

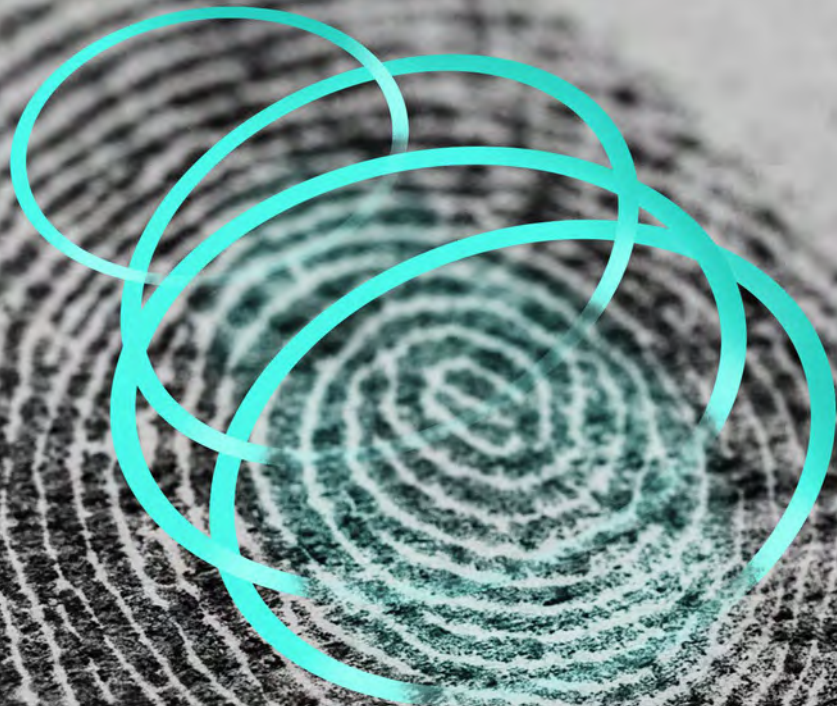


**NSA**  
SOUTH AFRICA



# Quarterly Corporate and Travel Risk Report

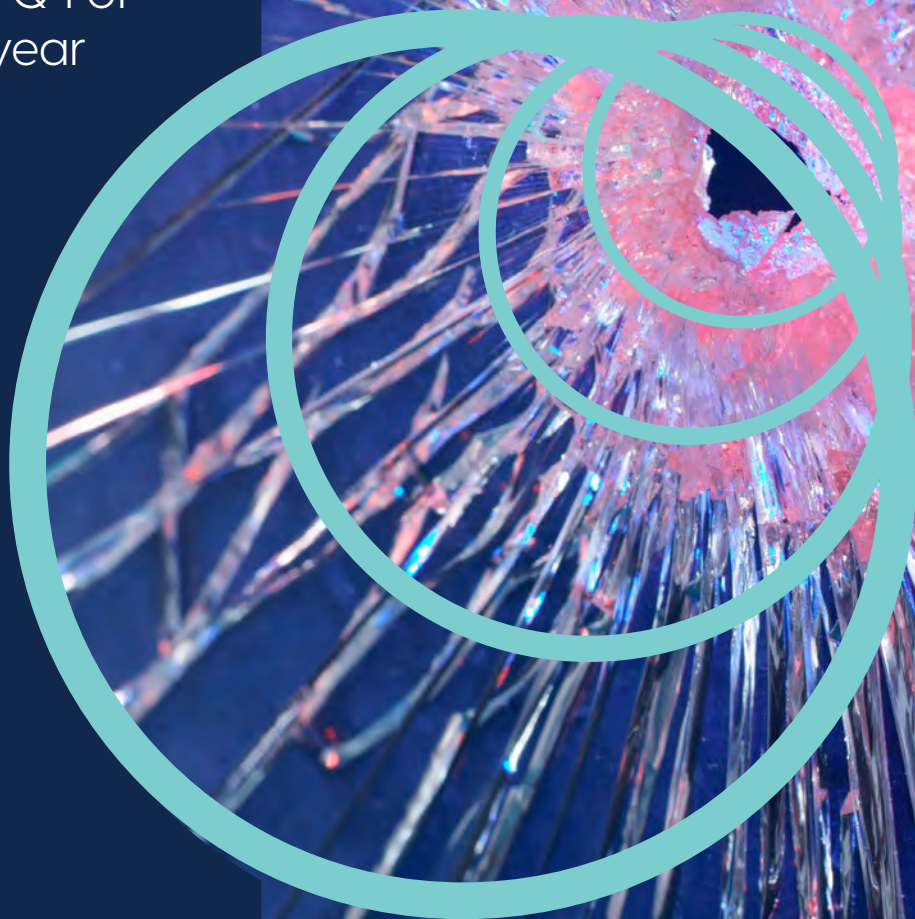
Q4 2024/2025







A detailed analysis of the  
crime threat landscape  
across South Africa for Q4 of  
the 2024/25 financial year



Produced by



**NSA**  
SOUTH AFRICA

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# Executive Summary

01.

This quarterly risk report provides a detailed analysis of the crime threat landscape across South Africa for Q4 of the 2024/25 financial year, with a specific focus on risks to corporate operations and business travel. The report draws on SAPS crime statistics, incident

trend analysis, and NSA's operational intelligence to assess threat levels in each province, identify cross-cutting national trends, and evaluate implications for local and international stakeholders.

## 1.1 Key National Findings:

### Commercial crime and procurement fraud

are the most pervasive risks to corporates, increasing in nearly every province.

### Kidnappings for ransom

**89%** rose 89% nationally, with incidents expanding into provinces previously considered lower risk.

### Vehicle hijackings

remain concentrated in Gauteng, KZN, and the Western Cape, but also increased in secondary provinces like Mpumalanga and Limpopo.

### Business premises robberies

and infrastructure-related theft continue to affect logistics hubs, depots, and construction sites.

## 1.2 Provincial Risk Rankings:

Using NSA's standard threat scoring framework, provinces were assessed as follows:

- HIGH RISK:** Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Western Cape
- ELEVATED RISK:** Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga
- MODERATE RISK:** North West, Free State, Limpopo
- LOW RISK:** Northern Cape



## 1.3 Business Travel and International Mobility:



1. Security risks in transitional spaces such as hotel zones, airport routes, and conference venues continue to rise.
2. Travel-related crime is no longer confined to metros, with emerging threats in secondary towns and rural project areas.
3. Foreign governments have escalated travel advisories, influencing corporate policy, insurance terms, and destination planning.



## 1.4 Strategic Risks for Corporates:

1.

Heightened fraud, internal collusion, and cyber-physical hybrid threats present a multidimensional challenge. interference are likely to grow in Q1 2025/26.

2.

Delays in emergency services and inconsistent law enforcement capabilities hinder response times outside urban centres.

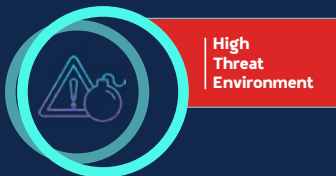
3.

Reputational and operational risks linked to civil unrest, political instability, and project-based interference are likely to grow in Q1 2025/26.

South Africa remains a critical but increasingly complex operating environment. The Q4 data confirms a decentralisation of threat, an evolution in targeting, and a growing convergence between cyber, fraud, and physical risks. NSA advises corporates to adopt an intelligence-led, risk-tiered security model to maintain continuity, reduce exposure, and protect personnel as the national threat landscape enters a more volatile phase.

# National Overview

02.



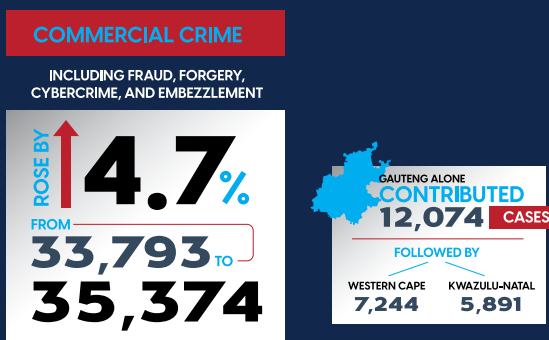
High  
Threat  
Environment

South Africa's fourth-quarter crime statistics for the 2024–2025 financial year (January to March 2025) reveal a persistently high threat environment for corporates and business travelers, with specific crime categories posing significant risks to operations, mobility, and asset protection.

The overall national crime rate decreased by 5.8% for serious community-reported crimes, yet this masks surges in key crime types affecting corporates.

