



National Motor Vehicle
Theft Reduction Council

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theft watch

Short term thefts continue to fall, 'missing' vehicle volumes persist

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The NMVTRC is an initiative of Australian Governments and the Insurance Industry

The NMVTRC acknowledges all police services, registration authorities, participating insurers, the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries, Glass's Information Services and Insurance Australia Group for their supply of the data. Theft incident data may be subject to later revision by the data provider.

NMVTRC newsletters are available on the CAR-SAFE website at www.carsafe.com.au and emailed directly to our mailing list. To join our email list contact info@carsafe.com.au



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Table 1: Australia, motor vehicle theft at a glance, 12 months to March 2015

	Short term		Change from previous 12 months		Profit		Change from previous 12 months		Total	Change from previous 12 months	
PLC	31,266	-1,732	-5%	10,469	481	5%	41,735	-1,251	-3%		
Motorcycle	3,616	-275	-7%	4,482	-63	-1%	8,098	-338	-4%		
Other	1,326	-93	-7%	1,466	57	4%	2,792	-36	-1%		
Total	36,208	-2,100	-5%	16,417	475	3%	52,625	-1,625	-3%		

Short term theft

The rolling 12 months has seen sustained reductions in the volume of passenger/light commercial (PLC) vehicles stolen for short term use in Australia. In the 12 months to March 2015 there were 31,266 short term thefts, representing a decrease of 1,732 (5%) from the previous 12 months.

There were strong reductions in the majority of the larger jurisdictions. NSW saw theft volumes fall by 1,095 (12%) and in QLD a reduction of 1,067 (15%) ensured the two states accounted for the majority of the nation's decline. Also contributing to the decline were SA with 276 (13%) fewer thefts and to a smaller extent WA with a reduction of 46 (1%).

Thefts were up in the remaining four jurisdictions. VIC had the largest increase of 364 (5%). However, when compared to the 11 per cent rise in December 2014, the results point to a gradual slowing of the upward trend in the state. Increases of 72 in the ACT, 206 in the NT and 110 in TAS were also reported.

When compared to five years ago, overall short term PLC theft is down by a substantial 4,146 (12%).

Short term motorcycle theft fell 275 (7%). WA had the highest reduction of 285. Theft of other vehicles was also down 93 (7%) from the previous 12 month period.

Profit-motivated theft

Profit-motivated theft activity in Australia has remained relatively stable over the past 12 months. While PLC thefts were down in the first quarter of the calendar year, the reduction was not enough to offset an overall rise of 481 (5%) for the 12 months to March 2015, and the total number stolen not recovered settled on 10,469.

The majority of the jurisdictions suffered increases from the previous 12 months. VIC had the largest rise of 271 (11%), followed by NSW with an increase of 121 (3%), WA with 80 (9%) and the NT with 40 additional thefts. Thefts remained stable in TAS. QLD, SA and the ACT all reported marginal declines of 17, 16 and seven thefts, respectively.

Despite the increase for the rolling 12 months, the five year trend line sees profit-motivated PLC theft in Australia down 160 (2%).

The number of motorcycles stolen for profit fell by 63 (1%) over the previous 12 months, with almost all of the reduction due to significant declines in WA and QLD. Theft of other vehicle types rose by 57 (4%).

Want more stats?

This report provides a wrap up of motor vehicle theft in the 12 months to March 2015.

