



SECURITY OVERVIEW

Lima – Perú

Unidad de Análisis Político y Seguridad Corporativa - UAPSC

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Security Overview

Lima, Perú

1. Situational Analysis

The security situation in Lima has been worsening in recent years, according to various studies by the Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática (INEI), which show that reports of various crimes have been on the rise since 2020. This may be due to various factors that affect citizen security in a given city such as Lima, such as increased criminal activity due to new criminal dynamics and an increase in illegal rents found in the territory. Peru has become a key point for drug trafficking in the region due to its wide access to the Pacific Ocean and its cocaine production capacity, which makes its capital an attractive place for this type of activity, due to its population density and its proximity to the port of Callao. In 2024, crime patterns in Lima were characterized by a diversity of types, with a significant predominance of crimes against property. These include robberies, thefts and other property-related crimes, which accounted for the majority of complaints. In addition, crimes against public safety, such as acts affecting social order and tranquility, were also common. Crimes against liberty, such as kidnapping and extortion, continued to be a concern, although to a lesser extent. Crimes against life, body and health, including homicides and injuries, also showed a significant increase.

According to the “Lima Como Vamos” public safety perception survey conducted in 2024, the main problem affecting the population of the metropolitan area of Lima and the port of Callao is insecurity, with 80.2% of those surveyed. This was an increase compared to 2023 where this option was chosen by 70.9% of respondents. In addition, in all areas of the city, citizen insecurity was presented as the problem that most afflicts citizens, with North Lima showing the highest percentage of disapproval of this issue with 85.6% ([Lima Como Vamos](#), 2025).

In this document the Unidad de Análisis Político y Seguridad Corporativa (UAPSC) of 3+SC will carry out the Security Overview-Lima, Peru, analyzing the dynamics that impact security, the risk generating factors and the delictive behavior based on statistics, with the main objective of making known the security situation of the city in order to establish prospective scenarios and recommendations that are useful for the management, treatment and control of risks.

2. Crime Analysis

In Lima, data and statistics on crime and crime in open media are limited to certain criminal activities, which makes it difficult to conduct a complete analysis with information on all crimes and over equivalent periods of time. However, through press reports and statements by both Lima and Peruvian authorities, it is possible to analyze the criminal behavior found in the city. One of the main sources for this study is the July-September 2024 Crime, Citizen Security and Violence Statistics Report published by Peru's National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI). Overall, in the third quarter of 2024 there were a total of 55,358 crimes in the metropolitan area of Lima, which means an increase of 14.9% compared to the same period of the previous year. At the same time, this represented 35.1% of the total number of crimes in Peru, making the Lima metropolitan area the region with the highest crime rate in the country.

Analyzing which types of crimes are most common in the city of Lima, it can be seen that by a wide margin the most common category is that of crimes against property, with 76% of the total. These crimes are understood as the set of acts that affect the property of individuals, whether natural or legal persons, with property being considered to be any asset with an economic value. These crimes are defined in the criminal code and include, among others, theft, robbery, misappropriation, fraud, administrative fraud, computer crimes, simple damages and other forms of fraud. The next most frequent category of crime in Lima, with 8.6%, is crimes against public safety, which refers to the set of conditions ensured by law in order to protect legal assets. This includes crimes that represent a common danger, crimes related to means of transportation, communication and other public services, crimes affecting public health, immigration violations, illegal drug trafficking, micro-commercialization of narcotics, illegal possession of weapons, among others. In third place are crimes against life, body and health, and crimes against freedom, both categories with 5.9% of the total. Crimes against life, body and health refer to homicide, abortion, injuries, among others, while crimes against liberty include crimes such as violation of personal liberty, invasion of privacy, breaking and entering, aggression against sexual freedom, pimping, offenses against public decency, among others ([INEI, 2024](#)).

2.1 Theft from persons

According to official figures from the Peruvian National Police, in 2024 the most reported crimes in Metropolitan Lima will be common thefts with around 58,000 reports, followed by robbery with 35,000 and aggravated theft with 15,000. These three crimes influence theft from persons, since all three dynamics include this type of crime ([Infobae](#), 2025). According to a survey that reveals the victimization index in Peru, conducted by Ipsos for the media Peru21, between September 2023 and September 2024, 33% of those surveyed had been victims of street robbery, and 18% of those surveyed said they had been victims of assault with firearms. In both cases, the index for the city of Lima is higher than the data for the country as a whole, which reveals that these criminal dynamics are mainly concentrated in Peru's urban centers ([Ipsos](#), 2024). Faced with this panorama of insecurity, some districts of the city, such as Puente Piedra, have taken pre-emptive measures to reduce the risk of theft. In this locality of metropolitan Lima in October 2024 imposed a ban on motorcycles with more than one occupant throughout its territory, claiming that this mode of transportation was responsible for the majority of thefts in the area ([Infobae](#), 2024).

