

# FreeFACTS

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## Latest stats show little progress in war on crime

**The latest crime statistics show that South Africa is making little progress in the war on crime.**

Statistics around serious crimes, such as murder and armed robbery indicate that the trend we have seen in the last decade, where these crimes are on the rise, after dropping markedly since the middle of the 1990s, until about 2010, is continuing. The rates of these serious crimes have plateaued, in the past three or four years, but this indicates that the police are not making any progress in the fight against crime.

The only crime that has seen a marked decrease in the past two years is drug-related crime. This could be because these crimes are not prosecuted as frequently, especially given that South Africa is slowly moving to an environment where cannabis is decriminalized. This could mean that police do not enforce laws around possession of the substance as vehemently as before. However, as drug-related offences are often reliant on police action to be combatted this could also mean that the police are not as proactive or effective as they were previously, which has a number of implications for the combatting of other, more serious crimes.

The number and rates of murders remain high, with the number of murders in 2019/20 the highest it has been since 2002/03. The rate has also remained steady – at 36 per 100 000 people – for the last three years. The last time it was higher than this was over a decade ago.

By international standards South Africa's murder rate is also very high – the only two countries with large populations with murder rates higher than ours are Brazil and Venezuela, the latter of which is effectively a failed state.

South Africa's institutions, not just the police, have been failing and failing, for the past decade, since Jacob Zuma became President. There does not seem any indication that under his successor, Cyril Ramaphosa, that this is changing.

— **Marius Roodt**

## JOIN US

The IRR is an advocacy group that fights for your right to make decisions about your life, family and business, free from unnecessary government, political, and bureaucratic interference. FreeFACTS publishes evidence that communities are better off when individuals are free to make decisions about how they want to live, be educated, work, access healthcare, think, speak, own property, and protect their communities. If you agree with the issues we stand for, welcome to the team. There are millions of people just like you who are tired of South African politicians, activists, and commentators attempting to rein in your freedom to decide. Take control and make sure your voice is heard by becoming a friend of the IRR.

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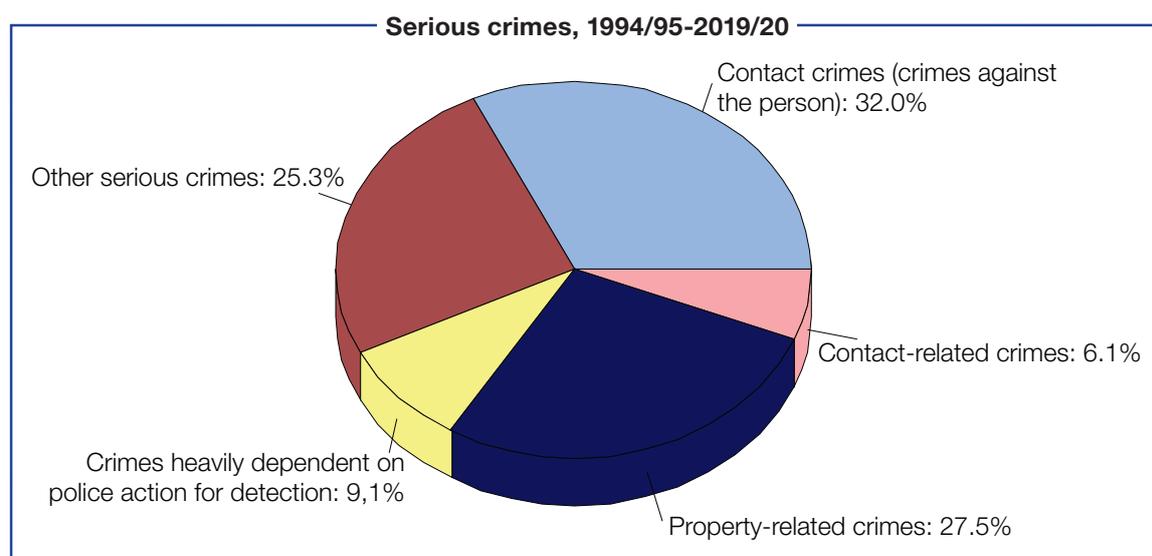
## Crime and Security

