

Toronto Bicycle Thefts Analysis

Key Findings (2014-2024)

November 2025

Executive Summary

Analysis of Toronto bicycle theft data reveals declining theft trends, clear seasonal and temporal patterns, and critical recovery challenges across all police divisions.

1 Temporal Trends: Declining Since 2018

After peaking in 2018 with 3,956 thefts, Toronto has seen consistent decline. 2024 shows 2,711 thefts (-9.06% from 2023).

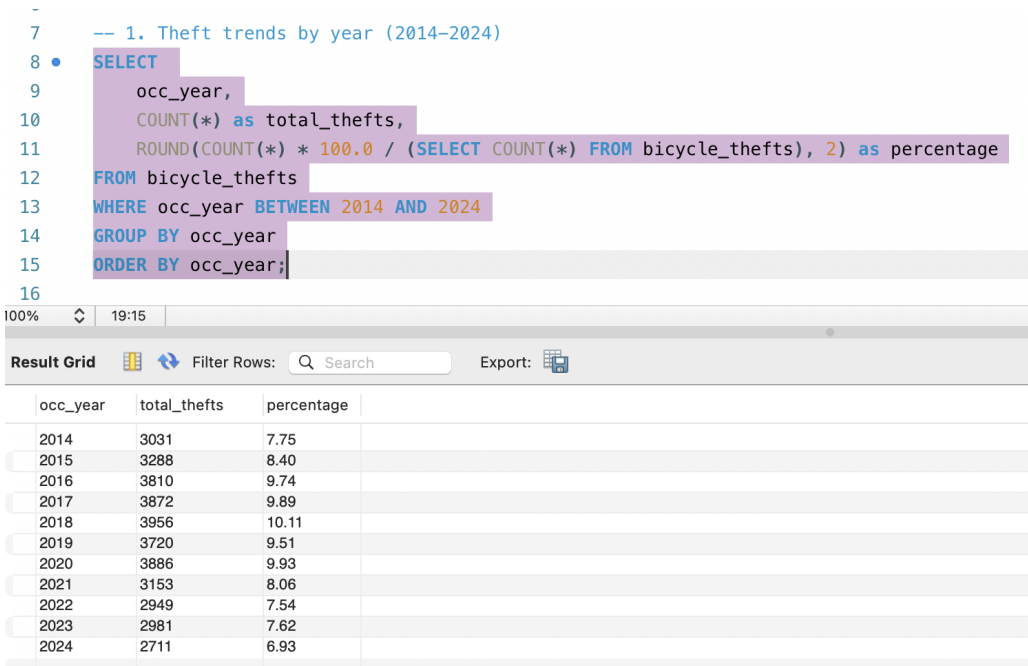


Figure 1: Theft trends by year showing decline from 2018 peak

Key points:

- Peak: 2018 (3,956 thefts)
- Largest drop: 2021 (-18.86%, likely COVID-related)
- 2024: Continuing downward trend

