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# United States & Canada: Annual Cargo Theft Report 2024



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## Executive Summary

Overhaul's 2024 Annual Report is meant to highlight the ways in which cargo theft events in the United States and Canada are evolving. This understanding is critical in order to help shippers and drivers prepare for and avoid risks.

To that end, Overhaul actively compiles data regarding cargo theft activity, categorizing stolen loads by product type, and tracking by date, location, Modus Operandi (M.O.), value, and specific product. This report summarizes the United States and Canada theft data collected in 2024 and analyzes trends derived from database content, law enforcement information, and industry associates. It also draws on observations by personnel in the field to provide an overview of national cargo theft activity as well as a deep dive into specific focus areas based on our findings. Specifically, we highlighted cargo theft activity involving Rail and Train Yards.

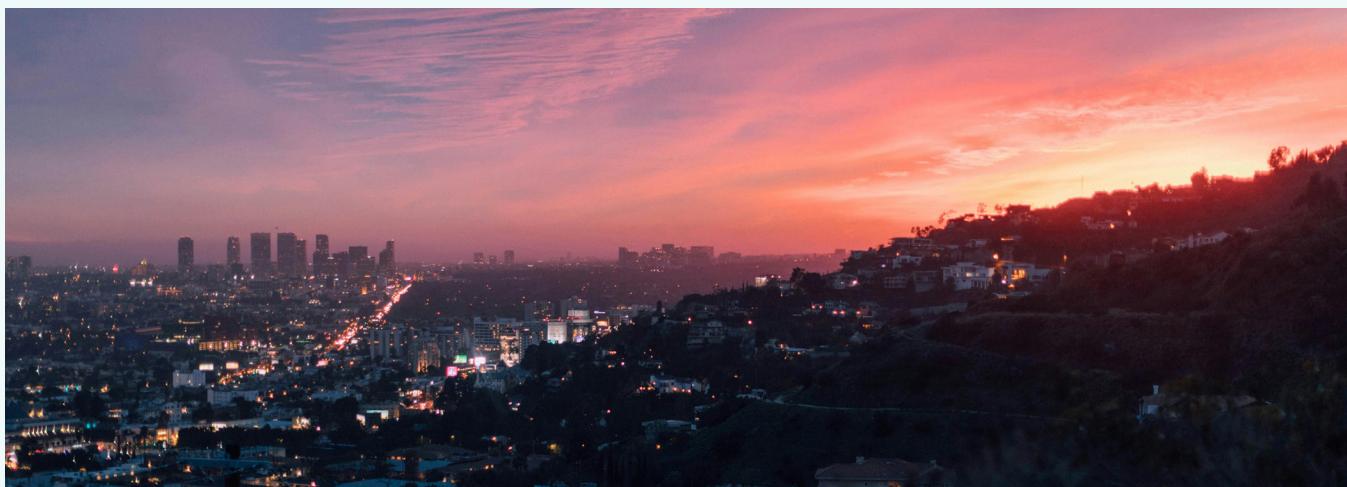
Overhaul has visibility into more than 13,500 significant cargo theft incidents in the US and Canada. We compile this data from various sources, including public records, private companies, law enforcement, and related organizations. Our methodology involves assessing theft reports provided by national law enforcement agencies to estimate the total volume of cargo theft.

While the exact details of these theft events are not always fully available, our collaborations with law enforcement and related entities enable us to confidently assert that the actual number of major theft incidents exceeds 13,500 for the year 2024.

The bulk of this report is dedicated to analyzing the incidents for which we have comprehensive details. This allows us to conduct a thorough comparison with previous years using a consistent analytical approach.

Cargo theft in the United States continues to show higher incidence near freight hubs and large cities, leading to hot spots in states such as California (32%) and Texas (19%), which ranked 1st and 2nd in terms of cargo theft risk. Electronics (24%) were especially at risk, followed by Miscellaneous (15%), Home & Garden (10), and Food & Drink (10%).

In 2025, cargo theft events in the United States are expected to show a major increase from 2,217 to 2,705. These numbers show definitively that cargo theft is an ongoing risk that must be taken seriously, and the range of affected industries and times in which an attack may occur highlight how important it is to have the right tools and technology to keep your shipments safe.





We hope this report helps you better understand the cargo theft patterns observed in the United States and Canada during 2024 and how this data has informed Overhaul's predictions for 2025. In turn, these predictions can help you better plan your shipping routes and outfit your carriers with the electronic security and real-time monitoring solutions to best protect your cargo.

It is inherent that the reader understands that any cargo theft report is an indirect representation of the overall cargo theft footprint; it is not a direct reflection. Overhaul records only those cargo thefts reported by reliable sources, such as transportation security councils, insurance companies, and law enforcement organizations. While this does not result in a 100% capture rate of incidents, it provides a sufficient cross section of cargo thefts and allows Overhaul to identify trends and deliver in-depth, accurate analysis of the scope of cargo theft in the United States and Canada. Additionally, Overhaul only records incidents involving the theft of cargo, not standalone conveyances such as trailers, containers, or bobtail tractors.

It should be noted that delays in incident reporting typically cause measurable increases in theft volumes in the weeks following publication of Overhaul reports. As such, the most recent totals for the year are expected to rise above those recorded thus far. It is Overhaul practice to use updated theft numbers for past timeframes when comparing them to current totals.





