



27 February 2014

## Statistical News Release: Crime against businesses: Headline findings from the 2013 Commercial Victimization Survey

The first analysis from the 2013 Commercial Victimization Survey (CVS) is released today. This follows results from 2012 as the second of a new series of Home Office surveys measuring crime against businesses.

### *Wholesale and retail premises*

- **Over half of the crimes experienced by retailers in 2013 were incidents of shoplifting:** Of the 5.9 million incidents of crime experienced by the wholesale and retail sector, 55 per cent were thefts by customers (3.3 million incidents).
- The proportion of premises experiencing crime fell between 2012 and 2013, from 53 per cent to 45 per cent in 2013. **The overall fall in crime in this sector was not statistically significant** (from 7.7 million incidents in 2012 to 5.9 million in 2013), so it is not possible to say whether there has been a real fall.<sup>1</sup>

### *Accommodation and food premises*

- **Assaults and threats were the most common crime type against this sector in 2013:** Of the 575,000 crimes against this sector in the last year, 42 per cent (240,000 incidents) were assaults and threats.
- **Crime against the accommodation and food sector fell between 2012 and 2013:** The number of incidents experienced by this sector fell from an estimated 985,000 in 2012 to 575,000 in 2013, driven by a large fall in the number of thefts.

### *Arts, entertainment and recreation premises*

- **Almost half of premises in the arts, entertainment and recreation sector experienced crime in 2013:** Forty-five per cent of premises in this sector experienced at least one incident of crime in the 12 months prior to interview. Overall there were 196,000 crimes against this sector.
- **Theft was the most common crime type experienced in 2013,** making up 28 per cent of all incidents against the sector, followed by vandalism (23% of incidents) and assaults and threats (22% of incidents). The diversity of business types in this sector perhaps explains why there is not one dominant crime type.

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<sup>1</sup> Due to relatively small sample sizes for each sector, any comparison of estimates between 2012 and 2013 should be treated with caution.

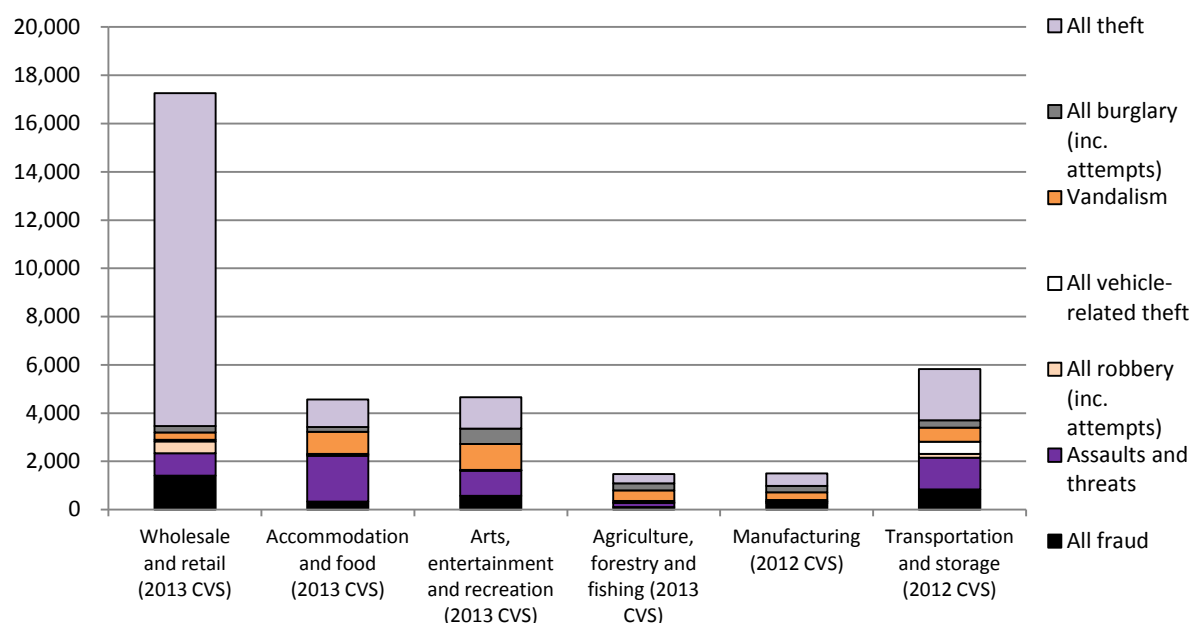
### *Agriculture, forestry and fishing premises*

- **Just under a third of agriculture, forestry and fishing premises experienced crime in 2013:** There were around 130,000 crimes which affected around 30 per cent of premises in this sector in the last year.
- **Vandalism and theft were the most common crime types experienced:** Vandalism made up 30 per cent of incidents, while thefts made up around a quarter (26%) of all incidents against agriculture, forestry and fishing premises in 2013.

### *Overall extent of crime – combined results from 2012 and 2013 CVS*

- The final chapter of the report **combines data for six sectors**. This includes the **four sectors from the 2013 survey** (two of which were also included in the 2012 survey) and **two sectors from the 2012 survey** not included in 2013 (namely the manufacturing sector and the transportation and storage sector).
- There were **7.3 million incidents of crime** against businesses in the six industry sectors covered by the combined 2012 and 2013 surveys, which affected 40 per cent of premises.
- **Thefts were the most common crime type** with the 5.1 million incidents of theft making up 70 per cent of all incidents of crime against the 6 sectors.
- As shown in the chart below, **the wholesale and retail sector experienced the highest rate of overall crime**, while the agriculture, forestry and fishing and manufacturing sectors experienced the lowest.

*Number of incidents of crime per 1,000 premises experienced in the last 12 months, by sector (2012 and 2013 CVS)*



- **Reporting rates varied by crime type.** Incidents of burglary were well reported with around 83 per cent of incidents of burglary with entry being reported to police. Comparatively, reporting rates were low for crimes such as thefts by employees (30%) and online crime (11%).
- The report also contains statistics on fuel, chemical and livestock theft for the first time, as well as metal theft and organised crime.

## Methodology

1. The CVS is a telephone survey in which respondents from a representative sample of business premises in England and Wales were asked about crimes experienced at their premises in the 12 months prior to interview.
2. Estimates for the 2013 CVS are based on 4,041 interviews with respondents at premises in four sectors: i) wholesale and retail, ii) accommodation and food, iii) arts, entertainment and recreation, and iv) agriculture, forestry and fishing. The latter two sectors were included in the CVS for the first time in 2013.
3. The CVS survey was last carried out in 2012, also covering four sectors: i) wholesale and retail, ii) accommodation and food, iii) manufacturing and iv) transportation and storage.
4. There are plans to repeat a similar survey in 2014.

## Notes to editors

5. 'Crime against businesses: Headline findings from the 2013 Commercial Victimization Survey' is available online via the UK National Statistics Publication Hub and the Gov.uk website:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/crime-against-businesses-headline-findings-from-the-2013-commercial-victimisation-survey>
6. All sectors have relatively small sample sizes and, as such, have wide confidence intervals. In order to determine real changes in the business population, there would need to be large changes in estimates. It is therefore likely that true trends will only become apparent over the longer term.

This release is published in HTML format, with a pdf document also provided which will enable users to print out all HTML pages from one source document (all tables are solely available online).

**For all press enquiries, please contact the Home Office Press Office who will liaise with Home Office Statistics Unit:**

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