

## CRIME AND JUSTICE

# Recorded Crime in Scotland: October 2021

This Official Statistics bulletin presents information on the number of crimes and offences recorded by the police in Scotland during October 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 edition, covering the 2020-21 reporting year, was published on 28<sup>th</sup> 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 19,708 crimes in October 2021. This was relatively unchanged from the 19,798 crimes recorded in the same month of 2020 (when pandemic restrictions were in place) and 8% lower than the 21,443 crimes recorded in the same month of 2019 (for which there was no pandemic or restrictions on movement).

In October 2021:

- Non-sexual crimes of violence were 21% higher compared to October 2020 (increasing from 780 to 941 crimes), and 11% higher compared to October 2019 (increasing from 848 to 941 crimes).
- Sexual crimes were 12% higher compared to October 2020 (increasing from 1,093 to 1,221 crimes), and 8% higher compared to October 2019 (increasing from 1,134 to 1,221 crimes).
- Crimes of dishonesty were 3% higher compared to October 2020 (increasing from 8,406 to 8,689 crimes), and 9% lower than in October 2019 (decreasing from 9,571 to 8,689).
- Fire-raising, vandalism etc. was 2% higher compared to October 2020 (increasing from 3,735 to 3,798 crimes), and 11% lower than in October 2019 (decreasing from 4,259 to 3,798).
- Other crimes were 13% lower compared to October 2020 (decreasing from 5,784 to 5,059 crimes), and 10% lower than in October 2019 (decreasing from 5,631 to 5,059).
- Fewer crimes were recorded by police in 20 (63%) out of 32 local authorities, compared to October 2020.

The number of offences recorded by the police in Scotland in October 2021 was 18,780. This is 2% lower than the 19,236 offences recorded in the same month of 2020 (when pandemic restrictions were in place) and 10% lower than the 20,842 offences recorded in the same month of 2019 (for which there was no pandemic or restrictions on movement).

In October 2021:

- Miscellaneous offences increased by 5% compared to October 2020 (increasing from 10,079 to 10,555), and were almost unchanged compared to October 2019 (decreasing from 10,596 to 10,555).
- Motor vehicle offences were 10% lower compared to October 2020 (decreasing from 9,157 to 8,225), and 20% lower compared to October 2019 (decreasing from 10,246 to 8,225).

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 October 2021, the police recorded 19,708 crimes. This was <1% lower (or 90 crimes) than the 19,798 crimes recorded in the same month of 2020 (when pandemic restrictions were in place) and 8% lower than the 21,443 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 and Sexual crimes, all groups were lower than pre-pandemic levels (October 2019) ([Table 1](#), [Chart 1](#)).

In October 2021:

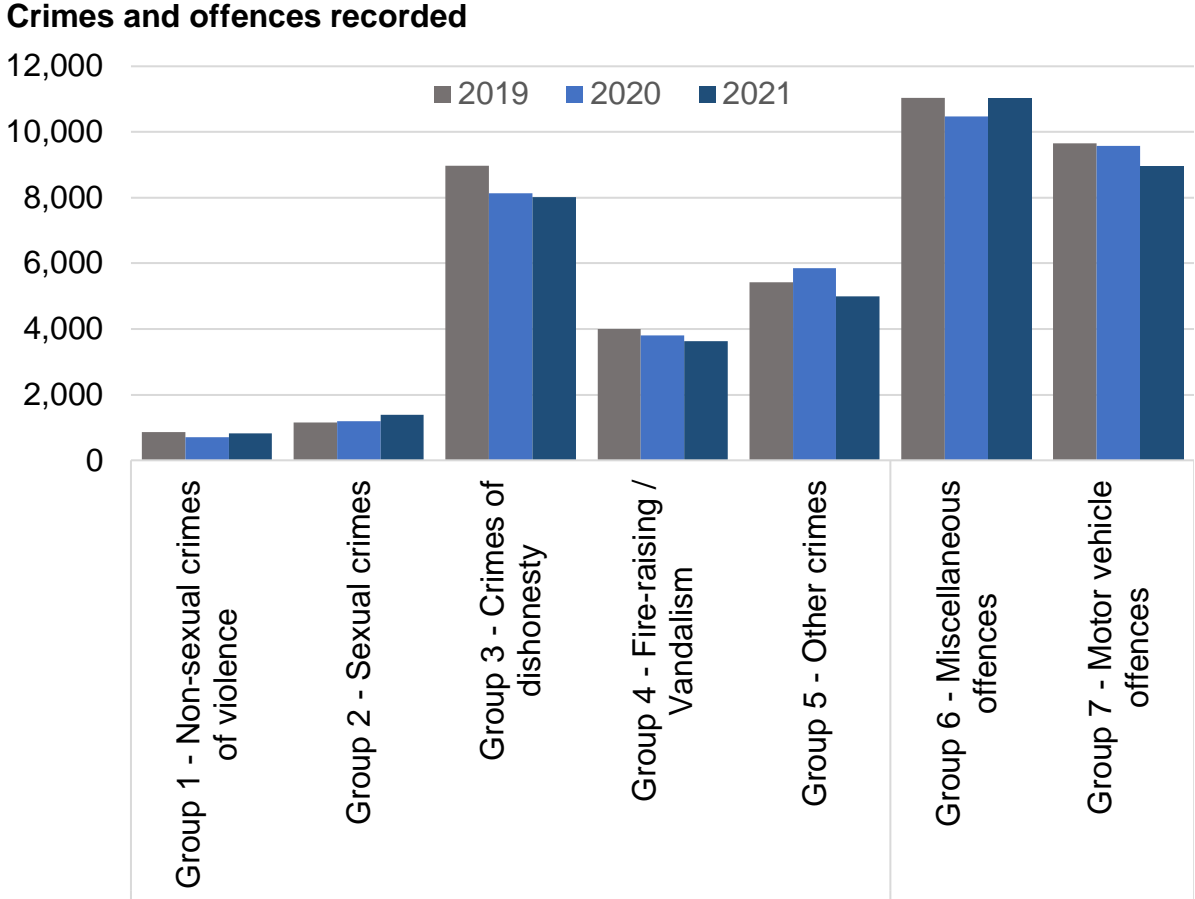
- Non-sexual crimes of violence were 21% higher compared to October 2020 (increasing from 780 to 941 crimes), and 11% higher compared to October 2019 (increasing from 848 to 941 crimes). Within this, Attempted murder and serious assault decreased by 1% compared to October 2020 (from 290 to 287), and decreased by 18% from October 2019 (from 350 to 287 crimes). Other violence increased by 89% compared to October 2020 (from 178 to 337) and increased by 108% from October 2019 (from 162 to 337). The increase in Other violence between October 2020 and October 2021 was due to rises in Drugging (from 2 to 119 crimes) and Threats and extortion (from 82 to 147 crimes). The rise in Drugging is likely due to cases of “spiking”, whereas the recently published National Statistics bulletin estimated that more than three-quarters (77%) of Threats and extortion recorded in 2020-21 were cyber-crimes. Crimes under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 decreased by 1% compared to October 2020 (from 146 to 144), and were 13% lower than in October 2019 (decreasing from 165 to 144).
- Sexual crimes were 12% higher (or 128 crimes) compared to October 2020, increasing from 1,093 to 1,221 crimes, and were 8% higher (or 87 crimes) from October 2019 (increasing from 1,134 to 1,221 crimes). Other sexual crimes increased by 6% (from 539 to 570) compared to October 2020 and increased by 17% (from 486 to 570) compared to October 2019. The rise in Other sexual crimes since 2019 was driven by crimes including Communicating indecently, Coercing a person into being present/looking at sexual activity, Disclosure of intimate images and Voyeurism. Research published in the recent 2020-21 Recorded Crime National Statistics showed that the majority of these crimes are likely to be cyber-crimes. Sexual assault increased by 29% compared to October 2020 (from 336 to 434 crimes), but remained almost unchanged compared to October 2019 (decreasing from 435 to 434

crimes). Rape and attempted rape decreased by 4% compared to October 2020 (from 215 to 207 crimes), and increased by 2% compared to October 2019 (from 202 to 207 crimes).

