

Monthly Crime Trends

The graphs in this section provide monthly data for selected offence categories for the period from January, 1991 to June, 1999, expressed as a rate, thereby factoring in the size of the Queensland population. All crime statistics appearing in these graphs are comparable over the nine-year period except where indicated with a break in continuity.

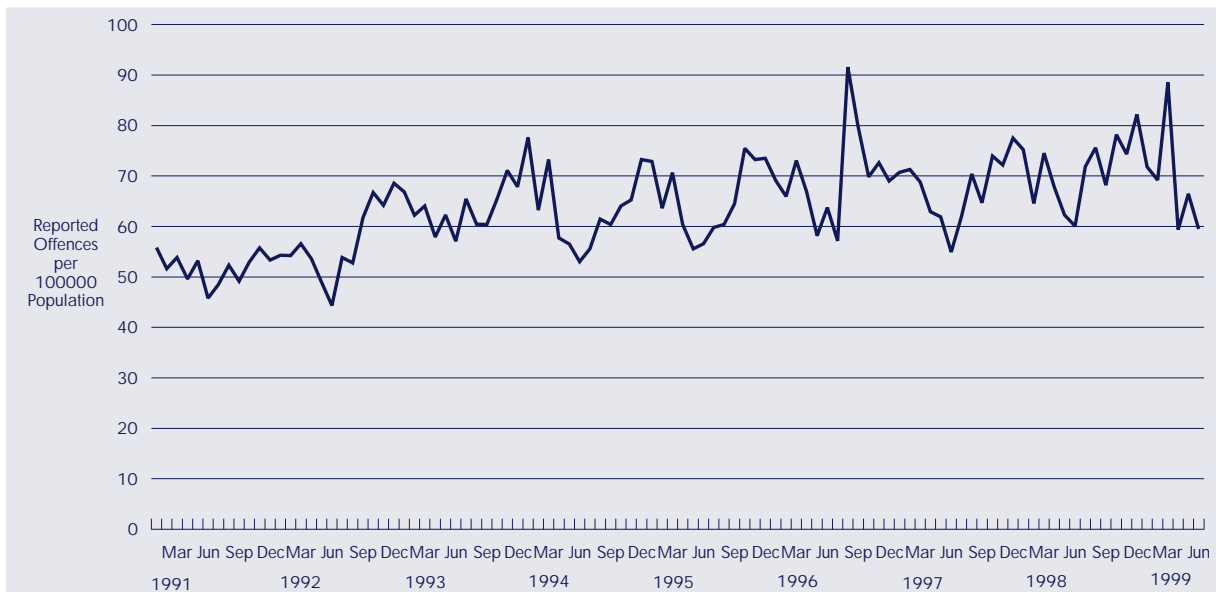
Quarterly Estimated Residential Population (ERP) statistics for Queensland provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (Catalogue 1304.3) were used to calculate the rates up to December, 1998. The rates for January to June, 1999 were calculated using a projection of the ERP, provided by the Queensland Office of the Government Statistician.

To test for a statistically significant trend in the following graphs, Kendall's rank order correlation test (Conover, W.J. 1971 *Practical Non-Parametric Statistics*, 2nd edition, John Wiley and Sons, pp 256-260) was used. Although the 5% level of significance was used, most results were significant at the 1% level. Details are footnoted where appropriate in the text under each graph. This test is a two-tailed test which determines whether there is an increasing or decreasing trend in the recorded number of offences over the one-hundred and two month period covered in the report.

Some month to month variations in the numbers of recorded offences suggested seasonal factors may be operating. The test for trend is not sensitive to seasonal variations; it is sensitive only to a generally increasing or decreasing trend over the time period examined.

monthly crime trends

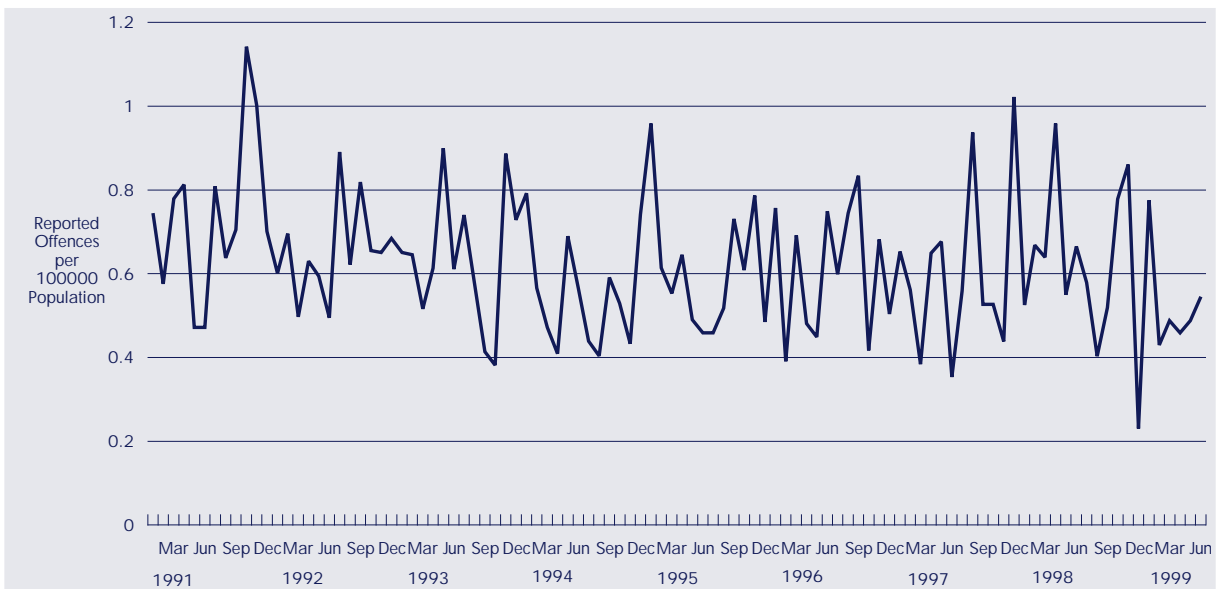
Offences Against the Person



Offences Against the Person has experienced a significantly increasing trend* for the period under review. This broad offence division is dominated by Assault as is evidenced by the strong seasonal influence exhibited by

the time series. The rate of offences peak at around December and fall to a low around July of each year. The peak in September 1996 is the result of a large number of Sexual Offences reported at this time.

Homicide



Homicide, a low volume offence classification, is subject to random fluctuations from month to month. In spite of these, the monthly trend for Homicides since 1991 is significantly decreasing[^]. In fact, the lowest rate to date

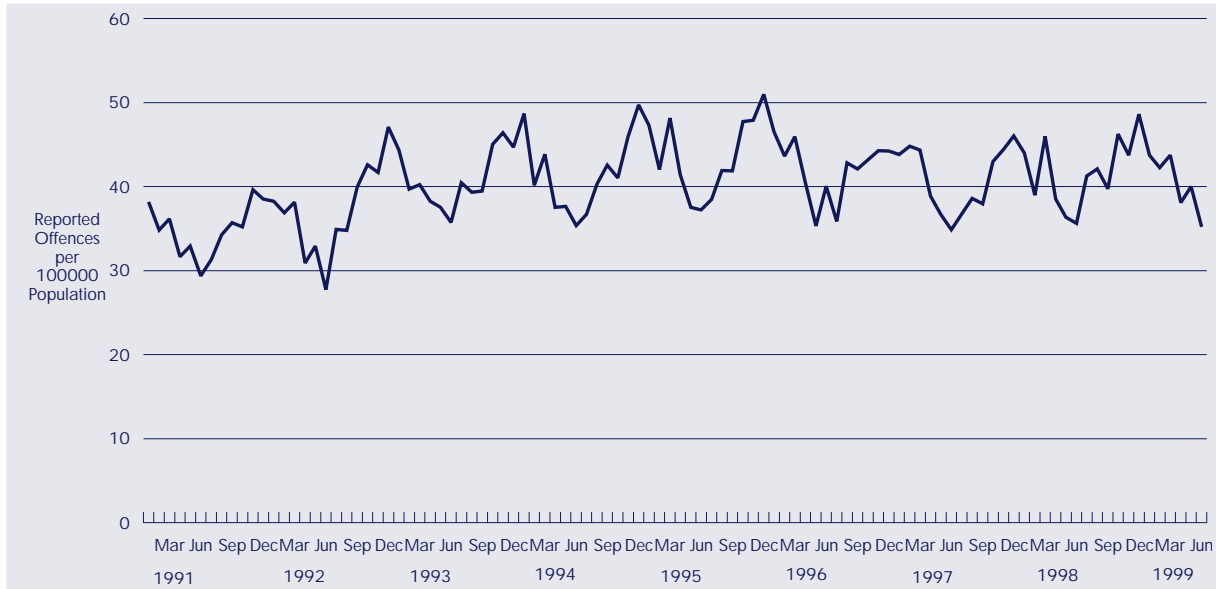
was reported in December 1998. Rates reported in the 1998/99 financial year contributed to the decreasing trend displayed in the Homicide time series.

* The result is significant at the 1% level of confidence, using Kendall's rank order correlation test. See page 17 for further information.

