



2010/11 Australian statistics reveal a further 3% national decrease - despite increases in WA and QLD

The National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council's financial year theft statistics produced by CARS has revealed that nationally both short term and profit motivated thefts declined 3.6% and 1.4% respectively in 2010/11 compared to 2009/10. This equates to a total of 56,779 thefts or an overall decrease of 2.9% over 2009/10. This further reduction is the tenth consecutive decrease in motor vehicle theft since Australia's peak of 139,269 in 2000/01.

Despite this overall good news there are some signs of concern particularly in WA and QLD. These two jurisdictions recorded a 21.4% and 16.5% increase respectively, in profit motivated thefts (i.e. thefts not recovered), and a 21.5% and 5.7% increase in short term thefts (i.e. recovered thefts)

These latest statistics are included in a new format report recently released by CARS. The previous CD based report has been replaced with a 60 page printed version that provides a detailed snapshot of motor vehicle theft in Australia. Copies of the report can be obtained by emailing your name, organisation and mailing address to ncars@ncars.on.net. Alternatively you can download an electronic copy from the cars website ncars.on.net.

In the meantime here are some of the reports key findings:

Total Theft

- Australia recorded a total of 56,779 thefts during the 2010/11 financial year, which represents a 2.9% decrease over the 2009/10 total of 58,501 thefts.
- Using a more contemporary reference period, Australia's total vehicle thefts have reduced 21.7%



from the 2006/07 total of 72,502.

- During 2010/11 there was an average 155.6 motor vehicle thefts per day in Australia. This is down from a total of 198.6 per day in 2006/07.
- With a recovery rate of 74.9% (as at 31 July 2011) the 2010/11 total comprises 39,229 short term thefts and 17,550 profit motivated thefts.
- Australia's yearly theft rate equates to 3.36 thefts per 1,000 registered vehicles or 2.53 per 1,000 population.
- There has been a steady decline in the age of stolen vehicles in Australia. In 2006/07 the median age of all stolen vehicles was 15 years. In 2010/11 the median age had decreased to 13 years.
- A total of 7,695 motorcycles were stolen in 2010/11. Although this is a 2.8% decrease over the 2009/10 total of 7,916 thefts, the current total was 11.2% higher than the 2006/07 total and reflects the growth in motorcycles sales in Australia in recent years.

- Motorcycles recorded the lowest recovery rate with only 40.4% of thefts in 2010/11 recovered compared to 74.9% of passenger/light commercial vehicles and 52.3% of other vehicles.

- Overall the most popular passenger/light commercial (PLC) theft targets in 2010/11 were the Hyundai Excel X3 (1,129 thefts), Holden Commodore VN (1,064 thefts) and the Toyota Camry SV21 (1,045 thefts).

- The cost to insurers of theft claims supplied to CARS and finalised in 2010/11 was \$182.4 million which was 21.0% lower than the \$231 million recorded in 2006/07. The average cost per claim to insurance companies for the 2010/11 financial year was \$10,565.

- There has been a steady increase in recent years in the proportion of motor vehicle thefts occurring from residential dwellings. In 2010/11 for example, 44.4% of all thefts occurred at a residential dwelling compared to 38.1% in 2006/07.

Short Term Theft

- When adjusted for late recoveries, short term thefts decreased 3.6% in 2010/11 compared to the previous financial year and 27.0% compared to five years ago.
- The jurisdictions with largest reductions in the past 12 months (after adjusting for late recoveries) were the Australian Capital Territory (-44.1%), New South Wales (-10.9%), the Northern Territory (-9.0%) and Victoria (-5.0%). In contrast, increases were recorded in Western Australia (+21.5%), Queensland (+5.7%) and Tasmania (+1.4%). South Australia remained relatively steady with a 0.6% reduction.



2010/11 theft statistics (Continued)

• After adjusting for late recoveries, the rate of short term thefts per 1,000 registered vehicles fell to 2.38 in 2010/11 compared to 2.53 in 2009/10 and 3.65 five years ago.

• Passenger/light commercial vehicles accounted for 88.4% of all short term thefts with motorcycles accounting for a further 7.9% and other vehicles with 3.7%.

• The median age of short term theft targets declined steadily from 16

years old in 2006/07 to 13 in 2010/11.

• The top three short term theft targets in 2010/11 were the Hyundai Excel X3 (880 thefts), Holden Commodore VN (851 thefts) and the Toyota Camry SV21 (777 thefts).

• The locations with the highest number of short term thefts in 2010/11 were the three Queensland local government areas of the City of Brisbane (1,437 thefts), the City of Gold Coast (1,201 thefts) and the City

of Logan (722 thefts). The New South Wales City of Blacktown was in fourth place with 678 thefts followed in fifth place by the Victorian City of Brimbank (672 thefts).

• Overall 46.7% of all short term thefts were recovered within 24 hours of the theft, 84.9% were recovered within 14 days and 90.6% were recovered within 30 days of the incident.

• Short term theft targets stolen in metropolitan areas of Australia were recovered on average 15.9 kms from their theft location while vehicles stolen from non-metropolitan locations were recovered on average 27.6 kms away.

