

Monthly Crime Trends

The graphs in this section provide monthly data for selected offence categories from July, 1993 (93/94 financial year) to June, 2003 (02/03 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.

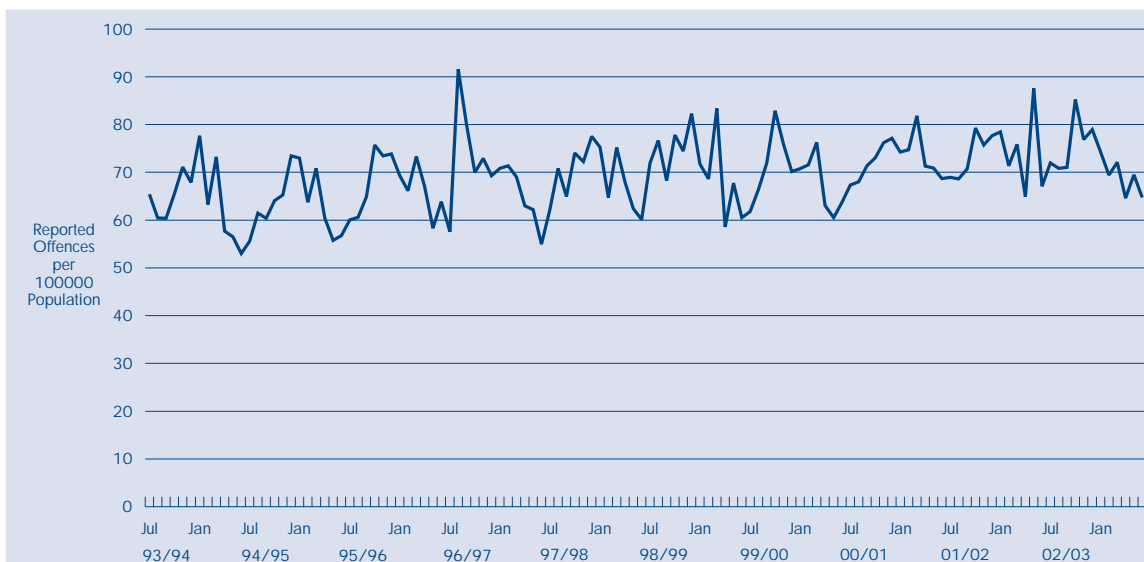
Quarterly Estimated Residential Population (ERP) statistics for Queensland provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (Catalogue 1304.3) were used to calculate the rates up to December, 2002.

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



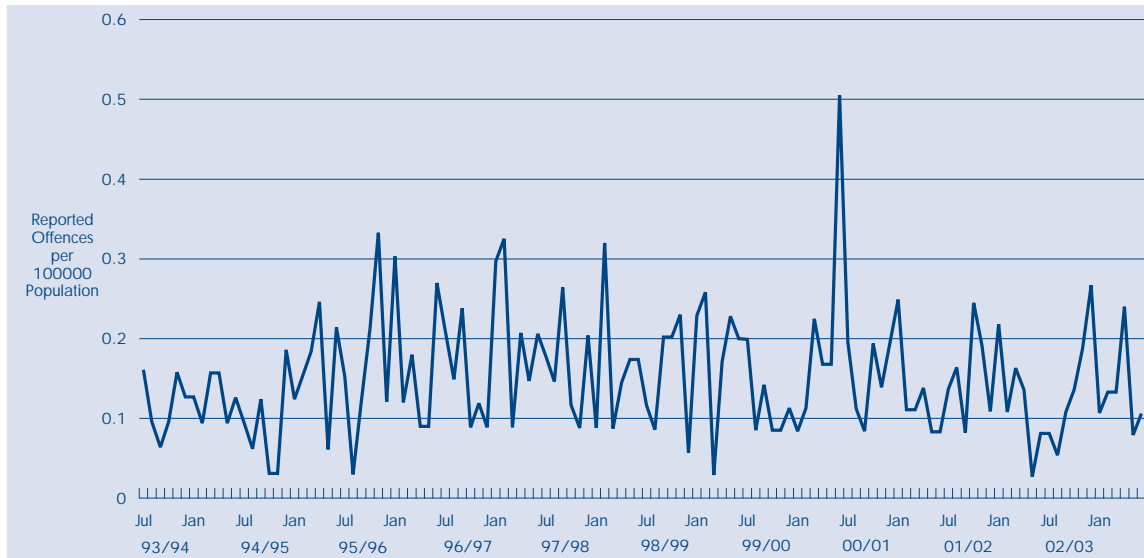
Total Offences Against the Person have increased significantly* over the ten-year period. This broad offence division tends to be dominated by Assault as is evidenced by the strong seasonal influence exhibited

by the time series. The peaks in September 1996, May 2002 and October 2002 are the result of a large number of Sexual Offences involving a small number of offenders 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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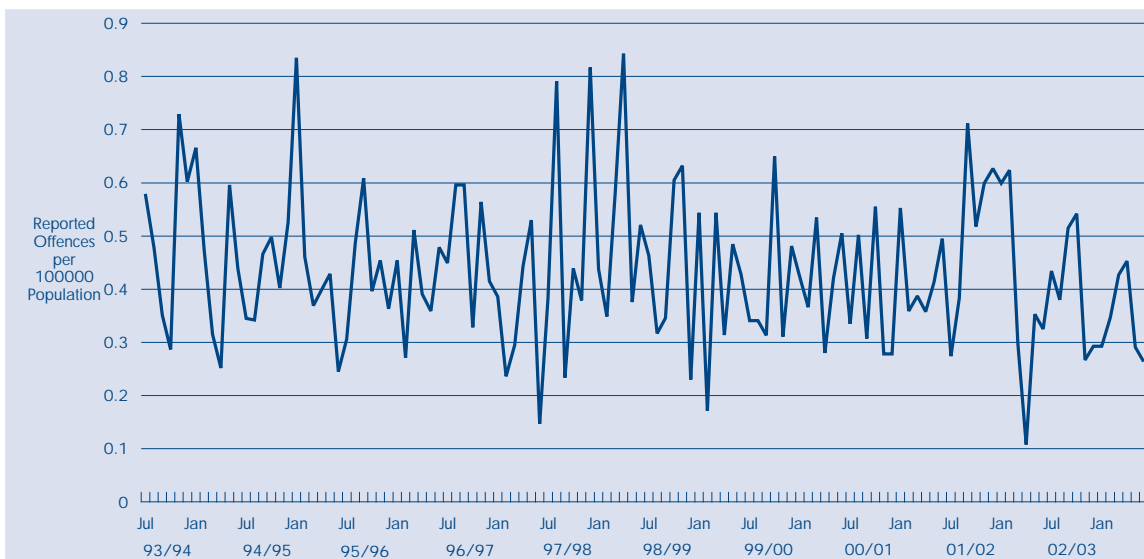
Homicide (Murder)



Over the ten-year period there is no significantly increasing or decreasing trend in the Homicide time series. This small-volume offence is subject to marked fluctuations from one month to the next. 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

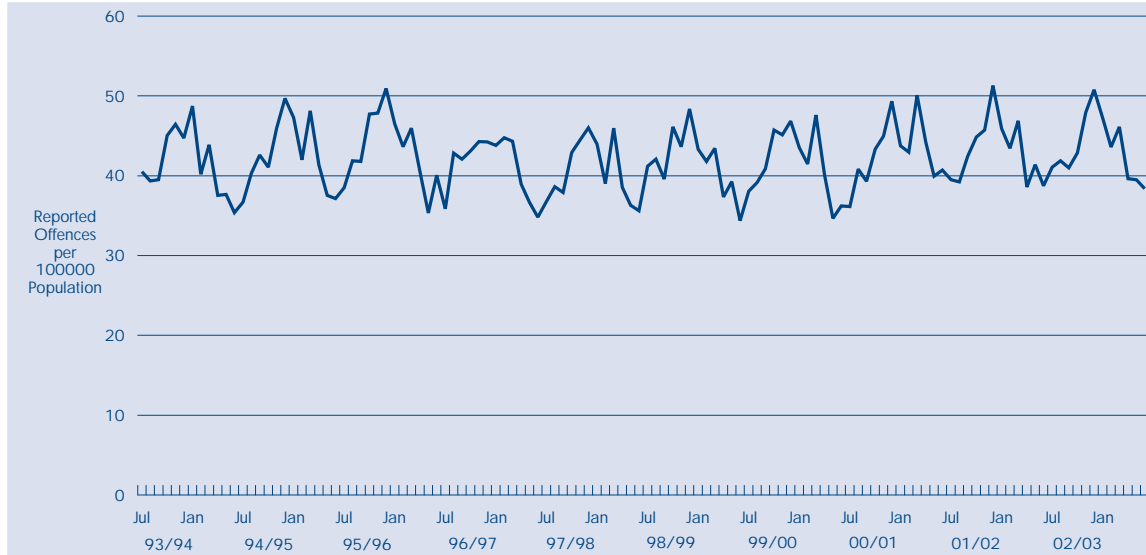


As with Homicide (Murder), Other Homicide is a low volume offence category and, as such, is subject to random fluctuations from month to month. Over the

ten-year period, there is no significantly increasing or decreasing trend for the Other Homicide time series.

