

## **ANALYSIS OF PROPERTY CRIME COMMITTED BY ADULTS WITH REFERENCE TO THEFTS FOR THE PERIOD 2011-2020**

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### **Abstract**

The topic of this paper is property crime in the Republic of North Macedonia with reference to thefts for the period 2011-2020. First of all, it defines the term property crime and its basic characteristics and emphasizes the importance of determining its movement over a period of 10 years through the analysis of data from relevant institutions such as the State Statistics Office. These data show the volume and dynamics of the total registered property crime, the comparative ratio of reported, accused and convicted adults who have committed property crimes, the comparative ratio of property crime in total crime as well as the comparative ratio of reported adult perpetrators of the crime of theft (Article 235 and 235-a of the Criminal Code) with reported adult perpetrators of property crimes in general.

The paper with tables and comments shows the percentage of participation of property crimes in total crime in general, the percentage of participation of thefts in total property crime, as well as a presentation of the trend of decreasing the number of property crimes from year to year for the researched period 2011- 2020 year. The data confirms the thesis that the most numerous property crimes are primarily thefts (Articles 235, 235-a and 236 of the Criminal Code).

*Keywords:* theft, aggravated theft, theft of electricity, property crimes.

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### **Introduction**

There are many definitions of property crime that try to explain the term from different aspects, especially from the criminal - legal aspect. So the basic term of property is understood in the same sense in which it is defined by property law as "a set of subjective civil rights that belong to the subject of the law (the legal or natural person), the right to property, other rights to things and more."<sup>1</sup>

Property crimes are one of the most prevalent and numerous crimes in total criminality, both in the world and in our country. Due to such a placement of property crime in crime in general, this scientific paper will treat the movement of the total number of reported perpetrators of property crimes with a special reference to the crimes of theft (serious theft - Article 236 of the Criminal Code of RSM, theft - Article 235 of the Criminal Code of RSM and theft of electricity, thermal energy or natural gas - Article 235 - a of the CC of RNM).

<sup>1</sup> Kambovski, V., Tupanchevski, N. (2011), „Penalty Law – separate part“ Skopje.

## Movement of Property Offenses For The Period 2011-2020

Table No. 1. Volume and dynamics of the total registered property crimes among adult perpetrators of property crimes (according to Chapter 23 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of North Macedonia) for the period 2011-2020<sup>2</sup>

Year	Total reported persons for property crimes	Total reported theft offenders	Percentage of theft participation in the total number of reported cases	Total reported for electricity theft	Percentage of participation in electricity theft	Total reported for aggravated theft	Percentage of participation in aggravated theft	Total reported for the crime of robbery	Robbery participation rate	Total reported adults for fraud	Fraud participation rate
2011	21956	4993	22,74%	/	/	14468	65,89%	497	2,26%	916	4,17%
2012	22292	6527	29,27%	/	/	13235	59,37%	434	1,94%	937	4,20%
2013	24595	7224	29,37%	/	/	14982	60,91%	465	1,89%	858	3,48%
2014	25745	7501	29,13%	362	1,40%	15605	60,61%	432	1,67%	723	2,80%
2015	15856	4164	26,26%	565	3,56%	9204	58,04%	243	1,53%	738	4,65%
2016	12262	3527	28,76%	759	6,18%	6215	50,68%	163	1,32%	616	5,02%
2017	12816	4180	32,61%	580	4,52%	6301	49,16%	277	2,16%	576	4,49%
2018	11491	3238	28,17%	622	5,41%	5630	48,99%	269	2,34%	664	5,77%
2019	11146	3173	28,46%	646	5,79%	5551	49,80%	248	2,22%	630	5,65%
2020	10178	2645	25,98%	610	5,99%	5359	52,65%	171	1,68%	532	5,22%
<b>Total</b>	<b>168337</b>	<b>47172</b>	<b>28,02%</b>	<b>4144</b>	<b>2,46%</b>	<b>96550</b>	<b>57,35%</b>	<b>3199</b>	<b>1,90%</b>	<b>6917</b>	<b>4,10%</b>

