



POLICE

FEBRUARY 2025

YOUR OFFICIAL FREE SAPS MAGAZINE

Special Issue

RELEASE OF CRIME STATISTICS

3rd Quarter of 2024/2025



ON A JOURNEY TO A SAFER SOUTH AFRICA



POLICE

The POLICE magazine is published by the Publications and Broadcast Section of Corporate Communication.

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A BRIEF OVERVIEW ON CRIME STATS FOR QUARTER 3 - OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2024



Component Head: SAPS Crime Registrar:
Major General Thulare Sekhukhune

A total of 411 600 counts of serious and violent crimes in the third quarter of 2024/2025 financial year was recorded by the South African Police Service (SAPS). These counts are categorised into two groups, the 17 community-related reported serious crimes and crimes detected as a result of police action. Whilst observing

the previous pattern versus the current trend, it indicates that it has not been business as usual for the men and women in blue and the numbers are proving it. In the quarter under review, serious crimes decreased by 5.0% which translates to 21 588 counts compared to the third quarter of 2023/2024 financial year.

Most of these reductions stem from heightened police visibility, full steam operations which intensified suspect raiding, stop and searches as well as thorough detective work which led to convictions and removal of hardened criminals from the streets of South Africa. The well-coordinated National Safer Festive Operations launch in Mamelodi in the Tshwane District in October last year, gave a clear direction, stabilising the identified top 30 high contact and violent crime stations. This was done through high visibility and combat approach, and the positive results are beginning to show.

The decrease in 17 community-reported was backed by the reduction in the broad categories, Contact crime (1,6% or 3 081 counts less), Property related crime (13,5% or 12 863 counts less) and other serious crime was the only broad category that recorded an increase in the period under review, having increased by 1,0% or 302 counts. The increase in the Contact-related was a result of the increase in malicious damage to property crimes that increased by 1,3% or 391 counts. Habitually, malicious damage to property crimes are committed alongside other crimes such as assault with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm commonly as GBH or common assault as well as and attempted murder to a certain extent.

In Contact crime, in the year under review - five of the seven individual crimes making the broad category of contact crimes recorded an impressive drop in murder, sexual offences, attempted murder, common robbery, and robbery with aggravating circumstances. Assault GBH (1,5% or 824 counts) and Common assault (6,6% or 3 521 counts) were the only two crimes in the broad category of contact crimes to have recorded increases,

Republic of South Africa

Crime situation

CRIME CATEGORY	October 2020 to December 2020	October 2021 to December 2021	October 2022 to December 2022	October 2023 to December 2023	October 2024 to December 2024	Count Diff	(%) Change
CONTACT CRIMES (CRIMES AGAINST THE PERSON)							
Murder	6 297	6 859	7 555	7 710	6 953	-757	-9,8%
Sexual offences	15 595	14 188	15 545	15 284	14 973	-311	-2,0%
Attempted murder	5 452	5 645	7 016	7 927	7 666	-261	-3,3%
Assault with the intent to inflict grievous bodily harm	50 124	46 513	50 582	53 513	54 337	824	1,5%
Common assault	47 875	47 081	52 741	52 965	56 486	3 521	6,6%
Common robbery	11 822	10 524	12 752	13 243	12 447	-796	-6,0%
Robbery with aggravating circumstances	34 599	34 143	37 829	40 331	35 030	-5 301	-13,1%
Contact crime (Crimes against the person)	171 764	164 953	184 020	190 973	187 892	-3 081	-1,6%
SEXUAL OFFENCES - BREAKDOWN							
Rape	12 218	11 315	12 419	12 211	11 803	-408	-3,3%
Sexual assault	2 390	2 069	2 154	2 114	2 188	74	3,5%
Attempted sexual offences	625	524	763	773	748	-25	-3,2%
Contact sexual offences	362	280	209	186	234	48	25,8%
SOME SUBCATEGORIES OF AGGRAVATED ROBBERY							
Carjacking	4 794	5 455	5 608	5 973	4 807	-1 166	-19,5%
Robbery at residential premises	5 781	5 760	6 256	6 360	6 259	-101	-1,6%
Robbery at non-residential premises	5 052	5 138	4 983	4 825	3 796	-1 029	-21,3%
TRIO Crime	15 627	16 353	16 847	17 158	14 862	-2 296	-13,4%
Robbery of cash in transit	65	60	57	46	29	-17	17 counts lower
Bank robbery	0	6	1	2	2	0	0 count diff
Truck hijacking	436	448	492	480	413	-67	-14,0%