- Crimes of dishonesty were 3% higher (or 283 crimes) compared to October 2020, increasing from 8,406 to 8,689 crimes. This was 9% lower than in October 2019 (decreasing from 9,571 to 8,689). Crimes of Fraud have increased throughout the pandemic. There was a 5% increase since October 2020 (from 1,506 to 1,582), and a 71% increase since October 2019 (from 927 to 1,582). The [Changes in levels of recorded fraud](#) section below provides users with further background on what may be contributing to this change. Other theft has been the biggest contributor (by volume) to the increase since 2020 having risen by 7% compared to October 2020 (from 3,066 to 3,287 crimes), but was 11% lower when compared to October 2019.
- Fire-raising, vandalism etc. was 2% higher (or 63 crimes) compared to October 2020, increasing from 3,735 to 3,798 crimes, but was 11% lower than October 2019. Vandalism etc. has risen 4% since October 2020 (increasing from 3,470 to 3,606). This is 10% lower than October 2019 levels.
- Other crimes were 13% lower (or 725 crimes) than in October 2020, decreasing from 5,784 to 5,059 crimes. This is also 10% lower than October 2019 (decreasing from 5,631 to 5,059 crimes). The main contributors to these decreases were Drugs (which fell by 18% compared to October 2020 and 26% compared to October 2019) and Crimes against public justice (which fell by 7% compared to October 2020 but were 16% higher compared to October 2019).

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

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



## Offences recorded by the police

In October 2021, the police recorded 18,780 offences. This a fall of 2% (down 456 offences) from the 19,236 offences recorded in the same month in 2020, and 10% lower than in October 2019 (decreasing from 20,842 to 18,780 offences). Miscellaneous offences increased by 5% compared to October 2020, but remained almost unchanged compared to October 2019 with only 41 fewer offences. Motor vehicle offences decreased by 10% compared to October 2020, and by 20% compared to October 2019, as detailed below ([Table 2](#)).

In October 2021:

- Miscellaneous offences increased by 5%, from 10,079 to 10,555 offences since October 2020, and were relatively unchanged compared to October 2019 (decreasing from 10,596 to 10,555). The largest increase by volume since October 2020 was Common assault, which rose by 14% from 4,416 to 5,021 offences. Urinating etc. rose by 174% from 47 to 129 offences, but was still 21% lower than October 2019.
- Motor vehicle offences were 10% lower compared to October 2020 (or 932 offences), decreasing from 9,157 to 8,225 offences, and were 20% lower than October 2019 levels. The main contributors to the decrease since October 2020 by volume were Speeding (which decreased by 33%, from 1,824 to 1,228 offences) and Unlawful use of vehicle (which decreased by 14%, from 3,121 to 2,695 offences), and this is 48% and 20% below October 2019 levels, respectively. Other motor vehicle offences saw the biggest increase since October 2020, rising by 6% from 1,810 to 1,923 offences. This was 6% lower than October 2019 levels.

## Local Authorities

Compared to October 2020, a decrease in recorded crime was seen in 20 (63%) out of 32 local authorities, with 12 showing an increase ([Table 3](#)). The largest decrease was seen in Na-h Eileanan Star (down 36%) and the largest increase was in Scottish Borders, which had 44% more recorded crimes. It should be noted that the relatively small number of crimes recorded in some of Scotland's local authorities can fluctuate over time - leading to large percentage changes. This is particularly relevant in this release, where monthly data is being presented rather than the annual information provided in the National Statistics.

