

CRIME AND JUSTICE

Recorded Crime in Scotland: September 2021

This Official Statistics bulletin presents information on the number of crimes and offences recorded by the police in Scotland during September 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 edition, covering the 2020-21 reporting year, was 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 18,809 crimes in September 2021. This was 4% lower than the 19,684 crimes recorded in the same month of 2020 (when pandemic restrictions were in place) and 8% lower than the 20,405 crimes recorded in the same month of 2019 (for which there was no pandemic or restrictions on movement).

In September 2021:

- Non-sexual crimes of violence were 16% higher compared to September 2020 (increasing from 704 to 815 crimes), and 4% lower compared to September 2019 (decreasing from 851 to 815 crimes).
- Sexual crimes were 16% higher compared to September 2020 (increasing from 1,185 to 1,379 crimes), and 21% higher compared to September 2019 (increasing from 1,143 to 1,379 crimes).
- Crimes of dishonesty were 2% lower compared to September 2020 (decreasing from 8,139 to 8,010 crimes), and 11% lower than in September 2019 (decreasing from 8,980 to 8,010).
- Fire-raising, vandalism etc. was 5% lower compared to September 2020 (decreasing from 3,812 to 3,621 crimes), and 10% lower than in September 2019 (decreasing from 4,003 to 3,621).
- Other crimes were 15% lower compared to September 2020 (decreasing from 5,844 to 4,984 crimes), and 8% lower than in September 2019 (decreasing from 5,428 to 4,984).
- Fewer crimes were recorded by police in 19 (59%) out of 32 local authorities, compared to September 2020.

The number of offences recorded by the police in Scotland in September 2021 was 19,994. This is relatively unchanged from the 20,050 offences recorded in the same month of 2020 (when pandemic restrictions were in place) and 3% lower than the 20,686 offences recorded in the same month of 2019 (for which there was no pandemic or restrictions on movement).

In September 2021:

- Miscellaneous offences increased by 5% compared to September 2020 (increasing from 10,469 to 11,033), and is almost unchanged compared to September 2019 (decreasing from 11,036 to 11,033).
- Motor vehicle offences were 6% lower compared to September 2020 (decreasing from 9,581 to 8,961), and 7% lower compared to September 2019 (decreasing from 9,650 to 8,961).

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 September 2021, the police recorded 18,809 crimes. This was 4% lower (or 875 crimes) than the 19,684 crimes recorded in the same month of 2020 (when pandemic restrictions were in place) and 8% lower than the 20,405 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 Sexual crimes, all groups were lower than pre-pandemic levels (September 2019) ([Table 1](#), [Chart 1](#)).

In September 2021:

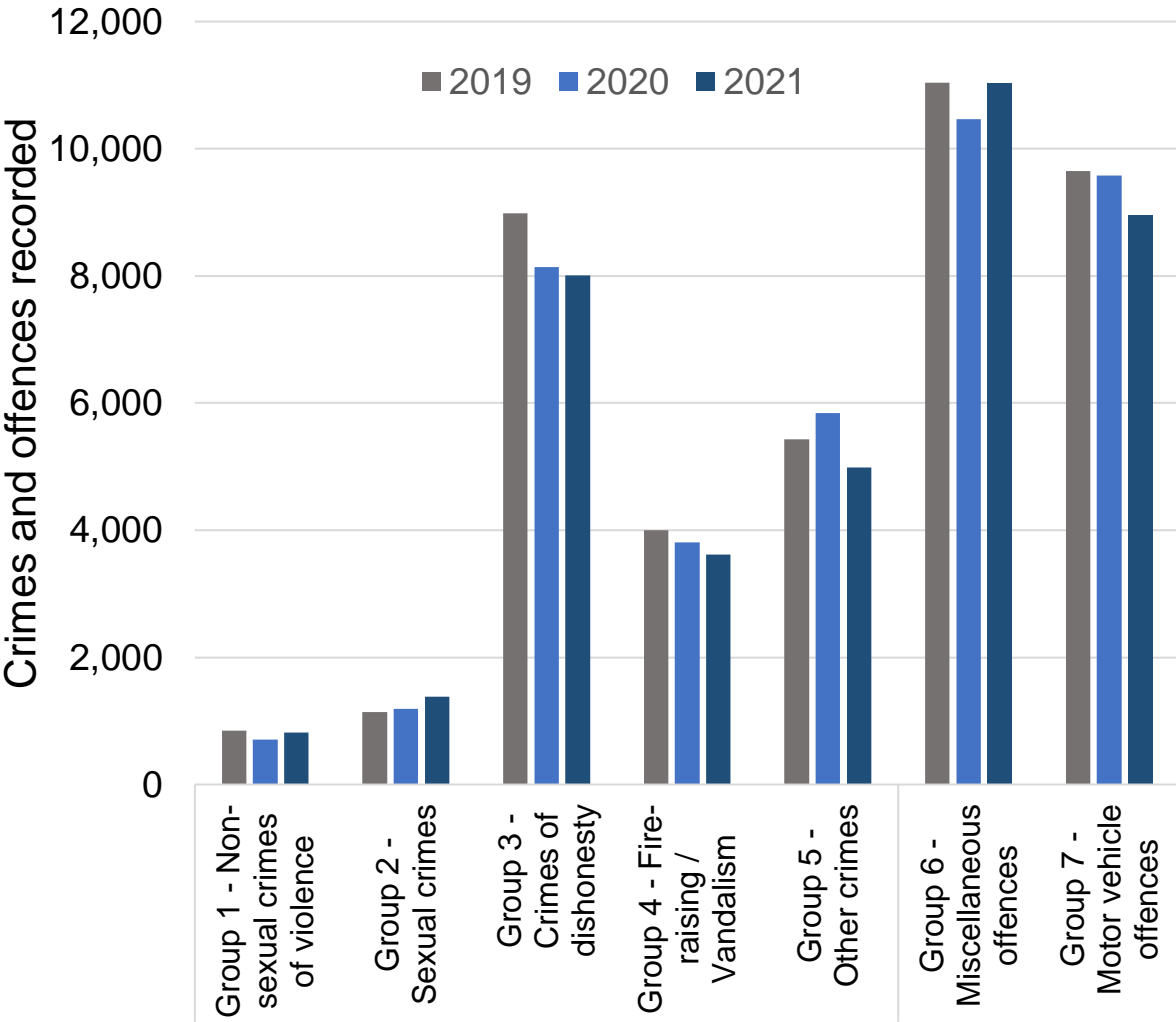
- Non-sexual crimes of violence were 16% higher compared to September 2020 (increasing from 704 to 815 crimes), and 4% lower compared to September 2019 (decreasing from 851 to 815 crimes). Within this, Attempted murder and serious assault increased by 6% compared to September 2020 (from 291 to 308), and decreased by 17% from September 2019 (from 372 to 308 crimes). Other violence increased by 29% compared to September 2020 (from 163 to 210) and increased by 23% from September 2019 (from 171 to 214). The increase in Other violence was mainly due to a rise in Threats and extortion, with the recently published National Statistics bulletin estimating that more than three-quarters (77%) of the crimes of this type recorded in 2020-21 were cyber-crimes. Crimes under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 increased by 39% compared to September 2020 (from 107 to 149), but were 2% lower than in September 2019 (decreasing from 152 to 149).
- Sexual crimes were 16% higher (or 194 crimes) compared to September 2020, increasing from 1,185 to 1,379 crimes, and were 21% higher (or 236 crimes) from September 2019 (increasing from 1,143 to 1,379 crimes). Other sexual crimes increased by 21% (from 539 to 654) compared to September 2020 and increased by 35% (from 486 to 654) compared to September 2019. 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, Disclosure of intimate images and Voyeurism. Research published in the recent 2020-21 Recorded Crime National Statistics showed that the majority of these crimes are likely to be cyber-crimes. Sexual assault increased by 20% compared to both September 2019 and 2020 (from 412 in September 2019 and 411 in September 2020, to 494 in September 2021). Rape and attempted rape decreased by 1%

compared to September 2020 (from 232 to 229 crimes), but increased by 2% compared to September 2019 (from 224 to 229 crimes).