[^] The result is significant at the 5% level of confidence, using Kendall's rank order correlation test. See page 17 for further information.

monthly crime trends

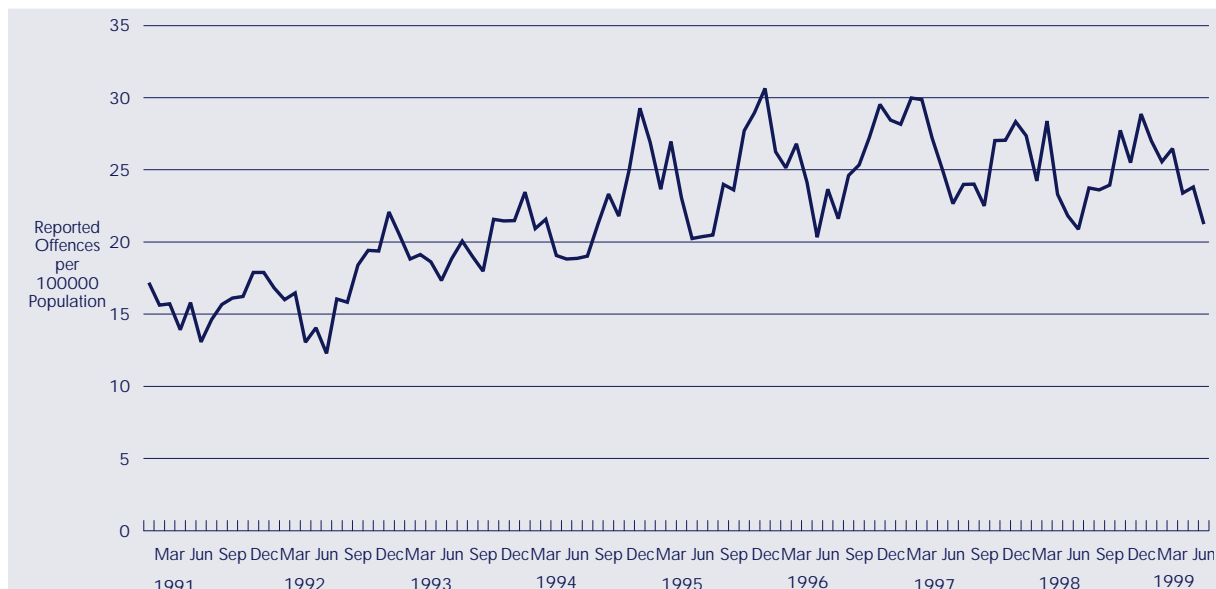
Assault



Assault is the largest in volume of the Offence Against the Person sub-categories and, as such, tends to dominate. A significantly increasing trend* was detected over the 102-month period. Assault Offences

are subject to strong seasonal influences, which are evident in the time series with a higher rate of offences occurring over the summer months of each year.

Serious Assault



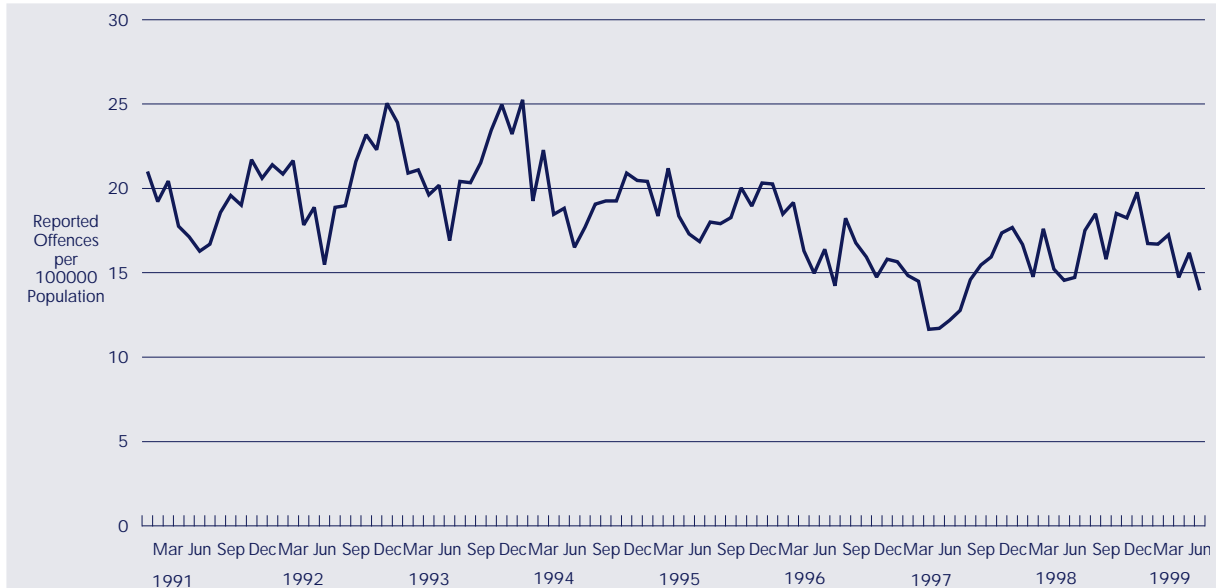
Serious Assaults experienced sharp increases from early 1993 to late 1996. In recent years, however, the time series has stabilised, even exhibiting a slight decrease.

Despite this, a significantly increasing trend* was detected over the nine year period.

* The result is significant at the 1% level of confidence, using Kendall's rank order correlation test. See page 17 for further information.

monthly crime trends

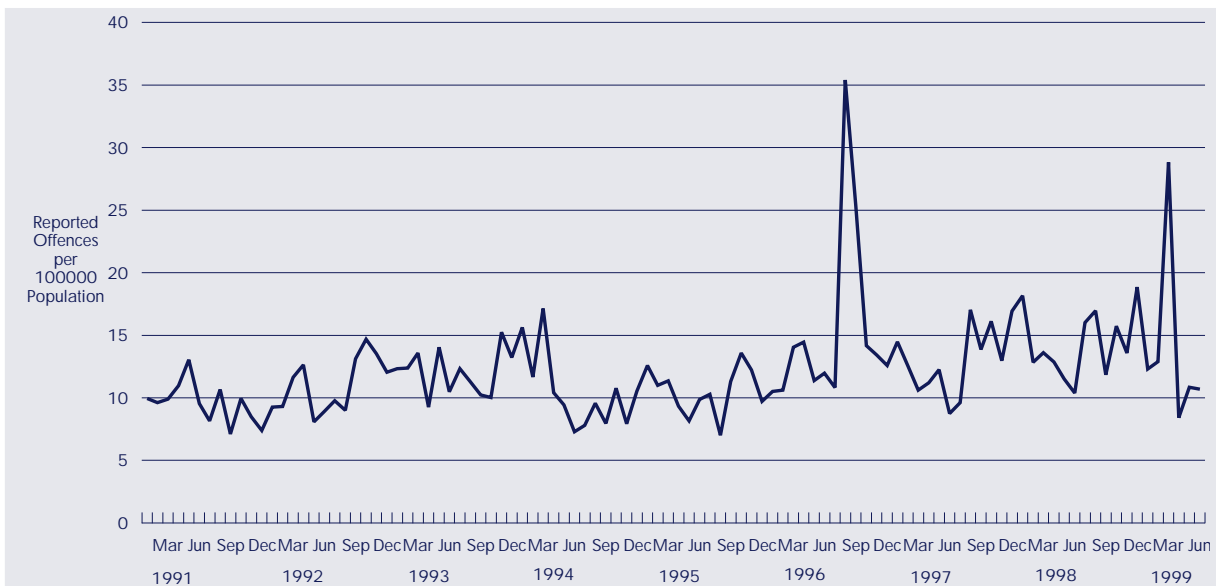
Other Assault



The Other Assault offence time series has been decreasing* since early 1991, particularly since the beginning of the 1994/95 financial year. The 1996/97 financial year saw a sharp decrease in the rate of Other Assaults.

Following this, the 1997/98 and 1998/99 financial years have seen an increase with reported Other Assaults experiencing a ten percent increase for the year under review.

Sexual Offences



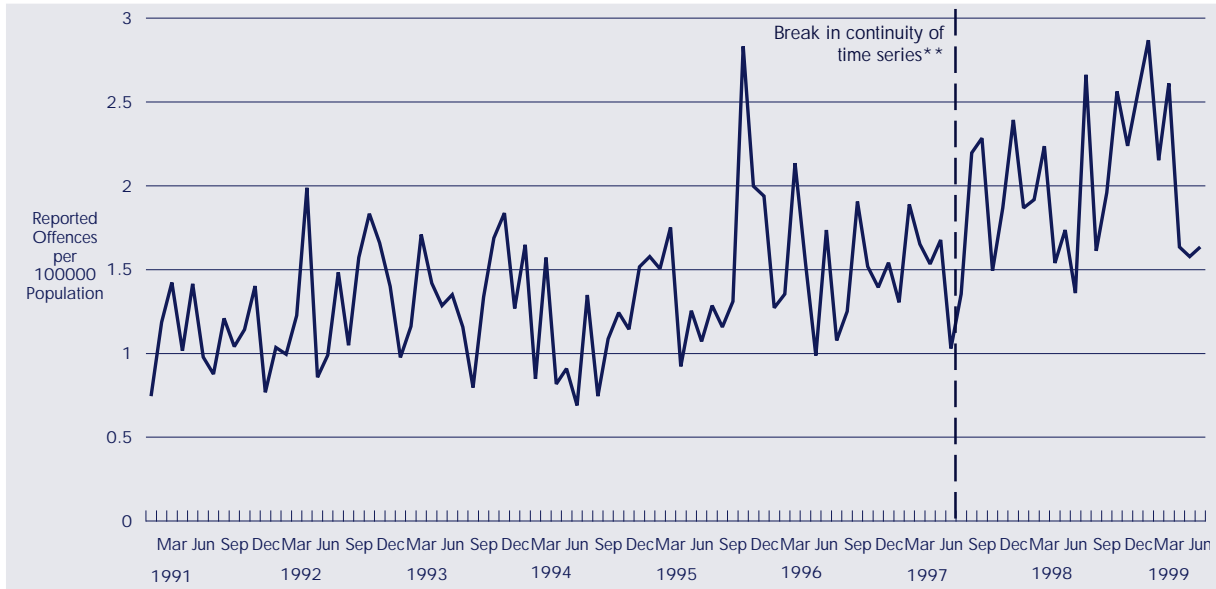
The spikes in the Sexual Offence time series are the result of large numbers of offences being reported to police in September 1996 and March 1999. Both are due to single offenders who were charged with multiple

offences for incidents occurring over a number of years. Overall, this time series exhibits a significantly increasing trend*.

