OVERHAUL

Mexico: H1-2024 Cargo Theft Report

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Executive Summary

Overhaul's H1-2024 report on cargo theft in Mexico describes the spatial and temporal patterns of this crime at the national level to help decision makers establish prevention strategies to reduce the risk in their operations.

The modes of operation of the different criminal groups operating throughout the country may vary by identifying hot spots at regional, state and road level, so we recommend the application of actionable intelligence to establish targeted strategies by sector or industry. For more information, please contact us.

Cargo theft continues to be one of the main problems affecting logistics chains in the country. According to the National Public Security System (SNSP), 84% of the thefts from carriers involved some type of violence.

Overhaul collaborates with federal, state and municipal authorities and has formed strategic alliances with associations such as ANERPV, ASIS, and national industry chambers. In addition, Overhaul has established links with concessionaires of the main roads in the country, such as Aleatica, with presence in the State of Mexico and Puebla, as well as RCO in the West region.

At the same time, Overhaul is part of statistical tables with federal authorities where the National Public Security System (SNSP) participates, as well as the most representative chambers and associations at a national level to follow up on the incidence of cargo theft.

Overhaul shares Actionable Intelligence with these security partners to jointly establish strategies to prevent and mitigate cargo theft in the country. These strategic alliances are designed to improve intelligence and security on the roads, with the goal of ensuring safer roads throughout Mexico.

Spatial Analysis of Cargo Theft

An analysis of the national territory indicates that the fourth quadrant, which includes the Central and Southeast regions, concentrated 78% of the cargo thefts registered during the first half of 2024.

When performing a comparative analysis by quadrant with respect to the first half of 2023, a displacement of two percentage points from the third to the fourth quadrant was detected, i.e., the spatial distribution of cargo theft crimes in the third quadrant decreased by two percentage points and the fourth quadrant increased by two percentage points.

The third quadrant, which mainly covers the West region, accounted for 16% of criminal activity.
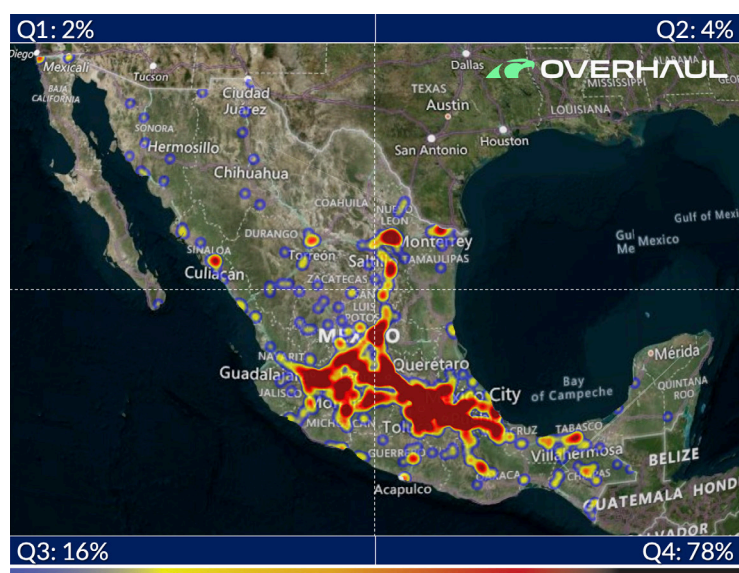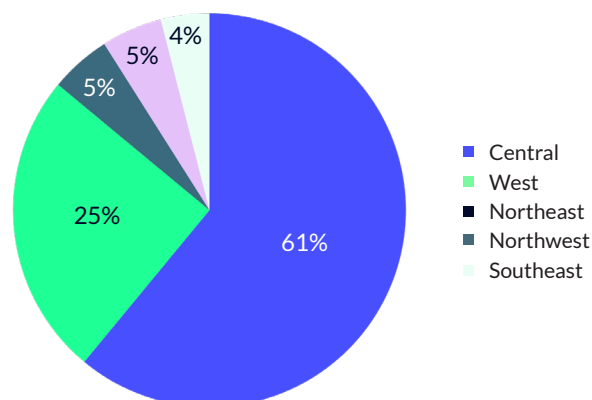

Chart 1: Cargo Theft by Region H1-2024

- Central 61%
- West 25%
- Northeast 5%
- Northwest 5%
- Southeast 4%

Analysis of the Ten Entities with the Highest Number of Cargo Thefts

In the first half of 2024, 87% of the cargo thefts registered in Mexico were concentrated in ten Mexican states. 46% of the incidence occurred in the States of Mexico (25%) and Puebla (21%).

