Crime Statistics Victoria

Year ending 31 December 2019



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# 

# 1. Recorded criminal incidents

The information outlined in this section represents all criminal incidents recorded in the Police Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP) database, where Victoria Police have recorded a crime prohibited by criminal law. These include crimes that have been reported to police as well as those identified by police. For more information about counting rules, please refer to the [Explanatory Notes](https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/about-the-data/explanatory-notes).

## 1.1 Key movements in the number and rate of criminal incidents

#### Victorian criminal incidents and rate per 100,000 population, 10 year trend

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Criminal Incidents - year ending December | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 1 yr % change |
| Number | 314,152 | 312,445 | 338,143 | 339,734 | 345,149 | 369,615 | 420,193 | 379,427 | 386,205 | 403,807 | 4.6% |
| Rate | 5,752.5 | 5,642.0 | 5,983.7 | 5,885.2 | 5,855.0 | 6,137.4 | 6,806.8 | 6,002.1 | 5,977.8 | 6,122.4 | 2.4% |

## 1.2 Number of criminal incidents by principal offence category

To best represent the type of offence associated with a criminal incident involving multiple offences, the most serious offence within an incident is determined and this becomes the principal offence to represent the incident. For criminal incidents the most serious charge laid is selected and, if no charges were laid, the most serious offence recorded will be selected. Further information on the derivation of a principal offence for a criminal incident can be found in the CSA paper [*Offence Types – Differences between Recorded Offences and Criminal Incidents, Year ending 31 March 2018*](https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/crime-statisticshistorical-crime-datayear-ending-31-march-2018/spotlight-offence-types-differences).

### Notable movements – criminal incidents

In the last 12 months, the number of criminal incidents with a principal offence of *Drug offences* increased by 7.7% (1,203 incidents) while *Property and deception offences* increased by 6.0% (13,943 incidents), *Crimes against the person* increased by 4.2% (2,665 incidents) and *Justice procedure offences* increased by 3.7% (1,812 incidents). In the five years to December 2019, the number of criminal incidents with a principal offence of *Justice procedures offences* increased by 40.3% (14,504 incidents) and *Crimes against the person* increased by 26.1% (13,587 incidents).

#### Victorian criminal incidents recorded by principal offence category, 5 year trend

Please note that movements in recorded crime data may be impacted by changes in legislation and operational police practice. Information is available about notable changes in the [Explanatory Notes](https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/about-the-data/explanatory-notes), refer to this information when comparing data over time.

# 2. Recorded offences

The information outlined in this section represents all offences recorded in the Police Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP) database, where Victoria Police have recorded a crime prohibited by criminal law. These include crimes that have been reported to police as well as those identified by police.

## 2.1 Key movements in the number and rate of offences

#### Victorian recorded offences and rate per 100,000 population, 10 year trend

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Recorded Offences - year ending December | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 1 yr % change |
| Number | 378,328 | 386,055 | 423,265 | 437,760 | 459,083 | 500,571 | 551,588 | 504,029 | 512,386 | 536,690 | 4.7% |
| Rate | 6,927.7 | 6,971.2 | 7,490.0 | 7,583.3 | 7,787.8 | 8,311.9 | 8,935.2 | 7,973.1 | 7,930.8 | 8,137.1 | 2.6% |

## 2.2 Number of recorded offences by type of offence

### Notable movements – recorded offences

In the last 12 months, the number of recorded offences increased in the all offence divisions except for *Public order and security offences* and *Other offences*. In the five years to December 2019, the number of recorded offences for *Justice procedures offences* increased by 29.3% (18,122 offences) and *Crimes against the person* increased by 16.0% (11,423 offences).

#### Victorian offences recorded by offence category, 5 year trend

Please note that movements in recorded crime data may be impacted by changes in legislation and operational police practice. Information is available about notable changes in the [Explanatory Notes](https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/about-the-data/explanatory-notes), refer to this information when comparing data over time.

## 2.3 Police Assistance Line (PAL) and Online Reporting (OLR)

Victoria Police introduced the Police Assistance Line (PAL) and Online Reporting (OLR) service for non-urgent crimes state-wide on 1 July 2019 (a trial took place in a limited areas from 28 February 2019). This method of contacting police has been introduced to capture non urgent crimes. The table below captures the number of offences recorded in LEAP via this new reporting method.

For further information about the Police Assistance Line and online reporting is available in the [Explanatory Notes](https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/about-the-data/explanatory-notes).

