



**Leicester Police Department**  
*2008 Crime Statistics Report*



# Leicester Police Department Crime Statistics for 2008

## Introduction

As the Chief of Police for the Town of Leicester I believe that two of the most important fundamental responsibilities of the police department are:

1. **Transparency** – the public has the right to know how their police department is being run and what is occurring within their police department.
2. **Effectiveness** – the public has the right to know how effective their police department is in suppressing, interdicting, and solving crime.

In order to meet these two objectives, the Leicester Police Department is releasing its first ever crime statistic report. This report includes a five year comparison of crime and other police activity in our community. It also includes an in-depth comparison of police activity from 2004 to 2008 and a look at the overall crime statistics for 2008.

## Manpower

The Leicester Police Department is comprised of 18 full time officers, including the Chief of Police, 5 part time police officers, 4 full time dispatchers, 5 part time (per diem) dispatchers, and a full time administrative assistant. The department operates 24 hours a day, 7 days per week, and 365 days per year. In addition to providing all primary law enforcement services for the community, the department also operates an around the clock dispatch center which dispatches the for police, fire, EMS, and highway departments.

## What Affects Crime in Leicester?

Leicester borders the second largest city in New England, namely Worcester. Just by its geographical location, the Town of Leicester will incur its share of displaced urban crime, meaning criminals that leave the city to come to Leicester to commit criminal acts. This is not unique to Leicester. The police department of every community that borders a large urban area must deal with this type of criminal activity.

Leicester saw a dramatic increase in commercial business with the opening of a large retail establishment almost 2 years ago. Retail establishments provide an opportunity for crimes such as shoplifting, credit card fraud, and thefts from motor vehicles. These crimes can be kept in check by the police department through proactive policing.

Any discussion on crime statistics and what influences criminal activity in our community would be incomplete if we did not mention the effect that the down turn in the economy has had on crime and criminal activity. The economic crisis facing our country has also caused an economic crisis for the personal finances of many families. The loss of jobs, homes, and financial security lead to increased stress which can eventually lead to domestic disturbances, substance abuse, and even criminal activity.

## The Police Response to Crime in Leicester

There are a number of activities and strategies that the Leicester Police Department uses to control criminal activity in our community.

1. **Traffic Enforcement** - In order to engage in most criminal activity the criminals need to be mobile. Having police officers out on the roadways of our communities, where they are visible and actively enforcing the traffic laws is very important. Most criminals know which communities actively enforce traffic law which increases their chances of being apprehended. They will actively try to avoid these communities.
2. **Mobile Computers** – Two years ago the citizens of Leicester appropriated \$35,000 for the purchase of two mobile data terminals to be placed in cruisers. As the result of an active grant writing campaign the department was able to purchase four computers and return part of the \$35,000 to the town. These mobile computers are used by officers to interdict criminal activity in our community. Officers on patrol can run license plates and determine “in real time” if an individual or vehicle is wanted, if the owner of the vehicle is licensed to operate the vehicle, and if the vehicle is properly registered and insured. Many criminals overlook these items and are routinely arrested going to or coming from criminal activity based on their license or registration being suspended or that there is a warrant out for their arrest.
3. **Crime Scene Processing** – The department has sent several officers to training to enhance its ability to process crime scenes. Members of the Leicester Police Department are processing more crime scenes than in previous years. The department’s crime scene processing includes:
  - Photographing the scene;
  - Collection of physical evidence;
  - Fingerprint processing
  - DNA processing
  - Along with numerous other forensic and investigative techniques.

All of the aforementioned are now accepted as the industry standard for crime scene processing and most juries, who see so much crime scene processing on television, expect that police will undertake these crime scene processing activities.

4. **Criminal Investigations** - No matter how hard we try or how much equipment we utilize, the Leicester Police Department will not stop crimes from occurring in our community. Those that do occur require a professional and complete follow up investigation. This year the police department added a second criminal investigator to enhance the department’s ability to conduct follow up investigations. The new night shift detective works on criminal cases reported

during the evening shift (3 PM to 11 PM) and will be used to provide extra support on illegal narcotic investigations.

