

Monthly Crime Trends

The graphs in this section provide monthly data for selected offence categories from July, 1992 (92/93 financial year) to June, 2002 (01/02 financial year), 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 ten-year period except where indicated with a break in continuity.

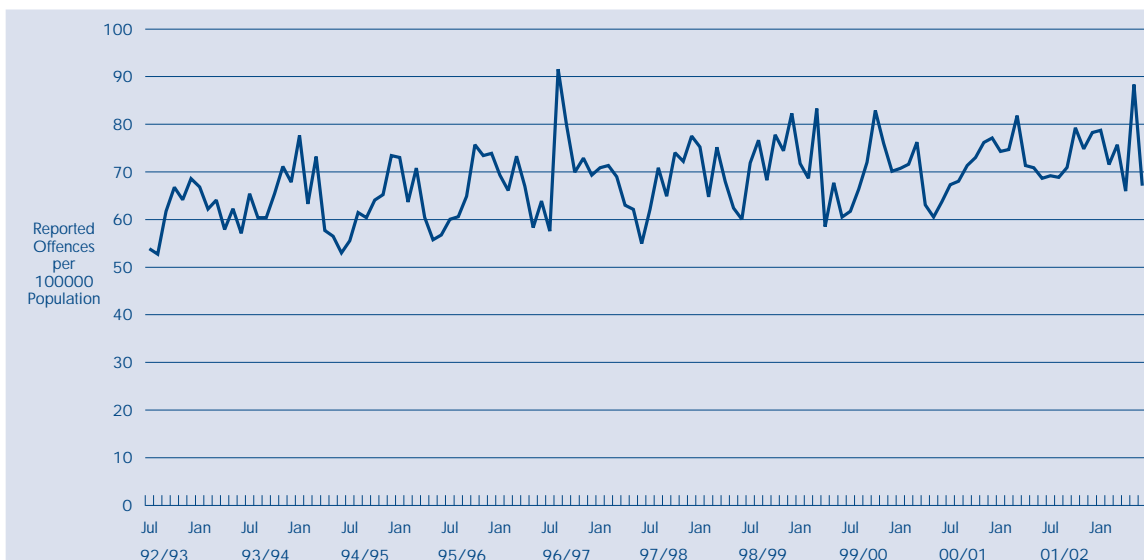
Quarterly Estimated Residential Population (ERP) statistics for Queensland provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (Catalogue 1304.3) were used to calculate the rates up to December, 2001.

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 twenty 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.

Offences Against the Person



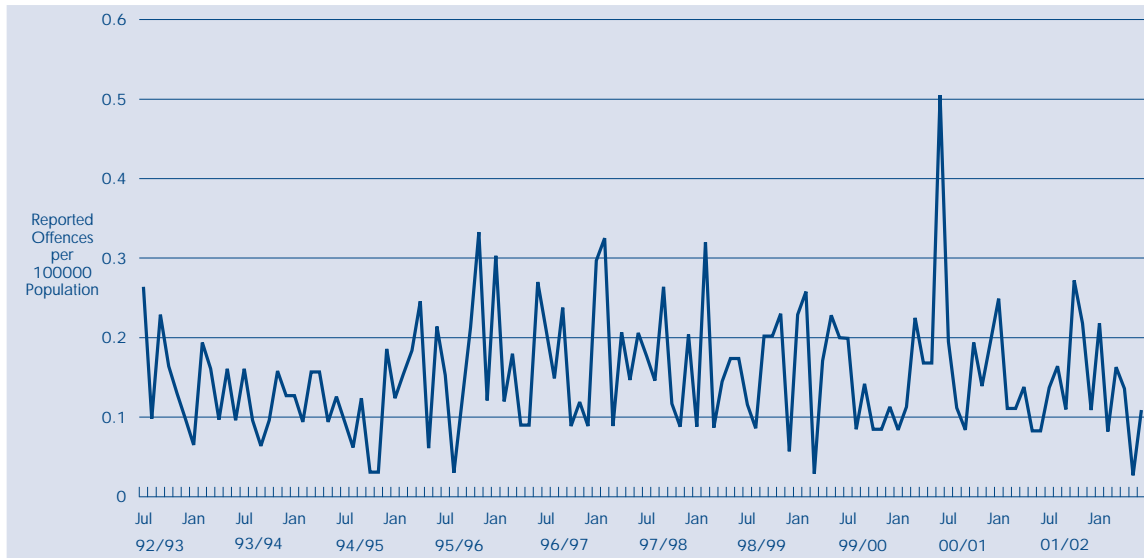
Total Offences Against the Person have increased significantly* over the ten year period. This broad offence division tends to be dominated by Assault as is evidenced by the strong seasonal influence exhibited

by the time series. The peaks in September 1996 and May 2002 are the result of a large number of Sexual Offences reported at these times.

* 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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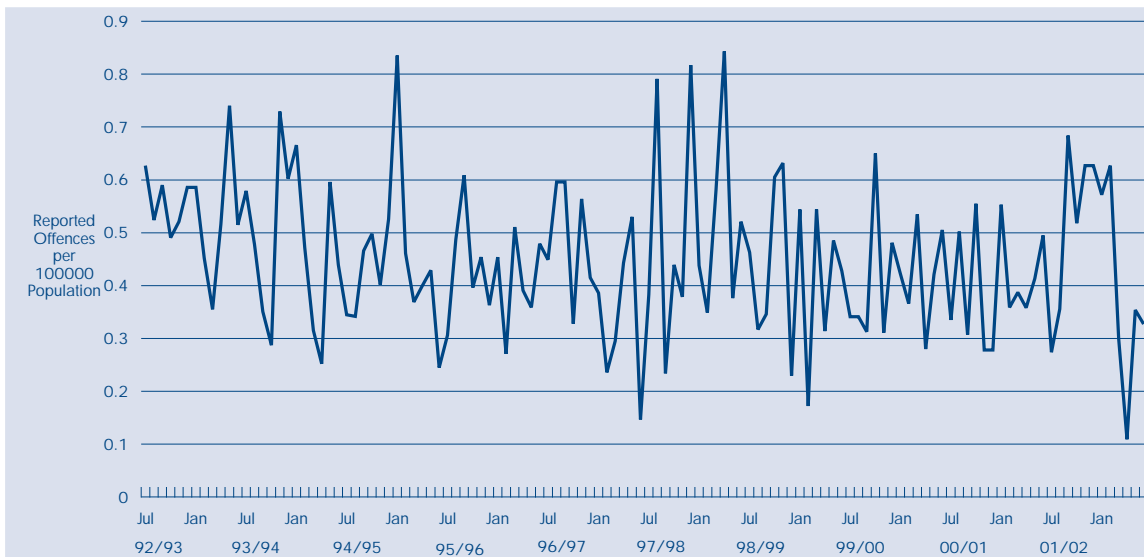
Homicide (Murder)⁺



Homicide (Murder) is presented separately for the first time in the current publication. Over the ten year period there is no significant increasing or decreasing trend.

The spike in the time series occurred in June 2000 and was the result of the Childers Backpacker fire in which there were 15 victims.

Other Homicide⁺



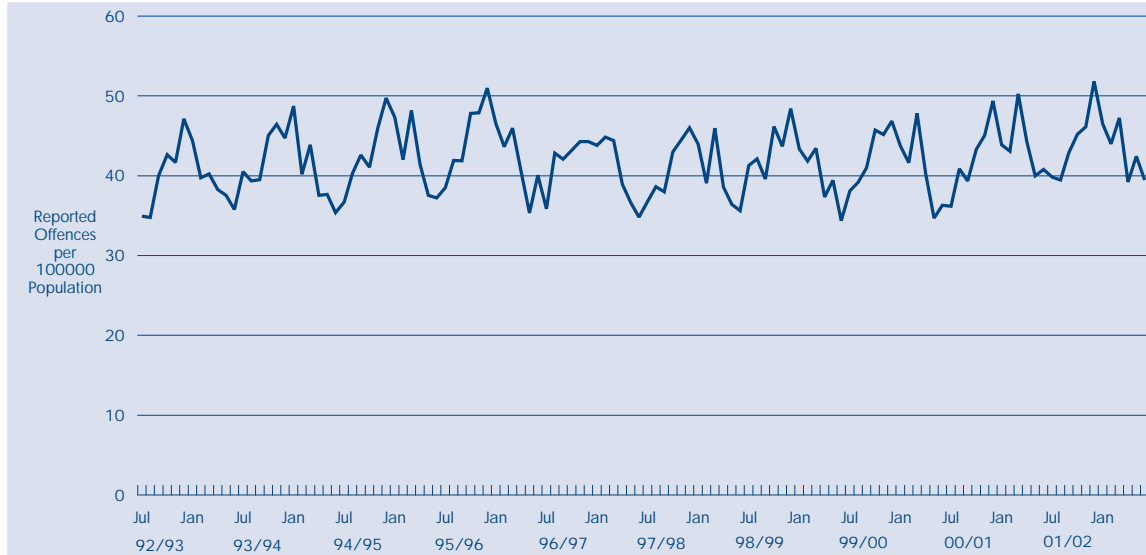
Other Homicide is presented for the first time in the current publication. As with Homicide (Murder), Other Homicide is a low volume offence category and, as such, is subject to random fluctuations from month to

month. There is no significant trend for Other Homicide since 1992/93^{**}.

