

Police-reported crime statistics, 2013

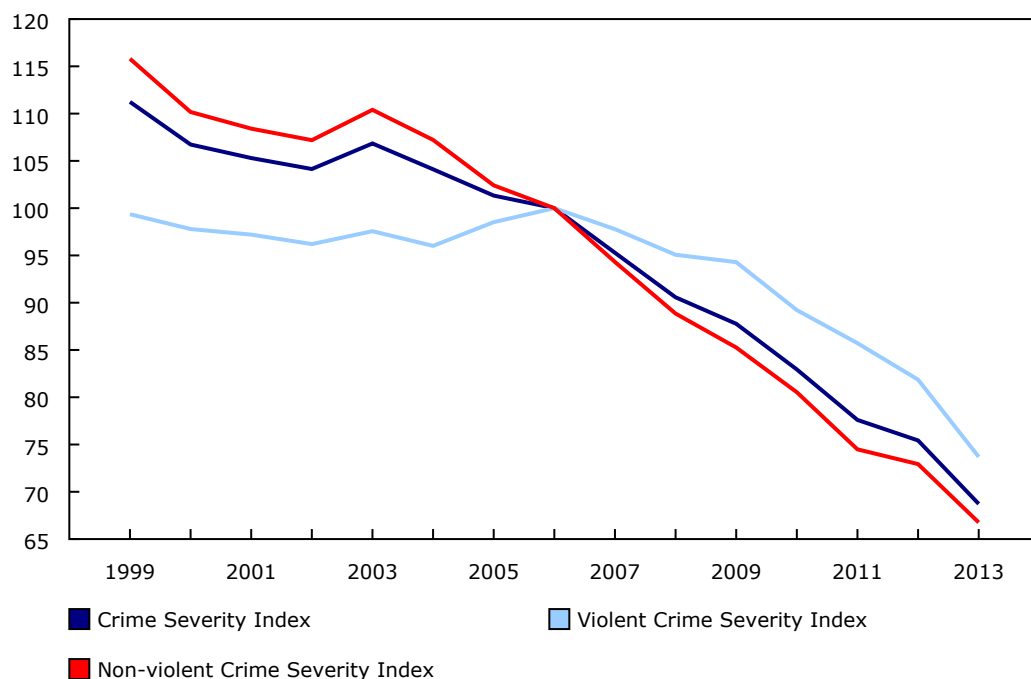
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The police-reported Crime Severity Index (CSI), which measures the volume and severity of crime, declined 9% in 2013 compared with 2012. This was the 10th consecutive decline in the index. The CSI was 36% lower than 10 years earlier.

The traditional crime rate also declined in 2013 compared with 2012, falling 8%. It continued its long-term downward trend that began in the early 1990s, reaching its lowest level since 1969. Since 1962, the traditional crime rate has measured the volume of crime, but does not take into account the severity of crimes.

Chart 1
Police-reported crime severity indexes, Canada, 1999 to 2013

index (2006=100)



Canadian police services reported just over 1.8 million criminal incidents (*Criminal Code* offences excluding traffic) in 2013, down approximately 132,000 from the previous year.

