

## CORRUPTION STATISTICS 2015

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[Source: Kuritegevus Eestis. Kriminaalpoliitika uuringud 22. Justiitsministeerium.

<http://www.kriminaalpoliitika.ee/et/kuritegevus-eestis-2015>]

The number of corruption crimes has increased by 21% compared with 2014; a total of 450 crimes were registered. No significant changes were observed in the registration of corruption crimes. 2015 showed a large number of repeated crimes committed by the same individuals. 77 criminal cases are related to registered crimes, that is 11 less than last year. Therefore, while the number of crimes increased compared with 2014, the number of related criminal cases decreased.

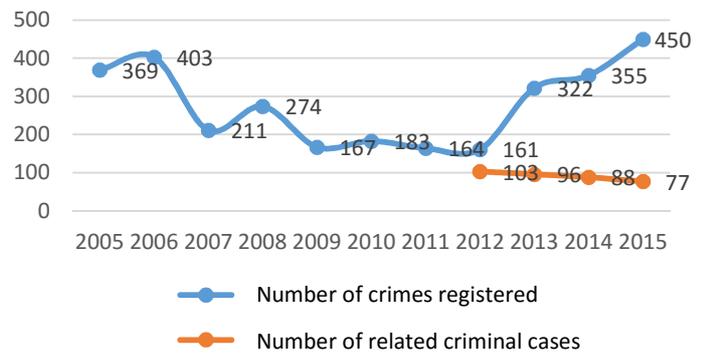
Although the number of crimes has grown, drawing any conclusions about the level of corruption from the above-mentioned figures is complicated, as several crimes involve the same individuals and events. Two extensive criminal cases represent already 30% of all the registered crimes, 70 and 67 registered crimes, respectively. It is also necessary to consider the logic of statistical data collection, according to which, for example, a bribery case in the event of a driving test is registered as three crimes: giving a bribe, accepting a bribe and arranging a bribe.

On 1 January last year were enforced the Penal Code provisions for giving and accepting bribes in the private sector (Penal Code §§ 402<sup>3</sup> and 402<sup>4</sup>). 45 private sector corruption crimes were registered in 2015, all of them being related to the construction industry.

In 2015, the greatest number of crimes was registered in relation to roadworthiness tests – 28% of all the cases registered. A great deal of bribery cases related to roadworthiness tests were registered also in previous years, for example, 52 crimes were registered in 2014 and 25 crimes in 2011. The three areas most prone to corruption in 2015 were areas related to vehicle registration, roadworthiness tests and right to drive, meaning that 64% of the cases relate to the direct actions of the Road Administration or to actions under supervision of the Road Administration. A year earlier, such cases involving the Road Administration represented about 20%.

However, in 2015, most of the criminal cases were brought in the areas of local government (e.g., cases

**The number of corruption crimes has increased over the past years, while the number of criminal cases related to corruption crimes has decreased.**



**Figure 1.** The number of corruption crimes registered and the number of related criminal cases

**The greatest number of crimes were registered in relation to roadworthiness tests, while the greatest number of criminal cases were initiated in the local government area.**

where a local government official misappropriated the local government's property) and law enforcement (e.g., cases where a police officer accepts a bribe), 17 and 16, respectively.

2015 will be remembered for an extensive corruption case (70 crimes registered) where a Road Administration employee was paid a bribe for administering the pre-registration roadworthiness tests for vehicles and for registering the vehicles in the Traffic Register.

Another similar case, though less extensive, relates to roadworthiness tests, where vehicles were not inspected or a pass record was made on the registration certificate of a vehicle that was not in good technical condition (67 cases registered). Likewise, the third most extensive criminal case was also related to vehicles, more precisely to the administration of driving tests (58 cases registered). In total, 91 crimes related to driving tests were registered, and they concerned two criminal cases.

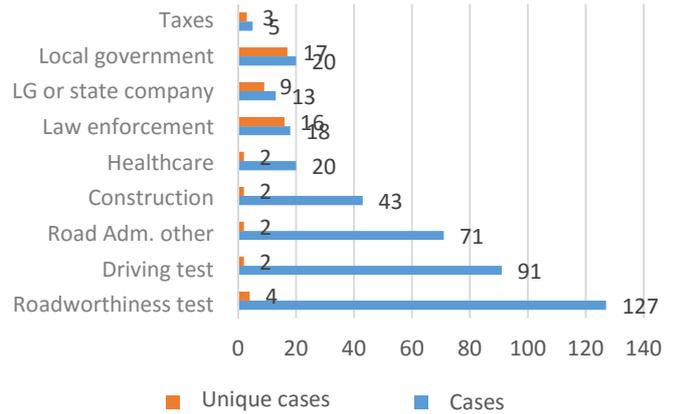


Figure 2. Areas prone to corruption

Similar to previous years, the greatest number of corruption crimes were registered in 2015 in the North region, followed by rather different number of crimes in South and East regions. By comparison, in 2014 more corruption related crimes were registered in the East region, but this was due to one extensive (52 different criminal episodes) bribery case related to roadworthiness tests.