The SAPS remains eternally grateful for the collaborations and remains resolute in creating safer communities and increased business confidence. This quarter's crime statistics proves that working together is much more beneficial to the people of South Africa. A lot can be done through timeous feedback and transparent engagements.

Robust community collaborations, including Community Policing Forum, private securities, business forum, and civil organisations are also proving to yield positive results. The community Imbizos and engagements also plays an important role where community members are encouraged to brighten their corners and blow the whistle where crime rears its ugly head.

PATTERNS LEADING TO MURDERS IN SA

During the period under review, murder decreased by 9,8 % translating to 757 counts compared to the 2023/2024 financial year. This decrease marks the highest ever decrease in the past five years across all the quarters.

There is revelation through analysis that over half of the recorded murders were committed in public places such as streets, recreational centres, parks, beaches, parking areas and open fields. This means that about 3 821 people lost their lives at these public places in this quarter.

According to the analysis, the causes of these unfortunate murders come from arguments, misunderstandings, road rage and provocations. Nationally 1453 counts were registered across all provinces and it has been confirmed that in 320 incidents, drugs and alcohol were used prior to the commission of these offences. While 20 victims who lost their lives were killed intervening in domestic arguments or otherwise.

The findings further revealed that most of the arguments that ended in murders are between people who know each other or related in some way, which clearly indicate the inherent social factor in the South African crime situations. It is unfortunate that the analysis suggests to a certain degree that the people of this country are a

danger to themselves. Therefore a lot has to be done to redirect the moral compass to ensure a longer life span for the citizenry.

The statistics further indicate that robberies (405 counts) were the second most prevalent causative factor for murder, while vigilantism which is commonly known mob justice occupied the third spot with 389 counts.

Vigilantism and mob justice in the provinces such as the Eastern Cape, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga and North West surpassed murders attributed to robberies, while gang related violence was the most common causative factor for murder in the Western Cape totalling 263 murders.

Alcohol also played a part in crime such as murder, where people are impatient with each other leading to arguments, road rage, provocations and misunderstandings. The analysis report further reveals that days after public holiday celebrations registered a high number of murder cases opened than the actual day of the public holiday. This is a result of incidents committed on the early hours of the holiday or early hours of the following day.

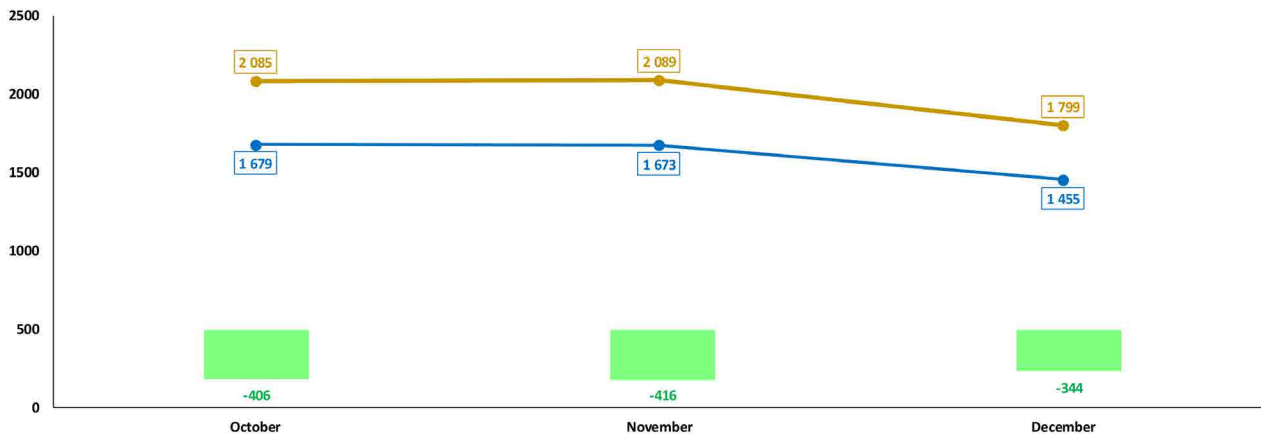
Amongst the days that generated a high number of murders is the Day of Goodwill (26 December) and New Year's Day tops the list, particularly in the early hours. That is where people becomes short tempered and impatient with each other, thanks to the high intake of alcohol which leads to unfortunate cases of murder.

