



Arson Offenses: 2015-2024

Executive Summary

- From 2022 to 2024, the rate of arson offenses has slightly decreased each year.
- The top location for arson offenses was residence/home for 2020-2024.
- For the weekday, the most arson offenses were reported on Sunday, while the fewest reported arson offenses were on Thursday.

Introduction

Arson has been reported through the Summary Reporting System (SRS), created in the 1920s, and continues to be collected through National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), initiated in the 1980s. The reporting of arson offenses to the FBI and extended coverage of offenses involving the use of explosives, as well as fire, is stated in the Anti-Arson Act of 1982. The current definition of arson is to unlawfully and intentionally damage, or attempt to damage, any real or personal property of another person or entity by fire or incendiary device.¹

The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program has collects and publishes data from federal and nonfederal law enforcement agencies to capture an analytical picture of the nation's crime trends. Crime data submissions are voluntary for non-federal law enforcement agencies and mandated for federal law enforcement agencies. This report summarizes the known data about the regions, locations, times, and weekdays of arson offenses from 2015 to 2024. The arson statistics in the report are considered preliminary and are subject to change prior to the release of the 2024 data, which will be published on the FBI's Crime Data Explorer website later this year.

Arson Offenses per Year, 2015-2024

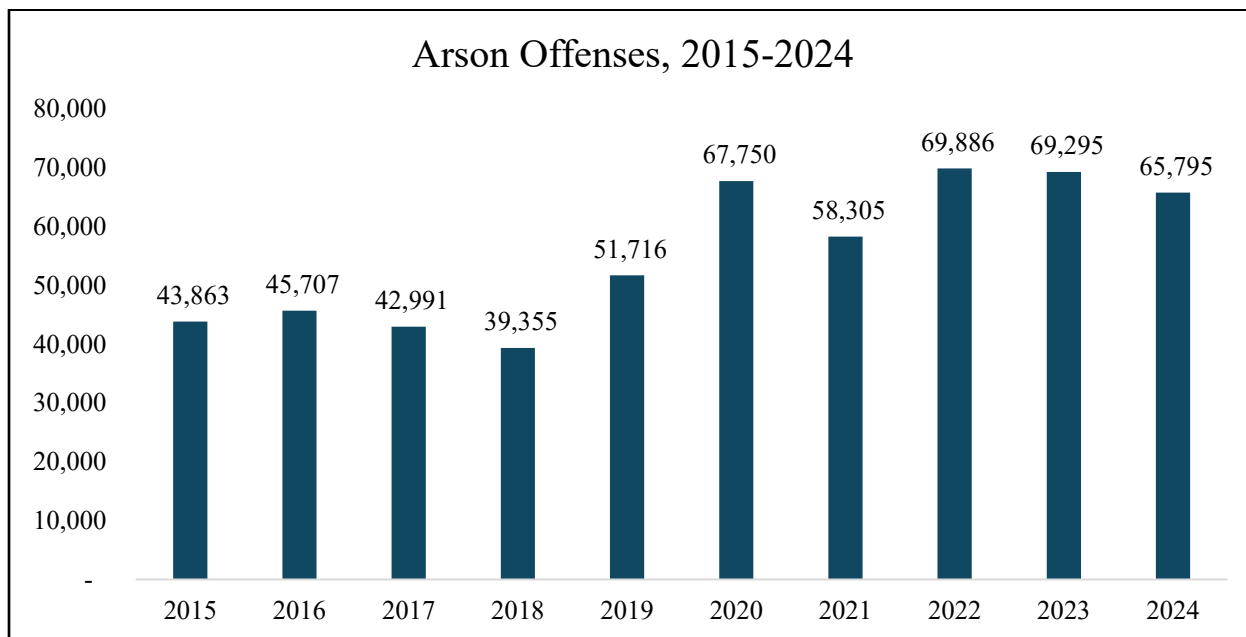
SRS² and NIBRS³ reported arson data illustrates the number of arson offenses have fluctuated from 2015-2024. While 2022 and 2023 have the most reported arson offenses to date, there was a slight decline in 2024.

¹ Definition of arson from the "2023.0 National Incident-Based Reporting System User Manual." The "SRS User Manual (2013)" defines arson as "Any willful or malicious burning or attempt to burn, with or without intent to defraud, a dwelling house, public building, motor vehicle or aircraft, personal property of another, etc."

² SRS arson data is included for 2015-2024.

³ NIBRS arson data is included for 2019-2024.

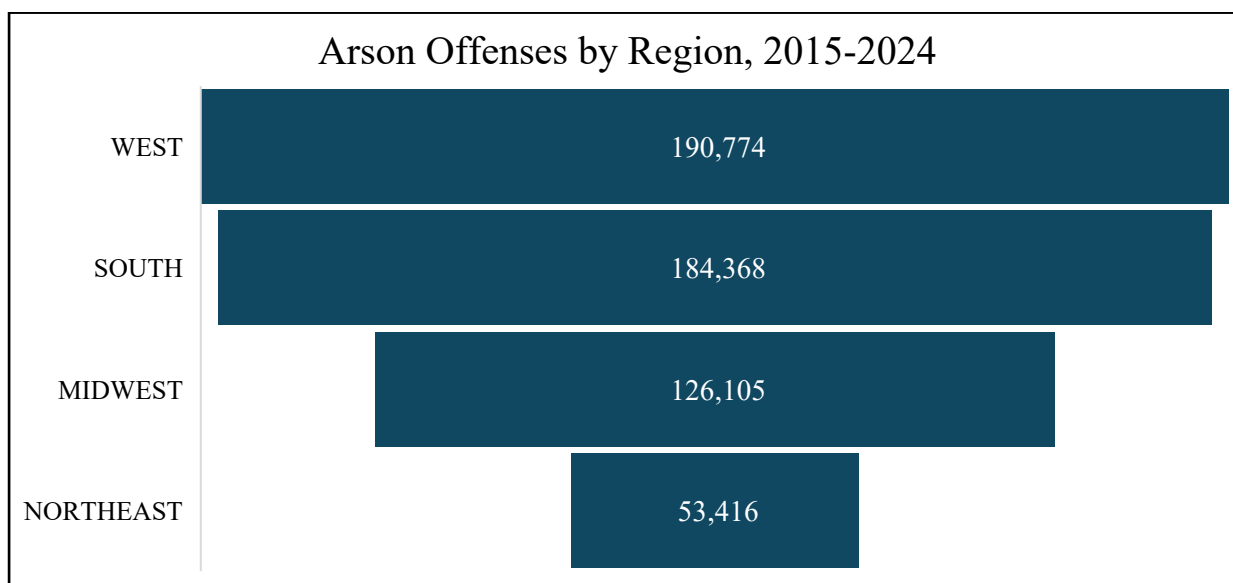
Figure 1: Arson Offenses, 2015 - 2024



Arson Offenses by Region, 2015-2024

From 2015 to 2024, there were 554,663 reported arson offenses from the Midwest, Northeast, South, and West regions. The West had the most arson offenses with 190,774 (34.4%), followed closely by the South with 184,368 (33.2%), the Midwest with 126,105 (22.7%), and then the Northeast with 53,416 (9.6%).

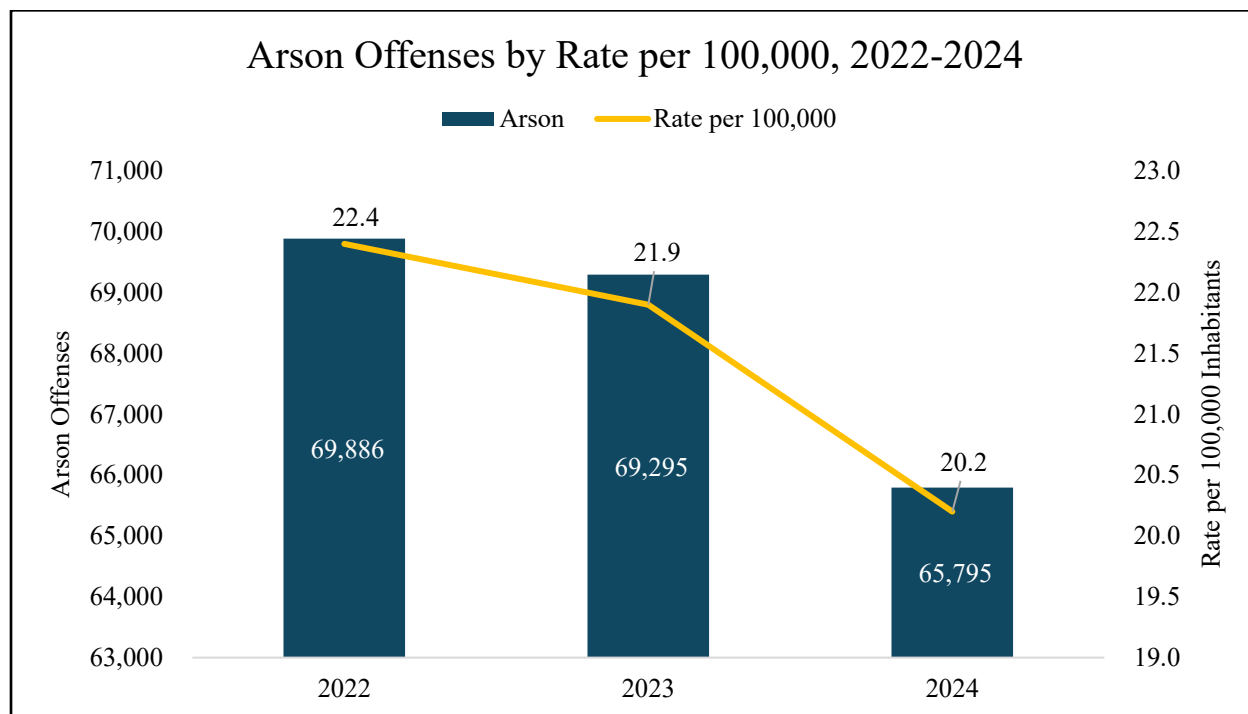
Figure 2: Arson Offenses by Region, 2015 - 2024



Arson Rates per Year, 2022-2024

From 2022 to 2024, there were a total of 204,976 arson offenses. The rate of arson offenses has slightly decreased each year from 22.4 in 2022, to 21.9 in 2023 and 20.2 in 2024.

Figure 3: Arson Offenses by Rate per 100,000, 2022 - 2024

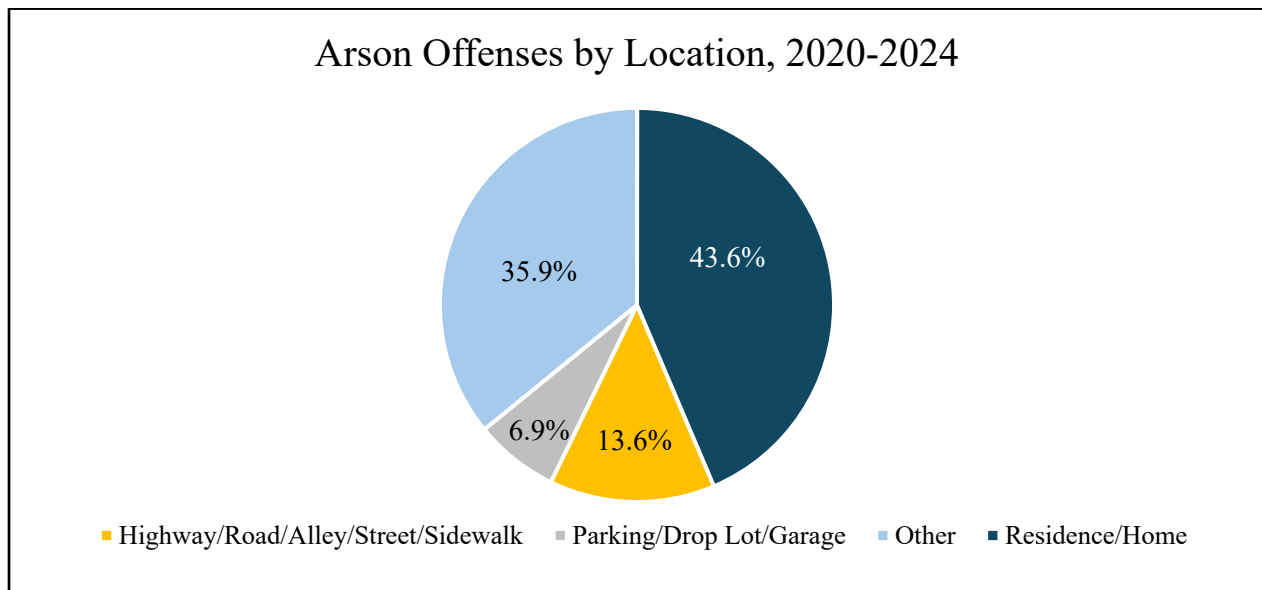


Arson Offense Locations, 2020-2024

From 2020 to 2024, the top individual location for arson offenses was residence/home, with the second individual location of highway/road/alley/street/sidewalk. The category of other location within Figure 4 includes a combined 44 individual categories listed in the NIBRS User Manual.⁴

