

**Csenge Judit Vizi**

geographer, Lechner Knowledge Center (Budapest, Hungary)

e-mail: judit.csenge.vizi@lechnerkozpont.hu

**Crime statistics in Hungary are reassuring****Abstract**

Compared to 2010, in 2018 62% less high-profile crimes occurred in Hungary. According to the data, over the course of eight years, the number of high-profile crimes dropped from 242,000 to 93,000 annually at national level. The following article analyzes the detailed data of the Preventive Crime Statistics Database (PRE-STAT), developed and operated by Lechner Knowledge Center with the support of the National Crime Prevention Council. Based on the crime prevention application it can be stated that in most Hungarian townships theft is the most frequent crime.

**Keywords:** crime statistics, geography, crime prevention, crime

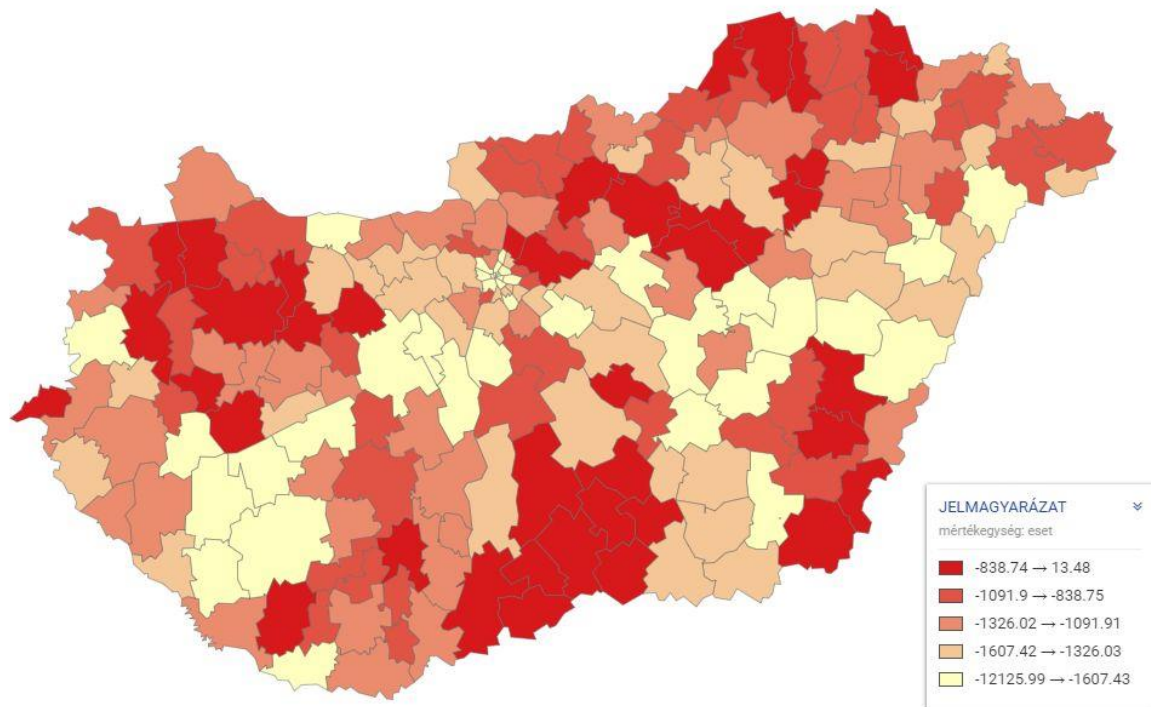
The data in the public PRE-STAT modules covers the time period from January 2010 to December 2018. The crime statistics data are from the Unified Criminal Investigation and Prosecution Crime Statistics System (ENyÜBS) of Hungary. The current analysis includes data from more than eight years. Combining criminal data with the National Territorial Development and Spatial Planning Information System (TeIR) provides a more accurate picture of the progress of statistics.

In this article, we present the change in high-profile crime's rate, accounting for about half of all registered crimes in Hungary. During the period under review, the number of national cases decreased by 62%. From Hungarian criminal-statistical point of view, the offenses dealt with priority are the crimes shown in the figure below (Figure 1):

crimes against property	crimes against life, physical integrity and health	crimes against public peace, trust, child and family
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• motor vehicle theft</li><li>• depredation</li><li>• theft</li><li>• possession of stolen goods</li><li>• frontier justice</li><li>• robbery</li><li>• vandalism</li><li>• bribery</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• homicide</li><li>• assault</li><li>• possession of drugs</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• breach of peace</li><li>• endangering a minor</li><li>• human trafficking</li></ul>

**Figure 1: High-profile crimes**

In order to compare regions with different populations, it is more appropriate to look at the number of high-profile crimes per 100,000 inhabitants, rather than absolute case numbers, as shown by the map below for each townships (figure 2). Positive changes are shown in yellow, stagnant areas in orange, and minimal decrease and increase in red.

