

Police Service of Northern Ireland

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

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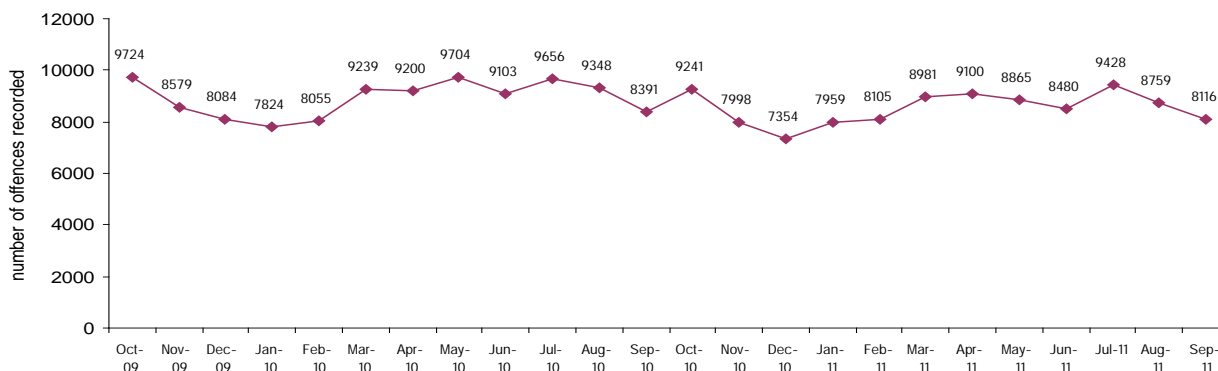
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This monthly bulletin presents the most recent police recorded crime statistics, relating to crimes recorded by the police to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011. Figures were compiled on 25 October 2011, using data extracted from the police administrative system on that date. Figures dating back to 1<sup>st</sup> 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 4.2 per cent in the twelve months to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011 when compared with the twelve months to 30<sup>th</sup> September 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 in the last fourteen months). Crime then fell in August 2011 and again in September 2011. The September 2011 figure of 8,116 shows a fall of 7.3 per cent when compared with August 2011, and is also 3.3 per cent lower than the figure for September 2010.

**Figure 1 Total number of crimes each month October 2009 to September 2011**



## Comparison of the latest 12 months with the previous year: 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011 vs. 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010

- Decreases were experienced across most of the main crime types. However there were increases seen in Other theft offences (5.0%) and Drug offences (2.4%).
- **Violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery:** Overall violence against the person fell by 1.5 per cent and violence against the person without injury fell by 3.7 per cent. However violence against the person with injury rose by 0.6 per cent. Sexual offences fell by 9.8 per cent overall, with a fall of 16.0 per cent in the other sexual offences classification and a fall of 8.4 per cent in most serious sexual crime. Robbery of business property and robbery of personal property decreased by 13.6 per cent and 11.7 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 6.0 per cent. Burglary in a dwelling fell by 7.4 per cent and burglary in a building other than a dwelling fell by 15.7 per cent. While offences against vehicles fell by 17.1 per cent, other theft offences showed an increase of 5.0 per cent. Fraud and forgery showed a decrease of 4.9 per cent and criminal damage fell by 8.3 per cent.
- **Drug offences and other miscellaneous offences:** There was an increase of 2.4 per cent in the number of drug offences recorded. Other miscellaneous offences showed a fall of 7.1 per cent.
- **Sanction detection rate:** The sanction detection rate in the year ending September 2011 was 26.8%, 0.5 percentage points higher than for the same period in the previous year. The sanction detection rate rose in most of the crime types listed in Table 1. However violence against the person with injury fell by 0.4 percentage points, overall robbery fell by 2.1 percentage points (both business and personal robbery showed decreases in their sanction detection rates), other theft offences fell by 4.9 percentage points (of which shoplifting fell by 9.9 percentage points), property crime as a whole fell by 0.1 percentage points.

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

Offence group	Number and percentage changes					
	Recorded crime			Sanction detection rate		
	12 months to Sep 2010	12 months to Sep 2011 <sup>1,2</sup>	% change between years	12 months to Sep 2010	12 months to Sep 2011 <sup>1</sup>	% point change
Violence against the person offences	30,072	29,614	-1.5	37.6	38.3	0.7
<i>Violence against the person – with injury</i>	15,111	15,209	0.6	35.5	35.1	-0.4
<i>Violence against the person – without injury</i>	14,961	14,405	-3.7	39.8	41.7	1.9
Sexual offences	1,929	1,740	-9.8	22.0	24.5	2.5
<i>Most serious sexual crime</i>	1,580	1,447	-8.4	20.7	21.8	1.1
<i>Other sexual offences</i>	349	293	-16.0	27.8	37.9	10.1
Robbery offences	1,356	1,188	-12.4	21.2	19.1	-2.1
<i>Robbery of business property</i>	487	421	-13.6	26.9	24.5	-2.4
<i>Robbery of personal property</i>	869	767	-11.7	18.0	16.2	-1.8
Burglary offences	12,425	11,084	-10.8	10.1	12.4	2.3
<i>Burglary in a dwelling</i>	7,325	6,785	-7.4	8.8	11.8	3.0
<i>Burglary in a building other than a dwelling</i>	5,100	4,299	-15.7	11.9	13.3	1.4
Offences against vehicles	7,612	6,307	-17.1	13.7	16.4	2.7
<i>Theft from a vehicle</i>	3,690	3,196	-13.4	3.5	3.8	0.3
<i>Theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle</i>	2,911	2,381	-18.2	27.9	35.0	7.1
<i>Interfering with a motor vehicle</i>	1,011	730	-27.8	9.8	10.7	0.9
Other theft offences	18,064	18,974	5.0	26.5	21.6	-4.9
<i>Of which: shoplifting</i>	6,436	6,239	-3.1	57.8	48.0	-9.9
Fraud and forgery offences	3,103	2,952	-4.9	26.8	30.9	4.1
Criminal damage offences	25,572	23,445	-8.3	12.7	12.9	0.2
<b>TOTAL PROPERTY CRIME</b>	<b>67,776</b>	<b>62,762</b>	<b>-6.0</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>-0.1</b>
Drug offences	3,329	3,410	2.4	79.0	80.8	1.8
<i>Drug trafficking</i>	725	750	3.4	73.7	78.8	5.1
<i>Drug non-trafficking</i>	2,604	2,660	2.2	80.5	81.3	0.9
Other miscellaneous offences	3,445	3,201	-7.1	66.2	67.0	0.8
<b>TOTAL RECORDED CRIME – ALL OFFENCES</b>	<b>106,907</b>	<b>102,386</b>	<b>-4.2</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>26.8</b>	<b>0.5</b>

