



# **FreightWatch International**

## **Cargo Theft: May – July 2013**

**August 21, 2013**

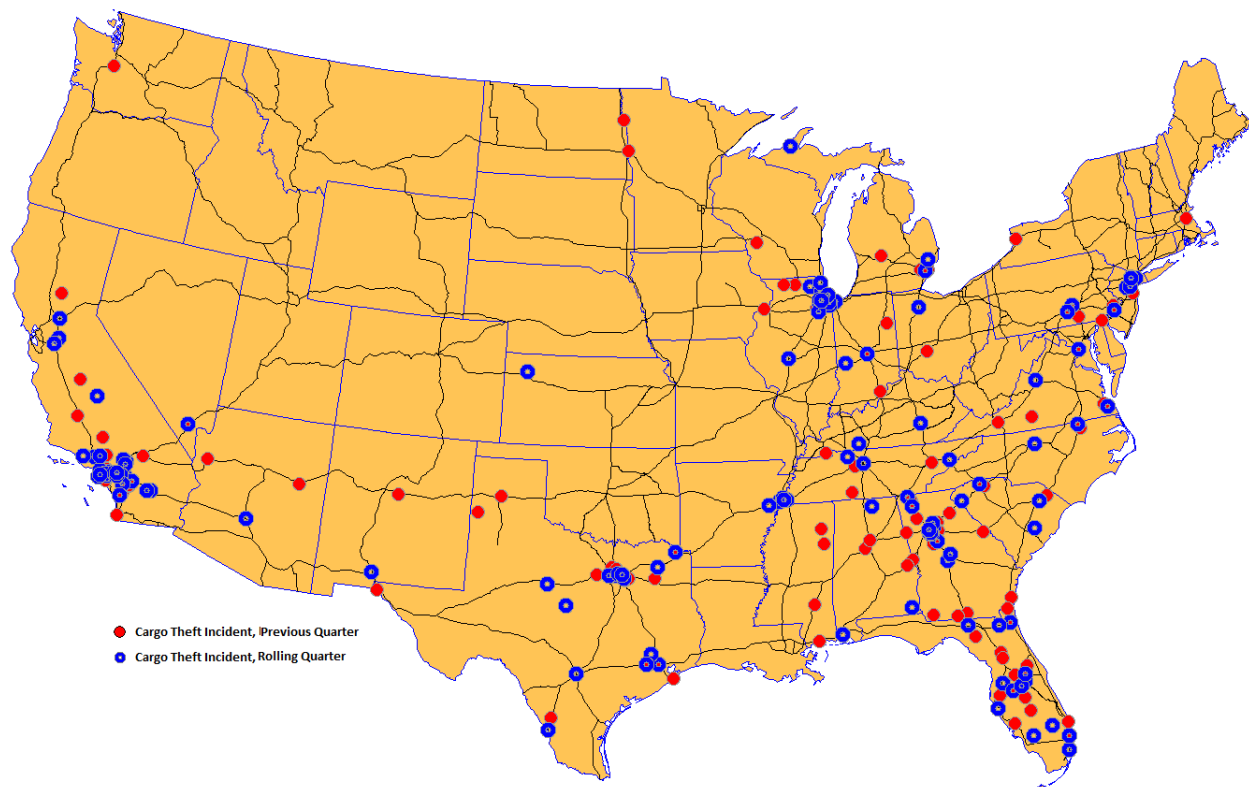
## Introduction

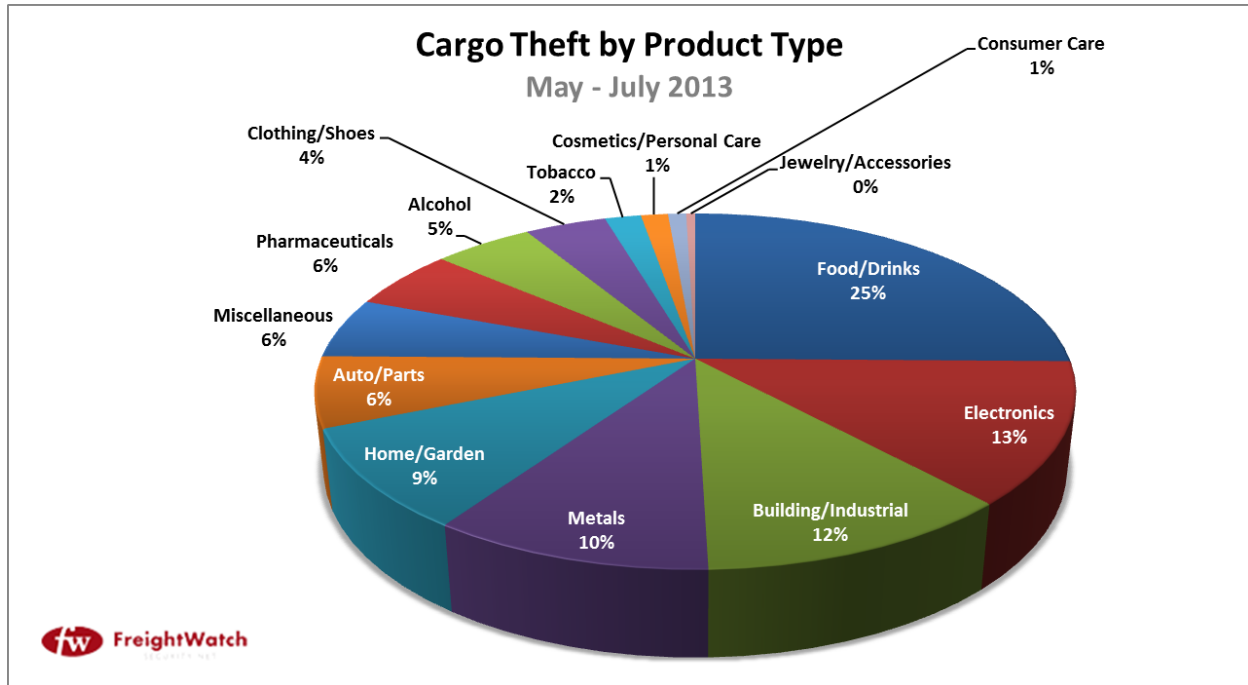
The FreightWatch International Supply Chain Intelligence Center actively tracks and records cargo theft around the globe, categorizing stolen loads under 14 different product types, and tracking by date, location, *modus operandi* (M.O.), value and specific product. This report summarizes U.S. theft data and analyzes trends derived from database content, law enforcement information and industry personnel. It also draws on observations by personnel in the field. As a rolling quarterly report, this document examines cargo theft occurring between May and July 2013. The “previous quarter” in this report, therefore, is the period from February through April 2013.

In order to present theft information in a more concise and clear manner, FreightWatch has combined types of theft previously listed separately as “theft from trailer” and “theft from container.” The new type is “theft from trailer/container.” Similarly, the theft types “theft of trailer” and “theft of container” have been combined into “theft of trailer/container.” These are the first in a series of changes to FreightWatch U.S. cargo theft data to be implemented over the coming months to facilitate clearer presentation of data as well as add advanced analytic capabilities.

