

**CRIME AND JUSTICE****Recorded Crime in Scotland:****May 2021**

This Official Statistics bulletin presents information on the number of crimes and offences recorded by the police in Scotland during May 2021. It also includes a comparison with the equivalent month of the previous two years.

These Official Statistics were introduced from April 2020 to inform users about the volume and type of crimes and offences recorded in Scotland during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Whilst the restrictions put in place to limit the spread of the virus will have had an impact on the number of crimes and offences recorded by the police, some caution is advised before necessarily attributing all of the changes to this situation. For example, longer term trends in some types of offending, which existed prior to the pandemic, may remain a factor.

The annual [Recorded Crime in Scotland bulletin](#) remains the primary source of information on crimes and offences recorded by the police, and has been designated as National Statistics by the Office for Statistics Regulation. The most recent update, covering the 2019-20 reporting year, was published on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020. The 2020-21 reporting year will be published in September 2021.

Statistics on crimes and offences recorded by the police provide a measure of the volume of criminal activity with which the police are faced. Crimes recorded by the police do not reveal the incidence of all crimes committed as not all crimes are reported to the police.

## Summary

The police in Scotland recorded 19,376 crimes in May 2021. This was 6% lower than the 20,587 crimes recorded in the same month of 2020 (when the first pandemic lockdown was still in place) and 11% lower than the 21,722 crimes recorded in the same month of 2019 (for which there was no pandemic or restrictions on movement).

In May 2021:

- Non-sexual crimes of violence were 8% higher compared to May 2020 (increasing from 744 to 805 crimes), and 2% higher compared to May 2019 (increasing from 787 to 805 crimes).
- Sexual crimes were 34% higher compared to May 2020 (increasing from 942 to 1,259 crimes), but 2% lower than May 2019 (decreasing from 1,280 to 1,259 crimes).
- Crimes of dishonesty were 8% lower than May 2020 (decreasing from 8,436 to 7,800 crimes) and 18% lower than in May 2019 (decreasing from 9,508 to 7,800).
- Fire-raising, vandalism etc. was 13% higher than May 2020 (increasing from 3,324 to 3,757 crimes), but 12% lower than in May 2019 (decreasing from 4,286 to 3,757).
- Other crimes were 19% lower compared to May 2020 (decreasing from 7,141 to 5,755 crimes) and 2% lower than in May 2019 (decreasing from 5,861 to 5,755).
- Fewer crimes were recorded by police in 21 (66%) out of 32 local authorities, compared to May 2020.

The number of offences recorded by the police in Scotland in May 2021 was 21,047. This was relatively unchanged from the 21,069 offences recorded in the same month of 2020 (when the first pandemic lockdown was still in place) and 5% lower than the 22,121 offences recorded in the same month of 2019 (for which there was no pandemic or restrictions on movement).

In May 2021:

- Miscellaneous offences decreased by 1% compared to May 2020 (decreasing from 11,458 to 11,344) and decreased by 1% compared to May 2019 (decreasing from 11,507 to 11,344).
- Motor vehicle offences were 1% higher compared to May 2020 (increasing from 9,611 to 9,703), but 9% lower compared to May 2019 (decreasing from 10,614 to 9,703).

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 May 2021, the police recorded 19,376 crimes. This was 6% lower (or 1,211 crimes) than the 20,587 crimes recorded in the same month of 2020 (when the first pandemic lockdown was still in place) and 11% lower than the 21,722 crimes recorded in the same month of 2019 (for which there was no pandemic or restrictions on movement). There were variations in the year-on-year trends between different crime types. However, with the exception of Non-sexual crimes of violence, all groups were lower than pre-pandemic levels (May 2019) ([Table 1](#), [Chart 1](#)).

