



Police Service
of Northern Ireland



Agriculture and Rural Crime in Northern Ireland

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Agricultural crime has shown an overall downwards trend since the start of the data series in 2010/11.

In the 12 months from 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026:

- There were 205 agricultural crimes recorded in Northern Ireland, an increase of 4 on the previous 12 months. This is one of the lowest twelve month figures for agricultural crimes since the data series began in 2010/11.
- 98 per cent of agricultural crime was identified as occurring in rural settlement areas.
- Agricultural crime represented less than one per cent of all burglary, robbery and theft offences.
- Five policing districts experienced an increase in levels of agriculture crime, while six experienced a decrease.

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We welcome comment and feedback on these statistics. If you would like to forward your views, receive notification of new publications or be kept informed of developments relating to PSNI statistics, please email your contact details using the email address provided on the cover page.

1. Things you need to know about this release

Coverage

This bulletin is an Official Statistics publication meaning it complies with the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#) as follows:

- Trustworthiness: the statistics are impartial, independent and released in an open and transparent manner in accordance with a pre-announced publication schedule
- Quality: the statistics are produced using robust and relevant data sources which undergo continuous quality improvement and assurance checks
- Value: the statistics strive to meet user needs informed by ongoing feedback, providing sufficient detail which is widely accessible.

Our statistical practice is regulated by the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR). OSR sets the standards of trustworthiness, quality and value in the Code of Practice for Statistics that all producers of official statistics should adhere to. You are welcome to contact us directly with any comments about how we meet these standards by emailing statistics@psni.police.uk. Alternatively, you can contact OSR by emailing regulation@statistics.gov.uk or via the [OSR website \(opens in a new window\)](#).

The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) publishes figures on the levels and trends in agricultural and rural crime in Northern Ireland. These figures are based on police recorded crime data and details of the definitions and methodology used are provided below. The statistics are collated and produced by statisticians seconded to PSNI from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA).

This bulletin presents agricultural and urban/rural crime for the latest twelve months 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026 (financial year 2025/26) and the previous 12 months 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025 (financial year 2024/25).

Figures were compiled on 5th May 2026, using data extracted from the police administrative system on that date. All tables and charts in the bulletin, along with figures for financial years dating back to 2010/11 and for calendar years dating back to 2011 are available from the PSNI website in the [Agriculture and Rural Crime spreadsheet for March 2026 \(opens in a new window\)](#).

The next update covering the 12 months to 30th June 2026 will be published on 30th July 2026. A full publication schedule is available on the [PSNI website \(opens in a new window\)](#).

Definitions

Agricultural Crime – the agricultural crime figures in this bulletin represent offences of burglary, robbery and theft where the victim is involved in an agricultural-based activity. Agricultural crime covers burglary, robbery and theft offences where the property or vehicles stolen have an agricultural link (e.g. farm equipment, agricultural vehicles, livestock) or where the location was agricultural (e.g. farm, farmhouse). This information is identified from both drop down pick lists and free text searches using key agricultural-related words.

Urban/Rural crime – this covers all burglary, robbery and theft offences, split into these two geographical areas based on an aggregation of settlement bands. Please note that not all agricultural crime will occur in a rural settlement.

The urban/rural crime split is based on classification boundaries that are available for Northern Ireland as defined by the Planning Service, these areas being defined from Settlement Development Limits. Further details are available from the [NISRA website \(opens in a new window\)](#). Crimes are allocated to urban or rural by linking the available postcode information for the crime location to the Central Postcode Directory.

