

## **Crime situation in South Africa 2006/07 financial year**

### **1. Introduction**

This report deals with the national serious crime figures and ratios for the first semester of the 2007/2008 financial year (that is the period 1 April - 30 September 2007). These are compared to the figures recorded during the corresponding period of the preceding financial years since 2001. The provincial crime figures are also analysed in more detail and explanatory analysis of a number of contact crimes is provided.

### **2. The national crime situation**

An analysis of the national crime situation is facilitated by grouping the twenty-one serious crime tendencies discussed in this report into the following broad categories:

- Contact crimes (crimes against the person), which include seven high-profile subcategories of robbery with aggravating circumstances.
- Contact-related crimes.
- Property-related crimes.
- Crimes heavily dependent on police action for detection (also representing phenomena serving as generators of crime).
- Other serious crime.

#### **2.1 Contact crime**

##### **2.1.1 Targets**

Eight serious crimes are grouped together as contact crime or violent crime against the person of victims. These crimes are murder, attempted murder, rape, assault GBH (assault with the intent to inflict grievous bodily harm), common assault, indecent assault, aggravated robbery and other robbery. The crimes in question account for **32,5%** of South Africa's recorded serious crime. These crimes involve physical contact between the victims and perpetrators and such contact is usually of a violent nature. Contact crime frequently impacts on victims in one or a combination of the following ways:

- Death as an immediate or delayed result of the degree of violence employed (some deaths even occurring years after the original crime had been committed).
- Injuries of various degrees, including permanent, disabling injuries.
- Psychological trauma, which is in many cases also of a permanent nature.
- Loss of and/or damage to property, which could under certain circumstances have serious repercussions for (particularly poorer) victims.

The serious consequences of contact crime and the fact that South Africa experiences exceptionally high levels of these crimes are generally acknowledged. The Government consequently decided in January 2004 that each of the contact crimes should be reduced by **7 – 10%** per annum, starting with the 2004/2005 financial year. The present reporting period covering the first semester of the 2007/2008 financial year falls within the fourth financial year since the determination of these **7 – 10%** reduction targets. These targets were established on the basis of broad comparisons with the crime ratios recorded by other **INTERPOL** member countries during the late nineties (i.e. the figures reported by those countries which did indeed submit their statistics to **INTERPOL**) and the increasing/decreasing trends observed locally since 1994.

The very broad and rough international comparisons indicated that South Africa in the late nineties experienced unfavourable contact crime ratios compared to other

**INTERPOL** member countries and that these had to be reduced by between **7 - 10%** per annum over a ten-year period to approach acceptable levels similar to those recorded by the majority of **INTERPOL** member countries. Based on the record of crime reduction trends observed between 1994 and 2003, it was also accepted that a **7 - 10%** reduction in contact crime was a realistic target. Psychologically speaking, one should always strive towards a higher target.

### **2.1.2 Social contact crime and robberies**

*A number of the contact crimes are social or domestic in nature and occur in social environments (e.g. the privacy of residences) which are usually outside the reach of conventional policing. These crimes usually occur between people who know each other (e.g. friends, acquaintances and relatives). Docket analysis indicates that 89% of both assault GBH and common assault cases, 82% of murders and 76% of rapes covered by the sample studied, involved people known to one another. In addition, 59% of the attempted murders occurred under similar circumstances (see Annual Report of the South African Police Service for 2005/2006, p 56).*

When reference is made to socially-motivated (or social fabric-related) contact crime, this includes rape, assault (whether GBH, common or indecent), murder and attempted murder. If the figures for these crimes are added together, the result will provide an idea of the extent and distribution of socially-motivated contact crime. However, it should be noted that not all the cases of what is broadly described as socially-motivated crime (particularly not all the attempted murders and murders) are social in nature. Aggravated robbery and intra or inter-group conflict (e.g. gang fights, taxi-related violence and conflict among clans) make a noteworthy contribution to the incidence of murder and attempted murder.

Aggravated robbery is the second-largest generator of contact crimes, particularly attempted murder and murder, because victims are often killed and/or seriously injured during such robberies. The vast majority of house robberies, carjackings, business robberies, cash-in-transit (CIT) and bank robberies are committed with firearms and shots are frequently fired at victims. The latter in many cases return fire in self-defense. A number of attempted murders in particular can consequently be

generated during a single case of such robbery. The fact is that a shot or shots fired at a person/s indicate intention to kill or at least seriously injure, and thus constitutes attempted murder.

Robbery with aggravating circumstances includes the following subcategories of robbery:

- Carjacking;
- truck hijacking;
- robbery at residential premises (house robbery);
- robbery at business premises (business robbery);
- cash-in-transit (CIT) robbery;
- bank robbery; and
- other aggravated robberies not mentioned elsewhere in this list, which are mainly aggravated robberies occurring on the streets and in other public open spaces and are categorised as “general aggravated robberies” in this report.

The Minister for Safety and Security and Members of the Executive Committees (MEC’s) in the provinces have since July 2006 repeatedly referred to violent organized crime. This has bearing on most of the cases registered under the first six subcategories of robbery listed before (carjacking, truck hijacking, robbery at residential or business premises, CIT robbery and bank robbery). To measure the extent of violent organized crime, figures for these six subtendencies of aggravated robbery have to be added together.

It can be accepted that some aggravated robberies are highly organised in nature (e.g. most CIT and bank robberies, as well as truck and carjackings); while some are committed by groups which may not be organised criminal syndicates in the strict sense of the word (e.g. most house and business robberies); and still others are committed by one to three or four loosely associated or opportunistic individuals (e.g. most street robberies). Those robberies (particularly aggravated robberies) which involve more people (additional expertise) than only the group of criminals who perform the actual robbery (hit), will be much more organized than those in which only the direct perpetrators are involved. The following serves as an example: Three

men force a lady out of her car as she arrives at her home, then take her into the house and force her to open the safe. They take an amount of money, jewellery and a firearm, drive away in her car and abandon it along the road five blocks away. They sell the jewellery to a jeweler and spend all the money on liquor, drugs, girlfriends and fast cars over the next week. This is clearly the lowest form of organization, since it involves nobody else and there is not much of a job specialization. When the very same group takes the car and simply sells it to somebody for a few thousand rand, it will still remain a case of the lowest form of organization.

However, the group could also hijack this specific vehicle at the request of a so-called middle or finger man (the money and jewellery being a bonus). They supply the car to the person who ordered it and the vehicle is then changed (e.g. spray-painted) or cloned into another vehicle (which involves the changing of engine and chassis numbers by police and licensing officials) before being sold for a profit. The buyer could either be aware of the fact that it is a stolen vehicle (because of the price), or the transaction is done in such a way that the buyer remains unaware of its real origins. Such a case then clearly involves other people than only the gang of three directly involved in the robbery.

Highly organized crime will *inter alia* subscribe to the following important criteria:

- It involves several people linked together through a businesslike structure and with a clear profit motive.
- Each of the above members will fulfill specialized functions (a high degree of division of labour).
- Corruption/blackmail is used to procure the cooperation of people in positions of authority or able to facilitate matters for the criminals involved.
- Money laundering (usually through the acquisition of expensive vehicles, fixed property and jewellery) is involved.

Partially organised crime may meet some of the above criteria, while a few individuals acting together for criminal purposes may not subscribe to any of these.

