
E1

Drug-related offences and court proceedings

Key Points

- From 1998 to 2000 the annual number of drug related offences remained stable at between 31 400 and 31 900. In 2001 the number was 15 per cent higher than in 2000 at 36 175. (Table E1.1)
- In 2001 71 per cent of drug related offences were for possession. (Table E1.2)
- The number of persons convicted of drug offences in Scottish Courts in 2001 was 5654, 19 per cent fewer than the peak of 7 005 in 1997. (Table E1.3)
- As for previous years, the majority of persons convicted of drugs offences in 2001 were male (88 per cent). The average age of convicted persons was 27 years. (Tables E1.3 and E1.4)

Statistics on drug-related offences recorded by the police are available from quarterly statistical returns made by the Scottish police forces to the Scottish Executive Justice Department.

Statistics on persons prosecuted for drug-related offences are available from the Scottish Executive Justice Department's court proceeding database. They are derived from the information on court proceedings held on the police operational computer at the Scottish Criminal Record office.

Offences are recorded in the year in which the offender was sentenced, which will in many cases not be the year in which the offence was committed. If a person was sentenced for drug offences on more than one offence (dealt with at the same court appearance) they are counted as a single offender in the total number of persons convicted, and are classified by the main offence (i.e. the one with the severest penalty).

E1.1 Drug-related offences recorded by Scottish police forces : 1998 - 2001

(mainly Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 offences); council area¹, number and rate per 100 000 population

	1998		1999		2000		2001	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Scotland	31 460	614	31 870	623	31 431	615	36 175	707
Aberdeen City	1 694	795	1 617	760	1 334	631	1 550	734
Aberdeenshire	892	394	717	315	724	319	787	346
Angus	430	391	458	417	306	280	401	367
Argyll & Bute	420	467	372	415	450	507	389	438
Ayrshire East	615	507	773	639	787	652	785	651
Ayrshire North	798	571	721	517	845	609	872	628
Ayrshire South	777	679	752	658	537	471	896	787
Borders	342	322	719	676	733	686	661	618
Clackmannanshire	290	597	232	478	234	483	295	609
Dumfries & Galloway	790	536	700	477	448	307	649	445
Dunbartonshire East	321	293	284	257	318	287	465	420
Dunbartonshire West	681	718	515	542	712	753	666	704
Dundee City	871	594	738	511	707	495	904	633
Edinburgh City	1 928	428	2 927	648	2 858	630	3 118	688
Eilean Siar	98	351	83	301	47	173	112	412
Falkirk	700	486	680	471	624	432	844	585
Fife	2 148	616	1 508	432	1 248	356	1 645	469
Glasgow City	8 224	1 327	7 791	1 274	8 845	1 451	9 388	1 541
Highland	1 051	505	1 296	621	926	444	1 370	657
Inverclyde	793	929	769	903	901	1 065	995	1 176
Lanarkshire North	1 939	593	2 175	663	1 817	555	2 197	671
Lanarkshire South	1 218	397	1 482	482	1 512	492	1 864	606
Lothian East	174	194	208	230	340	372	217	238
Lothian West	630	412	907	586	865	552	1 166	744
Midlothian	283	350	326	399	402	489	404	491
Moray	256	298	288	338	261	307	261	307
Orkney Islands	54	276	58	296	29	149	27	139
Perth & Kinross	885	665	784	585	611	457	745	558
Renfrewshire	1 437	808	1 198	676	1 073	606	1 224	692
Renfrewshire East	285	324	312	349	428	477	342	381
Shetland Islands	74	323	95	418	82	365	98	437
Stirling	362	435	385	455	427	501	838	983

1 Where the offence was detected or reported.

Source : The Scottish Executive Justice Department recorded crime series.