Data Revisions

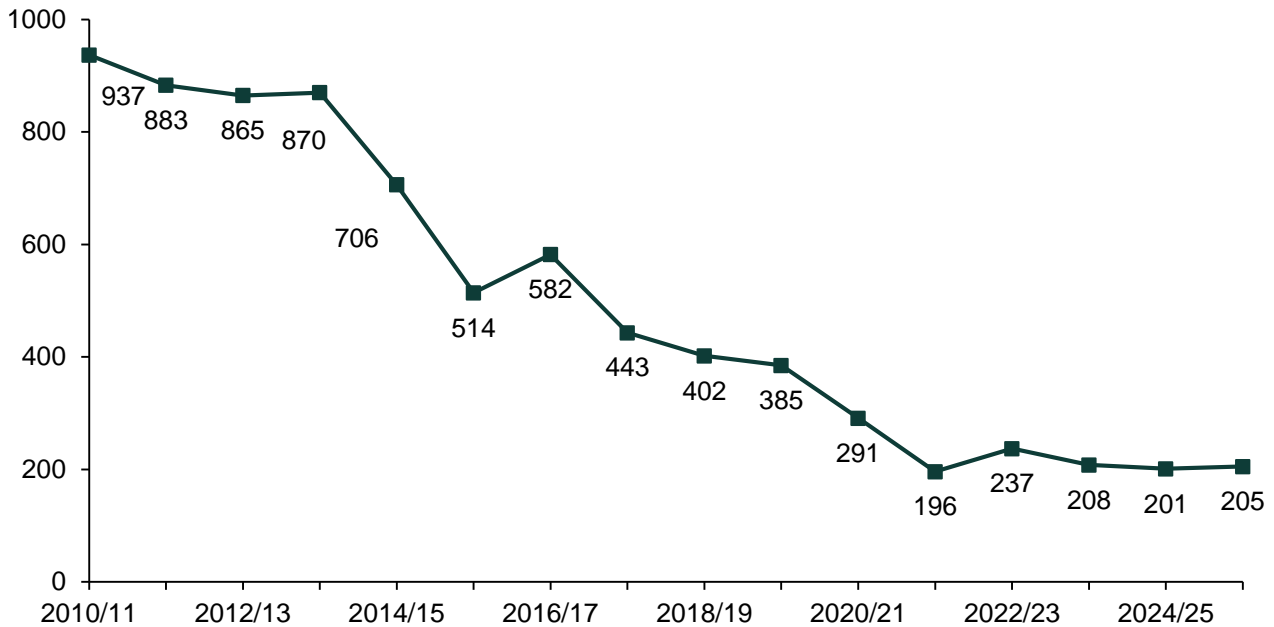
Agricultural crime tables: As the methodology used to identify agricultural crimes relies on data extracted from a live operational system, figures contained in the agricultural crime tables may be subject to revision. Further information is provided in the NOTES section on the last page of this bulletin.

Urban/Rural tables: Revisions to previously published data are applied on an annual basis to financial year crime figures from 2015/16 onwards, as a result of the introduction of the wider outcomes framework in April 2015. These revisions take account of crime cancellations and sanction outcomes identified since the previous annual publication. Revisions of this nature have been applied in this report and will next be applied in May 2027. Further guidance on crime cancellation can be found in the [Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime \(opens in a new window\)](#).