<sup>1</sup> Figures for the 12 months to September 2011 are provisional and will be subject to change.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

## Knife and Sharp Instrument Crime

Since April 2007 the Home Office has collected additional data from police forces on offences involving knives and sharp instruments, where a sharp instrument is any object that pierces the skin (or in the case of a threat is capable of piercing the skin), e.g. a broken bottle. Knives and sharp instruments are taken to be involved in an incident if they are used to stab or cut, or as a threat. Offence coverage is for a group of selected offences, as detailed in tables 2 and 3 below. The most up-to-date figures currently available cover the 12 months to the end of September 2011.

**Please note:** the records used to provide the figures in tables 2 and 3 are identified from an operational crime recording system and, as such, may be subject to change where more up-to-date weapon information becomes available.

Figures in table 2 relating to actual bodily harm & grievous bodily harm, along with total selected offences, for the years 2007/08 to 2010/11 have been revised slightly due to classification issues which were recently identified and have now been resolved. As a result they differ slightly to those published in table 3.1 of the annual bulletin. Figures in table 3 below (and in table 3.2 of the annual bulletin) remain unaffected.

**Table 2 Selected violent and sexual offences recorded by the police involving knives or sharp instruments<sup>1</sup> by offence type in Northern Ireland, 2007/08 to latest 12 months**

Offence type	Numbers				
	Number of selected offences involving a knife or sharp instrument				
	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	12 months to Sep 2011
Homicide <sup>2</sup>	5	8	7	8	7
Attempted murder	50	44	31	33	38
Threats to kill	100	102	105	67	70
Actual bodily harm & grievous bodily harm <sup>3</sup>	569	521	600	520	508
Robbery	207	236	228	215	197
Rape / sexual assaults <sup>4</sup>	3	9	7	8	7
<b>Total selected offences</b>	<b>934</b>	<b>920</b>	<b>978</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>827</b>

**Table 3 Proportion of selected violent and sexual offences recorded by the police involving knives or sharp instruments<sup>1</sup> by offence type in Northern Ireland, 2007/08 to latest 12 months** (i.e. 32 per cent of all homicides in the 12 months to September 2011 involved knives or sharp instruments)

Offence type	Percentages				
	Number of selected offences involving a knife or sharp instrument				
	2007/08 (%)	2008/09 (%)	2009/10 (%)	2010/11 (%)	12 months to Sep 2011 (%)
Homicide <sup>2</sup>	17	31	32	29	32
Attempted murder	37	35	27	30	33
Threats to kill	5	5	5	3	3
Actual bodily harm & grievous bodily harm <sup>3</sup>	4	3	4	3	3
Robbery	18	18	18	16	17
Rape / sexual assaults <sup>4</sup>	0	1	1	1	1
<b>Total selected offences</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>

1. A sharp instrument is any object that pierces the skin (or in the case of a threat, is capable of piercing the skin), eg a broken bottle. The knife and sharp instrument figures presented here are based on weapon details taken from a live operational system and are therefore subject to change.

2. Homicide includes murder, manslaughter and infanticide.

3. Includes 5A Inflicting grievous bodily harm (GBH) with intent, 8F Inflicting grievous bodily harm (GBH) without intent and 8G Actual bodily harm (AOABH) and other injury.

4. Includes indecent assault on a male/female (classifications 17/20) and sexual assault on a male/female (classifications 17A/17B/20A/20B), as well as 19A-19H Rape.

## 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 4 below.

**Table 4 Percentage of crime records that have completed the validation process, April 2011 to September 2011**

	Percentages	
	% crime records complete	% crime records under process
Year to date: Apr 2011 to Sep 2011	99.1%	0.9%
Latest complete month: September 2011	97.5%	2.5%

### Additional data

This bulletin shows a Northern Ireland level summary of police recorded crime for the 12 months to September 2011. Additional figures to accompany this bulletin are published in a spreadsheet: [http://www.psni.police.uk/monthly\\_crime\\_update\\_apr-sep\\_11\\_12.xls](http://www.psni.police.uk/monthly_crime_update_apr-sep_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](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](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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