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THE CRIME CHALLENGE FACING THE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE

1. Introduction

The present report deals with the reported national serious crime figures and ratios for the 2010/2011 financial year (that is the period 1 April 2010 - 31 March 2011). These are compared to the figures recorded during the preceding financial years since 2003/2004. The provincial crime figures are also analysed in more detail and some comments made on aspects influencing the crime situation. More detailed crime figures and maps are provided on the SAPS website at www.saps.gov.za.

2. The National Crime Situation

Analysis of the national crime situation is facilitated by grouping the 20 serious crime tendencies discussed in this report into the following broad crime types:

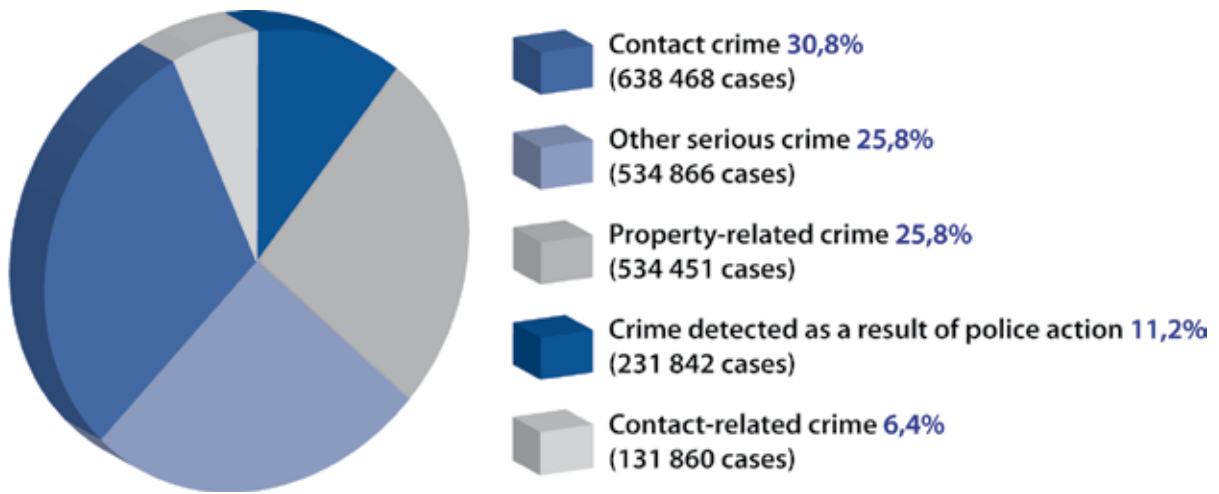
- ▶ Contact crime (crimes against the person);
- ▶ Contact-related crime;
- ▶ Property-related crime;
- ▶ Other serious crime; and
- ▶ Crime detected as a result of police action.

During 2010/2011 a total of **2 071 487** (approximately 2,1 million) serious crime cases were registered in the RSA, compared to the 2 121 887 cases registered during 2009/2010. This means that the total number of serious crimes was reduced by **-2,4%** or 50 400 cases. This decrease exceeds the target determined by Government, namely to reduce the total volume of serious crime by **-1,0%** to **-1,8%** per annum. The ratio of serious crime per 100 000 of the population decreased by **-3,7%** (from 4 302.1 to 4 143.6). The above reduction target determined by Government was originally intended to apply to all 20 categories of serious crime discussed in this report. However, the Portfolio Committee on Police requested that the target should in future not include the three categories of crime labeled as crimes mainly detected as a result of police action. If these crimes are excluded from the calculation, the remaining number of crimes decreased from 1 909 566 to 1 839 645 cases (i.e. by 69 921 cases or **-3,7%**), with a concomitant ratio decrease of **-5,0%** (from 3 871.6 to 3 679.9). Crime detected as a result of police action should increase if the police actually do what they are supposed to be doing and should thus logically not be included among those crimes which are expected to decrease if the police are effective in their crime combating efforts. To include these crimes in a reduction target would therefore be counter-productive. The **-5,0%** decrease is thus the correct yardstick and exceeds the government target two-and-a-half times.

Figure 1 illustrates the numbers of cases registered and proportional contribution of each of the broad crime types to the total crime picture in South Africa. Of the approximately 2,1 million cases, almost a third (**30,8%** or 638 468 cases) were contact crimes; about a quarter (**25,8%** or 534 866 cases) were other serious crimes; another quarter (**25,8%** or 534 451 cases) were property-related crimes; **11,2%** (231 842 cases) were crimes detected as a result of police action; and **6,4%** (131 860 cases) were contact-related crimes (more information on the specific proportions will be provided in each section dealing with the types of crime in question).

Figure 1

Serious Crime in the RSA: 2010/2011
2 071 487 Cases (2,1 million)



The ratios and raw figures pertaining to the reported incidence of serious crime in the RSA recorded during the 2010/2011 financial year (1 April 2010 – 31 March 2011) are provided in **table 1**. These figures are compared to those recorded during the preceding financial years since 2003/2004, the year before the implementation of a **7 – 10%** annual contact crime reduction target for South Africa.

According to international practice, ratios (i.e. per capita figures or crimes per 100 000 of the population) are used in most of the comparisons in this report. This is done because ratios equalize matters and eliminate distortions which could result from population growth and different population sizes among different geographical areas.

Table 1

Serious crime during the 2003/2004 to 2010/2011 financial years and the percentage increases/decreases in crime between 2009/2010 and 2010/2011

Crime category	Incidence of crime per 100 000 of the population							Raw figures/frequencies							% Increase/Decrease 10/11 vs 09/10			
	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	% Increase/Decrease 10/11 vs 09/10	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008		2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011
Contact Crime																		
Murder	42.7	40.3	39.6	40.5	38.6	37.3	34.1	31.9	-6.5%	19 824	18 793	18 528	19 202	18 487	18 148	16 834	15 940	-5.3%
Total sexual offences	142.5	148.4	145.2	137.6	133.4	144.8	138.5	132.4	-4.4%	66 079	69 117	68 076	65 201	63 818	70 514	68 332	66 196	-3.1%
Attempted murder	64.8	52.6	43.8	42.5	39.3	37.6	35.3	31.0	-12.2%	30 076	24 516	20 571	20 142	18 795	18 298	17 410	15 493	-11.0%
Assault with the intent to inflict grievous bodily harm	560.7	535.3	484.0	460.1	439.1	418.5	416.2	397.3	-4.5%	260 082	249 369	226 942	218 030	210 104	203 777	205 293	198 602	-3.3%
Common assault	605.7	575.0	485.3	443.2	413.9	396.1	400.0	371.8	-7.1%	280 942	267 857	227 553	210 057	198 049	192 838	197 284	185 891	-5.8%
Robbery with aggravating circumstances	288.1	272.2	255.3	267.1	247.3	249.3	230.6	203.0	-12.0%	133 658	126 789	119 726	126 558	118 312	121 392	113 755	101 463	-10.8%
Common robbery	206.0	195.0	159.4	150.1	135.8	121.7	116.7	109.8	-5.9%	95 551	90 825	74 723	71 156	64 985	59 232	57 537	54 883	-4.6%
Contact-related Crime																		
Arson	19.0	17.6	16.3	16.6	15.5	14.1	13.6	13.1	-3.7%	8 806	8 184	7 622	7 858	7 396	6 846	6 701	6 533	-2.5%
Malicious damage to property	341.2	323.7	307.7	302.5	286.2	275.8	267.9	250.7	-6.4%	158 247	150 785	144 265	143 336	136 968	134 261	132 134	125 327	-5.2%
Property-related Crime																		
Burglary at residential premises	645.2	592.8	559.9	526.8	497.1	506.5	520.2	495.3	-4.8%	299 290	276 164	262 535	249 665	237 853	246 616	256 577	247 630	-3.5%
Burglary at non-residential premises	139.3	120.3	116.0	123.3	131.7	143.8	145.5	138.2	-5.0%	64 629	56 048	54 367	58 438	62 995	70 009	71 773	69 082	-3.7%
Theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle	190.0	180.0	183.3	182.1	167.7	156.0	145.5	129.0	-11.3%	88 144	83 857	85 964	86 298	80 226	75 968	71 776	64 504	-10.1%
Theft out of or from motor vehicle	370.8	318.8	296.6	261.7	233.4	225.0	245.1	246.2	0.4%	171 982	148 512	139 090	124 029	111 661	109 548	120 862	123 091	1.8%
Stock-theft	89.0	70.1	61.3	60.8	60.1	61.7	65.7	60.3	-8.2%	41 273	32 675	28 742	28 828	28 778	30 043	32 380	30 144	-6.9%

Crime category	Incidence of crime per 100 000 of the population						Crime Detected as a Result of Police Action						Raw figures/frequencies						% Increase/Decrease 10/11 vs 09/10
	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	% Increase/Decrease 10/11 vs 09/10	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011		
Illegal possession of firearms and ammunition	36.3	33.3	28.7	30.3	28.2	28.8	29.5	28.9	-2,0%	16 839	15 497	13 453	14 354	13 476	14 045	14 542	14 472	-0,5%	
Drug-related crime	135.1	180.3	204.1	220.9	228.1	240.7	273.4	301.4	10,2%	62 689	84 001	95 690	104 689	109 134	117 172	134 840	150 673	11,7%	
Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs	53.7	64.2	70.6	80.7	101.2	115.4	127.6	133.4	4,5%	24 886	29 927	33 116	38 261	48 405	56 165	62 939	66 697	6,0%	
Other Serious Crime																			
All theft not mentioned elsewhere	1 307.5	1 151.1	922.7	876.0	826.1	809.5	745.0	736.3	-1,2%	606 460	536 281	432 629	415 163	395 296	394 124	367 442	368 095	0,2%	
Commercial crime	120.4	115.8	115.6	130.2	136.4	159.1	172.0	176.8	2,8%	55 869	53 931	54 214	61 690	65 286	77 474	84 842	88 388	4,2%	
Shoplifting	155.0	142.8	137.5	138.2	140.0	165.9	179.7	156.8	-12,7%	71 888	66 525	64 491	65 489	66 992	80 773	88 634	78 383	-11,6%	
Some Subcategories of Aggravated Robbery Already Accounted for Under Aggravated Robbery Above																			
Carjacking	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13 793	12 434	12 825	13 599	14 201	14 915	13 902	10 627	-23,6%	
Truck hijacking	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	901	930	829	892	1 245	1 437	1 412	999	-29,2%	
Robbery of cash in transit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	192	220	383	467	395	386	358	291	-18,7%	
Bank robbery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	54	58	59	129	144	102	93	39	-58,1%	
Robbery at residential premises	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9 351	9 391	10 173	12 761	14 481	18 438	18 786	16 889	-10,1%	
Robbery at business premises	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3 677	3 320	4 387	6 689	9 862	13 920	14 534	14 667	0,9%	

