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Crime in England and Wales: Quarterly Update to September 2009

02/10

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MAIN POINTS

- Based on British Crime Survey (BCS) interviews in the year to September 2009, the overall level of crime is stable compared with the year ending September 2008. The number of crimes recorded by the police fell by eight per cent for the period July to September 2009 compared with the same quarter a year earlier.
- BCS interviews showed the risk of being a victim of crime fell by one percentage point compared with the previous year (from 23% to 22%). This figure is historically low.
- Compared with the year ending September 2008, BCS household crime showed a decrease of eight per cent, mainly due to a fall of 12 per cent in vandalism. There was no change in the level of personal crime as estimates of all BCS personal crime categories (violence, theft from the person and other personal theft) remained stable.
- There were falls in all the police recorded crime offence groups for July to September 2009 compared with the same period in 2008, with the exception of sexual offences (which increased by 5%). Notable falls included: offences against vehicles (by 20%), criminal damage (by 11%), robbery (by 9%) and burglary (by 8%). Although other theft offences showed a five per cent fall, within this category there were increases of seven per cent for both theft from the person and theft of pedal cycles.
- BCS burglary remained stable based on interviews in the year ending September 2009 compared with the previous year. For the period July to September 2009, both police recorded domestic burglaries and other burglaries fell by eight per cent.
- Police recorded robberies fell by nine per cent overall; those involving knives or sharp instruments decreased by 16 per cent over the same period.
- There was a three per cent rise in firearm offences recorded by the police in July to September 2009, compared to the same period in 2008.
- There was a significant reduction in the proportion of people with a high level of perceived anti-social behaviour compared with the previous year (from 17% to 15%) with five of the seven indicators making up the composite index showing reductions.
- BCS interviews in the year to September 2009 showed that 50 per cent of people agreed that the police and local agencies were dealing with the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that mattered in their area, compared with 46 per cent in the year to September 2008.

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This update presents the most recent crime statistics from two different sources: the British Crime Survey (BCS) and police recorded crime. Both data sets represent the most up-to-date information, but they cover different time periods. The BCS results are from interviews conducted in the period October 2008 to September 2009; police recorded crime refers to the July to September 2009 quarter.

LEVELS OF CRIME

Based on BCS interviews in the year to September 2009, overall BCS crime is stable compared with September 2008. BCS household crime showed a statistically significant decrease of eight per cent but there was no significant change in the level of personal crime¹ (Figure 1 and Table 1).

The overall level of crime recorded by the police in July to September 2009 decreased by eight per cent compared with the same quarter in 2008 (Figure 2 and Table 2).

The overall risk of being a victim of crime (22.1%) decreased by one percentage point according to BCS interviews to September 2009 compared with the year to September 2008. The risk of being a victim of crime is at a historically low level.

BCS interviews for the year to September 2009 showed levels of violent crime overall to be stable compared with the year to September 2008. The two sub-categories of violence (violence with injury and violence with no injury) were also stable.

The level of violence against the person² recorded by the police showed a four per cent fall in July to September 2009 compared with the same quarter in 2008. Recorded robbery figures showed a nine per cent fall in July to September 2009 compared with the same quarter in 2008 with robberies involving knives or sharp instruments down by 16 per cent (see Annex A for a full discussion of issues in interpreting knife crime trends, together with latest figures). There was a five per cent rise in recorded sexual offences over the same period; this rise follows a previous pattern of decline and the current trend is unclear.

Provisional figures³ for firearm offences recorded by the police show they account for 0.2 per cent of all recorded crime. There was a three per cent rise in July to September 2009 compared with the same period in 2008. This represents an increase of 70 offences.

BCS burglary remained stable based on interviews to September 2009 compared with the previous year; the apparent 10 per cent decrease was not statistically significant. Other household theft also remained stable. Police recorded crime figures showed a fall of eight per cent in domestic burglaries in July to September 2009 compared with the same quarter in 2008, with other burglary also down by eight per cent.

The level of vehicle-related thefts remained stable according to BCS interviews to September 2009 compared with the year to September 2008 (the apparent decrease was not statistically significant). There was a 20 per cent fall in recorded offences against vehicles⁴ in July to September 2009 compared with the same period a year earlier, this being the largest percentage fall on this basis since the National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002⁵.

