

Monthly Crime Trends

The graphs in this section provide monthly data for selected offence categories for the period from January, 1991 to June, 2000, expressed as a rate, thereby factoring in the size of the Queensland population for each year. All crime statistics appearing in these graphs are comparable over the nine-and-a-half year period except where indicated with a break in continuity.

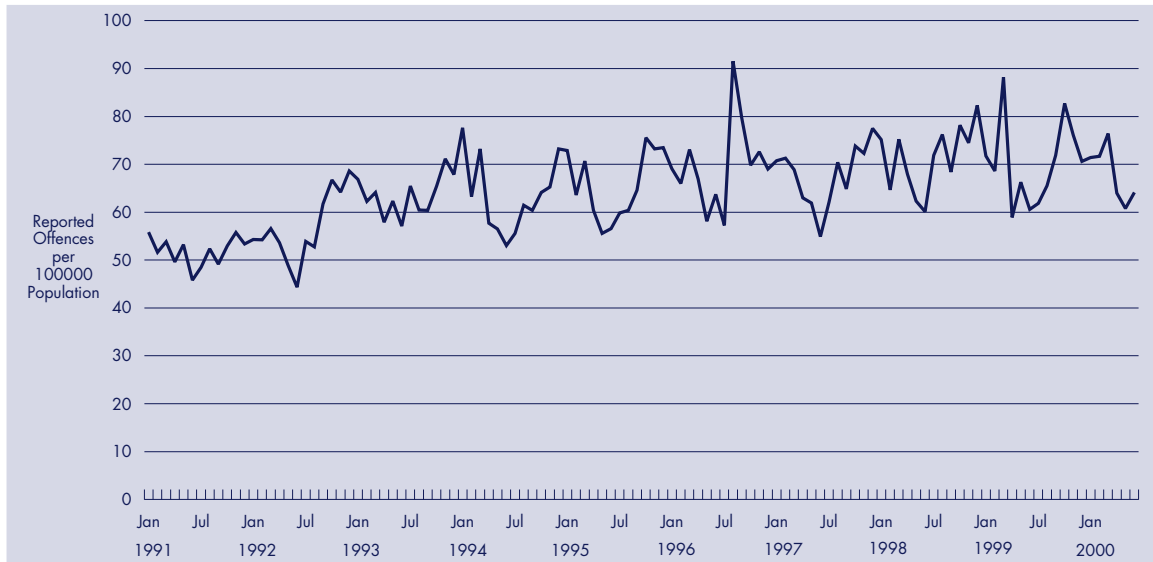
Quarterly Estimated Residential Population (ERP) statistics for Queensland provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (Catalogue 1304.3) were used to calculate the rates up to December, 1999. The rates for January to June, 2000 were calculated using a projection of the ERP, provided by the Office of the Government Statistician, Queensland.

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 fourteen 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.

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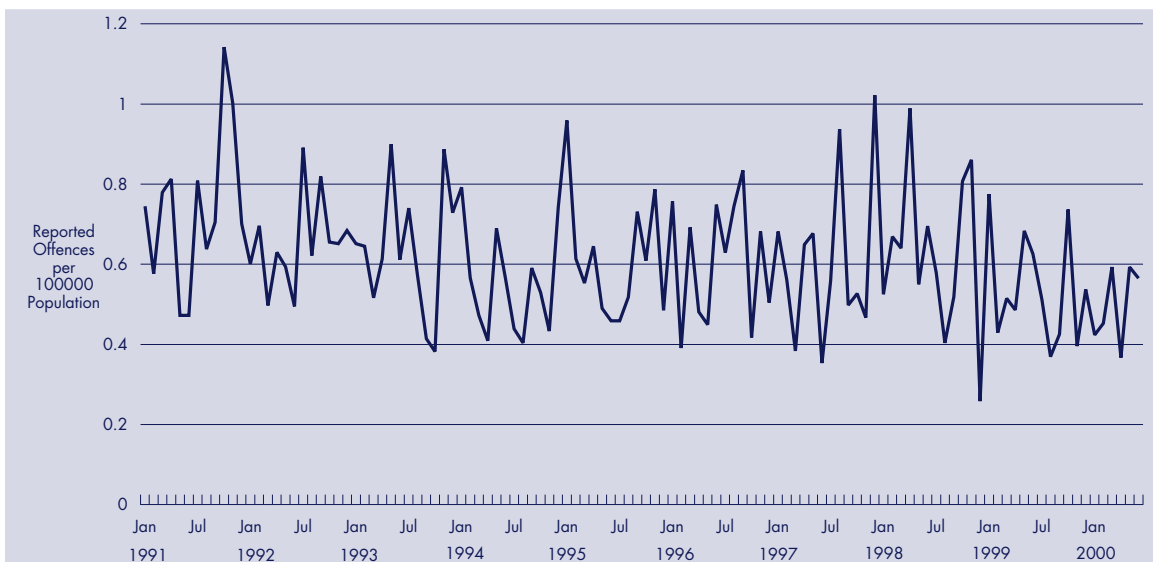
Offences Against the Person



Total Offences Against the Person has increased significantly* over the nine-and-a-half year period. This broad offence division tends to be dominated by Assault as is evidenced by the strong seasonal

influence exhibited by the time series. The peak in September 1996 is the result of a large number of Sexual Offences reported at this time.

Homicide



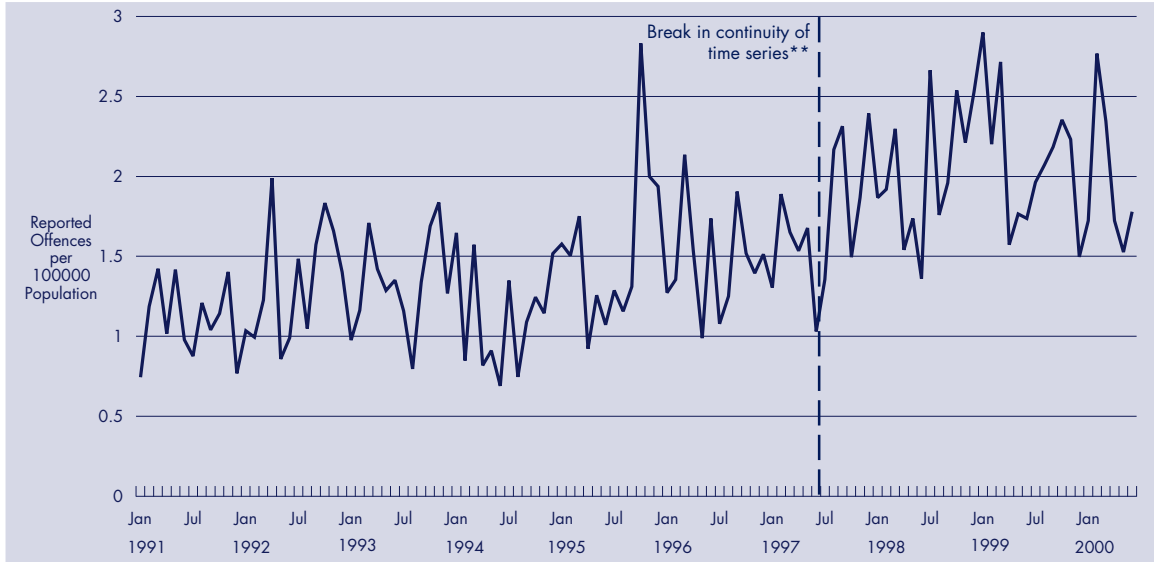
Homicide, a low volume offence category, is subject to random fluctuations from month to month. In spite of these, the monthly trend for Homicide since 1991 is significantly decreasing*.