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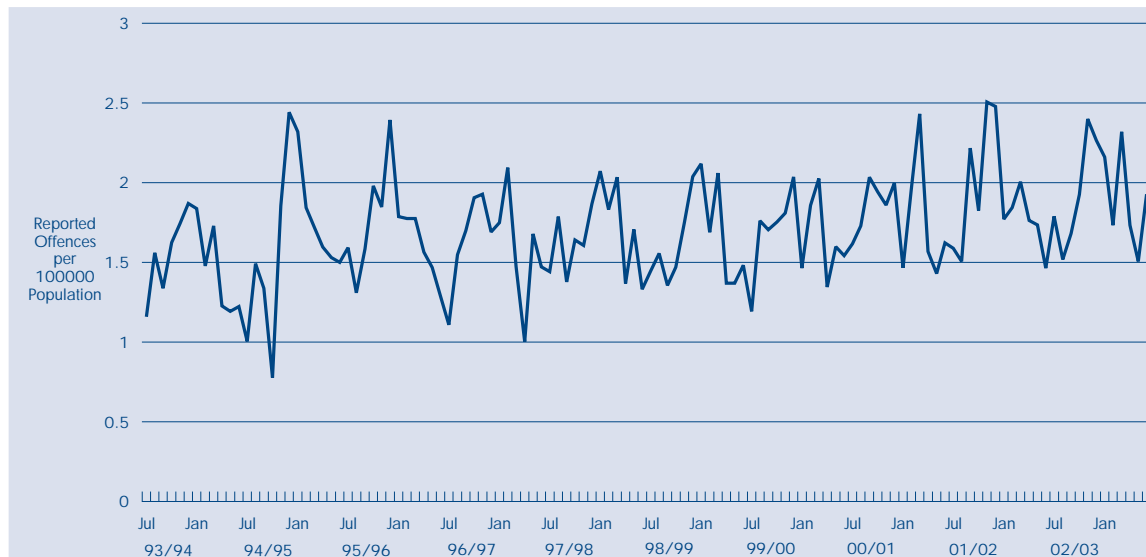
Assault



Assault is the largest in volume of the person offence sub-categories and, as such, tends to dominate. There was no significantly increasing or decreasing trend detected. 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.

Grievous Assault⁺



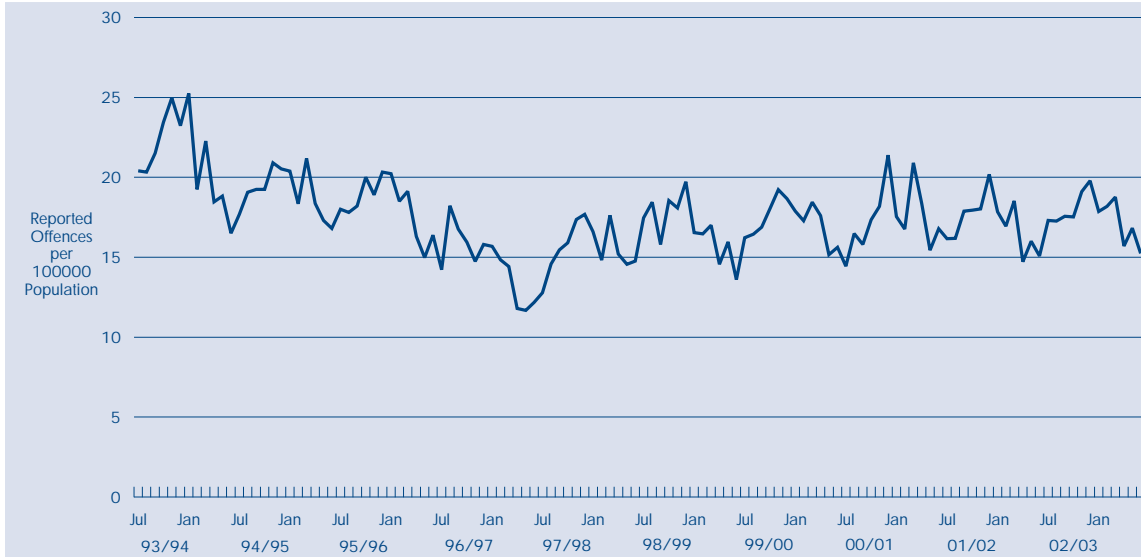
Grievous Assault is a small-volume offence and, as such, will be subject to marked fluctuations over time. Overall, the rate of Grievous Assaults has significantly

increased. The seasonal influence is obvious in the time series with the peaks occurring in the summer months.

* The result is significant at the 1% level of confidence, using Kendall's rank order correlation test. See page 17 for further information.
 + A more detailed breakdown of Assaults is presented for the first time in the current publication.

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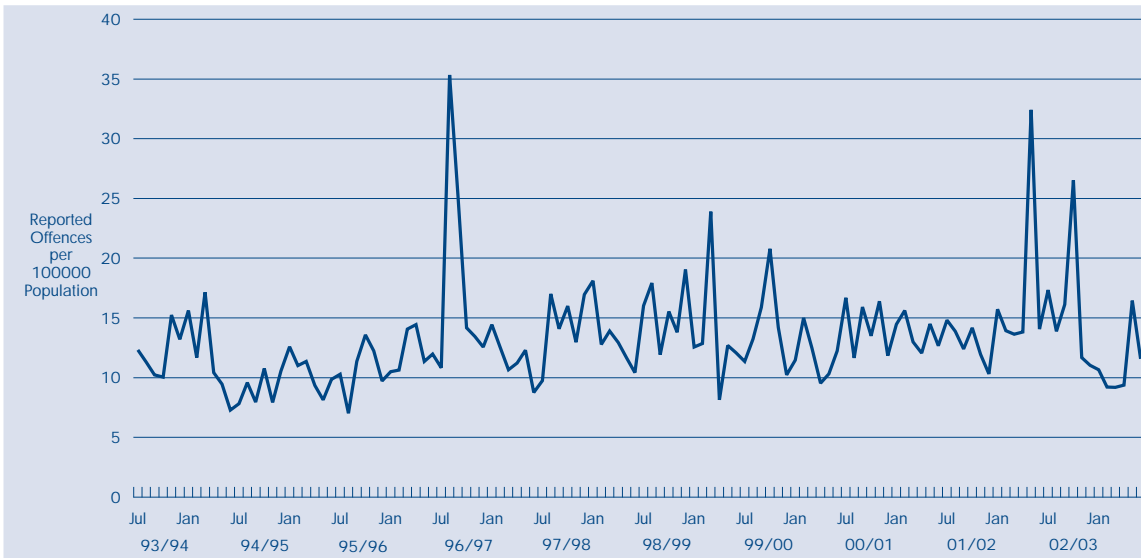
Common Assault⁺



Common Assault decreased markedly from 1993/94 to 1997/98. Following this, the time series has remained stable. Despite the stability in latter years, the overall

trend is significantly decreasing*. As with all sub-categories of Assault, the seasonal influence is apparent in the graph above.

Sexual Offences



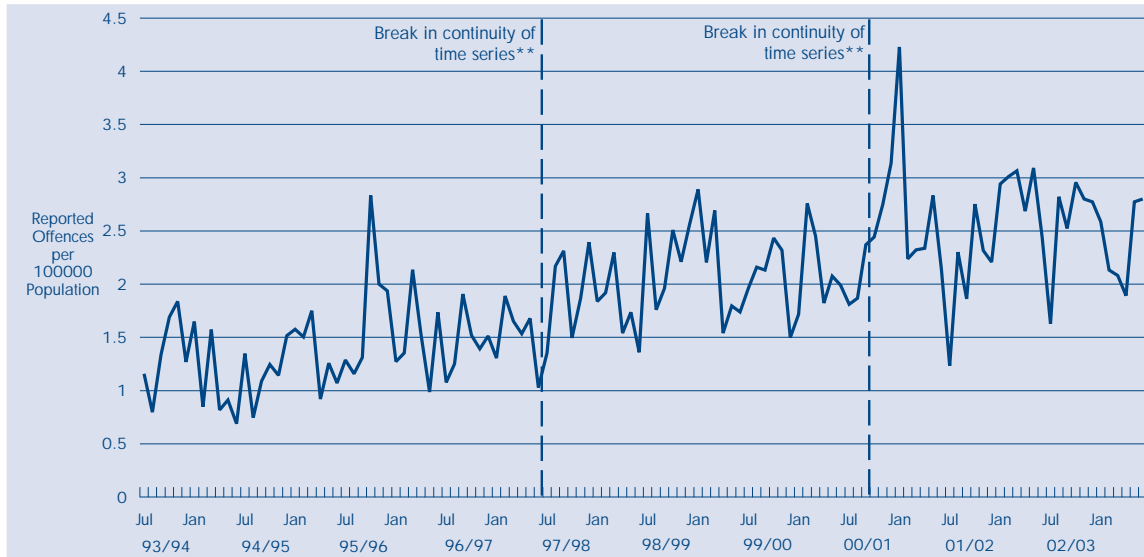
The spikes in the Sexual Offences time series are the result of large numbers of offences being reported to police in September 1996, March 1999, May 2002 and October 2002. All are due to single offenders who were

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.
 + A more detailed breakdown of Assaults is presented for the first time in the current publication.

