

CRIME AND JUSTICE

Recorded Crime in Scotland: August 2021

This Official Statistics bulletin presents information on the number of crimes and offences recorded by the police in Scotland during August 2021. It also includes a comparison with the equivalent month of the previous two years.

These Official Statistics were introduced from April 2020 to inform users about the volume and type of crimes and offences recorded in Scotland during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Whilst the restrictions put in place to limit the spread of the virus will have had an impact on the number of crimes and offences recorded by the police, some caution is advised before necessarily attributing all of the changes to this situation. For example, longer term trends in some types of offending, which existed prior to the pandemic, may remain a factor.

The annual [Recorded Crime in Scotland bulletin](#) remains the primary source of information on crimes and offences recorded by the police, and has been designated as National Statistics by the Office for Statistics Regulation. The most recent update, covering the 2019-20 reporting year, was published on 29th September 2020. The 2020-21 reporting year will be published on 28th September 2021.

Statistics on crimes and offences recorded by the police provide a measure of the volume of criminal activity with which the police are faced. Crimes recorded by the police do not reveal the incidence of all crimes committed as not all crimes are reported to the police.

Summary

The police in Scotland recorded 19,071 crimes in August 2021. This was 4% lower than the 19,921 crimes recorded in the same month of 2020 (when pandemic restrictions were in place) and 8% lower than the 20,730 crimes recorded in the same month of 2019 (for which there was no pandemic or restrictions on movement).

In August 2021:

- Non-sexual crimes of violence were 4% lower compared to August 2020 (decreasing from 828 to 791 crimes), and 2% higher compared to August 2019 (increasing from 775 to 791 crimes).
- Sexual crimes were 4% higher compared to August 2020 (increasing from 1,091 to 1,130 crimes), and relatively unchanged compared to August 2019 (increasing from 1,128 to 1,130 crimes).
- Crimes of dishonesty were 1% higher than August 2020 (increasing from 8,118 to 8,177 crimes), and 11% lower than in August 2019 (decreasing from 9,159 to 8,177).
- Fire-raising, vandalism etc. was 4% lower compared to August 2020 (decreasing from 3,948 to 3,786 crimes), and was also 4% lower than in August 2019 (decreasing from 3,963 to 3,786).
- Other crimes were 13% lower compared to August 2020 (decreasing from 5,936 to 5,187 crimes), and 9% lower than in August 2019 (decreasing from 5,705 to 5,187).
- Fewer crimes were recorded by police in 19 (59%) out of 32 local authorities, compared to August 2020.

The number of offences recorded by the police in Scotland in August 2021 was 20,314. This is 7% lower than the 21,847 offences recorded in the same month of 2020 (when pandemic restrictions were in place) and 6% lower than the 21,725 offences recorded in the same month of 2019 (for which there was no pandemic or restrictions on movement).

In August 2021:

- Miscellaneous offences decreased by 10% compared to August 2020 (decreasing from 12,375 to 11,160), and decreased by 2% compared to August 2019 (decreasing from 11,407 to 11,160).
- Motor vehicle offences were 3% lower compared to August 2020 (decreasing from 9,472 to 9,154), and 11% lower compared to August 2019 (decreasing from 10,318 to 9,154).

As outlined above, the annual Recorded Crime in Scotland bulletin remains the primary source of information on crimes and offences recorded by the

police in Scotland, including longer-term analysis of changes to each of the crime and offence groups detailed above.

Main findings

Crimes recorded by the police

In August 2021, the police recorded 19,071 crimes. This was 4% lower (or 850 crimes) than the 19,921 crimes recorded in the same month of 2020 (when pandemic restrictions were in place) and 8% lower than the 20,730 crimes recorded in the same month of 2019 (for which there was no pandemic or restrictions on movement). There were variations in the year-on-year trends between different crime types. However, with the exception of Non-sexual crimes of violence and Sexual crimes, all groups were lower than pre-pandemic levels (August 2019) ([Table 1](#), [Chart 1](#)).