<sup>2</sup> Source: State Statistics Office of the Republic of North Macedonia

Table No.1 presents the total number of reported adult offenders who have committed property crimes as well as the most common crimes that belong to property crimes, and also shows the percentage representation of the reported perpetrators of the most numerous property crimes in the total number of reported property crimes. According to table 1, it is evident that the total number of reported perpetrators for the researched time period 2011-2020 records a trend of constant, uneven, decrease in the number with the exception of 2012, 2013 and 2014 where the initial number of 21,956 (for 2011) increases at 22,292 (for 2012), 24,956 (for 2013) and 25,745 (for 2014). In 2015, in contrast to 2014, the total number decreased by 9,889 properties or percentage by 38.41%, and compared to 2011, percentage, decrease by 45.04%. Since 2015, the number of registrate cases has been constantly decreasing, with minor exceptions. In 2020, the number of reported adult offenders is 10,178, that is, in contrast to 2011, there is a decrease in the number of 11,778 offenses or, expressed as a percentage, a decrease of 53.64%. According to the tabular presentation, the number of reported adult perpetrators who committed the crime of aggravated theft is the most numerous and percentage-wise the most represented in the total number of reported property crimes. The number of reported cases for this work shows the same trend as for the total number of reported cases, which is the trend of decreasing the number of reported cases within the examined time period. In 2011, 14,468 delinquents were reported for this crime. In 2012, that number decreased by 1,233, or expressed in percentage value, a decrease of 8.52%. In 2013, the number recorded growth, in total for that year there were 14,982 registrations, and the peak for this work was in 2014 when we recorded 15,605 registrations. In 2015, that number was 9,204, that is, it decreased by 6,401, or expressed in percentage value, a decrease of 41.01% compared to 2014, and compared to 2011, it recorded a decrease of 5,264 or a decrease of 36.38%. The downward trend in the reported number continues in 2016 with a number of 6,215, which represents 2,989 less or expressed in percentage value, a decrease of 32.47%. In 2017, 2018 and 2019, we noted an uneven decrease in the number of reported cases of aggravated theft. In 2020, that number is 5,359 or in percentage value, an increase of 62.95% compared to 2011. The percentage of participation of those reported for serious thefts in the total number of reports is constant, with several oscillations, a decline, and the highest representation was recorded in 2011 with 65.89%. It was the least represented in 2018, and in 2020 it was represented by 52.65%. In the crime of theft in 2011, we recorded 4,993 registered perpetrators.

In 2012, 2013 we note an increase in the number, and in 2014 it reaches the peak in relation to the entire researched period and that is 7,501 registered, in percentage terms it is 33.43% more than in 2011. In 2015, the number recorded a drop of 44.48% compared to 2014. In 2016, in contrast to 2015, the number of people reported for the crime of theft decreased by 637, expressed in percentages 15.29% less. In 2017, unlike the number of registered offenders in 2016, it increased by 653, that is, the total number of registered offenders for that year is 4,180 adult offenders. In 2018 and 2019, the number decreases, and in 2020 it amounts to 2,645, which represents 2,348 less reported than in 2011, or expressed in percentage value, a decrease of 47.02%. According to the tabular representation, the percentage of participation of persons reported for the crime of theft in the total number of persons reported for property offenses for the entire investigated period ranges from 20 to 30% in almost all years. In 2011 it was 22.74%, in three years it was almost identical, around 29%, namely 2012 (percentage of participation for this year was 29.27%), 2013 (29.37%), 2014 (29.13%) year, and only in 2017 it recorded the highest percentage of participation, 32.61%. In 2020 it is 25.98%. According to table 1, there is no adequate correlative movement for those reported for the crime of theft of electricity or

