

## CRIME AND JUSTICE

# Recorded Crime in Scotland: November 2021

This Official Statistics bulletin presents information on the number of crimes and offences recorded by the police in Scotland during November 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 18,533 crimes in November 2021. This was 9% lower than the 20,331 crimes recorded in the same month of 2020 (when pandemic restrictions were in place) and 8% lower than the 20,087 crimes recorded in the same month of 2019 (for which there was no pandemic or restrictions on movement).

In November 2021:

- Non-sexual crimes of violence were 30% higher compared to November 2020 (increasing from 738 to 963 crimes), and 17% higher compared to November 2019 (increasing from 822 to 963 crimes).
- Sexual crimes were 23% higher compared to November 2020 (increasing from 1,105 to 1,363 crimes), and 13% higher compared to November 2019 (increasing from 1,211 to 1,363 crimes).
- Crimes of dishonesty were 2% lower compared to November 2020 (decreasing from 8,411 to 8,216 crimes), and 7% lower than in November 2019 (decreasing from 8,875 to 8,216 crimes).
- Fire-raising, vandalism etc. was 3% lower compared to November 2020 (decreasing from 3,904 to 3,805 crimes), and 5% lower than in November 2019 (decreasing from 4,024 to 3,805 crimes).
- Other crimes were 32% lower compared to November 2020 (decreasing from 6,173 to 4,186 crimes), and 19% lower than in November 2019 (decreasing from 5,155 to 4,186 crimes).
- Fewer crimes were recorded by police in 24 (75%) out of 32 local authorities, compared to November 2020.

The number of offences recorded by the police in Scotland in November 2021 was 17,913. This is 12% lower than the 20,443 offences recorded in the same month of 2020 (when pandemic restrictions were in place) and 11% lower than the 20,135 offences recorded in the same month of 2019 (for which there was no pandemic or restrictions on movement).

In November 2021:

- Miscellaneous offences decreased by 5% compared to November 2020 (decreasing from 10,047 to 9,544), and were 8% lower compared to November 2019 (decreasing from 10,361 to 9,544).

- Motor vehicle offences were 19% lower compared to November 2020 (decreasing from 10,396 to 8,369), and 14% lower compared to November 2019 (decreasing from 9,774 to 8,369).

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 November 2021, the police recorded 18,533 crimes. This was 9% (or 1,798 crimes) lower than the 20,331 crimes recorded in the same month of 2020 (when pandemic restrictions were in place) and 8% lower than the 20,087 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 (November 2019) ([Table 1](#), [Chart 1](#)).

In November 2021:

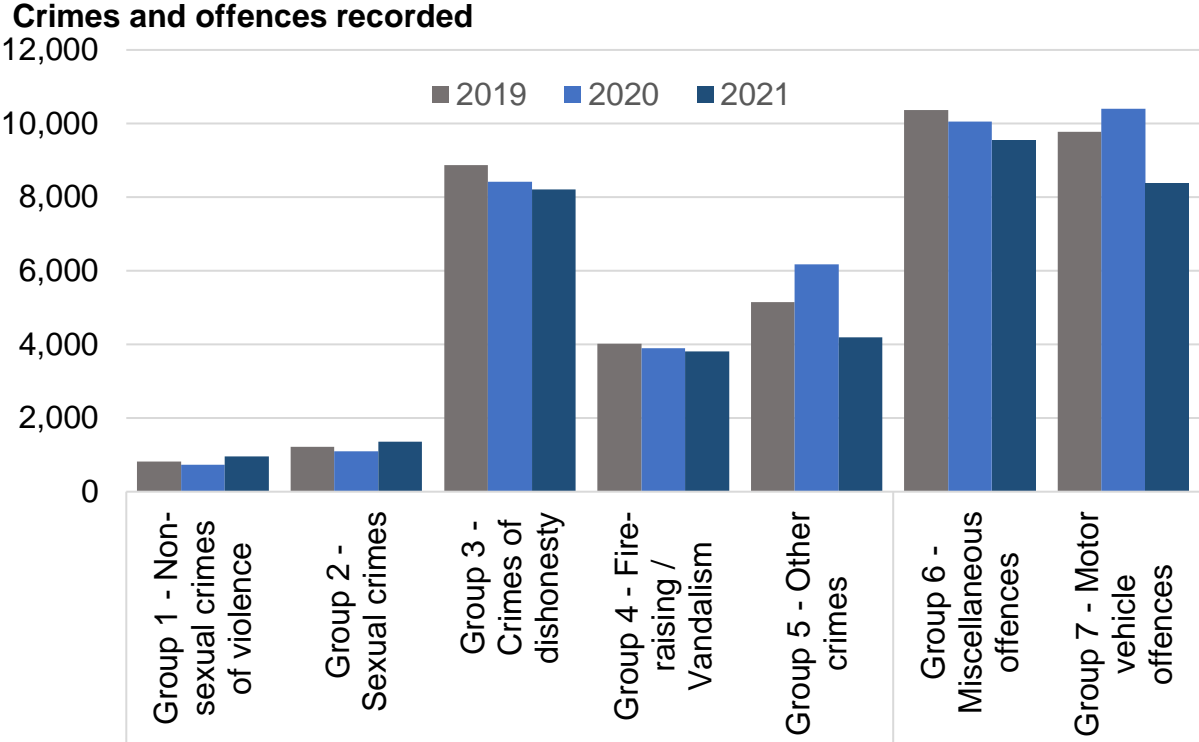
- Non-sexual crimes of violence were 30% (or 225 crimes) higher compared to November 2020 (increasing from 738 to 963 crimes), and 17% higher compared to November 2019 (increasing from 822 to 963 crimes). Within this, Attempted murder and serious assault increased by 9% compared to November 2020 (from 263 to 286 crimes), but decreased by 13% from November 2019 (from 327 to 286 crimes). Other violence increased by 107% compared to November 2020 (from 166 to 344 crimes) and increased by 94% from November 2019 (from 177 to 344 crimes). The increase in Other violence between November 2020 and November 2021 was due to rises in Drugging (from 1 to 170 crimes) and Threats and extortion (from 78 to 103 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 increased by 16% compared to November 2020 (from 146 to 170 crimes), and were 21% higher than in November 2019 (increasing from 140 to 170 crimes).
- Sexual crimes were 23% (or 258 crimes) higher compared to November 2020, increasing from 1,105 to 1,363 crimes, and were 13% (or 152 crimes) higher from November 2019 (increasing from 1,211 to 1,363 crimes). Sexual assault increased by 33% compared to November 2020 (from 385 to 512 crimes), and increased by 17% compared to November 2019 (increasing from 437 to 512 crimes). Other sexual crimes increased by 18% (from 526 to 620 crimes) compared to November 2020 and increased by 17% (from 532 to 620 crimes) compared to November 2019. The rise in Other sexual crimes since 2019 was driven by crimes including Voyeurism, Coercing a person into looking at sexual activity or images and Disclosing or threatening to disclose intimate images. Research published in the recent 2020-21

Recorded Crime National Statistics showed that the majority of these crimes are likely to be cyber-crimes. Rape and attempted rape increased by 19% compared to November 2020 (from 187 to 222 crimes), but decreased by 6% compared to November 2019 (from 235 to 222 crimes).

- Crimes of dishonesty were 2% (or 195 crimes) lower compared to November 2020, decreasing from 8,411 to 8,216 crimes. This was 7% lower than in November 2019 (decreasing from 8,875 to 8,216 crimes). Crimes of Fraud have been at increased levels throughout the pandemic. Despite there being a 4% decrease since November 2020 (from 1,577 to 1,511 crimes), there was a 71% increase since November 2019 (from 885 to 1,511 crimes). The [Changes in levels of recorded fraud](#) section below provides users with further background on what may be contributing to this change. Other crimes of dishonesty has been the biggest contributor (by volume) to the decrease since 2020, having fallen by 37% compared to November 2020 (from 422 to 265 crimes), and 36% when compared to November 2019.
- Fire-raising, vandalism etc. was 3% (or 99 crimes) lower compared to November 2020, decreasing from 3,904 to 3,805 crimes, and was 5% lower than November 2019. Vandalism etc. has fallen 2% since November 2020 (decreasing from 3,644 to 3,566 crimes). This is 6% lower than November 2019 levels.
- Other crimes were 32% (or 1,987 crimes) lower than in November 2020, decreasing from 6,173 to 4,186 crimes. This is also 19% lower than November 2019 (decreasing from 5,155 to 4,186 crimes). The main contributors to these decreases were Drugs (which fell by 48% compared to November 2020 and 41% compared to November 2019) and Crimes against public justice (which fell by 16% compared to November 2020 but were 16% higher compared to November 2019).

