Monthly Crime Trends

The graphs in this section provide monthly data for selected offence categories from July, 2002 (2002/03 financial year) to June, 2012 (2011/12 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.

*Australian Demographic Statistics*, December Quarter 2011 (3101.0), Australian Bureau of Statistics were used to calculate the rates up to June, 2012.

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, pages 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](image)

Total offences against the person has a statistically significant* decreasing trend over the ten year period. This broad offence group tends to be dominated by assaults as is evidenced by the strong seasonal influence recorded by the time series. During the last financial year, offences against the person peaked in November due to the higher number of sexual offences and other offences against the person reported in the month.

* The result is significant at the 1% level of confidence, using Kendall’s rank order correlation test. See page 17 for further information.
Over the ten year period there is a significantly decreasing trend* in the homicide (murder) time series. This small volume offence is subject to marked fluctuations from one month to the next.

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 were 42 reported murders in 2011/12 for Queensland which is ten more than the previous year.

Over the ten year period, there is a significantly decreasing trend* for the other homicide time series. Other homicide reported a rate decrease of 12% in the 2011/12 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.
Assault is the largest in volume of the offences against the person categories. There was a statistically significant decreasing trend* detected for the 2011/12 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.

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 no statistically significant increasing or decreasing trend* over the ten year period. 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.
Serious assault offences again show strong seasonal influences in this time series, with a higher rate of offences occurring over the summer months and a lower rate of offences occurring in the winter months of each year. A significantly decreasing trend was detected over the ten year period*.

Serious assault (other) has no significantly increasing or decreasing trend* over the ten year period. Although less apparent than for the other sub-categories of assault, the peaks and troughs reflect the strong seasonal influence exerted on the time series with the higher rates 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.
There is a statistically significant decreasing trend* shown in the time series for common assault. As with all sub-categories of assault, the seasonal influence is apparent in the graph above.

The spikes in the sexual offences time series are the result of a large number of charges preferred against two offenders in October 2002. Spikes can also been seen in October 2005, December 2006, August 2007 and February 2008 again the result of a large number of offences being reported for incidents that occurred over a period of time and by a small number of offenders. Overall, this time series records a statistically significant decreasing trend*.

* The result is significant at the 1% level of confidence, using Kendall’s rank order correlation test. See page 17 for further information.
Spikes in this series can be seen in May 2006, August 2007, February 2007, January 2008 and January 2010 as the result of a large number of offences being reported as occurring over an extended period of time by a small number of offenders. There is no statistically significant increasing or decreasing trend* over the ten year period.

Two offenders were charged with in excess of 400 other sexual offences for incidents which charges were preferred in October 2002 respectively resulting in the first large spike in the time series. Multiple reports relating to historical offences with large counts were responsible for the spikes in October 2005 and December 2006.

* The result is significant at the 1% level of confidence, using Kendall's rank order correlation test. See page 17 for further information.
A spike in the series can be seen between March and May 2011 due to an increase in both armed and unarmed robbery offences. Overall rates of robbery offences continued to record a significantly* downward trend.

Although the overall trend in the rate of armed robbery has been decreasing significantly* since 2002/03, the time series recorded an increase in 2008/09 (14%), 2010/11 (8%) and again in the current period of 12%.

* The result is significant at the 1% level of confidence, using Kendall’s rank order correlation test. See page 17 for further information.
Rates of unarmed robbery have recorded fluctuations over time however, have continued to record an overall downward trend*. During the current period, unarmed robbery recorded a decrease of 9%.

This time series is subject to the fluctuations that occur in small volume offence categories. The rates of kidnapping and abduction etc. offences have been steadily decreasing over the ten year period of the time series and records a statistically significant decreasing trend*. 

* The result is significant at the 1% level of confidence, using Kendall’s rank order correlation test. See page 17 for further information.
Extortion is the lowest in volume of the offences against the person categories and, as such, is prone to random variations from month to month. Overall, a statistically significant decreasing* trend was detected over the ten year period.

