

## Police: Crime could rise as economy falls

“You definitely see a rise (in crime) when people need money,” Beckley police Detective Lt. Gant Montgomery said. “I hope the economy recovers, and until then, we will continue to do our jobs. I hope it’s not an outright downward spiral because you’ll see crime increase all across the board.”

People will sometimes resort to selling drugs when they are desperate enough, Montgomery said. Likewise, unemployment leads to “hopelessness” and affected people often turn to drug use. The combination of both more drug dealers and more drug users is dangerous because so many other crimes, like theft, are linked to the drug trade.

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