

## Crime situation in the Algarve for 2016

### Introduction

The annual Relatório Anual de Segurança Interna (RASI), (Internal Security Report) (RASI), for 2016, approved on 31st March 2017 by the Assembly of the Republic, consolidates the figures of all police, and enforcement agencies, as well as other information concerning the state of internal security in Portugal.

The very good news is that the report reveals the lowest number of overall crime, especially violent crimes in the Algarve since 1998.

Communities Portugal has undertaken an analysis of the report and more detailed figures provided by Direção – Geral da Política de Justiça, to determine the crime situation for Faro (Algarve) District and identify any noticeable crime trends.

These figures do not include non-reported crime, which has not been established due to the absence of crime victimization surveys in Portugal.

### Objective

Through the identification of trends in various municipalities, to help communities have greater awareness of crime patterns thus helping them take appropriate crime prevention measures.

### Overall crime

Overall crime in the Algarve for 2016, was 21,515 cases, a decrease of -1.5% compared to 2015. This continues the general decrease since 2008 when the total of crimes were reported stood at 29,248 (a 26.4% decrease). The rate of decrease has been greater than Portugal as a whole, where crime fell by 21.5% during the same period.

The highest crime in terms of numbers in the Algarve is drink driving which stood at 1804 cases, followed by burglary with break-in with 1508, cases; theft from motor vehicles 1469 cases; and minor assault 1425 cases.

In the overall categories of crime in the district, crime against persons stood at 4787 cases up 5.3% against last year and crimes against property 10,381 cases, down 2% compared to 2015.

Violent crime, which includes rape, homicide serious assault and robberies stood at 998 cases an increase of 5.2%.

### Areas of increased crime

The major specific crimes showing upward trends in several areas of the district are shown in the following table

| Crime                          | No in District | Percentage increase |
|--------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Extortion                      | 29             | 123.0%              |
| Burglary without breaking      | 558            | 91.1%               |
| Serious assault                | 49             | 68.0%               |
| Bank fraud                     | 132            | 48.3%               |
| Other fraud                    | 716            | 34.5%               |
| Street robbery                 | 332            | 26.7%               |
| Opportunist theft              | 1305           | 24.4%               |
| Computer/communications fraud  | 421            | 19.9%               |
| Drink driving 1.2 g/l and over | 1804           | 17.6%               |
| Drug trafficking               | 366            | 13.6%               |
| Pickpocketing                  | 555            | 13.2%               |
| Minor assault                  | 1425           | 6.1%                |
| Threats and coercion           | 908            | 0.4%                |

The crimes of extortion, bank fraud, and commercial fraud, other scams and coercion are an increasing upward trend more often being conducted through the internet and social media.

The increase in the number of burglaries without break-in shows that people are failing to take simple crime prevention measures. This sort of crime can be reduced.

Drink driving figures general reflect the number of police operations against road users. This can greatly influence crime figures, so need to be taken into account, especially at municipal level.

In terms of crimes against pet animals, a total of 74 cases of cruelty were recorded compared to 66 in 2015. In addition there were 39 cases of abandoning pets, over double the previous year.

### Areas of decreased crime

Conversely the following table shows the main crimes where there were general decreases throughout the year

| Crime                         | No in District | Percentage decrease |
|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Metal theft                   | 104            | -63.7%              |
| Theft from motor vehicle      | 1469           | -25.6%              |
| Street robbery with snatching | 260            | 15.0%               |
| Burglary with break-in        | 1508           | -11.8%              |
| Theft of motor vehicle        | 448            | -9.1%               |

|                                   |     |       |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-------|
| Thefts from annexes of properties | 211 | -0.4% |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-------|

In the areas of decreases the vast reduction in metal theft (non-precious metals) is in line with national trends due to crackdowns on scrapyards who were receiving the goods.

The vast reduction in thefts from vehicles is a pleasing trend, and evidence that the message about leaving valuables in cars is getting across. This is noteworthy as there has been a significant increase in tourism in 2016 and hire cars are often the targets for this type of criminality.

