

CRIME AND JUSTICE

Recorded Crime in Scotland: January 2022

This Official Statistics bulletin presents information on the number of crimes and offences recorded by the police in Scotland during January 2022. 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 18,430 crimes in January 2022. This was 10% higher than the 16,813 crimes recorded in the same month of 2021 (when pandemic restrictions were in place) and 3% lower than the 19,054 crimes recorded in the same month of 2020 (for which there was no pandemic or restrictions on movement).

In January 2022:

- Non-sexual crimes of violence were 17% higher compared to January 2021 (increasing from 672 to 789 crimes), and 7% higher compared to January 2020 (increasing from 736 to 789 crimes).
- Sexual crimes were 33% higher compared to January 2021 (increasing from 861 to 1,145 crimes), and 3% higher compared to January 2020 (increasing from 1,107 to 1,145 crimes).
- Crimes of dishonesty were 17% higher compared to January 2021 (increasing from 6,811 to 7,944 crimes), but 8% lower than in January 2020 (decreasing from 8,658 to 7,944 crimes).
- Fire-raising, vandalism etc. was 16% higher compared to January 2021 (increasing from 3,176 to 3,679 crimes), but 7% lower than in January 2020 (decreasing from 3,964 to 3,679 crimes).
- Other crimes were 8% lower compared to January 2021 (decreasing from 5,293 to 4,873 crimes), but 6% higher than in January 2020 (increasing from 4,589 to 4,873 crimes).
- Fewer crimes were recorded by the police in 11 (34%) out of 32 local authorities, compared to January 2021.

The number of offences recorded by the police in Scotland in January 2022 was 18,736. This is 13% higher than the 16,626 offences recorded in the same month of 2021 (when pandemic restrictions were in place) but 5% lower than the 19,758 offences recorded in the same month of 2020 (for which there was no pandemic or restrictions on movement).

In January 2022:

- Miscellaneous offences increased by 15% compared to January 2021 (increasing from 8,443 to 9,710), and were 2% higher compared to January 2020 (increasing from 9,541 to 9,710).

- Motor vehicle offences were 10% higher compared to January 2021 (increasing from 8,183 to 9,026), but 12% lower compared to January 2020 (decreasing from 10,217 to 9,026).

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 January 2022, the police recorded 18,430 crimes. This was 10% (or 1,617 crimes) higher than the 16,813 crimes recorded in the same month of 2021 (when pandemic restrictions were in place) but 3% lower than the 19,054 crimes recorded in the same month of 2020 (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 Crimes of dishonesty and Fire-raising, vandalism etc., all groups were higher than pre-pandemic levels (January 2020), despite the overall decrease ([Table 1](#), [Chart 1](#)).

In January 2022:

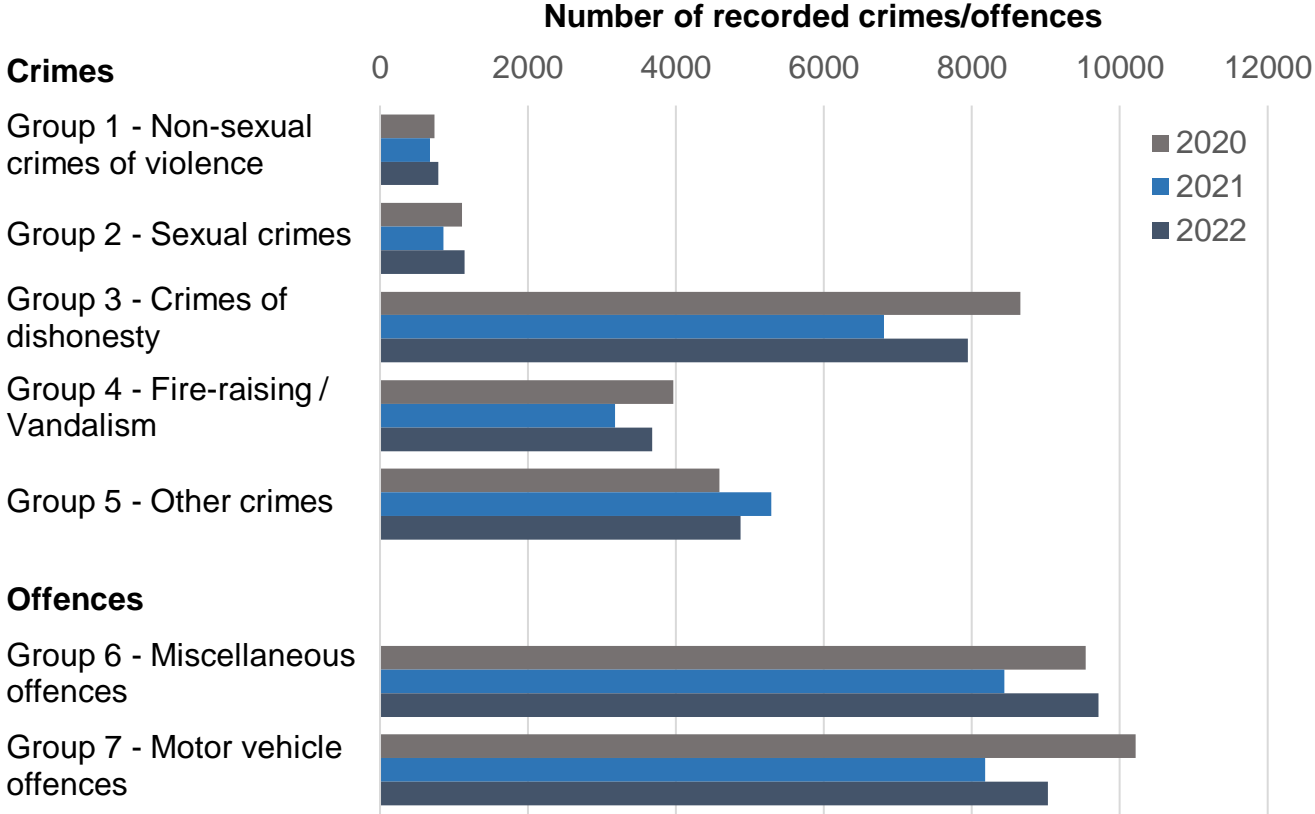
- Non-sexual crimes of violence were 17% (or 117 crimes) higher compared to January 2021 (increasing from 672 to 789 crimes), and 7% higher compared to January 2020 (increasing from 736 to 789 crimes). Within this, Attempted murder and serious assault increased by 38% compared to January 2021 (from 216 to 297 crimes), and increased by 2% from January 2020 (from 291 to 297 crimes). Other violence increased by 2% compared to January 2021 (from 219 to 223 crimes) and increased by 72% from January 2020 (from 130 to 223 crimes). The increase since January 2020 is mainly due to a rise in Threats and extortion (from 40 to 123 crimes), with the latest National Statistics bulletin estimating that more than three-quarters (77%) of Threats and extortion recorded in 2020-21 were cyber-crimes. Crimes under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 increased by 15% compared to January 2021 (from 124 to 142 crimes), but were 7% lower than in January 2020 (decreasing from 153 to 142 crimes).
- Sexual crimes were 33% (or 284 crimes) higher compared to January 2021, increasing from 861 to 1,145 crimes, and were 3% (or 38 crimes) higher than in January 2020 (increasing from 1,107 to 1,145 crimes). Sexual assault increased by 50% compared to January 2021 (from 259 to 389 crimes), but decreased by 4% compared to January 2020 (decreasing from 405 to 389 crimes). The rise in Sexual assault since 2021 was primarily due to an increase in Sexual assault of females, including classifications for adults (aged 16 or older) and older children (aged 13-15). Other sexual crimes increased by 29% compared to January 2021 (increasing from 454 to 585 crimes) and increased by 11% compared to January 2020 (increasing from 525 to 585 crimes). The rise in Other sexual crimes since 2021 was primarily due to Communicating indecently, Threatening to disclose an intimate image and Voyeurism. Rape and attempted rape increased by 14% compared

to January 2021 (from 145 to 166 crimes), but decreased by 5% compared to January 2020 (from 174 to 166 crimes).

