

4. Common Crimes against Business

We refer to ‘common’ crime when talking about conventional crime or ‘street’ crime, such as burglary, robbery or theft, which is perpetrated against both individuals and businesses. The next chapter examines crime that is more likely to specifically target businesses or commercial enterprises, such as fraud, bribery and corruption, and computer-related crime. Here, we focus on nine common crimes: burglary, vandalism, vehicle theft, theft from a vehicle, theft by customers, theft by employees, theft by outsiders, robbery, assault, and an ‘unspecified offences’ category. First, we report rates of victimisation by city. Then, we consider whether victimisation varies by business sector and by business size, and examine interactions between these characteristics. Finally, we compare the rates found in the China ICBS with those of other victimisation surveys. Unless otherwise specified, percentages are based on the total numbers of respondents (that is, the ‘N’ value), including ‘don’t know’ and refusals, which is the standard way of reporting crime victimisation in UN surveys (see van Dijk et al. 2007).

Rates of Victimisation by City

Table 4.1 presents rates of victimisation overall and by city for each of the common crimes. This is a simple measure of the prevalence of victimisation—that is, the percentage of businesses which reported having been the victim of at least one incident during the survey period (2004 for Hong Kong and 2005 for the mainland cities). Overall, in the 12-month reference period of the China UNICBS, 6.7 per cent of businesses across the four cities reported at least one incident of victimisation by common crime. Hong Kong businesses reported the highest rate (8.3 per cent), followed by those in Shenzhen (7.4 per cent), Shanghai (5 per cent) and Xi’an (4.9 per cent). Rates in Hong Kong and Shenzhen were comparable, but significantly higher than those in Shanghai and Xi’an. The crimes most likely to affect the businesses across the four cities were burglary (3.7 per cent) and theft by outsiders (3.1 per cent). The prevalence of other types of crime was less than 2 per cent, ranging from 0.6 per cent for vehicle theft to 1.8 per cent for vandalism and theft by employees.

Considering only the combined rate for all crime types is misleading. In Figure 4.1, we group the mainland cities and compare the prevalence of common crime with Hong Kong. As the figure shows, the higher overall rate of victimisation in Hong Kong compared with the mainland cities was driven by the high prevalence of theft by customers (3.1 per cent and 1 per cent respectively, $p < 0.001$). Hong Kong’s rates of theft by outsiders, robbery and vehicle theft

were, however, significantly lower than those of the mainland cities combined, and for the other offences, they were comparable. Shenzhen, on the other hand, recorded consistently higher rates of victimisation across a number of crimes: vandalism (2.6 per cent versus 1.6 per cent for the three other cities combined), vehicle theft (1.1 per cent versus 0.5 per cent), theft by employees (3 per cent versus 1.5 per cent), theft by outsiders (4.3 per cent versus 2.8 per cent), robbery (2.4 per cent versus 0.4 per cent—nearly three times that of Xi’an and 10 times that of Hong Kong), and assault (1.2 per cent versus 0.5 per cent) (Table 4.1). Among the three mainland cities, Shenzhen had the highest rates of victimisation for all crime types, except theft by customers. Shanghai and Xi’an showed a comparable rate of overall victimisation (5 per cent and 4.9 per cent respectively).

Table 4.1 Victimisation by Common Crime: One-year prevalence rates by city and overall (per cent)

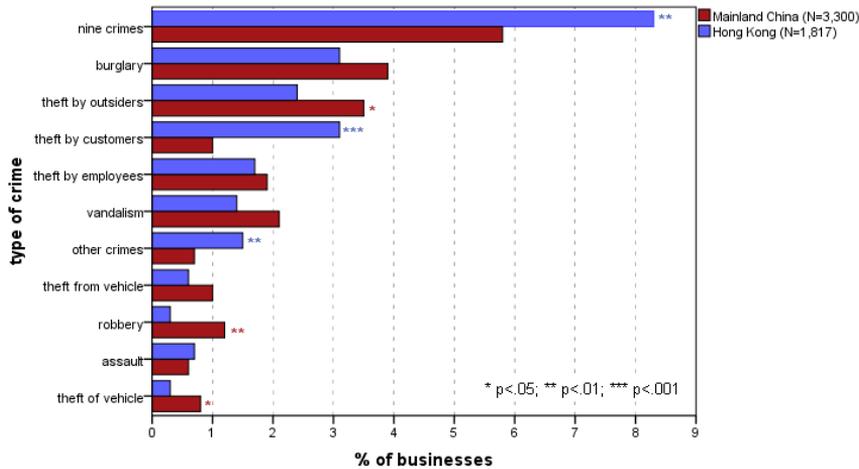
Type of crime victimisation ^a	Hong Kong N = 1817	Shanghai N = 1110	Shenzhen N = 1112	Xi’an N = 1078	Total N = 5117
All common crimes	8.3***	5.0	7.4**	4.9	6.7
Burglary	3.1	3.5	4.6	3.7	3.7
Theft by outsiders	2.4†	2.6	4.3**	3.6	3.1
Vandalism	1.4	1.4	2.6*	2.1	1.8
Theft by employees	1.7	1.5	3.0*	1.1	1.8
Theft by customers	3.1***	1.1	0.6††	1.3	1.7
Robbery	0.3††	0.2††	2.4***	0.9	0.9
Theft from vehicle	0.6	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.8
Vehicle theft	0.3†	0.5	1.1*	0.8	0.6
Assault	0.7	0.1	1.2*	0.6	0.6
Other offences	1.5**	0.5	0.9	0.6	1.0