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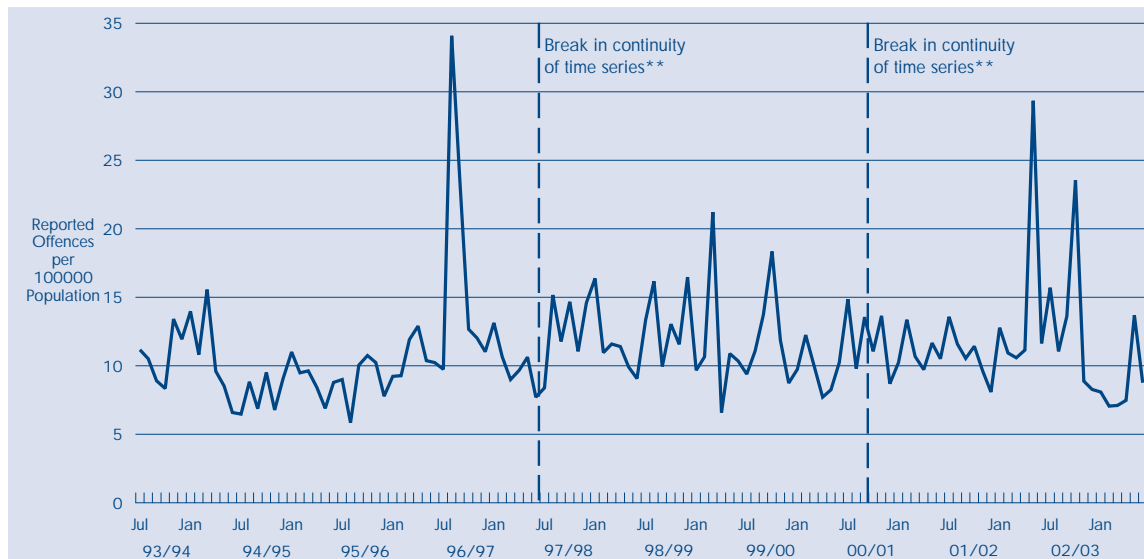
Rape and Attempted Rape



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



Single offenders were charged with in excess of 660 and 400 offences for incidents which occurred over a long period of time. The charges were preferred in May and October 2002 respectively resulting in the second

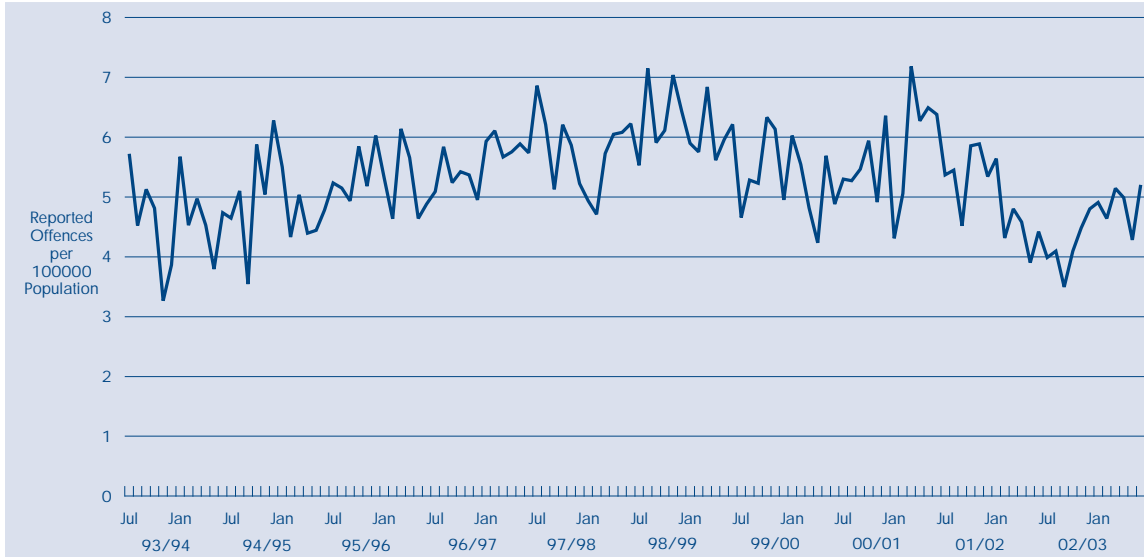
and third large spikes in the time series. The time series has increased significantly*. Once again, care should be exercised when making comparisons of data before and after the breaks in continuity**.

* 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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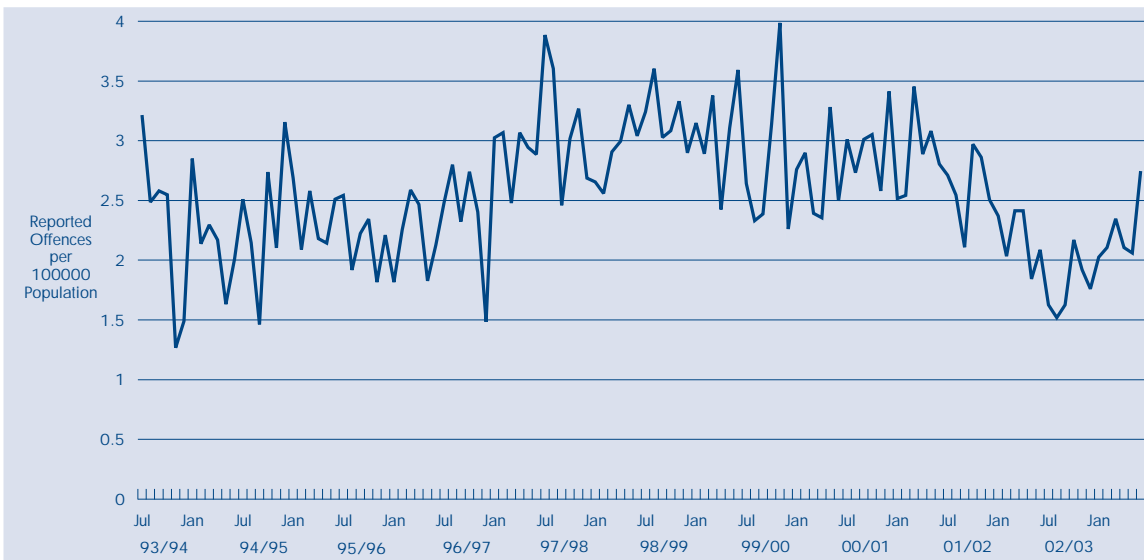
Robbery



Rates of Robbery increased markedly from 1993/94 to 1998/99. Following this, rates decreased markedly to mid 2000 and then again from early 2001 to 2002. Over 2003 (to date), rates of Robbery offences have

begun to increase again. As a result of the mix of increases and decreases across the time series, overall there was no significant trend detected.

Armed Robbery

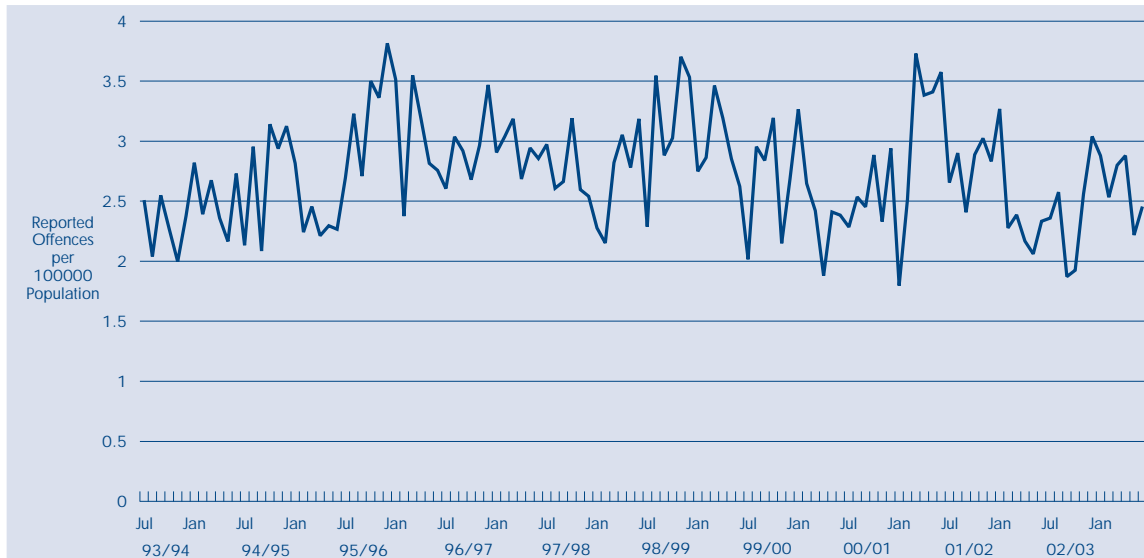


Again, the mix of increases and decreases in the rate of Armed Robberies over the ten years are apparent in the time series above. Overall, there was no significant

trend detected. The dip at the end of the time series is the result of a 17% decrease reported in 2001/02 and a further 17% decrease reported in 2002/03.