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

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



## Offences recorded by the police

In November 2021, the police recorded 17,913 offences. This a fall of 12% (or 2,530 offences) from the 20,443 offences recorded in the same month in 2020, and 11% lower than in November 2019 (decreasing from 20,135 to 17,913 offences). Miscellaneous offences decreased by 5% compared to November 2020, and by 8% compared to November 2019. Motor vehicle offences decreased by 19% compared to November 2020, and by 14% compared to November 2019, as detailed below ([Table 2](#)).

In November 2021:

- Miscellaneous offences decreased by 5% (or 503 offences) compared to November 2020 (decreasing from 10,047 to 9,544 offences), and by 8% compared to November 2019 (decreasing from 10,361 to 9,544 offences). The largest decrease by volume since November 2020 was Breach of the peace etc., which fell by 12% from 3,914 to 3,433 offences. Urinating etc. rose by 208% from 39 to 120 offences, but was still 36% lower than November 2019.
- Motor vehicle offences were 19% (or 2,027 offences) lower compared to November 2020, decreasing from 10,396 to 8,369 offences, and were 14% lower than November 2019 levels. The main contributors to the decrease since November 2020 by volume were Unlawful use of vehicle (which decreased by 33%, from 3,975 to 2,663 offences) and Speeding (which decreased by 17%, from 2,075 to 1,723 offences), and this is 17% and 18% below November 2019 levels, respectively. All categories within Motor vehicle offences decreased in November 2021 compared to each of the previous two years.

## Local Authorities

Compared to November 2020, a decrease in recorded crime was seen in 24 (75%) out of 32 local authorities, with 8 showing an increase ([Table 3](#)). The largest decrease was seen in Na-h Eileanan Siar (down 44%) and the largest increase was in Aberdeen City, which had 21% 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 22%, or 322 crimes), South Lanarkshire (down 16%, or 188 crimes) and Edinburgh City (down 8%, or 183 crimes).

## **April to November 2019 and April to November 2020, compared with April to November 2021**

Overall, in April to November 2021 the police recorded 152,882 crimes, a reduction of 3% (or 5,451 crimes) compared to the equivalent period of the previous year (158,333 crimes) ([Table 4](#)). This was 9% (or 15,422 crimes) lower than the same period in 2019 (168,304 crimes). The biggest drivers of the decrease by volume since 2020 were Drugs (down 22%, or 5,350 crimes), Crimes against public justice (down 9%, or 1,654 crimes) and Housebreaking (down 18%, or 1,270 crimes). When compared with 2019, the biggest drivers of the reduction by volume were Shoplifting (down 30%, or 6,400 crimes), Drugs (down 22%, or 5,422 crimes) and Other theft (down 18%, or 5,164 crimes). The largest increase since 2020 by volume was Vandalism etc. (up 3%, or 850 crimes). Compared with 2019, the largest increase by volume was Fraud (up 69%, or 4,807 crimes).

The number of offences recorded by the police in April to November 2021 was 1% (or 2,010 offences) lower than the equivalent period in 2020, with Miscellaneous offences decreasing by 1% (or 839 offences) and Motor vehicle offences decreasing by 2% (or 1,171 offences) ([Table 5](#)). Compared to 2019, offences decreased by 7% (or 11,859 offences), with Miscellaneous offences decreasing by 3% (or 2,389 offences) and Motor vehicle offences decreasing by 11% (or 9,470 offences).