In August 2021:

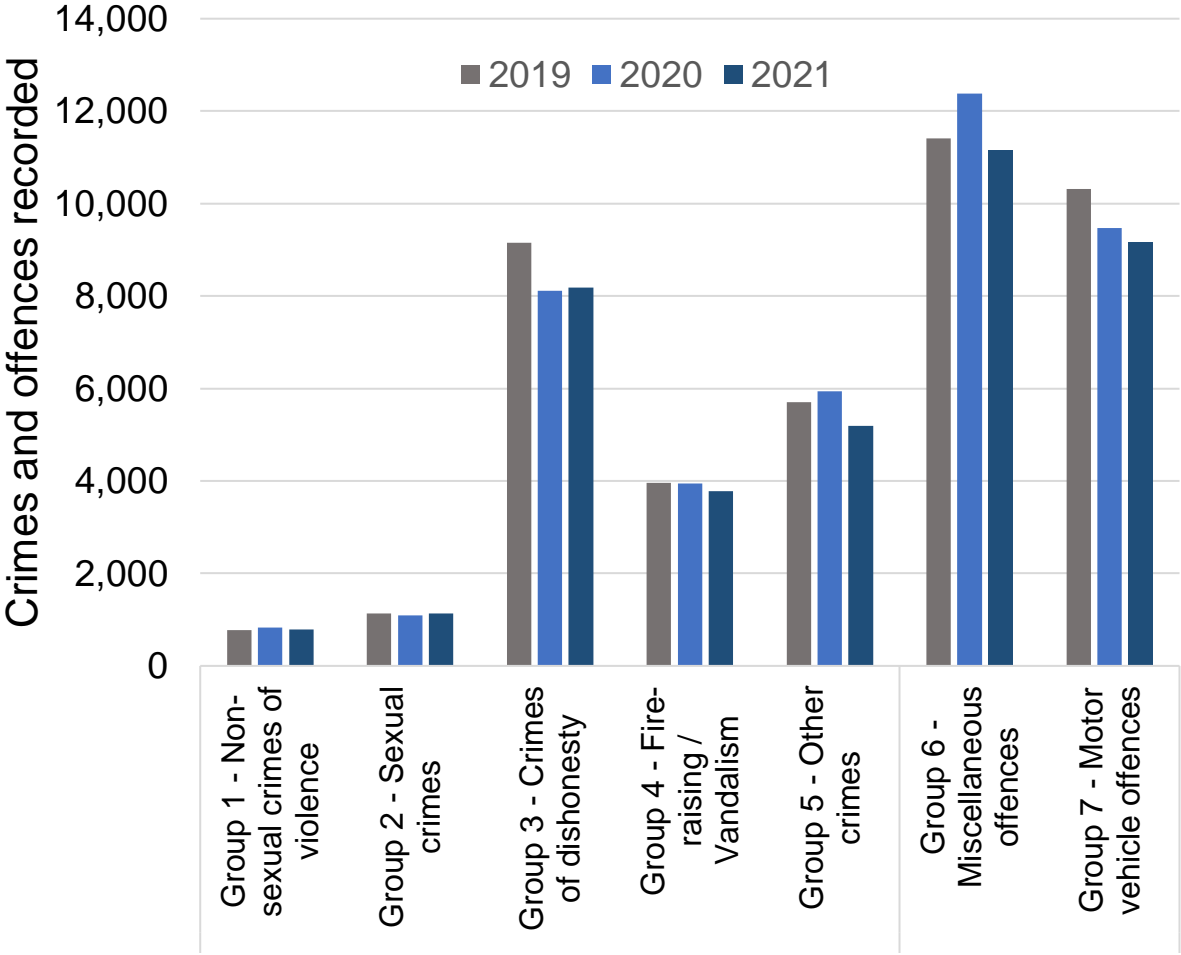
- Non-sexual crimes of violence were 4% lower compared to August 2020 (decreasing from 828 to 791 crimes), and 2% higher compared to August 2019 (increasing from 775 to 791 crimes). Within this, Attempted murder and serious assault decreased by 19% compared to August 2020 (from 396 to 319), and decreased by 6% from August 2019 (from 340 to 319 crimes). Other violence increased by 32% compared to August 2020 (from 162 to 214) and increased by 71% from August 2019 (from 125 to 214). The increase in Other violence was mainly due to a rise in Threats and extortion, with the possibility that many of these crimes were cyber enabled. This possibility will be explored in more depth in the National Statistics which will be published later this month. Crimes under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 increased by 10% compared to August 2020 (from 122 to 134), but were 7% lower than in August 2019 (decreasing from 144 to 134).
- Sexual crimes were 4% higher (or 39 crimes) compared to August 2020, increasing from 1,091 to 1,130 crimes. This was relatively unchanged from August 2019 (increasing from 1,128 to 1,130 crimes). Sexual assault saw the largest increase since August 2020, increasing by 15% (from 356 to 411). However, this was 13% lower than in August 2019. Other sexual crimes decreased by 8% compared to August 2020 (from 567 to 522). However this was an 11% increase compared to August 2019 (from 470 to 522). The rise in Other sexual crimes since 2019 was driven by crimes including Communicating indecently, Coercing a person into being present/looking at sexual activity and Voyeurism, with many of these crimes likely to be cyber enabled. Rape and attempted rape increased by 15% compared to August 2020, from 164 to 189 crimes, but this was also a 13% decrease compared to August 2019 (from 216 to 189 crimes).
- Crimes of dishonesty were 1% higher (or 59 crimes) compared to August 2020, increasing from 8,118 to 8,177 crimes. This was 11% lower than in August 2019 (decreasing from 9,159 to 8,177). Crimes of

