



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

FOR RELEASE
TUESDAY AM
MARCH 17, 1970

Serious crime in the United States increased 11 percent in 1969 when compared with 1968 according to figures made available today through the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports and released by Attorney General John N. Mitchell.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover said all Crime Index offenses registered increases in volume. Crimes of violence were up 11 percent, led by forcible rape up 16 percent, robbery 13 percent, aggravated assault 9 percent, and murder 7 percent. The crimes against property rose 11 percent as a group. Individually, larceny \$50 and over in value rose 21 percent, auto theft 12 percent, and burglary was up 5 percent.

Mr. Hoover stated crime increases were reported by all city population groups. Large core cities 250,000 and above in population noted an overall increase of 9 percent in volume. The suburban areas recorded an increase of 13 percent, while the rural areas were up 11 percent.

The crime increases, according to Mr. Hoover, were constant throughout the United States. The North Central States recorded an increase of 15 percent, the Western States 12 percent, the Southern States 11 percent, while the densely populated Northeastern States recorded an average increase of 7 percent.

The FBI Director noted that the violent crime of armed robbery experienced an upswing of 16 percent and armed robbery made up 61 percent of all robbery offenses. Street robbery made up over one-half of all robbery offenses and rose 15 percent. Street larcenies recorded a 12 percent rise over 1968 and made up 61 percent of all larceny offenses. Serious assaults where a gun was used as the weapon rose 12 percent and nearly one out of every four aggravated assaults was committed with a gun.

The figures released by the FBI disclose that in 1969 police arrests for criminal acts, excluding traffic offenses, increased 7 percent. Arrests of adults rose 6 percent, while arrests of juveniles continued to climb in 1969 with an 11 percent rise.

A copy of the preliminary crime figures for the year 1969 is attached. Final crime figures and crime rates per unit of population will be available in the detailed annual Uniform Crime Reports scheduled for release in the Summer of 1970.

Enclosure

UNIFORM CRIME REPORTING
(1969 Preliminary Annual-Release)

During calendar year 1969 serious crime, as measured by the Crime Index, nationally increased 11 percent over 1968. The violent crimes as a group rose 11 percent with murder up 7 percent, forcible rape 16 percent, robbery 13 percent, and aggravated assault 9 percent. The property crimes recorded an overall rise of 11 percent led by larceny \$50 and over up 21 percent, auto theft 12 percent, and burglary 5 percent. Crime in the large core cities with populations of 250,000 and over increased 9 percent, suburban communities reported a 13 percent increase and the rural areas 11 percent.

TABLE 1

CRIME INDEX TRENDS

(Percent change 1969 over 1968, offenses known to the police)

Population Group and Area	Number of Agencies	Population in thousands	Total	Violent	Property	Murder	Forcible rape	Robbery	Aggravated assault	Burglary	Larceny \$50 and over	Auto theft
Total all agencies	5,101	155,896	+11	+11	+11	+ 7	+16	+13	+ 9	+ 5	+21	+12
Cities over 25,000	820	88,137	+11	+12	+11	+ 9	+18	+13	+ 9	+5	+19	+12
Suburban area	1,923	46,446	+13	+12	+14	+10	+12	+14	+10	+5	+25	+13
Rural area	1,209	19,269	+11	+ 7	+11	- 13	+ 8	+12	+ 8	+6	+20	+ 9
Over 1,000,000	6	19,444	+ 7	+ 9	+ 6	+ 9	+13	+12	+ 4	+2	+11	+12
500,000 to 1,000,000	18	11,733	+13	+19	+11	+14	+34	+18	+19	+9	+15	+12
250,000 to 500,000	30	10,724	+ 8	+ 5	+ 9	+ 1	+ 6	+ 5	+ 7	+3	+18	+ 9
100,000 to 250,000	97	14,314	+14	+13	+14	+ 4	+19	+17	+ 9	+9	+22	+12
50,000 to 100,000	242	16,876	+14	+13	+14	+13	+17	+12	+13	+8	+22	+12
25,000 to 50,000	427	15,045	+14	+16	+14	+12	+16	+23	+12	+4	+25	+12
10,000 to 25,000	1,039	16,350	+15	+ 7	+16	+ 2	+24	+16	+ 2	+6	+30	+ 9
Under 10,000	1,780	9,296	+13	- 1	+14	+ 4	+10	+ 7	- 4	+5	+28	+11

Crime increases were recorded in all geographic regions with a 15 percent rise in the North Central States, 12 percent in the Western States, 11 percent in the Southern States, and 7 percent in the Northeastern States.