The States of Puebla, Hidalgo and San Luis Potosí showed increases compared to the same period in 2023. Puebla and Hidalgo increased by two percentage points and San Luis Potosí by one percentage point. The State of Mexico, despite being the entity with the highest cargo theft at 25%, had a decrease of two percentage points.
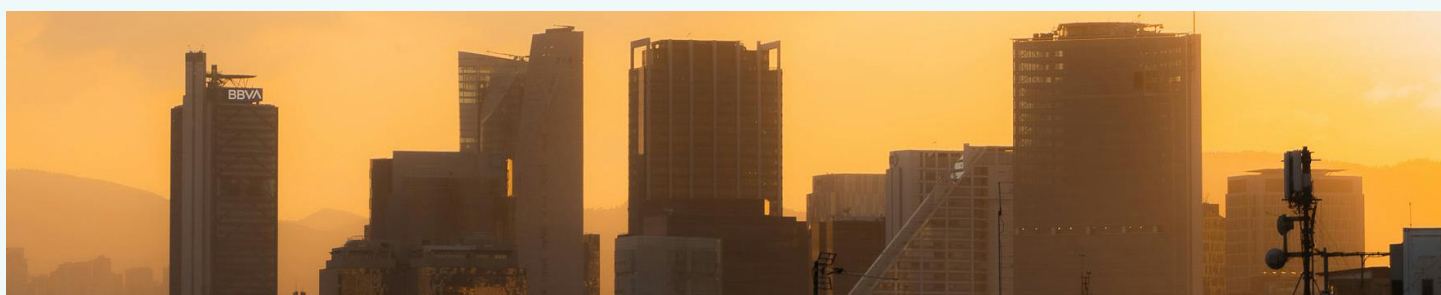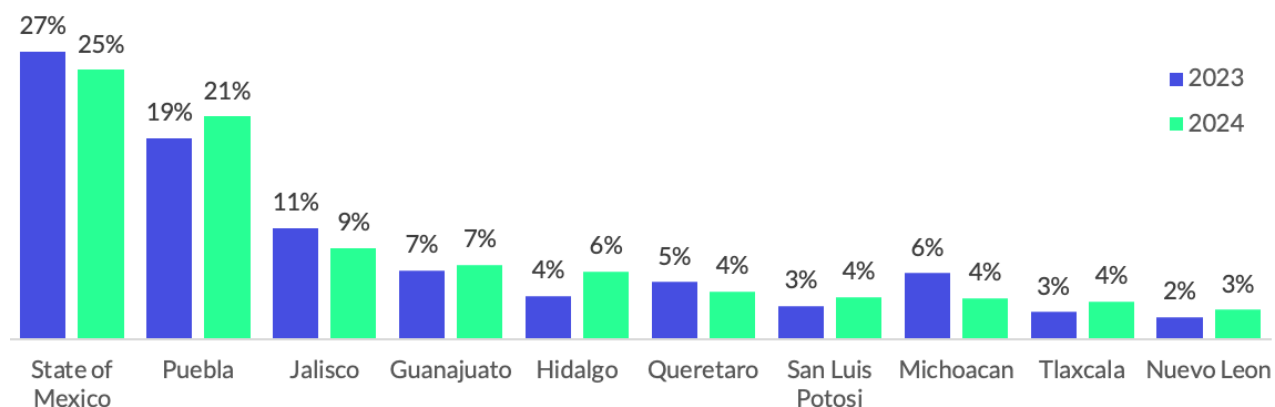
Chart 2: Top 10 Cargo Theft Entities H1-2024

