



News release

Insurance Council
of Australia

Tuesday, 18 March 2025

New car theft claims data shows rises in Queensland and Victoria

New analysis released by the Insurance Council of Australia (ICA) today shows that motor vehicle theft claims are increasing significantly in some parts of the country.

In 2015 the total value of motor vehicle theft claims was \$170 million, or around \$218 million in 2024 dollars. In 2024 the total value jumped to \$428 million – a rise of 96 per cent in real terms.

Analysis of Insurance Statistics Australia data released today shows that across the same period the number of motor vehicle theft claims rose from 22,000 in 2015 to 28,000 in 2024 – up 27 per cent.

The picture varied considerably from state to state, with Queensland and Victoria experiencing the biggest increases (see tables 1 and 2).

The number of all Queensland claims rose 101 per cent and the value of those claims increased from \$28 million (\$36 million in 2024 dollars) to \$113 million, or an increase of 214 per cent in real terms.

Over the same period the total number of motor vehicle policies in Queensland increased 32 per cent.

The number of all Victorian claims rose 70 per cent and the value of those claims increased from \$46 million (\$60 million in 2024 dollars) to \$173 million, or an increase of 188 per cent in real terms.

Over the same period the total number of motor vehicle policies in Victoria increased 28 per cent.

Metro Victoria now incurs the highest cost of motor vehicle theft claims, reaching \$140 million in 2024.

Queensland and metro Victoria saw the biggest increase in theft claim frequency (the incidence of motor vehicle theft as a percentage of total motor policies), with theft claim frequency rising by 62 per cent in rural and regional Queensland, 39 per cent in metro Queensland, and 34 per cent in metro Victoria (see table 3).

Western Australia saw a decrease in theft claim frequency between 2015 and 2024. Theft claim frequency held steady in rural and regional New South Wales while decreasing in metro areas, and in South Australia theft claim frequency held steady across the State.

Quotes attributable to ICA Deputy CEO Kylie Macfarlane:

Motor vehicle theft, while currently a small part of insurance premiums, is a growing concern.

The value of motor vehicles has increased significantly since 2015, as has the cost of parts and labour, putting upward pressure on premiums across the country.

However, the frequency of motor theft and the cost of that theft, as recorded by the insurance industry, should not go unrecognised.

This new data analysis shows alarming rates of motor vehicle theft claims in some parts of the country, which will ultimately cost us all.