TABLE 2

CRIME INDEX TRENDS BY GEOGRAPHIC REGION

(1969 over 1968)

Region	Total	Violent	Property	Murder	Forcible rape	Robbery	Aggravated assault	Burglary	Larceny \$50 and over	Auto theft
Northeastern States	+ 7	+ 8	+ 7	+ 3	+15	+10	+ 6	+ 1	+19	+ 8
North Central States	+15	+15	+16	+11	+14	+17	+12	+10	+24	+15
Southern States	+11	+11	+11	+ 4	+14	+19	+ 6	+ 5	+21	+12
Western States	+12	+12	+12	+15	+20	+ 9	+14	+ 6	+20	+11

Robbery continued to register significant increases in all regions ranging from 9 percent in the Western States to 19 percent in the Southern States. Armed robbery recorded a 16 percent rise over 1968. Unarmed robbery, where no weapon was used, recorded an upswing of 10 percent. Street robberies made up over one-half of all robbery offenses and rose 15 percent. Street thefts recorded a 12 percent rise over 1968. Nationally, police successfully solved 20 percent of the Crime Index offenses. Overall clearance rates recorded a decline of 3 percent, 1969 versus 1968. During 1969 police arrests for all criminal acts, excluding traffic offenses, rose 7 percent. Adult arrests were up 6 percent and arrests of persons under 18 years of age increased 11 percent.

TABLE 3

OFFENSE ANALYSIS

(January - December, percent change 1969 over 1968)

Robbery	Burglary	Larceny
Street +15	Residence, night +10	Pocket-picking + 4
Business house + 5	Residence, day +11	Purse-snatching +18
Service station +10	Nonresidence, night - 3	Shoplifting +17
Chain store +23	Nonresidence, day + 5	From autos +15
Residence +64		Auto accessories +12
Bank - 1		From buildings + 7

Issued by John Edgar Hoover, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice, Washington, D. C. 20535

Advisory: Committee on Uniform Crime Records, International Association of Chiefs of Police