⁴ "NIBRS User Manual" link: [NIBRS User Manual — LE](#)

Figure 4: Arson Offenses by Location, 2020 - 2024



Arson Victim Type, 2020-2024

The types of arson victims include business, financial institution, government, individual, religious organization, and other. The top three reported known victim types with the most arson offenses were individual (59.9%), followed by business (27.7%) and government (10.7%).

There was a steady increase for arson offenses in the categories of business, financial institution, government, and other victim types from 2020 to 2023, with a decline for business and financial institution categories in 2024. There was a small increase of arson offenses for the government victim type in 2024.

Arson Offenses by Time of Day, 2020-2024

Most arson offenses were reported on Sunday between 12 a.m. and 12:59 a.m.,⁵ with the lowest number of arson offenses reported Saturday between 9:00 a.m. and 9:59 a.m. Overall, the weekday with the lowest total reported arson offenses was Thursday. However, the hours of 9:00 p.m. to 3:59 a.m. include the most reported arson offenses consistently throughout the weekday.

⁵ It is possible that some police records management systems have the default time for when an incident occurred set to midnight (00:00).

Figure 5: Time and Weekday Table of Reported Arson Offenses from 2020 - 2024.⁶

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
12:00 a.m.-12:59 a.m.	1,880	1,761	1,602	1,543	1,584	1,693	1,596
1:00 a.m.-1:59 a.m.	1,167	1,058	996	1,017	935	959	1,052
2:00 a.m.-2:59 a.m.	1,054	1,042	965	934	942	931	1,031
3:00 a.m.-3:59 a.m.	1,028	978	915	969	935	930	950
4:00 a.m.-4:59 a.m.	1,026	860	844	833	853	842	854
5:00 a.m.-5:59 a.m.	858	741	674	720	721	724	771
6:00 a.m.-6:59 a.m.	736	681	629	656	599	650	673
7:00 a.m.-7:59 a.m.	642	646	585	627	578	587	570
8:00 a.m.-8:59 a.m.	618	694	677	627	591	597	610
9:00 a.m.-9:59 a.m.	594	636	624	586	624	660	559
10:00 a.m.-10:59 a.m.	622	683	642	633	622	697	580
11:00 a.m.-11:59 a.m.	633	695	676	655	620	610	569
12:00 p.m.-12:59 p.m.	681	700	758	692	686	742	646
1:00 p.m.-1:59 p.m.	697	693	670	679	651	633	601
2:00 p.m.-2:59 p.m.	749	743	694	684	702	717	708
3:00 p.m.-3:59 p.m.	804	834	771	747	743	717	670
4:00 p.m.-4:59 p.m.	806	771	772	782	698	821	796
5:00 p.m.-5:59 p.m.	894	883	782	830	816	843	845
6:00 p.m.-6:59 p.m.	901	892	809	764	773	794	857
7:00 p.m.-7:59 p.m.	959	923	861	825	781	796	823
8:00 p.m.-8:59 p.m.	1,017	903	904	820	808	912	975
9:00 p.m.-9:59 p.m.	1,030	945	947	996	928	928	970
10:00 p.m.-10:59 p.m.	1,131	1,045	1,035	973	995	1,039	1,125
11:00 p.m.-11:59 p.m.	1,070	1,011	990	974	1,024	1,008	1,109

Conclusion

Although there has been an increase in reported arson offenses from 2015 to 2024, the rate of arson offenses has declined over the last three years from 2022 to 2024. Residence/home was the top location from 2020 to 2024. Additionally, Sunday had the most reported arson offenses, while Thursday had the least reported arson offenses.

Continued data reporting for arson by law enforcement agencies creates an immense opportunity to not only receive an overall perception of the crime but also to aid them in making informed decisions regarding how to lower arson offenses and keep themselves and the public safe.

⁶ The Time and Weekday Table of Reported Arson Offenses from 2020 - 2024 does not include reported incidents for which the time of day was not provided.