The reduction of burglaries of residencies with break-ins, is a welcome trend.

In terms of other crimes there were a total of 332 cases of libel, defamation and slander were recorded; as well as 71 thefts of agricultural equipment and 41 thefts at supermarkets.

## Violent crime

The number of violent crime in the Algarve stood at 998 cases in 2016, an increase of 5.2% increase compared to 2015, and the second highest increase in percentage terms in the country after Beja. Of the 18 districts on the mainland, 14 showed a decrease and four an increase. The main violent crimes for the district and comparison with 2015 are shown in the following table

| Violent Crime                    | 2016 | 2015 | % change since 2015 | National % change |
|----------------------------------|------|------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Street robbery without snatching | 332  | 262  | 26.7%               | -7.7%             |
| Street robbery with snatching    | 260  | 306  | 15.0%               | -24.4%            |
| Residential robbery              | 35   | 53   | -51.4%              | -12,6%            |
| Other robberies                  | 22   | 18   | 22.2%               | -10.0%            |
| Robbery at petrol stations       | 5    | 3    | 66.6%               | 11.3%             |
| Robbery on public transport      | 4    | 6    | -33.3%              | 0.2%              |

During 2016 there were no robberies at Pharmacies or at jewellery shops in the Algarve. The number of Bank robberies stood at three, the first cases since 2013.

There were 30 cases of rape recorded and 43 cases of sexual abuse against children, these crimes decreasing from 52 and 55 respectively in 2015.

## Fraud

The total number of Fraud cases stood at 1424, an increase of 15.3% compared with 2015 and a three-fold increase compared to 2008, when it stood at 473 cases.

Within this category Computer/communications Fraud amounted to 421 cases, an increase of 19.9% compared to the previous year. In 2008 this type of fraud amounted to just 15 cases! Such on-line fraud includes on-line shopping fraud; villa letting scams etc.

Other Fraud cases also increased significantly from 532 cases in 2015 to 714 in in 2016. These include, fraudulent adverts in newspapers; door step sellers and other miscellaneous frauds.

Bank fraud also showed an upward trend in the Algarve increasing markedly from 89 cases in 2015 to 132 cases in 2016; an increase of 48.3%, well above the national increase of 4.3%

In the Algarve there were no reported cases of Insurance fraud.

Fraud involving work/employment decreased by 43 cases to 114, a decrease of 27.3%.

The crime of Misuse of guarantee/credit cards dropped considerably from 151 cases in 2015 to 64 last year. This goes against the overall national trend for this type of crime which increased by 54.7%

## Geographical distribution of crime

The following table shows in alphabetical order the number of reported crimes by municipality and the changes compared to 2015 and 2008. Compared to 2015 all municipalities showed a decrease except for Lagoa, Loulé, Monchique, Olhão and Portimão. More details can be found under each municipality in this report

| Municipality  | No in 2016 | No in 2015 | % change since 2015 | % change since 2008 |
|---------------|------------|------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Albufeira     | 3366       | 3446       | -2.3%               | -37.7%              |
| Alcoutim      | 100        | 124        | -19.3%              | +26.5%              |
| Aljezur       | 264        | 358        | -26.2%              | -22.1%              |
| Castro Marim  | 222        | 209        | -5.2%               | -28.1%              |
| Faro          | 2861       | 2984       | -4.1%               | -19.2%              |
| Lagoa         | 804        | 776        | +3.6%               | -50.3%              |
| Lagos         | 1056       | 1349       | -21.7%              | -41.2%              |
| Loulé         | 3790       | 3436       | +10.3%              | -30.4%              |
| Monchique     | 169        | 147        | +14.9%              | -0.4%               |
| Olhão         | 1902       | 1777       | +13.2%              | -12.2%              |
| Portimão      | 2640       | 2412       | +9.4%               | -29.6%              |
| Sao Bras      | 322        | 344        | -6.3%               | -18.6%              |
| Silves        | 1355       | 1481       | -8.5%               | -30.5%              |
| Tavira        | 932        | 961        | -3.0%               | -25.8%              |
| Vale do Bispo | 271        | 323        | -16.0%              | -30.6%              |
| V.R.S.Antonio | 749        | 719        | -4.1%               | -21.1%              |

The municipalities where there have been an increase in overall crime are shown in red. The increases/decreases can be compared with the overall decrease for the Algarve of 1.5% compared with 2015 and the national decrease of -7.1%. There are, however, wide variations between municipalities.