⁺ Figures are presented separately for Homicide (Murder) and a new category, Other Homicide is used for the first time in this publication.
^{**} The result is significant at the 5% level of confidence, using Kendall's rank order correlation test. See page 17 for further information.

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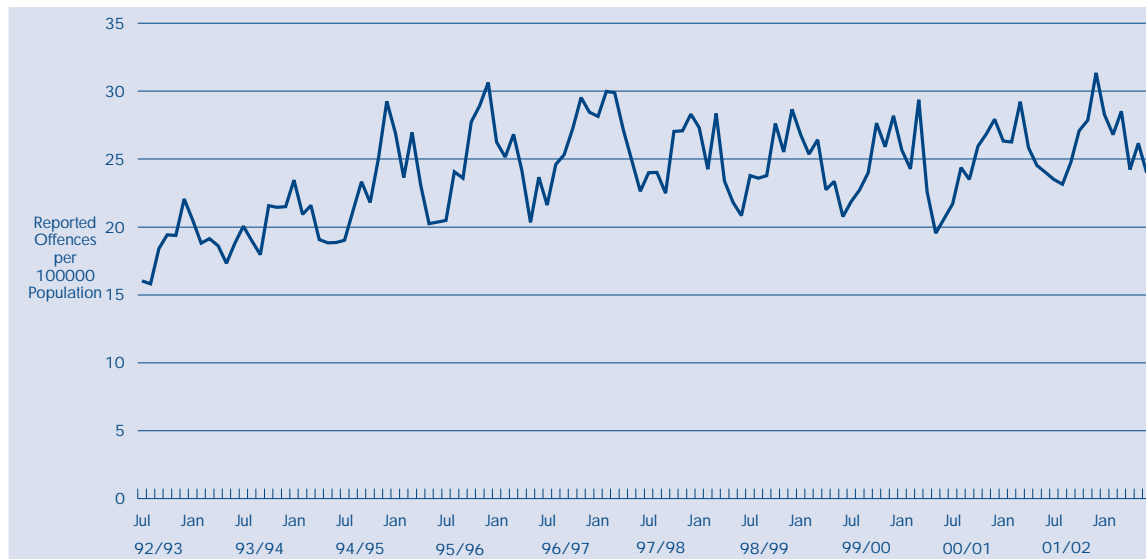
Assault



Assault is the largest in volume of the person offence sub-categories and, as such, tends to dominate. A significantly increasing trend* was detected over the ten-year 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 and a lower number of offences occurring in the winter months of each year.

Serious Assault



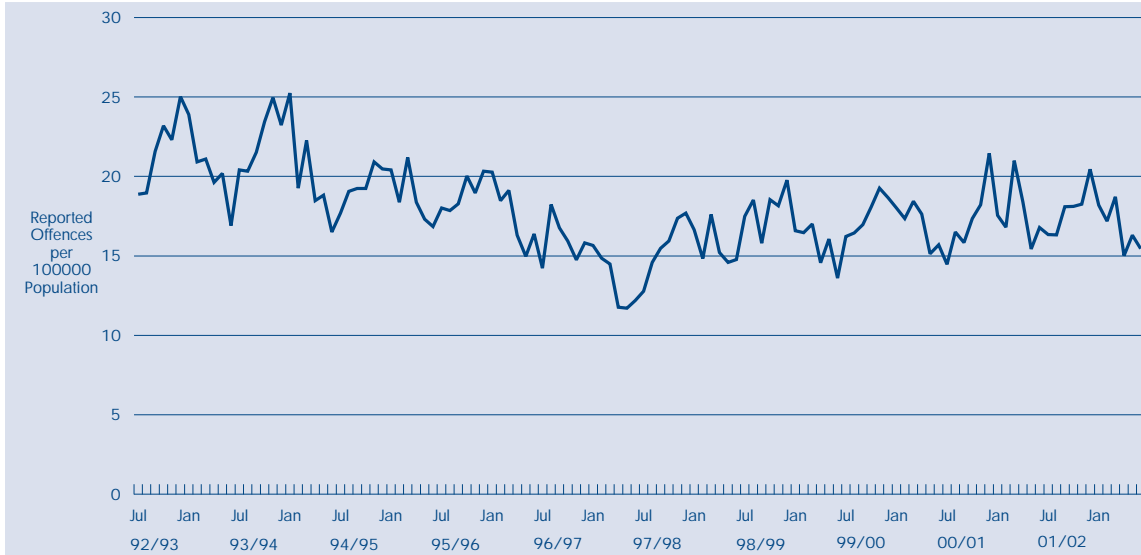
Serious Assaults experienced sharp increases from early 1993 to late 1996. In recent years, however, the time series has stabilised, even exhibiting a slight

decrease. Despite this, a significantly increasing trend* was detected over the ten year period. The seasonal influence is obvious 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.

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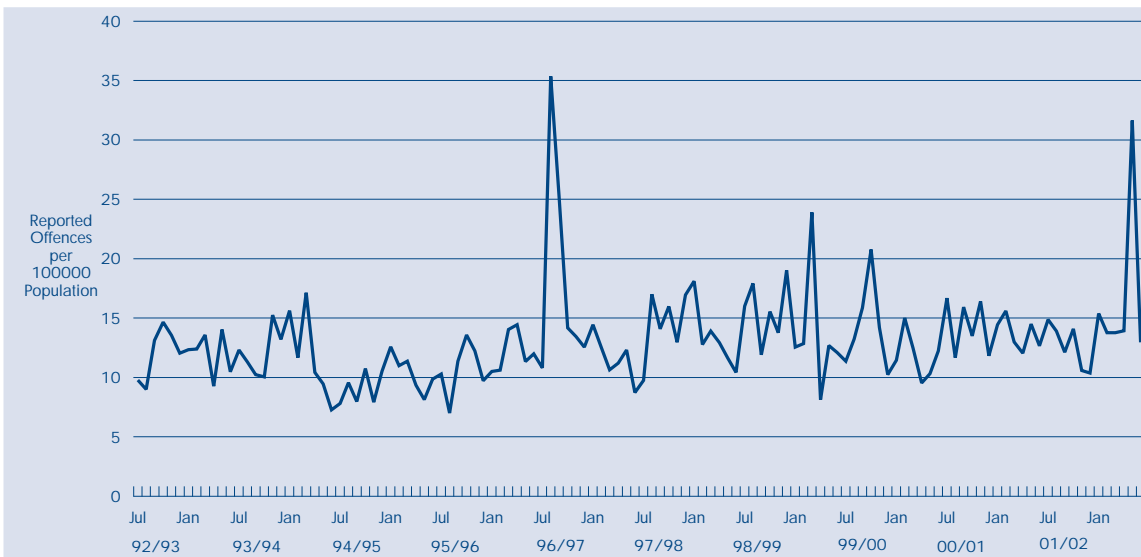
Other Assault



The Other Assault offence time series has been decreasing** since mid 1992, 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, from 1997/98 to 2001/02 Other Assaults have been steadily increasing.

Sexual Offences



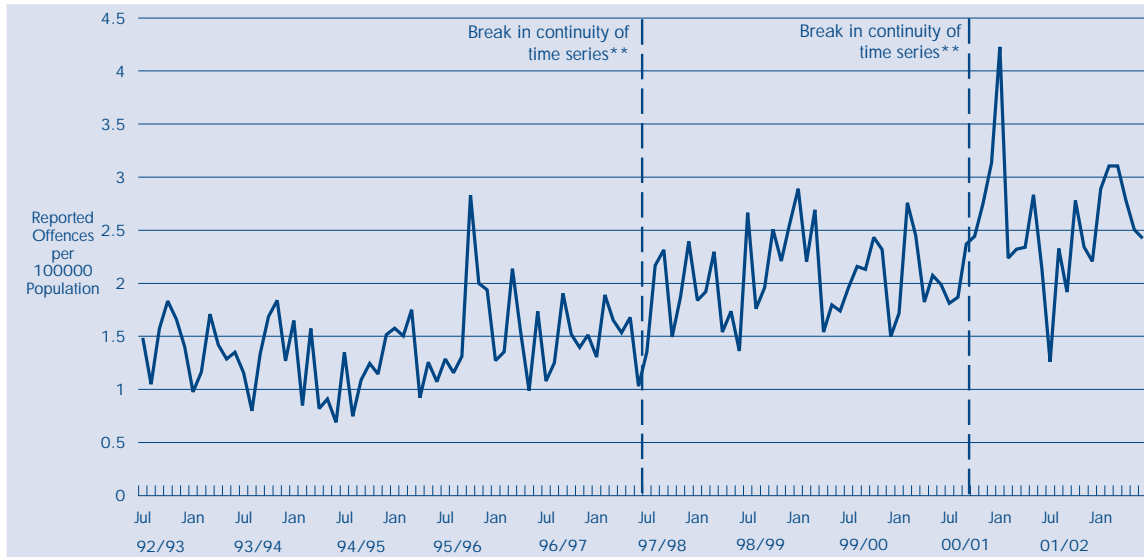
The spikes in the Sexual Offences time series are the result of large numbers of offences being reported to police in September 1996, March 1999 and May 2002. All are due to single offenders who were charged with

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

* 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.