The biggest contributors by volume to the overall decrease in crimes recorded by the police were North Lanarkshire (down 15%, or 212 crimes), Fife (down 9%, or 125 crimes) and East Ayrshire (down 18%, or 88 crimes).

## **April 2019 to October 2019 and April 2020 to October 2020 compared with April 2021 to October 2021**

Overall, in April 2021 to October 2021 the police recorded 134,349 crimes, a reduction of 3% (or 3,653 crimes) compared to the equivalent period of the previous year (138,002 crimes) ([Table 4](#)). This was 9% lower (or 13,868 crimes) than the same period in 2019 (148,217 crimes). The biggest drivers of the decrease by volume since 2020 were Drugs (down 18%, or 3,813 crimes), Crimes against public justice (down 9% or 1,311 crimes) and Housebreaking (down 19% or 1,194 crimes). When compared with 2019, the biggest drivers of the reduction by volume were Shoplifting (down 31%, or 5,849 crimes), Other theft (down 19%, or 4,948 crimes) and Drugs (down 19%, or 4,288 crimes). The largest increase since 2020 by volume was Vandalism etc. (up 4%, or 928 crimes). Compared with 2019, the largest increase by volume was seen in Fraud (up 69%, or 4,181 crimes).

Over the same period, the number of offences recorded by the police was <1% higher (or 520 offences) than in 2020, with Miscellaneous offences decreasing by <1% (or 336 offences) and Motor vehicle offences increasing by 1% (or 856 offences) ([Table 5](#)). Compared to 2019 offences decreased by 6% (or 9,637 offences), with Miscellaneous offences decreasing by 2% (1,572 offences) and Motor vehicle offences decreasing by 11% (or 8,065 offences).



## Changes in levels of recorded fraud

Fraud was 5% higher (or 76 crimes) in October 2021 than in October 2020, and 71% higher (or 655 crimes) than in October 2019. The [Recorded Crime National Statistics](#) have highlighted an increasing trend in recorded fraud over a number of years (up 117% between 2014-15 and 2020-21). Fraud increased by 26% between 2019-20 and 2020-21 with the circumstances of the pandemic very likely to be playing a significant role, including behavioural changes such as increased online shopping. Research published within the recent Recorded Crime in Scotland bulletin estimated that 57% of fraud crimes recorded in 2020-21 were cyber-crimes, compared to 29% in 2019-20.

Some care is advised before attributing all of the recent changes to the specific circumstances of the COVID-related lockdown. This is because a procedural change was made in April 2020 to how some crimes of fraud (and other types of crime which could involve a victim and a perpetrator in different physical locations) are recorded. This has had an impact when comparing figures for fraud which fall before and after the April 2020 change.

Prior to the 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.

The research published in the Recorded Crime in Scotland bulletin estimated the procedural change led to 900 additional crimes of fraud being recorded in 2020-21.

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<sup>1</sup> <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 there were only 8 such crimes recorded during October 2021 which is the second lowest monthly figure across the pandemic (see [Table A](#) below). This is likely to be due to decreased levels of enforcement due to the relaxation of restrictions in recent months. Users should treat these figures as broadly indicative, and may be subject to further revision in future releases. The 2020-21 annual National Statistics included this activity within the overall crime total for Scotland (up to March 2021). The equivalent activity from April 2021 onwards will be reflected in the 2021-22 publication.

**Table A: Number of crimes recorded under coronavirus legislation, April 2020 to October 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
June	163
July	45
August	10
September	6
October	8

# Tables

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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: October 2021](#)