Tally of the most serious crimes, 1994/95-2019/20		
Type of crime	Number	Proportion of total <sup>a</sup>
<b>Contact crimes (crimes against the person)</b>	<b>18 044 656</b>	<b>32.0%</b>
Murder	527 534	0.9%
Attempted murder	585 389	1.0%
Sexual offences	1 479 054	2.6%
Serious assault	5 574 649	9.9%
Common assault	5 271 833	9.3%
Robbery with aggravating circumstances	2 958 748	5.2%
Common robbery	1 647 449	2.9%
<b>Contact-related crimes</b>	<b>3 438 105</b>	<b>6.1%</b>
Arson	187 756	0.3%
Malicious damage to property	3 250 349	5.8%
<b>Property-related crimes</b>	<b>15 509 338</b>	<b>27.5%</b>
Residential burglary	6 707 282	11.9%
Non-residential (business) burglary	1 952 452	3.5%
Theft of motor vehicles and motorcycles	2 021 397	3.5%
Theft out of motor vehicles	3 962 716	7.0%
Stock theft	865 491	1.5%
<b>Crimes heavily dependent on police action for detection</b>	<b>5 111 806</b>	<b>9.1%</b>
Illegal possession of firearms and ammunition	381 112	0.7%
Drug-related crime	3 448 776	6.1%
Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs	1 281 918	2.3%
<b>Other serious crimes</b>	<b>14 290 191</b>	<b>25.3%</b>
All other theft	10 719 825	19.0%
Commercial crime	1 793 525	3.2%
Shoplifting	1 776 841	3.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>56 394 096</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: South African Police Service (SAPS), [www.saps.gov.za](http://www.saps.gov.za), accessed September 2008, 19 September 2014, 29 September 2015, 24 October 2017, 10 October 2018, 12 September 2019, and 7 August 2020

a Sub-totals in the column may not add up, owing to rounding.

Since the end of apartheid over 500 000 South Africans have been murdered and there have been nearly 1.5 million sexual offences. Nearly eleven million South Africans have been victims of common or serious assault. By any measure this indicates the high levels of crime that South Africans have experienced over the past 26 years.



