

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland: Monthly Update to 30 November 2011

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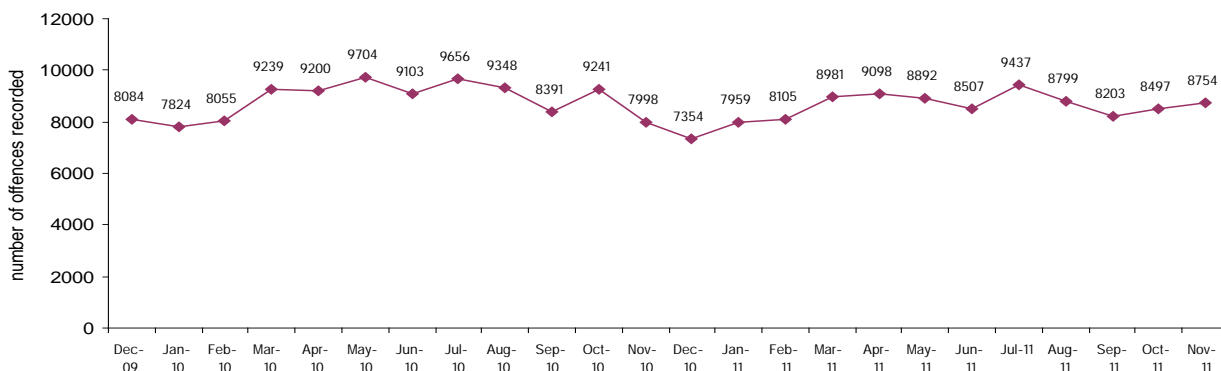
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This monthly bulletin presents the most recent police recorded crime statistics, relating to crimes recorded by the police to 30th November 2011. Figures were compiled on 20th December 2011, using data extracted from the police administrative system on that date. Figures dating back to 1st April 2011 are provisional and will be subject to change until the finalised 2011/12 data are published in May 2012. The provisional figures in this bulletin supersede those published in the previous monthly updates for 2011/12.

MAIN POINTS

- Overall crime fell by 3.1 per cent in the twelve months to 30th November 2011 when compared with the twelve months to 30th November 2010.
- A general upward trend was in place between December 2010 (when 7,354 offences were recorded) and July 2011 (the highest monthly crime figure recorded since July 2010). Crime then fell between July 2011 and September 2011 but increased in October 2011 and again in November 2011. The November 2011 figure of 8,754 shows an increase of 3.0 per cent when compared with October 2011, and is 9.5 per cent higher than the figure for November 2010.

Figure 1 Total number of crimes each month December 2009 to November 2011



Comparison of the latest 12 months with the previous year: 1st December 2010 to 30th November 2011 vs. 1st December 2009 to 31st November 2010

- Decreases were experienced across most of the main crime types. However there were increases seen in Other theft offences (7.5%) and Drug offences (3.1%).
- **Violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery:** Overall violence against the person fell by 0.5 per cent and violence against the person without injury fell by 2.9 per cent. However violence against the person with injury rose by 1.8 per cent. Sexual offences fell by 9.4 per cent overall, with a fall of 22.7 per cent in the other sexual offences classification and a fall of 6.5 per cent in most serious sexual crime. Robbery of business property and robbery of personal property decreased by 12.9 per cent and 6.8 per cent respectively.
- **Property crime:** When comparing the current twelve months with the previous year, property crime showed an overall reduction of 4.5 per cent. Burglary in a dwelling fell by 4.6 per cent and burglary in a building other than a dwelling fell by 13.0 per cent. While offences against vehicles fell by 15.2 per cent, other theft offences showed an increase of 7.5 per cent. Fraud and forgery showed a decrease of 4.3 per cent and criminal damage fell by 8.3 per cent.
- **Drug offences and other miscellaneous offences:** There was an increase of 3.1 per cent in the number of drug offences recorded. Other miscellaneous offences showed a fall of 7.5 per cent.
- **Sanction detection rate:** The sanction detection rate in the year ending November 2011 was 26.2%, 0.8 percentage points lower than for the same period in the previous year. The sanction detection rate showed a fall in most of the crime types listed in Table 1. However, the detection rate for sexual offences rose by 2.8 percentage points, with most serious sexual crime and other sexual offences showing increases of 2.1 and 8.0 percentage points respectively. Overall burglary offences showed an increase of 1.8 percentage points with burglary in a dwelling up by 2.8 percentage points. Offences against vehicles showed an increase of 2.4 percentage points, with theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle increasing by 7.1 percentage points.