Rates reported in the 1999/00 financial year continued 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.

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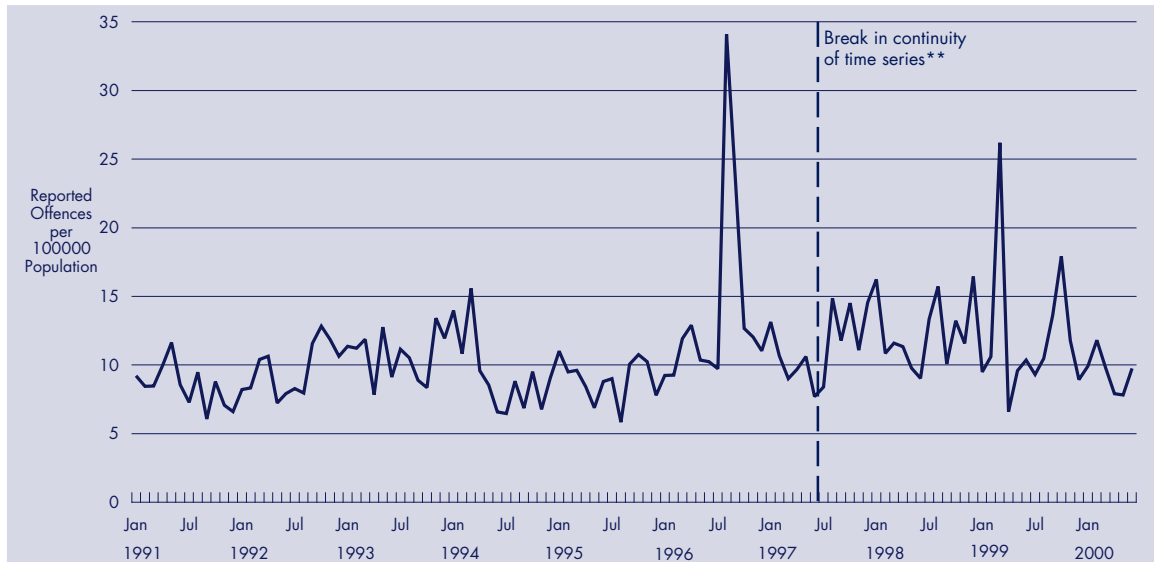
Rape and Attempted Rape



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

comparing data prior to and following this change as is illustrated by the marked increase in offences following the break of continuity. This increase has resulted in a 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.

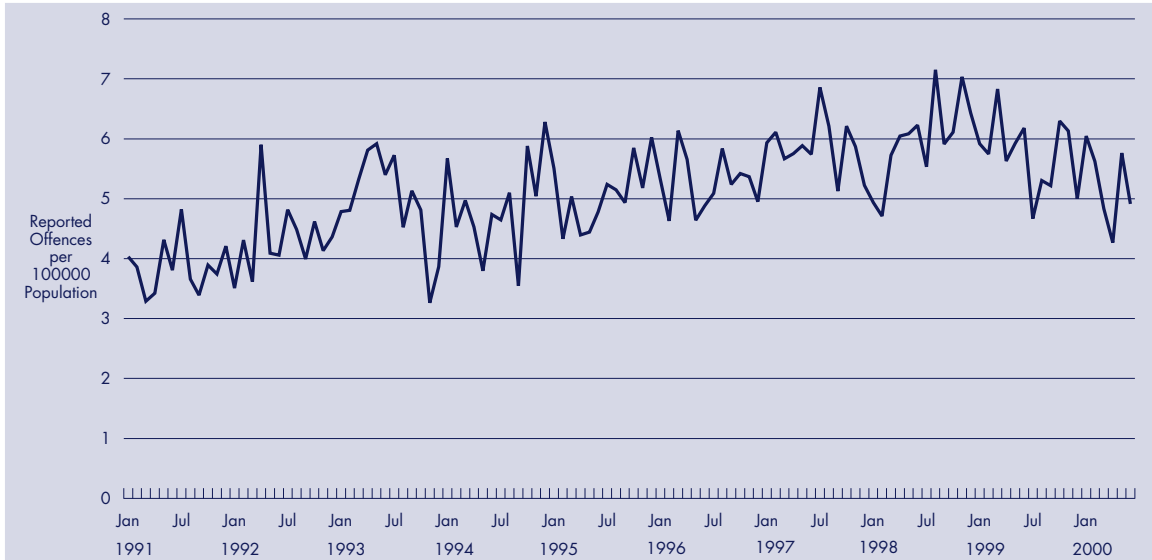
Since 1991, the time series has been increasing at a significant rate* although, once again, care should be exercised when making comparisons of data before and after the break in continuity**.

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

** The introduction of the *Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1997* resulted in a broadening of the definition of Rape and Attempted Rape and a narrowing of Other Sexual Offences.