In May 2021:

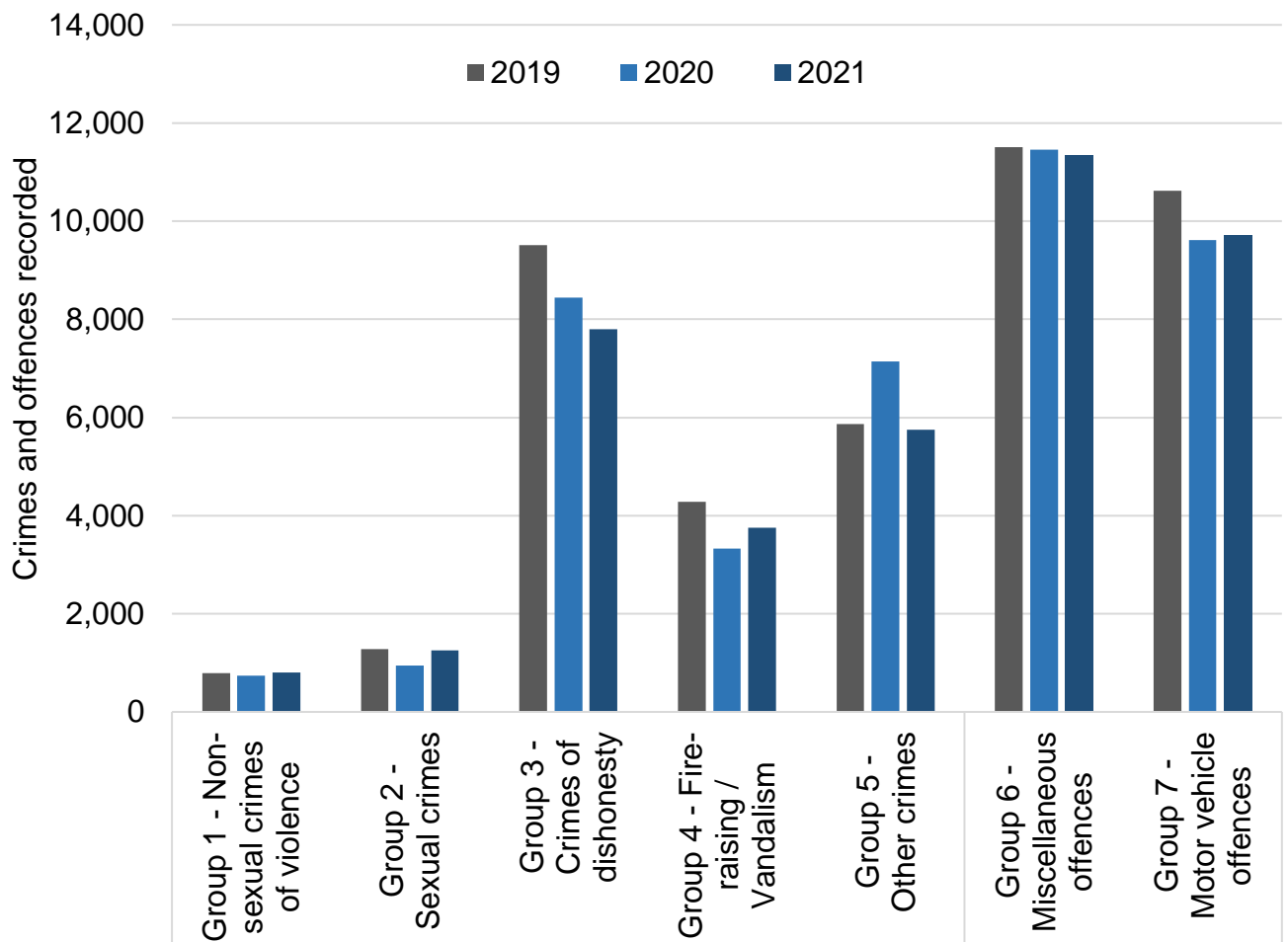
- Non-sexual crimes of violence were 8% higher compared to May 2020 (increasing from 744 to 805 crimes) and 2% higher compared to May 2019 (increasing from 787 to 805 crimes). Within this, Attempted murder and serious assault decreased by 2% compared to May 2020 (from 310 to 304), and decreased 16% from May 2019 (decreasing from 363 to 304 crimes). Other violence increased by 44% compared to May 2020 (from 149 to 214) and increased 59% from May 2019 (from 135 to 214). The increase in Other violence was mainly due to a rise in Threats and extortion, with many of these crimes likely to be cyber enabled. Crimes under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 decreased by 4% compared to May 2020 (from 138 to 132), and were 16% lower than in May 2019 (decreasing from 157 to 132).
- Sexual crimes were 34% higher (or 317 crimes), increasing from 942 to 1,259 crimes. This was 2% lower than in May 2019 (decreasing from 1,280 to 1,259 crimes). Sexual assault saw the largest increase since May 2020, increasing by 55% (from 265 to 411). However, this was 14% lower than in May 2019 (decreasing from 478 to 411). Other sexual crimes increased by 22% compared to May 2020 (from 522 to 636). This was also a 12% increase compared to May 2019 (from 569 to 636). The rise in Other sexual crimes was driven by crimes including Voyeurism and Coercing a person into being present/looking at sexual activity, with many of these crimes likely to be cyber enabled. Rape and attempted rape increased by 35% compared to May 2020, from 153 to 206 crimes. However, this was a 10% decrease compared to May 2019 (from 229 to 206 crimes).
- Crimes of dishonesty were 8% lower (or 636 crimes) compared to May 2020, decreasing from 8,436 to 7,800 crimes. This was 18% lower than in May 2019 (decreasing from 9,508 to 7,800). Crimes of Fraud have continued to increase throughout the pandemic, increasing by 7% since May 2020 (from 1,441 to 1,549) and increasing 85% since May 2019 (from 837 to 1,549). The [Changes in levels of recorded fraud](#) section

below provides users with further background on what may be contributing to this change. Shoplifting also increased by 4% compared to May 2020 (from 1,788 to 1,859), but is still 32% lower than in May 2019 (decreasing from 2,745 to 1,859).

- Fire-raising, vandalism etc. was 13% higher (or 433 crimes) compared to May 2020, increasing from 3,324 to 3,757 crimes. However this was still 12% lower than in May 2019. The increase since May 2020 was driven by crimes of Vandalism etc., which increased by 15% from 3,087 to 3,550 crimes. However this was still 11% lower than May 2019 levels.
- Other crimes were 19% lower (or 1,386 crimes) than in May 2020, decreasing from 7,141 to 5,755 crimes; this was also a 2% decrease since May 2019 (from 5,861 to 5,755). The main contributors to these decreases were Drugs (which fell by 27% compared to May 2020 and 18% compared to May 2019) and Crimes against public justice (which fell by 18% compared to May 2020 but was 25% higher compared to May 2019).

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

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



## Offences recorded by the police

In May 2021, the police recorded 21,047 offences. This was relatively unchanged (down 22 offences) from the 21,069 offences recorded in the same month in 2020, and 5% lower than in May 2019 (decreasing from 22,121 to 21,047 offences). Miscellaneous offences decreased by 1% compared to May 2020, and were 1% lower than in May 2019. Motor vehicle offences increased by 1% compared to May 2020, but were still 9% lower than in May 2019, as detailed below ([Table 2](#)).

In May 2021:

- Miscellaneous offences decreased by 1%, from 11,458 to 11,344 offences, and were 1% lower than in May 2019 (decreasing from 11,507 to 11,344). The largest decrease since May 2020 was in Breach of the peace etc. (which decreased by 8% from 4,811 to 4,428 offences), and were also 1% lower than in May 2019. Common assault increased by 13% compared to May 2020 (from 4,435 to 5,007 offences), but levels were still 1% lower compared to May 2019 (decreasing from 5,083 to 5,007).
- Motor vehicle offences were 1% higher compared to May 2020 (or 92 offences), increasing from 9,611 to 9,703 offences, but were still 9% lower than May 2019 levels. The main contributor to the increase since May 2020 was Other motor vehicle offences (which increased by 30%, from 1,465 to 1,909 offences), however this is still 1% below May 2019 levels. Unlawful use of a vehicle saw the biggest decrease compared to May 2020 (falling by 13%, from 3,759 to 3,254 offences), however this was 1% higher than May 2019 levels.

