

Statistical Bulletin

Crime and Justice Series

A National Statistics Publication for Scotland

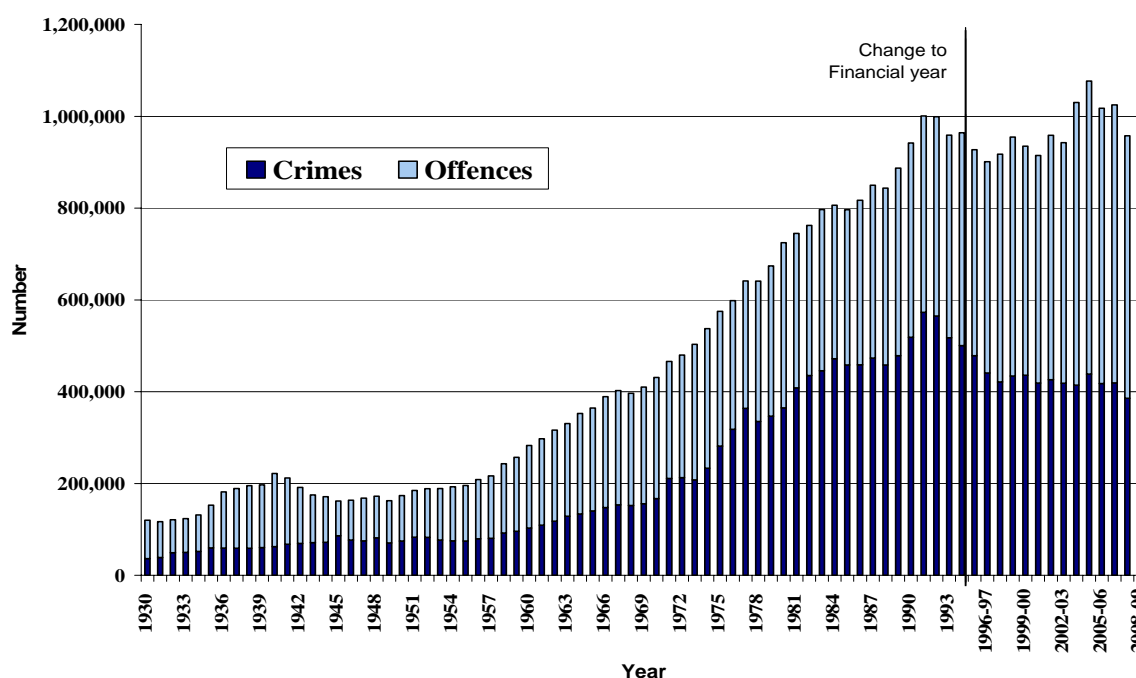
RECORDED CRIME IN SCOTLAND, 2008-09
29 September 2009



1. Introduction

- 1.1 This bulletin presents statistics on crimes and offences recorded and cleared up by the eight Scottish police forces in 2008-09. It forms part of the Scottish Government series of statistical bulletins on the criminal justice system. Statistics on crimes and offences recorded by the police provide a measure of the volume of crime with which the police are faced.
- 1.2 Data from 2004-05 onwards shows the impact of the implementation of the Scottish Crime Recording Standard (SCRS), which was expected to increase the numbers of minor crimes recorded by the police, such as minor crimes of vandalism and minor thefts. However, it was expected that the SCRS would not have much impact on the figures for the more serious crimes such as serious assault, sexual assault, robbery or housebreaking.

Chart 1 Crimes and offences recorded by the police, 1930 to 1994 then 1995-96 to 2008-09



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2. Main points

- The total number of crimes recorded by the police decreased by 2 per cent between 2007-08 and 2008-09. In 2008-09, the Scottish police recorded 377,433 crimes (see [table 1](#)).
- There has been a decrease in the number of crimes recorded in four of the five crime groups, with only *crimes of dishonesty* increasing between 2007-08 and 2008-09, by 1 per cent (see [table 1](#)).
- The number of *non-sexual crimes of violence* recorded by the police decreased by 2 per cent between 2007-08 and 2008-09, to a total of 12,612 (see [table 1](#)).
- The number of *crimes of indecency* decreased by 3 per cent, from 6,552 in 2007-08 to 6,331 in 2008-09, with recorded cases of rape and attempted rape decreasing by 9 per cent to 963 (see [table 1](#)).
- The number of *crimes of dishonesty* increased for the first time in ten years to stand at 167,812 cases in 2008-09 (see [table 1](#)).
- Recorded cases of *vandalism* (including fire-raising and malicious mischief) decreased by 7 per cent to total 109,430 in 2008-09 (see [table 1](#)).
- In 2008-09, the police recorded 560,291 offences, a decrease of 2 per cent from the number in 2007-08. This was largely due to a substantial decrease in the number of speeding offences recorded (see [table 2](#)).
- The clear-up rate for all recorded crimes in 2008-09 was 49 per cent. The corresponding figure for 2007-08 was 48 per cent (see [table 3](#)).
- The clear-up rate in 2008-09 for *non-sexual crimes of violence* is higher than in 2007-08 increasing from 62 per cent to 64 per cent. The rate for *crimes of indecency* has decreased by 3 percentage points to 68 per cent, the rate for *crimes of dishonesty* has increased by 1 percentage point and the rate for *miscellaneous offences* has fallen by 1 percentage point. The other two crime groups are unchanged from the previous year (see [table 3](#)).
- All eight police forces showed a reduction in the number of crimes recorded in 2008-09 compared to 2007-08. The scale of reduction ranged from a marginal fall in Lothian and Borders and in Northern, to an 11 per cent decrease in Dumfries and Galloway (see [table 5](#)).
- Although there was only a relatively small decrease (-3 per cent) in the total number of *crimes of indecency* recorded in Scotland in 2008-09, there were substantial differences between police forces. Northern (+12 per cent) and Lothian & Borders (+6 per cent) recorded increases, while Central (-34 per cent), Dumfries & Galloway (-15 per cent) and Fife (-22 per cent) all recorded notable decreases (see [table 5](#)).

3. Commentary: Introduction

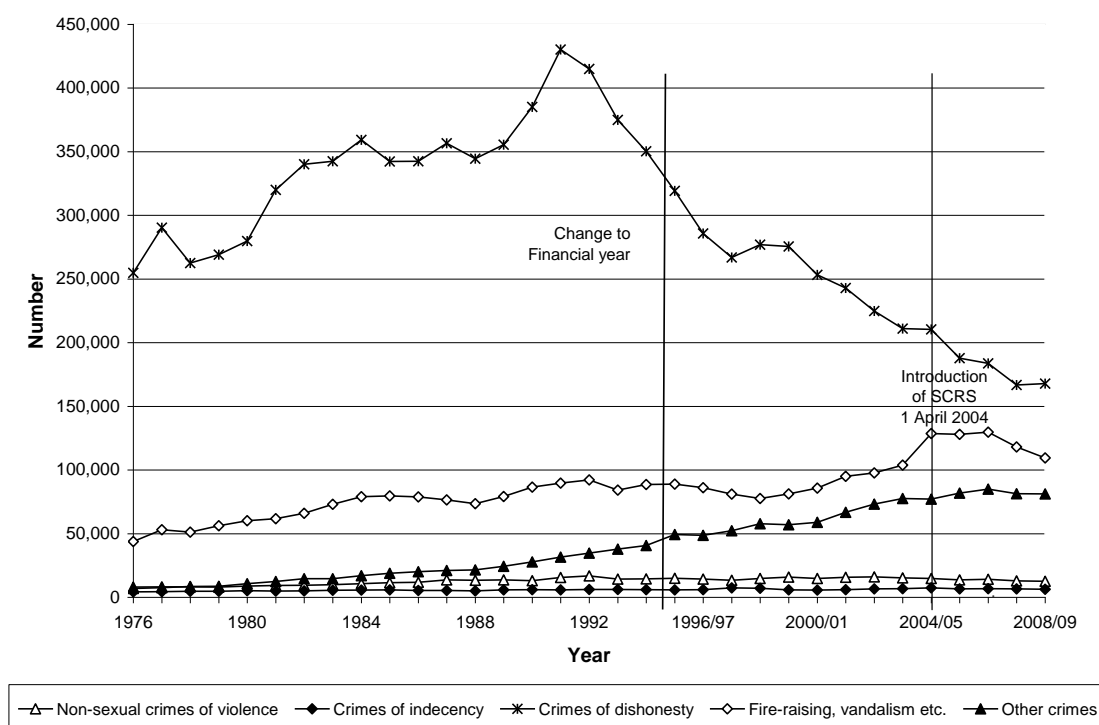
3.1 The introduction of the Scottish Crime Recording Standard (SCRS) in 2004-05 has helped maintain a consistent approach to recording crime figures. As anticipated this has increased the numbers of minor crimes recorded by the police, such as minor crimes of vandalism and minor thefts.

3.2 Unfortunately it was not possible to estimate the exact impact of the new recording standard on the recorded crime figures because around the time that the new standard was implemented, police also introduced centralised call centres which encouraged the reporting of incidents to the police. It had been hoped that the underlying trends in crime would be monitored through a new, much larger, Scottish Crime and Victimization Survey (SCVS). Unfortunately, this has not proved possible.

4. Commentary: Recorded crime in Scotland

4.1 The total number of crimes recorded by the police in 2008-09 was 377,433, which was 2 per cent lower than in 2007-08 (see [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#)). The total remains well below the 2004-05 figure of 438,121 and is the lowest number recorded since 1980.

Chart 2 Crimes recorded by the police by crime group, 1976 to 1994 then 1995-96 to 2008-09



4.2 The number of *non-sexual crimes of violence* recorded by the police decreased by 2 per cent between 2007-08 and 2008-09 to total 12,612. This is the lowest figure recorded in this category since the change to a financial year basis in 1995-96 and is the lowest recorded since 1986 (see [chart 2](#) and [table 1](#)). Within

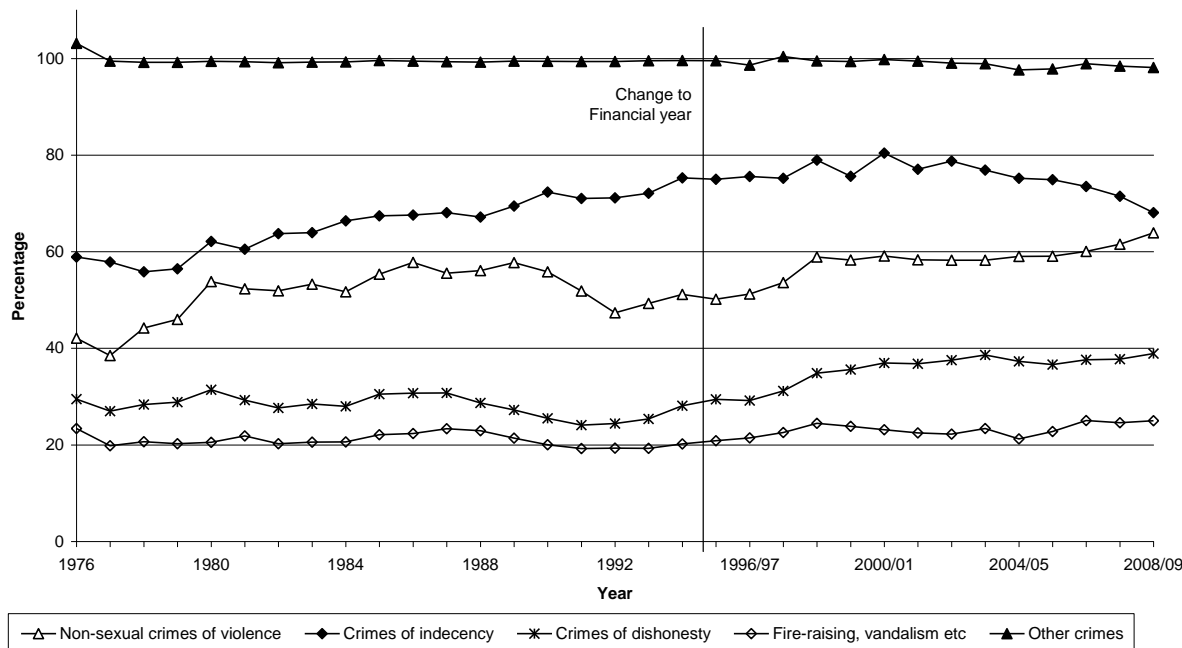
this category, the number of serious assaults (which includes crimes of murder and attempted murder) recorded decreased by 4 per cent to 6,606 and recorded robberies decreased by 3 per cent to total 2,963. Crime figures for both of these sub-categories have been falling since 2006-07. However, other non-sexual crimes of violence increased by 3 per cent from 2,957 to 3,043. This is the first time since 2002-03 that this particular sub-category, which includes threats and extortion has seen an increase on the previous year.

