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Summary and Interpretation of Crime in the United States, 2002 Uniform Crime Report Federal Bureau of Investigation

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CRIME VOLUME¹

From 2001 to 2002, Index (serious) crime in the U.S. increased less than one-tenth of a percent from the previous year. Serious crime includes the violent crimes², as well as selected property crimes³. Although serious crime increased slightly, the crime index was 4.9% lower than 5 years ago and 16% lower than ten years ago.

Violent crime decreased and property crime increased from 2001 to 2002. Violent crime experienced an overall decrease of 0.9%, and property crime increased 0.1%. Violent crime, however, increased in the categories of murder (+1%) and rape (+4.7%) and decreased in the categories of robbery and aggravated assault (-0.7% and -1.6% respectively). The percentage changes for 2002 are shown below, as well as for the previous year's percentage changes.

TABLE 1: VIOLENT CRIME VOLUME

CRIME CATEGORY	2001	2002
Violent Crime	+0.8%	-0.9%
Murder	+2.5%	+1%
Rape	+0.3%	+4.7%
Robbery	+3.7%	-0.7%
Agg. Assault	-0.5%	-1.6%

There were 16,204 murders in 2002, up from the 2001 number of 16,037, and the third year in a row to show an increase. There were 420,637 robberies reported in the United States in 2002. Rapes totaled 95,136, and 894,348 aggravated assaults were reported.

CRIME RATE⁴

The rate of serious crime, based on population, dropped 1.1% from 2001 to 2002. The violent crime rate fell 2% from the 2001 rate. Property crime rates fell 0.9% from the

¹ *Volume* is the total number of offenses reported.

² *Violent crime* combines murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault.

³ *Property crimes* include burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

⁴ *Rate* is the number of offenses per 100,000 inhabitants.



previous year. The violent crime rate was down 7% over the five-year period. The violent crime rates were mixed in results from 2001 to 2002, as shown:

TABLE 2: VIOLENT CRIME RATE

CRIME CATEGORY	2001	2002
Violent Crime	-0.4%	-2%
Murder	+1.3%	Unchanged
Rape	-0.8%	+3.6%
Robbery	+2.4%	-1.7%
Agg. Assault	-1.7%	-2.7%

Aggravated assault accounted for the largest share of violent crimes at 62.7%. Similar to previous years, of all robberies, 42% involved the use of firearms, whereas of murders, 71.1% resulted from firearms (up from 69.5% in 2001).

Of all murders, 8% were related to robberies, the same as the previous year. The murder rate per 100,000 people was unchanged in 2002. The number of murder victims who knew their assailants was 43.2%, up slightly from 42.3% in 2001. In recent years, over half of the murder victims knew their assailants. *[Authors' Note: Stranger to stranger murder creates more fear overall than acquaintance murder.]*

For the third year in a row, the number of rapes increased in the United States, from 90,863 in 2001 to 95,136 in 2002. The Midwest had the highest rate of rapes (72.7 per 100,000), and the Northeast had the lowest (46.4 per 100,000).

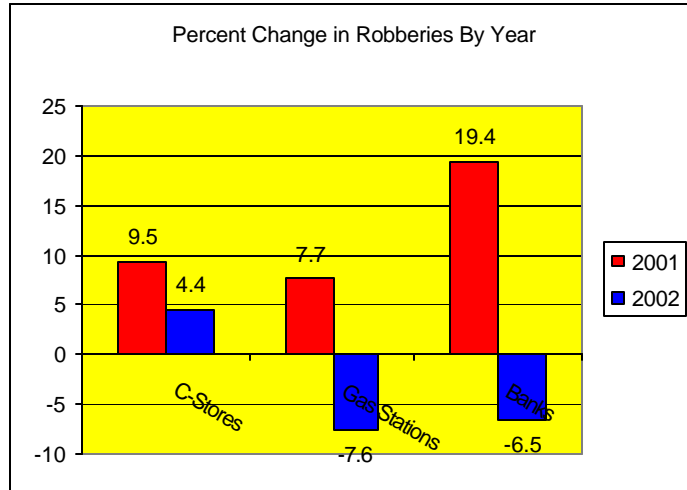
Adults accounted for 74.3% of all arrests for crime index offenses, and juveniles 25.7%. Males accounted for 72.9% of index crime arrests. By race, 65.5% of arrestees were white, 31.9% black, and 2.5% other races.



CONVENIENCE STORES, GAS STATIONS AND BANKS

- Convenience store robbery was up 4.4% from 2001 to 2002.
- Gas station robbery was down 7.6% from 2001.
- Bank robbery was down 6.5% from 2001 to 2002, following a spike in bank robberies the previous year (they were up 19.4% from 2000 to 2001).