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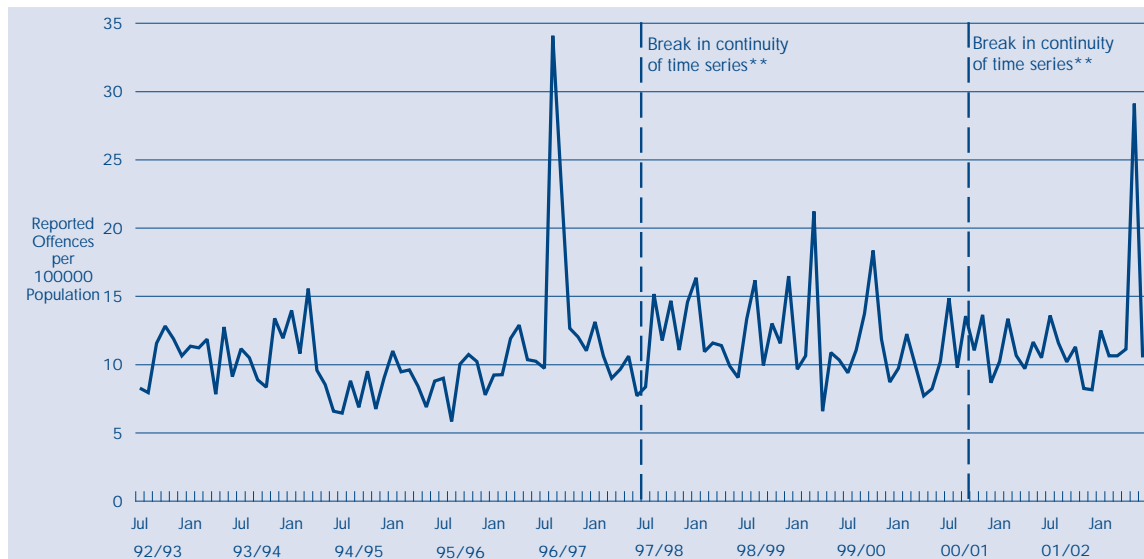
Rape and Attempted Rape



The breaks in continuity of the Rape and Attempted Rape time series involved a broadening of the definition of rape (*Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1997*; changes to the Criminal Code, 2000)**. As such, care should be exercised when comparing data prior to and following

these changes as is illustrated by the marked increase in offences following both breaks of continuity. These increases have resulted in a statistically significant upward trend* detected overall.

Other Sexual Offences



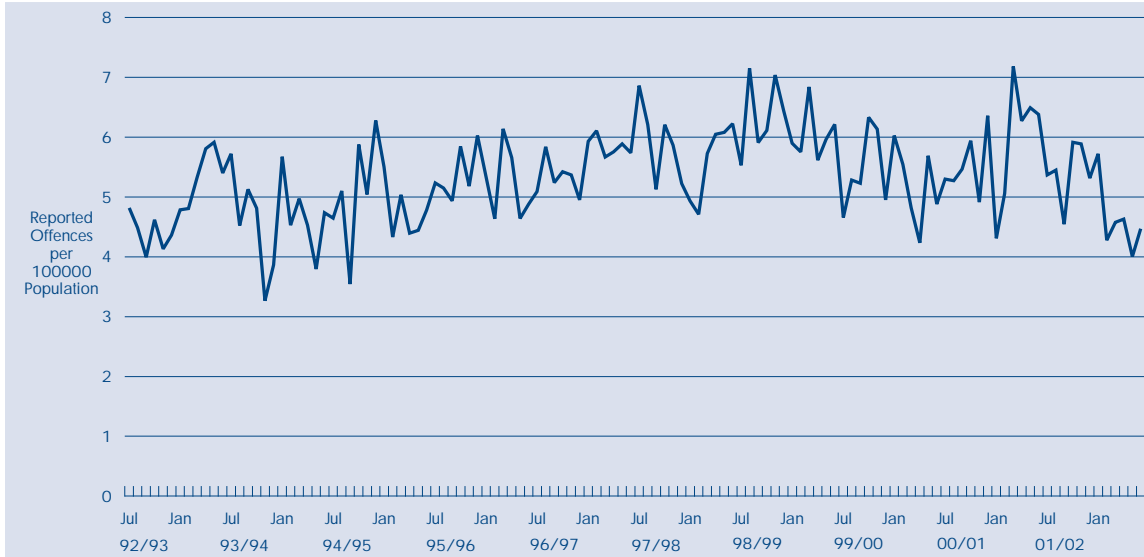
A single offender was charged with in excess of 660 offences for incidents which occurred over a long period of time. The charges were preferred in May 2002 resulting in the second large spike in the Other Sexual

Offence time series. Since 1992/93, the time series has increased significantly*. Once again, care should be exercised when making comparisons of data before and after the breaks 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; further changes to the Criminal Code (October, 2000) resulted in an even broader definition of Rape and Attempted Rape and a subsequent narrowing of Other Sexual Offences.

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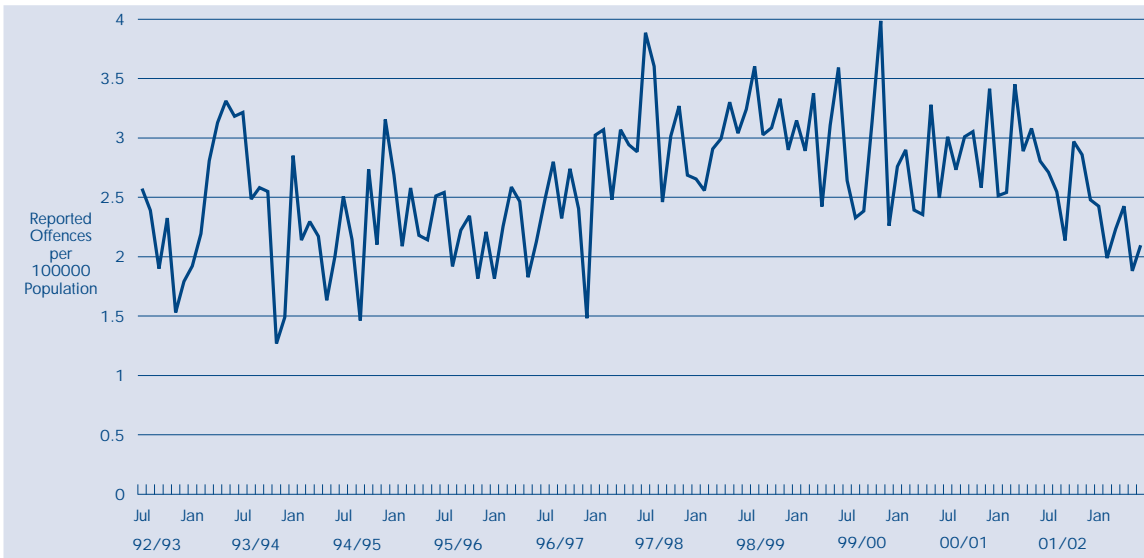
Robbery



Despite a drop in Robbery rates from 1998/99 to mid in 2000 and then again from early 2001 to mid 2002, the overall rate of Robbery offences has been increasing

significantly* since 1992/93. The year under review, 2001/02, reversed this trend with an 11% decrease in reported Robbery offences.

Armed Robbery



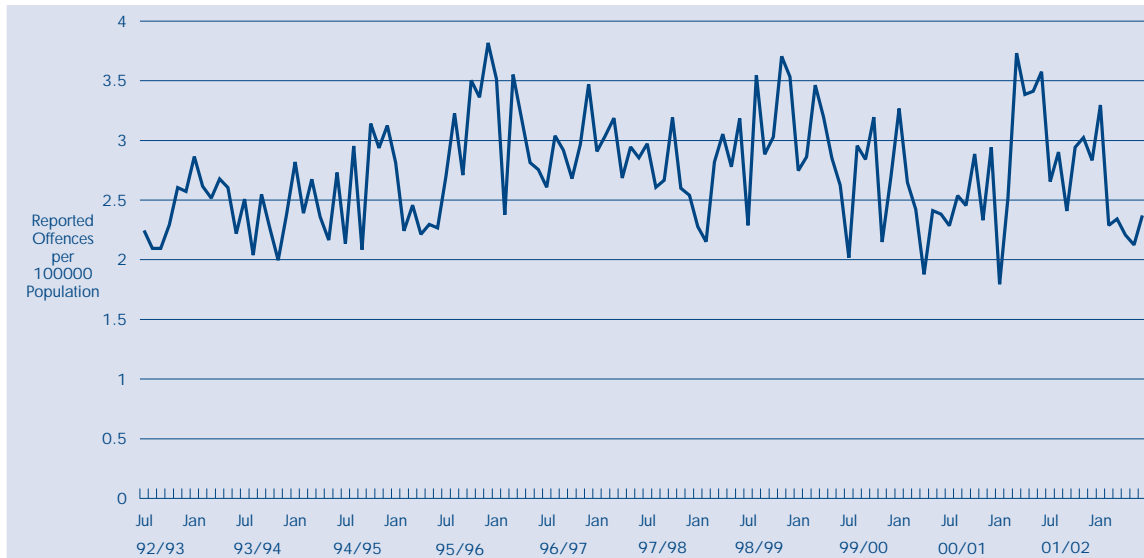
Although the overall trend in the rate of Armed Robbery offences has been increasing significantly* since 1992/93, the time series did experience a decrease from

1997/98 to 1999/00. Since early 2001 the Armed Robbery time series decreased significantly, with an overall decrease of 17% reported for 2001/02.