2023 ■
2024 ■

Entity	2023	2024
State of Mexico	27%	25%
Puebla	19%	21%
Jalisco	11%	9%
Guanajuato	7%	7%
Hidalgo	4%	6%
Queretaro	5%	4%
San Luis Potosi	3%	4%
Michoacan	6%	4%
Tlaxcala	3%	4%
Nuevo Leon	2%	3%

Temporal Analysis of Cargo Theft

In the first half of 2024, 86% of cargo thefts occurred between Monday and Friday. The peak of criminal activity was recorded from Tuesday to Thursday with 59%.

The hours with the highest risk for cargo transportation during the first half of 2024 were at night between 6 p.m. and 12 a.m. with 31% of incidents. Another time with high criminal activity was the morning between 6 a.m. and 12 p.m. with 29% of the crimes.

26% of the cargo thefts occurred in the early hours of the day between 5 a.m. and 9 a.m., which is related to the departure times of the cargo units.

Chart 3: Cargo Theft by Day of the Week H1-2024

Day	Percentage
Sat	10%
Fri	16%
Thu	19%
Wed	19%
Tue	20%
Mon	11%
Sun	4%

Chart 4: Cargo Theft by Hours H1-2024

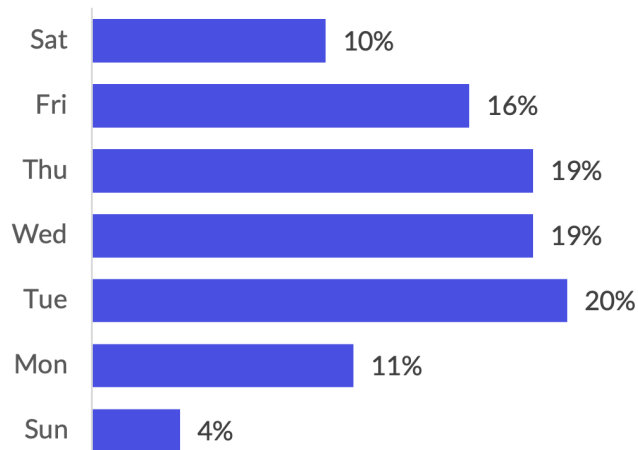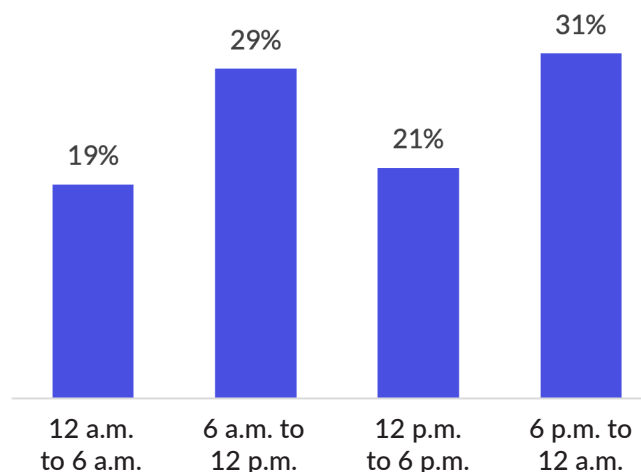| Time	Percentage
12 a.m. to 6 a.m.	19%
6 a.m. to 12 p.m.	29%
12 p.m. to 6 p.m.	21%
6 p.m. to 12 a.m.	31%