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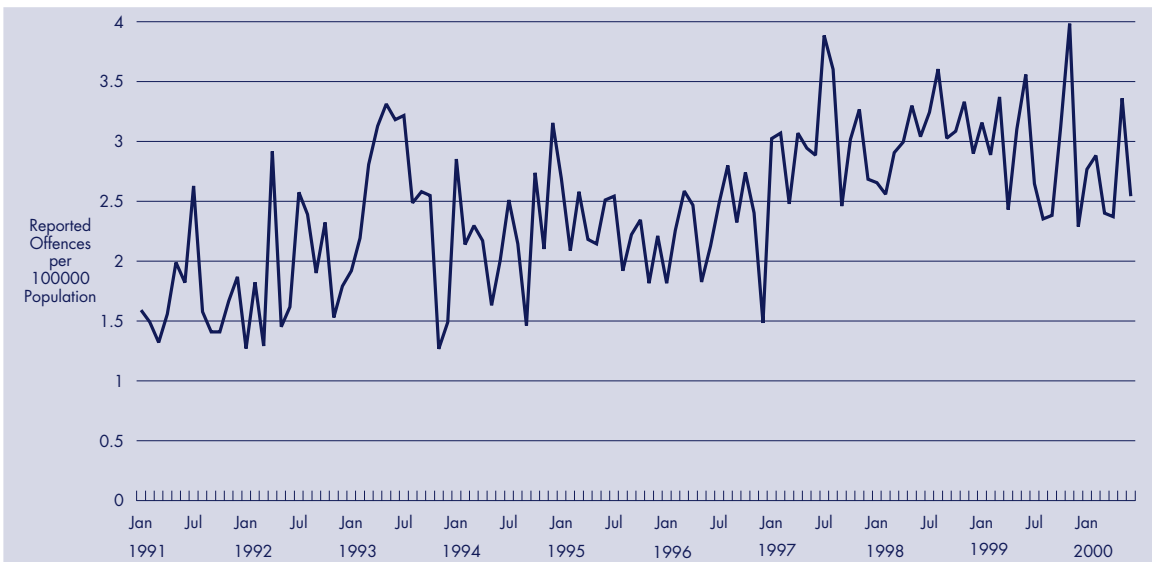
Robbery



Overall, Robbery offences have been increasing significantly* since 1991. In 1999/00, however, the increasing trend seen from early 1995 was

effectively halted with a 14% decrease reported in the rate of reported Robbery offences.

Armed Robbery



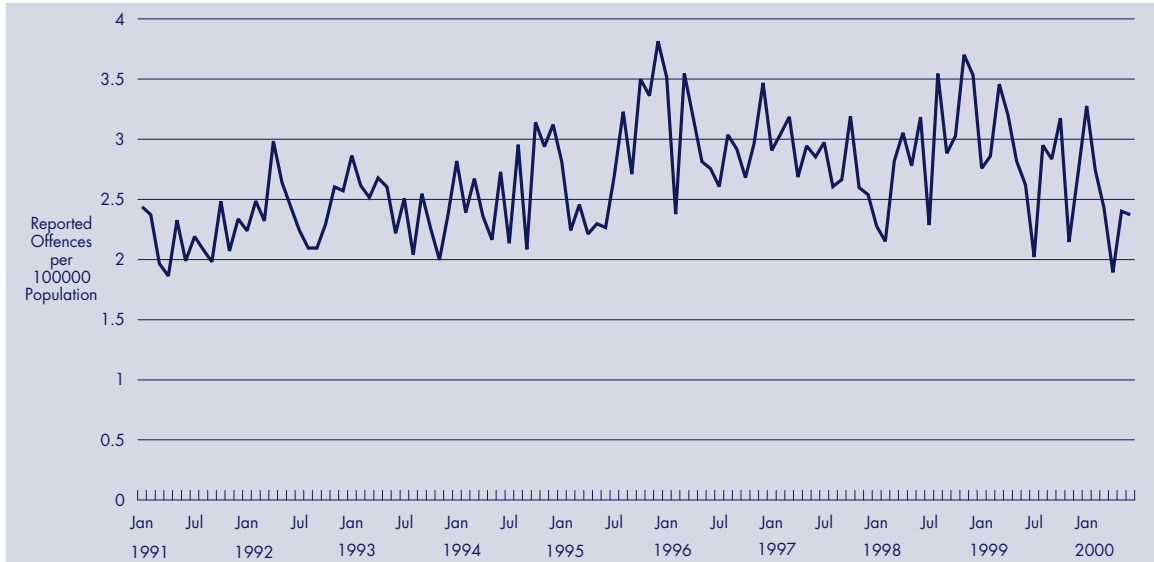
Although the overall trend in the rate of Armed Robbery offences has been increasing significantly* since 1991, the time series has decreased

since mid-1998. Following a 5% increase reported last year, Armed Robbery decreased by 11% between 1998/99 and 1999/00.

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

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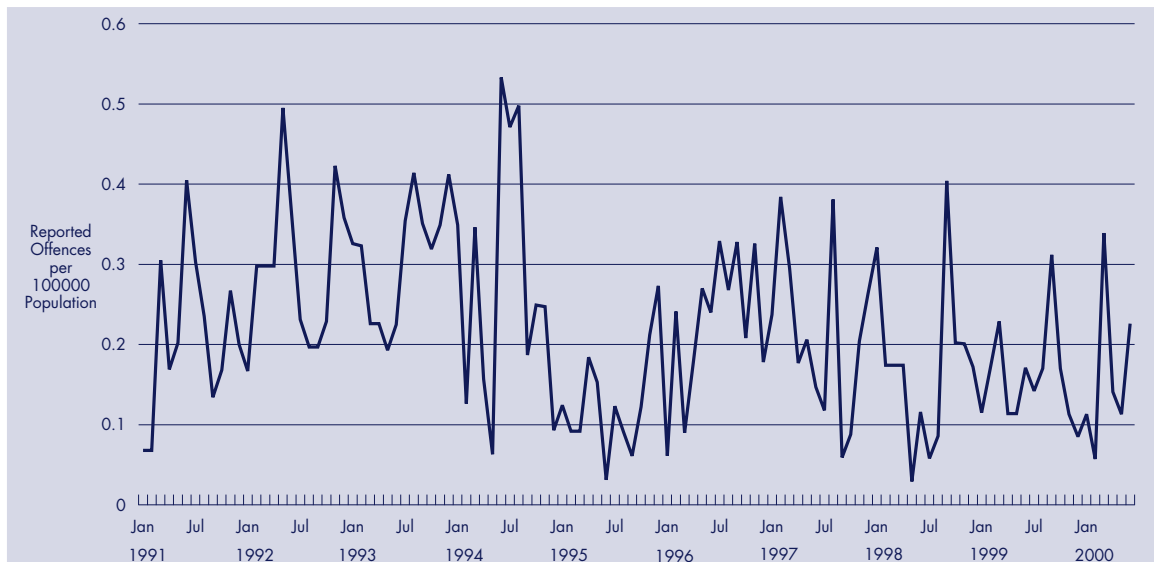
Unarmed Robbery



Following a substantial increase in the rate of reported Unarmed Robbery offences between 1997/98 and 1998/99, a large decrease was reported for the 1999/00 financial year. Overall,

the upward trend evident in the graph above is statistically significant*. The rates reported for the year under review mirror the low rates reported prior to 1995.