2. What is happening to levels of agricultural crime over the longer term?

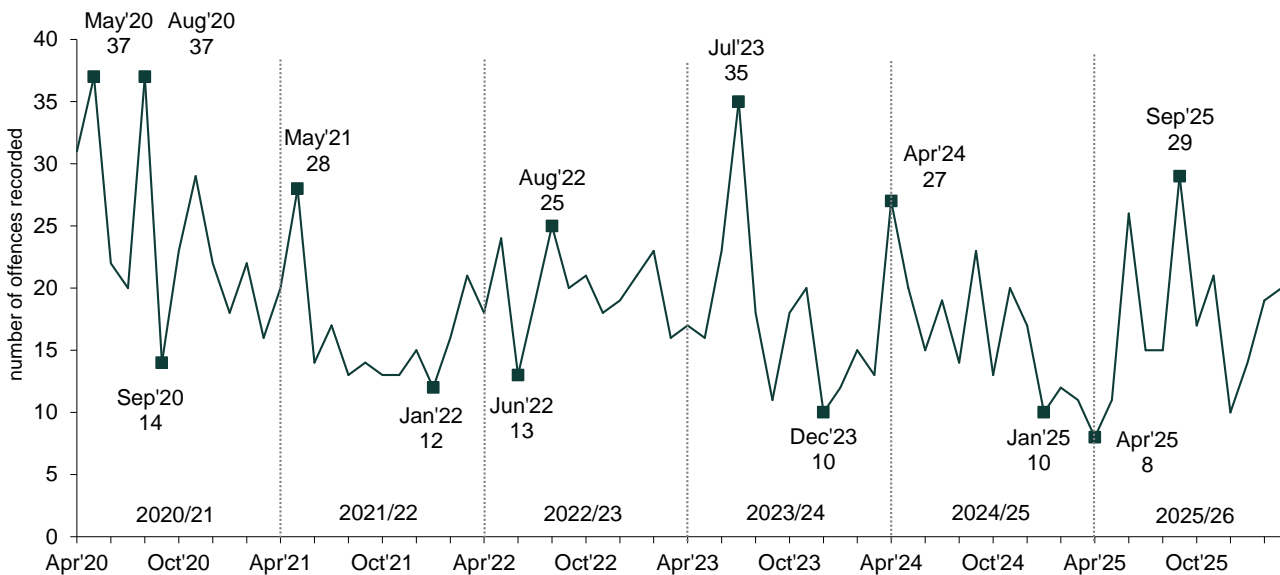
The number of burglary, robbery and theft offences relating to agricultural-based activity has shown an overall downwards trend. The highest level of 937 offences was recorded in 2010/11, with the lowest level of 196 recorded in 2021/22. The figures for 2025/26 show an increase of 4 when compared with 2024/25; the 205 agricultural crimes in 2025/26 is the third lowest financial year figure in the data series. The level recorded in 2025/26 is around a fifth of the 2010/11 figure. [Figure 1]

Figure 1 Trends in agricultural crime since 2010/11



The generally falling levels of agriculture crime since April 2020 are shown in Figure 2 below.

Figure 2 Agricultural crime each month

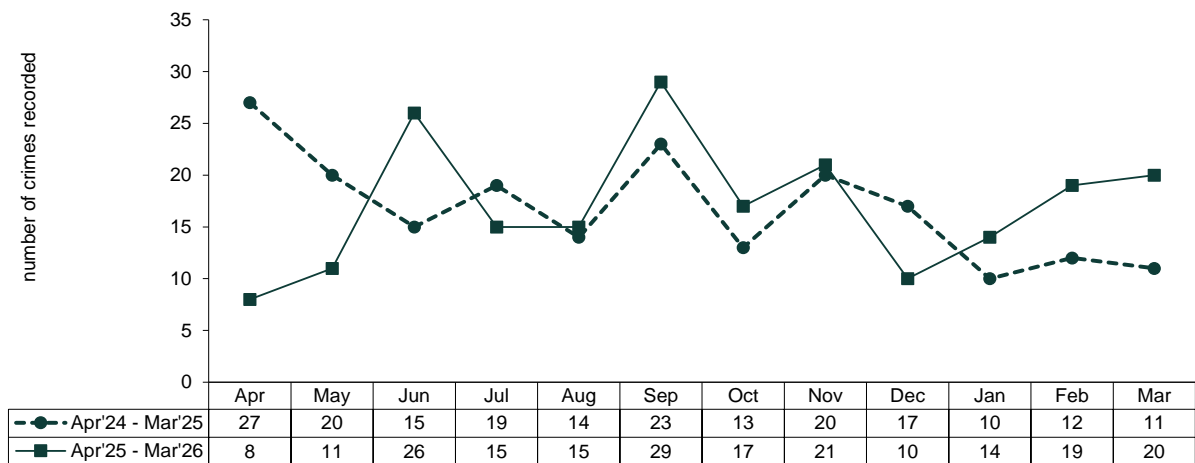


3. What has been happening to levels of agricultural crime more recently?

In the 12 months from 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026:

- There were 205 agricultural crimes recorded in Northern Ireland, an increase of 4 on the previous 12 months.
- 98 per cent of agriculture crime was identified as occurring in rural settlement areas. Since 2010/11 this proportion has ranged between 95 and 99 per cent¹. [Table 2, accompanying spreadsheet]
- Burglary and robbery represented 21 per cent of agricultural crime, while theft represented 79 per cent. Since 2010/11 burglary and robbery have represented between 21 and 36 per cent of agricultural crime while theft has represented between 64 and 79 per cent. [Table 3, accompanying spreadsheet]
- Agriculture crime represented 0.9 per cent of all burglary, robbery and theft offences. This matches the 0.9 per cent recorded during the previous 12 months and is the second lowest proportion seen since the start of the data series (a proportion of 0.8% was recorded in 2023/24). The highest proportion of 2.4 per cent was seen in 2010/11, 2012/13 and 2013/14. [Tables 1 and 5]
- The highest level of agriculture crime was seen in both Newry, Mourne & Down and Fermanagh & Omagh (35), followed by Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon and Mid Ulster (both 31), Causeway Coast & Glens (18), Derry City & Strabane and Mid & East Antrim (both 16), and Antrim & Newtownabbey (14). [Table 1]
- Six of the policing districts showed a decrease in levels of agricultural crime and five showed an increase. Fermanagh & Omagh had the greatest increase (12) and Newry, Mourne & Down had the greatest decrease (-13). [Table 1]

Figure 3 Agricultural crime April 2024 to March 2026



¹ Urban/rural settlement figures are identified through matching the postcode of the occurrence with the Central Postcode Directory.

Table 1 Agriculture Crime (burglary, robbery and theft offences for agricultural-based activity) by Policing District

Policing district	Agricultural Crimes Apr'24-Mar'25	Agricultural Crimes Apr'25-Mar'26	Change
Belfast City	1	0	-1
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	8	7	-1
Ards & North Down	3	2	-1
Newry, Mourne & Down	48	35	-13
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	22	31	9
Mid Ulster	30	31	1
Fermanagh & Omagh	23	35	12
Derry City & Strabane	13	16	3
Causeway Coast & Glens	22	18	-4
Mid & East Antrim	11	16	5
Antrim & Newtownabbey	20	14	-6
No district assigned	0	0	0
Northern Ireland	201	205	4

Table 2 Agriculture Crime (burglary, robbery and theft offences for agricultural-based activity) split by Urban/Rural settlements

	Agricultural Crimes Apr'24-Mar'25	Agricultural Crimes Apr'25-Mar'26	Change
Urban	4	5	1
Rural	197	200	3
Not known	0	0	0
Total	201	205	4

Table 3 Agriculture Crime (burglary, robbery and theft offences for agricultural-based activity) split by type of offence

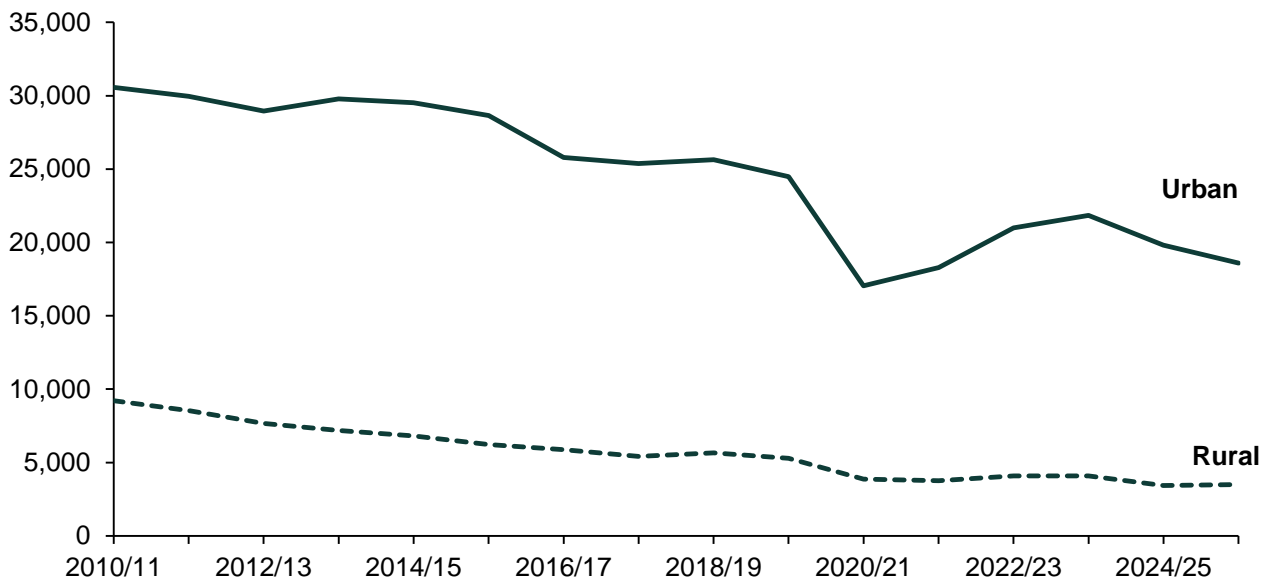
	Agricultural Crimes Apr'24-Mar'25	Agricultural Crimes Apr'25-Mar'26	Change
Burglary / Robbery	49	43	-6
Theft	152	162	10
Total	201	205	4

