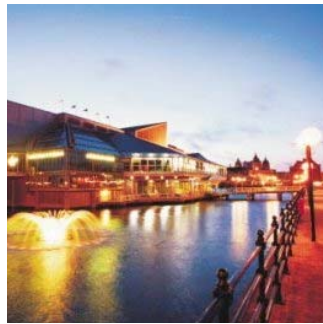


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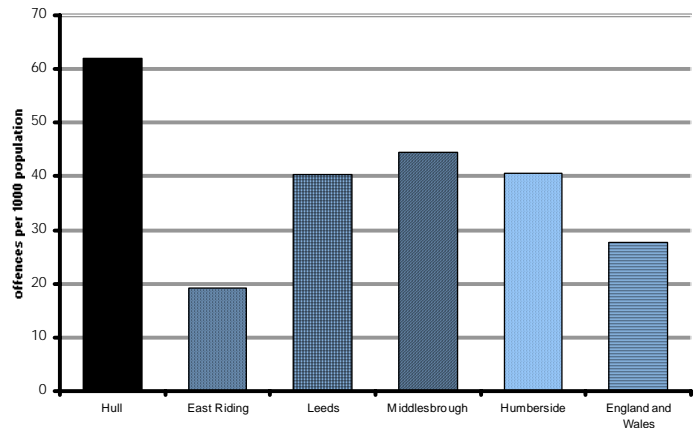
Is crime and the fear of crime going up or down? On such a politically sensitive issue nationally and locally, it is often difficult to disentangle the vast array of statistics and find the true picture.

That said there are some clear facts:

- Overall crime in Humberside is significantly above the national average.
- Overall crime in Hull is significantly higher than the Humberside average, as shown in the graph on the right.
- In March 2004, overall crime in Hull was more than double the national average.

There are of course many reasons and underlying causes underpinning these figures. For example, if the crime rate is measured by offences per 1000 population, the apparent crime rate can rise not because of more crimes but because of population falls (a factor relevant to Hull).

Indeed the trends themselves are unclear. Humberside's Policing Plan for 2005-8 states that in 2004/5 the overall level of recorded crime reduced by 35%, despite Home Office figures showing a rise throughout 2003-4.



All Crime (Offences per 1000 population) , March 2004
Source: April 2003 –March 2004. Crime Statistics in England and Wales, Home Office.

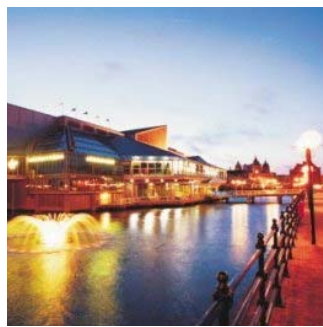
There are also huge variations in the trends for different types of crime. The tables below provides a snapshot of crime in Hull in the period between January and March 2004. Of the 15,000+ offences, 36% were vehicle or other theft; 21% criminal damage and 19% violence against the person.

Offence	Number of offences in Hull (Jan-Mar 04)	Offences per 1000 population in Hull (Jan-Mar 04)	Offences per 1000 population Eng. & Wales (Jan-Mar 04)
All crime	15,393	62.0	27.8
Criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling	394	1.6	0.9
Criminal damage	3,196	12.9	6.1
Robbery of business property	7	0.0	0.0
Burglary in a building other than a dwelling	1,300	5.2	1.9
Burglary	2,490	10.0	3.7
Drug offences	313	1.3	0.7
Fraud and forgery	366	1.5	1.5
Vehicle and other theft (includes shoplifting etc).	5,505	22.2	10.3
Sexual offences	140	0.6	0.2
Violence against the person	3,011	12.1	4.5
More serious violence	112	0.5	0.2

Source: April 2003 –March 2004. Crime Statistics in England and Wales, Home Office

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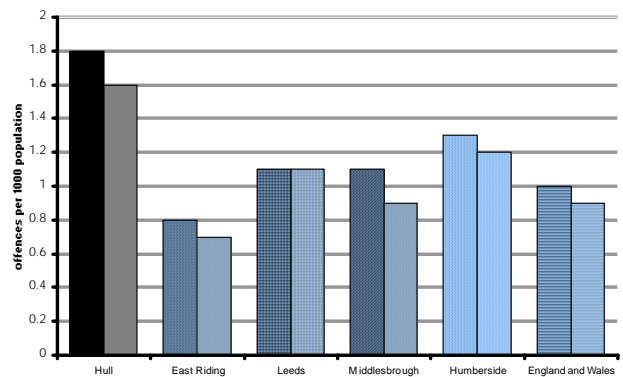
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These figures, although the most recent available, provide only a snapshot and are 18 months old. It is not so much that the statistics are unreliable, more that there are so many variables, they can be used to tell a different story. Definitions and interpretations vary as well.