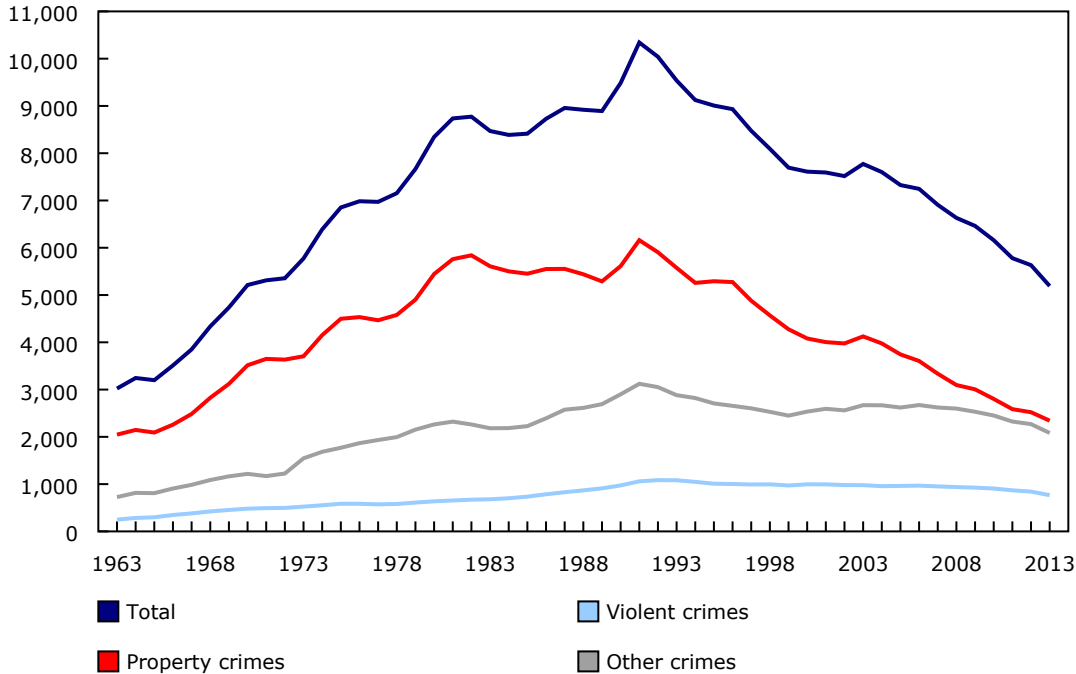
Most offences were down in 2013. The decline in the CSI was specifically attributable to declines in breaking and entering and robbery. Decreases in some of the less serious but very frequent offences, such as theft of \$5,000 or under and mischief, also contributed to the drop in the CSI.

However, some offences were up in 2013. In particular, police services reported more incidents of extortion, child pornography, aggravated sexual assault (level 3), sexual violations against children and identity fraud.



Chart 2
Police-reported crime rates, Canada, 1963 to 2013

rate per 100,000 population



Crime Severity Index down in most provinces and territories

In 2013, most provinces and territories recorded a decrease in their CSI compared with 2012. However, the CSI increased in Yukon (+6%) and Newfoundland and Labrador (+1%).

Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec and Manitoba (-12% each) recorded the largest declines among the provinces and territories.

In most provinces, the decline in the CSI was largely due to fewer breaking and entering incidents. However, in British Columbia, robberies were behind the decline in the CSI. In the Northwest Territories, a decrease in homicides resulted in the drop in the CSI, whereas the decline in Nunavut was due to a large decrease in incidents of mischief.

