

Police Service of Northern Ireland

# Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland: Monthly Update to 31 May 2011

30 June 2011

# Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland: Monthly Update to 31 May 2011

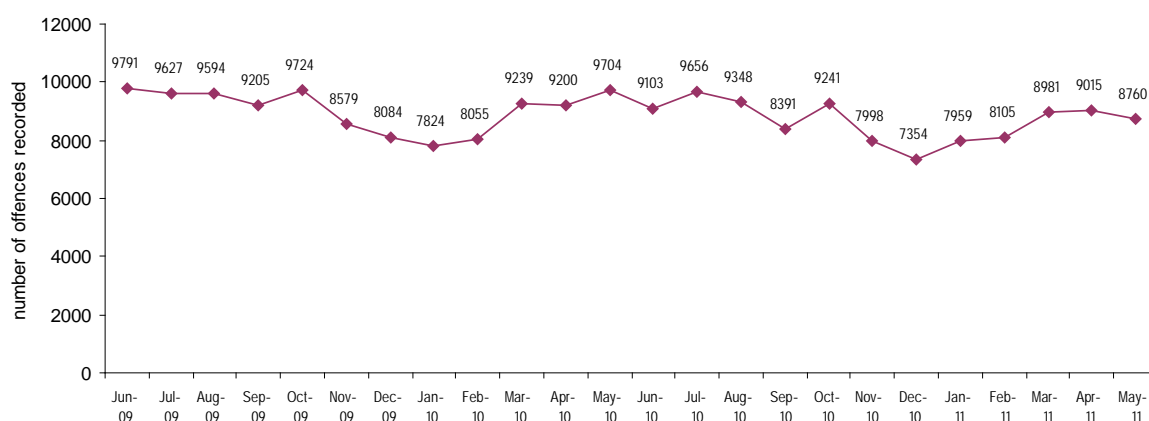
30 June 2011

This monthly bulletin presents the most recent police recorded crime statistics, relating to crimes recorded by the police to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2011. Figures were compiled on 30 June 2011, they are provisional and subject to change.

## MAIN POINTS

- Overall crime fell by 4.3% in the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> May 2011 compared with a year earlier.
- The current crime figure for May 2011 is 2.8 per cent lower than the April 2011 level. However there has been a general upward trend in overall crime since December 2010 when 7,354 offences were recorded, which was the lowest monthly crime figure since the revised Home Office Counting Rules were introduced in April 1998.

**Figure 1 Total number of crimes each month June 2009 to May 2011**



## Comparison of the latest 12 months with the previous year: 1<sup>st</sup> June 2010 to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2011 vs. 1<sup>st</sup> June 2009 to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2010

- Decreases were experienced across most of the main crime types. Increases seen were in Drug offences (7.9%), Most serious sexual crime (4.0%) and Other theft offences (1.1%).
- **Violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery:** Overall violence against the person fell by 2.6 per cent, with injury fell by 2.3 per cent and without injury fell by 2.8 per cent. While sexual offences fell by 1.0 per cent overall, this was mostly due to a fall of 20.1 per cent in the other sexual offences classification as most serious sexual crime showed an increase of 4.0 per cent. Robbery of business property and robbery of personal property showed decreases of 8.8 per cent and 7.4 per cent respectively.
- **Property crime:** There were some large decreases in property crime when comparing the current twelve months with the previous year and this crime type showed an overall reduction of 5.7 per cent. Burglary in a dwelling fell by 5.0 per cent and burglary in a building other than a dwelling fell by 10.9 per cent. While offences against vehicles fell by 19.0 per cent, other theft offences showed an increase of 1.1 per cent. There were also decreases in fraud and forgery of 6.3 per cent and in criminal damage of 5.4 per cent.
- **Drug offences and other miscellaneous offences:** There was an increase of 7.9 per cent in the number of drug offences recorded. Other miscellaneous offences showed a fall of 14.0 per cent.
- **Sanction detection rate:** The sanction detection rate in the year ending May 2011 was 27.1%, 0.9 percentage points higher than for the same period in the previous year. The sanction detection rate rose in each of the crime types listed in Table 1, except for other theft offences which fell by 3.7 percentage points and overall property crime which fell by 0.1 percentage points.

**Table 1 Number of recorded crimes and sanction detection rates in the year to May 2011 compared with the previous year**