Extortion



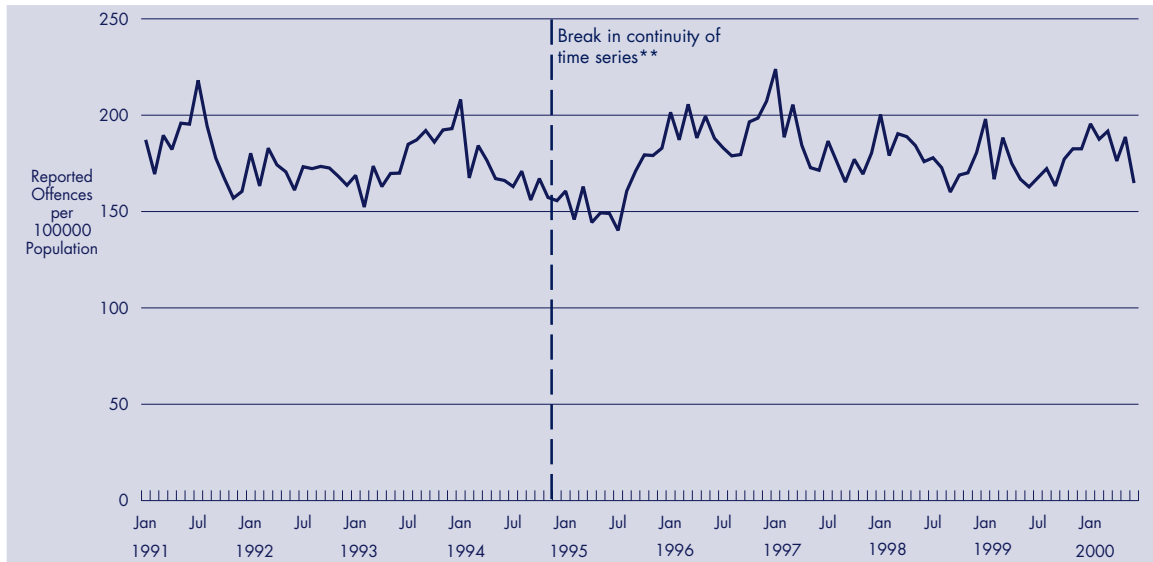
Extortion is the lowest in volume of the Offences Against the Person sub-categories and, as such, is prone to random variations from month to month. The marked fluctuations occurring in the time series

are evident in the graph above. Despite these, a statistically significant downward trend* was detected over the nine-and-a-half 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.

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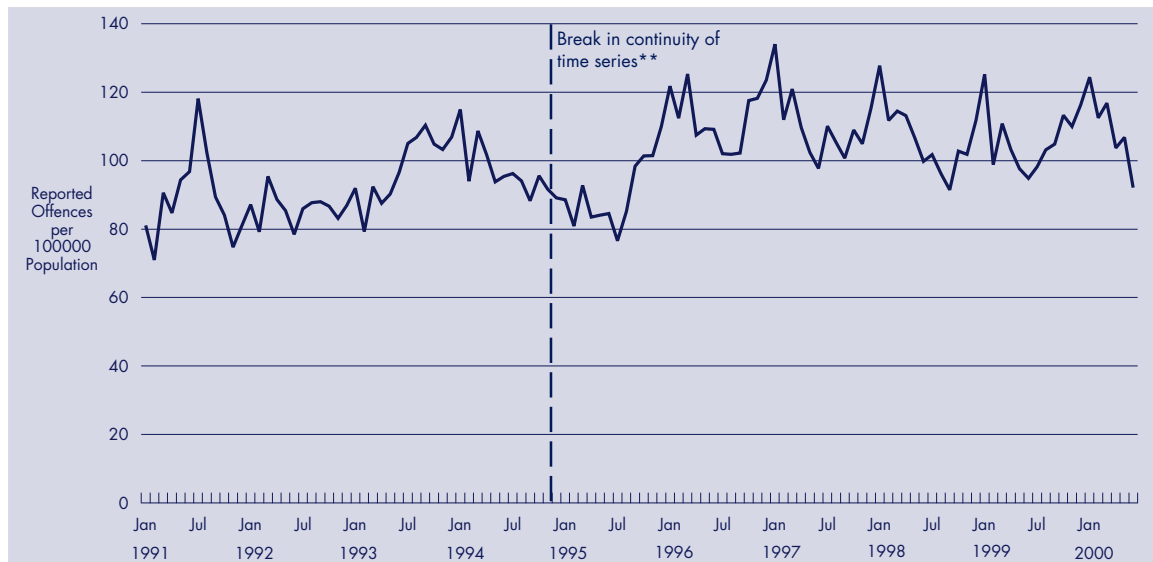
Unlawful Entry With Intent



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 increased by 4% between 1998/99 and 1999/00.

Unlawful Entry - Dwellings



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

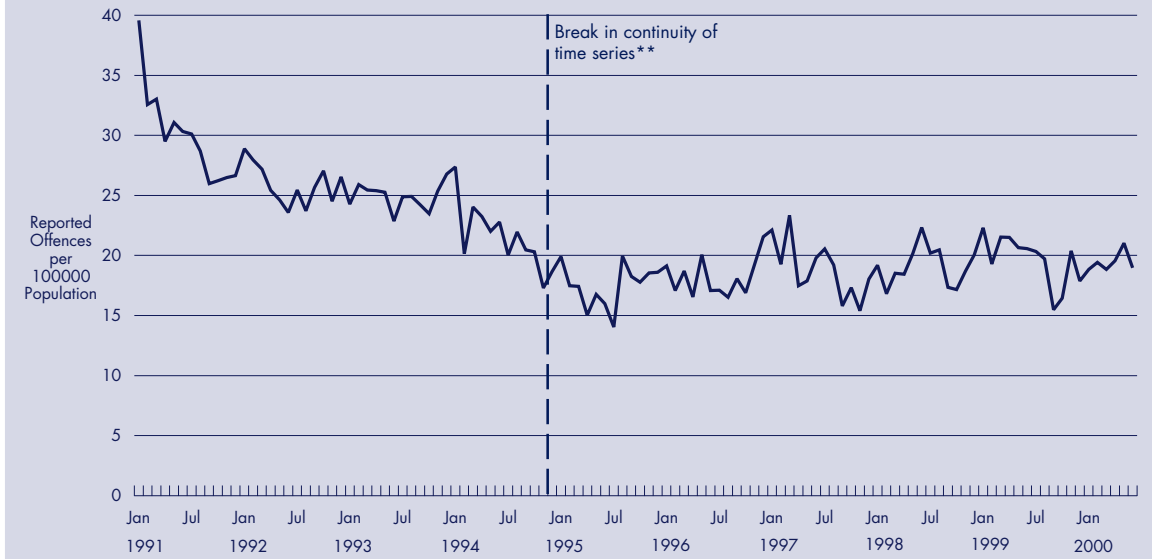
due to the increase in trend over the early years of the time series. Unlawful Entry - Dwellings increased by 7% over the 1999/00 financial year.