- 4.3 The number of crimes in the *indecent* group decreased by 3 per cent from 6,552 in 2007-08 to 6,331 in 2008-09 (see [chart 2](#) and [table 1](#)). Within this group, recorded cases of rape and attempted rape decreased by 9 per cent, totalling 963. The number of crimes recorded relating to this particular sub-category has continued to fall since 2005-06. Cases of indecent assault fell by 2 per cent to 1,640 in 2008-09, with the number of crimes of lewd and indecent behaviour also falling (by 6 per cent) to 2,402 in 2008-09. The number of crimes recorded in the other sub-group increased by 5 per cent to total 1,326 in 2008-09.
- 4.4 The number of *crimes of dishonesty* increased for the first time in the ten years covered by this bulletin to stand at 167,812 cases in 2008-09 (see [chart 2](#) and [table 1](#)). This increase can be attributed to two categories of crimes of dishonesty in particular. Theft by opening a lockfast place increased by 9 per cent to 6,952 and shoplifting increased by 10 per cent to 32,048.
- 4.5 Recorded cases of *vandalism* (including fire-raising and malicious mischief) decreased by 7 per cent to total 109,430 in 2008-09 (see [chart 2](#) and [table 1](#)). Within this category although there was very little change in the number of crimes recorded within the fire-raising sub group, the number of crimes in the vandalism sub-group decreased by 8 per cent from 113,390 in 2007-08 to 104,779 in 2008-09.
- 4.6 Within the *other crimes* group, there was a 6 per cent decrease in crimes against public justice (see [chart 2](#) and [table 1](#)), and little change in the number of crimes of handling an offensive weapon compared with 2007-08. However recorded drugs crimes increased by 4 per cent from 40,746 in 2007-08 to 42,509 in 2008-09. This is the first time since 2005-06 that the number of drug crimes has increased when compared with the previous year. More specifically the illegal cultivation of drugs increased by 24 per cent compared with 2007-08 (see [table A5](#)).
- 4.7 There was a marginal increase in the number of crimes cleared up by the police from 184,631 in 2007-08 to 184,719 in 2008-09 (see [table A1](#)). There was an overall increase in the clear up rates of crimes (see [table 3](#)), from 48 per cent in 2007-08 to 49 per cent in 2008-09. This is the highest national clear up rate in the past twenty years.
- 4.8 The clear up rate in 2008-09 for *non-sexual crimes of violence* is higher than in 2007-08, increasing from 62 per cent to 64 per cent (see [table 3](#)). The rate for *crimes of indecency* has decreased by 3 percentage points to 68 per cent, with the clear up rate for rape and attempted rape falling by 9 percentage points between 2007-08 and 2008-09. The rate for *crimes of dishonesty* has increased by 1 percentage point and the rate for *miscellaneous offences* has fallen by 1

percentage point. The other two crime groups remain unchanged from the previous year.

4.9 The number of crimes of domestic housebreaking recorded by the police per 10,000 population decreased from 34 in 2007-08 to 33 in 2008-09 (see [chart 5](#) and [table 8](#)).

Chart 3 Clear up rates for crimes recorded by the police by crime group, 1976 to 1994 then 1995-96 to 2008-09



4.10 The number of offences recorded decreased by 2 *per cent* from 572,068 in 2007-08 to 560,291 in 2008-09. There were decreases in a number of sub-categories of offences (see [chart 1](#) and [table 2](#)), particularly speeding (-15 *per cent*). There were increases in the following three sub-categories, minor assault (1 *per cent*), breach of the peace (1 *per cent*) and vehicle defect offences (15 *per cent*).

5. Commentary: Recorded crimes and offences by police force

This section provides commentary on the published figures, supplemented by commentary provided by the individual police forces.

Chart 4 Total number of crimes recorded per 10,000 population in 2008-09 by police force area

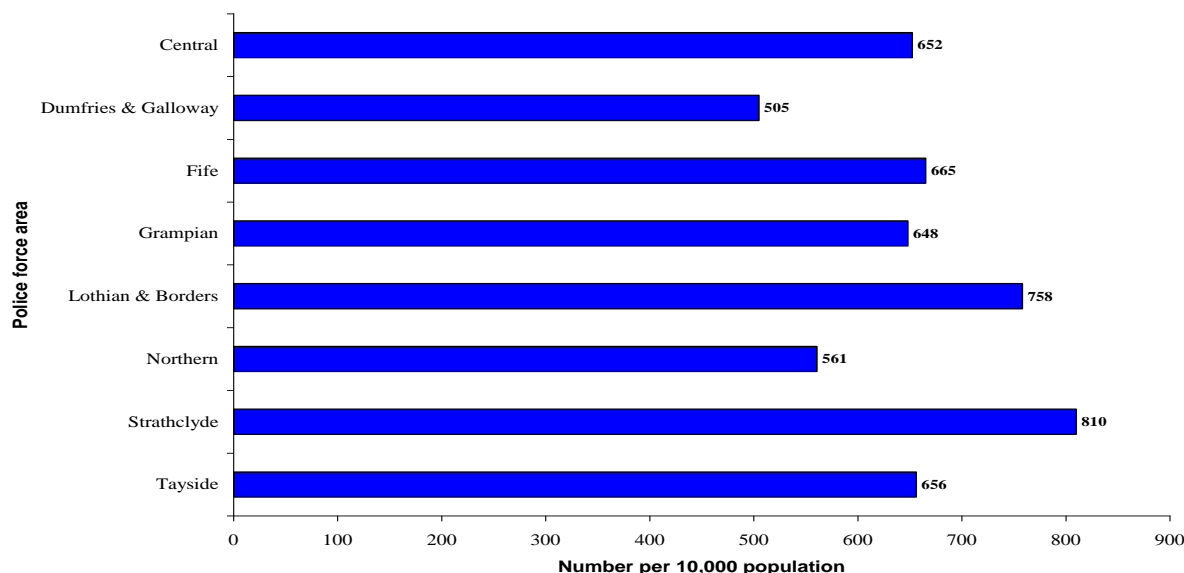


Chart 4 shows that the number of crimes recorded per 10,000 population is higher in police forces which contain large cities, such as Strathclyde and Lothian and Borders, and lower in primarily rural police force areas such as Dumfries and Galloway and Northern. The levels of crime recorded in the other forces are broadly similar, at around 650 crimes per 10,000 population.

5.1 Central

The total number of crimes recorded in the Central Police Force area decreased by 4 per cent between 2007-08 and 2008-09 to 18,941 (see [table 5](#)). This is the second consecutive year that this total has fallen. There were decreases in the number of crimes and offences recorded in all but one group (*motor vehicle offences*), with the most considerable being in the *crimes of indecency group* (-34 per cent). Despite the total number of offences per 10,000 population recorded by Central Scotland Police (1,371) being the second highest across all forces, this number has fallen for the second consecutive year. During 2008-09 Central Scotland Police recorded the highest clear up rate of *non-sexual crimes of violence* (97 per cent) for the sixth year in succession. This is 33 percentage points higher than the Scottish average of 64 per cent (see [table 5](#)). The 80 per cent clear up rate of *crimes of indecency* is the lowest detection rate Central has recorded for this particular crime group in the past five years.

Force Commentary:

Although there has been an increase in reported robberies, the vast majority of these can be classed at the lower end of the scale with small sums of money,

mobile phones or portable music players (mp3 style) being the common items stolen from individuals in isolated incidents. There are no identified reasons for the increases in theft by opening lockfast places and fraud. Pro-active police work in relation to identifying individuals who carry weapons is frequently carried out by Central Scotland Police and may contribute to the increase in the number of recorded crimes for handling offensive weapons.

A change to recording practices whereby the Procurator Fiscal has issued specific guidance on levels of evidence required regarding neglect of children have contributed to the recorded reduction in crimes classed as other violence. A reduction in the number of historic crimes being recorded has had an affect on the overall recorded crime picture for *crimes of indecency*. Force adherence to new guidelines set out by the Lord Advocate in relation to the Investigation and Reporting of Sexual Offences has resulted in a reduction in the detection rate for these crimes. Although there is no specific explanation for the decrease in the number of crimes recorded relating to theft from a motor vehicle (OLP), it is accepted that better security measures built into newer vehicles could have had an impact on the reduction.

5.2 Dumfries & Galloway

Crimes recorded in the Dumfries and Galloway Police Force area decreased for the fifth year in succession and overall by *11 per cent* since 2007-08 to total 7,503 (see [table 5](#)). There were decreases in the number of crimes and offences in all crime groups, with *crimes of indecency* showing the most substantial decrease (*-15 per cent*). There were also notable reductions in the *fire-raising/vandalism* and *other crimes* categories. The 505 total crimes per 10,000 population in Dumfries and Galloway was the lowest number recorded by any force in 2008-09. Despite the total number of offences per 10,000 population in Dumfries and Galloway falling for the second consecutive year, this was still the highest number (1,626) recorded across all forces in 2008-09; a trend which has stayed consistent since 2003. The clear up rate of *fire-raising/vandalism* crimes (*51 per cent*) is the highest rate recorded by Dumfries and Galloway in the past ten years.

Force Commentary:

The number of crimes classed as indecent assault increased by *76 per cent* between 2007-08 and 2008-09, equating to 19 more crimes than in 2007-08. It is often the case that *crimes of indecency* may have happened historically, with some incidents being reported by the victim more than two years after the offence. In addition, often one accused is involved in multiple crimes of this nature. Hence there can often be a considerable shift in the numbers of crimes in this area. The Force report that there are a number of accused who have been responsible for three or more crimes in this category throughout the year. It is believed that the increase (*37 per cent*) in the number of crimes recorded as other dishonesty is related to 42 crimes recorded under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary recorded a *36 per cent* decrease (22 fewer crimes) in lewd and libidinous practices in 2008-09. Like indecent assault, crimes recorded as lewd and libidinous practices can fluctuate each year

because they are often recorded historically or one offender is responsible for more than one crime. In a smaller force like Dumfries and Galloway, the arrest of one or two individuals can have a significant impact on crimes such as housebreaking and motor vehicle crime. The removal of even one prolific offender can impact significantly on crimes of this type. In addition changes to processes such as the use of Airwaves: the Force Communications Centre resolving more calls on first contact and initiatives such as “Secured by Design” have freed up officer time to allow them to be much more pro-active in not only solving crime but preventing it in the first instance.