Fraud have increased throughout the pandemic. There has been a 4% increase since August 2020 (from 1,354 to 1,404), and a 62% increase since August 2019 (from 866 to 1,404). The [Changes in levels of recorded fraud](#) section below provides users with further background on what may be contributing to this change. Housebreaking saw the largest decrease by volume since August 2020, falling 15% (from 881 to 748 crimes), and is 27% lower than August 2019 (decreasing from 1,030 to 748 crimes).

- Fire-raising, vandalism etc. was 4% lower (162 fewer crimes) compared to August 2020, decreasing from 3,948 to 3,786 crimes. This was also 4% lower than in August 2019. Vandalism etc. has fallen 5% since August 2020 (decreasing by 190 crimes from 3,752 to 3,562). This is 6% lower than August 2019 levels.
- Other crimes were 13% lower (or 749 crimes) than in August 2020, decreasing from 5,936 to 5,187 crimes. This is also 9% lower than August 2019 (decreasing from 5,705 to 5,187 crimes). The main contributors to these decreases were Drugs (which fell by 17% compared to August 2020 and 28% compared to August 2019) and Crimes against public justice (which fell by 13% compared to August 2020 but were 11% higher compared to August 2019).

Chart 1. Crimes and offences recorded by the police, by crime group, August 2019, 2020 and 2021

Chart: each category shows columns from left to right for August 2019, 2020 and 2021



Offences recorded by the police

In August 2021, the police recorded 20,314 offences. This is 7% lower (down 1,533 offences) than the 21,847 offences recorded in the same month in 2020, and 6% lower than in August 2019 (decreasing from 21,725 to 20,314 offences). Miscellaneous offences decreased by 10% compared to August 2020, and by 2% compared to August 2019. Motor vehicle offences decreased by 3% compared to August 2020, and were 11% lower than in August 2019, as detailed below ([Table 2](#)).

In August 2021:

- Miscellaneous offences decreased by 10%, from 12,375 to 11,160 offences since August 2020, and decreased by 2% compared to August 2019 (decreasing from 11,407 to 11,160). The largest decrease since August 2020 was in Breach of the peace etc. (which decreased by 14% from 4,991 to 4,298 offences), and were 6% lower than in August 2019. Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct decreased by 15% compared to August 2020 (from 601 to 511 offences), and levels decreased by 3% from August 2019 (from 525 to 511 offences).
- Motor vehicle offences were 3% lower compared to August 2020 (or 318 offences), decreasing from 9,472 to 9,154 offences, and were 11% lower than August 2019 levels. The main contributors to the decrease since August 2020 by volume were Unlawful use of vehicle (which decreased by 4%, from 2,904 to 2,781) and Vehicle defect offences (which decreased by 19%, from 646 to 523 offences), and this is 10% and 6% below August 2019 levels, respectively. Other motor vehicle offences saw the biggest increase compared to August 2020 (rising by 8%, from 1,867 to 2,019 offences), however this was 1% lower than August 2019 levels.

