

## CRIME AND JUSTICE

# Recorded Crime in Scotland: March 2022

This Official Statistics bulletin presents information on the number of crimes and offences recorded by the police in Scotland during March 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.

As announced in the February 2022 release, this is the final publication of these Monthly Official Statistics. They will 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 an associated user [consultation report](#).

## 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 18,775 crimes in March 2022. This was 2% lower than the 19,148 crimes recorded in the same month of 2021 (when pandemic restrictions were in place) and 1% lower than the 18,874 crimes recorded in the same month of 2020 (part of which included restrictions on movement, with the first UK national lockdown announced on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March).

In March 2022:

- Non-sexual crimes of violence were 7% higher compared to March 2021 (increasing from 795 to 852 crimes), and 21% higher compared to March 2020 (increasing from 702 to 852 crimes).
- Sexual crimes were 7% lower compared to March 2021 (decreasing from 1,278 to 1,186 crimes), but 7% higher compared to March 2020 (increasing from 1,106 to 1,186 crimes).
- Crimes of dishonesty were 9% higher compared to March 2021 (increasing from 7,684 to 8,398 crimes), and 1% higher than in March 2020 (increasing from 8,356 to 8,398 crimes).
- Fire-raising, vandalism etc. was 1% lower compared to March 2021 (decreasing from 3,753 to 3,731 crimes), and 4% lower than in March 2020 (decreasing from 3,897 to 3,731 crimes).
- Other crimes were 18% lower compared to March 2021 (decreasing from 5,638 to 4,608 crimes), and 4% lower than in March 2020 (decreasing from 4,813 to 4,608 crimes).
- Fewer crimes were recorded by the police in 22 (69%) out of 32 local authorities, compared to March 2021.

The number of offences recorded by the police in Scotland in March 2022 was 18,684. This is 6% lower than the 19,772 offences recorded in the same month of 2021 (when pandemic restrictions were in place) but 2% higher than the 18,359 offences recorded in the same month of 2020 (part of which included restrictions on movement, with the first UK national lockdown announced on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March).

In March 2022:

- Miscellaneous offences increased by 8% compared to March 2021 (increasing from 9,797 to 10,580), and were 8% higher compared to March 2020 (increasing from 9,755 to 10,580).
- Motor vehicle offences were 19% lower compared to March 2021 (decreasing from 9,975 to 8,104), and 6% lower compared to March 2020 (decreasing from 8,604 to 8,104).

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 March 2022, the police recorded 18,775 crimes. This was 2% (or 373 crimes) lower than the 19,148 crimes recorded in the same month of 2021 (when pandemic restrictions were in place) and 1% lower than the 18,874 crimes recorded in the same month of 2020 (part of which included restrictions on movement, with the first UK national lockdown announced on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March). There were variations in the year-on-year trends between different crime types. However, with the exception of Fire-raising, Vandalism etc. and Other crimes, all groups were higher than in March 2020, despite the overall decrease ([Table 1](#), [Chart 1](#)).

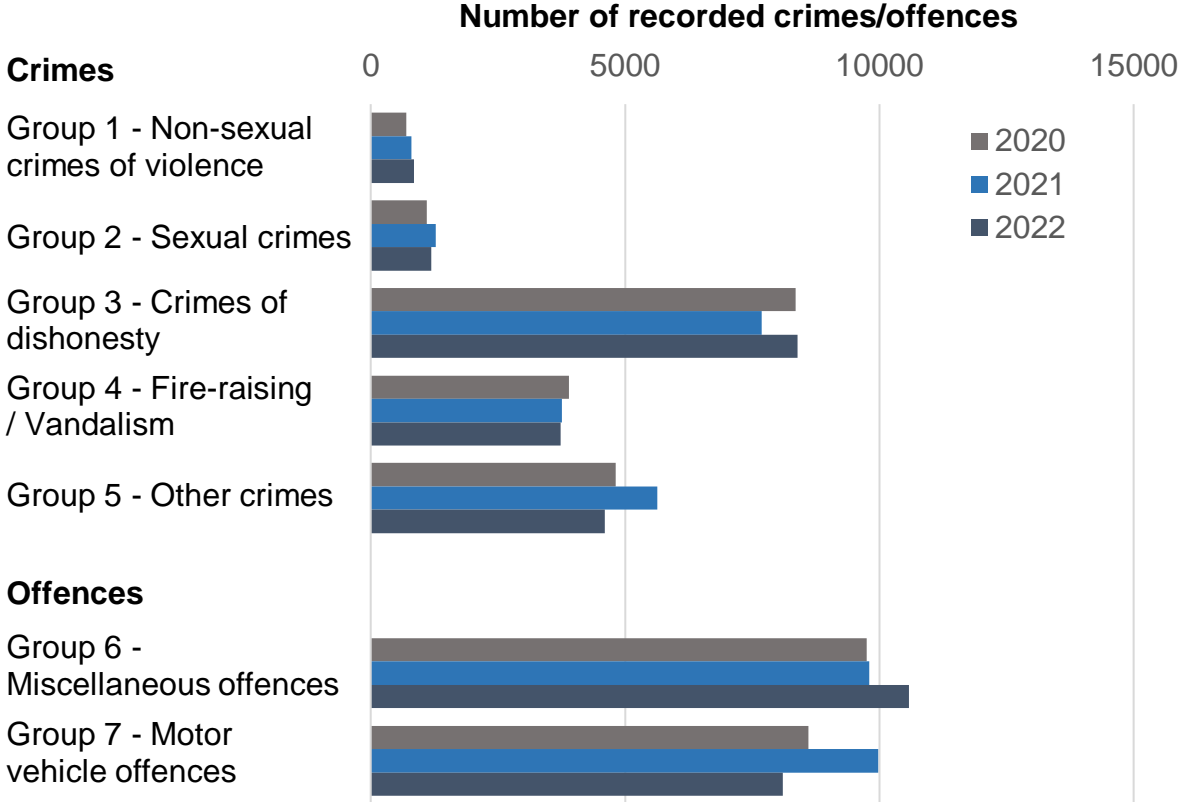
In March 2022:

- Non-sexual crimes of violence were 7% (or 57 crimes) higher compared to March 2021 (increasing from 795 to 852 crimes), and 21% higher compared to March 2020 (increasing from 702 to 852 crimes). Within this, Attempted murder and serious assault increased by 18% compared to March 2021 (from 262 to 310 crimes), and increased by 3% from March 2020 (from 302 to 310 crimes). Other violence increased by 15% compared to March 2021 (from 224 to 258 crimes) and increased by 119% from March 2020 (from 118 to 258 crimes). The increase since March 2020 is mainly due to a rise in Threats and extortion (from 41 to 131 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 6% compared to March 2021 (from 150 to 159 crimes), and were 45% higher than in March 2020 (increasing from 110 to 159 crimes).
- Sexual crimes were 7% (or 92 crimes) lower compared to March 2021, decreasing from 1,278 to 1,186 crimes, but were 7% (or 80 crimes) higher than in March 2020 (increasing from 1,106 to 1,186 crimes). Sexual assault increased by 18% compared to March 2021 (from 373 to 440 crimes), and increased by 15% compared to March 2020 (increasing from 383 to 440 crimes). Other sexual crimes decreased by 19% compared to March 2021 (decreasing from 674 to 546 crimes) and decreased by 3% compared to March 2020 (decreasing from 563 to 546 crimes). The latest [National Statistics](#) estimated that two-thirds (66%) of recorded Other sexual crimes were cyber-crimes. Rape and attempted rape decreased by 12% compared to March 2021 (from 225 to 198 crimes), but increased by 30% compared to March 2020 (from 152 to 198 crimes).

- Crimes of dishonesty were 9% (or 714 crimes) higher compared to March 2021, increasing from 7,684 to 8,398 crimes. This was 1% higher than in March 2020 (increasing from 8,356 to 8,398 crimes). Shoplifting was the biggest contributor (by volume) to the increase, having risen by 28% compared to March 2021 (from 1,706 to 2,189 crimes), and was 2% higher when compared to March 2020. Crimes of Fraud have been at increased levels throughout the pandemic. Despite a 15% decrease compared to March 2021 (down from 1,764 to 1,505 crimes), there was a 49% increase since March 2020 (from 1,010 to 1,505 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 1% (or 22 crimes) lower compared to March 2021, decreasing from 3,753 to 3,731 crimes, and was 4% lower than March 2020. Vandalism etc. had 1 less crime in March 2022 than March 2021. This is 5% lower than March 2020 levels.
- Other crimes were 18% (or 1,030 crimes) lower than in March 2021, decreasing from 5,638 to 4,608 crimes. This is 4% lower than March 2020 (decreasing from 4,813 to 4,608 crimes). The biggest contributor to the decrease from 2021 was Drugs (which fell by 31% compared to March 2021 and 21% compared to March 2020).