Cargo Theft by Product Type

The three most stolen product types during the first half of 2024 were *Food & Drinks* (31%), *Building & Industrial* (17%), and *Miscellaneous* (9%).
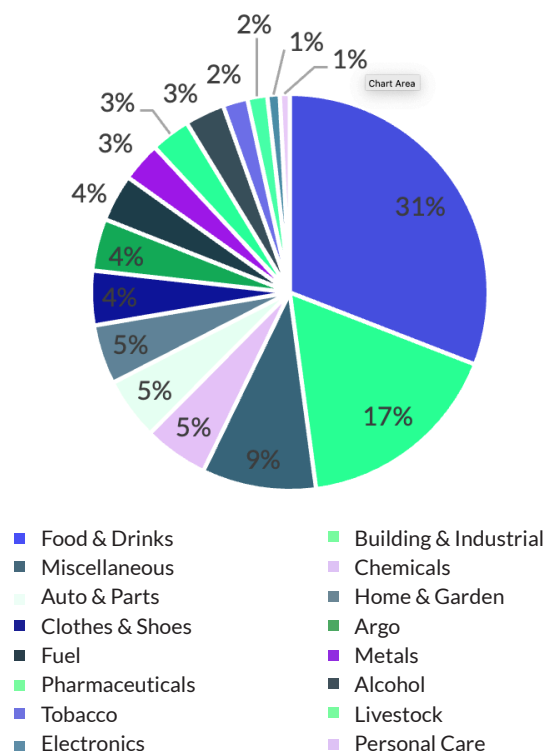
When comparing the percentage changes in the distribution of thefts by product type with the first half of 2023, it was detected that the most significant increases corresponded to the categories of *Building & Industrial, Autos & Parts, Alcohol, Agro, Chemicals,* and *Pharmaceuticals.*

Chemicals theft increased by three percentage points, with polyethylene and detergents being the main targets.

The *Building & Industrial* category increased by two percentage points, with cement, flooring and tile, and steel rods being among the most stolen products.

The *Auto & Parts, Agro, Alcohol,* and *Pharmaceuticals* categories experienced a one percentage point increase.

Chart 5: Cargo Theft by Type of Product H1-2024

Legend:
- Food & Drinks
- Building & Industrial
- Miscellaneous
- Chemicals
- Auto & Parts
- Home & Garden
- Clothes & Shoes
- Argo
- Fuel
- Metals
- Pharmaceuticals
- Alcohol
- Tobacco
- Livestock
- Electronics
- Personal Care

Pie chart values: 31%, 17%, 9%, 5%, 5%, 5%, 4%, 4%, 4%, 3%, 3%, 3%, 2%, 2%, 1%, 1%
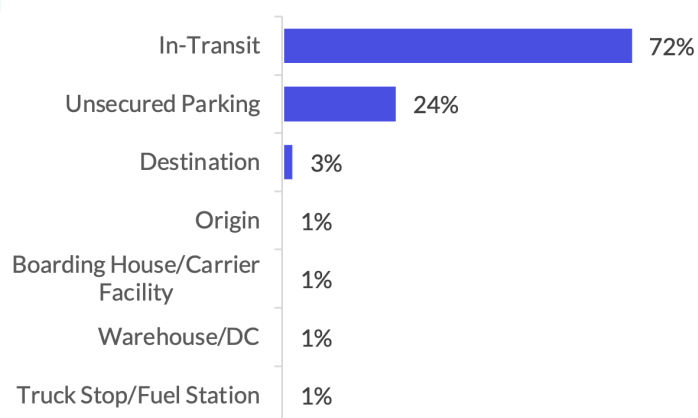
Cargo Theft by Location

The main mode of operation used by criminals in Mexico is the interception of cargo units while they are in motion in 72% of the cases.

The theft of stopped units is the second most common mode of operation with 24% of the incidence, with most of these events occurring in high-risk areas for cargo theft such as cachimbas or huachicoleras.

