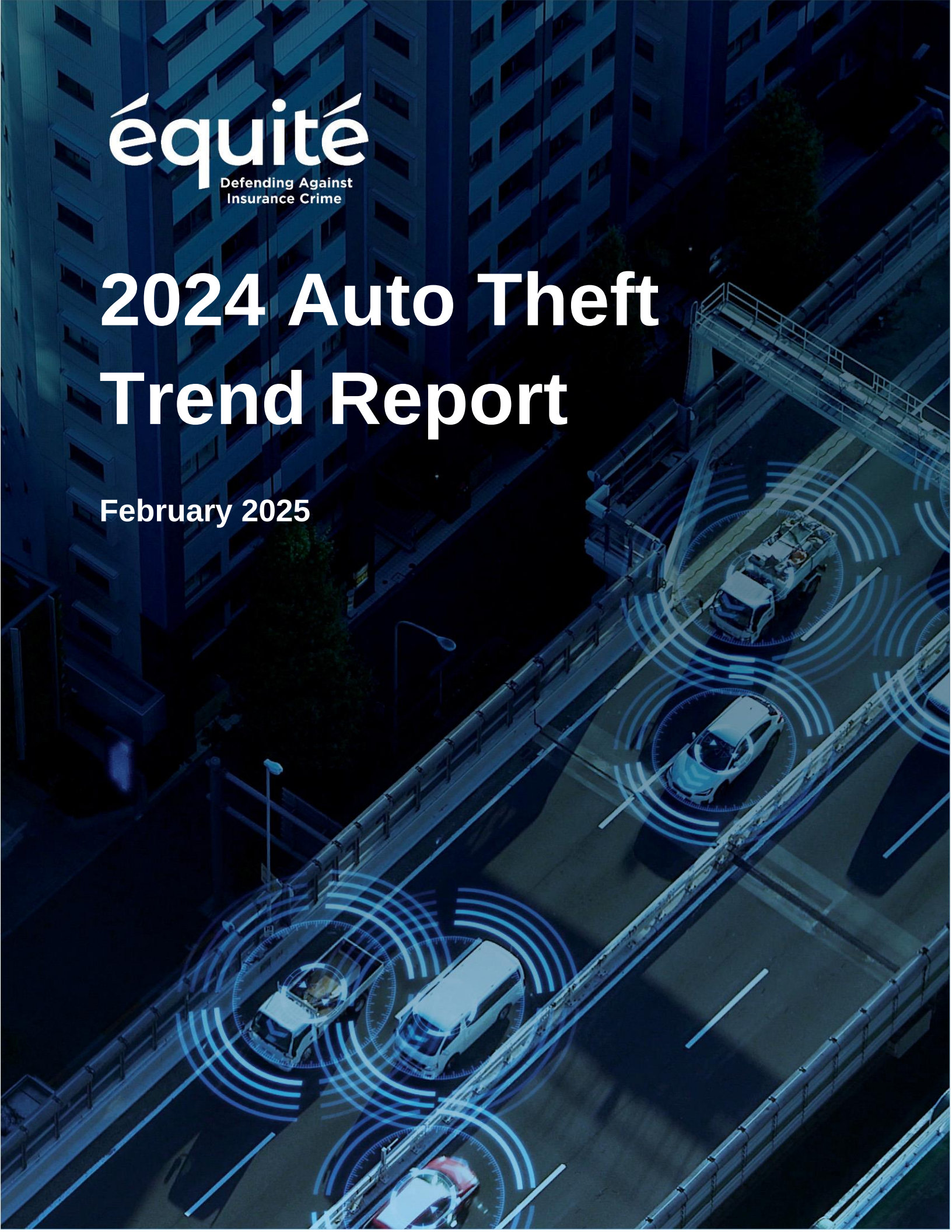


An aerial, high-angle view of a city street scene, likely in Japan, showing a multi-lane road with a median and elevated walkways. Several vehicles, including a white van, a white car, and a red car, are visible. Overlaid on the scene are numerous blue concentric circles and lines, resembling radar or sensor waves emanating from the vehicles, suggesting a focus on vehicle tracking or security. The overall color palette is dominated by deep blues and greys, with the white text providing a stark contrast.