The force ran a large-scale drugs operation to tackle high-level drug dealers. This operation was successful due to the intelligence gathered by officers throughout the course of the operation. Whilst focusing on higher-level drug dealers it may generate less recorded crimes in this category (*17 per cent* decrease compared with 2007-08), however the impact on the community is far greater, hitting the drug dealers harder. Whilst general offences in the drunkenness category have decreased (*26 per cent*), there has been a considerable increase in the consumption of alcohol in designated places which is up from 152 in 2007-08 to 247 in 2008-09. This is due to ongoing initiatives throughout the year aimed at addressing antisocial behaviour and the crimes and offences associated with it.

Like most forces, Roads Policing is part of the Dumfries and Galloway control strategy and forces are constantly monitoring the road traffic offences and road traffic accidents. Education and enforcement play a vital part in reducing road traffic accidents and throughout the year the force runs a variety of initiatives. At the end of 2007-08 the force had run a major initiative aimed at tackling a range of road traffic issues such as driving carelessly; failing to provide information to identify offender; motorway traffic offences (primarily speeding); and offences in connection with records of work. As a national target and force objective, Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary continues to work with our local authority on the basis of enforcement; education; encouragement and engineering to achieve reduction. Different phases of this strategy will dictate the level of recorded offences in group 7 (*motor vehicle offences*).

5.3 Fife

The number of crimes recorded in the Fife Police Force area decreased for the fifth consecutive year and overall by *5 per cent* between 2007-08 and 2008-09 to total 24,075 (see [table 5](#)). *Non-sexual crimes of violence (5 per cent)*, *other crimes (14 per cent)* and *miscellaneous offences (1 per cent)* increased in 2008-09 whereas all of the other crime and offence groups showed a decrease. *Crimes of indecency* accounted for the most substantial decrease (*22 per cent*), which is a stark contrast to the *23 per cent* increase in the number of crimes recorded in this particular category for the previous year. The total number of offences fell in 2008-09 (by *9 per cent*) after a *3 per cent* increase in 2007-08, with the number per 10,000 population being the second lowest amongst all forces. The group clear up rates are broadly similar to last year's apart from *crimes of indecency (67 per cent)* which has fallen for the second consecutive year. Despite this being only 1 percentage point less than the 2008-09 Scottish average for this particular crime group, it falls 28 percentage points short of the *95 per cent* clear up rate Fife recorded in 2006-07.

Force Commentary:

Specifically, Fife has seen an increase in the number of *non-sexual crimes of violence* (see [table 5](#)). This is a priority for Fife Constabulary and remains in their Policing Plan for 2009-10. Reducing the number of *crimes of indecency* is also a target outlined by Fife and as such, considerable effort is being made in achieving targets set out in relation to sexual crime. The decrease of 22 per cent can, in part, be attributed to last year's National Initiatives in this area, which led to an influx of historical crimes being reported. The detection rate for this crime group has also decreased and is primarily due to changes in the reporting arrangements introduced to comply with the Lord Advocate's guidelines on the investigation of sexual offences, and amended business rules relating to the introduction of Standard Prosecution Report 2.

It is suggested that the decrease of 8 per cent achieved by Fife Constabulary for *crimes of dishonesty* can be accredited, in part, to the work of dedicated teams who aim to target repeat offenders and also successful collaborative work with the Procurator Fiscal to ensure offenders are being dealt with promptly. In addition, ongoing operations undertaken at Divisional level aimed at providing security advice and prevention techniques as well as providing a visible deterrent to *crimes of dishonesty* may also have contributed to this reduction. The Force undertakes regular partnership initiatives and this continues to drive down vandalism, a crime commonly associated with anti-social behaviour. The increase in the number of recorded crimes in Fife relating to either handling offensive weapons or drugs is a result of targeting individuals through developed intelligence.

5.4 Grampian

The number of recorded crimes in the Grampian Police Force area decreased for the third consecutive year and overall by *2 per cent* between 2007-08 and 2008-09 to total 34,972 crimes (see [table 5](#)). Despite this fall there were increases in three of the five crime groups, with the main increase in the *other crimes* category (*7 per cent*). The *fire-raising/vandalism* crime group witnessed the most notable decrease (*-5 per cent*) and this is the third year in succession that this number has fallen. The other crime group to see a decrease (*-4 per cent*) compared with 2007-08 is *crimes of dishonesty*. Numbers in this crime group have been falling over the past ten years. The total number of offences recorded by Grampian Police has continued to fall since 2006-07 to total 55,064 offences (see [table 5](#)). The biggest decrease occurred in the *motor vehicle offences* group, where a *13 per cent* drop on last year's figure was recorded. The overall crime clear up rate has increased by 3 percentage points between 2007-08 and 2008-09.

Force Commentary:

In earlier parts of 2008-09, it was noted through performance monitoring within the Grampian Police National Intelligence Model Force Tactical Tasking and Coordinating meetings that shoplifting had increased over some time periods. It was established that there were no particular local issues causing these increases, other than the general link to drug abusers committing such crime to fund their drug use. Local recommendations were made to continue to target

such offenders on an intelligence led basis. In Aberdeen Division, the establishment of a City Centre Unit has led to positive relationships with retail staff to identify and target known offenders. Moray Division also have a full time retail crime officer dedicated to this work. A particular aspect of the increase in drug offences recorded and detected during 2008-09, was Operation Lochnagar. This operation ran during March 2009 targeting drug dealing in three communities in Aberdeen City

The number of recorded robberies in the Grampian Police force area decreased by *25 per cent* between 2007-08 and 2008-09. Generally, the force has focused on robberies as one of the crimes included in their Force Priority of Violence. A particular aspect of this has been in Aberdeen City, where the majority of Grampian's robberies occur and where a new investigation protocol has been applied which has led to more thorough investigation of all crimes to establish their veracity, and follow up with an intelligence led approach to targeting offenders, who often commit series of crimes. Crimes relating to either theft from a motor vehicle (OLP) or theft of a motor vehicle have been decreasing throughout 2008-09, compared to the previous year. These decreases have been driven by proactive targeting of repeat offenders who have been responsible for multiple crimes in local communities. *Motor vehicle offences* have decreased across the whole category, compared with 2007-08. This is a result of the general increase in intelligence led processes to identifying areas which have high histories of collisions, and thereafter targeting these areas to provide high visibility to prevent future collisions. This has been supported by the North East of Scotland Safety Camera Partnership NESAMP, who are also focused on supporting Grampian Police in collision reduction.

5.5 Lothian & Borders

Recorded crime in the Lothian and Borders Police Force area decreased very marginally (by around *0.3 per cent*) to total 70,524 in 2008-09 (see [table 5](#)). The total number of crimes recorded per 10,000 population (758) was the second highest among forces, 28 above the Scotland figure. However there were decreases in four of the seven crime and offence groups, with the main decrease being in the *fire raising/vandalism* group (*-10 per cent*). This is the second year in succession that Lothian and Borders has recorded a fall in numbers for this particular crime group. The biggest increase occurred in the *crimes of dishonesty* group (*7 per cent*) on the back of an *11 per cent* decrease the previous year. Lothian and Borders also reported the highest number of *crimes of dishonesty* per 10,000 population (390) out of all eight forces in 2008-09. There was an increase in the clear up rates for three of the five main crime groups compared with last year, with the clear up rate for *non-sexual crimes of violence* (*67 per cent*) at it's highest since 2001.

Force Commentary:

Lothian and Borders experienced a *25 per cent* increase in the number of shoplifting crimes recorded between 2007-08 and 2008-09. Analysis of shoplifting has been undertaken by the force over a wider period and has been reported internally to be an area of significant exception. Whilst the current

economic climate may contribute to this increase, over time the high security levels employed around shopping complexes and units can actually prove to be of a positive nature in apprehending the culprits. Drunkenness has been a focus for divisions in relation to a number of initiatives, which have been successfully undertaken across the Force area during the year 2008-09. This is demonstrated by a *42 per cent* year on year increase for this offence.

The number of recorded fire-raising crimes decreased by *4 per cent* between 2007-08 and 2008-09 to total 824. This is a trend which the Force aims to keep focusing on for a number of reasons – quality of life issues, the fact that this crime type is generally high in volume and also with a focus on their Antisocial Behaviour priority being undertaken across the Force area. There has been a downward trend occurring over the last few years in the number of speeding offences. The Force hope this is attributed to education through initiatives and campaigns such as Forth One radio, bus backs, Royal Highland show etc. Reverting back to double crewing of mobile enforcement rather than single crew could be another reason for this decrease.

5.6 Northern

The number of crimes recorded in the Northern Police Force area decreased very marginally (by around *0.1 per cent*) to total 16,117 (see [table 5](#)). There were increases in five of the seven crime and offence groups, with the main increase in the *crimes of indecency* group (*12 per cent*). This increase comes on the back of a *16 per cent* decrease for this particular crime group the previous year. The most considerable decrease occurred in the *other crimes* category (*-5 per cent*). This is the second year in succession that this category has seen a fall in numbers. Northern Constabulary recorded the second lowest total number (561) of crimes per 10,000 population amongst forces in 2008-09. The total number of offences increased by *9 per cent* compared with 2007-08. Although the overall total crime clear up rate in the Northern Police Force area is the same as last year (*63 per cent*), the rate for *crimes of indecency* (*84 per cent*) was the highest its been in the past five years.

Force Commentary:

Research of Group 1 crimes highlights that during 2008-09 there were increases in; serious assault, threats and extortion, cruelty and unnatural treatment of children and possession of firearms. Further research has highlighted that the majority of serious assaults are linked to the night-time economy and are fuelled by alcohol consumption. During 2008-09 there was a slight increase in threats and extortion, and research shows that these incidents tend to relate to escalating domestic and neighbourhood disputes and not to serious and organised crime. The increase in crimes of cruelty and unnatural treatment of children is indicative of increased public awareness and better information sharing between partners with the roll-out of Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC). In terms of firearms possession the majority of offences related to threatening behaviour involving the brandishing of imitation firearms. No incidents resulted in the ultimate discharge of a firearm. During 2008-09 firearms possession offences were predominantly domestic in nature and were not linked to serious and organised crime.

The Force does not currently have a recording mechanism which differentiates between those offences which are historical in nature and those which were committed within the reporting period. Previous research has highlighted that a high number of lewd and libidinous offences relate to historic inter-familial abuse. There have been no trends in terms of an increase in lewd and libidinous offences committed during 2008-09, therefore it is assessed that the *34 per cent* increase on 2007-08 is due to reports of historical abuse. By the nature of sexual crimes, a single report can often incorporate multiple charges committed over a period of time. Additionally, reports (particularly historical enquiries) often involve more than one victim. Therefore, a small number of reports, or indeed a single enquiry, can have significant effects on the fluctuations in the volume of *crimes of indecency*.

During summer 2008 there was a spate of housebreakings to commercial premises in the centre of Inverness City and this is the main reason behind the *19 per cent* increase in recorded housebreaking crimes reported by Northern Constabulary. A number of different offenders were identified for these crimes, predominantly local drug users and repeat offenders of dishonesties. Also during the same summer there was an increase in the number of fire-raising crimes reported in the Inverness area, with individuals being charged with multiple fire-raising incidents. During this same period a number of youths were identified for committing fire raisings in the Inverness area. Overall, in 2008-09 the number of *motor vehicle offences* recorded by Northern Constabulary increased by *11 per cent* compared with the previous year. This is largely due to a significant increase in speeding offences (*23 per cent*) which is attributed to a new intelligence led deployment matrix which was introduced in January 2009 at Northern Safety Camera Partnership. This matrix collates current speed survey and collision data and is used to direct resources more effectively to target vehicles driving at excess or inappropriate speed at or near areas where serious/fatal collisions occur.

