



Statistical News Release - Crimes against businesses: findings from the 2016 Commercial Victimisation Survey

The latest Official Statistics on crime against businesses in England & Wales are released today, based on the 2016 Commercial Victimisation Survey (CVS) of business premises in three industry sectors:

- **Wholesale and retail** (surveyed in 2012 – 2016)
- **Transportation and storage** (surveyed in 2012 and 2016)
- **Administration and support** (surveyed for the first time in 2016).

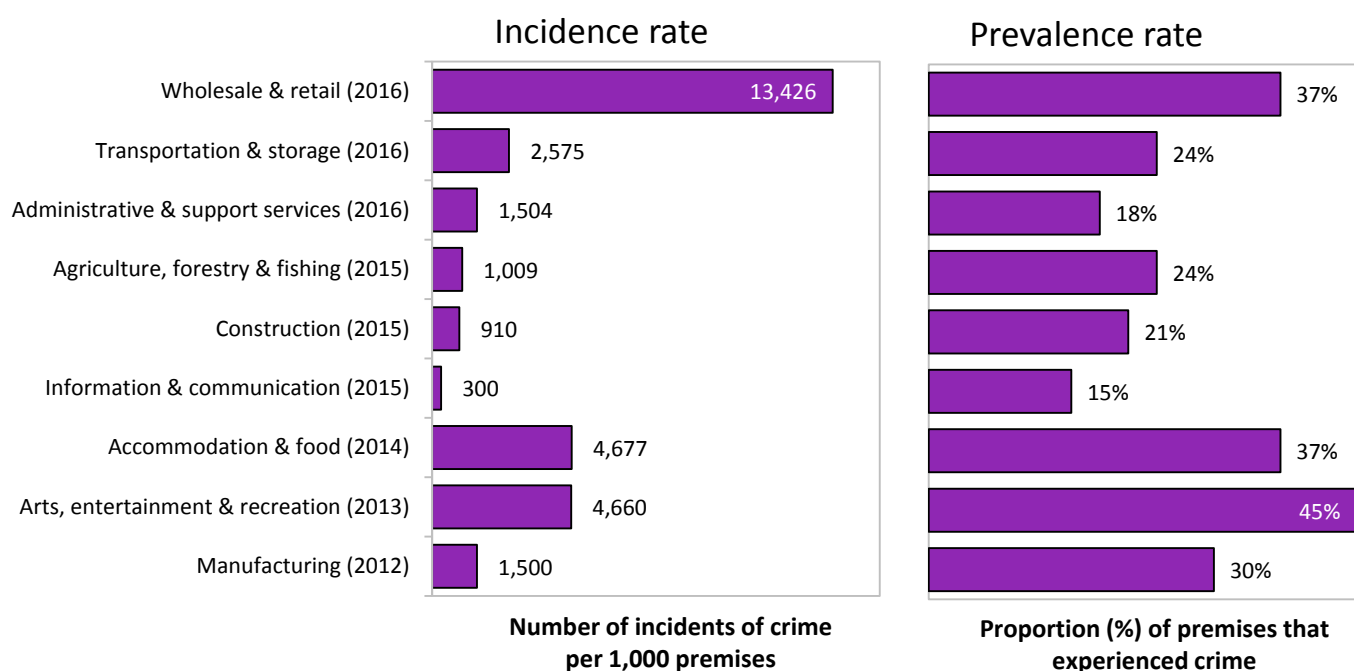
Comparisons are also made with sectors surveyed in previous years.

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 **5.2 million crimes** in the 2016 survey year, equivalent to 13,426 incidents per 1,000 premises (Fig.1).
- **Crime against the wholesale & retail sector fell between 2012 and 2014 but has since shown no statistically significant change.** Although the trend appears to have shown an increase between 2014 and 2016, with 5.2 million incidents of crime in 2016, the change is not statistically significant.

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 2016 CVS



2 – Transportation and storage premises

- **The proportion of transportation and storage premises experiencing crime has fallen compared with the 2012 CVS.** In the 2016 survey year, 24 per cent of premises experienced at least one incident of crime, a statistically significant fall compared with 2012 (40%).
- **The numbers of incidents fell significantly from 324,000 in 2012 to 173,000 in 2016,** and there were falls in all crime types with the exception of fraud.
- **Fraud, assaults and threats, and theft were the most common crime types experienced by this sector.** The highest rates of crime against this sector were for fraud (782 incidents per 1,000 premises), assaults and threats (761 incidents per 1,000 premises), and theft (454 incidents per 1,000 premises).