## United States: Cargo Theft Trends

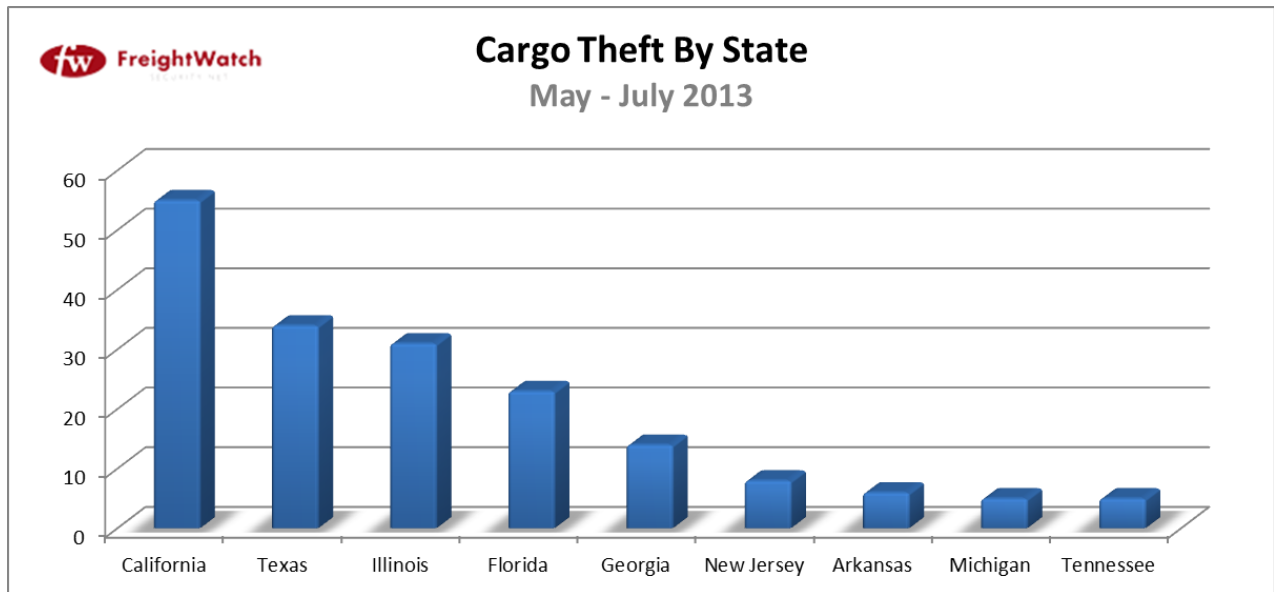
In the period from May through July 2013, FreightWatch recorded a total of 185 thefts in the United States, with 69 thefts in May, 88 in June and 61 in July. The average loss value per incident during this period was \$147,260. Compared with the previous quarter, thefts increased by 1%, while the average loss value increased by 23%.





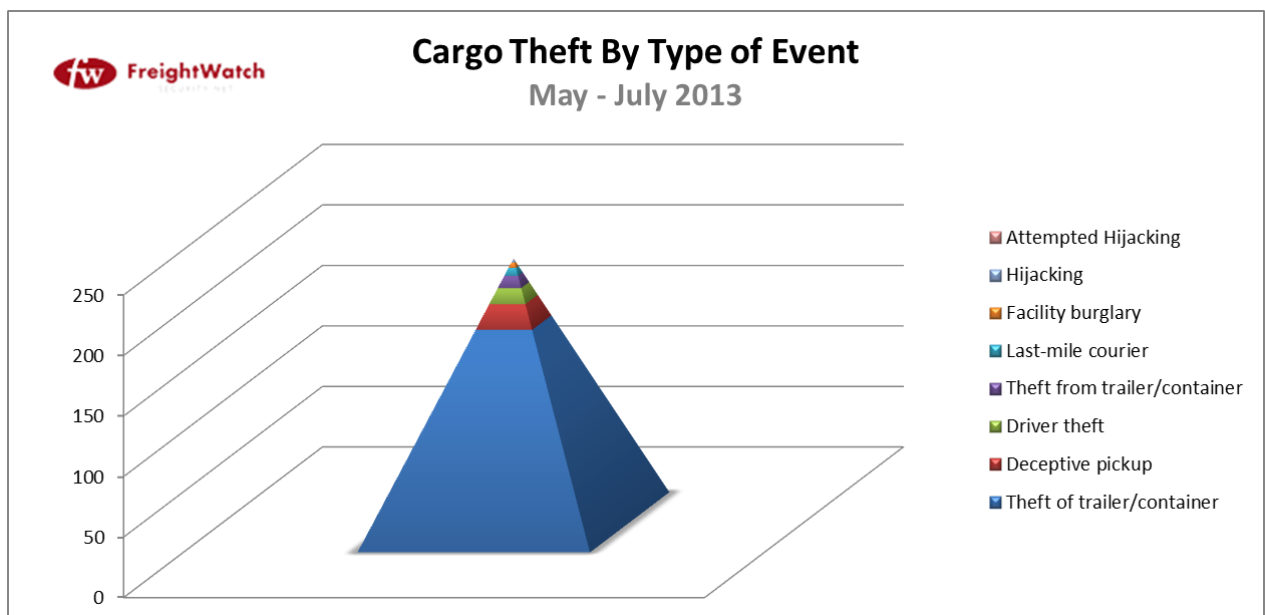
Food/Drinks, with 55 thefts, was the product type most often stolen in this rolling quarter. These thefts comprised 25% of all incidents during the three-month period. Products targeted in this category included various meats, seafood, drinks and prepared foods. The Electronics industry experienced 28 thefts (13% of the total), mainly consisting of televisions, computers and computer accessories. There were 25 thefts (12% of all incidents) in the Building/Industrial sector, including shingles, construction materials and equipment.