* 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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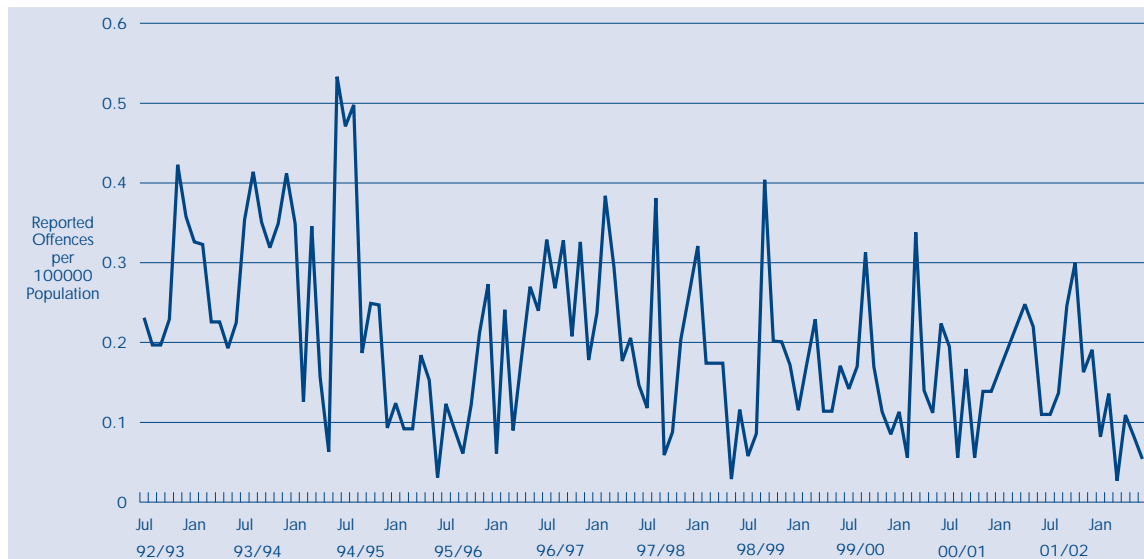
Unarmed Robbery



Rates of Unarmed Robbery have experienced fluctuations over time. A slight decrease from 1998/99 to early 2001 was followed by substantial increases in

March to June of 2001. The 2001/02 financial year has again seen decreases. Overall, the upward trend evident in the graph above is statistically significant*.

Extortion



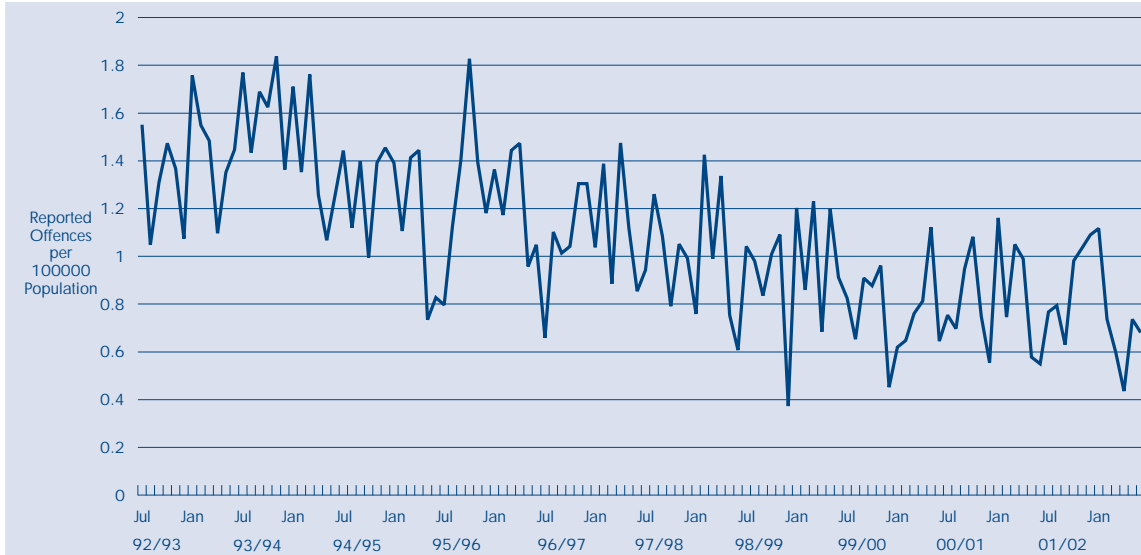
Extortion is the lowest in volume of the Offences Against the Person sub-categories and, as such, is prone to random variations from month to month. The

marked fluctuations occurring in the time series are evident in the graph above. Overall, no significant trend was detected over the ten 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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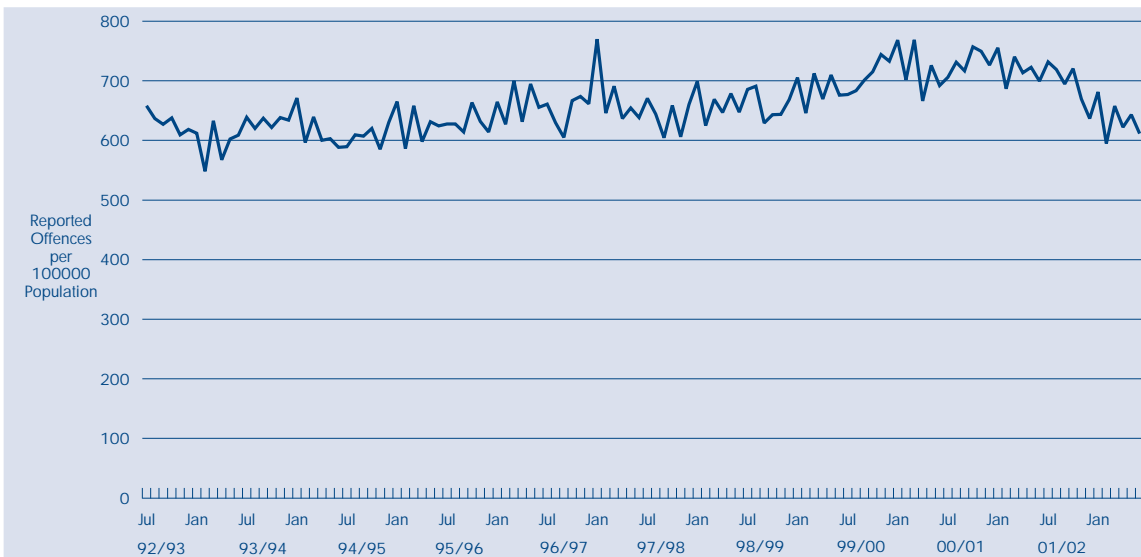
Kidnapping, Abduction, etc.



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

now exhibits a statistically significant trend*. This time series is subject to the fluctuations that occur in small volume offence categories.