2.1 Contact Crime

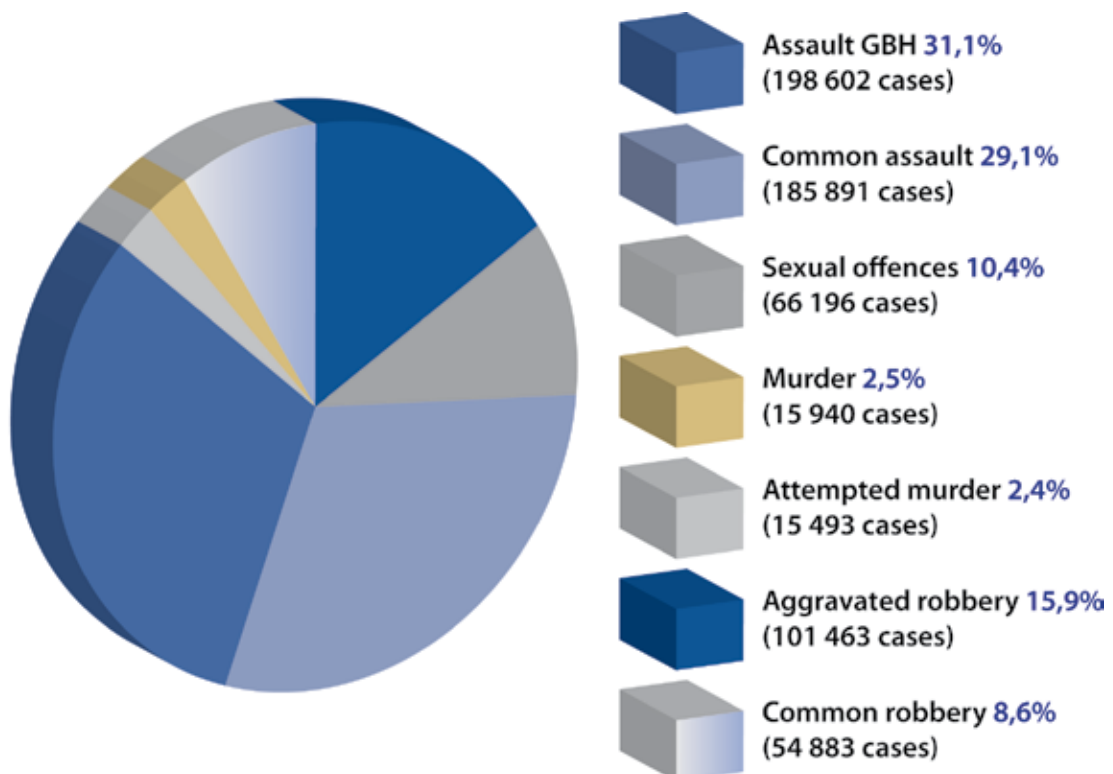
Contact crime involves physical contact between the perpetrators and victims. Such contact may last anything from a second or two (e.g. where a perpetrator grabs the handbag from a victim's hand and runs off with it) to an ordeal of several days (e.g. where a perpetrator kidnaps a victim during a carjacking, rapes her repeatedly and eventually kills her). Physical contact between victims and perpetrators will always have a more serious psychological impact than cases in which property is stolen from the victims in the latter's absence (e.g. during a housebreaking when the victim is away from home or otherwise unaware of the crime's occurrence at the time it is committed). Contact crime basically consists of violence against the person, irrespective of the nature of such violence. It includes the following categories of offences:

Table 1a: Categories of crime classified as contact crime

Crime category	Proportion of all contact crime	
	%	N
Murder	2,5%	15 940
Attempted murder	2,4%	15 493
Assault GBH	31,1%	198 602
Common assault	29,1%	185 891
Sexual offences	10,4%	66 196
Aggravated robbery	15,9%	101 463
Common robbery	8,6%	54 883

Figure 2

Contact Crime in the RSA: 2010/2011
638 468 Cases (30,8%) – Nearly a third of all serious crime



Contact or violent crime poses a more pernicious threat to South Africa than crime in general. A distinction is made between social contact crime and robbery, although these two broad categories do not constitute pure or watertight compartments.

2.1.1 Social Contact Crime

Social contact crimes, which comprise all contact crime except aggravated robbery and common robbery, are mainly crimes occurring between people knowing one another (relatives, friends, acquaintances, colleagues, neighbours, etc). Such crimes frequently result from arguments about money or property, sex, work-related issues and/or other matters. The arguments often become physical and then lead to assault GBH or common assault. The latter could easily escalate to murder, attempted murder or culpable homicide. In a majority of cases this development from underlying conflict or tension to arguments resulting in assaults and eventually giving rise to attempted murder, culpable homicide or murder is caused by impaired judgement linked to alcohol and drug abuse.

All research conducted by the Crime Information Analysis Centre (CIAC) - now known as the Crime Research and Statistics component of Crime Intelligence - over the past decade has confirmed that approximately **70,0%** - **80,0%** of murders, **60,0%** of attempted murders, **75,0%** of rapes and **90,0%** of all assaults (whether GBH, common or indecent assault) involve victims and perpetrators who know one another (whether as family members, friends, acquaintances or colleagues). Alcohol and to a lesser extent drug abuse frequently play a role in these crimes. This is why the five crimes in question are referred to as social contact crimes¹. Strictly speaking, these should have been referred to as dominantly social contact crime. The latest research indicates that roughly **65,0%** of murders are associated with social behaviour and **16,0%** are a consequence of other crimes (mainly robbery), while **12,0%** and **7,0%** respectively are committed in self-defence,² as a result of law enforcement, in the line of duty and in retaliation; or as a result of group behaviour such as vigilantism, gang wars and taxi-related violence (see *2008/2009 SAPS Annual Report*, pp 10 - 11).

The percentage decreases/increases in the recorded ratios of social contact crime over the 2010/2011 financial year are provided in **table 1**. Decreases in the ratios of the following categories of dominantly social contact crime were recorded between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011:

Table 1b: Decreases in social contact crime

Crime	Decrease
Attempted murder	-12,2%
Common assault	-7,1%
Murder	-6,5%
Assault GBH	-4,5%
Total Sexual Offences	-4,4%

2.1.1.1 Murder

The **-6,5%** decrease in the murder ratio between 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 represents a decrease of 894 murders, from 16 834 to 15 940 cases. This is significant for the following reasons:

- For the first time in the history of the SAPS (which came into being during 1995), the murder figure

¹ However, it should constantly be kept in mind that at least 20,0% - 30% of murders, 40,0% of attempted murders, 25,0% of sexual offences and 10,0% of assaults occur between strangers (often as a result of other crimes). The latter figures consequently in most cases represent people killed, assaulted and raped during robberies, intergroup conflict (e.g. taxi-related and gang fights) and vigilantism.

² Self-defence represents a response to criminal behaviour. An example of this is where the owner of a house shoots a robber during a house robbery.

fell below the 16 000 mark. In 1995/1996 a total of 26 887 murders were recorded, while in 2010/2011 the figure decreased to 15 940 murders. That represents a **40,7%** decrease (which translates into a ratio decrease of **53,2%**), while South Africa's population increased by at least **28,0%** (excluding the massive influx of undocumented immigrants)³. This means that murder decreased by **50,0%** in the face of rapid population growth and massive urbanization, both also stimulated by the additional influx of undocumented immigrants. Rapid population growth and urbanization are universally associated with unemployment, poverty and the growth of squatter areas, with accompanying challenges posed by social crime and difficulties to implement effective policing. Crime experts would have expected an increase in murder cases under such social circumstances, particularly in view of the fact that murder is internationally considered the most reliable crime trend. Murder, being the one crime trend which should virtually not be influenced by over or under-reporting and/or the non-registration of cases, is consequently believed to be the most consistent indicator of increases and decreases in crime.

- ▶ The **-6,5%** decrease in the murder ratio, which relates to a **-5,3%** decrease in real figures, is the second-most significant decrease in the murder figure since the implementation of the **7 – 10%** reduction target during January 2004. Since 2004/2005 the following decreases in real figures were recorded during successive financial years:

Table 2: The changing incidence of murder: 2004/2005 to 2010/2011

2004/ 2005	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/ 2008	2008/2009	2009/ 2010	2010/ 2011
-5,2%	-1,4%	3,6%	-3,7%	-1,8%	-7,2%	-5,3%

In terms of raw figures, a decrease of 1 314 cases was recorded between 2008/2009 and 2009/2010, followed by a decrease of 894 cases between 2009/2010 and 2010/2011. This represents a substantially larger decrease than that recorded during the preceding four years between 2004/05 and 2009/10. The following might be relevant to this development:

- ▶ Extremely high levels of police visibility were maintained since the first quarter of the 2009/2010 financial year (April – June 2009) as a result of events such as the 2009 general elections, the inauguration of President Zuma and the international cricket and Confederation Cup Football tournaments. These were then sustained by the (at that stage new) management of the Department between the Confederation Cup and the subsequent World Cup soccer tournament of June/July 2010 - and even beyond the World Cup, particularly in provinces such as Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal which account for a major share of the country's crime. These high levels of visibility may not have had any noticeable effect on social contact crime, but it would have reduced the number of robberies (and thus also murders and attempted murders committed by robbers and deaths and injuries inflicted by their victims acting in self-defence), as well as murders committed during intergroup violence.
- ▶ Significant successes were achieved against robbers during the reporting period (see **section 2.1.2**). It was earlier indicated that by far the majority of the **16,0%** of murders committed as a consequence of other crimes are actually perpetrated during robberies. If robberies are reduced as indicated in **section 2.1.2**, it is logical that murders will also drop significantly. The same applies to attempted murder, which is to a large degree also associated with robberies. As already indicated,

³ The following comment in this regard appeared in the *2008/2009 Annual Report of the SAPS*: "This means that the crime ratios may be inflated by 10 – 20% - particularly if it is kept in mind that most of the estimated 3 – 6 million immigrants may belong to the economically active age group as well as the high crime risk age group". The murder ratio may therefore actually have been 25,5 per 100 000 and not 31,9 per 100 000 during the reporting period (2010/2011) as indicated in **table 1** if the number of undocumented immigrants had been correctly reflected in the population figures. However, it should also be clearly stated here that, despite the influence their presence might exert on factors considered as generators of or conducive to crime and the calculation of crime ratios, **previous analyses have never indicated a disproportionate involvement of foreigners in crime in South Africa as such.**

attempted murders decreased by **-12,2%** during 2010/2011. This is, with the exception of the decrease in shoplifting, the largest decrease among all the categories of crime discussed in this report during 2010/2011 and double the decrease recorded in 2009/2010 (which stood at **-6,1%**).