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monthly crime trends

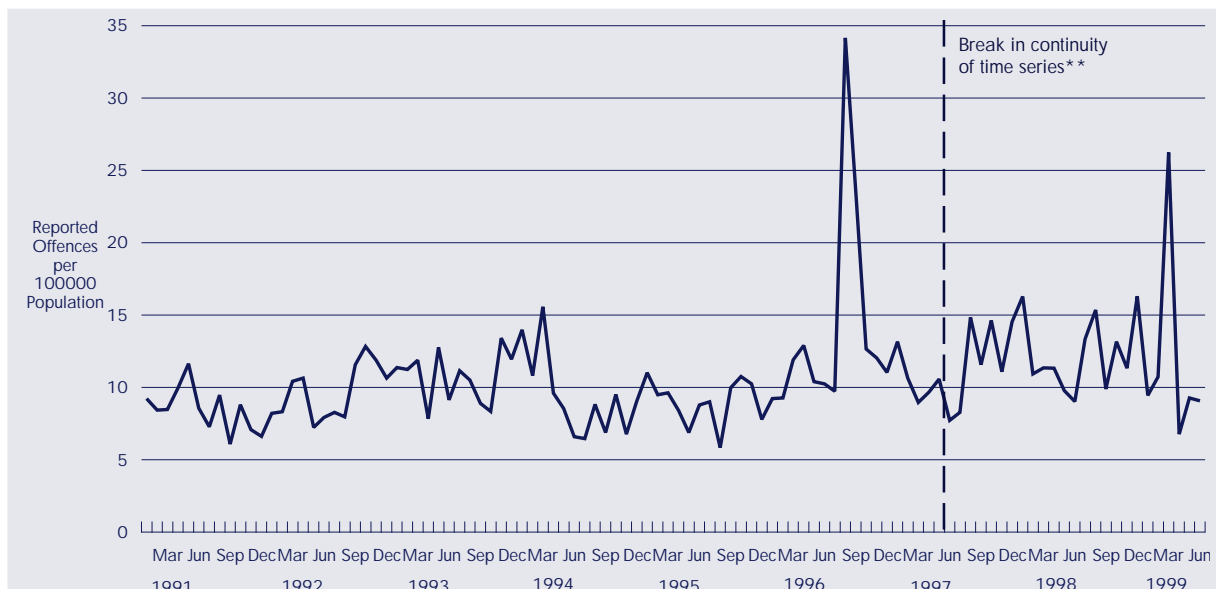
Rape and Attempted Rape



The break in continuity of the Rape and Attempted Rape time series involved a broadening of the definition of rape (*Criminal Amendment Act, 1997***). As such, care should be exercised when comparing data prior to and

following this change. This is illustrated by the marked increase in offences following the break of continuity which has contributed to the statistically significant upward trend* detected overall.

Other Sexual Offences



A single offender was charged with in excess of 400 offences for incidents which occurred over a period of over twenty years resulting in the second spike in the Other Sexual Offence time series. Since 1991, the time

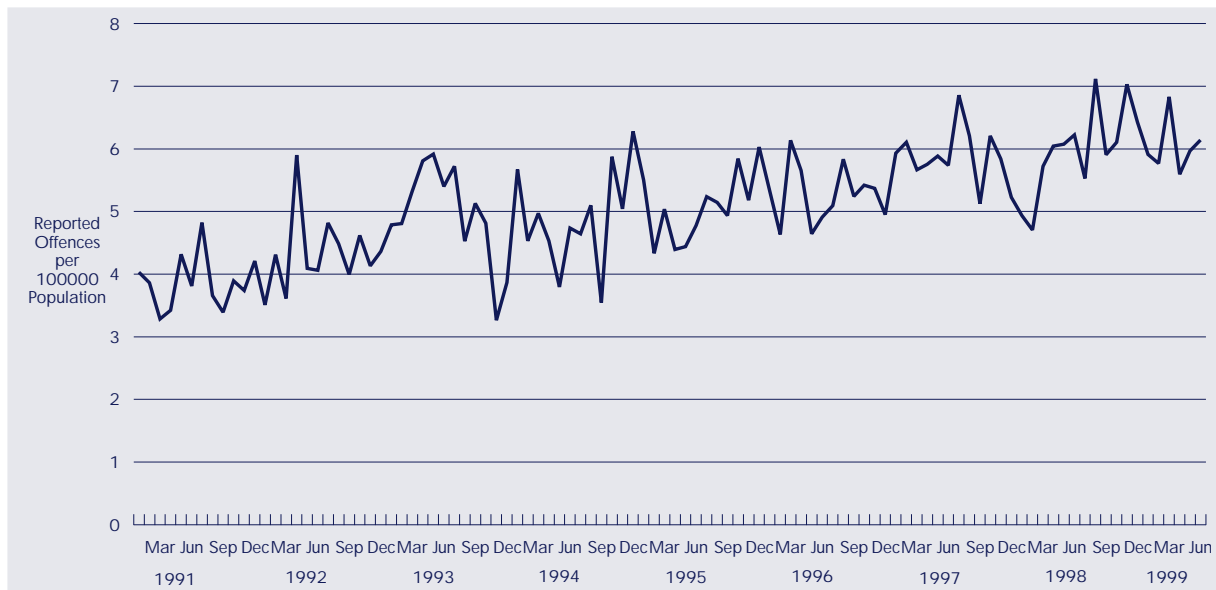
series has been increasing at a significant rate* although, once again, care should be exercised when making comparisons of data before and after the break in continuity**.

* The result is significant at the 1% level of confidence, using Kendall's rank order correlation test. See page 17 for further information.

** There are breaks in the continuity of the Rape and Attempted Rape, and Other Sexual Offences time series as at 1 July 1997, due to the introduction of the Criminal Law Amendment Act 1997 which resulted in a broadening of the definition of Rape and Attempted Rape and a narrowing of Other Sexual Offences.

monthly crime trends

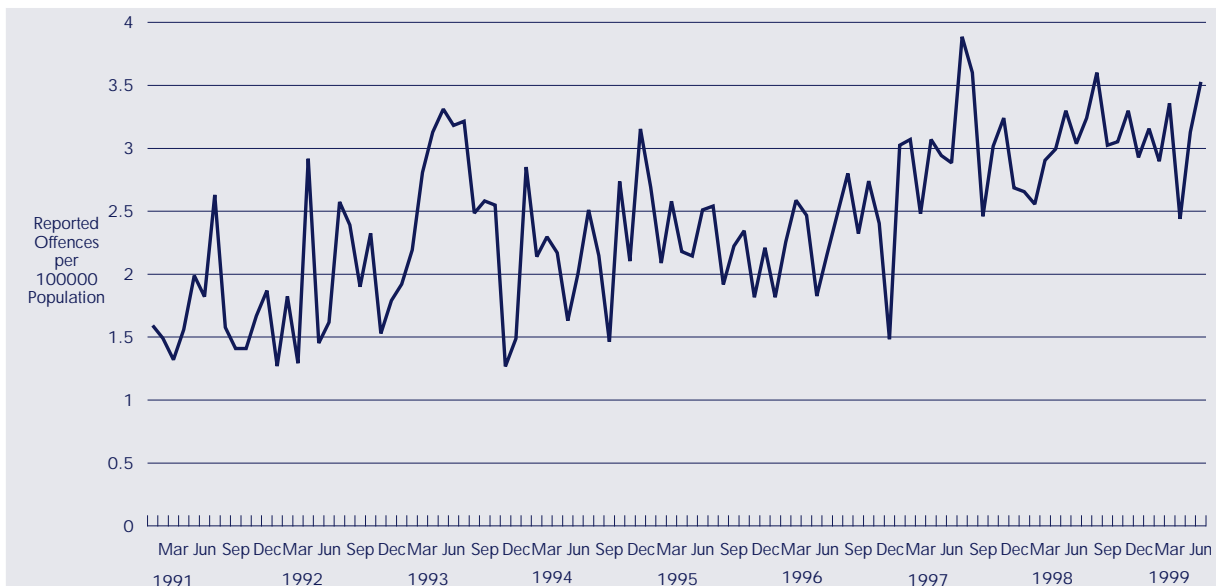
Robbery



The sharply increasing trend* in the rate of reported Robbery offences is evident in the graph above. Robbery increased by 7% over the 1998/99 financial year following a 3% increase over the previous year contribut-

ing significantly to the overall increase in trend. Seventy-four offences per 100,000 population were reported in 1998/99.

Armed Robbery



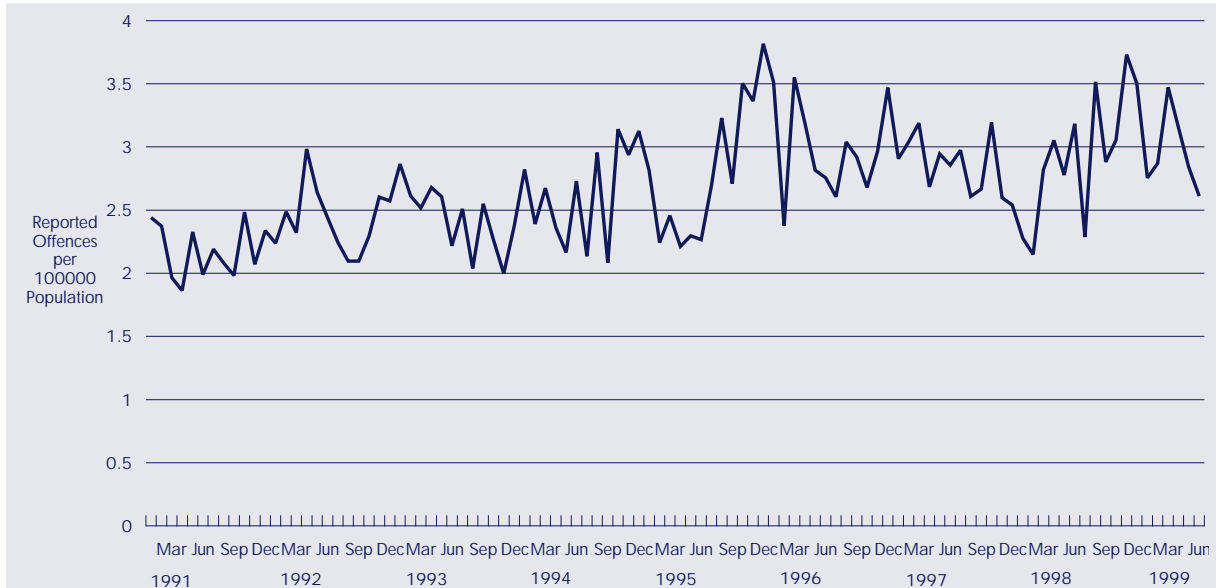
Although the trend in the rate of Armed Robbery offences has been increasing significantly* since 1991, the time series has sharply increased over the last two

financial years. Following a 14% increase between 1996/97 and 1997/98, Armed Robbery again increased between 1997/98 and 1998/99.

