



## Release of the National Crime Statistics and Trends

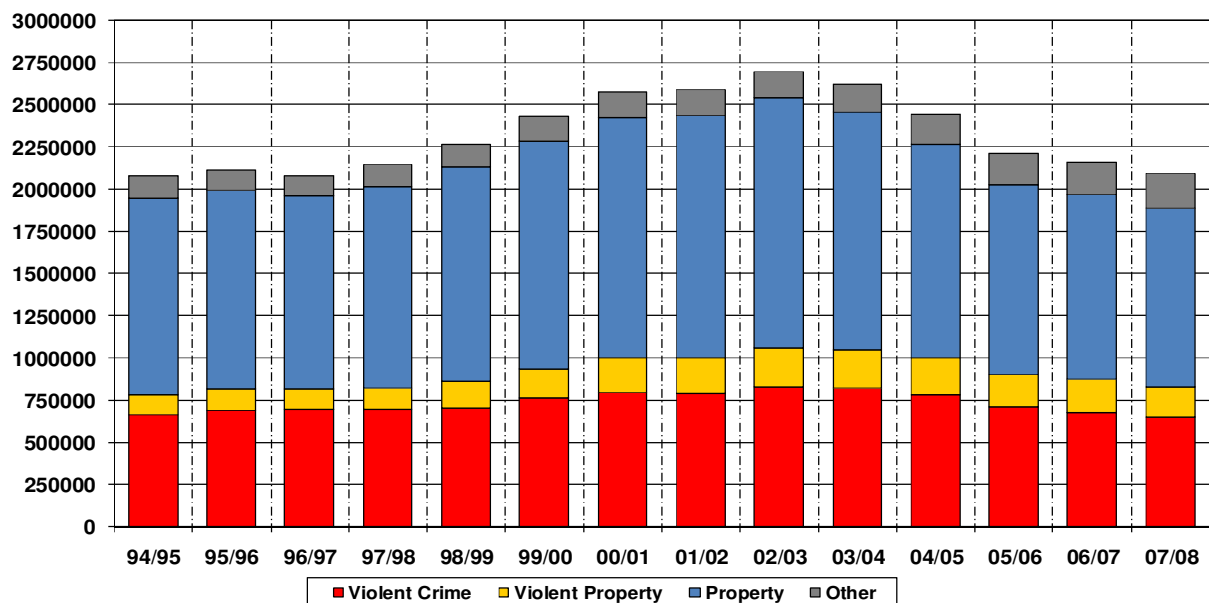
### Year ended 31 March 2008

#### NOTE FOR BUSINESS LEADERS

Business leaders may have seen and heard media coverage of the annual crime trends and statistics for the year to 31 March 2008. This release provides a useful insight into the state of the national fight against crime and, indirectly, the reinvigorated the anti-crime partnership between business and Government (supported by BLSA, BUSA, and a number of business associations).

1. The reported crime levels indicate a continuation of the steady decline (by 3.5%) experienced over the past five years, although the level of crime remains unacceptably high and is characterised by high levels of violence. As a result of this, the crime levels are thus concerning.

*Total reported crime per year per category*



2. The latest release reflects an overall decline of 6.4% in contact (violent) crime, which is broken down as follows:

|  | <u>Level</u> | <u>Reduction</u> |
|--|--------------|------------------|
| • Common robbery                         | 64,985       | -9.5%            |
| • Rape                                   | 36,190       | -8.8%            |
| • Attempted murder                       | 18,795       | -7.5%            |
| • Robbery with aggravating circumstances | 118,312      | -7.4%            |
| • Common assault                         | 198,049      | -6.6%            |
| • Murder                                 | 18,487       | -4.7%            |





- Assault GBH 210,104 -4.6%
- Indecent assault 6,763 -2.1%

3. Whilst the overall level of robbery with aggravating circumstances has declined by 7.4% as reflected above, we remain deeply concerned by the significant increases in its sub-categories, namely:

|                                   | <u>Level</u> | <u>Increase</u> |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| • Robbery at residential premises | 14,481       | +13.5%          |
| • Robberies at business premises  | 9,862        | +47.4%          |
| • Car hijackings                  | 14,201       | +4.4%           |
| • Truck hijackings                | 1,245        | +39.6%          |
| • Bank robberies                  | 144          | +11.6%          |

A notable exception and success has been the reduction in robberies of Cash-in-Transit (down by 15.4%), as a consequence of the partnership between business and Government.