- ▶ The arrest of robbers (sometimes ending in casualties among them, particularly if they offer violent resistance) will in all probability not only reduce murders as a result of robbery, but in addition remove perpetrators of social contact crime from society. It is a known fact that robbers are violent people who frequently also commit social contact crime (murder, attempted murder, assault and sexual offences) against their own family members, friends and acquaintances. On the other hand, the question can then be asked why, if these robbers had been arrested and in that way prevented from committing social assaults and resultant murders, the assault GBH and common assault figures did not decrease as significantly as the murder, attempted murder and robbery figures. The explanation could be that analysis of trends during big events over the past decade has consistently indicated that the more policeable crimes such as robbery, housebreaking, theft of motor vehicle and theft out of/from motor vehicle, etc decreased significantly. At the same time the less policeable and more purely social contact crimes such as assaults and sexual offences usually increased, particularly as a result of more socializing and a rise in alcohol consumption. Big events offer more opportunity for celebrations accompanied by alcohol consumption, increasing the likelihood of arguments occurring - particularly among people knowing one another. This will generate upward pressure on less policeable crimes such as assault and sexual offences.

Finally, it is necessary to emphasize that crimes are registered on the basis of the facts available or circumstances obtaining at the time such crimes are reported to or discovered by the police. This is done because the registered crime and accompanying detailed data are used in operational analysis within 24 hours of being recorded and provide the basis for intelligence-led policing. During subsequent investigation and eventual prosecution once suspects are charged with the crimes, the detectives and/or prosecutors may drop, add or change charges. This could also happen during court cases or once a verdict is reached in court. The result could be that the pattern (counts) of crime may change quite significantly from what had originally been recorded. A docket analysis conducted during 2006 and covering a representative sample of 9 638 contact crime dockets registered during the year 2000, indicated that eventually only **58,7%** and **56,9%** of attempted murder and murder verdicts respectively corresponded with the charges as originally registered. In the case of original murder charges, **34,6%** and **5,7%** of the guilty verdicts were eventually obtained in relation to charges of culpable homicide and assault GBH respectively. In the case of original attempted murder charges, **25,0%** and **3,8%** of the guilty verdicts were eventually obtained in relation to charges of assault GBH and unlawful discharging of a firearm respectively. In the case of assault GBH, common assault and rape, **93,0%**, **94,1%** and **92,8%** of the guilty verdicts respectively corresponded with the charges as originally registered. The reason for the high disparity between original murder and attempted murder charges and guilty verdicts, is that in the case of these crimes it is essential to prove the intention to kill. The majority of murders as well as attempted murders, particularly in South Africa, are social in nature. It will consequently not always be clear when the crime is registered whether the intention had actually been to kill.

2.1.1.2 Assault GBH and common assault

Assault GBH and common assault experienced decreases of **-4,5%** and **-7,1%** respectively. The government target of a **-8,5%** ratio reduction was clearly not achieved in respect of these two largest contributors to the overall contact crime figure. However, the **-4,5%** and **-7,1%** reductions recorded during 2010/2011 represent a clear improvement on the **-0,5%** reduction in assault GBH and **1,0%** increase in common assault recorded during 2009/2010. These mainly social contact crimes together account for nearly **80,0%** of all social contact crime.

It remained difficult to achieve this target since the implementation of the **7 – 10%** annual reduction target per contact crime category during January 2004. This is evident from the following ratio decreases recorded from 2004/2005 till date:

Table 3: The changing incidence of assaults: 2004/2005 to 2010/2011

Crime	2004/ 2005	2005/ 2006	2006/ 2007	2007/ 2008	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2010/ 2011
Assault GBH	-4,5%	-9,6%	-4,9%	-4,6%	-4,7%	-0,5%	-4,5%
Common assault	-5,1%	-15,6%	-8,7%	-6,6%	-4,3%	1,0%	-7,1%

The reason for the difficulty experienced in efforts to decrease the incidence of assault GBH and common assault can probably be found in the following potential explanations:

- It has already been indicated that assaults (GBH and common) are largely a social phenomenon occurring between people knowing each other, with alcohol and drug abuse also considered as conducive to these crimes. It is further known that these crimes frequently occur in localities not readily covered by conventional policing (patrols, roadblocks, stop-and-search operations) such as the privacy of homes and places of employment, as well as clubs, shebeens, taverns, bars and other social gathering places. To reduce these crimes significantly, communities will have to alter their lifestyle.

People will find it difficult and even impossible to change their lifestyle if their living conditions are grim and their present lifestyle represents an adaptation to such conditions. If, for example, somebody lives in appalling conditions (e.g. a cold and wet shack); has no work or secure income; possesses a low level of education which does not assist in finding a job or creating an own income; and there is nothing in the environment to keep such an individual busy in a positive way (e.g. through recreational activity), the chances are good that such a person will become involved in the abuse of cheap alcohol. This will occur in social conditions already tense because of damaged self-esteem and an intense competition for extremely scarce resources.

- During the past three years the whole world experienced an economic recession (some experts even refer to an economic meltdown or depression) and many countries reportedly experienced a dramatic increase in some property-related and commercial crimes (specifically shoplifting, theft and fraud), as well as in social or domestic violent crime. It seems as if there is at least some truth in the old saying that “when economic hardship enters through the front door, love flies out at the back door”. This may also have exerted an upward pressure on the incidence of assault.
- In **section 2.1.1.1** mention has already been made of the fact that although the big events in South Africa since the beginning of 2009 have resulted in increased visible policing and a reduction of the more policeable crimes, these developments may have increased the opportunities for less policeable crimes such as assault GBH and common assault to occur because of more socializing, tension and excitement in society.

To systematically reduce crime of this nature under the unfavourable conditions described above, the following measures need to be considered:

- Massive economic development and a growth in the informal sector to create jobs and eliminate unemployment as far as possible.
- The development of suitable human settlements in which people can live a meaningful life and develop a strong, positive self-esteem.
- Providing education to the youth that will develop their discipline, self-esteem, entrepreneurial skills and understanding of crime, as well as the dangers of being drawn into it.
- Policing geared to achieve the following:

- Reduction of crime levels (particularly of violent crime) to such an extent that human settlement development is possible.
- Reduction and elimination of those crimes which inhibit local and foreign investment and tourism – particularly the trio crimes of carjacking, house robbery and business robbery.
- Creating awareness – through effective prosecution of as many cases as possible - that social and domestic violence is totally unacceptable and will not be tolerated, particularly where women and children are concerned.

When the **7 – 10%** contact crime reduction target was determined in 2004, it was clearly indicated that these were actually not police targets only, but South African targets. The more social contact crimes such as assault GBH and common assault will only decrease significantly if all relevant government departments (among which the Police Service is but one), non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and particularly the communities themselves work hand-in-hand to reduce these crimes and the underlying conditions giving rise to them.

2.1.1.3 Sexual offences

Table 1 indicates a ratio decrease of **-4,4%**, from 138.5 sexual offences per 100 000 of the RSA population in 2009/2010 to 132.4 per 100 000 in 2010/2011. This represents a decrease of 2 136 cases, from 68 332 to 66 196. This is an exact repeat of the **-4,4%** ratio decrease recorded in 2009/2010. The main reason why historical comparisons between the latter figures and the figures for preceding years are extremely difficult and even impossible, is that sexual offences as presently defined differ substantially from those recorded in the past – i.e. prior to December 2007. The definition of rape (formerly understood as referring exclusively to vaginal penetration by a male sexual organ) has e.g. been widened to also include vaginal, oral and anal penetration of a sexual nature by whatever means (and thus also male rape) which previously fell under the category of indecent assault. The concept of sexual offences then also goes further to add a whole range of transgressions which never previously formed part of rape or indecent assault – such as sex work, pornography, public indecency and human trafficking. The addition of these sexual offences mainly detected as a result of police action makes it impossible to compare the present sexual offences figures as portrayed in **table 1** with figures for rape and indecent assault recorded in the past. If all sexual offences cases registered in 2010/2011 which would have qualified as rape and indecent assault cases prior to 16 December 2007 are identified and counted, the result adds up to 56 272 cases. If the same calculation is done for 2008/2009 and 2009/2010, the combined rape and sexual assault figures for these three years are as follows:

➤ 2008/2009	54 126
➤ 2009/2010	55 097
➤ 2010/2011	56 272

This means that between the 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 financial years an increase of **1,8%** and from 2009/2010 to 2010/2011 an increase of **2,1%** was recorded. It should again be emphasized that the average of approximately 55 165 rape and sexual assault cases recorded over the past three financial years since the implementation of the current sexual offences legislation should not be compared to the average of \pm 53 000 rapes recorded during the financial years prior to 2007/2008. If one wants to compare the figures it will be more correct to compare the current average with the average of 62 867 rapes and indecent assaults reported in terms of the old definitions applying prior to 2007/2008. From this financial year (2010/2011) a special effort will have to be made to separate sexual offences into those reported by the public (which basically comprise rape or sexual penetration and indecent assault – now called sexual assault) and those sexual offences which are detected by means of police action (such as those relating to sex work or prostitution and pornography). The reason for this is that

those sexual offences mainly detected by means of police action should, like e.g. drug-related crime, preferably increase - while contact sexual offences should be reduced. If this distinction is done for the past three financial years, the resultant figures are as follows:

Table 4: Proportions of sexual offences

Subcategory of Crime	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	% increase / decrease 2010/2011 vs 2009/2010
Contact crime sexual offences	63 501	64 966	63 603	-2,1%
Sexual offences detected by police action	7 013	3 366	2 593	-23,0%

2.1.1.4 Crimes against women and children

The number of social contact or violent crimes committed against adult women and children of both genders under the age of 18 (meaning up to the age of 17 years, 364 days, 23 hours and 59 minutes) are provided in **tables 5** and **6**. With the exception of the murder of adult women which increased by **5,6%** and sexual offences against children (younger than 18 years) which increased by **2,6%**, all the other social contact crimes against women and children decreased by margins of between **-29,4%** and **-0,8%**. This is in quite sharp contrast to 2009/2010, when in most cases significant increases in social contact crimes against women and children were recorded. The current decreases confirm the technical factors noted in the 2009/2010 report as partial explanation for the increases recorded in that financial year.

The following should also be emphasized in view of various previous analyses pertaining to crimes against children:

- (a) Among the dominantly social contact crimes committed against children, **51,9%** were sexual offences, while only **18,7%** of the social contact crimes committed against adult women were sexual offences. The dominant social contact crime committed against adult women, is common assault (**46,9%** of cases).
- (b) Most of the victims of crimes committed against children are between 15 – 17 years old (see e.g. the *2008/2009 SAPS Annual Report*, pp 13 – 14). The analyses indicated that **54,9%** of murders, **59,6%** of attempted murders, **70,8%** of assaults GBH, **63,1%** of common assaults and **39,5%** of sexual offences committed against children affected those in the age group of 15 – 17 years. However, it is disturbing to notice that in the case of the most prevalent crime against children, namely the 20 141 cases of sexual offences recorded during 2008/2009 in this regard, **60,5%** were committed against children below the age of 15 years. It is even more disturbing to note that **29,4%** of these sexual offences involved children aged 0 – 10 years.