- Crimes of dishonesty were 17% (or 1,133 crimes) higher compared to January 2021, increasing from 6,811 to 7,944 crimes. This was 8% lower than in January 2020 (decreasing from 8,658 to 7,944 crimes). Shoplifting was the biggest contributor (by volume) to the increase, having risen by 42% compared to January 2021 (from 1,366 to 1,936 crimes), but was 12% lower when compared to January 2020. Crimes of Fraud have been at increased levels throughout the pandemic. There was a 3% increase compared to January 2021 (up from 1,555 to 1,600 crimes), and a 65% increase since January 2020 (from 969 to 1,600 crimes). The [Changes in levels of recorded fraud](#) section below provides users with further background on what may be contributing to this change.
- Fire-raising, vandalism etc. was 16% (or 503 crimes) higher compared to January 2021, increasing from 3,176 to 3,679 crimes, but was 7% lower than January 2020. Vandalism etc. has risen 15% since January 2021 (increasing from 3,002 to 3,450 crimes). This is 9% lower than January 2020 levels.
- Other crimes were 8% (or 420 crimes) lower than in January 2021, decreasing from 5,293 to 4,873 crimes. This is 6% higher than January 2020 (increasing from 4,589 to 4,873 crimes). The contributors to the decrease from 2021 were Drugs (which fell by 19% compared to January 2021 and 9% compared to January 2020) and Crimes against public justice (which fell by 2% compared to January 2021 but increased by 30% compared to January 2020).

Chart 1. Crimes and offences recorded by the police, by crime group, January 2020, 2021 and 2022

Chart: each category shows bars from top to bottom for January 2020, 2021 and 2022



Offences recorded by the police

In January 2022, the police recorded 18,736 offences. This was 13% (or 2,110 offences) higher than the 16,626 offences recorded in the same month in 2021, but 5% lower than in January 2020 (decreasing from 19,758 to 18,736 offences). Miscellaneous offences increased by 15% compared to January 2021, and by 2% compared to January 2020. Motor vehicle offences increased by 10% compared to January 2021, but decreased by 12% compared to January 2020, as detailed below ([Table 2](#)).

In January 2022:

- Miscellaneous offences increased by 15% (or 1,267 offences) compared to January 2021 (increasing from 8,443 to 9,710 offences), and by 2% compared to January 2020 (increasing from 9,541 to 9,710 offences). The largest increase by volume since January 2021 was Common assault, which rose by 19% from 3,723 to 4,435 offences, and was 1% higher than January 2020. All other categories in miscellaneous offences also increased compared to January 2021.
- Motor vehicle offences were 10% (or 843 offences) higher compared to January 2021, increasing from 8,183 to 9,026 offences, but were 12% lower than January 2020 levels. The main contributor to the increase since January 2021 by volume was Speeding (which increased by 43%, from 1,336 to 1,905 offences). The only categories within Motor vehicle offences that increased when compared to January 2020 were Driving under the influence (up 15%) and Dangerous and careless driving (up 5%).

Local Authorities

Compared to January 2021, a decrease in recorded crime was seen in 11 (34%) out of 32 local authorities, with 21 showing an increase ([Table 3](#)). The largest increase was seen in the Shetland Islands (up 60%) and the largest decreases were in East Dunbartonshire and the Orkney Islands, which both had 22% fewer recorded 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 increase in crimes recorded by the police were Glasgow City (up 26%, or 646 crimes) and Edinburgh City (up 11%, or 221 crimes).