## Local Authorities

Compared to May 2020, a decrease in recorded crime was seen in 21 (66%) out of 32 local authorities, with 11 showing an increase ([Table 3](#)). The largest decrease was seen in East Renfrewshire (down 29%) and the largest increase was in Na h-Eileanan Siar (up 22%). 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 Glasgow City (down 9%, or 325 crimes), South Lanarkshire (down 19%, or 266 crimes) and North Lanarkshire (down 13%, or 204 crimes).

## Changes in levels of recorded fraud

Fraud was 7% higher (or 108 crimes) in May 2021 than in May 2020, and 85% higher (or 712 crimes) than in May 2019. Further to the note of caution provided in the introduction to these statistics, there are two reasons why some care is advised before attributing all of this change to the specific circumstances of the COVID-related lockdown.

The first is that the [Recorded Crime National Statistics](#) have highlighted an increasing trend in recorded fraud over a number of years (up 73% between 2014-15 and 2019-20), which may be continuing. The second is that 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 is likely to have had an impact when comparing figures for fraud which fall before and after the April 2020 change.

Prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 the 1<sup>st</sup> April these crimes are now included in the statistics. It should be noted that those cases with only a suspicion or insufficient evidence to confirm that the perpetrator was outside the UK were always included.

This change is likely to have led to additional crimes of fraud being recorded, with a similar impact possible for other types of crime which could be committed using digital technologies. At this early stage we are unable to say to what extent this procedural change has increased levels of recorded fraud, though the 2020-21 National Statistics (to be published in September 2021) will provide users with an estimate of the number of additional crimes that were recorded as a result of this change.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.hmics.scot/publications/crime-audit-2016>



## Crimes recorded under coronavirus legislation

It is important to note that these Official Statistics currently exclude crimes recorded under coronavirus legislation such as the [Coronavirus Act 2020](#) and [Health Protection \(Coronavirus\) \(Restrictions\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2020](#). These were implemented on 25<sup>th</sup> March and 27<sup>th</sup> 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 1,434 such crimes were recorded during May 2021. This month's figure is lower than the previous month and the lowest this calendar year (see [Table A](#) below). This may in part be due to decreased levels of enforcement due to the relaxation of some restrictions in recent months. Users should treat these figures as broadly indicative, and may be subject to further revision in future releases. In due course the annual National Statistics will include this activity within the overall crime total for Scotland.



**Table A: Number of crimes recorded under coronavirus legislation, April 2020 to May 2021**

Month	Number of crimes recorded
2020	
April	2,741
May	1,654
June	219
July	17
August	21
September	189
October	588
November	1,811
December	1,540
2021	
January	3,473
February	4,199
March	3,573
April	2,221
May	1,434

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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: May 2021](#)