## Changes in levels of recorded fraud

Fraud was 4% (or 66 crimes) lower in November 2021 than in November 2020, but 71% (or 626 crimes) higher than in November 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.

---

<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 two such crimes recorded during November 2021 which is the 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 November 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
November	2

# Tables

Table 1: Crimes recorded by the police, Scotland, November 2019, 2020 and 2021 13

Table 2: Offences recorded by the police, Scotland, November 2019, 2020 and 2021 14

Table 3: Crimes recorded by the police by local authority, Scotland, November 2019, 2020 and 2021 15

Table 4: Crimes recorded by the police, Scotland, April to November 2019, 2020 and 2021 16

Table 5: Offences recorded by the police, Scotland, April to November 2019, 2020 and 2021 17

### 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: November 2021](#)

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

Crime group	November			% Change since	% Change since
	2019	2020	2021	November 2020	November 2019
<b>Total crimes<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>20,087</b>	<b>20,331</b>	<b>18,533</b>	<b>-9%</b>	<b>-8%</b>
<b>Non-sexual crimes of violence</b>	<b>822</b>	<b>738</b>	<b>963</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>17%</b>
Homicide etc.	11	5	11	n/r	0%
Attempted murder & serious assault	327	263	286	9%	-13%
Robbery	167	158	152	-4%	-9%
Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018	140	146	170	16%	21%
Other violence	177	166	344	107%	94%
<b>Sexual crimes</b>	<b>1,211</b>	<b>1,105</b>	<b>1,363</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>13%</b>
Rape & attempted rape	235	187	222	19%	-6%
Sexual assault	437	385	512	33%	17%
Crimes associated with prostitution	7	7	9	n/r	n/r
Other sexual crimes	532	526	620	18%	17%
<b>Crimes of dishonesty</b>	<b>8,875</b>	<b>8,411</b>	<b>8,216</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>-7%</b>
Housebreaking	1,018	824	748	-9%	-27%
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	142	103	96	-7%	-32%
Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP	195	167	154	-8%	-21%
Theft of a motor vehicle	378	395	368	-7%	-3%
Shoplifting	2,505	1,949	1,954	0%	-22%
Other theft	3,336	2,974	3,120	5%	-6%
Fraud	885	1,577	1,511	-4%	71%
Other dishonesty	416	422	265	-37%	-36%
<b>Fire-raising, vandalism etc.</b>	<b>4,024</b>	<b>3,904</b>	<b>3,805</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>-5%</b>
Fire-raising	246	260	239	-8%	-3%
Vandalism etc.	3,778	3,644	3,566	-2%	-6%
<b>Other crimes</b>	<b>5,155</b>	<b>6,173</b>	<b>4,186</b>	<b>-32%</b>	<b>-19%</b>
Crimes against public justice	1,561	2,159	1,816	-16%	16%
Handling offensive weapons	774	793	693	-13%	-10%
<i>Not used in other criminal activity</i>	379	350	301	-14%	-21%
<i>Used in other criminal activity</i>	395	443	392	-12%	-1%
Drugs	2,800	3,203	1,666	-48%	-41%
Other	20	18	11	-39%	-45%

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, November 2019, 2020 and 2021**

Crime group	November			% Change since November 2020	% Change since November 2019
	2019	2020	2021		
<b>Total offences</b>	<b>20,135</b>	<b>20,443</b>	<b>17,913</b>	<b>-12%</b>	<b>-11%</b>
<b>Miscellaneous offences</b>	<b>10,361</b>	<b>10,047</b>	<b>9,544</b>	<b>-5%</b>	<b>-8%</b>
Common assault	4,653	4,356	4,622	6%	-1%
Breach of the peace etc.	4,059	3,914	3,433	-12%	-15%
Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct	383	430	205	-52%	-46%
Urinating etc.	187	39	120	208%	-36%
Other miscellaneous offences	1,079	1,308	1,164	-11%	8%
<b>Motor vehicle offences</b>	<b>9,774</b>	<b>10,396</b>	<b>8,369</b>	<b>-19%</b>	<b>-14%</b>
Dangerous and careless driving	989	942	896	-5%	-9%
Driving under the influence	622	719	603	-16%	-3%
Speeding	2,102	2,075	1,723	-17%	-18%
Unlawful use of vehicle	3,223	3,975	2,663	-33%	-17%
Vehicle defect offences	512	583	468	-20%	-9%
Seat belt offences	165	131	112	-15%	-32%
Mobile phone offences	165	115	92	-20%	-44%
Other motor vehicle offences	1,996	1,856	1,812	-2%	-9%