équité

Defending Against
Insurance Crime

2024 Auto Theft Trend Report

February 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Équité Association is pleased to announce that collective efforts have resulted in a national auto theft decrease of 18.6% in 2024 (57,359), for private passenger vehicles*, when compared to the previous year. Leading up to this, the auto theft crisis in Canada reached historic highs, escalating from stolen vehicles in 2021 (53,382), to 2022 (70,082) and 2023 (70,475).

In 2024, Équité worked closely with federal and provincial governments and law enforcement to share actionable solutions and create awareness around the issues of auto theft in an effort to protect Canadians. The National Action Plan on Combatting Auto Theft underscored the government's commitment to combat serious and organized crime, by providing coordinated, actionable solutions to take down auto theft and protect Canadians at local, national and international levels.

Nationally, over 57,000 vehicles were stolen in 2024, which is still unreasonably high and poses an ongoing safety threat to all Canadians. Organized crime is actively working to find vulnerabilities that allow them to launder money through insurance crimes, primarily to fund drug trafficking. Insurance crime, including auto theft, is a main funding mechanism for drug trafficking by organized crime in Canada. In December 2024, to target transnational organized crime and fentanyl trafficking, the federal government invested \$1.3 billion to [bolster security at the border](#) and keep Canadians safe.

The next most impactful step for preventing auto theft is to make vehicles more difficult to steal in the first place. Transport Canada is expected to release measures in 2025 that will potentially mandate auto manufacturers to modernize safety devices for auto theft prevention.

While meaningful actions and investments from provincial and federal governments, and law enforcement agencies resulted in a national decrease in auto theft in 2024, continued commitment to work towards prevention is required to maintain this momentum.

This report aims to provide key stakeholders the information and insight to support a collective and collaborative approach to ending auto theft for Canadians.

** Figures reflect private passenger vehicles, which include cars (sedans, coupes, hatchbacks and wagons), trucks, SUVs and vans,*

BY THE NUMBERS & TREND ANALYSIS

These statistics encompass cars (sedans, coupes, hatchbacks and wagons), trucks, SUVs and vans, reported stolen in Canada. Recovery rates referenced in this report are based on preliminary recovery vehicle data and are subject to change.

Nationally, Canada has seen an 18.6% decrease in auto theft. Year-over-year auto theft by region:

- 17.4% decrease in Ontario
- 32.4% decrease in Quebec
- 0% change in Atlantic Canada
- 12.7% decrease in Western Canada

The national recovery rates for stolen vehicles is 59.3%, which means 40% of vehicles stolen are not recovered. Stolen vehicle recovery rate by region:

- 50.8% in Ontario
- 43.6% in Quebec
- 64.0% in Atlantic Canada
- 77.4% in Western Canada

Ontario & Quebec

- For the first time, following historically high years in 2022 and 2023, auto theft decreased in Ontario (17.4%) and Quebec (32.4%) year-over-year (YoY).
- The majority of vehicle thefts in Ontario (70%) and Quebec (72%) were vehicles manufactured in 2017 or later because organized crime rings are focusing on stealing new, luxury vehicles to maximize profit in overseas sales.
- Recovery rates further illustrate this in Ontario (50.8%) and Quebec (43.6%), indicating vehicles were primarily being exported overseas through the Ports, dismantled in chop shops to sell for parts, re-VINed and being used by criminal organizations, or re-sold domestically.
- SUVs were the most stolen vehicle type in Ontario (42%) and Quebec (55%).

Atlantic Canada

- Auto theft in the Atlantic provinces remained flat (0%) YoY.
- The majority of thefts in Atlantic Canada (42%) were vehicles made between 2010-2016, with cars (sedans, coupes, hatchbacks and wagons) being the most stolen vehicle type (39%).
- At the Halifax Port, Équité investigators have noticed an increase in vehicles attempted to be exported, that have been fraudulently financed. Fraudulent financing includes using a synthetic or stolen identity to purchase a vehicle.

Western Canada

- Overall auto theft trends saw a decrease of 12.7% YoY in Western Canada with Alberta auto theft decreasing 10.1%.
- In Alberta, auto theft happened almost equally across all ages of vehicles:
 - 30% of vehicles stolen were made in 2003-2009
 - 27% of vehicles stolen were made in 2010-2016
 - 28% of vehicles stolen were made in 2017 or newer
- Trucks were the most stolen vehicle type in Western Canada (38%). Notably 42% of all stolen private passenger vehicles in Alberta were trucks. Previously older trucks were stolen for use in other crimes. There is now almost an even split in model years, with older trucks trending down, and thefts of newer vehicles trending up.
- 2024 saw an increase in re-VINed vehicles or exported overseas, as demonstrated by the decline in recovery rates*, from 87% (2022) to 85% (2023) and 77% (2024). Recovery rates continue to fall in this region which indicates increased exportation and re-VINing. Alberta has become a feeder province to register stolen and re-VINed vehicles to the rest of Canada.

