Post COVID theft across Queensland [2019 - 2024]

The effect of Queensland COVID-19 travel restrictions on "Other Theft" were immediate and pronounced.
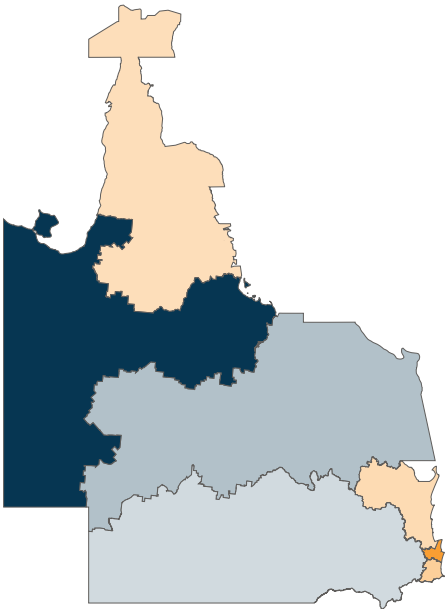
However, the travel restrictions did not address the underlying causes, and theft has returned to pre-COVID-19 levels.

Compared to pre-COVID-19 levels, Northern and Central Queensland have seen the highest increase in Theft volumes, with the Northern region seeing a increase of +646 incidents.
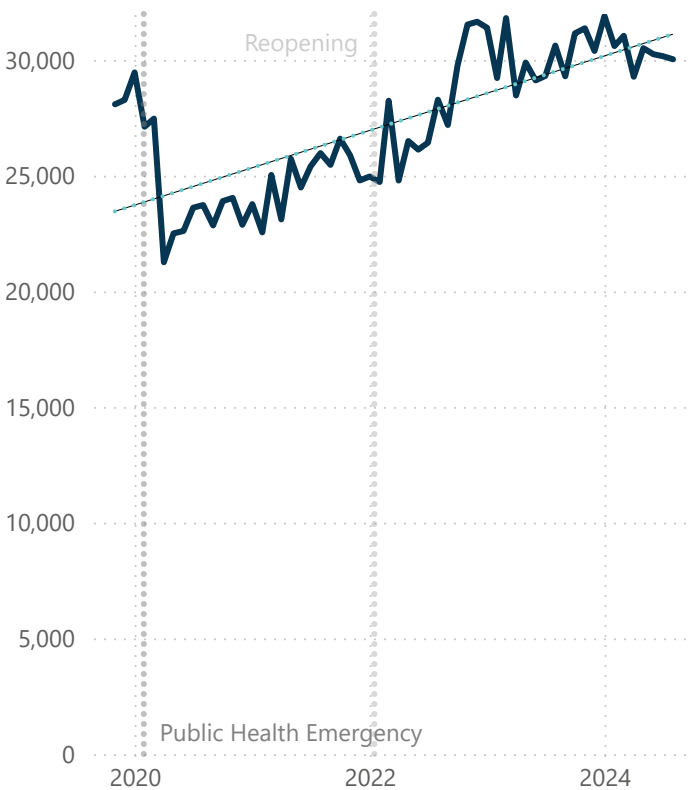
While the immediate drop in reported theft is consistent with the expected effect of travel restrictions, it's also possible that the re-allocation of Queensland Police Service resources to enforcing new restrictions may have reduced the number of completed investigations.

ABS defines 'Other theft' as illegally taking of another person's property with intention but without the use or threat of force [1]