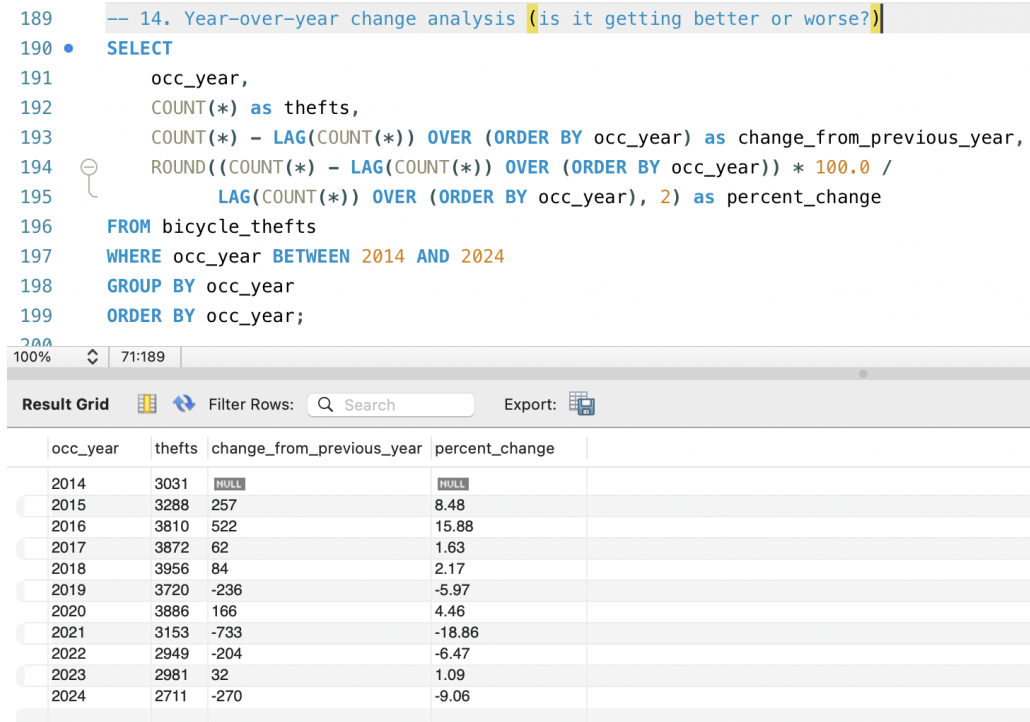


Figure 2: Year-over-year percentage changes

2 Seasonal Patterns: Summer Peak

Summer months experience 6x more thefts than winter. June-August account for 43% of annual thefts.