* 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.

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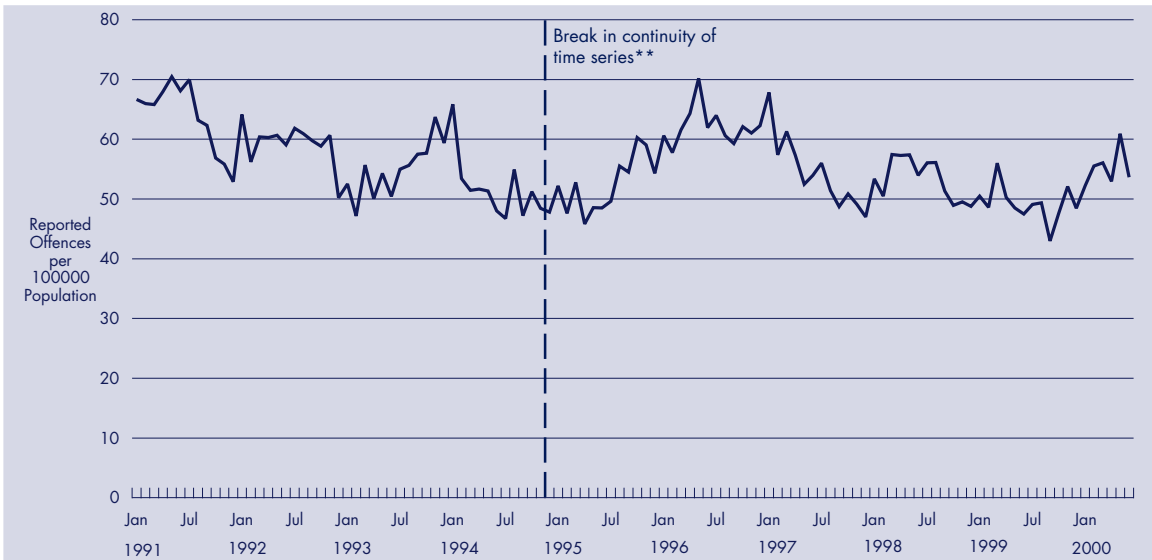
Unlawful Entry - Shops



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 4% decrease in reported offences between 1998/99 and 1999/00 resulting in a slight dip 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

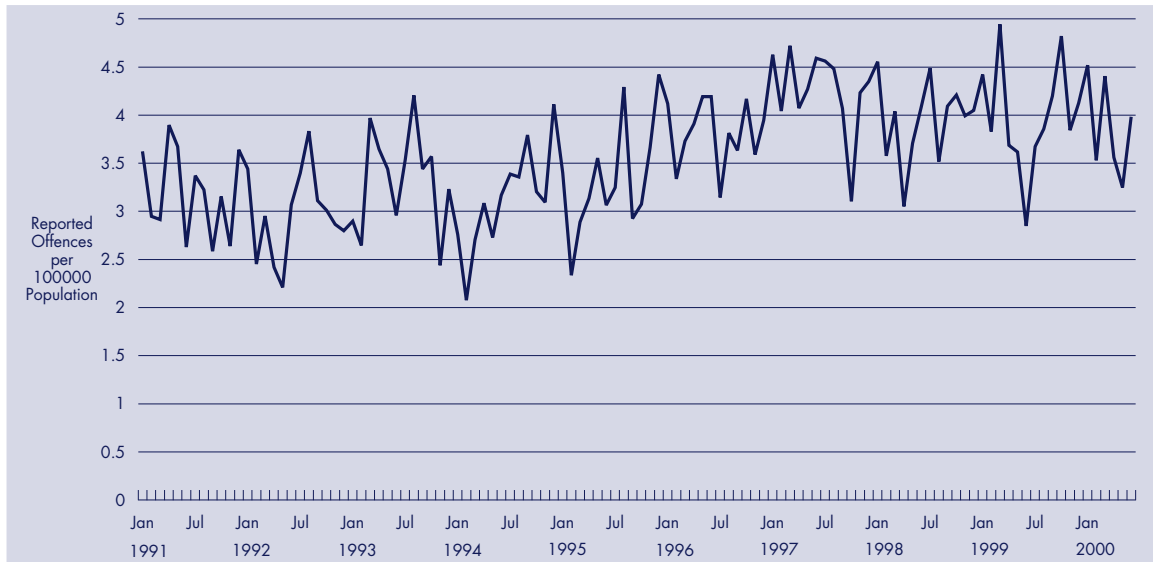
series was decreasing. Following an upward shift, the time series is again decreasing resulting in an overall statistically significant downward trend* for the nine-and-a-half year period.

* 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.

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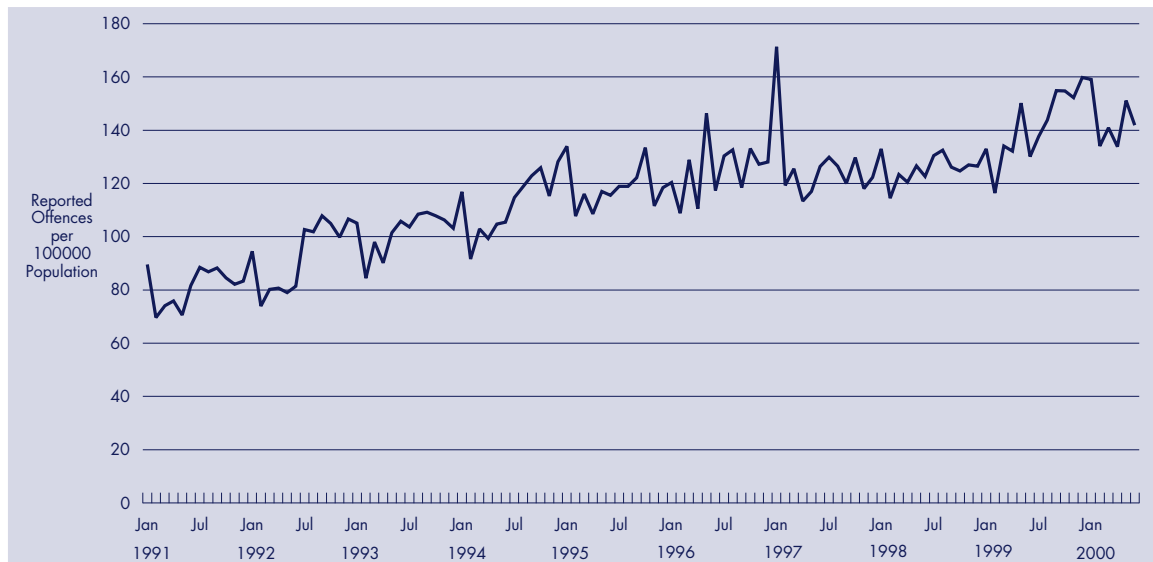
Arson



Arson offences exhibit an overall statistically significant upward trend* for the one-hundred-and-fourteen month period. In total, 1,688 offences were reported to police in the 1999/00 financial

year, 26 more than for the previous year. This equates to a rate of 47 offences reported for every 100,000 persons.

