

14 December 2017

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MEDIA RELEASE

Embargo: 8:15AM Thursday 14 December 2017

Latest crime statistics show a decrease in recorded offences, incidents, victim reports and family incidents

The Crime Statistics Agency (CSA) has today released its recorded crime statistics for Victoria for the year ending 30 September 2017. For the first time this release includes a new measure, recorded criminal incidents, that better reflects the number of criminal events committed in Victoria.

Recorded criminal incidents statistics show that there were 391,153 incidents recorded by Victoria Police in the year to September 2017, down by 4.8% compared to the same period last year. This equated to a criminal incident rate of 6,352.4 per 100,000 of the population, down 6.2% from the previous year. A large proportion of this decrease is attributed to incidents with a property and deception principal offence, which were down 8.8% and comprised 62.3% of all recorded crimes in Victoria in the last 12 months.

Recorded offences also showed a decrease, down 4.9% compared to the same period last year, a total of 517,118 offences. This equated to an offence rate of 8,398.1 per 100,000 of the population, down 6.3% from the previous year.

Offender incidents increased by 4.0% to 176,987 offender incidents in the year ending September 2017, making the Victorian offender rate 2,873.3 offender incidents per 100,000 population.

The victimisation rate decreased by 8.6% compared to the same period last year, making the rate 5,013.0 per 100,000 population in the year to September 2017.

Family related incidents decreased to 75,374, down by 4.4% compared to the same time last year.

Crime Statistics Agency Chief Statistician Fiona Dowsley said that 'the new incident based measure represents a significant addition to how crime is reported and provides the community with more relevant and accurate information on crime in Victoria.'

'In the last 12 months both recorded criminal incidents and recorded offences decreased by almost 5%, compared to the previous year in Victoria' Ms Dowsley said.

Further information can be found in the latest crime statistics quarterly release, available from the CSA website:

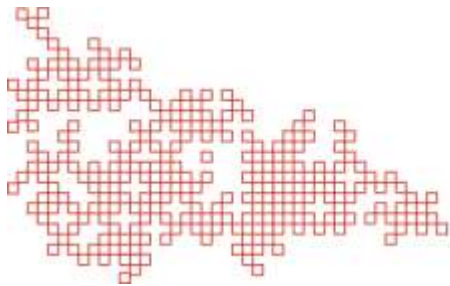
<http://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/crime-statistics/latest-crime-data/>

For further information please contact:

Crime Statistics Agency

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CSA FACT SHEET: RECORDED CRIME STATISTICS – YEAR ENDING 30 September 2017

Embargo: 8:30AM Thursday 14 December 2017

State wide figures

- The number of criminal incidents recorded by police in the year to 30 September 2017 was 391,153. This is down 4.8% from 411,056 incidents recorded in the same period last year.
- The number of offences recorded by police in the year to 30 September 2017 was 517,118. This is down 4.9% from 543,986 offences recorded in the same period last year.
- Offender incidents increased to 176,987, up 4.0% from 170,117 in the year to September 2016.
- Victim reports decreased in the year to 30 September 2017 by 7.3% to 308,680 victim reports.
- Family incidents decreased in the year to 30 September 2017, down 4.4% from 78,814 to 75,374.

Crime category trends

From October 2015 to September 2017, the major offence categories that showed significant upward trends were:

Criminal Incidents

- Sexual offences (up 18.0% from 6,852 to 8,084)
- Robbery (up 12.6% from 2,293 to 2,581)
- Dangerous and negligent acts endangering people (up 13.7% from 3,859 to 4,388)
- Deception (up 8.5% from 19,720 to 21,403)

Recorded Offences

- Sexual offences (up 17.9% from 12,351 to 14,564)
- Dangerous and negligent acts endangering people (up 7.8% from 5,539 to 5,972)

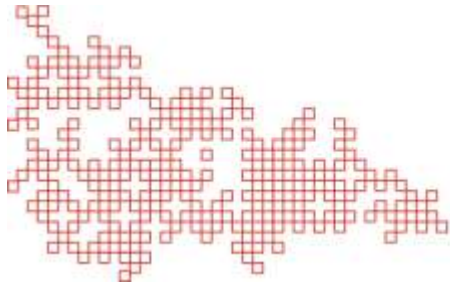
From October 2015 to September 2017, the following offence subdivisions showed a significant downward trend:

Criminal Incidents

- Arson (down 24.6% from 3,910 to 2,948)
- Property damage (down 4.1% from 37,570 to 36,018)
- Burglary/Break and enter (down 9.7% from 51,683 to 46,661)
- Theft (down 11.5% from 154,447 to 136,752)
- Justice procedures (down 11.9% from 8,763 to 7,717)

Recorded Offences

- Stalking, harassment and threatening behaviour (down 7.0% from 12,679 to 11,788)
- Arson (down 30.3% from 4,487 to 3,127)
- Property damage (down 5.1% from 43,882 to 41,636)
- Burglary/Break and enter (down 9.6% from 54,236 to 49,042)
- Theft (down 8.6% from 187,149 to 171,059)
- Drug dealing and trafficking (down 14.7% from 4,991 to 4,257)
- Disorderly and offensive conduct (down 1.0% from 16,581 to 16,411)
- Justice procedures (down 8.4% from 13,696 to 12,544)



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Local Government Area level figures

The five Local Government Areas with the highest incident rates were:

Criminal Incidents

1. Melbourne (18,334.2 criminal incidents per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 8.6%)
2. Latrobe (12,945.6 criminal incidents per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 5.2%)
3. Yarra (11,284.0 criminal incidents per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 7.5%)
4. Mildura (9,277.2 criminal incidents per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 1.5%)
5. Greater Shepparton (9,242.9 criminal incidents per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 4.3%)

Recorded Offences

1. Melbourne (24,968.6 offences per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 8.8%)
2. Latrobe (18,566.8 offences per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 2.5%)
3. Yarra (13,869.6 offences per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 11.1%)
4. Greater Shepparton (12,474.6 offences per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 2.6%)
5. Horsham (12,433.1 offences per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 13.3%)

For explanatory information and definitions for the latest release, see the [explanatory notes](#) and [glossary](#).