Table 5: Crimes against women of 18 years and older: 2006/2007 – 2010/2011

Crime category	2006/ 2007	2007/ 2008	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2010/ 2011	Difference 2010/2011 vs 2009/2010	% Increase/ decrease
Murder	2 602	2 544	2 436	2 457	2 594	137	5,6%
Attempted murder	3 362	3 016	2 966	3 008	2 842	-166	-5,5%
All sexual offences	34 816	31 328	30 124	36 093	35 820	-273	-0,8%
Common assault	100 390	94 286	91 390	94 176	89 956	-4 220	-4,5%
Assault GBH	69 132	64 084	61 509	62 143	60 630	-1 513	-2,4%
Total	210 302	195 258	188 425	197 877	191 842	-6 035	-3,0%

Table 6: Crimes against children younger than 18 years: 2006/2007 – 2010/2011

Crime category	2006/ 2007	2007/ 2008	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2010/ 2011	Difference 2010/2011 vs 2009/2010	% Increase/ decrease
Murder	972	1 015	843	965	906	-59	-6,1%
Attempted murder	889	852	782	1 113	786	-327	-29,4%
All sexual offences	25 428	22 124	20 141	27 417	28 128	711	2,6%
Common assault	16 871	16 091	14 544	14 982	13 387	-1 595	-10,6%
Assault GBH	13 947	13 625	12 422	12 062	11 018	-1 044	-8,7%
Total	58 107	53 707	48 732	56 539	54 225	-2 314	-4,1%

2.1.2 Robberies

2.1.2.1 Common Robbery

Common robbery decreased by **-5,9%**, from 116.7 per 100 000 to 109.8 per 100 000 of the population. The decrease recorded during 2009/2010 stood at **-4,1%**.

2.1.2.2 Aggravated Robbery

Aggravated robbery decreased by **-12,0%** - from 230.6 per 100 000 to 203.0 per 100 000. Except for the **-12,2%** decrease in attempted murder and the **-12,7%** decrease in shoplifting, this represents the most significant decrease among the 20 categories of crime in **table 1** and exceeds the government target by a considerable margin. It is also the largest decrease in this crime recorded since 2003/2004. The **-7,5%** decrease in 2009/2010 is the second-largest decrease in aggravated robbery recorded since 2003/2004.

Robbery with aggravating circumstances includes the following subcategories of robbery:

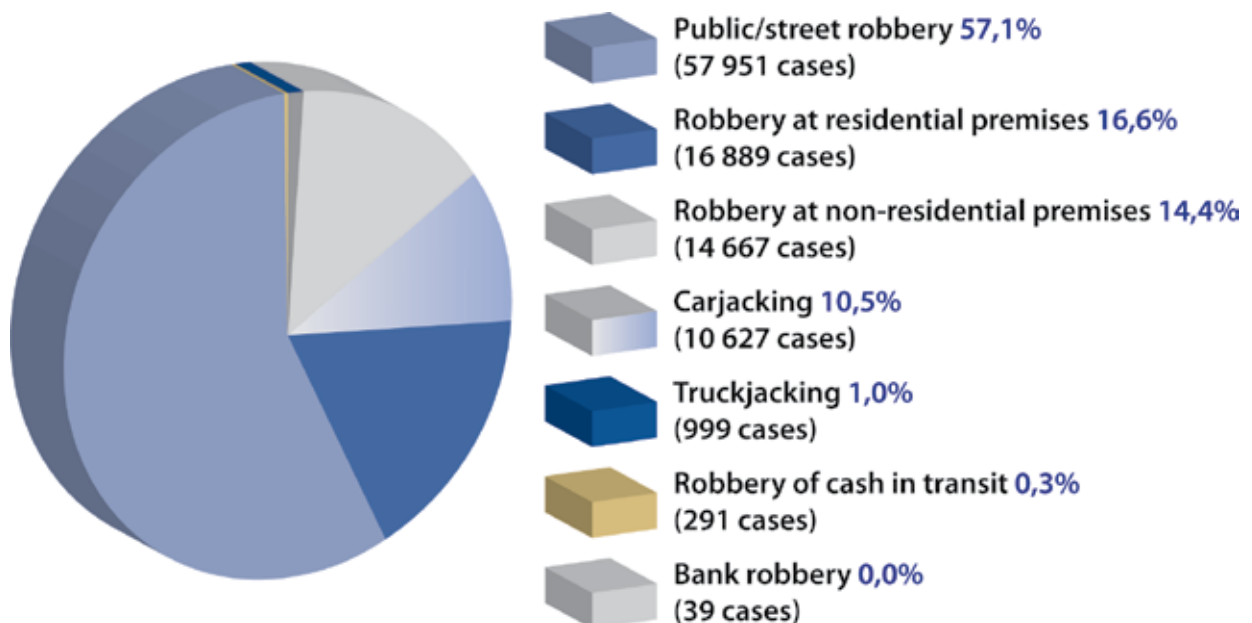
- ▶ Carjacking;
- ▶ truck hijacking;
- ▶ robbery at residential premises (house robbery);
- ▶ robbery at non-residential premises (business robbery);

- cash-in-transit (CIT) robbery;
- bank robbery; and
- other aggravated robberies not mentioned elsewhere on this list, which are mainly aggravated robberies occurring on the streets and in other public or open spaces. These are described as “street robberies” in this report.

Table 7: Robbery with aggravating circumstances disaggregated according to the percentage contribution of each subtrend in terms of raw figures

Subcategory	Cases reported		Distribution per subcategory during 2010/2011	Real case increase / decrease	% increase/ decrease
	2009/2010	2010/2011			
Street/public robbery	64 670	57 951	57,1%	-6 719	-10,4%
Robbery at residential premises	18 786	16 889	16,6%	-1 897	-10,1%
Robbery at business premises	14 534	14 667	14,5%	133	0,9%
Carjacking	13 902	10 627	10,5%	-3 275	-23,6%
Truck hijacking	1 412	999	1,0%	-413	-29,2%
CIT robbery	358	291	0,3%	-67	-18,7%
Bank robbery	93	39	0,0%	-54	-58,1%
Total	113 755	101 463	100,0%	-12 292	-10,8%

Figure 3: Different Subcategories of Aggravated Robbery during the 2010/2011 Financial Year (Total Cases 101 463)



Aggravated robbery, despite being a contact crime itself, is also the second-largest generator of other contact crimes, particularly attempted murder and murder. This is because victims are sometimes killed and/or seriously injured during such robberies. The vast majority of house robberies, carjackings, business robberies, truck hijackings, cash-in-transit (CIT) heists and bank robberies are committed with firearms. Shots are frequently fired at victims and may hit them. The victims in many cases return fire in self-defense and may also hit the robbers, or even innocent bystanders. A number of attempted

murders involving people wounded under the above circumstances can consequently be generated during a single case of such robbery.

Calculations based on the figures in table 1 indicate that robbery with aggravating circumstances accounted for **4,9%** of all South Africa's serious crime and **15,9%** of its contact crime during the past financial year (see **figures 1** and **2**). **Table 7** and **figure 3** depict the following:

- ▶ The number of cases relating to each subtrend of robbery with aggravating circumstances recorded during the 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 financial years;
- ▶ the percentage contribution of each subtrend to the total aggravated robbery figure during 2010/2011, ordered from the most important contributor (street/public robbery) to the least (bank robbery);
- ▶ the increase or decrease in the number of cases recorded for each subtrend; and
- ▶ the percentage increase or decrease between 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 this represents for each of those subtrends.

Street robbery decreased by a significant (in excess of the target) **-10,4%** - and that upon significant decreases of **-7,4%** and **-10,4%** recorded during 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 respectively. This notwithstanding, it still accounted for the majority (**57,1%**) of all aggravated robberies recorded during the present reporting period. Since the introduction of the **7 – 10%** reduction target in 2004, street or public robbery has decreased from 105 690 cases in 2003/2004 to 57 951 cases during the reporting period of 2010/2011. That represents a decrease of **-45,2%** or an average of **-6,5%** per year.

For the first time in six years the TRIO crimes did not experience significant increases or simply a stabilization as recorded during 2009/2010, but decreased by **-10,7%**. The percentage increases/decreases in street robbery and TRIO crimes since the introduction of the 7-10% reduction target in 2004 are depicted below.

