

TEMPLATE POLICY PAGE

Category:	Vehicle Crime
Country:	Sweden
Year:	/

Main policy page:	/
Relevant legislation:	<p>Theft is regulated under Chapter 8 Section 1 in the Swedish Penal Code. A person who unlawfully takes what belongs to another with intent to acquire it, shall, if the appropriation involves loss, be sentenced for <i>theft</i> to imprisonment for at most two years.</p> <p>Petty theft is regulated under Chapter 8 Section 2 in the Swedish Penal Code. If the crime under Section 1, having regard to the value of the stolen goods and other circumstances of the crime, is regarded as petty, a fine or imprisonment for at most six months shall be imposed for <i>petty theft</i>.</p> <p>Gross theft is regulated under Chapter 8 Section 4 in the Swedish Penal Code. If the crime under Section 1 is considered to be gross, imprisonment for at least six months and at most six years shall be imposed for <i>gross theft</i>. In assessing whether the crime is gross, special consideration shall be given to whether the unlawful appropriation took place after intrusion into a dwelling, whether it concerned the appropriation of property borne by a person, whether the accused was equipped with a weapon, explosive or similar aid, or whether the act was otherwise of an especially dangerous or ruthless nature, concerned property of considerable value or entailed a keenly felt loss.</p> <p>Vehicle theft is regulated under Chapter 8 Section 7 in the Swedish Penal Code. A person who unlawfully takes or uses a motor vehicle or other motor-driven conveyance belonging to another, shall, unless the crime is punishable under the previous provisions of this Chapter, be sentenced for <i>vehicle theft</i> to imprisonment for at most two years or, if the crime is of a petty nature, to a fine. If the crime is gross, imprisonment for at least six months and at most four years shall be imposed.</p> <p>According to the Swedish Penal Code an attempt or preparation to commit theft, gross theft or vehicle theft shall be punished under the provisions of Chapter 23. If however a completed vehicle theft would have been regarded as petty such punishment shall not be imposed.</p>

<p>Trends:</p>	<p>The number of police recorded car crimes in Sweden, here defined as car theft and theft out of and from motor vehicle, has decreased in the 2000:s and in particular since 2002. The numbers in 2009 was 23,700 car thefts and 73,600 thefts from and out of motor vehicles¹.</p> <p>The average decrease of the car thefts was 9 percent between 2002 and 2009. Both the accomplished and the attempted car crimes have reached its lowest levels since today's system of crime statistics was introduced in 1975. The development of theft out of and from vehicles has basically been parallel to the development of car thefts. Figures from the Swedish crime survey shows that more or less all car thefts are reported to the police, and about 65 percent of all thefts from and out of motor vehicles.</p> <p>The major explanation behind the decrease in the number of car thefts is supposed to be the legislation that was introduced in 1998 due to the EU Directive 95/96/EC. The legislation impose that all new cars would be equipped with electronic ignition lock, so called immobilizer. All new cars and a growing part of all the cars are therefore difficult to steal without access to the right key, that is necessary to unlock the immobilizer. The risk of having ones car stolen also depends on the car brand and to some extends on where in the country the owner of the car lives. The relative risk in Sweden, for example, is higher for the ones who own a Mazda, Ford or Saab. The risk is, however, considerable low for any car produced in 1998 or later, irresistible of the brand.</p> <p>Over 90 percent of all stolen cars are retrieved. The police clearance rate is, despite this, low. In 2009 the clearance rate for the police recorded car thefts was 16 percent and for recorded thefts from and out of motor vehicles 5 percent. The low clearance rates are due to the low rate of interaction between the perpetrator and the crime victim. But the clearance rates have increased somewhat during the 2000:s compared to before.</p> <hr/> <p>¹ 82,000 inclusive thefts from bicycle, boat and business transportation.</p>
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