

Crime in England and Wales, Year Ending March 2013



Coverage: **England and Wales**

Date: **18 July 2013**

Geographical Area: **Local Authority and County**

Theme: **Crime and Justice**

Key points

- Latest figures from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) estimate that there were 8.6 million crimes in England and Wales, based on interviews with a representative sample of households and resident adults in the year ending March 2013. This represents a 9% decrease compared with the previous year's survey. This latest estimate is the lowest since the survey began in 1981 and is now less than half its peak level in 1995.
- The CSEW also estimated that there were an additional 0.8 million crimes against children aged 10 to 15 resident in the household population.
- The police recorded 3.7 million offences in the year ending March 2013, a decrease of 7% compared with the previous year. This is the lowest level since 2002/03 when the last major change in police recording practice was introduced.
- Victim-based crime accounted for 83% of all police recorded crime (3.1 million offences) and fell by 9% in the year ending March 2013 compared with the previous year. The volume of offences recorded in this category is equivalent to 55 recorded offences per 1,000 population.
- Other crimes against society recorded by the police (402,615 offences) showed a decrease of 10% compared with the previous year.
- In the year ending March 2013, 229,018 fraud offences were recorded by the police. This represents a volume increase of 27% compared with the previous year and should be seen in the context of a move to centralised recording of fraud.
- Within victim-based crime there were decreases across all the main categories of recorded crime compared with the previous year, except for theft from the person (up 9%) and sexual offences (1% increase). The latter increase is thought to be partly a 'Yewtree effect', whereby greater

numbers of victims of sexual offences have come forward to report historical offences to the police.

- There were an additional 1.0 million offences dealt with by the courts in the year ending December 2012 (the latest period for which data are available), which are not included in the police recorded crime figures. These cover less serious crimes, such as speeding offences, which are dealt with no higher than magistrates courts.

Introduction

This quarterly release presents the most recent crime statistics from two different sources: the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW, previously known as the British Crime Survey) and police recorded crime. The police recorded crime data are collated and quality assured by the Home Office Statistics Unit and supplied to ONS for inclusion in this publication.

In 2009 the CSEW was extended to cover children aged 10 to 15. However, due to the long time series for which comparable data are available, the main analysis and commentary is restricted to adults and households. A separate section provides a commentary on the figures for 10 to 15 year olds, although clear trends have not yet been established as this element of the survey has only been running for four years (Table 22).

This quarterly statistical bulletin also draws on data from other sources to provide a more comprehensive picture of crime and anti-social behaviour including data from the courts, the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) and the 2012 Commercial Victimization Survey.

Following the transfer of crime statistics from the Home Office to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in April 2012, further work has been undertaken to address the recommendations set out in the [National Statistician's review](#) (2011). This included ONS developing proposals for the future dissemination of crime statistics, with the aim of improving the presentation for users and providing a clearer picture of crime. A [consultation](#) which ran at the end of 2012 set out proposed changes to the content of regular crime statistics outputs, as well as to the presentation of the crime classifications used in those outputs.

A [summary response](#) to the consultation was published in January 2013 and several changes to the presentation of crime statistics endorsed by the responses to the consultation have been implemented in this bulletin, including re-classifying some elements of the police recorded crime data series. These changes do not affect the coverage of offences in the police recorded crime series, and are restricted to movement of offences across categories. Changes to the presentation of police recorded crime include:

- separating fraud offences from other recorded crimes following a functional re-organisation of the recording of these offences;
- splitting the remaining components of recorded crime into two broad groupings to distinguish between crimes with a specific identifiable victim (referred to as "Victim-based crime") and those without a direct victim (referred to as "Other crimes against society");
- the introduction of a new high level 'Theft offences' category bringing together offences such as burglary, theft from the person, and shoplifting under a single category; and,

- the movement of some individual offences between categories to better reflect the nature of the offence.

'Victim-based crime' includes those offences where there is a specific identifiable victim, for example where an individual has been assaulted, a household has had property stolen or vandalised; or a business has experienced theft. 'Other crimes against society' refer to offences where there was not a specific victim identified at the time the crime was recorded (such as possession of drugs or possession of weapons) or there is ambiguity over the offender/victim relationship, for example in the case of a scuffle outside a pub or nightclub which results in a public order offence of affray (see [User Guide](#) for more details).

The headline offence categories affected by the re-classification of individual offences are violence against the person (including homicide), sexual offences, other theft offences, criminal damage and other miscellaneous offences. Further detail of the changes can be found in the relevant sections of this bulletin and a more in-depth explanation of the changes can be found in the accompanying document: [Methodological note: Presentational changes to National Statistics on police recorded crime in England and Wales](#).

There have also been a number of changes to the presentation of fraud in this quarterly bulletin. To reflect changes in operational arrangements for reporting and recording of fraud, data presented in the police recorded crime series now include offences recorded by Action Fraud, a public facing national reporting centre that records incidents of fraud directly from the public and organisations. Since 1 April 2013, Action Fraud have taken responsibility for the central police recording of fraud offences.

During the period covered by this bulletin, Action Fraud took responsibility for recording fraud in all police forces areas, though the transfer was rolled out at different times for different forces. For example, by the end of December 2012, 25 police force areas had transferred responsibility with the remaining transferring by the end of March 2013¹. As such, the data presented in this bulletin on fraud cover both offences recorded by individual police forces, and those recorded by Action Fraud. In successive quarterly releases the proportion of fraud offences recorded by individual forces will gradually diminish (and that by Action Fraud will grow) as forces complete the switch over during 2012/13. It will not be until July 2014, when figures are presented for the 2013/14 financial year, that all police recorded fraud will appear under Action Fraud. Although Action Fraud receives reports of fraud from victims across the UK, data presented in this bulletin cover fraud offences where the victim resides in England or Wales only. See the [Fraud](#) section for more detail.

Following the release of the 2011 Census based mid-year population estimates, rates per head of population for the police recorded crime series are now presented using these revised mid-year estimates. Rates for years back to 2002/03, including at police force area, have been revised and will thus differ slightly from those previously published.

The consultation on changes to the content of regular crime statistics outputs also proposed minor changes to the CSEW classifications (such as moving robbery out of violence into a separate standalone category to match its treatment in recorded crime). These have not yet been implemented as the programme of work to produce a back-series has been incorporated with a related work stream to produce revised survey weights following the release of 2011 Census-based

population estimates. This will require the production of revised weights and key estimates for all survey years back to 2002/03 and these are due to be released later in the year and published alongside the January 2014 bulletin.

Data published alongside this commentary include a set of bulletin tables containing the data tables and the data used to produce graphs in this publication. A further set of reference tables provides more detailed estimates and counts of crime levels and links to these tables are given in the [‘List of products’](#) section.

Notes for Introduction

1. For more information regarding the date when each police force transferred responsibility to Action Fraud see Section 5.4: Fraud of the [User Guide](#).

Summary

Current level of crime – CSEW

Latest figures from the CSEW show that there were an estimated 8.6 million incidents of crime against households and resident adults (aged 16 and over) in England and Wales for the year ending March 2013¹. This represents a 9% decrease compared with the previous year’s survey. This latest estimate is the lowest since the survey began in 1981. The total number of CSEW incidents is estimated to have fallen by 14% compared with the 2007/08 survey, and is now less than half its peak level in 1995 (Figure 1).

The CSEW also estimates an additional 0.8 million crimes experienced by **children aged 10 to 15** in the year ending March 2013 resident in the household population. Of this number, 57% were violent crimes (465,000) while most of the remaining crimes were thefts of personal property (314,000). Incidents of vandalism to personal property experienced by children were less common (42,000 crimes; Tables 22 to 24).

Current level of crime – other sources of crime statistics

The police² recorded 3.7 million offences in the year ending March 2013, a decrease of 7% compared with the previous year (Table 2). **Police recorded crime** figures continue to show year-on-year reductions and the latest figures are 38% lower than 2002/03.

Victim-based crime (which accounts for 83% of all police recorded crime) fell by 9% in the year ending March 2013 compared with the previous year. The volume of offences in this category is equivalent to 55 recorded offences per 1,000 population. Police recorded crime decreased across all of the 43 territorial police forces, and the British Transport Police. **Other crimes against society** showed a decrease of 10% compared with the previous year, with 402,615 offences. The police recorded 229,018 **fraud** offences in England and Wales, an increase of 27% compared with the previous year (Table 2). However, it is not clear the extent to which this reflects a genuine increase in such crimes and needs to be seen in the context of a move to the centralised recording of such offences (see below).

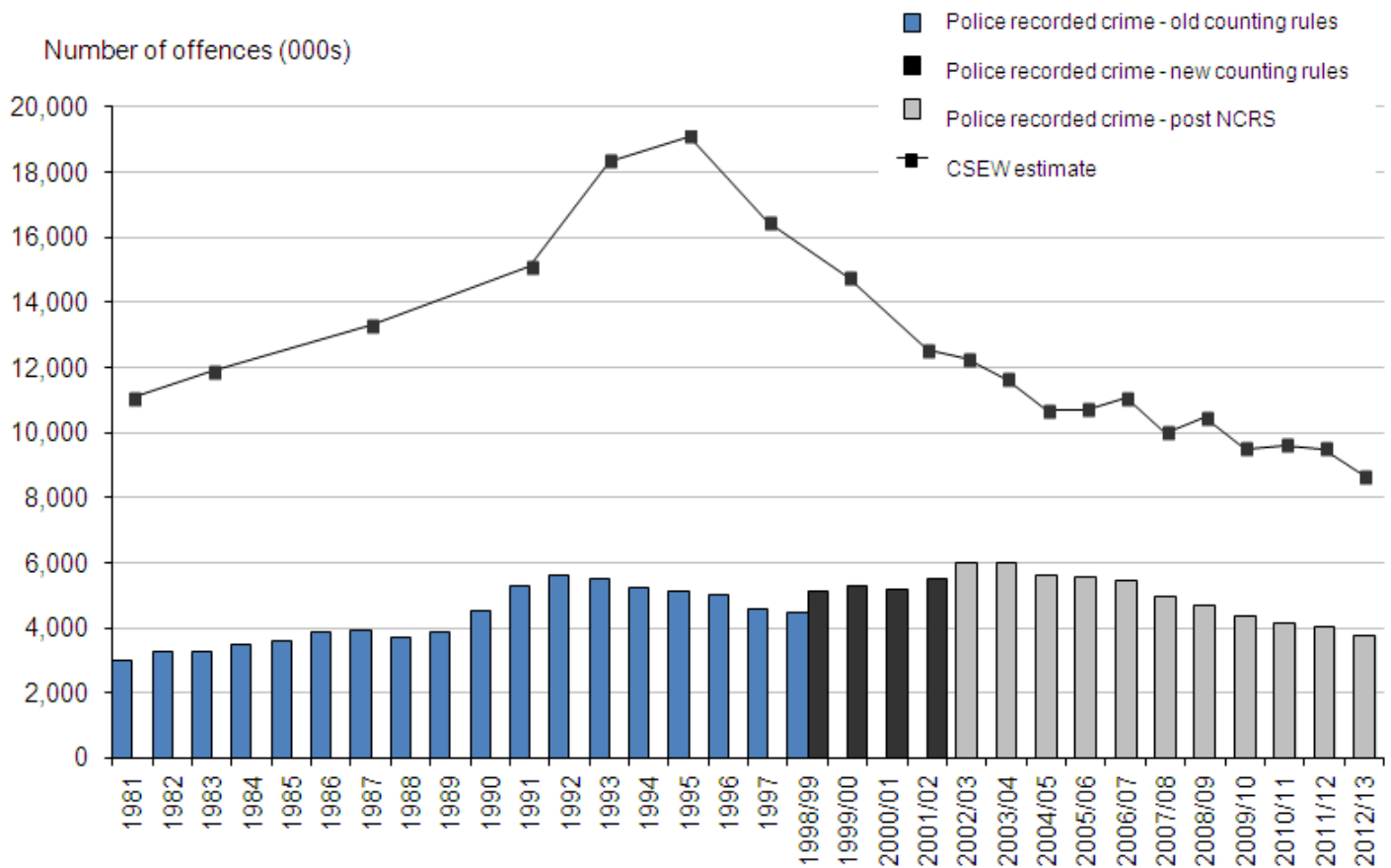
Within victim-based crime there were decreases across all the main categories compared with the previous year, except for theft from the person (up 9%) and sexual offences (1% increase).

In the year ending December 2012 (the latest period for which data are available) there were 1 million convictions in magistrates courts for **non-notifiable offences**³ (not covered in the recorded crime collection) and 41,000 Penalty Notices for Disorder were issued in relation to non-notifiable offences (Table 27a).

Around 2.3 million incidents of **anti-social behaviour (ASB)** were recorded by the police for the year ending March 2013⁴. Excluding incidents recorded by the British Transport Police⁵, the number of ASB incidents in the year ending March 2013 decreased by 17% compared with the previous year and is shown across all police force areas. However a recent [HMIC review](#) found that there is a wide variation in the quality of decision making associated with the recording of ASB. This suggests that trends in ASB incidents should be interpreted with caution (Figure 15).

The CSEW does not cover crimes against businesses and police recorded crime can only provide a partial picture. Figures from the 2012 Commercial Victimization Survey (the latest data which are available) estimated that there were 9.2 million incidents of **crime against businesses** in England and Wales in the four sectors covered by the survey (wholesale and retail, manufacturing, accommodation and food, and transportation and storage) in the preceding 12 months. This equates to approximately 13 incidents of crime per business (Table 28). As with the CSEW, some of these crimes will appear within the police recorded crime series where the offence has been reported to the police and recorded by them.

Figure 1: Trends in police recorded crime and CSEW, 1981 to 2012/13



Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales- Office for National Statistics, Police recorded crime - Home Office

Notes:

- The data on this chart refer to different time periods: a) police recorded crime refers to the calendar year (January to December) from 1981 to 1997, and to the financial year (April to March) from 1998/99; b) prior to 2001/02, CSEW estimates relate to crimes experienced in that calendar year. From 2001/02 onwards the estimates relate to crimes experienced in the 12 months before interview, based on interviews carried out in that financial year.

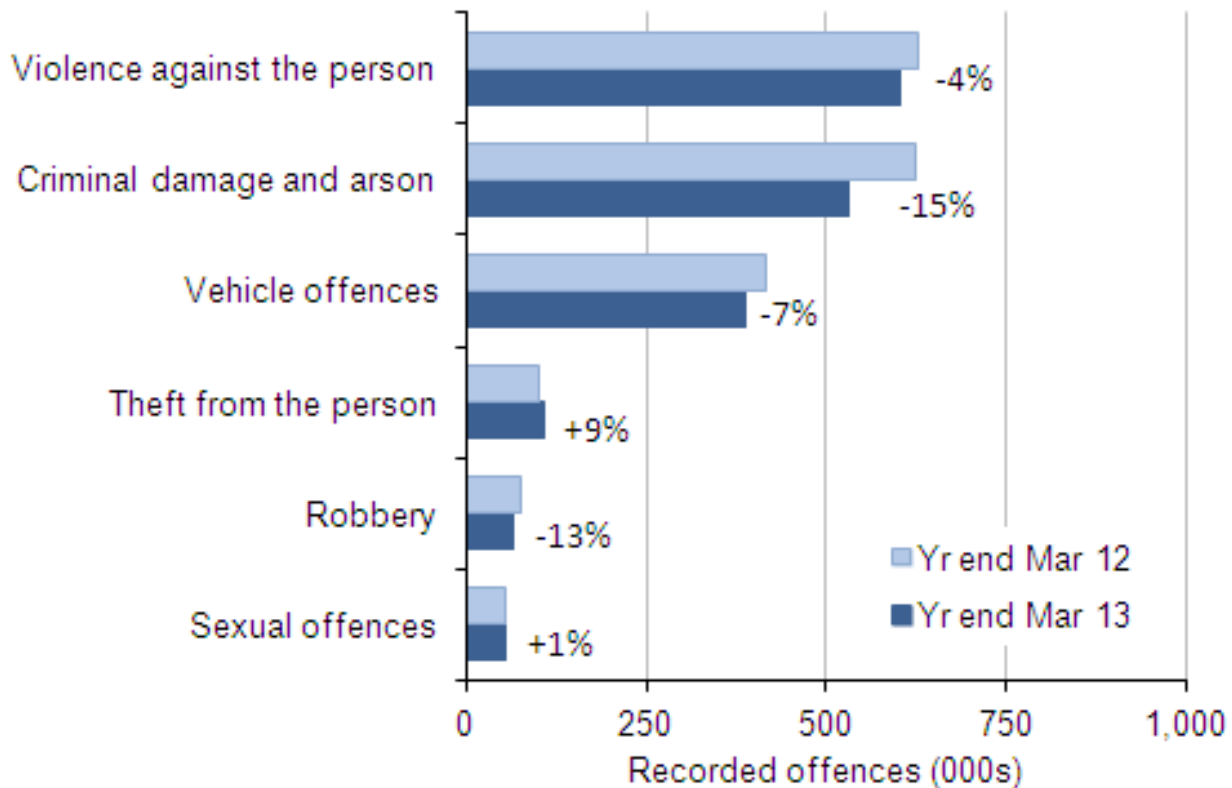
Download chart

[XLS](#) [XLS format](#)
(23.5 Kb)

Trends in victim-based crime – CSEW and police recorded crime

Figure 2 shows selected police recorded crime offences focusing on those with notable changes in the year ending March 2013 compared with the previous year.

Figure 2: Selected victim-based police recorded crime offences: volumes and percentage change between year ending March 2012 and year ending March 2013



Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

Download chart

[XLS](#) [XLS format](#)
(18.5 Kb)

Violence against the person offences recorded by the police showed a 4% fall compared with the previous year (Table 6b) and is at the lowest recorded level following the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) in 2002/03. This is equivalent to around 11 offences recorded per 1,000 population in the year ending March 2013 compared with 14 offences recorded per 1,000 population in 2007/08 (Table 6a). Police recorded violent crime also shows declines in: attempted murder which decreased by 16% in the year ending March 2013 compared with the previous year (down from 483 offences to 408 offences); and violence with injury, which decreased by 8% ([Appendix table A4 \(468 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)). In the year ending March 2013 the police recorded 552 homicides⁶, one fewer than in the previous year (Table 6a).

Firearm offences have fallen 15% in the year ending March 2013 continuing the falls seen since their peak in 2005/06, while the number of selected offences that involved a **knife or sharp instrument** decreased by 15% in the year ending March 2013 compared with the previous year.

Levels of **violent crime** estimated by the **CSEW** showed no statistically significant change in the year ending March 2013 compared with the previous year. This follows on from large falls seen in

the CSEW between 1995 and 2004/05 with current estimates at around half the level seen in 1995 (Table 5a).

Police recorded **robberies** fell by 13% in the year ending March 2013 compared with the previous year. With the exception of a notable rise in the number of robberies in 2005/06 and 2006/07 there has been a general downward trend in these offences since 2002/03. The latest year shows the number of robbery offences falling to 65,156, equivalent to around 1 offence recorded per 1,000 population, representing the lowest levels since the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) in 2002/03 (Table 7). Robbery offences tend to be concentrated in a small number of metropolitan forces with more than half of all offences in England and Wales recorded in London. Thus the overall decrease has been driven by falls in the large metropolitan force areas, most notably the West Midlands (down by 1,799 offences; 25%), and the Metropolitan Police (down by 4,133 offences; 11%).

Sexual offences recorded by the police increased 1% in the year ending March 2013, a total of 53,540 sexual offences across England and Wales. The number of offences of rape recorded by the police increased by 2% and other sexual offences by 1%.

These increases come in the wake of the Operation Yewtree investigation, connected to the Jimmy Savile inquiry. There is evidence to suggest that there has been a substantial “Yewtree effect”⁷ whereby there is increased willingness on the part of the victims to come forward and report historic sexual offences.

Total **theft offences** recorded by the police in the year ending March 2013 showed an 8% decrease compared with the previous year, continuing the year-on-year decrease seen since 2002/03 (Table 2 and [Appendix table A4 \(468 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)). This is equivalent to a rate of 33 recorded offences per 1,000 population in the year ending March 2013 compared with 63 recorded offences per 1,000 population in the year ending March 2003 ([Appendix table A6 \(468 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)). Almost all of the categories of theft in this offence group (burglary, vehicle offences, bicycle theft and all other theft offences) showed decreases compared with the previous year. The exception being theft from the person (for example pick-pocketing) which rose by 9% in the year ending March 2013 compared with the previous year (from 100,588 offences to 109,758 offences). The volume of theft from the person offences has shown small fluctuations over time, expressed as a rate it has remained fairly consistent at 2 offences recorded per 1,000 population since 2004/05. The increase in volume seen in the latest year occurred almost entirely in London, with the number of theft from the person offences in the rest of England and Wales remaining fairly flat since 2008/09.

Overall household crime⁸ measured by the survey in the year ending March 2013 showed a statistically significant decrease of 10% compared with the previous year; a result of decreases in **vandalism, burglary** and **vehicle-related theft**. Across all three categories levels are lower than those seen when the survey began in 1981 ([Appendix table A1 \(468 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)).

The CSEW category of **vehicle-related theft** showed a statistically significant decrease of 15% compared with the previous year, and a decrease of 76% compared with 1995 (Table 13b). The latest survey estimated that a vehicle-owning household was around 4 times less likely to be a victim of vehicle-related theft than in 1995 (5 in 100 households compared with 20 in 100 households in

1995). Police recorded crime figures also showed a fall of 7% in vehicle offences compared with the previous year, continuing the downward trend seen since 2002/03 (down 64%; Tables 14a and 14b).

There was an apparent 6% decrease in CSEW **other household theft** in the year ending March 2013 compared with the previous year, though this was not statistically significant. It is therefore too early to say whether this represents a change in recent trends which have shown several years of non-statistically significant increases. Following these increases the latest estimates remain 25% higher than the 2007/08 survey. However, this should be seen in the context of prior reductions; the latest figures being 42% lower than in the 1995 survey.

CSEW **vandalism**, like criminal damage offences recorded by the police, showed substantial decreases later than other offence types (from 2006/07 rather than 1995), and as such have made major contributions to recent crime declining trends in both data series.

Fraud offences recorded by the police

To reflect changes in operational arrangements for reporting and recording of fraud, data presented in the police recorded crime series now include offences recorded by Action Fraud. Responsibility for recording fraud offences has recently transferred to Action Fraud from individual police forces.

In the year ending March 2013, 229,018 fraud offences were recorded by the police in England and Wales (Table 20a). This represents a volume increase of 27% compared with the previous year and an increase of 58% compared with 2007/08. This increase should be seen in the context of the introduction of a move to centralised recording of fraud which means that caution should be applied when comparing the latest fraud data with earlier years. For more details see the [Fraud](#) section.

Table 1: Number of CSEW incidents for year ending March 2013 and percentage change

England and Wales

Adults aged 16 and over/households

April 2012 to March 2013 compared with:									
	Apr-12 to Mar-13¹	Jan-95 to Dec-95		Apr-02 to Mar-03		Apr-07 to Mar-08		Apr-11 to Mar-12	
Number of incidents (thousands), percentage change and significance²									
Vandalism	1,766	-46	*	-30	*	-32	*	-13	*
Burglary	649	-63	*	-33	*	-9	*	-7	
Vehicle-related theft	1,032	-76	*	-56	*	-29	*	-15	*
Bicycle theft	462	-30	*	30	*	8		4	
Other household theft	1,288	-42	*	-4	*	25	*	-6	
Household acquisitive crime	3,432	-61	*	-31	*	-5	*	-8	*
ALL HOUSEHOLD CRIME	5,198	-57	*	-31	*	-17	*	-10	*
Unweighted base - household crime	4,851								
Theft from the person	555	-18	*	-20	*	-4		-11	
Other theft of personal property	974	-53	*	-28	*	-1		-10	
All violence	1,915	-54	*	-29	*	-13	*	-6	
with injury	1,085	-55	*	-25	*	2		5	

April 2012 to March 2013 compared with:

	Apr-12 to Mar-13 ¹	Jan-95 to Dec-95		Apr-02 to Mar-03		Apr-07 to Mar-08		Apr-11 to Mar-12	
without injury	830	-53	*	-35	*	-27	*	-18	*
Personal acquisitive crime	1,737	-44	*	-26	*	-8	*	-11	*
ALL PERSONAL CRIME	3,445	-50	*	-27	*	-9	*	-8	
Unweighted base - personal crime	4,880								
ALL CSEW CRIME	8,643	-55	*	-30	*	-14	*	-9	*

Table source: Office for National Statistics

Table notes:

1. Base sizes for data year ending March 2013 are smaller than previous years, due to sample size reductions introduced in April 2012.
2. Statistically significant change at the 5% level is indicated by an asterisk.
3. For more information about the crime types included in this table, see Section 5 of the User Guide.
4. Data collection method: Crime Survey for England and Wales

Download table

[XLS](#) [XLS format](#)
(25 Kb)

Table 2: Number of police recorded crimes for year ending March 2013 and percentage change

England and Wales

Number and percentage change

April 2012 to March 2013 compared with:

Offence group	Apr-12 to Mar-13	Apr-02 to Mar-03	Apr-07 to Mar-08	Apr-11 to Mar-12
VICTIM-BASED CRIME	3,099,705	-41	-27	-9
Violence against the person offences	601,134	-15	-20	-4
Homicide	552	-47	-29	0
Violence with injury	312,076	-16	-31	-8
Violence without injury	288,506	-14	-2	0
Sexual offences	53,540	-5	3	1
Rape	16,327	33	29	2
Other sexual offences	37,213	-16	-6	1
Robbery offences	65,156	-41	-23	-13
Robbery of business property	6,121	-45	-33	-10
Robbery of personal property	59,035	-40	-22	-13
Theft offences	1,850,156	-44	-21	-8
Burglary	459,796	-48	-21	-8
Domestic Burglary	227,280	-48	-19	-7
Non-domestic burglary	232,516	-49	-23	-9
Vehicle offences	387,370	-64	-41	-7
Theft of a motor vehicle	79,829	-75	-53	-13
Theft from a vehicle	285,051	-57	-34	-5

April 2012 to March 2013 compared with:

Offence group	Apr-12 to Mar-13	Apr-02 to Mar-03	Apr-07 to Mar-08	Apr-11 to Mar-12
Vehicle interference	22,490	-76	-58	-10
Theft from the person	109,758	-26	8	9
Bicycle theft	97,291	0	-6	-16
Shoplifting	300,627	-3	3	-2
All other theft offences	495,314	-35	-19	-13
Criminal damage and arson	529,719	-52	-49	-15
OTHER CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY	402,615	4	-26	-10
Drug offences	208,017	45	-10	-9
Trafficking of drugs	29,765	33	5	-5
Possession of drugs	178,252	47	-12	-10
Possession of weapons offences	19,913	-45	-46	-16
Public order offences	132,203	2	-39	-12
Miscellaneous crimes against society	42,482	-46	-26	-6
TOTAL FRAUD OFFENCES	229,018	:	58	27
TOTAL RECORDED CRIME – ALL OFFENCES INCLUDING FRAUD	3,731,338	-38	-25	-7

April 2012 to March 2013 compared with:


Offence group	Apr-12 to Mar-13	Apr-02 to Mar-03	Apr-07 to Mar-08	Apr-11 to Mar-12
of which: Firearm offences	5,094	-50	-48	-15

Table source: Home Office

Table notes:

1. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police).
2. Action Fraud have taken over the recording of fraud offences on behalf of individual police forces. This process began in April 2011 and was rolled out to all police forces by March 2013. Due to this change caution should be applied when comparing data over this transitional period and with earlier years. See the user guide for more details including information on transfer date to Action Fraud for each force.
3. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix table A4.
4. Data collection method: Police Recorded Crime

Download table

 [XLS format](#)
(38 Kb)

Notes for Summary

1. See section 'Data Sources – further information' for more details regarding the data sources and reasons for the differences in the number of crimes seen by each data source.
2. Police recorded crimes are notifiable offences which are all crimes that could possibly be tried by a jury (these include some less serious offences, such as minor theft that would not usually be dealt with in this way) plus a few additional closely related offences, such as assault without injury.
3. Non-notifiable offences are offences dealt with exclusively by a magistrates court or by the police issuing of a Penalty Notice for Disorder or a Fixed Penalty Notice. Along with non-notifiable offences dealt with by the police (such as speeding), these include many offences that may be dealt with by other agencies – for example, prosecutions by TV Licensing or by the DVLA for vehicle registration offences.
4. ASB incidents recorded by the police are not accredited as National Statistics and are not subject to the same level of consistency and quality of recording as police recorded crime.
5. 2012/12 is the first year data from the British Transport Police (BTP) are available. In order to compare with previous years incidents recorded by the BTP are excluded.