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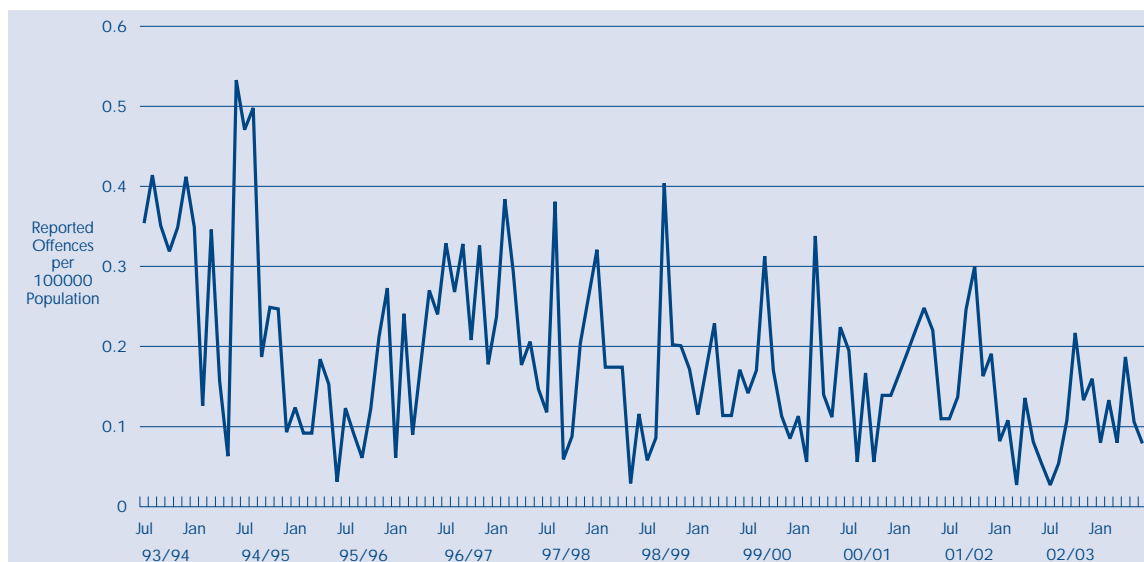
Unarmed Robbery



Rates of Unarmed Robbery have experienced fluctuations over time. As with Armed Robbery, rates have increased and decreased over the ten-year period which

resulted in no overall trend being detected. The decreasing nature of Unarmed Robberies over the last couple of years is evident in the time series.

Extortion



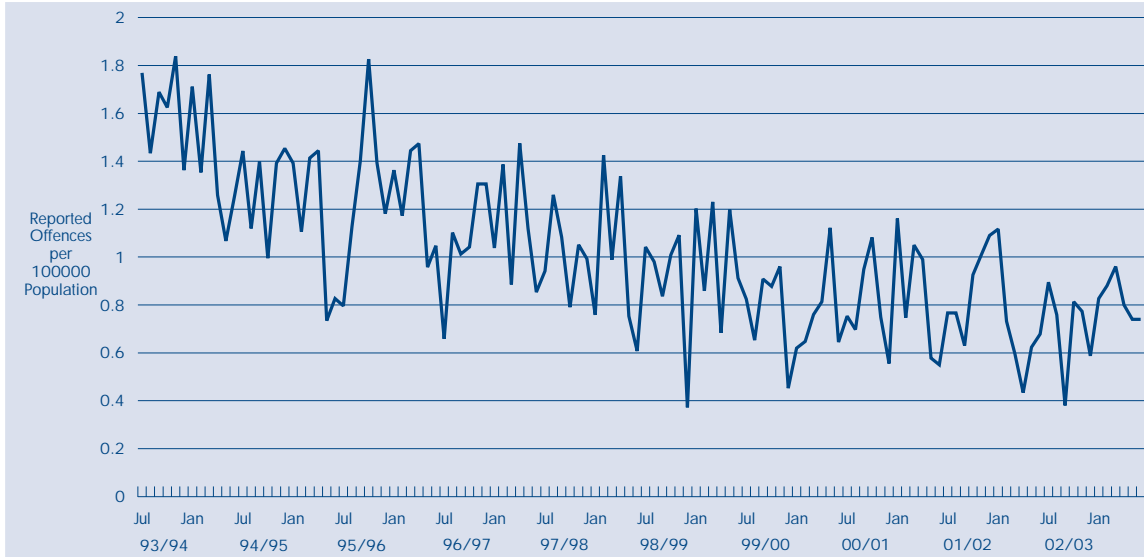
Extortion is the lowest in volume of the Offences Against the Person sub-categories and, as such, is prone to random variations from month to month.

Overall, a significantly decreasing* 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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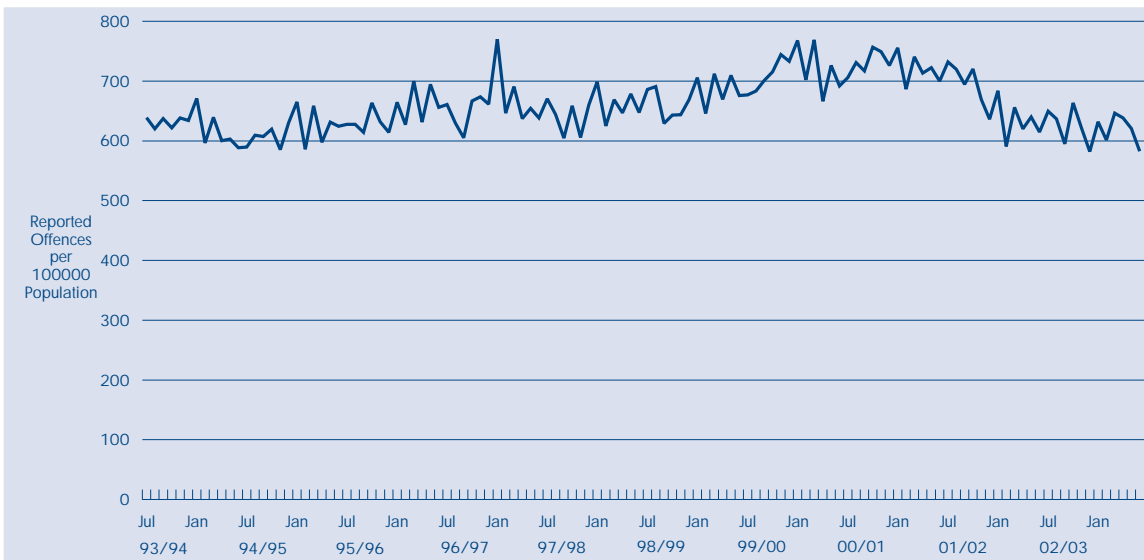
Kidnapping, Abduction, etc.



The rate of Kidnapping and Abduction offences have been steadily decreasing over the ten-year period of the time series and exhibit a statistically significant

decreasing trend*. This time series is subject to the fluctuations that occur in small volume offence categories.