**5. Other Crime Deterrent Initiatives/Technology** -There are a number of other initiatives and pieces of technology that the department utilizes to control crime.

- Information from the Worcester County Breaking and Entering Task Force is released on a daily basis to update officers on who may be committing crimes in the Leicester area.
- Live scan finger printing is conducted on every individual arrested for a criminal offense in Leicester. Every year a handful of individuals are identified after they are fingerprinted (but before their release) as having provided the police with a false name. These individuals are usually wanted on outstanding warrants or immigration violations.

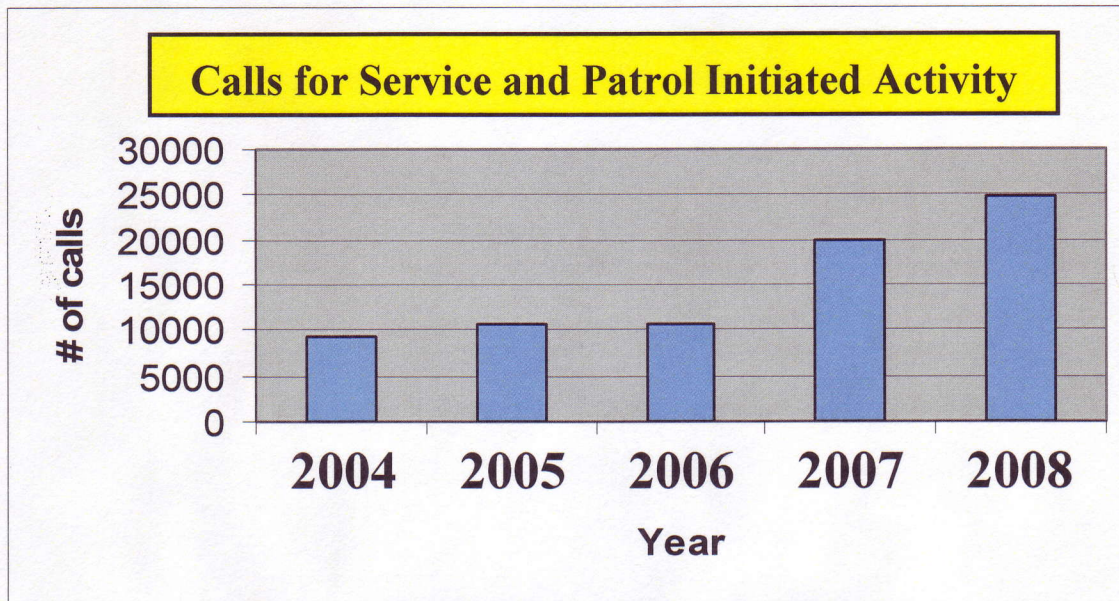
These both have had a significant impact on the department's ability to deal with criminal activity in Leicester.

**Calls for Service / Patrol Initiated Activity**

The graph below is a five year comparison of the number of calls for service and patrol initiated activity for the Leicester Police Department. This is the area which requires the most police resources and manpower.