In 2015, most of the crimes registered in the North region were related to roadworthiness tests (89 cases) and to the initial registration of vehicles with the Road Administration (70 cases). In the South area, too, 63% of the cases were related to roadworthiness tests.

Great proportion of such crimes in the North region can be explained by its large population and by the bigger share of economic operation in this region.

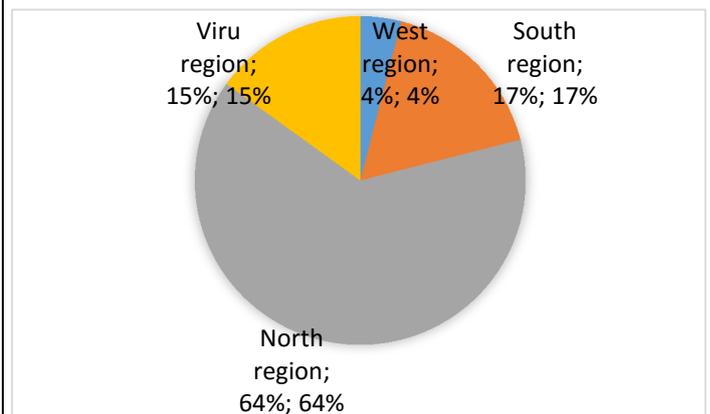
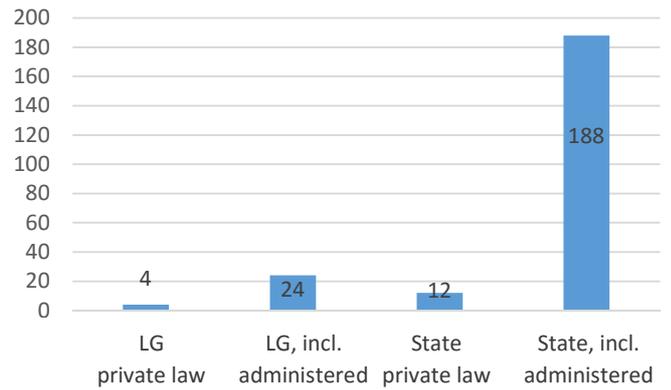


Figure 3. Regional distribution of corruption crimes

A total of 188 crimes were registered at state level, generally within the Road Administration's domain, and 24 corruption crimes at local government level. However, state level crimes do not include crimes related to roadworthiness tests because while they are under the state's supervision, the state itself does not directly perform the roadworthiness tests. 63% of the persons committing corruption crimes at local government level held a managerial position (municipality mayor, assistant municipality mayor,

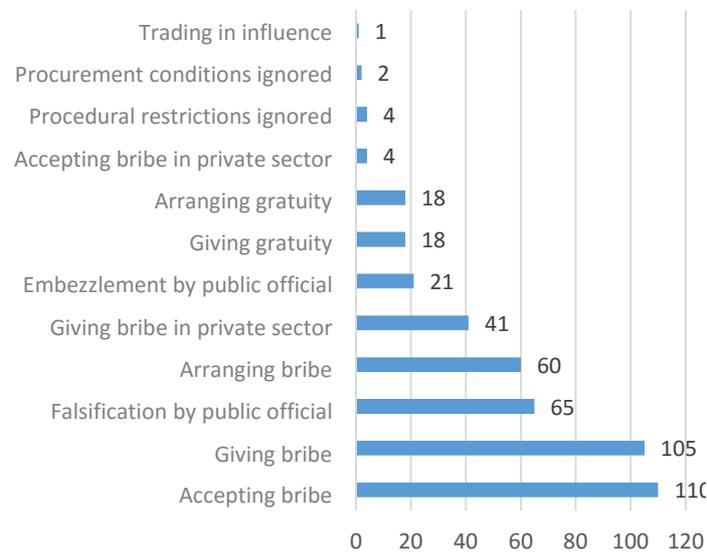
**The greatest number of crimes were registered at state level.**

head of department), the crimes were inherently different and the majority were related to embezzlement or bribe acceptance by a public official. At state level, though, those holding a managerial position represented 1%. However, it must be borne in mind that the state level crimes were extensive ones, involving the same individuals in the case of several crimes.



**Figure 4.** Occurrence of corruption crimes at state and local government agencies

The Penal Code provisions on gratuities were repealed with effect from 1 January 2015. This does not mean that giving gratuities is permitted, but these crimes are treated as bribery crimes<sup>1</sup>. Consequently, the most common corruption crimes are accepting and giving bribes, which represent 48% of all corruption crimes. Third place goes to falsification of documents by officials (65 cases), of which 35 are once again related to roadworthiness tests. Compared with 2014, the number of embezzlement cases has decreased by more than a half (48 and 21 cases, respectively), and this year, too, the majority of the cases were concerned with a situation where a public official used the agency's property or budgetary means for their own benefit, in three cases an trustee in bankruptcy misappropriated the property of a company entrusted to them for the benefit of a third party they were connected to.



**Figure 5.** Types of corruption crimes

<sup>1</sup> A few crimes of giving and accepting gratuities, committed in 2014, were registered in 2015.