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

Crime group	May 2019	May 2020	May 2021	% change since May 2020	% change since May 2019
<b>Total crimes<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>21,722</b>	<b>20,587</b>	<b>19,376</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>-11%</b>
<b>Non-sexual crimes of violence</b>	<b>787</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>805</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>2%</b>
Homicide etc.	12	8	7	n/r	-42%
Attempted murder & serious assault	363	310	304	-2%	-16%
Robbery	120	139	148	6%	23%
Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018	157	138	132	-4%	-16%
Other violence	135	149	214	44%	59%
<b>Sexual crimes</b>	<b>1,280</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>1,259</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>-2%</b>
Rape & attempted rape	229	153	206	35%	-10%
Sexual assault	478	265	411	55%	-14%
Crimes associated with prostitution	4	2	6	n/r	n/r
Other sexual crimes	569	522	636	22%	12%
<b>Crimes of dishonesty</b>	<b>9,508</b>	<b>8,436</b>	<b>7,800</b>	<b>-8%</b>	<b>-18%</b>
Housebreaking	1,041	947	663	-30%	-36%
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	125	95	117	23%	-6%
Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP	231	231	151	-35%	-35%
Theft of a motor vehicle	436	397	379	-5%	-13%
Shoplifting	2,745	1,788	1,859	4%	-32%
Other theft	3,672	2,998	2,673	-11%	-27%
Fraud	837	1,441	1,549	7%	85%
Other dishonesty	421	539	409	-24%	-3%
<b>Fire-raising, vandalism etc.</b>	<b>4,286</b>	<b>3,324</b>	<b>3,757</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>-12%</b>
Fire-raising	299	237	207	-13%	-31%
Vandalism etc.	3,987	3,087	3,550	15%	-11%
<b>Other crimes</b>	<b>5,861</b>	<b>7,141</b>	<b>5,755</b>	<b>-19%</b>	<b>-2%</b>
Crimes against public justice	1,610	2,445	2,015	-18%	25%
Handling offensive weapons	853	898	955	6%	12%
<i>Not used in other criminal activity</i>	392	414	413	0%	5%
<i>Used in other criminal activity</i>	461	484	542	12%	18%
Drugs	3,373	3,788	2,774	-27%	-18%
Other	25	10	11	10%	-56%

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, May 2019, 2020 and 2021**

Crime group	May 2019	May 2020	May 2021	% change since May 2020	% change since May 2019
<b>Total offences</b>	<b>22,121</b>	<b>21,069</b>	<b>21,047</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>-5%</b>
<b>Miscellaneous offences</b>	<b>11,507</b>	<b>11,458</b>	<b>11,344</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>-1%</b>
Common assault	5,083	4,435	5,007	13%	-1%
Breach of the peace etc.	4,485	4,811	4,428	-8%	-1%
Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct	553	694	505	-27%	-9%
Urinating etc.	190	68	86	26%	-55%
Other miscellaneous offences	1,196	1,450	1,318	-9%	10%
<b>Motor vehicle offences</b>	<b>10,614</b>	<b>9,611</b>	<b>9,703</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>-9%</b>
Dangerous and careless driving	966	935	1,040	11%	8%
Driving under the influence	509	774	693	-10%	36%
Speeding	2,758	1,890	2,068	9%	-25%
Unlawful use of vehicle	3,208	3,759	3,254	-13%	1%
Vehicle defect offences	681	497	472	-5%	-31%
Seat belt offences	312	130	133	2%	-57%
Mobile phone offences	255	161	134	-17%	-47%
Other motor vehicle offences	1,925	1,465	1,909	30%	-1%

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

	May 2019	May 2020	May 2021	% change since May 2020	% change since May 2019
Aberdeen City	982	1,051	1,098	4%	12%
Aberdeenshire	660	544	629	16%	-5%
Angus	310	268	314	17%	1%
Argyll & Bute	200	210	157	-25%	-22%
Clackmannanshire	179	226	194	-14%	8%
Dumfries & Galloway	605	547	499	-9%	-18%
Dundee City	818	852	722	-15%	-12%
East Ayrshire	474	489	463	-5%	-2%
East Dunbartonshire	262	266	203	-24%	-23%
East Lothian	332	309	293	-5%	-12%
East Renfrewshire	175	184	131	-29%	-25%
Edinburgh City	2,790	2,231	2,155	-3%	-23%
Falkirk	639	608	555	-9%	-13%
Fife	1,258	1,183	1,256	6%	0%
Glasgow City	3,776	3,492	3,167	-9%	-16%
Highland	627	667	639	-4%	2%
Inverclyde	325	319	292	-8%	-10%
Midlothian	358	275	299	9%	-16%
Moray	239	211	256	21%	7%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	16	37	45	22%	181%
North Ayrshire	543	538	488	-9%	-10%
North Lanarkshire	1,603	1,562	1,358	-13%	-15%
Orkney Islands	30	27	22	-19%	-27%
Perth & Kinross	334	403	413	2%	24%
Renfrewshire	654	701	600	-14%	-8%
Scottish Borders	331	295	355	20%	7%
Shetland Islands	38	46	36	-22%	-5%
South Ayrshire	447	355	398	12%	-11%
South Lanarkshire	1,259	1,381	1,115	-19%	-11%
Stirling	348	342	273	-20%	-22%
West Dunbartonshire	458	375	353	-6%	-23%
West Lothian	652	593	598	1%	-8%
<b>Scotland<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>21,722</b>	<b>20,587</b>	<b>19,376</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>-11%</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 May 2019, April 2020 to May 2020 and April 2021 to May 2021**