2.2 Theft in different modalities

Between January and September 2024, a total of 5,546 vehicle theft complaints were registered in metropolitan Lima, a decrease of 8.93% compared to the same period in 2023, when a total of 6,090 complaints were registered. The districts of Lima with the highest number of vehicle thefts in the third quarter of 2024 were Villa El Salvador (271), San Juan de Lurigancho (211), Carabayllo (128), Puente Piedra (109), Chorrillos and San Juan de Miraflores (106, each), and those that showed a more pronounced increase between the third quarter of 2023 and 2024 were Santa Anita (73), followed by Chorrillos (47) and Villa El Salvador (45) ([INEI](#), 2024). According to the Peruvian National Police (PNP), during the year 2024, one out of every 10 homes was a victim of burglary in urban areas of the country, which means an increase in this type of crime. According to authorities in Lima, the most affected districts were Surco, San Juan de Lurigancho, Los Olivos, Cercado de Lima, San Borja and San Martín de Porres. According to the authorities, these incidents occur more frequently during long holidays and vacations such as the end of the year, when people leave their homes for long periods of time and it is easier to enter the home and remove items without arousing much suspicion ([Infobae](#), 2024).

2.3 Land piracy

The city of Lima, being the capital of Peru, and having within its metropolitan area the most important port of Peru, Callao, the theft on highways and surrounding towns can be a recurrent event. In May 2024, the PNP succeeded in dismantling a gang dedicated to the theft of trucks and merchandise on highways near the town of Villa el Salvador. Through seizures in the districts of Comas and Collique, and in the cities of Ate Vitarte and Villa el Salvador, they were able to recover the cargo and capture those responsible ([América TV](#), 2024). In a similar case in June 2024, a gang called “Los Rápidos y Furiosos” stole a load of medicines in the province of Cañete, and the criminals fled to a safe house in Comas, in the Lima metropolitan area. The authorities managed to recover the merchandise by means of a raid ([Infobae](#), 2024). In both cases, the method used to commit the theft was called “skidding”, in which the assailants use power

tools to open the security of the moving cargo and extract the items to subsequently move them to a safe place.

2.4 Homicides

During 2024, Peru suffered a security crisis with the worst homicide figures in the last eight years. This had a major impact on metropolitan Lima, as it is the territory with the highest number of homicides in the country. According to the Death Information System (Sinadef), during 2024 there were a total of 755 cases of homicides, while in Callao there were 112, being the third city with the highest number of these events in Peru. In addition to this, due to the escalation of cases of hired killings and extortion, the government of President Dina Boluarte declared an emergency in 14 districts of the metropolitan area of Lima: Ate, Ancon, Carabayllo, Comas, Independencia, Los Olivos, Lurigancho - Chosica, Lurigancho - Chosica, Puente Piedra, Rímac, San Martín de Porres, San Juan de Lurigancho, Santa Rosa and Villa El Salvador in the province of Lima in the department of Lima and in the district of Ventanilla in the Constitutional Province of Callao ([Infobae](#), 2024). According to experts from the media outlet Ojo Público, the number of homicide reports in Peru, especially in Lima, is causing alarm bells to go off in public administrations; however, due to proposed laws in congress and the lack of funding for the police, the public forces have a very limited capacity to respond to the increase in violence ([El Ojo Público](#), 2024).