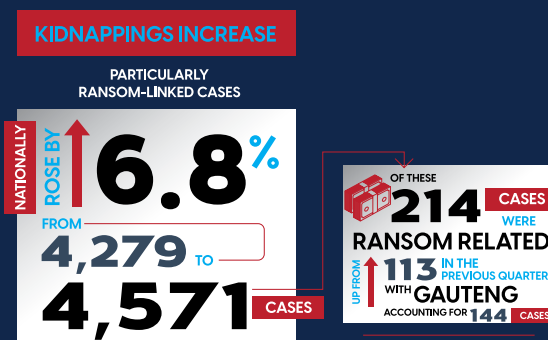
## 2.1 Key National Trends:

### 1. Commercial Crime Surges Nationally



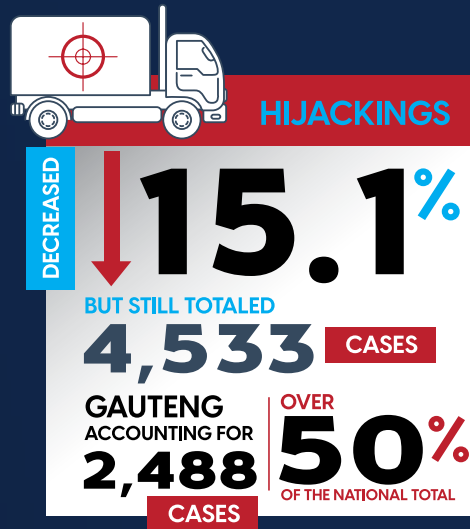
**Implication:** This trend underscores the heightened exposure of corporates to financial losses and reputational damage, particularly in banking, insurance, and retail.

### 2. Kidnappings Increase, Particularly Ransom-Linked Cases



**Implication:** Syndicates are increasingly targeting executives and wealthy individuals, often using intelligence-led profiling to plan abductions for ransom or extortion.

## 3. Vehicle-Related Crimes Remain High Risk



**Implication:** Despite minor decreases, the intensity and operational sophistication of these crimes remain a major concern, particularly for companies involved in logistics, manufacturing, and distribution.

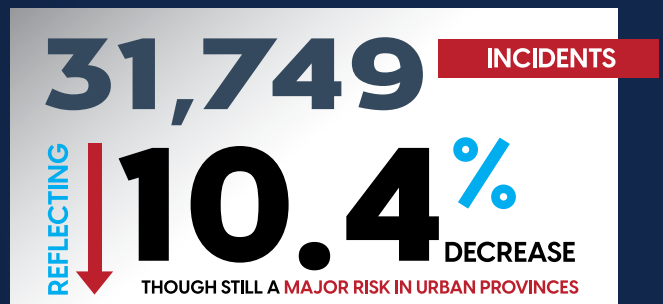
## 4. Vehicle-Related Crimes Remain High Risk

**ROBBERY AT NON-RESIDENTIAL PREMISES**

E.G. BUSINESSES, RETAIL STORES, WAREHOUSES

**ROBBERY WITH AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES**

OFTEN TARGETING INDIVIDUALS IN TRANSIT OR AT HOTELS



**Implication:** While numbers show some improvement, these crimes remain prevalent in areas with high corporate activity and executive movement.

## 2.2 Corporate and Travel Security Implications:

### A

#### Operational Risk to Corporate Facilities

- Businesses remain at risk from sophisticated burglary and fraud syndicates.
- High-crime metros like Johannesburg, Durban, and Cape Town dominate incident counts, necessitating enhanced physical and digital security postures.

### B

#### Executive and Staff Travel Exposure

- Hijackings and drive-by robberies continue to threaten corporate travelers, particularly in “transitional spaces” such as:
  - Driveways,
  - Hotel parking areas,
  - Airport access roads.
- Companies must integrate secure journey management, vetted security drivers, and route threat assessments into standard operating procedures.

### Case Study - 17 April 2025

A group of travelers was robbed shortly after arriving at a hotel in Sandton, Johannesburg, in what appears to be a case of airport following. The victims were reportedly tailed from OR Tambo International Airport and targeted upon arrival at their accommodation.

Authorities suspect a well-coordinated criminal syndicate may be behind the incident, a trend that has raised serious concerns about the safety of travelers between the airport and nearby destinations.



### C

#### Foreign Perceptions and Advisory Risks

- The increase in kidnapping and hijacking is likely to reinforce international travel advisories.
- The U.S. and several EU states currently advise caution, particularly in major metros and areas of known criminal syndicate activity.

## 2.3 Summary:

Despite a modest overall decline in community-reported crime, the crimes most relevant to corporate operations and business travelers – commercial crime, kidnapping, vehicle-related crimes, and business-targeted robberies – remain either elevated or highly concentrated in key commercial zones.

**NSA recommends all corporate clients enhance their security postures through:**

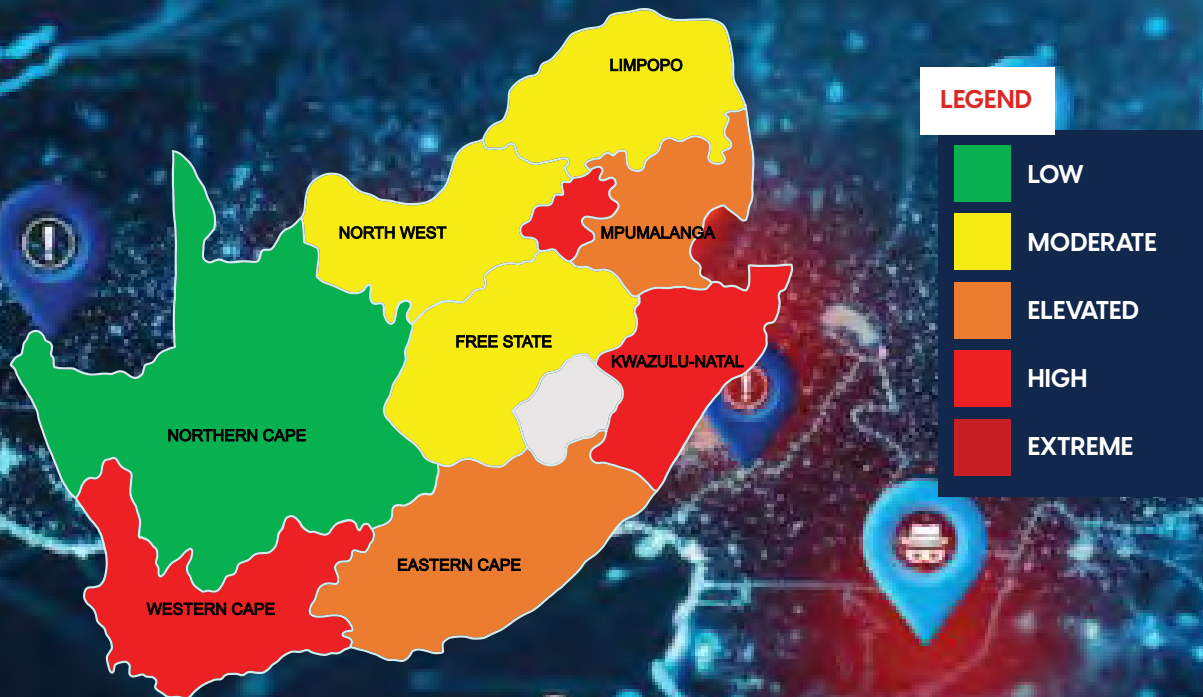
- Strategic intelligence monitoring,
- Close protection for at-risk staff,
- Secure logistics and transport protocols,
- Targeted risk assessments of sites, venues and routes.



# NSA Provincial Risk Index

03.

Below is the NSA Provincial Risk Index for Q4 2024/25, visualized using a risk scoring model based on the latest SAPS crime data.



## RISK RATING

LOW

MODERATE

ELEVATED

HIGH

EXTREME

## INTERPRETATION

### Stable environment with minimal security concerns.

Routine corporate operations and travel can proceed with standard precautions. Crime incidents are infrequent and not typically targeted at businesses or travelers.

### Manageable risk with isolated but notable incidents.

Businesses and travelers should remain aware but can operate with baseline security protocols. Opportunistic crime may occur, but targeted incidents are rare.

### Increased frequency of crimes impacting corporates and travel.

Security planning is necessary. Businesses should conduct regular threat assessments, and executive movements should be monitored or escorted in higher-risk areas.

### Frequent and sophisticated criminal activity affecting business continuity and mobility.

Corporate assets and personnel are at sustained risk. Armed robbery, hijacking, and commercial crime are common. Enhanced security posture is strongly advised.

### Critical threat level with widespread, coordinated, or violent crime patterns.

Operations may be disrupted, and travel should be heavily restricted or managed with professional protection. High exposure to kidnapping, hijacking, and violent crime. Executive protection and journey management are essential.



# Provincial Crime Risk Breakdown

.....O4.

## 4.1 Provincial Crime Risk Breakdown:

Below is the **Provincial Crime Risk Breakdown for Q4 2024/25**, showing risk levels and the primary crime-related drivers impacting corporates and travel security.

Province	Risk Rating	Primary Crime-Related Drivers
Gauteng	HIGH	Leads in Hijackings, kidnappings, commercial crime
KwaZulu-Natal	HIGH	Ransom kidnappings, business robberies, hijackings
Western Cape	HIGH	High robbery rates, organised retail and violent crime
Eastern Cape	ELEVATED	Growing trend in robberies, syndicate operations emerging
Mpumalanga	ELEVATED	Moderate hijackings and cross-border logistics crimes
North West	MODERATE	Drop in trio crimes, localised spikes in commercial fraud
Free State	MODERATE	Stable with occasional aggravated robberies and break-ins
Limpopo	MODERATE	General decline in high-impact crime, though fraud growing
Northern Cape	LOW	Low incident volume; lowest corporate/travel-related threat

## 4.2 Summary: Provincial Crime Risk Landscape – Q4 2024/25:

South Africa's security environment continues to display stark regional disparities, with certain provinces exhibiting extreme levels of risk to corporates and business travelers, while others maintain relatively low exposure.

**Gauteng** stands out as the epicenter of high-impact crime, particularly in categories such as Hijackings, commercial crime, and ransom kidnappings, making it a persistent threat to executive movement and corporate operations.

**KwaZulu-Natal** and the **Western Cape** also rank high, driven by violent robberies, syndicate activity, and risks concentrated in their urban and economic hubs.

**Eastern Cape** and **Mpumalanga** present an elevated threat, with growing incidences of robbery and hijackings, especially in transit corridors and emerging commercial zones.

In contrast, provinces such as **North West, Free State, and Limpopo** register moderate risk, largely due to opportunistic crime and localised fraud.

**Northern Cape** remains the most stable province from a corporate security standpoint, recording the lowest volume of travel-related or high-value crime.

This provincial breakdown underscores the need for tailored security strategies based on geographic threat intensity.

NSA recommends that clients integrate this regional intelligence into their operational planning, especially when managing executive movement, supply chain logistics, and infrastructure protection.

# Gauteng Provincial Risk Analysis

05.

## 5.1 Risk Rating: **HIGH**

## 5.2 Business and Corporate Risk:

As South Africa's economic nucleus, Gauteng poses a complex and persistent threat landscape for corporates. From commercial hubs in Sandton and Midrand to logistics corridors in Ekurhuleni and Pretoria, businesses are increasingly exposed to targeted, high-value criminal activity.

## 5.3 Key Crime Statistics Q4 vs Q3:

Province	Q4 Incidents	Q3 Incidents	Trend
Commercial Crime	12,074	11,288	+7.0%
Robbery at Non-Residential Premises	1,042	1,390	-25.0%
Robbery with Aggravating Circumstances	11,449	12,567	-8.9%
Truck Hijacking	242	241	+0.4%

## 5.4 Corporate Risk Dynamics:

- **Commercial Crime Surge:** Fraud, identity theft, procurement scams, and cyber-enabled financial crimes are peaking, particularly in finance, logistics, and procurement-heavy sectors.
- **Armed Robberies at Business Premises:** Though down this quarter, these remain frequent at retail outlets, warehouses, and small commercial facilities—especially during opening and closing hours.
- **Logistics & Cargo Risk:** Gauteng accounts for nearly 70% of national truck hijackings, predominantly on high-volume routes such as the N3, R21, and N1.
- **Cyber Vulnerabilities:** Sophisticated impersonation and email fraud (e.g. CEO scams) continue to plague decentralized corporate structures.

## 5.5 Implications for Business Continuity:

### 5.5.1 Insurance and Operational Cost Inflation:

Due to Gauteng's extreme crime profile, businesses face **higher insurance premiums, deductibles, and security compliance costs**. Many insurers are now mandating GPS tracking, perimeter security, and armed escort protocols for high-risk categories, directly impacting operating budgets.

### 5.5.2 Talent Retention and Staff Morale:

Ongoing safety threats – including hijackings, armed robberies, and the psychological toll of operating in high-crime zones – can reduce morale and **drive talent attrition**. Corporates may struggle to attract or retain skilled professionals, particularly expatriates or high-level executives without visible protection measures.

### 5.5.3 Reputational Risk and Investor Sentiment:

Clients, partners, and investors increasingly factor **security risk into reputational due diligence**. Repeated incidents (especially publicized kidnappings or cyber fraud events) can erode stakeholder confidence, disrupt deal-making, and even influence regulatory oversight or parent-company policy toward operations in Gauteng.

These implications further illustrate that crime is not just a **physical security threat**, but a **strategic business risk** that touches financial, operational, and reputational dimensions.

5.6 Travel Security Risk:

Gauteng presents one of the most dangerous environments for both domestic business travel and international arrivals. Transit-related crime is among the most concentrated and violent in the country.

5.7 Key Travel-Linked Crime Stats:

Crime Type	Q4 Incidents	Q3 Incidents	Trend
Hijackings	2,488	2,558	-2.7%
Kidnapping (Total)	2,414	2,085	+15.8%
Kidnapping (Ransom)	144	55	+161.8%

5.8 Travel Risk Patterns:

- **Vehicle Hijackings:** Syndicates target executive vehicles, often in convoys or lone travel scenarios. Incidents are frequent near OR Tambo International, Sandton, Midrand, and Centurion corridors.
- **Kidnappings for Ransom:** A dramatic spike in ransom-related kidnappings highlights the increased targeting of executives, expatriates, and business owners. These often occur en route to/from work, schools, or airports.
- **Transitional Zones:** Driveways, hotel lobbies, airport exits, and fuel stations are high-risk transitional spaces frequently exploited.
- **Criminal Surveillance:** Increasing reports of pre-planning and tracking of victims via surveillance or informants at airports, restaurants, or even meeting venues.



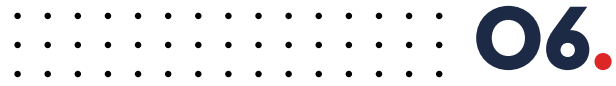
5.9 NSA Travel Security Recommendations:

- Deploy trained security drivers with live route tracking.
- Vary routes and departure times to disrupt surveillance patterns.
- Integrate GPS and duress features into travel apps for staff.
- Pre-approve accommodations and venues with security audits.
- Offer travel intelligence briefings and personal conduct protocols to all personnel.

5.10 Conclusion:

The Gauteng risk environment demands **dual-layered protection strategies** – one for static business operations and another for mobile executive and staff protection. The convergence of physical, logistical, and cyber threats makes it essential for corporates to approach Gauteng not just as a commercial opportunity, but as a high-exposure operational theatre requiring constant mitigation.

# KwaZulu Natal Provincial Risk Analysis



## 6.1 Risk Rating: **HIGH**

## 6.2 Business and Corporate Risk:

Corporate operations in KZN – particularly in Durban, Umlazi, and Pietermaritzburg – are increasingly affected by targeted crime, corruption-linked fraud, and operational disruptions from community unrest and protest activity.

## 6.3 Key Crime Statistics Q4 vs Q3:

Province	Q4 Incidents	Q3 Incidents	Trend
Commercial Crime	5,891	5,202	+13.2%
Robbery at Non-Residential Premises	507	557	-9.0%
Robbery with Aggravating Circumstances	6,747	7,152	-5.7%
Truck Hijacking	56	64	-12.5%

## 6.4 Corporate Risk Dynamics:

- **Commercial Crime Surge:** Durban, in particular, continues to experience procurement fraud, fake supplier schemes, and government-linked financial irregularities. The port economy has also seen increased cyber fraud targeting shipping documentation and customs processes.
- **Business Premises Robberies:** Though slightly decreased this quarter, robberies and burglaries remain frequent at commercial properties, especially in the logistics and retail sectors.
- **Community Disruptions:** KZN has a long-standing trend of protest-related disruptions, including blockades, theft, and infrastructure sabotage affecting distribution and operations.
- **Port Vulnerabilities:** Durban Harbour is a strategic entry point for imports. Criminal syndicates operate at and around the port, influencing cargo theft and illegal customs interference.