These apparent falls in BCS burglary, vehicle related theft and other household theft combine to make a statistically significant fall of five per cent in the overall BCS category of household acquisitive crime (which includes burglary, vehicle related, bicycle and other household theft).

The latest BCS estimates for bicycle theft and personal theft show no statistically significant changes compared to the year ending September 2008; this follows significant rises in the year to March 2009. However, other evidence from police recorded crime showed that offences of

¹ See Section 8 of Crime in England and Wales 2008/09: Volume 2 for more information on statistical significance.

² This definition does not cover sexual offences or robbery.

³ These figures exclude offences involving air weapons. A detailed breakdown of finalised firearm offence figures for 2008/09 is published in Smith *et al.* (2009)

⁴ Theft of and from a vehicle, aggravated vehicle taking and interfering with a vehicle.

⁵ See Section 3 of Crime in England and Wales 2008/09: Volume 2 for more information on recording practices.

bicycle thefts and thefts from the person both rose by seven per cent in July to September 2009 compared with the same quarter in the previous year.

BCS estimates of other theft of personal property also remained stable; the apparent 11 percentage point increase was not statistically significant.

Based on BCS interviews to September 2009, vandalism decreased by 12 per cent compared with the year to September 2008. There was also an 11 per cent decrease in police recorded criminal damage in July to September 2009 compared with the same period a year earlier.

Drug offences recorded by the police fell by four per cent in July to September 2009 compared with the same quarter in the previous year. Recent falls follow a sustained period of increased recording of drug offences which was mainly attributable to the increased use of police powers to issue cannabis warnings. These recorded crime statistics are heavily influenced by policing priorities, and may reflect changes in the policing of drug crime more than real changes in its incidence. The BCS is also used to monitor trends in drug use and figures are published annually (see Hoare (2009) for more information).

Fraud and forgery offences recorded by the police showed a 13 per cent fall in July to September 2009, compared with the same quarter in 2008. However, fraud offences are known to be very substantially under-reported to the police. BCS estimates together with figures supplied by the financial industry are now used in the annual crime statistics publication as they provide a much more comprehensive picture as to the scale and trend of fraudulent transactions (see Walker *et al.* (2009) for more information).

Figure 1 Percentage change in BCS crime based on interviews in the 12 months to September 2009 compared with the previous 12 months



Changes in Figure 1 which are statistically significant at the 5% level are indicated by a fully shaded bar. Other apparent changes are not statistically significant at the 5% level. Statistical significance for the change in all BCS crime cannot be calculated in the same way as for other BCS figures (a method based on approximation is used). See Section 8 of Crime in England and Wales 2008/09: Volume 2 (Smith and Hoare, 2009), for more information on statistical significance.

Figure 2 Percentage change in numbers of recorded crimes, July to September 2009 compared with the same quarter a year earlier



* See Table 2, which contains a more detailed breakdown. Other theft offences include theft from the person and theft of a pedal cycle, both of which rose by seven per cent.

Table 1 Number of crimes and risk of being a victim based on BCS interviews in the year to September 2009 compared with the previous year

	Interviews in Oct 2007 to Sept 2008	Interviews in Oct 2008 to Sept 2009	Change between years	BCS Statistically significant change ¹
<i>Number of incidents (000s) and percentage change²</i>				
Vandalism	2,853	2,520	-12	**
Burglary	745	669	-10	
Vehicle-related theft	1,483	1,397	-6	
Bicycle theft	511	509	0	
Other household theft	1,142	1,107	-3	
Household acquisitive crime	3,881	3,682	-5	**
All household crime	6,733	6,202	-8	**
<i>Unweighted base - household crime</i>	<i>45,652</i>	<i>45,220</i>		
Theft from the person	636	656	3	
Other theft of personal property	991	1,095	11	
All violence	2,163	2,138	-1	
<i>with injury</i>	1,088	1,104	1	
<i>without injury</i>	1,074	1,034	-4	
Personal acquisitive crime	1,942	2,050	6	
All personal crime	3,789	3,889	3	
<i>Unweighted base - personal crime</i>	<i>45,778</i>	<i>45,182</i>		
All BCS crime	10,523	10,091	-4	
<i>Percentage risk of being a victim once or more and percentage point change³</i>				
Vandalism	7.9	6.9	-1.0	**
Burglary	2.5	2.3	-0.2	
Vehicle-related theft ⁴	6.4	6.0	-0.3	
Bicycle theft ⁵	4.2	4.1	-0.2	
Other household theft	3.7	3.6	-0.1	
Household acquisitive crime	11.8	11.3	-0.6	**
All household crime	17.8	16.7	-1.1	**
<i>Unweighted base - household crime</i>	<i>45,652</i>	<i>45,220</i>		
Theft from the person	1.3	1.3	0.0	
Other theft of personal property	2.0	2.1	0.2	
All violence	3.3	3.1	-0.1	
<i>with injury</i>	1.8	1.7	0.0	
<i>without injury</i>	1.7	1.6	-0.1	
Personal acquisitive crime	3.7	3.8	0.1	
All personal crime	6.2	6.1	0.0	
<i>Unweighted base - personal crime</i>	<i>45,778</i>	<i>45,182</i>		
All BCS crime	23.1	22.1	-1.0	**

