

# Pittsfield Police Department CityStat

April 2014

*Produced by the Crime Analysis Unit*



# Part I Total Crime

April 2014 has seen some dramatic changes in Part I crime in Pittsfield, some for better, and some for worse.

Although the rash of Motor Vehicle Burglaries that we saw in March died down considerably this month, it was unfortunately replaced with an unusually high number of Commercial Burglaries. Therefore, our Part I Property Crime rate continues to be higher than average this year compared to the past 5 years.

The good news, though, is that Part I Violent Crime rates are down significantly across the board. The average number of violent crimes for the month of April in Pittsfield is 18, and we had only 4 this year, showing a 78% decrease!

## 4 Weeks

## Year to Date

## 5 Year

	Mar-2014	Apr-2014	% Change		2013	2014	% Change		Average	% Change
Total Violent Crime	9	4	-56%		45	29	-36%		18	-78%
Total Property Crime	100	130	30%		363	414	14%		88	48%
Total Part I Crime	109	134	23%		408	443	9%		106	26%

# Part I Property Crime

As the past several reports reflected, Property Crime continues to be on an upward trend in Pittsfield this year.

While, fortunately, the number of Thefts from Motor Vehicles has gone down this month, the most noticeable increase is in Burglaries. The average increase for burglaries between March and April is 5 cases, but this year we have had a 22 case increase. This spike, however, can be attributed to a rash of Commercial Burglaries we have had this past month.

To see how you can protect you or your business from being a victim of Property Crime, please see the end of this report for tips!

	4 Week			Year to Date			5 Year	
	Mar-2014	Apr-2014	% Change	2013	2014	% Change	Average	% Change
Burglary (B&E)	21	43	105%	131	109	-17%	35	23%
Larceny (Total)	73	87	19%	246	289	17%	57	53%
Larceny from Building	13	16	23%	34	49	44%	10	60%
Larceny from Motor Vehicle	20	11	-45%	37	39	5%	7	57%
Larceny from Person	1	0	-100%	8	5	-38%	3	-100%
Shoplifting	16	21	31%	54	70	30%	11	91%
Larceny Misc.	23	34	48%	99	126	27%	22	55%
Motor Vehicle Theft	6	5	-17%	14	16	14%	4	25%
Total Property Crime	100	135	35%	391	414	6%	80	69%

# Part I Violent Crime

Pittsfield definitely seems to be headed in the right direction this year as far as Part I Violent Crimes are concerned. Recovering from some slip ups last month, April has seen decreases in violent crime across the board.

In all categories, April 2014 showed a 50% or higher decrease compared to the 5 Year average (except for homicide, which has an average of 0 cases). The most notable difference, again, is the drastically smaller number of Aggravated Assault cases. Over the past 5 years, April usually brings an average of 12 Aggravated Assault incidents, and this year, we have only had 1.

	4 Week			Year to Date			5 Year	
	Mar-2014	Apr-2014	% Change	2013	2014	% Change	Average	% Change
Homicide	0	0	IN CALC	0	0	IN CALC	0	IN CALC
Rape	3	2	-33%	6	10	67%	4	-50%
Robbery	4	1	-75%	10	13	30%	2	-50%
Aggravated Assault	2	1	-50%	29	6	-79%	12	-92%
Arson	0	0	IN CALC	0	0	IN CALC	1	-100%
Total Violent Crime	9	4	-56%	45	29	-36%	18	-78%

# A Closer Look: Part I Property Crime

## Stat Recap:

Since Last Month:

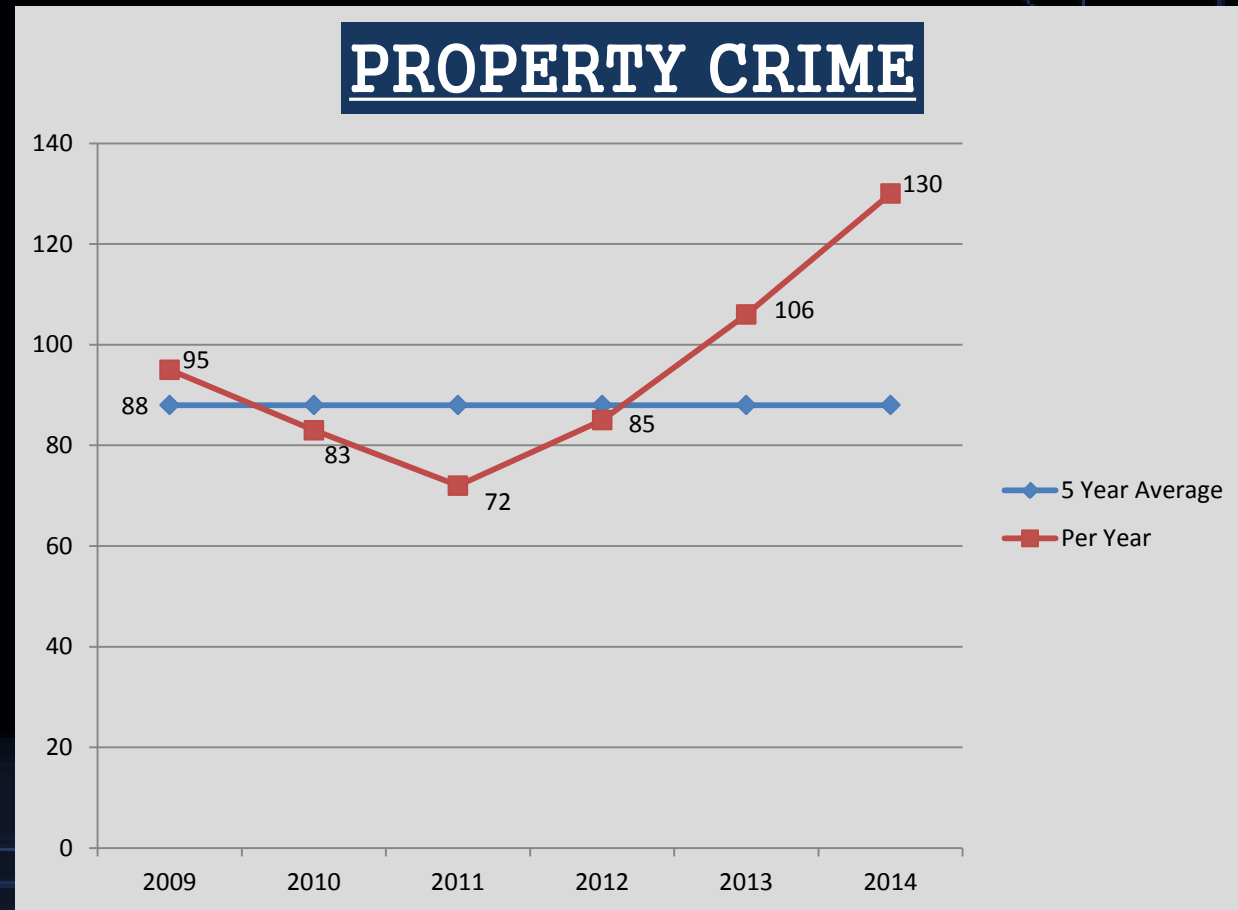
↑ 30%

Compared to Last Year:

↑ 14%

Compared to 5 Year Avg:

↑ 48%



# A Closer Look: Part I Violent Crime

## Stat Recap:

Since Last Month:

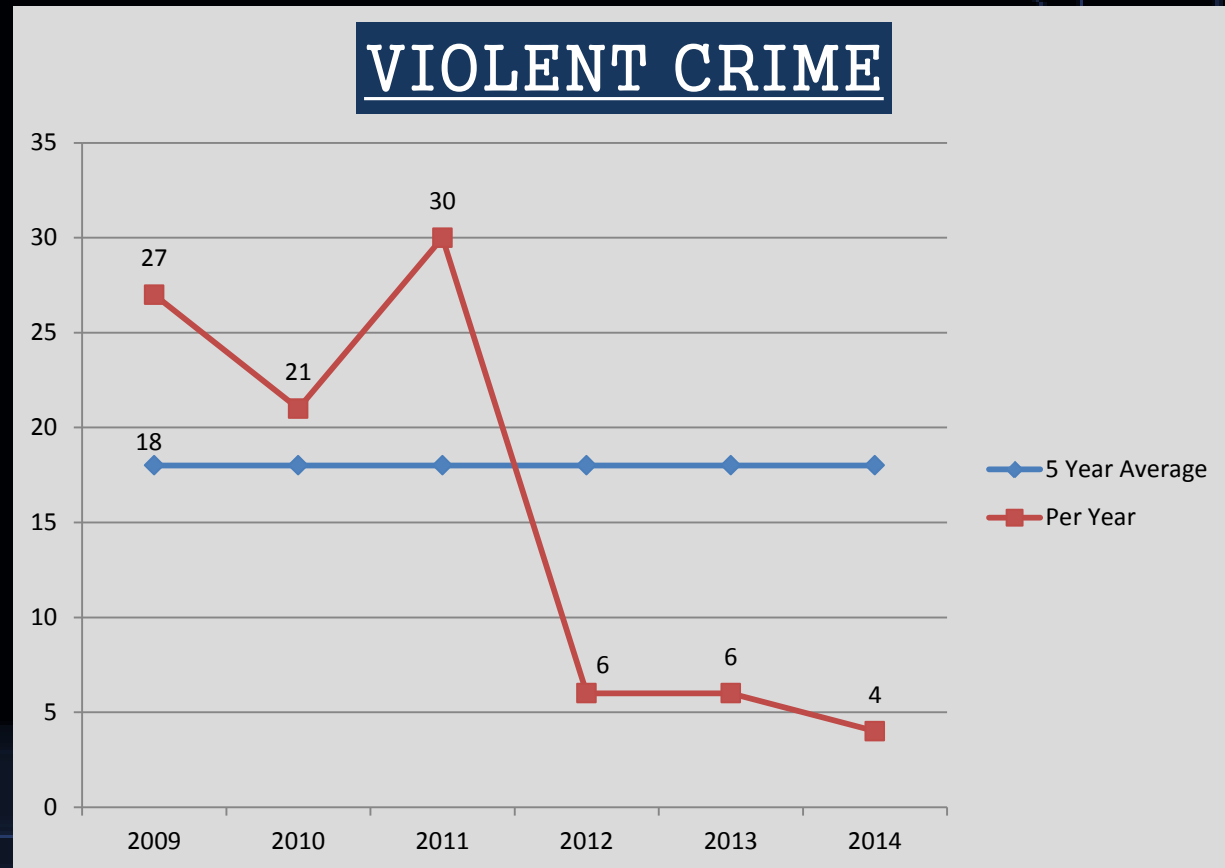
↓ 56%

Compared to Last Year:

↓ 36%

Compared to 5 Year Avg:

↓ 78%



# A Closer Look: LARCENY

## Stat Recap:

Since Last Month:

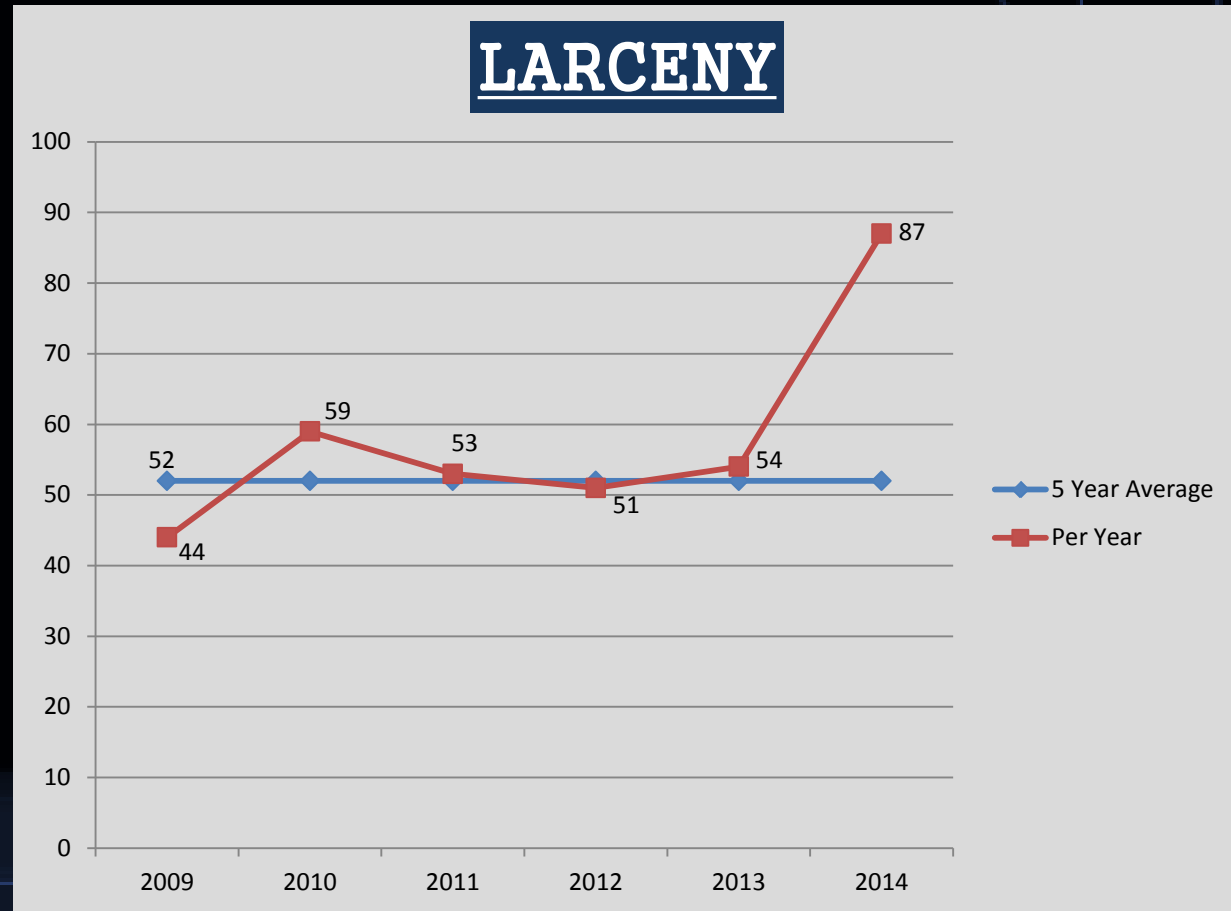
↑ 19%

Compared to Last Year:

↑ 17%

Compared to 5 Year Avg:

↑ 53%



# A Closer Look: BURGLARY

## Stat Recap:

Since Last Month:

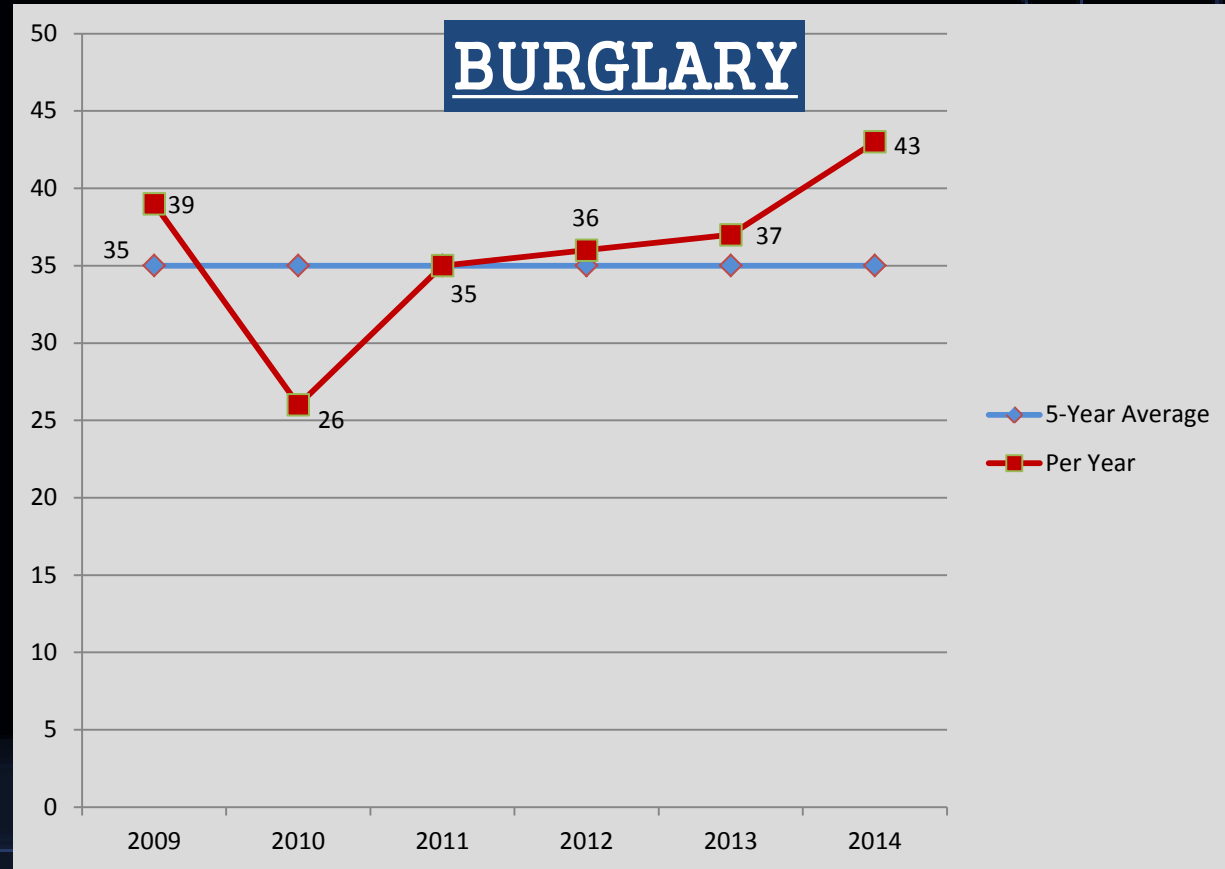
↑ 105%

Compared to Last Year:

↓ 17%

Compared to 5 Year Avg:

↑ 23%





# What You Can Do: At Home

*With Larceny and Burglary rates increasing in Pittsfield, it is important to know how to protect yourself. Here are a few suggestions on how you can help prevent theft from happening to you.*

•**Cars**— Make sure to always lock your vehicle and park in well-lit areas when possible. The warmer weather makes it tempting to keep your windows down, but an open window provides easy access for a burglar, so be sure to roll them up when you leave your vehicle. ***Remove wallets, cell phones, GPS units, and other potentially valuable items from your vehicle.*** A burglar is more likely to break into your car if they see valuables (or indicators, like a GPS cord) inside. Even small items, like chargers and loose change should be removed or kept out of sight.

•**Home**— Keep valuable items out of sight from your windows, and make sure basement and garage entrances are secured. Avoid inviting people you don't know well into your home. If you do, put valuable items like electronics, money, and checks out of sight or in a locked room beforehand. If you have motion-triggered outside lights, make sure they are positioned high enough that a burglar could not reach up and remove the bulb.

# What You Can Do: Business Owners

*As most small business owners in Pittsfield are aware, there has been a rash of Commercial Burglaries recently. Here are some tips on how you can better protect your business.*

•**Get a Strong Lock:** Many businesses recognize that deadbolt locks offer good protection, but not all are aware that the type of deadbolt and how it is mounted play a large role in its effectiveness. Make sure your deadbolt is made out of a strong metal (Grade 1 or 2), and is installed along with a jam protector. The bolt should extend at least one inch from the edge of the door. The strike plate should be attached to the door frame with screws that are at least 3 inches long.

•**Invest in an Alarm System:** There are many options when it comes to alarm systems, but they all help in preventing your business from becoming a victim of burglary. Alarm systems that call the police will help authorities get there quickly to stop the bad guys from getting away with your hard-earned cash.



# What You Can Do: Business Owners

•**Security Cameras**: Not all security cameras are created equal. Check the quality of the video your cameras provide before an incident takes place. Imagine how frustrating it would be to capture video of a criminal breaking into your business only to find that the footage is too blurry to be usable in catching him. Make sure that the camera's resolution is still good at the distance you are trying to use it for. Also consider how your cameras will perform in the dark. Make a strategic placement plan so you will be covering the areas of your business that are most important likely to be targeted.

•**Lights**: A survey given to people who were convicted of burglary revealed that one big deterrent to potential criminals is the possibility of being seen. A good way to help protect your business is to provide a lot of light, both inside and outside. Make sure to set up inside lighting so anyone on the inside of your business can be spotted easily by police patrolling the area. Mercury and metallic vapor lights are highly recommended because they are very difficult to break.