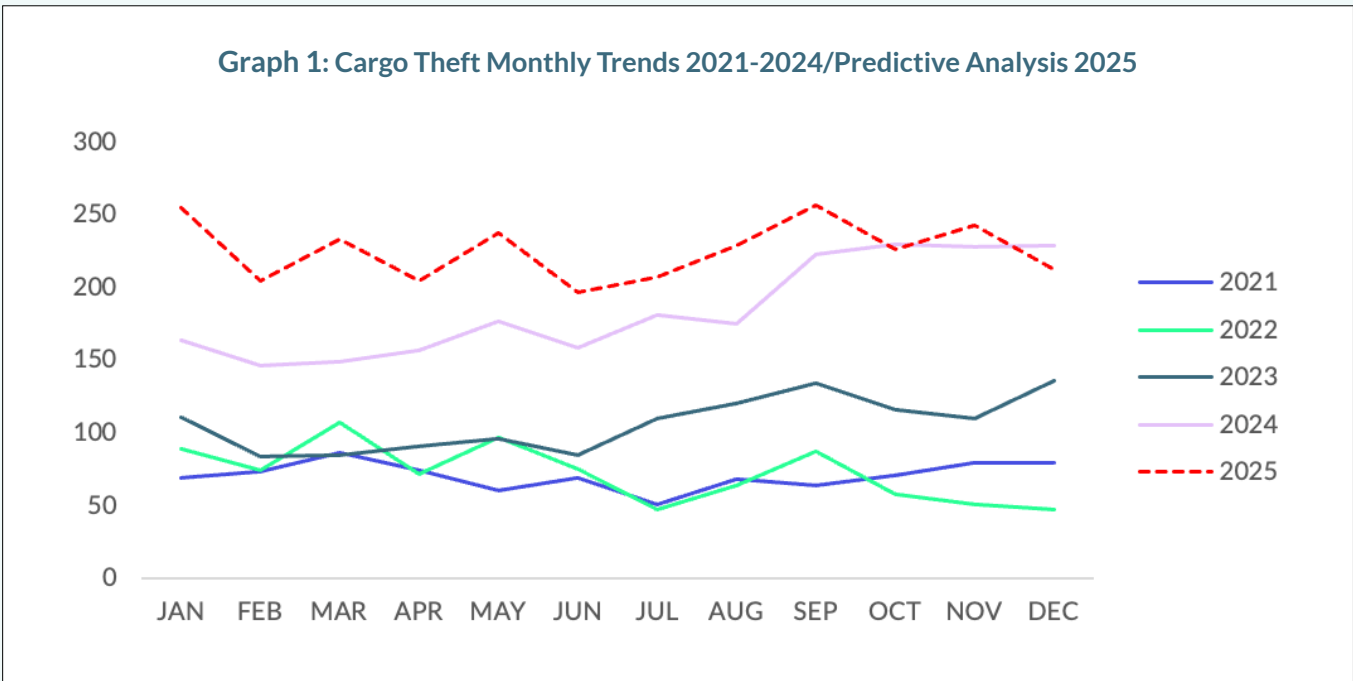
# United States: Annual Cargo Theft Report

Overhaul recorded a total of 2,217 cargo thefts throughout the United States in 2024. 459 occurred in Q1, 492 in Q2, 579 in Q3, and 687 in Q4. These numbers represent a 49% increase in volume and a 17% increase in average value when compared to 2023. With an average of 184.8 reported cargo thefts per month, the United States sustained cargo thefts at a rate of 6.07 per day in 2024, up from 4.06 in 2023.

As seen in **Graph 1**, U.S. cargo theft volumes in the U.S. for 2021 and 2022 followed a similar pattern, with a modest increase of 3% in reported incidents. The year 2023 witnessed unique supply chain disruptions and economic challenges, which likely contributed to a significant 36% rise in cargo theft volumes compared to 2022. Notably, the second half of 2023 proved especially risky for cargo shipments.

In 2024, cargo theft experienced a severe increase, with each quarter surpassing the same period in the previous year by a striking 30% in theft incidents. Similar to 2023, the second half of the year accounted for nearly 60% of the annual theft events, highlighting a persistent vulnerability in cargo security during this period.

Overhaul's time series analysis suggests that national cargo theft volumes will experience an increase of 22% in 2025, following 2024 trends.