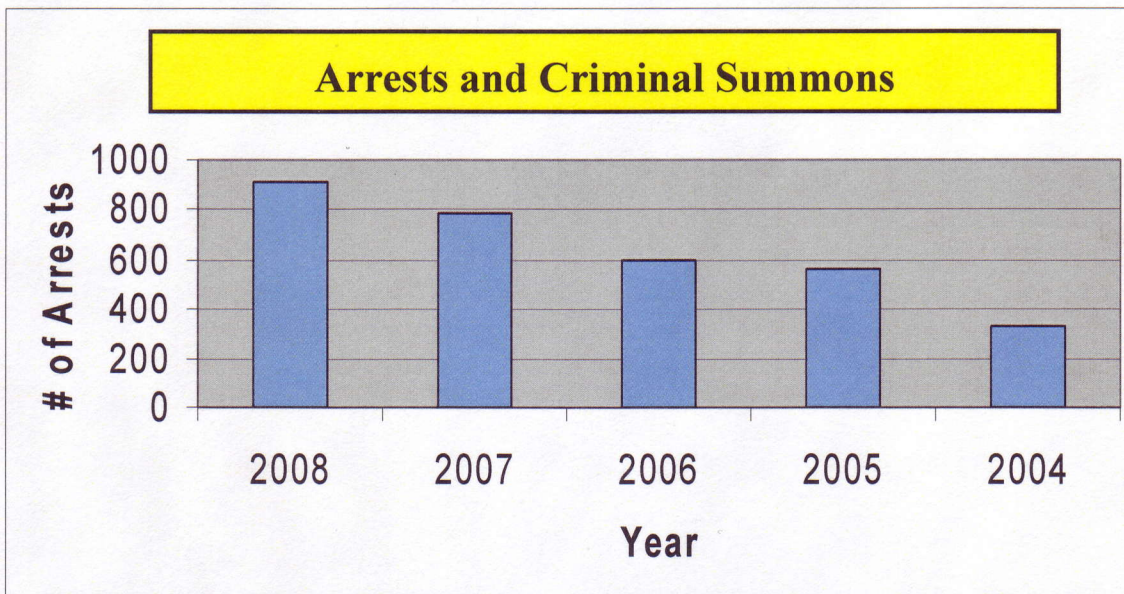
- **Call for Service (CFS)** – A call requesting service from the police department, which requires the assignment of resources and/or personnel to provide the service requested. Examples would be responding to an alarm, medical call, a retailer reporting a shoplifting or a resident reporting a suspicious motor vehicle.
- **Patrol Initiated Activity (PIA)** – Activity undertaken by an officer while on patrol but not requested by someone calling for service. Examples of patrol initiated activity are motor vehicle stops for traffic violations, officers stopping and checking on disabled motor vehicles that they observe while on patrol, or an officer making an arrest for a narcotics violation that was observed while on patrol.

When viewing the graph below it is also important to know that the significant increase in CFS/PIA from 2006 to 2007 was heavily based upon a change in the department's documentation strategy. The department focused very heavily on documenting all of the activity that its police officers responded to or initiated while on patrol.



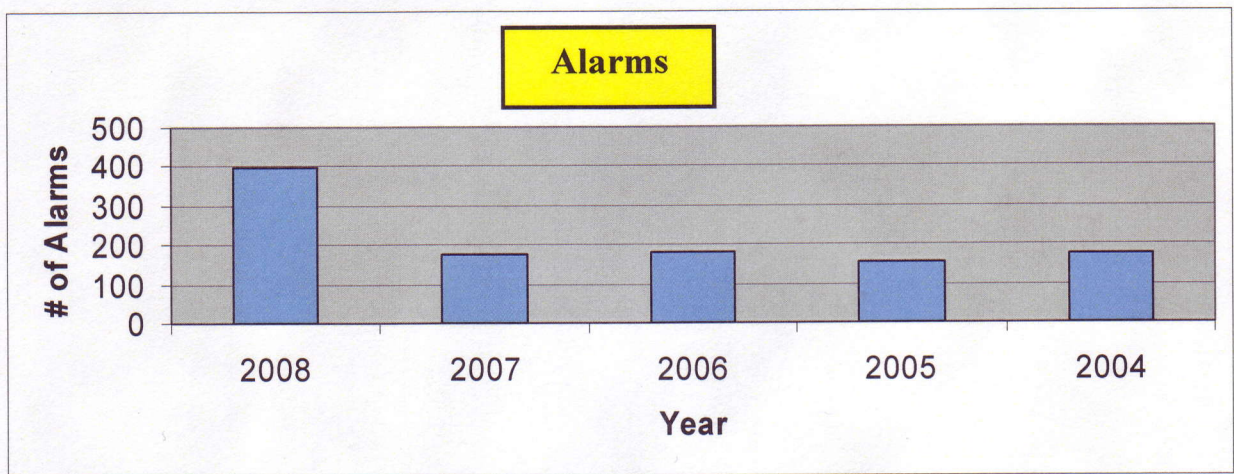
The statistics above indicate that there was approximately 19% overall increase in the number of calls for service in 2008.