1. Statistically significant change at the 5% level is indicated by a double asterisk. Statistical significance for change in all BCS crime cannot be calculated in the same way as for other BCS figures (a method based on approximation has been developed). See Section 8 of Crime in England and Wales 2008/09: Volume 2 for more information on statistical significance.

2. A percentage change of less than 0.5 is shown as 0.

3. A discrepancy may appear between trends in number of crimes and risk of being a victim (the proportion of the population victimised once or more) due to repeat victimisation.

4. Risk for 'Vehicle-related theft' is based only on households owning, or with regular use of, a vehicle. It includes theft of vehicles, theft from vehicles and attempted theft of and from vehicles.

5. Risk for bicycle theft is based only on households owning a bicycle.

6. For more information about the crime types included in this table, see Section 5 of Crime in England and Wales 2008/09: Volume 2.

Table 2 Number of recorded crimes compared with the same quarter in the previous year

Offence group	Number of crimes recorded by the police (000s) ^{1,2}					Percentage change compared with the same quarter in the previous year ³				
	Jul-Sep 2008	Oct-Dec 2008	Jan-Mar 2009	Apr-Jun 2009	Jul-Sep 2009	Oct-Dec 2008	Jan-Mar 2009	Apr-Jun 2009	Jul-Sep 2009	
Violence against the person	236.5	217.6	212.7	233.1	226.5	-6	-4	-1	-4	
<i>Violence against the person - with injury⁴</i>	110.1	100.5	99.8	110.5	105.1	-7	-4	0	-5	
<i>Violence against the person - without injury⁵</i>	126.4	117.1	112.9	122.6	121.4	-4	-5	-3	-4	
Sexual offences	13.3	11.8	12.2	13.9	14.0	-2	-6	-2	5	
Robbery	19.6	20.6	20.4	19.6	17.8	-2	-1	1	-9	
Burglary	144.5	150.7	147.4	141.7	132.9	4	-2	2	-8	
<i>Domestic burglary</i>	69.5	75.5	74.2	66.9	64.2	4	0	3	-8	
<i>Other burglary</i>	75.0	75.2	73.2	74.8	68.8	4	-4	1	-8	
Offences against vehicles ⁶	153.7	148.2	137.8	133.8	123.5	-7	-16	-12	-20	
Other theft offences	285.4	261.1	246.4	277.8	270.6	-4	-5	-3	-5	
<i>of which:</i>										
<i>Theft from the person</i>	21.7	24.7	21.6	22.8	23.2	-4	-7	5	7	
<i>Theft of a pedal cycle</i>	32.4	25.7	20.2	31.6	34.6	1	0	22	7	
Fraud and forgery	43.8	38.0	37.1	39.6	38.1	3	-9	-10	-13	
Criminal damage	230.9	232.3	229.9	231.4	205.9	-9	-11	-5	-11	
<i>Total property crime</i>	858.3	830.3	798.6	824.3	771.0	-4	-9	-5	-10	
Drug offences	62.2	62.5	57.9	58.6	59.8	6	-2	-4	-4	
Other miscellaneous offences	18.6	16.9	16.9	18.4	18.5	4	-1	-2	0	
Total recorded crime - all offences	1,208.6	1,159.7	1,118.8	1,168.0	1,107.5	-4	-7	-4	-8	
of which: Firearm offences ⁷	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.1	-16	-3	-5	3	

1. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police).

2. The figures given in the table are the latest available. They may therefore differ slightly from figures published in previous bulletins.