* $p < 0.05$ ** $p < 0.01$ *** $p < 0.001$, rate is significantly higher

† $p < 0.05$ †† $p < 0.01$, rate is significantly lower

Note: ^a Rates refer to the 12-month period from 1 January to 31 December 2004 for Hong Kong, and 1 January to 31 December 2005 for Shanghai, Shenzhen and Xi’an.

Figure 4.1 One-Year Prevalence of Common Crime, Hong Kong (2004) and Mainland (2005)



Victimisation by Business Sector and Business Size

While we see a greater prevalence of crimes against business in Shenzhen, differences between cities are only one representation of victimisation patterns. Victimisation can also vary according to sectors of activity, location and business size. It is likely that some types of crime occur more frequently in some business sectors—for example, we can expect theft by customers (shoplifting) to be more prevalent in the retail sector than in other sectors of activity. Victimisation risks might also be related to the size of the business. Because of the large amount of missing data on annual turnover, we do not examine this factor in relation to victimisation risks.

Victimisation by Business Sector

For all common crimes combined, businesses involved in retail were significantly more likely to be victimised than those in other sectors of activity (Table 4.2). Just more than 9 per cent of retailers reported some victimisation, compared with 4.2–6.8 per cent (average 6 per cent) in other sectors. As expected, retailers were particularly prone to theft by customers (5.2 per cent), but also by outsiders (4 per cent). Manufacturing businesses, on the other hand, had the lowest prevalence of theft by customers (0.8 per cent), but were significantly

more at risk of theft by employees (2.3 per cent) than other sectors. Wholesalers and traders were least likely to be victimised by any type of common crime (4.2 per cent overall).¹

Table 4.2 One-Year Prevalence of Common Crime by Main Sector of Activity across Four Cities (per cent)

Type of crime victimisation	Manufacturing N = 1726	Retail N = 1073	Wholesale/ trade N = 852	Finance & professional services N = 1053	Other sectors N = 413
All common crimes	6.4	9.1**	4.2††	6.8	5.6
Burglary	4.2	4.2	2.0††	4.2	1.9
Theft by outsiders	3.2	4.0*	1.6†	3.7	1.7
Vandalism	1.9	2.1	1.3	2.1	1.2
Theft by employees	2.3*	2.1	0.6††	1.8	1.7
Theft by customers	0.8	5.2***	0.4	1.3	0.7
Robbery	1.0	0.4	0.6	0.9	1.7
Theft from vehicle	0.9	0.7	0.4	1.1	1.0
Vehicle theft	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.9	1.0
Assault	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.5
Other offences	1.0	1.0	0.8	1.0	1.2

* $p < 0.05$ ** $p < 0.01$ *** $p < 0.001$, rate is significantly higher

† $p < 0.05$ †† $p < 0.01$, rate is significantly lower

The manufacturing sector had the highest rate of theft by employees. In both Shanghai and Shenzhen, more than 40 per cent of businesses were engaged in manufacturing (Table 3.2), yet Shenzhen recorded a significantly higher rate of such thefts than Shanghai. Shenzhen also had a higher share of large and very large companies than Shanghai, which can account for the difference in rate of theft by employees. The relationship between the risk of victimisation and the size of the business also explains some of the variation in rates of victimisation between the cities: Hong Kong tended to have smaller businesses than the mainland and less victimisation, except in the case of shoplifting, for which very small businesses were more at risk.

Victimisation by Business Size

In these analyses, we again use the number of employees as a proxy for estimating business size. From Table 4.3, we see that, except for theft by customers, the likelihood of victimisation generally increases with the size of the business.

