

Police resources in Canada, 2015

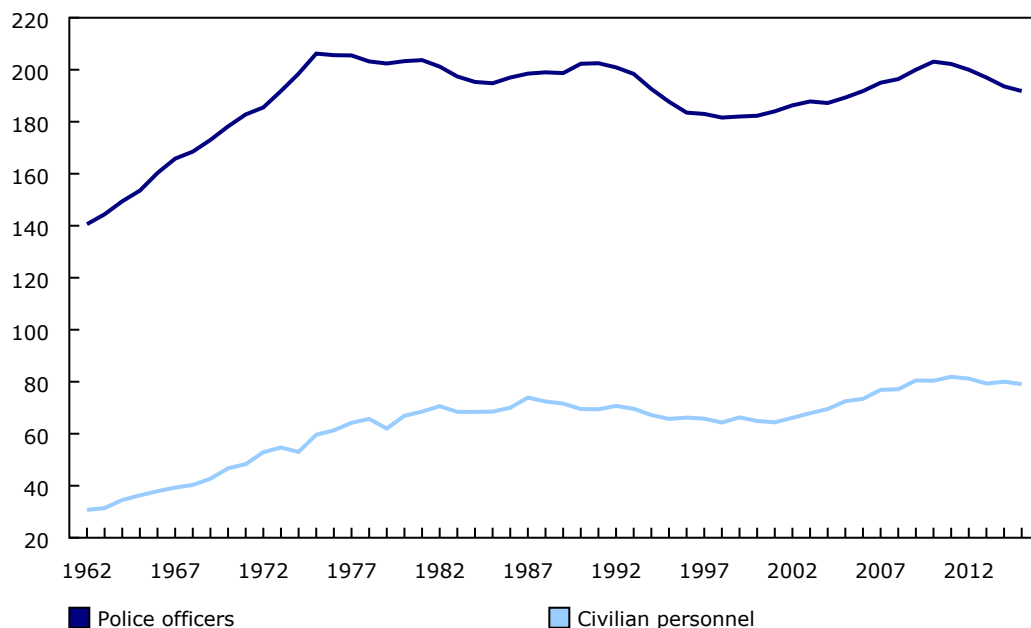
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On the snapshot date of May 15, 2015, there were 68,777 police officers in Canada, 29 fewer than in the previous year. The rate of police strength declined 0.9% from the previous year to 192 officers per 100,000 population. After increasing from 1999 to 2010, the rate of police strength in Canada declined for four consecutive years.

Chart 1

Police officers and civilian personnel per 100,000 population, Canada, 1962 to 2015

personnel per 100,000 population



Note(s): Police officers represent the actual number of permanent, fully sworn police officers of all ranks (or their full-time equivalents). Civilian personnel include permanent civilian staff on the police service's payroll, employed in permanent positions such as clerks, dispatchers, managers, cadets, special constables, security officers, school crossing guards and by-law enforcement officers. Populations are based on Statistics Canada's July 1 estimates.

Source(s): Police Administration Survey (3301).

The rate of police strength fell in every province in 2015 with the exception of Newfoundland and Labrador, where the rate was stable (-0.4%), and Alberta, where it increased slightly (+0.5%).

In 2015, 5 of 49 police services serving a population of 100,000 or more reported an increase in their rate of police strength. They included three British Columbia communities, Surrey, Burnaby and Langley Township, as well as Lévis, Quebec and Red Deer, Alberta.

The number of female police officers in Canada continued to grow. On May 15, 2015, there were 14,332 female officers, up 1.2% from 2014. Female police officers accounted for one in five (20.8%) of all police officers in 2015. The proportion of female officers employed by Canadian police services has increased annually since data were first collected in 1986.

The proportion of female senior officers, meaning those occupying the ranks of lieutenant to police chief, more than doubled over the last decade, from 5% in 2005 to 12% in 2015.