- Crimes of dishonesty were 2% lower (or 129 crimes) compared to September 2020, decreasing from 8,139 to 8,010 crimes. This was 11% lower than in September 2019 (decreasing from 8,980 to 8,010). Crimes of Fraud have increased throughout the pandemic. Whilst there was a 3% decrease since September 2020 (from 1,367 to 1,328), there has been a 67% increase since September 2019 (from 797 to 1,328). The [Changes in levels of recorded fraud](#) section below provides users with further background on what may be contributing to this change. Shoplifting has been the biggest contributor (by volume) to the decrease since 2020 having fallen by 5% compared to September 2020 (from 1,948 to 1,859), and by 21% compared to September 2019.
- Fire-raising, vandalism etc. was 5% lower (or 191 crimes) compared to September 2020, decreasing from 3,812 to 3,621 crimes, and was 10% lower than in September 2019. Vandalism etc. has fallen 5% since September 2020 (decreasing from 3,581 to 3,404). This is 10% lower than September 2019 levels.
- Other crimes were 15% lower (or 860 crimes) than in September 2020, decreasing from 5,844 to 4,984 crimes. This is also 8% lower than September 2019 (decreasing from 5,428 to 4,984 crimes). The main contributors to these decreases were Drugs (which fell by 21% compared to September 2020 and 26% compared to September 2019) and Crimes against public justice (which fell by 11% compared to September 2020 but were 25% higher compared to September 2019).

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

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



Offences recorded by the police

In September 2021, the police recorded 19,994 offences. This is relatively unchanged (down 56 offences) from the 20,050 offences recorded in the same month in 2020, and 3% lower than in September 2019 (decreasing from 20,686 to 19,994 offences). Miscellaneous offences increased by 5% compared to September 2020, but remained almost unchanged compared to September 2019 with only 3 fewer offences. Motor vehicle offences decreased by 6% compared to September 2020, and by 7% compared to September 2019, as detailed below ([Table 2](#)).

In September 2021:

- Miscellaneous offences increased by 5%, from 10,469 to 11,033 offences since September 2020, and were relatively unchanged compared to August 2019 (decreasing from 11,036 to 11,033). All types of Miscellaneous offence increased since September 2020. The largest increase by volume was Common assault, which rose by 9% from 4,533 to 4,928 offences. Urinating etc. rose by 56% from 95 to 148 offences, but was still 32% lower than September 2019.
- Motor vehicle offences were 6% lower compared to September 2020 (or 620 offences), decreasing from 9,581 to 8,961 offences, and were 7% lower than September 2019 levels. The main contributors to the decrease since September 2020 by volume were Unlawful use of vehicle (which decreased by 15%, from 3,241 to 2,754 offences) and Speeding (which decreased by 6%, from 1,979 to 1,857 offences), and this is 7% and 20% below September 2019 levels, respectively. Dangerous and careless driving saw the biggest increase since September 2020, rising by 16% from 1,017 to 1,184 offences. This was also 25% higher than September 2019 levels.

Local Authorities

Compared to September 2020, a decrease in recorded crime was seen in 19 (59%) out of 32 local authorities, with 12 showing an increase ([Table 3](#)). The largest decrease was seen in Na-h Eileanan Star (down 40%) and the largest increase was in Shetland Islands, which had double the number of crimes. 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 Dundee City (down 27%, or 252 crimes), North Lanarkshire (down 15%, or 211 crimes) and Glasgow City (down 6%, or 198 crimes).