Offences Against Property



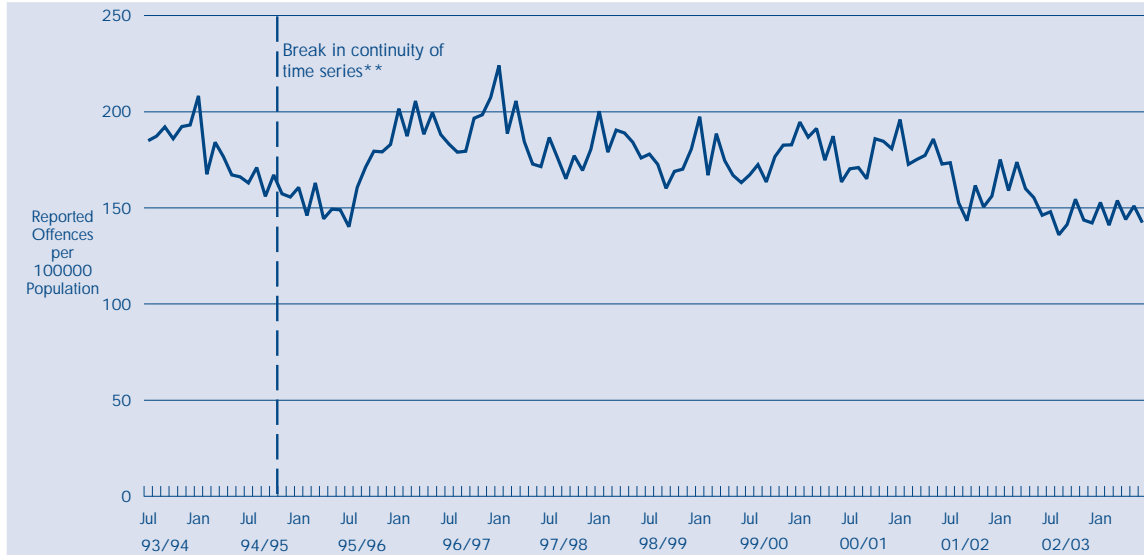
Although the Offences Against Property time series looks fairly stable, a statistically significant upward trend* was detected. This is a large volume offence category and, as such, increases or decreases are

usually small in the overall context. The rate of Property Offences has decreased over the last two years by 9% in 2001/02 and by 7% in 2002/03; 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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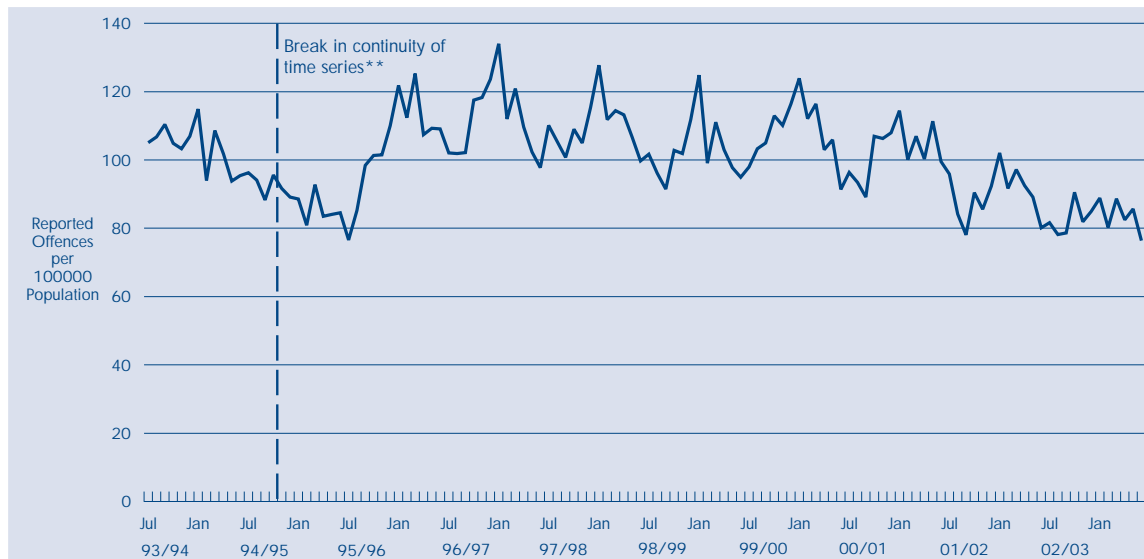
Unlawful Entry With Intent



The break in continuity** of the Unlawful Entry with Intent time series makes it difficult to analyse. Overall, a statistically significant decreasing trend* was detected*. The significant decreases seen in the rate of

offences over the last two financial years (11% in 2001/02 and 9% in 2002/03) are evident towards the end of the times series.

Unlawful Entry - Dwellings



The rate of Unlawful Entry of Dwellings stabilised from 1996 to 2000. Since this time, the rate has been steadily decreasing to the extent that an overall statistically significant decreasing trend* was detected.

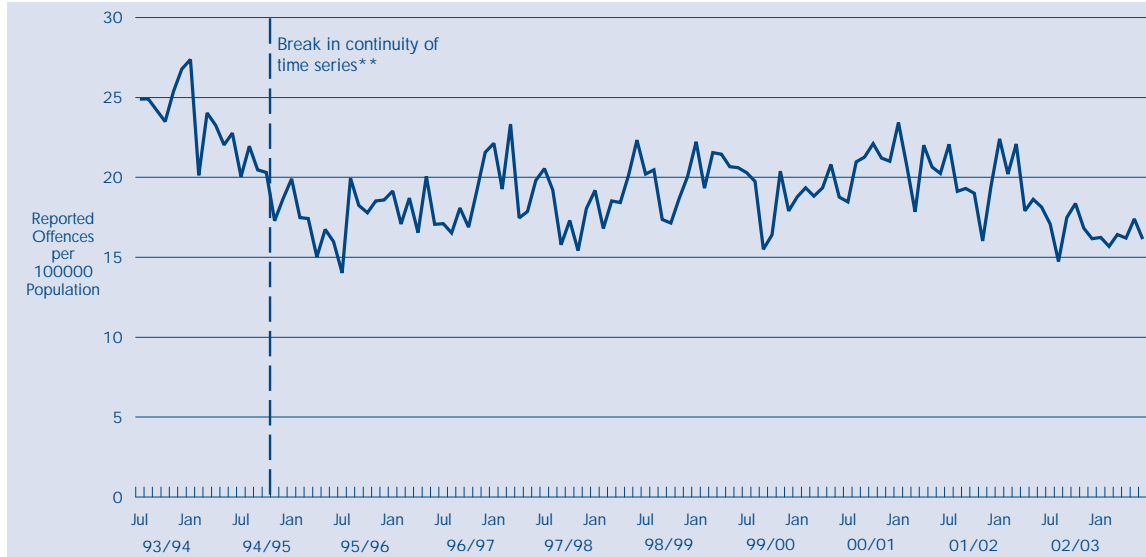
In particular, the rate decreased by 13% in 2001/02 and this was followed by an 8% decrease in 2002/03. The fact that this offence is subject to seasonal variation is evidenced in the graph above.

* 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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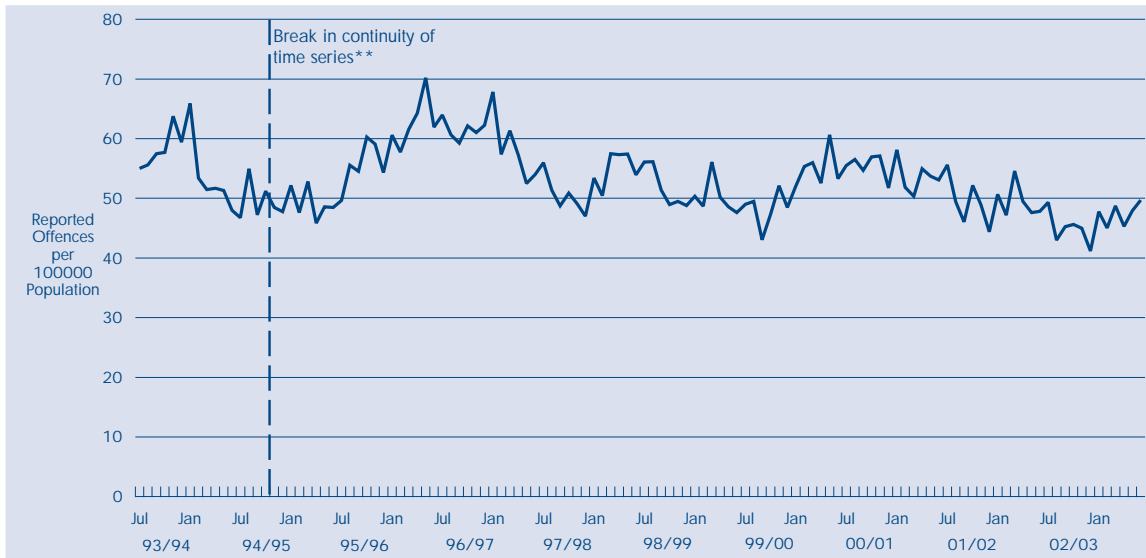
Unlawful Entry - Shops



After a dramatic decrease from mid-1993 to mid-1995, the rate of Unlawful Entry of Shops has steadied. The break in continuity** has had a stabilising effect on the time series. Over the ten years, the rate of offences has

been significantly decreasing*. Again, the dip towards the end of the time series is the result of the decreases seen over the last two financial years (7% in 2001/02 and 16% in 2002/03).