#### Offences recorded via Police Assistance Line and Online Reporting[[1]](#footnote-1) by offence type by month.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Offence Division | Offence Subdivision | Offence Group | Recorded Offences – February to December 2019 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | **Total** |
| Crimes against the person | A20 Assault and related offences | A21 Serious assault | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | ***1*** |
| A23 Common assault | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ***1*** |
| A50 Robbery | A51 Aggravated robbery | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ***2*** |
| Property and deception | B10 Arson | B11 Cause damage by fire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ***9*** |
| B20 Property damage | B21 Criminal damage | 2 | 132 | 116 | 325 | 490 | 686 | 680 | 651 | 717 | 785 | 782 | ***5,366*** |
| B22 Graffiti | 0 | 12 | 15 | 41 | 80 | 146 | 148 | 124 | 144 | 150 | 124 | ***984*** |
| B29 Other property damage | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 1 | ***11*** |
| B30 Burglary/ break and enter | B31 Aggravated burglary | 0 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 8 | 5 | ***56*** |
| B32 Non-aggravated burglary | 1 | 300 | 285 | 701 | 1,182 | 1,550 | 1,591 | 1,552 | 1,516 | 1,540 | 1,590 | ***11,808*** |
| B40 Theft | B41 Motor vehicle theft | 0 | 168 | 168 | 387 | 618 | 743 | 767 | 783 | 797 | 711 | 820 | ***5,962*** |
| B42 Steal from a motor vehicle | 1 | 458 | 435 | 1,202 | 2,071 | 2,863 | 2,853 | 2,747 | 2,810 | 2,904 | 2,751 | ***21,095*** |
| B43 Steal from a retail store | 0 | 18 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 10 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 2 | ***59*** |
| B44 Theft of a bicycle | 1 | 57 | 60 | 200 | 274 | 304 | 289 | 343 | 370 | 345 | 371 | ***2,614*** |
| B45 Receiving or handling stolen goods | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | ***2*** |
| B49 Other theft | 0 | 243 | 183 | 577 | 824 | 1,244 | 1,207 | 1,208 | 1,382 | 1,317 | 1,449 | ***9,634*** |
| B50 Deception | B53 Obtain benefit by deception | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | ***15*** |
| Public order and security | D30 Public nuisance offences | D35 Improper movement on public or private space | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 14 | 8 | 6 | 12 | 8 | 6 | ***62*** |
| *Total* | | | ***5*** | ***1,397*** | ***1,266*** | ***3,451*** | ***5,555*** | ***7,568*** | ***7,563*** | ***7,436*** | ***7,761*** | ***7,775*** | ***7,904*** | ***57,681*** |

# 3. Alleged offender incidents

An alleged offender incident is an incident involving one or more offences where an individual, business or organisation has been recorded as an alleged offender. An alleged offender incident represents one alleged offender but may involve multiple victims and offences. One incident may involve offences that occur over a period of time but if processed by Victoria Police as one incident, it will have a count of one in the data presented in this section.

There may be multiple incidents within the reference period that involve the same individual, business or organisation as an offender, where this occurs they will be counted for each incident. If there are multiple alleged offenders related to a criminal event, each will have their alleged offender incident counted once in the figures.

Where there were multiple offences recorded within the one incident, the incident is assigned an offence category of the most serious offence in the incident, referred to as the principal offence.

## 3.1 Key movements in the number and rate of alleged offender incidents

#### Victorian alleged offender incidents and rate per 100,000 population, 10 year trend

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Alleged Offender Incidents - year ending December | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 1 yr % change |
| Number | 129,099 | 126,410 | 141,975 | 152,574 | 154,077 | 159,829 | 172,392 | 168,685 | 169,987 | 180,456 | 6.2% |
| Rate | 2,697.3 | 2,604.7 | 2,870.1 | 3,022.9 | 2,991.7 | 3,039.9 | 3,201.6 | 3,055.8 | 3,008.9 | 3,126.2 | 3.9% |

## 3.2 Number of alleged offender incidents by principal offence category

To best represent the type of offence associated with an incident involving multiple offences, the most serious offence within the incident is determined and this becomes the principal offence to represent the incident.

### Notable movements – alleged offender incidents

In the last 12 months, the number of alleged offender incidents increased across all principal offence categories, except for *Public order and security offences*. In the last five years, the number of alleged offender incidents with a principal offence of *Crimes against the person* increased by 22.3% (9,287 incidents)*, Justice procedures offences* increased by 18.7%(4,417 incidents) and *Property and deception offences* increased by 17.3% (9,840 incidents).

#### Alleged offender incidents by principal offence, 5 year trend

Please note that movements in recorded crime data may be impacted by changes in legislation and operational police practice. Information is available about notable changes in the [Explanatory Notes](https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/about-the-data/explanatory-notes), refer to this information when comparing data over time.

# 4. Victim reports

A victim report is counted when an individual, business or organisation is recorded on LEAP as being a victim of one or more criminal offences. A victim report involves only one victim but can involve multiple offences and alleged offenders. One report may involve offences that occur over a period of time but if processed by Victoria Police as one report it will have a count of one in the data presented in this section.