The graph below shows a comparison of the number of arrests and summons to appear in court over a five year period from 2004 to 2008.

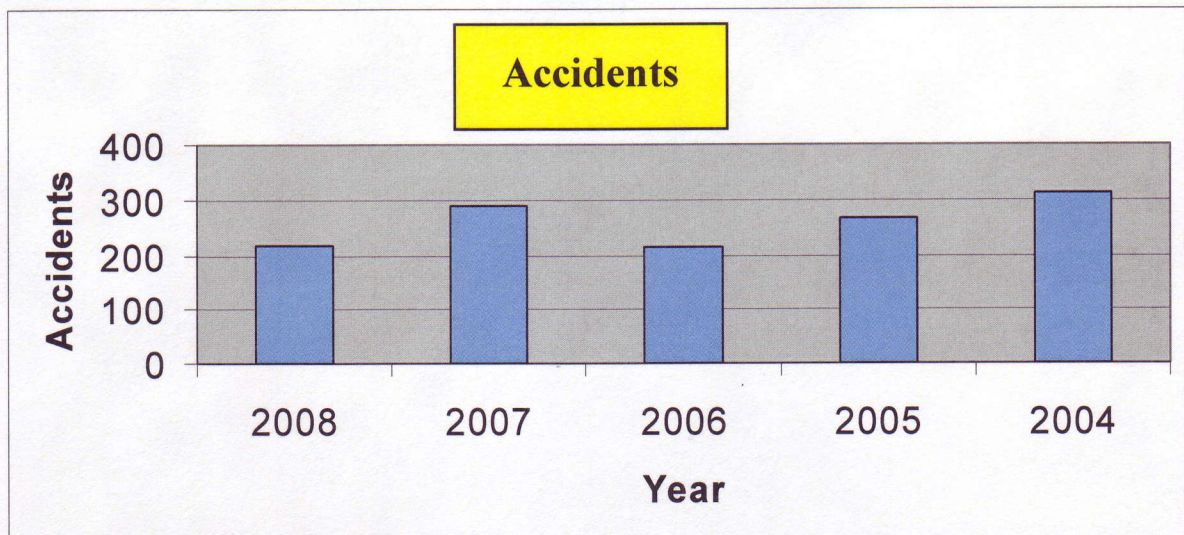


The number of arrests and summons increased from 785 in 2007 to 915 in 2008 for a total increase of 130 arrest or summons.