6. Homicide includes the offences of murder, manslaughter, corporate manslaughter and infanticide. Figures from the Homicide Index for the time period April 2011 to March 2012, which take account of further police investigations and court outcomes, were published on 7 February 2013.
7. See HMIC's 2013 report [‘Mistakes were made’](#).
8. CSEW household crime includes burglary and other household theft, vandalism, vehicle-related theft incidents and bicycle theft.

Time periods covered

The latest Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) figures presented in this release are based on interviews conducted between April 2012 and March 2013, measuring each respondent's experiences of crime in the 12 months before the interview. It therefore covers a rolling reference period with, for example, respondents interviewed in April 2012 reporting on crimes experienced between April 2011 and March 2012 and those interviewed in March 2013 reporting on crimes taking place between March 2012 and February 2013. For that reason, the CSEW tends to act as a lagging indicator of short-term trends.

Recorded crime figures relate to crimes recorded by the police during the year ending March 2013 and therefore are not subject to the time lag experienced by the CSEW. Recorded crime figures presented in this release are those notified to the Home Office and that were recorded in the Home Office database on 5 June 2013. As in previous releases, recorded crime figures remain subject to change as forces continue to submit further data for this time period.

It should also be noted that nine months of the data reported here overlap with the data contained in the [previous bulletin](#). For both sources the headline findings refer to the latest available data covering the 12 month period to the year ending March 2013. Year on year comparisons are made with the previous year, that is, the 12 month period ending March 2012. To put the latest dataset in context, data are also shown for; the year ending March 2008 (five years ago); the year ending March 2003 (ten years ago); and in addition for the CSEW the year ending December 1995 (the peak of CSEW crime, when the survey was conducted on a calendar year basis). Appendix Tables A1 to A4 published together with the tables in this release show the fuller time series.

Overall level of crime

This quarterly release presents the most recent crime statistics from two different sources: the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW, previously known as the British Crime Survey), and police recorded crime¹. Neither source provides a total count of crime and each has its strengths and limitations². Other data sources are drawn on to provide a more comprehensive picture of crime and anti-social behaviour.

In 2009 the CSEW was extended to cover children aged 10 to 15, although trends have not yet been established as this element of the survey has only been running for four years. The latest results relating to children can be found in the ‘Crime experienced by children aged 10 to 15’ section. In

other sections, commentary on CSEW trends is restricted to crimes against households and adults resident in them.

The CSEW estimates that there were 8.6 million incidents of crime covered by the survey for the year ending March 2013, a 9% decrease compared with the previous year (Tables 3a and 3b). This latest estimate is the lowest since the survey began in 1981. The level of incidents in the year ending March 2013 survey is now 14% lower than that of the 2007/08 survey. CSEW estimates of crime have more than halved since peak levels in 1995, representing 10.5 million fewer crimes (Table 3a).

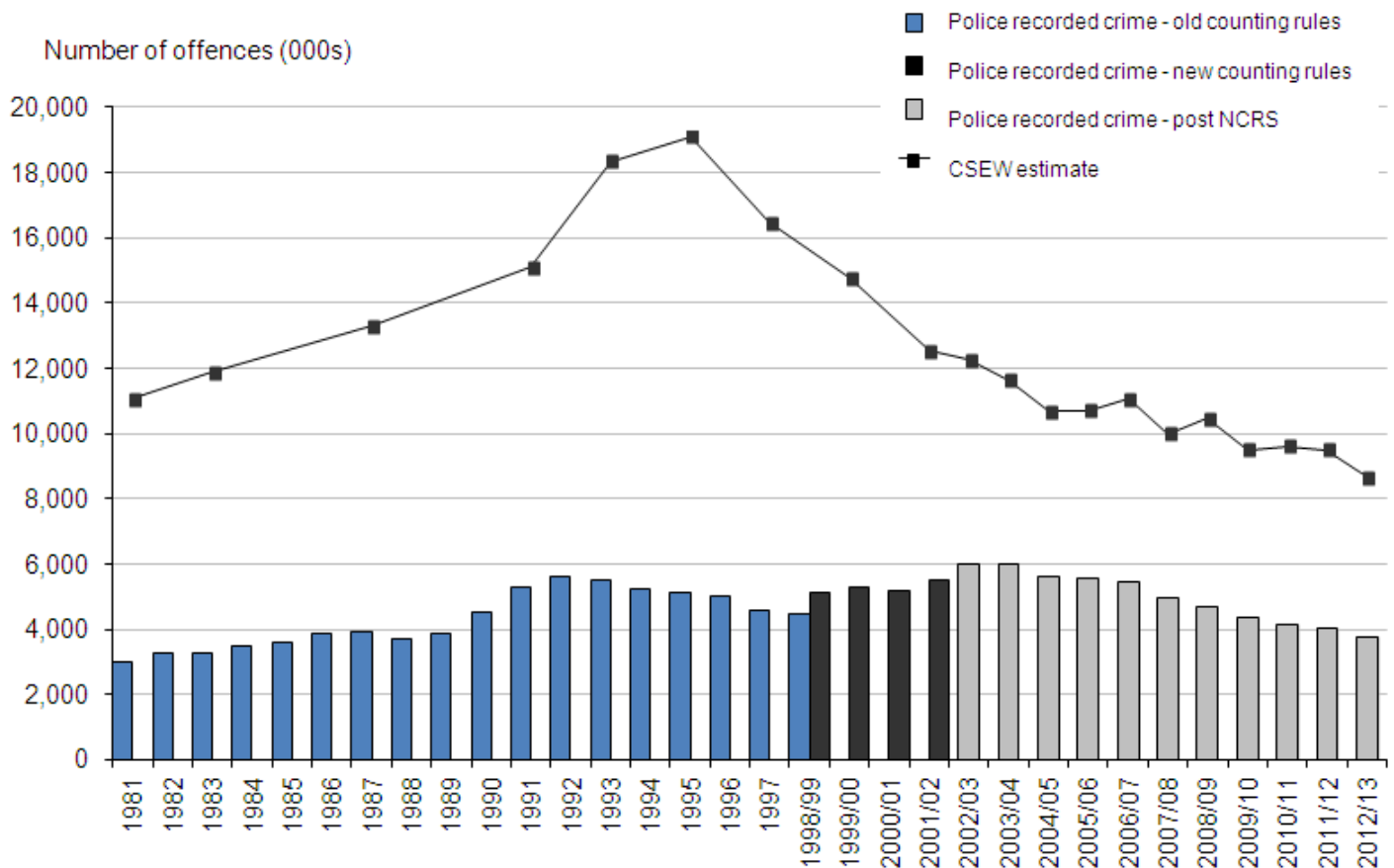
The overall level of police recorded crime³ decreased by 7% in the year ending March 2013 compared with the previous year. This decrease has continued to follow the year-on-year pattern of reductions seen in recent years (Figure 3). There were 3.7 million offences recorded in the year ending March 2013, the lowest number of offences since the introduction of the NCRS in 2002/03. The latest number of offences recorded was 25% lower than 2007/08 and 38% lower than 2002/03 (Tables 4a and 4b).

In all, there were 3.1 million victim-based crimes⁴ recorded by the police in the year ending March 2013 accounting for 83% of all crime recorded by the police. This is equivalent to 55 recorded offences per 1,000 population and a decrease of 9% compared with the previous year. Due to the high volume of crimes in the category this has accounted for most of the fall in overall police recorded crime seen since 2002/03 (Table 4b). 'Other crimes against society'⁵ showed a decrease of 10% compared with the previous year, with 402,615 offences. Trends in such offences tend to reflect changes in police workload and activity rather than in levels of criminality. For example, the marked increases shown in these offences between 2004/05 and 2008/09 coincided with the priority placed on increasing the numbers of offences brought to justice associated with Public Service Agreement targets in place at that time. This is particularly evident in the trend for drug offences and public order offences (see the '[Other crimes against society](#)' section for further details).

In the year ending March 2013, 229,018 fraud offences were recorded by the police in England and Wales (Table 20a). This represents a volume increase of 27% compared with the previous year and an increase of 58% compared with 2007/08. This increase should be seen in the context of a move to centralised recording of fraud which means that caution should be applied when comparing the latest fraud data with earlier years. See the [Fraud](#) section for more detail.

Figure 3 shows the time-series for both data sources. CSEW crime rose steadily from 1981 to 1991, before peaking in 1995. Subsequently, the CSEW showed marked falls up to the 2004/05 survey. Since then, the overall reduction has continued but at a slower rate, with some years showing small non-significant year-on-year changes and others statistically significant changes.

Figure 3: Trends in police recorded crime and CSEW, 1981 to 2012/13



Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales- Office for National Statistics, Police recorded crime - Home Office

Notes:

- The data on this chart refer to different time periods: a) police recorded crime refers to the calendar year (January to December) from 1981 to 1997, and to the financial year (April to March) from 1998/99; b) prior to 2001/02, CSEW estimates relate to crimes experienced in that calendar year. From 2001/02 onwards the estimates relate to crimes experienced in the 12 months before interview, based on interviews carried out in that financial year.

Download chart

[XLS](#) [XLS format](#)
(23.5 Kb)

Police recorded crime also increased during most of the 1980s, reaching a peak in 1992, and then fell each year until 1998/99 when the expanded coverage and changes in the Home Office Counting Rules resulted in an increase in recorded offences; see Chapter 3 of the [User Guide](#). This was followed by the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) in April 2002 which led to a rise in recording in 2002/03 and 2003/04. Following the bedding in of these changes, the direction of trends have generally tracked each other well across the two series since 2003/04, with the exception of some short term fluctuations in recent years.

ONS have conducted further analysis comparing trends for a broadly equivalent set of offence groups across the two series. This analysis showed that between 2002/03 and 2006/07 the

reduction in the volume of crime measured by the two series was similar but that between 2006/07 and 2011/12 the gap between the two series widened with the police recorded crime series showing a faster rate of reduction (33% compared with 17%). For more details see the [Analysis of Variation in Crime trends](#) methodological note. The ratio between police recorded crime and CSEW crime for the “comparable basket” of crimes for the latest 2012/13 data is shown in Section 4.2 of the [User Guide](#) and is similar to that found for 2011/12.

Table 3a: All CSEW crime - number of incidents

England and Wales

	Interviews from:				
	Jan-95 to Dec-95	Apr-02 to Mar-03	Apr-07 to Mar-08	Apr-11 to Mar-12	Apr-12 to Mar-13 ¹
Total CSEW incidents (thousands)	19,109	12,260	10,002	9,500	8,643
Unweighted base	16,337	36,450	46,903	46,031	34,880

Table source: Office for National Statistics

Table notes:

1. Base sizes for data year ending March 2013 are smaller than previous years, due to sample size reductions introduced in April 2012.
2. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix tables A1, A2, A3.
3. Data collection method: Crime Survey for England and Wales

Download table

[XLS](#) [XLS format](#)
(22 Kb)

Table 3b: All CSEW crime - percentage change and statistical significance

England and Wales

	April 2012 to March 2013 compared with:							
	Jan-95 to Dec-95	Apr-02 to Mar-03	Apr-07 to Mar-08	Apr-11 to Mar-12				
Percentage change and significance ¹								
Total CSEW incidents	-55	*	-30	*	-14	*	-9	*

Table source: Office for National Statistics

Table notes:

1. Statistically significant change at the 5% level is indicated by an asterisk.
2. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix tables A1, A2, A3.
3. Data collection method: Crime Survey for England and Wales

Download table

XLS [XLS format](#)
(26.5 Kb)

Table 4a: Total police recorded crime - number and rate of offences

England and Wales

	Apr-02 to Mar-03	Apr-07 to Mar-08	Apr-11 to Mar-12	Apr-12 to Mar-13
Total recorded crime - all offences including fraud	5,974,960	4,952,277	4,023,253	3,731,338
Victim-based crime	5,274,333	4,264,589	3,393,604	3,099,705
Other crimes against society	387,821	542,656	448,626	402,615
Total fraud offences	312,806	145,032	181,023	229,018
Rate per 1,000 population				
Total recorded crime - all offences including fraud	114	92	72	66
Victim-based crime	101	79	61	55
Other crimes against society	7	10	8	7
Total fraud offences	6	3	3	4

Table source: Home Office

Table notes:

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

2. Action Fraud have taken over the recording of fraud offences on behalf of individual police forces. This process began in April 2011 and was rolled out to all police forces by March 2013. Due to this change caution should be applied when comparing data over this transitional period and with earlier years. See the user guide for more details including information on transfer date to Action Fraud for each force.
3. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix table A4.
4. Data collection method: Police recorded crime

Download table

XLS [XLS format](#)
(33 Kb)

Table 4b: Total police recorded crime - percentage change

England and Wales

Percentage change

April 2012 to March 2013 compared with:			
	Apr-02 to Mar-03	Apr-07 to Mar-08	Apr-11 to Mar-12
Total recorded crime - all offences including fraud	-38	-25	-7
Victim-based crime	-41	-27	-9
Other crimes against society	4	-26	-10
Total fraud offences	:	58	27

Table source: Home Office

Table notes:

1. Action Fraud have taken over the recording of fraud offences on behalf of individual police forces. This process began in April 2011 and was rolled out to all police forces by March 2013. Due to this change caution should be applied when comparing data over this transitional period and with earlier years. See the user guide for more details including information on transfer date to Action Fraud for each force.
2. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix table A4.
3. Data collection method: Police recorded crime

Download table

XLS [XLS format](#)
(20.5 Kb)

Notes for Overall level of crime

1. It should be noted that police recorded crime has wider offence coverage than the CSEW as for example, police recorded crime includes crimes against businesses and non-residents (for example visitors or tourists), however, it does not include crimes that have not been reported to the police.

2. See section Data Sources – further information: Strengths and limitations of the CSEW and police recorded crime.
3. Police recorded crime includes all notifiable offences, which are those that could possibly be tried by a jury (these include some less serious offences, such as minor theft that would not usually be dealt with in this way) plus a few additional closely related offences, such as assault without injury.
4. Victim-based crimes are those offences with a specific identifiable victim. These cover the police recorded crime categories of violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, theft offences, and criminal damage and arson.
5. 'Other crimes against society' covers offences without a direct victim, and includes drug offences, possession of weapon offences, public order offences and miscellaneous crimes against society.

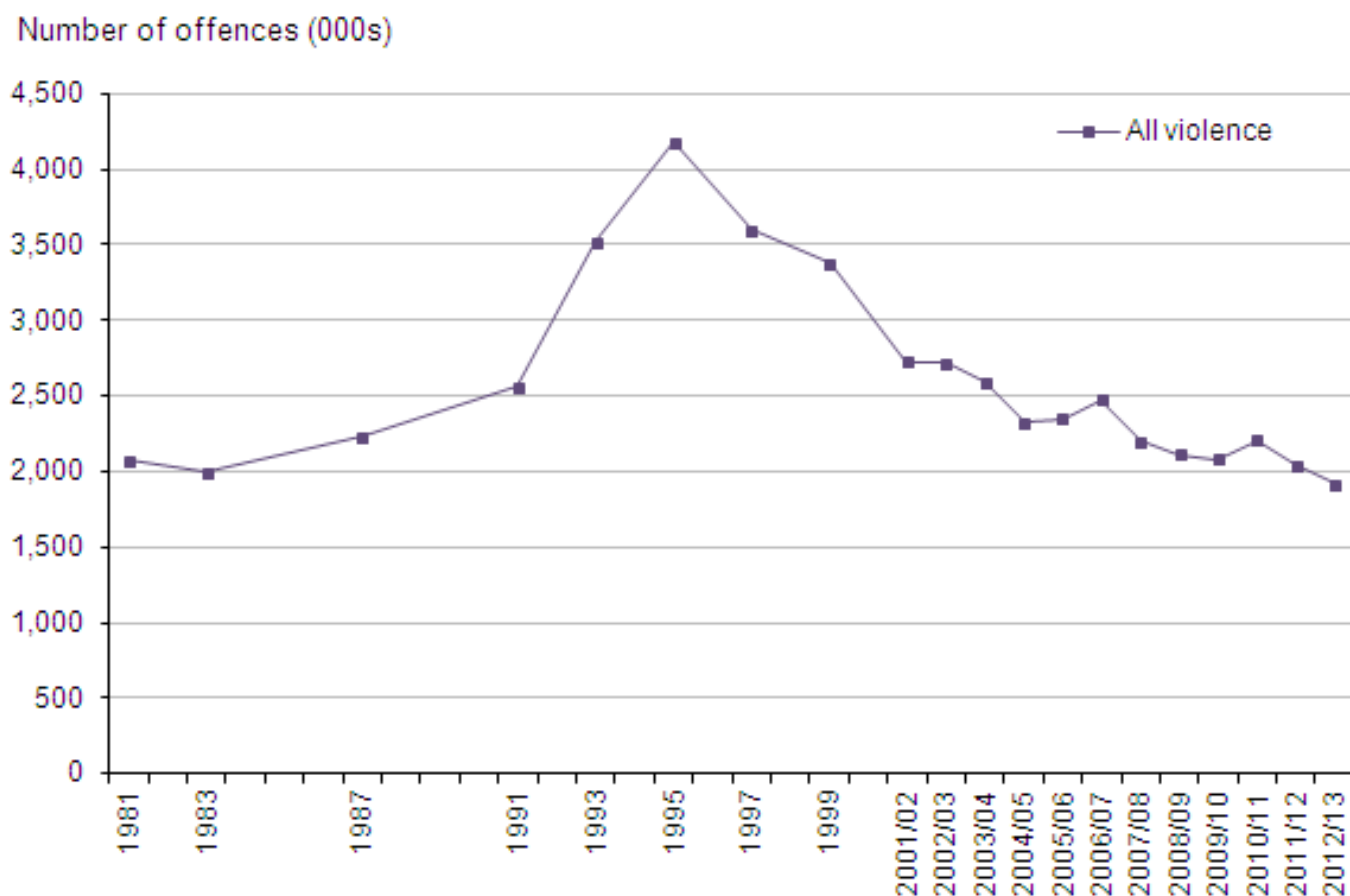
Violence

Violent crime covers a wide range of offences, from minor assaults such as pushing and shoving that result in no physical harm through to serious incidents of wounding and murder. Robbery, an offence in which violence or the threat of violence is used during a theft (or attempted theft) is not included in the police recorded violence against the person offence group as it is reported as a separate stand-alone category (see the ['Robbery'](#) section), but is currently included within CSEW violence. Following a recent consultation with users, robbery will in future be presented as a stand-alone category for both police recorded crime and the CSEW¹.

The CSEW showed no statistically significant change in the levels of violence based on interviews in the year ending March 2013 compared with the previous year (the apparent 6% decrease was not statistically significant) (Tables 5a and 5b). Figure 4 shows that this continues a general trend seen over the last decade where the CSEW has seen a sustained period of modest annual decreases (though often not large enough to be statistically significant year on year). However, the cumulative effect of these changes is statistically significant over the medium-term with the estimated number of violent incidents having decreased 13% between the 2007/08 survey and the 2012/13 survey (Table 5b). Latest CSEW estimates show there were 1.9 million violent incidents in England and Wales, which is similar to the level when the survey began in the early 1980s (Figure 4). Violent incidents constitute 22% of all CSEW crime in the latest survey, making them an important driver of overall CSEW trends.

The CSEW category of violence without injury decreased by 18% based on interviews in the year ending March 2013 compared with the previous year. However, in the context of the general trend over the last decade, which has shown a slower rate of decline, this is an unusually large year-on-year change and should be interpreted with caution, despite its statistical significance.

Figure 4: Trends in CSEW violence, 1981 to year ending March 2013



Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. The data on this chart refer to different time periods: a) 1981 to 1999 refer to crimes experienced in the calendar year (January to December); b) from 2001/02 onwards the estimates relate to crimes experienced in the 12 months before interview, based on interviews carried out in that financial year (April to March).

Download chart

[XLS](#) [XLS format](#)
(24 Kb)

Figure 4 shows steep increases in the number of violent incidents measured by the CSEW from the early 1980s to 1995. This was followed by a period of decreases, with the latest estimate being 13% lower than those observed from the 2007/08 survey, and 54% lower than the number estimated in 1995 (Table 5b). Putting these latest figures in context, around 3 in every 100 adults were a victim of violent crime in the last year, compared with around 5 in 100 adults in the 1995 survey (Table 5a).

Estimates of violence against 10 to 15 year olds can be found in the section [‘Crime experienced by children aged 10 to 15’](#).

Table 5a: CSEW violence - number, rate and percentage of incidents

England and Wales

Adults aged 16 and over

		Interviews from:				
		Jan-95 to Dec-95	Apr-02 to Mar-03	Apr-07 to Mar-08	Apr-11 to Mar-12	Apr-12 to Mar-13 ¹
Number of incidents	Thousands					
All CSEW violence		4,176	2,714	2,201	2,041	1,915
with injury		2,408	1,441	1,063	1,031	1,085
without injury		1,768	1,273	1,137	1,010	830
Incidence rate per 1,000 adults						
All CSEW violence		103	64	50	45	42
with injury		59	34	24	23	24
without injury		43	30	26	22	18
Percentage of adults who were victims once or more	Percentage					
All CSEW violence		5.3	3.9	3.2	2.9	2.6
with injury		3.2	2.2	1.7	1.6	1.5
without injury		2.5	2.0	1.7	1.5	1.2
Unweighted base - personal crime		16,337	36,450	46,903	46,031	34,880

Table source: Office for National Statistics

Table notes:

1. Base sizes for data year ending March 2013 are smaller than previous years, due to sample size reductions introduced in April 2012.
2. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix tables A1, A2, A3.
3. Data collection method: Crime Survey for England and Wales

Download table

XLS [XLS format](#)
(23.5 Kb)

Table 5b: CSEW violence - percentage change and statistical significance

April 2012 to March 2013 compared with:								
	Jan-95 to Dec-95		Apr-02 to Mar-03		Apr-07 to Mar-08		Apr-11 to Mar-12	
Number of incidents	Percentage change and significance ¹							
All CSEW violence	-54	*	-29	*	-13	*	-6	
with injury	-55	*	-25	*	2		5	
without injury	-53	*	-35	*	-27	*	-18	*
Incidence rate per 1,000 adults	Percentage change and significance ¹							
All CSEW violence	-59	*	-35	*	-16	*	-7	
with injury	-60	*	-31	*	-2		4	
without injury	-58	*	-40	*	-30	*	-18	*
Percentage of adults who were victims once or more	Percentage point change and significance ^{1,2}							
All CSEW violence	-2.7	*	-1.3	*	-0.7	*	-0.4	*
with injury	-1.7	*	-0.7	*	-0.2		-0.1	
without injury	-1.3	*	-0.8	*	-0.5	*	-0.3	*

Table source: Office for National Statistics

Table notes:

1. Statistically significant change at the 5% level is indicated by an asterisk.
2. The percentage point change presented in the tables may differ from subtraction of the two percentages due to rounding.
3. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix tables A1, A2, A3.
4. Data collection method: Crime Survey for England and Wales

Download table

XLS [XLS format](#)

(24 Kb)

Following the re-classification work, some offences previously classified as violence against the person have been moved to other categories. For example, offences where there is no violence involved at the time of the offence, such as possession of weapons, have been moved to new sub-categories within the 'Other crimes against society' grouping. The offence of causing 'Public fear, alarm or distress' has also been moved to a new Public order offences category within 'Other crimes against society'. It should be noted that this includes the offence of affray where there may have been an element of low level violence involved (e.g. a scuffle outside a pub or nightclub) but there was not a specific identifiable victim.

All of the figures presented refer to the new definition of violence against the person and a back-series has been produced on the new basis back to 2002/03. This re-classification of offences has resulted in the movement of approximately 117,000 offences out of the violence against the person category, for the year ending March 2013. For more detailed information on the changes to the classification, including its impact on long term trends, please see [Methodological note: Presentational changes to National Statistics on police recorded crime in England and Wales](#).

The level of violence against the person² recorded by the police in the year ending March 2013 showed a 4% fall³ compared with the previous year (Tables 6a and 6b) and is the lowest recorded following the introduction of the NCRS in 2002/03. Offences of violence with injury decreased by 8%, while there was no notable change in the number of recorded violent offences involving no injury compared with 2011/12. The latest levels of violence against the person have fallen by 20% from 2007/08 and by 15% from 2002/03. The rates for violence against the person have dropped from 14 recorded offences per 1,000 population in 2007/08 to 11 recorded offences per 1,000 population in 2012/13 (Table 6a).

In the year ending March 2013 the police recorded 552 homicides⁴, one fewer than in the previous year (Table 6a). This should be seen in the context of the number of homicides having increased from around 300 per year in the early 1960s to over 800 per year in the early years of this century before falling to the current level⁵. The number of attempted murders recorded by the police has also been declining over the last decade, with a 16% decrease in the year ending March 2013 compared with the previous year (down from 483 to 408 offences). For more detailed information on trends and the circumstances of homicides recorded in the previous year (2011/12) see '[Focus on: Violent Crime and Sexual Offences](#)'.

Separate research conducted by the Violence and Society Research Group at Cardiff University ([Sivarajasingam et al., 2012](#)) also indicates falls in the levels of violent crime. Findings from their annual survey, covering a sample of hospital emergency departments and walk-in centres in England and Wales, showed an overall decrease of 14% in serious violence-related attendances in 2012 compared with 2011. This pattern is consistent with the reductions in violent crime recorded by the police (see figure 1 of that publication). In addition, NHS data on assault admissions to hospitals in England show that for the 12 months to the end of September 2012⁶ there were 35,654 hospital admissions for assault, a reduction of 11% compared with figures for the preceding 12 months.

