

CRIME AND JUSTICE

Recorded Crime in Scotland: February 2022

This Official Statistics bulletin presents information on the number of crimes and offences recorded by the police in Scotland during February 2022. It also includes a comparison with the equivalent month of the previous two years.

These Official Statistics were introduced 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 recorded crimes and offences, 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.

We earlier ran a consultation of users on the production and dissemination of Scotland's recorded crime statistics. A report on the responses received as part of the consultation, along with an announcement of changes to the production of these statistics, was published on 24 March 2022.

The changes include the discontinuation of these Monthly Official Statistics after the March 2022 edition (to be published in April). They will then be replaced with a quarterly release of National Statistics, which will present the latest rolling 12-month period. As part of the transition to a quarterly release schedule, and to ensure that we are publishing data in as timely a manner as possible - we will bring forward the release of the annual National Statistics publication for 2021-22 from September to June.

Users can access further information on these changes and the wider package of amendments to the production of the recorded crime statistics, in the report referenced above.

Summary

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

The police in Scotland recorded 17,326 crimes in February 2022. This was 8% higher than the 15,979 crimes recorded in the same month of 2021 (when pandemic restrictions were in place) and 9% lower than the 18,992 crimes recorded in the same month of 2020 (for which there was no pandemic or restrictions on movement).

In February 2022:

- Non-sexual crimes of violence were 18% higher compared to February 2021 (increasing from 653 to 772 crimes), and 11% higher compared to February 2020 (increasing from 694 to 772 crimes).
- Sexual crimes were 25% higher compared to February 2021 (increasing from 1,020 to 1,280 crimes), and 14% higher compared to February 2020 (increasing from 1,124 to 1,280 crimes).
- Crimes of dishonesty were 17% higher compared to February 2021 (increasing from 6,405 to 7,514 crimes), but 15% lower than in February 2020 (decreasing from 8,843 to 7,514 crimes).
- Fire-raising, vandalism etc. was 12% higher compared to February 2021 (increasing from 3,019 to 3,380 crimes), but 8% lower than in February 2020 (decreasing from 3,656 to 3,380 crimes).
- Other crimes were 10% lower compared to February 2021 (decreasing from 4,882 to 4,380 crimes), and 6% lower than in February 2020 (decreasing from 4,675 to 4,380 crimes).
- Fewer crimes were recorded by the police in 10 (31%) out of 32 local authorities, compared to February 2021.

The number of offences recorded by the police in Scotland in February 2022 was 17,453. This is 14% higher than the 15,352 offences recorded in the same month of 2021 (when pandemic restrictions were in place) but 9% lower than the 19,222 offences recorded in the same month of 2020 (for which there was no pandemic or restrictions on movement).

In February 2022:

- Miscellaneous offences increased by 23% compared to February 2021 (increasing from 7,540 to 9,306), but were 2% lower compared to February 2020 (decreasing from 9,528 to 9,306).
- Motor vehicle offences were 4% higher compared to February 2021 (increasing from 7,812 to 8,147), but 16% lower compared to February 2020 (decreasing from 9,694 to 8,147).

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 February 2022, the police recorded 17,236 crimes. This was 8% (or 1,347 crimes) higher than the 15,979 crimes recorded in the same month of 2021 (when pandemic restrictions were in place) but 9% lower than the 18,992 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 Non-sexual crimes of violence and Sexual crimes, all groups were lower than pre-pandemic levels (February 2020), despite the overall increase ([Table 1](#), [Chart 1](#)).

In February 2022:

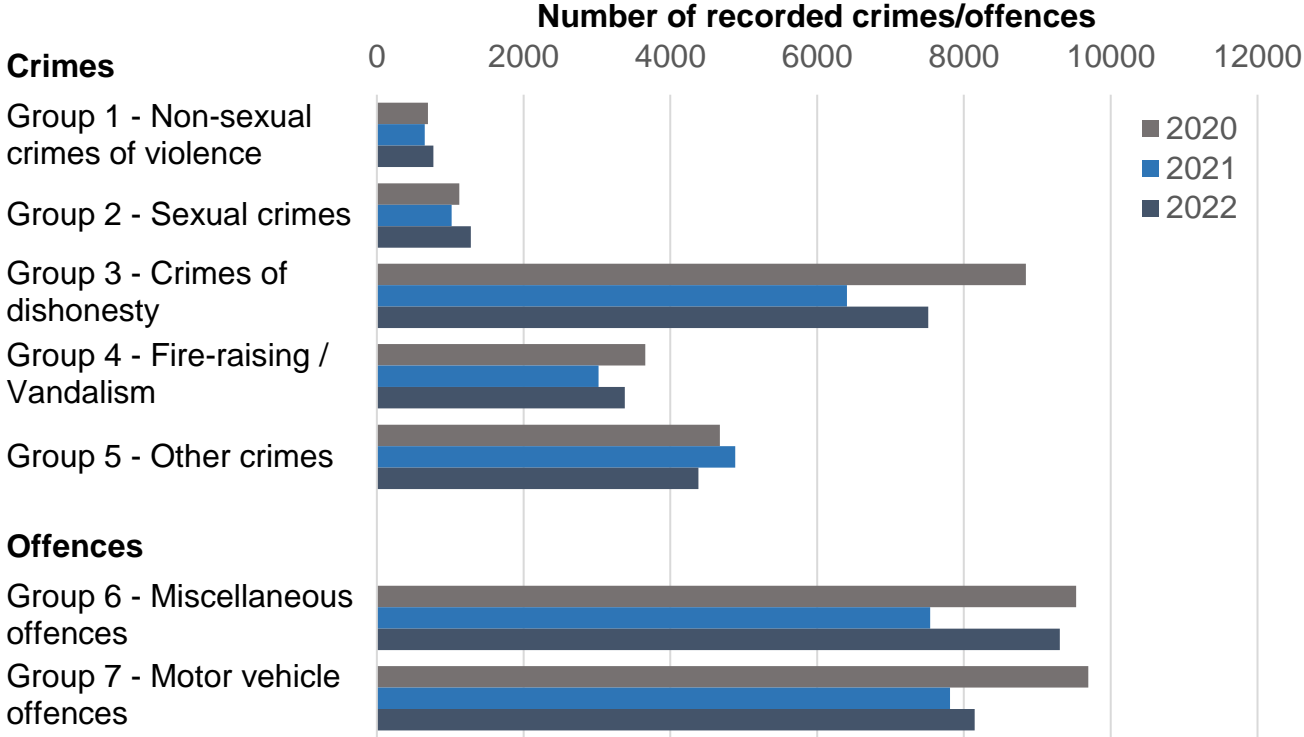
- Non-sexual crimes of violence were 18% (or 119 crimes) higher compared to February 2021 (increasing from 653 to 772 crimes), and 11% higher compared to February 2020 (increasing from 694 to 772 crimes). Within this, Attempted murder and serious assault increased by 34% compared to February 2021 (from 194 to 259 crimes), but decreased by 12% from February 2020 (from 295 to 259 crimes). Other violence increased by 29% compared to February 2021 (from 198 to 255 crimes) and increased by 101% from February 2020 (from 127 to 255 crimes). The increase since February 2020 is mainly due to a rise in Threats and extortion (from 47 to 140 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 7% compared to February 2021 (from 128 to 137 crimes), and were 8% higher than in February 2020 (increasing from 127 to 137 crimes).
- Sexual crimes were 25% (or 260 crimes) higher compared to February 2021, increasing from 1,020 to 1,280 crimes, and were 14% (or 156 crimes) higher than in February 2020 (increasing from 1,124 to 1,280 crimes). Sexual assault increased by 35% compared to February 2021 (from 315 to 424 crimes), and increased by 1% compared to February 2020 (increasing from 418 to 424 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), older children (aged 13-15) and younger children (under 13). Other sexual crimes increased by 20% compared to February 2021 (increasing from 533 to 642 crimes) and increased by 27% compared to February 2020 (increasing from 506 to 642 crimes). The latest [National Statistics](#) estimated that two-thirds (66%) of recorded Other sexual crimes were cyber-crimes. Rape and attempted rape increased by 29% compared to

February 2021 (from 163 to 211 crimes), and increased by 13% compared to February 2020 (from 186 to 211 crimes).