The number of robberies in the Northern Constabulary area decreased by *42 per cent* between 2007-08 and 2008-09. During 2007-08, there was an increase in street robberies in the area of Inverness City compared with the previous year. The offences were not linked and were predominantly opportunistic in nature. The majority of these offences were committed by local criminals who were known to commit dishonesties, some of whom were known drug users.

5.7 Strathclyde

The number of recorded crimes in Strathclyde Police Force area decreased for the second consecutive year and overall by *2 per cent* between 2007-08 and 2008-09 to total 179,254 (see [table 5](#)). Most of the main crime groups decreased this year, although there was a slight increase (*1 per cent*) in *crimes of dishonesty* in 2008-09. A *6 per cent* fall in the number of crimes recorded in the *fire-raising/vandalism* group was the most notable decrease in 2008-09. Strathclyde once again recorded the highest number of crimes (810) per 10,000 population. This is a trend that has developed since 2005-06. The total number of offences (245,335) in the Strathclyde Police Force has increased for the second year in a row and overall by *2 per cent* between 2007-08 and 2008-09.

The group clear up rates recorded by Strathclyde Police in 2008-09 are very similar to the previous year, although a drop of 4 percentage points for *crimes of indecency* means this rate (61 per cent) is at its lowest in ten years.

Force Commentary:

The number of recorded shoplifting crimes in Strathclyde has increased by 8 per cent between 2007-08 and 2008-09. The Force believe that this is unlikely to be linked to current economic climate as this is the third consecutive year that an increase has been witnessed. However the reduction in serious assault (-6 per cent) may not only be the result of a Force violence reduction campaign but also a reduced “night time economy” due to the “credit crunch”. There is also a reduction in the number of recorded crimes that are categorised as other indecency (-12 per cent) compared with 2007-08. Strathclyde Police believe this could potentially be due to changes to the way prostitutes manage their clients, leading to less “on street” prostitution. The reason behind the 8 per cent reduction in the number of recorded thefts from a Motor Vehicle (OLP) could be linked to the appeal of new technology (satellite navigation systems and mp3 players etc.) wearing off as the retail prices for these type of devices start to reduce. The number of speeding offences decreased by 16 per cent in the last year and has now returned to a similar level as recorded in 2006-07.

5.8 Tayside

The number of recorded crimes in the Tayside Police Force area decreased for the fourth consecutive year and overall by 3 per cent in 2008-09 to total 26,047 (see [table 5](#)). There were decreases in two of the five major crime groups in 2008-09. The most notable of these decreases saw the number of crimes in the *fire-raising/vandalism* group fall by 9 per cent compared with the previous year. This is the fourth year in succession Tayside has experienced a drop in recorded crimes for this particular crime group. The most considerable increase is the 14 per cent rise in the number of *non-sexual crimes of violence* recorded in 2008-09. This increase comes on the back of an 8 per cent decrease the previous year. The number of offences recorded by Tayside Police fell in both categories for the second consecutive year and the overall total by 17 per cent compared with 2007-08. The largest of these decreases occurred in the *motor vehicle offences* group (-22 per cent). The number of offences recorded by Tayside Police for this particular category has continued to fall since 2004-05. In 2008-09 Tayside experienced increases in the clear-up rates for four of the five main crime categories compared with last year.

Force Commentary:

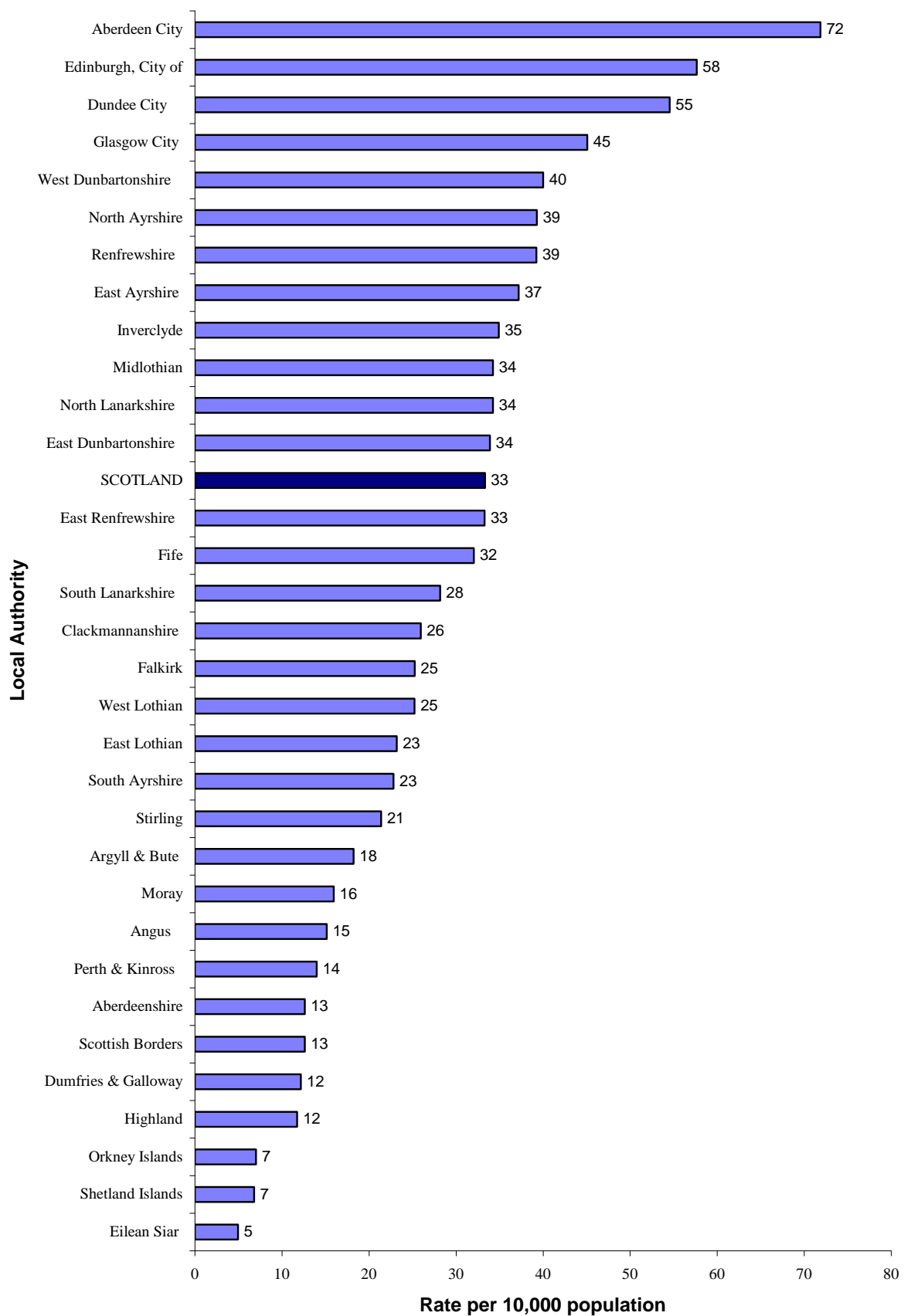
Tayside saw an increase in *non-sexual crimes of violence* in 2008-09 and this was mainly due to child cruelty cases which had previously been recorded as one crime where there were two or more victims. This was rectified and as a result there was an increase in the number of reported crimes in this category. Two other crimes within this classification, serious assault and robbery continue to be the focus of the Force’s crime reduction efforts. *Crimes of indecency*, by its very nature, is a volatile group of crimes and a fluctuation in numbers is not uncommon. However, there were less historical instances of indecent assault reported in Tayside during 2008-09 than in the previous year. The 71 per cent

increase in the number of crimes classed as other indecency may be a result of police operations relating to problems with prostitution in Dundee. The number of crimes in Tayside relating to theft by opening lockfast places increased by 24 *per cent* in 2008-09 due to several instances of cash cards being stolen and used over a period of time at various locations to obtain cash.

High levels of crime relating to theft from a motor vehicle during 2007-08 (particularly in December and February) were due to many vehicles being targeted for satellite systems and audio visual equipment. Whilst this behaviour still continued into 2008-09 it was to a lesser degree, perhaps because of a concerted effort made by Tayside Police to highlight to the public the dangers of leaving expensive pieces of equipment in view when leaving vehicles unattended. In 2007-08 there was a fall in the number of possession of drugs charges due to activity being concentrated on long running high level drugs operations targeting organised crime groups. Whilst this activity continued into 2008-09 the level of possession of drugs offences reverted to a similar level to 2006-07. During 2008-09 Tayside Police continued pro-activity to tackle crimes involving the handling of offensive weapons and initiated an operation designed to apprehend those who persist in carrying knives and also to deter the practice in general. Community tasking also continued in an effort to reduce the number of knives carried.

The 22 *per cent* fall in the number of crimes against Public Justice in 2008-09, in the main, can be attributed to a fall in Bail offences. As stated at the end of 2007-08 Tayside Police initiatives in earlier years produced high results and sent out the message that contravention of bail conditions would not be tolerated. It was inevitable (and desirable) that these numbers would fall as time progressed and offenders learned to take their conditions of bail seriously. The reductions in *motor vehicle offences* (22 *per cent*) in Tayside occurred, predominantly, in speeding and seat belt offences. The reductions may be attributed to the fact that, in addition to local initiatives, the Force continues to participate in all National Road Safety Campaigns and every opportunity is taken to publicise issues including drink/drug driving, speeding/inappropriate speed and the wearing of seat belts. Similarly, Road Safety Education is carried out on an ongoing basis by operational police officers and police staff. Specialist Road Safety Officers, in conjunction with external agencies, are responsible for providing education, training and publicity to a wide range of vulnerable road users. Tayside Safety Camera Partnership continues to try and influence driver behaviour by publicising locations and routes which have an identified collision/casualty and speed related history. Educational material is distributed to target groups and intelligence led enforcement activity is carried out by fixed and mobile cameras. Analysis of collision data indicates that at sites where cameras are used significant road safety benefits have been achieved. It would appear that driver behaviour is actually improving and this is reflected in the lower results.