April 2019 to January 2020 and April 2020 to January 2021, compared with April 2021 to January 2022

Overall, in April 2021 to January 2022 the police recorded 188,135 crimes, a reduction of 3% (or 5,240 crimes) compared to April 2020 to January 2021 (193,375 crimes) ([Table 4](#)). This was 9% (or 18,432 crimes) lower than April 2019 to January 2020 (206,567 crimes). The biggest drivers of the decrease by volume since April 2020 to January 2021 were Drugs (down 22%, or 6,728 crimes), Crimes against public justice (down 9%, or 1,886 crimes) and Housebreaking (down 15%, or 1,314 crimes). When compared with April 2019 to January 2020, the biggest drivers of the reduction by volume were Shoplifting (down 28%, or 7,296 crimes), Drugs (down 22%, or 6,452 crimes) and Other theft (down 17%, or 5,812 crimes). The largest increase since April 2020 to January 2021 by volume was Shoplifting (up 6%, or 1,133 crimes). Compared with April 2019 to January 2020, the largest increase by volume was Fraud (up 68%, or 6,027 crimes).

The number of offences recorded by the police in April 2021 to January 2022 was 1% (or 1,518 offences) lower than April 2020 to January 2021, with Miscellaneous offences remaining almost unchanged (increasing by 136 offences) and Motor vehicle offences decreasing by 2% (or 1,654 offences) ([Table 5](#)). Compared to April 2019 to January 2020, offences decreased by 8% (or 16,722 offences), with Miscellaneous offences decreasing by 4% (or 4,068 offences) and Motor vehicle offences decreasing by 12% (or 12,654 offences).

Changes in levels of recorded fraud

Fraud was almost 3% higher in January 2022 compared to January 2021, and 65% (or 631 crimes) higher than in January 2020. The [Recorded Crime National Statistics](#) have highlighted an increasing trend in recorded fraud over a number of years (up 117% between 2014-15 and 2020-21). 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 [HMICS 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 six such crimes recorded during January 2022, down from 11 in the previous month and the joint second lowest figure across the pandemic (see [Table A](#) below). 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 this activity within the overall crime total for Scotland (up to March 2021). The equivalent 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 January 2022

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
October	8
November	2
December	11
2022	
January	6

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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: January 2022](#)

Table 1: Crimes recorded by the police, Scotland, January 2020, 2021 and 2022

Crime group	January			% Change since	% Change since
	2020	2021	2022	January 2021	January 2020
Total crimes¹	19,054	16,813	18,430	10%	-3%
Non-sexual crimes of violence	736	672	789	17%	7%
Homicide etc.	13	3	4	n/r	-69%
Attempted murder & serious assault	291	216	297	38%	2%
Robbery	149	110	123	12%	-17%
Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018	153	124	142	15%	-7%
Other violence	130	219	223	2%	72%
Sexual crimes	1,107	861	1,145	33%	3%
Rape & attempted rape	174	145	166	14%	-5%
Sexual assault	405	259	389	50%	-4%
Crimes associated with prostitution	3	3	5	n/r	n/r
Other sexual crimes	525	454	585	29%	11%
Crimes of dishonesty	8,658	6,811	7,944	17%	-8%
Housebreaking	1,142	717	768	7%	-33%
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	153	69	97	41%	-37%
Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP	311	131	157	20%	-50%
Theft of a motor vehicle	414	349	430	23%	4%
Shoplifting	2,205	1,366	1,936	42%	-12%
Other theft	3,054	2,292	2,654	16%	-13%
Fraud	969	1,555	1,600	3%	65%
Other dishonesty	410	332	302	-9%	-26%
Fire-raising, vandalism etc.	3,964	3,176	3,679	16%	-7%
Fire-raising	179	174	229	32%	28%
Vandalism etc.	3,785	3,002	3,450	15%	-9%
Other crimes	4,589	5,293	4,873	-8%	6%
Crimes against public justice	1,535	2,029	1,997	-2%	30%
Handling offensive weapons	712	626	725	16%	2%
<i>Not used in other criminal activity</i>	355	307	334	9%	-6%
<i>Used in other criminal activity</i>	357	319	391	23%	10%
Drugs	2,330	2,628	2,131	-19%	-9%
Other	12	10	20	100%	67%