E1.2 Drug-related offences recorded by Scottish police forces ; type of offence : 2001

(mainly Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 offences), council area¹

	Number				Rate per 100 000 population			
	Possession with intent to supply	Possession	Other ²	Total	Possession with intent to supply	Possession	Other ²	Total ³
Scotland	10 152	25 596	427	36 175	198	500	8	707
Aberdeen City	435	1 109	6	1 550	206	525	3	734
Aberdeenshire	201	582	4	787	88	256	2	346
Angus	102	298	1	401	93	273	1	367
Argyll & Bute	56	330	3	389	63	372	3	438
Ayrshire East	264	514	7	785	219	426	6	651
Ayrshire North	202	663	7	872	145	477	5	628
Ayrshire South	251	629	16	896	220	552	14	787
Borders	221	427	13	661	207	399	12	618
Clackmannanshire	101	190	4	295	208	392	8	609
Dumfries & Galloway	280	362	7	649	192	248	5	445
Dunbartonshire East	99	363	3	465	89	328	3	420
Dunbartonshire West	200	458	8	666	211	484	8	704
Dundee City	237	663	4	904	166	465	3	633
Edinburgh City	1 111	1 974	33	3 118	245	435	7	688
Eilean Siar	33	78	1	112	121	287	4	412
Falkirk	290	548	6	844	201	380	4	585
Fife	623	997	25	1 645	178	285	7	469
Glasgow City	2 449	6 755	184	9 388	402	1 109	30	1 541
Highland	280	1 083	7	1 370	134	519	3	657
Inverclyde	331	646	18	995	391	764	21	1 176
Lanarkshire North	461	1 728	8	2 197	141	527	2	671
Lanarkshire South	291	1 567	6	1 864	95	510	2	606
Lothian East	56	159	2	217	61	174	2	238
Lothian West	407	750	9	1 166	260	479	6	744
Midlothian	110	286	8	404	134	348	10	491
Moray	53	206	2	261	62	242	2	307
Orkney Islands	6	19	2	27	31	98	10	139
Perth & Kinross	253	489	3	745	189	366	2	558
Renfrewshire	344	865	15	1 224	194	489	8	692
Renfrewshire East	63	275	4	342	70	306	4	381
Shetland Islands	37	61	-	98	165	272	-	437
Stirling	305	522	11	838	358	613	13	983

1 Where the offence was detected or reported.

2 Includes illegal importation of drugs, production and manufacture of drugs, money laundering related offences, and other drug-related offences.

3 Components may not sum to totals due to rounding.

Source : The Scottish Executive Justice Department recorded crime series.

E1.3 Persons convicted of drug offences in Scottish courts¹ : 1990 - 2001

type of offence and age of convicted person

	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
All convicted persons (=100%)	3 021	5 599	6 183	7 005	6 918	6 400	5 383	5 654
	<i>percentage</i>							
Under 16 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16 - 20 years	29	27	24	22	23	22	21	22
21 - 25 years	36	34	32	33	30	28	27	28
26 - 30 years	20	19	22	22	23	22	23	21
31 - 35 years	9	10	12	12	13	15	15	15
36 - 40 years	4	5	6	6	6	7	8	8
Over 40 years	3	4	4	4	5	5	6	6
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Average age	25	25	26	26	26	27	27	27
Possession with intent to supply (=100%)	491	1 064	1 383	1 490	1 529	1 466	1 224	1 257
	<i>percentage</i>							
Under 16 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16 - 20 years	16	18	20	18	17	18	17	14
21 - 25 years	37	33	28	31	27	25	22	24
26 - 30 years	24	24	23	24	24	22	23	23
31 - 35 years	11	11	14	13	16	17	17	19
36 - 40 years	5	6	9	7	7	9	10	10
Over 40 years	5	7	7	7	8	9	10	11
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Average age	27	27	27	27	28	29	29	29
Possession (=100%)	2 497	4 420	4 634	5 384	5 291	4 841	4 099	4 340
	<i>percentage</i>							
Under 16 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16 - 20 years	32	30	26	24	25	24	22	25
21 - 25 years	36	35	33	34	31	29	29	29
26 - 30 years	19	18	22	22	22	22	22	21
31 - 35 years	8	9	11	12	12	14	14	14
36 - 40 years	4	4	5	5	6	6	7	7
Over 40 years	2	4	3	3	4	4	5	4
Average age	24	25	25	26	26	26	27	26
Other² (=100%)	33	115	166	131	98	93	60	57
	<i>percentage</i>							
Under 16 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16 - 20 years	9	10	11	10	5	3	8	4
21 - 25 years	30	26	20	16	17	12	10	16
26 - 30 years	27	23	20	23	21	22	23	16
31 - 35 years	15	20	20	21	27	23	18	18
36 - 40 years	9	9	17	13	14	20	17	11
Over 40 years	9	13	12	18	15	20	23	37
Average age	29	30	31	32	32	34	34	36

