



# Criminal Justice Statistics quarterly, England and Wales, year ending December 2018 (annual)

## Main points

<b>1.59 million individuals dealt with by the criminal justice system (CJS).</b>	↓	The total number of individuals formally dealt with by the CJS in England and Wales has been declining since 2015 and fell 3% in the latest year to a record low (since 1970).
<b>1.38 million defendants were prosecuted in 2018.</b>	↓	Down 2% since 2017. Decreases were seen in all offence groups except possession of weapons (up 4%) and summary motoring offences (up 3%).
<b>The conviction ratio remained broadly stable at 87% overall.</b>	↔	Increases were seen in some offence groups including sexual offences, possession of weapons and fraud offences, decreases were observed in other offence groups including robbery and theft offences.
<b>The proportion of defendants remanded on bail has continued to fall.</b>	↓	In the latest year, the number of defendants remanded on bail by the Police decreased by 24%, while the number remanded in custody decreased 7%. A similar trend was observed at courts.
<b>The custody rate was 7% and the average custodial sentence length was 17.3 months.</b>	↔	Over the last decade the custody rate has remained stable, however the number sentenced to immediate custody has decreased since 2011, those that did received a longer average custodial sentence length increasing from 13.3 months 2008 to 17.3 months 2018.
<b>Offenders with long criminal careers now account for nearly two-fifths of the offending population.</b>	↑	Since 2010, the proportion of offenders with a long criminal career (more than 15 previous cautions or convictions) has increased. In 2018, nearly two-fifths (37%) of the offending population had a long criminal career; an increase of 10 percentage points since 2008.

This is the 2018 Criminal Justice Statistics annual bulletin; it is based on data that has undergone additional quality assurance and includes cases for previous periods that have become available since earlier publications. The bulletin includes a wider range of commentary than the quarterly publications, and is accompanied by tools and experimental statistics providing additional insight for users. For technical detail about sources, quality and terminology, please refer to the accompanying guide to criminal justice statistics.