## 6.5 Implications for Business Continuity:

### 6.5.1 Supply Chain Vulnerabilities:

Frequent protest action, road blockades, and operational delays at Durban Port pose significant risks to cargo movement, distribution timelines, and regional logistics hubs.

### 6.5.2 Commercial and Procurement Fraud:

A sharp rise in commercial crime includes invoice fraud, impersonation scams, and supplier-related corruption – particularly in industries linked to government or public procurement.

### 6.5.3 Internal Security and Workforce Risk:

Employees commuting through high-risk areas or exposed to robbery and unrest are vulnerable to trauma, delays, and absenteeism. This impacts morale and continuity in logistics, retail, and healthcare sectors.

### 6.5.4 Infrastructure Targeting:

Armed robberies and after-hours burglaries continue to affect commercial premises, with industrial parks and retail corridors particularly at risk due to limited deterrents and delayed SAPS response.



6.6 Travel Security Risk:

KwaZulu-Natal continues to pose a significant travel risk, particularly to executives, logistics operators, and expatriates. The region's criminal landscape is defined by violent crime, opportunistic robbery, and expanding ransom kidnapping trends.

6.7 Key Travel-Linked Crime Stats:

Crime Type	Q4 Incidents	Q3 Incidents	Trend
Hijackings	804	827	-2.8%
Kidnapping (Total)	1,187	1,064	+11.6%
Kidnapping (Ransom)	34	16	+112.5%

6.8 Travel Risk Patterns:

- **Vehicle Hijackings:** Common along the N2, M4, and inner-city roads near Umlazi, Phoenix, and Berea. Victims are often targeted in or near their driveways or leaving commercial locations.
- **Ransom-Driven Abductions:** KZN saw a doubling in ransom-related kidnappings in Q4, indicating growing sophistication. Victims often include business owners, family members, or logistics contractors.
- **Transit Zone Threats:** Key transport corridors (N2, N3) and zones near King Shaka International Airport have recorded multiple travel-linked crimes. Business visitors are increasingly targeted at car rental counters and hotel entrances.
- **Taxi Violence & Civil Unrest:** Sporadic violence and roadblocks in Durban, Inanda, and the Midlands often affect road safety and staff mobility, with little to no warning.

6.9 NSA Travel Security Recommendations:

- Avoid independent travel in high-risk zones; deploy secure driver teams with evasive driving training.
- Avoid habitual travel patterns and conduct surveillance detection where warranted.
- Schedule meetings during daylight hours and minimize travel through low-security urban zones.
- Equip travelers with incident reporting protocols and panic alert systems.
- Utilize digital route surveillance and check-in systems for all traveling staff.

6.10 Conclusion:

KwaZulu-Natal represents a highly active and multidimensional threat environment. While violent crime and fraud dominate the security picture, KZN's volatility is amplified by infrastructure vulnerabilities, protest action, and deep-rooted syndicate networks. For corporates, this necessitates a dual focus on **physical and digital risk mitigation**. For travelers, **point-to-point protection** and **live monitoring** are critical for safe movement in and around key business corridors.

NSA continues to advise all clients with operations or staff movement in KZN to treat this province as a **tier-one risk environment**, requiring integrated security planning at the operational, executive, and strategic levels.

# Western Cape Provincial Risk Analysis

07.

## 7.1 Risk Rating: **HIGH**

## 7.2 Business and Corporate Risk:

Organized criminal networks, high gang activity, and an expanding fraud economy present serious threats to business continuity in the Western Cape. While certain violent crime categories have declined, commercial premises and financial infrastructure remain highly vulnerable.

## 7.3 Key Crime Statistics Q4 vs Q3:

Province	Q4 Incidents	Q3 Incidents	Trend
Commercial Crime	7,244	6,731	+7.6%
Robbery at Non-Residential Premises	553	620	-10.8%
Robbery with Aggravating Circumstances	4,367	4,743	-7.9%
Truck Hijacking	18	27	-33.3%

## 7.4 Corporate Risk Dynamics:

- **Commercial Crime Surge:** Cape Town saw a continued increase in cyber fraud, procurement scams, and impersonation-based banking fraud – particularly affecting small-to-medium enterprises and professional services firms.
- **Business Premises Targeted:** Armed robberies and break-ins at retail stores, offices, and distribution centres remain a daily risk, particularly in the Northern Suburbs, Mitchells Plain, and along the N1 corridor.
- **Gang-Influenced Economies:** Organized crime groups continue to exert control over extortion rackets, including protection demands made against small businesses and construction sites.
- **Logistics Theft:** While truck hijackings decreased, the targeting of offloaded cargo at warehouses and distribution nodes remains a notable concern.

## 7.5 Implications for Business Continuity:

### 7.5.1 Commercial Fraud and SME Exposure:

Smaller firms and professional service providers are increasingly targeted by impersonation fraud, fake supplier scams, and internal embezzlement, impacting financial integrity and client trust.

### 7.5.2 Logistics and Distribution Risk:

Theft and opportunistic robbery at warehouses and offload zones near Bellville, Blackheath, and Parow affect FMCG and pharmaceutical distribution. Load tracking and last-mile security remain critical.

### 7.5.3 Gang-Driven Extortion and Corruption:

Construction, retail, and logistics firms in gang-influenced areas face extortion threats and corruption-linked interference in contracts and permits. Failure to engage vetted security partners can increase reputational and legal risk.

### 7.5.4 Staff Safety and Mobility Impact:

Employees commuting through volatile zones such as Nyanga, Khayelitsha, or Philippi face exposure to armed robbery, hijackings, and intimidation. This affects morale, absenteeism, and long-term retention.

7.6 Travel Security Risk:

While not as extreme as Gauteng or KZN, the Western Cape presents a **high-risk environment for executive and staff travel**, particularly in and around Cape Town's central transport routes and hotel zones. Criminal tactics are increasingly targeted and surveillance-driven.

7.7 Key Travel-Linked Crime Stats:

Crime Type	Q4 Incidents	Q3 Incidents	Trend
Hijackings	446	492	-9.3%
Kidnapping (Total)	353	317	+11.4%
Kidnapping (Ransom)	11	6	+83.3%

7.8 Travel Risk Patterns:

- **Vehicle Hijackings:** Ongoing incidents in Bellville, Nyanga, Philippi, and the N2/N1 corridors place travelers at significant risk, particularly after hours or during routine commutes.
- **Rising Kidnappings:** Though absolute numbers are lower than Gauteng or KZN, the rise in ransom-related abductions suggests increased targeting of executives and business owners.
- **Hotel and Transit Area Risk:** Incidents near hotel entrances, shopping malls, and airport routes (especially the N2 near the airport) remain common. Travelers are vulnerable during check-in/out, transfers, and vehicle entry/exit.
- **Tourism-Corporate Overlap:** Areas with high volumes of tourists (e.g., V&A Waterfront, CBD) also attract opportunistic criminals targeting business travelers due to perceived affluence and limited situational awareness.

7.9 NSA Travel Security Recommendations:

- Avoid solo night travel and non-secure public or app-based transport.

—• Use vetted security drivers with alternate route planning and real-time support.

—• Ensure hotel choices meet NSA’s security audit standards and avoid open-access or unmonitored entrances.
- Avoid habitual travel patterns; rotate drivers, departure times, and routes.

—• Equip travelers with mobile emergency protocols and live tracking technology.

7.10 Conclusion:

The Western Cape’s business environment is challenged by high-volume fraud, targeted crime, and localized gang control. While infrastructure and law enforcement may appear more stable than in Gauteng or KZN, the risks to executives, mobile personnel, and fixed assets remain acute.

NSA advises that corporates in the province apply **metropolitan-grade security protocols**, with special focus on cyber-fraud protection, secure movement planning, and community-level risk mapping.

# Eastern Cape Provincial Risk Analysis

.....O8.

## 8.1 Risk Rating: **ELEVATED**

## 8.2 Business and Corporate Risk:

Key economic zones such as Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth), East London, and Mthatha are increasingly affected by commercial crime, armed robbery, and business-focused intrusions. The region is also showing signs of deepening fraud activity and local gang influence in industrial districts.

## 8.3 Key Crime Statistics Q4 vs Q3:

Province	Q4 Incidents	Q3 Incidents	Trend
Commercial Crime	2,409	2,205	+9.3%
Robbery at Non-Residential Premises	246	287	-14.3%
Robbery with Aggravating Circumstances	3,148	3,442	-8.5%
Truck Hijacking	20	18	+11.1%

## 8.4 Corporate Risk Dynamics:

- **Commercial Crime Growth:** The steady rise in fraud, fake tenders, and financial scams is impacting both private sector suppliers and those working with government-linked contracts. Corruption and insider collusion are also increasing in industrial procurement environments.
- **Premises Vulnerability:** Small businesses, depots, and retail centres face elevated risk of robbery and burglary, particularly in areas with limited police presence. Night-time and early morning operations are frequently targeted.
- **Industrial Zone Risk:** Zones such as Deal Party (Gqeberha), Wilsonia (East London), and Mdantsane show a rising trend in infrastructure theft, extortion, and assault on security personnel.