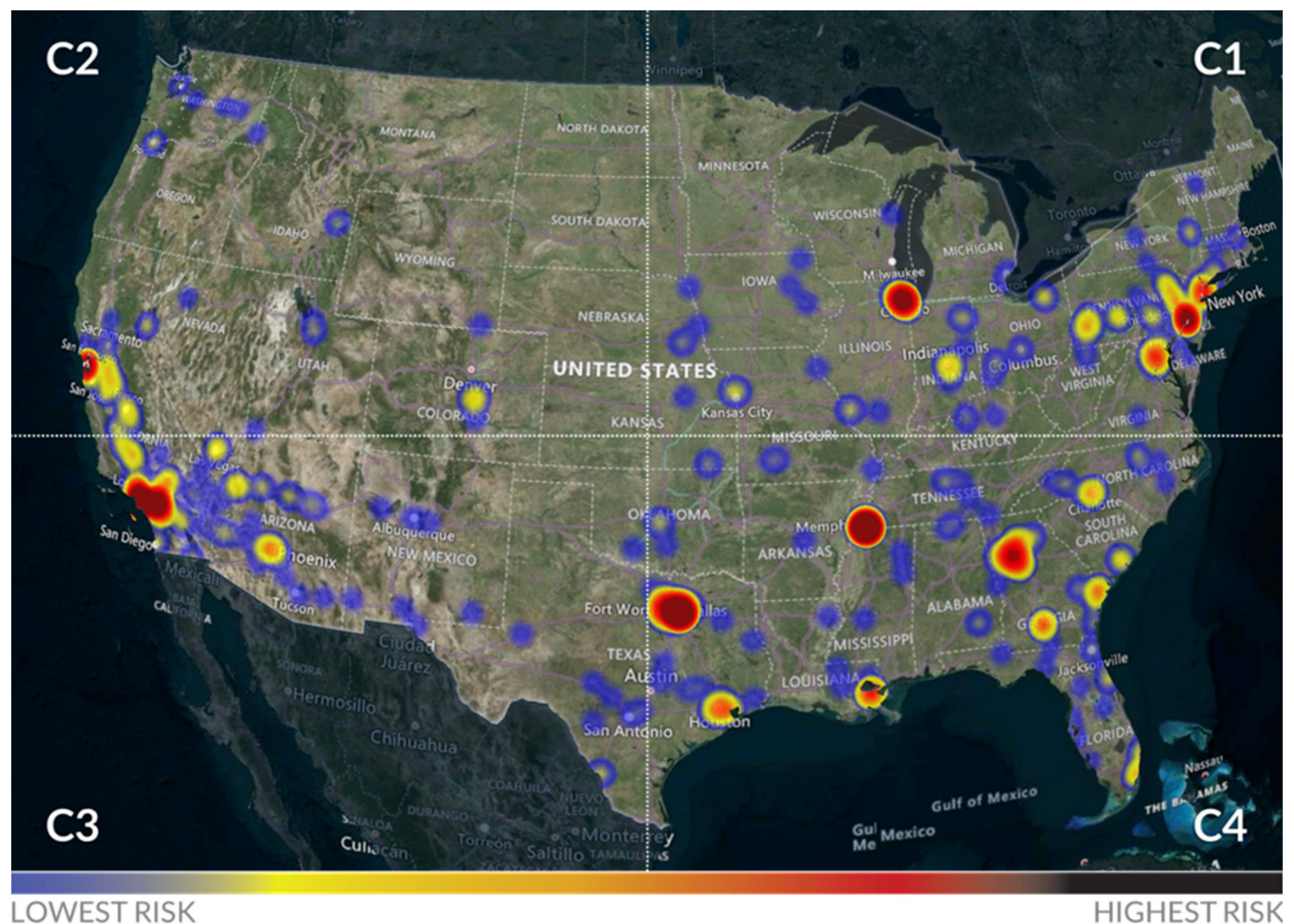




## Spatial & Temporal Analysis of Cargo Theft in the United States

By dividing the country into quadrants as seen in the map to the right, it was identified that 30% of recorded cargo thefts occurred in Quadrant 3 (C3), which includes known cargo theft hot spots such as Los Angeles, Bakersfield, and San Bernardino. C3 theft volumes decreased 20 percentage points in 2024, whereas Quadrant 4 (C4) recorded a 12% increase versus 2023. This increase is explained by the rise in theft volume across Memphis, Dallas, and Atlanta.

Quadrant 1 (C1) recorded 20% of all thefts in the country, and Quadrant 2 (C2) only recorded 6% of all cargo theft events in 2024.



In terms of temporal patterns, cargo theft rates from January to August 2024 were relatively stable, fluctuating between 7% and 8%. However, there was a noticeable increase in the fourth quarter, when the rate escalated to 10.3%. This quarter alone accounted for 31% of all cargo theft incidents recorded in the year, making it the period with the highest concentration of thefts. The third quarter had the second highest concentration, comprising 26% of the annual total.

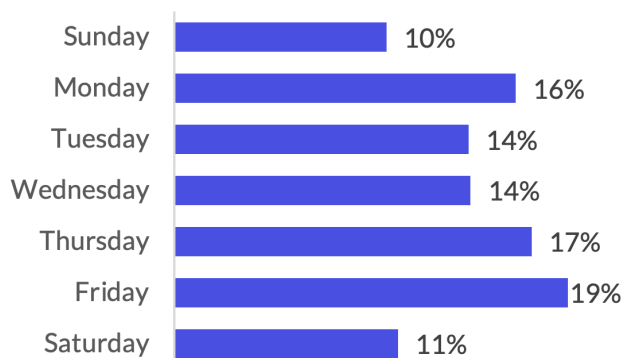


## Theft Per Day & Hour

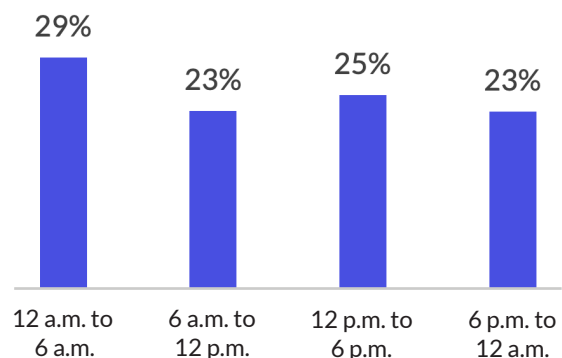
Just like the previous year, weekends weren't the most popular days of the week among thieves. In 2024, Mondays & Fridays showed the highest concentration of cargo crime with a combined 35% of incidents.

As for timetables, the pattern changed from what was shown in 2023, with 29% of all cargo theft events taking place between midnight and 6 a.m. The concentration of thefts during these hours increased 7 percentage points versus 2023, while thefts occurring in the afternoon between noon and 6 p.m. decreased 3 percentage points, representing a total of 25% in 2024.