Just under half of the 14 FreightWatch product types experienced fewer thefts this quarter than the previous three months. The drop in theft numbers was significant in the Pharmaceutical, Food/Drinks and Cosmetics/Personal Care categories, and less so in others. Meanwhile, recorded thefts increased in five of the product types, with Building/Industrial, Metals and Home/Garden seeing the most significant gains. Thus, although there was just a 1% overall increase in thefts this quarter, targeting shifted from some products to others. The only product types that saw no change in the number of thefts from the last period were Clothing/Shoes, Electronics and Tobacco.

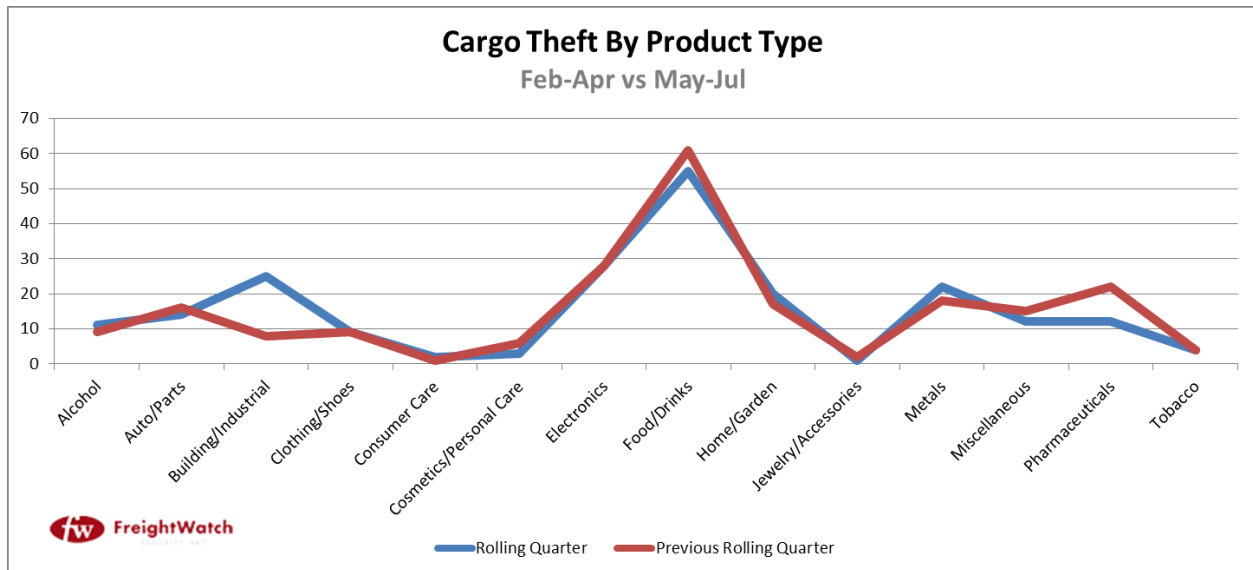


During this rolling quarter, California remained the state with the most thefts, with Texas continuing to follow in second. The 55 thefts in California accounted for 25% of all incidents across the United States. Texas had 34 thefts (16% of the total), while Illinois reported 31 (14%), making it the third most popular state for cargo theft during the three-month period. Florida dropped from third position to number four, having experienced 23 thefts (11%) in the rolling quarter.

Of the incidents in which location types were recorded, unsecured parking, with 120 thefts (75%), was the most common spot targeted by cargo thieves. Facility was tied with secured parking, as each experienced 18 reported incidents, (11% each). The four thefts from a facility interior and one in-transit theft together comprised about 3% of all incidents.