1 Where main offence.

2 Includes illegal importation of drugs, production and manufacture of drugs, money laundering related offences, and other drug-related offences.

Source : The Scottish Executive Justice Department court proceedings database.

E1.4 Persons convicted of drug offences in Scottish courts¹ : 1990 - 2001

type of offence and sentence

	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
All convicted persons (=100%)	3 021	5 599	6 183	7 005	6 918	6 400	5 383	5 654
	<i>percentage</i>							
Males	91	91	89	89	88	87	87	88
Females	9	9	11	11	12	13	13	12
Possession with intent to supply (=100%)	491	1 064	1 383	1 490	1 529	1 466	1 224	1 257
	<i>percentage</i>							
Admonition/ Caution	5	2	3	3	3	2	3	3
Absolute discharge/ No order made	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Community Service	18	19	17	19	21	21	18	16
Probation	7	8	8	11	11	14	14	11
Fine	27	19	13	13	14	14	14	13
Custody - Less than 6 months	6	9	14	15	14	13	10	11
Custody - 6 months to 2 years	21	26	26	22	21	19	21	26
Custody - Over 2 years	17	16	18	17	15	17	19	17
Other ²	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Possession (=100%)	2 497	4 420	4 634	5 384	5 291	4 841	4 099	4340
	<i>percentage</i>							
Admonition/ Caution	11	9	7	7	8	10	11	11
Absolute discharge/ No order made	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Community Service	1	1	2	3	2	2	2	2
Probation/ SAO ³	2	2	3	4	4	5	4	5
Fine	82	84	83	82	81	78	79	77
Custody - Less than 6 months	3	3	4	4	4	4	3	4
Custody - 6 months to 2 years	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Custody - Over 2 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other ²	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other⁴ (=100%)	33	115	166	131	98	93	60	57
	<i>percentage</i>							
Admonition/ Caution	3	4	8	11	4	5	2	-
Absolute discharge/ No order made	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Community Service	12	11	17	15	16	18	22	23
Probation	-	3	5	4	7	11	10	9
Fine	82	64	55	58	51	53	57	51
Custody - Less than 6 months	3	3	4	5	8	4	5	-
Custody - 6 months to 2 years	-	12	8	6	8	6	2	5
Custody - Over 2 years	-	2	2	1	5	2	3	12
Other ²	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-

1 Where main offence.

2 Other outcomes consist of remits to childrens' hearings, hospital and guardianship orders, insanity and compensation orders.

3 There were two supervised attendance orders imposed for possession in 1997.

4 Includes illegal importation of drugs, production, manufacture or cultivation of drugs, money laundering related offences, and other drugs-related offences.

Source : The Scottish Executive Justice Department court proceedings database.

