



Statistical News Release - Crimes against businesses: findings from the 2017 Commercial Victimisation Survey

The latest Official Statistics on crime against businesses in England and Wales are released today, based on the 2017 Commercial Victimisation Survey (CVS) of business premises in 4 industry sectors:

- **Wholesale and retail** (surveyed in 2012 to 2017)
- **Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing** (surveyed in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2017)
- **Arts, entertainment and recreation** (surveyed in 2013 and 2017)
- **Manufacturing** (surveyed in 2012 and 2017)

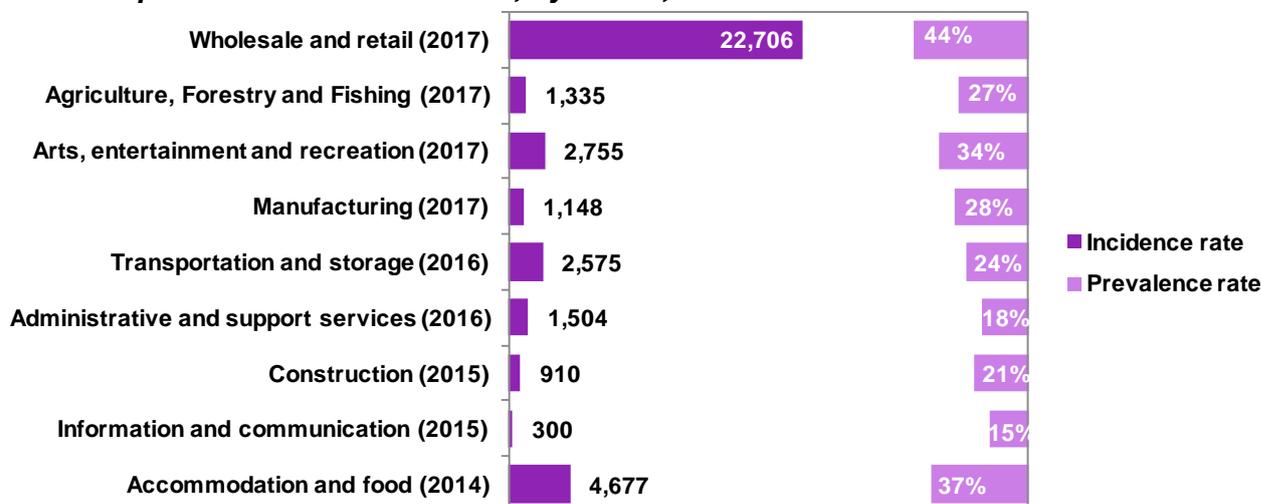
Comparisons are also made with sectors surveyed in previous years.

Key findings

1 - Wholesale and retail premises

- As in previous years, premises in the **Wholesale and retail sector experienced the highest levels of crime compared with other surveyed sectors**. Driven predominantly by shoplifting, this sector experienced a total of **8.1 million crimes** in the 2017 survey year, equivalent to 22,706 incidents per 1,000 premises (Fig.1).
- **The proportion of premises experiencing a crime in this sector fell compared with the 2012 CVS**, from over half of premises (53%) in 2012 to just over two-fifths (44%) in 2017. The largest falls in prevalence rates were seen in vandalism and theft.
- **As seen in previous years, theft remained the most common crime type** affecting the sector, in particular shoplifting which accounted for just under two-thirds (63% or 5.1 million incidents) of all crime against the sector.

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, 2014 to 2017 CVS



2 – Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing premises

- **The crime incidence rate in this sector has shown little change compared with the 2013 CVS.** In the 2017 survey year, there were 1,335 incidents per 1,000 premises, a slightly lower rate compared to 2013 (1,475 per 1,000 premises) although not statistically significant.
- **The proportion of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing premises that experienced crime also remained similar in 2017 compared with 2013.** Just over a quarter (27%) of premises experienced a crime in 2017, little change from 2013 (30%). However, the prevalence rates for some crime types did show statistically significant changes over this period, including robbery, with less than one per cent of premises having had experienced it in 2013 increasing to 2% in 2017.
- **Over a third (35%) of premises experienced ‘trespassing or unauthorised access of land or buildings’ in 2017.** This was the most common type of agriculture-related ASB experienced by businesses in this sector, followed by ‘poaching, hare coursing or illegal hunting’ (26%).

3 – Arts, entertainment and recreation premises

- **The sector experienced a fall in crime according to the 2017 CVS.** The incidence rate fell from 4,660 incidents per 1,000 premises in 2013 to 2,755 per 1,000 premises in 2017.
- **Around a third (34%) of premises in the sector experienced at least one crime incident,** a fall from 2013 when 45% of premises were victims of crime.
- **Assaults and threats was the most common crime type to affect the sector in 2017, accounting for a third of all incidents.** Vandalism was the second most common crime type to affect the sector, with an incidence rate of 622 incidents per 1,000 premises in 2017, although this was a fall from 2013 (1,076 incidents per 1,000 premises).

4 – Manufacturing premises

- **There were 1,148 incidents of crime per 1,000 Manufacturing premises in 2017, a similar level to that found in the 2012 CVS (the apparent fall from 1,500 incidents per 1,000 premises in 2012 was not statistically significant).** The sector saw a mixture of rises and falls in the different crime types with theft by customers showing the biggest increase from over 1,000 incidents in the 2012 survey to around 16,000 incidents in 2017.
- **The proportion of premises that experienced crime in this sector remained stable,** with 28% of premises having experienced a crime according to the 2017 CVS compared with 30% in 2012.
- **Theft and fraud were the most common crime types experienced by this sector.** The highest rates of crime against this sector were for theft (296 incidents per 1,000 premises), and fraud (257 incidents per 1,000 premises).

Methodology

The CVS is a telephone survey in which respondents from a representative sample of business premises in England and Wales are 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 2018.

Estimates for 2017 are based on interviews with respondents from 4 industry sectors: Wholesale and retail, Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, Arts, entertainment and recreation and Manufacturing. A pilot Head Office survey was also run in 2017 which aimed to explore whether it was feasible to collect additional fraud and online crime data held only at the Head Office level. The pilot survey was unsuccessful as it achieved low response rates and so the full survey was not commissioned.

Notes to editors

Crime against businesses: findings from the 2017 Commercial Victimisation Survey is available online via the UK National Statistics Publication Hub and the GOV.UK website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements/crime-against-businesses-findings-from-the-2017-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 **2017 CVS Infographic**, which provides a visual summary of key findings for the 4 sectors surveyed in 2017.
- **Sector-specific Factsheets**, which provide summaries of further key findings for the Wholesale and retail, Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, Arts, entertainment and recreation, and Manufacturing sectors.

Two to six years' data are now available for all of the sectors surveyed in 2017, showing trends in crime over time. The relatively small sample size of the survey makes detecting changes between years difficult; therefore it is necessary to consider the long-term trend when considering changes over time.

Press enquiries

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

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