Offences Against Property



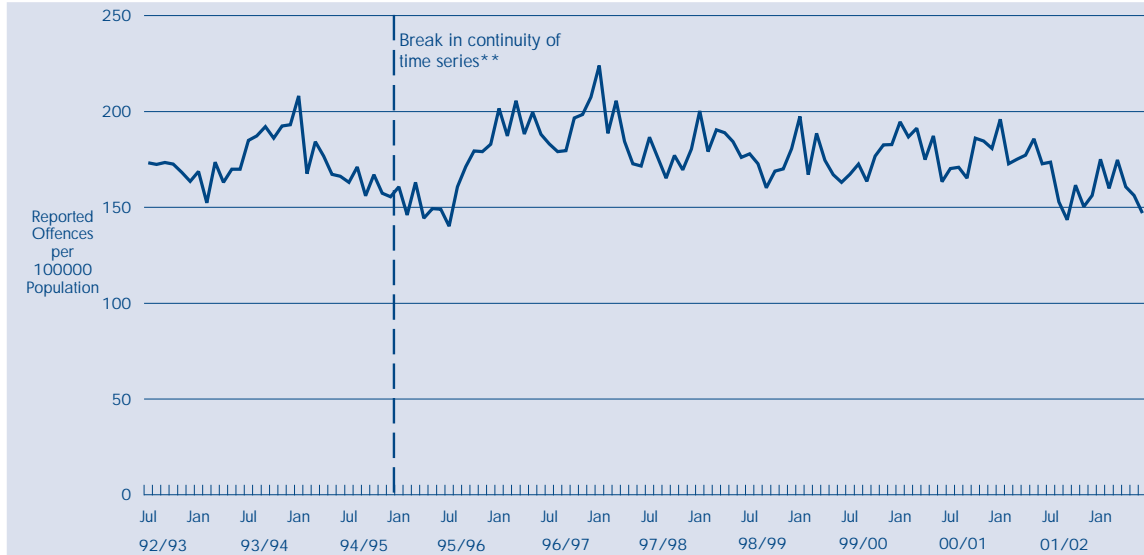
Although the Offences Against Property time series looks fairly stable, a statistically significant upward trend* was detected. This is a large volume offence category and, as such, increases or decreases are

usually small in the overall context. The rate of Property Offences reported in 2001/02 was 9% lower than that reported in 2000/01 and this is evident towards the end 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.

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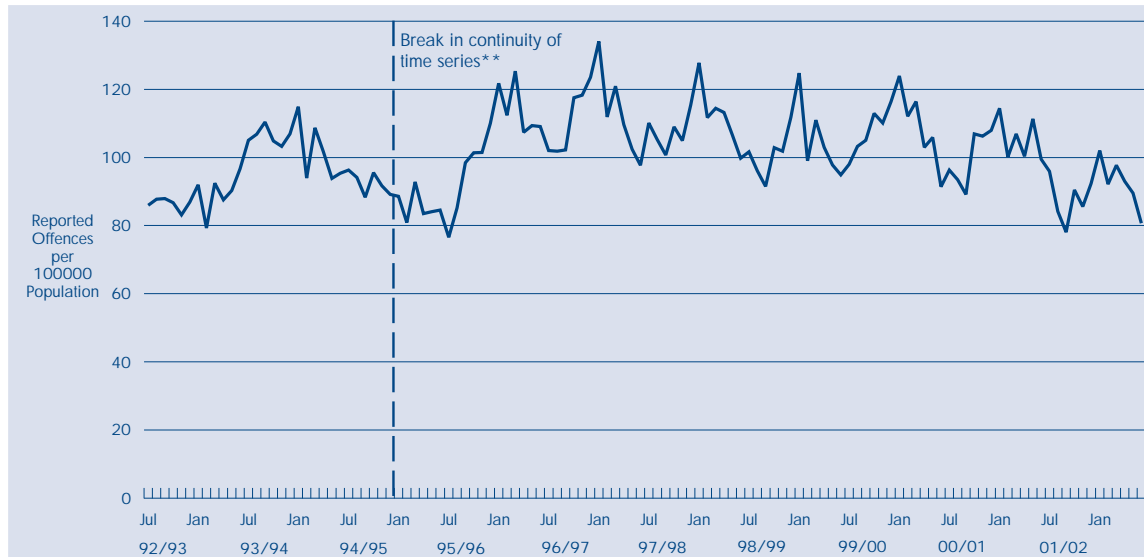
Unlawful Entry With Intent



The break in continuity** of the Unlawful Entry with Intent time series makes it difficult to analyse. Overall, a statistically significant increasing trend was detected* despite a substantial decrease in reported offences

over the 1994/95 financial year and again over the 2001/02 financial year (which saw an overall 11% decrease in reported Unlawful Entry offences).

Unlawful Entry - Dwellings



The time series for Unlawful Entry of Dwellings stabilised in the middle of the time series and then decreased towards the end particular during the 2001/02 financial year. Despite this, an overall

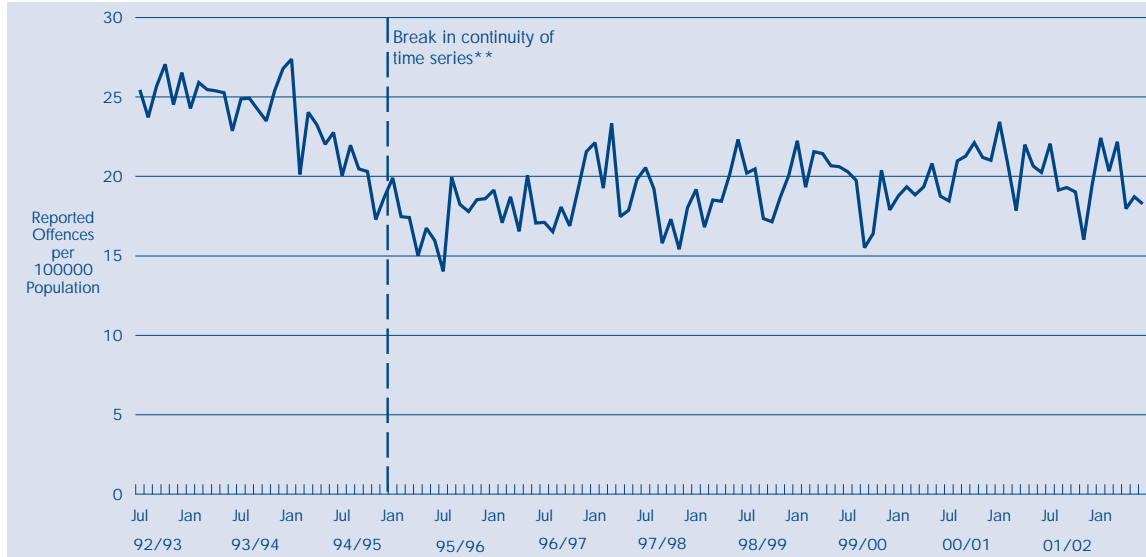
significant upward trend* was detected for the ten year period due to the increase in trend over the early years of the time series. Unlawful Entry of Dwellings decreased by 13% over the 2001/02 financial year.

* 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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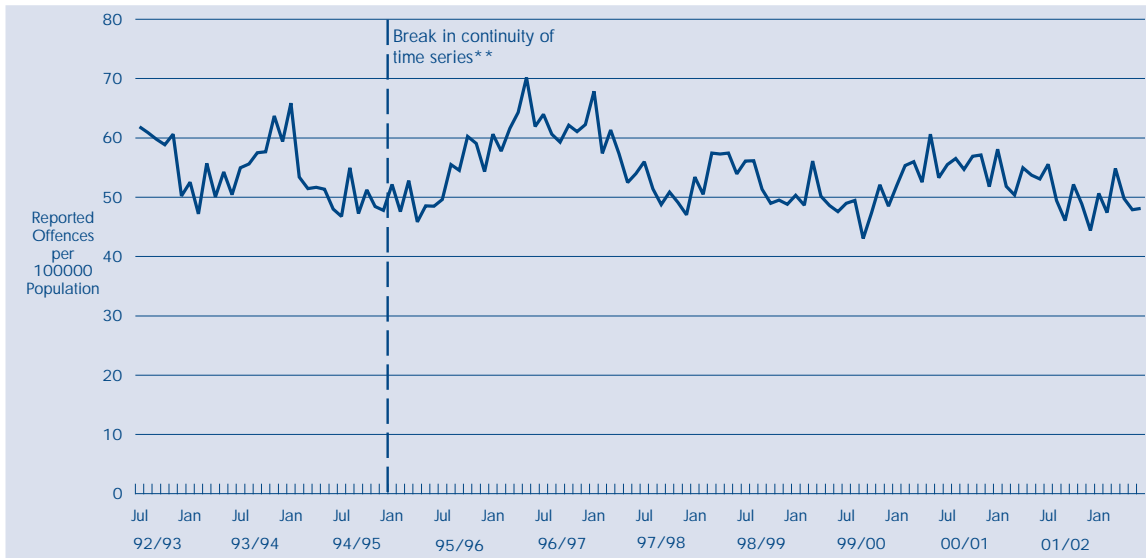
Unlawful Entry - Shops



After a dramatic decrease from mid 1992 to early 1995, Unlawful Entry of Shops has steadied. The break in continuity** appears to have had a stabilising effect on the time series. As a result of an overall 7% decrease in

this offence type in 2001/02, an overall significantly decreasing trend* was detected for the entire period.

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.