E1.5 | Persons convicted of drug offences¹ in Sheriff courts : 2001

	Possession with intent to supply			Possession			Other ²
	Number	Percentage custodial sentence	Percentage aged under 21	Number	Percentage custodial sentence	Percentage aged under 21	Number
Scotland	1 009	46	16	2 823	7	20	48
Aberdeen	46	22	24	195	7	24	1
Airdrie	24	17	17	94	6	18	-
Alloa	8	75	13	23	13	30	-
Arbroath	8	38	-	15	13	7	-
Ayr	23	35	22	139	12	17	-
Banff	9	22	11	65	5	18	-
Campbeltown	4	25	-	22	5	41	2
Cupar	6	33	33	10	-	30	1
Dingwall	2	50	50	15	13	40	-
Dornoch	-	-	-	10	10	30	-
Dumbarton	18	56	6	49	6	20	2
Dumfries	15	53	47	13	-	15	3
Dundee	16	31	19	115	4	25	-
Dunfermline	16	19	25	22	-	32	1
Dunoon	3	67	-	29	-	10	1
Duns	-	-	-	8	13	25	-
Edinburgh	106	41	12	270	14	17	9
Elgin	11	55	27	40	-	18	-
Falkirk	41	39	24	75	4	23	-
Forfar	11	64	-	14	21	57	-
Fort William	6	67	67	19	5	21	-
Glasgow	255	55	11	520	7	14	8
Greenock	34	65	9	114	4	17	-
Haddington	4	25	25	32	-	31	1
Hamilton	73	49	15	171	3	19	2
Inverness	23	26	39	48	4	21	1
Jedburgh	5	40	-	9	33	-	1
Kilmarnock	47	66	11	121	10	20	4
Kirkcaldy	19	32	16	38	5	13	2
Kirkcudbright	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
Kirkwall	4	50	-	3	-	33	-
Lanark	9	67	33	36	6	31	1
Lerwick	5	100	20	15	-	27	-
Linlithgow	15	27	27	50	8	16	-
Lochmaddy	-	-	-	1	-	100	1
Oban	10	70	50	40	3	53	1
Paisley	21	57	10	71	7	20	-
Peebles	2	-	50	13	-	15	2
Perth	44	48	20	78	4	24	1
Peterhead	8	-	13	37	3	16	1
Portree	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rothesay	-	-	-	12	-	42	-
Selkirk	2	50	-	17	12	24	-
Stirling	30	47	10	56	2	21	1
Stonehaven	2	-	50	10	-	10	-
Stornoway	2	50	-	14	-	57	-
Stranraer	8	75	25	31	6	19	-
Tain	6	17	17	26	19	15	-
Wick	5	40	20	17	18	24	1

1 Where main offence.

2 Includes illegal importation of drugs, production and manufacture of drugs, money laundering related offences, and other drug-related offences.

Source : The Scottish Executive Justice Department court proceedings database.

E1.6 | Persons convicted of drugs offences¹ in District courts : 2001

	Possession			Other ²
	Number	Percentage custodial sentence	Percentage aged under 21	Number
Scotland	1 467	-	36	2
Aberdeen City	79	-	25	-
Aberdeenshire	48	-	29	-
Angus	43	2	44	-
Argyll & Bute	6	-	17	-
Ayrshire East	39	-	33	1
Ayrshire North	55	-	36	-
Ayrshire South	71	-	38	-
Borders	45	-	33	-
Clackmannanshire	11	-	18	-
Dumfries & Galloway	15	-	27	-
Dunbartonshire East	13	-	46	-
Dunbartonshire West	27	-	33	-
Dundee City	76	-	37	-
Edinburgh City	62	-	31	-
Eilean Siar	-	-	-	-
Falkirk	53	-	47	-
Fife	18	6	22	-
Glasgow City ²	148	-	39	-
Highland	109	-	32	-
Inverclyde	32	-	59	-
Lanarkshire North	180	1	31	-
Lanarkshire South	137	-	42	-
Lothian East	7	-	29	1
Lothian West	40	-	33	-
Midlothian	21	-	29	-
Moray	20	-	40	-
Perth & Kinross	29	3	31	-
Renfrewshire	44	-	30	-
Renfrewshire East	16	-	75	-
Stirling	23	-	30	-
Stipendiary magistrates	45	2	18	-

1 Where main offence

2 Includes possession with intent to supply, illegal importation of drugs, production and manufacture of drugs, money laundering related offences and other drug offences.

Source : The Scottish Executive Justice Department court proceedings database.