natural gas, as well as the movement of the total number of reported property crimes. That is, in contrast to the tendencies shown above to decrease the number of total reported perpetrators of property crimes, here we note a tendency to increase the number from year to year. In 2014, this crime registered 362 reports, in 2015, the number of reports increased to 565, and it reached its peak in 2016 with 759 reports. Shown with a percentage value for 52.30% more reported in 2016 than in 2014. In 2017, the number of applications for this work decreased by 23.58% compared to 2016. In 2018 and 2019, there was a slight increase. In 2020, the total number of registered persons for this work is 610, which represents 248 registered persons more than in 2014, or expressed in percentage value, an increase of 38.75%. The increasing trend follows the percentage of participation in total property crime for this crime. So the percentage is constantly increasing, where in 2014 it was 1.40%, in 2015 it increased to 3.56%, and in 2016 that percentage was the highest, 6.18%. In 2017, the percentage of participation recorded a slight drop to 4.52, but then that percentage grew, so in 2018 we recorded a percentage of 5.41% participation, in 2019 5.79% and in 2020 5.99%. According to the tabular representation of the crime of fraud, it is evident that for the investigated time period the number of total reported cases, with occasional irregularities, is decreasing. In 2011, we recorded a number of 911 registrations, and the highest number for this work was in 2012, with 937. According to the table, in 2013 we recorded a slight decrease in registrations by 79 in contrast to 2012, or expressed in percentage value, less by 8.43%, and compared to 2011, it is 58% less or a drop of 6.33%. From 2014 to 2019, we note a constant, uneven, decline in the total number of applications, and in 2020 that number is 532.

The total number in 2020, unlike the total number in 2011, is lower by 384 or a percentage drop of 41.92%. The percentage of participation in this work in the total number of applications for the researched period increases with several oscillations in some years, which represents a different opposite tendency than the participation in most previously mentioned works. In 2011, the share of this work was 4.17%, we recorded the lowest share in 2014, 2.80%, with slight ups and downs over the years. In 2020, that percentage increases by almost twice as much as in 2014 and amounts to 5.22%. According to the tabular representation of the crime of robbery for the researched period, we note a decrease in the number of reported cases over the years. In 2011, the total number of reports for this work, and also the largest for the entire examined period, is 497 and it decreases slightly until 2014 (432 reports in 2014). In 2015, 243 were reported, which represents a drop from 254 reported in contrast to 2011, or expressed in percentage, decreased by 51.10%. The lowest number exists in 2016, 163 registered, and in 2020, 171, which represents 326 less registered, i.e. a drop of 69.59% compared to the total number of registered in 2011. The percentage of participation of this offense in the total reported property offenses for the researched period, uneven, decline, so in 2011 it was 2.26%, in 2016 we recorded the lowest of 1.32%, and in 2020 the participation of this offense in the total number of reported property crimes is 1.68%. From table 1, we can summarize that for the researched period, the total number of reported delinquents who committed property crimes was 168,337. According to the tabular representation, the highest percentage of participation, 57.35% of the total number of registered persons, records the total number of registered persons for the crime of aggravated theft, which is 96,550. The second most prevalent crime is theft with 47,172 reported persons or in percentage 28.02% of the total number of reported cases, in third place is the crime of fraud with 6,917 reported cases or in percentage value represented 4.10% of the total number of reported cases, in fourth place the first place is the theft of electricity with 4,144 reported or as a percentage shown

2.46% of the total number of reported and in fifth place the property offense of robbery with a total of 3,199 reported or as a percentage shown 1.90% of the total number of reported perpetrators of property offenses.

### **Reported, Accused and Convicted Perpetrators Of Property Offenses For The Period 2011-2020**

Table no.2. Comparative ratio of reported, accused and convicted adults who committed property crimes for the period 2011-2020 in the Republic of North Macedonia.

Year	Total reported adult perpetrators of property crimes	Basic index	Total accused	Basic index	Total convicted adult perpetrators of property crimes	Basic index
2011	21956	1	4501	1	3850	1
2012	22292	1,01	4263	0,94	3652	0,94
2013	24595	1,12	4822	1,07	4073	1,05
2014	25745	1,17	4585	1,01	3965	1,02
2015	15856	0,72	4863	1,08	4296	1,11
2016	12262	0,55	3745	0,83	3370	0,87
2017	12816	0,58	2745	0,60	2427	0,63
2018	11491	0,52	2582	0,57	2339	0,60
2019	11146	0,50	1984	0,44	1812	0,47
2020	10178	0,46	1792	0,39	1631	0,42

Table no. 2 presents data on the total number of reported, accused and convicted adult perpetrators of property crimes for the research period 2011-2020. From the tabular presentation, it can be observed that the total number of reported, accused and convicted records a non-permanent, decreasing trend. Thus, in 2012, the index of total reported adult delinquents who committed property crimes was 1.01 compared to the basic index, which represents an increase in the number by 336 or, expressed as a percentage, an increase of 1.05% compared to 2011. In 2013, the index of the reported perpetrators of property crimes was 1.12 compared to the basic index, which represents an increase in the number of reported by 2,369 or, presented in percentage value, an increase by 9.63% compared to 2011. The largest number of reported perpetrators of property crimes for the researched period was recorded in 2014, i.e. the basic index for that year is 1.17 compared to the basic index or an increase in the total number of

reported by 3,789 or expressed as a percentage increase by 14.71% in relation to 2011. Unlike the previous years, in 2015 the base index is below zero, that is, it is 0.72 compared to the base index, which represents a decrease in the total number of reported delinquents by 6,100 or, expressed as a percentage, an increase of 27.78% compared to 2011. In 2016, the index of the total number of applicants was 0.55 compared to the basic index, that is, a decrease in the number of applicants by 9,694, or expressed in percentage value, a decrease of 44.15% compared to 2011. From the tabular presentation, it can be concluded that in all other years, the index of the measured occurrence, in this case the total number of reported adult perpetrators of property crimes, constantly decreases in relation to the basic index, that is, it represents a constant decrease in the number of reported adult perpetrators of property crimes- torts in relation to 2011. The situation is almost identical among the accused and convicted adult perpetrators of property crimes for the investigated period 2011-2020.

### **Representation of Property Offenses in Total Crime**

Table No. 3. Comparative ratio of property crime in total crime for the period 2011-2020

Year	Total registered crimes	Basic index	Total registered property crimes	Basic index	Percentage of participation
2011	31284	1	21956	1	70,18
2012	31860	1,01	22292	1,01	69,96
,2013	34436	1,10	24595	1,12	71,42
2014	37164	1,18	25745	1,17	69,27
2015	26069	0,83	15856	1,17	60,82
2016	20502	0,65	12262	0,55	59,80
2017	20582	0,65	12816	0,58	62,26
2018	19779	0,63	11491	0,52	58,09
2019	20106	0,64	11146	0,50	55,43
2020	21104	0,67	10178	0,46	48,22
<b>Total</b>	<b>525772</b>		<b>336674</b>		<b>35,96</b>

From the data in table no.3, it can be noted that the total criminality shows a constant downward trend, except in 2012 (index units 1.01), 2013 (index units 1.10) and 2014 (index units 1.18). The situation is similar for property crimes, that is, from the attached data, a constant downward trend can be observed except in 2012 (index units 1.01), 2013 (index units 1.12), 2014 (index units 1.17) and 2015 (index units 1.17), with one difference that the rate of decline in property crimes is greater than the rate of decline in general crime. At the same time, we can notice that property

crime constantly records a decrease in the percentage of participation in the total registered crime, so in 2011 that percentage was 70.18%, and over the years it has decreased and in 2020 it is a percentage of 48.22%, and 35.96% is the average of the entire researched period.