Table 1

Serious crime during the first semesters of the 2001/2002 to 2007/2008 financial years and the percentage increases/decreases in crime between 2006/2007 and 2007/2008

Crime Category	Incidence of crime per 100 000 of the population 1 April - 30 September							% change 06/07 vs 07/08	Raw figures/frequencies 1 April - 30 September							% change 06/07 vs 07/08
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	
<b>Contact crime</b>																
Murder	22.7	22.9	21.0	19.7	19.6	20.0	18.7	-6.5	10 189	10 430	9 762	9 159	9 177	9 464	8 925	-5.7
Rape	55.1	52.3	51.1	53.7	55.6	49.6	47.8	-3.6	24 677	23 756	23 687	25 033	26 078	23 507	22 887	-2.6
Attempted murder	32.8	38.5	32.6	26.4	21.5	21.0	19.4	-7.6	14 702	17 491	15 139	12 288	10 098	9 937	9 269	-6.7
Assault with the intent to inflict grievous bodily harm	264.8	257.5	251.6	243.7	224.4	207.5	201.7	-2.8	118 678	117 037	116 723	113 510	105 196	98 333	96 499	-1.9
Common assault	260.1	275.2	279.1	269.4	229.5	201.6	191.4	-5.1	116 596	125 067	129 446	125 482	107 617	95 560	91 577	-4.2
Indecent assault	7.3	8.5	8.7	9.7	9.4	8.6	8.9	3.5	3 281	3 854	4 056	4 496	4 427	4 053	4 249	4.8
Robbery with aggravating circumstances	133.9	131.4	148.3	140.9	126.0	138.8	125.4	-9.7	59 997	59 741	68 805	65 644	59 075	65 792	59 998	-8.8
Common robbery	95.9	112.5	102.2	100.4	78.9	77.0	67.6	-12.2	42 961	51 138	47 397	46 755	36 975	36 513	32 329	-11.5
<b>Contact-related crime</b>																
Arson	10.6	10.8	10.2	9.5	8.9	8.7	8.9	2.3	4 766	4 894	4 737	4 406	4 153	4 138	4 257	2.9
Malicious damage to property	154.2	163.8	166.9	160.0	149.7	147.3	142.5	-3.3	69 100	74 448	77 403	74 519	70 200	69 798	68 170	-2.3
<b>Property-related crime</b>																
Burglary at residential premises	328.4	344.6	328.0	297.4	271.2	264.4	243.4	-7.9	147 183	156 639	152 158	138 546	127 164	125 285	116 455	-7.0
Burglary at non-residential premises	99.3	83.3	72.8	60.9	57.1	62.0	64.1	3.4	44 518	37 885	33 756	28 374	26 753	29 383	30 686	4.4
Theft of motor vehicles and motorcycles	111.2	104.9	96.6	92.4	91.6	95.0	85.5	-10.0	49 843	47 661	44 816	43 063	42 955	45 038	40 900	-9.2
Theft out of or from motor vehicles	226.2	224.0	194.7	166.0	150.9	138.7	120.7	-13.0	101 380	101 834	90 309	77 333	70 759	65 743	57 767	-12.1
Stock-theft	46.1	51.2	46.4	37.2	31.2	29.9	29.4	-1.7	20 672	23 254	21 534	17 338	14 623	14 157	14 057	-0.7
<b>Crime heavily dependent on police action for detection</b>																
Illegal possession of firearms and ammunition	17.3	16.9	18.7	17.0	14.2	15.2	13.9	-8.6	7 771	7 664	8 675	7 926	6 650	7 185	6 649	-7.5
Drug-related crime	56.1	60.3	68.4	84.3	101.1	105.7	109.9	4.0	25 157	27 388	31 728	39 289	47 389	50 082	52 590	5.0
Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs	27.4	22.5	26.4	29.5	32.4	37.7	50.1	32.9	12 271	10 240	12 264	13 755	15 193	17 858	23 990	34.3
<b>Other serious crime</b>																
All theft not mentioned elsewhere	623.5	648.9	653.9	576.8	464.2	429.0	412.2	-3.9	279 447	294 946	303 300	268 727	217 674	203 284	197 216	-3.0
Commercial crime	66.3	63.4	61.0	58.2	58.9	64.0	65.3	2.0	29 737	28 811	28 317	27 099	27 596	30 314	31 261	3.1
Shoplifting	74.8	76.3	77.4	72.4	69.8	72.6	68.9	-5.1	33 517	34 670	35 920	33 746	32 732	34 426	32 967	-4.2

Crime Category	Incidence of crime per 100 000 of the population 1 April - 30 September							% change 06/07 vs 07/08	Raw figures/frequencies 1 April - 30 September							% change 06/07 vs 07/08
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	
<b>Some subcategories of aggravated robbery already accounted for under aggravated robbery above*</b>																
Carjacking	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7 685	7 864	7 204	6 841	6 389	7 267	7 214	-0,7
Truckjacking	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 895	536	457	457	424	390	598	53,3
Robbery of cash in transit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	85	261	112	109	177	281	206	-26,7
Bank robbery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	207	88	30	22	39	60	53	-11,7
Robbery at residential premises	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4 891	4 635	4 777	4 885	6 271	6 711	7,0
Robbery at business premises	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3 561	1 971	1 680	1 984	3 433	4 438	29,3

\*The ratios for the subcategories of aggravated robbery in this table are too low to calculate meaningful percentage increases or decreases.

### 2.1.3 Contact crime trends

Tables 1 and 2 indicate that the ratios of seven of the eight contact crimes were decreasing during the first semester of the 2007/2008 financial year (1 April - 30 September 2007).

**TABLE 2**

**A comparison of the increases or decreases in the ratios of recorded serious crime between the first semester of 2007/2008 and the entire 2006/2007 financial year**

Crime Category	Financial year 2006/2007	First Semester 2007/2008
<b>Contact crime (crimes against the person)</b>		
Murder	2,4%	-6,5%
Rape	-5,2%	-3,6%
Indecent assault	-5,5%	3,5%
Attempted murder	-3,0%	-7,6%
Assault with the intent to inflict grievous bodily harm	-4,9%	-2,8%
Common assault	-8,7%	-5,1%
Robbery with aggravating circumstances	4,6%	-9,7%
Common robbery	-5,8%	-12,2%
<b>Contact-related crime</b>		
Arson	2,0%	2,3%
Malicious damage to property	-1,7%	-3,3%
<b>Property-related crime</b>		
Burglary at residential premises	-5,9%	-7,9%
Burglary at business premises	6,3%	3,4%
Theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle	-0,7%	-10,0%
Theft out of or from motor vehicle	-11,8%	-13,0%
Stock-theft	-0,8%	-1,7%
<b>Crime heavily dependent on police action for detection</b>		
Illegal possession of firearms and ammunition	5,6%	-8,6%
Drug-related crime	8,2%	4,0%
Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs	14,3%	32,9%
<b>Other serious crime</b>		
All theft not mentioned elsewhere	-5,1%	-3,9%
Commercial crime	12,6%	2,0%
Shoplifting	0,5%	-5,1%
<b>Subcategories of aggravated robbery forming part of aggravated robbery above<sup>1</sup></b>		
Carjacking	6,0%	-0,7%
Truck hijacking	7,6%	53,3%
Robbery of cash in transit	21,9%	-26,7%
Bank robbery	118,6%	-11,7%
Robbery at residential premises	25,4%	7,0%
Robbery at business premises	52,5%	29,3%

<sup>1</sup> The calculations for these subcategories of robbery are based on raw figures.

Murder, attempted murder, robbery with aggravating circumstances and common robbery were all decreasing within or almost within the **7 - 10%** target reduction range during the first semester of 2007/2008. The decreases in question are indicated below.

<b>Crime</b>	<b>% decrease</b>
Common Robbery	<b>-12,2%</b>
Robbery with aggravating circumstances	<b>-9,7%</b>
Attempted murder	<b>-7,6%</b>
Murder	<b>-6,5%</b>

These specific decreases during the first semester of 2007/2008 represent a major improvement on the situation recorded during the 2006/2007 financial year (see **table 2**). In that financial year aggravated robbery increased by **4,6%** and murder by **2,4%**, while common robbery and attempted murder decreased at half the rate presently observed and consequently failed to meet the **7 - 10%** reduction target.

The welcome decrease of **-9,7%** in robbery with aggravating circumstances and the possibly resultant **-7,6%** and **-6,5%** decreases in attempted murder and murder respectively are marred by increases of **29,3%** in business robbery and **7,0%** in house robbery, as well as a marginal decrease of only **-0,7%** in carjacking. The decrease in aggravated robbery is clearly not reflected by the incidence of the TRIO subtrends of house and business robbery and carjacking, despite the numerous initiatives launched since July 2006 to combat specifically these crimes. The possible explanations for the increases in TRIO crimes despite all the initiatives taken against these are addressed in section **2.1.4** of this report.