Chart 5 Number of domestic housebreaking¹ crimes recorded by the police per 10,000 population in 2008-09



¹ Includes dwellings and non-dwellings only

6. Scottish Crime and Victimization Survey

- 6.1 The preceding sections of this bulletin described the volume and types of crime recorded and cleared up by the eight police forces in Scotland during 2008-09. The recorded crime series is generally a useful indicator of trends in recorded crime. However, not all crimes are reported to the police and the propensity of the public to report crime to the police also changes over time. Thus, statistics recorded by the police may not accurately reflect the underlying trend in actual crime.
- 6.2 Crime surveys can be a useful source of information by providing a fuller picture of the extent of and trends in most types of household and personal victimisation. The information provided by such surveys complements the information compiled by the police forces and provides another useful indicator, as well as exploring other issues such as the impact of crime on victims, public anxieties and reactions to crime and attitudes towards the police and other parts of the criminal justice system.
- 6.3 Findings from the 2006 Scottish Crime and Victimization Survey (SCVS), which asks about crimes and offences experienced between the beginning of April 2005 and the end of March 2006 are available at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/10/12094216/0>

- Estimates derived from the 2006 SCVS suggest that around 1,072,000 crimes were **committed** against individuals and private households in Scotland between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2006¹. This is a higher number than estimated in 2003-04, due to an increase in minor assaults. The number of household crimes was similar between the two survey sweeps.
- The estimate for 2005-06 represents a *13 per cent* increase on the number of crimes estimated to have taken place in a comparable 12 month period in 2003-04, but is lower than the number of crimes estimated to have taken place in the 2002 calendar year. Around one in five people (*22 per cent*) had been the victim of at least one household or personal crime; there has been no statistically significant change in this figure in recent years.
- According to the survey, *56 per cent* of crimes experienced in 2005-06 were against property. Motor vehicle and property vandalism accounts for one in four (*26 per cent*) of all crimes recorded. The remaining *44 per cent* of crimes were committed against individuals. Three in ten crimes (*30 per cent*) involved violence, but most of these involved petty assaults, which are six times more prevalent than serious assaults.
- Overall, *38 per cent* of crimes captured by the survey came to the attention of the police. According to survey estimates, the proportion of crimes reported to the police reached its peak in 1999 at *43 per cent* and has been falling ever since. In 2005-06 it reached the lowest proportion ever recorded by the survey. Where the incident had not been reported to the police, the main reasons given

¹ This figure is calculated by simply adding 'all household crime' and 'all personal crime' together. However, it should be noted that this is only an approximation as the different weights for each of these measures do not allow for this to be calculated precisely.

were that the incident was too trivial (*27 per cent* of unreported incidents), the police would not have been able to do anything (*27 per cent*), the police would not have been interested (*17 per cent*) or the victim(s) dealt with the matter themselves (*17 per cent*).

- Results from the current survey, the [Scottish Crime and Justice Survey 2008-09](#) will be available in October 2009. The target sample has increased substantially to 16,000 adults in private households across Scotland. The results will be representative at national level and at the level of the eight police forces in Scotland. The findings from the survey will be used by policy makers across the public sector in Scotland to help understand the nature of crime in Scotland, target resources and monitor the impact of initiatives to target crime.

Table 1 Crimes recorded by the police, Scotland, 1999-00 to 2008-09

Crime group	Number & Percentage										
	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	% change 07-08 to 08-09
Total crimes	435,481	418,494	426,188	418,281	414,214	438,121	417,785	419,257	385,509	377,433	-2
Non-sexual crimes of violence	15,831	14,812	15,653	16,074	15,187	14,728	13,726	14,099	12,874	12,612	-2
Serious assault etc ¹	7,326	6,892	7,546	7,593	7,514	7,768	7,151	7,504	6,853	6,606	-4
Robbery	4,931	4,293	4,592	4,636	4,161	3,736	3,553	3,578	3,064	2,963	-3
Other	3,574	3,627	3,515	3,845	3,512	3,224	3,022	3,017	2,957	3,043	3
Crimes of indecency	5,882	5,727	5,994	6,623	6,786	7,324	6,558	6,726	6,552	6,331	-3
Rape & Attempted Rape	755	690	788	924	1,037	1,109	1,161	1,123	1,053	963	-9
Indecent Assault	1,139	1,034	1,249	1,354	1,436	1,497	1,508	1,664	1,666	1,640	-2
Lewd and indecent behaviour	2,319	2,356	2,404	2,770	2,593	2,786	2,651	2,555	2,567	2,402	-6
Other	1,669	1,647	1,553	1,575	1,720	1,932	1,238	1,384	1,266	1,326	5
Crimes of dishonesty	275,557	253,295	242,878	224,785	211,004	210,365	187,798	183,760	166,718	167,812	1
Housebreaking ²	52,863	47,729	45,515	40,586	36,432	34,959	31,319	30,580	25,443	25,496	0
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	11,553	10,606	8,200	7,766	7,405	7,849	8,263	7,422	6,378	6,952	9
Theft from a motor vehicle	38,003	32,001	32,659	30,361	26,839	20,403	16,453	16,060	15,217	13,649	-10
Theft of a motor vehicle	28,881	25,555	23,146	20,881	17,604	15,633	14,041	15,000	12,105	11,551	-5
Shoplifting	32,144	32,264	31,570	28,299	27,948	28,534	28,247	28,750	29,186	32,048	10
Other theft	81,222	76,649	75,951	73,214	72,488	77,586	72,128	70,241	64,645	64,384	0
Fraud	20,620	20,043	17,395	15,828	15,277	18,307	11,074	9,332	8,409	8,316	-1
Other	10,271	8,448	8,442	7,850	7,011	7,094	6,273	6,375	5,335	5,416	2
Fire-raising, vandalism etc	81,197	85,781	94,944	97,598	103,732	128,566	127,889	129,734	118,025	109,430	-7
Fire-raising	2,269	2,403	2,910	3,767	4,163	4,698	4,856	4,976	4,635	4,651	0
Vandalism etc	78,928	83,378	92,034	93,831	99,569	123,868	123,033	124,758	113,390	104,779	-8
Other crimes	57,014	58,879	66,719	73,201	77,505	77,138	81,814	84,938	81,340	81,248	0
Crimes against public justice	18,439	18,637	20,820	22,744	25,755	25,615	27,668	32,052	31,353	29,493	-6
Handling an offensive weapon	8,084	8,070	9,039	9,362	9,278	9,545	9,628	10,110	8,989	8,980	0
Drugs	30,374	32,081	36,750	40,938	42,275	41,823	44,247	42,422	40,746	42,509	4
Other	117	91	110	157	197	155	271	354	252	266	6

1 Includes murder, attempted murder, culpable homicide and serious assault. See Note 7.5.

2 Includes dwellings, non-dwellings and other premises.

Table 2 Offences recorded by the police, Scotland, 1999-00 to 2008-09

Offence group	Number & Percentage										
	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 ¹	2008-09	% change 07-08 to 08-09
Total offences	499,405	496,068	531,956	524,122	615,876	638,564	599,888	607,406	572,068	560,291	-2
Miscellaneous offences	151,944	154,853	163,497	169,563	180,963	214,302	219,491	232,373	224,256	226,821	1
Minor Assault ²	54,568	54,057	55,392	54,956	57,355	73,711	72,281	78,167	73,523	74,130	1
Breach of the peace	71,332	70,197	72,734	74,690	77,883	89,920	89,615	93,387	90,301	91,198	1
Drunkenness	7,620	7,789	7,764	7,279	7,534	7,234	6,984	6,664	6,702	6,045	-10
Other	18,424	22,810	27,607	32,638	38,191	43,437	50,611	54,155	53,730	55,448	3
Motor vehicle offences	347,461	341,215	368,459	354,559	434,913	424,262	380,397	375,033	347,812	333,470	-4
Dangerous and careless driving	13,247	12,019	12,183	12,680	12,036	13,062	12,956	13,601	12,964	11,519	-11
Drunk driving	10,904	10,758	11,476	11,838	11,571	11,061	11,257	11,704	10,697	9,800	-8
Speeding	123,438	113,904	126,760	117,167	199,213	210,120	167,724	162,929	137,206	117,256	-15
Unlawful use of vehicle	80,690	84,351	94,587	99,518	99,526	76,676	75,120	73,058	73,655	68,554	-7
Vehicle defect offences	47,994	46,845	45,512	46,466	37,194	27,022	23,932	21,170	22,328	25,603	15
Other	71,188	73,338	77,941	66,890	75,373	86,321	89,408	92,571	90,962	100,738	11

¹There have been revisions made to the 2007-08 figures. See note 7.17

² See Note 7.5.

Table 3 Crimes and offences cleared up by the police, as a percentage of those recorded, Scotland, 1999-00 to 2008-09

Crime / Offence group	Percentage									
	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Total crimes	43	44	45	46	47	45	46	47	48	49
Non-sexual crimes of violence	58	59	58	58	58	59	59	60	62	64
Serious assault etc ¹	63	63	62	60	59	61	61	61	62	62
Robbery	35	39	37	36	39	39	37	39	40	46
Other	79	76	78	81	79	79	81	83	84	84
Crimes of indecency	76	80	77	79	77	75	75	74	71	68
Rape & Attempted Rape	77	80	78	78	75	69	72	67	70	61
Indecent Assault	59	63	62	63	62	61	62	59	58	55
Lewd and indecent behaviour	68	76	72	77	73	73	76	77	71	68
Other	96	98	96	96	95	93	90	89	90	89
Crimes of dishonesty	36	37	37	38	39	37	37	38	38	39
Housebreaking ²	23	25	24	27	27	25	26	26	26	24
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	28	31	35	36	35	30	37	37	32	38
Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP	17	18	17	19	20	18	15	17	15	17
Theft of a motor vehicle	32	30	32	36	38	37	37	41	44	43
Shoplifting	79	78	79	78	79	77	77	78	77	78
Other theft	21	21	21	21	22	20	21	21	21	21
Fraud	75	79	81	81	83	80	76	75	74	75
Other	91	93	91	91	85	79	79	78	82	79
Fire-raising, vandalism etc	24	23	22	22	23	21	23	25	25	25
Fire-raising	26	25	26	24	25	22	26	26	25	24
Vandalism etc	24	23	22	22	23	21	23	25	25	25
Other crimes	99	100	99	99	99	98	98	99	98	98
Crimes against public justice	100	100	99	99	99	98	98	98	98	98
Handling an offensive weapon	99	99	99	99	98	97	97	97	96	96
Drugs	100	100	100	99	99	97	98	100	99	99
Other	85	77	73	78	74	73	85	85	89	89
Miscellaneous offences	89	89	89	89	90	83	84	84	84	83
Minor Assault	78	78	77	76	78	69	70	71	71	70
Breach of the peace	94	94	94	95	94	88	90	90	90	89
Drunkenness	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Other	97	97	97	96	96	94	93	92	92	91

¹ Includes murder, attempted murder, culpable homicide and serious assault. See Note 7.5.

² Includes dwellings, non-dwellings and other premises.