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monthly crime trends

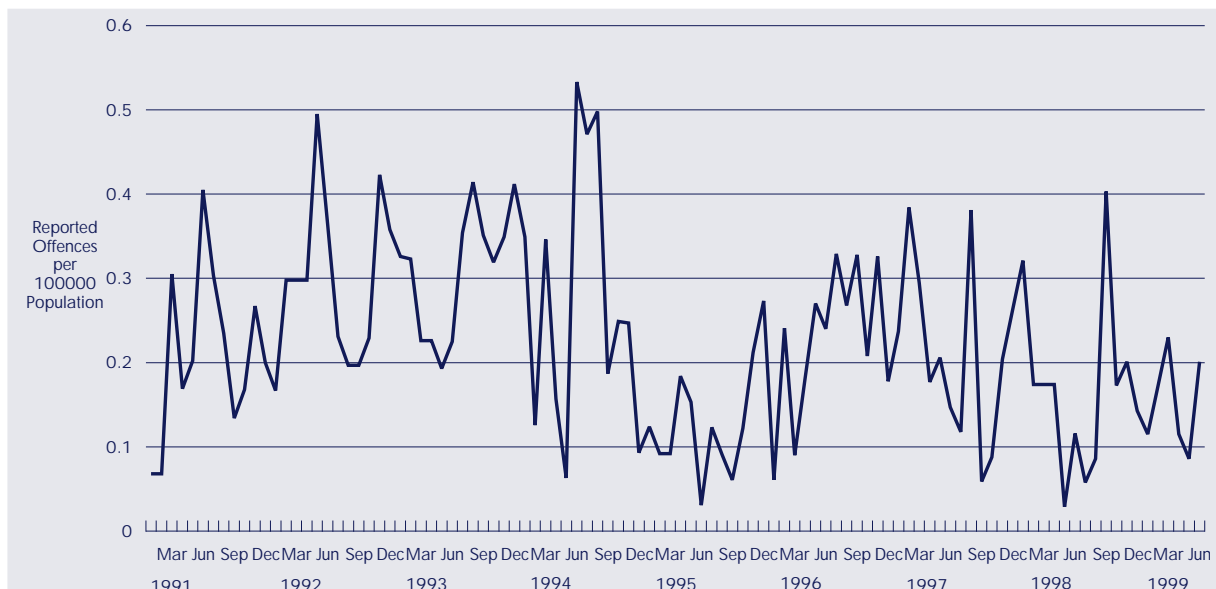
Unarmed Robbery



Following a substantial reduction in the rate of reported Unarmed Robbery offences between 1996/97 and 1997/98, a large increase was reported for the 1998/99 financial year. Overall, the upward trend evident in the

graph above is statistically significant*. The rates reported for the year under review equal the high rates reported during 1995/96.

Extortion



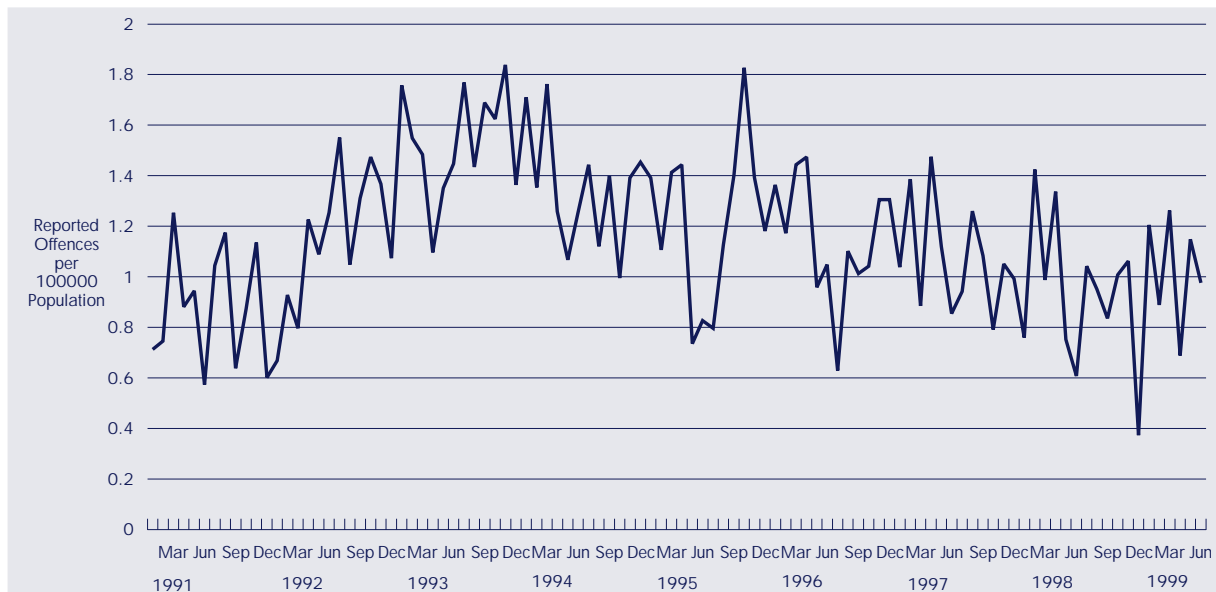
Extortion is the lowest in volume of the Offences Against the Person sub-categories and, as such, is prone to random variations from month to month. The marked fluctuations occurring in the time series are evident in

the graph above. Despite these, a statistically significant downward trend* was detected over the nine year period.

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monthly crime trends

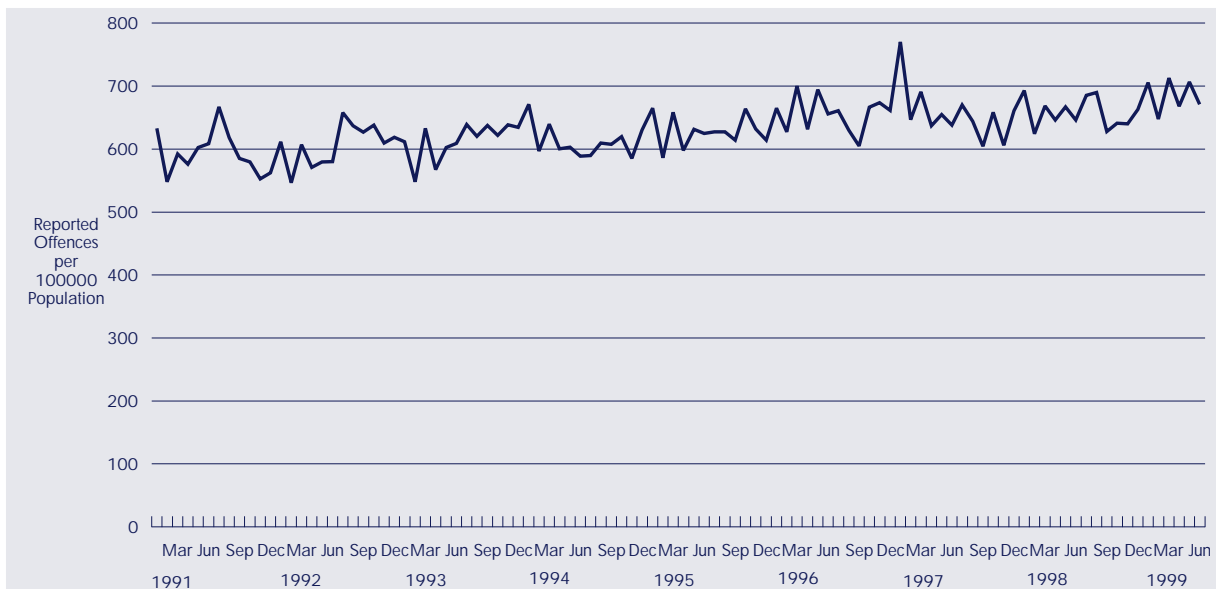
Kidnapping, Abduction, etc.



The rate of Kidnapping and Abduction offences rose sharply over the first three years of the time series. Since then, the time series has been steadily decreasing

although no significant trend was detected overall. This time series is subject to the fluctuations that occur in small volume offence categories.

Offences Against Property



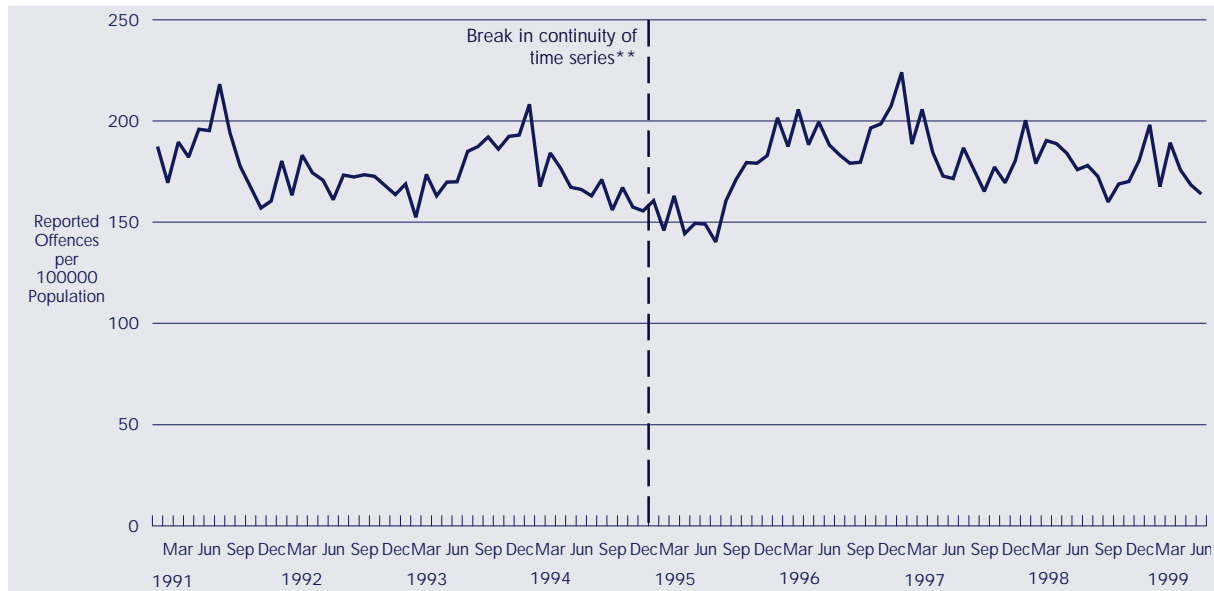
Although the Offences Against Property time series looks fairly stable, a statistically significant upward trend* was detected. This is a large volume offence category and, as such, increases or decreases are usually small in

the overall context. There was an increase of 3% in Offences Against Property between 1997/98 and 1998/99.