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, January 2020, 2021 and 2022

Crime group	January			% Change since	% Change since
	2020	2021	2022	January 2021	January 2020
Total offences	19,758	16,626	18,736	13%	-5%
Miscellaneous offences	9,541	8,443	9,710	15%	2%
Common assault	4,381	3,723	4,435	19%	1%
Breach of the peace etc.	3,748	3,381	3,690	9%	-2%
Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct	242	160	231	44%	-5%
Urinating etc.	141	20	78	290%	-45%
Other miscellaneous offences	1,029	1,159	1,276	10%	24%
Motor vehicle offences	10,217	8,183	9,026	10%	-12%
Dangerous and careless driving	948	774	998	29%	5%
Driving under the influence	562	599	647	8%	15%
Speeding	2,369	1,336	1,905	43%	-20%
Unlawful use of vehicle	3,546	3,496	3,113	-11%	-12%
Vehicle defect offences	614	444	447	1%	-27%
Seat belt offences	119	66	74	12%	-38%
Mobile phone offences	128	57	117	105%	-9%
Other motor vehicle offences	1,931	1,411	1,725	22%	-11%

Table 3: Crimes recorded by the police by local authority, Scotland, January 2020, 2021 and 2022

	January			% Change since	% Change since
	2020	2021	2022	January 2021	January 2020
Aberdeen City	904	888	1,057	19%	17%
Aberdeenshire	517	520	497	-4%	-4%
Angus	231	272	282	4%	22%
Argyll & Bute	162	149	171	15%	6%
Clackmannanshire	180	177	140	-21%	-22%
Dumfries & Galloway	536	435	424	-3%	-21%
Dundee City	753	697	857	23%	14%
East Ayrshire	412	381	396	4%	-4%
East Dunbartonshire	283	191	149	-22%	-47%
East Lothian	304	300	323	8%	6%
East Renfrewshire	162	133	150	13%	-7%
Edinburgh City	2,475	1,949	2,170	11%	-12%
Falkirk	525	514	477	-7%	-9%
Fife	1,079	1,012	1,146	13%	6%
Glasgow City	3,198	2,481	3,127	26%	-2%
Highland	580	475	618	30%	7%
Inverclyde	305	269	286	6%	-6%
Midlothian	310	286	303	6%	-2%
Moray	198	200	238	19%	20%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	27	42	36	-14%	33%
North Ayrshire	502	441	453	3%	-10%
North Lanarkshire	1,361	1,213	1,285	6%	-6%
Orkney Islands	27	32	25	-22%	-7%
Perth & Kinross	311	337	375	11%	21%
Renfrewshire	679	605	608	0%	-10%
Scottish Borders	281	274	270	-1%	-4%
Shetland Islands	38	20	32	60%	-16%
South Ayrshire	326	351	323	-8%	-1%
South Lanarkshire	1,125	1,018	1,088	7%	-3%
Stirling	222	258	237	-8%	7%
West Dunbartonshire	371	331	298	-10%	-20%
West Lothian	670	562	589	5%	-12%
Scotland¹	19,054	16,813	18,430	10%	-3%

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 2019 to January 2020 and April 2020 to January 2021 and April 2021 to January 2022