As far as the more socially-motivated contact crimes are concerned, the decreases recorded during the first semester of 2007/2008 (1 April - 30 September 2007) did not achieve the **7 - 10%** reduction target and these crimes also failed to achieve similar reductions than those recorded during the 2006/2007 financial year. The percentage decreases/increases in the incidence of these crimes recorded during the first semester are as follows:

<b>Crime</b>	<b>Increase/decrease</b>
Indecent assault	<b>3,5%</b>
Assault GBH	<b>-2,8%</b>
Rape	<b>-3,6%</b>
Common Assault	<b>-5,1%</b>

Two remarks should be made about the above more socially-motivated contact crimes, namely:

- (i) The increase of **3,5%** in the recorded incidence of indecent assault (which represents the only increase among the main categories of contact crime) reflects an increase of **196** cases, from **4 053** cases during the period 1 April - 30 September 2006 to **4 249** cases recorded during the corresponding period in 2007. Indecent assault only accounts for **1,3%** of the **325 733** contact crime cases reported between 1 April and 30 September 2007. An analysis of indecent assault cases indicates that this small increase of **3,5%** is largely due to an increase in the "rape" of males and particularly males younger than 18 years.
- (ii) The decreases of **-2,8%**; **-3,6%** and **-5,1%** in the incidence of Assault GBH, rape and common assault respectively are far short of the **7 - 10%** target and smaller than the decreases experienced during 2006/2007.

It has been argued in this report (see **section 2.1.1**) that the **7 – 10%** reduction target is valid for each separate category of contact crime and should not be applied to the entire group of crimes collectively. However, the decrease from **343 159** cases to **325 733** cases recorded between the first semester of the 2006/2007 financial year and the corresponding semester of the 2007/2008 financial year depicts a reduction of **17 426** in the overall number of reported contact crimes. This translates into a decrease of **-5,1%**, which goes more than halfway towards achieving the **-7%** lower limit of the **7 – 10%** reduction target. It should be emphasized that it is quite an achievement to record a **-5,1%** decrease in real figures (with a corresponding **6,0%** reduction in ratios) of contact crime against the backdrop of increasing urbanization; the growing population of the younger age groups (**15 - 29 years**) which exhibit a greater inclination towards committing crime; and high levels of unemployment. It

further provides a more solid indication that the **7 - 10%** reduction target determined during 2004 is as valid and realistic today (in 2007) as it was then.

#### 2.1.4 The subtrends of aggravated robbery

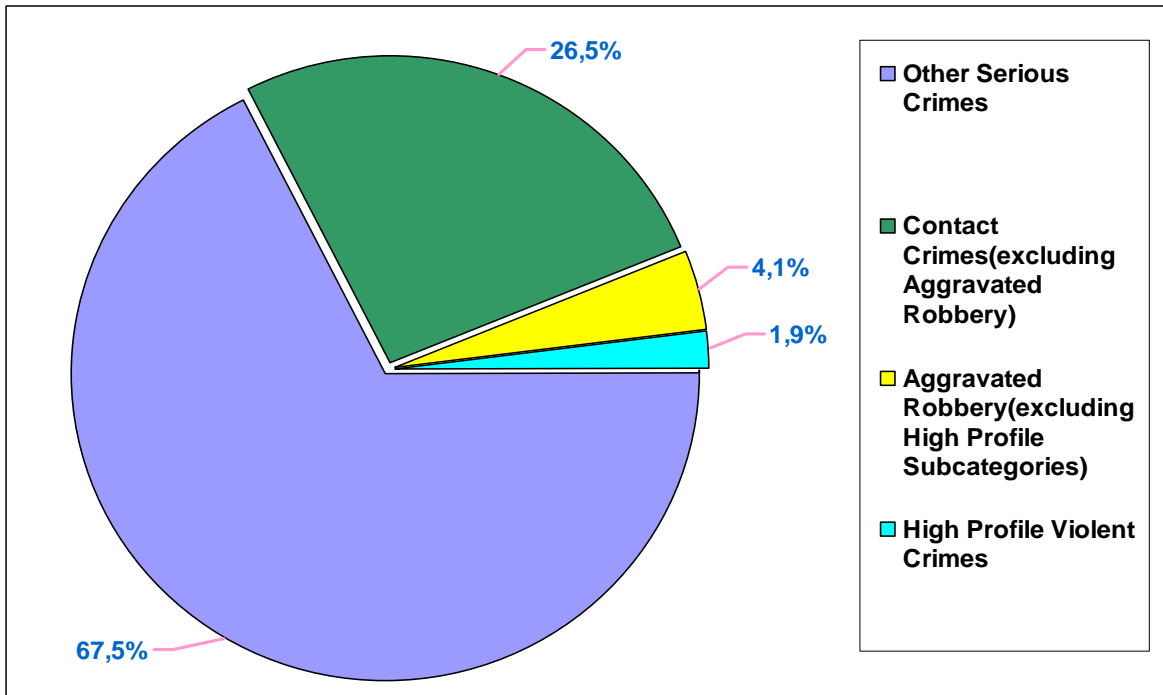
As indicated before, aggravated robbery can be disaggregated into different subcategories. The table that follows (**table 3**) and **figures 1** and **2** in Annexure A1 depict the following: The number of cases relating to each subtrend recorded during the first semesters of the 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 financial years; the percentage contribution of each subtrend to the total aggravated robbery figure during the first six months of 2007/2008, ordered from the most important contributor (street/public robbery, also called general armed 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 this represents for each of those subtrends.

**Table 3**

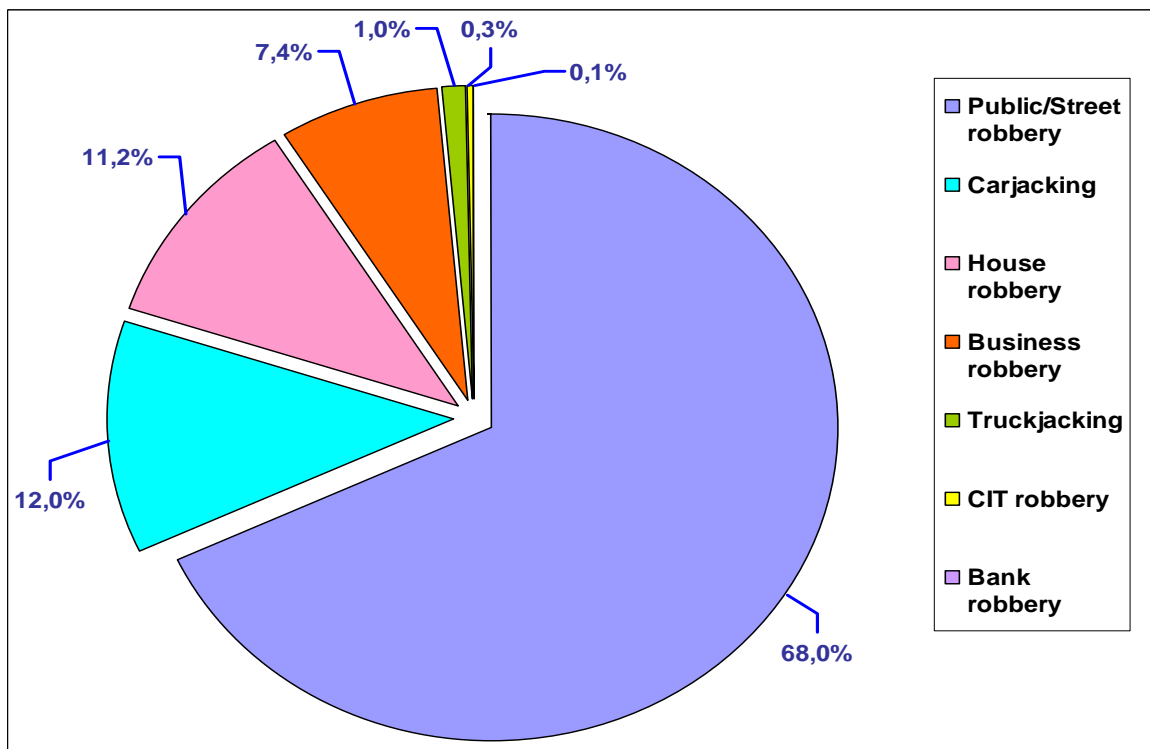
**Aggravated robbery disaggregated according to the percentage contribution of each subtrend in terms of raw figures**

Subcategory	Cases reported		% Distribution per subcategory	Real case increase / decrease	% Increase / decrease
	April - Sept 2006	April - Sept 2007			
Street/public robbery	48 090	40 778	68,0	-7 312	-15,2
Carjacking	7 267	7 214	12,0	-53	-0,7
Robbery at residential premises	6 271	6 711	11,2	440	7,0
Robbery at business premises	3 433	4 438	7,4	1 005	29,3
Truck hijacking	390	598	1,0	208	53,3
CIT robbery	281	206	0,3	-75	-26,7
Bank robbery	60	53	0,1	-7	-11,7
<b>Total</b>	<b>65 792</b>	<b>59 998</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>-5 794</b>	<b>-8,8</b>

**Serious crime in the first semester of the 2007/2008 financial year**



**Different subcategories of aggravated robbery in the first semester of the 2007/2008 financial year**



Although a 9.7% ratio decrease in robbery with aggravating circumstances was recorded during the first semester of 2007/2008 - in contrast to the increase in robbery with aggravating circumstances during the 2006/2007 financial year - the increases in especially house and business robbery and the absence of a meaningful decrease in carjacking need some explanation. These high-profile trends of robbery with aggravating circumstances, despite being relatively small in actual numbers, are of an extremely serious nature for the following reasons:

- (a) These phenomena touch the very essence of personal privacy and security of every individual in the RSA. Whenever somebody, wherever in the world, walks or drives around in streets and public places, he/she accepts a degree of security risk and should ideally take this risk into consideration. In most countries foreign tourists are also warned not to go to certain places at certain times of the day.

