

France amongst worst European countries for car thefts

There are 261 car thefts per 100,000 people a year in France, on average

- **Italy** tops the list for car theft rates, with **276 thefts per 100,000** people per year - equivalent to **455 car thefts** reported per day, on average
- However, **France** has the highest number of thefts per day (**474**) - equivalent to **261 thefts per 100,000 people**, on average
- **Denmark** is the safest country for vehicle owners with just **5 thefts per 100,000 people** each year on average
- Confused.com car insurance expert, **Alex Kindred**, offers his advice on keeping your vehicle safe, to help bring down your insurance cost

France has the fourth-highest car theft rate across Europe, with an average of 261 thefts per 100,000 people each year. This is according to the latest study by [Confused.com](https://www.confused.com) (Q4 2021), which reveals the **European countries with the highest car theft rate**. To do this, Confused.com has evaluated theft reports across the continent, and compared this to each country's population to find an average number of thefts per 100,000 people.

The results:

#	Country	Population	Total average car thefts per day	Total average car thefts per 100,000 people (per year) *
1	Italy	60,121,953	455	276
2	Czechia	10,569,149	79	274
3	Sweden	9,837,072	72	266
4	France	66,345,247	474	261
5	Greece	10,873,451	76	255
6	Netherlands	16,982,720	94	201
7	United Kingdom	64,863,492	272	153
8	Cyprus	860,391	4	149
9	Belgium	11,267,201	45	145
10	Luxembourg	569,529	2	142
11	Finland	5,467,319	21	139
12	Portugal	10,391,899	36	125
12	Ireland	4,729,517	16	125
13	Norway	5,168,202	16	112
14	Switzerland	8,262,252	19	85
14	Austria	8,638,330	20	85
15	Spain	46,707,129	101	79

**All figures represent annual averages from 2011-2019*

France is the fourth worst country in Europe for car theft

With **261 thefts per 100,000 people on average**, France ranks as the fourth worst country in Europe for car theft. In comparison to their central European neighbours – this is a shocking **267% more thefts each year than Germany** (71 per 100,000 people), and **205% more than Switzerland**, who place 14th with 85 thefts per 100,000 people each year.

The worst countries in Europe for car theft

[Confused.com](https://www.confused.com) can reveal that **Italy** has the highest car theft rate in Europe, averaging **276 thefts per 100,000** people each year. When compared to countries with a similar population size, this is a staggering 80% more than the **United Kingdom** (**153 thefts per 100,000 people**), and 5% more than **France** (**261 thefts per 100,000 people**.)

With an average of **274 thefts per 100,000 people**, **Czechia** has been revealed as the second worst country in Europe for car theft. Despite having a population 84% smaller than **Italy** who rank first (**276 thefts per 100,000**), Czechia has just 0.7% less car thefts per 100,000 people each year.

Sweden follows behind Czechia as the third worst country for car theft, with **266 thefts per 100,000 people** on average

each year. When compared to their Scandinavian neighbours, Sweden experiences **91%** more thefts per 100,000 people each year than **Finland (139 per 100,000)**, and a staggering **138%** more thefts than **Norway**, who average **112 per year**.

Greece is the fifth most unsafe country when it comes to car theft, with **255 thefts per 100,000** people each year. This is just a 7% decrease to the number of thefts Czechia experiences on average each year, despite Greece's population being 2% larger.

France has the highest number of thefts per day

When broken down to thefts per day, it is France that tops the list. According to the data, there are **474** reports of car theft per day, on average. This breaks down to 20 thefts each hour, and three every minute.

Italy comes in second place with **455 thefts per day**, followed by the **United Kingdom** in third (**272**) and **Germany** in fourth (**159**).

Denmark has the least amount of car thefts each year

With just **five car thefts per 100,000 people each year**, Danish car owners are the least likely to experience a car theft amongst all Europeans. This is a 98% decrease from France's 261 thefts per 100,000 people.

Romania has the second lowest amount of car thefts each year on average, with just **14 per 100,000 people**. This is followed by **Liechtenstein and Croatia**, both averaging **22 thefts per 100,000 people each year** – a 91% decrease from France (261).

Alex Kindred, Car Insurance expert at [Confused.com](https://www.confused.com), comments: "Unfortunately car theft takes place every day throughout Europe, therefore it's important that we ensure our cars are safe. By safeguarding our cars with effective security measures, such as steering wheel locks and alarms, we may decrease the risk of theft and a potential claim that may follow.

"Our guide to car safety outlines some of the most effective ways of keeping your car secure. One of our top recommendations is having your car vehicle identification number (VIN) etched on each of the windows, as this means thieves will have to pay to replace the glass. Additionally, when parking your car, leave it in gear with the wheels turned toward the curb. This makes it more difficult for thieves to tow your vehicle. Having these measures in place will not only reduce the risk of your car being stolen, but could help in keeping your car insurance costs low too."

ENDS

Notes to editors:

- 1) [Confused.com](https://www.confused.com) conducted this study to identify the European countries with the highest car theft rate. The study evaluates car thefts in relation to each country's population size.
- 2) First, car theft rates and population estimates were collected from [Eurostat](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat) for years [2011 - 2019](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat).
- 3) The data collected was then aggregated by population to calculate the average number of car thefts per 100,000 inhabitants.
- 4) Results were then ranked in descending order, to identify the countries with the highest theft rate per 100,000 inhabitants.
- 5) The annual thefts were then divided by 365 to estimate the number of thefts per day. This was rounded up to the nearest whole number.
- 6) All data was collected in November 2021 and is accurate as of then.

About Confused.com

Launched in 2002, Confused.com was the UK's first digital marketplace for car insurance and is one of the leading brands in the sector, generating over one million quotes per month. It has expanded its range of comparison products over the years to include home insurance, van insurance, motorcycle insurance, and car finance comparison, as well as a number of tools designed to save consumers money.

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