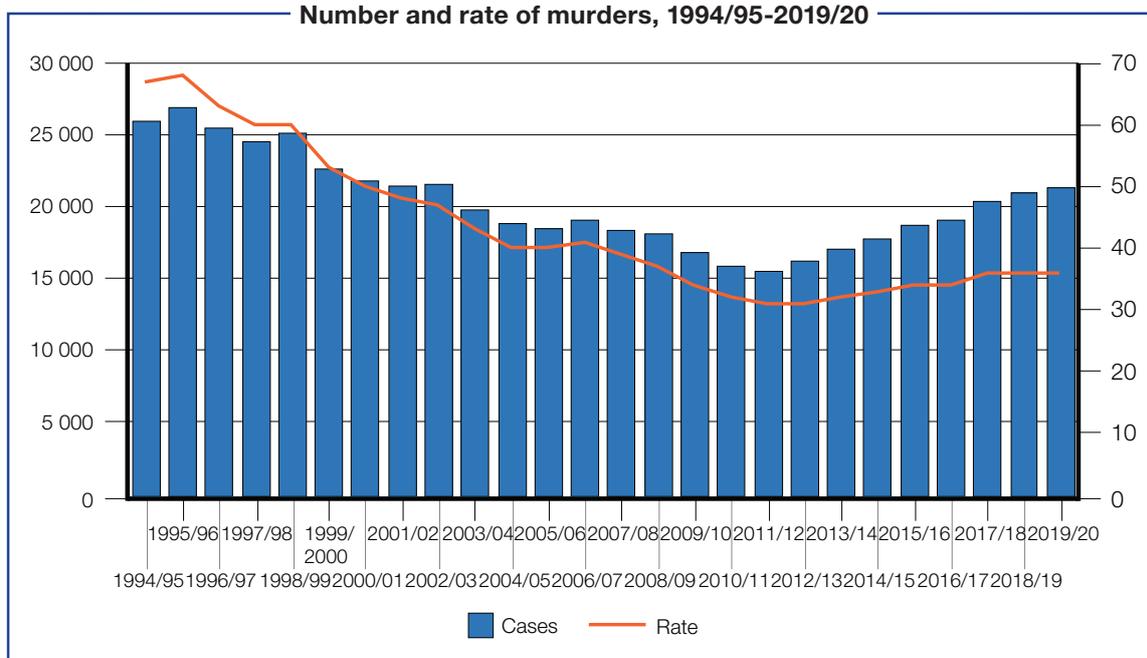
## Crime and Security

**Number and rate of murders, 1994/95-2019/20**

Year	Cases	Rate	Year	Cases	Rate
1994/95	25 965	67	2008/09	18 084	37
1995/96	26 877	68	2009/10	16 767	34
1996/97	25 470	63	2010/11	15 893	32
1997/98	24 486	60	2011/12	15 554	31
1998/99	25 127	60	2012/13	16 213	31
1999/2000	22 604	53	2013/14	17 023	32
2000/01	21 758	50	2014/15	17 805	33
2001/02	21 405	48	2015/16	18 673	34
2002/03	21 553	47	2016/17	19 016	34
2003/04	19 824	43	2017/18	20 336	36
2004/05	18 793	40	2018/19	21 022	36
2005/06	18 455	40	2019/20	21 325	36
2006/07	19 106	41			
2007/08	18 400	39			
<b>1994/95-2019/20</b>			<b>-17.9%</b>	<b>-46.3%</b>	

Source: SAPS, www.saps.gov.za, accessed September 2008, 19 September 2014, 29 September 2015, 24 October 2017, 10 October 2018, 12 September 2019, and 7 August 2020

**Number and rate of murders, 1994/95-2019/20**



Murder was on a steady downward trend since the mid-1990s up until the 2011/12 reporting year, when the murder rate had halved from its mid-1990s peak. However, since that low point the rate has ticked up again. The number of murders committed in the latest reporting year are the highest since 2002/03. The rate of murders (number of murders per 100 000 people) has remained fairly steady in recent years, although that is also showing an increasing trend. The current rate of 36 murders per 100 000, is the same as it been for the previous two reporting years, and the highest since 2009. The reasons behind the increasing number of murders and plateauing rate this will be complex but some of the rise can be linked to the hollowing out of the SAPS (along with many other South African institutions) after Jacob Zuma became President. There has not been much change since he was succeeded by Cyril Ramaphosa. It is true that fixing an entity as big as the SAPS is akin to turning the Titanic around (it is something that will take time and effort), there has been little evidence that President Ramaphosa is interested in implementing the necessary reforms. This is not limited to policing but includes many other sectors and institutions in South Africa.