Other Property Damage



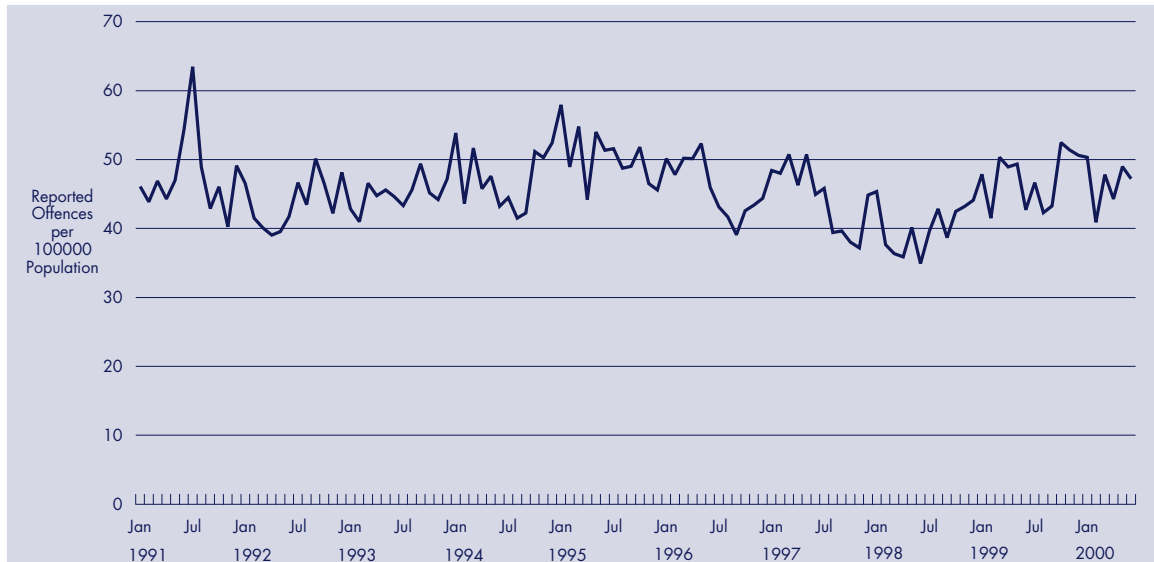
The sharply increasing trend* of Other Property Damage offences is evident in the graph above. Following a relatively stable period from early

1997 to early 1999, the time series again increased over the 1999/00 financial year. In fact, a 14% increase was reported for the period under review.

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

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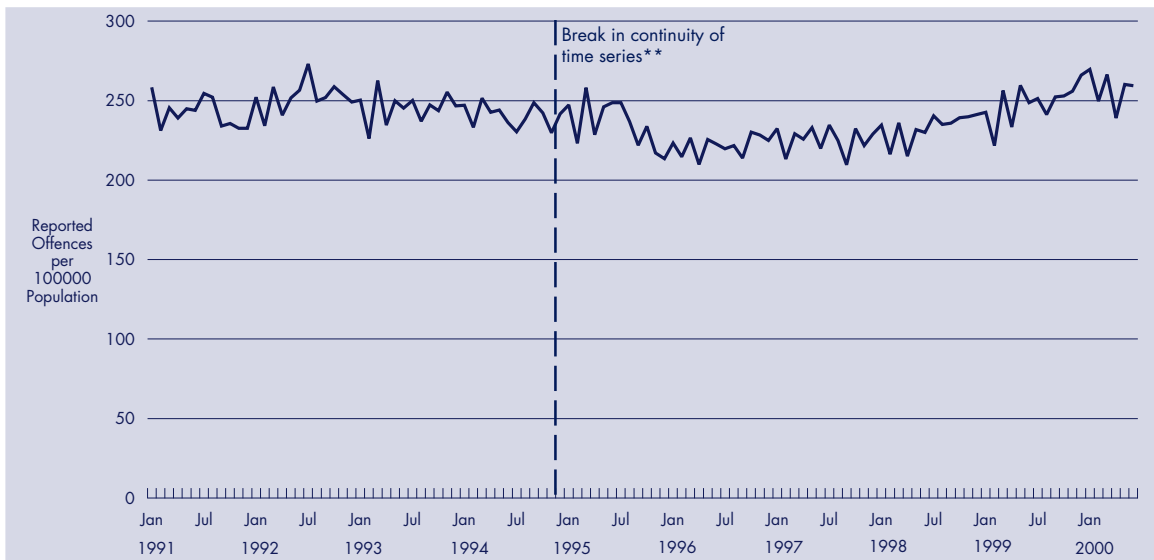
Motor Vehicle Theft



No significant trend was detected for the Motor Vehicle Theft time series. From the beginning of 1996, rates of theft decreased. From mid-1998

however, rates have been rising sharply to equal those reported prior to the downward trend of 1996/97.

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 offences decreased. Overall, however, no signifi-