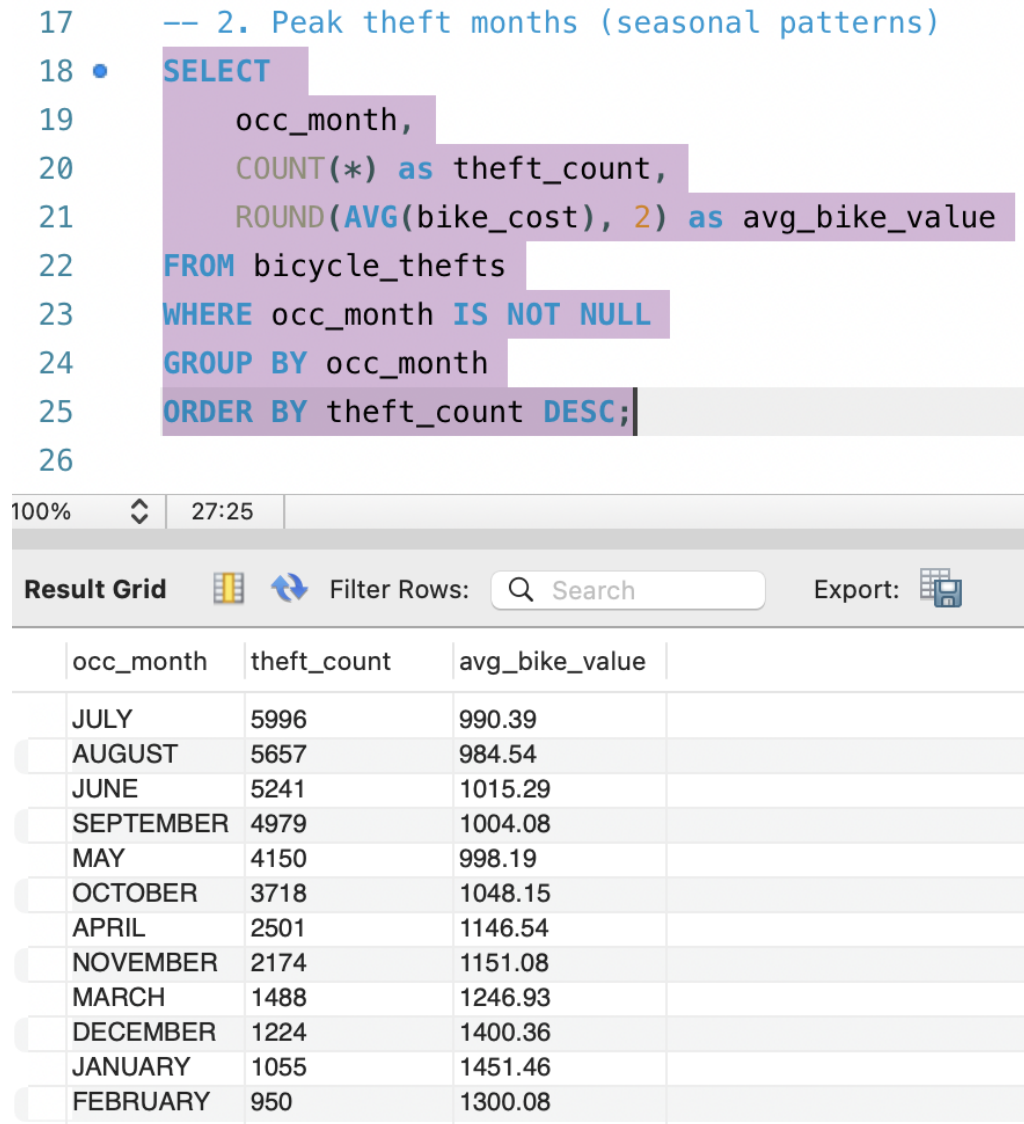


Figure 3: Monthly theft patterns showing summer concentration

Month	Thefts	Avg Value
July	5,996	\$990.39
August	5,657	\$984.54
June	5,241	\$1,015.29
February	950	\$1,300.08
January	1,055	\$1,451.46

3 Daily Patterns: Evening Rush Hour

6pm is the most dangerous hour with 2,723 thefts. Evening commute hours (5-7pm) account for over 5,000 thefts.

