricting freedom*, and 24.1% were prison terms.

*Punishments restricting other rights* accounted for 54.5% of the total penalties imposed on men and 48.2% of those handed down to women.

If we take into account the age of the offender, it can be observed that, except for those aged over 70 years old, with the onset of age *punishments restricting freedom* are less frequent, with *punishments restricting other rights* being more usual.

Considering nationality of the offender, *punishments restricting freedom* were more frequent among foreign convicted persons (23.8%) than among Spanish convicted persons (21.4%). In particular, *prison* terms accounted for 21.2% of the total penalties among foreign nationals, as compared with 19.3% among Spaniards.

## Convicted persons and crimes, by Autonomous Community Year 2008

|                              | Convicted<br>persons | Crimes         | Convicted<br>persons / 1000<br>inhabitants | Crimes / 1000<br>inhabitants |
|------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>SPAIN</b>                 | <b>196.143</b>       | <b>250.201</b> | <b>4,25</b>                                | <b>5,42</b>                  |
| Andalucía                    | 41.690               | 54.487         | 5,08                                       | 6,64                         |
| Aragón                       | 5.271                | 6.588          | 3,97                                       | 4,96                         |
| Asturias (Principado de)     | 4.241                | 5.228          | 3,93                                       | 4,84                         |
| Balears (Illes)              | 5.929                | 7.705          | 5,53                                       | 7,18                         |
| Canarias                     | 12.387               | 15.589         | 5,97                                       | 7,51                         |
| Cantabria                    | 2.878                | 3.680          | 4,94                                       | 6,32                         |
| Castilla y León              | 6.815                | 8.658          | 2,66                                       | 3,39                         |
| Castilla-La Mancha           | 6.089                | 7.487          | 2,98                                       | 3,66                         |
| Cataluña                     | 29.575               | 38.077         | 4,02                                       | 5,17                         |
| Comunitat Valenciana         | 23.177               | 29.037         | 4,61                                       | 5,77                         |
| Extremadura                  | 3.426                | 4.389          | 3,12                                       | 4,00                         |
| Galicia                      | 11.115               | 14.522         | 3,99                                       | 5,22                         |
| Comunidad de Madrid          | 20.672               | 25.724         | 3,30                                       | 4,10                         |
| Región de Murcia             | 7.888                | 10.204         | 5,53                                       | 7,16                         |
| Navarra (Comunidad Foral de) | 2.827                | 3.520          | 4,56                                       | 5,67                         |
| País Vasco                   | 8.222                | 10.573         | 3,81                                       | 4,90                         |
| Rioja (La)                   | 1.384                | 1.689          | 4,36                                       | 5,32                         |
| Ceuta                        | 1.810                | 2.139          | 23,39                                      | 27,64                        |
| Melilla                      | 747                  | 905            | 10,46                                      | 12,67                        |

## Statistics from the Courts for Minors

In 2008 15,919 convicted minors were recorded by condemnatory judgment dictated and notified to the Register of Criminal Responsibility of Minors, for an increase of 16.8% as compared with the previous year.

The rate for convicted minors aged 14 to 17 years old per 1000 inhabitants in the same age range was 8.75.

84.7% of convicted minors were male and 15.3% were female. By age, the group aged 17 years old was the most numerous (30.7% of the total), followed by the group aged 16 years old (28.8%).

## The proportion of foreign minors convicted increases

Most of the convicted minors were Spaniards (78.5%). On the other hand, the proportion of foreign minors convicted increased to 21.4%, as compared with 13.3% the previous year.

Analysing the number of criminal offences committed, 67.7% of minors committed a single criminal offence and 32.3% committed more than one.

## Andalucía is the Autonomous Community with the most convicted minors registered

Andalucía was the Autonomous Community with the most convicted persons recorded in the Register, with 25.9% of the total. It was followed by Comunidad Valenciana (12.8%), Cataluña (12.2%) and Comunidad de Madrid (10.5%).

This order was maintained in the case of convicted minors of Spanish nationality. Nevertheless, Cataluña was the Community with the greatest number of foreign convicted minors, followed by Comunidad de Madrid.

The autonomous cities of Ceuta (30.74 per thousand) and Melilla (18.53), and the Communities of La Rioja (15.83) and Illes Balears (12.73) registered the highest rates of convicted minors aged 14-17 years old per 1,000 inhabitants in the same age range. Conversely, Galicia (6.02), Castilla-La Mancha (6.12) and Canarias (6.39) presented the lowest values.

## More than two thirds of punishable offences committed by minors are crimes

A total of 26,134 criminal offences committed by minors were registered in 2008. Of these, 67.1% corresponded to crimes and 32.9 % to misdemeanours.

Considering type of crime, the most frequent were *theft* (39.3%), *injuries* (17.4%), the *theft and petty theft of the use of a vehicle* (7.7%) and *petty theft* (6.1%)

Among misdemeanours, the most frequent were those carried out *against persons* (61.7%) and *against property* (32.0%).

By sex, 85.8% of offences were committed by minors who were male, and 14.2% by females. Considering age, it can be observed that the number of offences committed increased with age. Thus, those committed at the age of 17 years old (8,238) accounted for

double those committed at the age of 14 years old (4,117). 77.4% of offences were committed by Spanish minors, and 22.6% by foreign minors.