Figure 4: Public or Street Robbery

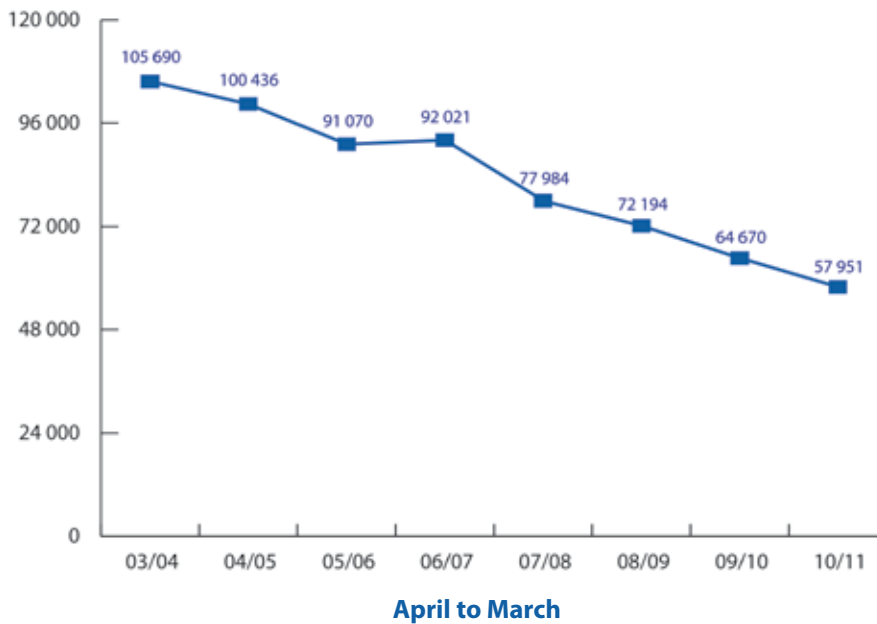


Figure 5: Robbery at Residential Premises

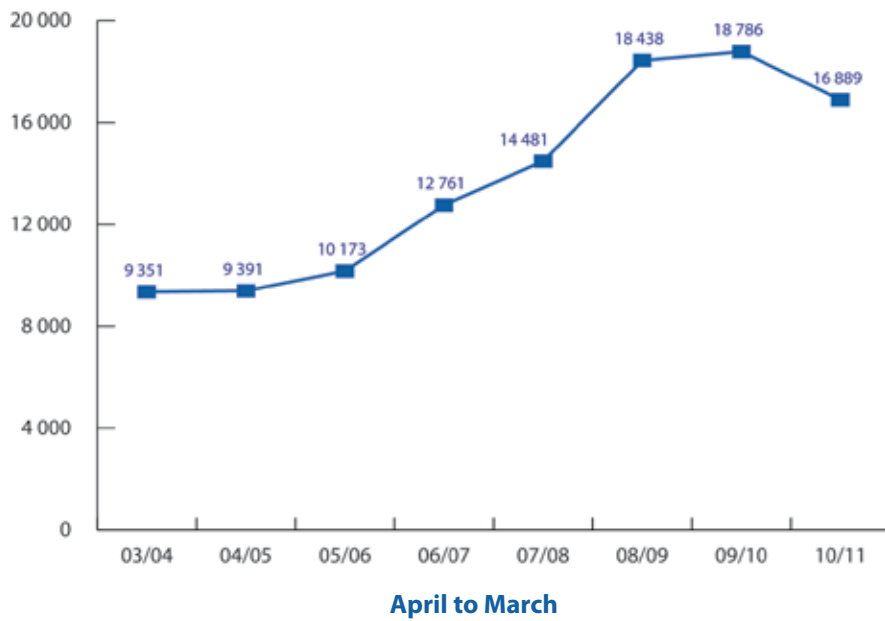


Figure 6: Carjacking

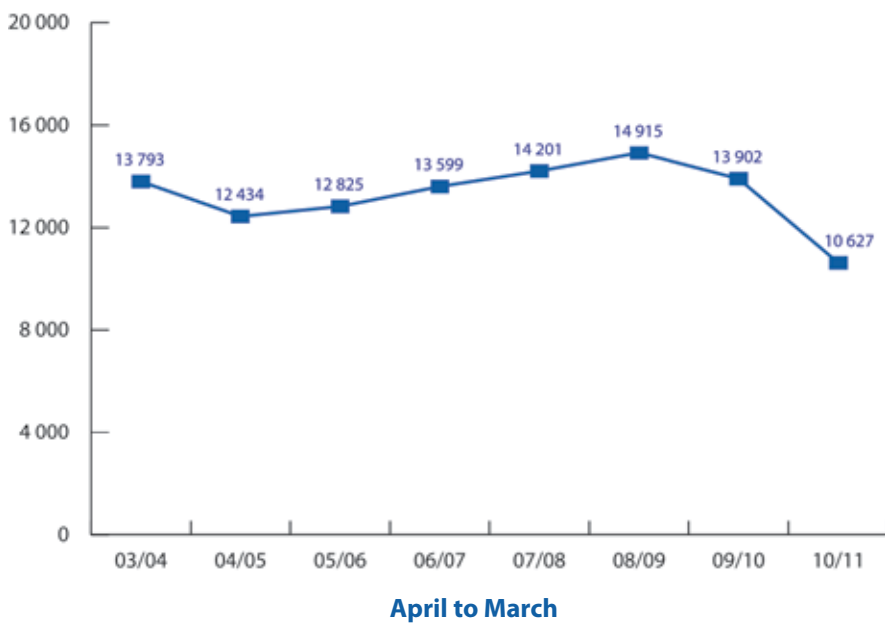


Figure 7: Robbery at Non-residential Premises

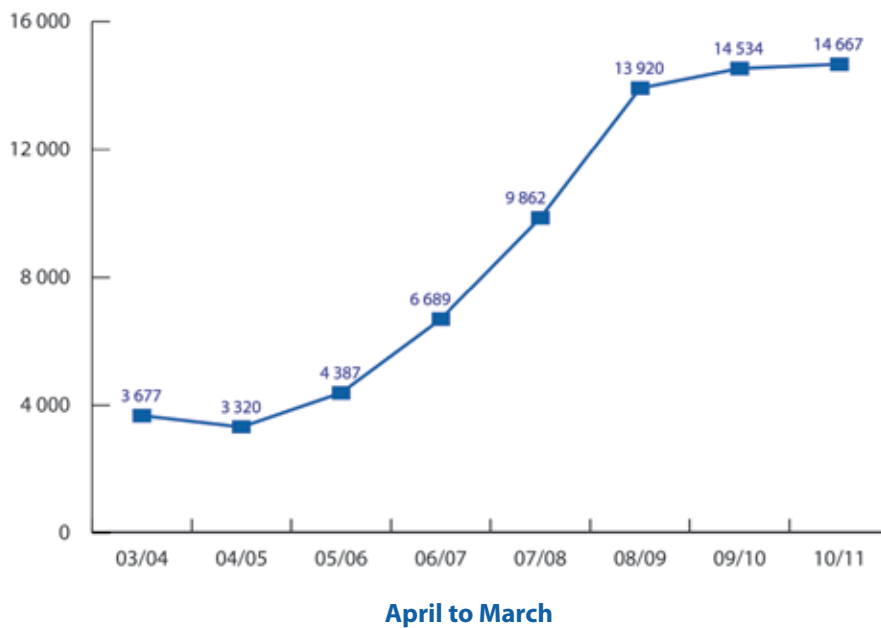


Table 8: Increases/decreases in Trio crimes

Crime	2004/ 2005	2005/ 2006	2006/ 2007	2007/ 2008	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2010/ 2011
Carjacking	-9,9%	3,1%	6,0%	4,4%	5,0%	-6,8%	-23,6%
House robbery	0,4%	8,3%	25,4%	13,5%	27,3%	1,9%	-10,1%
Business robbery	-9,7%	32,1%	52,5%	47,4%	41,1%	4,4%	0,9%

It is abundantly clear from the trends depicted above that all three the TRIO crimes, but particularly house and business robberies, had increased significantly over the four years prior to 2009/2010 (that is during 2005/2006, 2006/2007, 2007/2008 and 2008/2009). These increases were followed by a small decrease in carjacking and marginal increases in business and house robberies during 2009/2010 and significant decreases of **-23,6%** in carjacking and **-10,1%** in house robbery during the current reporting period (2010/2011). Business robbery increased marginally by **0,9%**. Quite often over the past two years different business groupings or associations such as Business Against Crime (BAC), the Consumer Goods Council, etc have already indicated that business robberies are actually on the decrease –and this by significant percentages. However, it should be emphasized that this development only has bearing on members or associates of these business groupings, which are also larger businesses such as e.g. the larger supermarkets and shopping malls. The smaller, single-owner and emerging black businesses in the old CBD areas, townships and even suburbs still remain vulnerable to this kind of crime, which can have a devastating impact on one of the primary job-creating sectors in the RSA. An analysis of 1 995 business robbery cases recorded on the Crime Administration System for the period January – March 2011 revealed that the following types of business were targeted:

Table 8a: Types of businesses targeted

Spaza/tuck shop	22,7%	Construction site/office	1,3%
Supermarket (all types)	13,1%	Motor vehicle dealer/car rental company	1,3%
General dealer	8,7%	Bar/pub	1,2%
Tavern	5,5%	Workshop/panel beaters	1,2%
Garage/petrol station	5,0%	Hotel/motel/guesthouse	1,2%
Clothing store	3,8%	Scrap metal dealer	1,1%
Fast food outlet	3,7%	Furniture shop	1,1%
Café	3,1%	Hairdresser/salon/cosmetics shop	1,1%
Liquor store	2,7%	Educational premises	1,0%
Cellular telephone shop/container	2,3%	Government institution	0,9%
Restaurant/coffee shop	1,7%	Warehouse/storage facility	0,9%
Butchery/dairy	1,7%	Plumbing/electrical services	0,8%
Medical institution (surgery, pharmacy, hospital)	1,5%	Hardware shop	0,8%
Factory	1,5%	Other (32 types)	7,7%
Office/office park	1,4%		

This confirms previous research that particularly small and medium-sized businesses more likely to be run on a cash basis are targeted during the majority of business robberies.

The decreases and stabilization noticed above can probably be linked to the following:

- ▶ Much higher visibility of the SAPS during 2010/2011 as a result of the 2010 World Cup and sustaining this enhanced profile since the event. Operational analysis at station level during 2010/2011 confirmed that police visibility at the right times (peak times of occurrence), at the right places and employing the right tactics (e.g. stop-and-search operations) could decrease the trio crimes significantly. High visibility has the following impact:
 - Trio crimes are discouraged by police visibility in the traditional flashpoints of crime and at peak times of occurrence.
 - It increases the risks run by robbers (by e.g. decreasing the reaction time of the police or shifting the robbers' operations to areas and times they are not familiar with). The question arises as to whether the highly visible and permanent deployment of police vehicles at some off-ramps in Gauteng did not e.g. block the escape routes of hijackers to such an extent that it had a major impact on carjackings.
 - Informed policing based on proper flashpoint and peak time analysis could even displace specific crimes to localities where these can be combated more easily (planned displacement, usually to an area and time posing increased risk to the robbers and ensuring maximum police impact, e.g. with fewer exit and escape routes).
- ▶ The implementation of provincial operational centres in some provinces (erroneously dubbed as "war rooms") where improved, higher level linkage analysis and profiling can be done. This is of major value in terms of the following:
 - Provincial assistance to stations.
 - Clustering investigation teams and focusing on crime series (dockets dealing with the same suspects, targets and/or modus operandi).

- Identification of intelligence collection targets.

The above measures are important in order to ensure that the combating of Trio crimes is not only focused on the runners or foot soldiers committing these crimes, but also on the criminals at higher levels (e.g. the finger men, leaders and receivers). Some kinds of aggravated robbery are more organised than others. Truck-hijacking, carjacking, CIT and bank robbery are much more organised than street robbery and house robbery. If transgressors involved in organised crime are arrested, this will usually have a much more immediate and visible impact on crime.

- It is also possible that the application of microdot technology in more and more vehicles is starting to pay off as far as carjackings are concerned.

In **table 9** the number of suspects charged in connection with all subcategories of aggravated robbery during 2010/2011 are compared to the number of cases relating to all these subcategories of aggravated robbery registered over the same period.

