

# Cartrack reveals vehicle theft patterns in SA

CARTRACK South Africa has released trends and patterns of vehicle theft in South Africa, using tracking technology it has installed in over 500 000 commercial and private vehicles in SA.

“The trends change over time,” says Andre Ittmann, CEO of Cartrack South Africa.

“They are a response to commercial and social patterns, as well as to evolving policing methods. However, there is definitely a key set of trends at play that every South African should bear in mind.” Here are a few insights to help road users keep their vehicles safe.

**Watch out for weekends**  
Ittmann notes that there

tends to be a significant increase in vehicle theft over weekends.

“This trend can be mainly attributed to the fact that there are more vehicles out in public places on weekends. More stationary vehicles result in more opportunities for theft, which means that more active criminals are in operation. As such, extra caution is always warranted on weekends.”

## **January and November are key months**

Cartrack’s data indicates that there are particularly high volumes of theft in January and November — 13% increase compared to other months.

“There is often strong demand for stolen car parts at these times

of year, which results in an increase in the number of stolen vehicles. Motorists should keep their eyes peeled at these times,” says Ittmann.

## **Gauteng worst, then KZN**

Gauteng is the province most affected by vehicle theft. A significant percentage of vehicles are stolen in Pretoria, with a clear spike in truck theft on the East Rand, and an equally obvious spike in minibus taxi thefts on the West Rand.

KwaZulu-Natal experiences the second highest volume of vehicle theft, with Durban Central, Westville and Pinetown recognised as the most vulnerable areas.

Despite these trends, Ittmann cautions that it’s not advisable to rely on these current trends as a guide to hijacking or theft patterns.

“It’s important to realise that crime patterns vary and numbers don’t stay steady, so you can’t read too much into regional data. The statistics change and hot-spot areas shift as criminals and the police each alter their behaviour in response to the other.”

Ittmann concludes that it is critical to take precautions to avoid becoming a victim of vehicle theft. He said being aware of one’s surroundings and having the appropriate information to make decisions can ultimately make all the difference. 