



Statistical News Release - Crimes against businesses: findings from the 2015 Commercial Victimisation Survey

The latest Official Statistics on crime against businesses in England & Wales are released today, based on the 2015 Commercial Victimisation Survey (CVS) of business premises in four industry sectors:

- **Wholesale and retail** (surveyed in 2012 – 2015)
- **Agriculture, forestry and fishing** (surveyed in 2013 – 2015)
- **Construction** (surveyed for the first time in 2015)
- **Information and communication** (surveyed for the first time in 2015).

Comparisons are also made with sectors surveyed in previous Commercial Victimisation Surveys.

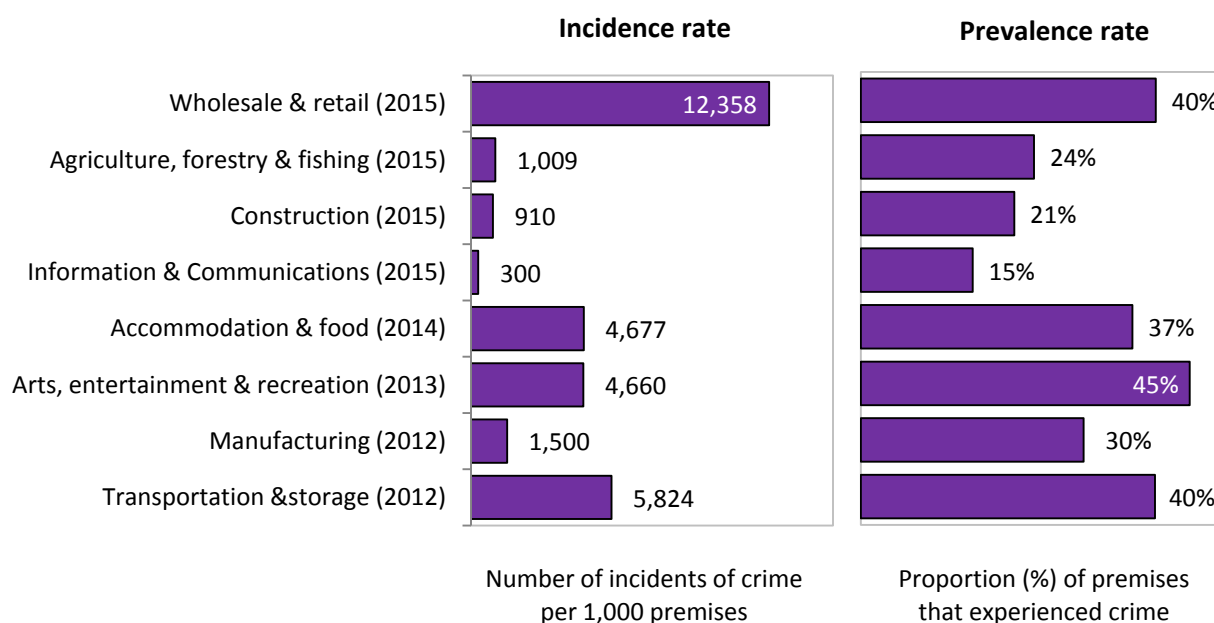
Key findings

1 - Wholesale and retail premises

Wholesale and retail premises experienced the highest levels of crime of all sectors surveyed. Driven predominantly by shoplifting, this sector experienced a total of **4.7 million crimes** in the 2015 survey year, equivalent to 12,358 incidents per 1,000 premises (Fig.1).

However, **Crime against the wholesale and retail sector fell significantly between the 2012 and 2015 CVS, showing a steady downward trend over time**, from 7.7 million incidents in 2012 to 4.7 million in 2015, driven by falls in thefts (down by 2.3 million).

Figure 1: Incidents of all crime measured by the CVS (excluding online crime) per 1,000 premises and proportion of premises that were victims, by sector, 2012 to 2015 CVS



2 - Agriculture, forestry and fishing premises

The proportion of agricultural premises experiencing crime has fallen compared with the 2013 CVS. In the 2015 survey year, 24 per cent of premises experienced at least one incident of crime, a statistically significant fall compared with 2013 (30%).

Vandalism, theft and burglary were the most common crime types experienced by this sector. The highest rates of crime against this sector were for vandalism (317 incidents per 1,000 premises), theft (284 incidents per 1,000 premises), and burglary (198 incidents per 1,000 premises).

3 - Construction premises [New for 2015 CVS]

One fifth of businesses in the construction sector experienced crime in the 2015 survey year, compared with two fifths of wholesale and retail premises.

Theft and assaults and threats were the most common crime types experienced. The 2015 CVS recorded 141,000 crimes against construction premises, of which nearly a third (45,000) were assaults and threats, and a further quarter (36,000) were thefts.

4 - Information and communication premises [New for 2015 CVS]

Information and communication premises experienced the lowest rate of ‘traditional’ crime but the highest rate of online crime across all sectors surveyed in 2012 to 2015. This sector experienced around 2,300 online crime incidents per 1,000 premises (counted separately to ‘traditional’ crime, Fig. 2), compared with 300 incidents of ‘traditional’ crimes per 1,000 premises.

Figure 2: Number of online crime incidents per 1,000 premises by sector, 2012 to 2015 CVS



Methodology

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. The CVS uses a sample, which is a small-scale representation of the population from which it is drawn. Previously, the CVS was carried out in 2012, 2013 and 2014 using the same methodology as the 2015 survey. Further Commercial Victimization Surveys are planned to run in 2016 and 2017.

Estimates for 2015 are based on interviews with respondents from four industry sectors: wholesale and retail, agriculture, forestry and fishing, construction and information and communication. The target number of interviews for the latter was limited to 200 (compared with 1,000 for other sectors) in order to allocate resource to a feasibility study for a potential survey of head offices.

Incidents of online crime are counted separately from 'traditional' crime as there is a risk of double-counting with other crime types, such as theft or fraud.

Notes to editors

Crime against businesses: findings from the 2015 Commercial Victimization Survey is available online via the UK National Statistics Publication Hub and the Gov.uk website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-against-businesses-findings-from-the-2015-commercial-victimisation-survey>.

The following materials are available at the link above:

- The **Crime against businesses bulletin**, published as a PDF document.
- **Data tables** in ODS and XLS formats.
- The **2015 CVS infographic**, which provides a visual summary of key findings for four sectors surveyed in 2015.
- **Sector-specific fact sheets**, which provide summaries of further key findings for the wholesale & retail, agriculture, forestry & fishing and construction sectors.

Three to four years' data are now available for some sectors, showing trends in crime over time. However, comparisons between adjacent survey years should be treated with caution, as the relatively small sample sizes for each sector have wide confidence intervals and cause year-on-year estimates to fluctuate. The true trends are expected to become more apparent over the longer term.

Press enquiries

Contact the HO Press Office who will liaise with the Crime & Policing Statistics team:

News desk - **020 7035 3535**

Monday - Friday: 07:00 – 20:00

Emergency media calls, out-of-hours: 07659 174 240

Please note: the Press Office deals with enquiries from the media only.

Members of the public should phone **020 7035 4848** or e-mail the Crime & Policing Statistics team: crimeandpolicestats@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk.