

Shoplifting and Other Types of Petit Larceny in New York City

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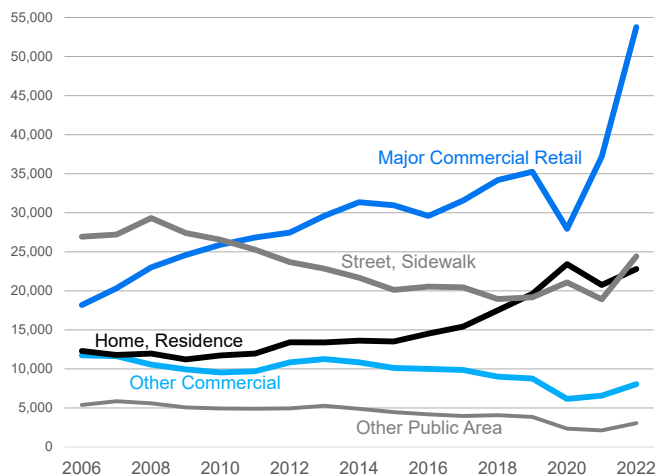
Increasing incidents of shoplifting and other forms of “petit larceny” are observable in the most recent crime data released by police in New York City. Across all types of petit larceny or theft of items worth less than \$1000, crime incidents grew 50 percent after 2006 and 29 percent since 2019.

Between 2019 and 2022, petit larceny grew 53 percent at major commercial retailers (department stores, chain stores, etc.), from fewer than 35,000 to nearly 55,000 incidents annually. Thefts in other settings grew after 2019 as well. Petit larceny on neighborhood streets and sidewalks climbed 27 percent. Larcenies from private homes and residences jumped 16 percent.

Two different trends were visible in recent years. Some types of petit larceny have been generally in decline since 2006. Thefts from commercial buildings, parking lots, gas stations, and smaller businesses had been declining before exhibiting a surge after 2019. The same pattern was seen in petit larceny from neighborhood streets and other public areas (e.g., schools, parks, and playgrounds).

In major commercial locations as well as private homes, however, petit larceny incidents generally increased between 2006 and 2019. Those trends diverged in 2020. Thefts from private homes and residences stabilized after 2020, perhaps due to school and work disruptions. Thefts from major retailers, on the other hand, grew sharply and significantly. Drug stores, in particular, experienced twice as many thefts in 2022 compared with 2019, rising from 6,031 to 12,343 incidents. Thefts from chain stores increased 91 percent over the same period, surging from 11,673 to 22,250.

Petit Larceny in New York City by Crime Location: 2006-2022



Petit Larceny Incidents in New York City

	Number of Crimes			Percent Change	
	2006	2014	2022	2006 to 2022	2014 to 2022
Major Commercial	18,178	31,343	53,771	196%	72%
Chain Store	4,990	7,821	22,250	346%	184%
Department Store	4,658	8,581	11,328	143%	32%
Drug Store	1,947	3,491	12,343	534%	254%
Clothing/Boutique	1,646	3,027	2,971	80%	-2%
Grocery/Bodega	973	2,121	1,949	100%	-8%
Food Supermarket	1,250	2,176	958	-23%	-56%
Other (restaurant, bar, fast food, variety store, etc.)	2,714	4,126	1,972	-27%	-52%
Other Commercial	11,740	10,844	8,043	-31%	-26%
Commercial Building	3,785	3,460	3,485	-8%	1%
Parking Lot/Garage	762	631	462	-39%	-27%
Store (Unclassified)	831	791	409	-51%	-48%
Other Parking Lot/Garage	1,329	592	355	-73%	-40%
Other (gas station, gym, hotel, hospital, bank, etc.)	5,033	5,370	3,332	-34%	-38%
Public Area	5,386	4,886	3,054	-43%	-37%
Public School	1,531	1,160	254	-83%	-78%
Subway	1,121	596	546	-51%	-8%
Park, Playground	685	1,150	486	-29%	-58%
Other (airport, church, open lot, taxi, bus stop, etc.)	2,049	1,980	1,768	-14%	-11%
Home, Residence	12,292	13,625	22,788	85%	67%
Street, Sidewalk	26,927	21,686	24,420	-9%	13%

Data Source:

Data provided by the New York City Police Department on New York City's [Open Data](#) portal, inspected and analyzed by John Jay College's Research and Evaluation Center ([JohnJayREC](#)).

Note:

Petit Larceny crimes, according to New York State penal code (Chapter 40, Part 3, Title J, Article 155.25) are misdemeanors arising from theft of property valued less than \$1,000. Persons convicted of petit larceny may be incarcerated for a period lasting not more than one year.

Data were analyzed after excluding approximately two percent of cases due to the location of crimes being coded as "other." Percentages in the table may not calculate precisely due to rounding.