Table 6a: Police recorded violence against the person - number and rate of offences

England and Wales

	Apr-02 to Mar-03	Apr-07 to Mar-08	Apr-11 to Mar-12	Apr-12 to Mar-13
Violence against the person offences	708,742	748,779	626,720	601,134
Homicide ^{2,3}	1,047	775	553	552
Violence with injury ⁴	372,243	452,247	338,125	312,076
Violence without injury ⁵	335,452	295,757	288,042	288,506
Violence against the person rate per 1,000 population	14	14	11	11

Table source: Home Office

Table notes:

1. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police).
2. Includes the offences of murder, manslaughter, corporate manslaughter and infanticide.
3. The homicide figure for 2002/03 includes 172 homicides attributed to Harold Shipman in previous years but coming to light in the official inquiry in 2002.
4. Includes attempted murder, intentional destruction of viable unborn child, causing death by dangerous driving/careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs, 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, other offences against children and assault without injury (formerly common assault where there is no injury).
6. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix table A4.
7. Data collection method: Police recorded crime

Download table**XLS** [XLS format](#)

(20.5 Kb)

Table 6b: Police recorded violence against the person - percentage change

England and Wales

Percentage change

April 2012 to March 2013 compared with:				
	Apr-02 to Mar-03	Apr-07 to Mar-08	Apr-11 to Mar-12	
Violence against the person offences	-15	-20	-4	
Homicide ^{2,3}	-47	-29	0	
Violence with injury ⁴	-16	-31	-8	
Violence without injury ⁵	-14	-2	0	

Table source: Home Office**Table notes:**

1. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police).
2. Includes the offences of murder, manslaughter, corporate manslaughter and infanticide.
3. The homicide figure for 2002/03 includes 172 homicides attributed to Harold Shipman in previous years but coming to light in the official inquiry in 2002.
4. Includes attempted murder, intentional destruction of viable unborn child, causing death by dangerous driving/careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs, 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. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix table A4.
7. Data collection method: Police recorded crime

Download table**XLS** [XLS format](#)

(20.5 Kb)

Notes for Violence

1. For more details see the 'Future plans and changes to statistical reporting' section or the ONS crime statistics publication '[Future Dissemination Strategy – Summary of Responses](#)'.

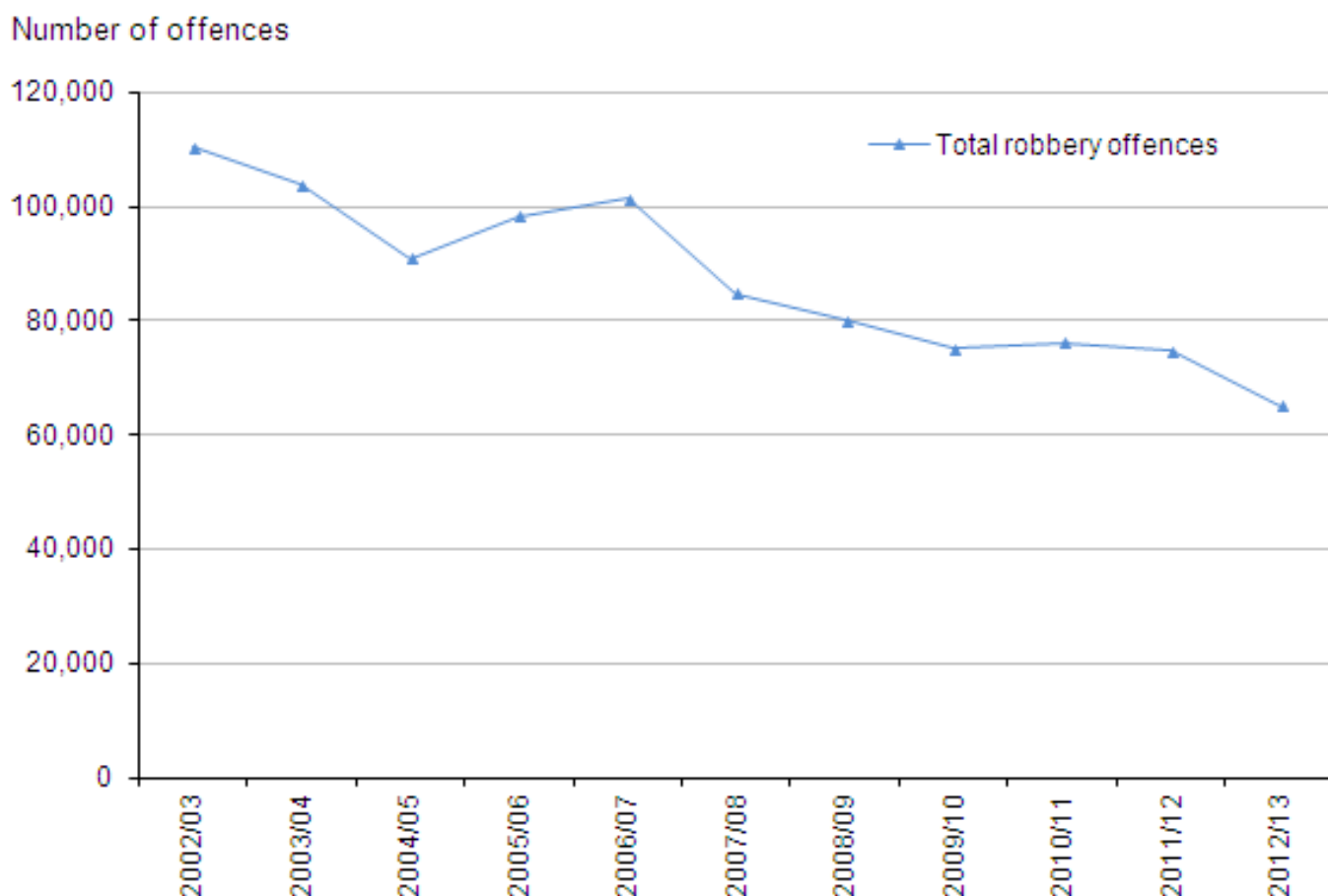
2. Police recorded violence against the person does not include sexual offences or robbery. Refer to Chapter 5 of the [User Guide](#) for more information regarding coverage of crime measures.
3. Based on the previous definition of violence against the person the fall in the number of offences was 6% over the same period.
4. Homicide includes the offences of murder, manslaughter, corporate manslaughter and infanticide. Figures from the Homicide Index for the time period April 2011 to March 2012, which take account of further police investigations and court outcomes, were published on 7 February 2013.
5. Homicide figures are less likely to be affected by changes in police recording practice made in 1998 and 2002 so it is possible to examine longer-term trends from police recorded crime.
6. Based on the latest available [Hospital Episode Statistics](#).

Robbery

Robbery is an offence in which force or the threat of force is used either during or immediately prior to a theft or attempted theft. The small number of robbery victims interviewed in any one year means that CSEW estimates are prone to fluctuation. The number of robberies recorded by the police therefore provides a more robust indication of trends than the CSEW, although some under-reporting by members of the public exists. For CSEW estimates of robbery see [Appendix tables A1, A2 and A3 \(468 Kb Excel sheet\)](#).

Robbery is a relatively low volume offence accounting for just under 2% of all police recorded crime in the year ending March 2013. These offences are concentrated in a small number of metropolitan forces with over half of all offences recorded in London, and a further 18% in the Greater Manchester, West Midlands and West Yorkshire police force areas combined ([Table P1 \(293.5 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)).

Figure 5: Trends in police recorded robberies, 2002/03 to year ending March 2013



Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

Download chart

[XLS](#) [XLS format](#)
(18.5 Kb)

The latest figures show police recorded robberies decreased by 13% in the year ending March 2013 compared with the previous year (Tables 7a and 7b). With the exception of a notable rise in the number of robberies in 2005/06 and 2006/07 there has been a general downward trend between 2002/03 and 2012/13 in England and Wales. The latest figure shows the number of robbery offences falling to 65,156, the lowest level since the introduction of the NCRS in 2002/03 (Figure 5). However, when the volume is expressed per 1,000 population there has been relatively little change in the rates of robbery. In the year ending March 2013, the police recorded 1 offence per 1,000 population; this rate has ranged between 1 or 2 recorded offences since 2002/03 ([Appendix table A6 \(468 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)).

In the year ending March 2013, 91% of robberies recorded by the police were of personal property. The police recorded 59,035 of these offences, down 13% compared with the previous year. Robbery of business property (which makes up the remaining 9% of total robbery offences) fell by 10% compared with the previous year continuing the recent downward trend. In the year ending March

2013, one in five (20%) robberies recorded by the police involved a knife or other sharp instrument, a similar level to the 22% recorded the previous year (Table 8).

Table 7a: Police recorded robbery - number and rate of offences

England and Wales

	Apr-02 to Mar-03	Apr-07 to Mar-08	Apr-11 to Mar-12	Apr-12 to Mar-13
Robbery offences	110,271	84,773	74,688	65,156
Robbery of business property	11,066	9,173	6,770	6,121
Robbery of personal property	99,205	75,600	67,918	59,035
Robbery rate per 1,000 population	2	2	1	1

Table source: Home Office

Table notes:

1. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police).
2. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix table A4.
3. Data collection method: Police recorded crime

Download table

[XLS](#) [XLS format](#)
(19.5 Kb)

Table 7b: Police recorded robbery - percentage change

England and Wales

April 2012 to March 2012 compared with:				
	Apr-02 to Mar-03	Apr-07 to Mar-08	Apr-11 to Mar-12	
Robbery offences	-41	-23		-13
Robbery of business property	-45	-33		-10
Robbery of personal property	-40	-22		-13

Table source: Home Office

Table notes:

1. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix table A4.

2. Data collection method: Police recorded crime

Download table

XLS [XLS format](#)

(19 Kb)

The geographic concentration of robbery offences means that trends across England and Wales tend to reflect what is happening in a small number of metropolitan areas, and the Metropolitan Police force area in particular. The latest figures for the Metropolitan Police force area showed that robbery levels for the year ending March 2013 were down by 11% from the previous year. This follows increases in robberies in the Metropolitan Police force area in the previous two years (specifically, 8% in year ending March 2012 and 7% in the year ending March 2011). Falls in robbery were also seen in other large metropolitan police force areas, most notably the West Midlands (down by 1,799 offences; 25%), West Yorkshire (down by 371 offences; 15%) and Greater Manchester (down by 226 offences; 5%) ([Table P2 \(293.5 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)).

Offences involving knives and sharp instruments

Data for a sub-set of serious offences recorded by the police involving the use of a knife or sharp instrument have been collected for a number of years¹. Only data for the last two years are compared in this section because up until April 2010 there were known inconsistencies in recording practices between forces².

In the year ending March 2013, the police recorded 26,336 offences involving a knife or sharp instrument, a 15% decrease compared with the previous year (31,147, Table 8). Analysis of selected individual offence groups shows that the fall in knife or sharp instrument offences is largely due to reductions in the numbers of robbery offences involving a knife or sharp instrument (down 20% compared with the previous year) and actual bodily harm and grievous bodily harm offences³ (down 11%); a pattern that is consistent with the overall reductions in these offences.

Table 8: Number and proportion of selected violent and sexual offences involving a knife or sharp instrument recorded by the police <2>

England and Wales

Selected offence type	Number of selected offences involving a knife or sharp instrument		% change	Proportion of selected offences involving a knife or sharp instrument	
	Apr-11 to Mar-12	Apr-12 to Mar-13		Year ending March 2012 to year ending March 2013	Apr-11 to Mar-12	Apr-12 to Mar-13
Attempted murder	246	195	-21	51	48
Threats to kill	1,183	1,166	-1	15	16
Actual bodily harm & grievous bodily harm ⁴	12,774	11,372	-11	4	4
Robbery	16,425	13,139	-20	22	20
Rape	237	191	-19	1	1
Sexual assault ⁵	72	83	15	0	0
Total selected offences	30,937	26,146	-15	7	6
Homicide ⁶	210	190	-10	39	35
Total selected offences including homicide	31,147	26,336	-15	7	6

Table source: Home Office

Table notes:

1. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police).
2. Police recorded knife and sharp instrument offences data are submitted via an additional special collection. Proportions of offences involving the use of a knife or sharp instrument presented in this table are calculated based on figures submitted in this special collection. Other offences exist that are not shown in this table that may include the use of a knife or sharp instrument.
3. Two police forces (Surrey and Sussex) include unbroken bottle and glass offences in their returns, which are outside the scope of this special collection. As such, data for these forces are not directly comparable to data for other forces.
4. Changes to offence codes in April 2012 mean the category of actual bodily harm and grievous bodily harm is not directly comparable over the time period. However, these changes are not expected to affect the totals presented in this table. See Table A4 for more details.
5. Sexual assault includes indecent assault on a male/female and sexual assault on a male/female (all ages).
6. Homicide offences are those currently recorded by the police as at 3 June 2013 and are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.
7. Data collection method: Police recorded crime

Download table

 [XLS format](#)

(26 Kb)

The number of homicides involving a knife or sharp instrument decreased 10% in the year ending March 2013 compared with the previous year (down from 210 offences to 190 offences). The number of rapes involving knives or sharp instruments recorded by the police was also down by 19% from 237 offences to 191. The number of sexual assaults involving a knife or sharp instrument increased by 15% in the year ending March 2013 compared with the previous year (up from 72 offences to 83 offences). However, the relatively low number of attempted murders, homicides, rapes and sexual assaults that involve the use of a knife or sharp instrument means percentage changes should be interpreted with caution.

The proportion of selected violent offences involving a knife or sharp instrument in the year ending March 2013 was 6%. This was a similar proportion to that for the previous year (7%, Table 8). Just over a third of homicides involved a knife or sharp instrument (35%) and just under a half of attempted murders (48%), showing little change with the previous year.

An additional source of information about incidents involving serious violence is provided by NHS hospital admission statistics. Admissions for assault with a sharp instrument peaked at 5,720 in 2006/07. Admissions have declined since that year, and in the year ending September 2012 there were 4,121 admissions, a 12% decrease on the previous year, returning levels to those shown in 2002/03⁴.

Notes for Offences involving knives and sharp instruments

1. A sharp instrument is any object that pierces the skin (or in the case of a threat, is capable of piercing the skin) for example a broken bottle.
2. West Midlands Police force included unbroken bottle and glass offences in their returns but now exclude these offences in line with other forces.
3. Changes to offence codes in April 2012 mean the individual categories of actual bodily harm and grievous bodily harm are not directly comparable over the time period. However, these changes are not expected to affect the totals of actual bodily harm and grievous bodily harm offences involving a knife or sharp instrument. See Appendix table A4 for more details.
4. Year ending September 2012 figures are available in the latest [Hospital Episode Statistics](#); a graph based on financial years is available in ['Focus on: Violent Crime and Sexual Offences'](#).

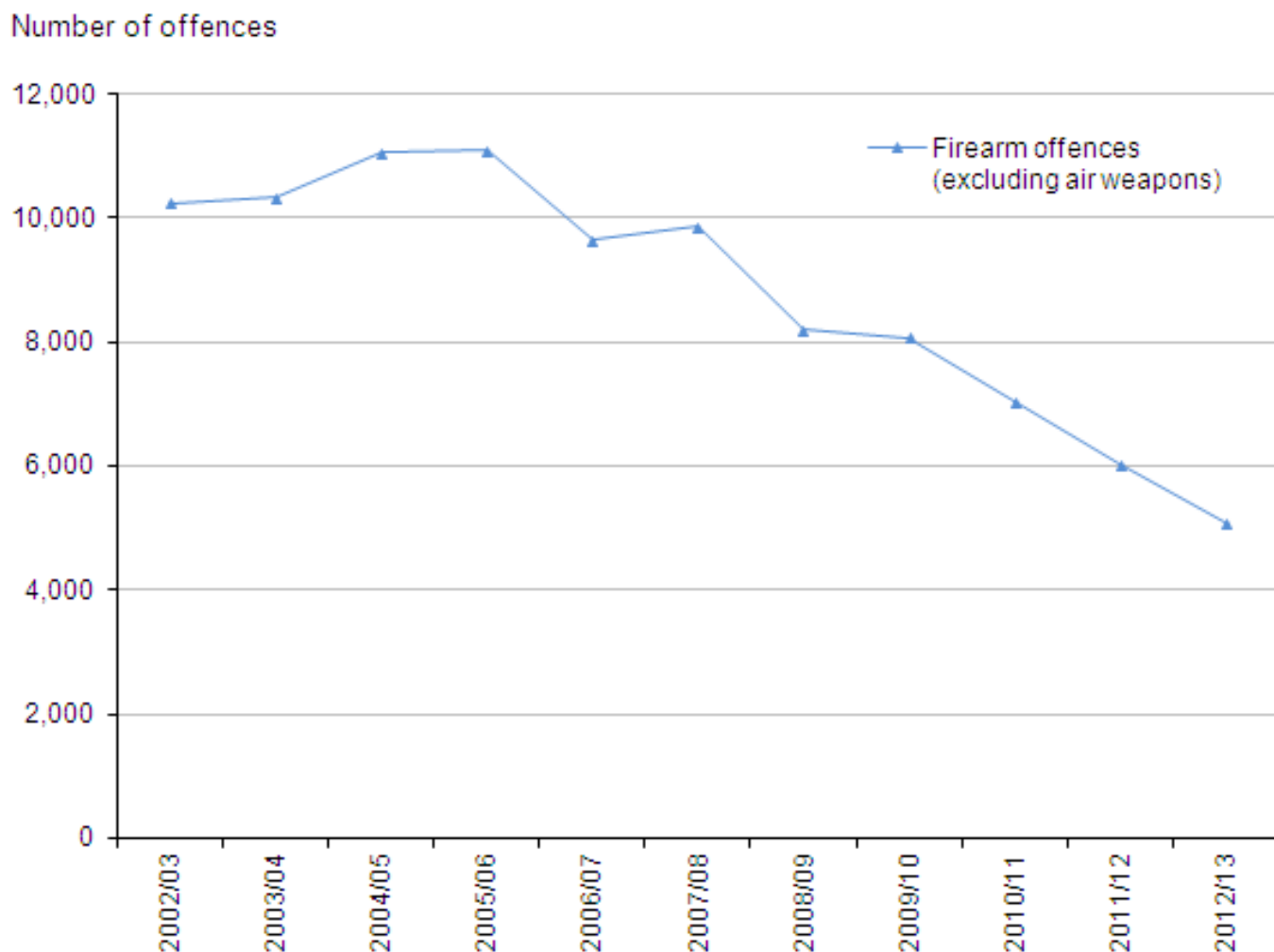
Offences involving firearms

Provisional¹ statistics for the year ending March 2013 are available for police recorded crimes involving the use of firearms other than air weapons (referred to as firearm offences). Firearms are taken to be involved in an offence if they are fired, used as a blunt instrument against a person or used as a threat. For detailed information on trends and the circumstances of firearm offences recorded in 2011/12 see ['Focus on: Violent Crime and Sexual Offences'](#).

Figures for the year ending March 2013 show that 5,094 firearm offences were recorded in England and Wales, a 15% decrease on the previous year (6,022) (Tables 9a and 9b).

Figure 6 shows the trend from 2002/03 and indicates that since 2005/06 there has been a substantial decrease in the number of firearm offences recorded by the police. The volume of such offences has fallen by almost a half (48%) from 2007/08 (Table 9b), and has more than halved (down by 54%) since its peak in 2005/06 (Figure 6). This reduction in firearm offences reflects the pattern of reduction seen in overall violent crime.

Figure 6: Trends in police recorded crimes involving firearms other than air weapons, 2002/03 to year ending March 2013



Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

Download chart

[XLS](#) [XLS format](#)
(18 Kb)

Table 9a: Police recorded firearm offences - numbers < 2 >

England and Wales

	Apr-02 to Mar-03	Apr-07 to Mar-08	Apr-11 to Mar-12	Apr-12 to Mar-13
Firearm offences	10,248	9,865	6,022	5,094

Table source: Home Office

Table notes:

1. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 43 forces in England and Wales (excluding the British Transport Police).
2. Firearms data are provisional. 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.
3. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix table A4.
4. Data collection method: Police recorded crime

Download table

XLS [XLS format](#)
(28.5 Kb)

Table 9b: Police recorded firearm offences - percentage change < 1 >

England and Wales

April 2012 to March 2013 compared with:			
	Apr-02 to Mar-03	Apr-07 to Mar-08	Apr-11 to Mar-12
Firearm offences	-50	-48	-15

Table source: Home Office

Table notes:

1. Firearms data are provisional. 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.
2. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix table A4.
3. Data collection method: Police recorded crime

Download table

XLS [XLS format](#)
(19.5 Kb)

Notes for Offences involving firearms

1. Firearms data are provisional figures supplied by the police as at 5 June 2013. Final figures for firearm offences for the time period April 2011 to March 2012 were published on 7 February 2013.

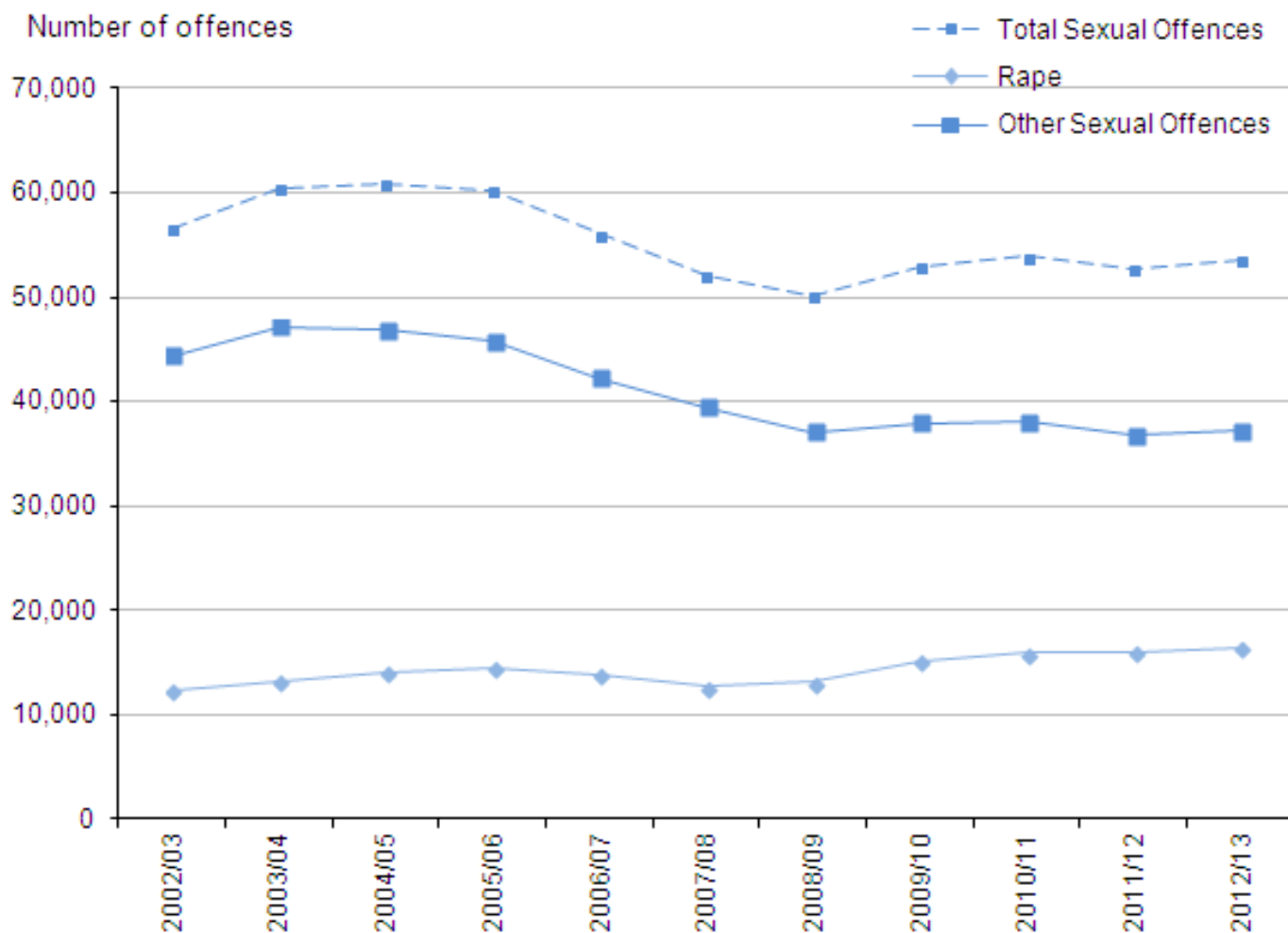
Sexual offences

It is difficult to obtain reliable information on the volume of sexual offences as it is known that a high proportion of offences are not reported to the police and changes in recorded figures may reflect changes in reporting or recording rates rather than actual victimisation. For these reasons, caution should be used when interpreting trends in these offences (for more information see [‘An Overview of Sexual Offending in England and Wales’](#) or [‘Focus on: Violent Crime and Sexual Offences’](#)).

Previously tables within quarterly bulletins categorised sexual offences into ‘most serious sexual crime’ (which included rape and sexual assault) and ‘other sexual offences’. Following the consultation over changes to classifications in this and future bulletins, tables summarising sexual offences now separate recorded crimes into categories of ‘Rape’ and ‘Other sexual offences’. The full breakdown of sexual offences can be found as before in Appendix table A4.

Police recorded crime figures showed an increase of 1% in all sexual offences for the year ending March 2013 compared with the previous year (Table 10b). Within the total the number of offences of rape increased by 2% and the number of other sexual offences recorded increased by 1% (Figure 7).

Figure 7: Trends in police recorded sexual offences, 2002/03 to year ending March 2013



Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

Notes:

1. The Sexual Offences Act 2003, introduced in May 2004, altered the definition and coverage of sexual offences.

Download chart

[XLS](#) [XLS format](#)
(30 Kb)

In the wake of the Operation Yewtree investigation, connected to the Jimmy Savile inquiry, there is evidence to suggest that there has been a substantial “Yewtree effect”¹ whereby there is increased willingness on the part of the victims to come forward and report historic sexual offences. Analysis of detailed recorded crime data supplied by 27 forces² shows that there has been an increase in the number of ‘historic’ sexual offences recorded by the police in 2012/13 compared with the previous year. In 2012/13, these 27 forces recorded 9,080 offences which took place in a previous financial year, which compared with 7,729 in 2011/12 (an increase of 17%). The increase is more marked in offences that took place 20 or more years before the date of recording; increasing by over 950

offences from 1,610 offences in 2011/12 to 2,567 offences in 2012/13 (an increase of 59%). It is important to note that this is a partial picture as the analysis only covers 27 of the 43 territorial police forces of England and Wales and notably excludes the Metropolitan Police Service which accounts for around 18% of all sexual offences recorded by the police in 2012/13.