4. As reflected on the table below, the provincial breakdown of these robberies indicate that gains continue to be made in Gauteng, which has been a focus and pilot of our Step Change working group over the past 18 months. Gauteng province reflects an overall increase of 1.74% compared to an increase of 38.15% for the rest of the country. This shows a real step change as a result of the focused business and Government partnership. The lessons learnt in Gauteng are being urgently rolled-out to other priority provinces, which are Western Cape, Kwa-Zulu Natal and the North West.

Gauteng - (VOC work group pilot)  
Rest of the Country  
National

| <b>Overall Increase in Trio Crimes</b> |                |                 |               |
|--|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| <b>House</b>                           | <b>Vehicle</b> | <b>Business</b> | <b>Total</b>  |
| -5.41%                                 | 2.08%          | 13.49%          | <b>1.74%</b>  |
| 42.51%                                 | 7.16%          | 116.84%         | <b>38.15%</b> |
| 13.48%                                 | 4.43%          | 47.44%          | <b>16.63%</b> |

5. These statistics reinforce the threat of violent organised crime to the country, and the need to continue to prioritise this through the Step Change partnership with Government. The joint work group (i.e., the VOC) focusing on this currently receives strong support and resource prioritisation from the SAPS and the NPA, as well as business.

6. We believe that Government’s crime reduction efforts will not yield sustainable long-term results unless underpinned by an efficient and effective Criminal Justice System. In this regard, it is my pleasure to advise that Deputy Minister Johnny de Lange of the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DoJ and CD) has been appointed to lead Government efforts aimed at revamping the Criminal Justice System. The plan with seven priority areas which was developed with our assistance was also approved by the Cabinet. Deputy Minister Advocate de Lange has invited Willie Scholtz of Business Against Crime South Africa, to assume a strategic position in driving the implementation process.





7. Business continues to make a huge contribution in support of Government to effectively fight crime. Going forward, our support efforts will primarily be in the following areas:
  - a. The significant improvement of the performance of the Criminal Justice System such that it becomes an effective deterrent to crime; and
  - b. Continuation of the reduction of Violent Organised Crime focusing on the Trio crimes (House, vehicle and business robberies) which we are addressing as a matter of extreme urgency.
8. We remain steadfast in our viewpoint that Government should release national crime statistics and crime trends more frequently, e.g. quarterly and that at the time of such release, Government should include the performance of the entire Criminal Justice System. We will continue to exert influence on Government, our partner, in efforts to attain this goal. We believe that a greater impact on crime reduction will be made when Government reveals the performance scorecard measures of the Criminal Justice System, including, the rates of arrests by SAPS, the rates of convictions achieved, the time taken to process and complete a case, the rates of incarceration and the effectiveness of offender rehabilitation.

*This briefing note is issued on behalf of Business Against Crime South Africa by:*

**Siphiwe Nzimande**

Chief Executive Officer

BACSA

1 July 2008

*Business Against Crime South Africa has, since 1996, supported Government in its fight against crime in order to make South Africa safe and secure. This partnership was re-invigorated in August 2006 through the support and involvement of Business Leadership South Africa (BLSA), Business Unity South Africa (BUSA) and a range of business associations.*

*In order to give effective support to Government, Business Against Crime South Africa has mobilised partnerships with representative associations/organisations which focus on crime matters on behalf of the business sector. These include the South African Banking Risk Information Centre (SABRIC), the Consumer Goods Council of South Africa (CGCSA), the South African Insurance Association (SAIA), the South African Petroleum Industry Association (SAPIA), the Security Industry Alliance (SIA), the Casino Association of South Africa (CASA), the South African Council of Shopping Centres (SACSC), the South African Property Owners Association (SAPOA), the South African Post Office, the South African Tourism Services Association (SATSA) and other tourism associations and organizations, the South African Jewellery Association, the Restaurants Association of South Africa (RASA), the Johannesburg Securities Exchange (JSE), Chambers of Commerce and Industry South Africa, the Chamber of Mines, the National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of South Africa (NAAMSA), the Retail Motor Industry (RMI), the South African Chamber of Business, the South African Fraud Prevention Service (SAFPS), the Overseas Security Advisory Council, the Life Officer's Association (LIO).*