In 2016 a total of 46.5% of overall crime was concentrated in the central Algarve in the three municipalities: Albufeira, Loulé and Faro. In 1993, 53.7 of crimes were concentrated in these three municipalities and in 2001 - 49.3%.

Although crimes are lower in the western and eastern Algarve, the distribution over the last 23 years has tended to shift slightly in those directions, probably in line with population expansion.

## Highest crimes by municipality

The following table provides a quick reference to the highest reported crime in each municipality.

|  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <b>Albufeira</b><br>Burglary with break-in | <b>Alcoutim</b><br>Drink driving        | <b>Aljezur</b><br>Theft from motor vehicles      | <b>Castro Marim</b><br>Minor Assault                         |
| <b>Faro</b><br>Domestic violence           | <b>Lagoa</b><br>Burglary with break-in  | <b>Lagos</b><br>Minor assault                    | <b>Loulé</b><br>Burglary with break-in                       |
| <b>Monchique</b><br>Burglaries             | <b>Olhão</b><br>Domestic violence       | <b>Portimão</b><br>Theft from Motor vehicle      | <b>Sao Bras</b><br>Domestic violence                         |
| <b>Silves</b><br>Minor assault             | <b>Tavira</b><br>Burglary with break-in | <b>Vila do Bispo</b><br>Theft from motor vehicle | <b>V.R.S. Antonio</b><br>Domestic violence/<br>Minor assault |

### Albufeira

In terms of overall crime Albufeira is in second highest place after Loulé, with a total of 3366 crimes down - 2.3% compared with 2015. The decrease is higher than the district average on -1.5%.

In the two major categories of crime against persons these increased slightly by 28 cases to 618, an increase of 4.7%, whereas crimes against property fell by -1.2% to 2040 cases.

Regarding violent crime there were a total of 56 street robberies with snatching of items compared with 48 in 2015. Those without snatching fell from 57 to 47 cases. There were also 12 commercial robberies compared to none the previous year. *Note: difference between a theft and a robbery is that the latter includes violence or the threat of violence.*

The highest crimes in Albufeira were Burglaries with break-in 351 cases; Drink driving 227 cases; minor assault 218 cases and Theft from Motor vehicle 190 cases.

As far as trends are concerned, Theft from motor vehicles showed a significant decrease of 34.6% compared with 2015 and metal theft decreased from 40 cases in 2015 to just 5 last year. Another significant decrease was in burglaries with break-ins which decreased by 23.3%. Attributing to the lower overall crime figures is the fact that drink driving decreased by 78 cases during the year. Opportunist theft, however, increased from 303 to 319 cases, the highest in the District. This may reflect the large number of tourists in the town of Albufeira during the summer months.

On the rise was Drug trafficking cases which increased from 55 in 2015 to 100 cases an increase of 81.8%. This is the highest figures since 2008.

In terms of serious assaults there were just three cases, lower than some of the other major towns in the Algarve, whereas minor assaults increased by 8.4% to 218 cases.

Albufeira had the largest number of Pickpocketing cases in the Algarve up from 146 to 160 cases. The number are not surprising given the large events that are held especially during the summer in the town and the high concentration of people there, including tourists.

## **Alcoutim**

On the eastern boundary with Spain Alcoutim has consistently had the lowest crime level in the Algarve. In 2016 there were just 124 cases, an average of one every three days. Crime decreased by 19.3% since 2015, although it is the only area to have had an increase since 2008. Crime has risen 26.5% since then.