Northern Queensland is experiencing the highest increase

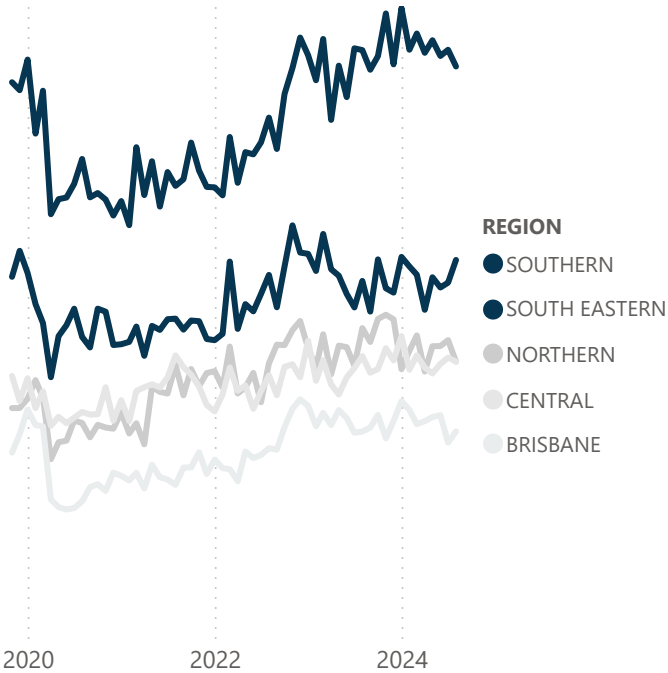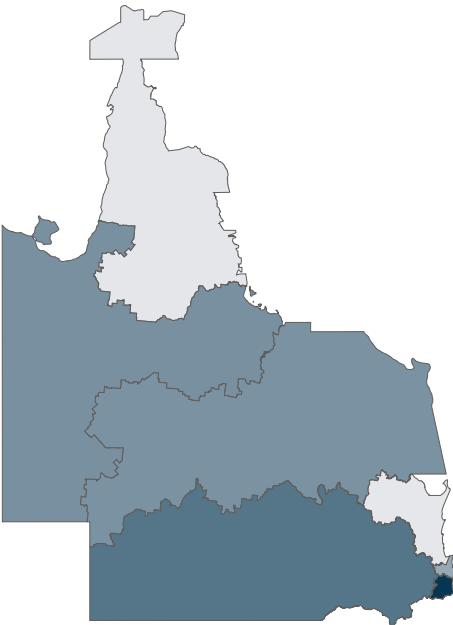### Theft is recovering to pre-COVID levels

South Queensland remains the lead region for theft throughout the COVID recovery

Throughout the COVID-19 restrictions, urban centres continued to experience highest volumes of theft.

High urban theft volumes is consistent with crime theory: crime is more likely in areas with a large number of targets, and where those targets are easily accessible. [2]

While the COVID-19 restrictions were effective in reducing the accessibility of targets, by limiting the ability to travel and reducing the number of unoccupied homes, the restrictions didn't change the target profile: Regional areas still had fewer targets for crime than urban areas, and those targets are further apart, making them less viable targets for theft

REGION
- ● SOUTHERN
- ● SOUTH EASTERN
- ● NORTHERN
- ● CENTRAL
- ● BRISBANE

Year	BRISBANE	CENTRAL	FAR NORTHERN	NORTH COAST	NORTHERN	SOUTH EASTERN	SOUTHERN	Total
⊟ **2019**								
November	3,197	4,534	250	218	3,972	9,651	6,260	**28,082**
December	3,518	4,097	236	220	3,974	9,513	6,713	**28,271**
⊞ **2020**	**33,297**	**47,440**	**1,917**	**1,764**	**44,474**	**97,405**	**65,090**	**291,387**
⊞ **2021**	**33,928**	**52,192**	**2,217**	**1,699**	**49,808**	**95,129**	**63,779**	**298,752**
⊞ **2022**	**39,321**	**52,348**	**2,844**	**1,873**	**56,929**	**104,823**	**72,004**	**330,142**
⊞ **2023**	**44,751**	**56,113**	**2,881**	**2,178**	**61,453**	**119,783**	**74,840**	**361,999**
⊞ **2024**	**30,069**	**38,392**	**1,879**	**1,370**	**39,512**	**82,462**	**50,067**	**243,751**

Notes:
2019 volumes are significantly lower, as only Nov- Dec have been captured.

2024 volumes are also lower, as a full year of data is not yet available.