However, one's home (whether it be a shack in Khayelitsha or a three-storey mansion in Sandhurst) is one's castle and forms the centre of one's privacy and personal security. The President in his *State of the Nation* address on 9 February 2007 stated that "We cannot erase that which is ugly and repulsive and claim the happiness that comes with freedom if communities live in fear, closeted behind walls and barbed wire, ever anxious in their houses, on the streets and on our roads, unable to freely enjoy our public spaces." It should further be emphasized that one's home is not only the physical structure (between the walls), but also the piece of land on which it stands. People want to enjoy their gardens, the shade of the trees on their properties, using their driveways and sometimes also additional amenities such as pools or other recreational features. According to docket analysis by the CIAC of the SAPS, it seems as if most carjackings (**70%+**) occur either on residential premises or in front of residences. This means that the 6 711 house robberies and at least **70%** of the 7 214 carjackings recorded (i.e. at least 5 050 cases in total) involved acts that intruded into the ultimate private space of the citizens of this country during the first semester of 2007/2008.

- (b) Most of these incidents occur in suburbs situated in the middle to higher socio-economic areas with older residents, the chances are increased that at least once a week a well or better-known resident will fall victim to house robbery or carjacking. The media consequently almost daily find newsworthy Incidents to report. Such reports are then linked to the contact crime statistics (**325 733** cases during the present reporting period) to provide the basis for South Africa's image as an extremely violent and dangerous society. This instills fear into the hearts of South Africans, more so because the more violent cases are usually reported. It also creates an international image of South Africa which is not conducive to investment and tourism. The situation is aggravated by the wanton violence and mindless cruelty often displayed by robberies, which cause crimes against relatively unknown victims in even the most obscure localities to also hit news headlines.

In the following sections the subtrends of aggravated robbery featuring in **table 3** are discussed. Available analysis and research results where the publication of these would not jeopardize operations or specific strategic plans will be provided as far as possible. The subtrends are discussed in the following four groups: General aggravated robbery or street/public robbery; carjacking and robbery at residential premises; business robbery; and the more organised violent crimes of CIT robbery, bank robbery and truck hijackings.

#### **2.1.4.1 General aggravated robbery (street/public robbery)**

Among all the aggravated robbery cases, general aggravated robbery (those robberies against victims outside of their homes, work environments and vehicles and not aimed against banking institutions or CIT companies) account for just less than seven out of ten incidents (**68,0%**). The main targets of these robberies remain cash, jewellery, cellular telephones, laptop computers and other valuables that people carry around in public places. According to **table 3**, this kind of aggravated robbery decreased by **-15,2%**, which is well over the 7-10% reduction target.

Spatial analysis indicates that **40%** of these street/public robberies (general aggravated robbery) occur in only **5,1%** of the station precincts in South Africa. Among these precincts, **46%**, **32%** and **22%** are township, central business district

(CBD) or CBD periphery and suburban stations respectively. The crime mostly does not involve well-known or high-profile victims and is not considered as a major contributor to South Africa's violent image at home or abroad. The main damage in this regard is done by robbers who target foreign tourists on the streets and in public spaces in the country.

#### **2.1.4.2 Carjacking and robbery at residential premises**

Carjacking (with **7 214** reported cases in the first semester of 2007/2008) and house robbery (with **6 711** cases) respectively constituted **12,0%** and **11,2%** of all aggravated robbery cases. Carjacking decreased by a marginal **-0,7%** and house robbery increased by **7,0%** between the first semesters of 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 (see **table 3**). A close association exists between these two subcategories of aggravated robbery for the following reasons: (a) Many typical carjackings (in which the motor vehicle is the sole target) occur at the gates to or in the driveways of houses/flats/townhouses (docket analysis referred to in section **2.1.4** indicated that this is the case in at least **70%** of all carjackings); (b) the car is sometimes the primary target, but the victims are also forced into their homes to rob them of some additional items as a "bonus"; and (c) sometimes certain items in the house are the targets (e.g. money, firearms, computers, jewellery, cellular telephones, etc.) and the car is simply hijacked to serve as a getaway vehicle. In the latter scenario the car is frequently abandoned only a few street blocks away from the crime scene. According to the counting rules and registration procedures for the CAS, the robbery of items from the home and the robbery of the vehicle (carjacking) should be registered as separate counts (i.e. two different crimes) on the CAS. Any other crimes committed during the incident should be added as additional counts. (If one person is e.g. shot and killed during a robbery that will represent an additional count of murder. If another person is hit by a bullet and wounded during the same incident, this will represent still another count of attempted murder.)

A mere **3,6%** of the police precincts in South Africa generated **40,0%** of the carjackings during the first semester of 2007/2008, while an even smaller number of **3,2%** of the country's precincts generated **40,0%** of the house robberies recorded over the period in question. Among the **3,6%** of precincts that generated **40,0%** of South Africa's carjackings, **55,0%** are suburban, **24,0%** are located in CBD's or in areas on

the periphery of CBD's and **21,0%** are in townships. Among the **3,2%** of stations that generated **40,0%** of the house robberies during the first semester of 2007/2008, **47,0%** are suburban, **38,0%** township and **15,0%** CBD stations or serving areas on the periphery of CBD's.

The distribution of carjackings and house robberies indicates that these mainly occur at residential premises in the wealthier and middle class suburbs (e.g. Sandton, Bramley, Honeydew, Douglasdale, Garsfontein and Brooklyn). Docket analysis of house robberies also confirmed that the targets are more often richer and older residents in more well-to-do suburbs. The same analysis also confirmed the following:

- (a) House robbers operate mainly in very small groups (**70,0%** of cases involving two - three suspects and **11,5%** of cases four suspects). They mainly strike at night (18:00 - 20:59 in **15,9%** of cases; 21:00 - 23:59 in- **23,0%** of cases; 00:00 - 02:59 in **32,0%** of cases; and 03:00 - 05:59 in **15,5%** of cases). They are mostly armed and use firearms (**89,6%** of cases) to hold up people. The first contact between the perpetrators and victims occur inside the victim's residence (**87,5%** of cases) after the criminals had gained forced entry (**67,5%** of cases).
- (b) The items most frequently robbed during house robberies are indicated below:

<b>ITEM ROBBED</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE OF ANALYZED CASES<sup>2</sup></b>
Cellular telephones/accessories	<b>58,5%</b>
Money	<b>49,7%</b>
DVD players	<b>25,8%</b>
Clothing	<b>25,2%</b>
Jewellery	<b>23,2%</b>
Television	<b>22,6%</b>
Sound systems/radios/CD players	<b>18,7%</b>
Vehicles	<b>9,3%</b>

Money can directly and immediately be used after a robbery. It is also the most frequently targeted item during business robberies (**see section ....**). Most of the other

<sup>2</sup> These percentages do not add up to **100%**, as more than one category of items can be robbed during a single robbery.

items can either be used by the perpetrators or the family/friends of perpetrators; or can be sold locally (South Africa) or "exported" and sold internationally (mostly in neighbouring countries). It is extremely difficult and even impossible to establish the proportions of house robbers who commit house robberies with the following intention(s):

- Simply to take what they deem to be valuable and directly use these items themselves, or knowing where to sell certain stolen assets (e.g. cellular telephones, DVD's, jewellery) or take these with the aim to exchange it for cash.
- Specifically to rob specified items because these were (i) ordered by people (buyers/ receivers) for whom the robbers work as runners; or (ii) the robbers have established contacts they know would be willing to pay for specific items.