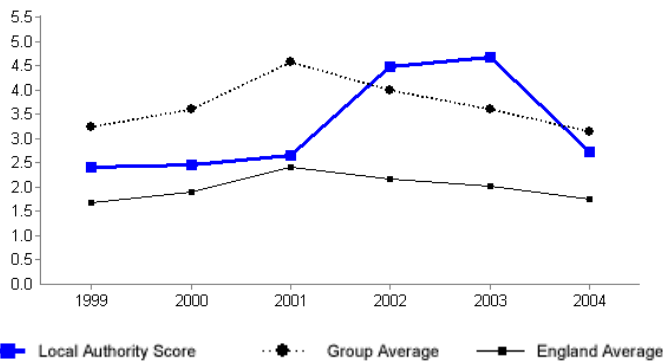
Just because crime in Hull is relatively high does not mean that Humberside Police are less effective than other forces. Relatively high unemployment, poor educational attainment and a tight urban area are all ingredients in the recipe for crime. Tackling these underlying causes is recognised by Humberside Police who are very active in local partnerships including the LSP and Citysafe, Hull's Community Safety Partnership.

Tackling crime in partnership has been a key priority for the LSP and resources from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund have been targeted on projects such as CCTV, Wardens and mobile 'Cop Shops' all of which have helped reduce levels of vehicle crime, robbery and burglary.



Criminal Damage to a building other than a Dwelling, June 2003 and March 2004

Source: April 2003 - March 2004. Crime Statistics in England and Wales, Home Office.



Robbery In 1999-2004, Hull, NRF average and England
Source: NRU Floor Targets Interactive

The table on the left shows the robbery rate in Hull between 1999-2004. The robbery rate has fallen sharply in Hull in the past year and is now lower than the average for Neighbourhood Renewal Fund areas (i.e. the 88 most deprived local authority areas). However, the rate is higher than it was in 2001, despite falls across England and in the other NRF areas.

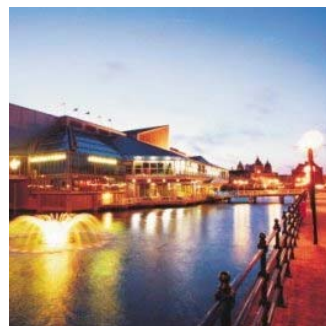
Fear and perception of crime can often be more powerful than the actual level of crime not only to those who live and work in an area, but also to those who may consider investing in Hull, and particularly in certain parts of the city.

But is Hull really a worse place to live, work or do business as a result of crime as opposed to Leeds, Middlesbrough or any other major city? The range of statistics presented above contain mixed messages, but their impact can be damaging to the image and confidence of Hull, its people and its businesses.

Further information: www.humberside.police.uk
www.crimestatistics.org.uk
www.neighbourhood.gov.uk/page.asp?id=21

Crime in Hull

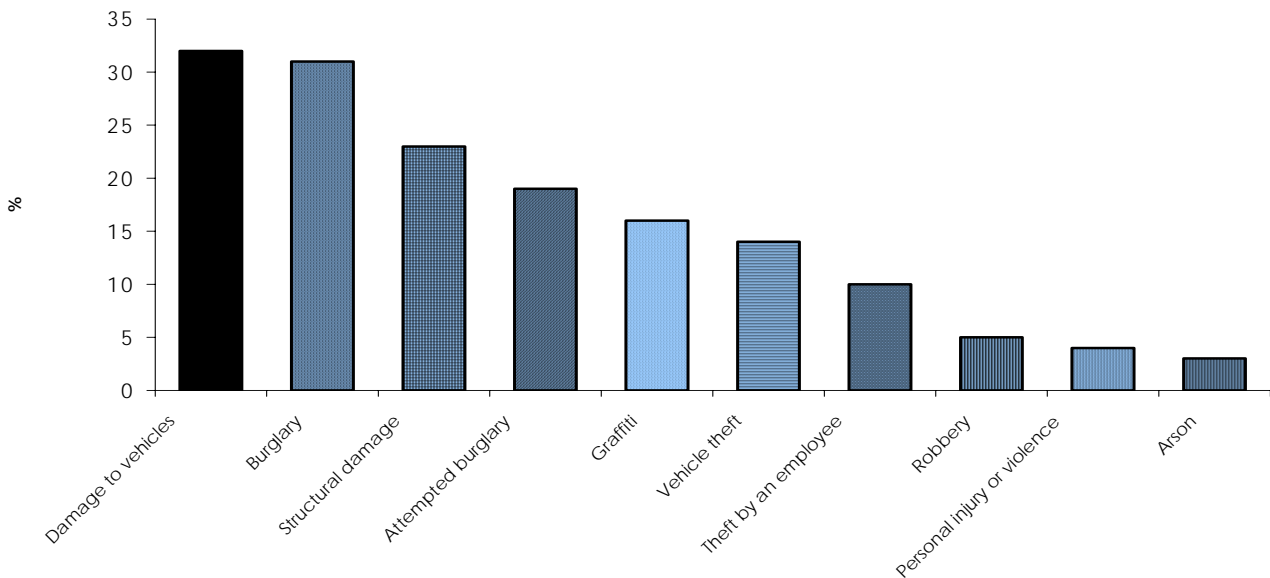
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Business Briefing – UK Business Crime Surveys

Crime against business across the UK shows no sign of diminishing according to a British Chambers of Commerce survey in 2004. If anything, it appears to be escalating. **64% of all businesses surveyed had experienced at least one crime within the last 12 months**; an increase of 6% from the last crime survey that the Chambers conducted in 2001. Furthermore, almost one half (47%) of businesses had experienced more than one crime in the past 12 months.