Table 4

Offenses Known to the Police, 1968 and 1969
Cities over 100,000 in Population

	Murder, non-negligent manslaughter	Forcible rape	Robbery	Aggravated assault	Burglary-break-in or enter-	Larceny over \$50	Auto theft	Murder, non-negligent manslaughter	Forcible rape	Robbery	Aggravated assault	Burglary-break-in or enter-	Larceny over \$50	Auto theft	1968		1969					
															Rate per 100,000	Per 1,000	Rate per 100,000	Per 1,000				
Abilene	Texas	1968	3	20	43	674	891	12	34	84	301	2,253	3,020	335	1968	12	34	84	301	2,253	3,020	335
Akron	Ohio	1968	21	58	28	879	241	22	58	28	879	241	22	58	1968	22	58	28	879	241	22	58
Albany	N Y	1968	4	127	118	3,563	4,288	27	51	17	1,057	1,206	424	662	1968	27	51	17	1,057	1,206	424	662
Albuquerque	N Mex	1968	5	134	89	1,276	648	3	23	25	282	981	779	426	1968	5	134	89	1,276	648	3	23
Alexandria	Va	1968	11	93	300	4,897	4,044	108	901	408	8,115	4,813	2,591	1968	11	93	300	4,897	4,044	108	901	
Allentown	Pa	1968	11	93	402	4,897	4,044	108	901	408	8,115	4,813	2,591	1968	11	93	300	4,897	4,044	108	901	
Anaheim	Calif	1968	2	12	24	38	46	2	12	24	38	46	2	12	1968	2	12	24	38	46	2	12
Amarillo	Texas	1968	3	13	28	219	1,290	3	13	28	219	1,290	3	13	1968	3	13	28	219	1,290	3	13
Anderson	Calif	1968	2	13	28	219	1,290	3	13	28	219	1,290	3	13	1968	2	13	28	219	1,290	3	13
Arlington	Va	1968	4	32	181	147	2,785	2,278	875	1,058	2,785	2,278	875	1,058	1968	4	32	181	147	2,785	2,278	875
Atlanta	Ga	1968	5	22	129	84	1,277	1,234	781	1,277	1,234	781	1,277	1,234	1968	5	22	129	84	1,277	1,234	781
Atlanta	Ga	1969	183	108	848	927	7,149	5,291	3,404	927	7,149	5,291	3,404	927	1969	183	108	848	927	7,149	5,291	3,404
Asiatia	Texas	1968	175	173	1,107	1,122	6,740	9,359	4,058	1,122	6,740	9,359	4,058	1,122	1968	175	173	1,107	1,122	6,740	9,359	4,058
Baltimore	Md	1968	229	833	8,653	9,287	26,082	11,550	11,782	9,287	26,082	11,550	11,782	9,287	1968	229	833	8,653	9,287	26,082	11,550	11,782
Baton Rouge	La	1968	16	87	210	293	2,253	1,858	280	293	2,253	1,858	280	293	1968	16	87	210	293	2,253	1,858	280
Beaumont	Texas	1968	22	10	70	443	1,242	299	207	443	1,242	299	207	443	1968	22	10	70	443	1,242	299	207
Berkeley	Calif	1968	13	12	128	368	1,608	433	255	368	1,608	433	255	368	1968	13	12	128	368	1,608	433	255
Birmingham	Ala	1968	10	111	453	890	3,780	801	1,183	890	3,780	801	1,183	890	1968	10	111	453	890	3,780	801	1,183
Birmingham	Ala	1969	87	58	400	1,132	4,251	3,722	2,904	1,132	4,251	3,722	2,904	1,132	1969	87	58	400	1,132	4,251	3,722	2,904
Boston	Mass	1968	102	191	2,180	1,463	6,863	8,889	18,217	1,463	6,863	8,889	18,217	1,463	1968	102	191	2,180	1,463	6,863	8,889	18,217
Brighton	Conn	1968	91	259	2,864	1,259	6,002	6,348	15,289	1,259	6,002	6,348	15,289	1,259	1968	91	259	2,864	1,259	6,002	6,348	15,289
Buffalo	N Y	1968	42	137	1,090	591	5,477	4,735	4,282	591	5,477	4,735	4,282	591	1968	42	137	1,090	591	5,477	4,735	4,282
Camden	N J	1968	10	32	225	169	1,462	751	1,501	169	1,462	751	1,501	169	1968	10	32	225	169	1,462	751	1,501
Canton	Ohio	1968	23	25	245	202	3,101	682	1,728	202	3,101	682	1,728	202	1968	23	25	245	202	3,101	682	1,728
Cedar Rapids	Iowa	1968	2	7	24	23	840	590	380	23	840	590	380	23	1968	2	7	24	23	840	590	380
Charlotte	N C	1968	45	80	304	2,084	3,825	2,318	1,712	2,084	3,825	2,318	1,712	2,084	1968	45	80	304	2,084	3,825	2,318	1,712
Chattanooga	Tenn	1968	94	87	422	2,063	3,338	1,488	1,088	2,063	3,338	1,488	1,088	2,063	1968	94	87	422	2,063	3,338	1,488	1,088
Chicago	Ill	1968	24	138	488	189	4,474	365	1,489	189	4,474	365	1,489	189	1968	24	138	488	189	4,474	365	1,489
Chicago	Ill	1969	847	1,237	18,977	12,320	34,344	18,927	31,251	12,320	34,344	18,927	31,251	12,320	1969	847	1,237	18,977	12,320	34,344	18,927	31,251
Cleveland	Ohio	1968	178	178	2,521	1,277	6,027	6,858	14,178	1,277	6,027	6,858	14,178	1,277	1968	178	178	2,521	1,277	6,027	6,858	14,178
Columbus	Ohio	1968	206	303	6,628	2,071	12,589	8,711	21,278	2,071	12,589	8,711	21,278	2,071	1968	206	303	6,628	2,071	12,589	8,711	21,278
Columbus	Ohio	1969	9	32	189	115	1,043	1,912	1,881	115	1,043	1,912	1,881	115	1969	9	32	189	115	1,043	1,912	1,881
