

**E2****Seizures of controlled drugs****Key Points****Overview of drug seizures**

- The number of drug seizures in Scotland increased by 17 per cent, between 2000 and 2001 (15 864 to 18 488). This compares with an overall increase of 5 per cent (125 079 to 130 894) across UK police forces and reverses the recent decreases in 1999 and 2000. (Table E2.1)
- The number of Class A seizures by Scottish police increased by 50 per cent between 1998 and 2001 (3 249 to 4 860). The number of Class B seizures fell by 17 per cent between 1998 and 2000 (15 154 to 12 583) before rising by 16 per cent in 2001 (14 639), and the number of Class C seizures almost halved between 1998 and 2000 (1 210 to 639) before rising by 23 per cent in 2001 (788). (Table E2.3)
- There were increases in the number of seizures of heroin, cocaine, crack cocaine, and ecstasy-type drugs during the period 1998-2001. Seizures of amphetamines and cannabis resin (the main form of cannabis recovered) fell substantially in 1998 - 2000 but rose in 2001. (Table E2.3)
- The number of seizures, however, is not necessarily reflective of the quantity of drugs recovered. In 2001 the quantity of cocaine seized remained similar to 2000, that of heroin increased, and the amount of crack reached a new peak. The amounts of ecstasy-type drugs and methadone continued to reach record levels in 2001. It is important to note that large seizures can disproportionately affect the quantities seized, leading to large changes from year to year; an effect shown by the quantities of ecstasy-type drugs seized since 1995. (Table E2.3)

**Geographical profile**

- The three areas that had the largest amounts of heroin seizures were Dumfries & Galloway (46.2kg), Strathclyde (32.5kg) and Lothian & Borders (23.6kg). (Table E2.2)
- With regard to amounts recovered, the patterns do not always relate to population densities. For example, there was more heroin recovered by the Dumfries & Galloway force than by Strathclyde Police. (Table E2.2)
- The number of seizures of different drug types does not appear to be necessarily related to the number of inhabitants in a police force area. For example, Grampian Police made more seizures of crack cocaine than Strathclyde Police. In 2001, there were 51 seizures of crack cocaine in Scotland, 44 of which were made by Grampian Police, 1 by Strathclyde police. (Table E2.2)

**Background information**

This section provides a selection of information on seizures of drugs controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. The source of statistics concerned with seizures of controlled drugs is a range of bulletins published annually by the Home Office under the general title "Drug seizure and offender statistics".

## E2.1 | Seizures of controlled drugs : 1985, 1990, 1995, 1998 - 2001

police force area or other organisation<sup>1</sup>

	1985	1990	1995	1998	1999	2000 <sup>r</sup>	2001
<b>Police and other authorities</b>							
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>3 242</b>	<b>5 990</b>	<b>12 661</b>	<b>17 809</b>	<b>17 197</b>	<b>15 864</b>	<b>18 488</b>
Central	78	283	633	829	613	361	801
Dumfries & Galloway	45	119	414	509	420	275	345
Fife	103	243	526	655	538	451	538
Grampian	220	324	1 125	1 682	1 468	1 152	1 290
Lothian & Borders	546	805	728	2 424	2 773	2 564	2 583
Northern	192	248	463	399	668	487	591
Strathclyde	1 848	3 463	7 937	10 046	9 635	9 701	11 231
Tayside	210	486	835	1 261	1 082	873	1 109
Other authorities	**	19	-	4	-	-	-
England	21 767	44 810	88 115	113 758	99 979	93 205	96 354
Wales	1 452	2 102	5 573	9 566	7 735	7 674	8 252
Northern Ireland	219	172	847	1 508	2 108	1 791	1 528
British Transport Police	**	380	803	1 287	1 712	1 515	1 148
National Crime Squad (E & W)	**	**	**	68	161	163	142
Force missing, not recorded <sup>2</sup>	**	**	3	-	-	-	-
<b>UK Total</b>	<b>26 680</b>	<b>53 454</b>	<b>107 999</b>	<b>143 996</b>	<b>128 892</b>	<b>120 212</b>	<b>125 912</b>
HM Customs & Excise	3 786	7 405	6 337	7 753	5 209	4 867	4 982
<b>Total - all seizures</b>	<b>30 466</b>	<b>60 859</b>	<b>114 339</b>	<b>151 749</b>	<b>134 101</b>	<b>125 079</b>	<b>130 894</b>

1 Seizures from joint operations involving HM Customs & Excise and the police are generally recorded against HM Customs & Excise. Seizures made by the Scottish Crime Squad are recorded by the appropriate police force.

2 Among English and Welsh police forces; not recorded before 1993.

\*\* Not available.

<sup>r</sup> Revised.

Source : Home Office.

## E2.2 Seizures<sup>1</sup> of controlled drugs (number and quantity seized) : 2001

police force area or other organisation<sup>2</sup>; drug type

### NUMBER OF SEIZURES

	All drugs Total	Class A Drugs Cocaine	Crack cocaine	Heroin	LSD	Ecstasy- type	Methadone	Other	Total Class A
<b>Police and other authorities</b>									
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>18 488</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>3 123</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1 337</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>4 860</b>
Central	801	11	-	151	-	26	11	11	192
Dumfries & Galloway	345	6	-	125	-	25	1	2	155
Fife	538	12	-	116	-	36	7	-	155
Grampian	1 290	44	44	272	1	120	14	-	447
Lothian & Borders	2 583	81	5	432	2	234	20	14	721
Northern	591	7	-	47	-	83	2	3	129
Strathclyde	11 231	324	1	1 865	4	680	63	24	2 777
Tayside	1 109	38	1	115	3	133	11	9	284
England	96 354	4 736	3 532	13 881	140	7 634	918	430	28 537
Wales	8 252	103	46	810	9	993	9	83	1 957
Northern Ireland	1 528	19	1	79	7	285	3	11	390
British Transport Police	1 148	41	13	145	-	53	8	2	247
National Crime Squad (E & W)	142	48	2	37	-	20	-	1	92
<b>UK Total<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>125 912</b>	<b>5 470</b>	<b>3 645</b>	<b>18 075</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>10 322</b>	<b>1 067</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>36 083</b>
HM Customs & Excise UK	4 982	1 514	43	93	2	89	5	165	1 832
<b>Total - all seizures</b>	<b>130 894</b>	<b>6 984</b>	<b>3 688</b>	<b>18 168</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>10 411</b>	<b>1 072</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>37 915</b>

### QUANTITY SEIZED (kgs<sup>4</sup>)

	Class A Drugs Cocaine	Crack cocaine	Heroin	LSD (Doses)	Ecstasy - type (Doses)	Methadone	Other
<b>Police and other authorities</b>							
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>22.8</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>110.7</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>337 498</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>0.4</b>
Central	0.1	-	0.4	-	1 247	1.5	-
Dumfries & Galloway	0.8	-	46.2	-	3 919	0.1	-
Fife	0.7	-	2.8	-	12 644	1.2	-
Grampian	2.6	0.7	3.7	3	31 886	0.9	-
Lothian & Borders	3.9	0.1	23.6	18	33 033	1.3	-
Northern	0.1	-	0.5	-	10 820	0.4	-
Strathclyde	13.3	-	32.5	43	226 764	7.5	0.4
Tayside	1.5	0.1	1.1	106	17 185	0.5	-
England	138.5	31.7	335.6	8 423	1 470 862	100.0	5.5
Wales	1.4	1.1	10.1	189	39 059	1.2	0.4
Northern Ireland	2.7	-	0.4	630	266 013	-	-
British Transport Police	1.0	-	18.1	-	26 710	-	-
National Crime Squad (E & W)	858.1	-	2 326.7	-	209 481	-	-
<b>UK Total<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>1 024.5</b>	<b>33.7</b>	<b>2 801.6</b>	<b>9 412</b>	<b>2 349 623</b>	<b>114.6</b>	<b>6.3</b>
HM Customs & Excise UK <sup>5</sup>	1 817.3	22.0	1 127.4	27	5 318 759	-	1.8
<b>Total - all seizures</b>	<b>2 841.8</b>	<b>55.7</b>	<b>3 929.0</b>	<b>9 439</b>	<b>7 668 382</b>	<b>114.6</b>	<b>8.0</b>

1 As seizure can involve more than one drug, figures for individual drugs cannot be added to produce totals.

2 Seizures from joint operations involving HM Customs & Excise and the police are generally recorded against HM Customs & Excise (Number of seizures) or the lead agency (quantity seized). Seizures made by the Scottish Crime Squad are recorded by the appropriate police force.

3 Includes seizures made by British Transport Police in England and Wales.

4 All quantities are in kilograms except for LSD and Ecstasy-type (doses), and Cannabis plants.

5 HM Customs also seized the following number of tablets/doses: temazepam 50 189; anabolic steroids 53 333; Other Class C 11 629.

Source : Home Office.

## Seizures<sup>1</sup> of controlled drugs (number and quantity seized) : 2001

E2.2

police force area or other organisation<sup>2</sup>; drug type *continued*

## NUMBER OF SEIZURES

Class B Drugs				Class C Drugs			Unknown		
Cannabis	Amphet- amines	Other	Total Class B	Benzo- diazepines	Anabolic steroids	Other	Total Class C		
14 062	735	237	14 639	642	3	30	788	6	Police and other authorities
									Scotland
623	38	15	662	28	-	-	32	1	Central
202	20	1	219	2	-	1	3	-	Dumfries & Galloway
417	34	10	443	21	-	1	22	-	Fife
888	39	11	921	41	-	4	53	-	Grampian
1 960	83	66	2 048	110	-	6	126	-	Lothian & Borders
490	39	2	508	17	-	-	17	4	Northern
8 634	411	116	8 943	395	4	16	496	-	Strathclyde
848	71	16	895	28	-	2	39	1	Tayside
67 971	5 174	296	71 869	872	79	57	1 196	385	England
6 252	703	14	6 691	131	6	3	168	9	Wales
1 226	66	1	1 259	15	4	-	24	-	Northern Ireland
915	31	2	937	4	-	-	4	-	British Transport Police
68	16	-	76	-	-	-	-	-	National Crime Squad (E & W)
90 494	6 725	550	95 471	1 664	93	90	2 180	400	UK Total <sup>3</sup>
2 988	74	10	3 483	4	48	58	119	-	HM Customs & Excise UK
93 482	6 799	560	98 954	1 668	141	148	2 299	400	Total - all seizures

QUANTITY SEIZED (kgs<sup>4</sup>)

Class B Drugs					Class C Drugs				Unknown		
Cannabis (herbal)	Cannabis Plants	Cannabis Resin	Cannabis Liquid	Amphet- amines	Other	Benzo- diazepines	Temaz- epam	Anabolic steroids	Other		
11.5	2 016	537.1	0.1	108.6	0.1	4.5	0.1	-	0.1	-	Police and other authorities
											Scotland
0.1	6	30.4	-	0.1	-	0.1	-	-	-	-	Central
1.4	1	28.0	-	20.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	Dumfries & Galloway
0.2	487	52.4	-	2.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	Fife
0.9	415	28.8	-	1.6	-	1.0	-	-	-	-	Grampian
2.9	384	111.3	-	10.9	-	0.7	-	-	-	-	Lothian & Borders
0.8	9	32.8	-	0.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	Northern
4.8	699	490.0	0.1	71.1	-	2.6	0.1	-	-	-	Strathclyde
0.4	15	163.4	-	1.2	-	0.1	-	-	-	-	Tayside
1 812.2	43 634	5 727.5	0.1	652.2	1.2	0.9	0.1	1.2	0.1	0.9	England
72.5	2 079	256.2	-	24.4	-	4.9	-	-	-	-	Wales
32.7	121	441.7	-	10.6	-	-	0.9	0.1	-	-	Northern Ireland
-	41	0.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	British Transport Police
5 314.2	23 600	15 155.6	-	293.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	National Crime Squad (E & W)
7 243.1	71 491	22 518.3	0.2	1 089.1	1.3	10.2	1.1	1.3	0.1	0.9	UK Total <sup>3</sup>
19 497.9	16	36 478.5	6.7	627.5	1.2	1.2	-	70.5	-	-	HM Customs & Excise UK <sup>5</sup>
26 741.0	71 507	58 996.8	6.9	1 716.6	2.5	11.4	1.1	71.8	0.1	0.9	Total - all seizures

## E2.3 Number and quantity<sup>1</sup> of seizures<sup>2</sup> of class A, B and C drugs, Scotland 1985, 1990, 1995, 1998 - 2001

drug type

Number of seizures							
	1985	1990	1995	1998	1999	2000	2001
<b>All class A</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>1 494</b>	<b>3 249</b>	<b>3 652</b>	<b>4 395</b>	<b>4 860</b>
Cocaine	41	25	69	251	327	405	523
Crack cocaine	**	**	1	18	34	34	51
Heroin	388	114	738	2 421	2 513	2 814	3 123
LSD	53	171	107	83	54	35	10
Ecstasy-type <sup>3</sup>	-	8	524	465	748	1 212	1 337
Methadone	7	19	44	118	113	111	129
Other Class A	35	88	49	54	77	86	63
<b>All Class B</b>	<b>3 000</b>	<b>5 318</b>	<b>11 354</b>	<b>15 154</b>	<b>14 039</b>	<b>12 583</b>	<b>14 639</b>
Amphetamines	370	354	1 526	2 101	1 607	666	735
Cannabis(herbal)	296	111	586	445	497	408	547
Cannabis plants <sup>4</sup>	127	40	273	127	109	82	92
Cannabis resin	2 526	5 212	9 902	13 496	12 684	12 334	14 305
Other Class B	3	103	122	357	246	271	237
<b>All Class C</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>1 210</b>	<b>930</b>	<b>639</b>	<b>788</b>
Benzodiazepines	**	238	288	649	663	540	642
Temazepam	**	**	344	570	277	100	152
Quantity seized (kgs)							
	1985	1990	1995	1998	1999	2000	2001
<b>Class A</b>							
Cocaine	0.400	0.881	0.797	27.419	33.379	22.842	22.817
Crack cocaine	**	**	-	0.355	0.419	0.180	0.782
Heroin	6.600	2.615	9.128	40.186	203.873	42.998	110.736
LSD <sup>5</sup>	0	2 041	1 414	281	533	2 984	170
Ecstasy-type <sup>3,5</sup>	-	413	126 473	56 553	91 912	236 788	337 498
Methadone	- <sup>6</sup>	0.006	0.012	0.114	1.951	11.635	13.473
Other Class A	- <sup>7</sup>	- <sup>7</sup>	0.500	0.073	- <sup>7</sup>	1.837	0.367
<b>Class B</b>							
Amphetamines	5.000	6.000	31.000	113.000	53.000	37.142	108.550
Cannabis(herbal)	708.700	103.145	18.377	813.902	14.807	16.396	11.461
Cannabis plants <sup>4</sup>	718	175	2 519	52 906	1 790	1 261	2 016
Cannabis resin	71.800	104.239	353.588	11 940.073	1 126.357	638.079	937.114
<b>Class C</b>							
Benzodiazepines	**	0.361	0.195	0.642	1.874	2.333	4.470
Temazepam	**	**	0.320	58.620	0.382	0.014	0.147

1 Drugs are seized in a variety of forms but where possible, for the purpose of this table, amounts have been converted to weights. Seizures of unspecified quantities are not included.

2 As a seizure can involve more than one drug, figures for individual drugs cannot be added together to produce totals.

3 MDMA up until 1995.

4 Number of plants.

5 Number of doses. Data for 1985 are in kilos; from 1990, data refer to number of doses.

6 Less than 0.5 gram.

7 Less than 50 grams.

\*\* Not available.

Source : Home Office.