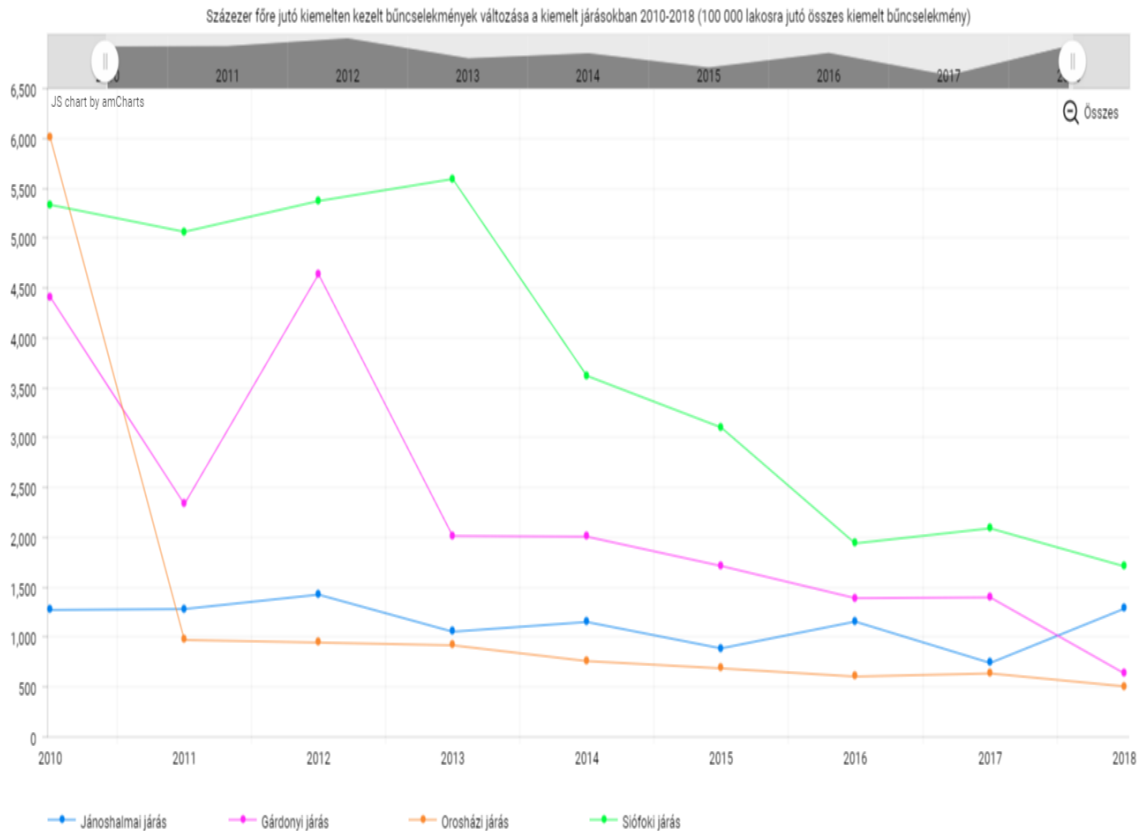


**Figure 2: Change in the number of high-profile crimes per 100,000 inhabitants per townships between 2010 and 2018**

Source: PRE-STAT

Among the counties the values improved significantly in the Fejér and Komárom-Esztergom counties and in the Central Hungarian region during the eight-year period. In contrast, in the counties of Northern Hungary and with the exception of Csongrád County, the incidence of registered high-profile crimes only slightly decreased.

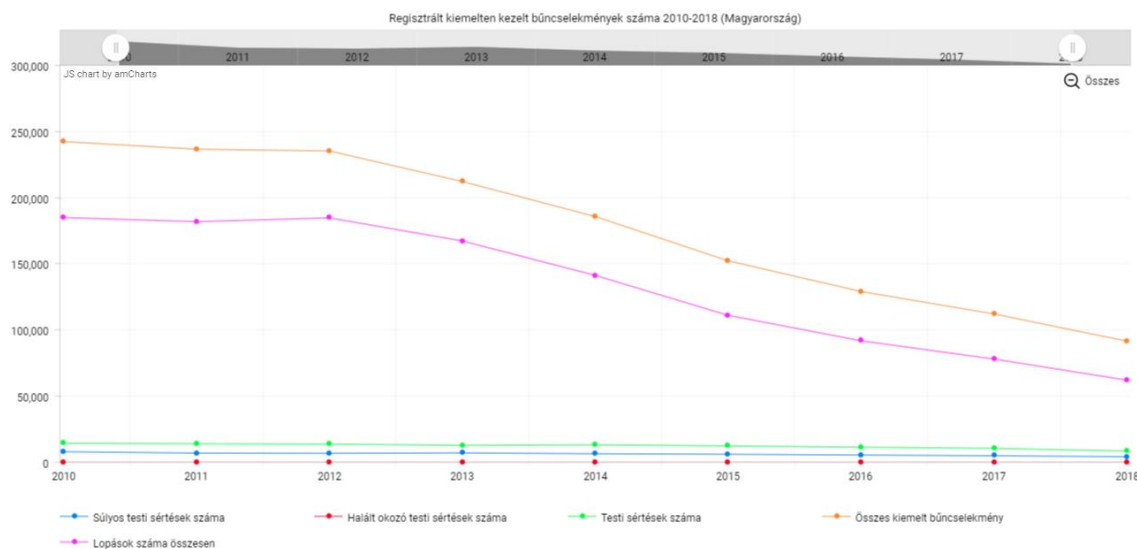
Examining the townships, the most favorable change is the decrease of crime rate in Orosháza township by 91%, Hajdúhadházi township by 89% and Gárdonyi township by 86% between 2010 and 2018. The most unfavorable change, ie the increase in the number of cases per hundred thousand inhabitants, was produced by the Jánoshalma township, but there was only 1% growth (Figure 3). In the other townships, the number of high-profile crimes per 100,000 inhabitants did not increase during the period under review.



