

Motor Vehicle Theft Hotspots

During 2000 a total of 12,835 motor vehicles were reported stolen to the South Australian Police. Approximately 9 out of every ten thefts occurred with the Adelaide metropolitan area and almost 10% of all thefts occurred in and around the Adelaide CBD. Outside the city area the hotspots most frequently targeted by car thieves were the regions covered by the postcodes 5108 (Salisbury), 5112 (Elizabeth East, Elizabeth South), 5006 (North Adelaide) and 5045 (Glenelg).

Offenders prefer areas where there are large numbers of vehicles to choose from and are left a reasonable length of time. Thus the Adelaide CBD attracts a wide range of vehicles, many of which are simply parked on the street while their owners are at work or enjoying some form of entertainment. Similarly, areas with large shopping centres, sports and entertainment centres, or car parks for public transport are also popular with car thieves for the same reasons.

Table 1 Top 10 Hotspots for motor vehicle theft during 2000.

Postcode	Number of vehicle thefts during 2000	Percentage of all South Australian vehicle thefts during 2000. (%)
5000	1,216	9.47
5108	603	4.70
5112	433	3.37
5006	329	2.56
5045	312	2.43
5092	261	2.03
5046	244	1.90
5162	229	1.78
5043	217	1.69
5009	216	1.68

While many of the 'theft hotspots' are also locations where vehicles are recovered (eg. 5000, 5108, 5112, 5162 and 5043) there are a number of other locations that are 'common dumping' grounds for stolen vehicles. For example, 5113 (Elizabeth Park, Elizabeth North, Elizabeth Downs), 5008 (Croydon, Dudley Park), 5013 (Gillman, Wingfield, Ottaway), 5012 (Woodville, Athol Park) and 5163 (Hackham, Hackham West) are amongst the most popular areas for the 'dumping' of stolen vehicles.

Table 2. Top 10 recovery locations for stolen vehicles during 2000.

Postcode	Number of recovered vehicles during 2000	Percentage of all South Australian recoveries during 2000. (%)
5000	630	5.46
5108	487	4.22
5112	290	2.51
5113	256	2.22
5008	228	1.97
5013	227	1.97
5012	221	1.91
5163	221	1.91
5162	215	1.86
5043	208	1.80

Nearly half of all vehicles stolen during 2000 were taken from the street (49.15%), followed by those stolen from a driveway (17.20%) and a shopping centre car park (8.49%). Taking into vehicles stolen from front or rear yards, shed or driveways almost 21% of all vehicles were stolen from around a person's home.

Table 3. South Australian vehicle thefts by type of incident location, 2000.

Location Type	Number of vehicle thefts during 2000	Percentage of all South Australian vehicle thefts during 2000. (%)
STREET	6,308	49.15
HOUSE - DRIVEWAY	2,207	17.20
CAR PARK - SHOPPING CENTRE	1,090	8.49
CAR PARK - OTHER	759	5.91
CAR PARK - PRIVATE	460	3.58
BUSINESS PREMISES	430	3.35
CAR PARK - HOTEL/CLUB	311	2.42
HOUSE - FRONT YARD	223	1.74
CAR PARK - UNITS/FLATS	220	1.71
CAR PARK - RECREATIONAL	201	1.57
SHED	139	1.08
HOUSE - REAR YARD	123	0.96
CAR PARK - EDUCATIONAL	98	0.76
CAR PARK - RAILWAY STATION	95	0.74
CAR PARK - MEDICAL	69	0.54
FARM	18	0.14
VACANT LAND	18	0.14
CAR PARK - ATTENDED	16	0.12
CAR YARD	10	0.08
SCRUB LAND	10	0.08
FACTORY	7	0.05
RESERVE	6	0.05
FLAT	4	0.03
DIRT TRACK	3	0.02
FOOTPATH	3	0.02
BEACH	2	0.02
CLIFF	2	0.02
PETROL STATION	2	0.02
PARKLANDS	1	0.01
Total	12,835	100.00

As shown in Figure 1, more than six out of every ten vehicles are stolen between 6 pm and 6 am with Friday and Saturday nights being the most common nights for thefts to occur.

Figure 1. Time of day and day of week of vehicle theft, 2000.