3. Comparisons are made with the same quarter in the preceding year in order to take seasonality into account. Comparisons with the previous quarter are not shown.

4. Includes homicide, attempted murder, intentional destruction of viable unborn child, causing death by dangerous driving/careless driving, more serious wounding or other act endangering life (including grievous bodily harm with and without intent), causing death by aggravated vehicle taking and less serious wounding offences.

5. Includes threat or conspiracy to murder, harassment, possession of weapons, other offences against children and assault without injury (formerly common assault where there is no injury).

6. Includes aggravated vehicle taking, theft of and from a vehicle and interfering with a motor vehicle.

7. Excludes offences involving the use of air weapons and offences recorded by British Transport Police. Includes crimes recorded by police where a firearm has been fired, used as a blunt instrument against a person or used as a threat.

PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS

BCS interviews for the year ending September 2009 showed a significant decrease in the proportion of people who had a high level of perceived anti-social behaviour in their local area compared with the previous year (from 17% to 15%); this is the lowest since the measure was first introduced in the survey in 2001/02. Of the seven indicators that make up the composite measure, five showed a statistically significant decrease since the previous year: problems with abandoned or burnt-out cars, people being drunk or rowdy in public places, problems with teenagers hanging around, problems with rubbish or litter lying around and problems with vandalism or graffiti.

The remaining two indicators (problems with people using or dealing drugs and problems with noisy neighbours) showed no statistically significant change (Table 3).

Table 3 Anti-social behaviour indicators

Percentages	Interviews		BCS Statistically significant change ¹
	in Oct 2007 to Sept 2008	in Oct 2008 to Sept 2009	
	<i>Percentage</i>		
High level of perceived anti-social behaviour ²	17	15	**↓
	<i>Percentage saying very/fairly big problem in their area</i>		
Abandoned or burnt-out cars	6	5	**↓
Noisy neighbours or loud parties	10	11	
People being drunk or rowdy in public places	26	25	**↓
People using or dealing drugs	27	26	
Teenagers hanging around on the streets	31	28	**↓
Rubbish or litter lying around	31	29	**↓
Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property	27	25	**↓
<i>Unweighted base³</i>	<i>43,659</i>	<i>42,769</i>	

1. Statistically significant change at the 5% level is indicated by a double asterisk. See Section 8 of Crime in England and Wales 2008/09: Volume 2 for more information on statistical significance.

2. This measure is derived from responses to the seven individual anti-social behaviour strands reported in the table.

3. Unweighted bases refer to high level of perceived ASB. Bases for each individual strand will be similar.

BCS interviews during the year to September 2009 showed a statistically significant decrease in the proportion of adults with a high level of worry about burglary and about car crime. Worry about violent crime remained stable (Table 4).

Table 4 Worry about crime

Percentages	Interviews		BCS Statistically significant change ¹
	in Oct 2007 to Sept 2008	in Oct 2008 to Sept 2009	
	<i>Percentage with high level of worry about²:</i>		
Burglary	11	10	**↓
Car crime	12	11	**↓
Violent crime	14	14	
<i>Unweighted base³</i>	<i>28,011</i>	<i>11,282</i>	

1. Statistically significant change at the 5% level is indicated by a double asterisk. See Section 8 of Crime in England and Wales 2008/09: Volume 2 for more information on statistical significance.

2. For more information about the worry about crime measures in this table, see Section 6 of Crime in England and Wales 2008/09: Volume 2.

3. Unweighted bases refer to high levels of worry about burglary. Bases for violent crime will be similar but for car crime they will be slightly lower as these are based on those residing in households owning, or with regular use of, a vehicle only. Since April 2008, this question has only been asked of a quarter of the sample and therefore bases for the year ending September 2009 will be lower than in previous years.

The proportion of people who thought that the police in their local area did a good or excellent job increased in the year to September 2009 compared with the same period in the previous year (from 52% to 55%). BCS interviews in the year to September 2009 also showed that 55 per cent of people thought that the police dealt with the things that matter in the community, an increase from 52 per cent in the year to September 2008 (Table 5).