Table 4a Crimes and offences recorded by police force area, 2008-09

Crime / Offence group	Number								
	Central	Dumfries & Galloway	Fife	Grampian	Lothian & Borders	Northern	Strathclyde	Tayside	SCOTLAND
Total crimes	18,941	7,503	24,075	34,972	70,524	16,117	179,254	26,047	377,433
Non-sexual crimes of violence	432	149	527	869	1,945	511	7,483	696	12,612
Serious assault etc ¹	255	100	303	443	735	272	4,188	310	6,606
Robbery	77	26	118	177	537	26	1,815	187	2,963
Other	100	23	106	249	673	213	1,480	199	3,043
Crimes of indecency	316	111	457	978	1,110	428	2,507	424	6,331
Rape & Attempted Rape	54	21	87	111	210	59	361	60	963
Indecent Assault	85	44	110	174	319	109	695	104	1,640
Lewd and indecent behaviour	142	39	221	290	431	188	949	142	2,402
Other	35	7	39	403	150	72	502	118	1,326
Crimes of dishonesty	8,059	2,763	10,549	17,071	36,288	5,977	74,281	12,824	167,812
Housebreaking ²	1,046	323	1,602	2,743	5,433	599	12,185	1,565	25,496
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	490	108	631	786	1,427	286	2,598	626	6,952
Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP	364	75	642	1,202	3,106	65	7,489	706	13,649
Theft of a motor vehicle	505	160	601	1,065	2,756	321	5,486	657	11,551
Shoplifting	1,505	493	1,678	3,537	6,401	1,094	13,920	3,420	32,048
Other theft	3,299	1,184	4,390	6,319	14,354	2,807	27,235	4,796	64,384
Fraud	531	265	534	715	1,779	486	3,408	598	8,316
Other	319	155	471	704	1,032	319	1,960	456	5,416
Fire-raising, vandalism etc	5,866	2,594	7,797	9,550	19,973	5,012	52,034	6,604	109,430
Fire-raising	223	89	331	385	824	243	2,326	230	4,651
Vandalism etc	5,643	2,505	7,466	9,165	19,149	4,769	49,708	6,374	104,779
Other crimes	4,268	1,886	4,745	6,504	11,208	4,189	42,949	5,499	81,248
Crimes against public justice	1,818	751	1,769	2,408	3,912	1,645	15,275	1,915	29,493
Handling an offensive weapon	426	127	406	590	1,193	360	5,468	410	8,980
Drugs	2,020	965	2,535	3,497	6,074	2,183	22,072	3,163	42,509
Other	4	43	35	9	29	1	134	11	266
Total offences	39,823	24,159	34,879	55,064	88,339	30,718	245,335	41,974	560,291
Miscellaneous offences	10,668	4,982	13,242	20,326	28,284	12,047	123,856	13,416	226,821
Minor Assault	3,823	1,687	5,668	7,536	12,421	3,837	33,994	5,164	74,130
Breach of the peace	4,483	2,195	4,769	8,700	11,362	5,943	48,174	5,572	91,198
Drunkenness	186	100	396	253	403	914	3,408	385	6,045
Other	2,176	1,000	2,409	3,837	4,098	1,353	38,280	2,295	55,448
Motor vehicle offences	29,155	19,177	21,637	34,738	60,055	18,671	121,479	28,558	333,470
Dangerous and careless driving	451	712	601	2,641	813	866	4,769	666	11,519
Drunk driving	530	259	679	1,106	1,480	796	4,183	767	9,800
Speeding	12,241	11,266	8,263	12,645	20,646	8,698	29,291	14,206	117,256
Unlawful use of vehicle	3,567	1,890	5,135	7,160	13,639	2,579	29,227	5,357	68,554
Vehicle defect offences	5,627	738	1,406	1,342	5,173	2,327	7,445	1,545	25,603
Other	6,739	4,312	5,553	9,844	18,304	3,405	46,564	6,017	100,738
Total crimes and offences	58,764	31,662	58,954	90,036	158,863	46,835	424,589	68,021	937,724

1 Includes murder, attempted murder, culpable homicide and serious assault. See Note 7.5.

2 Includes dwellings, non-dwellings and other premises

Table 4b Crimes and offences recorded by police force area per 10,000 population, 2008-09

Crime / Offence group	Number								
	Central	Dumfries & Galloway	Fife	Grampian	Lothian & Borders	Northern	Strathclyde	Tayside	SCOTLAND
Total crimes	652	505	665	648	758	561	810	656	730
Non-sexual crimes of violence	15	10	15	16	21	18	34	18	24
Serious assault etc ¹	9	7	8	8	8	9	19	8	13
Robbery	3	2	3	3	6	1	8	5	6
Other	3	2	3	5	7	7	7	5	6
Crimes of indecency	11	7	13	18	12	15	11	11	12
Rape & Attempted Rape	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Indecent Assault	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	3
Lewd and indecent behaviour	5	3	6	5	5	7	4	4	5
Other	1	0	1	7	2	3	2	3	3
Crimes of dishonesty	278	186	291	316	390	208	336	323	325
Housebreaking ²	36	22	44	51	58	21	55	39	49
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	17	7	17	15	15	10	12	16	13
Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP	13	5	18	22	33	2	34	18	26
Theft of a motor vehicle	17	11	17	20	30	11	25	17	22
Shoplifting	52	33	46	66	69	38	63	86	62
Other theft	114	80	121	117	154	98	123	121	125
Fraud	18	18	15	13	19	17	15	15	16
Other	11	10	13	13	11	11	9	11	10
Fire-raising, vandalism etc	202	175	215	177	215	174	235	166	212
Fire-raising	8	6	9	7	9	8	11	6	9
Vandalism etc	194	169	206	170	206	166	225	161	203
Other crimes	147	127	131	121	120	146	194	139	157
Crimes against public justice	63	51	49	45	42	57	69	48	57
Handling an offensive weapon	15	9	11	11	13	13	25	10	17
Drugs	70	65	70	65	65	76	100	80	82
Other	0	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Total offences	1,371	1,626	964	1,020	950	1,069	1,108	1,057	1,084
Miscellaneous offences	367	335	366	377	304	419	560	338	439
Minor Assault ¹	132	114	157	140	134	133	154	130	143
Breach of the peace	154	148	132	161	122	207	218	140	176
Drunkenness	6	7	11	5	4	32	15	10	12
Other	75	67	67	71	44	47	173	58	107
Motor vehicle offences	1,004	1,291	598	644	646	649	549	719	645
Dangerous and careless driving	16	48	17	49	9	30	22	17	22
Drunk driving	18	17	19	20	16	28	19	19	19
Speeding	422	758	228	234	222	303	132	358	227
Unlawful use of vehicle	123	127	142	133	147	90	132	135	133
Vehicle defect offences	194	50	39	25	56	81	34	39	50
Other	232	290	153	182	197	118	210	152	195
Total crimes and offences	2,024	2,131	1,629	1,668	1,708	1,629	1,918	1,714	1,814

¹ Includes murder, attempted murder, culpable homicide and serious assault. See Note 7.5.

² Includes dwellings, non-dwellings and other premises

Table 5 Crimes and offences recorded per 10,000 population, percentage change in total number recorded and percentage cleared up by police force area, 2008-09

	Number & Percentage								
	Central	Dumfries & Galloway	Fife	Grampian	Lothian & Borders	Northern	Strathclyde	Tayside	SCOTLAND
Total crimes	18,941	7,503	24,075	34,972	70,524	16,117	179,254	26,047	377,433
Total offences	39,823	24,159	34,879	55,064	88,339	30,718	245,335	41,974	560,291
Total crimes and offences	58,764	31,662	58,954	90,036	158,863	46,835	424,589	68,021	937,724
<i>Crimes and offences per 10,000 population</i>									
Total crimes	652	505	665	648	758	561	810	656	730
Non-sexual crimes of violence	15	10	15	16	21	18	34	18	24
Crimes of indecency	11	7	13	18	12	15	11	11	12
Crimes of dishonesty	278	186	291	316	390	208	336	323	325
Fire-raising, vandalism etc	202	175	215	177	215	174	235	166	212
Other crimes	147	127	131	121	120	146	194	139	157
Total offences	1,371	1,626	964	1,020	950	1,069	1,108	1,057	1,084
Miscellaneous offences	367	335	366	377	304	419	560	338	439
Motor vehicle offences	1,004	1,291	598	644	646	649	549	719	645
Total crimes and offences	2,024	2,131	1,629	1,668	1,708	1,629	1,918	1,714	1,814
<i>Percentage change in total number recorded, 2007-08¹ to 2008-09</i>									
Total crimes	-4	-11	-5	-2	0	0	-2	-3	-2
Non-sexual crimes of violence	-7	-3	5	3	-3	6	-4	14	-2
Crimes of indecency	-34	-15	-22	3	6	12	-3	5	-3
Crimes of dishonesty	-1	-7	-8	-4	7	4	1	-4	1
Fire-raising, vandalism etc	-5	-13	-10	-5	-10	-3	-6	-9	-7
Other crimes	-6	-13	14	7	-2	-5	-1	4	0
Total offences¹	-1	-1	-9	-7	-1	9	2	-17	-2
Miscellaneous offences	-7	-4	1	6	2	6	1	-4	1
Motor vehicle offences	1	-1	-15	-13	-3	11	2	-22	-4
Total crimes and offences	-2	-4	-8	-5	-1	6	0	-12	-2
<i>Percentage cleared up</i>									
Total crimes	58	66	55	50	45	63	45	58	49
Non-sexual crimes of violence	97	89	84	75	67	91	54	83	64
Crimes of indecency	80	84	67	72	64	84	61	80	68
Crimes of dishonesty	50	56	48	39	37	53	33	52	39
Fire-raising, vandalism etc	35	51	35	33	25	40	18	33	25
Other crimes	100	99	100	97	99	99	97	99	98
Miscellaneous offences	90	92	88	76	79	91	83	89	83

¹There have been revisions made to the 2007-08 figures. See note 7.17

Table 6 Number of crimes recorded by the police, and percentage cleared up, by council area, 2008-09

Council area	Number & Percentage						
	Non - sexual crimes of violence	Crimes of indecency	Crimes of dishonesty	Fire - raising, vandalism, etc.	Other crimes	Total crimes	Percentage of crimes cleared up
Aberdeen City	533	563	11,533	4,714	4,070	21,413	51
Aberdeenshire	206	227	3,554	3,195	1,547	8,729	47
Angus	139	101	2,534	1,924	1,228	5,926	59
Argyll & Bute	116	76	1,657	1,559	1,209	4,617	49
Clackmannanshire	90	24	1,468	1,367	1,069	4,018	61
Dumfries & Galloway	149	111	2,763	2,594	1,886	7,503	66
Dundee City	373	229	7,083	3,067	2,549	13,301	56
East Ayrshire	247	135	3,344	2,741	1,720	8,187	46
East Dunbartonshire	141	57	1,763	1,447	695	4,103	36
East Lothian	104	62	2,187	1,534	673	4,560	42
East Renfrewshire	111	36	1,613	1,156	726	3,642	39
Edinburgh, City of	1,329	632	24,871	11,058	6,470	44,360	43
Eilean Siar	29	33	288	254	261	865	75
Falkirk	229	209	4,052	2,888	2,010	9,388	57
Fife	527	457	10,549	7,797	4,745	24,075	55
Glasgow City	3,537	1,091	29,796	15,675	18,466	68,565	48
Highland	451	361	5,192	4,185	3,615	13,804	62
Inverclyde	266	50	2,074	1,874	1,986	6,250	49
Midlothian	117	94	2,421	1,879	1,269	5,780	50
Moray	130	188	1,984	1,641	887	4,830	49
North Ayrshire	372	160	3,841	4,125	2,132	10,630	45
North Lanarkshire	751	319	10,815	8,501	5,072	25,458	42
Orkney Islands	14	13	202	243	89	561	60
Perth & Kinross	184	94	3,207	1,613	1,722	6,820	62
Renfrewshire	708	163	5,948	3,612	2,664	13,095	42
Scottish Borders	110	102	1,849	1,579	1,065	4,705	63
Shetland Islands	17	21	295	330	224	887	76
South Ayrshire	221	112	2,795	2,354	1,342	6,824	47
South Lanarkshire	701	215	7,617	6,288	4,522	19,343	43
Stirling	113	83	2,539	1,611	1,189	5,535	58
West Dunbartonshire	312	93	3,018	2,702	2,415	8,540	48
West Lothian	285	220	4,960	3,923	1,731	11,119	42
SCOTLAND	12,612	6,331	167,812	109,430	81,248	377,433	49

Table 7 Number of crimes recorded by the police per 10,000 population and crime index, by council area, 2008-09