Chart 6: Cargo Theft by Type of Location H1-2024

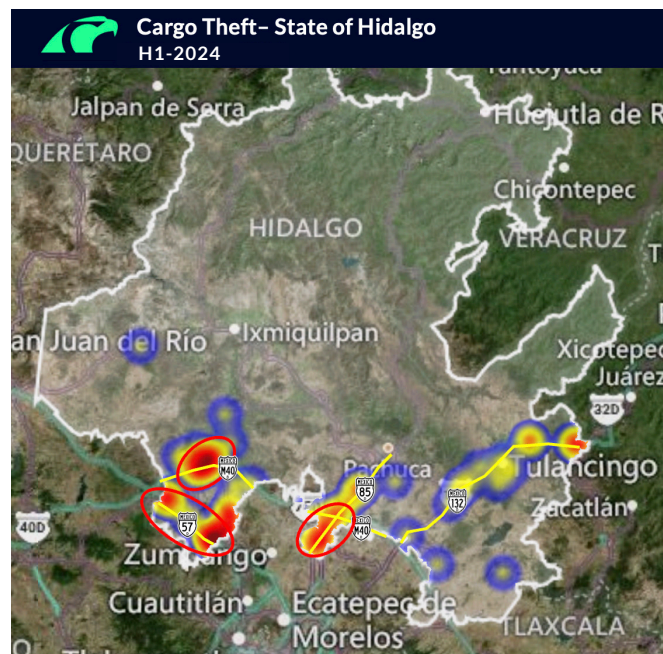| Location	Percentage
In-Transit	72%
Unsecured Parking	24%
Destination	3%
Origin	1%
Boarding House/Carrier Facility	1%
Warehouse/DC	1%
Truck Stop/Fuel Station	1%

Spotlight: Cargo Theft and the State of Hidalgo

The State of Mexico is the entity with the highest cargo theft activity at the national level with 25%, but it also has the highest levels of recovery of units and merchandise. Coordination between the three levels of authorities in working groups, the creation of a specialized unit to combat vehicle theft, and the prosecution of the crime through a Specialized Prosecutor's Office are essential factors for the design of strategies for intervention, containment, recovery and prosecution of the crime of cargo theft.

However, these efforts are generating displacements of criminal activity to neighboring entities, mainly the State of Hidalgo, which shows a 72% increase during the first half of 2024 compared to the same period in 2023.

The concentration of cargo theft in this state is particularly present on the Mexico-Queretaro highway (MEX-57D) in the municipality of Tepeji del Rio from kilometer 64 to 80 with 37% of the incidence of cargo theft in the state. The Mexico-Pachuca highway (MEX-85D) near Tizayuca between kilometers 48 and 77 experienced 15% of thefts, and the Arco Norte (MEX-M40D) in Tula between kilometers 63 and 91 experienced 9%.

Cargo Theft– State of Hidalgo
H1-2024

Overhaul Recoveries Q2-2024

Success Story Q2-2024: Overhaul Electronics Recovery

In May 2024, as a result of the implementation of monitoring prevention strategies based on the identification of risk areas through the use of Actionable Intelligence, MSOC detected the moment when a cargo unit was approached by criminals while traveling on the Querétaro-México highway (MEX-57D) in El Cazadero, State of Mexico. They immediately activated the emergency protocol with the authorities and requested the carrier to activate the engine stop.

This prompt identification and joint work with the carrier and the immediate response of the authorities resulted in the arrest of 10 members of a criminal group dedicated to cargo theft in the area.

General Recommendations

To keep shipments protected, cargo units should consider transiting through Mexico during daylight hours. They should also utilize both electronic security and monitoring measures for increased situational awareness and enhanced response.

Overhaul is committed to helping our customers mitigate the risks associated with cargo theft violence in Mexico. Via advanced technology and data analytics, we provide control and security from origin to destination.

One of the key ways that Overhaul helps our customers secure their products in Mexico is through our advanced tracking and monitoring capabilities, which provide real-time visibility into the location and status of cargo. Our platform also provides alerts and notifications in the event of any unusual activity or deviations from planned routes. Companies can then take immediate action to address potential security threats.

Another way we help customers secure their products in Mexico is through our advanced analytics capabilities. By leveraging data from a range of sources, including GPS tracking, weather data, and historical crime data, our platform provides insights into potential security threats and enables companies to proactively identify and address them. This can include identifying high-risk areas and routes, as well as providing recommendations for additional security measures.

Finally, Overhaul's platform provides a range of tools and resources to help companies manage their supply chain security more effectively. This includes access to a range of security experts and consultants, as well as training and educational resources to help companies develop and implement effective security protocols. In addition, our platform provides a range of reporting and analytics tools, enabling our customers to track and measure the effectiveness of their security.