



# First Half of 2025: Auto Theft Trend Report

(For the period January – June 2025)

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

National auto theft trends show a decrease of **19.1%** in the first half of 2025 compared to the same period in 2024. The national auto theft decrease reflects the expert data, testimony and recommendations provided by Équité Association, on behalf of members, to support the commitment of over \$200 million in federal funding to combat auto theft, including the solution-focused National Action Plan on Combatting Auto Theft led by Public Safety Canada (PSC).

Équité's collective voice on behalf of the insurance industry, first identified auto theft as a national crisis in 2023 and brought this public safety issue into the national conversation. Équité advocated for the implementation of impactful solutions through cross-functional collaboration and information sharing with numerous federal and provincial government ministries, law enforcement, insurers, and industry stakeholders. This includes Ontario's Major Auto Theft Prosecution Response Team which focuses on crime hotspots, provincial Ministries of Transportation working to close gaps in vehicle registration processes, as well as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's (RCMP) provision of stolen vehicle data to INTERPOL.

A unified goal across all levels of government, law enforcement, and the insurance industry to protect Canadians from organized crime, has contributed significantly to auto theft decreases in Ontario (**-25.9%**) and Quebec (**-22.2%**). As these provinces experienced the highest auto theft rates at the height of the crisis (from 2021-2023), this is an optimistic trend. This encouraging trend in decreasing auto theft in the most affected provinces demonstrates the success of collective investments, policies and awareness campaigns. However, there is a need for continued vigilance as Équité investigators are seeing criminals adapting to new vehicle theft methods.

Criminals continue to evolve their tactics to identify new funding opportunities in vehicle crime; nationally **44%** of vehicles stolen this year remain unrecovered. Équité investigators have noted a shift towards criminals stealing vehicles destined for chop shops and re-VINs, hindering recoveries. As automotive and steel tariffs continue to create uncertainty, the market for used and after-market parts may become more lucrative.

In support of greater auto theft prevention measures, Équité participated on the UL Standards & Engagement Advisory Committee, which was responsible for collaboratively shaping and publishing ANSI/CAN/UL/ULC 338, the new joint American National Standard and National Standard of Canada for Vehicle Theft Deterrent Equipment and Systems: Electronic Immobilization System and Aftermarket Installation Requirements. Once adopted by Transport Canada, this unified modern standard will deter thieves from stealing vehicles and provide clarity and confidence for manufacturers, installers, and consumers.

Équité remains committed to enhancing its investigative expertise and technology to make a meaningful impact on the fight against insurance crime.



# BY THE NUMBERS

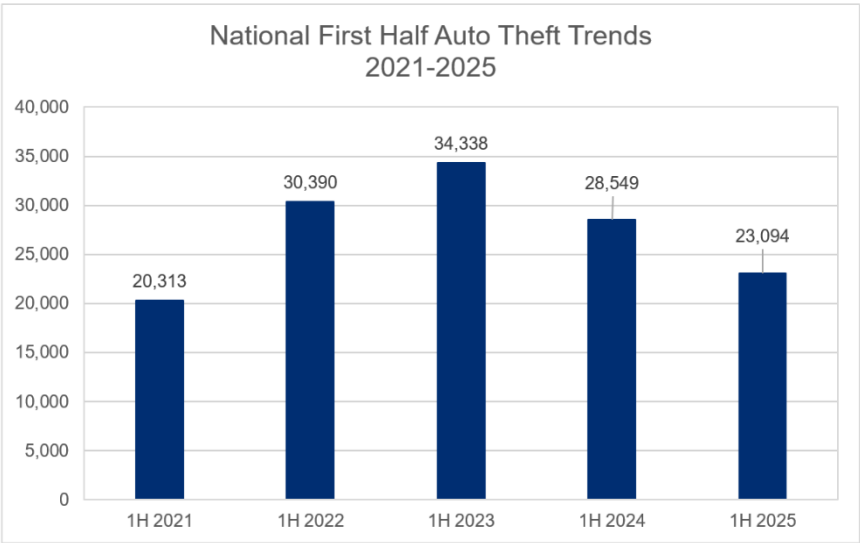
Équité Association has compiled data from Canadian law enforcement agencies on thefts of private passenger vehicles reported stolen in Canada. Private passenger vehicles include cars (sedans, coupes, hatchbacks and wagons), trucks, SUVs, and vans. This report contains statistical data that has undergone a data cleaning process to improve data quality.