From these findings it seems that house robbery is less organised or structured than CIT and bank robberies and truck hijacking. It is mainly committed by small armed groups or gangs that rob mainly to procure cash or goods they can easily sell to either members of the public or specific people willing to buy specified commodities (e.g. a jeweller who needs precious metals and gems to manufacture jewellery or an "exporter" of cellular telephones or laptop computers). Being less organised, it is also more difficult to investigate and to prevent (*inter alia* because of the phenomenon known as displacement of crime). This notwithstanding, the SAPS are arresting hundreds of perpetrators of house robbery as well as "receivers" of stolen goods. However, it seems as if new perpetrators are continuously joining the ranks of criminals. More emphasis will in future be put on the "receivers" of criminally obtained goods in an effort to eliminate the criminal market.

Carjacking (like theft of motor vehicles) is a more organised and sophisticated endeavour. Because of all the identification and security systems linked to motor vehicles, these cannot be freely used by the perpetrators of carjacking and car theft for months and years after the crime, because that would involve a risk of being arrested. Hijacked and stolen vehicles will therefore probably be used unaltered only for the following purposes:

- (i) To serve as getaway vehicles from scenes of crime (e.g. the **9,3%** of cases where a vehicle was taken during house robberies);
- (ii) Joyriding, i.e. using the vehicle for a few hours to e.g. go around and impress their peers and girlfriends or potential girlfriends).
- (iii) To use over a brief period for a specific purpose (e.g. to travel from one locality to another).
- (iv) For use as ramming vehicles and getaway vehicles in the commission of other crimes (e.g. CIT heists, narcotics smuggling, etc.).

It can in view of the above be assumed that the majority of hijacked vehicles are disposed of in the following ways:

- (i) Chopped up for spare parts or scrap metal.
- (ii) Smuggled across South Africa's national borders to neighbouring countries and possibly from there to countries even further afield.
- (iii) Cloned to enable the vehicles to again enter the registration system and then to be sold.

Particularly in the case of cloning, but also when vehicles are "exported", the syndicates involved are more sophisticated and structured. Such cases also involve corrupt officials (e.g. SAPS members, vehicle registration officers, border control officials, etc). To curb such crimes it is essential to address corruption and target the bosses of the syndicates involved.

#### **2.1.4.3 Robbery at business premises**

The SAPS report *Crime in South Africa during 2006/2007 - Trends, spatial distribution and interpretation (1 April 2006 - 31 March 2007)* contains a detailed section on business robberies on pp. 15 - 17 (also see pp. 233 - 235 of the *Annual*

*Report of the South African Police Service for 2006/2007*). It is therefore deemed superfluous to expand in depth on the topic in the present report.

From tables 1 and 2 it is evident that the single most significant increase in any of the serious crime trends and subtrends, with the exception of truck hijacking, was recorded in relation to robbery at business premises. In the first semester of 2007/2008 (1 April to 30 September 2007) business robberies increased by **29,3%**. The following remarks based on the detailed information in *Crime in South Africa during 2006/2007* should help to explain and contextualize this marked increase. When people think about business robberies, they usually think of large groups (10 - 14) of heavily armed men "attacking" shopping centres and malls. Such incidents do indeed occur, but account for only a small proportion of business robberies. According to the latest figures available, incidents of this nature have even decreased in the recent past. By far the largest proportion of business robberies affect medium to small factories and conventional shops in the CBD and suburban areas of South Africa. The commodities most commonly taken during these robberies are the **same** as those targeted during house robberies, as indicated below:

<b>ITEMS TARGETED</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE OF CASES<sup>*</sup></b>
Cash/other legal tender	<b>85,7%</b>
Cellular telephone/accessories	<b>30,1%</b>
Food/alcohol/cigarettes	<b>11,1%</b>
Jewellery	<b>8,1%</b>

<sup>\*</sup> The figures do not add up to 100% as different items may be robbed during a single robbery.

Indications actually are that no difference exists with regard to the number of robbers and the degree of organisation involved in the majority of both business and house robberies. Any accumulation of cash, however small, presents a target.

#### **2.1.4.4 Bank and cash-in-transit (CIT) robbery and truck hijacking**

In *Crime in South Africa during 2006/2007* (pp. 17 - 21) considerable detail is also provided on the high level of organisation involved in bank and cash-in-transit (CIT) robberies. Both these subtrends of aggravated robbery decreased during the current reporting period (1 April - 30 September 2007). CIT robbery decreased by **-26,7%** and bank robbery by **-11,7%**.

Truck hijacking which, like bank and CIT robberies, also has low N values (an average of **908** cases per annum over the past five years) experienced an increase of **53,3%** (from **390** cases in the first semester of 2006/2007 to **598** cases in 2007/2008). This huge percentage increase is partly due to the low N values involved, but can probably also be explained in terms of the level of organisation characterising these crimes.

Truck hijacking, which mainly focuses on the freight, involves a high level of organisation and a whole range of specialised skills (division of labour). Some of the levels occupied by the criminals involved are the following:

- (1) Runners, who physically hijack the trucks;
- (2) drivers to replace the legal drivers;
- (3) "technicians" who disconnect the satellite tracking devices while the vehicles are in movement;
- (4) people who arrange warehouses and off-loading of the freight;
- (5) sellers; and
- (6) distributors who ship the goods from the warehouse to the buyers, etc.

When a group of truck hijackers (syndicate) forms, they will regularly commit this crime and that will generate numerous cases which will push the percentages up dramatically. When they are apprehended and successfully prosecuted, this may have an equally dramatic downward influence on the figures.

## **2.2 Contact-related crimes**

Contact-related crimes cover arson and malicious damage to property. These crimes are closely associated with all kinds of assault and intergroup (or even intragroup) violent conflict, e.g. taxi-related violence and clan feuds. An example of this is a bar fight during which the furniture, liquor bottles and glasses are broken and customers' clothes torn and damaged. As a result, various assault and damage to property complaints may be laid, possibly even at various police stations serving the areas in which the different customers involved reside.

According to **tables 1** and **2**, the incidence of arson increased by **2,3%** while

malicious damaged to property decreased by **-3,3%**. It should also be noted that the numerous malicious damage to property cases exceed arson cases by more than **16** times in number.

### 2.3 Property-related crimes

South Africa experiences relatively lower levels of property-related crime than many other **INTERPOL** member countries. It was and is still accepted that levels of these crimes should simply not increase. Tables **1**, **2** and **4** indicate that three of the five property-related crimes decreased substantially, namely theft out of or from motor vehicle by a significant **-13,0%**; theft of motor vehicles and motorcycles by **-10,0%**; and burglary at residential premises by **-7,9%**. This is a major improvement on the 2006/2007 financial year.

**Table 4**

#### **Decreases in property-related crime**

<b>Crimes</b>	<b>Change in raw figures</b>	<b>Decrease in ratios</b>
Theft out of or from motor vehicle	-12,1%	-13,0%
Theft of motor vehicles and motorcycles	-9,2%	-10,0%
Burglary at residential premises	-7,0%	-7,9%
Stock-theft	-0,7%	-1,7%

The ratio of stock-theft decreased marginally by **-1,7%**.

Burglary at business premises increased by **3,4%** during the first semester of 2007/2008. In the 2006/2007 financial year, burglary at business premises (non-residential premises) increased by **6,3%**.