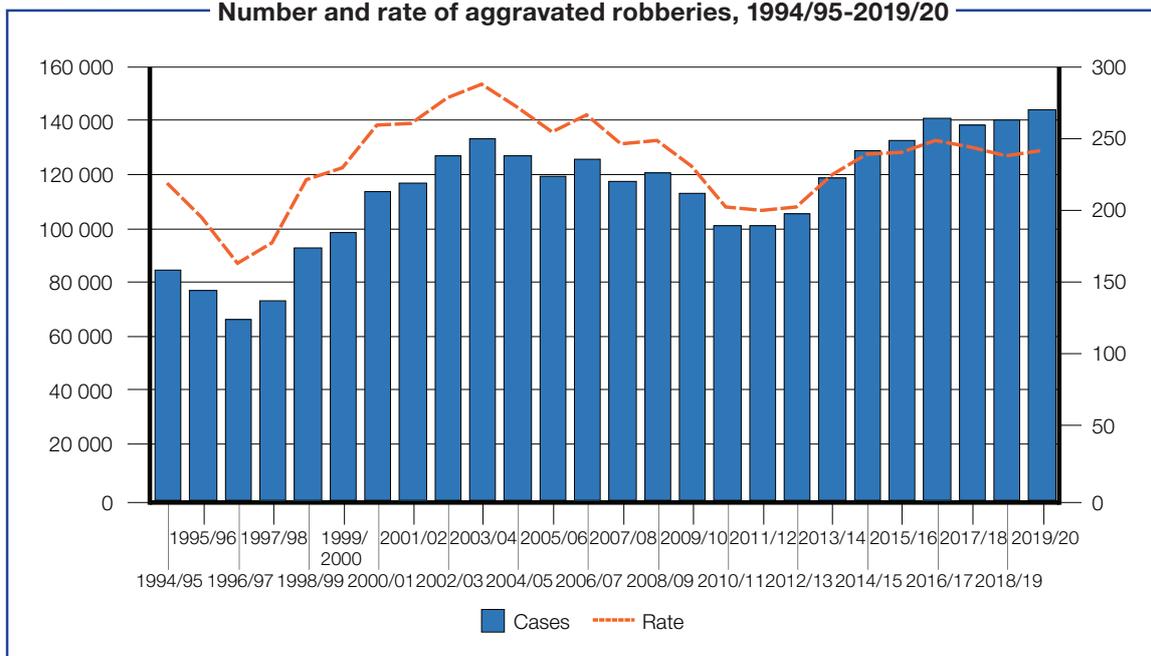
# Crime and Security

**Number and rate of aggravated robberies, 1994/95-2019/20**

Year	Cases	Rate	Year	Cases	Rate
1994/95	84 785	219	2008/09	120 920	249
1995/96	77 167	195	2009/10	113 200	231
1996/97	66 163	163	2010/11	101 039	203
1997/98	73 053	178	2011/12	100 769	200
1998/99	92 630	221	2012/13	105 488	203
1999/2000	98 813	230	2013/14	118 963	225
2000/01	113 716	260	2014/15	129 045	239
2001/02	116 736	261	2015/16	132 527	241
2002/03	126 905	279	2016/17	140 956	249
2003/04	133 658	288	2017/18	138 364	244
2004/05	126 789	272	2018/19	140 032	238
2005/06	119 242	255	2019/20	143 990	242
2006/07	126 038	267	<b>1994/95-2019/20</b>	<b>69.8%</b>	<b>10.5%</b>
2007/08	117 760	247			

Source: SAPS, www.saps.gov.za, accessed September 2008, 19 September 2014, 29 September 2015, 24 October 2017, 10 October 2018, 12 September 2019, and 7 August 2020