Table 9: Suspects charged in connection with aggravated robbery: 2010/2011

Subcategory of robbery	Cases of aggravated robbery per subcategory for 2010/2011	Number of suspects charged during 2010/2011	Suspects charged as % of cases registered
Street/public robbery	57 951	12 948	22,3%
House robbery	16 889	5 334	31,6%
Business robbery	14 667	4 540	31,0%
Carjacking	10 627	1 961	18,5%
Truckjacking	999	204	20,4%
Cash in transit robbery	291	60	20,6%
Bank robbery	39	30	76,9%
Total Aggravated Robbery	101 463	25 077	24,7%

It should be emphasized that all the suspects charged in connection with the indicated crimes during the 2010/2011 financial year are not always linked to cases registered during this specific financial year. Some suspects may have been charged in connection with cases registered during previous financial years. The table is presented in this specific way simply to indicate the proportionality of successes against the extent of the crimes. The following should also be noted:

- Some of the suspects may have been charged in connection with a whole series of cases. All these robberies are usually repeat crimes. Very few perpetrators will commit such crime on a once-off basis. Where proper linkage analysis is done, it is not out of the ordinary to link a perpetrator or group of perpetrators to 30 – 40 case dockets over a relatively brief period of time. It will thus not be correct to make the deduction that if there had been 16 889 house robberies in 2010/2011 and during the same year 5 334 suspects were arrested, arrests had been made in 31,6% of the cases, while no arrests were made in 68,4% of the cases. The reasons are as follows:
 - Some of those charged may have been arrested in connection with a whole series of crimes.
 - A number of suspects may be charged in connection with only one robbery.
 - One suspect or group thus charged may also have been responsible for a whole range of other cases included in the figures for aggravated robbery, but could possibly not be linked to all of them.

What the table is actually illustrating, is that quite a number of suspects committing aggravated robbery are charged. If it is accepted that these very same suspects had also committed cases with which they were not linked and thus not charged, it may very well be that the 25 077 suspects charged could have committed a majority of the 101 463 cases of aggravated robbery. It is at least evident from research that each aggravated robbery is not committed by a different robber or group of robbers.

Research and operational analysis over the past five–seven years indicated that aggravated robberies can be committed by different types of perpetrators. This could range from a single perpetrator acting wholly on his own, right through to groups of 10–15 or even more perpetrators. Such a perpetrator or perpetrators could also either act on their own or operate upon instruction or also to the benefit of others as part of organized crime. Perpetrators may thus commit aggravated robberies as part of a bigger syndicate with higher levels of command; simply supply such a syndicate with contraband without actually being part of it; or may commit their crime in response to orders for specific types of contraband emanating from a syndicate not (at least directly) linked to the actual perpetrators at all. The following findings are relevant to this discussion:

- **Most street robbers** operate at street level in central business districts (CBDs) and megatownships as individuals or in extremely small groups. They mainly rob cash or cellular telephones and in some cases small, expensive articles such as watches. This subcategory of aggravated robbery is in all probability in most cases not organized at all. The only contact point with organized crime could in many cases be if cellular telephones and/or other small items (such as jewellery or laptop computers) are sold to given receivers on a regular basis.
- **Most house robbers** operate in small (two–three person) groups, often with a single firearm, selecting their targets on the basis of appearances (an impression that a target may offer rich pickings). They rob mainly between 22:00 and 04:00 at night, because they want their victims present in order to open safes and/or hand over cash, cellular telephones or jewellery. Most of them have no contact with a next level of receivers, meaning that this crime can rarely be described as truly organized crime. House robbery is only an organized crime if the robbers strike with a specific target in mind and in response to prior intelligence, i.e. when they are sent by somebody at a higher level to a specific address in order to rob some specific items (e.g. the Rolex gang/s).
- **Business robbers** can basically be divided into two categories. Most of them rob small and even unregistered businesses (e.g. spaza shops and shebeens), but also sometimes targeting medium-sized businesses. Their loot consists mainly of cash, cellular telephones and other small items that can easily be informally traded. That is why they frequently rob cash-based businesses in residential areas or even enterprises run from residences as such. The perpetrators may even be the same criminals also committing house robbery. This category of business robbers is in most cases neither organized themselves, nor linking up with organized crime at a higher level.

A smaller category of business robbers rob medium-sized to large stores or businesses. These groups of frequently 10-15 members operate in very much the same way than CIT robbers. Their targets are specifically cash in bulk, jewellery, expensive computer or other electronic equipment, stocks of cellular telephones, etc. Like CIT robbers, these groups are more organized and will either link up with or be part of higher levels of organized crime.

- **Carjackers** mostly differ from the groups above. They are usually part of hijacking syndicates or serve as suppliers to highly-organized syndicates at a higher level of organized crime. Most carjackings are committed with the following in mind:
 - Exporting the vehicles to another country.
 - Cloning the vehicles and re-entering them into the legal market.

- Dismantling the vehicles for spare parts.

To achieve the above aims with hijacked vehicles (particularly the first two), requires the involvement of organized crime. It can only succeed with higher-level planning; corruption of Police, Home affairs, SARS and licencing officials; and will involve money laundering.

According to **table 1**, CIT robberies and bank robberies decreased by 67 and 54 cases respectively. That translates into a **-18,7%** decrease in CIT robberies (from 358 cases in 2009/2010 to 291 cases in 2010/2011) and a **-58,1%** decrease in bank robbery (from 93 cases in 2009/2010 to 39 cases in 2010/2011). The success represented by the arrests of 60 CIT and 30 bank robbery suspects during the reporting period increased the risks faced by those committing these types of crime and probably played a significant role in the decrease of the statistics. However, this probably also caused upward pressure on another and related crime, namely ATM blasts.

There is no specific common law crime defining ATM bombings. Depending on the circumstances of each case, these crimes can be registered under one or a combination of the following felonies: Murder, attempted murder, aggravated robbery, malicious damage to property, theft and transgressions of different sections of the Explosives Act. SABRIC keeps a database on ATM bombings, which are reported to them by their members in the banking fraternity. They share the information with all relevant stakeholders, including the SAPS. According to the SABRIC database, an increase of 152 incidents (**61,5%**) related to ATM bombings was recorded between 2009/2010 and 2010/2011. This is of particular concern because the increase follows upon significant decreases over the preceding two financial years. From 2007/2008 to 2008/2009 a **-10,2%** decrease (from 431 cases to 387 cases) and between 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 a **-36,2%** decrease (from 378 to 247 cases) was recorded. Most ATM bombings (**57,1%**) occurred in Gauteng, followed by North West (**12,4%**), Limpopo (**10,4%**) and Mpumalanga (**10,4%**). Those recorded in the latter three provinces mainly occurred in areas of those provinces bordering on Gauteng.

To conclude the sections on robberies and social contact crimes, it should be emphasized that trio crimes were reduced by **-10,7%**, from 47 222 cases to 42 183. This is well above the governments target of a 7–10% decrease. In the case of all contact crime, a **-6,9%** decrease (from 1 371.4 per 100 000 to 1 277.2 per 100 000) was achieved - actually meaning that the bottom line of the target was achieved. It is particularly the complexity of the social contact crimes which prevented achievement of a larger reduction in contact crime. A larger reduction will only be achieved if all relevant Government departments, NGOs and the community work hand-in-glove to change people's lifestyle.

2.2 Contact-related Crime

Contact-related crimes cover the crimes of arson and malicious damage to property, which accounted for **6,4%** of all serious crime reported during 2010/2011. Such crimes can flow from either individual behaviour (someone in bad faith causing damage to another person's property for whatever reason) or from collective behaviour (a group of people going on the rampage as a result of industrial action; out of frustration with e.g. trains running late or a lack of service delivery; or from being swept along by a frenzy of e.g. xenophobic fury). In this regard it has to be kept in mind that if a train is set alight, a charge of malicious damage to property will be registered, as arson usually only occurs when immovable property is set alight. This may partly explain the large difference in the reported figures of the two crimes under discussion. According to **tables 1** and **10**, the incidence of arson decreased by **-3,7%**, while malicious damage to property decreased by **-6,4%** since the previous financial year. Compared to figures for 2003/2004, arson has decreased by **-31,1%** over the past seven financial years and malicious damage to property by **-26,5%**.

Table 10: A comparison of the decreases in the ratios of recorded contact-related crimes between 2009/2010 and 2010/2011

Crime Category	Financial year 2009/2010	Financial year 2010/2011
Arson	-3,5%	-3,7%
Malicious damage to property	-2,9%	-6,4%

The seriousness of the crimes under discussion is often overlooked. Deliberate destruction of or damage to sophisticated – and even not that sophisticated – equipment can cause disruption and losses running into millions to both the private and the public sector in material terms alone. It may e.g. ruin some concerns, with an attendant loss of employment opportunities and concomitant effects on the rest of society.

In a similar vein, deliberate (or even negligently started) veld or forest fires (whether resulting from pure maliciousness, intended as an act of intimidation, meant as revenge or originating from whatever purpose the criminals involved could devise) can have unforeseen consequences. The ensuing costs not only result from the direct damage incurred, but possible loss of life and also the efforts spent on preventing and combating such fires. The damage itself could be far-reaching and such fires might rage over literally hundreds of kilometres, engulfing and sometimes completely destroying heritage sites; productive farmland (often leaving both small-scale and commercial farmers totally devastated); invaluable natural resources (including sensitive elements of biodiversity); and other irreplaceable assets. The direct and indirect suffering to human beings and animals caused by such wanton destruction is literally incalculable.

2.3 Property-related Crimes

This category of crime includes burglary at residential and non-residential premises, theft of motor vehicles and motorcycles, theft out of or from motor vehicles and stock-theft. These crimes (except in some cases of theft out of or from vehicles and burglary) mainly occur in the absence of the victims (or the latter being unaware of the occurrence) and therefore involve no violence other than damage to property in some cases. The figures contained in **table 1** indicate that property-related crime accounted for **25,8%** of all reported serious crime during 2010/2011. The percentage decreases/increases of the crime ratios between 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 are ordered from the most significant decrease to the least in **table 11**. The figures are also compared to the corresponding decreases/increases recorded between 2008/2009 and 2009/2010. From the table it is evident that four of the five trends of property-related crime reflected noteworthy decreases (ranging from a remarkable **-11,3%** in the case of theft of motor vehicles to a still significant **-4,8%** in that of burglary at residential premises). Three of these trends, namely burglaries at both residential and non-residential premises and stock-theft, had still increased during 2009/2010. Although theft of motor vehicles and motorcycles had already decreased during the latter period, the decrease almost doubled during 2010/2011. Only theft out of or from motor vehicle increased marginally during the current reporting period, after also increasing by a significant **8,9%** during 2009/2010.

The improved economic situation during 2010/2011, following upon two years of recession and the high levels of police visibility referred to earlier, probably go a long way to explain the significant decreases in property-related crime.

Table 11: A comparison of the decreases and increases in the ratios of recorded property-related crime between 2009/2010 and 2010/2011

Crime category	Financial year 2009/2010	Financial year 2010/2011
Theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle	-6,7%	-11,3%
Stock-theft	6,5%	-8,2%
Burglary at non-residential premises	1,2%	-5,0%
Burglary at residential premises	2,7%	-4,8%
Theft out of or from motor vehicle	8,9%	0,4%

The **-5,0%** decrease in the ratio of burglary at non-residential premises (mainly businesses and specifically small to medium-sized businesses) during 2010/2011 was a first decrease in five years. This crime increased by **6,3%**, **6,8%**, **9,2%** and **1,2%** during 2006/2007, 2007/2008, 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 respectively. Previous analysis indicated that burglary at business (non-residential) premises is more likely to be of an organized nature (e.g. to systematically steal computer equipment) than a crime of need. The same applies to theft of motor vehicles, which decreased systematically by an overall figure of **-26,8%** since 2003/2004 (from 88 144 cases in 2003/2004 to 64 504 cases in 2010/2011).