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

Overall, in April 2021 to September 2021 the police recorded 114,641 crimes, a reduction of 3% (or 3,563 crimes) compared to the equivalent period of the previous year (118,204 crimes) ([Table 4](#)). This was 10% lower (or 12,133 crimes) than the same period in 2019 (126,774 crimes). The biggest drivers of the decrease by volume since 2020 were Drugs (down 18%, or 3,324 crimes), Crimes against public justice (down 9% or 1,164 crimes) and Housebreaking (down 20% or 1,059 crimes). When compared with 2019, the biggest drivers of the reduction by volume were Shoplifting (down 32%, or 5,199 crimes), Other theft (down 21%, or 4,554 crimes) and Drugs (down 18%, or 3,470 crimes). The largest increase since 2020 by volume was Vandalism etc. (up 4%, or 792 crimes). Compared with 2019, the largest increase by volume was seen in Fraud (up 68%, or 3,526 crimes).

Over the same period, the number of offences recorded by the police was 1% higher (or 976 offences) than in 2020, with Miscellaneous offences decreasing by 1% (or 812 offences) and Motor vehicle offences increasing by 3% (or 1,788 offences) ([Table 5](#)). Compared to 2019 offences decreased by 6% (or 7,575 offences), with Miscellaneous offences decreasing by 2% (1,531 offences) and Motor vehicle offences decreasing by 10% (or 6,044 offences).

Changes in levels of recorded fraud

Fraud was 3% lower (or 39 crimes) in September 2021 than in September 2020, but 67% higher (or 531 crimes) than in September 2019. 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). Fraud increased by 26% between 2019-20 and 2020-21 with the circumstances of the pandemic very likely to be playing a significant role, including behavioural changes such as increased online shopping. Research published within the recent Recorded Crime in Scotland bulletin estimated that 57% of fraud crimes recorded in 2020-21 were cyber-crimes, compared to 29% in 2019-20.

Some care is advised before attributing all of the recent changes to the specific circumstances of the COVID-related lockdown. This is because 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 has 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.

The research published in the Recorded Crime in Scotland bulletin estimated the procedural change led to 900 additional crimes of fraud being recorded in 2020-21.

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 there were only 6 such crimes recorded during September 2021 which is the lowest monthly figure across the pandemic (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. The 2020-21 annual National Statistics included the activity up to March 2021 within the overall crime total for Scotland, and the activity from April 2021 onwards will be reflected in the 2021-22 publication.

Table A: Number of crimes recorded under coronavirus legislation, April 2020 to September 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
September	6

Tables

Table 1: Crimes recorded by the police, Scotland, September 2019, 2020 and 2021	13
Table 2: Offences recorded by the police, Scotland, September 2019, 2020 and 2021	14
Table 3: Crimes recorded by the police by local authority, Scotland, September 2019, 2020 and 2021	15
Table 4: Crimes recorded by the police, Scotland, April to September 2019, 2020 and 2021	16
Table 5: Offences recorded by the police, Scotland, April to September 2019, 2020 and 2021	17

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: September 2021](#)

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

Crime group	September			% Change since September 2020	% Change since September 2019
	2019	2020	2021		
Total crimes¹	20,405	19,684	18,809	-4%	-8%
Non-sexual crimes of violence	851	704	815	16%	-4%
Homicide etc.	8	11	7	-36%	n/r
Attempted murder & serious assault	372	291	308	6%	-17%
Robbery	148	132	141	7%	-5%
Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018	152	107	149	39%	-2%
Other violence	171	163	210	29%	23%
Sexual crimes	1,143	1,185	1,379	16%	21%
Rape & attempted rape	224	232	229	-1%	2%
Sexual assault	412	411	494	20%	20%
Crimes associated with prostitution	21	3	2	n/r	-90%
Other sexual crimes	486	539	654	21%	35%
Crimes of dishonesty	8,980	8,139	8,010	-2%	-11%
Housebreaking	1,065	858	786	-8%	-26%
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	151	116	87	-25%	-42%
Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP	210	166	211	27%	0%
Theft of a motor vehicle	436	376	361	-4%	-17%
Shoplifting	2,360	1,948	1,859	-5%	-21%
Other theft	3,601	2,937	3,067	4%	-15%
Fraud	797	1,367	1,328	-3%	67%
Other dishonesty	360	371	311	-16%	-14%
Fire-raising, vandalism etc.	4,003	3,812	3,621	-5%	-10%
Fire-raising	208	231	217	-6%	4%
Vandalism etc.	3,795	3,581	3,404	-5%	-10%
Other crimes	5,428	5,844	4,984	-15%	-8%
Crimes against public justice	1,524	2,128	1,898	-11%	25%
Handling offensive weapons	866	879	846	-4%	-2%
Not used in other criminal activity	436	397	325	-18%	-25%
Used in other criminal activity	430	482	521	8%	21%
Drugs	3,018	2,822	2,228	-21%	-26%
Other	20	15	12	-20%	-40%