Unlawful Entry - Other Premises



The break in continuity** in the rate of Unlawful Entry of Other Premises resulted in a change in trend. Prior to the change in definition, the time series was decreasing. Following an upward shift from 1995/96 to 1996/

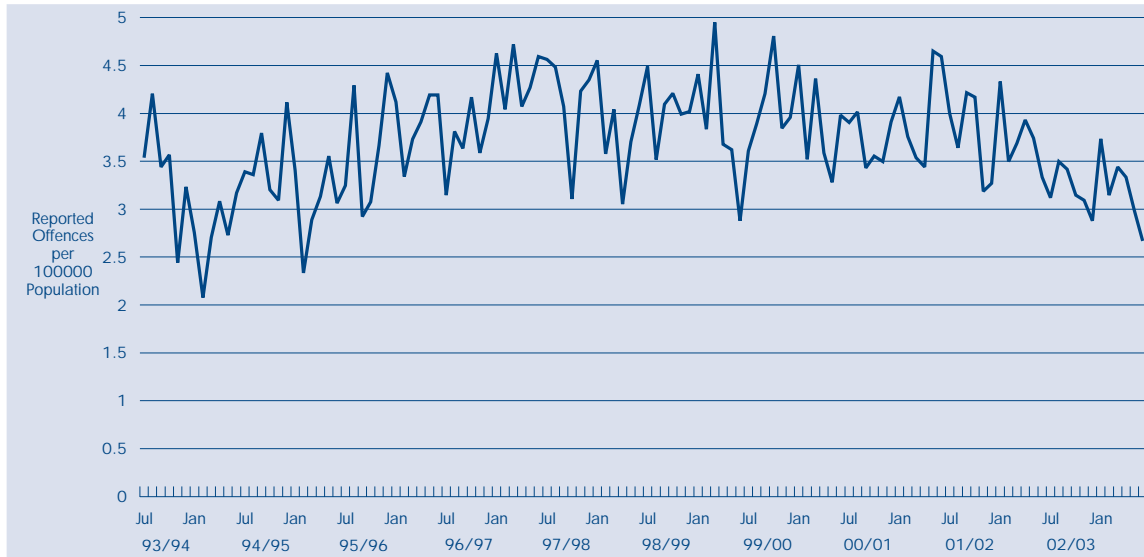
97 to the extent that a statistically significant decreasing* trend was detected. Again, the reductions over the last two financial years are apparent at the end of the time series.

* 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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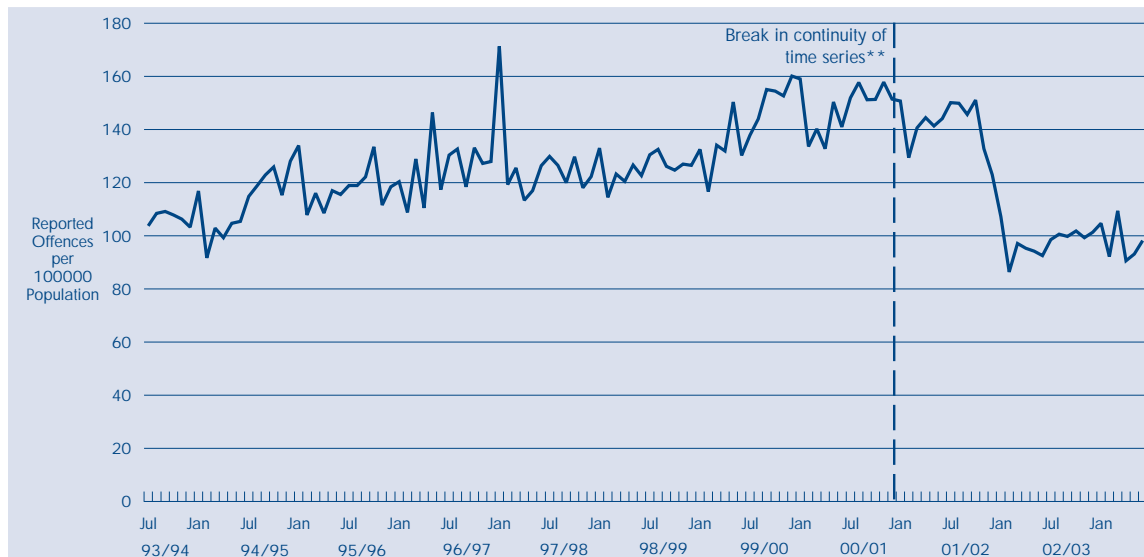
Arson



The rate of Arson offences increased in the first half of the time series but has been decreasing since. Over the ten years of the time series, no significant trend was

detected. For the year under review, the rate of Arson decreased by a sizeable 15%.

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. This break in continuity** effectively renders a statistical test invalid. While

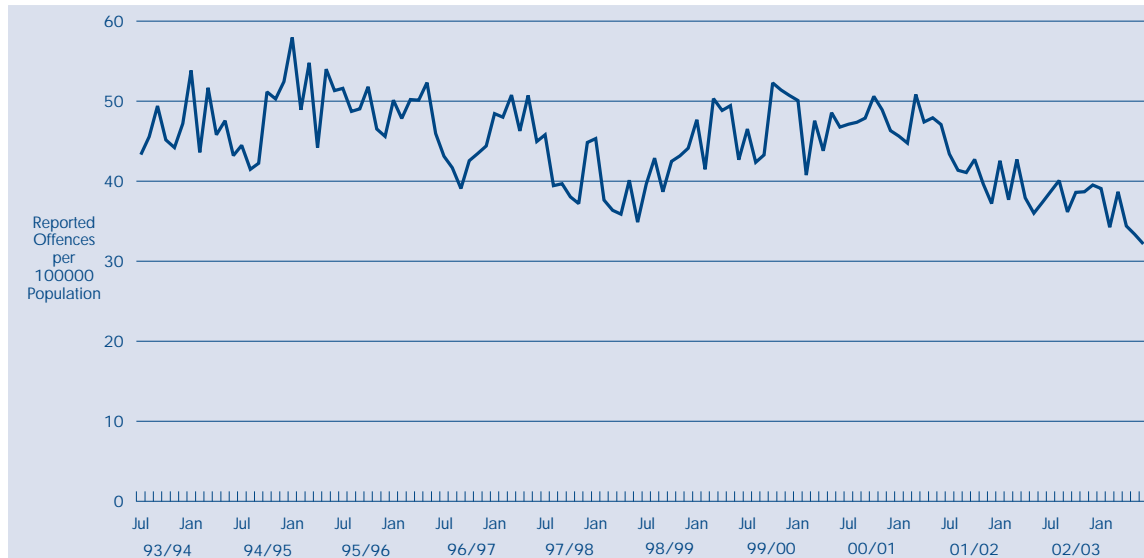
the change in policy contributed to a 20% decrease in the rate of offences in 2001/02, this downward trend continued in 2002/03 with a further 17% decrease.

* 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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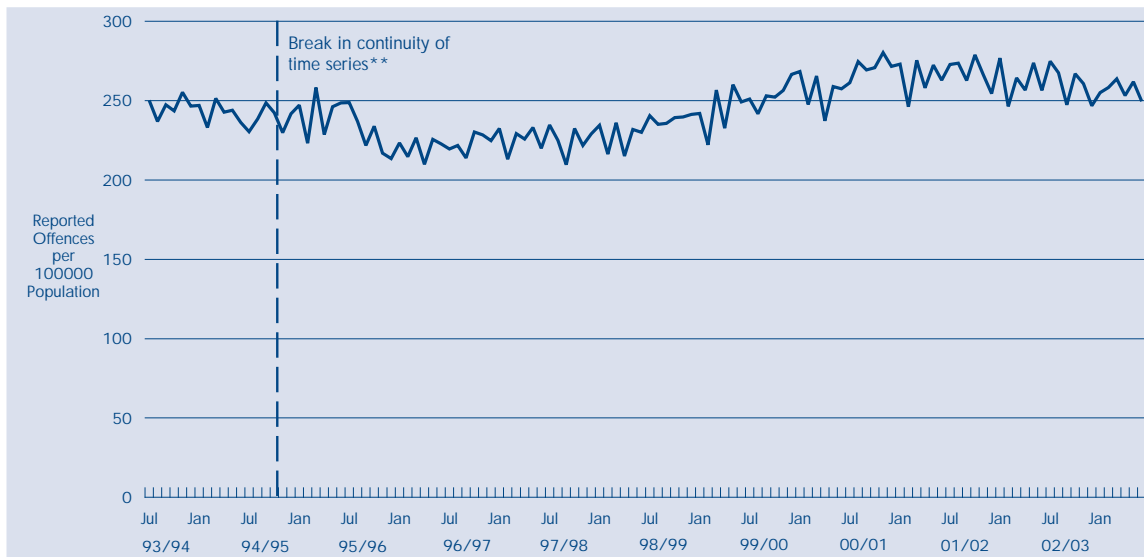
Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle[^]



Overall, a statistically significant decreasing trend* was detected for the Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle time series. As with other property offences, the substantive decreases experienced in the rate of offences over the

last two financial years is apparent at the end of the time series. Following a sizeable decrease in 2001/02, rates again decreased (by 8%) during 2002/03.

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

increased. Overall, a statistically significant increasing trend* was detected.