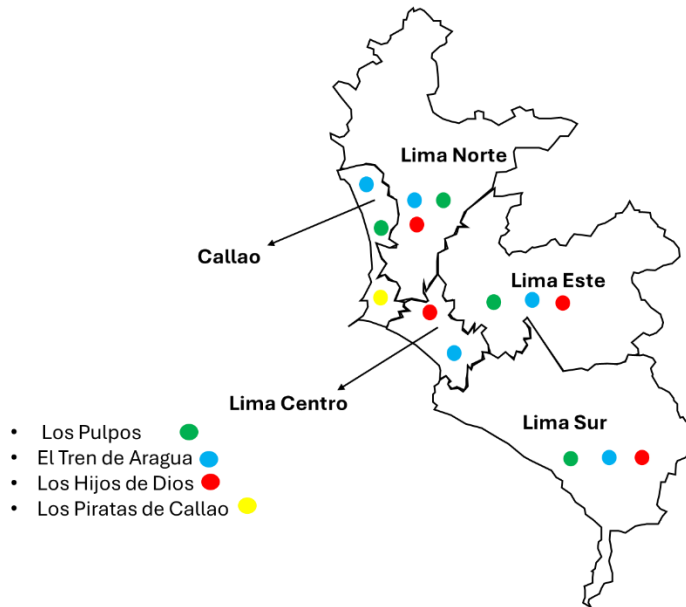
2.5 Extortion, threats and kidnapping

For some years now, security in Lima has been in decline, generating a rise in insecurity scenarios such as kidnapping, threats and extortion. These dynamics are also accompanied by cases of hired killings, which makes the situation in the Peruvian capital even more complex. These dynamics are mainly due to the increased presence of criminal groups and gangs in the territory, seeking illicit rents and territorial control to take advantage of the city's population density. In December 2024, a city businessman was kidnapped by a gang dedicated to this type of crime, while they demanded a total of two million soles from his family to free him and not torture him. When the PNP found him in the house where he was being held in the El Agustino sector, they encountered at least nine kidnapers, one of whom was carrying a fragmentation grenade ([Infobae](#), 2024). In another case that occurred in December, a journalist who had requested a cab through a mobile app was kidnapped by a criminal gang in the San Luis sector. He was taken to a house where he was drugged and forced by threats to transfer 18 thousand soles ([Infobae](#), 2024). A very worrying case occurred in September when a gang made up of Venezuelan citizens kidnapped a Korean businessman from a mining company in the country in La Independencia. Through extortive phone calls and text messages, they demanded that the company's finance manager pay 3 million soles or they would cut up the businessman. The PNP managed to locate the house where he was being held and rescued him with minor injuries ([Infobae](#), 2024).

3 Risk Generating Factors

3.1 Micro-trafficking and criminal groups

Distribution of the main criminal gangs in Lima



Resource: Policía Nacional del Perú (PNP), 2024.

Since the pandemic, criminal gangs have been a recurring problem for both the Lima mayor's office and the national government, which is currently headed by Dina Boluarte. From the arrival of gangs and gangs from other countries in the region to the consolidation and strengthening of existing local groups was a constant during 2024. The conflict over territory has been the main driving force, as drug trafficking, micro-trafficking and extortion routes in large cities such as Lima leave large illegal revenues. Gangs such as Los Pulpos, El Tren de Aragua, Los Hijos de Dios, Los Charlys or Los Piratas del Callao are the main criminal actors in the city and those who fight over territory. Through threats, assassinations and extortion, they perpetuate their control over some of the districts of Lima and also obtain money from the community and various companies present in the city and in the national territory (Infobae, 2025).

The Pulpos were originally formed in Piura, in northern Peru, but through violence they managed to establish themselves in Lima districts such as Los Olivos and San Martín de Porres. This gang specialized in extorting money from transporters and merchants, which makes them a major risk factor for the population and the country's economy. El Tren de Aragua, a criminal gang born in the state of

Aragua in Venezuela, has expanded throughout the region, including Peru. They have dedicated themselves in Lima mainly to activities such as extortion, migrant smuggling and sexual exploitation, as well as drug trafficking. Los Hijos del Dios are a faction of the Tren de Aragua that operates independently in regions such as Lima and its surroundings and is mainly engaged in human trafficking, sexual exploitation and extortion. On the other hand, Los Piratas del Callao has its operations mainly in the port from where it engages in drug trafficking, smuggling and extortion. Because of their international connections, they are a difficult group for the PNP to follow ([Infobae](#), 2025).

3.2 Social Unrest

Social protest is a tool of the Peruvian people to show their disagreement with social or political issues that affect them in some way. Considering that in recent years Peru has suffered serious political, economic and social crises, we can see that the people of Lima, which is the capital and most populous city, have taken to the streets on numerous occasions to make themselves heard. Issues such as the security crisis, volatile national governments and the fragile economy make this issue even more relevant to analyze, since, given the context, there is always the possibility that protest could take a violent turn or lead to de facto actions. For example, on October 23, 2024, unions of merchants, transporters, teachers and students organized a “National Strike” denouncing the increase of extortion and assassinations in the country. They marched to the presidential palace and congress to demand that the administration take action on this problem ([France 24](#), 2024). In November, the transport union organized a national strike, taking advantage of the fact that the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum was taking place in the city, to pressure the government to take decisive action against organized crime. As a result of this strike, key roads in Lima were blocked by this union in order to get the Minister of the Interior to meet with them and reach agreements ([Infobae](#), 2024).