### 2.4 Other serious crime

Other serious crimes, which account for **24,8%** of South Africa's total serious crime, include 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 crimes discussed as property-related crime). With **415 163** registered cases during 2006/2007, this is the single largest category of crime among the **27** categories featuring on the SAPS website at [www.saps.gov.za](http://www.saps.gov.za). (This means that this category of theft accounts for **19,0%** of all South Africa's recorded serious crime.) The fact that other theft accounts for so much of South Africa's serious crime is not unique to South Africa. The 1999 Interpol Report e.g. mentions *inter alia* that other theft accounts for the following percentages of all crime recorded in different countries: South Africa (**25,7%**); Denmark (**54,8%**); Australia (**45,9%**); France (**41,3%**); Germany (**30,3%**); Finland (**29,8%**); Canada (**28,3%**); and Norway (**25,3%**). Other theft covers anything from stealing kilometres of copper cable (costing thousands of rand and with sometimes extremely serious consequences such as an electrical substation of ±R30 million going up in flames and causing prolonged power failures over large areas) or aircraft engines worth millions; to taking a pen, ashtray, beer glass and/or towel from a hotel/resort as a souvenir. Various docket analyses done in the past indicated that the items most frequently taken during cases of other theft are the following:

- Cellular telephones;
- money;
- jewellery; and
- tools (especially garden tools).

The figures for other theft are probably as high as they are for the following reasons:

- It covers the stealing of virtually everything not mentioned under the five property-related crimes discussed in **section 2.3** of this report.
- People can very easily put aside, store, mislay, lose or leave items like cellular telephones, money, jewellery and tools somewhere and then later believe such items to have been stolen; or report the loss as due to theft in order to claim from insurance.
- Organised syndicates commit some types of other theft at a high frequency. This can generate literally hundreds and even thousands of dockets over a very short period of time. An example of the latter is the stealing of brass water

(reading) meters almost every few minutes during the night at different addresses in the same neighbourhood. By the next morning the culprits may have stolen a considerable number of water meters at different addresses, causing the home-owners affected to all lay complaints at the same or different police stations and resulting in numerous other theft cases being added to the crime statistics. The same applies to cable theft.

Commercial crime covers all kinds of fraud, forgery and uttering, misappropriations and embezzlement. Universally, the modern trend in commercial crime is for it to be handled “internally” as far as possible (i.e. within the company or industry affected) and to only hand cases over to the police for prosecution, if these are reported to the police at all. Many companies, particularly those in the financial sector which are entrusted with safeguarding the financial interests of their clients, do not want it to become publicly known if they have a number of rotten apples in their own baskets. They will consequently investigate cases internally and even deal with culprits in their own ways (e.g. by way of dismissal, forcing them to pay back defrauded sums and transfers).

Shoplifting is defined as consisting of stealing articles offered for sale by self-service shops during the shopping hours of such shops. It is necessary for the perpetrator to remove an article from the shelf, move past the cashier without paying for it and have the intention to steal such item. It is therefore actually logical that the majority of shoplifting cases are identified by the security staff and surveillance systems of such shops, sometimes with the assistance of customers. In most cases a perpetrator is arrested by the security staff and handed over to the police, who then open a case docket (and thus add a case of shoplifting to the statistics). As in the case of commercial crime, the police are in the vast majority of cases only involved in the prosecution part of the case.

According to **tables 1 and 2**, other theft decreased by **-3,9%** and shoplifting by **-5,1%**, as can also be seen in **table 5**. Commercial crime increased by **2,0%**, after having increased by **12,6%** in 2006/2007.

**Table 5****Fluctuations in the incidence of other serious crime**

<b>Crimes</b>	<b>Decrease/increase based on raw figures</b>	<b>Decrease/increase based on ratios</b>
All theft not mentioned elsewhere	-3,0%	-3,9%
Commercial crime	3,1%	2,0%
Shoplifting	-4.2%	-5,1%

**2.5 Crimes heavily dependent on police action for detection**

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 actions like road-blocks and searches. 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 pedlars (e.g. to avoid road-blocks), a real decrease in these phenomena, or the impact of previous actions like “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 social/contact crimes). Research and docket analysis, as well as time and spatial analysis over the past decade, clearly indicate a link between alcohol and drugs on the one hand and crime on the other in South Africa. People under the influence of drugs and alcohol may become aggressive and/or start arguments, which could turn into physical confrontations resulting in assault, rape, attempted murder or murder. Drugs and even alcohol can further be quite expensive. For people who become addicted, it may

become a very expensive habit. Addicts may consequently be driven to property-related crime and even robbery to get hold of the money needed to buy drugs. Drugs are also the primary substance fuelling organised crime and causing turf wars among gangs. 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. To determine the true extent (volume) of drugs and illegal firearms floating around in any country will be extremely difficult, if not impossible.

Illegal possession of firearms decreased by **-8,6%**, while drug-related crime increased by **4,0%**. In the past few years more significant increases were achieved in both these crimes, which make increases more difficult to achieve at present (2007/2008).

The **32,9%** increase in the ratio of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs is in all probability a result of much more stringent law enforcement by both Metro Police services and the SAPS between 1 April and 30 September 2007. Traditionally this was not a period during which driving under the influence laws were as vigorously applied as during the *Arrive Alive* campaigns from November to January. *Arrive Alive* and particularly its focus on driving under the influence has now been extended throughout the whole year.

### **3. The provincial crime situation**

The provincial serious crime ratios for the 21 serious crimes under consideration during the first semesters of the 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 financial years, as well as the percentage decreases and increases calculated on the basis of these ratios, are reflected in **table 6**.

**Table 6** and the raw figures or frequencies in **tables 7 - 16** and on the South African Police Service website ([www.saps.gov.za](http://www.saps.gov.za)) are self-explanatory. Only a few comments are therefore made in this section on increases and decreases in the incidence of crime. The focus is on the most serious contact crimes and some subtrends.

The eight contact crimes and three of the high-profile subcategories of aggravated robbery are analysed per province in **tables 7 - 16**. In each of these tables the provinces are ranked from the one with the highest decrease in the incidence of the specific crime featured in that particular table to the one with the highest increase. The degree to which the nine provinces achieved (or failed to achieve) their contact crime reduction targets is briefly discussed on the following pages.

Table 6

## Fluctuations in serious crime trends between the first semesters of 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 per province

Crime category	Eastern Cape			Free State			Gauteng		
	2006/2007	2007/2008	% Increase/ decrease	2006/2007	2007/2008	% Increase/ decrease	2006/2007	2007/2008	% Increase/ decrease
<b>Contact crime (Crimes against the person)</b>									
Murder	24.9	24.3	-2,4	15.3	13.7	-10,5	20.1	18.3	-9,0
Rape	50.2	50.3	0,2	52.2	54.7	4,8	56.6	52.3	-7,6
Indecent assault	6.1	7.0	14,8	8.4	8.7	3,6	8.7	9.9	13,8
Attempted murder	15.1	15.4	2,0	16.0	14.6	-8,8	30.4	27.0	-11,2
Assault with the intent to inflict grievous bodily harm	236.2	235.3	-0,4	234.0	253.8	8,5	229.7	223.2	-2,8
Common assault	143.0	137.2	-4,1	294.1	295.8	0,6	273.8	274.7	0,3
Robbery with aggravating circumstances	67.3	67.3	0,0	70.9	71.6	1,0	299.5	267.7	-10,6
Common robbery	55.5	53.0	-4,5	73.4	70.1	-4,5	131.1	112.6	-14,1
<b>Contact-related crime</b>									
Arson	10.4	11.1	6,7	7.7	9.1	18,2	11.2	10.8	-3,6
Malicious damage to property	109.7	109.1	-0,5	154.3	155.8	1,0	220.4	212.7	-3,5
<b>Property-related crime</b>									
Burglary at residential premises	227.9	218.1	-4,3	262.0	259.2	-1,1	355.1	308.9	-13,0
Burglary at business premises	35.0	43.8	25,1	71.7	70.6	-1,5	77.3	74.1	-4,1
Theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle	41.1	36.5	-11,2	49.3	51.3	4,1	231.4	206.8	-10,6
Theft out of or from motor vehicle	89.1	78.9	-11,4	102.6	80.2	-21,8	223.8	189.4	-15,4
Stock-theft	48.1	51.4	6,9	77.2	71.5	-7,4	2.9	2.7	-6,9
<b>Crime heavily dependent on police action for detection</b>									
Illegal possession of firearms and ammunition	9.8	9.7	-1,0	5.8	4.7	-19,1	20.9	18.2	-12,9
Drug-related crime	51.6	53.6	3,9	93.0	80.5	-13,4	63.0	65.0	3,2
Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs	29.1	41.2	41,6	20.4	30.0	47,1	35.8	46.1	28,8
<b>Other serious crime</b>									
All theft not mentioned elsewhere	270.5	263.2	-2,7	396.3	403.1	1,7	673.4	627.6	-6,8
Commercial crime	48.3	37.3	-22,8	35.8	46.9	31,0	132.3	135.2	2,2
Shoplifting	48.6	48.3	-0,6	56.5	48.9	-13,5	101.6	101.1	-0,5