In the main categories Crime against persons stood at 21 cases; Crimes against Property 34 cases and Crimes against Society 31 cases. In the latter category Drink Driving at or above 1.2 g/l made up 23 instances and amounts to around 23% of overall crime for the area.

Within the category of crimes against property, which decreased by around a third in 2016, were Theft of animals five cases; Theft of motorcycle five cases and Burglary without break-in three cases.

In terms of crimes against persons these stood at 21 cases down slightly from 26 in 2015. Within this the main offences were Minor assaults six cases and Domestic violence four cases. There were also four cases of Threats and coercion.

## **Aljezur**

On the extreme west of the Algarve, Aljezur has the third lowest number of overall crimes in the Algarve standing at 264 and in percentage terms a significant decrease of 26.2% compared to 2015, the largest percentage decrease in the Algarve.

In the overall crime categories, there were 40 crimes against persons a very slight increase of two cases compared to 2015, and crimes against property stood at 124 cases, a significant decrease of 55 cases compared to 2015.

This decrease was mainly attributable to a large reduction in Thefts from Motor vehicles from 94 to 54 cases.

During 2016 there were six crimes of drug trafficking compared to none in 2015.

In terms of crimes against persons the main ones were Minor assaults nine cases and Domestic violence seven cases. Simple assaults were down from 16 in 2015 and the lowest since 2012.

In terms of burglaries there were 16, which includes those with and without break-in as well as thefts from gardens/annexes.

## **Castro Marim**

On the border with Spain, Castro Marim has a low level of crime with 222 cases recorded in 2016, which represents a slight increase of 13 cases compared to 2015. Overall crime since 2008 has dropped by -28.1% when it stood at 309 cases.

In the major category of crimes against persons 49 crimes were recorded a slight increase of four compared with 2015. In the crimes against property category, 111 crimes were recorded down 10 cases compared to the previous year.

Some of the main crimes during the year were Theft from Motor Vehicles 14 cases; Burglaries with and without break-in 16 cases; Minor assaults 24 cases and Drink driving 19 cases. There was a significant increase in Minor assaults from 9 cases in 2015. There were 5 cases of Domestic violence down from 11 cases the previous year.

Opportunist theft rose from 8 cases in 2015 to 13 in 2016. There were also six arrests for causing Forest fires.

## Faro

Overall crime in Faro municipality stood at 2861 cases for 2016 and although the third highest in the Algarve, it represents a reduction of 4.1% compared to the previous year.

In terms of crimes against persons these increased from 683 to 736 (7.7%) although for crimes against property these decreased from 1637 to 1526, (-6.7%).

In terms of the volume of crime the largest were Domestic violence 235 cases; Theft from Motor vehicle 228 cases; Drink driving 223 cases and Minor assault 200 cases;

Regarding property crime there was a significant decrease in Burglary with Break-ins, down from 186 to 118 cases (-36.5%). Burglaries without break-in however, rose slightly from 47 to 60 cases. There was also increase in pickpocketing up from 63 to 80 cases reflecting a general increase in the Algarve.

Noteworthy is the large increase in minor assaults up from 149 to 200 cases (34.2%) higher than the district average of 6.1%. This accounts for the majority of the increase in the Algarve. There were also nine serious assaults, the second highest after Portimão.

Drink driving 1.2 g/l or higher increased from 164 to 223 cases, reflecting increased results from police operations.

Crimes that remained fairly static compared with 2015, were Theft of motor vehicles 92 and Theft from motor vehicle 228.

There were 27 recorded cases of pet cruelty compared to 17 in 2015, plus 16 cases of abandoning an animal.

Note: The crime figures for Faro include those recorded at the airport.

## Lagoa

Total overall crime in Lagoa was 804 cases, an increase 28 cases compared to 2015. Conversely the municipality has experienced a sharp decrease since 2008 of 50.3% the highest in the Algarve.

Crimes against persons increased by 15.5% to 208 cases and crimes against property decreased by two cases to 470. These are in line with general trends in the Algarve for the year.

