

Press Release



SOUTH AFRICAN
INSTITUTE OF
RACE RELATIONS

South Africa's Leading Research and Policy Organisation
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Statement by the South African Institute of Race Relations on South African crime statistics

The South African Institute of Race Relations has said that the overall picture emerging from crime statistics released by the South African Police Service this morning is positive.

Year-on-year most major crime rates expressed per 100 000 of the population are down by between five and ten percent.

The murder rate for example is down 6.5% year-on-year and more importantly is down 50% since 1994. What must be remembered, however, is that it is still significantly higher than that in most other parts of the world.

The 2003/2004 period was the peak year for many crime rates and the rates have mostly come down significantly since then.

The Institute's deputy CEO, Frans Cronje, warned that there were, however, two important exceptions:

1. The net number of house robberies is still 100% higher than in 2003/2004.
2. The net number of business robberies is 300% higher than in 2003/2004 and bucked the overall year-on-year trend by increasing by 0.9%.

Cronje said that types of crimes that South Africans fear the most therefore remain serious problems for the police. By international standards South Africa remains a dangerous society. However, the data suggests that progress is slowly being made in securing a safer society. This is most probably due to the joint efforts of the South African Police Service and the private security industry which is playing an ever more important role in fighting crime in South Africa. He added that the private security industry now has twice as many active personnel as the South African Police Service. 