Table 6 (continued)

## Fluctuations in serious crime trends between the first semesters of the 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 financial years per province

Crime category	KwaZulu-Natal			Limpopo			Mpumalanga		
	2006/2007	2007/2008	% Increase/ decrease	2006/2007	2007/2008	% Increase/ decrease	2006/2007	2007/2008	% Increase/ decrease
<b>Contact crime (Crimes against the person)</b>									
Murder	25.2	22.5	-10,7	6.7	6.1	-9,0	12.5	11.2	-10,4
Rape	43.7	42.9	-1,8	37.5	32.4	-13,6	53.2	47.4	-10,9
Indecent assault	6.9	7.7	11,6	2.3	2.0	-13,0	3.6	4.6	27,8
Attempted murder	25.9	24.2	-6,6	7.6	6.7	-11,8	18.8	18.0	-4,3
Assault with the intent to inflict grievous bodily harm	140.7	140.4	-0,2	136.1	116.7	-14,3	227.1	215.9	-4,9
Common assault	149.6	133.9	-10,5	144.8	97.2	-32,9	174.1	158.8	-8,8
Robbery with aggravating circumstances	136.7	123.3	-9,8	31.6	22.9	-27,5	102.3	81.4	-20,4
Common robbery	55.6	46.5	-16,4	44.1	33.5	-24,0	76.3	63.4	-16,9
<b>Contact-related crime</b>									
Arson	7.0	7.5	7,1	6.6	5.8	-12,1	10.8	9.5	-12,0
Malicious damage to property	90.1	84.6	-6,1	70.2	62.5	-11,0	121.5	112.9	-7,1
<b>Property-related crime</b>									
Burglary at residential premises	198.3	181.8	-8,3	114.5	103.2	-9,9	281.2	256.6	-8,7
Burglary at business premises	48.2	49.0	1,7	42.7	47.9	12,2	46.6	56.5	21,2
Theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle	74.9	62.3	-16,8	15.0	11.3	-24,7	44.1	40.9	-7,3
Theft out of or from motor vehicle	83.3	66.8	-19,8	39.4	31.7	-19,5	84.7	72.7	-14,2
Stock-theft	38.2	38.1	-0,3	15.5	11.5	-25,8	35.5	38.8	9,3
<b>Crime heavily dependent on police action for detection</b>									
Illegal possession of firearms and ammunition	23.6	21.3	-9,8	3.6	4.0	11,1	8.4	7.3	-13,1
Drug-related crime	130.9	121.5	-7,2	18.5	29.6	60,0	31.0	26.1	-15,8
Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs	45.1	61.7	36,8	10.3	12.6	22,3	17.5	21.1	20,6
<b>Other serious crime</b>									
All theft not mentioned elsewhere	253.1	233.8	-7,6	182.5	176.7	-3,2	375.9	341.7	-9,1
Commercial crime	55.1	50.2	-8,9	20.6	21.7	5,4	41.2	50.4	22,3
Shoplifting	56.4	52.2	-7,5	34.7	32.0	-7,8	52.5	50.4	-4,0

Table 6 (continued)

## Fluctuations in serious crime trends between the first semesters of the 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 financial years per province

Crime category	Northern Cape			North West			Western Cape		
	2006/2007	2007/2008	% Increase/ decrease	2006/2007	2007/2008	% Increase/ decrease	2006/2007	2007/2008	% Increase/ decrease
<b>Contact crime (Crimes against the person)</b>									
Murder	18.9	18.1	-4,2	12.4	12.2	-1,6	30.6	30.4	-0,7
Rape	58.7	55.0	-6,3	52.1	55.4	6,3	52.6	52.0	1,1
Indecent assault	14.3	11.6	-18,9	5.5	6.0	9,1	26.7	24.2	-9,4
Attempted murder	41.9	33.2	-20,8	12.7	12.1	-4,7	21.1	19.9	-5,7
Assault with the intent to inflict grievous bodily harm	446.5	394.9	-11,6	213.1	214.6	0,7	251.2	237.1	-5,6
Common assault	262.9	225.7	-14,2	148.0	137.6	7,0	335.5	316.3	-5,7
Robbery with aggravating circumstances	53.4	56.7	6,2	84.0	77.5	-7,7	173.8	156.6	-10,0
Common robbery	74.6	61.6	-17,4	58.0	56.1	-3,3	98.7	90.8	-8,0
<b>Contact-related crime</b>									
Arson	8,9	7.6	-14,6	8.9	10.9	22,5	6.2	6.5	4,8
Malicious damage to property	151.8	147.9	-2,6	104.7	111.7	6,7	305.7	292.4	-4,4
<b>Property-related crime</b>									
Burglary at residential premises	271.4	211.1	-22,2	218.7	206.9	-5,4	462.2	446.0	-3,5
Burglary at business premises	102.0	91.5	-10,3	65.2	68.2	4,6	115.0	115.1	0,1
Theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle	15.8	12.8	-19,0	47.6	47.1	-1,1	150.0	140.2	-6,5
Theft out of or from motor vehicle	135.3	96.3	-28,8	80.1	73.4	-8,4	372.9	352.8	-5,4
Stock-theft	71.2	63.1	-11,4	36.3	36.7	1,1	8.6	7.7	-10,5
<b>Crimes heavily dependent on police action for detection</b>									
Illegal possession of firearms and ammunition	3.3	4.3	30,3	6.7	6.4	-4,5	26.4	24.9	-5,7
Drug-related crime	82.5	91.5	10,9	90.0	97.8	8,7	395.0	437.8	10,8
Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs	45.4	76.7	68,9	30.7	35.5	15,6	98.3	122.6	24,7
<b>Other serious crime</b>									
All theft not mentioned elsewhere	354.1	332.6	-6,1	350.9	349.1	-0,5	946.6	945.4	-0,1
Commercial crime	36.0	41.3	14,7	35.3	36.4	3,1	78.4	93.4	19,1
Shoplifting	100.9	82.1	-18,1	47.0	41.2	-12,3	162.9	151.7	-6,9

- **Murder (table 7):** All the provinces recorded decreases, but the Northern Cape (-4,2%), Eastern Cape (-2,4%), North West (-1,6%) and Western Cape (-0,5%) failed to achieve the 7 - 10% reduction target.
- **Rape (table 8):** Limpopo (-13,6%), Mpumalanga (-10,9%) and Gauteng (-7,6%) achieved the 7 - 10% reduction target. The Northern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape recorded reductions below the reduction target. The Eastern Cape recorded a marginal and the Free State and North West significant increases.
- **Attempted murder (table 9):** The Northern Cape (-20,8%), Gauteng (-11,8%), and Limpopo (-11,8%) exceeded the 7 - 10% reduction target, while the Free State (-8,8%) fell within the target. KwaZulu-Natal, the Western Cape and North West all recorded reductions below the target. The only province with a marginal increase is the Eastern Cape.
- **Assault GBH (table 10):** Limpopo (-14,3%) and the Northern Cape (-11,5%) achieved decreases that exceeded the reduction target, while the Western Cape, Mpumalanga and Gauteng recorded reductions below the target. The remaining four provinces experienced either marginal decreases or increases.
- **Common assault (table 11):** Five provinces achieved decreases above or within the 7 - 10 % reduction target. The Western Cape and Eastern Cape recorded decreases below the target and Gauteng and the Free State experienced marginal increases.
- **Robbery with aggravating circumstances (table 12):** Limpopo (-27,6%), Mpumalanga (-20,4%), Gauteng (-10,6%), the Western Cape (-9,9%), KwaZulu-Natal (-9,8%) and North West (-7,8%) all achieved the 7 - 10% reduction target. The three remaining provinces recorded small increases.

- **Common robbery (table 13):** Six of the nine provinces either achieved or exceeded the **7 – 10%** reduction target. Limpopo with a **-24,0%** decrease recorded the highest reduction. The Eastern Cape, Free State and North West recorded reductions below the target.