This 'Yewtree effect' is in addition to earlier increases seen over the last 5 years with a 29% increase in the number of police recorded rape offences since 2007/08 (Table 10b). Extra guidance for the recording of sexual offences was incorporated into the Home Office Counting Rules from 1 April 2010 and this reflected good practice guidance issued prior to this by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO). This is likely to have been a factor driving year-on-year increases seen in the number of sexual offences, in particular rape, recorded in 2009/10 and 2010/11.

Table 10a: Police recorded sexual offences - number and rate of offences

England and Wales

	Apr-02 to Mar-03	Apr-07 to Mar-08	Apr-11 to Mar-12	Apr-12 to Mar-13
Sexual offences	56,652	52,166	52,760	53,540
Rape	12,295	12,673	16,038	16,327
Other sexual offences	44,357	39,493	36,722	37,213
Sexual offences rate per 1,000 population	1	1	1	1

Table source: Home Office

Table notes:

1. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police).
2. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix table A4.
3. Data collection method: Police recorded crime

Download table

 [XLS format](#)

(19 Kb)

Table 10b: Police recorded sexual offences - percentage change

England and Wales

April 2012 to March 2013 compared with:			
	Apr-02 to Mar-03	Apr-07 to Mar-08	Apr-11 to Mar-12
Sexual offences	-5	3	1
Rape	33	29	2
Other sexual offences	-16	-6	1

Table source: Home Office

Table notes:

1. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix table A4.
2. Data collection method: Police recorded crime

Download table
[XLS](#) [XLS format](#)

(19 Kb)

Due to the small number of sexual offences identified in the main CSEW crime count, estimates of the volume of incidents are too unreliable to report. Since 2004/05, the CSEW has included a self-completion questionnaire module on intimate violence which does provide a measure of the proportion of people who have been victims of sexual offences and supplements the information presented here³. Detailed findings from this module for the previous year (year ending March 2012) are available in the [‘Focus on: Violent Crime and Sexual Offences 2011/12’](#). Figures for the current year (2012/13) will be available in the next ‘Focus on: Violent Crime and Sexual offences’ release which is due to be published in February 2014.

Notes for Sexual offences

1. See HMIC’s 2013 report [‘Mistakes were made’](#).
2. These data are supplied by 27 police forces to the Home Office data hub which is a new data transfer system being developed to reduce the burden on forces in responding to data requests.
3. See Chapter 5 of the [User Guide](#) for more information regarding intimate violence.

Theft offences

The CSEW and police recorded crime both measure theft offences. For both data series this covers burglary, vehicle-related thefts, theft from the person and bicycle theft. Additionally offences

for shoplifting and other theft, which is predominately made up of theft of unattended items, are recorded by the police. The CSEW also covers thefts of property from outside people's homes (for example garden furniture and tools) and theft of unattended property¹.

There are substantial overlaps between theft offences in the two data series, however the CSEW shows a larger volume as it includes incidents not reported to the police. Police recorded theft is broader covering a wider variety of offences and victims, for example, it includes theft against commercial victims and offences of handling stolen goods whereas the survey doesn't. Theft offences recorded by the police do not include robbery as these are recorded as a separate offence (see [Robbery](#) section) whereas for the CSEW, all acquisitive crime does include robbery incidents.

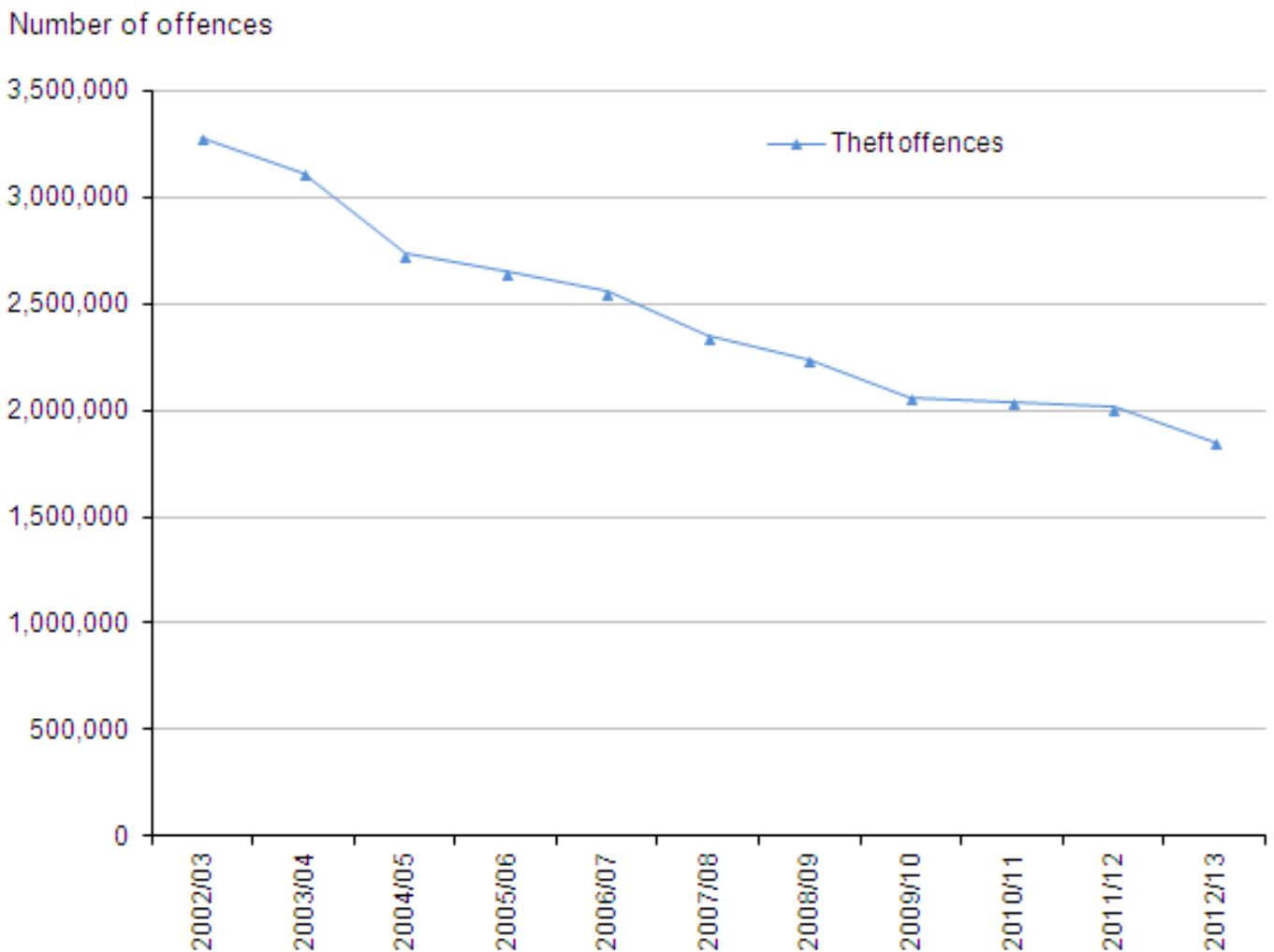
Following the re-classification of the police recorded crime series a new high level theft offences category has been introduced to include all offences recorded by the police involving theft; encompassing burglary, offences against vehicle owners, theft from the person, bicycle theft, shoplifting and all other theft offences. This helps to present a clearer picture of theft offences recorded by the police and will also give better alignment with the proposed theft offences group for CSEW data when these changes are implemented.

Theft offences accounted for 50% of all police recorded crime (1.9 million offences) in 2012/13 and 60% of all incidents measured by the CSEW (an estimated 5.2 million incidents) for the year ending March 2013.

The long-term trend in CSEW theft (acquisitive crime) reflects the long-term trend in total CSEW crime, having shown steady increases from 1981 when the survey started, peaking in 1995, followed by steady declines since that peak. The latest estimates showed a statistically significant decrease of 9% compared with the previous year ([Appendix table A1 \(468 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)).

As theft offences make up 50% of all police recorded crime the trend for this group of offences is the same as the overall trend. Since 2002/03, the number of theft offences has shown year-on-year decreases and is 44% lower in volume in the year ending March 2013 than in 2002/03 (Figure 8). The latest figures show an 8% decrease compared with the previous year ([Appendix table A4 \(468 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)). This is equivalent to a rate of 33 recorded offences per 1,000 population in the year ending March 2013 compared with 63 recorded offences per 1,000 population in the year ending March 2003 ([Appendix table A6 \(468 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)).

Figure 8: Trends in police recorded theft offences, 2002/03 to year ending March 2013



Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

Download chart

[XLS](#) [XLS format](#)
(19 Kb)

Further analysis on theft offences, based on the 2011/12 CSEW, was published on 9 May 2013 as part of [‘Focus on: Property Crime, 2011/12’](#). More detail of possible hypotheses for the fall in property crimes can be found in [‘Trends in Crime: a Short Story, 2011/12’](#) published on 19 July 2012.

The next few sections discuss in more detail the different types of theft offences; burglary, vehicle-related thefts and other theft of property.

Notes for Theft offences

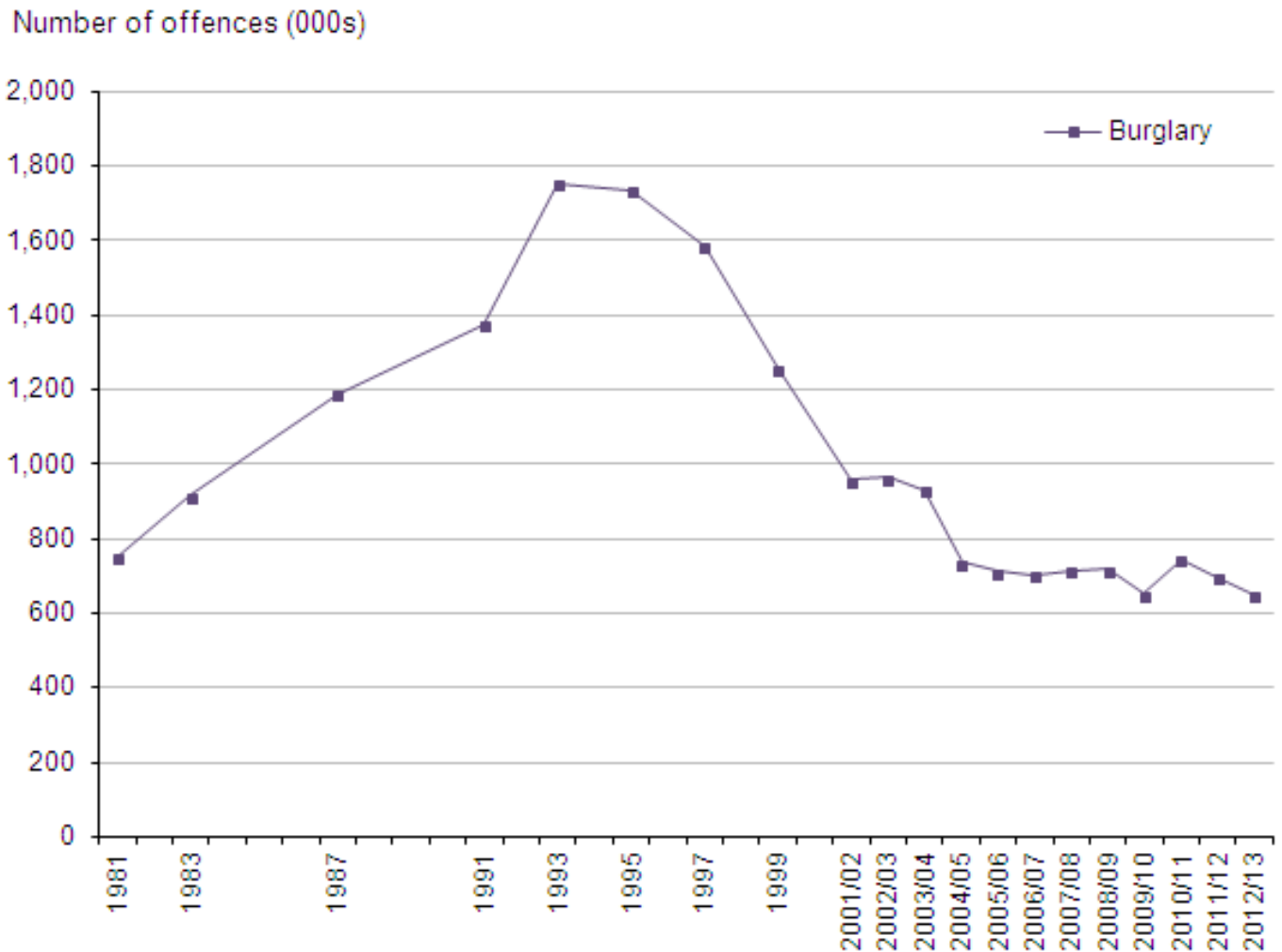
1. See Section 5.2 of the [User Guide](#).

Theft offences - Burglary

Despite some fluctuations from year to year, the underlying trend in domestic burglary has remained fairly flat in the CSEW since 2004/05 (Figure 9) and the apparent 7% fall in the year ending March 2013 compared with the previous year was not statistically significant. It is too early to say whether this apparent decrease shows an emerging downward trend, though estimates for the year ending March 2013 are 9% lower than those in the 2007/08 CSEW (Table 11b).

As with the overall category of burglary the apparent decreases in sub-categories of CSEW burglary were not statistically significant. CSEW burglary follows a similar pattern to that seen for overall crime, peaking in the 1993 survey and then falling steeply until the 2004/05 survey.

Figure 9: Trends in CSEW domestic burglary, 1981 to year ending March 2013



Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. The data on this chart refer to different time periods: a) 1981 to 1999 refer to crimes experienced in the calendar year (January to December); b) from 2001/02 onwards the estimates relate to crimes experienced in the 12 months before interview, based on interviews carried out in that financial year (April to March).

Download chart

[XLS](#) [XLS format](#)

(24 Kb)

Prior to 2004/05 there were notable declines in CSEW burglary, and estimates from the year ending March 2013 are 63% lower than the 1995 survey. This reduction is reflected in the percentage of households that had been victims of burglary in the last year, with around 2 in 100 households being victims in the year ending March 2013 survey compared with around 6 in 100 households in the 1995 survey. Households are thus now around three times less likely to be a victim of burglary than in 1995 (Table 11a).

Table 11a: CSEW burglary - number, rate and percentage of incidents

England and Wales

Households

Interviews from:	Jan-95 to Dec-95	Apr-02 to Mar-03	Apr-07 to Mar-08	Apr-11 to Mar-12	Apr-12 to Mar-13¹
	Thousands				
Number of burglary incidents	1,735	963	713	698	649
Burglary incidence rate per 1,000 households	84	44	31	29	27
	Percentage				
Percentage of households that were victims of burglary once or more	6.4	3.4	2.4	2.4	2.1
Unweighted base - household crime	16,310	36,395	46,765	45,998	34,851

Table source: Office for National Statistics

Table notes:

1. Base sizes for data year ending March 2013 are smaller than previous years, due to sample size reductions introduced in April 2012.
2. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix tables A1, A2, A3.
3. Data collection method: Crime Survey for England and Wales

Download table

[XLS](#) [XLS format](#)
(22 Kb)

Table 11b: CSEW burglary - percentage change and statistical significance

England and Wales

Households

April 2012 to March 2013 compared with:							
	Jan-95 to Dec-95		Apr-02 to Mar-03		Apr-07 to Mar-08		Apr-11 to Mar-12
Percentage change and significance ¹							
Number of burglary incidents	-63	*	-33	*	-9	*	-7
Burglary incidence rate per 1,000 households	-68	*	-38	*	-13	*	-8
Percentage point change and significance ^{1,2}							
Percentage of households that were victims of burglary once or more	-4.3	*	-1.3	*	-0.3	*	-0.3 *

Table source: Office for National Statistics

Table notes:

1. Statistically significant change at the 5% level is indicated by an asterisk.
2. The percentage point change presented in the tables may differ from subtraction of the two percentages due to rounding.

3. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix tables A1, A2, A3.
4. Data collection method: Crime Survey for England and Wales

Download table

[XLS](#) [XLS format](#)
(22.5 Kb)

Table 12a: Police recorded burglary - number and rate of offences

England and Wales

	Apr-02 to Mar-03	Apr-07 to Mar-08	Apr-11 to Mar-12	Apr-12 to Mar-13
Burglary offences	890,099	583,710	501,048	459,796
Domestic burglary	437,583	280,696	245,312	227,280
Non-domestic burglary	452,516	303,014	255,736	232,516
Burglary rate per 1,000 population	17	11	9	8

Table source: Home Office

Table notes:

1. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police).
2. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix table A4.
3. Data collection method: Police recorded crime

Download table

[XLS](#) [XLS format](#)
(19.5 Kb)

Table 12b: Police recorded burglary - percentage change

England and Wales


April 2012 to March 2013 compared with:				
	Apr-02 to Mar-03	Apr-07 to Mar-08	Apr-11 to Mar-12	
Burglary offences	-48	-21		-8
Domestic burglary	-48	-19		-7
Non-domestic burglary	-49	-23		-9

Table source: Home Office

Table notes:

1. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix table A4.
2. Data collection method: Police recorded crime

Download table

 [XLS format](#)
(19 Kb)

Comparing the number of burglary offences recorded by the police in the year ending March 2013 with the previous year, domestic burglary decreased by 7% while non-domestic burglary¹ decreased by 9% (Tables 12a and 12b). The latest level of burglary recorded by the police is 48% lower than the level recorded in 2002/03.

Notes for Theft offences - Burglary

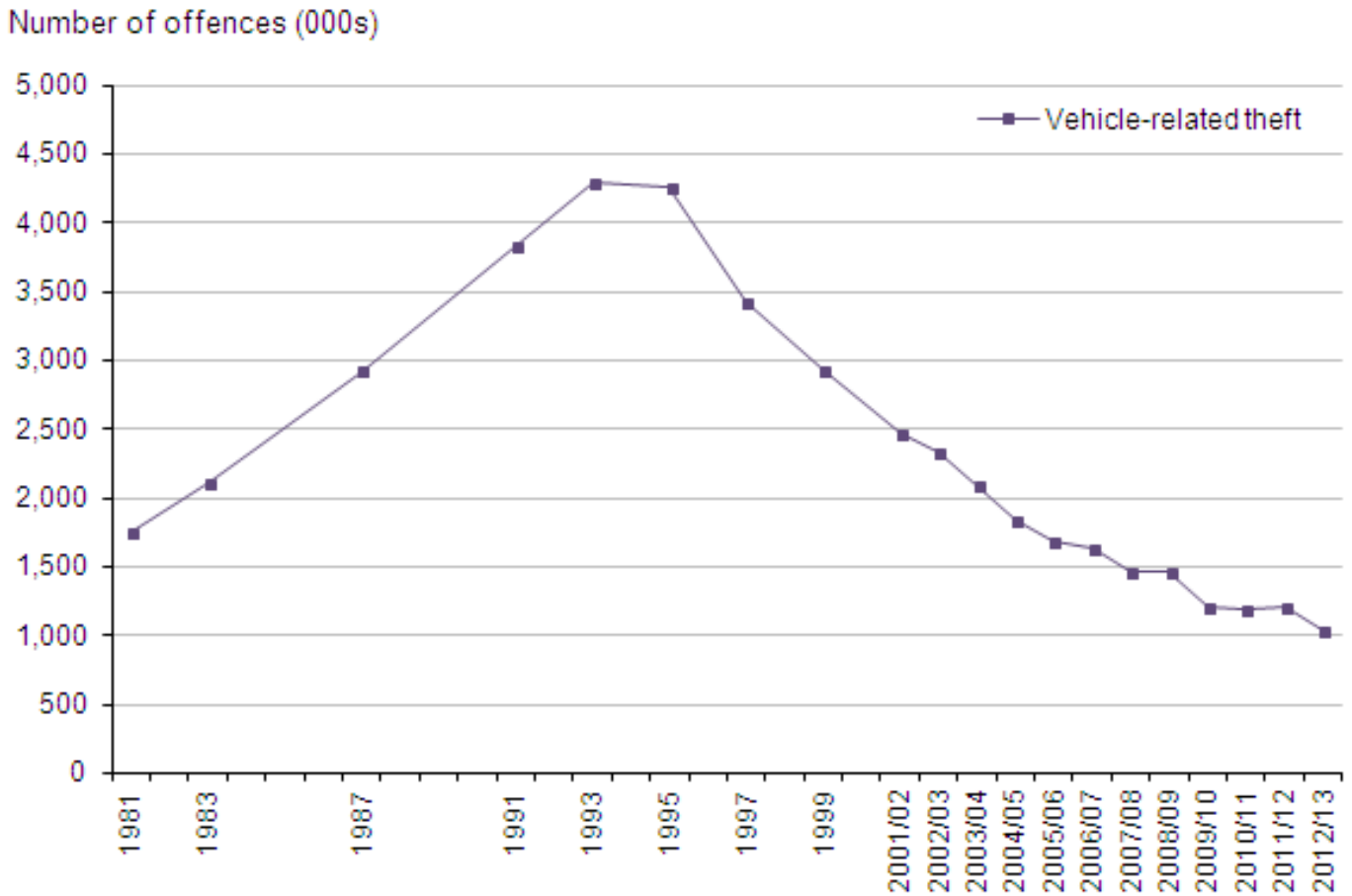
1. Covers burglary in a building other than a dwelling. See Section 5.2 of the [User Guide](#) for more details regarding this crime type.

Theft offences - Vehicle

Estimates of CSEW vehicle-related theft¹ for the year ending March 2013 showed a statistically significant decrease of 15% compared with the previous year (Table 13a and 13b). The latest estimate shows around 1 million vehicle-related thefts against the household population in England and Wales, compared with around 1.2 million in the previous year. All categories of CSEW vehicle crime showed decreases over this period, with theft from vehicles and attempted thefts of, or from, vehicles showing statistically significant decreases of 14% and 22% respectively.

Over the longer term the CSEW indicates a consistent downward trend in levels of vehicle-related theft, with the latest estimates being 29% lower than those observed in the 2007/08 survey, and 56% lower than the 2002/03 survey. As shown in Figure 9, the rate of reduction in vehicle offences since the mid-1990s has been striking, and a widely accepted theory is that this is in part due to improvements in vehicle security². The latest estimates indicate that a vehicle-owning household was around 4 times less likely to become a victim of vehicle-related theft in the 2012/13 survey than in 1995, with around 5 in 100 vehicle-owning households being victims in the year ending March 2013 survey compared with around 20 in 100 households in the 1995 survey (Table 13a).

Figure 10: Trends in CSEW vehicle-related theft, 1981 to year ending March 2013



Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. The data on this chart refer to different time periods: a) 1981 to 1999 refer to crimes experienced in the calendar year (January to December); b) from 2001/02 onwards the estimates relate to crimes experienced in the 12 months before interview, based on interviews carried out in that financial year (April to March)

Download chart

[XLS](#) [XLS format](#)
(24 Kb)

Table 13a: CSEW vehicle offences - number, rate and percentage of incidents

England and Wales

Vehicle-owning households

Interviews from:					
	Jan-95 to Dec-95	Apr-02 to Mar-03	Apr-07 to Mar-08	Apr-11 to Mar-12	Apr-12 to Mar-13¹
	Thousands				
Number of vehicle-related theft incidents	4,266	2,340	1,457	1,213	1,032
Vehicle-related theft incidence rate per 1,000 vehicle-owning households	280	140	81	66	56
	Percentage				
Percentage of vehicle-owning households that were victims of vehicle-related theft once or more	19.7	10.8	6.5	5.4	4.6
Unweighted base - vehicle owners	11,721	28,106	37,487	36,566	27,368

Table source: Office for National Statistics**Table notes:**

1. Base sizes for data year ending March 2013 are smaller than previous years, due to sample size reductions introduced in April 2012.
2. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix tables A1, A2, A3.
3. Data collection method: Crime Survey for England and Wales

Download table

XLS [XLS format](#)
(22.5 Kb)

Table 13b: CSEW vehicle offences - percentage change and statistical significance

April 2012 to March 2013 compared with:								
	Jan-95 to Dec-95		Apr-02 to Mar-03		Apr-07 to Mar-08		Apr-11 to Mar-12	
Percentage change and significance ¹								
Number of vehicle-related theft incidents	-76	*	-56	*	-29	*	-15	*
Vehicle-related theft incidence rate per 1,000 vehicle-owning households	-80	*	-60	*	-32	*	-16	*
Percentage point change and significance ^{1,2}								
Percentage of vehicle-owning households that were victims of vehicle-related theft once or more	-15.1	*	-6.2	*	-1.9	*	-0.9	*

Table source: Office for National Statistics

Table notes:

1. Statistically significant change at the 5% level is indicated by an asterisk.
2. The percentage point change presented in the tables may differ from subtraction of the two percentages due to rounding.
3. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix tables A1, A2, A3.
4. Data collection method: Crime Survey for England and Wales

Download table**XLS** [XLS format](#)

(22.5 Kb)

The police recorded category of vehicles offences covers both private and commercial vehicles. This showed a fall of 7% in the year ending March 2013 compared with the previous year (Tables 14a and 14b). This follows substantial decreases in this offence group with falls of 41% compared with 2007/08 and 64% compared with 2002/03. These trends are similar to those found in the CSEW. The most recent data show that all three categories of police recorded offences against vehicles have continued to fall, including theft of a motor vehicle falling by 13% in the year ending March 2013 compared with the previous year ([Appendix table A4 \(468 Kb Excel sheet\)](#) and Table 14b).

The reductions in vehicle-related theft indicated by the CSEW and police recorded crime is in contrast to the number of motor vehicles licensed in Great Britain, which has increased by 36% from 25.4 million in 1995 to 34.5 million in 2012 ([Vehicle Licensing Statistics, 2012](#)³).

Table 14a: Police recorded vehicle offences - number and rate of offences

England and Wales

	Apr-02 to Mar-03	Apr-07 to Mar-08	Apr-11 to Mar-12	Apr-12 to Mar-13
Vehicle offences	1,074,659	656,453	417,442	387,370
Theft of a motor vehicle	318,507	170,038	92,056	79,829
Theft from a vehicle	663,679	432,412	300,377	285,051
Vehicle interference	92,473	54,003	25,009	22,490
Vehicles offences² rate per 1,000 population	21	12	7	7

Table source: Home Office**Table notes:**

1. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police).
2. Includes theft of motor vehicle, theft from a vehicle, aggravated vehicle taking and vehicle interference.
3. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix table A4.
4. Data collection method: Police recorded crime

Download table**XLS** [XLS format](#)

(20 Kb)

Table 14b: Police recorded vehicle offences - percentage change

England and Wales

April 2012 to March 2013 compared with:				
	Apr-02 to Mar-03	Apr-07 to Mar-08	Apr-11 to Mar-12	
Vehicle offences	-64	-41	-7	
Theft of a motor vehicle	-75	-53	-13	
Theft from a vehicle	-57	-34	-5	
Vehicle interference	-76	-58	-10	

Table source: Home Office**Table notes:**

1. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix table A4.
2. Data collection method: Police recorded crime

Download table**XLS** [XLS format](#)

(19 Kb)

Notes for Theft offences - Vehicle

1. See Section 5.2 of the [User Guide](#) for more details regarding this crime type.
2. See '[Trends in Crime: a Short Story, 2011/12](#)'.
3. Vehicle Licensing Statistics 2012 are based on the total number of licensed vehicles (including both private and commercial vehicles) in England, Scotland and Wales taken from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) database.