Columbus	Ohio	1968	20	27	170	144	1,448	1,531	451	144	1,448	1,531	451	144	1968	20	27	170	144	1,448	1,531	451
Columbus	Ohio	1969	23	24	226	242	2,218	1,337	842	242	2,218	1,337	842	242	1969	23	24	226	242	2,218	1,337	842
Columbus	Ohio	1968	19	8	103	74	254	575	577	74	254	575	577	74	1968	19	8	103	74	254	575	577
Columbus	Ohio	1969	42	137	1,171	737	7,798	5,723	4,207	737	7,798	5,723	4,207	737	1969	42	137	1,171	737	7,798	5,723	4,207
Copua Christi	Texas	1968	52	270	1,264	788	8,124	8,928	8,338	788	8,124	8,928	8,338	788	1968	52	270	1,264	788	8,124	8,928	8,338
Dallas (1)	Texas	1968	13	27	186	761	3,136	2,948	883	761	3,136	2,948	883	761	1968	13	27	186	761	3,136	2,948	883
Dayton	Ohio	1968	232	431	2,531	3,888	19,448	8,037	7,701	3,888	19,448	8,037	7,701	3,888	1968	232	431	2,531	3,888	19,448	8,037	7,701
Dayton	Ohio	1969	58	83	1,017	734	8,068	3,077	2,381	734	8,068	3,077	2,381	734	1969	58	83	1,017	734	8,068	3,077	2,381
Dearborn	Mich	1968	5	10	131	48	761	835	822	48	761	835	822	48	1968	5	10	131	48	761	835	822
Dearborn	Mich	1969	10	12	128	68	947	414	844	68	947	414	844	68	1969	10	12	128	68	947	414	844
Denver	Colo	1968	51	304	1,401	1,300	9,017	8,285	5,794	1,300	9,017	8,285	5,794	1,300	1968	51	304	1,401	1,300	9,017	8,285	5,794
Des Moines	Iowa	1968	68	303	1,702	1,282	11,415	8,993	8,338	1,282	11,415	8,993	8,338	1,282	1968	68	303	1,702	1,282	11,415	8,993	8,338
Detroit	Mich	1968	4	62	247	81	1,087	1,488	979	81	1,087	1,488	979	81	1968	4	62	247	81	1,087	1,488	979
Detroit	Mich	1969	8	26	245	100	1,901	2,388	1,039	100	1,901	2,388	1,039	100	1969	8	26	245	100	1,901	2,388	1,039
Duluth	Minn	1968	2	10	40	14	1,003	720	483	14	1,003	720	483	14	1968	2	10	40	14	1,003	720	483
Elizabeth	N J	1968	12	30	238	218	1,828	821	1,237	218	1,828	821	1,237	218	1968	12	30	238	218	1,828	821	1,237
El Paso	Texas	1968	18	55	224	435	2,854	2,255	1,584	435	2,854	2,255	1,584	435	1968	18	55	224	435	2,854	2,255	1,584
El Paso	Texas	1969	15	41	223	397	4,056	2,008	1,903	397	4,056	2,008	1,903	397	1969	15	41	223	397	4,056	2,008	1,903
Erie	Pa	1968	4	19	214	112	1,008	370	503	112	1,008	370	503	112	1968	4	19	214	112	1,008	370	503
Evansville	Ind	1968	11	27	128	100	1,152	800	684	100	1,152	800	684	100	1968	11	27	128	100	1,152	800	684
Fall River	Mass	1968	1	3	206	284	1,814	1,793	955	284	1,814	1,793	955	284	1968	1	3	206	284	1,814	1,793	955
Fall River	Mass	1969	1	3	206	284	1,814	1,793	955	284	1,814	1,793	955	284	1969	1	3	206	284	1,814	1,793	955
Flint	Mich	1968	38	79	515	1,250	2,281	3,353	925	1,250	2,281	3,353	925	1,250	1968	38	79	515	1,250	2,281	3,353	925
Flint	Mich	1969	30	65	546	1,308	3,869	5,542	1,222	1,308	3,869	5,542	1,222	1,308	1969	30	65	546	1,308	3,869	5,542	1,222
Fort Lauderdale	Fla	1968	2	3	848	208	2,070	1,873	915	208	2,070	1,873	915	208	1968	2	3	848	208	2,070	1,873	915
Fort Wayne	Ind	1968	27	48	323	280	2,424	2,158	1,217	280	2,424	2,158	1,217	280	1968	27	48	323	280	2,424	2,158	1,217
Fort Worth	Texas	1968	18	23	123	42	1,188	1,210	682	42	1,188	1,210	682	42	1968	18	23	123	42	1,188	1,210	682
Fort Worth	Texas	1969	46	128	815	18	1,293	2,515	682	18	1,293	2,515	682	18	1969	46	128	815	18	1,293	2,515	682
Fresno	Calif	1968	96	79	538</																	

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**FOR RELEASE
TUESDAY AM
MARCH 17, 1970**

PLEASE NOTE

Figures used in this release are submitted voluntarily by law enforcement agencies throughout the country. Individuals using these tabulations are cautioned against drawing conclusions by making direct comparisons between cities due to the existence of numerous factors which affect the amount and type of crime from place to place. Some of these factors are listed in the annual Uniform Crime Reports. More valid use can be made of these figures by determining deviations from national averages and through comparisons with averages for cities in similar population groups. (Table 1) It is important to remember that crime is a social problem and, therefore, a concern of the entire community. The efforts of law enforcement are limited to factors within its control.