**Number and rate of aggravated robberies, 1994/95-2019/20**



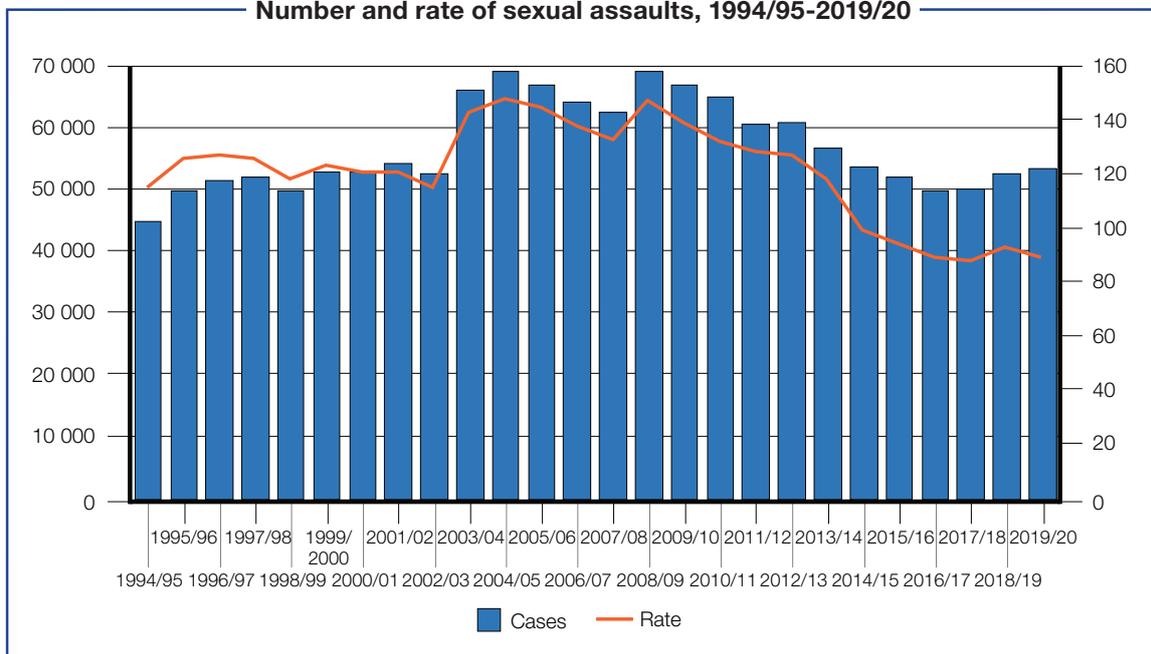
# Crime and Security

Number and rate of sexual assaults, 1994/95-2019/20

Year	Cases	Rate	Year	Cases	Rate
1994/95	44 751	115	2008/09	69 197	147
1995/96	49 813	126	2009/10	66 992	139
1996/97	51 435	127	2010/11	64 921	132
1997/98	51 959	126	2011/12	60 539	128
1998/99	49 679	118	2012/13	60 888	127
1999/2000	52 891	123	2013/14	56 680	118
2000/01	52 872	121	2014/15	53 617	99
2001/02	54 293	121	2015/16	51 895	94
2002/03	52 425	115	2016/17	49 660	89
2003/04	66 079	143	2017/18	50 108	88
2004/05	69 117	148	2018/19	52 420	89
2005/06	67 064	145	2019/20	53 293	89
2006/07	64 071	138	<b>1994/95-2019/20</b>	<b>19.1%</b>	<b>-22.6%</b>
2007/08	62 484	133			

Source: SAPS, www.saps.gov.za, accessed September 2008, 19 September 2014, 29 September 2015, 24 October 2017, 10 October 2018, and 11 September 2019

Number and rate of sexual assaults, 1994/95-2019/20



A somewhat surprising statistic is that sexual offences have (in general) been on something of a downward trend since the end of apartheid. However, unlike murder, a sexual offence does not have to be reported to the police, and there are many studies that show rape (and other sexual crimes) are underreported, so it may well be the case that the true figure is somewhat higher.