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

	November			% Change since	% Change since
	2019	2020	2021	November 2020	November 2019
Aberdeen City	871	943	1,144	21%	31%
Aberdeenshire	556	559	541	-3%	-3%
Angus	269	270	278	3%	3%
Argyll & Bute	216	190	189	-1%	-13%
Clackmannanshire	216	244	173	-29%	-20%
Dumfries & Galloway	462	554	616	11%	33%
Dundee City	825	906	845	-7%	2%
East Ayrshire	546	457	432	-5%	-21%
East Dunbartonshire	222	268	195	-27%	-12%
East Lothian	322	363	276	-24%	-14%
East Renfrewshire	169	186	131	-30%	-22%
Edinburgh City	2,460	2,269	2,086	-8%	-15%
Falkirk	618	587	504	-14%	-18%
Fife	1,128	1,210	1,219	1%	8%
Glasgow City	3,594	3,192	3,211	1%	-11%
Highland	555	556	580	4%	5%
Inverclyde	312	394	242	-39%	-22%
Midlothian	255	364	283	-22%	11%
Moray	236	217	210	-3%	-11%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	36	48	27	-44%	-25%
North Ayrshire	462	623	476	-24%	3%
North Lanarkshire	1,651	1,464	1,142	-22%	-31%
Orkney Islands	20	29	23	-21%	15%
Perth & Kinross	364	430	378	-12%	4%
Renfrewshire	645	680	592	-13%	-8%
Scottish Borders	249	312	241	-23%	-3%
Shetland Islands	43	34	35	3%	-19%
South Ayrshire	371	451	301	-33%	-19%
South Lanarkshire	1,206	1,140	952	-16%	-21%
Stirling	276	256	259	1%	-6%
West Dunbartonshire	320	448	312	-30%	-3%
West Lothian	612	687	640	-7%	5%
<b>Scotland<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>20,087</b>	<b>20,331</b>	<b>18,533</b>	<b>-9%</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 November 2019, 2020 and 2021**

Crime group	April to November 2019	April to November 2020	April to November 2021	% Change since 2020	% Change since 2019
<b>Total crimes<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>168,304</b>	<b>158,333</b>	<b>152,882</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>-9%</b>
<b>Non-sexual crimes of violence</b>	<b>6,468</b>	<b>5,979</b>	<b>6,695</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>4%</b>
Homicide etc.	88	66	61	-8%	-31%
Attempted murder & serious assault	2,925	2,421	2,477	2%	-15%
Robbery	1,156	1,175	1,134	-3%	-2%
Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018	1,166	1,039	1,117	8%	-4%
Other violence	1,133	1,278	1,906	49%	68%
<b>Sexual crimes</b>	<b>9,191</b>	<b>8,584</b>	<b>9,861</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>7%</b>
Rape & attempted rape	1,674	1,534	1,686	10%	1%
Sexual assault	3,462	2,711	3,467	28%	0%
Crimes associated with prostitution	65	29	53	83%	-18%
Other sexual crimes	3,990	4,310	4,655	8%	17%
<b>Crimes of dishonesty</b>	<b>75,215</b>	<b>65,037</b>	<b>64,034</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>-15%</b>
Housebreaking	8,505	7,044	5,774	-18%	-32%
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	1,174	826	815	-1%	-31%
Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP	1,865	1,508	1,350	-10%	-28%
Theft of a motor vehicle	3,313	3,026	2,995	-1%	-10%
Shoplifting	21,338	14,296	14,938	4%	-30%
Other theft	28,843	23,589	23,679	0%	-18%
Fraud	6,974	11,410	11,781	3%	69%
Other dishonesty	3,203	3,338	2,702	-19%	-16%
<b>Fire-raising, vandalism etc.</b>	<b>32,719</b>	<b>29,155</b>	<b>30,014</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>-8%</b>
Fire-raising	1,875	1,852	1,861	0%	-1%
Vandalism etc.	30,844	27,303	28,153	3%	-9%
<b>Other crimes</b>	<b>44,711</b>	<b>49,578</b>	<b>42,278</b>	<b>-15%</b>	<b>-5%</b>
Crimes against public justice	12,992	17,440	15,786	-9%	22%
Handling offensive weapons	6,697	7,219	6,926	-4%	3%
<i>Not used in other criminal activity</i>	3,095	3,313	2,981	-10%	-4%
<i>Used in other criminal activity</i>	3,602	3,906	3,945	1%	10%
Drugs	24,876	24,804	19,454	-22%	-22%
Other	146	115	112	-3%	-23%

