



2017 California Vehicle Theft Facts

VEHICLE THEFTS

- In 2017, 175,351 vehicles were stolen, at an estimated total value of approximately \$1.3 billion.¹ This is a 6.2 percent decrease from the 2016 total for vehicle thefts statewide. The average rate of theft in 2017 was one vehicle every three minutes.
- Of the vehicles stolen in 2017, 53.5 percent were automobiles, 35.6 percent were personal trucks and sport utility vehicles, 4.6 percent were commercial trucks and trailers, and 4.6 percent were motorcycles. All other vehicles (recreational vehicles, construction and farm equipment, special construction, etc.) accounted for 1.7 percent of thefts.
- Top theft targets:

1) Automobiles

Honda Civic 1998
Honda Civic 2000
Honda Accord 1997

2) Personal Trucks/ Sport Utility Vehicles

Honda CRV 1999
Honda CRV 2001
Honda CRV 1998

3) Motorcycles

Yamaha 2016
Suzuki 2007
Yamaha 2015

4) Commercial trucks

Freightliner 2012
Freightliner 2011
Freightliner 2016

¹ <https://www.iii.org/fact-statistic/facts-statistics-auto-theft> 1/3/2018

WHERE THE THEFTS OCCURRED

- Approximately 51.5 percent of all thefts occurred in Southern California (Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego counties). Of the thefts in Southern California, 54.4 percent occurred in Los Angeles County.
- Approximately 16.9 percent of all thefts occurred in the San Francisco Bay Area (Alameda, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties). Of the thefts in the San Francisco Bay Area, 41.6 occurred in Alameda County.
- Approximately 13.4 percent of all thefts occurred in the Central Valley (Kern, Fresno, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tulare, Merced, Madera, and Kings counties). Of the thefts in the Central Valley, 25.9 occurred in Kern County.
- The remaining 18.2 percent of thefts occurred throughout the remainder of California.

AGENCY	THEFTS
Los Angeles Police Department	20,438
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office	12,748
California Highway Patrol	12,066
San Jose Police Department	8,355
Riverside County Sheriff's Office	5,097
Oakland Police Department	4,993
San Diego Police Department	4,945
San Francisco Police Department	4,920
Fresno Police Department	3,129
Sacramento Police Department	2,735

VEHICLE THEFT TRENDS

- The 1998 Honda Civic ranks as the number one stolen vehicle statewide, the 2000 Honda Civic and 1997 Honda Accord are ranked at numbers two and three, respectively. For the second year since 2006, the Honda Civic has replaced the Honda Accord as the number one stolen vehicle.

- The Honda CRV leads the list for the top three stolen personal trucks and sport utility vehicles, with the 1999, 2001, and 1998 models ranking number one, two, and three, respectively.
- The 2016 Yamaha was the number one stolen motorcycle in 2017, the 2007 Suzuki ranks at number two and has ranked in the top three most frequently stolen motorcycles every year since 2008, followed this year by the 2015 Yamaha.
- Freightliner commercial trucks model years 2012, 2011, and 2016 ranked number one, two, and three, respectively. Other vehicles include farm and construction equipment. In this category, Melroe Division construction equipment ranked as the number one brand of stolen construction equipment this year, and John Deere farm equipment has ranked as the number one brand of stolen farm equipment every year since 2008. These vehicles and equipment are popular targets because of their high resale value, popularity, and availability.

VEHICLE RECOVERIES

- Of the 175,351 vehicles stolen statewide in 2017, 89.6 percent were successfully recovered, representing 157,183 recovered vehicles.
- Of the vehicles stolen statewide, 95.4 percent of the automobiles, 50.4 percent of the motorcycles, 92.2 percent of the personal trucks and sport utility vehicles, and 81.1 percent of the commercial trucks were recovered.
- Of the vehicles recovered statewide, 65.9 percent were recovered intact and in drivable condition, 3.1 percent were missing major components, 9.5 percent were stripped of minor parts, and 21.5 percent were intentionally burned and/or wrecked. Less than one half percent of the thefts were considered cargo theft only.
- In 2017, it was determined 40 of the recovered vehicles were cargo theft only. At less than half a percent, the total number of cargo thefts in California is low compared to overall vehicle thefts; however, it is considered an ongoing problem as cargo theft is estimated to cost Californians millions of dollars annually.

AGENCY	RECOVERIES
California Highway Patrol	21,754
Los Angeles Police Department	17,382
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office	12,008
San Jose Police Department	6,767
Oakland Police Department	5,217
Riverside County Sheriff's Office	4,263
San Francisco Police Department	4,119
San Diego Police Department	2,806
Sacramento Police Department	2,312
Fresno Police Department	2,068

INFORMATION SOURCES

- California Department of Justice, Stolen Vehicle System
- California Highway Patrol, Vehicle Theft Information System
- National Insurance Crime Bureau