Where there were multiple offences recorded within the one victim report, the report is represented by an assigned offence category of the most serious offence, this is referred to as the principal offence.

## 4.1 Key movements in the number and rate of victim reports

#### Victorian people victim reports and rate per 100,000 population, 10 year trend

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Victim Reports - year ending December | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 1 yr % change |
| People | 191,884 | 194,245 | 207,248 | 202,712 | 205,643 | 218,626 | 247,315 | 219,731 | 219,277 | 231,075 | 5.4% |
| Organisations | 73,842 | 72,268 | 76,718 | 77,821 | 73,125 | 79,596 | 91,337 | 79,190 | 81,566 | 86,600 | 6.2% |
| Total victims | **265,726** | **266,513** | **283,966** | **280,533** | **278,768** | **298,222** | **338,652** | **298,921** | **300,843** | **317,675** | **5.6%** |
| Person rate | 3,513.7 | 3,507.6 | 3,667.4 | 3,511.6 | 3,488.5 | 3,630.3 | 4,006.3 | 3,475.9 | 3,394.0 | 3,503.5 | 3.2% |

#### Victorian organisation victim reports, 10 year trend

## 4.2 Number of victim reports by principal offence category

In order to assign an offence type to a victim report with multiple offences, the most serious offence within a report is determined and this becomes the principal offence for the victim report.

### Notable movements – victim reports

Of the 231,075 person victim reports in the last 12 months, 163,117 (70.6%) had a principal offence of *Property and deception offences*, 67,766 reports (29.3%) were *Crimes against the person* and the remaining 192 victim reports were *Other offence*s. The number of victim reports with a principal offence of *Crimes against the person* has increased 21.3% in the five years from the year ending December 2015.

#### Person victim reports by principal offence, 5 year trend

Please note that movements in recorded crime data may be impacted by changes in legislation and operational police practice. Information is available about notable changes in the [Explanatory Notes](https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/about-the-data/explanatory-notes), refer to this information when comparing data over time.

# 5. Family incidents

A family incident is an incident attended by Victoria Police where a Victoria Police Risk Assessment and Risk Management Report (also known as an L17 form) was completed and recorded on LEAP.

## 5.1 Key movements in the number and rate of family incidents

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Family Incidents - year ending December | | | | | |
|  | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 1 yr % change |
| Number | 74,378 | 78,628 | 75,056 | 79,342 | 84,550 | 6.6% |
| Rate | 1,235.0 | 1,273.7 | 1,187.3 | 1,228.1 | 1,281.9 | 4.4% |

### Demographic characteristics of affected family members

An ‘affected family member’ is the individual who is deemed to be affected by events occurring during a family incident. Where an individual is involved in multiple family incidents within the reference period they will be counted for each incident that they are involved in.

Where more than one affected family member has been affected by one other party within a family incident, they will be counted for each involvement. For example, where a family incident involves three affected family members and one other party, each affected family member will be counted separately, making a count of three.

Where an affected family member has been affected by more than one other party within a family incident, they will be counted for each involvement. For example, if there is one affected family member and two other parties the affected family member will be counted twice, once for each involvement.

In the last 12 months, 75.1% (63,465) of the 84,551 affected family members were female, while 24.8% (20,970) were male. The number of male affected family members increased 6.9% (1,350) in the last 12 months and 14.2% (2,607) since the year ending December 2015. Similarly female affected family members increased 6.4% (3,845) in the last 12 months and 13.5% (7,544) since the year ending December 2015.

#### Affected family members by age and sex, year ending December 2019

### Demographic characteristics of other parties

The other individual involved in a family incident is referred to as the ‘other party’. The other party could be a current partner, former partner or a family member. Where the other party is involved with multiple affected family members, they will be counted for each involvement. For example, where a family incident involves three affected family members and one other party, the other party will be counted separately for each affected family member, making a count of three.

Where more than one other party is involved with one affected family member, they will be counted for each involvement. For example, where a family incident involves one affected family member and two other parties, each other party will be counted separately, making a count of two.

Where an individual is involved in multiple family incidents within the reference period they will be counted for each incident that they are involved in.

In the last 12 months, there were 84,550 other parties recorded, of which 75.9% (64,202) were male and 23.8% (20,117) were female. The number of male other parties increased 6.5% (3,932) in the last 12 months and 12.3% (7,055) since the year ending December 2015. Similarly, the number of female other parties increased 6.9% (1,303) in the last 12 months and 18.2% (3,101) since the year ending December 2015.

#### Other parties by age and sex, year ending December 2019

1. Data reflects the offence type recorded after Victoria Police action and may not reflect the initial non-urgent offence types reported via Police Assistance Line and Online Reporting. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)