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

Crime group	October			% Change since	% Change since
	2019	2020	2021	October 2020	October 2019
<b>Total crimes<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>21,443</b>	<b>19,798</b>	<b>19,708</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>-8%</b>
<b>Non-sexual crimes of violence</b>	<b>848</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>941</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>11%</b>
Homicide etc.	10	11	4	-64%	-60%
Attempted murder & serious assault	350	290	287	-1%	-18%
Robbery	161	155	169	9%	5%
Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018	165	146	144	-1%	-13%
Other violence	162	178	337	89%	108%
<b>Sexual crimes</b>	<b>1,134</b>	<b>1,093</b>	<b>1,221</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>8%</b>
Rape & attempted rape	202	215	207	-4%	2%
Sexual assault	435	336	434	29%	0%
Crimes associated with prostitution	11	3	10	n/r	-9%
Other sexual crimes	486	539	570	6%	17%
<b>Crimes of dishonesty</b>	<b>9,571</b>	<b>8,406</b>	<b>8,689</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>-9%</b>
Housebreaking	1,089	891	756	-15%	-31%
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	137	107	104	-3%	-24%
Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP	251	174	191	10%	-24%
Theft of a motor vehicle	434	389	393	1%	-9%
Shoplifting	2,644	1,912	1,994	4%	-25%
Other theft	3,681	3,066	3,287	7%	-11%
Fraud	927	1,506	1,582	5%	71%
Other dishonesty	408	361	382	6%	-6%
<b>Fire-raising, vandalism etc.</b>	<b>4,259</b>	<b>3,735</b>	<b>3,798</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>-11%</b>
Fire-raising	238	265	192	-28%	-19%
Vandalism etc.	4,021	3,470	3,606	4%	-10%
<b>Other crimes</b>	<b>5,631</b>	<b>5,784</b>	<b>5,059</b>	<b>-13%</b>	<b>-10%</b>
Crimes against public justice	1,667	2,077	1,930	-7%	16%
Handling offensive weapons	831	899	814	-9%	-2%
<i>Not used in other criminal activity</i>	368	413	331	-20%	-10%
<i>Used in other criminal activity</i>	463	486	483	-1%	4%
Drugs	3,116	2,787	2,298	-18%	-26%
Other	17	21	17	-19%	0%

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, October 2019, 2020 and 2021**

Crime group	October			% Change since	% Change since
	2019	2020	2021	October 2020	October 2019
<b>Total offences</b>	<b>20,842</b>	<b>19,236</b>	<b>18,780</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>-10%</b>
<b>Miscellaneous offences</b>	<b>10,596</b>	<b>10,079</b>	<b>10,555</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>0%</b>
Common assault	4,770	4,416	5,021	14%	5%
Breach of the peace etc.	4,149	3,937	3,921	0%	-5%
Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct	366	350	235	-33%	-36%
Urinating etc.	163	47	129	174%	-21%
Other miscellaneous offences	1,148	1,329	1,249	-6%	9%
<b>Motor vehicle offences</b>	<b>10,246</b>	<b>9,157</b>	<b>8,225</b>	<b>-10%</b>	<b>-20%</b>
Dangerous and careless driving	956	974	1,062	9%	11%
Driving under the influence	509	669	685	2%	35%
Speeding	2,371	1,824	1,228	-33%	-48%
Unlawful use of vehicle	3,381	3,121	2,695	-14%	-20%
Vehicle defect offences	612	546	426	-22%	-30%
Seat belt offences	188	95	112	18%	-40%
Mobile phone offences	187	118	94	-20%	-50%
Other motor vehicle offences	2,042	1,810	1,923	6%	-6%