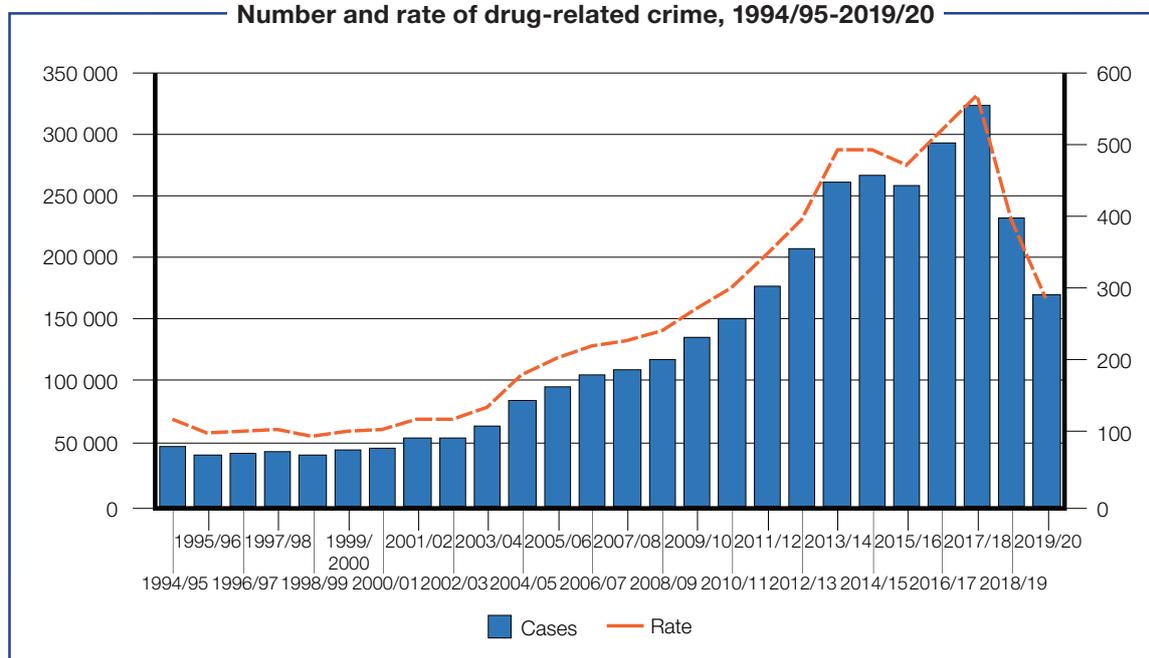
## Crime and Security

**Number and rate of drug-related crime, 1994/95-2019/20**

Year	Cases	Rate	Year	Cases	Rate
1994/95	45 928	118	2008/09	116 949	241
1995/96	39 334	99	2009/10	134 687	273
1996/97	40 363	100	2010/11	150 561	301
1997/98	42 452	103	2011/12	176 218	349
1998/99	39 493	94	2012/13	206 721	396
1999/2000	43 602	101	2013/14	260 596	492
2000/01	44 939	103	2014/15	266 902	494
2001/02	52 900	118	2015/16	259 165	472
2002/03	53 810	118	2016/17	292 689	518
2003/04	62 689	135	2017/18	323 547	570
2004/05	84 001	180	2018/19	232 657	396
2005/06	94 792	204	2019/20	170 510	286
2006/07	104 369	221			
2007/08	108 902	228			
			<b>1994/95-2019/20</b>	<b>271.3%</b>	<b>142.4%</b>

Source: SAPS, www.saps.gov.za, accessed September 2008, 19 September 2014, 29 September 2015, 24 October 2017, 10 October 2018, 11 September 2019, and 7 August 2020

**Number and rate of drug-related crime, 1994/95-2019/20**



The number of drug-related crimes has gone up markedly but this is probably unlikely to be because of a surge in drug use in South Africa, but due to changes in laws and stricter enforcement. In addition, the number of drug-related crimes dropped by nearly 100 000 between the 2017/18 and 2018/19 reporting years and over 50 000 between 2018/19 and 2019/20. This is possibly due to the effective decriminalisation of marijuana in the country, but could also be a result of lower capacity in the police service.

## Crime and Security

### Stations with the highest reported number of murders, 2010/11-2019/20

Position	Station	Province	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017
1	Delft	Western Cape	70	87	113	144	163	143	183
2	Khayelitsha	Western Cape	124	160	168	146	146	161	179
3	Inanda	KwaZulu-Natal	156	157	170	164	179	169	207
4	Umlazi	KwaZulu-Natal	139	144	122	133	170	155	187
5	Nyanga	Western Cape	197	232	261	305	300	279	281
6	Mfuleni	Western Cape	68	67	99	118	154	139	125
7	Harare	Western Cape	141	154	131	164	141	166	174
8	Plessislaer	KwaZulu-Natal	124	91	105	92	87	94	129
9	Mthatha	Eastern Cape	142	151	144	40	92	122	127
10	Gugulethu	Western Cape	150	120	129	149	165	184	136

Position	Station	Province	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	Case Diff. 2018/19- 2019/2020	% Change 2018/19- 2019/20	% Change 2010/11- 2019/20
1	Delft	Western Cape	195	247	265	18	7.3%	278.6%
2	Khayelitsha	Western Cape	192	221	251	30	13.6%	102.4%
3	Inanda	KwaZulu-Natal	203	209	231	22	10.5%	48.1%
4	Umlazi	KwaZulu-Natal	223	180	212	32	17.8%	52.5%
5	Nyanga	Western Cape	308	289	185	-104	-36.0%	-6.1%
6	Mfuleni	Western Cape	157	154	165	11	7.1%	142.6%
7	Harare	Western Cape	142	166	162	-4	-2.4%	14.9%
8	Plessislaer	KwaZulu-Natal	104	166	161	-5	-3.0%	29.8%
9	Mthatha	Eastern Cape	160	181	159	-22	-12.2%	12.0%
10	Gugulethu	Western Cape	182	155	157	2	1.3%	4.7%