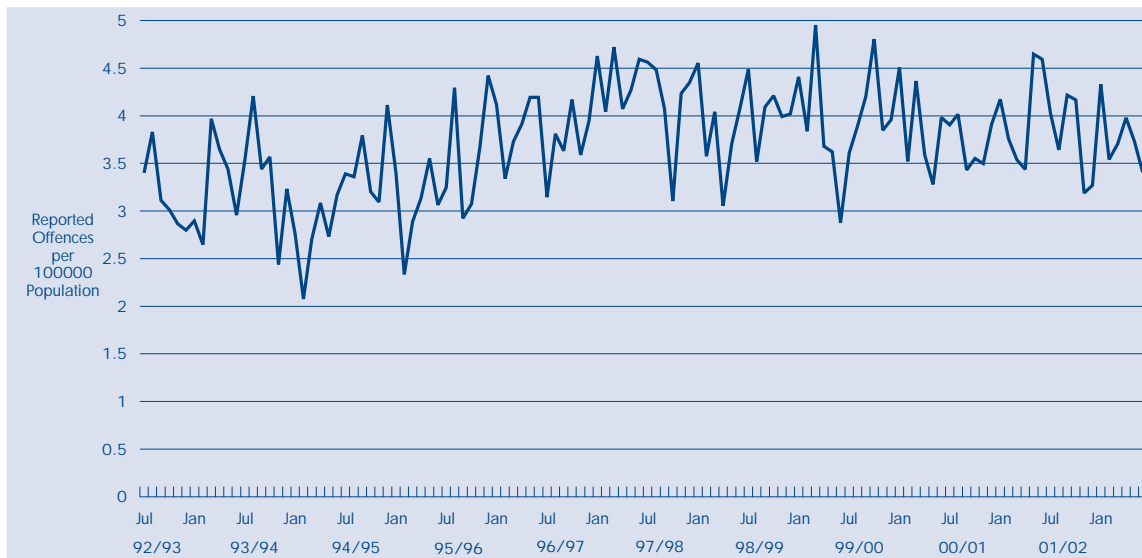
Following an upward shift over 1995/96, the time series is again decreasing although no overall significant trend was detected for the ten year period.

* The result is significant at the 5% 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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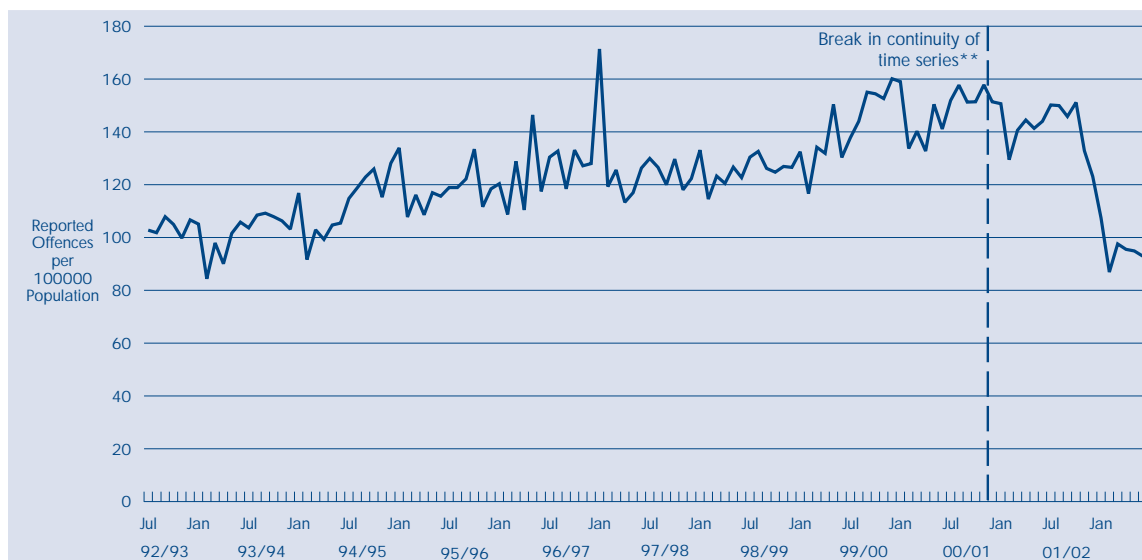
Arson



Arson offences exhibit an overall statistically significant upward trend* over the ten-year period. Apart from a high rate in May 2001, the time series has experienced

a downward trend since 1999/00 which has continued through to the year under review, 2001/02.

Other Property Damage



The sharp decrease at the end of the time series is the result of a change in policy regarding the reporting of Other Property Damage offences. Despite this decrease, the time series still exhibits a statistically

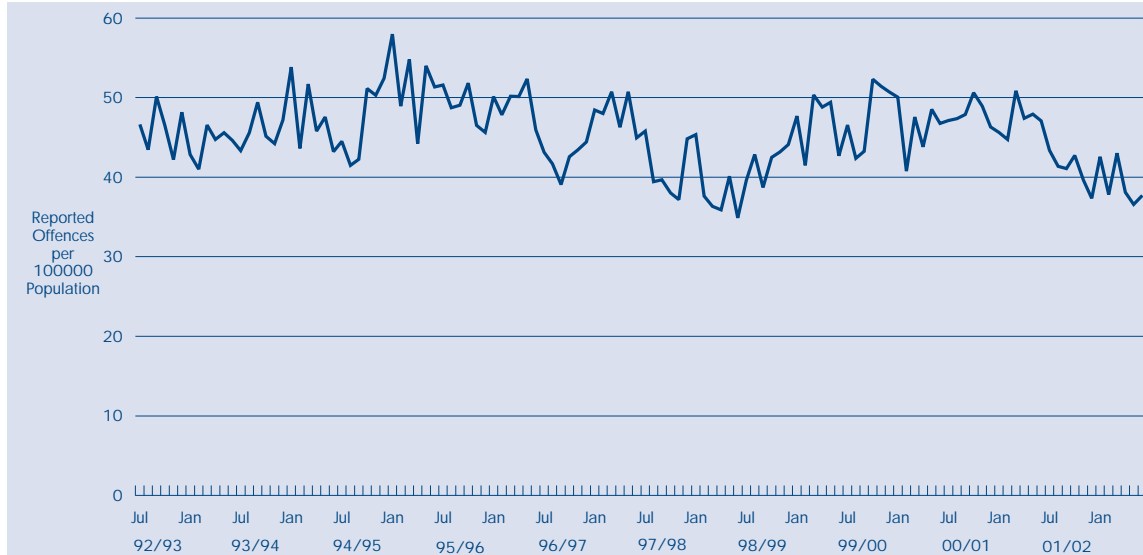
significant upward trend*. Prior to the decrease, the time series was steadily increasing. The 2001/02 financial year saw a 20% decrease in the rate of offences largely due to the policy change.

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

** Change in policy regarding the recording of Property Damage offences in conjunction with Unlawful Entry and Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicles has resulted in a break in continuity and, thus, caution should be exercised when looking at offences over time (see Explanatory Notes page 146 for further information).

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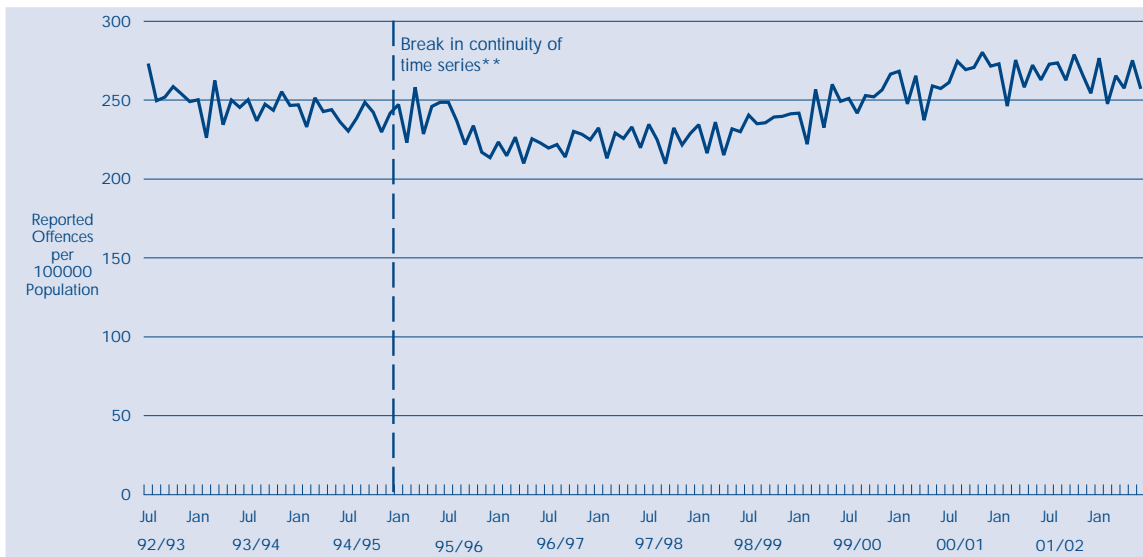
Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle[^]



Overall, a statistically significant increasing trend⁺⁺ was detected for the Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle time series despite an obvious decrease towards the end of the time series. From the beginning of 1996 until early

in the 1998/99 financial year, rates of theft decreased. From mid-1998 rates then rose sharply to equal those reported prior to the downward trend of 1996/97. Rates again decreased during 2001/02.

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. From 1998/99 increasing rates have reversed this downward trend. Overall, a statistically significant increasing trend⁺ was detected.

[^] Includes attempted offences.

