

15 March 2018

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MEDIA RELEASE

Embargo: 9:00AM Thursday 15 March 2018

Latest crime statistics show a continued decrease in recorded property and deception criminal incidents and offences

The Crime Statistics Agency has today released its Victorian recorded crime statistics for the year ending 31 December 2017.

The recorded criminal incident rate was 6,172.4 per 100,000 population, down 10.8% from the previous year. A criminal incident can have one or more offences. The recorded offence rate was 8,186.2 per 100,000 population, down 9.9% from the previous year.

There were 380,066 criminal incidents recorded by Victoria Police in the year to December 2017, down by 9.6% compared to the same period last year. This decrease is attributed to incidents with a property and deception principal offence (including arson, burglary and theft), which decreased 13.8% and comprised 61.6% of all recorded criminal incidents in Victoria in the last 12 months.

Recorded offences showed an 8.6% decrease compared to the same period last year, with a total of 504,070 offences recorded by Victoria Police.

Alleged offender incidents increased by 1.0% to 174,443 offender incidents in the year to December 2017, but population growth was greater making the Victorian offender rate of 2,833.0 per 100,000 population 0.4% lower than the previous year.

The victimisation rate decreased by 13.0% compared to the same period last year, making the rate 4,855.4 per 100,000 population in the year to December 2017.

Family related incidents decreased to 75,061, down by 4.5% compared to the same period last year.

Crime Statistics Agency Chief Statistician Catherine Andersson said that 'in Victoria, rates for both recorded criminal incidents and offences decreased compared to the previous year, down 11% and 10% respectively.' 'The decrease in recorded criminal incidents is driven largely by a reduction in incidents with a property and deception principal offence, down 14% in Victoria in the last 12 months' Ms Andersson said.

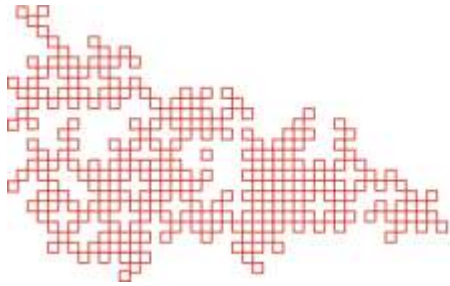
Further information can be found in the latest crime statistics quarterly release, available from the CSA website: <http://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/crime-statistics/latest-crime-data/>

For further information please contact:

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CSA FACT SHEET: RECORDED CRIME STATISTICS – YEAR ENDING 31 December 2017

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State wide figures

- The number of criminal incidents recorded by police in the year to 31 December 2017 was 380,066. This is down 9.6% from 420,219 incidents recorded in the same period last year.
- The number of offences recorded by police in the year to 31 December 2017 was 504,070. This is down 8.6% from 551,662 offences recorded in the same period last year.
- Offender incidents increased to 174,443, up 1.0% from 172,632 in the year to December 2016.
- Victim reports decreased in the year to 31 December 2017 by 11.7% to 298,971 victim reports.
- Family incidents decreased in the year to 31 December 2017, down 4.5% from 78,624 to 75,061.

Local Government Area level figures

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

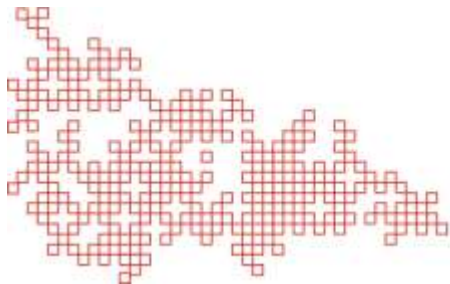
Criminal Incidents

1. Melbourne (18,280.7 incidents per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 12.0%)
2. Latrobe (12,596.0 incidents per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 10.8%)
3. Yarra (11,134.6 incidents per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 10.1%)
4. Greater Shepparton (9,241.3 incidents per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 7.1%)
5. Mildura (8,981.0 incidents per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 6.0%)

The five Local Government Areas with the highest recorded offence rates were:

Recorded Offences

1. Melbourne (25,125.0 offences per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 9.7%)
2. Latrobe (18,084.5 offences per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 7.6%)
3. Yarra (13,988.5 offences per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 8.9%)
4. Greater Shepparton (12,516.5 offences per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 5.1%)
5. Mildura (12,097.0 offences per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 1.0%)



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Crime category trends

From January 2016 to December 2017, the major offence categories that showed significant upward trends were:

Criminal Incidents

- Sexual offences (up 15.9% from 7,142 to 8,279)

Recorded Offences

- No offence categories showed a significant trend

From January 2016 to December 2017, the following offence subdivisions showed a significant downward trend:

Criminal Incidents

- Abduction and related offences (down 12.1% from 464 to 408)
- Arson (down 19.6% from 3,629 to 2,919)
- Burglary/Break and enter (down 15.3% from 52,045 to 44,062)
- Theft (down 16.6% from 156,965 to 130,923)
- Drug dealing and trafficking (down 12.6% from 3,122 to 2,729)
- Justice procedures (down 18.0% from 9,011 to 7,392)

Recorded Offences

- Stalking, harassment and threatening behaviour (down 6.0% from 12,454 to 11,701)
- Arson (down 25.5% from 4,161 to 3,101)
- Property damage (down 5.8% from 43,847 to 41,324)
- Burglary/Break and enter (down 15.4% from 54,757 to 46,311)
- Theft (down 14.2% from 191,689 to 164,432)
- Drug dealing and trafficking (down 17.2% from 4,999 to 4,138)
- Cultivate or manufacture drugs (down 11.7% from 1,613 to 1,424)
- Weapons and explosives offences (down 8.1% from 16,022 to 14,720)
- Justice procedures (down 10.8% from 13,871 to 12,372)

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