RAPE OFFENCES DROP BY 3,3%

The quarter saw a drop of 408 counts which is a 3,3% reduction of rape cases in the country. A further analysis completed on a sample of 9 057 counts of rape recorded, revealed that 63,1% or 5 711 counts took place within the residential premises of the perpetrator or that of the victim or those either known by the victim or perpetrator such as family, friend or neighbour's place.

Carjacking

Trend over three-month period



	Eastern Cape	Free State	Gauteng	KwaZulu-Natal	Limpopo	Mpumalanga	North West	Northern Cape	Western Cape	Republic Of South Africa
October 2023 to December 2023	510	85	3 010	834	156	349	162	11	856	5 973
October 2024 to December 2024	414	35	2 567	599	93	263	133	9	694	4 807
Count diff	-96	-50	-443	-235	-63	-86	-29	-2	-162	-1 166
(%) Change	-18,8%	50 counts lower	-14,7%	-28,2%	63 counts lower	-24,6%	-17,9%	2 counts lower	-18,9%	-19,5%
% contribution to RSA	8,6%	0,7%	53,4%	12,5%	1,9%	5,5%	2,8%	0,2%	14,4%	

The second largest portion of the analysed rape cases which makes 21,0% or 1 898 counts, took place in public places such as the streets, open fields, recreational centres or parking areas.

About 100 counts of these rape offences were committed at liquor outlets such as taverns, night clubs and shebeens. While educational facilities such as universities, colleges and schools takes a portion of 99 counts where this crime has reared its ugly head.

Although there is a decrease in rape offences but some perpetrators continued to perpetuate their infamous attitude even at prisons, holding cells and deportation centres. They continued breaking the law through the commission of rape offences to other prisoners and thus contributing 35 counts of rape recorded in the period under review.

PROPERTY RELATED AND POLICE DETECTED CRIME ON THE DECREASE

Property related crimes also decreased by 13,5% during October to December 2024, which means 12 863 counts less compared to the previous statistics. These include burglary at non-residential premises, burglary at residential premises, theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle, theft out of or theft from as well as stock theft. All these sub-categories experienced a drop all round.

Other serious crimes recorded 5 946 count lower compared to the last quarter with a 5,1% drop. More boots on the ground through

patrolling and stop and searches are also yielding positive results. Crimes detected as a result of police action showing a decrease of 12,8% with a little knock of an increase of 0,3% on illegal possession of firearms and ammunition. Generally yielding positive results on drug related crimes, driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs and sexual offences detected as a result of police action.

SIGNIFICANT DECREASE IN CARJACKING

A crime of forcefully stealing a car from its driver, using violence and threats widely known as carjacking has also dropped in this period of October to December 2024 by a massive 19,5% compared to the previous term. All the nine provinces worked impressively well to prevent the scourge of carjacking from Limpopo down to the Western Cape.

This is good music to the ears for motorists, knowing that their sweat and blood will not go to waste as prevention through heightened visibility is guaranteed in all the provinces of the country. The Limpopo province dropped by a staggering 63%, followed by the Free State with 50 counts lower, while KwaZulu-Natal occupied third spot with 28,2% followed by Mpumalanga province at 24,6% drop.

The Western Cape decreased by 18,9% and breathing on its neck is the Eastern Cape at 18,8%, while North West is standing at 17,9% followed by Gauteng with 14,7% drop and at tail end is the Northern Cape with counts lower than the previous period.