Data tables and graphs follow this release

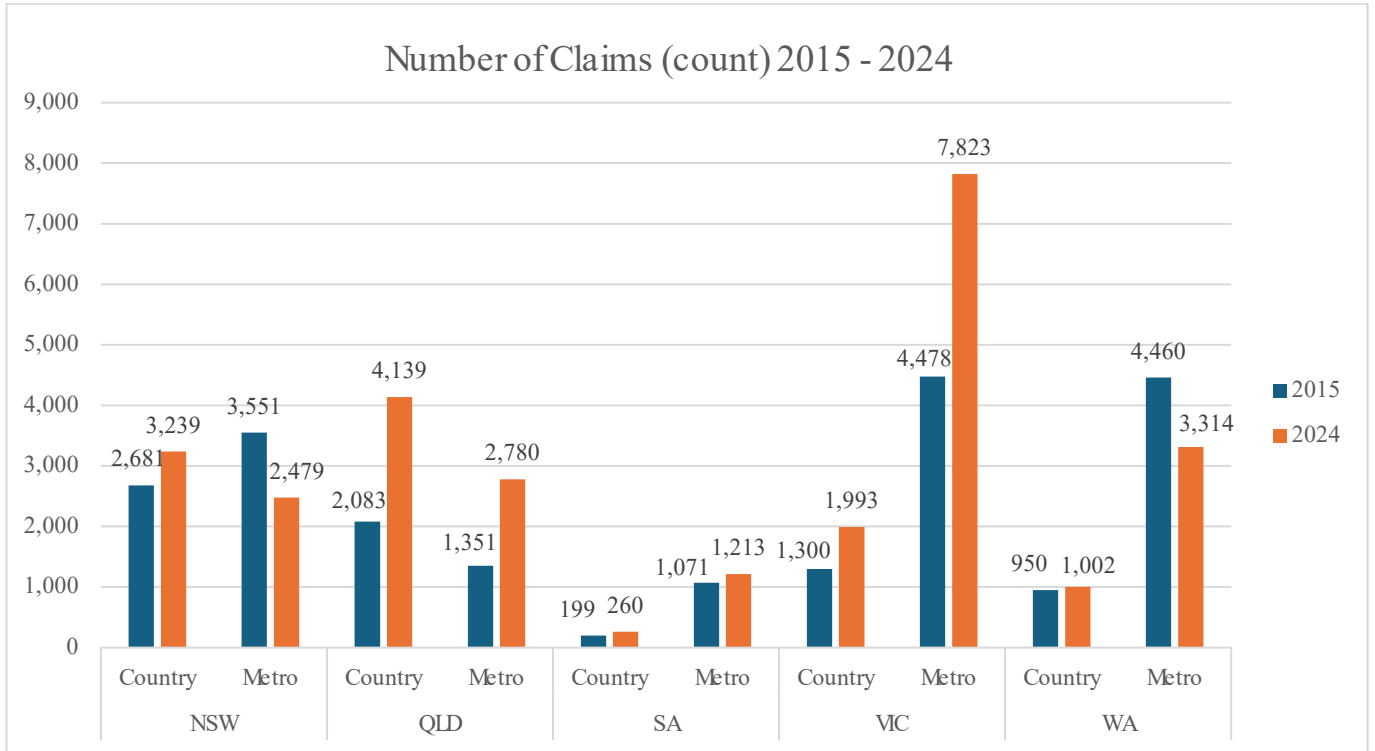


Table 1: The number of motor theft claims broken down per state. Data source: Insurance Statistics Australia.

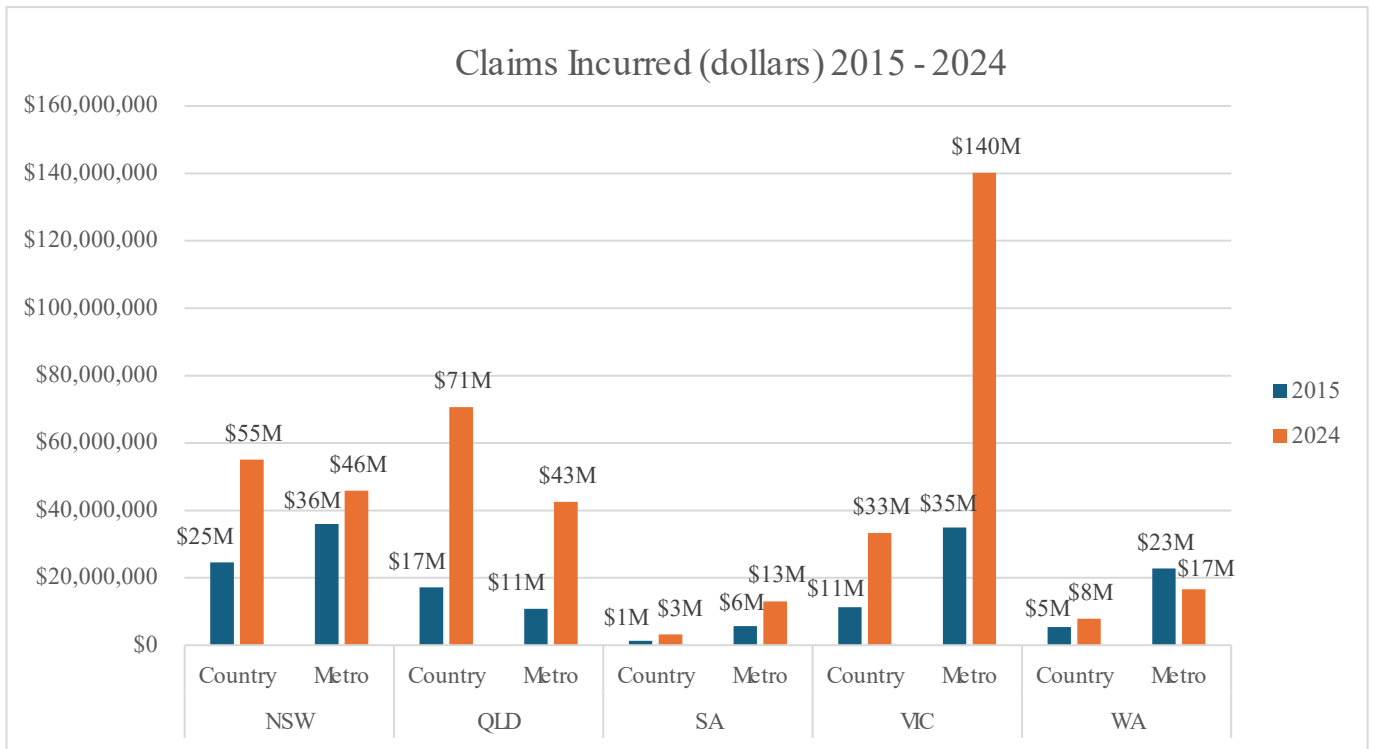


Table 2: The motor theft claims incurred broken down per state. Data source: Insurance Statistics Australia.