Source: Source: SAPS, www.saps.gov.za, accessed 7 August 2020

## Crime and Security

### Stations with the highest reported number of rapes

Position	Station	Province	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017
1	Inanda	KwaZulu-Natal	377	337	348	297	274	272	309
2	Umlazi	KwaZulu-Natal	356	403	339	298	305	284	262
3	Mthatha	Eastern Cape	218	212	268	46	222	217	227
4	Plesslaer	KwaZulu-Natal	317	307	279	212	219	234	179
5	Thohoyandou	Limpopo	261	275	242	246	269	230	183
6	Delft	Western Cape	167	167	190	164	174	164	158
7	Nyanga	Western Cape	293	306	309	230	202	247	256
8	Dobsonville	Gauteng	215	191	170	165	156	157	200
9	Lusikisiki	Eastern Cape	121	124	127	155	137	138	139
10	Temba	Gauteng	271	250	232	231	182	175	194

Position	Station	Province	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	Case Diff: 2018/19- 2019/202	% Change: 2018/19- 2019/20	% Change: 2010/11- 2019/20
1	Inanda	KwaZulu-Natal	278	338	297	-41	-12.1%	21.2%
2	Umlazi	KwaZulu-Natal	252	262	293	31	11.8%	-17.7%
3	Mthatha	Eastern Cape	222	204	257	53	26.0%	17.9%
4	Plesslaer	KwaZulu-Natal	177	179	236	57	31.8%	-25.6%
5	Thohoyandou	Limpopo	225	268	225	-43	-16.0%	-13.8%
6	Delft	Western Cape	196	224	224	0	0.0%	34.1%
7	Nyanga	Western Cape	210	217	198	-19	-8.8%	-32.4%
8	Dobsonville	Gauteng	182	179	197	18	10.1%	-8.4%
9	Lusikisiki	Eastern Cape	191	280	191	-89	-31.8%	57.9%
10	Temba	Gauteng	177	180	189	9	5.0%	-30.3%

Source: SAPS, [www.saps.gov.za](http://www.saps.gov.za), accessed 7 August 2020

## Crime and Security

### Stations with the highest reported number of burglaries at residential premises

Position	Station	Province	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017
1	Witbank	Mpumalanga	1 062	1 471	1 464	1 546	1 532	1 551	1 616
2	Honeydew	Gauteng	1 923	1 700	2 028	1 753	1 815	1 530	1 340
3	Park Road	Free State	1 175	1 284	1 829	1 890	1 923	1 397	1 014
4	Rustenburg	North West	1 267	1 389	1 603	1 270	1 243	1 363	1 175
5	Nelspruit	Mpumalanga	1 248	1 174	1 192	924	994	916	907
6	Plessislaer	KwaZulu-Natal	805	877	930	1 148	1 136	1 402	1 291
7	Seshego	Limpopo	730	853	908	921	968	1 158	1 124
8	Dobsonville	Gauteng	879	669	851	826	822	908	888
9	Inanda	KwaZulu-Natal	871	827	1 144	1 126	1 146	1 242	1 054
10	Mankweng	Limpopo	484	713	705	864	951	818	1 004

Position	Station	Province	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	Case Diff: 2018/19- 2019/202	% Change: 2018/19- 2019/20	% Change: 2010/11- 2019/20
1	Witbank	Mpumalanga	1 460	1 363	1 252	-111	-8.1%	17.9%
2	Honeydew	Gauteng	1 260	1 264	1 175	-89	-7.0%	-38.9%
3	Park Road	Free State	1 288	1 344	1 142	-202	-15.0%	-2.8%
4	Rustenburg	North West	1 176	1 032	1 073	41	4.0%	-15.3%
5	Nelspruit	Mpumalanga	843	880	1 049	169	19.2%	-15.9%
6	Plessislaer	KwaZulu-Natal	1 226	1 219	1 025	-194	-15.9%	27.3%
7	Seshego	Limpopo	1 012	941	995	54	5.7%	36.3%
8	Dobsonville	Gauteng	847	965	973	8	0.8%	10.7%
9	Inanda	KwaZulu-Natal	1 094	1 033	967	-66	-6.4%	11.0%
10	Mankweng	Limpopo	914	857	953	96	11.2%	96.9%

Source: SAPS, [www.saps.gov.za](http://www.saps.gov.za), accessed 7 August 2020