For more detailed information including the latest quarterly statistics by state/territory check out our Dashboard at: ncars.on.net/dashboard.aspx

Short term theft

Short term theft is defined as vehicles stolen for opportunistic purposes not involving the vehicle's value such as use in the commission of other crimes, joyriding or transport. All recovered vehicles regardless of their level of damage are classified as short term theft.¹

Table 2: Australia – Passenger/light commercial vehicles and motorcycles stolen for short term use, 12 months to March 2015

PLCs	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Australia
Number of thefts	540	8,316	931	5,930	1,823	999	8,266	4,461	31,266
Change from previous 12 months	72	-1,095	206	-1,067	-276	110	364	-46	-1,732
% change adjusted for late recoveries [^]	*	-12%	*	-15%	-13%	*	5%	-1%	-5%
Rate per 1,000 registrations	2.06	1.73	6.86	1.68	1.47	2.44	1.92	2.27	1.88
Rate per 1,000 population	1.40	1.10	3.78	1.25	1.08	1.94	1.41	1.72	1.33
Motorcycles									
Number of thefts	50	632	126	596	195	76	652	1,289	3,616
Change from previous 12 months	15	-31	13	-56	-53	13	109	-285	-275
Rate per 1,000 registrations**	3.78	2.87	17.08	3.00	3.42	3.52	3.29	9.87	4.27

Profit-motivated theft

Profit-motivated theft is defined as vehicles stolen for conversion to profit either as a whole vehicle or as separated parts through various illegal methods. Vehicles stolen not recovered are used as the surrogate measure for profit-motivated theft.²

Table 3: Australia – Passenger/light commercial vehicles and motorcycles stolen for profit, 12 months to March 2015

PLCs	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Australia
Number of thefts	104	4,085	99	1,706	625	122	2,768	960	10,469
Change from previous 12 months	-7	121	40	-17	-16	9	271	80	481
% change adjusted for late recoveries [^]	*	3%	*	-1%	-2%	*	11%	9%	5%
Rate per 1,000 registrations	0.40	0.85	0.73	0.48	0.50	0.30	0.64	0.49	0.63
Rate per 1,000 population	0.27	0.54	0.40	0.36	0.37	0.24	0.47	0.37	0.44
Motorcycles									
Number of thefts	77	890	87	812	299	72	1,181	1,064	4,482
Change from previous 12 months	20	18	21	-66	31	27	-7	-107	-63
Rate per 1,000 registrations**	5.82	4.05	11.79	4.08	5.25	3.33	5.96	8.15	5.29

1. Short term theft will include an unknown but assumed number of recovered vehicles that were recovered in a substantially stripped condition and were the likely target of profit-motivated thieves.

2. Profit-motivated volumes are potentially inflated by an unknown number of missing vehicles that are stolen and simply dumped in waterways and bushland.

[^] All data used in this report has been adjusted for the number of missing vehicles that long term trend lines indicate will be recovered up to a year after the close of the data period.

This adjustment has the effect of moving a percentage of vehicles from the profit-motivated (unrecovered) category to the short term (recovered) category.

* Percentages are not given for small jurisdictions as they can be misrepresentative of small base line changes.

** Readers should use caution when interpreting the registration figures for motorcycles as a large number of off-road and farm bikes are not registered.

Figure 1: Australia – Short term PLC and motorcycle theft five year trend

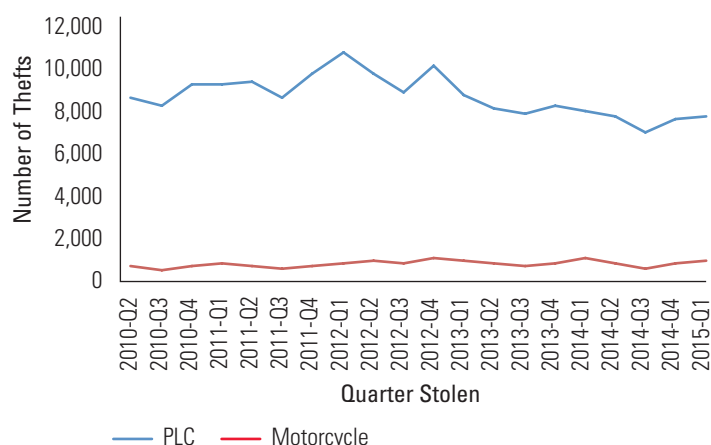


Figure 2: Australia – Profit-motivated PLC and motorcycle theft five year trend