CHART 1



- ❖ Convenience store robbery was up 1% in the 5-year period since 1998.
- ❖ Gas station robbery was down 1.3% in the 5-year period since 1998.
- ❖ Bank robbery was up 2.9% in the same five-year period from 1998.

CHART 2

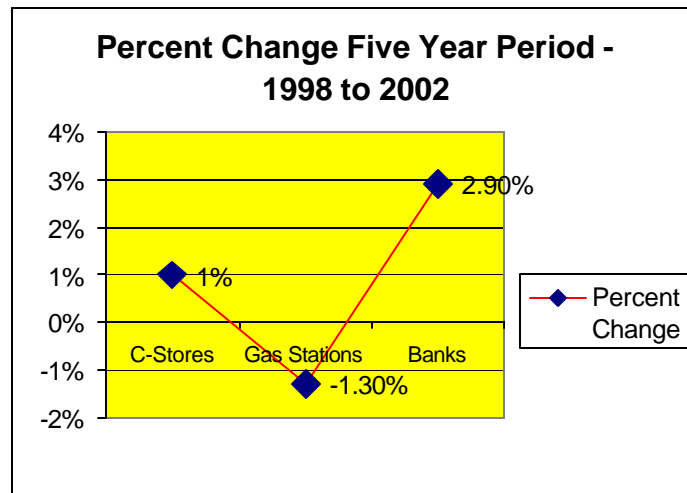


CHART 3

- Convenience store robbery made up 6.5% of the total robberies in 2002, down from 6.6% in 2001.
- Gas station robbery made up 2.7% of the total robberies in 2002, down from 2.9% in 2001.
- Bank robberies made up 2.3% of the total robberies in 2002, down from 2.4% the year before.

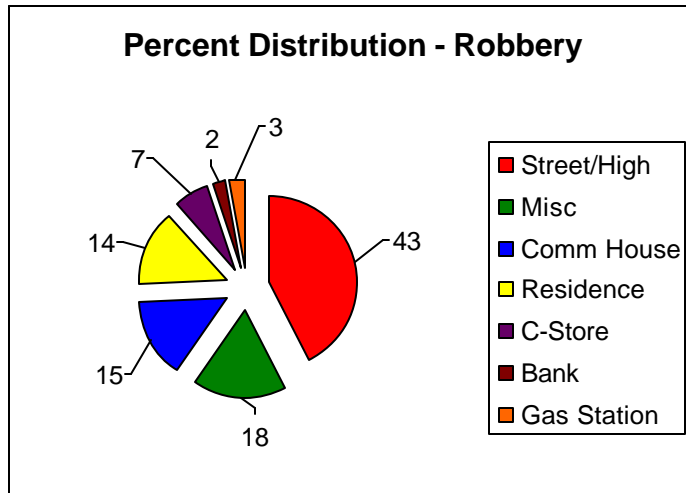
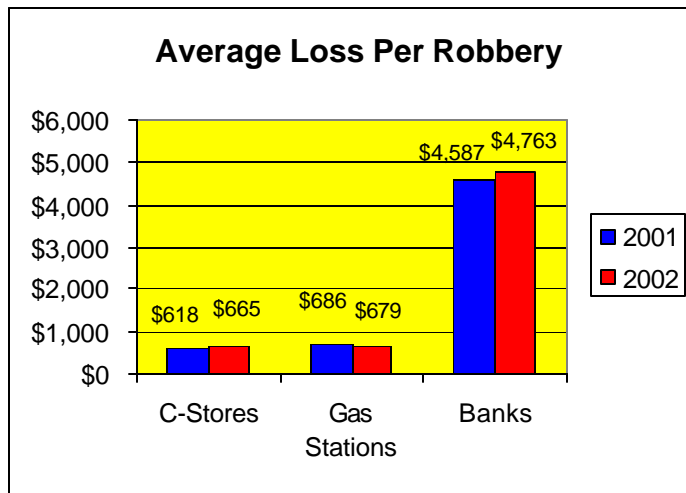


CHART 4

- ✓ In 2002, convenience stores had an increase in average dollar loss, from \$618 in 2001 to \$665 in 2002.
- ✓ Gas station average dollar loss decreased from \$686 in 2001 to \$679 in 2002, slightly higher than the convenience store dollar average.
- ✓ Banks had by far the highest average dollar loss at \$4,763, up from \$4,587 in 2001.



Authors' Note: These are not just register losses, but include safe and merchandise losses, and cigarette losses have been on the increase..



AUTHORS' SUMMARY

- Index crimes increased one-tenth of a percent in 2002.
- Violent crime volume decreased 0.9%, but murder was up 1% and rape was up 4.7%.
- Violent crime rate decreased 2%, but the rape rate increased 3.6%
- Convenience store robberies were up 4.4%, as was their average dollar loss.
- Gas station robberies were down 7.6%, as was their average dollar loss.
- Bank robberies were down 6.5%, but their average dollar loss increased.