Theft Claims Frequency 2015-2024

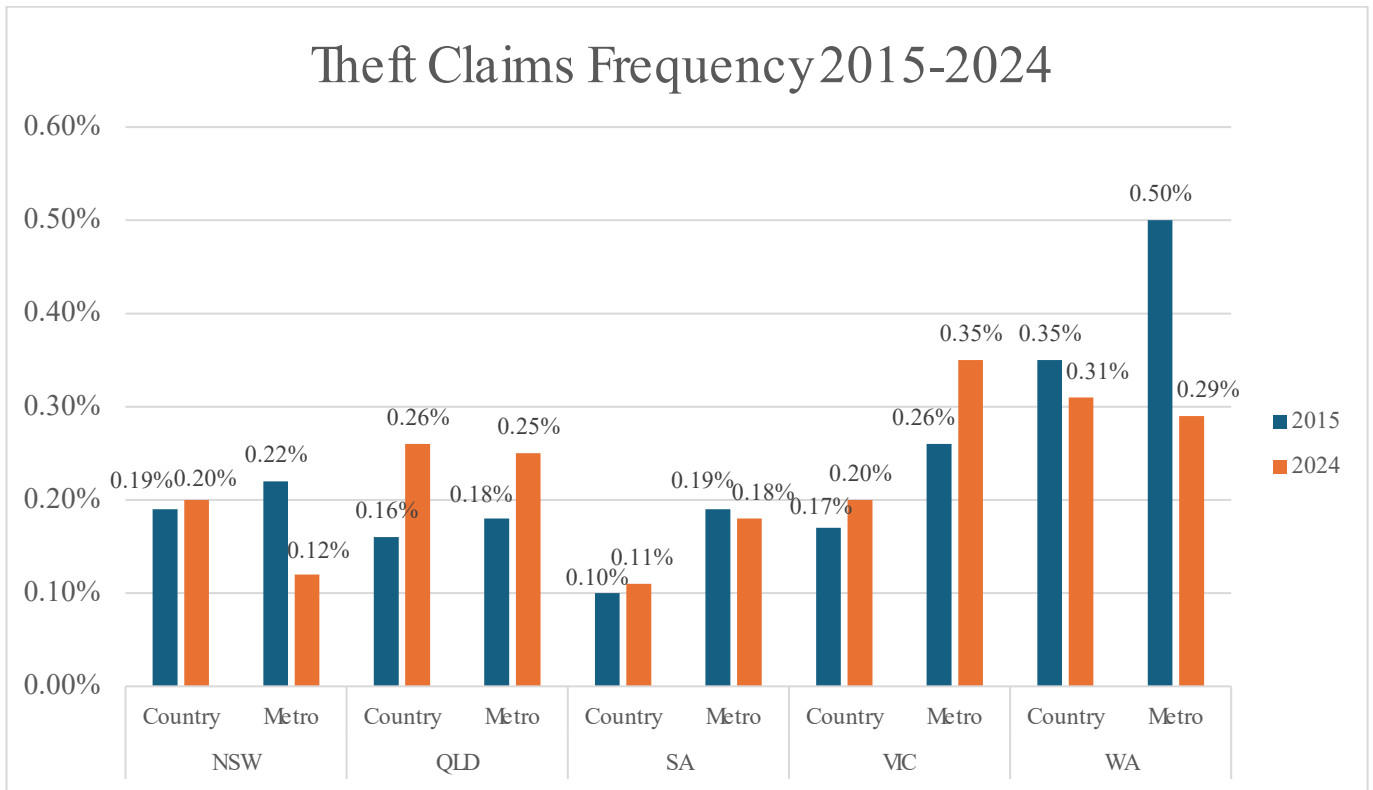


Table 3: The frequency of motor theft claims as a percentage of total claims broken down per state. Data source: Insurance Statistics Australia.