Crime group	April to May 2019	April to May 2020	April to May 2021	% Change since 2020	% Change since 2019
<b>Total crimes<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>42,716</b>	<b>37,758</b>	<b>38,723</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>-9%</b>
<b>Non-sexual crimes of violence</b>	<b>1,527</b>	<b>1,380</b>	<b>1,521</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>0%</b>
Homicide etc.	17	17	17	0%	0%
Attempted murder & serious assault	724	536	566	6%	-22%
Robbery	256	278	271	-3%	6%
Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018	283	247	269	9%	-5%
Other violence	247	302	398	32%	61%
<b>Sexual crimes</b>	<b>2,335</b>	<b>1,723</b>	<b>2,395</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>3%</b>
Rape & attempted rape	413	287	408	42%	-1%
Sexual assault	884	485	783	61%	-11%
Crimes associated with prostitution	8	4	14	n/r	n/r
Other sexual crimes	1,030	947	1,190	26%	16%
<b>Crimes of dishonesty</b>	<b>18,967</b>	<b>15,613</b>	<b>15,445</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>-19%</b>
Housebreaking	2,086	1,912	1,310	-31%	-37%
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	263	178	220	24%	-16%
Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP	495	496	318	-36%	-36%
Theft of a motor vehicle	843	794	726	-9%	-14%
Shoplifting	5,571	3,205	3,591	12%	-36%
Other theft	7,222	5,513	5,256	-5%	-27%
Fraud	1,628	2,530	3,233	28%	99%
Other dishonesty	859	985	791	-20%	-8%
<b>Fire-raising, vandalism etc.</b>	<b>8,519</b>	<b>6,472</b>	<b>7,486</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>-12%</b>
Fire-raising	542	448	506	13%	-7%
Vandalism etc.	7,977	6,024	6,980	16%	-12%
<b>Other crimes</b>	<b>11,368</b>	<b>12,570</b>	<b>11,876</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>4%</b>
Crimes against public justice	3,191	4,303	4,109	-5%	29%
Handling offensive weapons	1,718	1,735	1,815	5%	6%
<i>Not used in other criminal activity</i>	801	862	814	-6%	2%
<i>Used in other criminal activity</i>	917	873	1,001	15%	9%
Drugs	6,414	6,506	5,923	-9%	-8%
Other	45	26	29	12%	-36%

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 May 2019, April 2020 to May 2020 and April 2021 to May 2021**

<b>Crime group</b>	<b>April to May 2019</b>	<b>April to May 2020</b>	<b>April to May 2021</b>	<b>% Change since 2020</b>	<b>% Change since 2019</b>
<b>Total offences</b>	<b>43,765</b>	<b>36,518</b>	<b>41,281</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>-6%</b>
<b>Miscellaneous offences</b>	<b>22,554</b>	<b>20,764</b>	<b>21,424</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>-5%</b>
Common assault	9,917	8,113	9,117	12%	-8%
Breach of the peace etc.	8,841	8,701	8,400	-3%	-5%
Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct	1,091	1,223	1,081	-12%	-1%
Urinating etc.	404	115	193	68%	-52%
Other miscellaneous offences	2,301	2,612	2,633	1%	14%
<b>Motor vehicle offences</b>	<b>21,211</b>	<b>15,754</b>	<b>19,857</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>-6%</b>
Dangerous and careless driving	1,920	1,633	2,053	26%	7%
Driving under the influence	1,016	1,378	1,409	2%	39%
Speeding	5,613	2,391	4,316	81%	-23%
Unlawful use of vehicle	6,384	6,506	6,940	7%	9%
Vehicle defect offences	1,296	767	1,026	34%	-21%
Seat belt offences	596	214	284	33%	-52%
Mobile phone offences	510	256	268	5%	-47%
Other motor vehicle offences	3,876	2,609	3,561	36%	-8%