17 community-reported serious crimes

TOP 30 stations

RSA Position	Prov Position	Station	District	Province	October 2020 to December 2020	October 2021 to December 2021	October 2022 to December 2022	October 2023 to December 2023	October 2024 to December 2024	Count Diff	(%) Change
1	1	Cape Town Central	City of Cape Town District	Western Cape	1 790	2 289	3 088	3 769	3 207	-562	-14,9%
2	1	Durban Central	eThekweni District	KwaZulu-Natal	1 947	1 946	2 306	2 511	2 185	-326	-13,0%
3	2	Mitchells Plain	City of Cape Town District	Western Cape	1 918	1 804	2 359	2 171	1 948	-223	-10,3%
4	2	Chatsworth	eThekweni District	KwaZulu-Natal	1 214	1 251	1 428	1 768	1 926	158	8,9%
5	3	Mfuleni	City of Cape Town District	Western Cape	1 656	1 625	1 973	2 039	1 892	-147	-7,2%
6	1	Roodepoort	Johannesburg District	Gauteng	1 295	1 440	1 623	2 102	1 879	-223	-10,6%
7	4	Delft	City of Cape Town District	Western Cape	1 714	1 646	1 685	1 748	1 842	94	5,4%
8	1	Park Road	Mangaung District	Free State	2 136	1 897	2 068	1 811	1 824	13	0,7%
9	2	JHB Central	Johannesburg District	Gauteng	2 067	2 101	2 339	2 069	1 799	-270	-13,0%
10	3	Phoenix	eThekweni District	KwaZulu-Natal	1 411	1 867	1 734	1 903	1 771	-132	-6,9%
11	3	Tembisa	Ekurhuleni District	Gauteng	1 714	1 530	1 758	1 681	1 737	56	3,3%
12	1	Rustenburg	Bojanala District	North West	1 681	1 820	1 975	1 932	1 725	-207	-10,7%
13	5	Kraaifontein	City of Cape Town District	Western Cape	1 777	1 518	1 728	1 858	1 714	-144	-7,8%
14	4	Temba	Tshwane District	Gauteng	1 755	1 722	1 812	1 726	1 699	-27	-1,6%
15	5	Honeydew	Johannesburg District	Gauteng	2 381	2 173	1 781	1 822	1 695	-127	-7,0%
16	4	Inanda	eThekweni District	KwaZulu-Natal	1 392	1 338	1 410	1 487	1 652	165	11,1%
17	1	Thohoyandou	Vhembe District	Limpopo	1 089	1 145	1 662	1 542	1 638	96	6,2%
18	5	Plessislaer	Umgungundlovu District	KwaZulu-Natal	1 717	1 578	1 501	1 713	1 635	-78	-4,6%
19	6	Pinetown	eThekweni District	KwaZulu-Natal	1 656	1 423	1 650	1 629	1 632	3	0,2%
20	7	Empangeni	King Cetshwayo District	KwaZulu-Natal	1 595	1 424	1 571	1 632	1 632	0	0,0%
21	6	Midrand	Johannesburg District	Gauteng	1 589	1 467	1 770	1 982	1 620	-362	-18,3%
22	7	Akasia	Tshwane District	Gauteng	1 536	1 528	1 474	1 623	1 599	-24	-1,5%
23	2	Polokwane	Capricorn District	Limpopo	1 285	1 150	1 430	1 663	1 582	-81	-4,9%
24	8	Sandton	Johannesburg District	Gauteng	1 294	1 356	1 317	1 702	1 578	-124	-7,3%
25	3	Mankweng	Capricorn District	Limpopo	1 325	1 133	1 441	1 545	1 555	10	0,6%
26	8	Verulam	eThekweni District	KwaZulu-Natal	954	1 155	1 154	1 427	1 535	108	7,6%
27	9	Ivory Park	Ekurhuleni District	Gauteng	1 560	1 332	1 599	1 545	1 535	-10	-0,6%
28	9	Kwadukuzi	Ilembe District	KwaZulu-Natal	1 486	1 559	1 606	1 597	1 520	-77	-4,8%
29	6	Stellenbosch	Cape Winelands District	Western Cape	1 339	1 419	1 678	1 742	1 498	-244	-14,0%
30	4	Seshego	Capricorn District	Limpopo	1 240	1 091	1 303	1 548	1 473	-75	-4,8%

DECREASE IN SEVERAL CATEGORIES OF CRIME

The crime statistics in Quarter 3, for the October to December 2024 period have indicated a decrease in several categories of crime. This was revealed by the Minister of Police, Mr Senzo Mchunu at a media briefing at Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in Pretoria.