* The result is significant at the 1% level of confidence, using Kendall's rank order correlation test. See page 17 for further information.

monthly crime trends

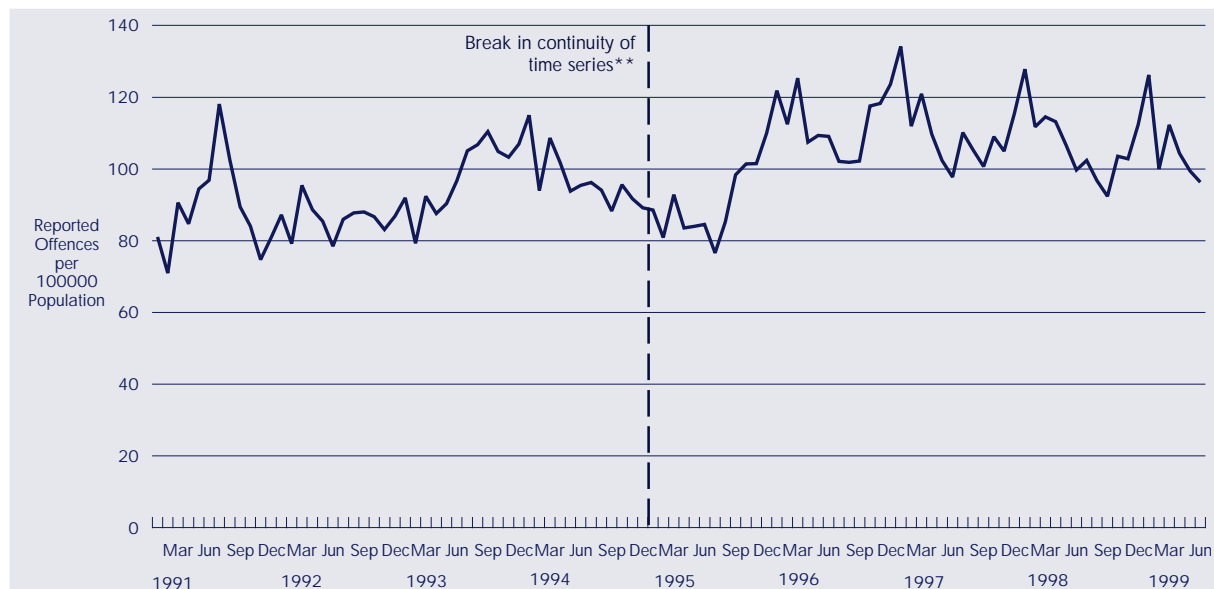
Unlawful Entry With Intent



The break in continuity** of the Unlawful Entry with Intent time series makes it difficult to analyse. Overall, no significant trend was detected and the time series appears to be approximately stable despite a substantial

decrease in reported offences over the 1994/95 financial year. The rate of Unlawful Entry Offences decreased by 4% between 1997/98 and 1998/99.

Unlawful Entry - Dwellings



The time series for Unlawful Entry of Dwellings has stabilised in recent years, namely, since late 1995. Despite this, an overall significant upward trend* was detected for the nine year period due to the increase in

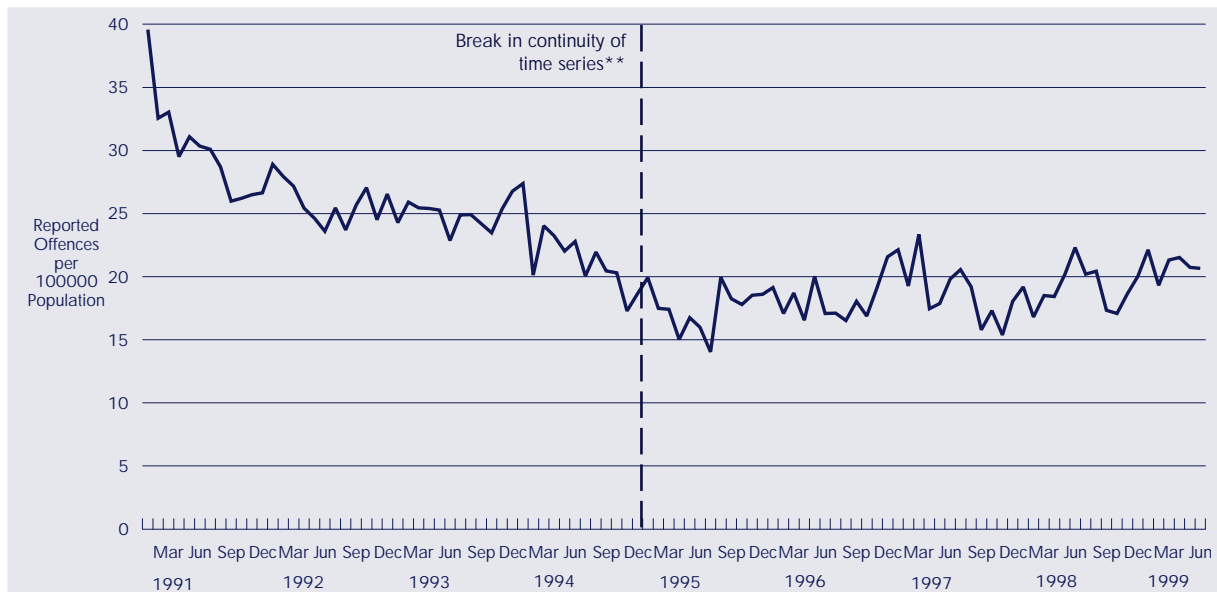
trend over the early years of the time series. Unlawful Entry of Dwellings decreased over the 1998/99 financial year.

* The result is significant at the 1% level of confidence, using Kendall's rank order correlation test. See page 17 for further information.

** The Unlawful Entry offence categories replace the former Breaking and Entering categories, due to the introduction of the Criminal Law Amendment Act 1997. Statistics for these new categories have been regenerated back to 1 July, 1995, before which Breaking and Entering statistics are displayed.

monthly crime trends

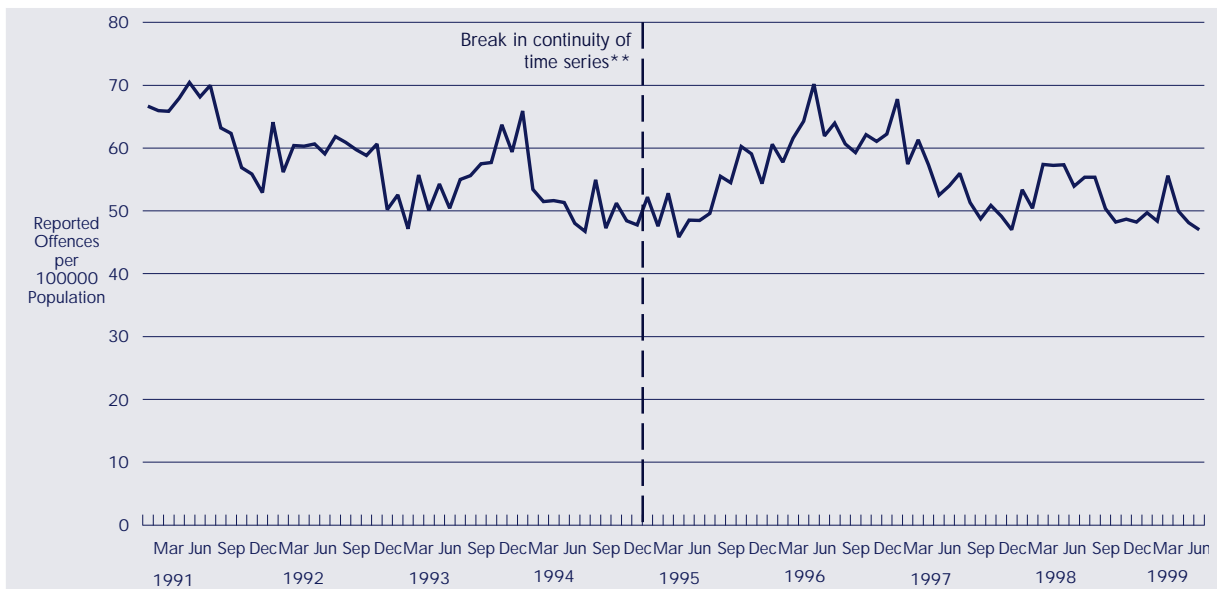
Unlawful Entry - Shops



After a dramatic decrease from 1991 to 1995, Unlawful Entry - Shops has steadied. The break in continuity appears to have had a stabilising effect on the time series although a significant downward trend* was

detected for the entire period. There was a ten percent increase in reported offences between 1997/98 and 1998/99 resulting in a slight rise in the time series.

Unlawful Entry - Other Premises



The break in continuity** in the Unlawful Entry - Other Premises category appears to have resulted in a change in trend although this is difficult to quantify. Prior to the change in definition, the time series was decreasing.

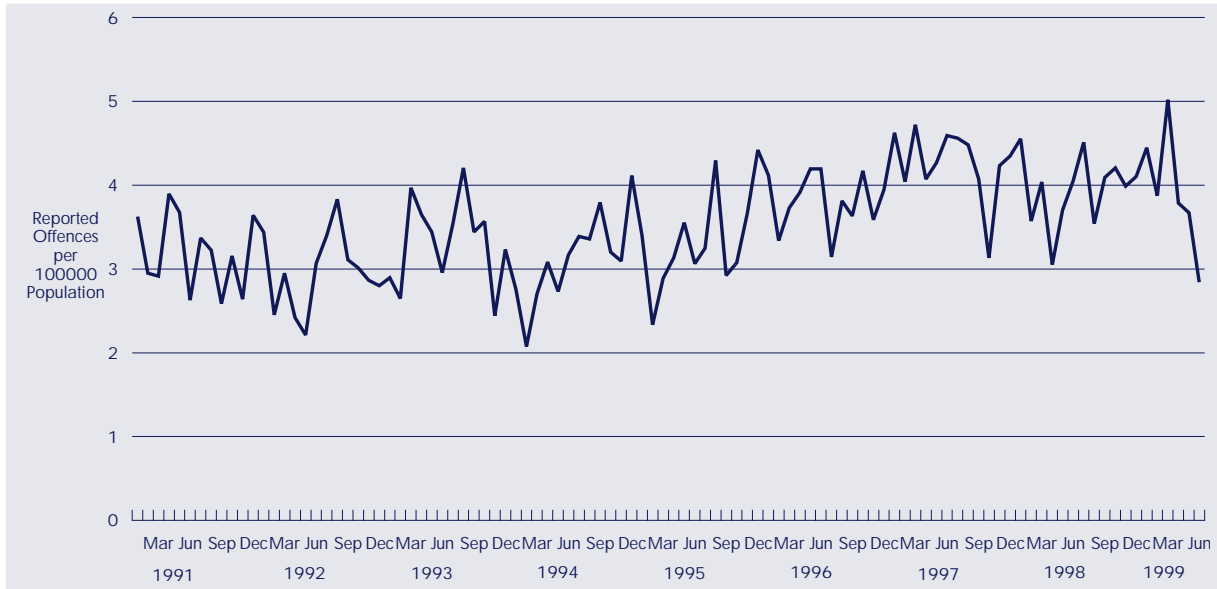
Following an upward shift, the time series is again decreasing resulting in an overall statistically significant downward trend* for the nine year period.

