

Thefts happen more often on weekends' early evening than weekdays in San Francisco in summer 2014.

Using the report csv file for crimes that happened in summer 2014 in San Francisco, there are trends of when crimes happened.

When plotting the day of the week against the number of crimes happened, there's a clear trend that most of the crimes happen on the weekend.

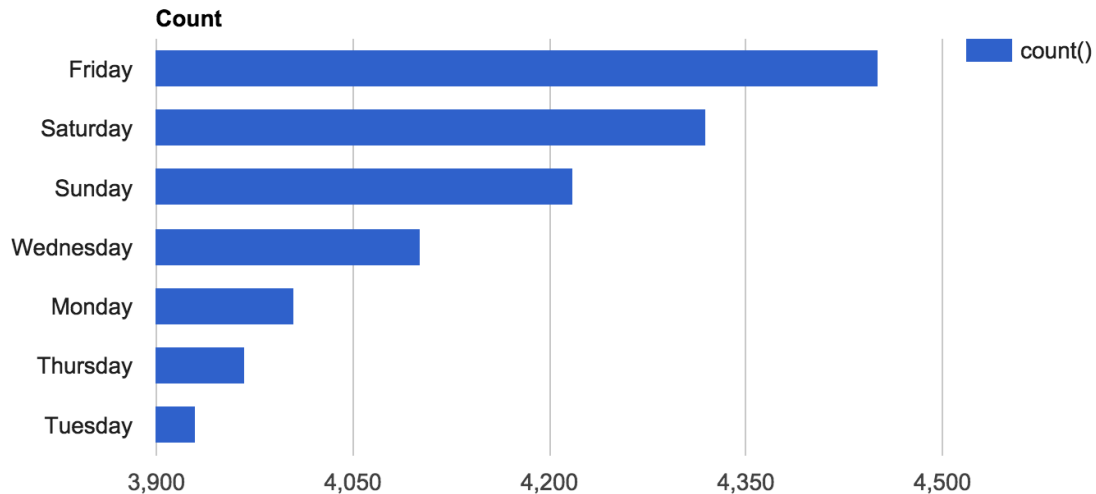


Figure 1: Day of Week against Number of Crimes

The number of crimes on Fridays is about 500 more than the slowest day, Tuesdays. The Saturdays follow and the Sundays take the third place. It's not hard to understand as people come out more on weekend, and it's easier to have more targets for theft or burglaries. However, taking a look of the categories of crimes shows otherwise.

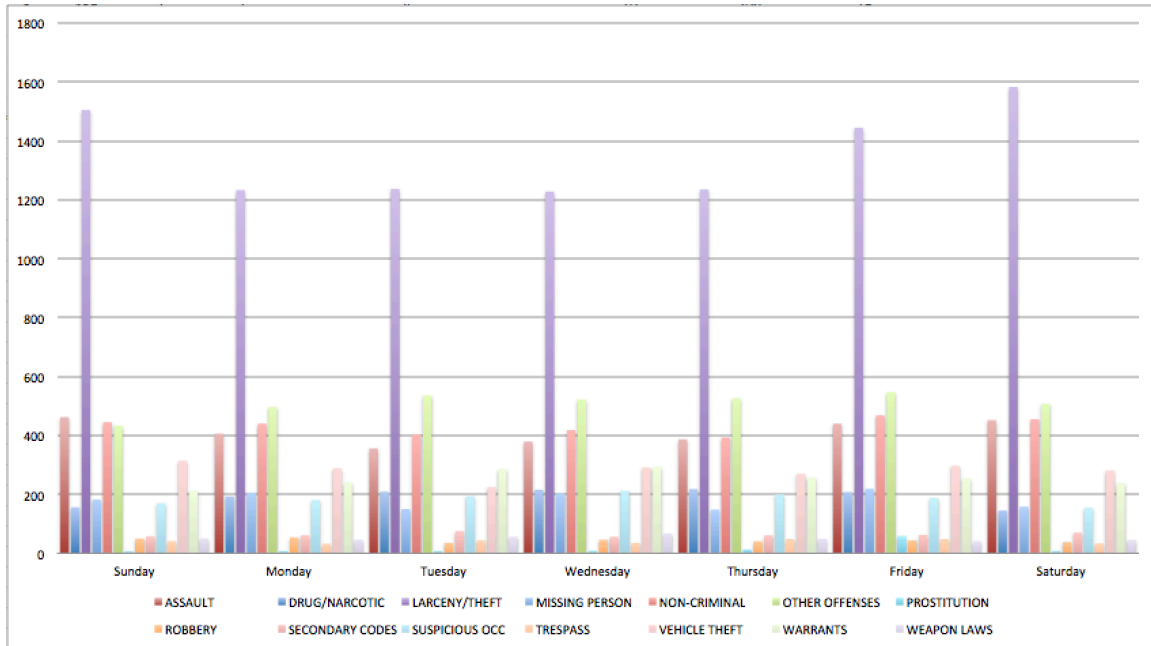


Figure 2: Type of Crimes vs. Day of Week

As expected, the number of thefts covers the majority of the crimes throughout the week, and it happens more often on the weekends. An initial guess would be that people go out for shopping or meals, and they put their belongings in their cars, which would be an easy target for thieves.