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, September 2019, 2020 and 2021

Crime group	September			% Change since	% Change since
	2019	2020	2021	September 2020	September 2019
Total offences	20,686	20,050	19,994	0%	-3%
Miscellaneous offences	11,036	10,469	11,033	5%	0%
Common assault	4,989	4,533	4,928	9%	-1%
Breach of the peace etc.	4,263	4,163	4,206	1%	-1%
Drunkness and other disorderly conduct	502	437	500	14%	0%
Urinating etc.	217	95	148	56%	-32%
Other miscellaneous offences	1,065	1,241	1,251	1%	17%
Motor vehicle offences	9,650	9,581	8,961	-6%	-7%
Dangerous and careless driving	951	1,017	1,184	16%	25%
Driving under the influence	514	656	593	-10%	15%
Speeding	2,326	1,979	1,857	-6%	-20%
Unlawful use of vehicle	2,972	3,241	2,754	-15%	-7%
Vehicle defect offences	542	542	480	-11%	-11%
Seat belt offences	244	148	115	-22%	-53%
Mobile phone offences	220	169	130	-23%	-41%
Other motor vehicle offences	1,881	1,829	1,848	1%	-2%

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

	September			% Change since	% Change since
	2019	2020	2021	September 2020	September 2019
Aberdeen City	967	861	1,158	34%	20%
Aberdeenshire	505	498	569	14%	13%
Angus	291	286	306	7%	5%
Argyll & Bute	218	196	217	11%	0%
Clackmannanshire	276	237	194	-18%	-30%
Dumfries & Galloway	473	481	571	19%	21%
Dundee City	799	936	684	-27%	-14%
East Ayrshire	386	551	441	-20%	14%
East Dunbartonshire	221	230	190	-17%	-14%
East Lothian	385	297	251	-15%	-35%
East Renfrewshire	219	163	161	-1%	-26%
Edinburgh City	2,523	2,015	2,123	5%	-16%
Falkirk	552	570	510	-11%	-8%
Fife	1,145	1,207	1,258	4%	10%
Glasgow City	3,662	3,370	3,172	-6%	-13%
Highland	579	602	605	0%	4%
Inverclyde	297	309	256	-17%	-14%
Midlothian	342	268	289	8%	-15%
Moray	240	199	263	32%	10%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	35	58	35	-40%	0%
North Ayrshire	476	546	463	-15%	-3%
North Lanarkshire	1,441	1,391	1,180	-15%	-18%
Orkney Islands	40	31	21	-32%	-48%
Perth & Kinross	401	443	379	-14%	-5%
Renfrewshire	618	677	644	-5%	4%
Scottish Borders	305	266	312	17%	2%
Shetland Islands	34	24	48	100%	41%
South Ayrshire	450	413	337	-18%	-25%
South Lanarkshire	1,217	1,192	999	-16%	-18%
Stirling	259	346	213	-38%	-18%
West Dunbartonshire	385	364	379	4%	-2%
West Lothian	664	657	581	-12%	-13%
Scotland¹	20,405	19,684	18,809	-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 September 2019, 2020 and 2021