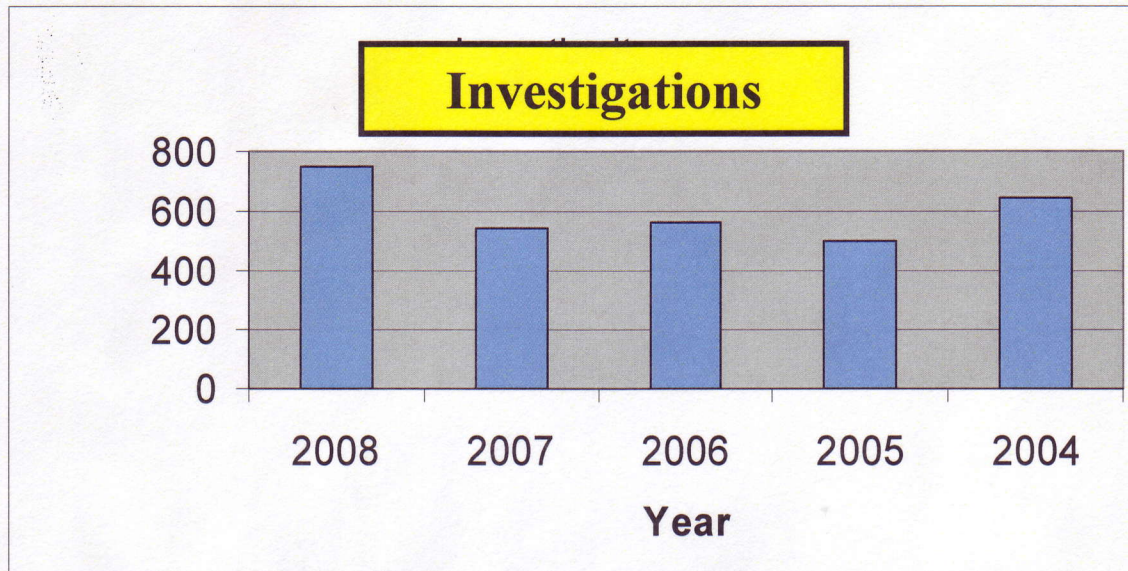
An area which saw a dramatic increase was the number of fire and burglar alarms to which the police department responds. An appropriate and professional response to these alarms requires a great deal of resources, including, but not limited to, personnel and equipment. In the hopes of controlling the number of false alarms, the police department was a catalyst behind the False Alarm By-Law which was enacted at the town meeting more than a year ago. Despite issuing more than 200 warnings/violations to businesses and homeowners for false alarms, the number of alarms in 2008 more than doubled from the previous year. The overwhelming majority of these alarms were false alarms.



There was much better news pertaining to the accident statistics for the town. The number of accidents, which the department responded to, was one of the lowest in the past five years. This can be attributed to a number of factors including the department's traffic enforcement program and the department's efforts to educate drivers pertaining to motor vehicle accidents.



The most significant rise in activity came in the area of investigations. The department investigated a total of 915 various cases/incidents during 2008. This total was up from 543 in 2007 for a total increase of 210 investigations.



It is important to note that not every investigation results in an arrest or prosecution. Some are unfounded or lack sufficient evidence for a criminal prosecution.

## **The National Incident Based Reporting System**

In addition to compiling the statistics shown above, the Leicester Police Department submits its crime data to the FBI for inclusion in the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS).

### **What is the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)?**

The NIBRS is an incident-based reporting system in which agencies collect data on each single crime occurrence. NIBRS data comes from local, state, and federal automated records systems. An agency can build a system to suit its own needs, including any collection/storage of information required for administration and operations, as well as to report data required by the NIBRS to the UCR Program.

The NIBRS collects data on each single incident and arrest within 22 offense categories made up of 46 specific crimes called Group A offenses. For each of the offenses coming to the attention of law enforcement, specified types of facts about each crime are

reported. In addition to the Group A offenses, there are 11 Group B offense categories for which only arrest data are reported.

### **What are the benefits of participating in the NIBRS?**

The benefits of participating in the NIBRS are:

1. The NIBRS can furnish information on nearly every major criminal justice issue facing law enforcement today, including terrorism, white collar crime, weapons offenses, missing children where criminality is involved, drug/narcotics offenses, drug involvement in all offenses, hate crimes, spousal abuse, abuse of the elderly, child abuse, domestic violence, juvenile crime/gangs, parental abduction, organized crime, pornography/child pornography, driving under the influence, and alcohol-related offenses.
2. Using the NIBRS, legislators, municipal planners/administrators, academicians, sociologists, and the public will have access to more comprehensive crime information than the summary reporting can provide.
3. The NIBRS produces more detailed, accurate, and meaningful data than the traditional summary reporting. Armed with such information, law enforcement can better make a case to acquire the resources needed to fight crime.
4. The NIBRS enables agencies to find similarities in crime-fighting problems so that agencies can work together to develop solutions or discover strategies for addressing the issues.
5. Full participation in the NIBRS provides statistics to enable a law enforcement agency to provide a full accounting of the status of public safety within the jurisdiction to the police commissioner, police chief, sheriff, or director.