**Graph 2: Cargo Theft by Day of the Week 2024**



**Graph 3: Cargo Theft by Time of Day 2024**

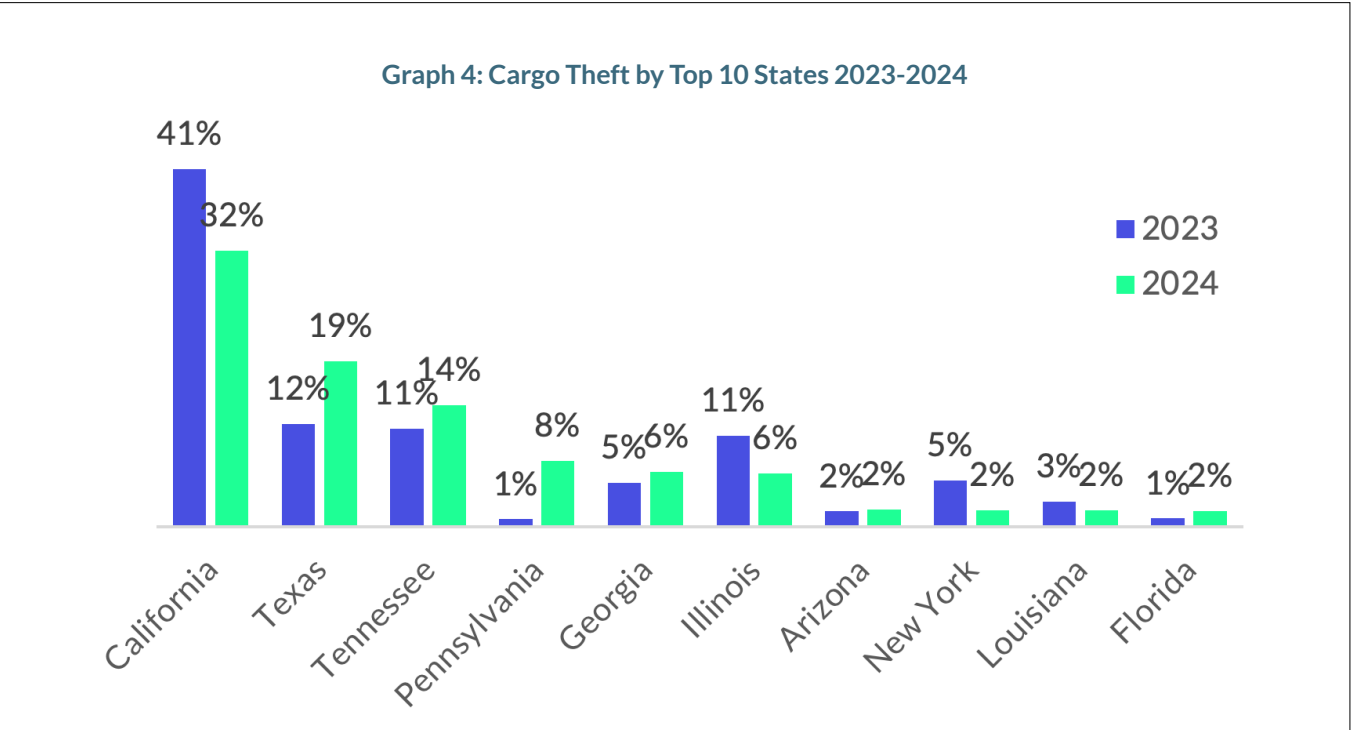




# Analysis of the 10 States with the Highest Volume of Cargo Thefts

In 2024, 51% of total cargo thefts occurred in the top two states. California once again claimed the top spot for cargo theft, accounting for 32% of the total thefts that year. This represents a decrease of 9 percentage points in its share of national cargo events compared to 2023. Despite this, cargo theft in California grew by 15% over the year. This indicates that, unlike in previous years, cargo theft is spreading to other states but remains a latent risk for logistics activities in metropolitan areas that are commonly affected by these thefts.

Texas' cargo theft volumes showed a significant increase versus 2023, landing at 19% in 2024. Tennessee and Pennsylvania experienced a similar trend.

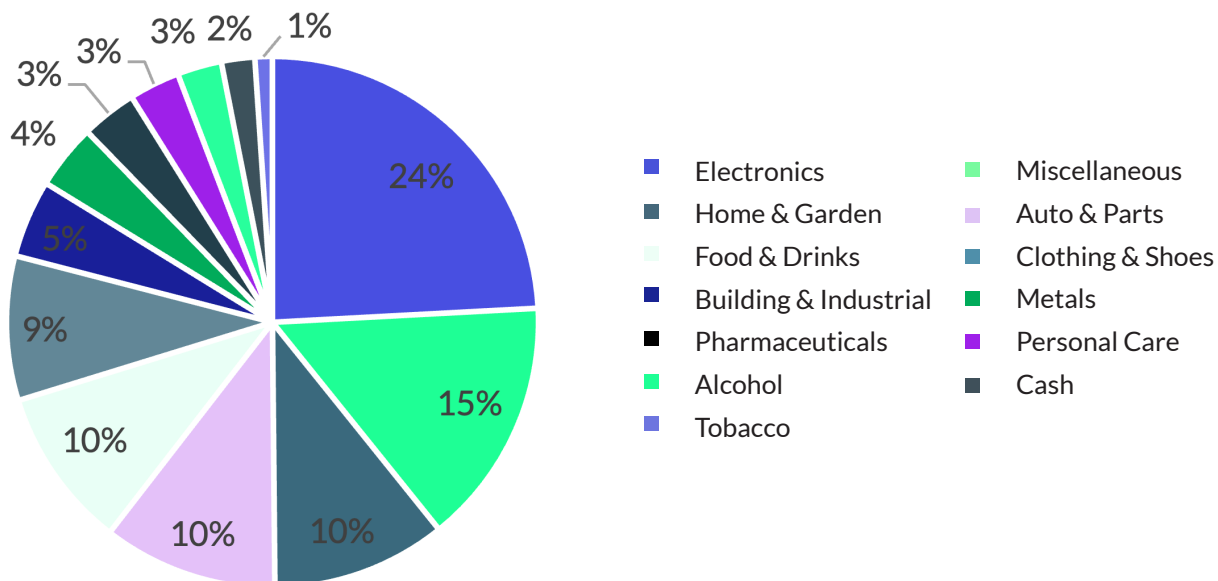




## Cargo Theft by Product Type & Value

For the fourth consecutive year, **Electronics** was the most stolen product type among recorded cargo theft incidents, registering 24% of total thefts, a slight 2% increase from 22% in 2023. **Miscellaneous** (15%) was the second most stolen product type, recording a 15% increase from 2023. **Home & Garden** (10%) followed closely behind, maintaining the third place in 2024.