Research done by Business Against Crime (BAC) as well as international studies indicated that the more motor vehicles are stolen, the more the targets are hardened by installing additional and increasingly sophisticated security or anti-theft devices and systems. At first only associated with the more expensive and luxurious models, the technology has since also become a feature of the less expensive models. Short-term insurance companies also played a role in this development by constantly increasing the security requirements pertaining to less expensive models. (Tracking devices were e.g. a few years ago only compulsory in vehicles costing R300 000-00 or more. Within two-three years this amount was lowered to R200 000-00). The result is that the latest vehicles cannot easily be stolen anymore and now have to be hijacked by criminals. Not surprisingly, this contributed to a decrease in motor vehicle theft and an increase in hijackings.

The single largest decrease among the four property-related crimes during 2010/2011 was that in the occurrence of stock-theft. In effect, stock-theft decreased from a **6,5%** increase during 2009/2010 to a **-8,2%** decrease in 2010/2011, which effectively translates into a **-14,7%** decrease. Furthermore, neither the high police visibility during the Confederation Cup and the World Cup nor the sustained visibility since the World Cup will have had much influence on stock-theft - which mainly occurs on farms (**50,0%**) and communal land (**17,5%**) and much less frequently in residential areas (**11,6%** in formal residential and **9,7%** in informal residential areas).

Analysis by Crime Research and Statistics at Crime Intelligence indicates that stock-theft occurs under many different circumstances and with divergent motives. It seems as if so-called "pot slaughtering", involving the theft of a single (usually smaller) animal such as a sheep or goat for consumption by the perpetrators and/or their kin, with the skin and entrails left at the scene of crime, still accounts for the single largest proportion of stock-theft (at least a third of cases). This is in all probability the proportion of stock-theft also accounting for the largest increases during the economically difficult years of 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 and the subsequent decrease during 2010/2011.

Although the research indicates that in less than **1,0%** of the dockets analysed the thefts had occurred from land bordering on a foreign country and/or involved animals recovered from a foreign country, the redeployment of the SANDF along the international borders may also contribute to the reduction of stock-theft.

Since 2009/2010 stock-theft has again become a priority of the SAPS, particularly because of the importance of stock-farming to the maintainance of food security and its prominent role among the emerging black farmers. In traditional communal areas, stock (particularly cattle) are not only important

in a commercial sense. Theft of cattle could not only destroy the livelihood of the farmers or owners, but deeply affect their traditions and culture (particularly with regard to the customs associated with important events such as death and marriage).

2.4 Other Serious Crime

Other serious crime, which accounted for **25,8%** of South Africa's total serious crime during the reporting period, includes all theft not mentioned elsewhere, commercial crime and shoplifting.

All theft not mentioned elsewhere (also called "other theft") basically refers to all theft excluding theft of motor vehicles and motorcycles, theft out of or from motor vehicles, housebreaking at both residential and non-residential premises and stock-theft (i.e. the felonies classified as property-related crime). With **368 095** registered cases during 2010/2011, this is the single largest category of crime, accounting for **17,8%** of the combined figure for the 20 categories of serious crime featuring in **table 1**.

Although marginally decreasing by **-1,2%** during the current reporting period (2010/2011 financial year), this has to be considered against the background of quite significant decreases in other theft over the preceding years (2007/2008, 2008/2009 and 2009/2010). It seems as if theft of particularly computers or laptop computers, cellular telephones and non-ferrous metals accounts for considerable upward pressure as far as this category of crime is concerned. The items stolen during other thefts include anything not covered by the definitions of property-related crimes, but the crime mainly involves stealing of smaller items ranging from an engagement ring to a nearly worthless piece of hosepipe. Such items in most cases are easy to carry, can sometimes be used by the thieves themselves and are easy to hide or sell. If other theft is not committed in an organized fashion, the proceeds thus generated provide some people with the little money or few commodities they need to survive from day-to-day⁴. This notwithstanding, the impact of other theft (of even seemingly insignificant items) on individuals and society is sometimes severe. This is all the more the case if infrastructure is damaged in the process. In such cases other theft may assume the proportions of sabotage and result in other crimes of a most extreme nature.

Table 12: A comparison of the decreases and increases in the ratios of recorded other serious crime between 2009/2010 and 2010/2011

Crime category	Financial year 2009/2010	Financial year 2010/2011
Shoplifting	8,3%	-12,7%
All theft not mentioned elsewhere	-8,0%	-1,2%
Commercial crime	8,1%	2,8%

The significant decrease of **-12,7%** in shoplifting during 2010/2011, following upon alarming increases of **18,5%** in 2008/2009 and **8,3%** in 2009/2010, is a clear indication that South Africa has made progress in surmounting the recession period. However, commercial crime, with a **2,8%** increase, is continuing to experience a steady (and significant) upward trend noted since 2005/2006. This is illustrated below:

Table 13: The steady increase in commercial crime

2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011
12,6%	4,8%	16,6%	8,1%	2,8%

The above table reflects an overall increase of **52,9%** in commercial crime over a period of five years. This constant increase can in all probability be ascribed to a combination of the following factors:

⁴ A more comprehensive and detailed discussion of the items stolen during other thefts appeared in the *SAPS Annual Report for 2007/2008*.

The increasing role of computerization and electronic communication in commercial activity; the globalization of commercial crime; the influx of foreign visitors to South Africa (particularly during 2008/2009 and 2009/2010); and the fact that conventional policing (for example police visibility) will not have an influence on so-called cybercrime.

2.5 Crime Detected as a Result of Police Action

The crimes fitting this category are the following:

- ▶ Illegal possession of firearms.
- ▶ Drug-related crimes (these cover both the use, possession of and dealing in drugs).
- ▶ Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

The above crimes are usually not reported to the police by members of the public. These crimes come to attention primarily as a result of police activities such as roadblocks, searches and intelligence collection. An increase in these crimes may actually indicate that the police are more active, whereas a decrease may indicate reduced police activity. Other explanations may also exist for decreases and increases observed in relation to these crimes. Decreases may e.g. result from a change in strategy among gunrunners and drug peddlers (e.g. to avoid roadblocks), a real decrease in these phenomena, or the impact of previous actions such as “arrive alive” campaigns on people’s drinking and driving behaviour. Crimes heavily dependent on police action for detection are also indicators of the availability or presence of some of the generators of crime (particularly socially-motivated contact crimes). However, an increase in illegal possession of firearms and drug-related crime cases might not necessarily indicate an increase in the volumes of illegal firearms or drugs available in society. Similarly, a decrease does not necessarily indicate shrinking quantities of such firearms and drugs.

Table 14: A comparison of the decreases and increases in the recorded ratios of crime detected as a result of police action between 2009/2010 and 2010/2011

Crime category	Financial year 2009/2010	Financial year 2010/2011
Illegal possession of firearms and ammunition	2,4%	-2,0%
Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs	10,6%	4,5%
Drug-related crime	13,6%	10,2%

In the case of crimes detected as a result of police action, an increase is considered as positive. The increases of **10,2%** and **4,5%** in drug-related crime and driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs respectively should therefore be seen as a welcome development. Since 2003/2004 drug-related crime increased by **123,0%** and driving under the influence by **148,4%**. A serious question arising from the increase in drug-related crime is whether this should mainly be attributed to increasingly effective intelligence-led policing or also points to a major increase in the availability of drugs in South Africa.

3. The Provincial Crime Situation

The provincial serious crime ratios for the 20 serious crimes under consideration during the 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 financial years, as well as the percentage decreases and increases calculated on the basis of these ratios, are reflected in **table 15**. This table and the crime figures in **tables 16 - 24** as well as on the South African Police Service website (www.saps.gov.za) are self-explanatory. Only a few comments are therefore made in this section on increases and decreases in the provincial incidence of crime. The focus is on the most serious contact crimes and some subtrends of aggravated robbery.

Table 15: Fluctuations in the ratios of serious crime trends between the 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 financial years per province

Crime category	Eastern Cape			Free State			Gauteng		
	2009/2010	2010/2011	% Increase/decrease 10/11 vs 09/10	2009/2010	2010/2011	% Increase/decrease 10/11 vs 09/10	2009/2010	2010/2011	% Increase/decrease 10/11 vs 09/10
Contact Crime (Crimes Against the Person)									
Murder	48.4	47.3	-2,3%	31.4	34.1	8,6%	32.7	29.1	-11,0%
Total sexual offences	136.1	139.1	2,2%	157.8	171.3	8,6%	148.6	125.0	-15,9%
Attempted murder	29.2	25.5	-12,7%	29.1	27.3	-6,2%	45.6	36.7	-19,5%
Assault with the intent to inflict grievous bodily harm	485.0	456.8	-5,8%	542.5	546.6	0,8%	466.1	416.4	-10,7%
Common assault	260.4	246.0	-5,5%	655.2	634.9	-3,1%	559.8	486.8	-13,0%
Robbery with aggravating circumstances	145.5	154.9	6,5%	171.2	171.8	0,4%	449.0	357.9	-20,3%
Common robbery	81.1	82.5	1,7%	102.5	99.0	-3,4%	190.9	162.7	-14,8%
Contact-related Crime									
Arson	16.9	16.5	-2,4%	13.8	13.2	-4,3%	15.2	14.5	-4,6%
Malicious damage to property	198.1	199.5	0,7%	315.5	310.8	-1,5%	419.2	366.5	-12,6%
Property-related Crime									
Burglary at residential premises	426.9	404.1	-5,3%	545.2	528.5	-3,1%	711.2	632.6	-11,1%
Burglary at non-residential premises	96.9	96.6	0,0%	179.1	180.9	1,0%	170.0	149.7	-11,9%
Theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle	64.1	59.0	-8,0%	83.7	78.5	-6,2%	345.0	288.4	-16,4%
Theft out of or from motor vehicle	154.9	164.8	6,4%	167.3	155.9	-6,8%	371.6	334.6	-10,0%
Stock-theft	114.1	111.2	-2,5%	173.4	164.7	-5,0%	8.4	6.4	-23,8%
Crime Detected as a Result of Police Action									
Illegal possession of firearms and ammunition	21.4	21.7	1,4%	11.4	11.9	4,4%	39.1	32.7	-16,4%
Drug-related crime	134.6	141.8	5,3%	176.1	149.0	-15,4%	139.3	147.0	5,1%
Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs	165.3	122.2	-26,1%	57.0	56.0	-1,8%	141.6	191.4	35,2%
Other Serious Crime									
All theft not mentioned elsewhere	434.9	456.4	4,9%	752.6	707.5	-6,0%	1 113.1	1 041.1	-6,5%
Commercial crime	117.2	123.7	5,5%	120.5	167.5	39,0%	323.7	310.6	-4,0%
Shoplifting	120.2	105.3	-12,4%	123.9	116.3	-6,1%	263.6	221.3	-16,0%

3.1 Social Contact Crime

Table 16: Murder ratios sorted from highest decreases to highest increases between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011

Province	2009/2010	2010/2011	Increase/Decrease
RSA	34.1	31.9	-6,5%
Mpumalanga	24.3	20.0	-17,7%
Limpopo	14.6	12.2	-16,4%
KwaZulu-Natal	40.4	35.2	-12,9%
Gauteng	32.7	29.1	-11,0%
Northern Cape	33.2	31.0	-6,6%
Eastern Cape	48.4	47.3	-2,3%
Western Cape	42.4	44.2	4,2%
North West	21.5	23.2	7,9%
Free State	31.4	34.1	8,6%

From **table 16** it is evident that the highest ratio of reported murder during 2010/2011 was recorded in the Eastern Cape, followed by the Western Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and the Free State. Mpumalanga, Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng exceeded the **-8,5%** reduction target. The Northern Cape (with a **-6,6%** reduction) and the Eastern Cape (with a **-2,3%** reduction) did not achieve the **-8,5%** reduction target, while the Western Cape, North West and Free State experienced increases in murder of **4,2%**; **7,9%** and **8,6%** respectively.