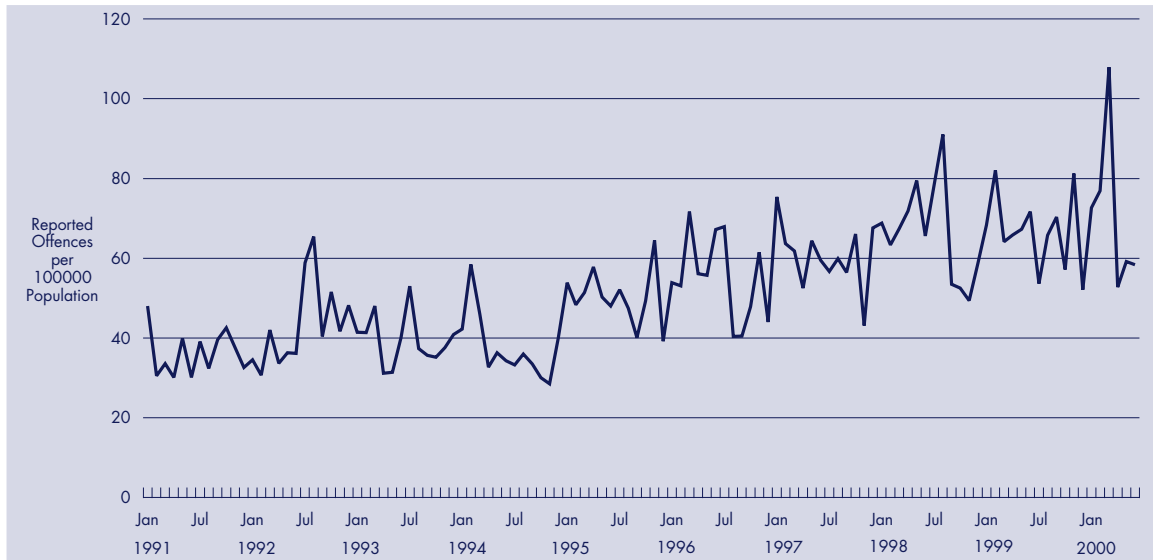
cant trend was detected. Rates reported during the 1999/00 financial year have reversed this downward trend, causing the time series to rise sharply.

* 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.

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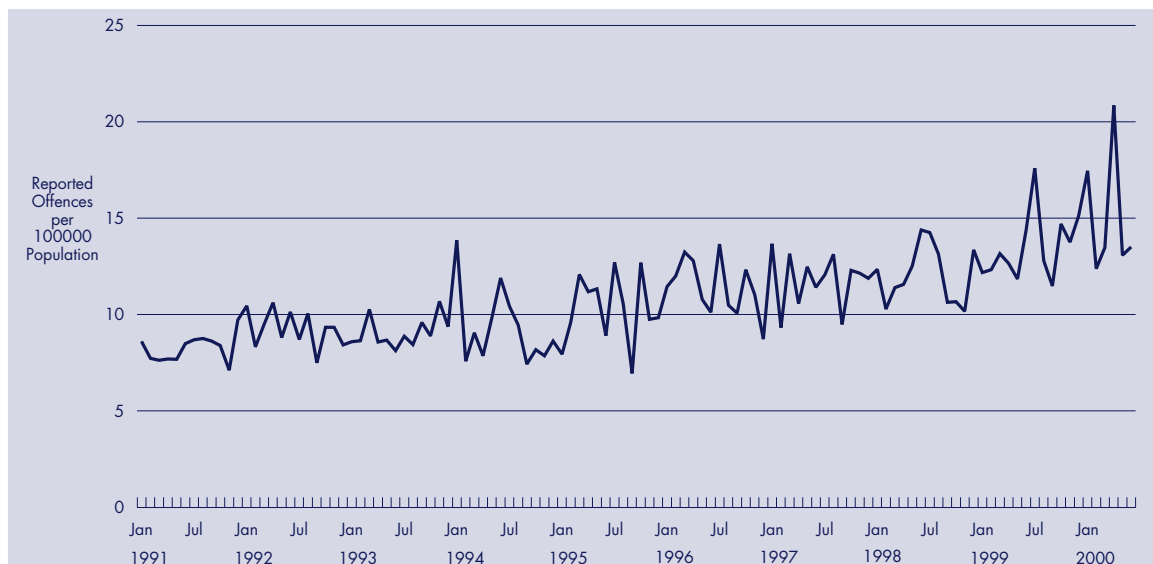
Fraud



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 three financial years have been reported. The spike towards the latter part of the time series is the result of over 1,500 charges laid against one offender in March, 2000.

Handling Stolen Goods



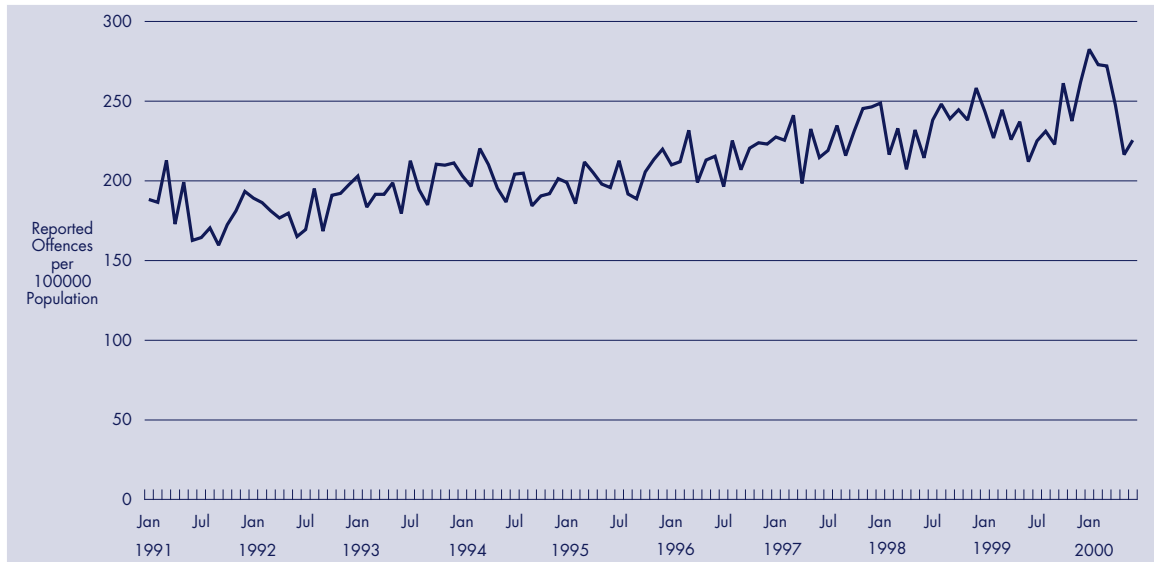
A significantly increasing trend* is evident in the Handling Stolen Goods time series, with the rates for 1999/00 significantly contributing to the trend.

The large spikes at the end of the time series are the result of approximately 270 offences laid against two offenders in April, 2000.