Theft offences - Other theft of property

In addition to burglary and vehicle-related thefts, the CSEW and police recorded crime measure other theft of property. In the CSEW this comprises: theft from the person; other theft of personal property; bicycle theft; and other household theft. In police recorded crime this comprises: theft from the person, bicycle theft, shoplifting and all other theft offences, the more detailed offences are listed in [Appendix table A4 \(468 Kb Excel sheet\)](#). Figure 11 shows trends in selected CSEW theft offences which are the subject of further discussion below. Incidents of theft experienced by 10 to 15 year olds can be found in the 'Crime experienced by children aged 10 to 15' section of this bulletin.

The summary categories used in the National Statistics to present the police recorded crime series previously used the standalone offence category of 'Other theft offences' to record all thefts which were not a burglary or a vehicle offence. This category contained a large volume of recorded offences (over 1 million in 2011/12, representing 28% of all crime recorded by the police). Following the re-classification of some offence groups, theft from the person, bicycle theft and shoplifting are now split out of the other theft offences category and presented as separate offence categories. The residual other theft offences are reported as 'All other theft offences'.

Theft from the person – CSEW and police recorded crime

Offences of theft from the person involve the theft of property while it is being carried by, or on the person of, the victim (for example pick-pocketing). Unlike robbery, these offences do not involve violence or threats to the victim. The majority of these thefts (88% in the 2012/13 CSEW) are made up of stealth thefts where, at the time the offence was committed, the victim was unaware that the items were being stolen ([Appendix table A1 \(468 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)).

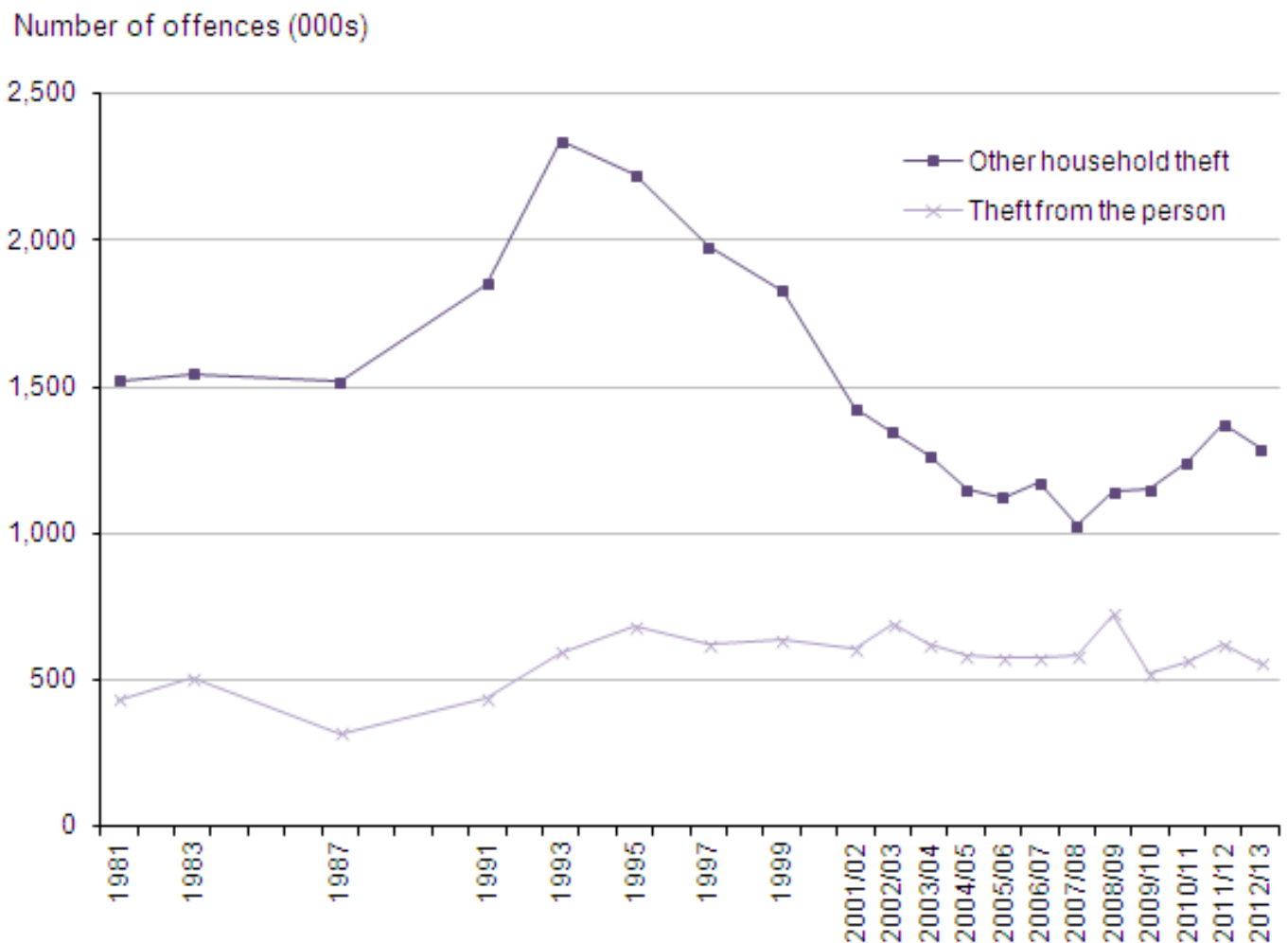
The CSEW showed no statistically significant change in theft from the person based on interviews in the year ending March 2013 compared with the previous year (the apparent 11% decrease was not statistically significant) (Tables 15a and 15b). Estimates of the volume of theft from the person offences are low and subject to fluctuations from year to year in the survey. The CSEW shows an unusually high estimate measured by the 2008/09 survey when there was a significant increase, followed by a significant decrease in 2009/10 (Figure 11). Other than the high estimate in 2008/09, generally theft from the person CSEW estimates, have remained fairly flat. This year's non-statistically significant decrease reflects this generally flat trend.

The police recorded crime category theft from the person accounts for around 3% of overall police recorded crime. Latest police recorded crime figures show a 9% increase in the year ending March 2013 compared with the previous year (Tables 16a and 16b). This follows an 8% rise the previous year ([Appendix table A4 \(468 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)). To put the latest figures in context, these are 8% higher than those in 2007/08 and 22% higher than in 2008/09 ([Appendix table A4 \(468 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)). Despite this, falls occurring between 2002/03 and 2008/09 mean that the number of theft from the person offences recorded in the year ending March 2013 were 26% lower than in 2002/03. Even though the volume of theft from the person offences has fluctuated over time, expressed as a population rate it has remained fairly consistent at 2 recorded offences per 1,000 population since 2004/05 ([Appendix table A6 \(468 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)).

Further analysis of theft from the person figures by police force area shows a mixed picture, with some forces showing increases for this offence and others decreases. However, as with robbery, theft from the person offences are concentrated in London, with 45% occurring in the Metropolitan Police force area. The overall increase in the year ending March 2013 is being driven by the Metropolitan Police force area where a 17% increase was recorded (42,111 to 49,265 offences) and by the British Transport Police, where a 20% increase was recorded (7,679 to 9,193 offences)¹. There is evidence to suggest that this increase is partly driven by a rise in the number of thefts of mobile phones, while being used by the victim, by criminals on bicycles and mopeds².

Further analysis of the CSEW presented in the recent statistical bulletin 'Focus on Property Crime 2011/12'³ also suggests the increases in theft from the person offences are being driven by increases in mobile phone thefts, especially against younger victims. The Focus on report also reports on the nature of crime and the profile of victims of mobile theft.

Figure 11: Trends in CSEW theft from the person and other household theft, 1981 to year ending March 2013



Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. The data on this chart refer to different time periods: a) 1981 to 1999 refer to crimes experienced in the calendar year (January to December); b) from 2001/02 onwards the estimates relate to crimes experienced in the 12 months before interview, based on interviews carried out in that financial year (April to March).

Download chart

XLS [XLS format](#)

(24.5 Kb)

Other household theft – CSEW

This offence group consists of items stolen from outside the victim's home as well as burglaries from non-connected buildings, such as sheds, and thefts in the victim's dwelling by someone entitled to be there, for example a workman⁴. Around half of these incidents involve theft of garden furniture or household items/furniture taken from outside the dwelling; these thefts are generally opportunistic in nature.

Based on CSEW interviews in the year ending March 2013 it was estimated that there were around 1.3 million incidents of other household theft (Tables 15a and 15b), making up 15% of all CSEW crime. There was an apparent 6% decrease in CSEW other household theft in the year ending March 2013 compared with the previous year, though this was not statistically significant. It is therefore too early to say whether this represents a change in recent trends which have shown several years of non-statistically significant increases. Following these increases the latest estimates remain 25% higher than the 2007/08 survey. However, this should be seen in the context of prior reductions; the latest figures being 42% lower than in the 1995 survey.

Other theft of personal property – CSEW

CSEW estimates indicate there were just under 1.0 million incidents of other theft of personal property in the survey year ending March 2013. These are theft offences which involve items stolen from victims while away from the home but not being carried on the person (such as theft of unattended property in pubs, restaurants, entertainment venues, workplaces etc.). The apparent 10% decrease in other theft of personal property compared with the previous survey year was not statistically significant and the underlying trend has been fairly flat in recent years. Since 2004/05 estimates have slightly fluctuated but generally stayed around 1.0 million. Looking at the longer term trend, theft of other personal property saw marked declines from the mid-1990s and levels have halved compared with the 1995 CSEW ([Appendix table A1 \(468 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)).

Bicycle theft – CSEW and police recorded crime

The apparent 4% increase in bicycle theft incidents, based on CSEW interviews in the year ending March 2013 compared with the previous year, was not statistically significant (Tables 15a and 15b). This is one of the lower volume CSEW offence groups and can show large fluctuations from year to year. The longer term trend in CSEW bicycle theft gives some indication of increases over the last ten years, with, for example, a statistically significant increase of 30% since the 2002/03 survey. [Appendix table A1 \(468 Kb Excel sheet\)](#) suggests that, like other household theft, these incidents showed a marked decline between 1995 and the 2001/02 survey, with smaller increases thereafter,

although the variability means that trends have to be interpreted with caution. The 2012/13 CSEW indicates that around 3% of bicycle owning households were victims of bicycle theft in the previous 12 months, similar to findings from the 2011/12 survey.

Bicycle thefts recorded by the police decreased by 16% in the year ending March 2013 compared with the previous year (Tables 16a and 16b). The longer term trend in police recorded bicycle theft is fairly stable and it is therefore too early to say whether the latest decrease represents an emerging downward trend. The current level (97,291 offences) is the lowest since 2002/03 when the NCRS was first introduced. It should be noted that the 16% decrease is a result of comparisons against a relatively high volume of bicycle thefts in the year ending March 2012 (115,902).

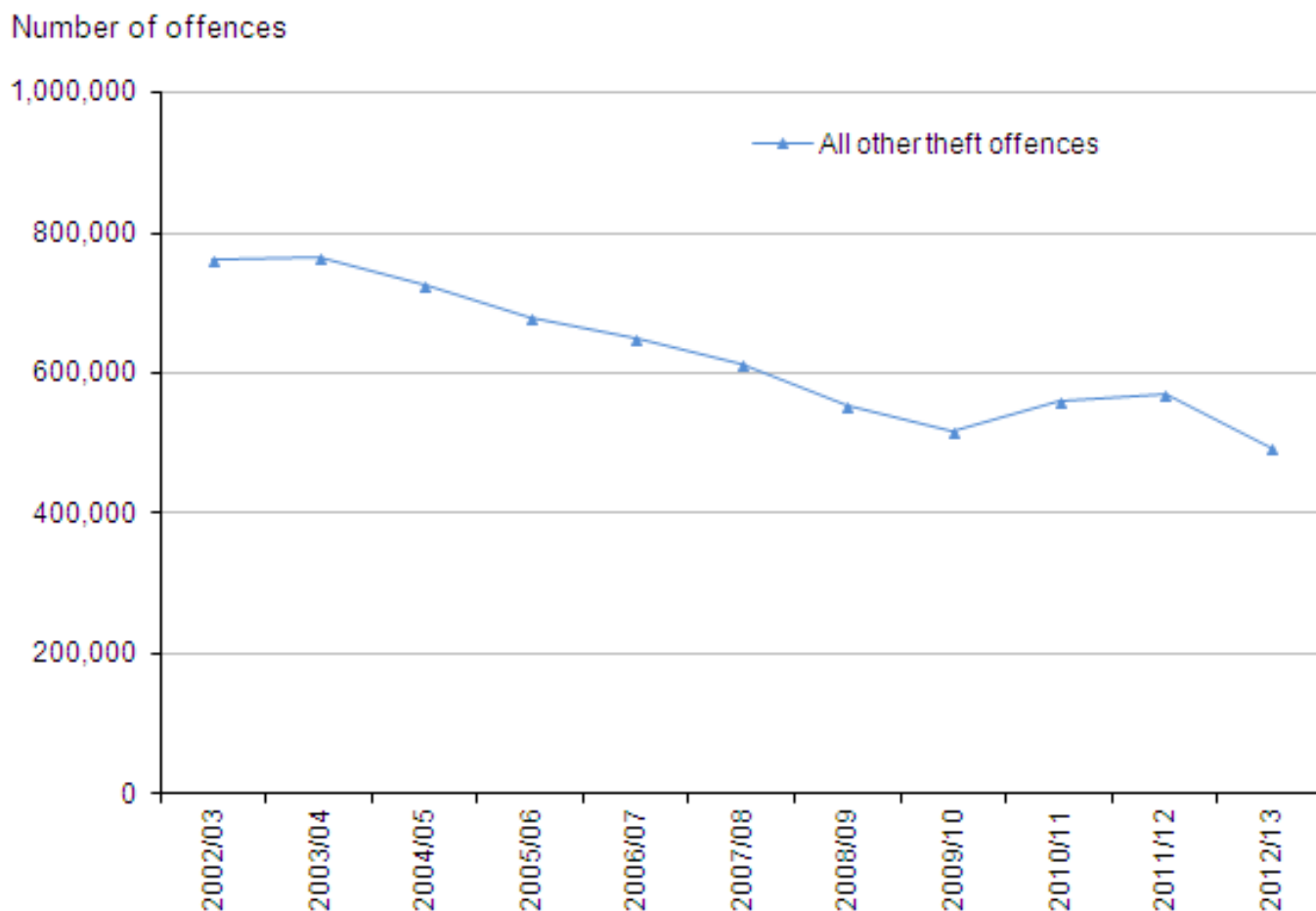
Shoplifting – police recorded crime

Shoplifting accounts for 8% of all police recorded crime. The police recorded 300,627 shoplifting offences in the year ending March 2013, a 2% decrease compared with the previous year. The volume of shoplifting offences has remained fairly stable since 2002/03.

The 2012 [Commercial Victimisation Survey](#) (CVS) showed that the majority of crime incidents experienced by businesses in the retail and wholesale sector were shoplifting (53%). The CVS records a much higher volume of this crime, with the number of incidents falling from 12.2 million in 2002 to 3.8 million in 2012. This may indicate that police recorded crime figures have underestimated the extent of the decline in this crime type. However, it should be noted that police recorded crime figures are highly dependent on whether the shops themselves apprehend suspects and/or subsequently involve the police, whereas the CVS data are not.

All other theft offences – police recorded crime

The most recent data showed a 13% decrease compared with the previous year. This is in contrast with a recent upward trend in all other theft offences recorded by the police between 2009/10 and 2011/12, which followed a longer downward trend between 2003/04 and 2009/10 (Figure 12). This is equivalent to 9 recorded offences per 1,000 population in the last year, compared with 15 recorded offences per 1,000 population in the year ending March 2003.

Figure 12: Trends in police recorded all other theft offences, 2002/03 to year ending March 2013

Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

Download chart

[XLS](#) [XLS format](#)

(19 Kb)

The main driver of the decrease seen in the all other theft offences group in police recorded crime is a sub-category of crime comprised mainly of theft of unattended items (known as 'Other theft'). This sub-category accounted for 85% of all other theft offences. These other theft offences involve theft of both unattended personal property (such as wallets and phones) and property from outside people's homes (for example garden furniture and tools). There is some overlap with CSEW categories of other theft of personal property and other household theft.

This sub-category of 'other theft' also includes crimes against organisations which are not covered by the CSEW, such as theft of metal or industrial equipment. It is not possible to identify these specific types of theft in centrally held police recorded crime data. Other theft offences saw a 15% decrease for the year ending March 2013 compared with the previous year (Tables 16a and 16b). This follows a 13% increase between 2009/10 and 2011/12, which is likely to have been caused in part by a surge in metal theft over this period, which is correlated with a spike in metal prices.

Evidence⁵ suggests that such offences are decreasing and should be seen in the context of [new metal theft legislation](#), as the decreases have been far greater than the fall off in prices suggesting that legislation has had an important extra impact. The legislation came into force in May 2013, which increases fines for existing offences under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964, and introduces a new offence for dealers of paying for scrap metal in cash.

Table 15a: CSEW other theft of property - number, rate and percentage of incidents

England and Wales

Adults aged 16 and over/households

	Interviews from:				
	Jan-95 to Dec-95	Apr-02 to Mar-03	Apr-07 to Mar-08	Apr-11 to Mar-12	Apr-12 to Mar-13¹
Number of incidents	Thousands				
Theft from the person	680	690	581	621	555
Other theft of personal property	2,069	1,344	988	1,086	974
Other household theft	2,223	1,346	1,030	1,371	1,288
Bicycle theft	660	355	429	445	462
Incidence rate per 1,000 adults/households					
Theft from the person	17	16	13	14	12
Other theft of personal property	51	32	23	24	21
Other household theft	107	61	45	58	54
Bicycle theft: bicycle-owning households	71	38	42	38	36
Percentage of adults/households who were	Percentage				

	Interviews from:				
	Jan-95 to Dec-95	Apr-02 to Mar-03	Apr-07 to Mar-08	Apr-11 to Mar-12	Apr-12 to Mar-13 ¹
victims once or more					
Theft from the person	1.6	1.5	1.2	1.3	1.1
Other theft of personal property	4.1	2.8	2.0	2.0	1.9
Unweighted base - personal crime	16,337	36,450	46,903	46,031	34,880
Other household theft	7.6	4.7	3.5	4.5	4.1
Unweighted base - household crime	16,310	36,395	46,765	45,998	34,851
Bicycle theft: bicycle-owning households	6.1	3.4	3.7	3.4	3.3
Unweighted base - bicycle owners	6,882	15,567	20,779	22,087	16,646

Table source: Office for National Statistics

Table notes:

1. Base sizes for data year ending March 2013 are smaller than previous years, due to sample size reductions introduced in April 2012.
2. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix tables A1, A2, A3.
3. Data collection method: Crime Survey for England and Wales

Download table

XLS [XLS format](#)

(24.5 Kb)

Table 15b: CSEW other theft of property - percentage change and statistical significance

England and Wales

Adults aged 16 and over/households

April 2012 to March 2013 compared with:							
	Jan-95 to Dec-95		Apr-02 to Mar-03		Apr-07 to Mar-08	Apr-11 to Mar-12	
Number of incidents	Percentage change and significance ¹						
Theft from the person	-18	*	-20	*	-4	-11	
Other theft of personal property	-53	*	-28	*	-1	-10	
Other household theft	-42	*	-4	*	25	*	-6
Bicycle theft	-30	*	30	*	8	4	
Incidence rate per 1,000 adults/households							
Theft from the person	-27	*	-26	*	-8	-11	
Other theft of personal property	-58	*	-33	*	-5	-11	
Other household theft	-50	*	-13	*	19	*	-7
Bicycle theft: bicycle-	-49	*	-6		-14	*	-4

April 2012 to March 2013 compared with:

owning households

Percentage of adults/ households who were victims once or more Percentage point change and significance^{1,2}

Theft from the person	-0.5	*	-0.3	*	-0.1		-0.2	
Other theft of personal property	-2.2	*	-0.9	*	-0.1		-0.2	
Other household theft	-3.5	*	-0.5	*	0.7	*	-0.4	*
Bicycle theft: bicycle-owning households	-2.8	*	-0.1		-0.4		-0.1	

Table source: Office for National Statistics

Table notes:

1. Statistically significant change at the 5% level is indicated by an asterisk.
2. The percentage point change presented in the tables may differ from subtraction of the two percentages due to rounding.
3. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix tables A1, A2, A3.
4. Data collection method: Crime Survey for England and Wales

Download table

[XLS](#) [XLS format](#)
(24.5 Kb)

Table 16a: Police recorded other theft - number and rate of offences

England and Wales

	Apr-02 to Mar-03	Apr-07 to Mar-08	Apr-11 to Mar-12	Apr-12 to Mar-13
Theft from the person	148,488	101,660	100,588	109,758
Bicycle theft	97,755	104,000	115,902	97,291
Shoplifting	310,881	290,653	308,326	300,627
All other theft offences	762,314	612,357	570,122	495,314
Rate per 1,000 population				
Theft from the person	3	2	2	2
Bicycle theft	2	2	2	2
Shoplifting	6	5	6	5
All other theft offences	15	11	10	9

Table source: Home Office**Table notes:**

1. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police).
2. For full range of offences included in all other theft see Appendix table A4
3. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix table A4.
4. Data collection method: Police recorded crime

Download table

XLS [XLS format](#)
(20.5 Kb)

Table 16b: Police recorded other theft - percentage change

England and Wales

Percentage change

April 2012 to March 2013 compared with:

	Apr-02 to Mar-03	Apr-07 to Mar-08	Apr-11 to Mar-12
Theft from the person	-26	8	9
Bicycle theft	0	-6	-16
Shoplifting	-3	3	-2
All other theft offences	-35	-19	-13

Table source: Home Office**Table notes:**

1. For full range of offences included in all other theft see Appendix table A4
2. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix table A4.
3. Data collection method: Police recorded crime

Download table
[XLS](#) [XLS format](#)

(19 Kb)

Notes for Theft offences - Other theft of property

1. Police recorded [Police force area tables \(293.5 Kb Excel sheet\)](#) for 2012/13 & [Open data tables for 2011/12](#).
2. Based on figures provided by the Metropolitan Police in relation to a freedom of information (FOI) request reported by [London Evening Standard – 4th April 2013](#).
3. More details regarding mobile theft can be found [Focus on Property Crime – Chapter 2 Mobile phone theft](#).
4. For more details on the offences that constitute CSEW other household theft see Section 5.2 and Appendix 2 of the [User Guide](#).
5. For example, [Network rail](#) have reported decreases in the number of incidents of cable theft affecting rail passengers between 2011/12 and 2012/13. Other media examples: [Doncaster FreePress](#) and [The Westmoorland Gazette](#).

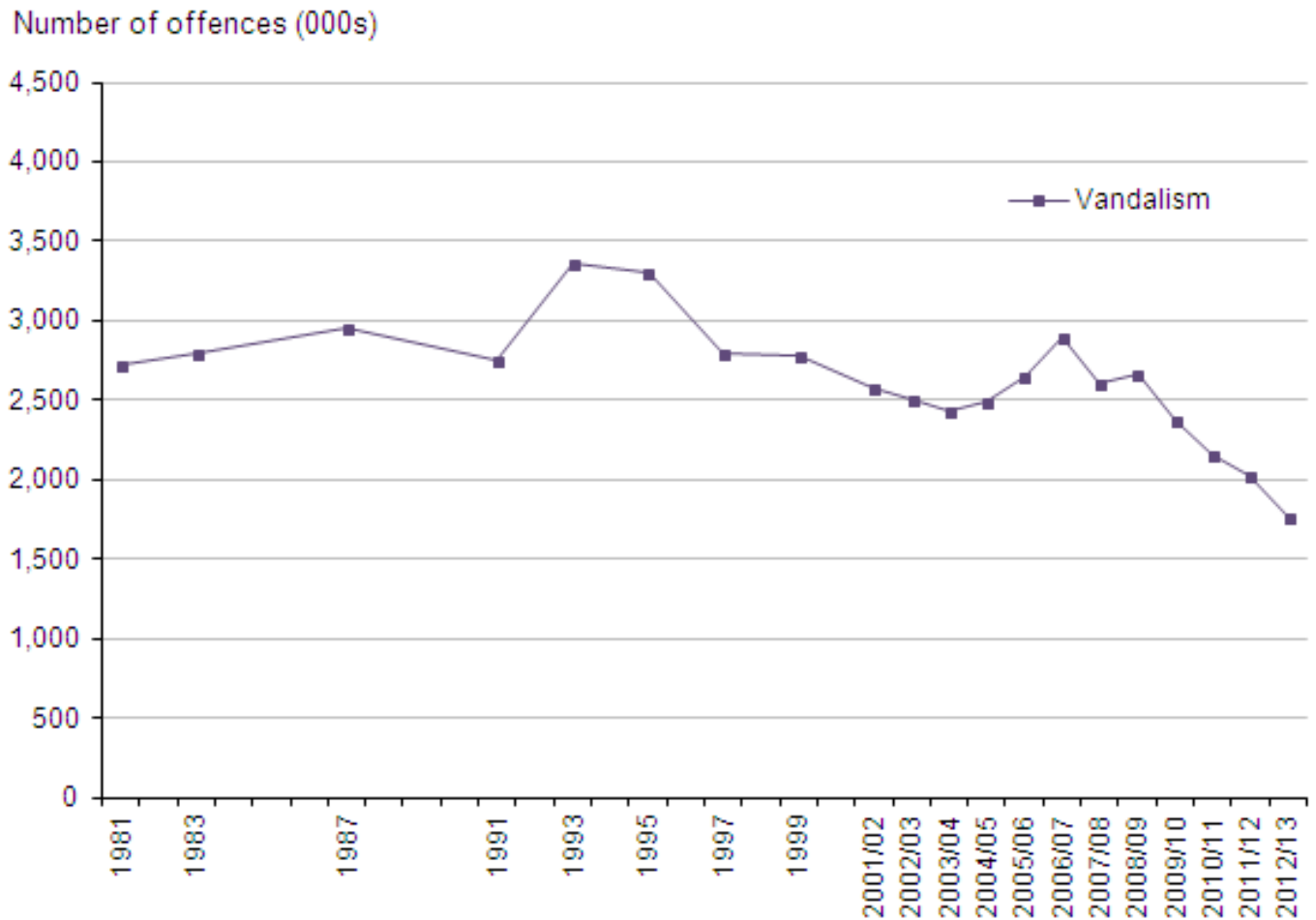
Vandalism and criminal damage

Based on CSEW interviews in the year ending March 2013 there were around 1.8 million incidents of vandalism of personal and household property, a statistically significant decrease of 13% from

the previous year (Tables 17a and 17b). Figure 13 shows the CSEW long-term trend for vandalism which has a different pattern compared with most other CSEW crime groups. Vandalism incidents peaked in 1993 at 3.4 million followed by a modest fall, compared with other CSEW offence types, until the 2003/04 survey (2.4 million). This was followed by a short upward trend until the 2006/07 CSEW, after which there were some year on year falls, with levels dropping to 1.8 million in the latest survey year.