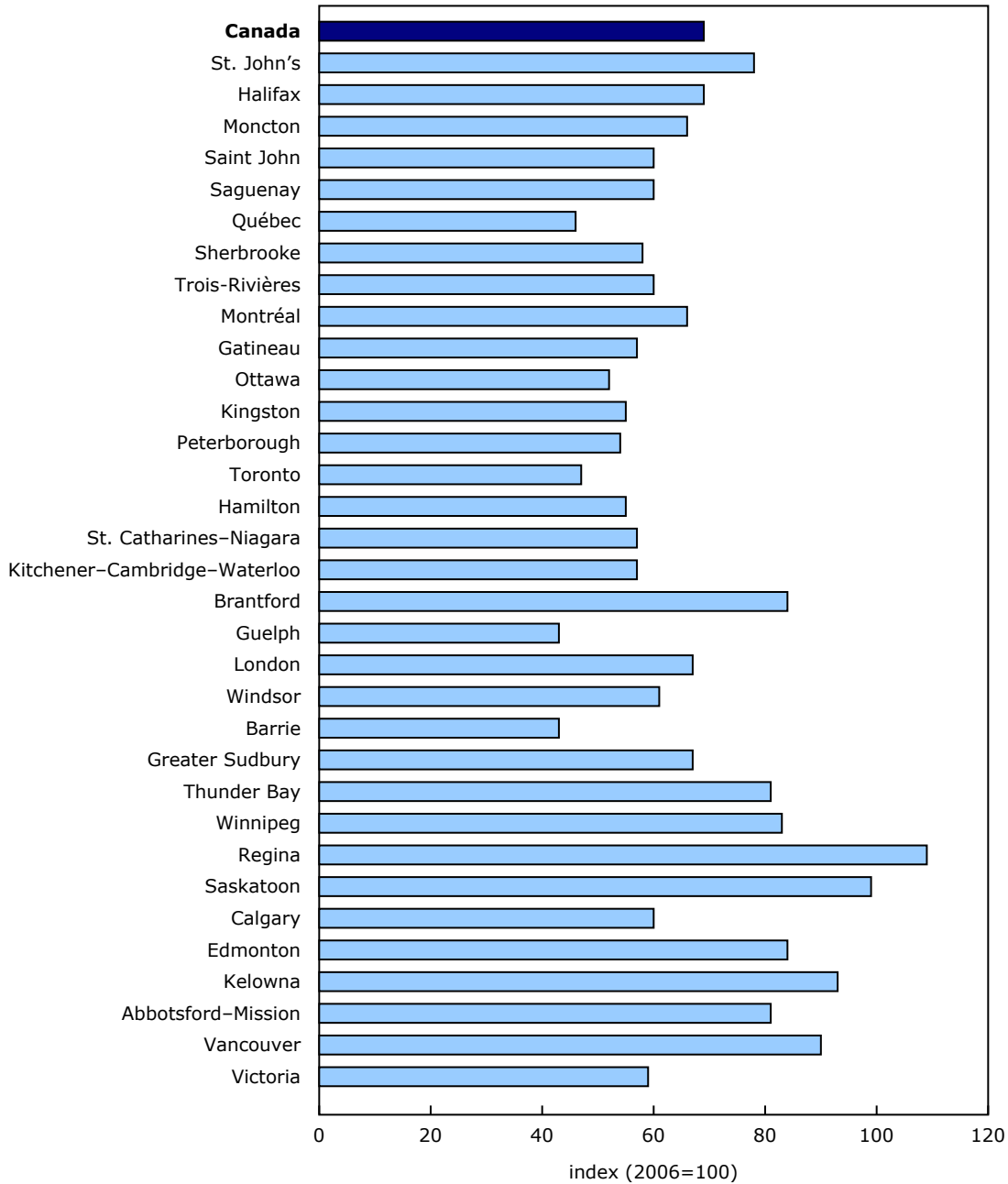
As in previous years, each territory had a higher CSI than any province. Saskatchewan had the highest CSI among the provinces, while Ontario had the lowest.

Crime Severity Index down in almost all census metropolitan areas

For the first time since 1998, the first year for which the CSI was calculated, none of Canada's census metropolitan areas (CMAs) recorded an increase in its CSI. The CSI was unchanged in Edmonton, while it declined in all other CMAs. The largest decrease compared with 2012 was in Victoria (-17%).

Despite a 7% drop in its CSI, Regina had the highest CSI of any CMA, while Barrie and Guelph had the lowest.

Chart 3
Police-reported Crime Severity Index, by census metropolitan area, 2013



Violent Crime Severity Index continues to decline

The violent CSI fell 10% in 2013 compared with 2012, marking the seventh consecutive decrease.

Canadian police services reported approximately 384,000 violent incidents in 2013, down about 32,000 from the previous year. The decline in the violent CSI was mainly due to a decrease in robberies and, to a lesser extent, fewer assaults with a weapon or causing bodily harm (level 2), common assaults (level 1) and uttering threats.

Police reported 505 homicides in 2013, down 38 from 2012. The homicide rate was 1.44 victims per 100,000 population, the lowest rate since 1966. Police also reported 642 attempted murders in 2013, down 23 from the previous year.

Every province and territory except Newfoundland and Labrador saw a decrease in their violent CSI compared with 2012. Similarly, every CMA saw their violent CSI decline except Trois-Rivières, St. John's, Brantford and Calgary, which recorded increases.

Increase in police-reported "sexual violations against children"

In 2013, the police reported 4,232 incidents in the "sexual violations against children" category, 279 more than in 2012. This was one of the only violent crime categories to increase in 2013.

The "sexual violations against children" category includes five specific offences under the *Criminal Code*: luring a child via a computer, sexual exploitation, sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching and making sexually explicit material available to a child. However, this category excludes sexual assaults against children, which are classified with all other sexual assaults, including those against adults.

Of the sexual violations against children, luring a child via a computer showed the greatest increase, rising 30% in 2013, followed by sexual exploitation (+11%). In contrast, invitation to sexual touching decreased 5%.