* The result is significant at the 1% level of confidence, using Kendall's rank order correlation test. See page 17 for further information.

** The Unlawful Entry offence categories replace the former Breaking and Entering categories, due to the introduction of the Criminal Law Amendment Act 1997. Statistics for these new categories have been regenerated back to 1 July, 1995, before which Breaking and Entering statistics are displayed.

monthly crime trends

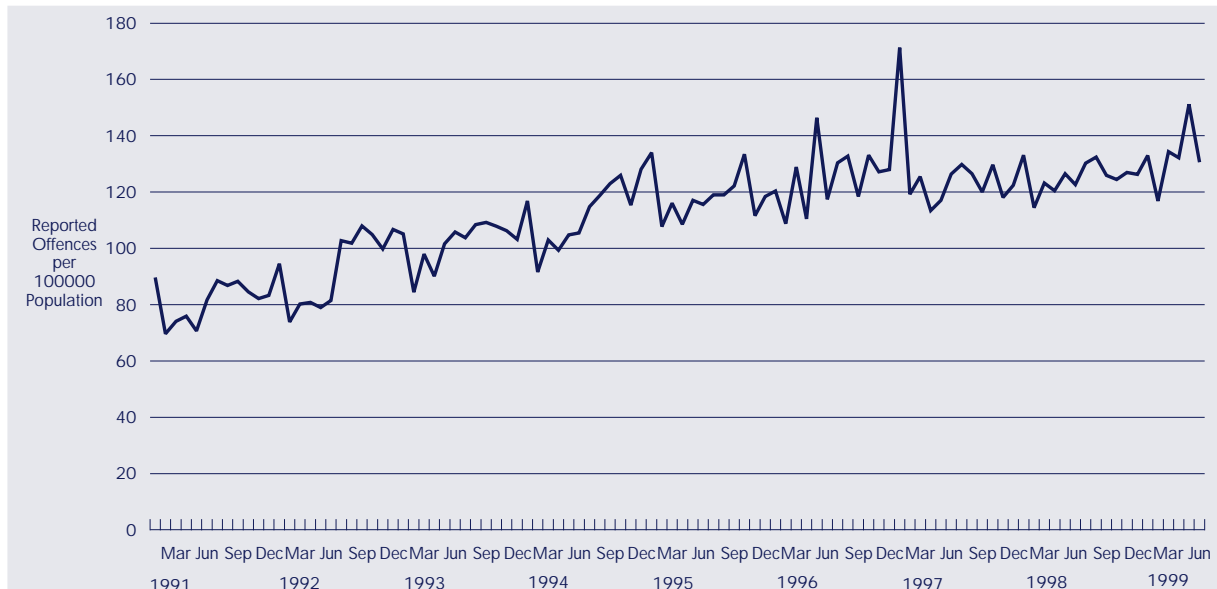
Arson



Arson Offences exhibit an overall statistically significant upward trend* for the 102-month period. In total, 1,673 offences were reported to police in the 1998/99

financial year, 34 more than for the previous year. This equates to a rate of 48 offences reported for every 100,000 persons.

Other Property Damage



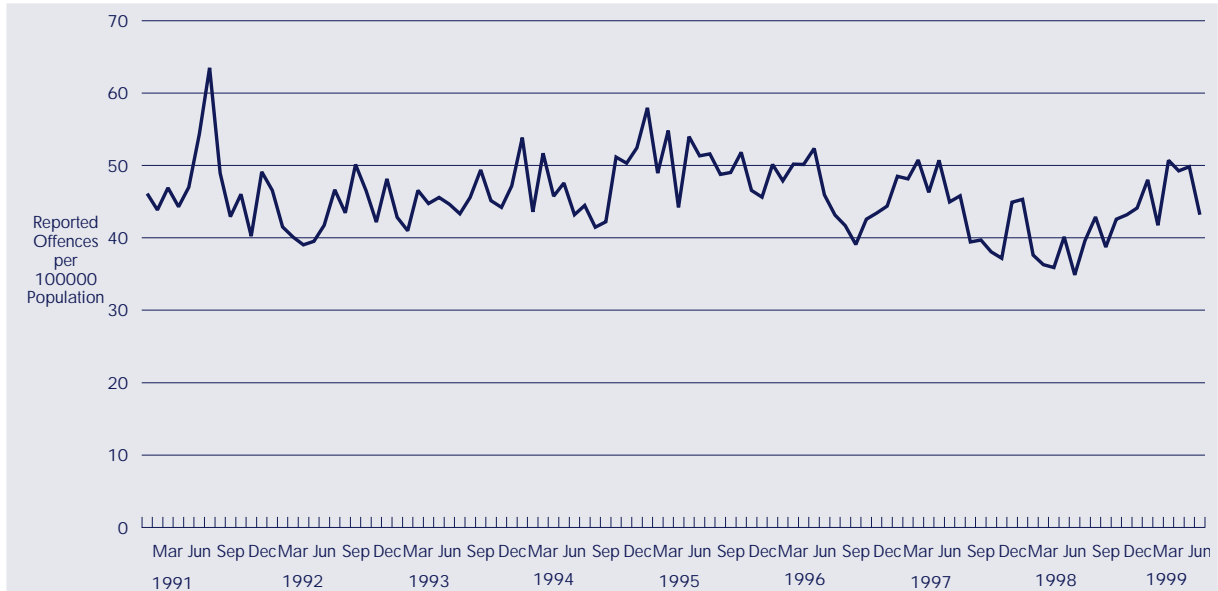
The sharply increasing trend* of Other Property Damage offences is evident in the graph above despite the fact that the time series has stabilised in recent years. There

was a statewide increase of 5% between 1997/98 and 1998/99 following a 5% decrease over the previous year.

* The result is significant at the 1% level of confidence, using Kendall's rank order correlation test. See page 17 for further information.

monthly crime trends

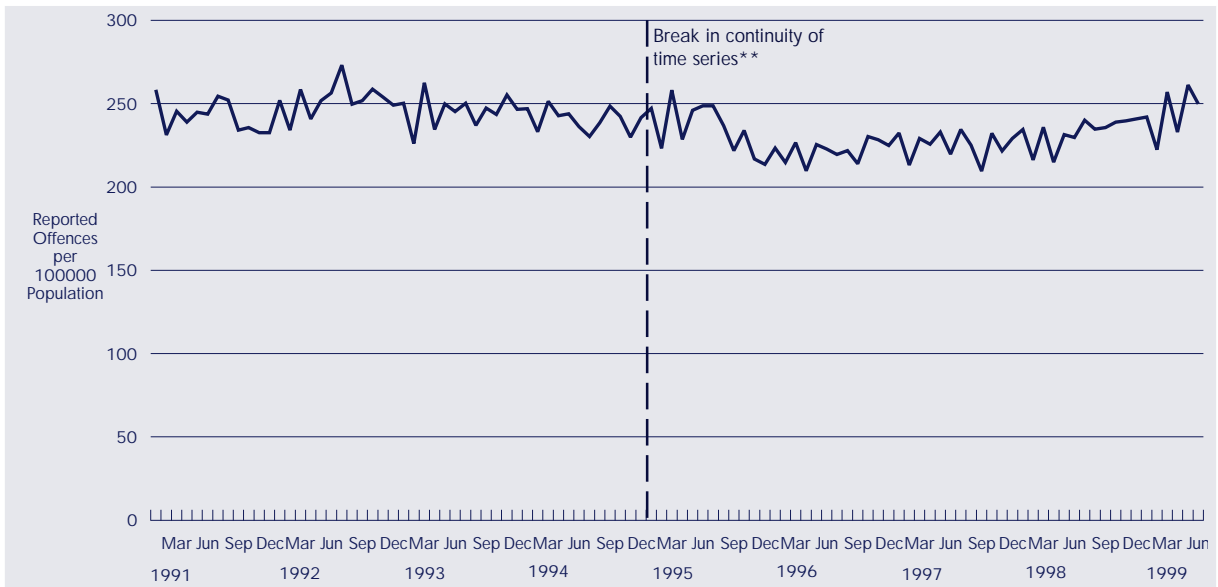
Motor Vehicle Theft



No significant trend was detected for the Motor Vehicle Theft time series. From the beginning of 1996, rates of theft decreased. Between the 1997/98 and 1998/99

financial years, however, rates increased by 12% causing an upward shift in the time series.