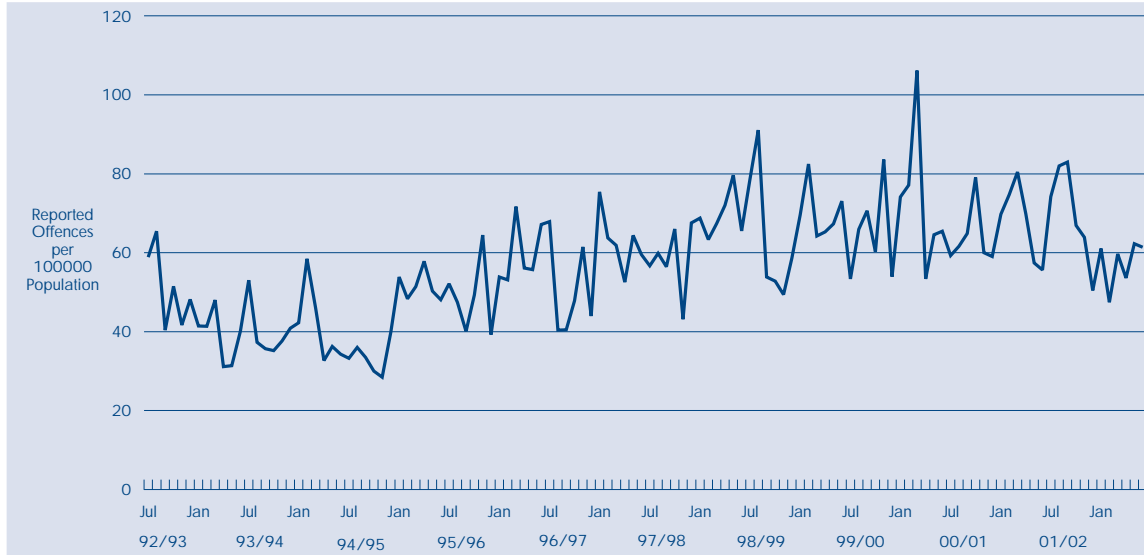
⁺⁺ The result is significant at the 5% level of confidence, using Kendall's rank order correlation test. See page 17 for further information.

^{**} 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.

⁺ 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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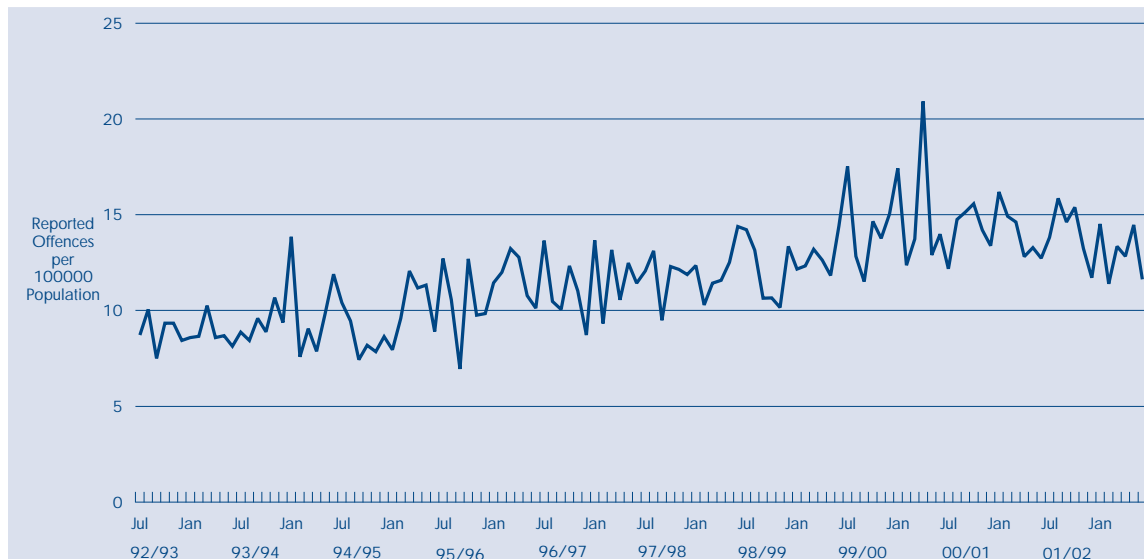
Fraud



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 a marked decrease is evident

over 2000/01 and 2001/02. 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



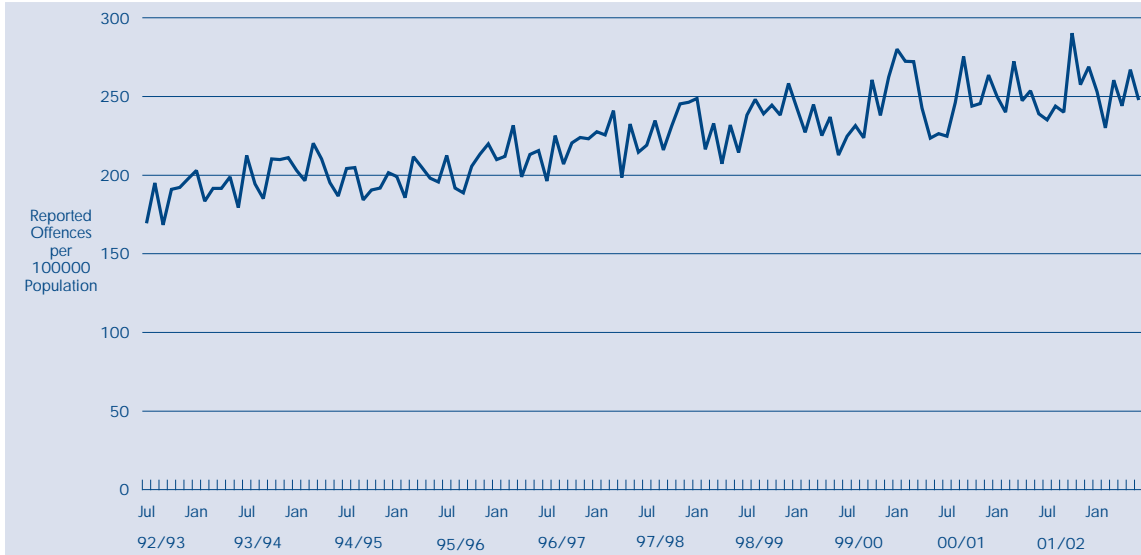
A significantly increasing trend* is evident in the Handling Stolen Goods time series, despite an obvious decrease over the 2000/01 and 2001/02 financial

years. The large spikes towards 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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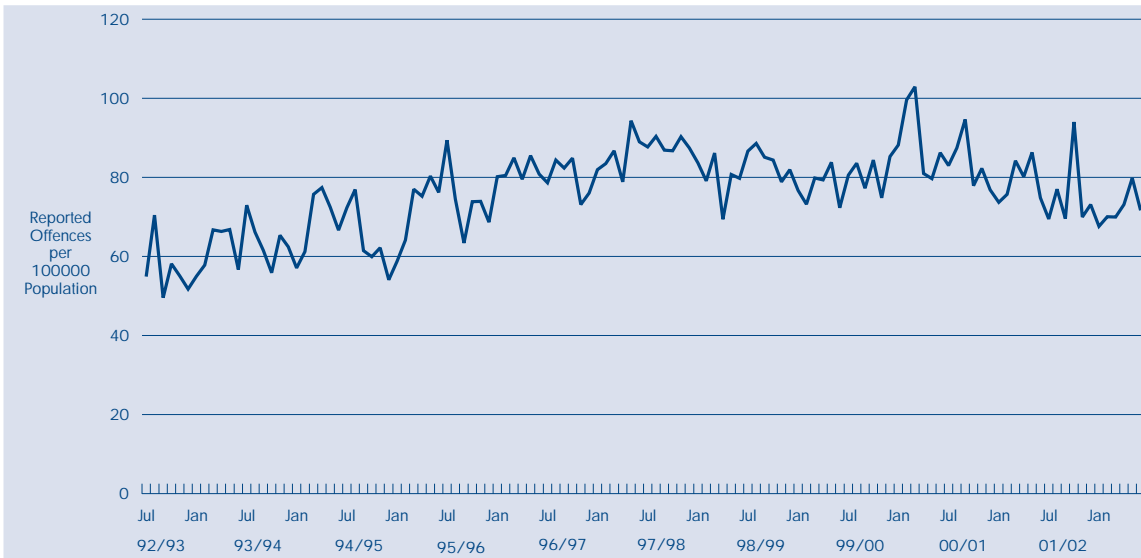
Other Offences



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 2001/02 continuing this trend.