Of the major crimes, Theft from motor vehicles increased from 56 to 82 cases (48%), which was against the general trend of the decrease of this crime in the Algarve. Lagoa was the only municipality to show an increase. Thefts of motor vehicles, however, showed a reduction from 14 to 11 cases.

Also on the increase were crimes of Domestic violence, which rose from 61 to 76 cases, in percentage terms the highest in the Algarve, and Pickpocketing, which increased from 32 to 48 cases up 50%.

Drug trafficking cases remained the same as 2015, at six cases.

Burglaries with break-in showed a downward trend from 90 to 84 cases, similar to that in the district, but those without break-in rose slightly from 37 to 42 cases. Thefts from gardens/annexes however remained at seven.

There were 41 Drink driving cases, up from 32 the previous year.

## Lagos

The total overall crime for 2016 was 1056 cases, a significant reduction of 21.7% compared to 2015, despite increased tourism. Crime since 2008 has decreased by 41.2%.

Both crimes against persons and property showed decreases recording 279 and 608 cases respectively. The most significant decrease, and contributing mainly to the overall decrease, was crimes against property which decreased from 769 cases in 2015 to 608 i.e. -20.9%

Within this category was a significant reduction in Thefts from motor vehicles, which decreased from 199 to 80 cases, a reduction of -59.7%. This reflects greater awareness and effective police operations in the area. Theft of motor vehicles, however, increased by 13 cases from 20 to 33.

As far as residential burglaries are concerned, these increased to 117 including those with and without break-ins and from annexes, compared to 94 the previous year. Another category of property crime, Pickpocketing recorded a decrease from 35 to 28 cases.

Drink driving arrests increased from 73 to 93 cases.

There were a total of 14 drug trafficking arrests, down from 26 the previous year.

## Loulé

The municipality of Loulé recorded the highest level of crime in the Algarve during the year at 3790 cases, up from 3436 cases the previous year (10.3%).

The main factor contributing to this was the vast increase in Drink driving over 1.2g/l cases, which increased from 203 to 480 cases namely 135.4%. Compared to 2008 overall crime has dropped by 30.4% when 4938 crimes were recorded.

In respect of violent crime there were seven residential robberies compared to 17 in 2015. This reflects a general downward trend over the last six years.

Conversely there was a significant reduction in Thefts from motor vehicles, which decreased from 306 to 219 cases -28.4%, as well as Theft of motor vehicles from 109 to 87 cases. Noteworthy is the fact that Thefts from motor vehicles has reduced from a high of 718 cases recorded in 2008.



In terms of residential burglaries a total of 340 burglaries with break-in were recorded, down from 371 the previous year. Against this trend however was a significant increase in Burglaries without break-in which increased from just six in 2015 to 96 in 2016. This appears to show owners are not following crime prevention guidelines and is an issue that needs to be addressed.

This also seems to apply to opportunist theft which increased from 56 cases in 2015 to 160 cases in 2016.

In the category of property crime, a total of 76 cases of pickpocketing were recorded compared to 73 the previous year.

Drug trafficking in the area remained the highest in the district increasing from 44 in 2015 to 66 cases in 2016. Most of these involved seizures of hashish, but there were also seizures of cocaine, heroin as well as ecstasy.

Another noteworthy crime was Domestic violence, which stood at 238 recorded instances up from 220 the previous year. Minor assaults also increased from 194 to 211 cases, together with serious assaults from four to seven.

Reflecting the district and national trend metal thefts decreased from 48 to 33 cases.

There were three recorded cases of pet cruelty compared to 15 in 2015, plus six cases of abandoning an animal.

## Monchique

The municipality of Monchique recorded the second lowest level of crime in the Algarve in 2016 with 169 cases, despite an increase from 147 in the previous year. The crime level is in fact about the same as in 2008 when 168 cases were recorded.

During 2016 in the general categories, crimes against persons increased from 22 to 36 cases where crimes against property decreased from 91 to 77 cases. These were both in line with the general trends in the Algarve.

Some of the major crimes during the year were for Forest fires which stood at 11 compared to seven in 2015. Drink driving cases also increased to 22 up from 13.