4. Risk Level

The objective of the risk level analysis is to identify the areas where, according to institutional statistics, there is a greater possibility of violence and high-impact crimes. In the case of this Security Overview-Lima, the characterization will be based on security and crime statistics from the Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática (INEI) and the National Police of Peru (PNP). The most problematic areas of the city will then be identified through two indicators: homicide cases and the presence of organized criminal groups.



Resource: Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática (INEI) and National Police of Peru (PNP), 2024

Medium Risk Level: Lima Este and Lima Sur

In eastern Lima, the situation is mixed. Some districts face significant problems with criminal gangs, but others are relatively safer. Homicides are less frequent compared to North and Central Lima, although there are pockets of violence. Similar to East Lima, South Lima presents a mixed picture. Districts such as Villa El Salvador have seen an increase in crime, but others such as Miraflores have higher levels of security. The incidence of homicides is moderate, which allows it to maintain a medium category.

Medium-High Risk Level: Lima Centro

Although Lima Centro has a strong police presence, criminal activity remains prevalent. Extortion gangs are common, and several homicides related to these activities have been reported. Perceptions of insecurity are high among residents, justifying its medium-high classification.

High Risk Level: Lima Norte and Callao

This area has reported a significant increase in criminal gang activity, especially in districts such as San Martin de Porres and Puente Piedra, where organized crime is prevalent. Homicides have shown an increase in recent years, which contributes to its high risk categorization. Callao faces a serious problem with criminal gangs and extortionists. Violence has increased considerably in recent years, with a high number of homicides related to organized crime. The general perception of insecurity is high among its inhabitants, which justifies its high categorization.

5. Foresight Design

In 2024, security in Lima has deteriorated significantly, presenting a worrying panorama for its inhabitants. The increase in crime, which ranges from petty theft to extortion and contract killings, has generated a growing perception of insecurity among citizens. This increase in crime not only affects the quality of life but also has a negative impact on the local economy and tourism. Despite governmental and municipal efforts to combat crime, such as the implementation of security programs and coordination with the National Police, the results have not been sufficient to reverse the upward trend in crime rates. While some districts such as San Isidro manage to maintain relatively low levels of crime, most areas of Metropolitan Lima face serious security problems, which require a comprehensive and coordinated response from the authorities.

The short and medium-term outlook is not optimistic. Security experts warn that the situation could worsen even more in the coming years if effective and sustainable policies are not implemented. The declaration of states of emergency in critical districts, although it may have an immediate impact on crime reduction, is not a long-term solution, since, once the measure is lifted, crime tends to resurface. The National Center for Strategic Planning (CEPLAN) has identified various global and national risks that could affect security in the country, including social, environmental, geopolitical and technological factors. Addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive approach that involves all sectors of society, from government and law enforcement to business and the general public, in order to build a safer and more resilient city.

6. Recommendations

- Always maintain a high degree of situational awareness, which allows you to identify risks or threats derived from situations external to the place or areas where you travel.
- Taking into account the description of the Risk Level provided in this document, identify areas and districts with a high-risk level. This in order to foresee security and self-care plans.
- In case of travelling in a private vehicle, make a route analysis and have alternate routes that will allow you to resolve any new developments on the route.
- Try to travel during daylight hours.
- For the movement of expatriates or foreigners within Lima, evaluate the likelihood of having systems to monitor their movements remotely from a Command Center.
- If you are in crowded places such as restaurants, shopping malls or bars, always take care of your personal belongings and avoid engaging in conversations with people who suddenly ask for favors or want to approach you.
- Avoid having detailed or sensitive information about your family members and the organization you work for on your cell phone.
- Be careful with the information you publish through your social networks, taking into account that the less privacy you have, the greater the exposure to the risk of extortion or kidnapping.
- If you are a victim of telephone extortion, do not hang up, try to take notes, do not give your name or your identity number and, if possible, record the call.
- If you are a victim of threats in any of its modalities, contact the authorities immediately and do not give in to the requests of the criminals.
- If possible, train yourself in defensive and evasive driving to increase your ability to save your life or that of your family in the event of an assault on public roads.
- If you are in a highly vulnerable situation and are likely to be a victim of robbery or express kidnapping, do not put up any resistance.

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