4. What is happening to levels of urban and rural crime over the longer term?

Between 2010/11 and 2025/26:

- Looking at Northern Ireland as a whole, burglary, robbery and theft offences showed an overall downwards trend from 2010/11 to the lowest level recorded in 2020/21, a fall of 47.4 per cent over this time period. Levels increased in each year from 2021/22 to 2023/24, but fell again in 2024/25 and 2025/26. The level recorded in 2025/26 represents a fall of 44.5% when compared with 2010/11. [Table 5]
- The number of burglary, robbery and theft offences in **rural settlements** fell each year between 2010/11 and 2021/22 with the exception of 2018/19. Levels rose in 2022/23 and remained around the same level in 2023/24 before falling again in 2024/25. The latest financial year 2025/26 saw a slight rise to 3,495 offences, representing a 62.1 per cent reduction on the 9,211 offences recorded in 2010/11. [Table 5]
- Levels of burglary, robbery and theft offences in **urban settlements** showed an overall downwards trend between 2010/11 and 2020/21, a fall of 44.2 per cent over this time period. While the level of 18,594 recorded in 2025/26 shows an increase of 9.0 per cent when compared with the lowest level in 2020/21, it still represents a fall of 39.2 per cent when compared with 2010/11. [Table 5]
- The *proportion* of burglary, robbery and theft offences occurring in urban settlement areas has gradually increased from 77 per cent in 2010/11 to 85 per cent in 2024/25; the proportion in 2025/26 is 84 per cent. Correspondingly, the *proportion* of these offences occurring in rural settlements has fallen from 23 per cent in 2010/11 to 15 per cent in 2024/25; the proportion in 2025/26 is 16 per cent. [Table 5]

Figure 4 Trends in burglary, robbery and theft offences by urban and rural split since 2010/11



5. What has been happening to levels of urban and rural crime more recently?

In the 12 months from 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026:

- In Northern Ireland as a whole, burglary, robbery and theft offences fell by 5.0 per cent (1,154 offences). [bulletin Table 4, spreadsheet Table 5]
- The number of burglary, robbery and theft offences in **rural settlements** increased by 1.7 per cent (58 offences). [bulletin Table 4, spreadsheet Table 5]
- Levels of burglary, robbery and theft offences in **urban settlements** fell by 6.1 per cent (1,212 offences). [bulletin Table 4, spreadsheet Table 5]
- The *proportion* of burglary, robbery and theft offences occurring in urban settlement areas was 84 per cent, with the *proportion* of these offences occurring in rural settlements sitting at 16 per cent. This compares with proportions of 85 per cent and 15 per cent recorded during the previous 12 months. [bulletin Table 4, spreadsheet Table 5]
- The percentage of burglary, robbery and theft offences occurring in rural settlement areas was 49 per cent in Mid Ulster, 46 per cent in Fermanagh & Omagh, 35 per cent in Newry, Mourne & Down, 25 per cent in both Causeway Coast & Glens and Mid & East Antrim, 24 per cent in Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon, 22 per cent in Antrim & Newtownabbey, 21 per cent in Lisburn & Castlereagh City, 19 per cent in Ards & North Down, and 15 per cent in Derry City & Strabane. The figure was less than 1 per cent in Belfast City. [bulletin Table 4, spreadsheet Table 5]

Table 4 Urban/Rural Crime (burglary, robbery and theft offences based on geographical location) by Policing District, current and previous 12 months

Policing district	Urban Crimes Apr'24-Mar'25	Urban Crimes Apr'25-Mar'26	Rural Crimes Apr'24-Mar'25	Rural Crimes Apr'25-Mar'26	Total Crimes Apr'24-Mar'25	Total Crimes Apr'25-Mar'26
Belfast City	9,250	8,884	16	20	9,266	8,904
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	1,267	1,030	280	276	1,547	1,306
Ards & North Down	911	827	207	190	1,118	1,017
Newry, Mourne & Down	1,171	1,069	586	580	1,757	1,649
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	1,665	1,537	429	491	2,094	2,028
Mid Ulster	494	392	402	383	896	775
Fermanagh & Omagh	546	432	315	369	861	801
Derry City & Strabane	1,586	1,521	288	272	1,874	1,793
Causeway Coast & Glens	798	983	321	330	1,119	1,313
Mid & East Antrim	942	898	262	304	1,204	1,202
Antrim & Newtownabbey	1,176	1,021	331	280	1,507	1,301
Northern Ireland	19,806	18,594	3,437	3,495	23,243	22,089

6. Background notes

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.

Definitions

Agricultural crime covers burglary, robbery and theft offences where the property or vehicles stolen have an agricultural link (e.g. farm equipment, agricultural vehicles, livestock) or where the location was agricultural (e.g. farm, farmhouse). This information is identified from both drop down pick lists and free text searches using key agricultural-related words.

Urban/Rural crime covers all burglary, robbery and theft offences, split into these two geographical areas based on an aggregation of settlement bands.

Please note that not all agricultural crime will occur in a rural settlement.

Data Accuracy and Revisions

Agricultural crime figures are based on a range of information extracted from a live crime recording system and, as such, will always be subject to revision.

Within the current financial year revisions may occur because:

- There will be incidents identified as crimes but not processed on the crime recording system by the time the figures are extracted for presentation in these tables.
- Figures may change from month to month due to crimes being reclassified from one crime type to another during the financial year. This may be because quality checks have identified the crime as incorrectly classified, or further information may indicate that the circumstances surrounding the crime were not as initially recorded.
- The Home Office Counting Rules allow crimes initially recorded to be 'no crime'd' or removed from the crime figures.

Revisions to any records within the dataset may also occur as information in relation to property stolen, vehicles stolen and location may be updated on the live system. This may be through adding additional information or updating existing information based on more up-to-date details.

The urban/rural figures are identified through matching the available postcode to the Central Postcode Directory. Postcode accuracy and availability within the current financial year will not be of the same quality or completeness as a full financial year. This is because additional quality checks are completed at the end of each financial year to improve postcode quality and completeness. Further details are available in the [User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics in Northern Ireland \(opens in a new window\)](#).

Annual Revisions: Revisions to previously published data are applied on an annual basis to financial year crime figures from 2015/16 onwards, as a result of the introduction of the wider outcomes framework in April 2015. These revisions take account of crime cancellations and sanction outcomes identified since the previous annual publication. Revisions of this nature have been applied in this report and will next be applied in May 2027. Further guidance on crime cancellation can be found in the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime.

Web links to other information you may be interested in

[Trends in Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland 1998/99 to 2024/25 \(opens in a new window\)](#) was published on 28 November 2025 and provides detailed trend information covering this time period.

Further details on Police Recorded Crime statistics are available in the [User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics in Northern Ireland \(opens in a new window\)](#), and in the [Police Recorded Crime Statistics Quality Report 293KB \(opens in a new window\)](#). These are reference guides 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 website \(opens in a new window\)](#)