Non-violent Crime Severity Index is down

Most crimes reported by the police are non-violent. Police reported just over 1.4 million non-violent incidents in 2013, or nearly four crimes in five, of which 1.1 million were property crimes. The non-violent CSI decreased 8% compared with 2012, the 10th consecutive decrease in this index. The non-violent CSI was 40% lower than a decade earlier.

While most non-violent offences declined in 2013, the decrease in the non-violent CSI was mainly due to a large drop in the number of incidents of breaking and entering, theft of \$5,000 or under and mischief. However, some offences in the non-violent category rose in 2013, specifically counterfeiting, child pornography and identity fraud.

Almost every province and territory saw their non-violent CSI decline in 2013. The largest decreases were in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, while the non-violent CSI was stable in Newfoundland and Labrador and increased in Yukon.

Most CMAs also saw a decrease in their non-violent CSI except Edmonton, where the index rose in 2013 as a result of more motor vehicle thefts and theft of \$5,000 or under.

The youth Crime Severity Index down for the fourth consecutive year

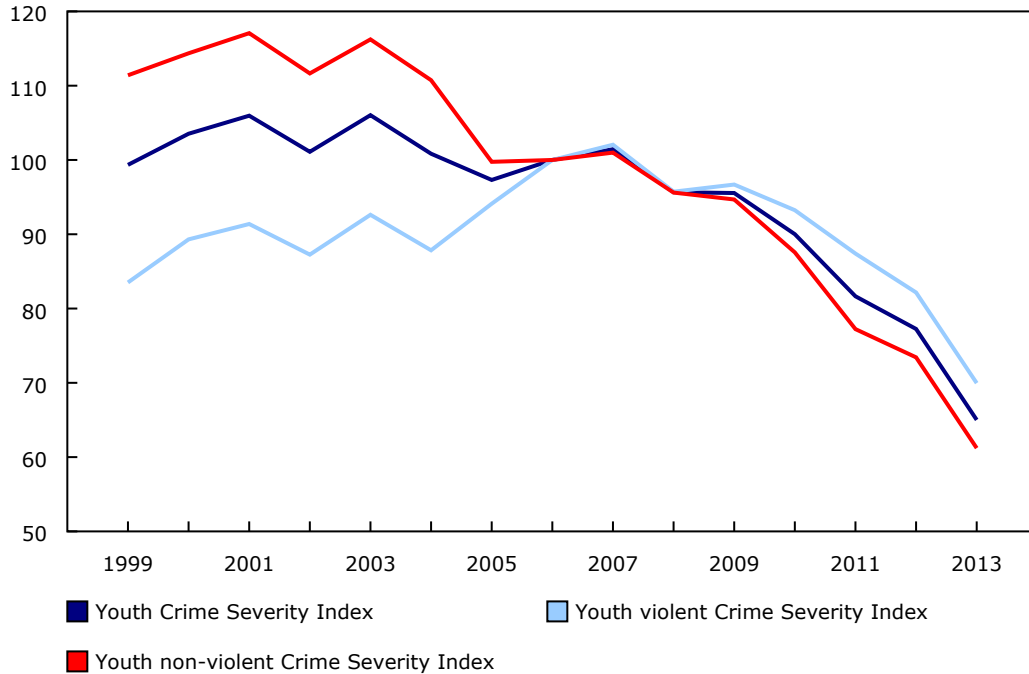
The youth CSI fell by 16% in 2013 compared with 2012, the fourth consecutive decline. The youth CSI measures the volume and severity of crimes for which an accused aged 12 to 17 was identified.

The decline in the youth CSI was mainly due to fewer youths accused of robbery, breaking and entering or theft of \$5,000 or under.

Every province and territory except Yukon saw their youth CSI decline compared with 2012. Among the provinces, Saskatchewan recorded the highest youth CSI, while British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec had the lowest.

Chart 4
Police-reported youth crime severity indexes, Canada, 1999 to 2013

index (2006=100)



Note to readers

The crime rate and the Crime Severity Index (CSI) are complementary measures of police-reported crime. The crime rate measures the volume of crime reported to the police per 100,000 population, while the CSI measures both the volume and severity of crimes.