¹ The subgroup of traders in unspecified goods (N = 122) had a particularly low victimisation rate of 1.6 per cent.

For all common crimes combined, large businesses (those with more than 250 employees) were victimised at nearly twice the rate of small and medium businesses (fewer than 50 employees). Medium-large and large businesses (50 or more employees) were statistically significantly more likely to be the victims of burglary, vandalism, theft by employees, theft by outsiders, robbery and assault than smaller businesses. For other types of crime, differences are not statistically significant, but victimisation rates are higher for larger businesses, apart from theft by customers. While small businesses—that is, those with 10 or less employees—seemed to be protected from many common crimes, they were most prone to theft by customers (2.7 per cent, $p < 0.01$). These businesses are likely to be small retail shops, which might have lacked resources to implement surveillance systems. The rate of theft by employees in small businesses was significantly lower than in larger ones, perhaps because they were often owned and run by family members.

Table 4.3 One-Year Prevalence of Common Crime by Size of Workforce across Four Cities (per cent)

Size of workforce ^a Type of victimisation	Small N = 2107	Medium N = 1430	Medium-large N = 917	Large N = 413	Total N = 4867
All common crimes	6.6	5.8	8.0	10.4**	6.9
Burglary	2.9†	3.5	5.1**	5.8*	3.8
Theft by outsiders	2.6	3.1	4.1*	5.3***	3.2
Vandalism	1.4†	1.6	3.1**	2.7	2.7
Theft by employees	0.9†	1.6	3.4***	4.4***	1.9
Theft by customers	2.7***	1.1	0.9	2.2	1.8
Robbery	0.4†	0.8	1.9***	1.7*	0.9
Theft from vehicle	0.5†	0.8	1.2	1.7*	0.8
Vehicle theft	0.3†	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.6
Assault	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.7**	0.7
Other offences	1.1	0.5	1.1	2.2	1.0

* $p < 0.05$ ** $p < 0.01$ *** $p < 0.001$, rate is significantly higher

† $p < 0.05$, rate is significantly lower

Note: ^a Number of employees (part and full-time, excluding 'don't know'/refusal)—small, 1–10; medium, 11–49; medium-large, 50–250; large, more than 250.

Interaction Between City, Business Sector and Business Size

Analyses conducted so far suggest that for most types of crime, rates of business victimisation were higher in Shenzhen than in other cities, but theft by customers was more prevalent in Hong Kong. Two sectors of business activities were more

prone to victimisation, but this depended on the type of victimisation: the retail sector was at heightened risk of theft by customers and outsiders, and companies in the manufacturing sector were more likely to be victims of theft by employees. Apart from theft by customers, which was most prevalent against small businesses, risks of victimisation generally increased with the size of the business. We now examine whether correlations between business sector and size are present across the four cities. Details of victimisation rates by city and sector, and by city and business size, are presented in Appendix G, Tables G.1 and G.2.

Table G.1 confirms that retailers were significantly more likely to be victims of theft by customers and outsiders than other businesses, but only in Hong Kong and Shanghai. Since the Hong Kong sample consisted of about one-quarter of retailers, it is not surprising to find a high rate of shoplifting there. Shanghai retailers also had a higher risk of victimisation by shoplifting, but only about one-third that of Hong Kong (3.4 per cent compared with 9.2 per cent), probably because retail businesses accounted for only 13 per cent of the Shanghai sample. In Shenzhen, businesses that provide financial and professional services were particularly at risk of vandalism (5.3 per cent, $p < 0.05$) and theft by outsiders (7.4 per cent, $p < 0.05$). Across the four cities, the wholesale/trade sector tended to report lower rates of victimisation, but this was not significant.

While we find few sector effects, Appendix Table G.2 shows a strong and consistent effect of business size, with on the whole greater levels of victimisation against medium-large/large businesses. Hong Kong and Shanghai recorded similar levels of theft by customers in small businesses (3.1 per cent and 3.2 per cent respectively). In Shanghai, shoplifting was significantly more prevalent in small businesses (one–10 employees) than in larger ones, but in Hong Kong, the relationship was not significant because the highest rate of shoplifting occurred in the largest businesses (10.5 per cent for companies with more than 250 employees). This suggests that compared with Shenzhen and Xi'an, retailers in Hong Kong were generally prone to experiencing shoplifting, with the few larger companies most at risk. In part this might also reflect the nature of retail trading in Hong Kong where larger retail outlets dominate shopping zones (for example, Kowloon and Causeway Bay) and are designed to attract overseas visitors as well as local shoppers. As a consequence, these retailers can attract gangs of thieves, often from the mainland or further abroad.