### **What types of crimes are submitted to NIBRS?**

- |                            |                                 |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Arson                   | 12. Homicide offenses           |
| 2. Assault offenses        | 13. Kidnapping                  |
| 3. Bribery                 | 14. Larceny offenses            |
| 4. Burglary                | 15. Motor vehicle theft         |
| 5. Counterfeiting/Forgery  | 16. Pornography offenses        |
| 6. Destruction of property | 17. Prostitution offenses       |
| 7. Drug offenses           | 18. Robbery offenses            |
| 8. Embezzlement            | 19. Sex offenses (forcible)     |
| 9. Extortion               | 20. Sex offenses (non forcible) |
| 10. Fraud offenses         | 21. Stolen property             |
| 11. Gambling offenses      | 22. Weapons law violations      |

There are eleven additional offenses, known as Group B offenses, for which only arrest data are reported.

- |                                |                          |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Bad checks                  | 7. Liquor law violations |
| 2. Loitering violations        | 8. Peeping tom           |
| 3. Disorderly conduct          | 9. Runaway               |
| 4. Driving under the influence | 10. Trespassing          |
| 5. Drunkenness                 | 11. All other offenses   |
| 6. Family offenses             |                          |

Group A Crimes Against Persons														
Crime IBR Category	Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Kidnaping/ Abduction	2008													
	2007			1										1
	Pct			n/a										n/a
Forcible Rape	2008			1	1				1		1			4
	2007					1		2				1	1	5
	Pct			n/a	n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a	n/a	-20%
Forcible Sodomy	2008					1								1
	2007						1						1	2
	Pct					n/a	n/a						n/a	-50%
Forcible Fondling	2008													
	2007		2	1								1		4
	Pct		n/a	n/a								n/a		n/a
Aggravated Assault	2008		1	1	2	2	6	2	1	2	1	1		19
	2007			1	1	6	2		2	3	1		2	18
	Pct		n/a	0%	+100%	-67%	+200%	n/a	-50%	-33%	0%	n/a	n/a	+6%
Simple Assault	2008	2	1	2	2	6	5	5	3	4	8	7	6	51
	2007	8	3	3	8	8	1	3	4	4	3	1	8	54
	Pct	-75%	-67%	-33%	-75%	-25%	+400%	+67%	-25%	0%	+167%	+600%	-25%	-6%
Intimidation	2008	1	3	4	1	2	2	5	2	5	1	6	3	35
	2007	4	3	4	1	2	1	3	2	1	1		1	23
	Pct	-75%	0%	0%	0%	0%	+100%	+67%	0%	+400%	0%	n/a	+200%	+52%
Statutory Rape	2008	2					1		1	1	1	1		7
	2007									2	1			3
	Pct	n/a					n/a		n/a	-50%	0%	n/a		+133%
Total Crimes Against Persons	2008	5	5	8	6	11	14	12	8	12	12	15	9	117
	2007	12	8	10	10	17	5	8	8	10	6	3	13	110
	Pct	-58%	-38%	-20%	-40%	-35%	+180%	+50%	0%	+20%	+100%	+400%	-31%	+6%

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<sup>1</sup> Data compiled from Information Management Corporation (IMC) software program