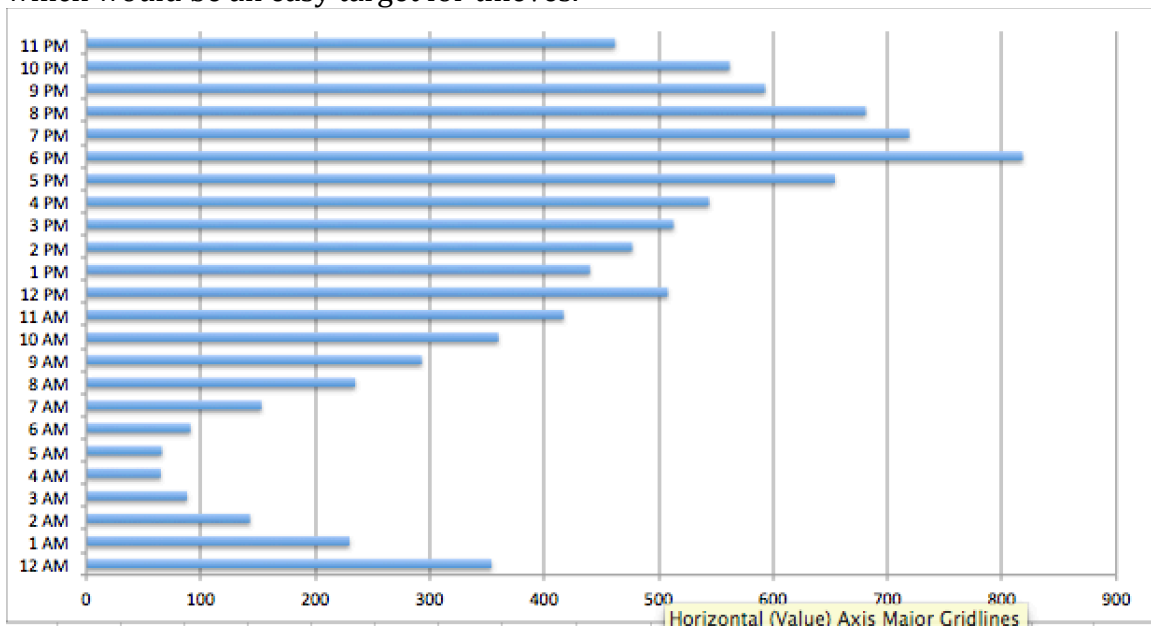


Figure 3: Number of Thefts vs. Time of the day (weekend only)

Taking a look of the time vs. crime number chart, it shows that the assumption is warranted. Most of the thefts happen in the afternoon, peaking at 6 PM, which is the dinner time. It would be further warranted if the type of theft is about breaking into cars.

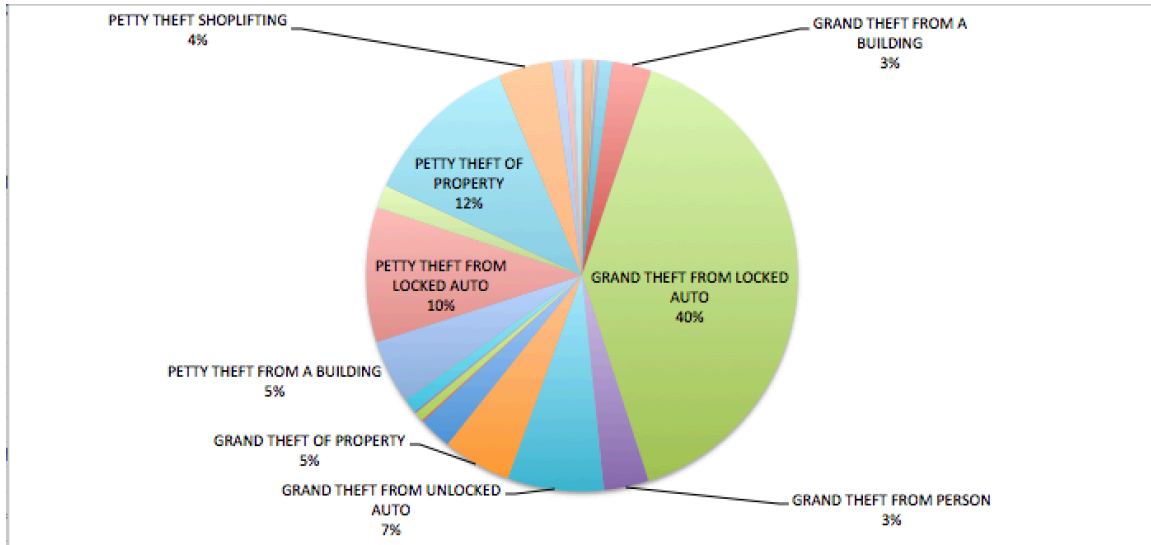


Figure 4: Type of thefts that happen on weekends

As expected, the “theft from auto” covers 57% of the total thefts, and “theft from property” covers another 20%. Thieves know that this is the time people go out, and, against the common conception that they act at late night, the afternoon-early evening is the prime time for them to act.