Graph 5: Cargo Theft by Type of Product 2024



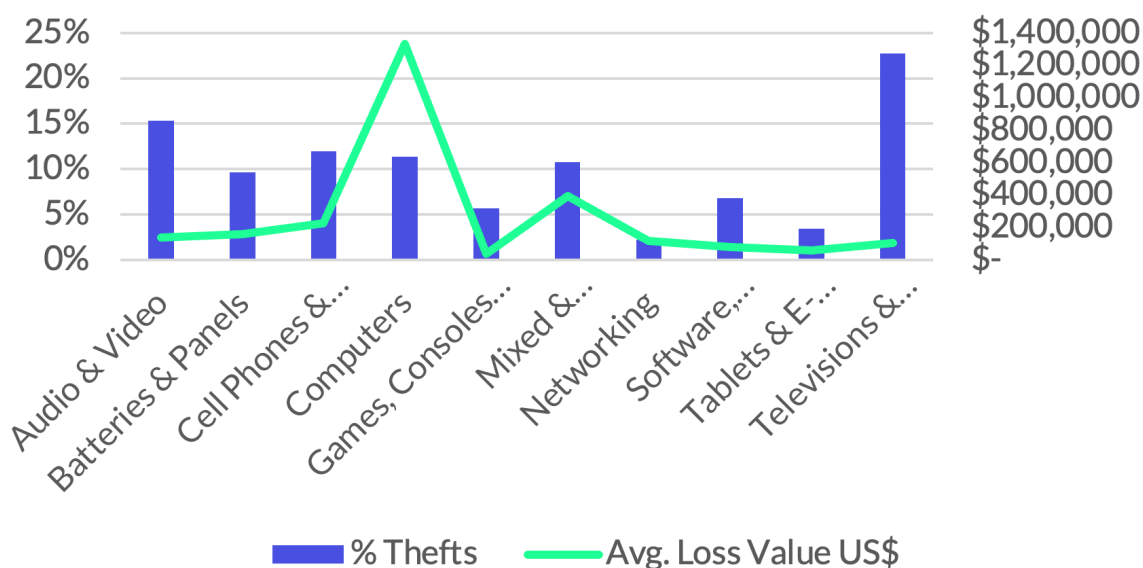
### Product Type Drilldown: Electronics

**Electronics** comprised 24% of the country's thefts in 2024 with an increase of 54%. California (50%) remained the top state for **Electronics** thefts, followed by Pennsylvania (12%) and Texas (8%) to represent a combined 70% of total **Electronics** thefts.





Graph 6: Electronics Theft by Subtype & Value 2024



Within the **Electronics** sector, out of all theft incidents, 23% were attributed to **Televisions & Displays** products representing an increase of 9 percentage points versus 2023. **Audio & Video** accounted for 15%, an increase of 7% from 2023. In 2024, **Pilferage** was responsible for 48% of all **Electronics** thefts, while **Theft of Full Truckload** increased from 20% in 2023 to 22% in 2024. **Electronics** were also affected substantially by **Deceptive Pickup** events (21%) in 2024.

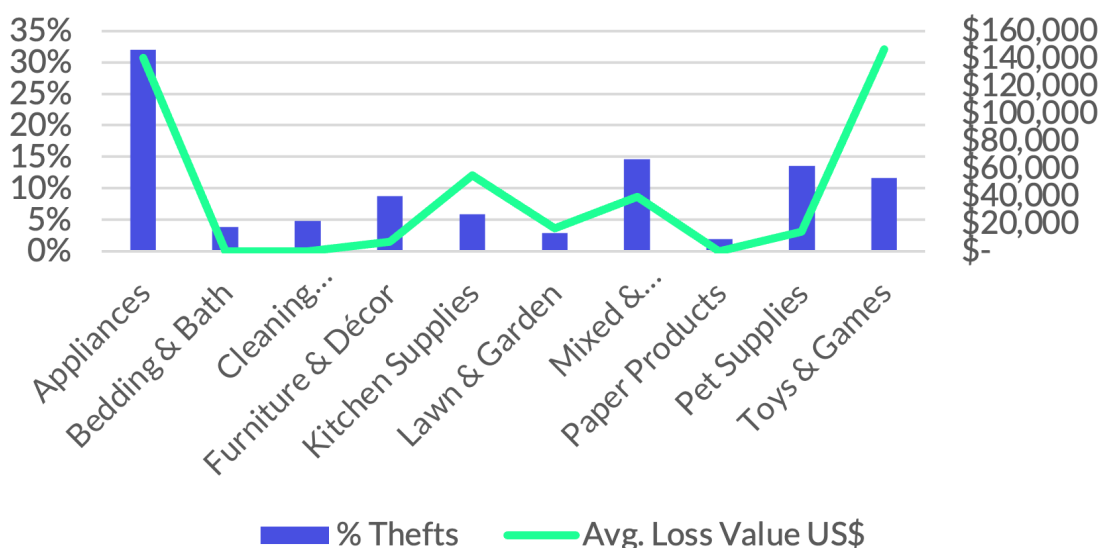
#### Product Type Drilldown: Home & Garden

In 2024, **Home & Garden** was the third most stolen product type behind **Electronics** and **Miscellaneous**, accounting for 10% of the total and representing a decrease of five percentage points in comparison to 2023.

Within the **Home & Garden** category, **Appliances** continued to be the most stolen subtype, accounting for 32% of all thefts, followed by **Pet Supplies** at 14%. **Toys & Games** saw a significant increase from 8% in 2023 to 14% in 2024 and remained the fourth most stolen subtype. Along with the increased volume of thefts, **Toys & Games** also experienced a significant increase of 193% in average loss value in 2024, becoming the product subtype with the highest increase in average loss value within the broader **Home & Garden** category.



Graph 7: Home & Garden Theft by Subtype & Value 2024

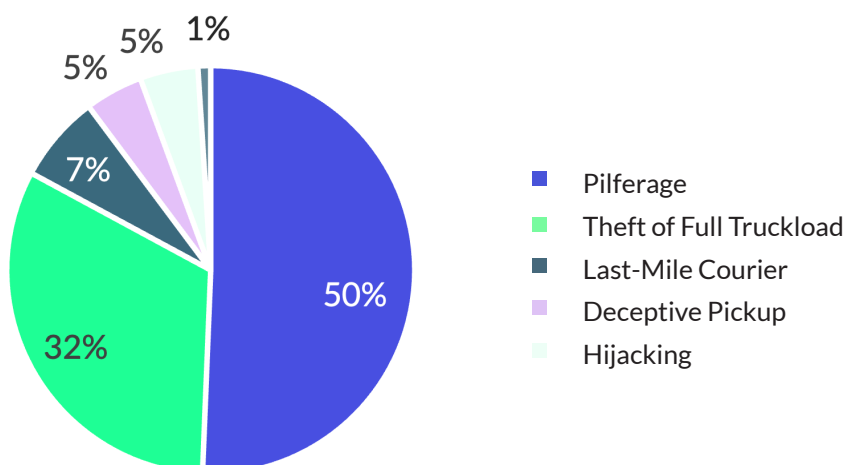


#### Product Type Drilldown: Food & Drinks

**Food & Drinks** ranked fourth in 2024, representing 10% of recorded cargo theft events. 50% of theft events within this category were **Pilferage**. **Candy and Cookies & Snacks** accounted for 18% of thefts.

