

# Retail Theft Surging to Nearly \$100 Billion A Year; Security Guards Are Being Added To Help Stem The Tide

*ORC crime was up 26.5 percent from 2020. Retailers are adding more security guards in stores to help reduce crime.*

SIMI VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, USA,  
December 12, 2022 /

EINPresswire.com/ -- Retailers lost nearly \$100 billion from shoplifting and organized retail crime (ORC) activity. According to a National Retail Foundation (NRF) [survey](#), the “shrink” rate in 2021 was 1.4% representing \$94.5 billion in losses. ORC crime was up 26.5 percent from 2020. Retailers are adding more security guards in stores to help reduce crime.



Security guards are assigned to stop retail crime.

“We’ve been asked to post guards at store entrances and in other strategic store locations, especially in cities where retail crime is running rampant,” says Fahim Abid, security director for

[Access Patrol Services](#) (APS), a security guard company serving California and Arizona. “We’ve never seen such a high demand for retail security services.” Thirty-two percent of NRF survey respondents said they are increasing their budget for guards.

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*Fahim Abid, APS security director*

The NRF survey also noted that ORC theft often comes with violence and aggression toward employees and customers. “It’s not the job of employees or customers to stop theft,” says Abid. “In the past, security staff were often asked to take a ‘hands-off’ approach when they saw a theft

in progress. That’s changing. When security guards have the opportunity to safely stop an attempted theft and detain a criminal, in many cases, they’re given the go-ahead to do so.”

Retailers see no signs that the crime spree is letting up. Walmart recently noted that it may have to close stores and increase prices because of ORC. Target said it has lost \$400 million so far in 2022 due to theft.

Items most targeted by thieves are apparel, electronics, health and beauty, accessories and footwear. "Until harsher penalties are levied against these thieves and stronger preventative measures are taken, retailers will continue to suffer huge shrink loses," says Abid. "Security guards are only one part of the solution."

Access Patrol Services provides both armed and unarmed security guards. The guards patrol malls, strip malls and small and big box stores around the clock.

For more information about retail security guard services in California and Arizona, call Access Patrol Services at 866-770-0004 or click on <https://accesspatrolservice.com>.

#### About Access Patrol Services

Whether security is needed at an event, retail outlet, warehouse, commercial office building, medical facility or any number of other locations, Access Patrol Services uniformed security guards are on the job to keep people and places safe, to spot and respond to inappropriate behavior and provide assistance in case of emergency. Serving clients in California and Arizona, Access Patrol Services staff works with clients to analyze a location's security issues. Staff then develops a custom plan to fit the client's security needs. Our uniformed security guards are trained and licensed to deter crime, diffuse volatile situations, take the lead during emergencies, conduct security screenings, enforce rules and control access. 866-770-0004  
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