First Half of 2023: Auto Theft Trend Report
(For the period January – June 2023)

Please direct questions or media requests to media@equiteco.ca
BY THE NUMBERS

The first half of 2023 follows the historically high 2022 auto theft trends (as stated in our 2022 Vehicle Theft Trend Report). In 2022, Ontario and Quebec had the most vehicle stolen (Ontario up 48.3% YoY, Quebec up 50% YoY compared to 2021) coupled with the lowest recovery rates (Quebec 34%, Ontario 45%), and those trends are continuing into 2023.

National Trends Spotlight (January – June 2023)

- Most provinces are seeing an increase in private passenger vehicle thefts year-over-year (YoY January – June 2022 vs 2023), on top of record year increases in 2022:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>First Half of 2023 YoY Increases*</th>
<th>Number of Thefts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ontario</td>
<td>+31%</td>
<td>15,044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quebec</td>
<td>+17%</td>
<td>7,831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic Canada</td>
<td>+10%</td>
<td>910</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*compared to the same period of 2022

- 34,861 vehicles were stolen in the first half of 2023 in Canada; Ontario is seeing the greatest number of thefts (15,044 or +31% YoY*), followed by Quebec (7,831 or +17% YoY*).
- National vehicle recovery rate is 57%; recoveries in Quebec (38%), Ontario (46%), and Atlantic Canada (70%). The majority of vehicle thefts in Ontario and Quebec were vehicles models from 2019 or newer.
- It is noteworthy that these increases are continuing over and above record auto theft levels from 2022, where Ontario was up 48% YoY and Quebec up 50% YoY, respectively in 2022.

Data source: Équité Association has compiled data from Canadian law enforcement agencies on thefts of private passenger vehicles (sedans, trucks, SUVs and vans).

Note: Recovery rates will continue to change as vehicles are recovered.

TREND ANALYSIS

Through Équité’s continued trend analysis and tracking, we identify the national and regional factors behind auto theft. Équité’s data can be used to support changes to resource allocation, regulations and policies across Canada to prevent, mitigate and deter auto theft in Canada.

The first half of 2023 shows a continuation of the national auto theft crisis as reported in the 2022 Vehicle Theft Trends Report (June 2023). Canada continues to be a source nation for stolen vehicles with organized crime exporting stolen vehicles through the Port of Montreal or re-VINning for domestic resale. Profit margins are high and worth the low risk of consequence for criminals.

Auto theft puts Canadians at physical risk, especially in cases where vehicles are carjacked, and when owners interrupt thefts in progress it often results in violence. Auto theft and insurance fraud are also known to finance other criminal activities, such as drug trafficking, arms dealing, and international terrorism. Addressing this worsening issue is an important step in keeping Canadians safe and stemming the flow of funds into organized crime.
Ontario & Quebec

- A majority of stolen vehicles are new (2019 and newer), 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 (46%) and Quebec (38%), which demonstrates vehicles were primarily being exported overseas through the Ports or re-VINed to be used by crime groups or sold domestically to unsuspecting Canadians.

- The Greater Toronto Area has been particularly affected by auto theft. In Toronto alone, auto thefts have increased 34.3% year-over-year in the first half of 2023. Data from York Regional Police services have seen an 82% increase in auto theft when comparing the first half of 2023 to 2022.

HIGHEST AUTO THEFT REPORTED TO POLICE BY DISTRICT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Police Agency District</th>
<th># of Stolen Vehicles Reported in First Half of 2022</th>
<th># of Stolen Vehicles Reported in First Half of 2023</th>
<th>% Change YoY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ontario</td>
<td>Toronto Police Service</td>
<td>3,778</td>
<td>5,077</td>
<td>+34.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quebec</td>
<td>Montreal Police Service</td>
<td>2,482</td>
<td>2,774</td>
<td>+11.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic</td>
<td>Fredericton, NB District</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>+21.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When it comes to auto theft, the best offense is a good defense. In terms of prevention, Équité Association recommends using a layered approach, which consists of four categories: simple steps, anti-theft devices, vehicle immobilizers and tracking devices.

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