Offence group	Recorded crime			Number and percentage changes		
	12 months to May 2010	12 months to May 2011	% change between years	12 months to May 2010	12 months to May 2011	% point change
Violence against the person offences	30173	29399	-2.6	37.4	39.1	1.8
<i>Violence against the person – with injury</i>	15349	14990	-2.3	35.1	36.3	1.2
<i>Violence against the person – without injury</i>	14824	14409	-2.8	39.7	42.1	2.4
Sexual offences	1845	1826	-1.0	21.7	22.3	0.7
<i>Most serious sexual crime</i>	1462	1520	4.0	19.1	19.5	0.5
<i>Other sexual offences</i>	383	306	-20.1	31.6	36.3	4.7
Robbery offences	1353	1246	-7.9	18.2	21.2	3.0
<i>Robbery of business property</i>	491	448	-8.8	21.2	28.8	7.6
<i>Robbery of personal property</i>	862	798	-7.4	16.5	16.9	0.4
Burglary offences	12557	11625	-7.4	10.5	11.2	0.7
<i>Burglary in a dwelling</i>	7373	7006	-5.0	9.5	9.9	0.5
<i>Burglary in a building other than a dwelling</i>	5184	4619	-10.9	12.1	13.1	1.0
Offences against vehicles	8211	6651	-19.0	13.5	15.5	2.0
<i>Theft from a vehicle</i>	3986	3299	-17.2	3.5	3.8	0.3
<i>Theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle</i>	3076	2525	-17.9	27.9	32.3	6.4
<i>Interfering with a motor vehicle</i>	1149	827	-28.0	9.7	10.8	1.0
Other theft offences	18390	18594	1.1	27.4	23.7	-3.7
<i>Of which: shoplifting</i>	6642	6290	-5.3	58.6	52.5	-6.1
Fraud and forgery offences	3229	3027	-6.3	25.1	31.7	6.6
Criminal damage offences	25955	24552	-5.4	12.6	12.8	0.2
<b>TOTAL PROPERTY CRIME</b>	68342	64449	-5.7	16.9	16.8	-0.1
Drug offences	3197	3451	7.9	80.5	83.5	3.0
<i>Drug trafficking</i>	681	772	13.4	77.2	74.9	-2.4
<i>Drug non-trafficking</i>	2516	2679	6.5	81.4	86	4.6
Other miscellaneous offences	3716	3195	-14.0	65.5	68.8	3.3
<b>TOTAL RECORDED CRIME – ALL OFFENCES</b>	108626	103911	-4.3	26.2	27.1	0.9

## NOTES

Unlike the Northern Ireland Crime Survey (NICS), police recorded crime figures do not include crimes that have not been reported to the police or those that the police decide not to record, but they do cover crimes against those aged under 16, organisations such as businesses, and crimes 'against the state' i.e. with no immediate victim (e.g. possession of drugs).

Like any administrative data, police recorded crime statistics are affected by the rules governing the recording of data, systems in place and operational decisions in respect of the allocation of resources. More proactive policing in a given area could lead to an increase in crimes recorded without any real change in underlying crime trends. These issues need to be taken into account when using these data.

### Data Accuracy

Figures within the current year to date are provisional and will be subject to change until finalised figures for the full financial year are published in May 2012. Within year, crime figures are subject to a validation and quality assurance process. The overall crime figures at Northern Ireland, District and Area level cover all records identified as crimes, including those that have not yet completed the validation process. However figures for each crime type do not include records which are under process and so these figures will not add to the overall total. The percentage of crimes complete and under process is shown in Table 2 below.

**Table 2 Percentage of crime records that have completed the validation process, April 2011 to May 2011**

	Percentages	
	% crime records complete	% crime records under process
Year to date: April 2011 to May 2011	98.1%	1.9%
Latest complete month: May 2011	97.4%	2.6%

### Additional data

This bulletin shows a Northern Ireland level summary of police recorded crime for the 12 months to May 2011. Additional figures to accompany this bulletin are published in a spreadsheet: [http://www.psni.police.uk/monthly\\_crime.xls](http://www.psni.police.uk/monthly_crime.xls). This spreadsheet contains a pivot table providing statistics on recorded crime, sanction detections (numbers) and sanction detection rates (%). Each of these data measures is available:

- at Northern Ireland level as well as for each policing district and policing area;
- for a range of crime types; and
- for a range of time periods (previous and current rolling 12 months, previous and current financial years to date and each of the last 24 months).

The pivot table allows the user to manipulate the data, select the data they are most interested in and carry out calculations on the data.

The data records displayed in the pivot table are also available in this spreadsheet.

### Further information

Annual crime figures from 1998/99 to 2010/11 are available in the publication Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland 1998/99 to 2010/11, available at:

[http://www.psni.police.uk/police\\_recorded\\_crime\\_in\\_northern\\_ireland\\_1998-99\\_to\\_2010-11.pdf](http://www.psni.police.uk/police_recorded_crime_in_northern_ireland_1998-99_to_2010-11.pdf)

Further details on Police Recorded Crime statistics are available in the User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics in Northern Ireland, available at: [http://www.psni.police.uk/user\\_guide.pdf](http://www.psni.police.uk/user_guide.pdf). This is a reference guide with explanatory notes regarding the issues and classifications which are key to the production and presentation of police recorded crime statistics.

Copies of other PSNI publications are available from the PSNI Internet site:

[http://www.psni.police.uk/index/updates/updates\\_statistics.htm](http://www.psni.police.uk/index/updates/updates_statistics.htm)

For further information about the police recorded crime statistics for Northern Ireland, or to contact the PSNI Responsible Statistician please:

Email: [statistics@psni.police.uk](mailto:statistics@psni.police.uk);

Write to: Central Statistics Unit, Lisnasharragh, 42 Montgomery Road, Belfast, BT6 9LD; or

Telephone: 0845 600 8000 ext 24135, Fax: 028 9092 2998