3 – Administration and support premises *[New for 2016 CVS]*

- **Administration and support premises experienced the highest rate of online crime across all sectors surveyed in 2012 to 2016.** This sector experienced around 3,600 online crime incidents per 1,000 premises (Fig. 2), compared with around 1,500 incidents of ‘traditional’ crimes per 1,000 premises.

Figure 2: Number of online crime incidents per 1,000 premises by sector, 2012 to 2016 CVS

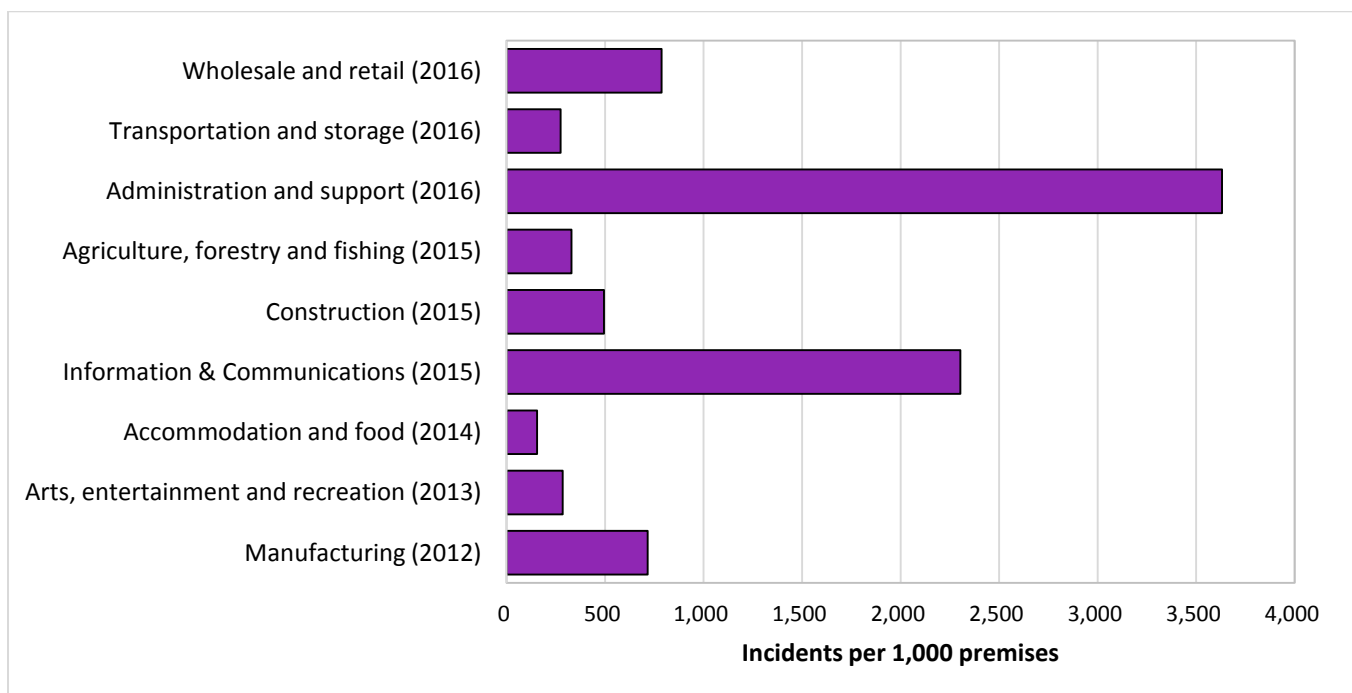


Chart note: Incidents of online crime are counted separately from ‘traditional’ crime as there is a risk of double-counting with other crime types, such as theft or fraud.

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. The same methodology has been used since the 2012 survey. A further Commercial Victimization Survey is planned to run in 2017.

Estimates for 2016 are based on interviews with respondents from three industry sectors: wholesale and retail, transportation and storage, and administration and support. The number of sectors surveyed was reduced from four to three, in order to allocate resource to a feasibility study for a potential survey of head offices.

Notes to editors

Crime against businesses: findings from the 2016 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-2016-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 format.
- The **2016 CVS infographic**, which provides a visual summary of key findings for the three sectors surveyed in 2016.
- **Sector-specific fact sheets**, which provide summaries of further key findings for the wholesale & retail, transportation and storage, and administration and support.

Two to five 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

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

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