Local Authorities

Compared to August 2020, a decrease in recorded crime was seen in 19 (59%) out of 32 local authorities, with 10 showing an increase ([Table 3](#)). The largest decrease was seen in South Lanarkshire (down 20%) and the largest increase was in Shetland Islands (up 50%). It should be noted that the relatively small number of crimes recorded in some of Scotland's local authorities can fluctuate over time - leading to large percentage changes. This is particularly relevant in this release, where monthly data is being presented rather than the annual information provided in the National Statistics.

The biggest contributors by volume to the overall decrease in crimes recorded by the police were Glasgow City (down 11%, or 386 crimes), South Lanarkshire (down 20%, or 256 crimes) and North Lanarkshire (down 8%, or 123 crimes).

April 2019 to August 2019 and April 2020 to August 2020 compared with April 2021 to August 2021

Overall, in April 2021 to August 2021 the police recorded 95,832 crimes, a reduction of 3% (or 2,688 crimes) compared to the equivalent period of the previous year (98,520 crimes) ([Table 4](#)). This was 10% lower (or 10,537 crimes) than the same period in 2019 (106,369 crimes). The biggest drivers of the decrease by volume since 2020 were Drugs (down 17%, or 2,730 crimes) and Housebreaking (down 22%, or 987 crimes). When compared with 2019, the biggest drivers of the reduction in volume were Shoplifting (down 34%, or 4,698 crimes), Other theft (down 22%, or 4,020 crimes) and Drugs (down 17%, or 2,680 crimes). The largest increase since 2020 by volume was Vandalism etc. (up 6%, or 969 crimes). Compared with 2019, the largest increase by volume was seen in Fraud (up 69%, or 2,995 crimes).

Over the same period, the number of offences recorded by the police was 1% higher (or 1,032 offences) than in 2020, with Miscellaneous offences decreasing by 2% and Motor vehicle offences increasing by 5% (or 2,408 offences) ([Table 5](#)). Compared to 2019 offences decreased by 6% (or 6,883 offences), with Miscellaneous offences decreasing by 3% (1,528 offences) and Motor vehicle offences decreasing by 10% (or 5,355 offences).

Changes in levels of recorded fraud

Fraud was 4% higher (or 50 crimes) in August 2021 than in August 2020, but 62% higher (or 538 crimes) than in August 2019. Further to the note of caution provided in the introduction to these statistics, there are two reasons why some care is advised before attributing all of this change to the specific circumstances of the COVID-related lockdown.

The first is that the [Recorded Crime National Statistics](#) have highlighted an increasing trend in recorded fraud over a number of years (up 73% between 2014-15 and 2019-20), which may be continuing. The second is that a procedural change was made in April 2020 to how some crimes of fraud (and other types of crime which could involve a victim and a perpetrator in different physical locations) are recorded. This is likely to have had an impact when comparing figures for fraud which fall before and after the April 2020 change.

Prior to the 1st April 2020, these statistics excluded any crime with a victim in Scotland and a perpetrator who was confirmed by the police to be outside the United Kingdom when the crime took place. Following a recommendation by Her Majesty's Chief Inspectorate for Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) to review recording practice in this area¹, the Scottish Crime Recording Board approved a change so that from the 1st April these crimes are now included in the statistics. It should be noted that those cases with only a suspicion or insufficient evidence to confirm that the perpetrator was outside the UK were always included.

This change is likely to have led to additional crimes of fraud being recorded, with a similar impact possible for other types of crime which could be committed using digital technologies. At this stage we are unable to say to what extent this procedural change has increased levels of recorded fraud, though the 2020-21 National Statistics (to be published on the 28th September) will provide users with an estimate of the number of additional crimes that were recorded as a result of this change.

¹ <https://www.hmics.scot/publications/crime-audit-2016>

Crimes recorded under coronavirus legislation

It is important to note that these Official Statistics currently exclude crimes recorded under coronavirus legislation such as the [Coronavirus Act 2020](#) and [Health Protection \(Coronavirus\) \(Restrictions\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2020](#). These were implemented on 25th March and 27th March 2020, respectively, and resulted in new crimes being recorded - for example where someone, who had left the place they were living, did not have a reasonable excuse for this when asked by a police officer, and failed to comply with police advice or instruction to return there.

Given the rapid pace of these changes, Police Scotland have used an interim and bespoke data collection to capture information on the number of new crimes recorded under the coronavirus legislation. This is why figures for this legislation are currently presented separately to the overall totals provided for recorded crime in this bulletin. The bespoke data collection suggests that 10 such crimes were recorded during August 2021. This month's figure is lower than the previous month and the lowest since August 2020 (see [Table A](#) below). This is likely to be due to decreased levels of enforcement due to the relaxation of restrictions in recent months. Users should treat these figures as broadly indicative, and may be subject to further revision in future releases. In due course the annual National Statistics will include this activity within the overall crime total for Scotland.

Table A: Number of crimes recorded under coronavirus legislation, April 2020 to August 2021

Month	Number of crimes recorded
2020	
April	2,741
May	1,654
June	219
July	17
August	21
September	189
October	588
November	1,811
December	1,540
2021	
January	3,473
February	4,199
March	3,573
April	2,221
May	1,434
June	163
July	45
August	10

Tables

Table 1: Crimes recorded by the police, Scotland, August 2019, 2020 and 2021 13

Table 2: Offences recorded by the police, Scotland, August 2019, 2020 and 2021 15

Table 3: Crimes recorded by the police by local authority, Scotland, August 2019, 2020 and 2021 16

Table 4: Crimes recorded by the police, Scotland, April to August 2019, 2020 and 2021 17

Table 5: Offences recorded by the police, Scotland, April to August 2019, 2020 and 2021 19

Notes for these tables

- The symbol 'n/r' is used to denote where a percentage change figure is not reported. This is done if the denominator is less than ten as any resulting figure may be misleading.
- Please note that tables 1, 2, 4 and 5 can be accessed at local authority level online via the following link: [Recorded Crime in Scotland: August 2021](#)

Table 1: Crimes recorded by the police, Scotland, August 2019, 2020 and 2021

Crime group	August 2019	August 2020	August 2021	% change since August 2020	% change since August 2019
Total crimes¹	20,730	19,921	19,071	-4%	-8%
Non-sexual crimes of violence	775	828	791	-4%	2%
Homicide etc.	8	10	5	-50%	n/r
Attempted murder & serious assault	340	396	319	-19%	-6%
Robbery	158	138	119	-14%	-25%
Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018	144	122	134	10%	-7%
Other violence	125	162	214	32%	71%
Sexual crimes	1,128	1,091	1,130	4%	0%
Rape & attempted rape	216	164	189	15%	-13%
Sexual assault	439	356	411	15%	-6%
Crimes associated with prostitution	3	4	8	n/r	n/r
Other sexual crimes	470	567	522	-8%	11%
Crimes of dishonesty	9,159	8,118	8,177	1%	-11%
Housebreaking	1,030	881	748	-15%	-27%
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	142	112	109	-3%	-23%
Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP	226	162	143	-12%	-37%
Theft of a motor vehicle	382	355	380	7%	-1%
Shoplifting	2,570	1,852	1,967	6%	-23%
Other theft	3,614	3,036	3,133	3%	-13%
Fraud	866	1,354	1,404	4%	62%
Other dishonesty	329	366	293	-20%	-11%
Fire-raising, vandalism etc.	3,963	3,948	3,786	-4%	-4%
Fire-raising	191	196	224	14%	17%
Vandalism etc.	3,772	3,752	3,562	-5%	-6%
Other crimes	5,705	5,936	5,187	-13%	-9%
Crimes against public justice	1,727	2,210	1,919	-13%	11%
Handling offensive weapons	774	953	944	-1%	22%
<i>Not used in other criminal activity</i>	322	411	423	3%	31%
<i>Used in other criminal activity</i>	452	542	521	-4%	15%
Drugs	3,187	2,766	2,305	-17%	-28%
Other	17	7	19	n/r	12%

1. The total figure for recorded crime excludes the new crimes being recorded under the recently enacted coronavirus legislation. Please see the [Crimes recorded under coronavirus legislation section](#) for more information.

Table 2: Offences recorded by the police, Scotland, August 2019, 2020 and 2021

Crime group	August 2019	August 2020	August 2021	% change since August 2020	% change since August 2019
Total offences	21,725	21,847	20,314	-7%	-6%
Miscellaneous offences	11,407	12,375	11,160	-10%	-2%
Common assault	5,028	5,241	5,020	-4%	0%
Breach of the peace etc.	4,555	4,991	4,298	-14%	-6%
Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct	525	601	511	-15%	-3%
Urinating etc.	177	125	137	10%	-23%
Other miscellaneous offences	1,122	1,417	1,194	-16%	6%
Motor vehicle offences	10,318	9,472	9,154	-3%	-11%
Dangerous and careless driving	957	1,072	1,141	6%	19%
Driving under the influence	512	770	676	-12%	32%
Speeding	2,688	1,783	1,698	-5%	-37%
Unlawful use of vehicle	3,103	2,904	2,781	-4%	-10%
Vehicle defect offences	559	646	523	-19%	-6%
Seat belt offences	265	261	172	-34%	-35%
Mobile phone offences	195	169	144	-15%	-26%
Other motor vehicle offences	2,039	1,867	2,019	8%	-1%

Table 3: Crimes recorded by the police by local authority, Scotland, August 2019, 2020 and 2021

Local authority	August 2019	August 2020	August 2021	% change since August 2020	% change since August 2019
Aberdeen City	906	979	1,078	10%	19%
Aberdeenshire	591	534	542	1%	-8%
Angus	358	324	366	13%	2%
Argyll & Bute	235	245	239	-2%	2%
Clackmannanshire	243	220	209	-5%	-14%
Dumfries & Galloway	559	491	556	13%	-1%
Dundee City	889	872	817	-6%	-8%
East Ayrshire	458	456	420	-8%	-8%
East Dunbartonshire	207	224	192	-14%	-7%
East Lothian	311	318	332	4%	7%
East Renfrewshire	176	174	165	-5%	-6%
Edinburgh City	2,871	1,908	1,856	-3%	-35%
Falkirk	612	551	471	-15%	-23%
Fife	1,052	1,241	1,257	1%	19%
Glasgow City	3,415	3,498	3,112	-11%	-9%
Highland	616	563	584	4%	-5%
Inverclyde	331	265	321	21%	-3%
Midlothian	362	312	314	1%	-13%
Moray	195	233	229	-2%	17%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	34	24	31	29%	-9%
North Ayrshire	555	588	516	-12%	-7%
North Lanarkshire	1,432	1,502	1,379	-8%	-4%
Orkney Islands	35	41	39	-5%	11%
Perth & Kinross	403	429	426	-1%	6%
Renfrewshire	618	667	612	-8%	-1%
Scottish Borders	304	303	359	18%	18%
Shetland Islands	39	24	36	50%	-8%
South Ayrshire	372	444	371	-16%	0%
South Lanarkshire	1,277	1,278	1,022	-20%	-20%
Stirling	338	286	264	-8%	-22%
West Dunbartonshire	404	400	329	-18%	-19%
West Lothian	532	527	627	19%	18%
Scotland¹	20,730	19,921	19,071	-4%	-8%

1. The total figure for recorded crime excludes the new crimes being recorded under the recently enacted coronavirus legislation. Please see the [Crimes recorded under coronavirus legislation section](#) for more information.

Table 4: Crimes recorded by the police, Scotland, April to August 2019, 2020 and 2021