Victimisation by Location of Premises

Respondents only reported victimisation that occurred on the premises surveyed, but were asked whether the company had other premises and their location (that is, Hong Kong or mainland). Looking at all common crimes combined, Hong Kong businesses with other premises in the mainland were significantly more likely to be victimised than their counterparts without premises in the mainland, and mainland businesses with premises in Hong Kong also had a higher rate of victimisation than mainland businesses with no premises in Hong Kong, but the difference was not statistically significant (Table 4.4). For nearly all types of common crime, businesses with premises in both the mainland and Hong Kong tended to have a higher risk of victimisation, with statistically significant differences in rates of victimisation for theft by employees. Theft by customers again was the exception and Hong Kong businesses with premises only in Hong Kong showed a rate double that of Hong Kong businesses with additional premises in the mainland.

Table 4.4 One-Year Victimisation Rates for Businesses with Premises in Hong Kong or Mainland Only, or Hong Kong and Mainland (per cent)

Type of victimisation	Hong Kong (2004)		Mainland (2005)	
	No premises in mainland N = 1456	Premises in mainland N = 361	No premises in HK N = 2889	Premises in HK N = 411
All common crimes	7.8	10.0**	5.4	8.0
Burglary	3.0	3.9	3.8	4.6
Theft by outsiders	2.2	3.0	3.4	4.1
Vandalism	1.4	1.4	2.0	2.7
Theft by employees	1.1	4.2***	1.7	3.4***
Theft by customers	3.4***	1.7	1.1	0.5
Robbery	0.1	0.8*	1.1	1.7
Theft from vehicle	0.5	0.8	1.0	0.7
Vehicle theft	0.2	0.6	0.8	0.7
Assault	0.6	1.1	0.5	1.5
Other offences	1.5	1.7	0.5	1.7**

* $p < 0.05$ ** $p < 0.01$ *** $p < 0.001$

The differential risk of victimisation between the two groups of businesses, however, is related to the size of businesses rather than the location of their premises. We ran the same analyses based only on the number of premises but not considering the location of the other premises. For burglary, theft by employees, theft by outsiders and other unspecified crimes, large differences in victimisation emerged and companies with multiple premises had a significantly higher risk of victimisation than those with single premises. This pattern occurred because businesses with multiple premises, regardless of where they were located, were generally larger, and, as reported above, larger business size was associated with higher risk of victimisation. But again, the exception was theft by customers, with no differences in victimisation rates between single and multiple-premises companies.

In Hong Kong, the prevalence of theft by customers was lower for businesses with multiple premises than those with single premises, which appears to contradict the general pattern of victimisation just described. Theft by customers was, however, the only type of crime that was most prevalent in smaller retail businesses, and in Hong Kong, the majority of retailers (80 per cent) operated small businesses. Therefore, it is not surprising that single-premises companies—most likely retail shops—experienced more theft by customers than larger, non-retail, multiple-premises companies.

Considering now the specific location of the premises surveyed, Table 4.5 reveals a pattern consistent with other analyses: businesses located in shopping areas were significantly more likely to be victimised than those in other locations, but this was due only to high rates of theft by customers and by outsiders. This is not surprising since retail shops were those most often located in shopping areas and they were particularly prone to theft by customers and outsiders. A more interesting finding is that companies operating from serviced buildings reported a significantly lower rate of theft by employees than others. Companies located in serviced buildings tended to be smaller than in other locations, which goes some way in accounting for their lower victimisation rates. It is likely, however, that the level of security typically available in serviced buildings also helped reduce the likelihood of criminal victimisation.

Table 4.5 One-Year Prevalence of Common Crime by Location of Premises across Four Cities (per cent)

Type of victimisation	Industrial/ commercial area ^a N = 1823	Shopping area N = 1441	Serviced building N = 1125	Other locations N = 728
All common crime	5.8	9.1***	5.4	5.8
Burglary	3.7	4.0	3.1	3.8
Vandalism	1.8	1.7	1.6	2.6
Vehicle-related crime ^b	1.3	1.2	0.7	1.2
Theft by employees	2.1	2.2	0.8†	1.9
Theft by customers	0.7	4.2***	0.6	1.1
Theft by outsiders	2.9	4.2*	2.3	2.6
Violent crime ^c	1.4	1.1	0.8	1.2
Other offences	0.6	1.3	1.2	1.0