To calculate the CSI, each offence is assigned a weight based on the average sentence handed down by criminal courts for this offence. The more serious the average sentence, the higher the weight for that offence. To calculate the CSI, the weighted offences are summed and then divided by the population. As with other indexes, to simplify comparison, the CSI is then standardized to a base year of "100" (for the CSI, the base year is 2006). In other words, all CSI values are relative to the Canada-level CSI for 2006. CSI values are available back to 1998.

In addition to the overall CSI, a violent CSI and a non-violent CSI were created. Like the overall CSI, they have been standardized; therefore, the values for these indexes are relative to the Canada-level indexes for the base year, namely "100" for 2006. For more information on the concepts and use of the severity indexes, see the document *Measuring Crime in Canada: Introducing the Crime Severity Index and Improvements to the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (85-004-X)*, accessible on our website in the Publications module, under the Browse by key resource tab.

Data are drawn from the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, a census of all crime known to, and substantiated by, police services. However, for incidents of child pornography, due to the complexity of these incidents, the data likely reflect the number of active or closed investigations for the year rather than the total number of incidents reported to police. These crime statistics conform to a nationally approved set of common crime categories and definitions. They have been systematically reported by police services and submitted to Statistics Canada every year since 1962. Differences in local police service policies, procedures and enforcement practices can affect the comparability of crime statistics at the municipal level.

Statistics Canada also collects self-reported victimization data from the General Social Survey (GSS) on Victimization. The GSS collects information on self-reported incidents of criminal victimization, regardless of whether they were reported to the police. The GSS on Victimization is carried out every five years; the most recent cycle for which data are available was conducted in 2009. The 2014 GSS on Victimization is currently under way.

Table 1
Police-reported crime for selected offences, Canada

	2013		2012 to 2013	2003 to 2013
	number	rate	% change in rate	% change in rate
Total, all violations	2,098,302	5,968	-8	-30
Total crime (excluding traffic) – "crime rate"	1,824,837	5,190	-8	-33
Violent crime, total	383,945	1,092	-9	-24
Homicide	505	1	-8	-17
Other violations causing death	84	0	-19	-49
Attempted murder	642	2	-5	-18
Sexual assault – level 3 – aggravated	137	0	9	-28
Sexual assault – level 2 – weapon or bodily harm	370	1	-2	-7
Sexual assault – level 1	20,804	59	-4	-19
Sexual violations against children	4,232	12	6	...
Assault – level 3 – aggravated	3,190	9	-11	-1
Assault – level 2 – weapon or bodily harm	45,672	130	-9	-9
Assault – level 1	158,090	450	-8	-25
Assault peace officer	9,722	28	-11	-1
Other assaults	2,718	8	-8	-35
Firearms – use of, discharge, pointing	1,886	5	-9	-26
Robbery	23,213	66	-17	-35
Forcible confinement or kidnapping	3,239	9	-12	-9
Abduction	385	1	-3	-38
Extortion	2,302	7	32	8
Criminal harassment	21,555	61	-4	-15
Uttering threats	63,970	182	-10	-33
Threatening or harassing phone calls	16,610	47	-12	-45
Other violent Criminal Code violations	4,619	13	-2	6
Property crime, total	1,106,093	3,146	-8	-41
Breaking and entering	156,357	445	-12	-51
Possess stolen property	16,797	48	-5	-54
Theft of motor vehicle	72,804	207	-8	-62
Theft over \$5,000 (non-motor vehicle)	14,339	41	-8	-34
Theft of \$5,000 or under (non-motor vehicle)	471,924	1,342	-7	-39
Fraud (excluding identity fraud)	79,765	227	0	-23
Identity fraud ¹	11,594	33	6	...
Mischief	273,597	778	-12	-31
Arson	8,916	25	-21	-41
Other Criminal Code offences, total	334,799	952	-5	-8
Counterfeiting	580	2	30	-81
Weapons violations	13,789	39	-3	-15
Child pornography	2,668	8	21	163
Prostitution	2,066	6	-3	-67
Terrorism	72	0	-44	...
Disturbing the peace	109,830	312	-5	-4
Administration of justice violations	176,431	502	-5	-4
Other violations	29,363	84	-8	-26
Criminal Code traffic violations, total	136,358	388	-5	4
Impaired driving	78,391	223	-8	-9
Other Criminal Code traffic violations	57,967	165	0	30
Drug offences, total	109,057	310	-2	13
Possession – cannabis	58,965	168	1	28
Possession – cocaine	7,696	22	-4	8
Possession – other drugs	11,119	32	4	80
Trafficking, production or distribution – cannabis	14,308	41	-10	-35
Trafficking, production or distribution – cocaine	9,749	28	-10	13
Trafficking, production or distribution – other drugs	7,220	21	-3	10