## 8.5 Implications for Business Continuity:

### 8.5.1 Infrastructure Theft and Facility Risk:

Warehouses, construction sites, and small-scale industrial zones face increased risk of cable theft, burglary, and extortion. Firms in logistics, retail, and utilities must implement physical security upgrades.

### 8.5.2 Fraud and Procurement Scams:

The rise in commercial crime includes fake tenders and supplier fraud, particularly in municipal procurement. Businesses must vet contracts rigorously and apply enhanced due diligence for all partners.

### 8.5.3 Executive and Staff Safety Concerns:

Staff commuting through vulnerable townships and long-distance interprovincial drivers are at elevated risk. This can affect productivity, morale, and service continuity for frontline teams.

### 8.5.4 Under-Resourced Emergency Response:

Delays in SAPS and EMS response – particularly in peri-urban or rural areas – mean that corporates must develop internal incident escalation procedures and partner with private tactical and medical teams.

### 8.5.5 Reputational Exposure in Public-Sector Engagements:

For companies servicing state contracts, any entanglement in local corruption or exposure to fraud can result in reputational damage or regulatory scrutiny, particularly where transparency is lacking.



8.6 Travel Security Risk:

The Eastern Cape is becoming an increasingly risky environment for local and interprovincial business travel. While absolute incident volumes remain lower than in top-tier provinces, the **rate of increase** and **target profile** of victims reflect a province transitioning from opportunistic to targeted travel-linked crime.

8.7 Key Travel-Linked Crime Stats:

Crime Type	Q4 Incidents	Q3 Incidents	Trend
Hijackings	224	213	+5.2%
Kidnapping (Total)	427	386	+10.6%
Kidnapping (Ransom)	9	5	+80.0%

8.8 Travel Risk Patterns:

- **Growing Hijacking Risk:** Targeted hijackings are increasing near airport routes (especially Gqeberha), industrial zones, and township-to-CBD commuter roads. Victims are often ambushed at intersections or followed home from business premises.
- **Kidnapping for Financial Extortion:** While ransom-related incidents remain in single digits, the increase suggests growing sophistication in targeting predominantly contractors involved in cash-based or informal trade sectors.
- **Hotel & Transit Security Gaps:** Corporate travelers to East London and Mthatha face exposure due to low-security accommodation, limited private response capabilities, and poor after-hours transport safety.
- **Transit Corridor Threats:** Routes such as the N2 (between East London and Mthatha) and N6 are vulnerable to vehicle-based crime, including opportunistic thefts and roadside ambushes.

8.9 NSA Travel Security Recommendations:

- Avoid self-driving or low-security transit through high-risk zones; use trained security drivers.
  - Conduct surveillance detection where executives travel on routine schedules
  - Only utilize pre-vetted accommodation and transport vendors in Gqeberha, East London, and Mthatha
- Equip traveling staff with incident reporting protocols and discreet emergency alert tools
  - Avoid nighttime intercity travel and low-traffic routes without GSOC oversight or convoy support

8.10 Conclusion:

The Eastern Cape is undergoing a shift in its crime profile – from historically lower volumes to increasingly targeted, violent, and organized threats against businesses and travelers.

NSA advises that corporates elevate their risk classification for this province and implement scalable protection measures that reflect the **growing trajectory of threat**, particularly in urban-industrial nodes and key transport corridors.

# Mpumalanga

## Provincial Risk Analysis

09.

### 9.1 Risk Rating: **ELEVATED**

### 9.2 Business and Corporate Risk:

The province's semi-urban zones and industrial districts are increasingly affected by fraud, armed robbery, and opportunistic theft. Poor infrastructure, delayed response capacity, and corruption risks within procurement ecosystems contribute to rising operational insecurity.

### 9.3 Key Crime Statistics Q4 vs Q3:

Province	Q4 Incidents	Q3 Incidents	Trend
Commercial Crime	1,700	1,514	+12.3%
Robbery at Non-Residential Premises	251	264	-4.9%
Robbery with Aggravating Circumstances	2,159	2,362	-8.6%
Truck Hijacking	40	44	-9.1%

### 9.4 Corporate Risk Dynamics:

- **Commercial Crime Expansion:** The rise in fraud and financial crime is particularly affecting suppliers in the mining, forestry, and energy sectors. Fake invoicing, impersonation fraud, and public procurement scams are increasingly reported near Mbombela, Witbank (eMalahleni), and Secunda.
- **Industrial Theft and Facility Attacks:** Robberies and burglaries at warehouses, farming estates, and industrial compounds occur frequently during shift changes and overnight hours. Cable theft and tampering with diesel storage tanks are common in remote sites.
- **Contractor Vulnerability:** Projects involving subcontractors, especially in construction and energy, often encounter inflated costs, pilferage, and insider collusion.

### 9.5 Implications for Business Continuity:

#### 9.5.1 Transport and Logistics Delays:

Continued hijackings and vehicle-based theft threaten just-in-time delivery models, particularly for companies exporting goods via the Maputo corridor or managing fuel, steel, or agricultural cargo.

#### 9.5.2 Infrastructure Theft and Remote Site Vulnerability:

Energy, agriculture, and construction companies face losses due to copper theft, break-ins, and diesel siphoning. Remote deployments require investment in surveillance, fencing, and localised tactical support.

#### 9.5.3 Contractual Risk and Procurement Fraud:

Fraud in state-linked procurement and construction tenders increases exposure for companies working with municipalities or SOEs. Third-party risk assessments and independent verification are essential.

#### 9.5.4 Workforce Safety and Mobility Risks:

Personnel traveling to and from industrial zones—especially shift workers—are exposed to hijackings, armed robbery, and roadside ambushes. Delays in EMS and SAPS response exacerbate the threat.

#### 9.5.5 Reputational Exposure in Cross-Border Operations:

Incidents affecting staff or assets near the Mozambique or Eswatini borders may lead to diplomatic reporting, reputational damage, or contractual review by foreign stakeholders.

9.6 Travel Security Risk:

Mpumalanga’s key transit function between Gauteng, Mozambique, and Eswatini presents travel security challenges—especially for logistics personnel, executives visiting industrial sites, and teams operating in rural or high-density informal areas.

9.7 Key Travel-Linked Crime Stats:

Crime Type	Q4 Incidents	Q3 Incidents	Trend
Hijackings	179	158	+6.5%
Kidnapping (Total)	215	189	+13.8%
Kidnapping (Ransom)	6	2	+2000%

9.8 Travel Risk Patterns:

- **Highway Hijackings:** Incidents along the N4 (toward Mozambique) and N12/N11 corridors remain frequent. Hijackings often involve criminals impersonating law enforcement or ambushing at fuel stops and weighbridges.
- **Executive Travel Risk:** Staff visiting energy projects, government offices, or distribution hubs in Witbank, Delmas, or Secunda are exposed to attacks near hotel zones, intersections, and peri-urban roads.
- **Kidnapping Growth:** Although still limited in scale, the sharp rise in reported ransom-related abductions highlights increased profiling of contractors, foremen, and local executives.

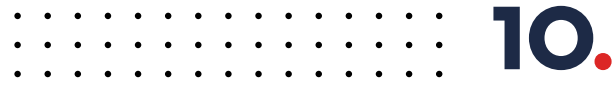
9.9 NSA Travel Security Recommendations:

- Use security drivers familiar with cross-border and peri-urban transit dynamics.
  - Avoid overnight long-haul driving, particularly near Komatipoort and Middleburg.
  - Implement GSOC-linked route tracking for all logistics movements.
- Conduct local intelligence assessments before visiting high-risk sites or project areas.
  - Ensure that expat or external consultants receive a travel briefing and protective support for in-country movement.

9.10 Conclusion:

Mpumalanga is a **logistically strategic but operationally vulnerable province**, where businesses must contend with both physical and procedural security risks. NSA recommends elevating security standards for transit operations, facility protection, and subcontractor oversight. While not yet classified as a critical-risk province, Mpumalanga is on an **upward trajectory in travel-linked crime and commercial fraud**, warranting increased intelligence monitoring and scenario-based planning.