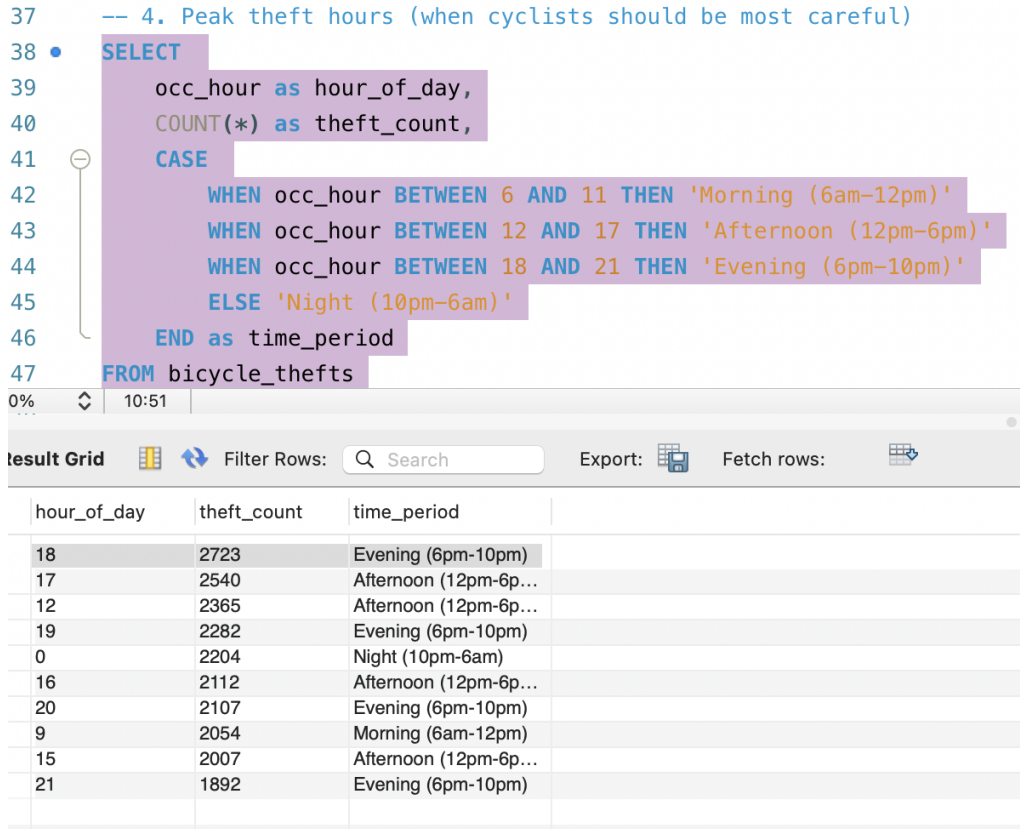


Figure 4: Hourly theft distribution

Time Period	Peak Hour	Risk
Evening (6pm-10pm)	2,723 at 6pm	HIGHEST
Afternoon (12pm-6pm)	2,540 at 5pm	High
Morning (6am-12pm)	2,054 at 9am	Moderate
Night (10pm-6am)	2,204 at 12am	Moderate

4 Location Analysis: Outside & Apartments

29.40% of thefts occur outside, 24.45% at apartments. All locations show recovery rates under 2%.

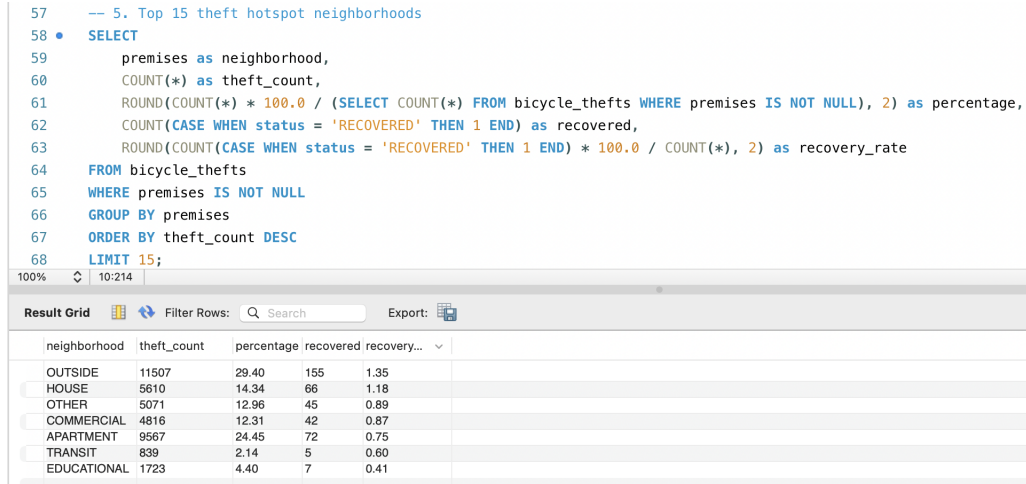


Figure 5: Top theft locations by premises type

Location	Thefts	% Total	Recovery
OUTSIDE	11,507	29.40%	1.35%
APARTMENT	9,567	24.45%	0.75%
HOUSE	5,610	14.34%	1.18%
COMMERCIAL	4,816	12.31%	0.87%