Other Theft (excluding Unlawful Entry)



Prior to the break in continuity**, reported Other Theft offences were relatively stable. Subsequent to this change in classification, the rate of Other Theft decreased causing the detection of an overall significant

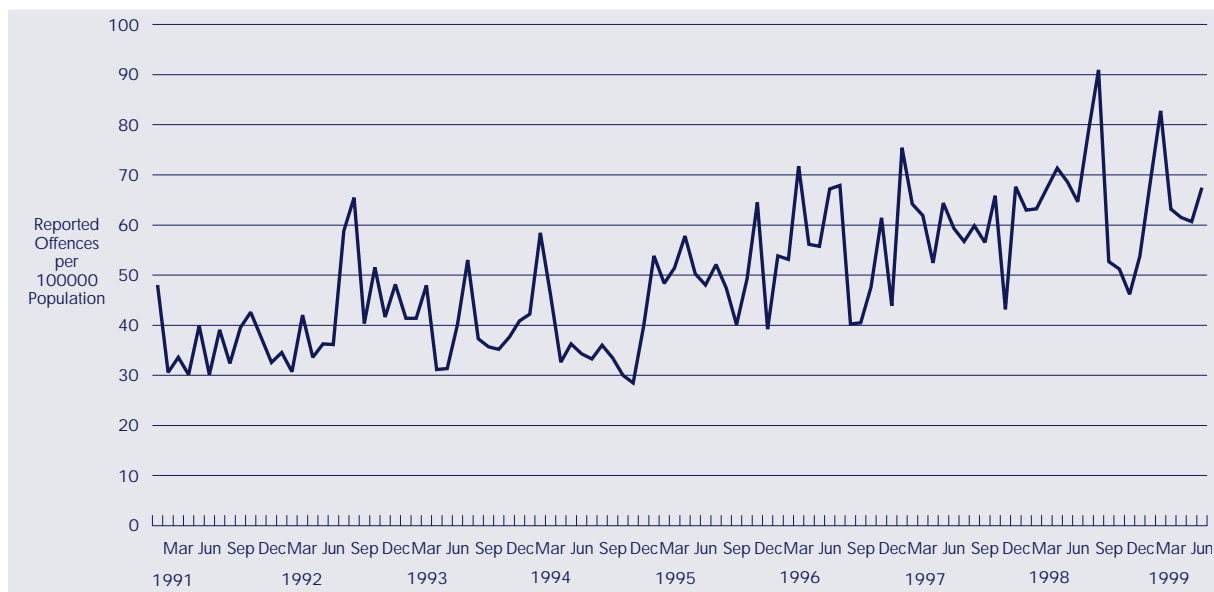
downward trend*. Over the 1998/99 financial year offences again increased resulting in an upward shift in the time series.

* The result is significant at the 1% level of confidence, using Kendall's rank order correlation test. See page 17 for further information.

** The Other Theft offence category replaces the former Stealing category, due to the introduction of the Criminal Law Amendment Act 1997. Statistics for this new category have been regenerated back to 1 July, 1995, before which Stealing statistics are displayed.

monthly crime trends

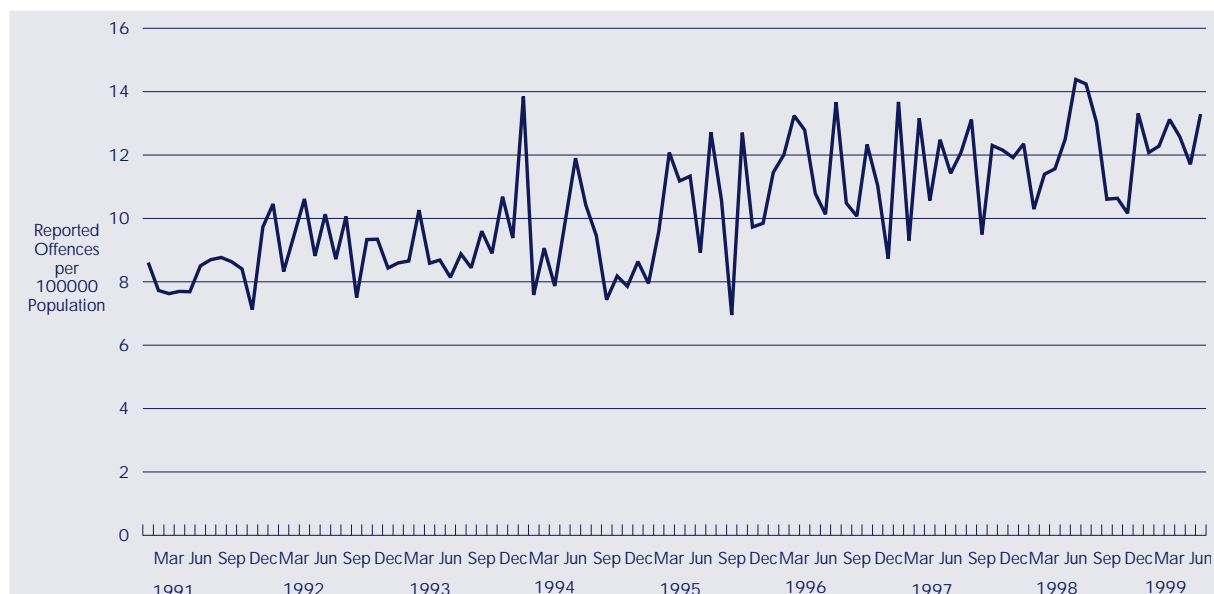
Fraud



The sharply increasing trend* in Fraud offences is evident in the graph above. This offence type has experienced noticeable fluctuations in the latter part of

the time series although increases over the past two financial years have been reported. Over 1998/99, 769 Fraud offences were reported per 100,000 persons.

Handling Stolen Goods



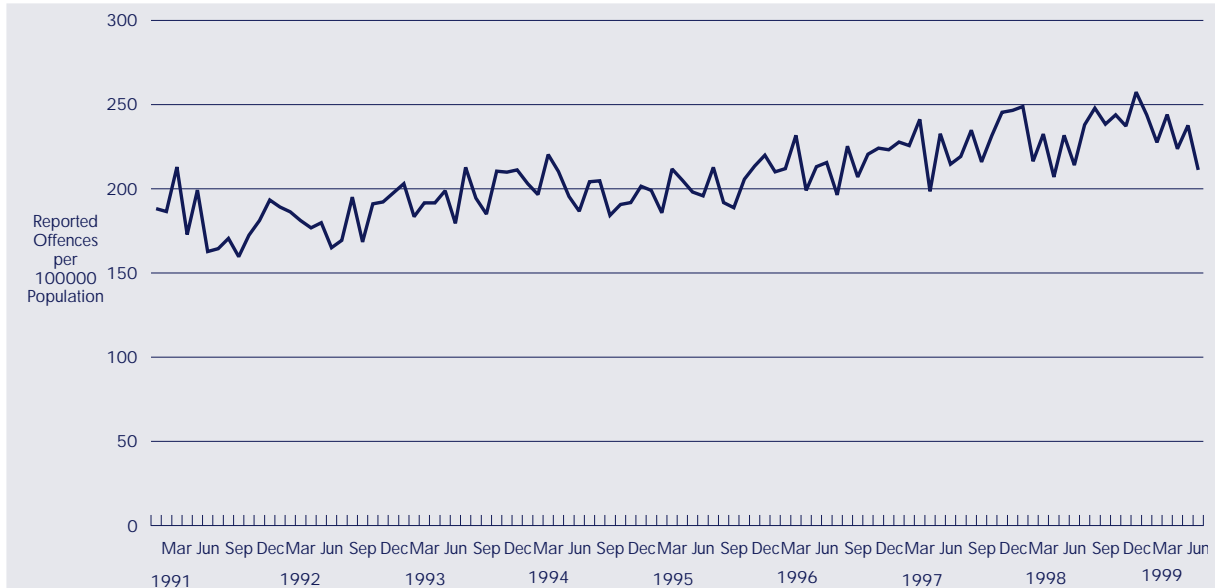
A significantly increasing trend* is evident in the Handling Stolen Goods time series, with an increase of 2% between the 1997/98 and the 1998/99 financial years. Between

early 1994 and late 1997 this time series experienced noticeable fluctuations from one month to the next.

* The result is significant at the 1% level of confidence, using Kendall's rank order correlation test. See page 17 for further information.

monthly crime trends

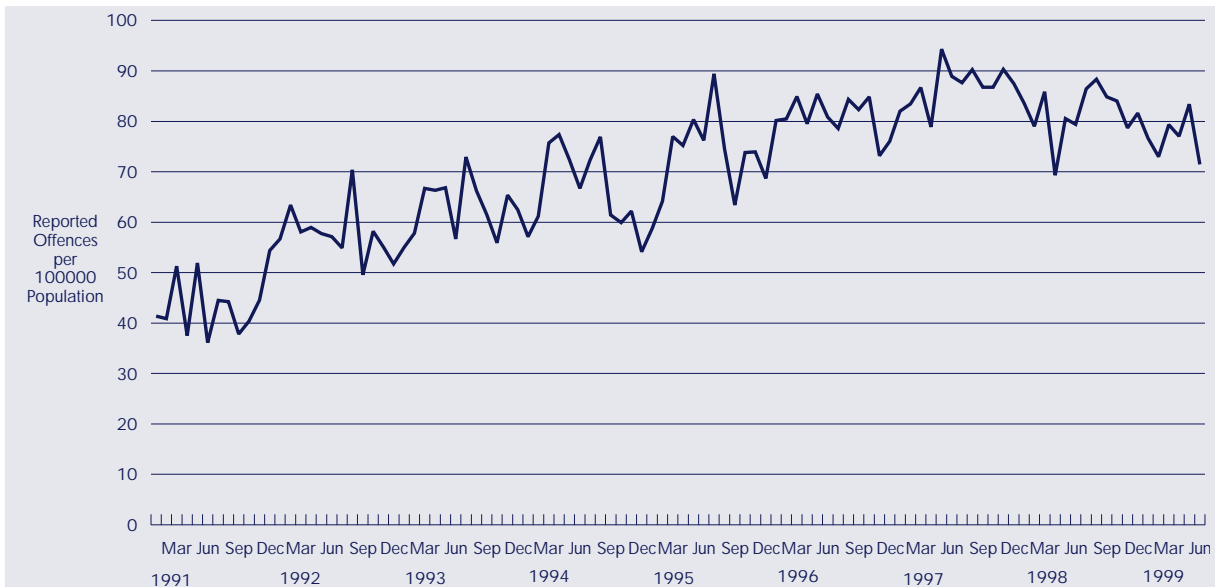
Other Offences



Other Offences are generally detected by police rather than reported to police. As such, any rise in Other Offences is usually regarded as a positive result. As is evidenced in the graph above, a statistically significant

upward trend* was detected. The rate of Other Offences increased by 4% between the 1997/98 and the 1998/99 financial years.