## Year-over-Year Percent of Change in Auto Theft by Region

Nationally, the total amount of stolen vehicles for the first half of 2025 at **23,094** is trending positively towards pre-crisis levels of **20,313** in the first half of 2021.

| Region          | # of Private Passenger Vehicles Stolen in First Half |         | First Half Auto Theft % of Change* |
|-----------------|--|---------|------------------------------------|
|                 | 1H 2024  | 1H 2025 | 1H 2025                            |
| National        | 28,549   | 23,094  | - 19.1%                            |
| Ontario         | 12,949   | 9,600   | - 25.9%                            |
| Quebec          | 5,000  | 3,889   | - 22.2%                            |
| Western Canada  | 9,600  | 8,695   | - 9.4%                             |
| • Alberta       | 5,042  | 4,411   | -12.5%.                            |
| Atlantic Canada | 1,000  | 910     | - 9.0%                             |

\*Compared to the same period of 2024



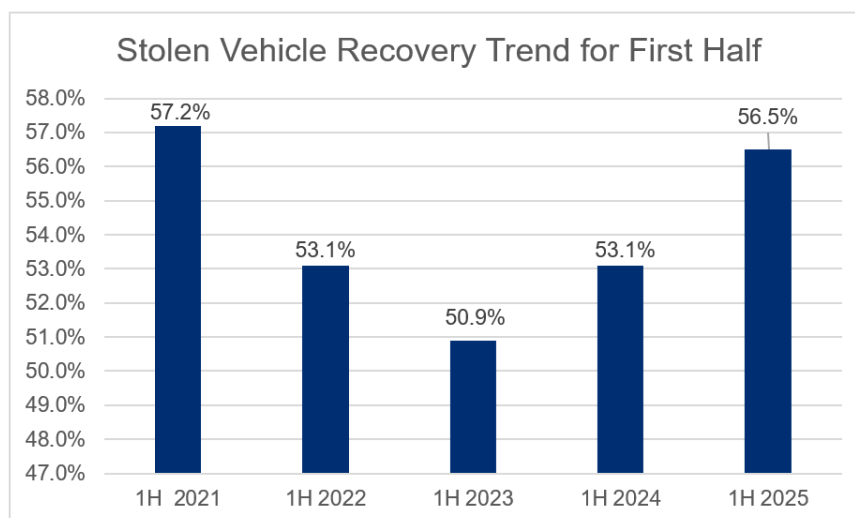
## Stolen Vehicle Recovery Trends

The national recovery rate for the first half of 2025 was **56.5%**, up from **53.1%** in the same period of 2024, reflecting a **3.4** percentage point increase.

National recoveries are approaching similar levels to the pre-crisis timeframe, with **56.5%** in the first half of 2025, as compared to **57.2%** in the first half of 2021. Recoveries are increasing in every region except Western Canada.

|                 | Stolen Vehicle Recovery Trends* |         |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|---------|
| Region          | 1H 2024                         | 1H 2025 |
| National        | 53.1%                           | 56.5%   |
| Ontario         | 44.9%                           | 48.6%   |
| Quebec          | 38.4%                           | 45.1%   |
| Western Canada  | 71.3%                           | 69.9%   |
| • Alberta       | 69.4%                           | 67.6%   |
| Atlantic Canada | 59.0%                           | 59.2%   |

\*Recovery trends referenced in this report encompass data from January 1 to June 30 of each respective year reported on. Vehicles included in recovery trends are stolen and recovered within the reporting period.



## TREND ANALYSIS

- The national auto theft decrease **(-19.1%)** reflects the successes of Équité's partnerships with law enforcement, RCMP, CBSA and INTERPOL, as well as the leadership and investments from PSC and provincial governments across Canada.
- National stolen vehicle recoveries are at **56.5%**, which are approaching similar levels to 2021 **(57.2%)**.
- Équité's investigators are keeping a close eye on the evolving tactics of criminals who are now expanding domestic chop shops to international markets and targeting Alberta for international export of stolen vehicles.

### Ontario & Quebec

- The first half of 2025 decreases in auto theft are most significantly centered in Ontario **(-25.9%)** and Quebec **(-22.2%)** which reflects the successes of PSC's National Action Plan on Combatting Auto Theft, provincial investments and strong collaboration between Ontario and Quebec law enforcement, CBSA, and industry stakeholders.
- Evolving tactics to identify new funding sources in vehicle crime are emerging, according to Équité investigators. The prevalence of chop shops continues; however domestic chop shops are now expanding and shipping parts to international markets.

## Alberta

- Alberta has experienced a decrease of **12.5%**. Additionally, the awareness of auto theft and the work that law enforcement is doing to prevent auto theft in the province are having a positive impact.
- The stolen vehicle recovery rate for Alberta (**67.6%**) is lower when compared to the same period last year (**69.4%**). Following the trend in Ontario and Quebec of stolen vehicles being used for re-VINs and chop shops, Équité investigators are seeing newer and more expensive vehicles targeted for export, as seen with Alberta vehicles being recovered at the Port of Montreal.

## Atlantic Canada

- Atlantic Canada saw a decrease in auto theft of **9.0%**.

Équité continues to be at the centre-point of this constantly shifting insurance crime landscape. Our collaborative approach ensures we remain at the leading-edge of identifying, preventing and locking fraud out of Canada. Please direct questions or media requests to [media@equiteco.ca](mailto:media@equiteco.ca).

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