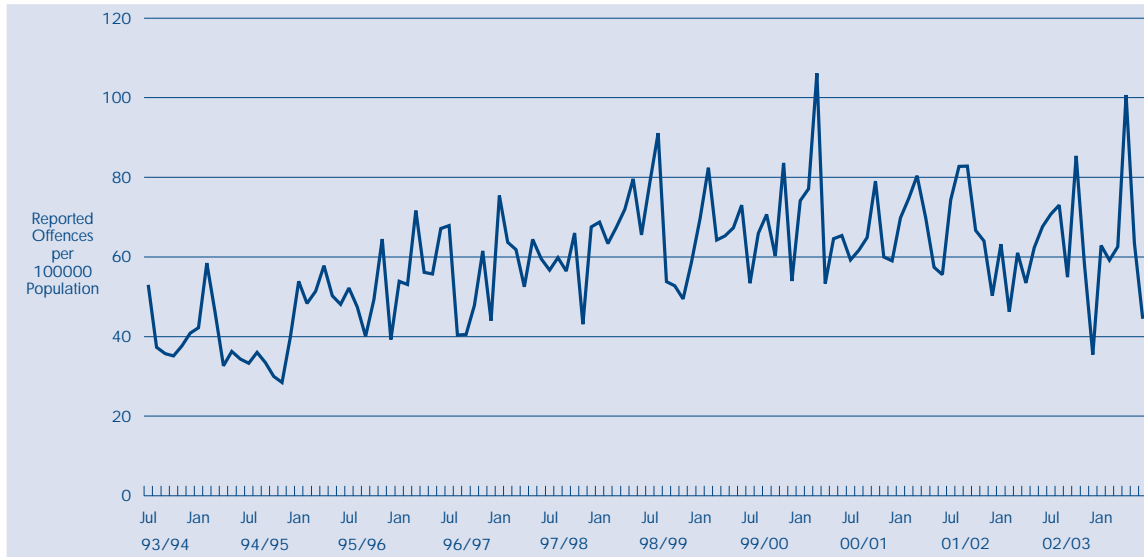
[^] Includes attempted offences.

** 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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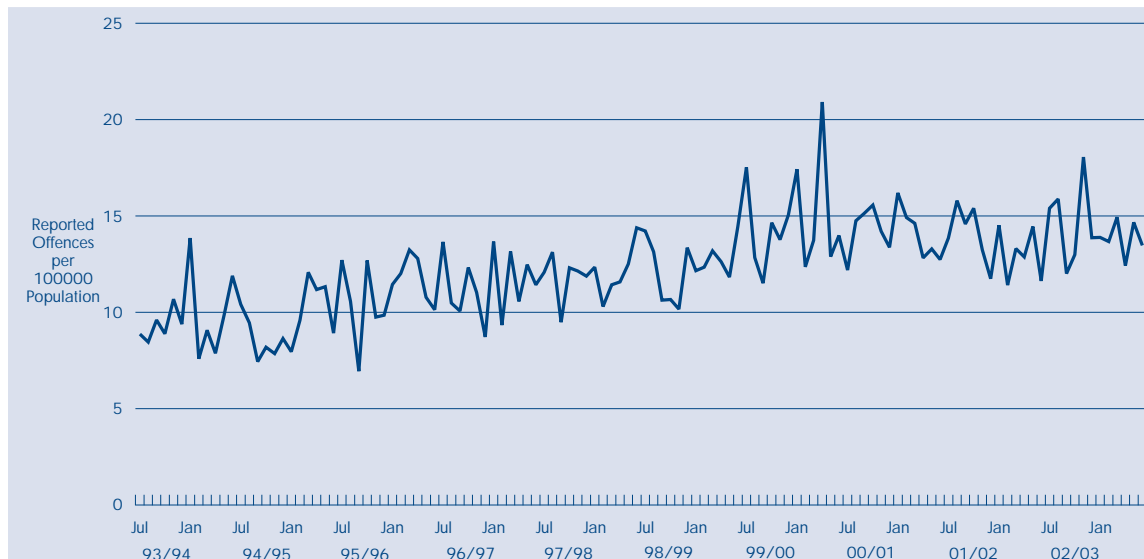
Fraud



The sharply increasing trend* in Fraud offences is evident in the graph above. The first spike in the time series is the result of over 1,500 charges laid against one offender in March, 2000. The second spike is the

result of over 1,780 charges against multiple offenders across the State in April 2003. Despite the significant number of offences reported in April, 2002/03 still saw a 1% reduction in the overall rate of Fraud offences.

Handling Stolen Goods



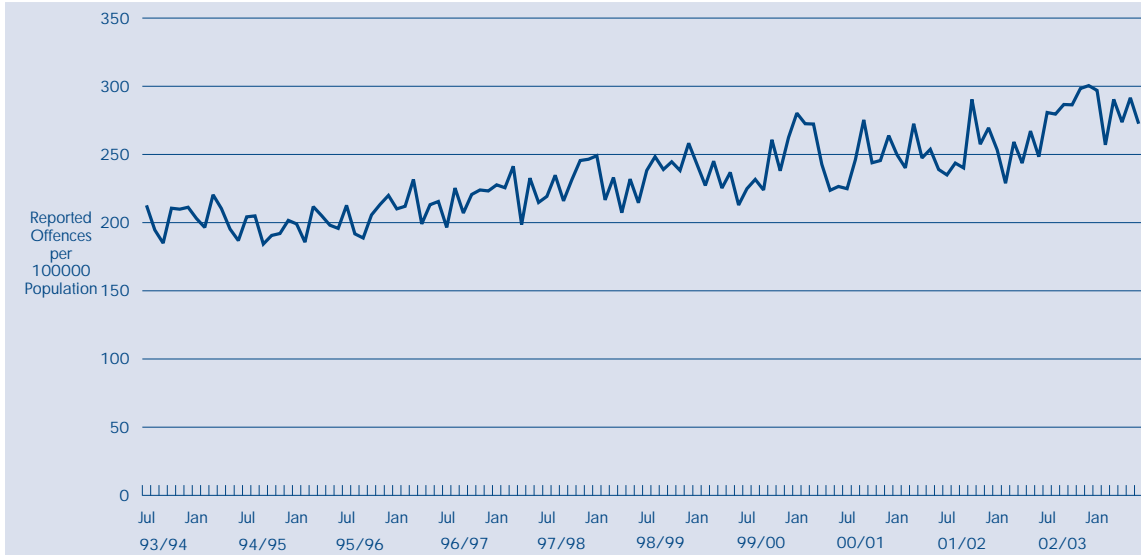
A significantly increasing trend* is evident in the Handling Stolen Goods time series. The rate of offences increased by 5% during 2002/03 contributing to the

overall increasing trend. The large spike in the middle of the time series is 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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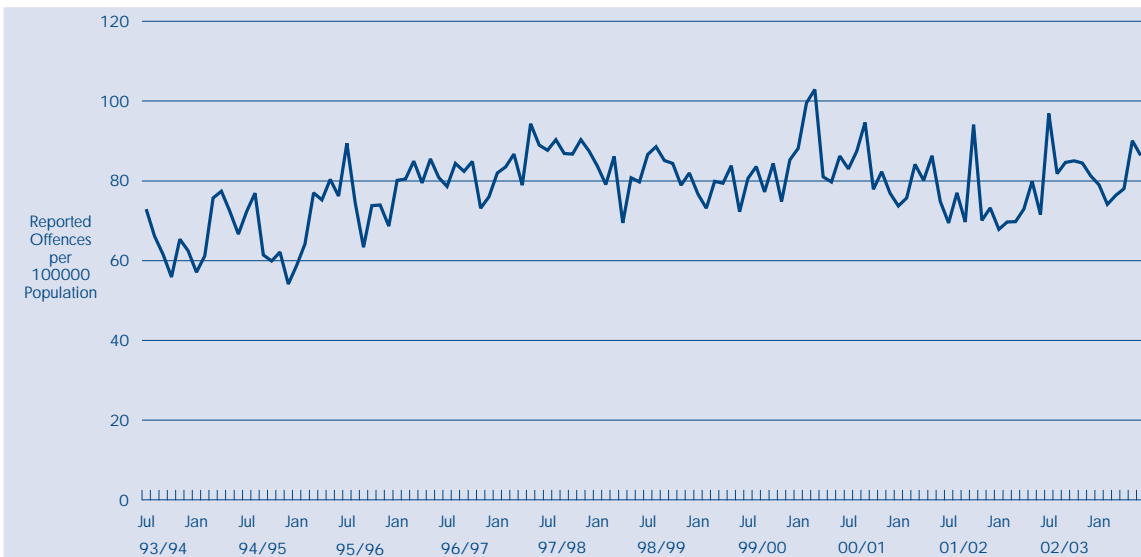
Other Offences



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 2002/03 continuing this trend.