Council area							Number and Index	
	Non - sexual crimes of violence	Crimes of indecency	Crimes of dishonesty	Fire - raising, vandalism, etc.	Other crimes	Total crimes	Index (Scotland = 100)	
Aberdeen City	25	27	548	224	193	1,018	139	
Aberdeenshire	9	9	147	132	64	362	50	
Angus	13	9	230	174	111	537	74	
Argyll & Bute	13	8	183	172	134	510	70	
Clackmannanshire	18	5	291	271	212	796	109	
Dumfries & Galloway	10	7	186	175	127	505	69	
Dundee City	26	16	497	215	179	934	128	
East Ayrshire	21	11	279	229	143	683	93	
East Dunbartonshire	13	5	168	138	66	392	54	
East Lothian	11	6	228	160	70	475	65	
East Renfrewshire	12	4	181	130	81	408	56	
Edinburgh, City of	28	13	527	234	137	941	129	
Eilean Siar	11	13	110	97	100	330	45	
Falkirk	15	14	267	191	133	619	85	
Fife	15	13	291	215	131	665	91	
Glasgow City	61	19	510	268	316	1,174	161	
Highland	21	16	237	191	165	629	86	
Inverclyde	33	6	257	232	246	774	106	
Midlothian	15	12	301	233	158	717	98	
Moray	15	21	226	187	101	550	75	
North Ayrshire	27	12	283	303	157	782	107	
North Lanarkshire	23	10	332	261	156	782	107	
Orkney Islands	7	7	102	122	45	282	39	
Perth & Kinross	13	7	222	112	119	473	65	
Renfrewshire	42	10	350	213	157	771	106	
Scottish Borders	10	9	164	140	95	418	57	
Shetland Islands	8	10	134	150	102	404	55	
South Ayrshire	20	10	250	211	120	611	84	
South Lanarkshire	23	7	246	203	146	624	85	
Stirling	13	9	287	182	135	626	86	
West Dunbartonshire	34	10	332	297	266	939	129	
West Lothian	17	13	293	231	102	656	90	
SCOTLAND	24	12	325	212	157	730	100	

Table 8 Number of crimes recorded by the police, rate per 10,000 population and index of rate for selected crimes, by council area, 2008-09

Council area	Number					Rate per 10,000 population					Index of rate per 10,000 population				
	Serious assault ¹	Offensive weapons	Domestic housebreaking ²	Vandalism ³	All crimes	Serious assault ¹	Offensive weapons	Domestic housebreaking ²	Vandalism ³	All crimes	Serious assault ¹	Offensive weapons	Domestic housebreaking ²	Vandalism ³	All crimes
Aberdeen City	229	351	1,512	4,352	21,413	11	17	72	207	1,018	98	96	216	106	139
Aberdeenshire	90	167	305	2,931	8,729	4	7	13	121	362	33	40	38	62	50
Angus	54	92	167	1,793	5,926	5	8	15	163	537	44	48	45	83	74
Argyll & Bute	52	120	165	1,456	4,617	6	13	18	161	510	52	76	55	82	70
Clackmannanshire	36	118	131	1,290	4,018	7	23	26	256	796	64	135	78	131	109
Dumfries & Galloway	85	127	181	2,413	7,503	6	9	12	162	505	51	49	37	83	69
Dundee City	130	205	777	2,837	13,301	9	14	55	199	934	82	83	164	102	128
East Ayrshire	135	211	446	2,531	8,187	11	18	37	211	683	101	101	112	108	93
East Dunbartonshire	81	77	355	1,334	4,103	8	7	34	127	392	69	42	102	65	54
East Lothian	36	78	223	1,407	4,560	4	8	23	146	475	34	47	70	75	65
East Renfrewshire	48	100	297	1,089	3,642	5	11	33	122	408	48	65	100	63	56
Edinburgh, City of	376	699	2,720	10,147	44,360	8	15	58	215	941	72	85	173	110	129
Eilean Siar	14	18	13	236	865	5	7	5	90	330	48	40	15	46	45
Falkirk	107	210	383	2,667	9,388	7	14	25	176	619	63	80	76	90	85
Fife	250	406	1,160	7,134	24,075	7	11	32	197	665	62	65	96	101	91
Glasgow City	1,698	2,484	2,634	14,303	68,565	29	43	45	245	1,174	261	245	135	125	161
Highland	192	315	258	3,942	13,804	9	14	12	180	629	78	83	35	92	86
Inverclyde	166	221	282	1,714	6,250	21	27	35	212	774	184	157	105	109	106
Midlothian	40	94	276	1,749	5,780	5	12	34	217	717	45	67	103	111	98
Moray	59	72	140	1,508	4,830	7	8	16	172	550	60	47	48	88	75
North Ayrshire	193	316	534	3,834	10,630	14	23	39	282	782	127	134	118	145	107
North Lanarkshire	429	582	1,115	7,784	25,458	13	18	34	239	782	118	103	103	123	107
Orkney Islands	11	7	14	240	561	6	4	7	121	282	50	20	21	62	39
Perth & Kinross	60	113	202	1,500	6,820	4	8	14	104	473	37	45	42	53	65
Renfrewshire	335	342	666	3,360	13,095	20	20	39	198	771	177	116	118	101	106
Scottish Borders	48	121	142	1,475	4,705	4	11	13	131	418	38	62	38	67	57
Shetland Islands	4	20	15	321	887	2	9	7	146	404	16	52	20	75	55
South Ayrshire	125	153	255	2,218	6,824	11	14	23	199	611	100	79	69	102	84
South Lanarkshire	350	543	874	5,815	19,343	11	18	28	188	624	101	101	85	96	85
Stirling	45	98	189	1,505	5,535	5	11	21	170	626	46	64	64	87	86
West Dunbartonshire	160	319	364	2,427	8,540	18	35	40	267	939	158	202	120	137	129
West Lothian	124	201	428	3,568	11,119	7	12	25	210	656	66	68	76	108	90
SCOTLAND	5,762	8,980	17,223	100,880	377,433	11	17	33	195	730	100	100	100	100	100

1 Includes serious assaults only

2 Includes dwellings and non-dwellings only

3 Includes vandalism, malicious damage and malicious mischief only

Table A1 Crimes and offences recorded and cleared up by the police, 2004-05 to 2008-09

	Number				
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08¹	2008-09
Police strength at end financial year (whole-time equivalent - WTE)	16,018	16,221	16,234	16,221	17,048
Number of crimes recorded	438,121	417,785	419,257	385,509	377,433
<i>Crimes recorded per 1,000 population</i>	86	82	82	75	73
<i>Crimes recorded per WTE police officer</i>	27	26	26	24	22
Number of crimes cleared up	195,223	190,918	198,985	184,631	184,719
<i>Crimes cleared up per WTE police officer</i>	12	12	12	11	11
Number of offences recorded¹	638,564	599,888	607,406	572,068	560,291
<i>Offences recorded per 1,000 population</i>	126	118	119	111	108
<i>Offences recorded per WTE police officer</i>	40	37	37	35	33
Number of offences cleared up	595,033	558,333	565,829	534,007	518,629
<i>Offences cleared up per WTE police officer</i>	37	34	35	33	30

¹There have been revisions made to the 2007-08 figures. See note 7.17

Table A2 Crimes of indecency recorded by the police, 1999-00 to 2008-09

Crimes of indecency	Number & Percentage										
	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	% change 07/08 to 08/09
<i>Sexual assault :</i>											
Rape	586	549	631	743	845	900	975	922	908	821	-10
Assault with intent to rape	169	141	157	181	192	209	186	201	145	142	-2
Indecent assault	1,139	1,034	1,249	1,354	1,436	1,497	1,508	1,664	1,666	1,640	-2
<i>Lewd and indecent behaviour :</i>											
Lewd and libidinous practices	1,384	1,589	1,584	1,970	1,790	1,928	1,835	1,738	1,781	1,616	-9
Indecent exposure	935	767	820	800	803	858	816	817	786	786	0
<i>Other :</i>											
Incest	40	48	43	36	36	27	29	19	18	19	6
Illegal homosexual acts	179	141	108	130	152	117	98	84	87	97	11
Sexual intercourse with girl under 16	205	167	169	269	277	321	365	486	449	411	-8
Offences relating to prostitution	1,204	1,269	1,184	1,092	1,216	1,391	684	718	525	533	2
Other crimes of indecency ¹	41	22	49	48	39	76	62	77	187	266	42
TOTAL	5,882	5,727	5,994	6,623	6,786	7,324	6,558	6,726	6,552	6,331	-3

¹ From 2007-08 this crime category includes a new crime code brought into existence by the creation of a new offence under the Prostitution (Public Places) (Scotland) Act 2007

Table A3 Theft by housebreaking (including attempts and housebreaking 'with intent'), 1999-00 to 2008-09

	Number & Percentage										
	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	% change 07-08 to 08-09
Total	52,863	47,729	45,515	40,586	36,432	34,959	31,319	30,580	25,443	25,496	0
Domestic :	35,654	32,172	30,593	27,341	24,646	23,613	21,232	20,429	17,465	17,223	-1
<i>Dwelling</i>	26,959	24,307	22,742	20,196	18,231	17,368	15,135	14,523	12,437	12,133	-2
<i>Non-dwelling</i>	8,695	7,865	7,851	7,145	6,415	6,245	6,097	5,906	5,028	5,090	1
Other	17,209	15,557	14,922	13,245	11,786	11,346	10,087	10,151	7,978	8,273	4
<i>Percentage domestic</i>	67%	67%	67%	67%	68%	68%	68%	67%	69%	68%	

Table A4 Theft of and from motor vehicles recorded by the police, 1999-00 to 2008-09

Crime category	Number & Percentage											
	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	% change 07-08 to 08-09	
Theft from motor vehicle of which :	48,076	40,942	41,348	38,525	34,474	27,921	23,569	22,858	21,944	20,825	-5	
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	27,423	23,565	23,628	22,536	20,287	15,012	12,162	11,519	11,181	9,847	-12	
OLP with intent to steal	7,371	5,667	6,201	5,293	4,424	3,367	2,634	2,882	2,695	2,613	-3	
Attempted theft OLP	3,209	2,769	2,830	2,532	2,128	2,024	1,657	1,659	1,341	1,189	-11	
Other theft	10,073	8,941	8,689	8,164	7,635	7,518	7,116	6,798	6,727	7,176	7	
Theft of motor vehicle	22,370	19,883	18,215	16,486	14,011	12,339	11,317	11,820	9,864	9,407	-5	
Attempted theft of motor vehicle	6,511	5,672	4,931	4,395	3,593	3,294	2,724	3,180	2,241	2,144	-4	
Total motor vehicle theft	76,957	66,497	64,494	59,406	52,078	43,554	37,610	37,858	34,049	32,376	-5	

Table A5 Drugs crimes recorded by the police, 1999-00 to 2008-09

Crime category	Number & percentage										
	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	% change 07-08 to 08-09
Illegal importation of drugs	7	1	4	3	4	1	23	9	9	9	0
Illegal cultivation of drugs	106	131	144	205	249	254	297	437	490	609	24
Possession of drugs with intent to supply	8,032	9,024	10,130	9,940	9,284	9,078	9,293	10,444	9,328	9,697	4
Possession of drugs	21,776	22,470	26,188	30,510	32,463	32,268	34,440	31,329	30,559	31,805	4
Drugs, other offences, money laundering	453	455	284	280	275	222	194	203	360	389	8
Total	30,374	32,081	36,750	40,938	42,275	41,823	44,247	42,422	40,746	42,509	4

