2023 Auto Theft Trend Report

February 2024

Please direct questions or media requests to media@equiteco.ca
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In Canada, a vehicle is stolen every five minutes. After the historically high auto theft trends in 2022, the data in this report illustrates the continuation of the National Auto Theft Crisis into 2023. Private passenger vehicles (PPV) represent the vehicles that individuals and families drive (cars, trucks, SUVs and vans). Ontario and Quebec continue to lead PPV auto theft rates across the country, as well as having the lowest vehicle recovery rates*.

The top three priorities to make a meaningful impact on the auto theft crisis in Canada are:

- Stopping the illegal export of stolen vehicles at the Ports through targeted searches and an increase in disclosure obligations on shippers and exporters;
- Preventing vehicles from being stolen in the first place through effective anti-theft measures by manufacturers; and
- Placing a strong emphasis on information sharing and data-driven partnerships.

By understanding why auto theft trends are happening, organizations and decision-makers dedicated to preventing auto theft can effectively collaborate on creating solutions. On behalf of the insurance industry, this report aims to provide key stakeholders the information and insight to support a collective and collaborative approach to ending auto theft for Canadians.

*Recovery rates referenced in this report are based on preliminary recovery vehicle data and are subject to change.

BY THE NUMBERS & TREND ANALYSIS

(These statistics encompass cars (sedans, coupes, hatchbacks and wagons), trucks, SUVs and vans, reported stolen in Canada)

- Between 2021-2023 auto theft increased across Canada, as follows:
  - 48.2% increase in Ontario
  - 57.9% increase in Quebec
  - 34% increase in Atlantic Canada
  - 5.5% increase in Western Canada

Ontario & Quebec

- Following a historically high year in 2022, auto theft continued to increase in 2023 in Ontario (7.1%) and Quebec (5.1%) year-over-year (YoY), with overall trends increasing in Ontario (48.2%) and Quebec (57.9%) between 2021-2023.
- The majority of vehicle thefts in Ontario (68%) and Quebec (75%) were vehicles made in 2017 or newer primarily because organized crime rings are focusing their efforts on stealing new/luxury vehicles for maximum profit in overseas sales.
- This is further illustrated by the recovery rates* in Ontario (44%) and Quebec (37%), which suggest vehicles were primarily being exported overseas through the Ports or re-VINed and being used by criminal organizations or sold domestically to unsuspecting Canadians.
- SUVs were the most stolen vehicle type in Ontario (55%) and Quebec (64%)
Atlantic Canada

- Auto theft in the Atlantic provinces continues to increase in 2023, at 6.7% YoY, with overall trends increasing 34% (2021-2023).
- The majority of thefts in Atlantic Canada (43%) were vehicles made between 2010-2016, with cars (sedans, coupes, hatchbacks and wagons) being the most stolen vehicle type (40%).
- The recovery rates* (67%) suggest that stolen vehicles are typically being used to commit another crime. Auto thieves in New Brunswick are stealing vehicles, with the majority of recovered vehicles found after arson has been committed; a tactic thieves use to eliminate physical evidence from the crime.
- In contrast, stolen vehicles in Halifax are typically destined for export out of the Port of Halifax.

Western Canada

- Overall auto theft trends saw an increase of 5.5% (2021-2023) in Western Canada.
- Alberta experiences more auto theft per capita than Ontario. Alberta experiences 252 stolen vehicles per 100,000 people, while Ontario experiences 202 and Quebec sees 169 vehicle thefts per 100,000 people, respectively.
- In Alberta, the majority of thefts (33%) were vehicles made between 2003-2009, with trucks being the most stolen vehicle type in Western Canada (notably 44% of all stolen vehicles in Alberta were trucks).
- Interestingly, there was an increase in re-VINed vehicles or vehicles exported overseas, as demonstrated by the decline in recovery rates*, 77% (2023) from 84% (2022). This suggests that stolen vehicles are being used to commit other crimes, as well as for domestic re-sale or export.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Total # of Thefts in 2022</th>
<th>Total # of Thefts in 2023</th>
<th>% Change Year-over-Year (YoY)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ontario</td>
<td>28,131</td>
<td>30,134</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quebec</td>
<td>14,480</td>
<td>15,225</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic Canada</td>
<td>1,931</td>
<td>2,061</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Canada*</td>
<td>25,540</td>
<td>23,055</td>
<td>-9.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>70,082</td>
<td>70,475</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data sources: Équité Association has compiled data from Canadian law enforcement agencies.

*Western Canada includes British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan & Manitoba.
National Auto Theft Trends Spotlight (All Vehicles)
(These statistics encompass all vehicles reported stolen in Canada)

- The total number of motor vehicles stolen in Canada was 105,673 (2022, Statistics Canada), which means a vehicle is stolen every 5 minutes in Canada.
- Auto theft losses tripled from 2018-2022, reaching over $1.2 billion in 2022.
- When polled about auto theft, Canadians shared (Angus Reid forum, September 2023):
  - 84% of Canadians say the rise in auto theft makes them concerned about the increase in crime in their community;
  - 69% say the rise in auto theft makes them concerned about their personal safety and/or the safety of their family; and
  - 65% say that government, auto manufacturers, law enforcement and the courts need to work together to fix this issue.

ÉQUITÉ’S RESPONSE
Solutions in Action
Équité works with law enforcement, government partners, and industry organizations, to detect, prevent and solve insurance crime, making our communities safer and more equitable.

Équité, in partnership with Service de police de la Ville de Montréal (SPVM), Sûreté du Québec, and the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), recovered 1,715 vehicles at the Ports of Montreal and Halifax, valued at approximately $100 million in 2023. Équité is also collaborating with law enforcement agencies across Canada, such as partnering with the Ontario Provincial Police’s Organized Crime Towing and Auto Theft Team.

As Canada’s authority on insurance fraud and crime, Équité Association looks forward to participating in the National Summit on Combatting Auto Theft in February 2024.

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APPENDIX

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