Minister Mchunu highlighted that there is a significant shift in the national crime landscape and it is encouraging and refreshing due to downward pattern of the crime across the country. "We have observed an overall decrease in several categories of crime, when compared to the same period in the previous year (01 October 2023 to 31 December 2023)," Minister expressed.

Putting the safety and security of over 50 million inhabitants remains at the centre of the South African Police Service' mandate. These sentiments resonates with the presentation of the crime statistics.

Section 12 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, guarantees every person the right to freedom and security; this includes the right to be free from all forms of violence, whether from public or private sources. To this effect, Section 205 of the Constitution mandates the South African Police Service to prevent, combat, and investigate crime, maintain public order, protect and secure the inhabitants of our nation and their property, and to uphold and enforce the law.

According to the Minister, the police recorded a decrease of 9.8% in murder cases, a 3,3% drop in rape cases while attempted sexual offences was reduced by 3,2%. There was a notable decline in carjackings and robberies at both residential and non-residential premises. Minister Mchunu also stated that there was a relief to farmers in the reduction of stock theft.

"We have also registered a 4,5% reduction in stock theft which is a welcome relief for farmers, communities and the agricultural sector as a whole," he said. He attributed this positive results to the collaboration amongst the law enforcement, local and communities in general.

Minister Mchunu hailed praises at all provinces for the decrease in murder cases which he dubbed "a significant milestone" in the national crime reduction efforts. He hinted though that a lot more still has to be done especially in the economic hub of Gauteng and the playground of South Africa, Durban, which remains the highest contributor to overall national murder figures, accounting for 25,0% and 21,4% respectively. The Eastern Cape also is at 18,9% followed by Western Cape at 17,4% of murder case.

Minister Senzo Mchunu attributed the decrease to the strategies and interventions that were implemented by the SAPS. "Our Safer Festive Season initiative, launched in October, has played a significant role in the recorded crime reductions. Through heightened police visibility and strategic operations, fewer crimes were reported and recorded during this period," he explained.

He condemned the gang-related murders in the Western Cape, "This is completely unacceptable and it must change. A large number of these murders (collectively amounting to a figure of 135) occurred in Bishop Lavis, Mitchells Plain, Kleinvlei, Delft and Elsies River."

“ We have observed an overall decrease in several categories of crime, when compared to the same period in the previous year.”

The Minister also came down harshly on extortion and its related crimes in the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal and told those in that space that there is no one classified as untouchable. Contact crimes against women is also on a decline, however there is an increase on attempted murder on children aged 0 to 17 which the Minister described as alarming and requires a concerted effort to deal with it.

He dedicated 27 February as a day to review policing in high murder zones, focusing on murders and firearms.



Minister of Police Minister Senzo Mchunu (MP).



RELEASE OF CRIME STATISTICS

3rd Quarter of 2024/2025

AN OVERVIEW OF *SERIOUS AND VIOLENT CRIMES*

The South African Police Service recorded a total of **411 600 counts of serious and violent crimes in the third quarter** (October to December 2024).



CONTACT CRIME



***3081 counts less** compared to the previous review.

PROPERTY RELATED CRIME



***12 863 counts less** compared to the previous review.

OTHER SERIOUS CRIME



MURDER



SEXUAL OFFENCES



- RAPE **3.3%**
- ATTEMPTED SEXUAL ASSAULT **3.2%**

ROBBERY WITH AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES

2023/2024 - 2024/2025
40331 counts - 35030 counts



***5 301 counts less** compared to the previous review.

- ROBBERY AT RESIDENTIAL PREMISES **1.6%**
- ROBBERY AT NON-RESIDENTIAL PREMISES **21.3%**
- CARJACKINGS **19%**

TRIO CRIME