A new set of questions was included in the BCS from October 2007 relating to levels of confidence in the police working with local agencies. BCS interviews in the year to September 2009 showed that 50 per cent of people agreed that the police and local council were dealing with the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that mattered in their area, an increase from 46 per cent in the year to September 2008 (Table 5). There has been a related decrease in the proportion of people who disagree with this statement (from 25% in the year to September 2008 to 20% in the year to September 2009) while the proportion with no opinion has remained stable. This question forms the basis for targets set by the Home Secretary for police forces to improve the level of public confidence.

A new set of questions to measure confidence in the effectiveness and fairness of the criminal justice system (CJS) was also introduced in October 2007. Based on interviews in the year to September 2009, 40 per cent of people were confident that the CJS as a whole is effective, an increase from 37 per cent in the year to September 2008. BCS interviews in the year to September 2009 also showed that 59 per cent of people thought that the CJS as a whole is fair, an increase from 57 per cent in the year to September 2008 (Table 5).

Table 5 Confidence in the police, local partners and the CJS

Percentages	BCS		
	Interviews in Oct 2007 to Sept 2008	Interviews in Oct 2008 to Sept 2009	Statistically significant change ¹
<i>Percentage agreeing</i>			
Police and local council are dealing with the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in the local area	46	50	**↑
<i>Unweighted base</i>	44,798	43,973	
Police in the local area doing a good or excellent job	52	55	**↑
Police are dealing with the things that matter to people in the community	52	55	**↑
<i>Unweighted base²</i>	44,798	44,340	
<i>Percentage confident</i>			
Confidence that the CJS as a whole is effective	37	40	**↑
Confidence that the CJS as a whole is fair	57	59	**↑
<i>Unweighted base³</i>	32,723	43,741	

1. Statistically significant change at the 5% level is indicated by a double asterisk. See Section 8 of Crime in England and Wales 2008/09: Volume 2 for more information on statistical significance.

2. Unweighted base refers to police doing a good or excellent job. Base for the other measure will be similar.

3. Unweighted base refers to effectiveness of the CJS. Base for the other measure will be similar. Data to September 2008 has a smaller base as it includes a partial sample (between October 2007 to March 2008)

NOTES

The latest British Crime Survey (BCS) figures are based on interviews with adults aged 16 or over resident in households in England and Wales conducted between October 2008 and September 2009 (BCS year ending September 2009) and incidents experienced by survey respondents in the 12 months prior to their interview. Averaging over the moving reference period generates estimates that are most closely comparable with police recorded crime figures for the 12 months up to the end of March 2009, about six months behind the latest recorded crime figures reported here. BCS results for the year ending September 2009 are compared with the results from the interviews in the year ending September 2008.

The BCS fieldwork was carried out by BMRB Social Research. In the year ending September 2009 the BCS had a nationally representative sample of 46,286 adults with a response rate of 76 per cent.⁶ Further information about the BCS and access to recent publications can be found at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/bcs1.html>.

For more information on statistical significance and confidence intervals for BCS data, see Section 8 of Crime in England and Wales 2008/09: Volume 2 (Smith and Hoare, 2009).

Recorded crime figures relate to crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales in the quarterly period. Unlike the BCS, they do not include crimes that have not been reported to the police, and do not include those that the police decide not to record, but do cover crimes against those aged under 16 and businesses.

Quarterly recorded crime figures have been subject to a data reconciliation process with individual forces, but remain provisional as forces can revise figures during the financial year. The annual National Statistics on police recorded crime are published after a fuller reconciliation and quality assurance process has been completed by the Home Office Statistics Unit in liaison with individual police forces. The figures are published as part of the annual bulletin in July.

Additional information at police force level

For the first time, rolling 12 month statistics at police force area level are being published alongside this quarterly bulletin on the Home Office website⁷. These statistics cover a range of recorded crime offence groups and BCS findings on confidence and perceptions.

Previously recorded crime figures at police force level have only appeared in the annual bulletin on crime, but additional checks have now been introduced with individual police forces quality assuring their detailed data more frequently to allow release of this additional local information. These additional checks were instituted ahead of a new round of inspections by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary that plan to make public use of a selection of these figures. BCS measures included in these additional tables are those used to support measurement of progress against Public Service Agreement targets relating to community safety, alcohol and drugs and targets set by the Home Secretary for each police force to improve the level of public confidence.

The local information is presented relating to rolling 12 month periods as quarterly figures would tend to be particularly erratic when reported at police force level.