Burglaries are one of the lowest in the Algarve with 24 (all categories) recorded in 2016 compared to 38 the previous year. Other thefts stood at 16.

In terms of crimes against persons, there were seven minor assaults recorded compared with none in 2015 and there were a total of five domestic crime cases.

There were no crimes involving drugs recorded during the year.

## Olhão

Overall total crime in Olhão stood at 1902 cases, an increase of 13.2%, the second highest percentage increase in the Algarve. Despite this crime since 2008 has decreased by 12.2%.

Regarding violent crime street robberies involving snatching, these decreased from 46 cases to 39 whereas those without snatching increased from 26 to 33 cases

In terms of the main two crime categories, there was a slight increase in crimes against persons from 495 to 515 cases, as well as in crimes against property, which increased from 1032 to 1061.

Theft from motor vehicles decreased significantly from 190 to 124 cases i.e. 34.7% together with Theft of vehicles, which decreased from 59 to 48 cases.

There was a slight increase in residential Burglaries with break-in, up from 118 to 134 cases, although those without break-in decreased from 36 to 32 cases. The number of thefts from residential annexes decreased from 56 to 36 cases.

Criminal damage decreased from 100 cases in 2015 to 87 in 2016.

There was a significant increase in Drink driving cases up from 54 to 105 cases, which has contributed to the increase in overall crime.

## **Portimão**

The overall number of recorded crimes in Portimão stood at 2640 cases, up from 2412 in 2015, an increase of 9.4%, but 26% lower than in 2008.

In the overall crimes categories, crimes against persons increased from 541 to 574 cases and crimes against property also increased from 1452 to 1678 cases. In terms of the later, the 15.5% increase goes against the district trend which showed a slight decrease.

Contributing to the higher property crime is the increases in Burglaries with break-in up from 113 to 138 cases and those without break-in up from 49 to 85 cases, although Theft from annexes/gardens decreased from 31 to 19 cases.

Other property theft namely Theft from motor vehicles and Theft of vehicles remained roughly the same as 2015 at 210 and 66 respectively. Pickpocketing cases increased slightly from 78 to 83 cases.

Minor assaults recorded a decrease from 197 to 161 cases i.e. 18.2%, although serious assaults increased from seven to 11 cases. Criminal damage rose from 103 to 122 cases. Domestic violence remained around the same with 139 cases recorded.

Drink driving cases increased from 112 to 133 cases during the year.

In terms of drugs there were 42 cases of drug trafficking up from 40 the previous year.

## **Sao Bras de Alportel**

The Municipality of Sao Bras in 2016 had the sixth lowest overall crime level in the Algarve in 2016, standing at 322 cases.

In the major crime categories of crimes against persons and against properties, crime stood at 88 and 269 cases respectively, both representing reductions compared with 2015.

In the area of violent crime there were no residential robberies recorded and criminal damage stood at 22 cases. Domestic violence decreased from 43 to 27 cases.

Thefts from motor vehicles decreased markedly from 23 cases in 2015 to 9 cases; this being the lowest since 1993.

Burglaries with break-in also showed a significant decreases from 34 to 11 cases, although burglaries without break-in stood at seven and of annexes at four cases, whereas none had been reported the previous year.

Opportunist crime stood at 12 cases down from 19 the previous year. There were no cases of Pickpocketing recorded.

Concerning drug trafficking there were 10 cases in 2016, the first since 2013 when three cases were recorded.

A total of 36 drivers were arrested for Drunk driving of or over 1.2 g/l compared with 17 the year before.

## Silves

The overall crime in Silves stood at 1355 cases compared with 1481 in 2015 a decrease of -8.5 % and a decreased of -30.5% since 2008.

Crimes against persons saw, however, an increase of 31 cases compared to 2015 standing 350 cases, whereas crimes against property decreased markedly from 835 to 747 cases.

In terms of violent crime there eight cases of street robberies involving snatching down by 38.6% and nine without snatching, compared with seven last year. Cases of domestic violence stood at 96, three more than in 2015

Minor assaults increased to 106 cases from 83 and there five serious assaults an increase of two.