California concentrated the highest volume of **Food & Drinks** thefts at 51%. Pennsylvania ranked second at 17%, followed by Georgia with 6%. In terms of the type of thefts recorded within the category, after **Pilferage** (50%), **Theft of Full Truckload** accounted for 32% of incidents, followed by **Last-Mile Courier** with 7%.

Graph 8: Food & Drinks Theft by Type of Event 2024





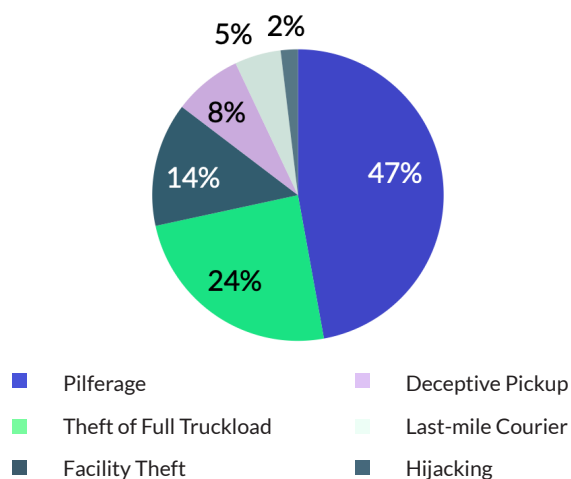
## Cargo Theft by Event Type & Location

In the United States, cargo thieves tend to target trailers and containers that are stationary and unattended due to the risk of capture. However, since the second quarter of 2023, Overhaul has observed a significant rise in strategic theft methods. Criminals are increasingly employing fraudulent and deceptive practices to gain control of cargo shipments, resulting in the theft of partial or full loads. From 2023 to 2024, the rate of **Pilferage** increased by 38%, while the rate of **Theft of Full Truckload** increased by 4%. Despite these notable increases in **Pilferage** and **Theft of Full Truckload**, the types of events with the highest increase in 2024 were **Facility Theft** (+63%), **Deceptive Pickup** (+57%), **Last-Mile Courier** (+29%), and **Hijacking** (+22%).

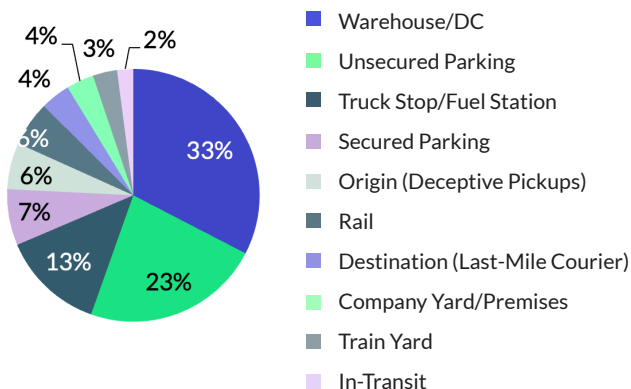
In 2024, 33% of all cargo thefts recorded occurred at **Warehouse/DC**. Within this location, three different Types of Events were observed: **Theft of Full Truckload**, **Pilferage**, and **Facility Theft**. In the case of the first two, thefts occurred when the shipments were left unattended at the premises. **Unsecured Parking** recorded the second highest theft rate for a consecutive year at 23%, followed by **Truck Stop/Fuel Station** (13%). These three categories represented a combined 69% of all recorded events in 2024.

Overhaul also added two new Location categories, **Origin** (6%) and **Destination** (4%). The first one is used in **Deceptive Pickup** events and the second one is for **Last-Mile Courier** events when the Conveyance is stolen while making a parcel delivery.

Graph 9: Cargo Theft by Type of Event 2024



Graph 10: Cargo Theft by Location 2024





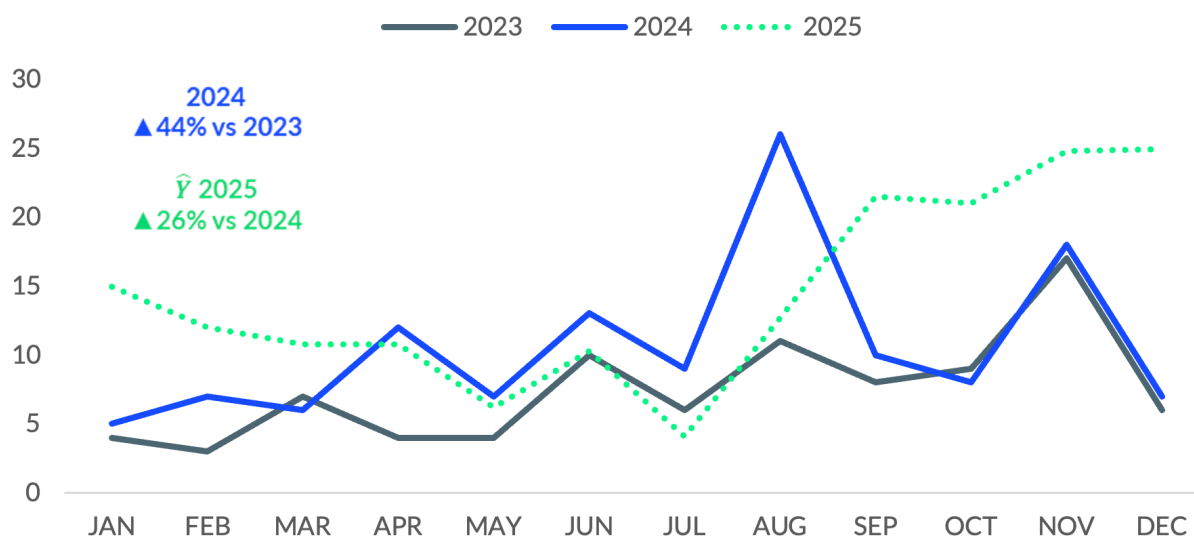
## Special Report 2024

The Overhaul Intelligence Center decided to do a special report on cargo thefts that occurred in Rail and Train Yards due to the increase in incidents linked to organized crime groups exploiting security vulnerabilities at these transportation hubs. The report aims to analyze trends regarding the most stolen product types and the most frequently targeted locations/times during 2024.