Table 17: Ratios of all sexual offences⁵ from highest decreases to highest increases between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011

Province	2009/2010	2010/2011	Increase/Decrease
RSA	138.5	132.4	-4,4%
Gauteng	148.6	125.0	-15,9%
KwaZulu-Natal	127.0	120.2	-5,4%
Limpopo	93.8	89.8	-4,3%
Mpumalanga	127.6	122.8	-3,8%
Western Cape	180.7	178.0	-1,5%
Eastern Cape	136.1	139.1	2,2%
Northern Cape	160.8	169.2	5,2%
North West	137.9	147.0	6,6%
Free State	157.8	171.3	8,6%

The highest incidence of all reported sexual offences was recorded in the Western Cape, followed by the Free State and Northern Cape, while Limpopo featured at the bottom of the list. Five of the nine provinces recorded decreases in sexual offences, while four experienced increases. Only one of the five provinces which experienced decreases, namely Gauteng, also met the reduction target with a significant decrease of **-15,9%**. The increases in sexual offences of **8,6%** in the Free State, **6,6%** in North West and **5,2%** in the Northern Cape are cause for concern.

⁵ See elucidation in **section 2.1.1.3**.

Table 18: Attempted murder ratios sorted from highest decreases to highest increase between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011

Province	2009/2010	2010/2011	% Increase/Decrease
RSA	35.3	31.0	-12,2%
Mpumalanga	34.0	22.7	-33,2%
Gauteng	45.6	36.7	-19,5%
KwaZulu-Natal	44.2	36.8	-16,7%
Limpopo	13.9	12.0	-13,7%
Eastern Cape	29.2	25.5	-12,7%
North West	24.3	22.0	-9,5%
Free State	29.1	27.3	-6,2%
Northern Cape	62.0	58.8	-5,2%
Western Cape	31.9	41.4	29,8%

The highest incidence of attempted murder during 2010/2011 was recorded in the Northern Cape, followed by the Western Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng. According to the figures in **table 18**, all the provinces except the Western Cape recorded decreasing trends in the incidence of attempted murder during 2010/2011. Most met the **-8,5%** reduction target as well. The reductions in the Northern Cape and Free State did not meet the target, while the **29,8%** increase in the Western Cape (the only increase recorded) is of grave concern.

The highest ratio of assault with the intent to inflict grievous bodily harm (twice the national ratio) was recorded in the Northern Cape. With the exception of Limpopo and KwaZulu-Natal, where the recorded ratios were less than 300, the levels of assault GBH in the other provinces except the Free State did not deviate that much from the national average. While six of the provinces experienced decreases in the incidence of assault GBH, only the substantial decreases of **-10,7%** in Gauteng and **-9,3%** in Mpumalanga met the contact crime reduction target of **-8,5%**.

Table 19: Assault with the intent to inflict grievous bodily harm ratios sorted from highest decreases to highest increases between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011

Province	2009/2010	2010/2011	% Increase/Decrease
RSA	416.2	397.3	-4,5%
Gauteng	466.1	416.4	-10,7%
Mpumalanga	439.8	399.0	-9,3%
Limpopo	254.8	237.8	-6,7%
Eastern Cape	485.0	456.8	-5,8%
KwaZulu-Natal	295.6	287.3	-2,8%
Northern Cape	830.7	815.5	-1,8%
Free State	542.5	546.6	0,8%
North West	421.9	439.9	4,3%
Western Cape	449.2	473.3	5,4%

Table 20: Common assault ratios sorted from highest to lowest decreases between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011

Province	2009/2010	2010/2011	% Increase/Decrease
RSA	400.0	371.8	-7,1%
Gauteng	559.8	486.8	-13,0%
Limpopo	171.0	149.3	-12,7%
Mpumalanga	310.6	285.8	-8,0%
North West	257.7	243.2	-5,6%
Eastern Cape	260.4	246.0	-5,5%
Northern Cape	485.7	461.9	-4,9%
KwaZulu-Natal	315.6	303.1	-4,0%
Free State	655.2	634.9	-3,1%
Western Cape	642.3	637.0	-0,8%

The highest incidence of common assault was recorded in the Western Cape, followed by the Free State and Gauteng. The lowest level of common assault was recorded in Limpopo, as was the case with regard to the other categories of social contact crime (see **table 15**). All of the provinces recorded decreases in the incidence of common assault. Only Gauteng and Limpopo met the contact crime reduction target of **-8,5%**.

3.2 Aggravated Robbery and its Subtrends

Table 21: Robbery with aggravating circumstances ratios sorted from highest decreases to highest increases between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011

Province	2009/2010	2010/2011	% Increase/Decrease
RSA	230.6	203.0	-12,0%
Gauteng	449.0	357.9	-20,3%
KwaZulu-Natal	222.4	183.9	-17,3%
Mpumalanga	183.3	153.4	-16,3%
Northern Cape	90.4	80.7	-10,7%
Limpopo	56.8	50.8	-10,6%
Western Cape	234.1	234.5	0,2%
Free State	171.2	171.8	0,4%
North West	157.1	158.7	1,0%
Eastern Cape	145.5	154.9	6,5%

From **table 21** it is evident that the highest incidence of aggravated robbery (at a ratio nearly twice the national average) was recorded in Gauteng, the economical and financial hub of South Africa. The Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal recorded the second and third-highest ratios, but did not deviate that much from the national average. Five of the provinces recorded decreases in aggravated robbery. The Western Cape, Free State and North West recorded marginal increases and the Eastern Cape a **6,5%** increase. Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga with decreases of **-20,3%**, **-17,3%** and **-16,3%** respectively exceeded the reduction target by far. The Northern Cape and Limpopo also exceeded the target, but by smaller margins. Since most aggravated robberies occur in Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal, the significant reductions recorded there are a most positive development.

The figures in **table 22** indicate that **80,5%** of all reported carjackings occurred in Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal, with **55,9%** and **24,6%** of the reported cases respectively. All the provinces (except the Northern Cape with a single case more) experienced decreases in carjacking. The decreases fluctuated between **-39,8%** in Mpumalanga and **-13,0%** in the Eastern Cape.

Table 22: Carjacking sorted from highest to lowest decreases between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011*

Province	2009/2010	2010/2011	Case difference	% Increase or decrease
RSA	13 902	10 627	-3 275	-23,6%
Mpumalanga	709	427	-282	-39,8%
KwaZulu-Natal	3 715	2 619	-1 096	-29,5%
Limpopo	251	177	-74	-29,5%
Free State	316	234	-82	-25,9%
Western Cape	575	457	-118	-20,5%
Gauteng	7 444	5 936	-1 508	-20,3%
North West	273	236	-37	-13,6%
Eastern Cape	606	527	-79	-13,0%
Northern Cape	13	14	1	- **

* Raw figures

** The low numerical values involved in the Northern Cape make this calculation meaningless.

Table 23: Robbery at residential premises sorted from the highest decreases to the highest increases between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011*

Province	2009/2010	2010/2011	Case difference	% Increase or decrease
RSA	18 786	16 889	-1 897	-10,1%
Mpumalanga	1 300	1 045	-255	-19,6%
KwaZulu-Natal	4 580	3 998	-582	-12,7%
Gauteng	8 051	7 039	-1 012	-12,6%
Limpopo	584	530	-54	-9,2%
North West	899	828	-71	-7,9%
Eastern Cape	1 606	1 556	-50	-3,1%
Western Cape	1 167	1 215	48	4,1%
Free State	535	637	102	19,1%
Northern Cape	64	41	-23	-**

* Raw figures

** The low numerical values involved in the Northern Cape make this calculation meaningless.

Most of the robberies at residential premises recorded during 2009/2010 were reported in Gauteng (**41,7%**) and KwaZulu-Natal (**23,7%**). A further **9,2%** and **7,2%** of cases were reported in the Eastern Cape and the Western Cape respectively. Most of the provinces experienced decreases, except the Free State with a **19,1%** increase and the Western Cape with a **4,1%** increase.

The trends pertaining to robbery at non-residential premises (mostly businesses) are very similar to those observed with regard to robbery at residential premises. Most of the cases were reported in

Gauteng (**37,9%**) and KwaZulu-Natal (**13,2%**). A further **11,3%** and **8,9%** were reported in the Eastern Cape and the Western Cape respectively. Only Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal experienced decreases in robbery at non-residential premises of **-12,9%** and **-6,0%** respectively. All the other provinces experienced increases. The Eastern Cape with a **30,2%**, Western Cape with a **23,7%** and Limpopo with a **20,0%** increase are a particular cause for concern.

Table 24: Robbery at non-residential premises ranked from the highest decreases to the highest increases between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011*

Province	2009/2010	2010/2011	Case difference	% Increase or decrease
RSA	14 534	14 667	133	0,9%
Gauteng	6 379	5 553	-826	-12,9%
KwaZulu-Natal	2 066	1 943	-123	-6,0%
North West	1 130	1 162	32	2,8%
Northern Cape	147	157	10	6,8%
Mpumalanga	978	1 105	127	13,0%
Free State	873	1 024	151	17,3%
Limpopo	630	756	126	20,0%
Western Cape	1 058	1 309	251	23,7%
Eastern Cape	1 273	1 658	385	30,2%

* Raw figures