Drug Offences



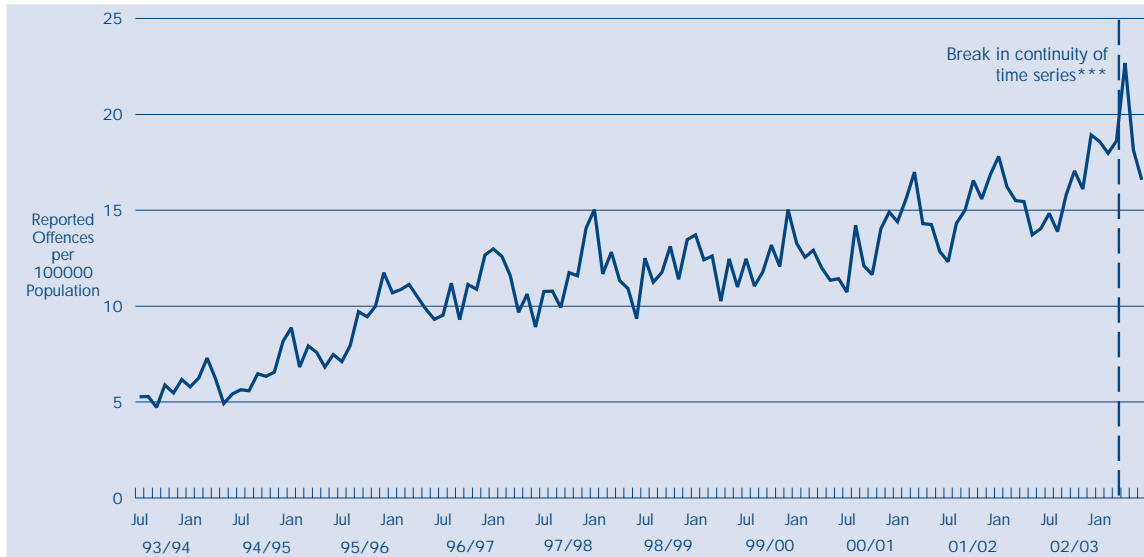
A significantly increasing trend* was detected for this time series over the ten-year period. Following a slight decrease in the rate of Drug Offences from early 2000 to end 2001, rates have again increased in 2002/03. The

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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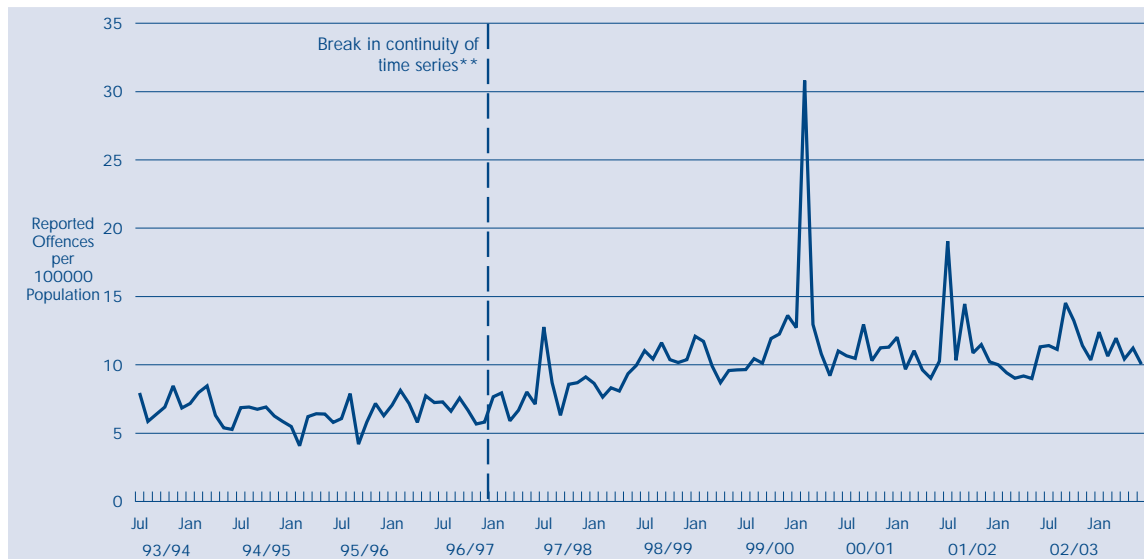
Breach of Domestic Violence Protection Orders



Breach of Domestic Violence Protection Orders have increased sharply* over the ten-year period. The legislative change in March 2003*** will affect a break in the continuity of this time series. The spike at the

end of the time series is the result of nearly 200 offences committed by a single offender and reported to police in April 2003. The increase in the rate of offences (12%) over 2001/02 is 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 markedly.

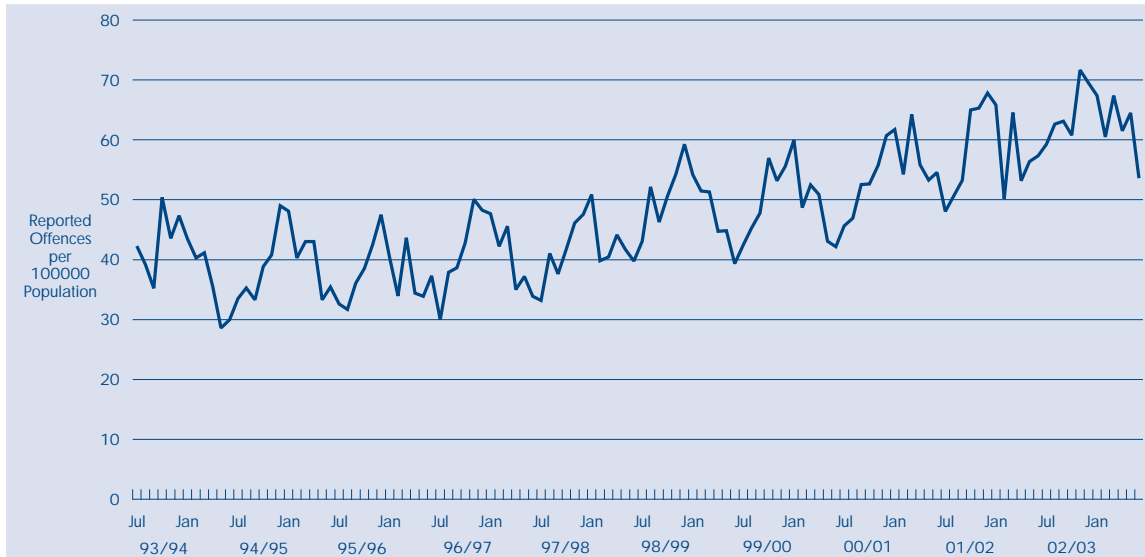
* The result is significant at the 1% level of confidence, using Kendall's rank order correlation test. See page 17 for further information.

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

*** The Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 1989 was expanded in March 2003 to include intimate personal, familial and informal care relationships.

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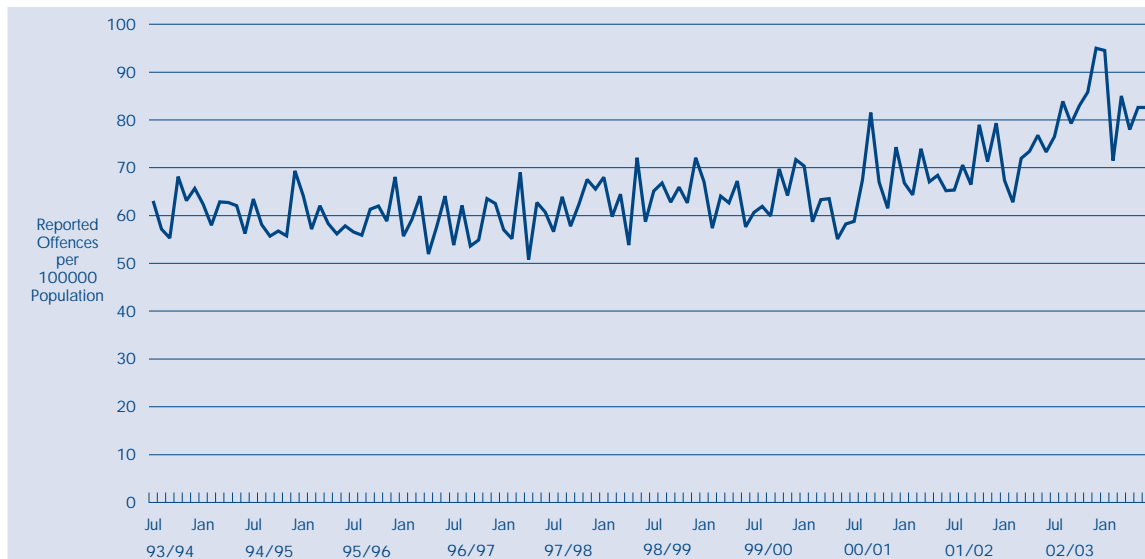
Good Order Offences



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 6% during the 2001/02 financial year, Good Order offences again increased by 9% in 2002/03.

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 2002/03 financial year saw an overall increase of 16%.

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