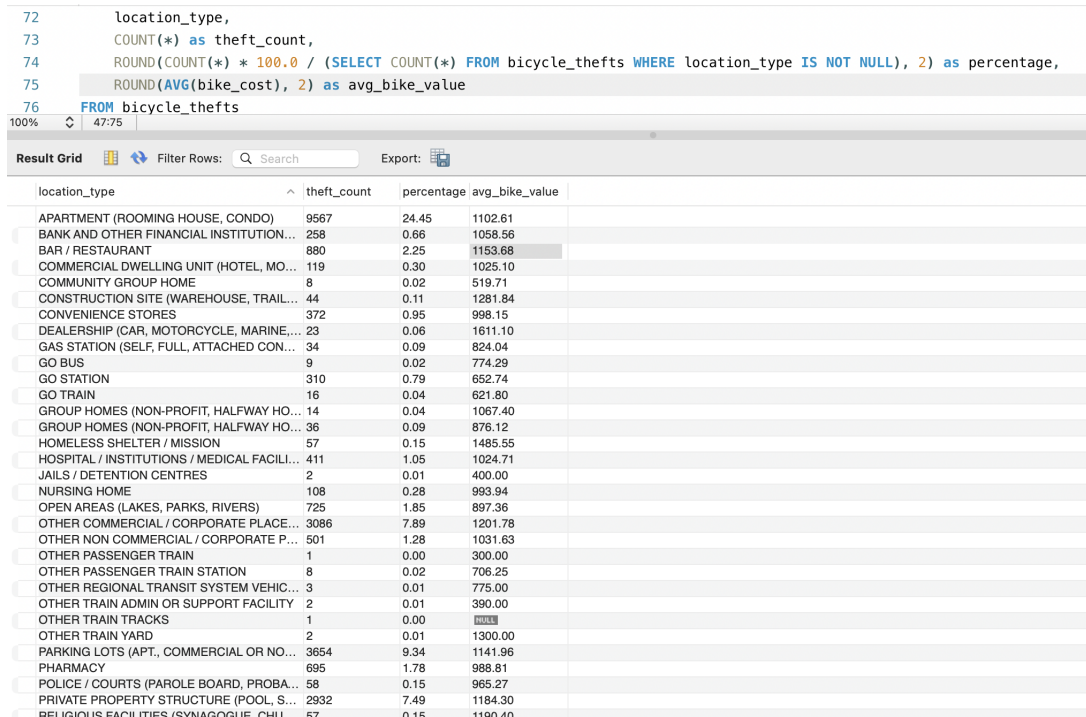


Figure 6: Detailed location type breakdown

5 Bike Brands: All Types Targeted

Generic and "Other" brands most stolen. Premium brands show marginally better recovery (under 3%).

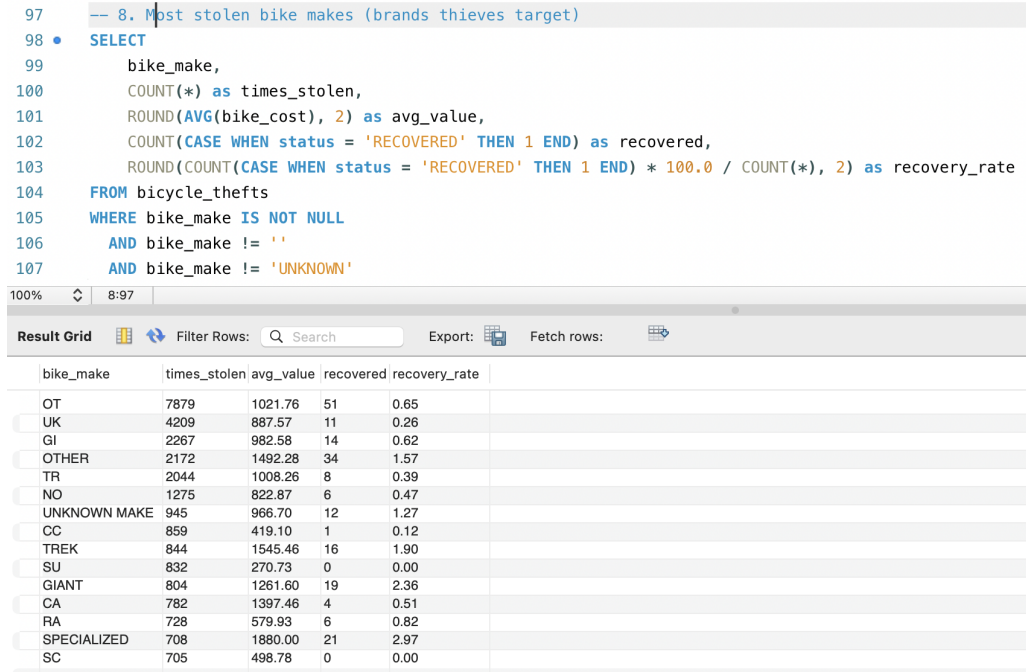


Figure 7: Most stolen bike makes

Brand	Thefts	Avg Value	Recovery
OT	7,879	\$1,021.76	0.65%
UK	4,209	\$887.57	0.26%
GI	2,267	\$982.58	0.62%
SPECIALIZED	708	\$1,880.00	2.97%
TREK	844	\$1,545.46	1.90%