Tables 17a and 17b show the recent downward trend in this offence group, with statistically significant decreases compared with both the 2007/08 and 2002/03 survey years. This downward trend in incidents is also reflected in the percentage of households victimised. Five in 100 households were victims of vandalism in the year ending March 2013 compared with around 10 in 100 households in 1995.

Figure 13: Trends in CSEW vandalism, 1981 to year ending March 2013



Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics

Notes:

- The data on this chart refer to different time periods: a) 1981 to 1999 refer to crimes experienced in the calendar year (January to December); b) From 2001/02 onwards the estimates relate to crimes experienced in the 12 months before interview, based on interviews carried out in that financial year (April to March)

Download chart

XLS [XLS format](#)
(23.5 Kb)

Table 17a: CSEW vandalism - number, rate and percentage of incidents

England and Wales

	Households				
	Interviews from:				
	Jan-95 to Dec-95	Apr-02 to Mar-03	Apr-07 to Mar-08	Apr-11 to Mar-12	Apr-12 to Mar-13 ¹
	Thousands				
Number of vandalism incidents	3,300	2,508	2,604	2,024	1,766
Vandalism incidence rate per 1,000 households	159	114	114	85	74
	Percentage				
Percentage of households that were victims of vandalism once or more	10.1	7.3	7.3	5.8	5.0
Unweighted base - household crime	16,310	36,395	46,765	45,998	34,851

Table source: Office for National Statistics

Table notes:

1. Base sizes for data year ending March 2013 are smaller than previous years, due to sample size reductions introduced in April 2012.
2. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix tables A1, A2, A3.
3. Data collection method: Crime Survey for England and Wales

Download table

XLS [XLS format](#)
(24.5 Kb)

Table 17b: CSEW vandalism - percentage change and statistical significance

England and Wales

Households

	April 2012 to March 2013 compared with:							
	Jan-95 to Dec-95		Apr-02 to Mar-03		Apr-07 to Mar-08		Apr-11 to Mar-12	
	Percentage change and significance ¹							
Number of vandalism incidents	-46	*	-30	*	-32	*	-13	*
Vandalism incidence rate per 1,000 households	-54	*	-36	*	-35	*	-14	*
	Percentage point change and significance ^{1,2}							
Percentage of households that were victims of vandalism once or more	-5.1	*	-2.3	*	-2.3	*	-0.8	*

Table source: Office for National Statistics**Table notes:**

1. Statistically significant change at the 5% level is indicated by an asterisk.
2. The percentage point change presented in the tables may differ from subtraction of the two percentages due to rounding.
3. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix tables A1, A2, A3.
4. Data collection method: Crime Survey for England and Wales

Download table

XLS [XLS format](#)
(28.5 Kb)

Following the re-classification work any offence relating to arson is now presented as a separate category in the offence group 'Criminal damage and arson'. Police recorded crime also shows reductions in the similar offence group of criminal damage though this also includes victims beyond the household population (for example, businesses)¹. In the year ending March 2013 there were 529,719 offences recorded, a fall of 15% from the previous year (Tables 18a and 18b). Reductions

were seen within all types of criminal damage recorded by the police ([Appendix table A4 \(468 Kb Excel sheet\)](#))². Criminal damage offences have seen a marked fall since 2006/07 whereas previously the pattern had been fairly flat since 2002/03.

Table 18a: Police recorded criminal damage and arson offences - number and rate of offences

England and Wales

	Apr-02 to Mar-03	Apr-07 to Mar-08	Apr-11 to Mar-12	Apr-12 to Mar-13
Criminal damage and arson	1,114,472	1,030,038	626,008	529,719
Arson	53,552	39,327	27,219	19,306
Criminal damage	1,060,920	990,711	598,789	510,413
Criminal damage and arson rate per 1,000 population	21	19	11	9

Table source: Home Office

Table notes:

1. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police).
2. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix table A4.
3. Data collection method: Police recorded crime

Download table

[XLS](#) [XLS format](#)
(19 Kb)

Table 18b: Police recorded criminal damage and arson offences - percentage change

England and Wales

April 2012 to March 2013 compared with:				
	Apr-02 to Mar-03	Apr-07 to Mar-08	Apr-11 to Mar-12	
Criminal damage and arson	-52	-49	-15	
Arson	-64	-51	-29	
Criminal damage	-52	-48	-15	

Table source: Home Office

Table notes:

1. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix table A4.
2. Data collection method: Police recorded crime

Download table

XLS [XLS format](#)
(18.5 Kb)

Notes for Vandalism and criminal damage

1. See Section 5.3 of the [User Guide](#) for more details regarding this crime type.
2. Some individual offences within criminal damage are not comparable between the years ending March 2012 and March 2013 owing to offence classification changes introduced in April 2012, however comparisons for total criminal damage are valid.

Other crimes against society

Other crimes against society recorded by the police refer to offences which do not generally have a specific identifiable victim. Trends in such offences tend to reflect changes in police workload and activity rather than in levels of criminality. For example, in recent years the increases in recorded drug offences are thought to have been influenced by proactive policing in this area. Trends need to be interpreted in this light, and this is highlighted in the commentary where appropriate.

This newly formed group of offences has been created as part of the re-classification work and is made up of the following categories:

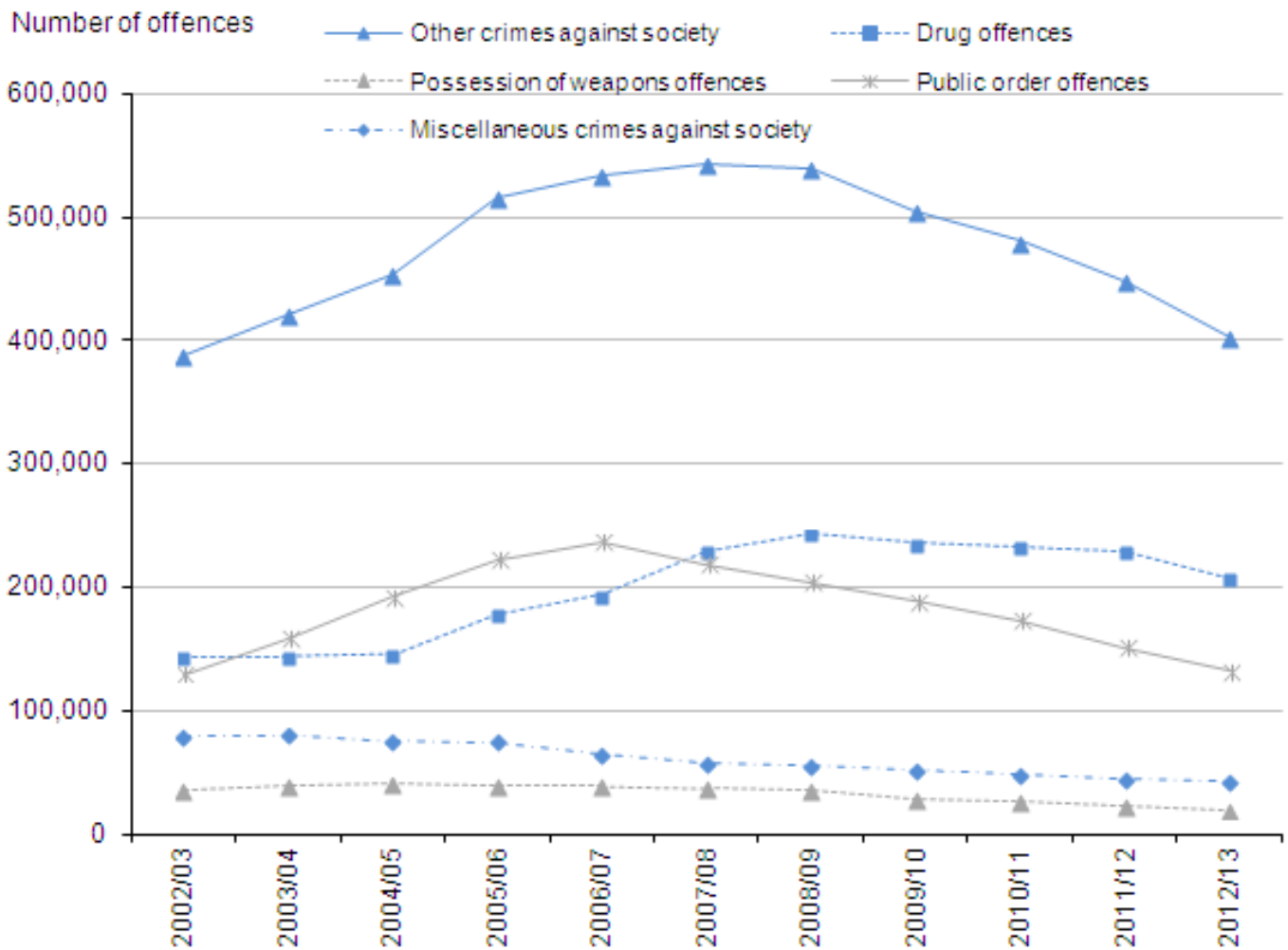
- Drug offences
- Possession of weapons
- Public order offences
- Miscellaneous crimes against society

Offences recorded in the latter three categories were previously grouped under the broad heading of 'Other miscellaneous offences' and they have been split out of this category to provide a clearer picture. Several offences have also been removed from the 'Violence against the person – without injury' sub-category to better reflect the nature of the offences. For example, Public fear, alarm or distress has been moved to 'Public order offences', and weapon possession to 'Possession of weapons offences'. More detail on these offences can be found in the relevant sections below.

The broad grouping of 'Other crimes against society' showed a decrease of 10% compared with the previous year with 402,615 such offences recorded in the year ending March 2013 (Table 19a and 19b). Figure 14 shows the trend over time and how each separate offence category contributes to the overall figure.

Since 2002/03 the number of these offences have increased year-on-year to the peak in 2007/08 (542,656 offences). Since 2007/08 the number of offences against society recorded have decreased year-on-year, mainly driven by the decreases in public order offences. The marked increases in the recording of these offences between 2004/05 and 2008/09 coincide with the priority placed on increasing the numbers of offences brought to justice associated with the previous Government's 2005-2008 Public Service Agreement targets, this is particularly reflected in the trend for drug offences and public order offences (see relevant section below for further details). Possession of weapon offences have stayed fairly stable over time.

Figure 14: Trends in police recorded other crimes against society, 2002/03 to the year ending March 2013



Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

Download chart

[XLS](#) [XLS format](#)
(19.5 Kb)

Drug offences

The police recorded 208,017 drug offences in the year ending March 2013, a decrease of 9% compared with the previous year. Figure 14 shows the trend over time for drug offences. The number of drug offences steadily rose from 2005/06 until 2008/09 where they peaked at 243,536 offences. They have since remained fairly consistent at around 230,000 each year until the latest fall in 2012/13. Despite the recent decreases, the number of drug offences recorded in the year ending March 2013 remains 45% higher than the number recorded in 2002/03.

As mentioned above the increases in the recording of drug offences between 2004/05 and 2008/09 coincide with the priority placed Public Service Agreement targets, illustrating how proactive policing can increase crimes against society as the number of drug offences recorded by the police is heavily dependent on police activities and priorities. As a result, changes over time may reflect changes in the policing of drug crime rather than real changes in its incidence. In the last 10 years the police were given powers:

- to issue warnings on the street (rather than at a police station) for possession of cannabis offences (April 2004); and
- to issue penalty notices for disorder for possession of cannabis (January 2009).

The CSEW can also be used to monitor trends in drug use and the figures are published annually¹. The CSEW shows that overall illicit drug use among 16 to 59 year olds does not support the increase shown by police recorded drug offences between 2005/06 until 2008/09 as such a change is not observed.

In the year ending March 2013, as in the previous year, possession of cannabis offences accounted for 69% of all police recorded drug offences. For information on drug use see the Home Office's 2011/12 ['Drug Misuse Declared publication'](#).

Possession of weapons offences

This offence category covers only weapons possession offences, where there is no direct victim. Any circumstances in which a weapon has been used against a victim would be covered by other relevant victim-based offences (e.g. actual bodily harm).

The police recorded 19,913 possession of weapon offences in the year ending March 2013, a decrease of 16% compared with the previous year. The number of possession of weapons offences rose from 2002/03 and peaked in 2004/05 and has since shown year-on-year decreases.

Public order offences

Public order offences cover circumstances where an offender is behaving in a way that causes or would be likely to cause alarm, distress or disorder. This would generally not include offences where physical violence is used (or attempted) against a victim, though it may include some offences where injury is threatened. The offences in this category include public fear, alarm or distress which has been moved from the violence offence group. Affray is also included in this offence group, a person is guilty of affray if he/she uses or threatens unlawful violence towards another and his/her conduct is such as would cause a "person of reasonable firmness" present at the scene to fear for his/her personal safety.

The latest figures (132,203 offences) show a 12% decrease in public order offences compared with the previous year. The majority of this category (61% in the year ending March 2013) is made up of public fear, alarm or distress offences, which shows a 16% decrease compared with the previous year. Public order offences rose from 2002/03 and peaked in 2006/07 and have since shown year-on-year decreases. As mentioned above these offence groups are likely to be affected by policing activity and the scale of the decrease shown for this offence may reflect police activity rather than decreasing levels of criminality.

Miscellaneous crime against society

Miscellaneous crimes against society comprises a variety of offences ([Appendix table A4 \(468 Kb Excel sheet\)](#) contains a full list). The largest volume offences include: handling stolen goods, threat to commit criminal damage and perverting the course of justice. Police recorded 42,482 offences in the year ending March 2013, a decrease of 6% compared with the previous year. The number of miscellaneous crimes against society offences has shown year-on-year decreases since 2002/03.

Table 19a: Police recorded other crimes against society - number and rate of offences

England and Wales

	Apr-02 to Mar-03	Apr-07 to Mar-08	Apr-11 to Mar-12	Apr-12 to Mar-13
OTHER CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY	387,821	542,656	448,626	402,615
Drug offences	143,320	229,913	229,099	208,017
Trafficking of drugs	22,435	28,323	31,316	29,765
Possession of drugs	120,885	201,590	197,783	178,252
Possession of weapons offences	36,379	37,079	23,688	19,913
Public order offences	129,517	218,380	150,858	132,203
Miscellaneous crimes against society	78,605	57,284	44,981	42,482
Rate per 1,000 population				
OTHER CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY	7	10	8	7
Drug offences	3	4	4	4
Possession of weapons offences	1	1	0	0
Public order offences	2	4	3	2
Miscellaneous crimes against society	2	1	1	1

Table source: Home Office

Table notes:

1. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police).
2. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix table A4.
3. Data collection method: Police recorded crime

Download table**XLS** [XLS format](#)

(21.5 Kb)

Table 19b: Police recorded other crimes against society - percentage change

England and Wales

Percentage change

April 2012 to March 2013 compared with:			
	Apr-02 to Mar-03	Apr-07 to Mar-08	Apr-11 to Mar-12
OTHER CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY	4	-26	-10
Drug offences	45	-10	-9
Trafficking of drugs	33	5	-5
Possession of drugs	47	-12	-10
Possession of weapons offences	-45	-46	-16
Public order offences	2	-39	-12
Miscellaneous crimes against society	-46	-26	-6

Table source: Home Office

Table notes:

1. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix table A4.
2. Data collection method: Police recorded crime

Download table**XLS** [XLS format](#)

(19.5 Kb)

Notes for Other crimes against society

1. [Drugs misuse declared: findings from the 2011 to 2012 Crime Survey for England and Wales \(CSEW\)](#).

Fraud

The extent of fraud is difficult to measure because it is a deceptive crime, often targeted at organisations rather than individuals. Some victims of fraud may be unaware they have been a

victim of crime, or that any fraudulent activity has occurred. As a result many incidents of fraud may not be reported to the police or recalled by survey respondents. Fraud is also inherently different from other crimes in that one fraud offence can potentially affect thousands of victims. It may also be difficult to ascertain where the offence originated or took place (if, for example, it took place via the internet).

The [National Statistician's Review of Crime Statistics for England and Wales](#) identified fraud as one of the more important gaps in crime statistics and recommended that data from additional sources should be provided alongside existing available data in quarterly National Statistics. This section draws on a range of sources including police recorded crime, the CSEW and the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB). Together these help to provide a fuller picture. For more information on the different sources of fraud data, see section 5.4 of the [User Guide](#).

There have also been a number of changes to the presentation of fraud in this quarterly bulletin. To reflect changes in operational arrangements for reporting and recording of fraud, data presented in the police recorded crime series now include offences recorded by Action Fraud. Since 1 April 2013, Action Fraud have taken responsibility for the central recording of fraud offences previously recorded by individual police forces. To allow for piloting and development of the Action Fraud service this transfer of responsibility has had a phased introduction over the last 3 years (see below).

During the period covered by this bulletin, Action Fraud took responsibility for recording fraud in all police forces areas in England and Wales, though for several this was at the end of the period. For example, by the end of December 2012, 25 police force areas had transferred responsibility with the remainder switching over by the end of the financial year¹. As such, the data presented in this bulletin on fraud recorded by the police cover both offences recorded by individual police forces, and those recorded by Action Fraud. In successive quarterly releases the proportion of fraud offences recorded by individual forces will gradually diminish (and that by Action Fraud grow) as forces have been switching to central recording during 2012/13. It will not be until July 2014, when figures are presented for the 2013/14 financial year, that all police recorded fraud will appear under Action Fraud.

Although Action Fraud receives reports of fraud from victims across the UK, data presented in this bulletin cover fraud offences where the victim resides in England or Wales only. As it has not been possible to disaggregate Action Fraud data to police force areas on a consistent basis these are not included in sub-national tables. Users of police force area level data should refer to table 5c in the user guide for details of when each local force transferred responsibility for recording to Action Fraud. This will allow users to interpret trends in fraud and total recorded crime over time. For example, as Greater Manchester Police transferred their fraud recording in December 2012 the 3,902 number of frauds recorded by them in the year ending March 2013 does not include fraud offences that they would have otherwise recorded between January and March 2013 had they not transferred to Action Fraud. Thus it is not valid to make like for like comparisons between fraud offences recorded during the year ending March 2013 with previous years. To provide users with a comparable time series at sub-national level our reference tables include a figure for all police recorded crime excluding fraud.

In addition, changes to the way in which police record crimes of fraud following the introduction of the Fraud Act 2006 mean that fraud figures from 2007/08 onwards are not directly comparable with

figures for earlier years. Changes in the number of fraud offences over time should be seen in the context of the known under-reporting of fraud and the most recent increases in the number of fraud offences recorded are likely to have been influenced by the transfer of responsibility for recording fraud offences from police forces to Action Fraud and this being an easier way for the public to report such offences. As the transfer to Action Fraud progresses and further initiatives to improve the reporting of fraud offences continue it is likely that the number of recorded fraud offences will increase further. See section 5.4 of the [User Guide](#) for more details on police recorded fraud and Action Fraud.

Previously police recorded forgery offences were presented alongside fraud offences. Following the re-classification of some categories used to present police recorded crime described in the [Introduction](#), these offences have now been moved to the offence category 'Miscellaneous crimes against society'.

Total fraud offences recorded by the police (including via Action Fraud)

In the year ending March 2013, 229,018 fraud offences were recorded by the police in England and Wales (Table 20a). This is equivalent to 4 offences recorded per 1,000 population. This represents a volume increase of 27% compared with the previous year and an increase of 58% compared with 2007/08. However, in the context of the move to centralised recording of fraud making comparisons over time is problematic. There are a number of factors that may have contributed to this increase including:

- the centralisation of recording fraud and a possible improvement in recording practices resulting from having a specialist team dealing with fraud;
- an increased proportion of victims reporting fraud following publicity around the launch of Action Fraud; and,
- a possible increase in the volume of fraud.

It is not possible to separate out or quantify the scale of each possible effect. A clearer picture will emerge over the next 1 to 2 years once the new recording arrangements have matured.

Table 20a: Fraud offences recorded by police (including NFIB via Action Fraud) – number and rate of offences

England and Wales

	Apr-07 to Mar-08	Apr-11 to Mar-12	Apr-12 to Mar-13
Fraud offences including Action Fraud²	145,032	181,023	229,018
Fraud rate per 1,000 population	3	3	4

Table source: Home Office

Table notes:

1. Police recorded crime statistics based on all data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police). Data presented also include crimes reported through Action Fraud. Between April 2011 and September 2012, five police forces had transferred responsibility for recording selected fraud offences to Action Fraud, followed by the remaining police forces in England and Wales by 31 March 2013.
2. From 2012-13, forgery offences have be reclassified under miscellaneous crimes against society.
3. Action Fraud have taken over the recording of fraud offences on behalf of individual police forces. This process began in April 2011 and was rolled out to all police forces by March 2013. Due to this change caution should be applied when comparing data over this transitional period and with earlier years. See the user guide for more details including information on transfer date to Action Fraud for each force.
4. Data collection method: Police recorded crime

Download table

XLS [XLS format](#)
(30.5 Kb)

Table 20b: Fraud offences recorded by police (including NFIB via Action Fraud) – percentage change

England and Wales

	April 2012 to March 2013 compared with:	
	Apr-07 to Mar-08	Apr-11 to Mar-12
Total fraud offences including Action Fraud²	58	27

Table source: Home Office

Table notes:

1. Police recorded crime statistics based on all data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police). Data presented also include crimes reported through Action Fraud. Between April 2011 and September 2012, five police forces had transferred responsibility for recording selected fraud offences to Action Fraud, followed by the remaining police forces in England and Wales by 31 March 2013.
2. From 2012-13, forgery offences have be reclassified under miscellaneous crimes against society.
3. Action Fraud have taken over the recording of fraud offences on behalf of individual police forces. This process began in April 2011 and was rolled out to all police forces by March 2013. Due to this change caution should be applied when comparing data over this transitional period and with earlier years. See the user guide for more details including information on transfer date to Action Fraud for each force.
4. Data collection method: Police recorded crime

Download table

XLS [XLS format](#)
(20 Kb)

[Appendix table A5 \(468 Kb Excel sheet\)](#) shows a more detailed breakdown of the fraud offences recorded by Action Fraud in 2012/13. For more information on the types of offences within each of the Action Fraud categories see section 5.4 of the [User Guide](#) and Appendix table A5.

Fraud offences reported by industry bodies

In line with recommendations from the [National Statistician's review of crime statistics](#) this bulletin draws on additional sources to provide further context. In addition to the fraud offences recorded by Action Fraud which are included in the police recorded crime series shown above, the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) collect data on incidents of fraud direct from industry bodies (Table 21)². The NFIB are based at the City of London Police, who take the national policing lead on fraud. The NFIB data are not subject to the same checks of consistency and quality control as those included in the recorded crime series, and are also subject to continuing development. The NFIB will be sourcing data from additional financial and fraud prevention institutions in the future. While the industry bodies are encouraged to record in line with Home Office Counting Rules (HOCR) for recorded crime we understand that there isn't a consistent approach across the different bodies and it would appear that they apply different criteria in judging whether an incident should be referred to the NFIB. For example, applying their own referral criteria such as cost, impact or scale of the fraud which may change over time. As such the NFIB data are not judged to currently be of sufficient quality to be badged as National Statistics and users should interpret the figures with caution.

In addition, users should also be aware that the NFIB data cover the UK as a whole, while all other data in this bulletin refer to England and Wales. However, the NFIB data does provide additional context to the official statistics.

NFIB data previously published by ONS are not comparable with these latest data. Previous quarterly publications since April 2012 combined NFIB figures from industry sources with Action Fraud offence data that are now included within the police recorded crime series. While undertaking the review of offence classifications (see [Introduction](#)) further consideration was given to the presentation of fraud offences. It was decided that it would be more coherent to move the Action Fraud offences (recorded in accordance with the HOCR) into the main police recorded crime series and thus Table 21 is now based only on data from industry sources.

The NFIB received 326,609 reports of fraud in the UK in the year ending March 2013 based on data from industry bodies (Table 21). Of the fraud offences reported by industry bodies, 95% were banking and payment related and involve cheque, plastic card and online bank accounts. It is possible that there may be some double counting between these sources and the offences recorded via direct reports from victims to Action Fraud (for example a member of the public who has experienced plastic card fraud).

Table 21: Fraud offences, reported by industry bodies to NFIB (non-National Statistics), year ending March 2013 <1>

United Kingdom

Fraud Type ²	Numbers
Banking and payment related fraud	309,868
Telecom Industry Fraud (Misuse of Contracts)	7,800
Insurance Related Fraud	8,881
Business Trading Fraud	60
Total	326,609

Table source: National Fraud Intelligence Bureau**Table notes:**

1. From 2012/13, this table presents fraud data collated by NFIB from CIFAS and UK Payments only and does not include fraud offences recorded by Action Fraud, which are now represented alongside police recorded crime. Data presented here are therefore not comparable with past published NFIB figures
2. For an explanation and examples of fraud offences within each category, see section 5.4 of the User Guide.
3. For more information on the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau see <http://www.nfib.police.uk/>
4. The breakdown of fraud types presented here is condensed due to the removal of Action Fraud data. All other former fraud offence categories not included here are represented in the Action Fraud breakdown in Table A5.