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 November 2019, 2020 and 2021**

<b>Crime group</b>	<b>April to November 2019</b>	<b>April to November 2020</b>	<b>April to November 2021</b>	<b>% Change since 2020</b>	<b>% Change since 2019</b>
<b>Total offences<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>171,442</b>	<b>161,593</b>	<b>159,583</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>-7%</b>
<b>Miscellaneous offences</b>	<b>88,910</b>	<b>87,360</b>	<b>86,521</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>-3%</b>
Common assault	39,299	35,927	38,632	8%	-2%
Breach of the peace etc.	34,965	35,320	33,310	-6%	-5%
Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct	4,160	4,476	3,616	-19%	-13%
Urinating etc.	1,600	680	907	33%	-43%
Other miscellaneous offences	8,886	10,957	10,056	-8%	13%
<b>Motor vehicle offences</b>	<b>82,532</b>	<b>74,233</b>	<b>73,062</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>-11%</b>
Dangerous and careless driving	7,764	7,777	8,606	11%	11%
Driving under the influence	4,233	5,783	5,264	-9%	24%
Speeding	20,568	14,589	15,009	3%	-27%
Unlawful use of vehicle	25,668	26,062	23,412	-10%	-9%
Vehicle defect offences	4,710	4,377	3,867	-12%	-18%
Seat belt offences	2,137	1,299	1,201	-8%	-44%
Mobile phone offences	1,756	1,218	982	-19%	-44%
Other motor vehicle offences	15,696	13,128	14,721	12%	-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 final technical review of the impact that the switch in sources had on the 2020-21 crime data was carried out with a summary of the results published in Annex 3 of the [Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2020-21 bulletin](#).

In order to produce the new monthly Official Statistics included in this bulletin in the necessary shorter time frames, the information supplied by Police Scotland has been extracted from SEBP on a monthly basis. While the figures provided in this publication use the same source as the most recent National Statistics on Recorded Crime in Scotland, they are not directly comparable as the data was extracted at different times.

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

The November 2021 data for this bulletin was extracted in December 2021. In order to compare on a like-for-like basis, data used for comparison was taken from the November 2020 bulletin published last year, which was extracted in December 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 November 2019 was extracted in December 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).

## **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.

### **Correspondence and enquiries**

For enquiries about this publication please contact:

Emily MacLaren,  
Justice Analytical Services,  
e-mail: [Justice\\_Analysts@gov.scot](mailto:Justice_Analysts@gov.scot)

For general enquiries about Scottish Government statistics please contact:

Office of the Chief Statistician, Telephone: 0131 244 0442,  
e-mail: [statistics.enquiries@gov.scot](mailto:statistics.enquiries@gov.scot)

### **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)

Details of forthcoming publications can be found at [www.gov.scot/statistics](http://www.gov.scot/statistics)

ISBN 978-1-80201-672-7 (web only)

### **Crown Copyright**

You may use or re-use this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. See: [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/)