- Crimes of dishonesty were 17% (or 1,109 crimes) higher compared to February 2021, increasing from 6,405 to 7,514 crimes. This was 15% lower than in February 2020 (decreasing from 8,843 to 7,514 crimes). Shoplifting was the biggest contributor (by volume) to the increase, having risen by 47% compared to February 2021 (from 1,299 to 1,915 crimes), but was 24% lower when compared to February 2020. Crimes of Fraud have been at increased levels throughout the pandemic. Despite a 4% decrease compared to February 2021 (down from 1,592 to 1,536 crimes), there was a 40% increase since February 2020 (from 1,099 to 1,536 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 12% (or 361 crimes) higher compared to February 2021, increasing from 3,019 to 3,380 crimes, but was 8% lower than February 2020. Vandalism etc. has risen 14% since February 2021 (increasing from 2,850 to 3,237 crimes). This is 7% lower than February 2020 levels.
- Other crimes were 10% (or 502 crimes) lower than in February 2021, decreasing from 4,882 to 4,380 crimes. This is 6% lower than February 2020 (decreasing from 4,675 to 4,380 crimes). The sole contributor to the decrease from 2021 was Drugs (which fell by 27% compared to February 2021 and 20% compared to February 2020).

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

Chart: each category shows columns from top to bottom for February 2020, 2021 and 2022



Offences recorded by the police

In February 2022, the police recorded 17,453 offences. This was 14% (or 2,101 offences) higher than the 15,352 offences recorded in the same month in 2021, but 9% lower than in February 2020 (decreasing from 19,222 to 17,453 offences). Miscellaneous offences increased by 23% compared to February 2021, but decreased by 2% compared to February 2020. Motor vehicle offences increased by 4% compared to February 2021, but decreased by 16% compared to February 2020, as detailed below ([Table 2](#)).

In February 2022:

- Miscellaneous offences increased by 23% (or 1,766 offences) compared to February 2021 (increasing from 7,540 to 9,306 offences), but decreased by 2% compared to February 2020 (decreasing from 9,528 to 9,306 offences). The largest increase by volume since February 2021 was Common assault, which rose by 36% from 3,180 to 4,319 offences, but was 2% lower than February 2020. All other categories in miscellaneous offences also increased compared to February 2021.
- Motor vehicle offences were 4% (or 335 offences) higher compared to February 2021, increasing from 7,812 to 8,147 offences, but were 16% lower than February 2020 levels. The main contributor to the increase since February 2021 by volume was Other motor vehicle offences (which increased by 36%, from 1,381 to 1,874 offences). The only categories within Motor vehicle offences that increased when compared to February 2020 were Seat belt offences (up 36%), Dangerous and careless driving (up 6%) and Mobile phone offences (up 6%).

Local Authorities

Compared to February 2021, a decrease in recorded crime was seen in 10 (31%) out of 32 local authorities, with 22 showing an increase ([Table 3](#)). The largest increase was seen in Moray (up 34%) and the largest decrease was in the Shetland Islands (down 44%). 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 13%, or 322 crimes) and Edinburgh City (up 15%, or 238 crimes).

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

Overall, in April 2021 to February 2022 the police recorded 205,461 crimes, a reduction of 2% (or 3,893 crimes) compared to April 2020 to February 2021 (209,354 crimes) ([Table 4](#)). This was 9% (or 20,098 crimes) lower than April 2019 to February 2020 (225,559 crimes). The biggest drivers of the decrease by volume since April 2020 to February 2021 were Drugs (down 23%, or 7,421 crimes), Crimes against public justice (down 8%, or 1,809 crimes) and Housebreaking (down 14%, or 1,279 crimes). When compared with April 2019 to February 2020, the biggest drivers of the reduction by volume were Shoplifting (down 28%, or 7,886 crimes), Drugs (down 22%, or 6,936 crimes) and Other theft (down 16%, or 6,231 crimes). The largest increase since April 2020 to February 2021 by volume was Shoplifting (up 9%, or 1,749 crimes). Compared with April 2019 to February 2020, the largest increase by volume was Fraud (up 65%, or 6,464 crimes).

The number of offences recorded by the police in April 2021 to February 2022 was <1% (or 583 offences) higher than April 2020 to February 2021, with Miscellaneous offences increasing by 2% (or 1,902 offences) and Motor vehicle offences decreasing by 1% (or 1,319 offences) ([Table 5](#)). Compared to April 2019 to February 2020, offences decreased by 8% (or 18,491 offences), with Miscellaneous offences decreasing by 4% (or 4,290 offences) and Motor vehicle offences decreasing by 13% (or 14,201 offences).