6 Police Division Performance

No division exceeds 2% recovery rate. Best performer (D31) recovers 1.64%.

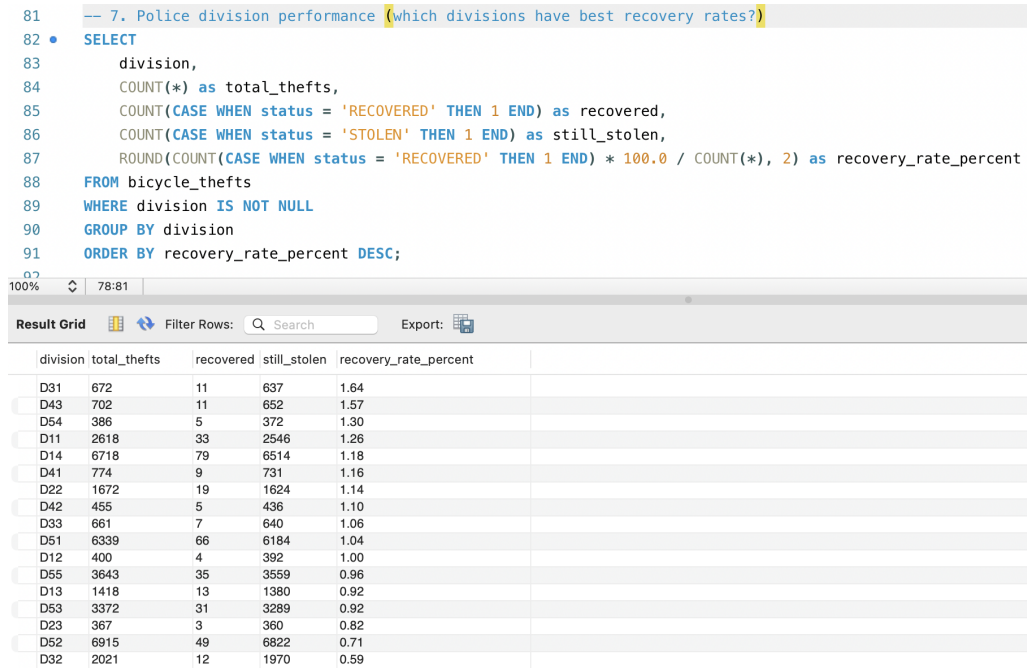


Figure 8: Police division recovery rates

Division	Thefts	Recovered	Rate
D31	672	11	1.64%
D43	702	11	1.57%
D54	386	5	1.30%
D14	6,718	79	1.18%
D52	6,915	49	0.71%

7 Key Takeaways

Positive Trends:

- 9.06% decline in 2024
- Sustained downward trend since 2019

High-Risk Factors:

- Summer months (June-August)
- Evening hours (5-7pm)
- Outside/street parking (29.40%)
- Apartment buildings (24.45%)

Critical Issue:

- Recovery rates under 2% across all divisions
- Prevention is essential - recovery nearly impossible

8 Recommendations

For Cyclists:

- Avoid parking outside during summer evenings
- Use quality locks (2-lock minimum)
- Register bike serial numbers
- Consider insurance given low recovery rates

For Infrastructure:

- Secure indoor bike storage at apartments
- Better lighting and surveillance
- Monitored parking facilities

For Policy:

- Bike registration programs
- Increased patrols during peak times
- GPS tracking promotion
- Online marketplace monitoring