Number of punishable offences by minors per 1,000 inhabitants aged 14-17 years old was 14.36. The highest values were registered in the autonomous cities of Ceuta (45.31) and Melilla (31.62), and the lowest in the Autonomous Communities of Castilla-La Mancha (8.89) and Canarias (9.27).

### Probation and community service are the measures adopted most frequently

Of the 21,610 measures adopted by judges in 2008, most frequent were *probation* (36.4% of the total) and *community service* (22.0%), without there having been observed noteworthy differences by sex, age or nationality of the offender.

### Convicted persons and criminal offences committed by minors (14-17 years) by Autonomous Community

Year 2008

|                              | Convicted persons | Punishable offences | Convicted persons / 1,000 inhabitants | Punishable offences/ 1,000 inhabitants |
|------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>España</b>                | <b>15.919</b>     | <b>26.134</b>       | <b>8,75</b>                           | <b>14,36</b>                           |
| Andalucía                    | 4.126             | 6.920               | 10,58                                 | 17,75                                  |
| Aragón                       | 387               | 674                 | 8,28                                  | 14,42                                  |
| Asturias (Principado de)     | 235               | 545                 | 7,27                                  | 16,86                                  |
| Balears (Illes)              | 536               | 873                 | 12,73                                 | 20,73                                  |
| Canarias                     | 574               | 833                 | 6,39                                  | 9,27                                   |
| Cantabria                    | 184               | 239                 | 9,23                                  | 11,99                                  |
| Castilla y León              | 983               | 1.404               | 10,94                                 | 15,62                                  |
| Castilla-La Mancha           | 557               | 809                 | 6,12                                  | 8,89                                   |
| Cataluña                     | 1.944             | 3.605               | 7,35                                  | 13,62                                  |
| Comunitat Valenciana         | 2.034             | 3.483               | 10,23                                 | 17,51                                  |
| Extremadura                  | 378               | 615                 | 7,24                                  | 11,79                                  |
| Galicia                      | 581               | 904                 | 6,02                                  | 9,37                                   |
| Comunidad de Madrid          | 1.666             | 2.316               | 7,19                                  | 9,99                                   |
| Región de Murcia             | 540               | 884                 | 8,36                                  | 13,69                                  |
| Navarra (Comunidad Foral de) | 179               | 295                 | 7,98                                  | 13,16                                  |
| País Vasco                   | 633               | 1.147               | 9,34                                  | 16,93                                  |
| Rioja (La)                   | 181               | 275                 | 15,83                                 | 24,05                                  |
| Ceuta                        | 126               | 185                 | 30,74                                 | 45,13                                  |
| Melilla                      | 75                | 128                 | 18,53                                 | 31,62                                  |

For further information see [INEbase-www.ine.es](http://INEbase-www.ine.es) All press releases at: [www.ine.es/prensa/prensa\\_en.htm](http://www.ine.es/prensa/prensa_en.htm)

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## Methodological note

The **Conviction Statistics** and the **Statistics from the Courts for Minors** are being compiled using information from the *Central Register of Convicted Persons and Rebels* and the *Register of Criminal Responsibility of Minors* respectively, both belonging to the Ministry of Justice. The data treatment has been performed by the National Statistics Institute (INE), by virtue of the Partnership Agreement signed between the two institutions on 3 July 2007.

The Central Register of Convicted Persons and Rebels has information on convicted persons, crimes, punishments imposed, sex, age and nationality of the offender, degree of committing, date of committing of the crime and place of sentencing, regarding the condemnatory judgments dictated by the courts and tribunals <sup>(\*)</sup> of the criminal jurisdictional order.

The Register of Criminal Responsibility of Minors, likewise, has information on convicted minors, criminal offences, measures imposed, sex, age and nationality of the offender, date of committing the criminal offence and place of sentencing, regarding the condemnatory judgments imposed on the minors by the Courts for Minors.

The data treatment of both registers serves as a substitute for the previous system, based on the mailing of questionnaires to be filled out by the Courts with criminal competency or for Minors for each sentence dictated (whether condemnatory or not). This allows for an improvement in quality, opportunity and exhaustiveness for both statistics. The new way of compiling the statistics indicates a break with that which the INE had been compiling until 2006, since in both registers, only condemnatory sentences were registered.

The Conviction Statistics present detailed results of the convicted persons, the crimes committed and the punishments imposed on the national and Autonomous Community levels.

The Statistics from the Courts for Minors present detailed results of the convicted minors, the criminal offences committed and the measures imposed, both on the national and Autonomous Community levels.

The INE will provisionally publish the results corresponding to year  $t$  as “provisional results” in year  $t+1$  and as “final results” in year  $t+2$ .

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<sup>(\*)</sup> Condemnatory judgments dictated by the Spanish courts and tribunals of the criminal jurisdictional order are recorded in the Register. Moreover, condemnatory judgments dictated by foreign courts and tribunals are recorded when this is determined by international treaties on sentences, signed by Spain; those dictated by European courts and tribunals, pursuant to international treaties on legal assistance in criminal matters and to the provisions dictated by the European Union; and those dictated by foreign courts and tribunals when these are served in Spain.