Table 1. Australia's top passenger/light commercial vehicle profit motivated theft targets by Make/Model/Series, 2010/11

Ranking		Make Model Series	Number of thefts not recovered		Sum of Glass's Guide value estimate	
2009/10	2010/11		2009/10	2010/11	2009/10	2010/11
1	1	Holden Commodore VT	246	262	\$4,361,311	\$4,216,996
2	2	Toyota Camry SV21	232	220	\$2,665,644	\$2,234,342
6	3	Holden Commodore VS	156	184	\$2,228,655	\$2,230,554
3	4	Nissan Skyline	182	167	\$1,178,837	\$1,069,039
8	5	Hyundai Excel X3	136	166	\$3,177,704	\$2,806,486
9	6	Toyota Hilux MY98_04	132	161	\$3,736,502	\$3,452,246
15	7	Ford Falcon AU	96	159	\$4,230,063	\$4,088,645
12	8	Toyota Hiace MY90_04	112	157	\$1,839,405	\$2,030,497
11	9	Holden Commodore VX	127	153	\$3,552,796	\$3,168,660
4	10	Holden Commodore VL	181	147	\$3,212,722	\$2,472,940
7	11	Holden Commodore VR	149	142	\$1,890,867	\$1,591,691
5	12	Holden Commodore VN	167	141	\$3,262,942	\$2,411,681
24	13	Toyota Hilux MY05+	75	137	\$7,217,437	\$9,219,429
17	14	Ford Falcon BA	93	118	\$5,488,389	\$4,942,755
8	15	Toyota Hilux MY89_97	136	117	\$1,259,932	\$1,471,484
10	16	Toyota Landcruiser 80 Series	129	110	\$2,130,293	\$1,811,692
18	17	Toyota Corolla AE92	85	104	\$582,558	\$522,359
19	18	Holden Commodore VY	83	103	\$3,690,691	\$4,045,356
22	19	Ford Falcon EF	77	97	\$1,019,428	\$875,616
21	20	Nissan Patrol GQ	80	89	\$1,183,541	\$1,091,292
27	21	Nissan Patrol GU	72	87	\$3,612,869	\$3,589,088
41	21	Holden Commodore VE	42	87	\$7,116,313	\$10,664,052
27	22	Ford Falcon EL	72	81	\$1,111,898	\$1,083,500
29	23	Holden Commodore VZ	66	79	\$3,967,337	\$3,445,616
13	24	Ford Falcon EA	104	76	\$788,480	\$475,790
27	24	Holden Astra TS	72	76	\$2,179,639	\$1,752,626
29	25	Toyota Landcruiser 70 Series	66	75	\$3,455,549	\$5,563,006
18	26	Toyota Hiace MY83_89	85	74	\$427,119	\$346,298
30	26	Toyota Tarago YR22	57	74	\$1,020,410	\$723,160
37	27	Mitsubishi Lancer CE	46	72	\$1,158,058	\$973,442
14	28	Toyota Corolla AE82	101	71	\$602,412	\$352,156
32	29	Ford Falcon UTE BA	53	63	\$1,666,264	\$1,799,750
31	30	Holden Commodore VP	55	61	\$1,229,271	\$1,088,522

Profit Motivated Thefts

• When adjusted for late recoveries, there were 16,655 profit motivated thefts in 2010/11 which comprised 29.3% of all motor vehicle thefts during the year. These thefts represented a 1.4% reduction over the 2009/10 total of 16,892 thefts and a 5.2% reduction from the 2006/07 total of 17,574 thefts.

• Compared to 2009/10 figures there were large reductions in profit motivated thefts during 2010/11 (after adjusting for late recoveries) in the Australian Capital Territory (-47.0%), the Northern Territory (-18.2%), New South Wales (-7.4%) and Victoria (-3.1%). The largest increases in profit motivated thefts were in the two jurisdictions with traditionally low rates of vehicle theft, namely Western Australia (+21.4%) and Queensland (+16.5%).

• After adjusting for late recoveries, the rate of profit motivated thefts in Australia during 2010/11 was 0.99 thefts per 1,000 registrations. Only two jurisdictions recorded a higher rate, namely New South Wales (1.47) and the Australian Capital Territory (1.15), however both of these jurisdictions



2010/11 theft statistics (Continued)

recorded reductions in their theft rates compared to 2009/10 (NSW down from a rate of 1.63 per 1,000 registrations and the ACT down from 2.24).

- Passenger/light commercial vehicles accounted for 66.4% of all profit motivated thefts in 2010/11 and of this

group large passenger vehicles comprised 17.2%.

- Motorcycles comprised 26.2% of all profit motivated thefts in 2010/11, which is three times larger than their 7.9% representation amongst short term thefts.

- Older models remained the vehicles of choice for profit motivated thieves. Almost one in five (19.0%) profit motivated theft targets in 2010/11 were manufactured 20+ years ago and 52% were aged 10 years or older.

Table 2: Number and rate of profit motivated thefts of passenger/light commercial vehicles by segment, 2009/10 and 2010/11

Vehicle segment	Number of thefts		% of thefts		Theft rate per 1,000 registrations	
	2009/2010	2010/2011	2009/2010	2010/2011	2009/2010	2010/2011
Small passenger	2,242	2,447	20.6%	21.0%	0.55	0.57
Medium passenger	1,288	1,285	11.8%	11.0%	0.93	0.89
Large passenger	2,953	3,012	27.1%	25.9%	1.12	1.14
Sports	541	542	5.0%	4.7%	1.92	1.85
SUV	1,205	1,301	11.1%	11.2%	0.57	0.56
People mover	182	245	1.7%	2.1%	0.89	1.17
Light commercial utility	1,490	1,666	13.7%	14.3%	0.72	0.77
Light commercial van	508	640	4.7%	5.5%	1.16	1.46
Motor home	9	14	0.1%	0.1%	0.34	0.64
Unknown passenger	478	494	4.4%	4.2%	0.30	0.36

Source: NMVTRC, CARS Statistical Report 2010/11.