**Figure 3: Change in the number of high-profile crime per 100,000 inhabitants in four Hungarian townships between 2010 and 2018**

Source: PRE-STAT

Crimes against property are predominant in most townships in Hungary. The most frequent crime is theft (67%), followed by assault (14%) and breach of peace (10%). The rarest types of high-profile crimes are human trafficking and homicide, with values not exceeding 1% of high-profile crime in any year (Figure 4).



**Figure 4: Change in the proportion of high-profile crime cases among all high-profile crime cases between 2010 and 2018**

Source: PRE-SAT

The number of high-profile crimes in the capital of Hungary relapsed from 68,000 to 27,000. However, in Budapest there is a significant difference between the two sides of the Danube: 6,599 high-profile crimes were recorded on the Buda side in 2018 and 20,680 on the Pest side, a 52% decrease compared to 2010 on the Buda side, and even higher in Pest, a 62% decrease. In the districts of Budapest, the number of high-profile crimes per hundred thousand inhabitants decreased the most in the XXIII. district (89%), in the XIII. district (78%) and IV. district (69%). The number of cases decreased the least in the following districts: VI. district (37% decrease), in District VII. district (41% decrease) and VIII. district (48% decrease).

In addition to changes in the behavior of offenders and the effectiveness of the work of the police, and to measures taken in the field of crime prevention, changes in criminal statistics may also result from the changes introduced in the Criminal Code. Given that such an amendment is within the time frame under consideration, the relevant changes in the New Criminal Code entering into force on 1 July 2013 must be kept in mind when analyzing and interpreting the data. Another significant methodological information is that the values of the indicators included in the PRE-STAT system are displayed by the time of registration, which does not necessarily correspond to the time of committing. The data of ENYÜBS are related to crimes, so if, for example, a defendant commits several crimes with one act (for example, there are several victims), more crimes appear in the statistics.

**References**

National Territorial Development and Spatial Planning Information System (TeIR)

PRE-STAT system

Unified Criminal Investigation and Prosecution Crime Statistics System (ENyÜBS)

[www.lechnerkozpont.hu](http://www.lechnerkozpont.hu)

## Conditions of publishing

Length of paper: max. 40 000 characters with spaces

CGR is an English-language journal. Either US or British/Commonwealth English usage is appropriate for manuscripts, but not a mixture of these.

Word processing formats: MS Word (docx, doc)

Page layout size: A4

Font type: Times New Roman, font size: 12 pt.

Abstract: 200-300 words

Keywords: 4-6 maximum

References style in text: 10 pt, footnotes

References: at the end of the paper in alphabetical order (TAYLOR, Tom (2018))

Picture format: JPG

Authors name: main author must be underlined

Citation: APA format

### **Potential topics might include:**

- Crime and GIS
- Crime and analytical work
- Predictive policing
- Geographical features and crime
- Spatial criminalistic methods
- Criminology in spatial aspect

### **What kind of work we wait for?**

- Original articles
- Critical reviews
- Surveys
- Opinions

The journal is published only online version.

4 issues per year

**Peer review**

The CGR operates a single blind review process. All contributions will be initially assessed by the editor for suitability for the journal. Papers deemed suitable are then typically sent to a minimum of two independent expert reviewers to assess the scientific quality of the paper.

**Title page information**

Title should be informative, please avoid abbreviations.

Author names: Be kind clearly indicate the given name(s) and family name(s) of each author. Provide the e-mail address, work of place and academic or scientific title.

For example:

Tom Taylor Ph.D. assistant professor

University of London (England)

tom.taylor@gmail.com

We do not accept papers with poor English!

Please do not use highlights in your paper.

**Impresszum / Impressum**

*Kiadó / Publisher:* Magyar Rendészettudományi Társaság Bűnözésföldrajzi Tagozat /  
Hungarian Association of Police Science Criminal Geographical Section

*Cím / Address:* 1089 Budapest, Diószeghy Sámuel u. 38-42.

*A kiadásért és szerkesztésért felelős személy /* Responsibles for publishing and editing:

Dr. Mátyás Szabolcs / Dr. Szabolcs Mátyás

*Kapcsolat / Contacts:* [criminalgeography@gmail.com](mailto:criminalgeography@gmail.com)

*web:* [www.rendeszet.hu](http://www.rendeszet.hu)