Crime group	April 2019 to January 2020	April 2020 to January 2021	April 2021 to January 2022	% Change since 2020-2021	% Change since 2019-2020
Total crimes¹	206,567	193,375	188,135	-3%	-9%
Non-sexual crimes of violence	7,927	7,349	8,218	12%	4%
Homicide etc.	107	78	69	-12%	-36%
Attempted murder & serious assault	3,551	2,897	3,060	6%	-14%
Robbery	1,428	1,410	1,372	-3%	-4%
Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018	1,453	1,291	1,365	6%	-6%
Other violence	1,388	1,673	2,352	41%	69%
Sexual crimes	11,266	10,330	12,090	17%	7%
Rape & attempted rape	2,023	1,821	2,023	11%	0%
Sexual assault	4,208	3,248	4,289	32%	2%
Crimes associated with prostitution	74	39	68	74%	-8%
Other sexual crimes	4,961	5,222	5,710	9%	15%
Crimes of dishonesty	92,375	79,615	79,664	0%	-14%
Housebreaking	10,666	8,623	7,309	-15%	-31%
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	1,481	1,010	1,024	1%	-31%
Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP	2,376	1,812	1,633	-10%	-31%
Theft of a motor vehicle	4,108	3,721	3,769	1%	-8%
Shoplifting	25,920	17,491	18,624	6%	-28%
Other theft	34,987	28,472	29,175	2%	-17%
Fraud	8,848	14,462	14,875	3%	68%
Other dishonesty	3,989	4,024	3,255	-19%	-18%
Fire-raising, vandalism etc.	40,613	35,936	36,895	3%	-9%
Fire-raising	2,271	2,207	2,265	3%	0%
Vandalism etc.	38,342	33,729	34,630	3%	-10%
Other crimes	54,386	60,145	51,268	-15%	-6%
Crimes against public justice	16,255	21,397	19,511	-9%	20%
Handling offensive weapons	8,125	8,501	8,223	-3%	1%
<i>Not used in other criminal activity</i>	3,763	3,946	3,551	-10%	-6%
<i>Used in other criminal activity</i>	4,362	4,555	4,672	3%	7%
Drugs	29,833	30,109	23,381	-22%	-22%
Other	173	138	153	11%	-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 5: Offences recorded by the police, Scotland, April 2019 to January 2020 and April 2020 to January 2021 and April 2021 to January 2022

Crime group	April 2019 to January 2020	April 2020 to January 2021	April 2021 to January 2022	% Change since 2020-2021	% Change since 2019-2020
Total offences¹	211,797	196,593	195,075	-1%	-8%
Miscellaneous offences	109,389	105,185	105,321	0%	-4%
Common assault	48,855	43,835	47,428	8%	-3%
Breach of the peace etc.	42,910	42,404	40,322	-5%	-6%
Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct	4,682	4,890	4,042	-17%	-14%
Urinating etc.	1,963	737	1,113	51%	-43%
Other miscellaneous offences	10,979	13,319	12,416	-7%	13%
Motor vehicle offences	102,408	91,408	89,754	-2%	-12%
Dangerous and careless driving	9,721	9,444	10,450	11%	7%
Driving under the influence	5,488	6,960	6,496	-7%	18%
Speeding	24,670	17,486	18,108	4%	-27%
Unlawful use of vehicle	32,520	33,160	29,145	-12%	-10%
Vehicle defect offences	5,892	5,257	4,754	-10%	-19%
Seat belt offences	2,381	1,448	1,357	-6%	-43%
Mobile phone offences	2,015	1,361	1,171	-14%	-42%
Other motor vehicle offences	19,721	16,292	18,273	12%	-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](#).

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 final technical review of the impact that the switch in sources had on the 2020-21 crime data was carried out with a summary of the results published in Annex 3 of the [Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2020-21 bulletin](#).

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 on a monthly basis. While the figures provided in this publication use the same source as the most recent National Statistics on Recorded Crime in Scotland, they are not directly comparable as the data was extracted at different times.

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 January 2022 data for this bulletin was extracted in February 2022. In order to compare on a like-for-like basis, data used for comparison was taken from the January 2021 bulletin published last year, which was extracted in February 2021. 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 January 2020 was extracted in February 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](#).

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

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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.

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