As can be seen in the graph above, the time series displays a statistically significant decreasing trend* over the ten year period. The State recorded a 9% decrease in stalking offences during the 2011/12 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.
Due to a review conducted in January 2004 by the Crime and Misconduct Commission, the recording of child abuse cases has undergone changes. The rate of life endangering acts offences have been steadily decreasing since April 2004 and records a statistically significant decreasing trend* over the ten year period.

The offences against property time series has historically been reasonably stable, though since July 2002, has a statistically significant downward trend* being detected. This is a large volume offence group and, as such, increases or decreases are usually small in the overall context. The rate of offences against property during the current time period increased by 6%.

* 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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Monthly Crime Trends

Overall, there was a statistically significant decreasing trend detected* for unlawful entry with intent offences. In the current period, the rate of unlawful entry offences increased by 5%.

The rate of unlawful entry with intent – dwelling offences has been steadily decreasing from 2002 resulting in an overall statistically significant decreasing trend*. The rate of unlawful entry with intent – dwelling offences during the current time period recorded a 10% increase.

* 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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Over the ten years, the rate of unlawful entry - shop offences has been significantly decreasing*. These offences recorded a 6% decrease for 2011/12 financial year.

Overall, there was a significantly decreasing trend* detected for unlawful entry - other premises. The reductions over the last ten financial years are apparent at the end of the time series with the current year under review continuing the trend with 1% decrease.

* The result is significant at the 1% level of confidence, using Kendall’s rank order correlation test. See page 17 for further information.
Over the ten years of the time series, a statistically significant downward trend* was detected for arson offences. For the year under review, the rate of arson offences increased by 24%, this follows a decrease of 12% in 2010/11.

Over the ten year period of this series other property damage offences recorded a statistically significant downward trend*. For the current period under review a less than 1% increase was recorded.

* The result is significant at the 1% level of confidence, using Kendall's rank order correlation test. See page 17 for further information.
Overall, a statistically significant decreasing trend* was detected for the unlawful use of motor vehicle time series. Since July 2002 substantive decreases can be seen in the above graph until 2009/10. During the past two years unlawful use of motor vehicle offences have recorded an increase of 7% and 22% respectively.#

A statistically decreasing trend* was detected for the other theft (excluding unlawful entry) category. A decrease in offences can be seen from July 2003 to July 2010 and then an increase in these offences can be seen. The current period recorded a 9% increase following a 13% increase recorded during the previous period.

# Includes attempted offences.
* The result is significant at the 1% level of confidence, using Kendall’s rank order correlation test. See page 17 for further information.
There is a statistically significant downward trend* in fraud offences as evident in the graph above. Three of the five sub-categories of fraud recorded decreases resulting in an overall decrease of 11% during the current reporting period.

A statistically significant decreasing trend* is evident in the handling stolen goods time series. Over the last 12 months however, the rate of offences increased by 12% after having decreased by 5% during 2010/11. The spike in 2007/08 period was the result of 470 offences preferred against two offenders during August 2007.

* 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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A statistically significant decreasing trend* was detected for this time series over the ten year period. The spike in the 2003/04 period was the result of over 2100 offences laid against a single offender in October 2003. The State recorded a increase of 10% in the current period.

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 an increase of 6% being recorded by the State in 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.
The legislative change in March 2003** caused a break in the continuity of this time series. Since this amendment, the time-series has stabilised. The spike recorded in October 2005 was the result of nearly 226 offences committed by one offender and reported to police in this month. Breach of domestic violence protection orders are subject to strong seasonal influences, as is evidenced in the graph above. No statistically significant increasing or decreasing trend* was detected over the ten year period.

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

* The result is significant at the 1% level of confidence, using Kendall’s rank order correlation test. See page 17 for further information.
Overall, a statistically significant decreasing trend* was detected in the time series for traffic and related offences. The current period under review however, recorded a 2% increase in these offences.

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