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

	October			% Change since	% Change since
	2019	2020	2021	October 2020	October 2019
Aberdeen City	1,039	970	1,181	22%	14%
Aberdeenshire	588	584	539	-8%	-8%
Angus	246	257	326	27%	33%
Argyll & Bute	204	179	211	18%	3%
Clackmannanshire	193	185	199	8%	3%
Dumfries & Galloway	490	488	590	21%	20%
Dundee City	887	881	861	-2%	-3%
East Ayrshire	511	479	391	-18%	-23%
East Dunbartonshire	246	248	173	-30%	-30%
East Lothian	379	336	327	-3%	-14%
East Renfrewshire	192	192	155	-19%	-19%
Edinburgh City	2,545	2,198	2,355	7%	-7%
Falkirk	591	495	461	-7%	-22%
Fife	1,229	1,366	1,241	-9%	1%
Glasgow City	3,998	3,279	3,372	3%	-16%
Highland	556	590	582	-1%	5%
Inverclyde	336	266	315	18%	-6%
Midlothian	341	358	312	-13%	-9%
Moray	195	213	247	16%	27%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	35	44	28	-36%	-20%
North Ayrshire	570	492	476	-3%	-16%
North Lanarkshire	1,583	1,454	1,242	-15%	-22%
Orkney Islands	30	26	17	-35%	-43%
Perth & Kinross	420	414	353	-15%	-16%
Renfrewshire	712	627	628	0%	-12%
Scottish Borders	280	284	408	44%	46%
Shetland Islands	57	42	33	-21%	-42%
South Ayrshire	435	380	401	6%	-8%
South Lanarkshire	1,180	1,142	1,080	-5%	-8%
Stirling	302	299	266	-11%	-12%
West Dunbartonshire	425	413	348	-16%	-18%
West Lothian	648	617	590	-4%	-9%
<b>Scotland<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>21,443</b>	<b>19,798</b>	<b>19,708</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>-8%</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 to October 2019, 2020 and 2021**

<b>Crime group</b>	<b>April to October 2019</b>	<b>April to October 2020</b>	<b>April to October 2021</b>	<b>% Change since 2020</b>	<b>% Change since 2019</b>
<b>Total crimes<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>148,217</b>	<b>138,002</b>	<b>134,349</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>-9%</b>
<b>Non-sexual crimes of violence</b>	<b>5,646</b>	<b>5,241</b>	<b>5,732</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>2%</b>
Homicide etc.	77	61	50	-18%	-35%
Attempted murder & serious assault	2,598	2,158	2,191	2%	-16%
Robbery	989	1,017	982	-3%	-1%
Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018	1,026	893	947	6%	-8%
Other violence	956	1,112	1,562	40%	63%
<b>Sexual crimes</b>	<b>7,980</b>	<b>7,479</b>	<b>8,498</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>6%</b>
Rape & attempted rape	1,439	1,347	1,464	9%	2%
Sexual assault	3,025	2,326	2,955	27%	-2%
Crimes associated with prostitution	58	22	44	100%	-24%
Other sexual crimes	3,458	3,784	4,035	7%	17%
<b>Crimes of dishonesty</b>	<b>66,340</b>	<b>56,626</b>	<b>55,818</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>-16%</b>
Housebreaking	7,487	6,220	5,026	-19%	-33%
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	1,032	723	719	-1%	-30%
Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP	1,670	1,341	1,196	-11%	-28%
Theft of a motor vehicle	2,935	2,631	2,627	0%	-10%
Shoplifting	18,833	12,347	12,984	5%	-31%
Other theft	25,507	20,615	20,559	0%	-19%
Fraud	6,089	9,833	10,270	4%	69%
Other dishonesty	2,787	2,916	2,437	-16%	-13%
<b>Fire-raising, vandalism etc.</b>	<b>28,695</b>	<b>25,251</b>	<b>26,209</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>-9%</b>
Fire-raising	1,629	1,592	1,622	2%	0%
Vandalism etc.	27,066	23,659	24,587	4%	-9%
<b>Other crimes</b>	<b>39,556</b>	<b>43,405</b>	<b>38,092</b>	<b>-12%</b>	<b>-4%</b>
Crimes against public justice	11,431	15,281	13,970	-9%	22%
Handling offensive weapons	5,923	6,426	6,233	-3%	5%
<i>Not used in other criminal activity</i>	2,716	2,963	2,680	-10%	-1%
<i>Used in other criminal activity</i>	3,207	3,463	3,553	3%	11%
Drugs	22,076	21,601	17,788	-18%	-19%
Other	126	97	101	4%	-20%

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 to October 2019, 2020 and 2021**