A consultation has recently concluded, announced in the previous statistical bulletin (Home Office, 2009), with respect to moving to reporting national recorded crime trends in quarterly bulletins also on the basis of rolling 12 month comparisons. When the responses to the consultation have been fully considered, we would intend to announce the outcome during February 2010, and introduce any changes in the next quarterly bulletin that is due to be published on 22 April 2010.

For comparability with force figures, national rolling 12 month recorded crime figures are presented at Annex B of this bulletin consistent with the presentation made in the recently completed consultation, but updated by a further quarter.

⁶ Based on BCS interviews achieved during the year ending March 2009. The response rate for the year ending September 2009 cannot be calculated as finalised response figures are not yet available.

⁷ <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb0210pftabs.xls>

ANNEX A: VIOLENT AND SEXUAL OFFENCES INVOLVING THE USE OF KNIVES AND OTHER SHARP INSTRUMENTS

Figures for certain types of offences recorded by the police that involve the use of a knife or other sharp instrument have been collected quarterly since April 2007.

Tables A1 and A2 provide the latest figures at the national level. Knife and sharp instrument offences for July to September 2009 fell by 12 per cent compared with the same period in 2008. This is largely due to a fall in the number of robberies, which fell by 704 offences (a decrease of 16%) and GBH and ABH offences, which fell by 358 offences (a decrease of 8%). Additionally, threats to kill decreased by 40 offences (a decrease of 9%) over the same period.

The relatively low number of knife or sharp instrument offences of homicide, attempted murder, rape and sexual assault means that care should be taken when comparing these figures. There were 54 knife or sharp instrument homicides between July and September 2009, a decrease of 27 compared with July to September 2008, when 81 homicides were recorded. Over the same period, the number of knife or sharp instrument attempted murders increased by two, from 70 to 72.

The proportion of selected violent offences where a knife or sharp instrument has been involved fell to six per cent for July to September 2009, representing a one percentage point reduction. For all offence groups, the proportion of offences involving the use of a knife or sharp instrument is similar or lower when compared with the same quarter last year.

Note on recording

As reported in the previous quarterly update, published in October 2009, five forces⁸ include unbroken bottle and glass offences in their data returns to the Home Office, which are outside the scope of this collection.

We estimate that the inclusion of unbroken bottle and glass offences by these forces result in national knife and sharp instrument figures being overstated by about three per cent.⁹ While the inclusion of unbroken bottle and glass offences by these five forces affects the level of offences reported for these forces, it does not affect trends, as practice within each force has been consistent over time. It has no effect on the main counts of violence with injury published in the main part of this bulletin.

⁸ The five forces that include unbroken bottle and glass offences in their returns are: Derbyshire, West Midlands, Surrey, Sussex and the British Transport Police.

⁹ This estimate is based on analysis of the April-June 2009 period. The overstatement of around three per cent was largely due to the inclusion of unbroken bottle and glass offences within the ABH and GBH categories. The use or threat of an unbroken bottle or glass was less common for other offence types.

Table A1 Number of selected violent and sexual offences recorded by the police involving knives or sharp instruments compared with the same quarter in the previous year

Selected offence type	Number of selected violent and sexual offences recorded by the police which involved knives or sharp instruments						Percentage change compared with the same quarter in the previous year ¹
	Jul-Sep 2008	Oct-Dec 2008	Jan-Mar 2009	Apr-Jun 2009	Jul-Sep 2009	Jul-Sep 2009	
Homicide ²	81	54	50	46	54	-33	
Attempted murder	70	68	67	76	72	3	
Robbery	4,278	4,382	4,245	3,801	3,574	-16	
Threats to kill	422	377	343	350	382	-9	
Actual bodily harm & grievous bodily harm	4,669	4,020	4,188	4,357	4,311	-8	
Rape	64	46	55	55	73	14	
Sexual assaults	42	29	36	26	19	-55	
Total selected violent offences³	9,626	8,976	8,984	8,711	8,485	-12	

1. Comparisons are made with the same quarter in the preceding year in order to take seasonality into account. Comparisons with the previous quarter are not shown.
2. Figures currently recorded by the police as at 2 December 2009. Figures provisional and subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.
3. Five police forces include unbroken bottles and glass in their returns, which are outside the scope of this special collection. While this affects the level of offences for these forces it does not affect the trends over time. See Annex A text for more information. The forces are: Derbyshire, West Midlands, Surrey, Sussex and the British Transport Police.