Theft Claims Frequency 2015-2024

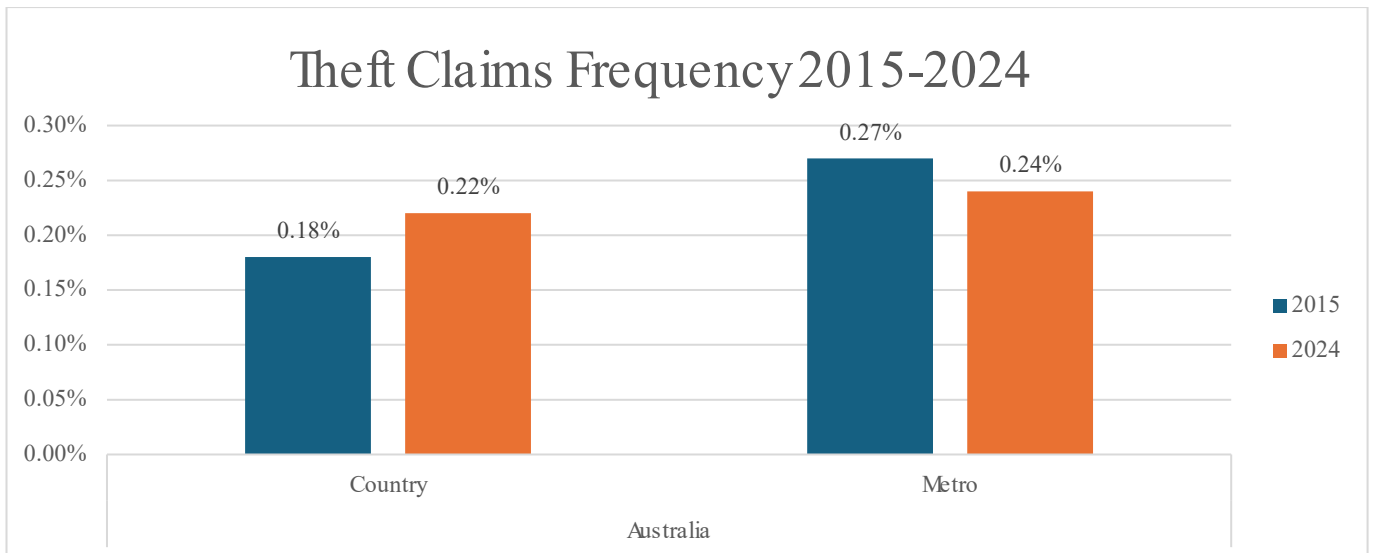


Table 4: The frequency of motor theft claims as a percentage of total claims over Australia. Data source: Insurance Statistics Australia.

State	Zone	January 2015 to December 2015			January 2015 to December 2024			Percentage change - number of motor theft claims	Percentage change - Number of motor policies written	Percentage change - value of motor theft claims
		Number of motor vehicle theft claims (count)	Total number of motor policies written in that year (count)	Value of motor vehicle theft claims (dollars)	Number of motor vehicle theft claims (count)	Total number of motor policies written in that year (count)	Value of motor vehicle theft claims (dollars)			
NSW	Country	2,681	1,428,826	\$24,570,754	3,239	1,653,675	\$55,049,010	20.80%	15.70%	124.00%
	Metro	3,551	1,678,729	\$35,982,778	2,479	2,116,007	\$45,865,898	-30.20%	26.00%	27.50%
NSW Total		6,232	3,107,555	\$60,553,532	5,718	3,769,682	\$100,914,908	-8.20%	21.30%	66.70%
QLD	Country	2,083	1,287,169	\$17,127,915	4,139	1,596,849	\$70,676,409	98.70%	24.10%	312.60%
	Metro	1,351	780,089	\$10,791,455	2,780	1,143,358	\$42,560,327	105.80%	46.60%	294.40%
QLD Total		3,434	2,067,258	\$27,919,370	6,919	2,740,207	\$113,236,736	101.50%	32.60%	305.60%
SA	Country	199	204,363	\$1,287,951	260	238,398	\$3,169,629	30.70%	16.70%	146.10%
	Metro	1,071	560,711	\$5,643,578	1,213	701,995	\$13,001,260	13.30%	25.20%	130.40%
SA Total		1,270	765,074	\$6,931,529	1,473	940,393	\$16,170,889	16.00%	22.90%	133.30%
VIC	Country	1,300	792,388	\$11,286,405	1,993	996,888	\$33,304,516	53.30%	25.80%	195.10%
	Metro	4,478	1,744,283	\$34,970,967	7,823	2,255,986	\$140,223,715	74.70%	29.30%	301.00%
VIC Total		5,778	2,536,671	\$46,257,372	9,816	3,252,874	\$173,528,231	69.90%	28.20%	275.10%
WA	Country	950	275,748	\$5,429,190	1,002	321,395	\$7,835,238	5.50%	16.60%	44.30%
	Metro	4,460	904,297	\$22,722,401	3,314	1,165,264	\$16,588,833	-25.70%	28.90%	-27.00%
WA Total		5,410	1,180,045	\$28,151,591	4,316	1,486,659	\$24,424,071	-20.20%	26.00%	-13.20%
Grand Total		22,124	9,656,603	\$169,813,394	28,242	12,189,815	\$428,274,835	27.70%	26.20%	152.20%

Table 5: Data analysed across states relating to number of motor vehicle theft claims (count), the total number of motor policies written in that year (count) and the value of motor vehicle theft claims (dollars). Data source: Insurance Statistics Australia.