# Annexes

## Annex 1: Background

As outlined on page one, these monthly Official Statistics have been introduced to inform users about the volume and type of crimes and offences recorded in Scotland during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Their role is to provide more recent information on this topic - in a product that has been produced by Scottish Government statisticians, in line with the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#).

Scottish Government statisticians will continue to publish these bulletins each month. In due course, the Scottish Crime Recording Board (which oversees the production of Official Statistics on recorded crime in Scotland) will review whether this process should continue, including user feedback on the value of these statistics.

The annual [Recorded Crime in Scotland](#) bulletin remains the primary source of information on crimes and offences recorded by the police, and has been designated as National Statistics by the Office for Statistics Regulation. The most recent update, covering the 2019-20 reporting year, was published on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Users should refer to the National Statistics for more detailed information on the production of the recorded crime statistics - including governance arrangements, a description of their quality, background methodologies and changes to recording practice.

## Annex 2: Data Sources

Since 2013-14, the National Statistics on Recorded Crime in Scotland have been produced using data extracted from a single Police Scotland IT system called the Scottish Operational and Management Information System (ScOMIS). This data is then provided to the Scottish Government for the production of the National Statistics.

In 2019, Police Scotland developed a new data repository called the Source for Evidence Based Policing (SEBP). The intention is that this will, in due course, become the official source of information for the recorded crime National Statistics, replacing ScOMIS.

A preliminary review, looking at how changing from ScOMIS to SEBP impacts on the production of the Recorded Crime National Statistics, suggested that there is good alignment between both of these administrative systems.

Before the Scottish Crime Recording Board (SCRB) approved this transition, a final confirmatory check of the full 2019-20 reporting year was carried out. This involved a comparison of trends in recorded crimes, offences and clear up

rates for all local authorities and Scotland as a whole between 2018-19 and 2019-20. A technical report detailing the results of this analysis and highlighting any implications for data interpretation will be published in due course.

In order to produce the new monthly Official Statistics included in this bulletin in the necessary shorter time frames, the information supplied by Police Scotland has been extracted from SEBP. As such, the figures provided in this publication use a different source from the most recent National Statistics on Recorded Crime in Scotland – and are therefore not directly comparable (notwithstanding the findings noted above that there is good alignment between the two systems).

In addition, amendments to crime and offence records will always arise after data has been submitted by Police Scotland to the Scottish Government. Some crime or offence records may, on further investigation by the police, be redesignated to not constitute a crime or offence (a process known as ‘no-criming’). In other cases the original crime or offence may be re-classified, which could shift the record between different crime or offence groups (for example if a common assault was found on further investigation to be a serious assault it would switch from Group 6 Miscellaneous Offences to Group 1 Non-sexual Crimes of Violence).

The May 2021 data for this bulletin was extracted in June 2021. In order to compare on a like-for-like basis, data used for comparison was taken from the May 2020 bulletin published last year, which was extracted in June 2020. Since there was a relatively short time frame for amendments to have been made to the information for both bulletins, this information is likely to be subject to change as time passes. In contrast, information for May 2019 was extracted in June 2020. As more than a year had passed since the crimes were originally recorded and the vast majority of amendments were likely to have taken place, this data is unlikely to change. Some caution should therefore be taken in interpreting the changes between years, as outlined in these monthly bulletins, which should be seen as providing a broad indication of changes over the period in volumes and types of specific crimes and offences.

The annual National Statistics for 2019-20 and 2020-21 (when published) will 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 Annex 1 in the latest National Statistics on Recorded Crime in Scotland: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/recorded-crime-scotland-2019-2020/>

### **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).

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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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