Table A2 Proportion of selected violent and sexual offences recorded by the police involving knives or sharp instruments

Selected offence type	Percentage of selected violent and sexual offences recorded by the police which involved knives or sharp instruments ¹					
	Jul-Sep 2008	Oct-Dec 2008	Jan-Mar 2009	Apr-Jun 2009	Jul-Sep 2009	Jul-Sep 2009
Homicide ²	45	36	32	33	35	35
Attempted murder	49	49	49	41	45	45
Robbery	22	21	21	19	20	20
Threats to kill	17	18	16	14	16	16
Actual bodily harm & grievous bodily harm	4	4	4	4	4	4
Rape	2	1	2	1	2	2
Sexual assaults	1	1	1	0	0	0
Total selected violent offences	7	7	7	6	6	6

1. The data include unbroken bottle/glass offences for five forces. See Annex A text for more information.
2. Figures currently recorded by the police as at 2 December 2009. Figures provisional and subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

ANNEX B: RECORDED CRIME FIGURES – TWELVE MONTH ROLLING TOTALS

For comparability with rolling 12 month force level figures released alongside this bulletin national recorded crime figures are shown below consistent with the presentation proposed in the recently concluded consultation announced in the previous statistical bulletin (Home Office, 2009).

Table B1 Number of recorded crimes in the year to September 2009 compared with the previous year

Numbers^{1,2} and percentage changes	Recorded Crime		
Offence group	Oct 2007 to Sept 2008	Oct 2008 to Sept 2009	% change between years
<i>Violence against the person - with injury³</i>	432,817	415,956	-4
<i>Violence against the person - without injury⁴</i>	493,446	473,950	-4
Total violence against the person offences	926,263	889,906	-4
<i>Most serious sexual crime</i>	40,998	41,307	1
<i>Other sexual offences</i>	11,477	10,510	-8
Total sexual offences	52,475	51,817	-1
<i>Robbery of business property</i>	9,076	9,159	1
<i>Robbery of personal property</i>	71,534	69,384	-3
Total robbery offences	80,610	78,543	-3
<i>Total burglary in a dwelling</i>	281,638	280,763	0
<i>Total burglary in a building other than a dwelling</i>	297,729	291,973	-2
Total burglary offences	579,367	572,736	-1
Offences against vehicles⁵	628,672	543,247	-14
Other theft offences	1,103,539	1,055,893	-4
<i>Of which:</i>			
<i>Theft from the person</i>	92,234	92,272	0
<i>Theft or unauthorised taking of a pedal cycle</i>	103,868	112,094	8
Fraud and forgery offences	165,615	152,807	-8
Criminal damage offences	989,383	899,503	-9
Total property crime	3,466,576	3,224,186	-7
Drug offences	241,179	238,809	-1
Other miscellaneous offences	70,798	70,676	0
Total recorded crime - all offences	4,837,901	4,553,937	-6
<i>of which: Firearm offences⁶</i>	8,637	8,170	-5

1. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police).

2. The figures given in the table are the latest available. They may therefore differ slightly from figures published in previous bulletins.

3. Includes homicide, attempted murder, intentional destruction of viable unborn child, causing death by dangerous driving/careless driving, more serious wounding or other act endangering life (including grievous bodily harm with and without intent), causing death by aggravated vehicle taking and less serious wounding offences.

4. Includes threat or conspiracy to murder, harassment, possession of weapons, other offences against children and assault without injury (formerly common assault where there is no injury).

5. Includes aggravated vehicle taking, theft of and from a vehicle and interfering with a motor vehicle.

6. Excludes offences involving the use of air weapons and offences recorded by British Transport Police. Includes crimes recorded by police where a firearm has been fired, used as a blunt instrument against a person or used as a threat.

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Further information

Copies of other Home Office publications are available from the Research Development and Statistics internet pages: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/>

For further information about Home Office crime statistics and crime statistics publications including police recorded crime, please e-mail crimestats.rds@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk or write to Home Office Statistics, 5th Floor, Peel Building, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF.

For further information about the British Crime Survey or about any publications relating to the British Crime Survey please e-mail: bcinfo.rds@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk or write to Crime Surveys Programme, Home Office Statistics, 5th Floor, Peel Building, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF.

RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS (RDS)

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