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

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



## Offences recorded by the police

In March 2022, the police recorded 18,684 offences. This was 6% (or 1,088 offences) lower than the 19,772 offences recorded in the same month in 2021, but 2% higher than in March 2020 (increasing from 18,359 to 18,684 offences). Miscellaneous offences increased by 8% compared to both March 2021 and 2020. Motor vehicle offences decreased by 19% compared to March 2021, and decreased by 6% compared to March 2020, as detailed below ([Table 2](#)).

In March 2022:

- Miscellaneous offences increased by 8% (or 783 offences) compared to March 2021 (increasing from 9,797 to 10,580 offences), and increased by 8% compared to March 2020 (increasing from 9,755 to 10,580 offences). The largest increase by volume since March 2021 was Common assault, which rose by 27% from 4,066 to 5,172 offences, and was 16% higher than March 2020. Urinating etc. was the only other category in miscellaneous offences that increased compared to March 2021.
- Motor vehicle offences were 19% (or 1,871 offences) lower compared to March 2021, decreasing from 9,975 to 8,104 offences, and were 6% lower than March 2020 levels. The main contributor to the decrease since March 2021 by volume was Unlawful use of vehicle (which decreased by 30%, from 3,849 to 2,696 offences). The categories within Motor vehicle offences that increased when compared to March 2020 were Mobile phone offences (up 25%), Other motor vehicle offences (up 13%), Dangerous and careless driving (up 10%) and Driving under the influence (up 7%).

## Local Authorities

Compared to March 2021, a decrease in recorded crime was seen in 22 (69%) out of 32 local authorities, with 10 showing an increase ([Table 3](#)). The largest increase was seen in Stirling (up 24%) and the largest decrease was in the Orkney Islands (down 45%). 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 North Lanarkshire (down 13%, or 183 crimes) and Aberdeen City (down 14%, or 151 crimes).

## **April 2019 to March 2020 and April 2020 to March 2021, compared with April 2021 to March 2022**

Overall, in April 2021 to March 2022 the police recorded 224,236 crimes, a reduction of 2% (or 4,266 crimes) compared to April 2020 to March 2021 (228,502 crimes) ([Table 4](#)). This was 8% (or 20,197 crimes) lower than April 2019 to March 2020 (244,433 crimes). The biggest drivers of the decrease by volume since April 2020 to March 2021 were Drugs (down 23%, or 8,286 crimes), Crimes against public justice (down 8%, or 1,994 crimes) and Housebreaking (down 13%, or 1,271 crimes). When compared with April 2019 to March 2020, the biggest drivers of the reduction by volume were Shoplifting (down 26%, or 7,884 crimes), Drugs (down 21%, or 7,459 crimes) and Other theft (down 15%, or 6,076 crimes). The largest increase since April 2020 to March 2021 by volume was Shoplifting (up 11%, or 2,232 crimes). Compared with April 2019 to March 2020, the largest increase by volume was Fraud (up 64%, or 6,959 crimes).

The number of offences recorded by the police in April 2021 to March 2022 was <1% (or 505 offences) lower than April 2020 to March 2021, with Miscellaneous offences increasing by 2% (or 2,685 offences) and Motor vehicle offences decreasing by 3% (or 3,190 offences) ([Table 5](#)). Compared to April 2019 to March 2020, offences decreased by 7% (or 18,166 offences), with Miscellaneous offences decreasing by 3% (or 3,465 offences) and Motor vehicle offences decreasing by 12% (or 14,701 offences).



## Changes in levels of recorded fraud

Fraud was 15% lower in March 2022 compared to March 2021, but 49% (or 495 crimes) higher than in March 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 area<sup>1</sup>, the Scottish Crime Recording Board approved a change so that from 1 April 2020 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.

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<sup>1</sup> [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 four such crimes recorded during March 2022, down from five in the previous month and the new second lowest monthly 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 March 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
March	4

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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: March 2022](#)