Table no. 4. Comparative ratio of reported adult perpetrators of the crime of theft (Article 235 and 235-a of the Criminal Code) with reported adult perpetrators of property crimes in general

Year	Total reported perpetrators of property crimes	Basic index	Reported adult perpetrators of the crime of theft (Article 235 of the Criminal Code)	Base index and participation percentage %	Reported adult perpetrators of the crime of theft of electricity, thermal energy or natural gas (Article 235-a of the Criminal Code)	Base index and participation percentage %
2011	21956	1	4993	1, 22,74%	/	/
2012	22292	1,01	6527	1,30, 29,27%	/	/
2013	24595	1,12	7224	1,44, 29,37%	/	/
2014	25745	1,17	7501	1,50, 29,13%	362	1, 1,40%
2015	15856	0,72	4164	0,83, 26,26%	565	1,56, 3,56%
2016	12262	0,55	3527	0,70, 28,76%	759	2,09, 6,18%
2017	12816	0,58	4180	0,83, 32,61%	580	1,60, 4,52%
2018	11491	0,52	3283	0,65, 28,57%	622	1,71, 5,41%
2019	11146	0,50	3173	0,63, 28,46%	646	1,78, 5,79%
2020	10178	0,46	2645	0,52, 25,98%	610	1,68, 5,99%

Table No. 4 shows the total number of delinquents who committed property crimes in the researched period, as well as the comparative ratio of the total number of perpetrators of the crime of theft with the total number of those reported for property crimes. According to the table, it can be noted that the percentage participation of reported thefts by adult persons in property crime for the researched period has a cyclical trend of increase, which represents an identical trend in relation to the percentage participation of the crime of theft of electricity, thermal energy or natural gas in total property crime. Thus, the percentage of participation in the number of persons reported for the crime of theft in property crime grew from 22.74% in 2011 to 25.98% in 2020, and the percentage of participation in the crime of theft of electricity, heat energy or natural gas grew from 1.40% in 2011 to 5.99% in 2020. It is advisable to note that the basic index and the total number of reported delinquents who committed property crimes from year to year for the researched period shows a decrease in the number. So in 2011 that number was 21956 (index 1) and over the years it recorded a cyclical decline so that in 2020 it would be 10178 (index units 0.46), which means that in 2020 compared to 2011 the number of reported delinquents for property crimes decreased by 11,778 or in percentage value 53.64%. The downward trend in the number, as well as the basic index, is also followed by the data on the crime of theft for the researched period, so reported adult delinquents who committed the crime of theft in 2011 was 4993 (basic index 1) so that over the years there has been a steady decline in the number from 2645 (index units 0.52) in 2020. According to the above, the decrease in the number of reported delinquents who committed the crime of theft in 2011 compared to 2020 recorded a decrease of 2348 or in percentage value 47.02%. The percentage of the number of reported thefts in the total number of reported thefts also decreased. This is not the case with the total number of reported delinquents who committed the property crime of theft of electricity for the researched period, that is, with this crime we note a trend of cyclical increase in the base index and the number of reported cases. In 2014, the total number of people reported for theft of electricity was 362 people or basic index 1, and in 2020 610 people or basic index 1.68, which means that from 2014 in relation to 2020 the number of people reported for this crime increased by 248 or presented in percentage value an increase of 40.65%. The percentage of participation in this work is also increasing.

## **Conclusion**

Property crime committed by adult delinquents is particularly interesting for analysis because it is the most numerous and represented in total crime, unlike all other crimes in our country and in the world. The analysis of property crimes in the Republic of North Macedonia committed by adult offenders with special reference to the most numerous property crimes, namely thefts (Article 235 and Article 235-a of the Criminal Code) and aggravated thefts (Article 236 from the Criminal Code).

From the analysis of the data of the State Statistics Office of the Republic of North Macedonia, for the total reported, it was determined that aggravated theft is the most common crime in the total number of property offenses for the researched period 2011-2020 with 57.34%, in second place is the theft with 28.03% and in third place is the theft of electricity with 2.46%, this fact is worrisome because aggravated theft is a crime in which greater coercion is applied, unlike other thefts.



The scientific paper, through tabular presentation and comments, described the trend of decline in the number of property crimes over the years, as well as the decline in the percentage of participation of property crime in total crime for the researched period 2011-2020 year.

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