## Group A Crimes Against Property

Crime IBR Category	Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Robbery	2008				1	1								2
	2007						1							1
	Pct				n/a	n/a	n/a							+100%
Arson	2008		1		1									2
	2007									1				1
	Pct		n/a		n/a					n/a				+100%
Burglary/ Breaking and Entering	2008		2	7	5		7	2	5	2	2	1	6	39
	2007	3	1	2	6	5	5	5	2	3	3	1	4	40
	Pct	n/a	+100%	+250%	-17%	n/a	+40%	-60%	+150%	-33%	-33%	0%	+50%	-3%
Extortion/ Blackmail	2008							1						1
	2007													
	Pct							n/a						n/a
Larceny (pick-pocket)	2008	1			1					1				3
	2007			1	1									2
	Pct	n/a		n/a	0%					n/a				+50%
Larceny (purse snatching)	2008			1	3								1	5
	2007	1												1
	Pct	n/a		n/a	n/a								n/a	+400%
Larceny (shoplifting)	2008	3	2	1	2	1	6		1	1		1		18
	2007	1		2	2		1	4	3	5	9	9	3	39
	Pct	+200%	n/a	-50%	0%	n/a	+500%	n/a	-67%	-80%	n/a	-89%	n/a	-54%
Larceny (from building)	2008	1	2	1	1	2	4	1	5	2	1	4	4	28
	2007	3			1	4	3	6	4	2	1	1	5	30
	Pct	-67%	n/a	n/a	0%	-50%	+33%	-83%	+25%	0%	0%	+300%	-20%	-7%
Larceny (from motor vehicles)	2008				2	1	3		2	2			1	11
	2007					1	1	4	2		2		1	11
	Pct				n/a	0%	+200%	n/a	0%	n/a	n/a		0%	0%
Larceny (of motor vehicle parts)	2008								1					1
	2007													
	Pct								n/a					n/a
Larceny (all other)	2008	4	3	2	2	9	2	7	6	7	6	3	6	57
	2007	6	1	4	9	8	8	13	6	5	5	3	8	76
	Pct	-33%	+200%	-50%	-78%	+13%	-75%	-46%	0%	+40%	+20%	0%	-25%	-25%
Motor Vehicle Theft	2008	1	1	1	1		4		2	2		3	1	16
	2007		1		2		3	3	4	1		3	1	18
	Pct	n/a	0%	n/a	-50%		+33%	n/a	-50%	+100%		0%	0%	-11%

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

## Group A Crimes Against Property

Crime IBR Category	Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Counterfeit/ Forgery	2008		1			1		1		3	3	4		13
	2007	2		1			1				1	2		7
	Pct	n/a	n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a	n/a		n/a	+200%	+100%		+86%
Fraud (false pretense;swindle)	2008		6			3	3	5	2	1	2	3		25
	2007		3	1			1		3		1			9
	Pct		+100%	n/a			n/a	+200%	n/a	-33%	n/a	+100%	n/a	+178%
Fraud (credit/debit card;ATM)	2008	1	1				1							3
	2007			1								1		2
	Pct	n/a	n/a	n/a			n/a					n/a		+50%
Fraud (impersonation)	2008	1	3	1		1		1	2	1	4	1	2	17
	2007	1		1			1					2		5
	Pct	0%	n/a	0%		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-50%	n/a	+240%
Fraud (wire)	2008	1												1
	2007													
	Pct	n/a												n/a
Embezzlement	2008			1		2	1							4
	2007	1				1			1					3
	Pct	n/a		n/a		+100%	n/a		n/a					+33%
Stolen Property	2008			1	1		2			1		2		7
	2007	1			1	1		1	1	1		2	2	10
	Pct	n/a		n/a	0%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0%		0%	n/a	-30%
Destruction of Property/Vandalism	2008	7	8	13	21	5	17	12	6	12	9	3	3	116
	2007	5	12	5	10	12	9	12	10	5	10	3	10	103
	Pct	+40%	-33%	+160%	+110%	-58%	+89%	0%	-40%	+140%	-10%	0%	-70%	+13%
Total Crimes Against Property	2008	20	30	29	41	26	50	30	32	35	27	25	24	369
	2007	24	18	18	32	32	34	48	36	23	32	27	34	358
	Pct	-17%	+67%	+61%	+28%	-19%	+47%	-38%	-11%	+52%	-16%	-7%	-29%	+3%