Region	Total # of Thefts in 2023	Total # of Thefts in 2024	% Change Year-over-Year (YoY)
Ontario	30,134	24,877	-17.4%
Quebec	15,225	10,290	-32.4%
Atlantic Canada	2,061	2,062	0.0%
Western Canada*	23,055	20,130	-12.7%
National	70,475	57,359	-18.6%

Data sources: Équité Association has compiled data from Canadian law enforcement agencies.

* Western Canada includes British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan & Manitoba.

Solutions in Action

Équité's Response

Équité is the centre-point of collaboration between the insurance industry, law enforcement, Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), government, and industry partners. As Canada's national authority on insurance crime, the decrease in auto theft mirrors the success seen by Équité's investigations.

- Équité continues to partner with police services and government agencies across Canada to combat vehicle crimes.
- Équité, in partnership with Service de police de la Ville de Montréal (SPVM), Sûreté du Québec, the Ontario Provincial Police, Halifax Regional Police and the CBSA, recovered 1,909 vehicles at the Ports of Montreal and Halifax, valued at approximately \$87.76 million in 2024.
- Équité collaborated with the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), Sûreté du Québec (SQ), Service de police de la Ville de Montréal (SPVM) and CBSA in Project Vector, a targeted operation of stolen vehicles destined for international export from the Port of Montreal. Équité auto theft investigators provided expert examinations that resulted in the recovery of 598 high value stolen vehicles, including 483 from Ontario and 115 from Québec.

With the increased commitment of partnership and collaboration across all levels of government and industry organizations, Équité is actively participating in committees, joint intelligence groups, roundtables, and working groups providing subject matter expertise.

Government Response Highlights

After successfully raising awareness about the Canadian auto theft crisis, Équité was invited by the federal government to present at the National Summit on Combatting Auto Theft in February 2024. Équité's President & CEO presented on the domestic and international impacts of the auto theft crisis, including technical solutions in other jurisdictions, and emphasizing its effects on the safety and security of Canadians. In March 2024, Équité was asked to testify as a witness at the House of Commons as an expert on auto theft in Canada.

In May 2024, Public Safety Canada announced the comprehensive [National Action Plan on Combatting Auto Theft](#). The Action Plan included key investments to combat auto theft, including:

- \$9.1 million over three years in municipal and provincial police services to improve their capacity to provide timely referrals, information and actionable intelligence to the CBSA, as well as take custody of stolen vehicles.
- \$3.5 million over three years to support INTERPOL in combatting transnational organized vehicle crime.
- \$28 million to bolster efforts in combatting auto theft including hiring new frontline Border Service Officers, new resources to intelligence and targeting of stolen vehicles and more.

In December 2024, the federal government announced a \$1.3 billion investment to bolster security at the border; part of this investment will target transnational organized crime and disrupting the fentanyl trade. Increased funding for the RCMP and CBSA will include enhanced targeting of organized crime, noting that insurance crime, including auto theft, is closely tied with drug trafficking and is recognized as an organized crime problem.

The Major Auto Theft Prosecution Response Team funded as part of a \$51 million investment from the Ontario government, are actively providing dedicated legal and prosecutorial support to the Ontario Provincial Auto Theft Teams to prepare and prosecute complex cases involving organized crime groups.

Additionally, Transport Canada held a consultation in the summer 2024 on updating Canada's theft protection options for new vehicles, which Équité responded to on behalf of the P&C insurance industry, with an anticipated update to the Motor Vehicle Safety Standards in 2025.

Please direct questions or media requests to media@equiteco.ca.

Legal Disclaimer

Copyright © 2025 Équité Association. All rights reserved. This document is intended for informational purposes only and contains copyrighted material, and is not to be modified, or reproduced in whole without the express written permission of Équité Association. Sharing of information from this document is permitted but must be reported accurately and attributed to Équité Association.