Drug Offences



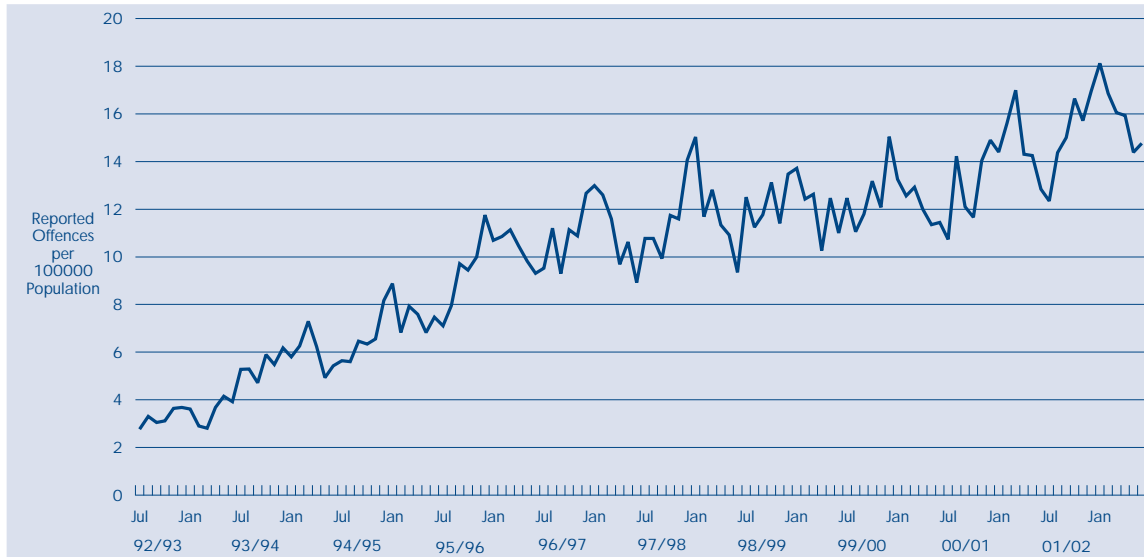
A significantly increasing trend* was detected for this time series over the ten-year period. Rates of Drug Offences have been slightly decreasing since early in

2000. The spike in the latter part of the time series was the result of multiple offences laid against a single offender in March and 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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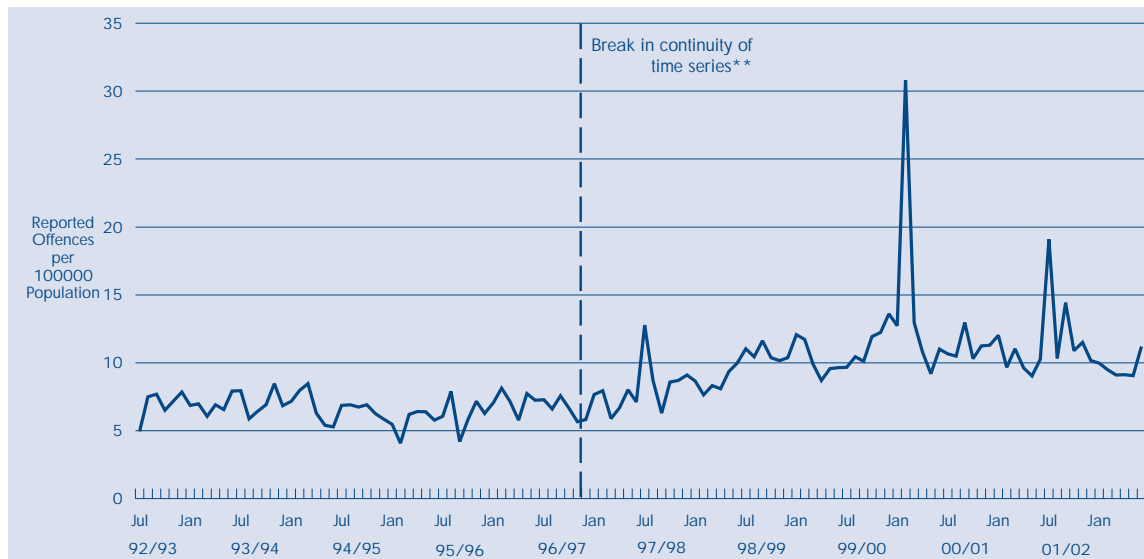
Breach of Domestic Violence Protection Orders



Breach of Domestic Violence Protection Orders have increased sharply* over the ten-year period. The latter part of the time series exhibits a seasonal effect on this

offence type peaking in the summer months and falling in the winter months. The increase in the rate of offences (12%) over 2001/02 is also evident.

Weapons Act Offences



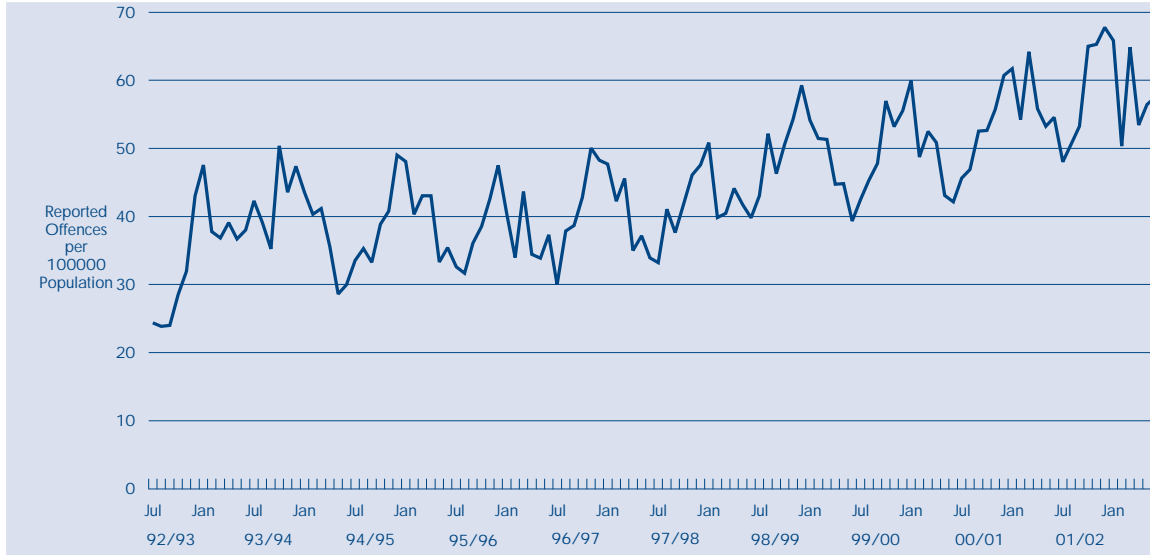
One offender was charged with 650 offences in February, 2000 resulting in a significant spike in the time series. This, too, exhibits a significantly increasing trend* although the break in the continuity resulting

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.
 ** The Weapons Amendment Act 1996 was implemented in November 1996 and resulted in a break in continuity for the Weapons Act time series.

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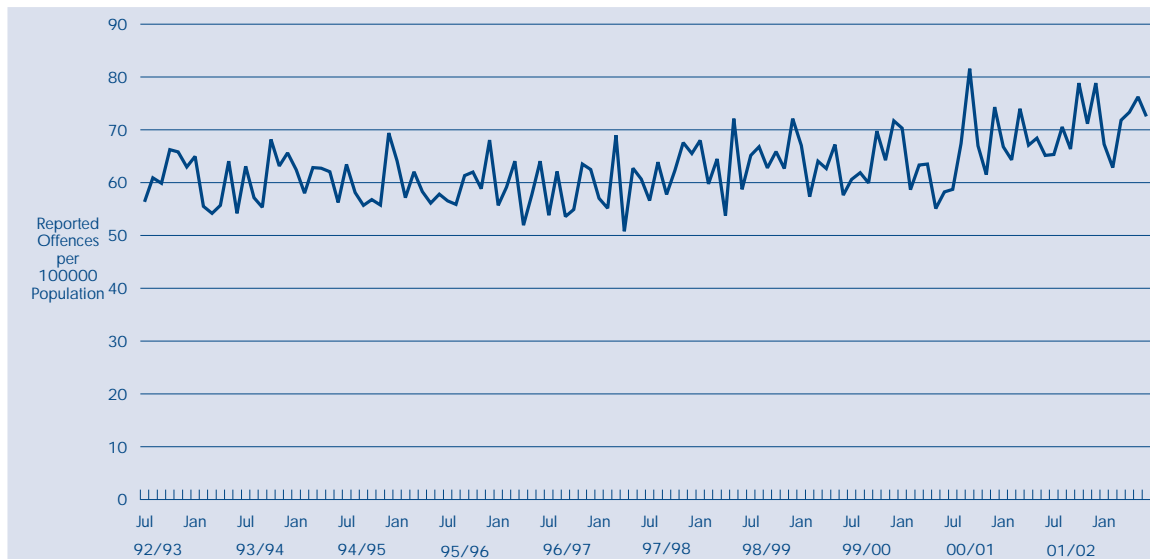
Good Order Offences



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. Following an increase of 10% during the 2000/01 financial year, Good Order offences again increased by 6% in 2001/02.

Traffic and Related Offences



Traffic and Related Offences have remained relatively stable over the ten-year period despite an increase towards the end of the time series. Overall, a statisti-

cally significant increasing trend* was detected in the time series. The 2001/02 financial year saw an overall increase of 4%.

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