* $p < 0.05$ *** $p < 0.001$, rate is significantly higher

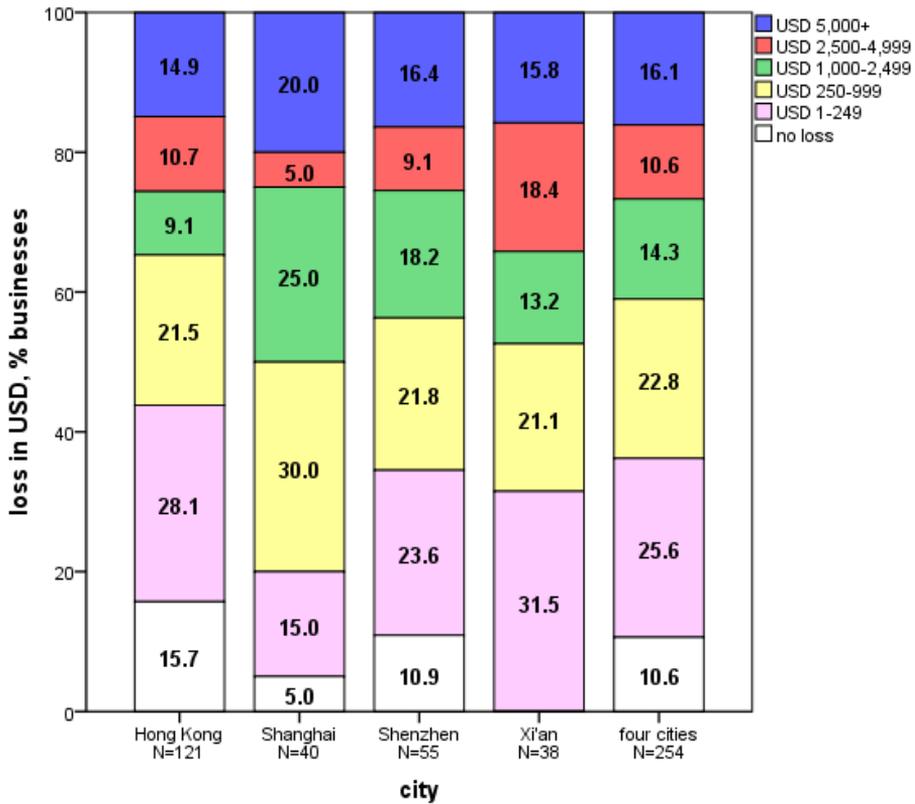
† $p < 0.05$, rate is significantly lower

Notes: ^a Includes industrial estates, business parks and commercial areas; ^b includes theft of vehicle and theft from vehicle; ^c includes robbery and assault.

Monetary Loss Due to Common Crime

Respondents who mentioned one or several instances of victimisation were asked to estimate the amount of monetary loss that resulted from the most serious incident. Of the 328 businesses that were victimised and provided details about the most serious incident of common crime, 10.6 per cent reported no monetary loss; however, nearly one-quarter of respondents (22.6 per cent) did not know whether the incident incurred losses for the business or refused to answer this question. On Figure 4.2, we see that there are no major differences in the amount lost between the cities. All businesses reported some monetary losses in Xi'an, but nearly one-third (31.5 per cent) suffered relatively small losses (less than US\$250) from the crime. One in five victimised businesses in Shanghai had losses in excess of US\$5000—a slightly higher proportion than in the other cities.

Figure 4.2 Monetary Loss in Most Serious Incident of Victimization by Common Crime



Across the four cities and excluding businesses that reported no monetary losses, the average loss due to the most serious criminal incident was US\$5680; the median, however, was much lower at US\$640 (Table 4.6). We use median losses for comparative purposes, as the median is less sensitive to extreme values than the mean. The median loss was lowest in Hong Kong (US\$576) and highest in Shanghai (US\$1230).

Table 4.6 Monetary Loss Due to Common Crime: Mean, median and estimated total loss by city

Average loss	Hong Kong N = 102	Shanghai N = 38	Shenzhen N = 49	Xi'an N = 38	Total N = 227 ^a
Mean, most serious incident, US\$	7,002	5,329	4,867	3,528	5,680
Median, most serious incident, US\$	576	1,230	861	769	640
Total loss, most serious incident, US\$1000	856	268	345	183	1,652
Total loss, all incidents, US\$1000 ^b	1,528	812	919	479	3,738

Notes: ^a Based on respondents who reported a loss—that is, excluding N = 74 who did not know or refused to answer, and N = 27 who reported no monetary loss; ^b this estimate includes losses due to multiple victimisations—that is, by different offence types, but not losses due to repeat victimisation (that is, several incidents of the same offence type).