# North West Provincial Risk Analysis



## 10.1 Risk Rating: MODERATE

### 10.2 Business and Corporate Risk:

While the province lacks the urban density of Gauteng or KZN, business operations—especially in mining, agriculture, and retail—face growing threats from fraud, opportunistic theft, and site-specific criminal activity.

### 10.3 Key Crime Statistics Q4 vs Q3:

Province	Q4 Incidents	Q3 Incidents	Trend
Commercial Crime	1,620	1,532	+5.7%
Robbery at Non-Residential Premises	230	248	-7.3%
Robbery with Aggravating Circumstances	1,542	1,626	-5.2%
Truck Hijacking	23	20	+15.0%

### 10.4 Corporate Risk Dynamics:

- **Commercial Crime and Internal Fraud:** Crimes such as payroll fraud, fake invoicing, and unauthorized procurement continue to affect firms engaged in mining supply chains and public sector contracts.
- **Facility-Based Robbery:** Industrial sites, fuel depots, and agricultural facilities are periodically targeted by armed gangs, particularly during off-peak hours or with insider assistance.
- **Cross-Border Logistics Risks:** The proximity to major transport routes and informal border crossings raises the risk of hijackings and pilferage affecting regional supply chains.

### 10.5 Implications for Business Continuity:

#### 10.5.1 Insider Threats and Procedural Fraud:

Internal fraud within local subsidiaries and project teams poses reputational and financial risk, particularly in public-private projects and resource-sector contracts.

#### 10.5.2 Logistical Delays and Route Risk:

Regional transport exposure to theft and hijacking—particularly on the N4 and feeder roads—requires active journey management and recovery protocols.

#### 10.5.3 Site-Based Security Gaps:

Energy, agri-processing, and logistics sites often lack layered security, making them vulnerable to overnight burglary or low-profile incursions.

#### 10.5.4 Resource-Linked Tensions:

Labour unrest and community disruption occasionally affect mines and industrial hubs. Businesses must be prepared for temporary shutdowns or protest-triggered evacuation.

#### 10.5.5 Emergency Services Deficiencies:

Limited availability of rapid EMS, fire, or tactical response in rural and semi-urban zones increases business exposure in the event of an incident.



10.6 Travel Security Risk:

North West presents a moderate but increasingly volatile travel environment, particularly for staff working in remote mines, farming areas, or traveling along regional transit routes to Gauteng, Botswana, or the Northern Cape.

10.7 Key Travel-Linked Crime Stats:

Crime Type	Q4 Incidents	Q3 Incidents	Trend
Hijackings	125	118	+5.9%
Kidnapping (Total)	153	138	+10.9%
Kidnapping (Ransom)	4	3	+33.3%

10.8 Travel Risk Patterns:

- **Vehicle Hijackings Near Mining Towns:** Hijackings are increasing in zones near Rustenburg and Klerksdorp, often involving follow-home tactics or roadside ambushes on secondary roads.
- **Kidnappings on the Rise:** Although the base rate remains low, there is a concerning increase in short-term and financially motivated abductions of local contractors or transporters.
- **Transit Route Risks:** The N4, R49, and N12 corridors are exposed to opportunistic attacks, especially on long-haul logistics vehicles and during low-visibility periods.

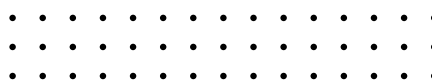
10.9 NSA Travel Security Recommendations:

- Use route monitoring and private response agreements for transport routes passing through Rustenburg, Vryburg, and Zeerust.
  - Avoid routine travel patterns for regional executives or site managers.
- Conduct local risk reviews before deploying technical or expatriate teams to industrial or mining sites.
  - Establish check-in and GPS-linked panic alert procedures for traveling staff.

10.10 Conclusion:

While North West is not yet a high-crime province, there are early indicators of rising threat vectors tied to fraud, opportunistic violence, and road-based crime. NSA recommends that corporates operating in the region implement **scalable security frameworks, enhanced contractor oversight, and mobile asset protection protocols**—particularly in industries reliant on high-value assets or regional transit.

# Free State Provincial Risk Analysis



11.

## 11.1 Risk Rating: MODERATE

## 11.2 Business and Corporate Risk:

Corporate exposure in the Free State is concentrated in logistics, industrial agriculture, and public infrastructure development. While not a high-incident province, notable trends point to increased sophistication in fraud and regional supply chain disruptions.

## 11.3 Key Crime Statistics Q4 vs Q3:

Province	Q4 Incidents	Q3 Incidents	Trend
Commercial Crime	1,349	1,248	+8.1%
Robbery at Non-Residential Premises	196	183	+7.1%
Robbery with Aggravating Circumstances	1,360	1,404	-3.1%
Truck Hijacking	14	17	-17.6%

## 11.4 Corporate Risk Dynamics:

- **Procurement and Tender Fraud:** Fake tenders, vendor impersonation, and fraudulent purchase orders are common in government and public utility contracts.
- **Business Premises Risk:** Smaller industrial sites, regional depots, and fuel or grain storage facilities are often targeted during early morning or overnight hours.
- **Logistics and Cross-Province Transport:** While truck hijackings are down this quarter, key corridors linking the Free State to Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal remain exposed to stop-and-rob tactics.

## 11.5 Implications for Business Continuity:

### 11.5.1 Tender and Procurement Fraud:

Companies participating in infrastructure, construction, or agriculture-related tenders face heightened risk of financial loss due to fraudulent procurement schemes.

### 11.5.2 Depot and Infrastructure Theft:

Agricultural and logistics facilities are vulnerable to burglary, especially those without layered perimeter security or access control.

### 11.5.3 Road Transport and Mobility Constraints:

While truck hijackings have declined, ongoing risks on key corridors necessitate journey management and backup planning for staff and cargo.

### 11.5.4 Community-Linked Protests and Disruption:

Service delivery protests and labour disputes occasionally interrupt site operations, access to business parks, and movement of goods in towns like Botshabelo and Phuthaditjhaba.

### 11.5.5 Delayed Emergency Response:

SAPS and EMS coverage remains limited in rural or remote sectors, requiring contingency arrangements for serious incidents involving staff or company assets.

11.6 Travel Security Risk:

The Free State’s open-road network and central location in South Africa expose travelers to road-based crime, though violent incidents remain sporadic and less frequent than in the northern metros. Risks are higher on inter-provincial routes and in areas surrounding smaller towns.

11.7 Key Travel-Linked Crime Stats:

Crime Type	Q4 Incidents	Q3 Incidents	Trend
Hijackings	109	103	+5.8%
Kidnapping (Total)	112	101	+10.9%
Kidnapping (Ransom)	3	1	+200.0%

11.8 Travel Risk Patterns:

- **Transit Route Vulnerabilities:** The N1, N3, and R26 corridors are prone to opportunistic hijackings and roadside theft, especially near rest stops and weighbridges.
- **Low-Infrastructure Risk Zones:** Some towns lack CCTV, lighting, or SAPS visibility, increasing the exposure of business travelers, especially after hours.
- **Staff Mobility Risks:** Employees commuting from outlying areas face increased risks of robbery and roadside ambushes during early morning travel.

11.9 NSA Travel Security Recommendations:

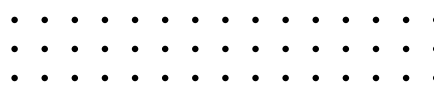
- **Avoid long-distance travel after dark, especially on the N8, R70, and secondary agricultural roads.**
  - **Conduct site visits with local intelligence updates and route planning.**
- **Use secure transport for staff traveling between provincial borders and major commercial zones.**
  - **Brief contractors and vendors on safe logistics protocols and incident response procedures.**

11.10 Conclusion:

The Free State is a **moderate-risk province** with a growing trend in economic and transit-related crime. While the threat environment does not yet mirror the levels seen in Gauteng or KZN, corporates must remain proactive. NSA recommends enhanced fraud prevention measures, route security protocols, and regional site assessments to ensure resilience in a landscape marked by **low visibility, high opportunity crime**.

# Limpopo

## Provincial Risk Analysis



# 12.

### 12.1 Risk Rating: MODERATE

### 12.2 Business and Corporate Risk:

Corporate activity in Limpopo is primarily concentrated in mining, agriculture, cross-border trade, and rural infrastructure development. These sectors face threats linked to fraud, internal collusion, and low-visibility physical intrusions.