Regarding property crime theft from vehicles reduced considerably from 97 to 67 cases. There was a slight increase in residential burglaries involving break-ins from 95 to 100 cases, whereas those without break-in remained the same at 26 instances. There were 17 cases of pickpocketing, lower than most of the larger towns in the Algarve.

One of the most significant decreases was for non-precious Metal theft which decreased from 62 to just 11 cases, the largest decrease in the Algarve. This is the lowest since records began in 2012 when 396 cases were recorded in the municipality. This is a result in the reduction in the value of copper and aluminium values and the closure and/or action against scrapyards.

A significant decrease took place in terms of drug trafficking, down from 28 cases in 2015 to 18 last year.

## Tavira

Of the larger municipalities, Tavira had 932 overall crimes compared to 961 in 2015 – a decrease of -3% and -25.8% compared to 2008.

Crime against persons, however, showed a slight increase of 14 cases from 223 to 237, and crimes against property also increased from 552 to 561.

Like some of the other municipalities there was a sizeable reduction in theft from vehicles down from 97 cases in 2015 to 67 cases last year (-30.9%). Theft of motor vehicles also decreased from 13 to 10 cases.

There was also a marked decrease in Burglaries with break-in down from 93 to 65 cases; Burglary without break-in down from 133 to 99 cases (-25.5%), although thefts from annex buildings and gardens increased from 11 to 34 cases.

Pickpocketing cases increased from 12 to 17 cases.

Regarding violent crime there was a slight increase in Domestic violence up from 66 to 71 cases. Minor assaults increased slightly from 64 to 70 cases and there were no cases of serious assault. In the case of street robberies

with snatching there were nine cases and without snatching 12. There were no residential robberies, the last being recorded in 2013. Without any other types of robberies the municipality remains one of the lowest of its size for this type of crime. There were, however 69 cases of Criminal damage up from 55 last year.

As far as drugs are concerned the level of Drug trafficking decreased from 20 to 13 cases.

Cases of Drink driving of 1.2 g/l and above stood at 29 cases a slight increase compared to 2015, but a significant decrease compared to 2008 when 125 persons were arrested.

## **Vila do Bispo**

In terms of population Vila do Bispo is one of the smallest municipalities, with total overall crime standing at 271 cases, a -16% reduction compared to 2015 and a -30.6% decrease compared to 2008.

The considerable decrease can be mainly attributable to a marked reduction in crimes against property, which fell from 239 to 174 cases. Crime against persons, however, increased slightly from 40 to 51 cases.

Within the category of property crime, most of the decrease can be attributable to a sharp decrease in Theft from vehicle from 135 to 75 cases (-44.4). This was the second largest reduction in the Algarve after Lagoa. Burglaries with and without break-in stood at 22 cases up from 18 the previous year, an average of around one case every 2-3 weeks.

Opportunist crime however increased from three cases in 2015 to 20 cases last year. Other theft stood at 13 cases half that the previous year.

There were 21 cases of drink driving compared to 11 in 2013.

## **V. R. S. Antonio**

Closest to the border with Spain, the municipality recorded 749 crimes in 2016 a slight increase of 30 compared to 2015, but a considerable reduction of 201 cases compared to 2008.

Crime against persons was 225 cases just two less than in 2015, although crime against property increased from 360 to 401 (11.3).

Regarding violent crime there were 77 Minor assaults compared to 81 the previous year. There also three Serious assaults. There were also 77 cases of Domestic violence compared with 60 the year before. Threats and coercion cases stood at 31 cases. In terms of street robberies there were seven cases, the same as last year, which is identical to the figures for street robberies with snatching.

Thefts from motor vehicles remained the same at 40 cases. Opportunist theft increased from 34 to 64 cases an increase of 88.2%. Pick pocketing also increased from 17 to 25 cases.

There were 28 Drink driving (1.2 g/l and over) cases compared with 32 the previous year.

Trafficking in drugs decreased slightly from 10 to nine cases.