Table A6 Racially aggravated offences by police force area, 2004-05 to 2008-09

Police force area	2004-05			2005-06			2006-07			2007-08			2008-09		
	Racially aggravated harassment	Racially aggravated conduct	Total	Racially aggravated harassment	Racially aggravated conduct	Total	Racially aggravated harassment	Racially aggravated conduct	Total	Racially aggravated harassment	Racially aggravated conduct	Total	Racially aggravated harassment	Racially aggravated conduct	Total
Central	22	331	353	6	344	350	8	342	350	3	336	339	3	351	354
Dumfries & Galloway	4	33	37	2	57	59	0	29	29	2	18	20	1	17	18
Fife	12	253	265	3	205	208	1	213	214	1	199	200	0	193	193
Grampian	16	368	384	13	384	397	5	440	445	12	394	406	9	545	554
Lothian & Borders	20	338	358	100	784	884	94	1,038	1,132	129	1,009	1,138	150	896	1,046
Northern	15	77	92	9	80	89	2	58	60	3	68	71	1	93	94
Strathclyde	422	1,417	1,839	357	1,616	1,973	341	1,629	1,970	284	1,806	2,090	258	1,772	2,030
Tayside	39	489	528	13	321	334	12	262	274	18	261	279	3	272	275
Scotland	550	3,306	3,856	503	3,791	4,294	463	4,011	4,474	452	4,091	4,543	425	4,139	4,564

7. Notes on statistics used in this bulletin

Returns

- 7.1 The statistical return from which most of the figures in this bulletin are taken is a simple count of the numbers of crimes and offences recorded and cleared up by the police. Only returns from the eight Scottish home forces are included in this bulletin. One return is made for each council in Scotland and these are aggregated to give a national total. Amendments (such as the deletion of incidents found on investigation not to be criminal) which arise after the end of the financial year are not generally incorporated.
- 7.2 In 1993 information was collected for the first time from other police forces, such as the British Transport Police. This practice has been continued, but these figures have **not** been included in the main body of the bulletin. Thus, in addition to those crimes and offences referred to throughout the bulletin there were, in total, 2,294 crimes and 4,680 offences recorded by the British Transport Police, Ministry of Defence Police and Civil Nuclear Constabulary (previously known as the UK Atomic Energy Authority) in 2008-09. The crime clear-up rate was *31 per cent* and the offences clear-up rate was *54 per cent*.
- 7.3 The figures included in the motor vehicle offences group do not include *stationary* motor vehicle offences dealt with by the issue of a fixed penalty ticket (some 93,522 offences, mostly parking and waiting offences, or failure to display a valid excise licence, in 2007-08). However, offences dealt with under the vehicle defect rectification scheme and offences for which the procurator fiscal offers a fixed penalty are included in the figures. In addition to this, *moving* traffic offences which are the subject of a police conditional offer of a fixed penalty are also included, e.g. speeding, traffic directions offences.

Recording issues

- 7.4 In one criminal incident, several crimes or offences may occur - e.g. a house may be broken into and vandalised and the occupants assaulted. In multiple offence incidents, all the offences are counted rather than one for the incident as a whole; that is, the counting system is offence based rather than incident based. An offence may have more than one victim - for example in robberies - and be committed by more than one offender - e.g. some assaults and housebreakings (note that for murder, attempted murder and culpable homicide, the number of crimes recorded is equal to the number of the victims). Thus the statistics in this bulletin are not directly comparable with statistics on action taken against offenders, as one offence may lead to several persons being charged. Equally, an offender may be charged with several offences. The statistics for recorded number of crimes given in this bulletin are also not directly comparable with statistics collected in England and Wales for the recorded number of notifiable offences. This is mainly due to differences in the counting rules; for notifiable offences the counting system is, wherever possible victim based rather than offence based. The Home Office introduced new counting rules for notifiable offences, and expanded their coverage on 1 April 1998.

7.5 In Scotland, assault is a common law offence. In order to distinguish between serious and minor assaults police forces use a common definition of what is a serious assault.

“An assault or attack in which the victim sustains injury resulting in detention in hospital as an inpatient, for the treatment of that injury, or any of the following injuries whether or not detained in hospital;

- Fractures (the breaking or cracking of a bone. Note – nose is cartilage not bone, so a ‘broken nose’ should not be classified unless it meets one of the other criteria)
- Internal injuries
- Severe concussion
- Loss of consciousness
- Lacerations requiring sutures which may lead to impairment or disfigurement
- Any other injury which may lead to impairment or disfigurement.”

7.6 Attempts to commit an offence are included in the statistics, in general in the same group as the substantive offence.

Reporting practices

7.7 These statistics do not of course reveal the incidence of all crime committed. Not all incidents are reported to the police. The proportion of offences reported to the police as measured by the SCVS has been falling since 1999. From the 2006 SCVS, 36 per cent of personal and 38 per cent of household crimes were reported. The Scottish Crime Survey, a survey of crime victims, suggested that in Scotland victims reported *49 per cent* of incidents to the police in 2002, compared with *58 per cent* in 1999, *50 per cent* in 1995 and *53 per cent* in 1981. The two reasons most commonly given by victims for not reporting to the police were that the incident was considered by them to be too trivial or that the police could not have taken any action in any case.

7.8 Many offences, for example, speeding or possession of drugs, have no victim other than perhaps the perpetrator and are discovered and recorded as a result of police activity rather than by being reported to the police by the public. Hence the strength and deployment of the police forces mainly determine the numbers of such offences recorded.

Crimes and offences cleared up

7.9 The definition of "cleared up" is noted below. This definition came into force with effect from 1 April 1996.

A crime or offence is regarded as cleared up where there exists a sufficiency of evidence under Scots law, to justify consideration of criminal proceedings notwithstanding that a report is not submitted to the procurator fiscal because either

(i) by standing agreement with the procurator fiscal, the police warn the accused due to the minor nature of the offence, or

(ii) reporting is inappropriate due to the non-age of the accused, death of the accused or other similar circumstances.

For some types of crime or offence the case is cleared up immediately because the offender is "caught in the act", e.g. motoring offences. In Scots law, the confession of an accused person to a crime would not in general be sufficient to allow a prosecution to be taken as corroborative evidence is required. Thus, a case cannot be regarded as "cleared up" on the basis of a confession alone. In some cases there is sufficient evidence but a prosecution cannot be brought, for example, because the accused has left the country. In such cases, the offender is said to have been traced and the crime is regarded as cleared up. The other terms in the definition describe the various actions that must be taken by the police against offenders.

- 7.10 Certain motor vehicle offences are not always recorded in cases where police forces are unable to clear-up the offence (e.g. speeding offences where the driver is untraceable). Clear-up rates for motor vehicle offences in these circumstances are artificial. Thus, clear-up *rates* for the motor vehicle group are not included in the bulletin.
- 7.11 Clear-up rates in excess of *100 per cent* can arise where offences recorded in one year are cleared up during the following year.

Classification

- 7.12 Contraventions of Scottish criminal law are divided for statistical purposes into crimes and offences. "Crime" is *generally* used for the more serious criminal acts; the less serious termed "offences", although the term "offence" may also be used in relation to serious breaches of criminal law. The distinction is made only for working purposes and the "seriousness" of the offence is *generally* related to the maximum sentence that can be imposed.
- 7.13 The detailed classification of crimes and offences used by The Scottish Government to collect criminal statistics contains about 360 codes. These are grouped in the bulletin as shown in [section 8](#).
- 7.14 Clearly, only a limited selection of tables can be included in any statistical bulletin. Further analysis of recorded crime statistics can be supplied on request once the bulletin is published. This includes available information relating to time periods other than those covered in the bulletin. In certain cases a fee is charged. For details of what can be provided please telephone David Jack on 0131 244 5664 or e-mail JusticeStatistics@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

Scottish Crime and Victimization Survey

- 7.15 Findings from the 2006 Scottish Crime and Victimization Survey, which asks about crimes and offences experienced in 2005-06, were published in September 2007. These summary findings, as well as details of findings from previous crime surveys, are available on the publications section of the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey website at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Research/by-topic/crime-and-justice/crime-and-justice-survey/publications>.

For more information about the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey, please contact Stuart King: telephone 0131 244 6934 or e-mail Stuart.king2@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

UK Statistics Authority – Assessment Report

- 7.16 Under the provisions of the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007, the UK Statistics Authority has a statutory function to assess sets of statistics against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, with a view to determining whether it is appropriate for the statistics to be designated, or retain their designation, as National Statistics. Designation as National Statistics means that statistics are deemed to be compliant with the Code of Practice.

The annual statistics published in *Recorded Crime in Scotland* have been assessed by the UK Statistics Authority and have been confirmed as National Statistics. The Scottish Government will report back to the Authority by October 2009 on some specific enhancements it was to make, as identified by the Authority. The Assessment Report, which was published in June 2009, can be accessed via the following link:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-2---recorded-crime-in-scotland--24-february-2009.pdf>.

Data Revisions

- 7.17 Amendments have been made to the figures published in 2007-08 relating to offences after the submission of revised figures from six police forces.

8. Classification Of Crimes And Offences

Group

CRIMES

Non-Sexual Crimes Of Violence

(Also referred to as **Violence**)

Serious assault etc. -

Includes murder and culpable homicide (including the statutory crime of causing death by dangerous driving or causing death by careless driving while under the influence of drink or drugs). Furthermore, an assault is classified as **serious** if the victim sustained an injury resulting in detention in hospital as an in-patient or any of the following injuries whether or not he was detained in hospital: fractures, internal injuries, severe concussion, loss of consciousness, lacerations requiring sutures which may lead to impairment or disfigurement or any other injury which may lead to impairment or disfigurement.

Robbery -

Includes offences involving intent to rob.

Other -

Includes threats and extortion and cruel and unnatural treatment of children.

Crimes of Indecency

(Also referred to as **Indecency**).

Rape & Attempted Rape -

Comprises rape and assault with intent to rape.

Indecent Assault -

-

Lewd and indecent behaviour -
(Previously titled "Lewd and libidinous practices")

Comprises lewd and libidinous practices against children and indecent exposure.

Other -

Includes offences connected with prostitution.

Crimes Involving Dishonesty

(Also referred to as **Dishonesty**)

Housebreaking -

Includes commercial as well as domestic premises.

Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP) -

-

Theft from a motor vehicle by (OLP) -

-

Theft of motor vehicle -

-

Shoplifting -

-

Other theft -

Includes theft of pedal cycles.

Fraud -

Includes statutory fraud.

Other -

Includes forgery, reset and embezzlement.

Fire-Raising, Vandalism Etc

(Also referred to as **Vandalism**)

Fire-raising –

-

Vandalism, etc. -

Includes malicious mischief, vandalism and reckless conduct with firearms.

Other Crimes

Crimes against public justice -

Includes perjury, resisting arrest, bail offences (other than absconding or re-offending) and wasting police time.

Handling offensive weapons -

Comprises carrying offensive weapons, restriction of offensive weapons legislation.

Drugs -

Includes importation, possession and supply of controlled drugs.

Other -

Includes conspiracy and explosives offences.

OFFENCES

Miscellaneous Offences

Minor Assault -

-

Breach of the peace -

-

Drunkenness -

-

Other -

Includes offences against local legislation, offences involving animals/plants, offences against liquor licensing laws and offences against environmental legislation.

Motor Vehicle Offences

Dangerous and careless driving -

Prior to 1992 this was known as "reckless and careless driving".

Drunk driving -

Comprises driving or in charge of motor vehicle while unfit through drink or drugs, blood alcohol content above limit and failing to provide breath, blood or urine specimens.

Speeding -

-

Unlawful use of vehicle -

Comprises driving while disqualified, without a licence, insurance, test certificate, vehicle tax and registration and identification offences.

Vehicle defect offences -

Comprises construction and use and lighting offences.

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ISSN 0264 1178

ISBN 978-0-7559-7647-8

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