Download table

XLS [XLS format](#)
(31 Kb)

Plastic card fraud

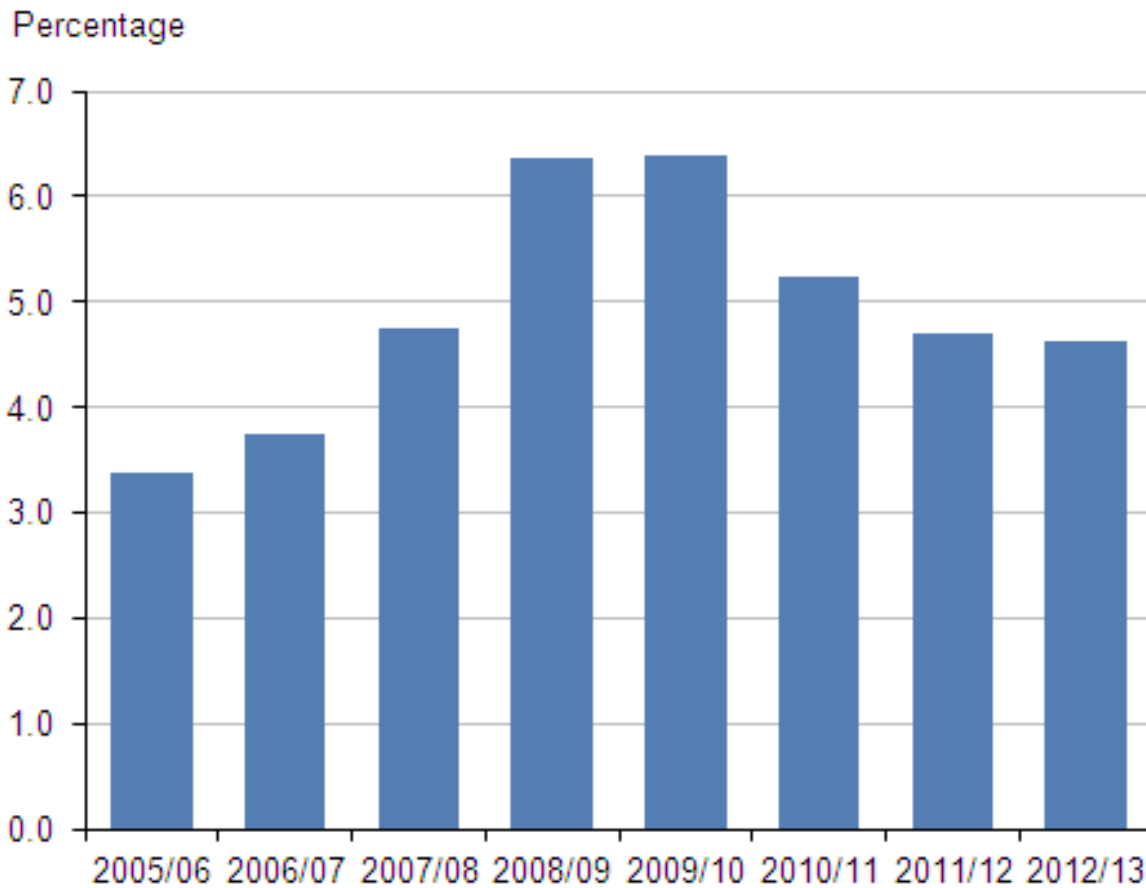
Elements of banking and payment related fraud are the focus of a module of questions in the CSEW, which asks respondents about their experience of plastic card fraud (though plastic card fraud theft itself is not included in the main CSEW crime count). The year ending March 2013 CSEW showed that 4.6% of plastic card owners were victims of card fraud in the last year, with no statistically significant difference from the 4.7% estimated in the year ending March 2012 survey. The level of plastic card fraud is at a similar level to that measured in the 2007/08 survey, this follows rises in plastic card fraud from the 2006/07 survey to the 2008/09 survey, which matched industry source losses, mentioned below (Figure 15). Despite the decrease shown since 2009/10, this level of victimisation remains higher than more established acquisitive offences such as theft from the person and other theft of personal property (1.1% and 1.9% respectively, Table 15a). Further analysis, based on the 2011/12 CSEW, was published on 9 May 2013 as part of 'Focus on Property Crime: Chapter 3 Plastic card fraud'.

Separate figures are available from the UK Cards Association who report on levels of financial fraud losses on UK cards. This totalled £388 million in 2012, a 14% increase compared with 2011

(£341m). Despite the recent increase, significant decreases in recent years prior to this mean that card fraud losses are 36% lower than in 2008 (£610m) when losses were at their peak.

The industry suggests that a combination of the use of fraud screening detection tools by retailers, banks and the cards industry, the introduction of chip and pin technology, enhanced user and industry awareness and improved prevention and detection initiatives have led to the decrease in plastic card fraud. More detailed information including a breakdown of plastic card fraud by type in the UK and abroad, is available from the [UK Cards Association](#).

Figure 15: Proportion of CSEW plastic card users who had been a victim of plastic card fraud in the last year, 2005/06 to year ending March 2013



Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics

Download chart

[XLS](#) [XLS format](#)
(20.5 Kb)

Notes for Fraud

1. For more information regarding the date when each police force transferred responsibility to Action Fraud see Section 5.4: Fraud in the [User Guide](#).
2. This includes CIFAS (a UK-wide fraud prevention service) and Financial Fraud Action UK (which collates information from the card payments industry in the UK).

Crime experienced by children aged 10 to 15

Since January 2009, the CSEW has asked children aged 10 to 15 resident in households in England and Wales about their experience of crime in the previous 12 months. Preliminary results from the first calendar year were published in 2010 ([Millard and Flatley](#)). The results for 2010/11 were published in two reports ([Chaplin et al](#) and [Smith et al](#)). The questionnaire was refined again for the 2011/12 survey and kept consistent in the 2012/13 survey. The changes to the questions and definitions used in the first three years of the survey should be borne in mind when interpreting the figures. While data presented over the two most recent years should be comparable it is difficult to discern a trend as the total number of incidents has varied across the available time series. For this reason no percentage change or statistical significance is presented for any year. Methodological differences also mean that direct comparisons cannot be made between the adult and child data ([Millard and Flatley](#)).

The number of incidents estimated for the four available years of the survey are shown in tables 22-24. Two approaches to measuring crime are used. The 'Preferred measure' takes into account factors identified as important in determining the severity of an incident (such as relationship to the offender and level of injury or value of item stolen or damaged). In addition to offences included in the preferred method, the 'Broad measure' also includes minor offences between children and family members that would not normally be treated as criminal matters. Results commented on in this section refer only to the preferred measure of crime, although the tables show both figures for completeness. More details about these two measures can be found in the 'Further Information' section.

Overall level of crime – preferred measure

Based on CSEW interviews in the year ending March 2013, there were an estimated 821,000 crimes experienced by children aged 10 to 15 using the preferred measure; of this 57% were violent crimes (465,000) while most of the remaining crimes were thefts of personal property (314,000). Incidents of vandalism to personal property experienced by children were less common (42,000 incidents).

Thirteen per cent of children aged 10 to 15 had been a victim of any crime covered by the CSEW in the past 12 months; this includes 6% who had been a victim of a violent crime and 7% who had been a victim of personal theft (Tables 22 to 24). Although there were more violent incidents than theft offences, violent incidents affected a smaller proportion of 10 to 15 year olds than theft offences, because they were more likely to have been repeated against the same victim.

Table 22a: CSEW Offences experienced by children aged 10 to 15 - Preferred measure

England and Wales

Children aged 10 to 15

	Preferred measure ¹			
	Apr-09 to Mar-10	Apr-10 to Mar-11	Apr-11 to Mar-12	Apr-12 to Mar-13
	Thousands:			
Number of incidents	1,030	893	1,023	821
	Percentage:			
Percentage who were victims once or more	14.6	11.7	15	13
Unweighted base	3,762	3,849	3,930	2,879

Table source: Office for National Statistics**Table notes:**

1. The 'Preferred measure' takes into account factors identified as important in determining the severity of an incidence (such as level of injury, value of item stolen or damaged, relationship with the perpetrator) while the 'Broad measure' counts all incidents which would be legally defined as crimes and therefore may include low-level incidents between children. For more details see Further Information Section.
2. Base sizes for data year ending March 2013 are smaller than previous years, due to sample size reductions introduced in April 2012.
3. Some estimates are based on a small number of children hence caution should be applied; see User Guide tables UG6 and UG8 for the margin of error around the 2012/13 estimates.
4. Data collection method: Crime Survey for England and Wales

Download table
[XLS](#) [XLS format](#)

(21.5 Kb)

Table 22b: CSEW Offences experienced by children aged 10 to 15 - Broad measure

England and Wales

Children aged 10 to 15

	Broad measure¹			
	Apr-09 to Mar-10	Apr-10 to Mar-11	Apr-11 to Mar 12	Apr-12 to Mar 13
	Thousands:			
Number of incidents	2,071	1,507	1,513	1,238
	Percentage:			
Percentage who were victims once or more	24.5	17.3	20	18
Unweighted base	3,762	3,849	3,930	2,879

Table source: Office for National Statistics**Table notes:**

1. The 'Preferred measure' takes into account factors identified as important in determining the severity of an incidence (such as level of injury, value of item stolen or damaged, relationship with the perpetrator) while the 'Broad measure' counts all incidents which would be legally defined as crimes and therefore may include low-level incidents between children. For more details see Further Information Section.
2. Base sizes for data year ending March 2013 are smaller than previous years, due to sample size reductions introduced in April 2012.
3. Some estimates are based on a small number of children hence caution should be applied; see User Guide tables UG6 and UG8 for the margin of error around the 2012/13 estimates.
4. Data collection method: Crime Survey for England and Wales

Download table

XLS [XLS format](#)
(21.5 Kb)

Violent offences – preferred measure

The CSEW estimates that there were 465,000 violent offences against children aged 10 to 15 in the year ending March 2013 with just over two thirds (71%) of these resulting in injury to the victim. Although not directly comparable, 57% of violent incidents among adults aged 16 or over resulted in injury to the victim (Table 5a).

Six per cent of children aged 10 to 15 had experienced violent crime in the last year; and 4% had experienced violence with injury (Table 23a). One per cent of children aged 10 to 15 were victims of robbery in the last year.

Table 23a: CSEW Violent offences experienced by children aged 10 to 15 - Preferred measure

England and Wales

Children aged 10 to 15

		Preferred measure¹			
		Apr-09 to Mar-10	Apr-10 to Mar-11	Apr-11 to Mar 12	Apr-12 to Mar 13
		Number of incidents (thousands)			
Violence		630	586	566	465
	Wounding	128	87	55	89
	Assault with minor injury	265	328	298	207
	Assault without injury	164	115	132	103
	Robbery	74	56	81	65
	Aggressive behaviour (unspecified) ³	..	..	..	..
	Theft with threat (unspecified) ³	..	..	..	..
	Violence with injury	412	449	388	329
	Violence without injury (includes specified and unspecified) ^{3,4,5}	217	137	177	136
		Percentage who were victims once or more			
Violence		8.5	6.9	7.6	6.1
	Wounding	1.9	1.1	0.9	1.0
	Assault with minor injury	3.7	3.7	3.6	2.9
	Assault without injury	2.4	1.7	2.1	1.4
	Robbery	1.3	0.9	1.3	1.0

	Preferred measure ¹			
	Apr-09 to Mar-10	Apr-10 to Mar-11	Apr-11 to Mar 12	Apr-12 to Mar 13
Aggressive behaviour (unspecified) ³	..	..	..	..
Theft with threat (unspecified) ³	..	..	..	..
Violence with injury	5.5	5.1	4.8	4.2
Violence without injury (includes specified and unspecified) ^{3,4,5}	3.4	2.1	3.1	2.1
Unweighted base	3,762	3,849	3,930	2,879

Table source: Office for National Statistics

Table notes:

1. The 'Preferred measure' takes into account factors identified as important in determining the severity of an incidence (such as level of injury, value of item stolen or damaged, relationship with the perpetrator) while the 'Broad measure' counts all incidents which would be legally defined as crimes and therefore may include low-level incidents between children. For more details see Further Information Section.
2. Base sizes for data year ending March 2013 are smaller than previous years, due to sample size reductions introduced in April 2012.
3. These offences are designated as 'unspecified' since only limited information was collected about these low-level offences in 2009/10 and 2010/11 (see section 2.5 of the User Guide for more information).
4. For the years 2009/10 and 2010/11 'Violence without injury' includes unspecified crimes
5. Violence with injury includes wounding, assault with minor injury and robbery where injury was sustained. Violence without injury includes assault without injury and robbery with no injury plus, for the 'Broad measure', the unspecified offences of aggressive behaviour and theft with threat or force (these involve no injury otherwise further information would have been collected during the interview).
6. Some estimates are based on a small number of children hence caution should be applied; see User Guide tables UG6 and UG8 for the margin of error around the 2012/13 estimates.
7. Data collection method: Crime Survey for England and Wales

Download table


 [XLS format](#)
(27 Kb)

Table 23b: CSEW Violent offences experienced by children aged 10 to 15 - Broad measure

England and Wales

Children aged 10 to 15

	Broad measure¹			
	Apr-09 to Mar-10	Apr-10 to Mar-11	Apr-11 to Mar 12	Apr-12 to Mar 13
	Number of incidents (thousands)			
Violence	1,508	1,088	979	844
Wounding	130	87	55	89
Assault with minor injury	357	399	370	257
Assault without injury	316	195	472	429
Robbery	80	64	83	69
Aggressive behaviour (unspecified) ³	607	341	..	..
Theft with threat (unspecified) ³	18	3	..	..
Violence with injury	509	521	460	379
Violence without injury (includes specified and unspecified) ^{3,4,5}		999	567 519	465
	Percentage who were victims once or more			
Violence	18.1	12.1	12.9	11.7
Wounding	1.9	1.1	0.9	1.0
Assault with minor injury	5.1	4.5	4.5	3.7
Assault without injury	4.2	3.0	7.1	6.4
Robbery	1.4	1.0	1.3	1.1

	Broad measure ¹			
	Apr-09 to Mar-10	Apr-10 to Mar-11	Apr-11 to Mar 12	Apr-12 to Mar 13
Aggressive behaviour (unspecified) ³	7.5	4.5	..	..
Theft with threat (unspecified) ³	0.2	0.1	..	..
Violence with injury	6.8	5.8	5.7	4.9
Violence without injury (includes specified and unspecified) ^{3,4,5}	12.4	7.4	8.0	7.0
Unweighted base		3,762	3,849 3,930	2,879

Table source: Office for National Statistics

Table notes:

1. The 'Preferred measure' takes into account factors identified as important in determining the severity of an incidence (such as level of injury, value of item stolen or damaged, relationship with the perpetrator) while the 'Broad measure' counts all incidents which would be legally defined as crimes and therefore may include low-level incidents between children. For more details see Further Information Section.
2. Base sizes for data year ending March 2013 are smaller than previous years, due to sample size reductions introduced in April 2012.
3. These offences are designated as 'unspecified' since only limited information was collected about these low-level offences in 2009/10 and 2010/11 (see section 2.5 of the User Guide for more information).
4. For the years 2009/10 and 2010/11 'Violence without injury' includes unspecified crimes
5. Violence with injury includes wounding, assault with minor injury and robbery where injury was sustained. Violence without injury includes assault without injury and robbery with no injury plus, for the 'Broad measure', the unspecified offences of aggressive behaviour and theft with threat or force (these involve no injury otherwise further information would have been collected during the interview).
6. Some estimates are based on a small number of children hence caution should be applied; see User Guide tables UG6 and UG8 for the margin of error around the 2012/13 estimates.
7. Data collection method: Crime Survey for England and Wales

Download table

 [XLS format](#)
(27 Kb)

Property offences – preferred measure

There were an estimated 314,000 incidents of theft and 42,000 incidents of damage of personal property experienced by children aged 10 to 15 according to the year ending March 2013 CSEW. Around 70% of the thefts were classified as other theft of personal property (221,000 incidents) which includes thefts of property left unattended.

Seven per cent of children aged 10 to 15 had experienced an incident of personal theft in the last year, with other theft of personal property most commonly experienced (5%). Theft from the person (for example, pick-pocketing) was much less common, with under 1% of children reporting being victimised. 1% of children had experienced vandalism to personal property.

Table 24a: CSEW property offences experienced by children aged 10 to 15 - Preferred measure

England and Wales

Children aged 10 - 15

	Preferred measure ¹			
	Apr-09 to Mar-10	Apr-10 to Mar-11	Apr-11 to Mar 12	Apr-12 to Mar 13
	Number of incidents (thousands)			
Personal theft	353	280	419	314
Theft from the person	59	34	51	41
Snatch theft	21	19	25	12
Stealth theft	38	15	26	29
Other theft of personal property	203	165	253	221
Theft of personal property (unspecified) ³	..	..	..	..
Theft from the dwelling/ outside the dwelling ⁴	20	25	39	22
Bike theft ⁴	71	56	75	31
Vandalism to personal property⁴	48	27	39	42
Damage to personal property ⁴	48	27	39	42
Damage to personal property (unspecified) ⁴	..	..	..	..
	Percentage who were victims once or more			
Personal theft	7.4	5.4	8.0	6.8

	Preferred measure ¹			
	Apr-09 to Mar-10	Apr-10 to Mar-11	Apr-11 to Mar 12	Apr-12 to Mar 13
Theft from the person	0.9	0.7	1.2	0.9
Snatch theft	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.3
Stealth theft	0.6	0.3	0.6	0.7
Other theft of personal property	4.4	3.1	4.9	4.8
Theft of personal property (unspecified) ³	..	..	..	..
Theft from the dwelling/ outside the dwelling ⁴	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.5
Bike theft ⁴	1.6	1.2	1.5	0.8
Vandalism to personal property⁴	0.7	0.4	0.8	1.0
Damage to personal property ⁴	0.7	0.4	0.8	1.0
Damage to personal property (unspecified) ³	..	..	..	..
Unweighted base	3,762	3,849	3,930	2,879

Table source: Office for National Statistics

Table notes:

1. The 'Preferred measure' takes into account factors identified as important in determining the severity of an incidence (such as level of injury, value of item stolen or damaged, relationship with the perpetrator) while the 'Broad measure' counts all incidents which would be legally defined as crimes and therefore may include low-level incidents between children. For more details see Further Information Section.
2. Base sizes for data year ending March 2013 are smaller than previous years, due to sample size reductions introduced in April 2012.
3. These offences are designated as 'unspecified' since only limited information was collected about these low-level offences in 2009/10 and 2010/11 (see section 2.5 of the User Guide for more information).

4. These offences are designated as 'household' offences for adults on the CSEW (respondents reply on behalf of the household) but are presented here as 'personal' offences when the property stolen or damaged solely belonged to the child respondent. This broadens the scope of personal victimisation but may also result in double-counting of offences on the adult survey; the extent to which this happens will be evaluated in the future.
5. Some estimates are based on a small number of children hence caution should be applied; see User Guide tables UG6 and UG8 for the margin of error around the 2012/13 estimates.
6. Data collection method: Crime Survey for England and Wales

Download table

 [XLS format](#)

(26.5 Kb)

Table 24b: CSEW property offences experienced by children aged 10 to 15 - Broad measure

England and Wales

Children aged 10 to 15

	Broad measure¹			
	Apr-09 to Mar-10	Apr-10 to Mar-11	Apr-11 to Mar 12	Apr-12 to Mar 13
	Number of incidents (thousands)			
Personal theft	426	334	487	352
Theft from the person	61	37	53	47
Snatch theft	22	22	25	12
Stealth theft	38	15	27	35
Other theft of personal property	250	190	320	252
Theft of personal property (unspecified) ³	21	19	..	..
Theft from the dwelling/ outside the dwelling ⁴	23	31	39	22
Bike theft ⁴	71	56	75	31
Vandalism to personal property⁴	137	85	47	42
Damage to personal property ⁴	59	27	47	42
Damage to personal property (unspecified) ⁴	78	57	..	..
	Percentage who were victims once or more			
Personal theft	8.5	6.3	9.0	7.4
Theft from the person	0.9	0.7	1.2	1.0

	Broad measure¹			
	Apr-09 to Mar-10	Apr-10 to Mar-11	Apr-11 to Mar 12	Apr-12 to Mar 13
Snatch theft	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.3
Stealth theft	0.6	0.3	0.7	0.8
Other theft of personal property	5.0	3.5	5.8	5.3
Theft of personal property (unspecified) ³	0.5	0.4	..	..
Theft from the dwelling/ outside the dwelling ⁴	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.5
Bike theft ⁴	1.6	1.2	1.5	0.8
Vandalism to personal property⁴	2.2	1.5	1.0	1.0
Damage to personal property ⁴	1.0	0.4	1.0	1.0
Damage to personal property (unspecified) ³	1.3	1.1	..	..
Unweighted base	3,762	3,849	3,930	2,879

Table source: Office for National Statistics

Table notes:

1. The 'Preferred measure' takes into account factors identified as important in determining the severity of an incidence (such as level of injury, value of item stolen or damaged, relationship with the perpetrator) while the 'Broad measure' counts all incidents which would be legally defined as crimes and therefore may include low-level incidents between children. For more details see Further Information Section.
2. Base sizes for data year ending March 2013 are smaller than previous years, due to sample size reductions introduced in April 2012
3. These offences are designated as 'unspecified' since only limited information was collected about these low-level offences in 2009/10 and 2010/11 (see section 2.5 of the User Guide for more information).
4. These offences are designated as 'household' offences for adults on the CSEW (respondents reply on behalf of the household) but are presented here as 'personal' offences when the property stolen or damaged solely belonged to

the child respondent. This broadens the scope of personal victimisation but may also result in double-counting of offences on the adult survey; the extent to which this happens will be evaluated in the future.

5. Some estimates are based on a small number of children hence caution should be applied; see User Guide tables UG6 and UG8 for the margin of error around the 2012/13 estimates.
6. Data collection method: Crime Survey for England and Wales

Download table

XLS [XLS format](#)

(27 Kb)

Anti-social behaviour

Incidents recorded by the police

Figures relating to anti-social behaviour (ASB) can be considered alongside police recorded (notifiable) crime to provide a more comprehensive view of the crime and disorder that comes to the attention of the police. Incidents of anti-social behaviour which result in a notifiable offence will be included in police recorded crime figures and as such the two sets of data do not overlap.

The police record anti-social behaviour incidents in accordance with the National Standard for Incident Recording (NSIR); for further details, see section 5.7 of the [User Guide](#). While incidents are recorded under NSIR in accordance with the same 'victim focused' approach that applies for recorded crime, these figures are not currently accredited National Statistics and are not subject to the same level of quality assurance as the main recorded crime collection. In particular, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary ([HMIC reviews](#)¹) found that there was greater variation in the recording of ASB incidents across police forces than in recording notifiable offences. It is also known that occasionally police forces may be duplicating some occurrences of a singular ASB incident where multiple reports by different callers have been made. Therefore the figures stated below are likely to be slight overestimates of all ASB incidents which should be recorded by the police.

Furthermore, data on ASB incidents before and after 2011/12 are not directly comparable, owing to a change in the classification used for ASB incidents. From April 2012 ASB incidents also included data from the British Transport Police so comparisons with the latest two years can only be made with the British Transport Police figures excluded.

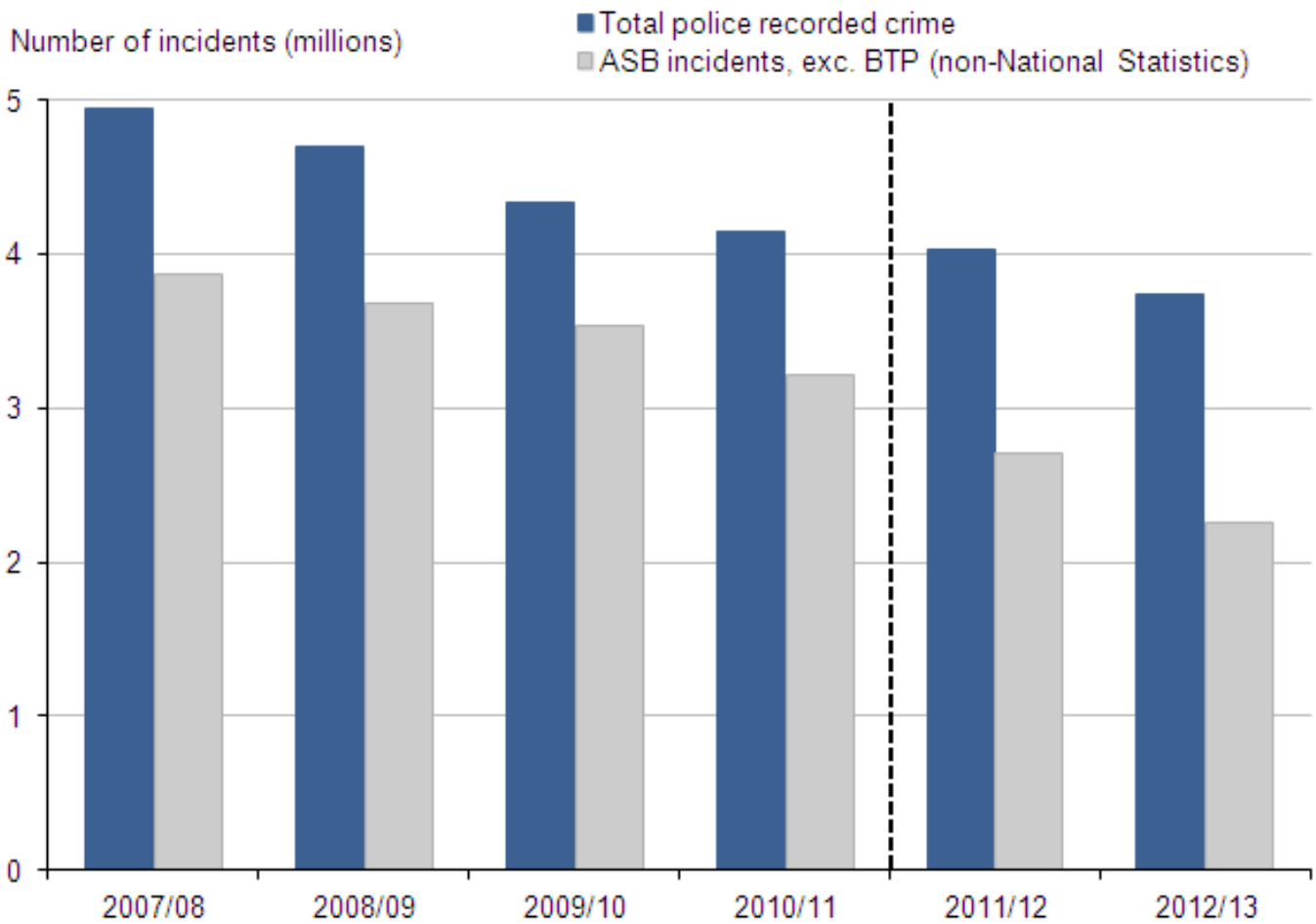
The police recorded 2.3 million incidents² of ASB in the year ending March 2013. This compares to the 3.7 million notifiable crimes recorded by the police over the same period (Figure 16). Excluding the incidents recorded by the British Transport Police the number of ASB incidents in the year ending March 2013 decreased by 17% compared with the previous year, this decrease is shown across all police force areas. This decrease is around 2.5 times larger than the decrease for overall crime and although comparisons can not be made across the whole time series a decrease of this magnitude has not been seen before. Following the [HMIC review](#) in 2012 it was found that there was a wide variation in the quality of decision making associated with the recording of ASB. HMIC found instances of:

- Forces failing to identify crimes, instead wrongly recording them as ASB.

- Reported ASB not being recorded on force systems, for instance if the victim had reported it directly to the neighbourhood team or via email (as opposed to by telephone).
- Reported ASB being recorded as something else, such as suspicious behaviour.
- Incidents that were not ASB being recorded as ASB.

Several of the above will contribute to the large decrease shown when comparing the latest year with the previous. Figures for the period 2007/08 to 2010/11 also show declines in the number of ASB incidents recorded by the police consistent with recent trends in total police recorded crime.

Figure 16: Police recorded crime and anti-social behaviour incidents, 2007/08 to year ending March 2013



Source: Police recorded crime - Home Office;

ASB incidents: 2007/08 - 2009/10, National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA);
 2010/11, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC);
 from 2011/12 onwards, Home Office

Notes:

1. ASB figures are not accredited National Statistics.
2. ASB incidents exclude British Transport Police.
3. Following a different approach to recording ASB incidents data, figures for 2011/12 and 2012/13 are not directly comparable with previous years; see Chapter 5 of the User Guide for more information.