The percentage increases/decreases in the incidence of the three high-profile subcategories of aggravated robbery featuring in this section (figures for which are already included in the overall aggravated robbery figures) are also provided in order from the highest decrease to the highest increase in **tables 14 - 16**. Robbery at residential premises (house robbery), business premises (business robbery) and carjacking form the focus of a special initiative against armed robbery launched towards the end of February 2007 (in Gauteng known as Operation Trio). When **tables 14, 15 and 16** are scrutinized, the following seems evident:

- **81,0%** of all carjackings recorded between 1 April and 30 September 2007 occurred in Gauteng (**54,0%**) and KwaZulu-Natal (**27,0%**). These two provinces recorded a **-2,4%** decrease and an **8,6%** increase in carjackings respectively.
- **77,7%** of robberies at residential premises registered between 1 April and 30 September 2007 also occurred in Gauteng (**53,2%**) and KwaZulu-Natal (**24,5%**), with these provinces respectively recording a **-7,7%** decrease and a **32,5%** increase in the incidence of this particular subcategory of crime. The fact that a **-7,7%** decrease in house robbery was recorded in Gauteng (that is within the 7 - 10% reduction target) indicates that Operation TRIO is achieving some results.
- **73,9%** of robberies at business premises during the first semester of 2007/2008 occurred in Gauteng (**54,3%**) and KwaZulu-Natal (**19,6%**) as well, with these provinces recording a **2,6%** and **71,0%** increase respectively. North West, the Eastern Cape and the Western Cape with **47,6%**, **112,3%** and **168,5%** increases respectively are fast becoming major contributors to the figure for this crime.

**Table 7**  
**Murder sorted from highest to lowest decreases between April to September 2006 and 2007**

Province	2006	2007	% Increase/Decrease
<b>RSA</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>18.7</b>	<b>-6,6%</b>
KwaZulu-Natal	25.2	22.5	-10,7%
Free State	15.3	13.7	-10,5%
Mpumalanga	12.5	11.2	-10,4%
Gauteng	20.1	18.3	-8,9%
Limpopo	6.7	6.1	-8,9%
Northern Cape	18.9	18.1	-4,2%
Eastern Cape	24.9	24.3	-2,4%
North West	12.4	12.2	-1,6%
Western Cape	30.6	30.4	-0,5%

**Table 8**  
**Rape sorted from highest decreases to highest increases between April to September 2006 and 2007**

Province	2006	2007	% Increase/Decrease
<b>RSA</b>	<b>49.6</b>	<b>47.8</b>	<b>3,6%</b>
Limpopo	37.5	32.4	-13,6%
Mpumalanga	53.2	47.4	-10,9%
Gauteng	56.6	52.3	-7,6%
Northern Cape	58.7	55.0	-6,3%
KwaZulu-Natal	43.7	42.9	-1,6%
Western Cape	52.6	52.0	-1,1%
Eastern Cape	50.2	50.3	0,1%
Free State	52.2	54.7	4,7%
North West	52.1	55.4	6,2%

**Table 9**  
**Attempted murder sorted from highest decreases to highest increases between April to September 2006 and 2007**

Province	2006	2007	% Increase/Decrease
<b>RSA</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>-7,6%</b>
Northern Cape	41.9	33.2	-20,8%
Limpopo	7.6	6.7	-11,8%
Gauteng	30.4	27.0	-11,3%
Free State	16.0	14.6	-8,8%
KwaZulu-Natal	25.9	24.2	-6,5%
Western Cape	21.1	19.9	-5,8%
North West	12.7	12.1	-4,7%
Mpumalanga	18.8	18.0	-4,3%
Eastern Cape	15.1	15.4	2,0%

**Table 10**  
**Assault with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm sorted from highest decreases to highest increases between April to September 2006 and 2007**

<b>Province</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>% Increase/Decrease</b>
<b>RSA</b>	<b>207.5</b>	<b>201.7</b>	<b>-2,8%</b>
Limpopo	136.1	116.7	-14,3%
Northern Cape	446.5	394.9	-11,5%
Western Cape	251.2	237.1	-5,6%
Mpumalanga	227.7	215.9	-5,2%
Gauteng	229.7	223.2	-2,8%
Eastern Cape	236.2	235.3	-0,4%
KwaZulu-Natal	140.7	140.4	-0,2%
North West	213.1	214.6	0,7%
Free State	234.0	253.8	8,4%

**Table 11**  
**Common assault sorted from highest decreases to highest increases between April to September 2006 and 2007**

<b>Province</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>% Increase/Decrease</b>
<b>RSA</b>	<b>201.6</b>	<b>191.4</b>	<b>-5,1%</b>
Limpopo	114.8	97.2	-15,3%
Northern Cape	262.9	225.7	-14,1%
KwaZulu-Natal	149.6	133.9	-10,5%
Mpumalanga	174.6	158.8	-8,8%
North West	148.0	137.6	-7,0%
Western Cape	335.5	316.3	-5,7%
Eastern Cape	143.0	137.2	-4,1%
Gauteng	273.8	274.7	0,3%
Free State	294.1	295.8	0,6%

**Table 12**  
**Robbery with aggravating circumstances sorted from highest decreases to highest increases between April to September 2006 and 2007**

<b>Province</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>% Increase/Decrease</b>
<b>RSA</b>	<b>138.8</b>	<b>125.4</b>	<b>-9,7%</b>
Limpopo	31.6	22.9	-27,6%
Mpumalanga	102.3	81.4	-20,4%
Gauteng	299.5	267.7	-10,6%
Western Cape	173.8	156.6	-9,9%
KwaZulu-Natal	136.7	123.3	-9,8%
North West	84.0	77.5	-7,8%
Eastern Cape	67.3	67.3	0,0%
Free State	70.9	71.6	1,0%
Northern Cape	53.4	56.7	6,1%

**Table 13**  
**Common robbery sorted from highest to lowest decreases between April 2006 to September 2006 and 2007**

Province	2006	2007	% Increase/Decrease
<b>RSA</b>	<b>77.0</b>	<b>67.6</b>	<b>-12,3%</b>
Limpopo	44.1	33.5	-24,0%
Northern Cape	74.6	61.6	-17,4%
Mpumalanga	76.3	63.4	-17,0%
KwaZulu-Natal	55.6	46.5	-16,3%
Gauteng	131.1	112.6	-14,1%
Western Cape	98.7	90.8	-8,1%
Eastern Cape	55.5	53.0	-4,5%
Free State	73.4	70.1	-4,5%
North West	58.0	56.1	-3,3%

**Table 14**  
**Carjacking sorted from highest decreases to highest increases between April to September 2006 and 2007\***

Province	2006	2007	% Increase/Decrease
<b>RSA</b>	<b>7 267</b>	<b>7 214</b>	<b>-0,7%</b>
Northern Cape	3	1	-66,7%
North West	166	134	-19,3%
Limpopo	105	88	-16,2%
Eastern Cape	339	304	-10,3%
Western Cape	491	441	-10,2%
Mpumalanga	319	307	-3,8%
Gauteng	3 989	3 892	-2,4%
KwaZulu-Natal	1 802	1 957	8,6%
Free State	53	90	69,8%

**Table 15**  
**Robbery at residential premises sorted from highest decreases to highest increases between April 2006 to September 2006 and 2007\***

Province	2006	2007	% Increase/Decrease
<b>RSA</b>	<b>6 271</b>	<b>6 711</b>	<b>7,0%</b>
Northern Cape	11	3	-72,7%
Gauteng	3 865	3 568	-7,7%
Western Cape	329	326	-0,9%
North West	287	337	17,4%
Kwazulu-Natal	1 244	1 648	32,5%
Limpopo	85	115	35,3%
Mpumalanga	255	376	47,5%
Eastern Cape	160	263	64,4%
Free State	35	75	114,3%

\* Raw figures

**Table 16**

**Provincial robbery at business premises figures ranked from the lowest to the highest increases between the financial years 2005/2006 and 2006/2007\***

<b>Province</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>% Increase/Decrease</b>
<b>RSA</b>	<b>3 433</b>	<b>4 438</b>	<b>29,3%</b>
Gauteng	2 346	2 407	2,6%
North West	212	313	47,6%
Mpumalanga	77	122	58,4%
KwaZulu-Natal	510	872	71,0%
Eastern Cape	114	242	112,3%
Northern Cape	10	25	150,0%
Western Cape	89	239	168,5%
Free State	32	93	190,6%
Limpopo	43	125	190,7%