Table 1 Number of recorded crimes and sanction detection rates in the year to 30th November 2011 compared with the previous year

| Offence group | Number and percentage changes | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| | Recorded crime | | | Sanction detection rate | | |
| | 12 months to Nov 2010 | 12 months to Nov 2011 ^{1,2} | % change between years | 12 months to Nov 2010 | 12 months to Nov 2011 ¹ | % point change |
| Violence against the person offences | 29,911 | 29,759 | -0.5 | 38.9 | 37.2 | -1.7 |
| <i>Violence against the person – with injury</i> | 15,014 | 15,287 | 1.8 | 36.8 | 34.0 | -2.7 |
| <i>Violence against the person – without injury</i> | 14,897 | 14,472 | -2.9 | 41.0 | 40.5 | -0.5 |
| Sexual offences | 1,928 | 1,746 | -9.4 | 22.6 | 25.4 | 2.8 |
| <i>Most serious sexual crime</i> | 1,576 | 1,474 | -6.5 | 20.7 | 22.9 | 2.1 |
| <i>Other sexual offences</i> | 352 | 272 | -22.7 | 31.0 | 39.0 | 8.0 |
| Robbery offences | 1,344 | 1,222 | -9.1 | 21.0 | 19.5 | -1.5 |
| <i>Robbery of business property</i> | 497 | 433 | -12.9 | 26.6 | 25.6 | -0.9 |
| <i>Robbery of personal property</i> | 847 | 789 | -6.8 | 17.7 | 16.1 | -1.6 |
| Burglary offences | 12,060 | 11,097 | -8.0 | 10.4 | 12.2 | 1.8 |
| <i>Burglary in a dwelling</i> | 7,182 | 6,854 | -4.6 | 8.9 | 11.6 | 2.8 |
| <i>Burglary in a building other than a dwelling</i> | 4,878 | 4,243 | -13.0 | 12.7 | 13.0 | 0.3 |
| Offences against vehicles | 7,363 | 6,243 | -15.2 | 14.3 | 16.7 | 2.4 |
| <i>Theft from a vehicle</i> | 3,533 | 3,201 | -9.4 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 0.1 |
| <i>Theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle</i> | 2,853 | 2,361 | -17.2 | 28.8 | 35.9 | 7.1 |
| <i>Interfering with a motor vehicle</i> | 977 | 681 | -30.3 | 10.3 | 11.0 | 0.7 |
| Other theft offences | 17,982 | 19,328 | 7.5 | 26.4 | 20.7 | -5.7 |
| <i>Of which: shoplifting</i> | 6,279 | 6,231 | -0.8 | 57.9 | 46.7 | -11.3 |
| Fraud and forgery offences | 3,105 | 2,970 | -4.3 | 29.2 | 28.3 | -0.9 |
| Criminal damage offences | 25,357 | 23,260 | -8.3 | 12.8 | 12.8 | -0.1 |
| TOTAL PROPERTY CRIME | 65,867 | 62,898 | -4.5 | 17.0 | 16.2 | -0.8 |
| Drug offences | 3,396 | 3,500 | 3.1 | 81.0 | 79.3 | -1.8 |
| <i>Drug trafficking</i> | 737 | 771 | 4.6 | 72.2 | 80.7 | 8.5 |
| <i>Drug non-trafficking</i> | 2,659 | 2,729 | 2.6 | 83.5 | 78.9 | -4.6 |
| Other miscellaneous offences | 3,397 | 3,142 | -7.5 | 67.2 | 66.2 | -1.1 |
| TOTAL RECORDED CRIME – ALL OFFENCES | 105,843 | 102,586 | -3.1 | 27.0 | 26.2 | -0.8 |

¹ Figures for the 12 months to November 2011 are provisional and will be subject to change.

² Individual crime types may not add to Total Recorded Crime – All Offences as there will be some crimes yet to complete the validation process and be allocated to a crime classification.

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 November 2011

| | Percentages | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | % crime records complete | % crime records under process |
| Year to date: Apr 2011 to Nov 2011 | 99.5% | 0.5% |
| Latest complete month: November 2011 | 97.9% | 2.1% |

Additional data

This bulletin shows a Northern Ireland level summary of police recorded crime for the 12 months to November 2011. Additional figures to accompany this bulletin are published in a spreadsheet: http://www.psni.police.uk/monthly_crime_update_apr-nov_11_12.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

Further details on Police Recorded Crime statistics are available in the [User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics in Northern Ireland](#). 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

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

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