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

Crime group	March			% Change since	% Change since
	2020	2021	2022	March 2021	March 2020
<b>Total crimes<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>18,874</b>	<b>19,148</b>	<b>18,775</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>-1%</b>
<b>Non-sexual crimes of violence</b>	<b>702</b>	<b>795</b>	<b>852</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>21%</b>
Homicide etc.	9	7	1	n/r	n/r
Attempted murder & serious assault	302	262	310	18%	3%
Robbery	163	152	124	-18%	-24%
Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018	110	150	159	6%	45%
Other violence	118	224	258	15%	119%
<b>Sexual crimes</b>	<b>1,106</b>	<b>1,278</b>	<b>1,186</b>	<b>-7%</b>	<b>7%</b>
Rape & attempted rape	152	225	198	-12%	30%
Sexual assault	383	373	440	18%	15%
Crimes associated with prostitution	8	6	2	n/r	n/r
Other sexual crimes	563	674	546	-19%	-3%
<b>Crimes of dishonesty</b>	<b>8,356</b>	<b>7,684</b>	<b>8,398</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>1%</b>
Housebreaking	1,128	661	669	1%	-41%
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	116	100	110	10%	-5%
Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP	282	142	154	8%	-45%
Theft of a motor vehicle	450	310	438	41%	-3%
Shoplifting	2,147	1,706	2,189	28%	2%
Other theft	2,870	2,593	3,025	17%	5%
Fraud	1,010	1,764	1,505	-15%	49%
Other dishonesty	353	408	308	-25%	-13%
<b>Fire-raising, vandalism etc.</b>	<b>3,897</b>	<b>3,753</b>	<b>3,731</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>-4%</b>
Fire-raising	186	220	199	-10%	7%
Vandalism etc.	3,711	3,533	3,532	0%	-5%
<b>Other crimes</b>	<b>4,813</b>	<b>5,638</b>	<b>4,608</b>	<b>-18%</b>	<b>-4%</b>
Crimes against public justice	1,520	2,094	1,909	-9%	26%
Handling offensive weapons	797	717	728	2%	-9%
<i>Not used in other criminal activity</i>	353	321	284	-12%	-20%
<i>Used in other criminal activity</i>	444	396	444	12%	0%
Drugs	2,480	2,822	1,957	-31%	-21%
Other	16	5	14	n/r	-13%

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, March 2020, 2021 and 2022**

Crime group	March			% Change since	% Change since
	2020	2021	2022	March 2021	March 2020
<b>Total offences</b>	<b>18,359</b>	<b>19,772</b>	<b>18,684</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Miscellaneous offences</b>	<b>9,755</b>	<b>9,797</b>	<b>10,580</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>8%</b>
Common assault	4,449	4,066	5,172	27%	16%
Breach of the peace etc.	3,845	3,885	3,672	-5%	-4%
Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct	348	413	388	-6%	11%
Urinating etc.	123	61	125	105%	2%
Other miscellaneous offences	990	1,372	1,223	-11%	24%
<b>Motor vehicle offences</b>	<b>8,604</b>	<b>9,975</b>	<b>8,104</b>	<b>-19%</b>	<b>-6%</b>
Dangerous and careless driving	863	933	946	1%	10%
Driving under the influence	552	627	590	-6%	7%
Speeding	1,758	2,294	1,380	-40%	-22%
Unlawful use of vehicle	3,084	3,849	2,696	-30%	-13%
Vehicle defect offences	442	493	354	-28%	-20%
Seat belt offences	117	132	103	-22%	-12%
Mobile phone offences	101	117	126	8%	25%
Other motor vehicle offences	1,687	1,530	1,909	25%	13%

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

	March			% Change since	% Change since
	2020	2021	2022	March 2021	March 2020
Aberdeen City	884	1,114	963	-14%	9%
Aberdeenshire	438	559	560	0%	28%
Angus	243	320	267	-17%	10%
Argyll & Bute	178	222	189	-15%	6%
Clackmannanshire	149	208	163	-22%	9%
Dumfries & Galloway	620	586	638	9%	3%
Dundee City	738	863	817	-5%	11%
East Ayrshire	443	449	473	5%	7%
East Dunbartonshire	247	252	210	-17%	-15%
East Lothian	267	327	257	-21%	-4%
East Renfrewshire	154	160	153	-4%	-1%
Edinburgh City	2,081	2,091	2,035	-3%	-2%
Falkirk	617	536	457	-15%	-26%
Fife	1,106	1,123	1,302	16%	18%
Glasgow City	3,356	2,943	3,206	9%	-4%
Highland	604	534	604	13%	0%
Inverclyde	303	311	271	-13%	-11%
Midlothian	299	303	293	-3%	-2%
Moray	218	236	250	6%	15%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	22	41	39	-5%	77%
North Ayrshire	542	519	441	-15%	-19%
North Lanarkshire	1,355	1,436	1,253	-13%	-8%
Orkney Islands	17	29	16	-45%	-6%
Perth & Kinross	386	373	355	-5%	-8%
Renfrewshire	570	532	608	14%	7%
Scottish Borders	242	341	264	-23%	9%
Shetland Islands	27	51	39	-24%	44%
South Ayrshire	407	403	354	-12%	-13%
South Lanarkshire	1,142	1,072	1,093	2%	-4%
Stirling	242	266	331	24%	37%
West Dunbartonshire	310	377	328	-13%	6%
West Lothian	667	571	546	-4%	-18%
<b>Scotland<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>18,874</b>	<b>19,148</b>	<b>18,775</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>-1%</b>