### 12.3 Key Crime Statistics Q4 vs Q3:

Province	Q4 Incidents	Q3 Incidents	Trend
Commercial Crime	1,156	1,102	+4.9%
Robbery at Non-Residential Premises	169	158	+7.0%
Robbery with Aggravating Circumstances	1,297	1,326	-2.2%
Truck Hijacking	11	9	+22.2%

### 12.4 Corporate Risk Dynamics:

- **Cross-Border Procurement and Document Fraud:** Businesses operating in mining, transport, or agriculture face challenges in validating suppliers and clearing agents, with an increase in fraudulent invoice and permit activity.
- **Facility Security Vulnerabilities:** Agricultural operations, fuel depots, and contractor yards are targeted by petty theft and low-profile armed intrusions, particularly in rural areas lacking SAPS visibility.
- **Mining and Community Interface:** Corporate mining sites occasionally face sabotage, equipment theft, or protest-related work stoppages linked to local employment tensions or social grievances.

### 12.5 Implications for Business Continuity:

#### 12.5.1 Procurement Fraud and Vendor Risk:

Verification failures in vendor, customs, or local supplier dealings can result in revenue loss, reputational harm, or regulatory exposure for companies operating in agriculture, logistics, or mining.

#### 12.5.2 Remote Infrastructure and Equipment Theft:

Facilities lacking layered security face persistent losses due to theft of diesel, tools, copper cabling, and food stocks. Some areas also report sabotage of boreholes and pump stations.

#### 12.5.3 Labour Tensions and Community Disruption:

Community expectations around employment or beneficiation in mining and infrastructure projects often lead to protest action, road blockades, or site access restrictions.

#### 12.5.4 Cross-Border Logistics Delays:

Delays at Beitbridge and Groblersbrug, compounded by vehicle theft or tampering, disrupt trade-dependent supply chains. These risks require route security planning and border liaison protocols.

#### 12.5.5 Medical and Tactical Response Gaps:

Slow emergency response times, especially in rural deployments, increase the risk window for injury, asset loss, or operational shutdown following incidents.



12.6 Travel Security Risk:

Limpopo poses a **moderate travel risk**, with lower volumes of violent crime but ongoing exposure to cross-border syndicate activity, road ambushes, and infrastructure gaps along transit routes to and from neighbouring countries.

12.7 Key Travel-Linked Crime Stats:

Crime Type	Q4 Incidents	Q3 Incidents	Trend
Hijackings	110	106	+3.8%
Kidnapping (Total)	139	123	+13.0%
Kidnapping (Ransom)	3	2	+50.0%

12.8 Travel Risk Patterns:

- **Border Zone Exposure:** Routes around Musina, Groblersbrug, and Beitbridge are vulnerable to smuggling, armed theft, and syndicate-run ambushes of vehicles moving goods or cash.
- **Road Infrastructure Gaps:** Secondary roads in Vhembe, Mopani, and Sekhukhune districts are often unlit, unmonitored, and susceptible to stop-and-rob incidents or staged vehicle breakdowns.
- **Executive and Consultant Risk:** Project teams, technical consultants, and surveyors operating in rural or peri-urban zones face limited support and longer response times in the event of incidents.

12.9 NSA Travel Security Recommendations:

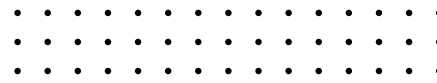
- Conduct pre-deployment security briefings and regional intelligence reviews for all project teams.
  - Avoid cross-border movement after dark and implement convoy protocols where practical.
- Equip field teams with satellite communication or GPS-linked panic alert systems.
  - Prioritize vetted accommodation and vehicle providers when operating in or near border districts.

12.10 Conclusion:

Limpopo is a **moderate-risk province** with distinct challenges tied to its border location, rural infrastructure limitations, and industrial exposure. While violent crime is less systemic than in urban hubs, cross-border syndicate activity and localized instability demand that corporates implement **fraud-resistant systems, route control frameworks, and rural asset protection strategies** to ensure operational continuity and personnel safety.

# Northern Cape

## Provincial Risk Analysis



# 13.

### 13.1 Risk Rating: **LOW**

### 13.2 Business and Corporate Risk:

While the Northern Cape experiences fewer incidents overall, opportunistic theft, fraud, and infrastructure-targeted crime do occur—particularly in remote areas with limited policing and private security support.

### 13.3 Key Crime Statistics Q4 vs Q3:

Province	Q4 Incidents	Q3 Incidents	Trend
Commercial Crime	559	538	+3.9%
Robbery at Non-Residential Premises	82	77	+6.5%
Robbery with Aggravating Circumstances	486	511	−4.9%
Truck Hijacking	2	1	+100.0%

### 13.4 Corporate Risk Dynamics:

- **Remote Infrastructure Exposure:** Solar farms, wind farms, and agricultural operations face occasional theft of tools, fuel, copper cable, and battery storage units.
- **Procurement Fraud:** Fraud remains concentrated in small-town public sector contracts involving roads, construction, and municipal infrastructure.
- **Internal Collusion Risks:** In areas with limited oversight, internal misconduct and inventory pilferage can go unnoticed for extended periods.

### 13.5 Implications for Business Continuity:

#### 13.5.1 Low-Infrastructure Security Gaps:

Sites in remote locations often lack CCTV, access control, or perimeter monitoring, making them attractive to low-risk criminals.

#### 13.5.2 Theft of Equipment and Materials:

Theft of solar panels, diesel, irrigation pumps, and building materials occurs intermittently and can significantly impact timelines for renewable energy or infrastructure projects.

#### 13.5.3 Internal Risk and Oversight Challenges:

Small teams working independently in isolated regions are vulnerable to internal theft and unauthorised expenditure without robust auditing.

#### 13.5.4 Delayed Law Enforcement or EMS Response:

Businesses must be self-reliant in early-stage incident management due to long response times, especially outside Kimberley.

#### 13.5.5 Logistical and Supply Chain Limitations:

Sparse service availability and difficult terrain impact the speed of supply chain recovery following disruptions.

13.6 Travel Security Risk:

Travel in the Northern Cape carries a low threat profile, though extended driving distances, poor road infrastructure, and lack of emergency services present latent risks.

13.7 Key Travel-Linked Crime Stats:

Crime Type	Q4 Incidents	Q3 Incidents	Trend
Hijackings	36	30	+20.0%
Kidnapping (Total)	52	49	+6.1%
Kidnapping (Ransom)	1	0	N/A

13.8 Travel Risk Patterns:

- **Remote Route Exposure:** Long stretches of highway between Upington, Springbok, and Kimberley often lack cellular coverage and are vulnerable to breakdown-related ambushes.
- **Poor Infrastructure and Delays:** Potholes, unlit roads, and limited refueling stations increase travel times and reduce driver situational awareness.
- **Emergency Response Lag:** Low police and EMS presence in towns like Kuruman or Calvinia means extended response times during critical incidents.

13.9 NSA Travel Security Recommendations:

- Implement detailed route planning for all field teams with fuel stops, emergency contacts, and check-in procedures.
- Equip high-value vehicles with GPS tracking and ensure travelers carry emergency supplies and dual communication systems.
- Avoid night driving where visibility is poor and response times are longer.

13.10 Conclusion:

The Northern Cape remains a **low-risk province** in terms of violent crime and executive targeting. However, its unique geography and infrastructure constraints introduce security challenges that require preventative planning. NSA recommends corporates adopt a **self-sufficient security posture**, including remote site hardening, procedural checks, and logistical preparedness for operations in this sparsely resourced environment.

# Key Trends and Emerging Threats



# 14.

While South Africa's security risks vary by province, several cross-cutting crime trends and systemic vulnerabilities create a consistent baseline of operational risk for corporates and business travelers. This section outlines the dominant national threats observed during Q4 2024/25.

## 14.1 Commercial Crime Remains a Primary Threat:

1. Commercial crime rose across most provinces, with **Gauteng, Western Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, and Eastern Cape** recording the highest volumes.
2. Key types include procurement fraud, cyber scams, impersonation of senior executives, and invoice tampering.
3. SMEs and companies involved in public-sector contracts remain disproportionately targeted.



### STRATEGIC IMPLICATION

Businesses must roll out company-wide fraud controls, including staff training, approval workflows, and supplier vetting tools.

## 14.2 Vehicle Hijackings Persist in High-Volume Provinces:

1. Despite a national decline in carjackings (-5.1%), **Gauteng alone recorded nearly 2,500 incidents**, followed by KZN and the Western Cape.
2. Logistics vehicles, executive transfers, and armored transport continue to be targeted.
3. Hijackings are increasingly sophisticated, with syndicates using decoy vehicles, tracking devices, and uniform impersonation.



### STRATEGIC IMPLICATION

Companies must implement route monitoring, secure driver protocols, and reinforce protection in transitional zones.

