



2020 Release of FBI Uniform Crime Reports for Oregon

Oregon Criminal Justice Commission

28 September 2021

On Monday September 27, 2021, the FBI released the 2020 Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) for Oregon and all other states in the US. This report, titled *Crime in the United States, 2020*, shows the number of violent index and property index crimes reported in all states.¹ This is the first state level yearly report release that contains crime data for the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Violent index crimes include murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Of these, aggravated assault is the most common violent index crime and usually has the most effect on the violent index crime rate.

Property index crimes include burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft. The most common property index crime is larceny-theft, of which approximately 75% are misdemeanors. Larceny-theft is the crime that usually has the largest effect on the property index crime rate.

Table 1 shows the change in the violent index crime rates from 2019 to 2020. The Oregon total violent index crime rate dropped 0.6 percent, but the murder rate increased by six percent and the aggravated assault rate by

Table 1. Change in Violent Index Crime Rates from 2019 to 2020

Violent Index Crime	Oregon	Western US*	US Total
Murder	6.2%	26.2%	28.9%
Rape	-17.5%	-11.3%	-12.0%
Robbery	-7.0%	-11.3%	-9.6%
Aggravated Assault	5.1%	7.6%	11.7%
Index Violent Crime Total	-0.6%	1.0%	4.6%

five percent. The increases are of a lower magnitude, however, than rate increases in murder and aggravated assault for the Western US² as well as for the US as a whole. Nationally the murder rate increased nearly 29 percent, and the aggravated assault rate increased 11.7 percent. The rates for rape and robbery decreased in Oregon, and specifically rape decreased 17.5 percent and robbery by seven percent. The Western States saw an overall increase in violent crime of one percent, while the US Total violent crime increased by 4.6 percent.

Table 2. Change in Property Index Crime Rates from 2019 to 2020

Property Index Crime	Oregon	Western US*	US Total
Burglary	-5.5%	-3.9%	-7.7%
Larceny-Theft	-6.4%	-10.4%	-10.9%
Motor Vehicle Theft	6.2%	15.3%	11.4%
Index Property Crime Total	-4.6%	-5.8%	-8.1%

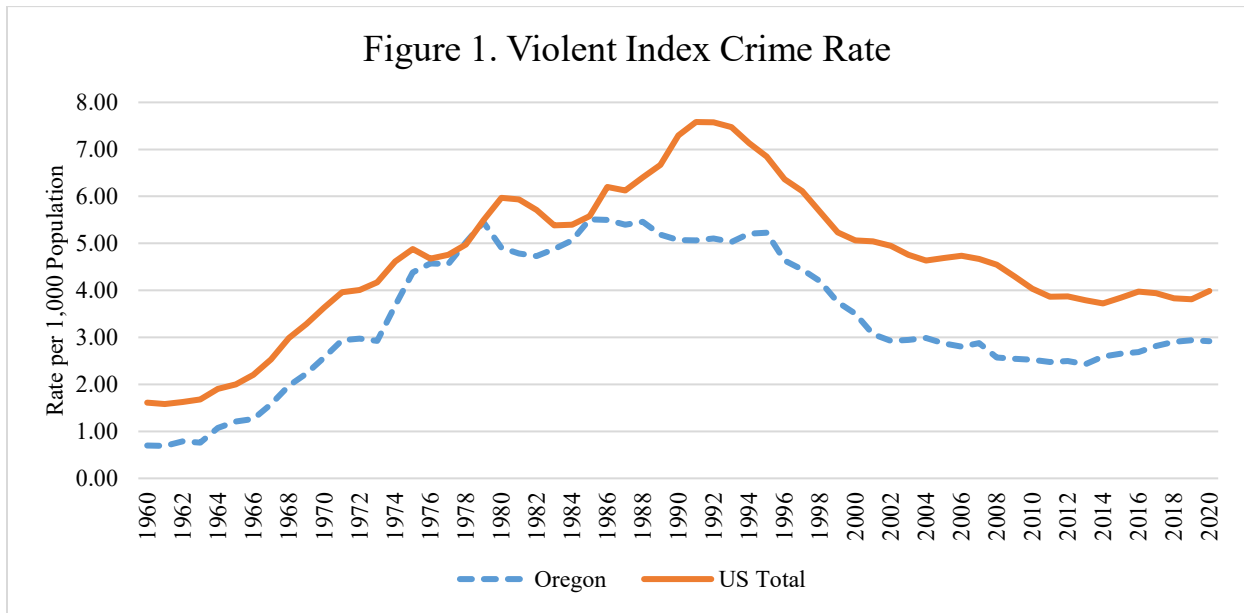
Table 2 reports the change in the property index crime rates from 2019 to 2020. The Oregon total property index crime rate dropped by 4.6 percent. Larceny-theft

dropped by 6.4 percent and burglary dropped by 5.5 percent, while motor vehicle theft increased 6.2 percent. Nationally the motor vehicle theft rate increased 11.4 percent and in the Western States increased 15.3 percent. The overall drop in property index crime was not limited to Oregon, as Western States and the US as a whole saw overall drops in property crime as well. The Western States saw a drop in property crime of 5.8 percent, while the US Total dropped by 8.1 percent.