Crime group	April to August 2019	April to August 2020	April to August 2021	% Change since 2020	% Change since 2019
Total crimes¹	106,369	98,520	95,832	-3%	-10%
Non-sexual crimes of violence	3,947	3,757	3,976	6%	1%
Homicide etc.	59	39	39	0%	-34%
Attempted murder & serious assault	1,876	1,577	1,596	1%	-15%
Robbery	680	730	672	-8%	-1%
Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018	709	640	654	2%	-8%
Other violence	623	771	1,015	32%	63%
Sexual crimes	5,703	5,201	5,898	13%	3%
Rape & attempted rape	1,013	900	1,028	14%	1%
Sexual assault	2,178	1,579	2,027	28%	-7%
Crimes associated with prostitution	26	16	32	100%	23%
Other sexual crimes	2,486	2,706	2,811	4%	13%
Crimes of dishonesty	47,789	40,081	39,119	-2%	-18%
Housebreaking	5,333	4,471	3,484	-22%	-35%
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	744	500	528	6%	-29%
Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP	1,209	1,001	794	-21%	-34%
Theft of a motor vehicle	2,065	1,866	1,873	0%	-9%
Shoplifting	13,829	8,487	9,131	8%	-34%
Other theft	18,225	14,612	14,205	-3%	-22%
Fraud	4,365	6,960	7,360	6%	69%
Other dishonesty	2,019	2,184	1,744	-20%	-14%
Fire-raising, vandalism etc.	20,433	17,704	18,790	6%	-8%
Fire-raising	1,183	1,096	1,213	11%	3%
Vandalism etc.	19,250	16,608	17,577	6%	-9%
Other crimes	28,497	31,777	28,049	-12%	-2%
Crimes against public justice	8,240	11,076	10,142	-8%	23%
Handling offensive weapons	4,226	4,648	4,573	-2%	8%
<i>Not used in other criminal activity</i>	1,912	2,153	2,024	-6%	6%
<i>Used in other criminal activity</i>	2,314	2,495	2,549	2%	10%
Drugs	15,942	15,992	13,262	-17%	-17%
Other	89	61	72	18%	-19%

1. The total figure for recorded crime excludes the new crimes being recorded under the recently enacted coronavirus legislation. Please see the [Crimes recorded under coronavirus legislation section](#) for more information.

Table 5: Offences recorded by the police, Scotland, April to August 2019, 2020 and 2021

Crime group	April to August 2019	April to August 2020	April to August 2021	% Change since 2020	% Change since 2019
Total offences	109,779	101,864	102,896	1%	-6%
Miscellaneous offences	56,917	56,765	55,389	-2%	-3%
Common assault	24,887	22,622	24,061	6%	-3%
Breach of the peace etc.	22,494	23,306	21,750	-7%	-3%
Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct	2,909	3,259	2,676	-18%	-8%
Urinating etc.	1,033	499	510	2%	-51%
Other miscellaneous offences	5,594	7,079	6,392	-10%	14%
Motor vehicle offences	52,862	45,099	47,507	5%	-10%
Dangerous and careless driving	4,868	4,844	5,464	13%	12%
Driving under the influence	2,588	3,739	3,383	-10%	31%
Speeding	13,769	8,711	10,201	17%	-26%
Unlawful use of vehicle	16,092	15,725	15,300	-3%	-5%
Vehicle defect offences	3,044	2,706	2,493	-8%	-18%
Seat belt offences	1,540	925	862	-7%	-44%
Mobile phone offences	1,184	816	666	-18%	-44%
Other motor vehicle offences	9,777	7,633	9,138	20%	-7%

Annexes

Annex 1: Background

As outlined on page one, these monthly Official Statistics have been introduced to inform users about the volume and type of crimes and offences recorded in Scotland during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Their role is to provide more recent information on this topic - in a product that has been produced by Scottish Government statisticians, in line with the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#).

Scottish Government statisticians will continue to publish these bulletins each month. In due course, the Scottish Crime Recording Board (which oversees the production of Official Statistics on recorded crime in Scotland) will review whether this process should continue, including user feedback on the value of these statistics.

The annual [Recorded Crime in Scotland](#) bulletin remains the primary source of information on crimes and offences recorded by the police, and has been designated as National Statistics by the Office for Statistics Regulation. The most recent update, covering the 2019-20 reporting year, was published on 29th September 2020. Users should refer to the National Statistics for more detailed information on the production of the recorded crime statistics - including governance arrangements, a description of their quality, background methodologies and changes to recording practice.

Annex 2: Data Sources

Since 2013-14, the National Statistics on Recorded Crime in Scotland have been produced using data extracted from a single Police Scotland IT system called the Scottish Operational and Management Information System (ScOMIS). This data is then provided to the Scottish Government for the production of the National Statistics.