Changes in levels of recorded fraud

Fraud was 4% lower in February 2022 compared to February 2021, but 40% (or 537 crimes) higher than in February 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 latest Recorded Crime in Scotland annual 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 1 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 1 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 25 March and 27 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 five such crimes recorded during February 2022, down from six in the previous month and the 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 February 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
February	5

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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: February 2022](#)

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

Crime group	February			% Change since	% Change since
	2020	2021	2022	February 2021	February 2020
Total crimes¹	18,992	15,979	17,326	8%	-9%
Non-sexual crimes of violence	694	653	772	18%	11%
Homicide etc.	5	10	9	-10%	n/r
Attempted murder & serious assault	295	194	259	34%	-12%
Robbery	140	123	112	-9%	-20%
Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018	127	128	137	7%	8%
Other violence	127	198	255	29%	101%
Sexual crimes	1,124	1,020	1,280	25%	14%
Rape & attempted rape	186	163	211	29%	13%
Sexual assault	418	315	424	35%	1%
Crimes associated with prostitution	14	9	3	n/r	-79%
Other sexual crimes	506	533	642	20%	27%
Crimes of dishonesty	8,843	6,405	7,514	17%	-15%
Housebreaking	1,061	612	647	6%	-39%
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	135	101	80	-21%	-41%
Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP	302	142	161	13%	-47%
Theft of a motor vehicle	376	292	337	15%	-10%
Shoplifting	2,505	1,299	1,915	47%	-24%
Other theft	2,952	2,090	2,533	21%	-14%
Fraud	1,099	1,592	1,536	-4%	40%
Other dishonesty	413	277	305	10%	-26%
Fire-raising, vandalism etc.	3,656	3,019	3,380	12%	-8%
Fire-raising	181	169	143	-15%	-21%
Vandalism etc.	3,475	2,850	3,237	14%	-7%
Other crimes	4,675	4,882	4,380	-10%	-6%
Crimes against public justice	1,504	1,733	1,810	4%	20%
Handling offensive weapons	746	530	642	21%	-14%
<i>Not used in other criminal activity</i>	<i>349</i>	<i>261</i>	<i>283</i>	<i>8%</i>	<i>-19%</i>
<i>Used in other criminal activity</i>	<i>397</i>	<i>269</i>	<i>359</i>	<i>33%</i>	<i>-10%</i>
Drugs	2,401	2,610	1,917	-27%	-20%
Other	24	9	11	n/r	-54%

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, February 2020, 2021 and 2022

Crime group	February			% Change since	% Change since
	2020	2021	2022	February 2021	February 2020
Total offences	19,222	15,352	17,453	14%	-9%
Miscellaneous offences	9,528	7,540	9,306	23%	-2%
Common assault	4,411	3,180	4,319	36%	-2%
Breach of the peace etc.	3,631	3,018	3,395	12%	-6%
Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct	265	206	288	40%	9%
Urinating etc.	140	24	118	392%	-16%
Other miscellaneous offences	1,081	1,112	1,186	7%	10%
Motor vehicle offences	9,694	7,812	8,147	4%	-16%
Dangerous and careless driving	900	728	955	31%	6%
Driving under the influence	571	471	555	18%	-3%
Speeding	2,003	1,327	1,284	-3%	-36%
Unlawful use of vehicle	3,483	3,300	2,790	-15%	-20%
Vehicle defect offences	595	438	391	-11%	-34%
Seat belt offences	133	84	181	115%	36%
Mobile phone offences	110	83	117	41%	6%
Other motor vehicle offences	1,899	1,381	1,874	36%	-1%

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

	February			% Change since	% Change since
	2020	2021	2022	February 2021	February 2020
Aberdeen City	920	820	945	15%	3%
Aberdeenshire	512	420	551	31%	8%
Angus	240	251	279	11%	16%
Argyll & Bute	198	138	163	18%	-18%
Clackmannanshire	137	146	158	8%	15%
Dumfries & Galloway	453	492	508	3%	12%
Dundee City	737	591	781	32%	6%
East Ayrshire	477	407	427	5%	-10%
East Dunbartonshire	235	173	170	-2%	-28%
East Lothian	289	297	272	-8%	-6%
East Renfrewshire	155	136	131	-4%	-15%
Edinburgh City	2,306	1,603	1,841	15%	-20%
Falkirk	507	414	472	14%	-7%
Fife	1,108	929	1,150	24%	4%
Glasgow City	3,283	2,502	2,824	13%	-14%
Highland	622	516	559	8%	-10%
Inverclyde	258	246	258	5%	0%
Midlothian	288	265	274	3%	-5%
Moray	252	163	218	34%	-13%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	30	35	35	0%	17%
North Ayrshire	507	500	429	-14%	-15%
North Lanarkshire	1,453	1,149	1,256	9%	-14%
Orkney Islands	29	22	19	-14%	-34%
Perth & Kinross	346	345	362	5%	5%
Renfrewshire	555	582	594	2%	7%
Scottish Borders	263	256	312	22%	19%
Shetland Islands	48	45	25	-44%	-48%
South Ayrshire	350	333	261	-22%	-25%
South Lanarkshire	1,160	1,097	940	-14%	-19%
Stirling	269	235	227	-3%	-16%
West Dunbartonshire	417	366	326	-11%	-22%
West Lothian	588	505	559	11%	-5%
Scotland¹	18,992	15,979	17,326	8%	-9%