Table 1
Police-reported crime for selected offences, Canada

	2013		2012 to 2013	2003 to 2013
	number	rate	% change in rate	% change in rate
Other federal statute violations, total	28,050	80	-23	-30
Youth Criminal Justice Act	9,418	27	-27	-61
Other federal statutes	18,632	53	-21	15

... not applicable

1. In 2013, it was discovered that an error in Quebec's provincial reporting system had incorrectly resulted in a number of thefts being coded as identity thefts in Montréal. As such, the number of incidents of identity theft has been revised for the years 2010 to 2012.

Note(s): Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population.

Table 2
Police-reported Crime Severity Index and crime rate, by province and territory

	Crime Severity Index		Crime rate	
	2013	2012 to 2013	2013	2012 to 2013
	index	% change	rate	% change
Canada	68.7	-9	5,190	-8
Newfoundland and Labrador	68.4	1	5,955	-2
Prince Edward Island	64.5	-12	5,854	-11
Nova Scotia	69.8	-9	5,632	-11
New Brunswick	59.7	-12	4,813	-13
Quebec	62.3	-12	3,861	-11
Ontario	52.5	-11	3,678	-9
Manitoba	100.3	-12	7,967	-11
Saskatchewan	125.7	-9	10,644	-7
Alberta	83.7	-2	7,018	-3
British Columbia	89.2	-6	7,454	-6
Yukon	165.7	6	23,523	14
Northwest Territories	314.4	-7	45,763	-4
Nunavut	281.9	-11	32,345	-15

Note(s): Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population.

Table 3
Police-reported Crime Severity Index and crime rate, by census metropolitan area

	Crime Severity Index		Crime rate	
	2013	2012 to 2013	2013	2012 to 2013
	index	% change	rate	% change
Canada	68.7	-9	5,190	-8
St. John's	78.4	-4	6,464	-3
Halifax	68.6	-9	5,326	-10
Moncton	66.1	-16	5,931	-15
Saint John	60.4	-10	4,986	-11
Saguenay	59.9	-16	3,566	-12
Québec	46.5	-10	3,257	-6
Sherbrooke	58.4	-5	3,716	-8
Trois-Rivières	60.3	-7	3,875	-6
Montréal	65.9	-12	4,072	-11
Gatineau	56.9	-13	3,916	-14
Ottawa	52.1	-10	3,615	-12
Kingston	54.6	-6	4,848	-5
Peterborough	54.4	-14	4,489	-3
Toronto	47.1	-10	2,941	-7
Hamilton	55.1	-10	3,786	-12
St. Catharines–Niagara	57.5	-10	3,992	-12
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	56.8	-4	4,336	-6
Brantford	83.7	-9	6,242	-10
Guelph	43.0	-16	3,557	-14
London	67.2	-11	5,225	-8
Windsor	61.3	-9	4,399	-8
Barrie	42.8	-14	3,712	-15
Greater Sudbury	66.9	-6	4,685	-7
Thunder Bay	80.6	-9	6,392	-10
Winnipeg	83.2	-15	5,368	-16
Regina	109.3	-7	8,069	-8
Saskatoon	99.1	-7	7,958	-6
Calgary	60.4	-1	4,268	-2
Edmonton	84.5	0	6,743	0
Kelowna	92.6	-12	7,680	-13
Abbotsford–Mission	80.7	-5	6,109	-2
Vancouver	90.3	-5	6,897	-4
Victoria	59.1	-17	5,408	-12

Note(s): Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population.

Available in CANSIM: tables 252-0051, 252-0052 and 252-0075 to 252-0090.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3302.

The *Juristat* article "Police-reported crime statistics in Canada, 2013" (85-002-X) is now available. From the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Publications*, choose *All subjects*, then *Crime and justice*, and *Juristat*.

Additional data are available upon request.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).