Crime group	April to September 2019	April to September 2020	April to September 2021	% Change since 2020	% Change since 2019
Total crimes¹	126,774	118,204	114,641	-3%	-10%
Non-sexual crimes of violence	4,798	4,461	4,791	7%	0%
Homicide etc.	67	50	46	-8%	-31%
Attempted murder & serious assault	2,248	1,868	1,904	2%	-15%
Robbery	828	862	813	-6%	-2%
Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018	861	747	803	7%	-7%
Other violence	794	934	1,225	31%	54%
Sexual crimes	6,846	6,386	7,277	14%	6%
Rape & attempted rape	1,237	1,132	1,257	11%	2%
Sexual assault	2,590	1,990	2,521	27%	-3%
Crimes associated with prostitution	47	19	34	79%	-28%
Other sexual crimes	2,972	3,245	3,465	7%	17%
Crimes of dishonesty	56,769	48,220	47,129	-2%	-17%
Housebreaking	6,398	5,329	4,270	-20%	-33%
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	895	616	615	0%	-31%
Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP	1,419	1,167	1,005	-14%	-29%
Theft of a motor vehicle	2,501	2,242	2,234	0%	-11%
Shoplifting	16,189	10,435	10,990	5%	-32%
Other theft	21,826	17,549	17,272	-2%	-21%
Fraud	5,162	8,327	8,688	4%	68%
Other dishonesty	2,379	2,555	2,055	-20%	-14%
Fire-raising, vandalism etc.	24,436	21,516	22,411	4%	-8%
Fire-raising	1,391	1,327	1,430	8%	3%
Vandalism etc.	23,045	20,189	20,981	4%	-9%
Other crimes	33,925	37,621	33,033	-12%	-3%
Crimes against public justice	9,764	13,204	12,040	-9%	23%
Handling offensive weapons	5,092	5,527	5,419	-2%	6%
Not used in other criminal activity	2,348	2,550	2,349	-8%	0%
Used in other criminal activity	2,744	2,977	3,070	3%	12%
Drugs	18,960	18,814	15,490	-18%	-18%
Other	109	76	84	11%	-23%

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 September 2019, 2020 and 2021

Crime group	April to September 2019	April to September 2020	April to September 2021	% Change since 2020	% Change since 2019
Total offences¹	130,465	121,914	122,890	1%	-6%
Miscellaneous offences	67,953	67,234	66,422	-1%	-2%
Common assault	29,876	27,155	28,989	7%	-3%
Breach of the peace etc.	26,757	27,469	25,956	-6%	-3%
Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct	3,411	3,696	3,176	-14%	-7%
Urinating etc.	1,250	594	658	11%	-47%
Other miscellaneous offences	6,659	8,320	7,643	-8%	15%
Motor vehicle offences	62,512	54,680	56,468	3%	-10%
Dangerous and careless driving	5,819	5,861	6,648	13%	14%
Driving under the influence	3,102	4,395	3,976	-10%	28%
Speeding	16,095	10,690	12,058	13%	-25%
Unlawful use of vehicle	19,064	18,966	18,054	-5%	-5%
Vehicle defect offences	3,586	3,248	2,973	-8%	-17%
Seat belt offences	1,784	1,073	977	-9%	-45%
Mobile phone offences	1,404	985	796	-19%	-43%
Other motor vehicle offences	11,658	9,462	10,986	16%	-6%

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 2020-21 reporting year, was published on 28th September 2021. 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 September 2021 data for this bulletin was extracted in October 2021. In order to compare on a like-for-like basis, data used for comparison was taken from the September 2020 bulletin published last year, which was extracted in October 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 September 2019 was extracted in October 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 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 the Recorded Crime in Scotland User Guide:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/user-guide-recorded-crime-statistics-scotland/>

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.

We are currently consulting on the production and dissemination of Scotland's recorded crime statistics, and on the possible development of new analysis on other types of policing activity. The responses we receive will help inform our long term strategy for the delivery of crime and policing statistics. More information can be found here: [The future of Recorded Crime and Police Activity Statistics - Scottish Government - Citizen Space \(consult.gov.scot\)](#)

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.

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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/statistics/guidance)

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