### 14.3 Kidnappings for Ransom Show National Expansion:

1. **Q4 data shows an 89% national rise in ransom-related kidnappings.**
2. While historically focused in Gauteng, these incidents now appear in Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Free State, and the Western Cape.
3. Victims are not limited to high-net-worth individuals, with middle-income professionals and foreign contractors increasingly targeted.



## STRATEGIC IMPLICATION

Security planning should include executive profiling, crisis response plans, and staff education on surveillance awareness.

### 14.4 Emergency Services Inequity Across Provinces:

1. Response capabilities vary widely. In rural areas, EMS and SAPS support can take 45 minutes to several hours.
2. This delay increases the risk window for injury, loss of life, and operational disruption.

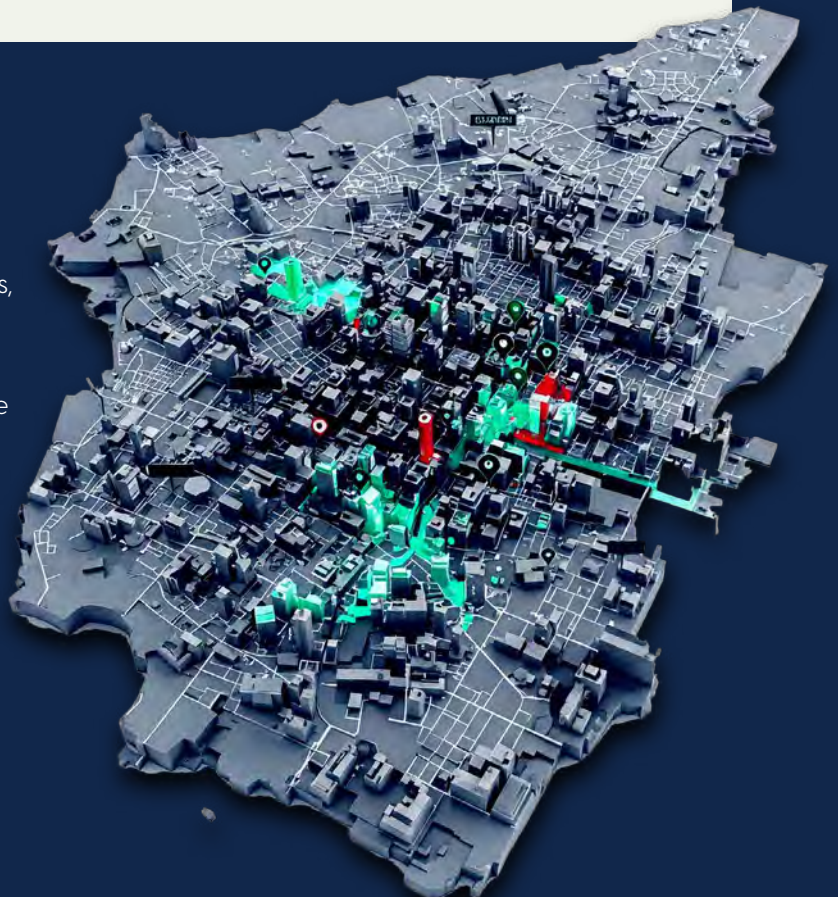


## STRATEGIC IMPLICATION

Businesses should develop internal emergency protocols, invest in first-responder training, and partner with private security or medical services.

**South Africa's national threat environment is defined by persistent commercial fraud, violent road-based crime, and widening kidnapping trends.**

With risks no longer confined to traditional hotspots, corporates must adopt a **nationally standardised but regionally responsive security posture**. NSA advises its clients to align internal protocols with the elevated and evolving risk landscape to ensure continuity, resilience, and executive protection across all operational zones.



# Impact On International Travel to SA

15.

South Africa continues to attract significant volumes of international business travel due to its role as a gateway economy to the African continent. However, the escalation in targeted crime, particularly in metropolitan and transitional zones, is having a direct and measurable effect on global travel confidence and operational decision-making.

## 15.1 Heightened Advisory Levels and Perception Risk:

1. Multiple foreign governments have updated travel advisories in the past two quarters, warning about hijackings, kidnappings, and civil unrest.
2. Key risk categories include airport-to-hotel transfers, travel at night, and visits to high-density business and government nodes.
3. South Africa's inclusion on higher-risk lists has contributed to a perceptible shift in travel approvals among multinational firms.



### IMPLICATION

South Africa's reputation as a travel destination for executives and specialists is under scrutiny. Firms must now justify travel with robust mitigation plans and security justifications.

## 15.2 Increased Cost of Entry and Mobility:

1. The surge in criminal incidents has led to higher **insurance premiums**, more frequent demands for **close protection teams**, and greater reliance on **vettled security drivers**.
2. Corporate travel budgets now account for contingencies such as re-routing, standby tactical support, and emergency medical access.



### IMPLICATION

Cost of business travel into South Africa has increased, making short-term visits, project oversight, and inter-regional collaboration more expensive and risk-sensitive.



### 15.3 Long-Term Reputational and Investment Considerations:

1. The cumulative impact of risk visibility, criminal targeting, and social unrest influences **investor sentiment, expatriate confidence, and foreign corporate commitment**.
2. For sectors dependent on global staff deployment (e.g., energy, finance, engineering), the deterioration in perceived travel safety can lead to project slowdowns or talent reluctance.



## IMPLICATION

Without demonstrable improvements in security governance and visible reductions in urban crime, South Africa risks becoming a second-tier investment environment for risk-sensitive industries.

### 15.4 Security-Driven Itinerary Design and Support Services:

1. Itinerary structuring now prioritises **time-of-day travel, pre-cleared venues, and GSOC-linked journey oversight**.
2. Delegations from risk-averse countries increasingly require advance threat briefings, real-time tracking, and incident response capability.



## IMPLICATION

Travel security is no longer optional—it is now a formal component of travel planning for foreign entities operating in South Africa.

The risks associated with international travel to South Africa are no longer abstract or reputational – they are operational, financial, and strategic. NSA advises clients to elevate travel security planning to a board-level concern, ensure that security provisions are embedded in travel policy, and proactively brief international stakeholders on mitigation strategies to preserve mobility, confidence, and continuity of business in the South African market.

# Tactical Advisory & Recommendations



# 15.

Drawing from the provincial breakdowns, national threat trends, and international travel implications, NSA provides the following tactical recommendations to help corporates mitigate risk, ensure continuity, and protect personnel operating in South Africa.

## 16.1 Executive Protection & Journey Management:

1. Deploy vetted security drivers with route planning, real-time tracking, and GSOC integration for all business-critical travel.
2. Conduct routine surveillance detection, especially for executives, expats, and public-facing personnel.
3. Vary departure times and travel patterns to reduce predictability.



### NSA CAPABILITY: Secure Drive

Secure Drive services with live journey monitoring, emergency support activation, and covert protective accompaniment where required.

## 16.2 Site Security Hardening:

1. Conduct quarterly vulnerability assessments of corporate HQs, warehouses, depots, and remote project sites.
2. Install multi-layered perimeter protection (fencing, CCTV, lighting, access control) supported by local tactical response.
3. Establish onsite incident protocols and secure lock-in locations for personnel during incidents.



### NSA CAPABILITY: Tactical Support

Dedicated Tactical Support Units for localized response and deterrence, asset and facility patrols, and GSOC-integrated surveillance.

### 16.3 Insider Threat & Commercial Crime Mitigation:

1. Strengthen supplier vetting, contract auditing, and dual-authorization payment systems.
2. Provide staff with fraud detection training and promote a whistleblower culture.
3. Monitor procurement and finance workflows with independent oversight mechanisms.



#### NSA CAPABILITY: Risk Audits

Risk consultancy, red teaming of internal controls, security audits and commercial fraud investigations.

### 16.4 Travel Risk Policy Enhancement:

1. Update corporate travel policies to reflect current national risk levels and align with international advisories, with mandatory secure transport and executive protection support based on travel requirements.
2. Require pre-travel briefings, area risk assessments, and itinerary approval for all staff traveling to or within South Africa.
3. Ensure emergency protocols include 24/7 support access and GPS tracking tools.



#### NSA CAPABILITY: Protection & Travel Support

Internationally recognized provider of intelligence-led executive protection and travel security support.



**NSA**  
SOUTH AFRICA

Unit D1, Newmarket Rd, Northlands Business Park,

Randburg, SA, 2169

+27 11 462 7540

[info@nsa-global.com](mailto:info@nsa-global.com) | [nsasa.co.za](http://nsasa.co.za)

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