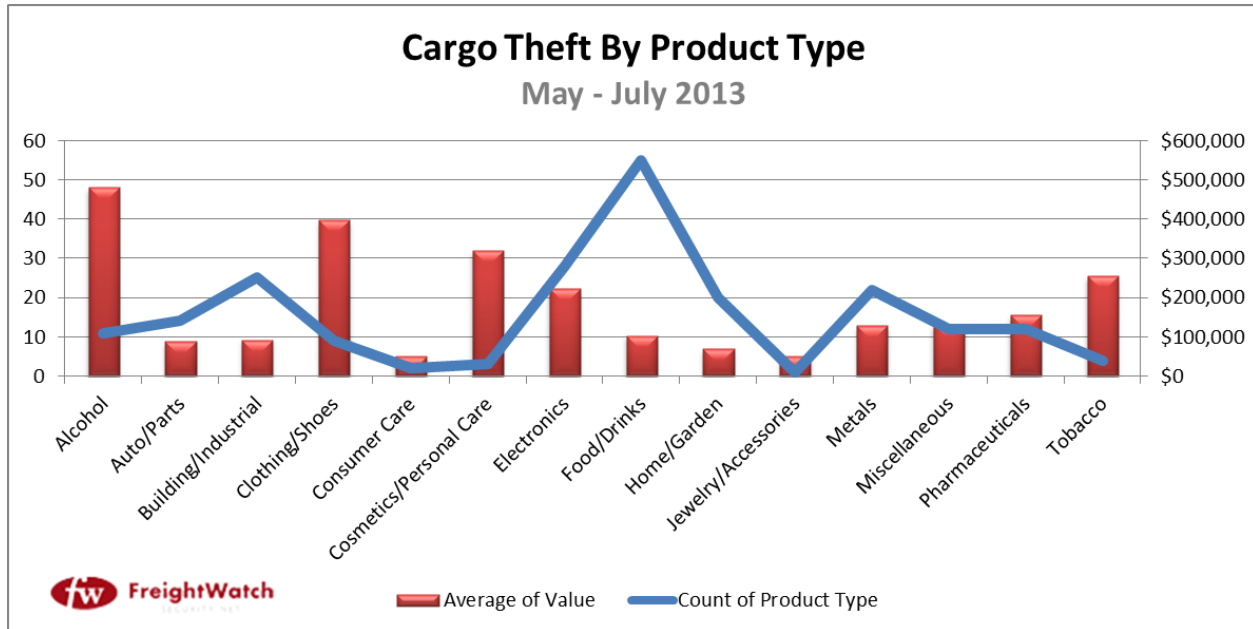


Following the usual trend, incidents involving theft of trailer/container, 165 in all, were most common in the rolling quarter, accounting for 76% of all thefts. Thefts involving deceptive pickup remained the same as the previous three months at 19 incidents, comprising 9% of all thefts.



Along with an overall increase in thefts from the previous rolling quarter, five product types increased in theft volume this quarter. Building/Industrial, the fourth most stolen product type this rolling quarter, saw thefts rise from nine to 16, while the Metals category increased from 18 thefts to 22. The Home/Garden product type saw a slight increase from 17 to 20 incidents, while Alcohol thefts rose from nine to 11.

Product types that experienced a significant reduction in theft rates this period include Pharmaceuticals, which fell from 22 to 12; Food/Drinks, which decreased from 61 to 55; Miscellaneous, which dropped from 15 to 12; Cosmetics/Personal Care, which fell from six to three; Auto/Parts, which decreased from 16 thefts to 14; and Jewelry/Accessories, which dropped from two incidents to one.



Product Type	Avg. Value
Alcohol	\$481,108
Auto/Parts	\$88,549
Building/Industrial	\$92,408
Clothing/Shoes	\$397,333
Consumer Care	\$50,000
Cosmetics/Personal Care	\$320,000
Electronics	\$222,303
Food/Drinks	\$103,529
Home/Garden	\$68,890
Jewelry/Accessories	\$50,000
Metals	\$127,926
Miscellaneous	\$132,000
Pharmaceuticals	\$155,827
Tobacco	\$254,400

While the average loss value across all incidents was \$161,676 for the rolling quarter, the average losses in specific product types varied widely. In this quarter, the Alcohol category had the highest average loss value at \$481,108, a 547% increase of over the last rolling quarter. Clothing/Shoes, which experienced nine thefts, averaged \$397,333 in losses. Cosmetics/Consumer Care followed with an average loss value of \$320,000 resulting from three high-value thefts. Tobacco saw a drop, from \$315,008 last rolling quarter to \$254,400 this quarter.

Other product types with high average losses in the period were Electronics (\$222,303), Pharmaceuticals (\$155,827), Miscellaneous (\$132,000) and Metals (\$127,926).

#### Contact

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