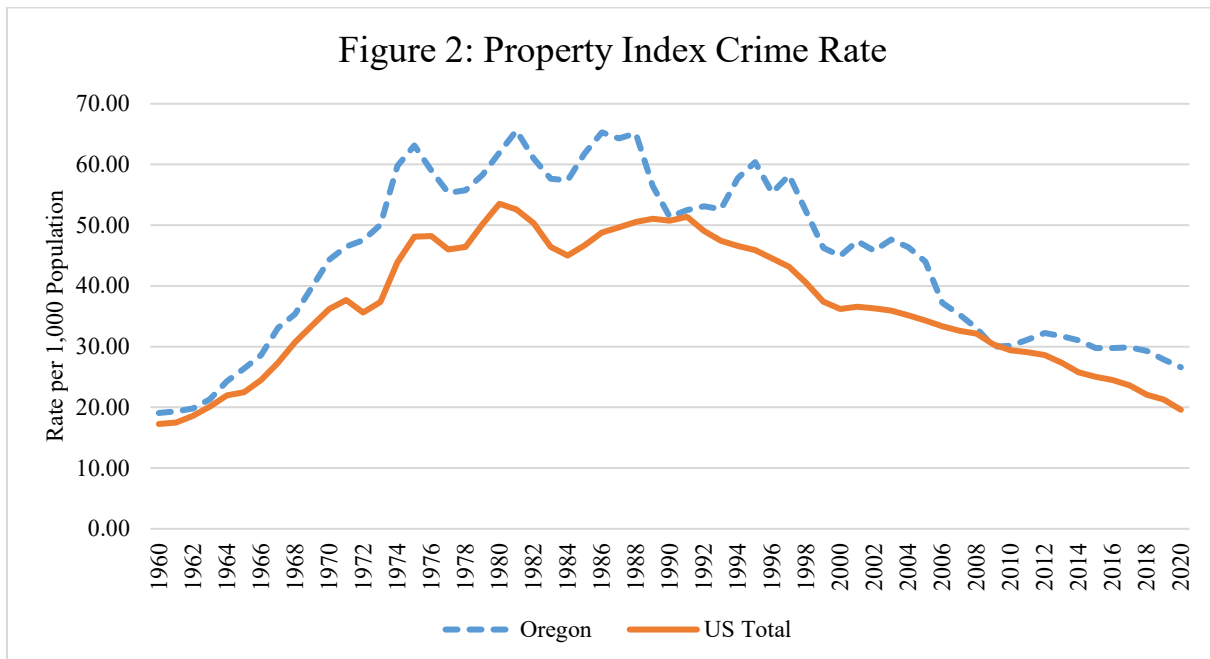
¹ <https://crime-data-explorer.app.cloud.gov/pages/explorer/crime/crime-trend>

² The FBI defines the Western US Region as Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

To provide additional context over a longer time period, Figures 1 and 2 display the violent and property index crime rates for Oregon and the US Total over the last 60 years from 1960 to 2020. Both the Oregon and US Total violent index crime rate has dropped substantially since the 1990s, with Oregon’s rate historically lower than the US Total. Oregon’s violent index crime rate dropped 44 percent from 1995 to 2020, while the nationwide rate dropped nearly 42 percent.



The property index crime rate also dropped substantially since the 1990s in Oregon as well as in US as a whole. Unlike violent crime, Oregon’s property crime rate has historically been higher than the US Total. From 1995 to 2020, Oregon’s property index crime rate dropped 56 percent, while the nationwide rate dropped 57 percent.



The FBI also released the Preliminary Uniform Crime Reports (UCR), which includes reported crime data from the first six months of 2021 for cities with a population over 100,000³. Table 3 displays crime counts for the first six months of 2020 compared to the first six months of 2021 for Oregon’s seven most populous cities. The 7 City Total for Oregon shows a 20 percent increase in violent index crime, driven mostly by a 31 percent increase for Portland. The 7 City Total for property crime shows a 4.9 decrease, however Portland and Gresham show an increase of 1.6 percent and two percent.

Table 3. January to June FBI Preliminary UCR, 2020 and 2021

Location	Violent Crime			Property Crime		
	2020	2021	% Change	2020	2021	% Change
Beaverton	120	108	-10.0%	1,163	982	-15.6%
Bend	93	72	-22.6%	956	716	-25.1%
Eugene	349	339	-2.9%	3,287	2,826	-14.0%
Gresham	231	240	3.9%	1,422	1,451	2.0%
Hillsboro	101	144	42.6%	1,035	1,007	-2.7%
Portland	1,551	2,032	31.0%	14,960	15,205	1.6%
Salem	293	362	23.5%	3,341	2,687	-19.6%
7 City Total	2,738	3,297	20.4%	26,164	24,874	-4.9%



³ <https://crime-data-explorer.fr.cloud.gov/explorer/national/united-states/prelim-quarter>