



Home Office

20th June 2013

Statistical News Release – Crime against businesses: Detailed findings from the 2012 Commercial Victimisation Survey

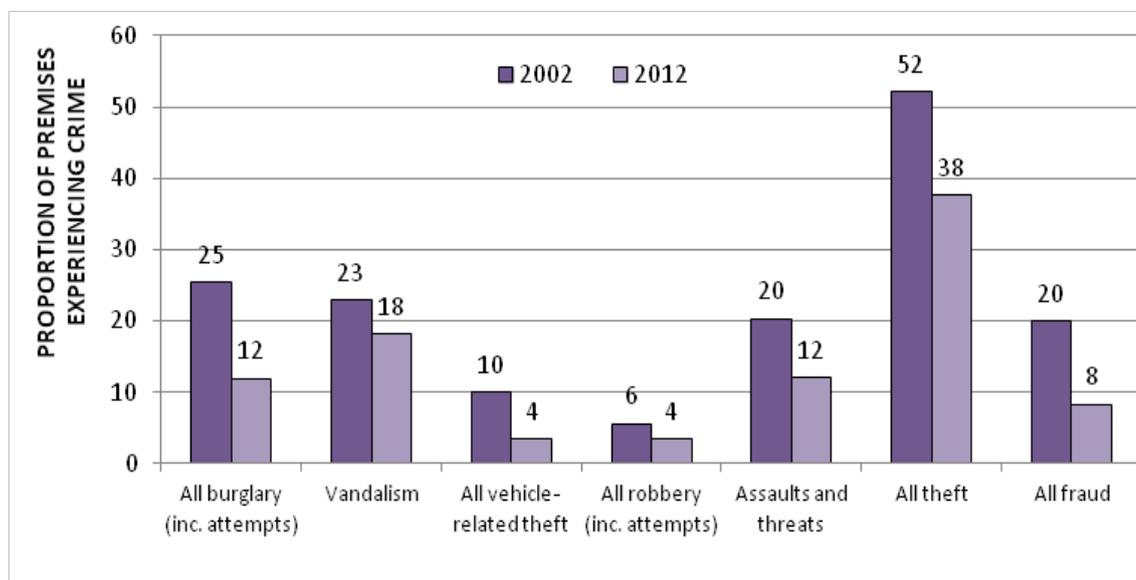
Following on from the Headline findings report published on 24th January 2013 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/crime-against-businesses-headline-findings-from-the-2012-commercial-victimisation-survey--2>), more detailed analysis from the 2012 Commercial Victimisation Survey (CVS) is released today¹.

Key findings

- As shown in the headline findings report, there were 9.2 million crimes against business premises in four sectors in the 12 months prior to interview in 2012. Almost half of all crimes picked up by the CVS (4.1 million) were thefts by customers against wholesale and retail premises (i.e. shoplifting).
- In incidents of burglary with entry, goods or stock were the items most commonly reported stolen (in 37% of incidents). Similarly, goods or stock were also the most common items stolen in thefts by customers (stolen in 88% of incidents), largely driven by the wholesale and retail sector where almost all (94%) incidents of theft by customers (i.e. shoplifting) involved the theft of goods or stock.
- Across the four sectors covered by the survey, business premises in urban areas experience a greater rate of crime than premises in rural areas. There were 15,500 incidents of crime per 1,000 premises in urban areas compared with 5,600 in rural areas, i.e. the incidence rate was almost three times higher in urban areas than in rural areas.
- Around three quarters (76%) of premises in the four sectors had burglar alarms installed. This proportion was higher for larger premises. Also, 73% of premises had protective window and door measures in place, the most common type being bars, gates, grilles or shatterproof glass.
- The most expensive individual incidents of crime were theft of vehicles, which cost £5,000 on average (defined using the median value). Burglary with entry also incurred high average costs at £1,000 per incident, with the other crime types each having lower median costs ranging from £35 to £350.
- There were around 14.5 million less crimes against wholesale and retail business premises in 2012 than in 2002 (down from a total of around 21.5 million to around 7 million)². However, theft accounts for a similar proportion of total crime in 2012 as it did in 2002; around 4 out of 5 incidents reported in both surveys were incidents of theft.

- The largest decreases in victimisation rates (i.e. proportion of premises experiencing at least one incident) were for theft (down from 52% to 38% of premises) and burglary (down from 25% to 12%).

Proportion of premises across all four sectors that experienced each crime in the last 12 months



Methodology

- The CVS is a telephone survey in which respondents from a representative sample of business premises in four business sectors in England and Wales were asked about crimes experienced at their premises in the 12 months prior to interview.
- The four sectors are: manufacturing, wholesale and retail, transportation and storage, and accommodation and food. In total 4,017 interviews were carried out across the sectors, with around 1,000 in each.

Publication coverage

This release contains statistics on the following:

- Nature of crime against businesses – e.g. the time of day incidents occur and also some additional information specific to the crime type, for example items stolen in burglaries.
- Experience of crime by business and location characteristics – incidence and prevalence rates by variables including distance from nearest housing, length of time at premises, location in terms of urban or rural, and geographical region.
- Crime prevention – the security measures that business premises have in place, including burglar alarms and security guards.
- Costs of crime against businesses - both as a result of victimisation and from preventative measures (such as security measures).

- A comparison of crime against the wholesale and retail sector in 2002 and 2012 – this analysis is based on a subset of the 2012 data due to differences in the definition of the wholesale and retail sector between 2002 and 2012.

Notes to editors

1. 'Crime against businesses: Detailed findings from the 2012 Commercial Victimization Survey' is available online via the UK National Statistics Publication Hub and the Gov.uk website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/crime-against-businesses-detailed-findings-from-the-2012-commercial-victimisation-survey>

2. As the SIC classification for the wholesale and retail sector changed between 2002 and 2012, a subset of the 2012 data has been used in order to make data from the two surveys comparable. As such, the figures presented in the section 'Crime in the wholesale and retail sector: 2002 and 2012 compared' will be different to those in the rest of the publication and the headline findings report.

This release is published in HTML format, with a pdf document also provided which will enable users to print out all HTML pages from one source document (all tables are solely available online).

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