Experiences of Business Crime



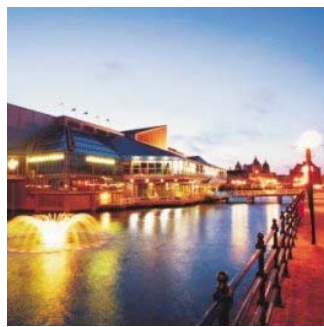
One-third of companies had been burgled during the past year, while a further 19% of businesses had suffered from attempted burglary. Nearly **a third of firms had experienced damage to vehicles** and almost one-quarter have been the victim of structural damage (including vandalism).

It is the impact of crime however, rather than the cost per se, that is often more devastating for people doing business in Britain. Dealing with instances of crime simply distracts business owners from running their business. **One-third of firms had suffered a disruption to trading as a result of crime** committed against them, while a further 10% have lost business as a consequence of crime. **One-quarter of firms had seen their insurance costs increase** and the survey also found that crime is damaging staff morale. Such consequences serve to underline the fact that crime against business is not 'victimless' crime.

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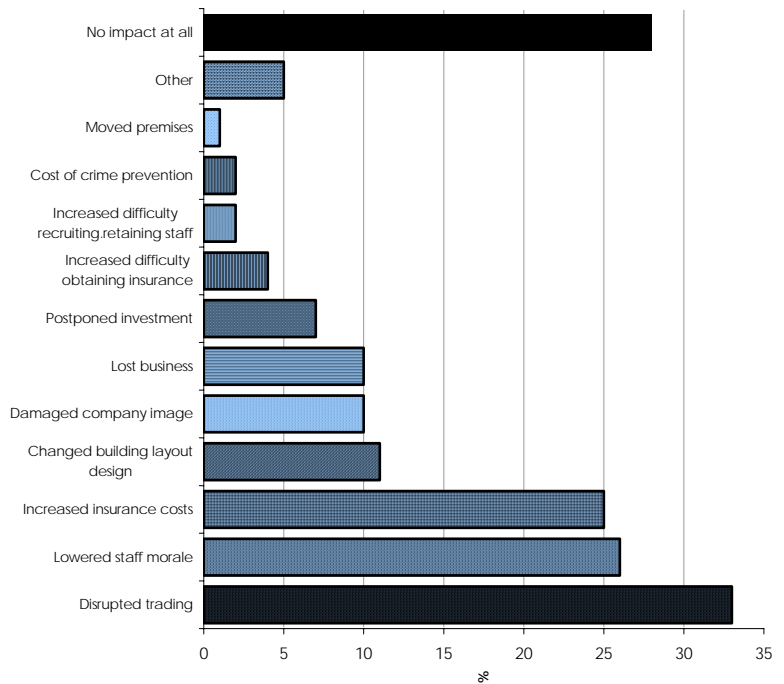
Only 4% of businesses questioned believed that crime against business is 'not a problem at all' in their local area, while 17% of firms think that it is a 'serious problem'. Indeed, the survey findings suggest that crime against business is still a long way from penetrating the agenda of many local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs), as 70% of companies report that they are not aware of a community safety partnership in their area (Hull's is Citysafe).

Chambers had long been calling for a statutory measure that requires CDRP's to include crime against business as part of their triennial audit. Such a move would make a significant step towards tackling the issue at a local level.

Chambers believes that it is vital for crime against business to be recorded as a separate statistic by the police. A separate statistic will only allow the police to build up a more accurate picture of crime against business in their area; it will also act as a tool by which the performance of the police, in relation to tackling the issue of crime against business, can be measured.

A criticism that is often levelled at this proposal is that there is little point in recording crime against business separately because not all firms report crimes committed against them. **Over half of the businesses surveyed said that they did not report all of the crimes committed to the police.** 16% did not report any crimes at all. Nearly one-third (32%) of businesses failing to report a crime did so because they no confidence in the police response. One-fifth said the process was too time consuming.

Impact of Crime on Business



Businesses, therefore, are much more likely to report instances of crime if they felt that the police are able to provide an adequate response. Indeed, the survey findings show that **67% of firms consider faster police response to be very or fairly effective in reducing crime against their business.** Until businesses can be sure that police will provide this response, a significant number of companies, particularly smaller ones, are likely to remain reluctant to exert both time and money on reporting incidents of crime.

Almost **three-quarters of firms (74%) think that crime against business should now become a Key Performance Indicator for the police,** in order to ensure that it is given priority alongside other issues, such as residential burglary. Until that happens, the police will struggle to be in a position to devote sufficient resources to tackling the problem.

For further information: www.chamberonline.co.uk/alToQfA.html

www.hullbusinessforum.com