

Module name: Problem Solving and Innovation

Student name: Stefanie Skalkosova - 2412159

Lecturer name: Tristan Hawkins

People steal from stores for many reasons. Some do it because they do not have enough money to buy what they need. Others steal in groups to sell the items and make money. Some think they will not get caught, while others steal because they see other people doing it. Stores have trouble stopping theft because they do not have enough workers, their security is weak, and some rules stop them from taking action.

One big reason people steal is money problems. The prices of food, clothes, and other basic things keep going up (Security Expert 2024). Many people do not make enough money to afford these things. Some have lost their jobs, while others do not get paid enough. When people do not have enough money, they feel like stealing is the only way to get what they need. Some homeless people also steal to survive. They take food, clothes, or other items because they have no other choice.

Some people steal in groups. These groups work together to take a lot of items at once. They steal things that are easy to sell, like clothes, phones, and makeup. After stealing, they sell these items online or in secret markets. Because they work fast and in teams, it is harder for stores to shop them. These thefts cause big losses for businesses (Shanmugaesan, S. 2024).

Law and police actions also play a role in theft. Police often focus on bigger crimes like violence. Because of this, small thefts do not always get much attention. In some places, the punishment for stealing is not very strong. Many thieves know this, so they are not afraid of getting caught (Waitzman, E. 2024). Some even return to the same stores to steal again because they know there will not be serious consequences.

Stores also have security problems that make stealing easier. (Mohamud, M. 2025). Many stores do not have enough workers to watch customers. Self-checkout machines make it even easier for people to take items without paying. Some stores tell workers not to stop thieves because it can be

dangerous. This makes more people feel like they can get away with stealing. Stores try to use cameras and other security tools, but privacy laws can make it hard to watch people. If stores add too much security, it can also make honest customers feel uncomfortable.

Technology is another issue when it comes to theft. Many stores use cameras, alarms, and tracking systems to stop stealing, but these do not always work well. Some thieves know how to avoid cameras, and some stores take too long to upgrade their security systems (GOV.UK 2024). Privacy laws also limit how much stores can watch people, making it harder to catch thieves. Some security systems are also too strict and end up bothering honest customers instead of stopping crime. Finding the right balance between security and customer service is difficult for many businesses.

Because so many things cause theft, stopping it is not easy. Stores need better security, but they also need to treat honest customers fairly. Stricter laws and better police action could help, but money problems also need to be fixed. If people can afford their needs, they may not feel the need to steal. People also need to understand that stealing is wrong. Fixing this problem will take effort from stores, police, and the community.

Reference list

GOV.UK (2024). *Cyber Security Breaches Survey 2024*. [online] GOV.UK. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/cyber-security-breaches-survey-2024/cyber-security-breaches-survey-2024>.

Mohamud, M. (2025). *'Having Worked as a Retail Security Officer and Managed Multiple Retail contracts, I've Seen the Challenges of This Industry up close. Retail Security Is No Walk in the Park— it's under-resourced and understaffed, and Officers Often Find Themselves in Vulnerable position'*. [online] LinkedIn.com. Available at: <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/harsh-reality-retail-security-2024-mohamed-mohamud-ijzte> [Accessed 12 Feb. 2025].

Security Expert (2024). *What Are the Causes and How to Prevent Shoplifting in Retail – T-Class UK*. [online] T-Class UK. Available at: <https://t->

[class.co.uk/what-are-the-causes-and-how-to-prevent-shoplifting-in-retail/](https://www.class.co.uk/what-are-the-causes-and-how-to-prevent-shoplifting-in-retail/).

Shanmugaesan, S. (2024). *Organised Acquisitive Crime – National Crime Agency*. [online] Nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk. Available at: <https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/threats/nsa-organised-acquisitive-crime-2024>.

Waitzman, E. (2024). *Retail crime: Impact on workers, the community and local economies*. [online] House of Lords Library. Available at: <https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/retail-crime-impact-on-workers-comuunity-and-local-economies/>.