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 March 2020 and April 2020 to March 2021 and April 2021 to March 2022**

Crime group	April 2019 to March 2020	April 2020 to March 2021	April 2021 to March 2022	% Change since 2020-2021	% Change since 2019-2020
<b>Total crimes<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>244,433</b>	<b>228,502</b>	<b>224,236</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>-8%</b>
<b>Non-sexual crimes of violence</b>	<b>9,323</b>	<b>8,797</b>	<b>9,842</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>6%</b>
Homicide etc.	121	95	79	-17%	-35%
Attempted murder & serious assault	4,148	3,353	3,629	8%	-13%
Robbery	1,731	1,685	1,608	-5%	-7%
Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018	1,690	1,569	1,661	6%	-2%
Other violence	1,633	2,095	2,865	37%	75%
<b>Sexual crimes</b>	<b>13,496</b>	<b>12,628</b>	<b>14,556</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>8%</b>
Rape & attempted rape	2,361	2,209	2,432	10%	3%
Sexual assault	5,009	3,936	5,153	31%	3%
Crimes associated with prostitution	96	54	73	35%	-24%
Other sexual crimes	6,030	6,429	6,898	7%	14%
<b>Crimes of dishonesty</b>	<b>109,574</b>	<b>93,704</b>	<b>95,576</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>-13%</b>
Housebreaking	12,855	9,896	8,625	-13%	-33%
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	1,732	1,211	1,214	0%	-30%
Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP	2,960	2,096	1,948	-7%	-34%
Theft of a motor vehicle	4,934	4,323	4,544	5%	-8%
Shoplifting	30,572	20,496	22,728	11%	-26%
Other theft	40,809	33,155	34,733	5%	-15%
Fraud	10,957	17,818	17,916	1%	64%
Other dishonesty	4,755	4,709	3,868	-18%	-19%
<b>Fire-raising, vandalism etc.</b>	<b>48,166</b>	<b>42,708</b>	<b>44,006</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>-9%</b>
Fire-raising	2,638	2,596	2,607	0%	-1%
Vandalism etc.	45,528	40,112	41,399	3%	-9%
<b>Other crimes</b>	<b>63,874</b>	<b>70,665</b>	<b>60,256</b>	<b>-15%</b>	<b>-6%</b>
Crimes against public justice	19,279	25,224	23,230	-8%	20%
Handling offensive weapons	9,668	9,748	9,593	-2%	-1%
<i>Not used in other criminal activity</i>	4,465	4,528	4,118	-9%	-8%
<i>Used in other criminal activity</i>	5,203	5,220	5,475	5%	5%
Drugs	34,714	35,541	27,255	-23%	-21%
Other	213	152	178	17%	-16%

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 March 2020 and April 2020 to March 2021 and April 2021 to March 2022**

<b>Crime group</b>	<b>April 2019 to March 2020</b>	<b>April 2020 to March 2021</b>	<b>April 2021 to March 2022</b>	<b>% Change since 2020-2021</b>	<b>% Change since 2019-2020</b>
<b>Total offences<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>249,378</b>	<b>231,717</b>	<b>231,212</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>-7%</b>
<b>Miscellaneous offences</b>	<b>128,672</b>	<b>122,522</b>	<b>125,207</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>-3%</b>
Common assault	57,715	51,081	56,919	11%	-1%
Breach of the peace etc.	50,386	49,307	47,389	-4%	-6%
Drunkness and other disorderly conduct	5,295	5,509	4,718	-14%	-11%
Urinating etc.	2,226	822	1,356	65%	-39%
Other miscellaneous offences	13,050	15,803	14,825	-6%	14%
<b>Motor vehicle offences</b>	<b>120,706</b>	<b>109,195</b>	<b>106,005</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>-12%</b>
Dangerous and careless driving	11,484	11,105	12,351	11%	8%
Driving under the influence	6,611	8,058	7,641	-5%	16%
Speeding	28,431	21,107	20,772	-2%	-27%
Unlawful use of vehicle	39,087	40,309	34,631	-14%	-11%
Vehicle defect offences	6,929	6,188	5,499	-11%	-21%
Seat belt offences	2,631	1,664	1,641	-1%	-38%
Mobile phone offences	2,226	1,561	1,414	-9%	-36%
Other motor vehicle offences	23,307	19,203	22,056	15%	-5%

# 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.

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 this March 2022 edition. 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.

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

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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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:statistics.enquiries@gov.scot).

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