<b>Crime group</b>	<b>April to October 2019</b>	<b>April to October 2020</b>	<b>April to October 2021</b>	<b>% Change since 2020</b>	<b>% Change since 2019</b>
<b>Total offences</b>	<b>151,307</b>	<b>141,150</b>	<b>141,670</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>-6%</b>
<b>Miscellaneous offences</b>	<b>78,549</b>	<b>77,313</b>	<b>76,977</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>-2%</b>
Common assault	34,646	31,571	34,010	8%	-2%
Breach of the peace etc.	30,906	31,406	29,877	-5%	-3%
Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct	3,777	4,046	3,411	-16%	-10%
Urinating etc.	1,413	641	787	23%	-44%
Other miscellaneous offences	7,807	9,649	8,892	-8%	14%
<b>Motor vehicle offences</b>	<b>72,758</b>	<b>63,837</b>	<b>64,693</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>-11%</b>
Dangerous and careless driving	6,775	6,835	7,710	13%	14%
Driving under the influence	3,611	5,064	4,661	-8%	29%
Speeding	18,466	12,514	13,286	6%	-28%
Unlawful use of vehicle	22,445	22,087	20,749	-6%	-8%
Vehicle defect offences	4,198	3,794	3,399	-10%	-19%
Seat belt offences	1,972	1,168	1,089	-7%	-45%
Mobile phone offences	1,591	1,103	890	-19%	-44%
Other motor vehicle offences	13,700	11,272	12,909	15%	-6%

# 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 2020-21 reporting year, was published on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021. Users should refer to the National Statistics for more detailed information on the production of the recorded crime statistics - including governance arrangements, a description of their quality, background methodologies and changes to recording practice.

## Annex 2: Data Sources

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

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

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

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

rates for all local authorities and Scotland as a whole between 2018-19 and 2019-20. A 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 October 2021 data for this bulletin was extracted in November 2021. In order to compare on a like-for-like basis, data used for comparison was taken from the October 2020 bulletin published last year, which was extracted in November 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 October 2019 was extracted in November 2020. As more than a year had passed since the crimes were originally recorded and the vast majority of amendments were likely to have taken place, this data is unlikely to change. Some caution should therefore be taken in interpreting the changes between years, as outlined in these monthly bulletins, which should be seen as providing a broad indication of changes over the period in volumes and types of specific crimes and offences.

The annual National Statistics for 2019-20 and 2020-21 provide the most robust source of information on crimes recorded by the police, and how these have changed over time.

For further background information (e.g. classification of Crimes and Offences and comparisons with England & Wales and Northern Ireland) please see the Recorded Crime in Scotland User Guide:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/user-guide-recorded-crime-statistics-scotland/>

### **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).

We are currently consulting on the production and dissemination of Scotland's recorded crime statistics, and on the possible development of new analysis on other types of policing activity. The responses we receive will help inform our long term strategy for the delivery of crime and policing statistics. More information can be found here: [The future of Recorded Crime and Police Activity Statistics - Scottish Government - Citizen Space \(consult.gov.scot\)](#)

## **An Official Statistics publication for Scotland**

Official and National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Both undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs and are produced free from any political interference.

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### **How to access background or source data**

The data collected for this statistical bulletin:

- are available in more detail through [statistics.gov.scot](http://statistics.gov.scot).
- some limited additional information may be made available on request, subject to consideration of legal and ethical factors. Please contact [statistics.enquiries@gov.scot](mailto:statistics.enquiries@gov.scot) for further information.
- detailed information cannot be made available by Scottish Government for further analysis as Scottish Government is not the data controller.

### **Complaints and suggestions**

If you are not satisfied with our service or have any comments or suggestions, please write to the Chief Statistician, GR, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG, Telephone: (0131) 244 0302, e-mail [statistics.enquiries@gov.scot](mailto:statistics.enquiries@gov.scot).

If you would like to be consulted about statistical collections or receive notification of publications, please register your interest at [ScotStat Register: guidance - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot/guidance/scotstat-register)

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