Drug Offences



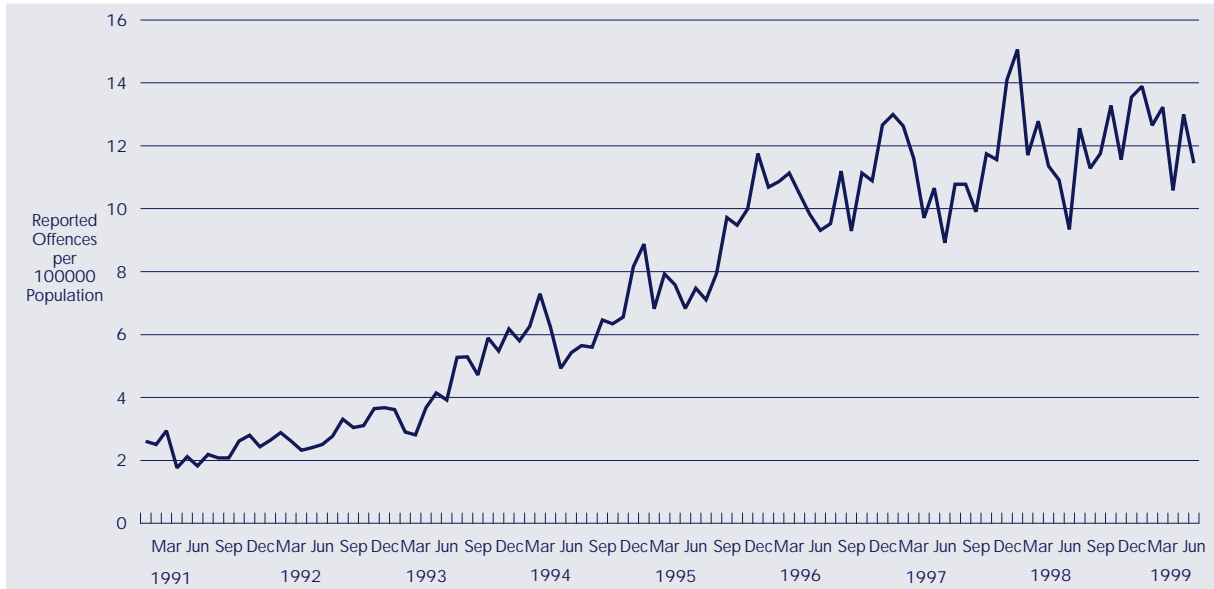
The rate of reported Drug Offences decreased by 4% over the 1998/99 financial year resulting in a downward shift in the time series. Despite this shift, a significantly

increasing trend* was detected, a fact that is evident in the graph above particularly for the early years of the time series.

* The result is significant at the 1% level of confidence, using Kendall's rank order correlation test. See page 17 for further information.

monthly crime trends

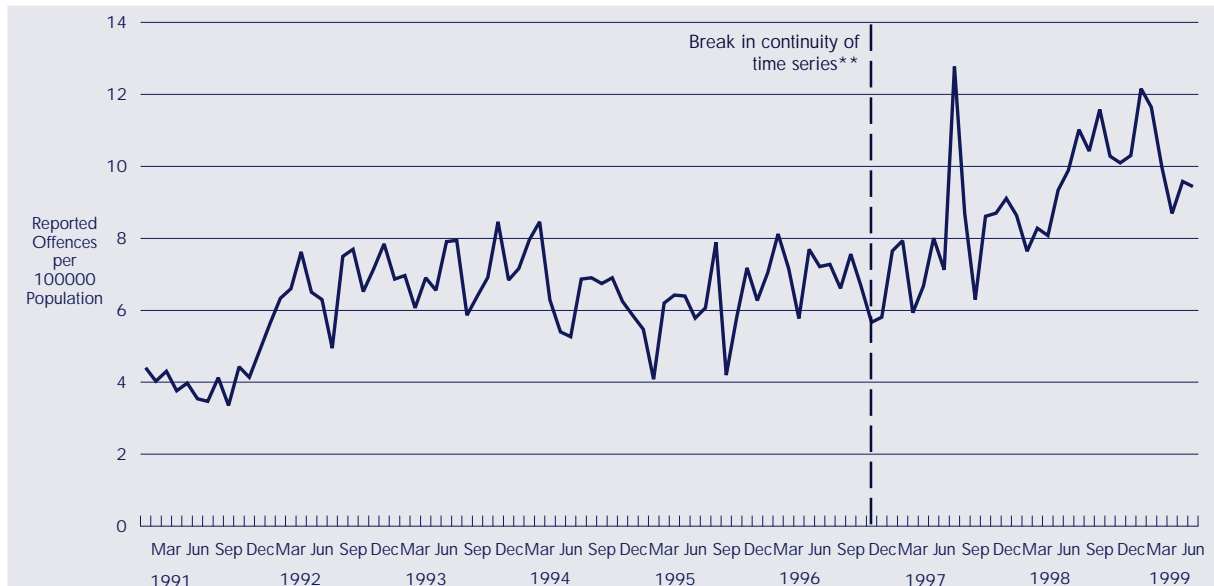
Breach of Domestic Violence Protection Orders



This current Statistical Review is the first to report Breach of Domestic Violence Protection Orders as a separate offence category. This offence category has

experienced a sharp, increasing trend* since January 1991. The 1998/99 financial year saw a 6% increase in this offence type.

Weapons Act Offences



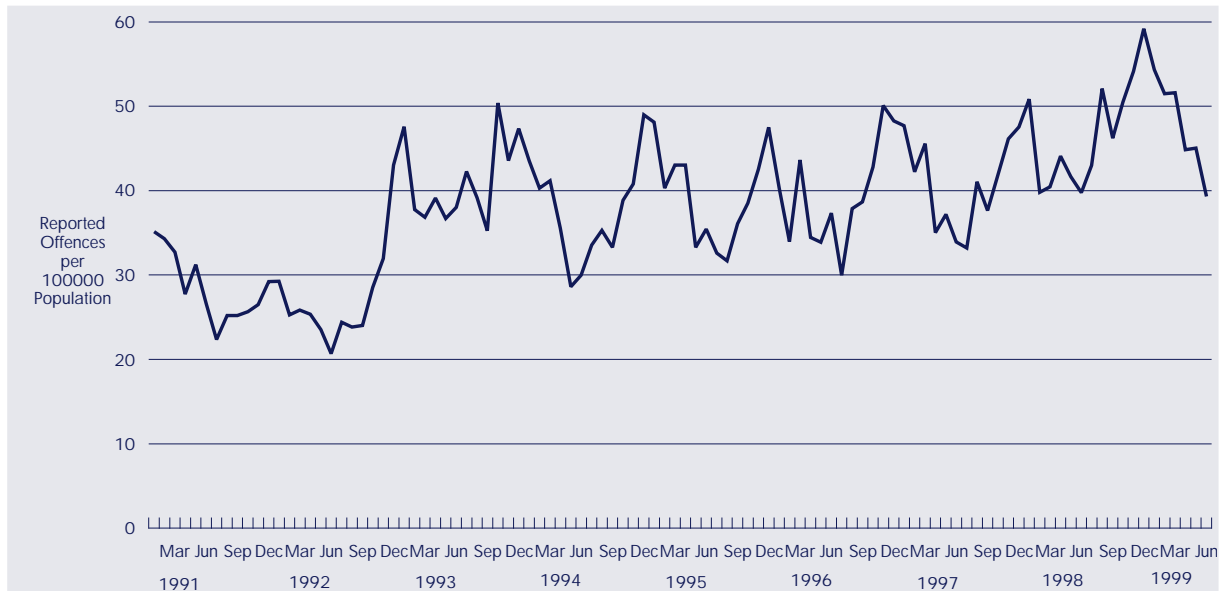
The Weapons Act Offence category is the second of the offences reported separately for the first time in this current review. This, too, exhibits a significantly increasing trend* although the break in continuity resulting

from the Weapons Amendment Act 1996** should be taken into account. Following the cessation of the Buy Back campaign (September 1997), the time series increases sharply.

* The result is significant at the 1% level of confidence, using Kendall's rank order correlation test. See page 17 for further information.

monthly crime trends

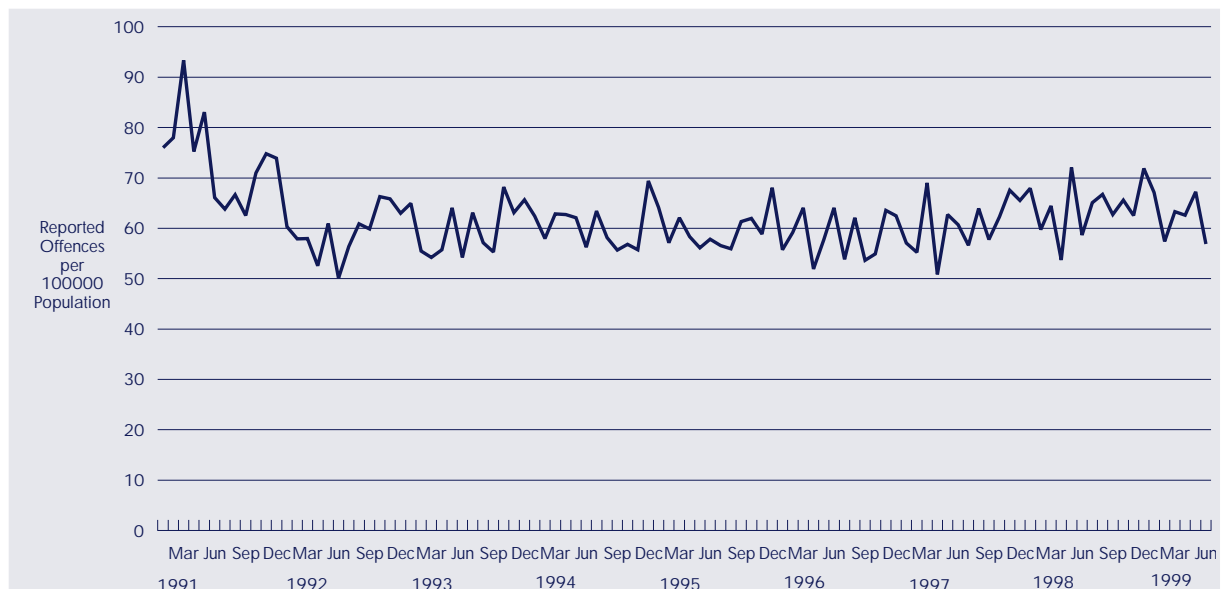
Good Order Offences



While the time series for Good Order Offences exhibits a statistically significant upward trend*, a strong seasonal influence can also be seen. Offences tend to peak in the summer months and fall to a low during the winter

months of each year. Good Order Offences rose by 17% during the 1998/99 financial year resulting in a rate of 586 offences reported for every 100,000 persons.

Traffic and Related Offences



Following a sharp decrease in the first eighteen months of the time series, Traffic and Related Offences have remained stable. This is supported by the fact that no

significant trend was detected. A slight increase of 2% occurred between the 1997/98 and 1998/99 financial years.

* The result is significant at the 1% level of confidence, using Kendall's rank order correlation test. See page 17 for further information.