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 February 2020 and April 2020 to February 2021 and April 2021 to February 2022

Crime group	April 2019 to February 2020	April 2020 to February 2021	April 2021 to February 2022	% Change since 2020-2021	% Change since 2019-2020
Total crimes¹	225,559	209,354	205,461	-2%	-9%
Non-sexual crimes of violence	8,621	8,002	8,990	12%	4%
Homicide etc.	112	88	78	-11%	-30%
Attempted murder & serious assault	3,846	3,091	3,319	7%	-14%
Robbery	1,568	1,533	1,484	-3%	-5%
Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018	1,580	1,419	1,502	6%	-5%
Other violence	1,515	1,871	2,607	39%	72%
Sexual crimes	12,390	11,350	13,370	18%	8%
Rape & attempted rape	2,209	1,984	2,234	13%	1%
Sexual assault	4,626	3,563	4,713	32%	2%
Crimes associated with prostitution	88	48	71	48%	-19%
Other sexual crimes	5,467	5,755	6,352	10%	16%
Crimes of dishonesty	101,218	86,020	87,178	1%	-14%
Housebreaking	11,727	9,235	7,956	-14%	-32%
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	1,616	1,111	1,104	-1%	-32%
Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP	2,678	1,954	1,794	-8%	-33%
Theft of a motor vehicle	4,484	4,013	4,106	2%	-8%
Shoplifting	28,425	18,790	20,539	9%	-28%
Other theft	37,939	30,562	31,708	4%	-16%
Fraud	9,947	16,054	16,411	2%	65%
Other dishonesty	4,402	4,301	3,560	-17%	-19%
Fire-raising, vandalism etc.	44,269	38,955	40,275	3%	-9%
Fire-raising	2,452	2,376	2,408	1%	-2%
Vandalism etc.	41,817	36,579	37,867	4%	-9%
Other crimes	59,061	65,027	55,648	-14%	-6%
Crimes against public justice	17,759	23,130	21,321	-8%	20%
Handling offensive weapons	8,871	9,031	8,865	-2%	0%
<i>Not used in other criminal activity</i>	4,112	4,207	3,834	-9%	-7%
<i>Used in other criminal activity</i>	4,759	4,824	5,031	4%	6%
Drugs	32,234	32,719	25,298	-23%	-22%
Other	197	147	164	12%	-17%

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 February 2020 and April 2020 to February 2021 and April 2021 to February 2022

Crime group	April 2019 to February 2020	April 2020 to February 2021	April 2021 to February 2022	% Change since 2020-2021	% Change since 2019-2020
Total offences¹	231,019	211,945	212,528	0%	-8%
Miscellaneous offences	118,917	112,725	114,627	2%	-4%
Common assault	53,266	47,015	51,747	10%	-3%
Breach of the peace etc.	46,541	45,422	43,717	-4%	-6%
Drunkness and other disorderly conduct	4,947	5,096	4,330	-15%	-12%
Urinating etc.	2,103	761	1,231	62%	-41%
Other miscellaneous offences	12,060	14,431	13,602	-6%	13%
Motor vehicle offences	112,102	99,220	97,901	-1%	-13%
Dangerous and careless driving	10,621	10,172	11,405	12%	7%
Driving under the influence	6,059	7,431	7,051	-5%	16%
Speeding	26,673	18,813	19,392	3%	-27%
Unlawful use of vehicle	36,003	36,460	31,935	-12%	-11%
Vehicle defect offences	6,487	5,695	5,145	-10%	-21%
Seat belt offences	2,514	1,532	1,538	0%	-39%
Mobile phone offences	2,125	1,444	1,288	-11%	-39%
Other motor vehicle offences	21,620	17,673	20,147	14%	-7%

Annexes

Annex 1: Background

As outlined on page one, these monthly Official Statistics were 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 28 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 February 2022 data for this bulletin was extracted in March 2022. In order to compare on a like-for-like basis, data used for comparison was taken from the February 2021 bulletin published last year, which was extracted in March 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 February 2020 was extracted in March 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:

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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.

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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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