



# 2009 California Vehicle Theft Facts

## VEHICLE THEFTS

- In 2009, 169,058 vehicles were stolen. The estimated total value of the vehicles was approximately \$1.14 billion. (This figure is based on the average replacement value established by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.)
- Of the vehicles stolen in 2009, 59.5 percent were automobiles, 26.8 percent were personal trucks and vans, 4 percent were motorcycles, and 4.2 percent were commercial trucks and trailers. All other vehicles (recreational vehicles, construction, and farm equipment) accounted for 5.4 percent.
- Top three theft targets:

### Autos

Honda Accord 1991  
Honda Accord 1994  
Honda Accord 1992

### Motorcycles

Suzuki 2007  
Yamaha 2007  
Honda 2006

### Pickups and Vans

Toyota Pickup 1986  
Toyota Pickup 1988  
Toyota Pickup 1987

### Commercial Trucks

Freightliner 2000  
Freightliner 1999  
Freightliner 2001

### Recreational Vehicles

All Terrain Vehicle 2006  
All Terrain Vehicle 2007  
All Terrain Vehicle 2005

### Trailers

Homemade Utility Trailer 2000  
Homemade Utility Trailer 2007  
Trailer Utility 2007

### **WHERE THE THEFTS OCCURRED**

- Approximately 53.4 percent of all thefts occurred in Southern California (Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties).
- Approximately 28.9 percent of all vehicle thefts occurred in Los Angeles County.
- Approximately 15.9 percent of the thefts occurred in the San Francisco Bay Area (Alameda, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara Counties).
- Approximately 5.6 percent of all the thefts occurred in Sacramento County.
- Approximately 3.3 percent of all the thefts occurred in Fresno County.

### **TOP TEN LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES REPORTING VEHICLE THEFTS:**

1. Los Angeles Police Department (20,369)	6. Oakland Police Department (5,297)
2. California Highway Patrol (13,599)	7. Riverside Co. SO (5,271)
3. Los Angeles Co. SO (13,361)	8. San Francisco Police Department (4,906)
4. San Diego Police Department (8,002)	9. Sacramento Police Department (4,189)
5. San Jose Police Department (5,832)	10. San Bernardino Co. SO (3,843)

### **VEHICLE THEFT TRENDS**

- The 1991 Honda Accord ranks as the number one stolen vehicle statewide and the 1994 Honda Accord and 1992 Honda Accord are ranked at numbers two and three, respectively. With high resale value, there is an abundance of Hondas on the road and consumer demand is high. Additionally, their parts are interchangeable with similar models from year-to-year and the ignition systems can be easily defeated.
- Consistently since 1984, Toyota Pickups have ranked as the number one most frequently stolen pickup truck. Its popularity is due to its resale value, abundance, interchangeable parts, and easily defeated ignition systems. It should be noted that with increasingly more technical alarm systems being utilized by Toyota, vehicles with model years of 1990 and later are less often included in the Top 40 list of vehicles stolen.

- Freightliner commercial trucks with model years 2000, 1999, and 2001 are ranked as the three most frequently stolen vehicles in their category. John Deere farm equipment ranked as the number one stolen vehicle in its category. These vehicles and equipment are popular targets because of their high resale value, popularity, and availability.

### **VEHICLE RECOVERIES**

- Of the 169,058 vehicles stolen statewide in 2009, 88.7 percent were successfully recovered, representing 149,884 recovered vehicles.
- Of the vehicles stolen statewide, 94.5 percent of the automobiles, 39.6 percent of the motorcycles, 89.6 percent of the personal trucks and vans, and 81.1 percent of the commercial trucks were recovered.
- Of the vehicles recovered statewide, 59.1 percent were recovered intact and in drivable condition, 5 percent were missing major components, 14.1 percent were stripped of minor parts, and the remaining 21.9 percent were intentionally burned and/or wrecked.
- Although the total number of cargo thefts, by way of comparison to overall vehicle thefts in California is low, it is considered an ongoing problem. It is estimated this costs Californians hundreds of millions of dollars annually.

### **TOP TEN LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES REPORTING VEHICLE THEFT RECOVERIES:**

1. Los Angeles Police Department (17,720)	6. Oakland Police Department (4,789)
2. Los Angeles Co. SO (11,462)	7. San Francisco Police Department (4,324)
3. California Highway Patrol (10,161)	8. Riverside Co. SO (4,107)
4. San Jose Police Department (5,416)	9. Sacramento Police Department (3,889)
5. San Diego Police Department (5,387)	10. Fresno Police Department (3,109)

### **INFORMATION SOURCES**

Department of Justice Stolen Vehicle System, California Highway Patrol Vehicle Theft Information System, and Department of Motor Vehicles.