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

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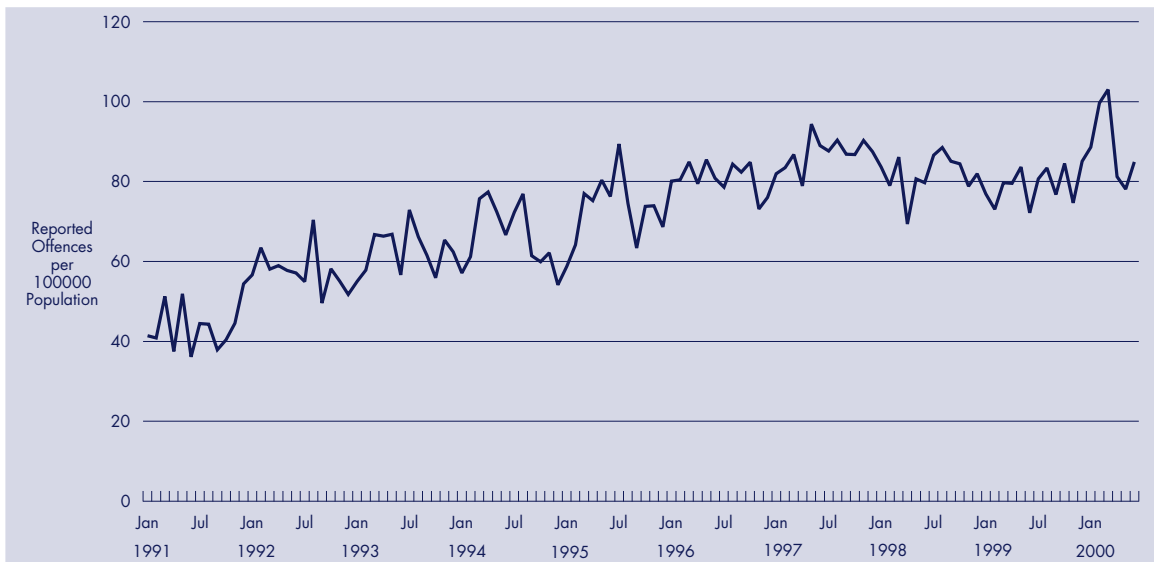
Other Offences



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 with rates for 1999/00 the highest in the nine-and-a-half year period.

Drug Offences



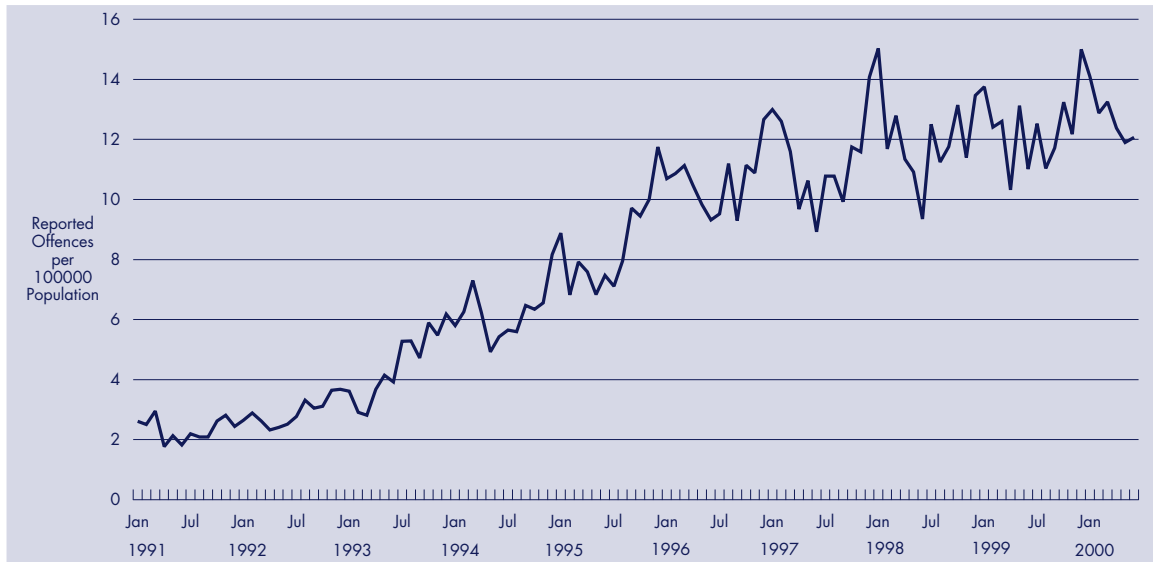
A significantly increasing trend* was detected for this time series. Rates for the 1999/00 financial year were relatively stable except for those of

March and April, 2000, where one offender was charged with over 200 offences.

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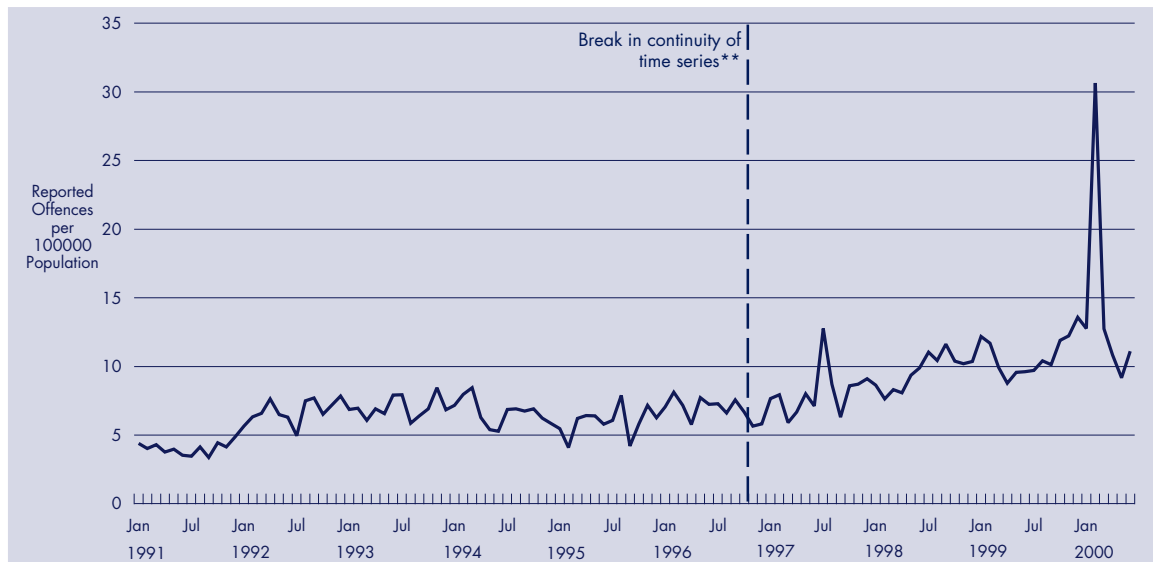
Breach of Domestic Violence Protection Orders



Breach of Domestic Violence Protection Orders have experienced a sharply increasing trend* since January 1991. The 1999/00 financial year

saw a 5% increase in this offence type and rates for the last three years of the time series are tending to fluctuate significantly.

Weapons Act Offences



One offender was charged with 650 offences in February, 2000 altering the scale of this time series from that presented in last year's review. This, too, exhibits a significantly increasing trend* although the break in the 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.