Based on the losses that respondents reported for the most serious incident of common crime, we estimated that together the businesses we surveyed had lost a total of US\$1.65 million from the most serious incident of common crime (Table 4.6). If we combine the monetary losses from *all* the incidents of common crime—that is, counting losses due to victimisation by different offences for businesses that had been victimised more than once—our estimate more than doubles, to US\$3738. (Note that this figure is underestimated as it does not include losses due to repeat victimisation by the same offence.) The largest amount was lost in Hong Kong (US\$1.5 million), followed by Shenzhen (less than US\$1 million).

Not surprisingly, the cost of the criminal incident varied depending on the type of crime (Table 4.7). In terms of median losses from the most serious incident (middle column), we see that unspecified offences were the most costly (median US\$1845), followed by assault and theft by employees (US\$1538). Theft by outsiders and theft by customers incurred the lowest median amounts of loss—US\$246 and \$256 respectively. Theft by customers was most likely to happen in small retail shops where customers would be able to steal only small, relatively inexpensive items. If, however, we consider the total amounts lost to each type of common crime (right-hand column), theft by employees incurred by far the largest loss, of more than US\$1.3 million—double the total cost of theft of a vehicle (US\$680 000). Monetary losses due to customer theft totalled a relatively modest amount (US\$33 000) because, as indicated by the mean and median, each incident incurred only small losses.

Table 4.7 Monetary Loss Due to Common Crime: Mean, median and estimated total loss by type of crime

Type of victimisation	Most serious incident only ^a		All incidents
	Mean loss US\$	Median loss US\$	Estimated total loss, US\$1000
Theft by employees	18 554	1538	1371
Vehicle theft	17 700	1230	680
Burglary	3354	1230	559
Theft by outsiders	2096	246	357
Theft from vehicle	8680	861	290
Other offences	6400	1845	272
Robbery	2764	923	115
Vandalism	455	369	40
Theft by customers	400	256	33
Assault	1538	1538	21
All offences	5680	640	3738

Notes: ^a Based on respondents who reported a loss—that is, excluding N = 74 who did not know or refused to answer, and N = 27 who reported no monetary loss; ^b estimates do not include losses due to repeat victimisation—that is, businesses victimised in several incidents by the same offence type.

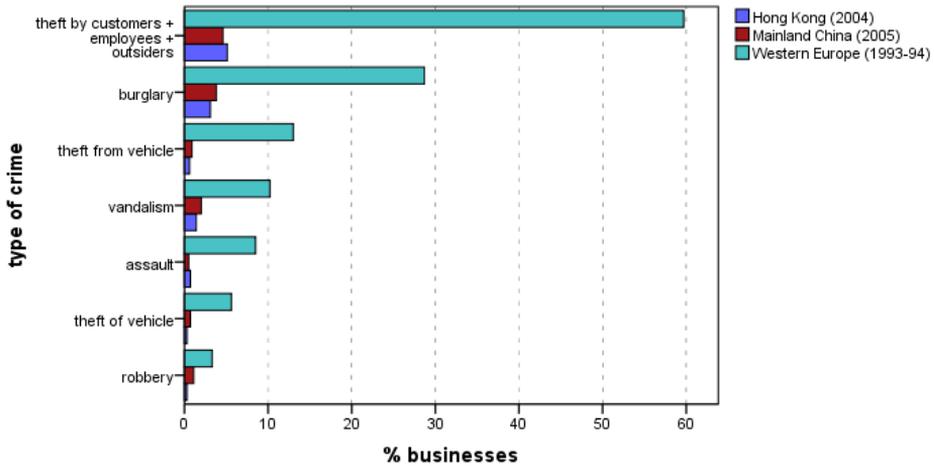
Across the four cities, 38.4 per cent of the surveyed businesses were insured against damages and loss caused by crime. Perhaps reflecting their knowledge of the higher crime risk in their city, Shenzhen businesses were more likely to take out insurance than those in other cities: 45.6 per cent were insured compared with 38.8 per cent in Shanghai, 36 per cent in Hong Kong and 34.6 per cent in Xi'an (the difference was statistically significant). These figures are consistent with worldwide rates reported by PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PWC 2007b), which found that globally an average of 39 per cent of companies had taken out insurance to cover economic crime losses (the figure for Hong Kong was 38 per cent). The likelihood of being insured increased with the size of the business: less than one-third of businesses with five or fewer employees were insured, but 47 per cent of those with 50–250 employees and half those with more than 250 employees ($p < 0.001$). Small food retailers were the least likely to have insurance. Of the 328 businesses that were victimised by common crimes, just less than half were insured in Shenzhen (43.4 per cent), with smaller proportions in the other cities: 37.9 per cent in Hong Kong, 36.5 per cent in Xi'an and 29.1 per cent in Shanghai.

Comparison with Other Victimization Surveys

Several surveys of crime against business using a comparable instrument to the ICBS have been conducted in Europe and Africa, which gives us an opportunity to compare the level of victimisation reported in China with that of other countries. We focus on three surveys: the Western Europe ICBS conducted in 1993–94 in six Western European countries and Australia (van Dijk and Terlouw 1996); the Central Eastern Europe ICBS conducted in 1999 in nine countries (Alvazzi del Frate 2004); and the Crime and Corruption Business Survey (CCBS) conducted in 2006 in Nigeria (Nigerian NBS 2009, 2010). In 2006, the University of Hong Kong also conducted the UNICVS for the first time in Hong Kong (Broadhurst et al. 2010). The UNICVS was concerned with the victimisation of individuals but allows us to compare the prevalence of victimisation against business with that of victimisation against individuals for conventional crimes. We use the results from Hong Kong and international averages from the fifth sweep of the UNICVS 2004–05 (van Dijk et al. 2007) to compare individual risks of crime with those of businesses.

Although no overall figure of the prevalence of common crime was reported in the Western Europe ICBS, the rate for a single crime—*theft by customers, outsiders and employees*—reported in the Western Europe ICBS (60 per cent) was nearly nine times higher than the overall rate of common crime in the China ICBS (6.7 per cent). Rates of victimisation by type of crime were higher in Western Europe than in China, ranging between 3.6 times higher for robbery (3.3 per cent and 0.6 per cent respectively) to 16 times higher for theft from a vehicle (13 per cent and 0.8 per cent respectively) (Figure 4.3). Large differences were present for theft by customers, outsiders and employees (combined) and burglary. The Western Europe survey found that 60 per cent of companies had been the victims of theft by any person compared with about 5 per cent in China; and that nearly 29 per cent had been burgled compared with 4 per cent in China. The Western Europe ICBS sample comprised nearly 70 per cent of retail businesses, which would inflate the rate of theft by customers. Violent crime was also more prevalent in Western Europe: 8.5 per cent of respondents mentioned an assault and 3.3 per cent a robbery, whereas less than 1 per cent of Chinese respondents had been victimised by either of these crimes.

Figure 4.3 One-Year Prevalence of Common Crime, China ICBS (2004–05) and Western Europe ICBS (1993–94)

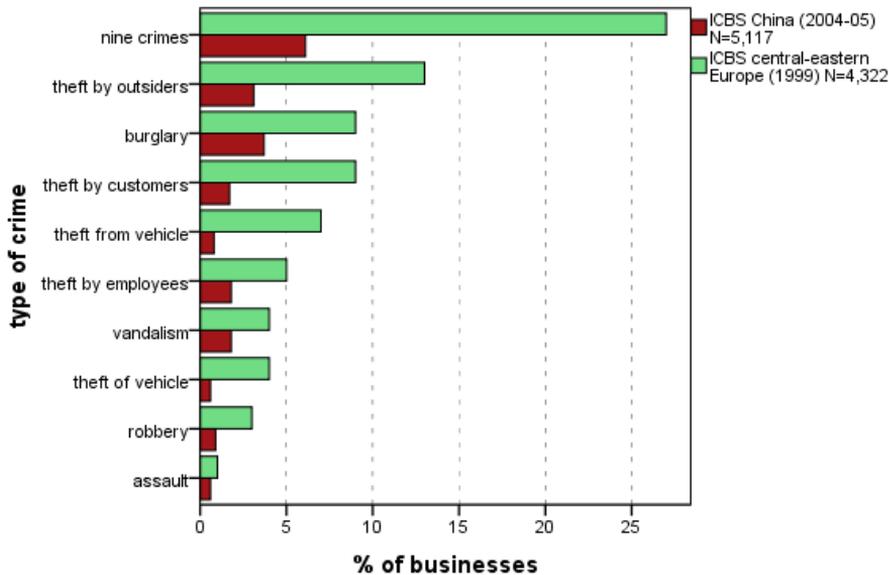


The Western Europe ICBS examined factors linked to victimisation only in relation to retail and found little differences in victimisation between businesses trading in various goods. Businesses with a larger floor surface were more at risk of theft by customers than those with a smaller floor surface. Western European companies were often victimised repeatedly by the same offence, particularly theft. In addition, businesses were much more likely than households to be the victims of burglary and theft of a vehicle.

Rates of overall victimisation by common crime were also much lower in China than in Eastern Europe. The Eastern Europe ICBS found that on average 27 per cent of businesses were the victims of at least one of nine conventional crimes²—that is, four times the rate reported in Chinese cities (6.2 per cent; Figure 4.4). There were, however, variations by city: the lowest rate of 7 per cent—which is close to that of the China ICBS at 6.1 per cent—was observed in Zagreb; the highest, 42 per cent, was in Vilnius and Budapest. Looking at individual types of crime, every city in the Eastern Europe ICBS consistently recorded higher rates than the Chinese cities, ranging from more than twice the rate of assault to eight times the rate of theft from a vehicle. Across the cities surveyed in the Eastern Europe ICBS, larger businesses also reported higher rates of victimisation for all types of crime than smaller businesses.

² The nine crimes include: burglary, vandalism, theft of a vehicle, theft from vehicle, theft by customers, theft by employees, theft by outsiders, robbery and assault. The category 'other unspecified offences' is not included in the count.

Figure 4.4 One-Year Prevalence of Common Crime, China ICBS (2004–05) and Central Eastern Europe ICBS (1999)



It is more difficult to compare the overall rate of victimisation in the China ICBS with the Nigerian CCBS because questions on theft by employees and theft by outsiders also included fraud. For the types of crime that are comparable, the Nigerian CCBS found rates of victimisation ranging from 1.5 times higher than the ICBS for theft of vehicles (7 per cent in the Nigerian CCBS versus 4 per cent in the China ICBS) to 14 times higher for assault and threats (14 per cent in the CCBS versus 1 per cent in the ICBS).

Some types of common crimes are directly comparable with the Hong Kong UNICVS (Table 4.8). In Hong Kong, businesses were at much greater risk of burglary than households (3.1 per cent and 0.6 per cent respectively), but less likely to be the victims of assault (0.7 per cent versus 1.3 per cent). While no car theft was reported in the Hong Kong UNICVS in 2005, 0.2 per cent of business respondents mentioned the theft of a vehicle. Car ownership rates are low in Hong Kong, but companies would be more likely to use vehicles for business than individuals, which can explain the higher rate of vehicle theft in the ICBS. The Eastern Europe ICBS found that burglary and theft of a vehicle were more likely to target business premises than households. Rates of theft from a vehicle and robbery were comparable in the Hong Kong UNICVS and the ICBS.

For the five crimes considered here—burglary, theft of, and from a vehicle, robbery, and assault—average ICBS rates for mainland cities were higher than those reported in the 2005 Hong Kong UNICVS. The prevalence of business

victimisation in mainland cities, however, was lower than the international average for household and personal victimisation, apart from burglary, which was similar.

Table 4.8 One-Year Prevalence of Selected Common Crimes, Hong Kong UNICVS and China ICBS (per cent)

Type of crime victimisation	UNICVS		ICBS	
	Average main cities one year ^a	Hong Kong 2005	Hong Kong 2004	Average mainland cities 2005
Burglary	3.2	0.6	3.1	3.9
Theft of vehicle	1.3	0.0	0.2	0.8
Theft from vehicle	4.4	0.5	0.6	1.0
Robbery	2.4	0.4	0.3	1.2
Assault	4.0	1.3	0.7	0.6

Sources: International UNICVS (van Dijk et al. 2007:Appendix 9, Table 2); Hong Kong UNICVS (Broadhurst et al. 2010).

Note: ^a Surveys were conducted in 33 capital cities from developed and developing countries in 2004–05.

This chapter examined the prevalence of common crimes against business in Hong Kong and China. At least one common crime was reported by 343 businesses (6.7 per cent) in our sample and most of them were victims of more than one crime. Apart from theft by customers, which was more prevalent in Hong Kong than in the other cities, Shenzhen recorded higher rates of common crime, particularly robbery, vandalism and theft by outsiders and employees. Hong Kong and mainland companies with cross-border operations were at higher risk of victimisation, but this was in part mediated by the size of the business, since larger businesses were more likely to be victimised and they were also those more likely to operate across borders.

Comparisons with the Western Europe and Eastern Europe ICBSs indicated that rates of common crime against business in China (both Hong Kong and the mainland) were lower than in a number of other industrialised and transitional countries; the overall rate of common crime was four times lower than the rate found in the Eastern Europe ICBS, and nine times lower than that found in the Western Europe ICBS. Comparison with the UNICVS, however, indicates that, as in most other countries, in China, businesses were more at risk of burglary than households. In the next chapter, we focus on less-conventional crimes including bribery and extortion, and again compare results in China with those from other surveys.