In 2019, Police Scotland developed a new data repository called the Source for Evidence Based Policing (SEBP). The intention is that this will, in due course, become the official source of information for the recorded crime National Statistics, replacing ScOMIS.

A preliminary review, looking at how changing from ScOMIS to SEBP impacts on the production of the Recorded Crime National Statistics, suggested that there is good alignment between both of these administrative systems.

Before the Scottish Crime Recording Board (SCRB) approved this transition, a final confirmatory check of the full 2019-20 reporting year was carried out. This involved a comparison of trends in recorded crimes, offences and clear up

rates for all local authorities and Scotland as a whole between 2018-19 and 2019-20. A technical report detailing the results of this analysis and highlighting any implications for data interpretation will be published in due course.

In order to produce the new monthly Official Statistics included in this bulletin in the necessary shorter time frames, the information supplied by Police Scotland has been extracted from SEBP. As such, the figures provided in this publication use a different source from the most recent National Statistics on Recorded Crime in Scotland – and are therefore not directly comparable (notwithstanding the findings noted above that there is good alignment between the two systems).

In addition, amendments to crime and offence records will always arise after data has been submitted by Police Scotland to the Scottish Government. Some crime or offence records may, on further investigation by the police, be redesignated to not constitute a crime or offence (a process known as ‘no-criming’). In other cases the original crime or offence may be re-classified, which could shift the record between different crime or offence groups (for example if a common assault was found on further investigation to be a serious assault it would switch from Group 6 Miscellaneous Offences to Group 1 Non-sexual Crimes of Violence).

The August 2021 data for this bulletin was extracted in September 2021. In order to compare on a like-for-like basis, data used for comparison was taken from the August 2020 bulletin published last year, which was extracted in September 2020. Since there was a relatively short time frame for amendments to have been made to the information for both bulletins, this information is likely to be subject to change as time passes. In contrast, information for August 2019 was extracted in September 2020. As more than a year had passed since the crimes were originally recorded and the vast majority of amendments were likely to have taken place, this data is unlikely to change. Some caution should therefore be taken in interpreting the changes between years, as outlined in these monthly bulletins, which should be seen as providing a broad indication of changes over the period in volumes and types of specific crimes and offences.

The annual National Statistics for 2019-20 and 2020-21 (when published) will provide the most robust source of information on crimes recorded by the police, and how these have changed over time.

For further background information (e.g. classification of Crimes and Offences and comparisons with England & Wales and Northern Ireland) please see Annex 1 in the latest National Statistics on Recorded Crime in Scotland: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/recorded-crime-scotland-2019-2020/>

Annex 3: Feedback

We are always keen to hear users' views on our products and as this is a new series of monthly recorded crime publications we would welcome feedback. If you have any comments or suggestions please contact us at:

Justice_Analysts@gov.scot.

An Official Statistics publication for Scotland

Official and National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Both undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs and are produced free from any political interference.

Correspondence and enquiries

For enquiries about this publication please contact:

Graeme Lloyd

Justice Analytical Services,

e-mail: Justice_Analysts@gov.scot

For general enquiries about Scottish Government statistics please contact:

Office of the Chief Statistician, Telephone: 0131 244 0442,

e-mail: statistics.enquiries@gov.scot

How to access background or source data

The data collected for this statistical bulletin:

- are available in more detail through statistics.gov.scot.
- some limited additional information may be made available on request, subject to consideration of legal and ethical factors. Please contact statistics.enquiries@gov.scot for further information.
- detailed information cannot be made available by Scottish Government for further analysis as Scottish Government is not the data controller.

Complaints and suggestions

If you are not satisfied with our service or have any comments or suggestions, please write to the Chief Statistician, GR, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG, Telephone: (0131) 244 0302, e-mail statistics.enquiries@gov.scot.

If you would like to be consulted about statistical collections or receive notification of publications, please register your interest at

[ScotStat Register: guidance - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot/guidance/scotstat-register)

Details of forthcoming publications can be found at www.gov.scot/statistics

ISBN 978-1-80201-389-4

Crown Copyright

You may use or re-use this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. See:

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/