## Group A Crimes Against Society

Crime IBR Category	Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Drug/ Narcotic Violations	2008	3		3	3	8	3	2	11	3	6	3	1	46
	2007	5	5	3	2	2	4	6	4	12	8	7	4	62
	Pct	-40%	n/a	0%	+50%	+300%	-25%	-67%	+175%	-75%	-25%	-57%	-75%	-26%
Drug Equipment Violations	2008													
	2007												1	1
	Pct												n/a	n/a
Pornography/Obscene Material	2008			1						1				2
	2007													
	Pct			n/a						n/a				n/a
Weapon Law Violations	2008			1		1					1			3
	2007				1	1	1				1	1	1	6
	Pct			n/a	n/a	0%	n/a				0%	n/a	n/a	-50%
Total Crimes Against Society	2008	3		5	3	9	3	2	11	4	7	3	1	51
	2007	5	5	3	3	3	5	6	4	12	9	8	6	69
	Pct	-40%	n/a	+67%	0%	+200%	-40%	-67%	+175%	-67%	-22%	-63%	-83%	-26%

Group B Crimes														
Crime IBR Category	Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Bad Checks	2008						1				1			2
	2007					1						1		2
	Pct					n/a	n/a				n/a	n/a		0%
Disorderly Conduct	2008	1	1	1		4	8	7	7	2	3	3	1	38
	2007	3	1	1	4	6	4		3	2	4	3	3	34
	Pct	-67%	0%	0%	n/a	-33%	+100%	n/a	+133%	0%	-25%	0%	-67%	+12%
Driving under Influence	2008	7	7	6	2	7	6	2	4	7	5	8	2	63
	2007	7	1	5	2	6	6	10	10	7	6	6	4	70
	Pct	0%	+600%	+20%	0%	+17%	0%	-80%	-60%	0%	-17%	+33%	-50%	-10%
Drunkenness	2008	3		9	2	3	6	4	1	2	1		3	34
	2007	5	1	2	4	1	7	2	1	1	1	4	4	33
	Pct	-40%	n/a	+350%	-50%	+200%	-14%	+100%	0%	+100%	0%	n/a	-25%	+3%
Family Non Violent Offenses	2008					2		1	1	1			2	7
	2007													
	Pct					n/a		n/a	n/a	n/a			n/a	n/a
Liquor Law Violations	2008	2	1	3	1	2	3		8	7		2	1	30
	2007	4	4	1	1	1	1	4	4	22	1	4	6	53
	Pct	-50%	-75%	+200%	0%	+100%	+200%	n/a	+100%	-68%	n/a	-50%	-83%	-43%
Runaways (under 18yr old)	2008		2	1	1	1			2	1	1	1		10
	2007	2			1			1	2	2		1		9
	Pct	n/a	n/a	n/a	0%	n/a		n/a	0%	-50%	n/a	0%		+11%
Trespass of Real Property	2008			2		4			6	2				14
	2007	1	1		2	1				4	2		1	12
	Pct	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	+300%			n/a	-50%	n/a		n/a	+17%
All Other Offenses	2008	7	9	11	24	6	13	13	16	6	9	12	6	132
	2007	7	6	7	9	10	6	13	11	7	10	8	9	103
	Pct	0%	+50%	+57%	+167%	-40%	+117%	0%	+45%	-14%	-10%	+50%	-33%	+28%
Total Group B Crimes	2008	20	20	33	30	29	37	27	45	28	20	26	15	330
	2007	29	14	16	23	26	24	30	31	45	24	27	27	316
	Pct	-31%	+43%	+106%	+30%	+12%	+54%	-10%	+45%	-38%	-17%	-4%	-44%	+4%

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### Conclusion

The crime statistics shown above indicate that the Town of Leicester is a good and decent place to live, work, and raise a family. Crime and disorder remain under control in our community and there is no indication that this will change at any point in the foreseeable future.

On behalf of all the men and women of the Leicester Police Department, I would like to thank everyone in the community for their continued support of the police department. Our success is your success as a police department is only as effective as the community allows it to be.

Chief Jim Hurley  
Leicester Police Department

<sup>4</sup> Data compiled from Information Management Corporation (IMC) software program