### Cargo Theft on Rail & Train Yard

Experts and stakeholders in the rail logistics industry estimate that, across the nation in 2024, there were at least 600 confirmed cargo thefts in Rail and Train Yards each month. However, due to the scarcity of available information and the lack of reports to law enforcement agencies, only a few incidents offer detailed data. Overhaul possesses a significant sample of the cargo thefts that occurred in **Rail and Train Yards**, which saw an 89% increase in 2024, despite maintaining a similar proportion of all recorded locations as in 2023. This trend is anticipated to continue throughout 2025, with Overhaul projecting a 26% rise in theft rates at these locations.

Graph 11: On Rail Cargo Theft Monthly Trends 2023-2024/ Predictive Analysis 2025



Among the trends observed during 2024, targeted rail thefts stand out prominently. These incidents primarily focus on trains but also involve containers located in train yards.

Criminals exploit the vulnerability of stationary trains by blocking the tracks with disabled vehicles, intentionally delaying the clearance process. While the vehicles are being removed, the criminals tamper with the train's air lines, rendering the train immobile for several hours until repairs are completed.

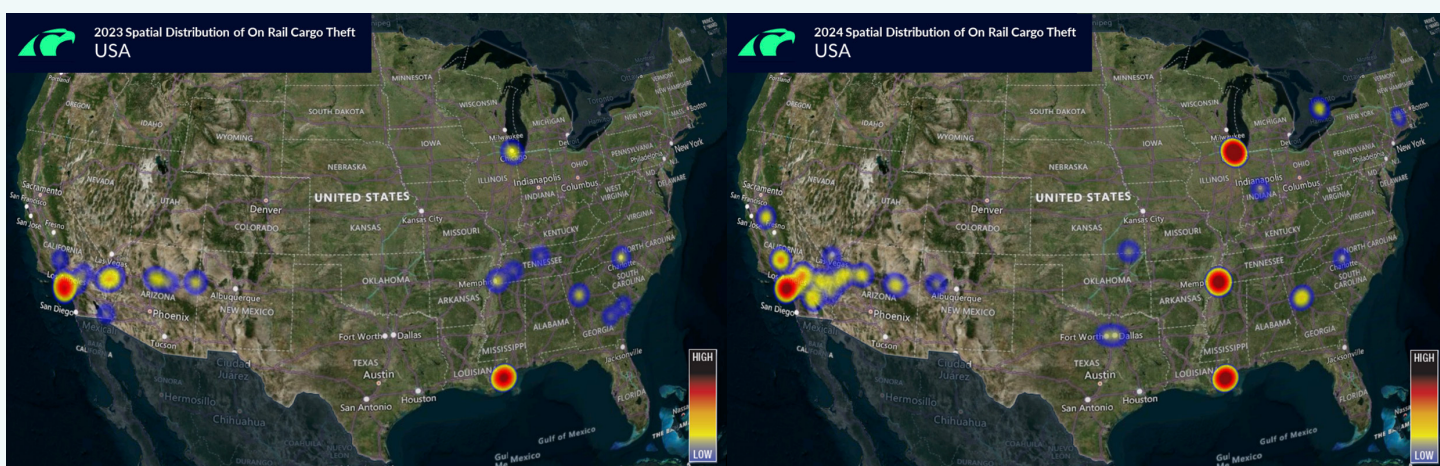
The criminals also target trains that are waiting to enter a train yard, typically held at a standstill just outside the yard's perimeter, or moving at a very low speed as they approach the entrance, making them easy targets for a quick theft.



The most stolen product type in these locations was **Auto & Parts** at 45%. **Clothing & Shoes** (22%), **Electronics** (15%), and **Miscellaneous** (10%) completed the top 4 most stolen product types on **Rail and Train Yards**, which represented a combined 92% of total thefts.