Download chart

XLS [XLS format](#)

(20 Kb)

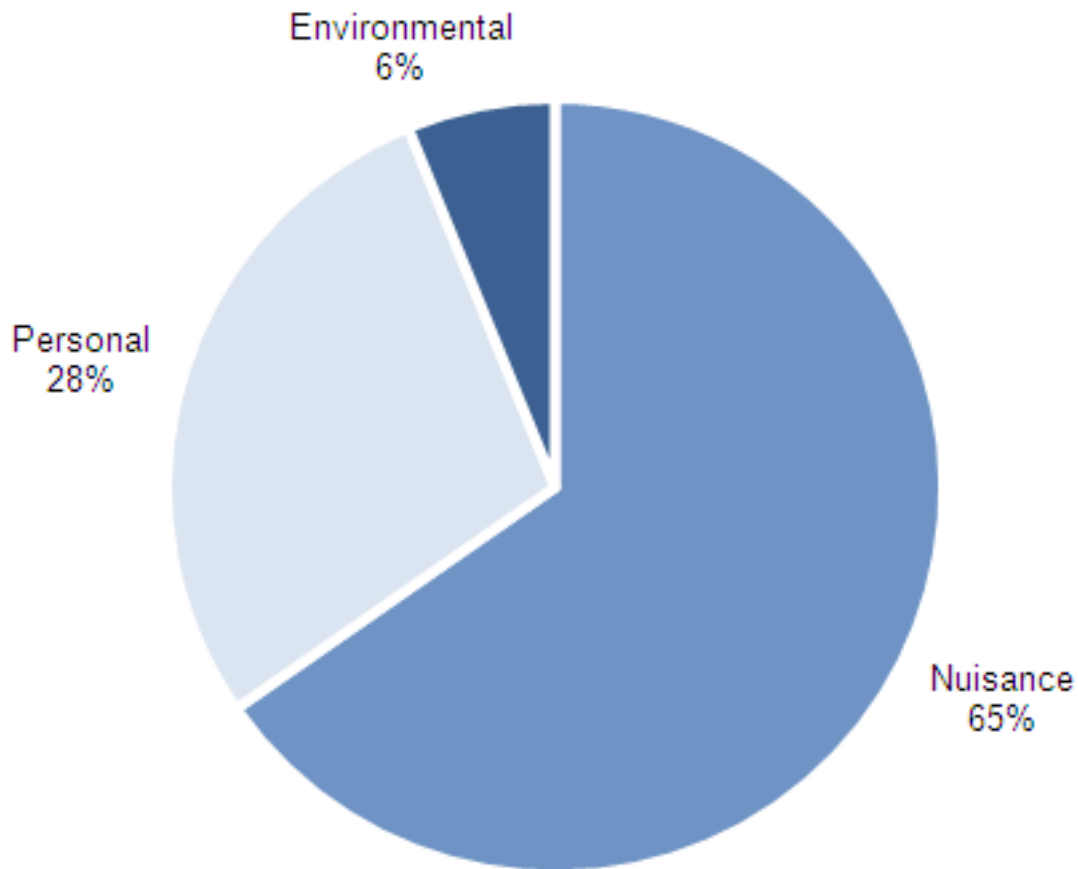
From 2011/12, a new set of three simplified categories for ASB was introduced (for further details, see Chapter 5 of the [User Guide](#)):

- 'Nuisance' – captures incidents where an act, condition, thing or person causes trouble, annoyance, irritation, inconvenience, offence or suffering to the local community in general rather than to individual victims;
- 'Personal' – captures incidents that are perceived as either deliberately targeted at an individual or group, or having an impact on an individual or group rather than the community at large; and
- 'Environmental' – captures incidents where individuals and groups have an impact on their surroundings, including natural, built and social environments.

All forces adapted these new definitions, though in the [HMIC review](#) it was found that 35% of all incidents reviewed were considered to be incorrectly categorised.

In the year ending March 2013, of the ASB incidents categorised by the police, 65% were identified as 'Nuisance'; 28% as 'Personal'; and 6% as 'Environmental' (Figure 17). This distribution may reflect propensity of reporting rather than the actual distribution of ASB by type.

Figure 17: Categories of anti-social behaviour incidents, year ending March 2013 (non-National Statistics)



Source: Home Office

Notes:

1. ASB figures are not accredited National Statistics.
2. Figures include British Transport Police.
3. Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Download chart

[XLS](#) [XLS format](#)
(17.5 Kb)

CSEW measures of anti-social behaviour

The CSEW contains questions asking respondents about perceptions of problems with different types of ASB in their local area. Seven of these questions are used to provide an overall index of perceived ASB.

In the year ending March 2013 CSEW, 13% of adults perceived there to be a high level of ASB in their local area, a statistically significant decrease of 2% from the previous year (Table 25). Compared with the previous year, the year to March 2013 CSEW showed decreases in the proportions of adults perceiving problems in all types of ASB, except rubbish or litter lying around.

Since 2006/07 the CSEW has consistently estimated around a quarter of adults perceiving people being drunk or rowdy as a problem in the local area, although the latest data show a slight drop to 21%. The most pronounced decline has been for the abandoned or burnt-out cars strand, which peaked at 25% in 2002/03 and has subsequently fallen each year down to 3% in the year ending March 2013. Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property has also seen large decreases over time, from 35% in 2002/03 to 19% in 2012/13. The reduction in these indicators has been the main driver behind the overall reduction in the composite measure over time (Table 25).

Table 25: CSEW trends in the anti-social behaviour indicators, 1996 to year ending March 2013 <1>

England and Wales

Adults aged 16 and over

	Jan-96 to Dec-96	Apr-02 to Mar-03	Apr-07 to Mar-08	Apr-11 to Mar-12	Apr-12 to Mar-13	Statistically significant change, 2011/12 to 2012/13
Percentages						
High level of perceived anti-social behaviour ²	:	21	16	15	13	*
Percentage saying there is a very/fairly big problem in their area						
Rubbish or litter lying around	26	33	30	30	29	
People using or dealing drugs	21	32	26	27	26	*
Teenagers hanging around on the streets	24	33	31	24	22	*
People being drunk or rowdy in public places ²	:	23	25	24	21	*
Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property	24	35	27	21	19	*
Noisy neighbours	8	10	10	12	11	*

	Jan-96 to Dec-96	Apr-02 to Mar-03	Apr-07 to Mar-08	Apr-11 to Mar-12	Apr-12 to Mar-13	Statistically significant change, 2011/12 to 2012/13
or loud parties						
Abandoned or burnt-out cars ²	:	25	7	4	3	*
Unweighted base ^{3, 4}	7,625	34,622	45,021	21,877	8,329	

Table source: Office for National Statistics

Table notes:

1. For further years data see Annual trend and demographic table D9.
2. The question on abandoned or burn-out cars was introduced in 2000 and the question on people being drunk or rowdy in public places was introduced in 2001.
3. Unweighted bases refer to the question relating to people using or dealing drugs. Other bases will be similar.
4. From April 2011 the number of respondents asked questions about their perceptions of problems in the local area was reduced (from a full sample) to a half sample and from April 2012 was reduced to a quarter sample.
5. Data collection method: Crime Survey for England and Wales

Download table

[XLS](#) [XLS format](#)

(31.5 Kb)

New questions about respondents' actual experiences of ASB in their local area were added to the 2011/12 CSEW. These questions ask whether the respondent had personally experienced or witnessed ASB in their local area and, if so, what types.

Twenty-nine per cent of adults in the year ending March 2013 CSEW indicated that they had personally experienced or witnessed at least one of the ASB problems asked about in their local area in the previous year (Table 26), down from 30% in the 2011/12 CSEW. This included 10% of adults who experienced or witnessed drink related anti-social behaviour and 10% who witnessed or experienced groups hanging around on the streets.

These figures might appear to suggest a disparity between perceptions of ASB and actual experience of such incidents, with around twice as many adults experiencing or witnessing ASB compared with those with a high level of perceived ASB in their local area. However, it is difficult to compare the two measures since the list of ASB categories used in the experience-based questions on ASB is more expansive than those asked of respondents in relation to their perceptions. In addition, they are measuring different things; actual experiences and perceptions. It is likely someone can experience an ASB incident without necessarily believing that it is part of a problem in their local area, if, for example, it was a one-off or isolated occurrence. The frequency or number of

incidents experienced coupled with the perceived extent and seriousness of a problem will also vary from person to person.

Table 26: CSEW experiences of anti-social behaviour, 2011/12 to year ending March 2013

England and Wales

Adults aged 16 and over

	Apr-11 to Mar-12	Apr-12 to Mar-13	Statistically significant change, 2011/12 to 2012/13
Percentages			
Personally experienced/witnessed anti-social behaviour in local area	30	29	*
Types of anti-social behaviour experienced/witnessed¹			
Drink related behaviour	11	10	*
Groups hanging around on the streets	11	10	*
Inconsiderate behaviour ²	7	6	*
Loud music or other noise	6	5	*
Litter, rubbish or dog-fouling	4	4	
Vandalism, criminal damage or graffiti	5	4	*
People being intimidated, verbally abused or harassed	4	3	*
People using or dealing drugs	3	3	
Vehicle related behaviour ³	3	3	
Nuisance neighbours	3	3	
Begging, vagrancy or homeless people	1	1	


	Apr-11 to Mar-12	Apr-12 to Mar-13	Statistically significant change, 2011/12 to 2012/13
Out of control or dangerous dogs	1	1	
People committing inappropriate or indecent sexual acts in public	0	0	
Other anti-social behaviour	1	2	*
Unweighted base	45,974	34,860	

Table source: Office for National Statistics

Table notes:

1. Respondents can experience more than one type of anti-social behaviour, so percentages will not sum to the total that experienced/witnessed anti-social behaviour in their local area.
2. Includes repeated/inappropriate use of fireworks; youths kicking/throwing balls in inappropriate areas; cycling/skateboarding in pedestrian areas or obstructing pavements; people throwing stones/bottles/eggs, etc.
3. Includes inconvenient/illegal parking; abandoned vehicles; speeding cars/motorcycles; car revving; joyriding, etc.
4. Data collection method: Crime Survey for England and Wales

Download table

 [XLS format](#)
(22 Kb)

In addition to the headline figures presented here, more detailed analysis on ASB as measured by the CSEW has been published in the ['Short Story on Anti-Social Behaviour, 2011/12'](#) release.

Notes for Anti-social behaviour

1. Further details on the recording of ASB incidents are also available in the HMIC report ['A step in the right direction: The policing of anti-social behaviour'](#).
2. ASB incidents include British Transport Police for April 2012 to March 2013 only.

Other non-notifiable crimes

The police recorded crime series is restricted to offences which are, or can be, tried at a Crown Court and a few additional closely related summary offences¹. A range of non-notifiable offences may be dealt with by the police issuing an out of court disposal or by prosecution at a magistrates' court. Offences dealt with at magistrates courts may also include some offences that have been

identified by other agencies – for example, prosecutions by TV Licensing or by the DVLA for vehicle registration offences.

Data on these offences provide counts of offences where action has been brought against an offender and guilt has either been ascertained in court, or the offender has admitted culpability through acceptance of a penalty notice. These offences generally only come to light through the relevant authorities actively looking to identify offending behaviour. These figures help fill a gap in the coverage of the main CSEW and recorded crime statistics.

The most recent data available on non-notifiable crimes are for the year ending December 2012. Key findings include the following:

- Cases brought to magistrates' courts in the year ending December 2012² resulted in 1 million convicted non-notifiable offences, down 4% from the year ending December 2011 and continuing the downward trend since 2001/02 (Tables 27a and 27b); and
- 41,000 Penalty Notices for Disorder were issued for non-notifiable offences in the year ending December 2012 (Table 27a). Four in five of these were for being drunk and disorderly³.

Table 27a: Number of non-notifiable crime dealt with by the courts/Penalty Notices for Disorder

England and Wales

	Apr-01 to Mar-02	Apr-06 to Mar-07	Jan-11 to Dec-11	Jan-12 to Dec-12
Non-notifiable convictions (thousands)³	1,538	1,466	1,072	1,026
Incidence rate (per 1,000 population) 1,2	29	27	20	19
Non-notifiable Penalty Notices for Disorder (thousands)^{4,5,6}	n/a	62	46	41
Incidence rate (per 1,000 population) 1,2		1	1	1

Table source: Ministry of Justice

Table notes:

1. The Year to December 2012 incidence rate is calculated using ONS mid-2010 population estimates. Other figures are also calculated using the mid-year population estimate from the previous year.
2. Numbers will be affected by the size of the resident population relative to the transient or visiting populations and may therefore over-represent the number of crimes relative to the real population of potential offenders.

3. Figures for non-notifiable convictions apply to offenders aged 10 and over.
4. Penalty Notices for Disorder, both higher and lower tier offences, issued to offenders aged 16 and over.
5. Piloted in 2002 and introduced nationally in 2004.
6. Includes British Transport Police from 2011.
7. Data collection method: Criminal Justice Statistics Quarterly Update to December 2012

Download table

XLS [XLS format](#)

(21.5 Kb)

Table 27b: Percentage change in non-notifiable crime dealt with by the courts/Penalty Notices for Disorder

England and Wales

January to December 2012 compared with:			
	Apr-01 to Mar-02	Apr-06 to Mar-07	Jan-11 to Dec-11
	percentage		
Non-notifiable convictions³	-33	-30	-4
Incidence rate ^{1,2}	-36	-32	-5
Non-notifiable Penalty Notices for Disorder^{4,5,6}	n/a	-33	-11
Incidence rate ^{1,2}		-35	-12

Table source: Ministry of Justice

Table notes:

1. The Year to December 2012 incidence rate is calculated using ONS mid-2010 population estimates. Other figures are also calculated using the mid-year population estimate from the previous year.
2. Numbers will be affected by the size of the resident population relative to the transient or visiting populations and may therefore over-represent the number of crimes relative to the real population of potential offenders.
3. Figures for non-notifiable convictions apply to offenders aged 10 and over.
4. Penalty Notices for Disorder, both higher and lower tier offences, issued to offenders aged 16 and over.
5. Piloted in 2002 and introduced nationally in 2004.
6. Includes British Transport Police from 2011.
7. Data collection method: Criminal Justice Statistics Quarterly Update to December 2012

Download table

XLS [XLS format](#)

(22 Kb)

The police and, increasingly, local authorities have powers to issue penalty notices for a range of traffic offences and in 2011/12, the police issued 1.5 million Fixed Penalty Notices (just over half of which related to speeding)⁴.

Notes for Other non-notifiable crimes

1. The Notifiable Offence List includes all indictable and triable-either-way offences (that is, offences which could be tried at a Crown Court) and a few additional closely related summary offences (which would be dealt with by a magistrate). For information on the classifications used for notifiable crimes recorded by the police, see Appendix 1 of the [User Guide](#).
2. The latest figures available from the MoJ relate to the year ending December 2012 and thus lag the CSEW and police recorded series by three months but are included to give a fuller picture. The MoJ will release figures for the year ending March 2013 in August 2013.
3. Figures from Ministry of Justice's [Criminal Justice Statistics Quarterly Update to December 2012](#) (Tables 2.1, 6.2, 6.3).
4. Source: [Police Powers and Procedures 2011/12](#).

Commercial Victimization Survey

Following a recommendation of the [National Statistician's review of crime statistics](#) (National Statistician, 2011), a survey of crimes against businesses took place in England and Wales in 2012. The Commercial Victimization Survey (CVS) provides information on the volume and type of crime committed against businesses in England and Wales across four sectors: manufacturing, retail and wholesale, transport and storage, and accommodation and food. For more information, see the Home Office's [Detailed findings from the 2012 Commercial Victimization Survey](#). The survey is annual, not continuous, and the next round will take place in the autumn of 2013.

Headline figures for the number of crimes against businesses are included in this bulletin. Results from the 2012 CVS show that there were an estimated 9.2 million incidents of crimes against businesses in the 12 months prior to the survey, equating to 13 incidents of crime per business across the four sectors interviewed (Table 28). The majority of incidents were experienced by businesses in the retail and wholesale sector (84%), who on average each reported experiencing nearly 20 incidents of crime in the 12 months prior to being interviewed (Home Office, [2013](#)). The vast majority of these incidents were theft related – for example shoplifting.

Table 28: Number of incidents of crime experienced by businesses in the last 12 months, by industry sector

England and Wales

	Manufacturing	Retail and wholesale	Transport and storage	Accommodation and food	All four sectors
ALL CVS CRIME number of incidents (thousands)	164	7,708	324	985	9,181
ALL CVS CRIME rate per 1,000 premises	1,500	19,701	5,824	7,361	13,305

Table source: Home Office

Table notes:

1. Data collection method: 2012 Commercial Victimisation Survey

Download table

XLS [XLS format](#)
(19.5 Kb)

Data Sources - further information

This quarterly release presents the most recent crime statistics from two different sources: the Crime Survey for England and Wales (previously known as the British Crime Survey), and police recorded crime. It also draws on data from other sources to provide a more comprehensive picture. This series of first releases focuses on the latest figures and longer-term trends. For detailed information about the statistical sources used here, refer to the [User Guide to Crime Statistics for England and Wales](#) (ONS, 2012)¹.

Strengths and limitations of the CSEW and police recorded crime

Crime Survey for England and Wales

Strengths

Large nationally representative sample survey which provides a good measure of long-term trends for the crime types and the population it covers (ie those resident in households)

Consistent methodology over time

Covers crimes not reported to the police and is not affected by changes in police recording practice; is therefore a better measure of long term trends

Coverage of survey extended in 2009 to include children aged 10 to 15 resident in households

Independent collection of crime figures

Limitations

Survey is subject to error associated with sampling and respondents recalling past events

Excludes crimes against businesses and those not resident in households (eg residents of institutions and visitors)

Headline estimates exclude offences that are difficult to estimate robustly (such as sexual offences) or that have no victim who can be interviewed (eg homicides, and drug offences)

Police recorded crime

Strengths

Has wider offence coverage and population coverage than the CSEW

Good measure of offences that are well-reported to the police

Is the primary source of local crime statistics and for lower-volume crimes (eg homicide)

Provides whole counts (rather than estimates that are subject to sampling variation)

Time lag between occurrence of crime and reporting results tends to be short, providing an indication of emerging trends

Limitations

Excludes offences that are not reported to, or not recorded by, the police and does not include less serious offences dealt with by magistrates courts (eg motoring offences)

Trends can be influenced by changes in recording practices or police activity

Not possible to make long-term comparisons due to fundamental changes in recording practice introduced in 1998 and 2002/03²

Notes for Data Sources - further information

1. This [User Guide](#) is the standard source of information on both police recorded crime figures and the CSEW.
2. See Section 3.2 of the [User Guide](#).

Future plans and changes to statistical reporting

Changes resulting from new 2011 Census population estimates

This quarterly release presents the most recent crime statistics primarily from two key sources: the CSEW and police recorded crime. Both employ official population estimates in their construction. On 30 April 2013 ONS published sub national 2011 Census based population estimates for England and Wales for the period Mid-2002 to Mid-2010. The size of these revisions is small (464,000 or 0.83%) in the context of the total population for England and Wales.

Police recorded crime rates used in this publication have been re-based in line with 2011 Census based population estimates from 2002/3, whilst CSEW estimates have remained on pre 2011 Census estimates. As the production and dissemination of revised CSEW estimates (and micro data with adjusted weights) would take longer to implement it was considered preferential to produce estimates on both bases rather than delay the publication of 2011 Census based police recorded crime figures. It is planned that the first set of CSEW estimates to be published using 2011 Census population totals will be the quarterly update for the survey year to September 2013 and published in January 2014. Micro datasets for the entire affected back-series will be published at a later date.

Changes to future CSEW estimates

The consultation on changes to the content of regular crime statistics outputs also proposed minor changes to the CSEW classifications (such as moving robbery out of violence into a separate standalone category to match its treatment in recorded crime). These have not yet been implemented as the programme of work to produce a back-series has been incorporated with a related work stream to produce revised survey weights following the release of 2011 Census-based population estimates, as mentioned above. This will require the production of revised weights and key estimates for all survey years back to 2002/03.

List of products

Release tables published alongside this commentary include a set of bulletin tables containing the data tables and numbers appearing behind graphs in this publication, and more detailed estimates and counts of crime levels as set out in the table below.

Type of information	CSEW crime estimates	Police recorded crime
Time series	File 2 (“Appendix tables”) <i>Tables A1 – A3,</i>	File 2 (“Appendix tables”), <i>Table A4</i>
	File 3 (“Annual tables”)	
Local area statistics		File 5
Quarterly figures	File 4 (“Quarterly data”)	File 4 (“Quarterly data”)
Perceptions of crime	File 6e and 6f	
	(“Open data tables”)	
Detailed demographic data	Files 6a to 6f (“Open data tables”)	
	File 3 (“Annual tables”)	

The following are URL links associated with the production of Crime Statistics.

1. [Crime statistics publications on the Home Office website](#)
2. [Historic police recorded crime](#)
3. [Previous quarterly publication](#)
4. [User Guide to Crime Statistics for England and Wales](#)
5. [The 2011/12 Crime Survey for England and Wales Technical Report Volume 1](#)
6. [Analysis of Variation in Crime Trends](#) (methodological note).
7. [Future Dissemination Strategy – Summary of Responses](#)
8. [Methodological note: Presentational changes to National Statistics on police recorded crime in England and Wales](#)
9. ‘[Nature of Crime Tables 2011/12](#)’. Published 7 February 2013
10. ‘[Focus on Public Perceptions of Policing 2011/12](#)’. Published 29 November 2012
11. ‘[Focus on: Violent Crime and Sexual Offences, 2011/12](#)’. Published 7 February 2013
12. ‘[Focus on Property Crime, 2011/12](#)’. Published 9 May 2013
13. ‘[Short story on Anti Social Behaviour, 2011/12](#)’. Published 11 April 2013
14. ‘[Hate crime, cyber security and the experience of crime among children: Findings from the 2010/11 British Crime Survey](#)’ Supplementary Volume 3 to Crime in England and Wales 2010/11, Home Office Statistical Bulletin 06/12. Published 29 March 2012
15. [National Statistician’s Review of Crime Statistics](#)

Anonymised datasets from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (in SPSS format) currently are available on:

- The [UK Data Service](#) through the [Economic and Social Data Service \(ESDS\)](#).
- The ONS Virtual Micro data Laboratory (VML).

In addition to these National Statistics releases, provisional police recorded crime data drawn from local management information systems sit behind, street level figures released each month, via:

[Police recorded crime, street level mapping tool](#)

References

Chaplin, R., Flatley, J. and Smith, K. (Eds), 2011, 'Crime in England and Wales 2010/11', [Home Office Statistical Bulletin 10/11](#)

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC), 2013 '[Mistakes were made: HMIC's review into allegations and intelligence material concerning Jimmy Savile between 1964 and 2012](#)'

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC), 2012a, '[The crime scene: A review of police crime and incident reports](#)'

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC), 2012b, '[A step in the right direction: The policing of anti-social behaviour](#)'.

Home Office, 2013a, [Police Powers and Procedures England and Wales 2011/12](#), Home Office Statistical Bulletin

Home Office, 2013b, '[Crime against businesses: Headline findings from the 2012 Commercial Victimisation Survey](#)', Home Office Statistical Bulletin

Home Office 2013c '[Crime against businesses: Detailed findings from the 2012 Commercial Victimisation Survey](#)', Home Office Statistical Bulletin

Home Office, 2012b, '[Drug Misuse Declared: Findings from the 2011/12 Crime Survey for England and Wales \(2nd Edition\)](#)'

Millard and Flatley, eds. 2010, '[Experimental statistics on victimisation of children aged 10 to 15: Findings from the British Crime Survey for the year ending December 2009 England and Wales](#)', Home Office statistical bulletin 11/10

MoJ, ONS, Home Office, 2013, '[An overview of sexual offending in England and Wales](#)'

National Statistician, 2011, '[National Statistician's Review of Crime Statistics: England and Wales](#)'

Office for National Statistics, 2013a, '[User Guide to Crime Statistics for England and Wales](#)'

Office for National Statistics, 2013b '[Analysis of Variation in Crime Trends: A study of trends in 'comparable crime' categories between the Crime Survey for England and Wales and the police recorded crime series between 1981 and 2011/12](#)'

Office for National Statistics 2013c '[Future Dissemination Strategy- Summary of Responses](#)'

Office for National Statistics 2013d '[Methodological note: Impact of presentational changes to National Statistics on police recorded crime in England and Wales](#)'

Office for National Statistics, 2013e '[Focus on: Violent Crime and Sexual Offences, 2011/12](#)'

Office for National Statistics 2013f [‘Focus on Property Crime. 2011/12’](#)

Office for National Statistics, 2012a [‘Trends in Crime: a Short Story, 2011/12’](#)

Office for National Statistics, 2012b [‘Focus on Public Perceptions of Policing, Findings from the 2011/12 Crime Survey for England and Wales’](#)

Sivarajasingam, V., Wells, J.P., Moore, S., Morgan, P. and Shepherd, J.P., 2012, [‘Violence in England and Wales 2011. An accident and Emergency Perspective’](#) Cardiff: Cardiff University

Smith, K., Osborne, S., Lau, I., Britton, A., 2012, [‘Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2010/11’](#) Supplementary Volume 2 to Crime in England and Wales 2010/11, Home Office Statistical Bulletin 02/12

Background notes

1. The Crime in England and Wales quarterly releases are produced in partnership with the Home Office who collate and quality assure the police recorded crime data presented in the bulletins. Home Office colleagues also quality assurance the overall content of the bulletin.
2. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.
3. Next quarterly publication: October 2013.

Future thematic reports due to be published:

Focus on Property Crime: Findings from the 2012/13 Crime Survey for England and Wales and Police Recorded Crime: November 2013

Follow us on [Twitter](#) or join us at [Facebook](#).

View the latest podcasts on [YouTube](#).

Media contact:

Tel: Luke Croydon +44 (0)845 6041858

Emergency on-call +44 (0)7867 906553

Email: media.relations@ons.gsi.gov.uk

Statistical contact:

Contact Name John Flatley

Tel: +44 (0)207 592 8695

Email: crimestatistics@ons.gsi.gov.uk

4. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available by visiting www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html or from the Media Relations Office email: media.relations@ons.gsi.gov.uk

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods; and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

Copyright

© Crown copyright 2013

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. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/ or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This document is also available on our website at www.ons.gov.uk.

Statistical contacts

Name	Phone	Department	Email
John Flatley	+44 (0)207592 8695	ONS	crimestatistics@ons.gsi.gov.uk

Next Publication Date:

17 October 2013

Issuing Body:

Office for National Statistics

Media Contact Details:

Telephone: 0845 604 1858
(8.30am-5.30pm Weekdays)

Emergency out of hours (limited service): 07867 906553

Email:

media.relations@ons.gsi.gov.uk