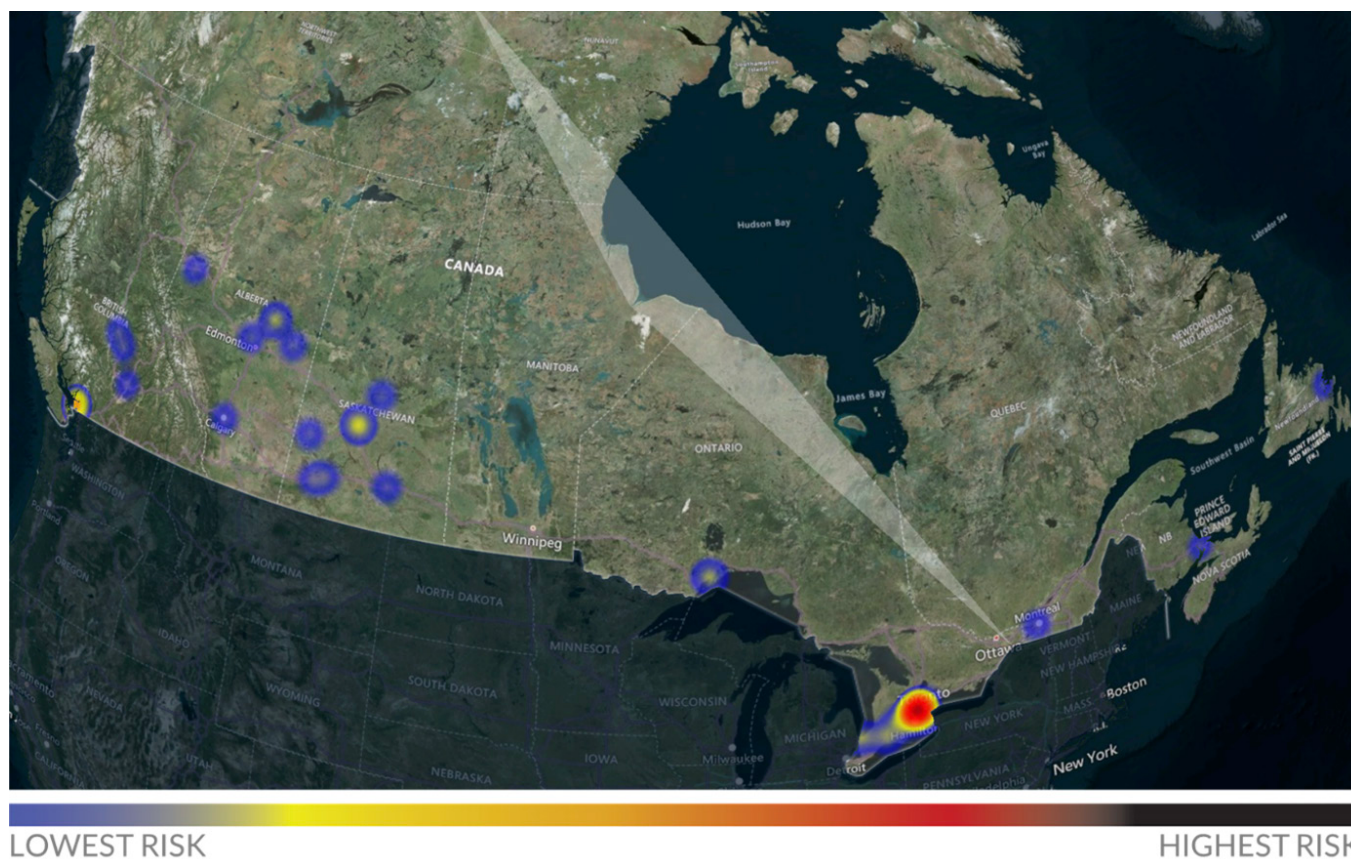
In 2024, the majority of cargo theft events at **Rail and Train Yards** occurred predominantly on Thursdays and Fridays (21% each) and Mondays (16%), mirroring the general national data. Weekends saw the fewest incidents, with only 17% of thefts reported on both Saturdays and Sundays. Another trend that aligns closely with the national pattern is the timing of these events; 31% of the thefts occurred between midnight and 6 a.m. However, a somewhat surprising trend is that the second most common time for thefts at **Rail and Train Yards** was in the morning, between 6 a.m. and noon.

In terms of spatial distribution, the primary hotspots for cargo thefts on **Rail and Train Yards** were California (29%), Illinois (23%), Tennessee (15%), and Arizona (5%). These top four states maintained similar rates as in 2023. However, in 2024, the occurrence of cargo thefts at these locations began to spread to other states. Overhaul documented incidents in Indiana, New Mexico, Nevada, Massachusetts, and South Carolina—states that previously had minimal or no reported cargo thefts in Rail and Train Yards. This expansion indicates that this type of criminal activity is becoming more widespread across the country, as seen in the 2023 and 2024 heat maps.





## Canada



Historically an area of low reporting, the cargo theft issue in Canada is nonetheless well known. Industry-wide reporting still trails behind that of the United States, yet organized cargo thieves in Canada are just as sophisticated as they are in the United States, often utilizing the same methods and criminal networks not only to target products, but also to liquidate them.

The majority of cargo theft incidents in Canada occurred in Ontario, accounting for 85% of all thefts and concentrated around the Greater Toronto Area, which is considered the most severe hotspot for cargo theft in the country. The remaining 15% of thefts occurred in British Columbia (5%), Saskatchewan (4%), Alberta (3%), Quebec (1%), New Brunswick (1%), and Newfoundland (1%).

**Electronics** was the most stolen product type in 2024, representing 31% of thefts. It was followed by **Building & Industrial** and **Auto & Parts**, which each represented 17% of total thefts in Canada. Fourth place was occupied by both **Food & Drinks** and **Tobacco** at 7% each. These 5 product categories accounted for 79% of total thefts in the country. **Electronics** claimed the highest average loss value in the country.



In 2024 in Canada, the four locations with the highest number of cargo theft reports were **Unsecured Parking** (24%), **Secured Parking** (18%), **Warehouses/DC** (18%), and **Truck Stop/Fuel Stations** (15%). The most prevalent modus operandi in these locations, which has been observed over the past few years, is very similar to that in the USA. It involves Theft of Full Truckload or Pilferage while the shipment is unattended, especially overnight between midnight and 6 a.m.

For the third consecutive year, **Theft of Full Truckload** remained the most popular method with 64% of total thefts. **Pilferage** accounted for 32% of the total events in 2024, making it the second most common theft type.

While industry incident reporting lags behind the US, cargo crime in Canada is likely to rise until cargo theft specific legislation is passed and better data is available to understand the problem.



## General Recommendations

Overhaul considers the threat of cargo theft in the United States and Canada to be HIGH and on the rise. This is due, in part, to the continued increase in the level of organization and sophistication of criminal groups focusing on high-value cargo, as evidenced by the ongoing upward trend observed in atypical theft types such as Deceptive Pickups.

Steps should be taken to verify the authenticity of all shipment related activities, particularly regarding any entity which has been engaged to either move or store a shipment. Driver and business verification, prior to releasing any shipment, is paramount.

Given that a significant proportion of thefts continue to occur while cargo units are stopped, Overhaul recommends that any location where cargo would either intentionally (or unintentionally) come to rest—even for brief periods of time—should be as secure as possible. Things to consider when selecting a secure area/lot are: controlled access, adequate lighting, congestion, any type of either personal or video surveillance, the estimated duration of the stop, and past intelligence regarding localized cargo theft activity.

In all cases, tracking technology should be used to its fullest extent on the conveyance power unit, cargo area (when separate), and the cargo itself. This will help maintain visibility of the shipment to identify suspicious route deviations, unauthorized stops, and separation of the cargo from the conveyance.