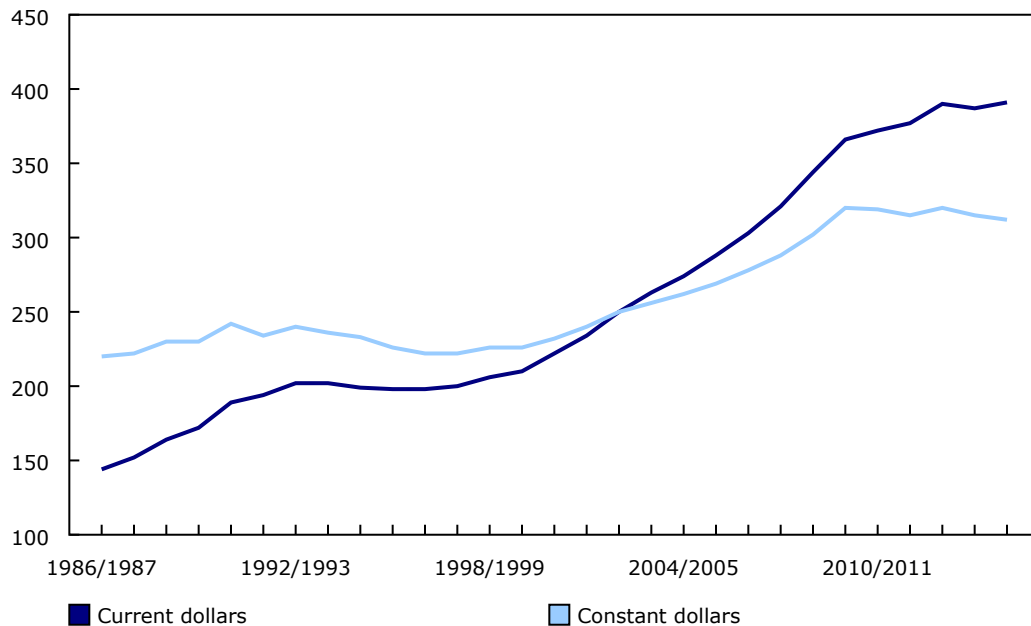
For the fourth consecutive year, the proportion of officers aged 40 and older increased, rising from 50% in 2012 to 54% in 2015. According to the Police Administration Survey, 5% of police officers in 2015 were 55 years or older. However, eligibility to retire may not be based solely on age and requirements may vary by police service.

In the calendar year or fiscal year 2014/2015, 11% of all police officers in Canada were eligible for retirement, but 3%, or 1,741 officers, opted to retire. Those who did retire accounted for 70% of all police officers who departed from their service.

The 28,368 civilians employed by police services on May 15, 2015, accounted for 29% of total police personnel. The proportion of civilians in policing has gradually increased since data were first collected in 1962. The more recent increase in civilian staff has mainly been driven by the growing number of management/professionals employed by police services.

Chart 2
Police expenditures per capita, current dollars and constant dollars,
Canada, 1986/1987 to 2014/2015

per capita expenditures (dollars)



Note(s): Current dollars express the cost of items in terms of the year in which the expenditure occurs. Constant dollars are adjusted (by inflation or deflation) to show changes in the purchasing power of the dollar. The Consumer Price Index was used to calculate constant dollars over a base year of 2002 (2002=100). Populations are based on Statistics Canada's July 1 estimates.
Source(s): Police Administration Survey (3301).

Year-end operating expenditures for police services in Canada in 2014/2015 totalled \$13.9 billion in current dollars. These expenditures comprised salaries and wages (66%), benefits (15%), and other operating expenditures (19%). When adjusting for inflation, police spending increased annually from 1997/1998 to 2010/2011. Since then, police operating expenditures have been relatively stable, and were unchanged in 2014/2015. However, when considering the population of Canada and inflation, policing costs per capita declined 0.9% in 2014/2015. In current dollars, annual police operating expenditures in 2014/2015 totalled \$391 for every Canadian.

Table 1
Municipal police services serving a population of 100,000 or more, 2015

	Population ¹	Police officers ²	Police officers ²	Police officers ²	Hirings ⁴	Departures ⁴	Net gain or loss: hirings and departures ⁴	Police officers eligible to retire ⁴
	number		rate per 100,000 population ³	annual % change in number		number		%
Municipal police services⁵								
Toronto, Ont.	2,808,503	5,425	193	0.4	136	202	-66	7.4
Montréal, Que.	1,988,243	4,638	233	-0.9	203	215	-12	17.9
Peel Region (Mississauga/Brampton), Ont.	1,351,347	1,951	144	-0.3	89	58	31	4.6
Calgary, Alta.	1,265,531	2,147	170	-0.7	105	69	36	0.0
York Region (Markham/Vaughan), Ont.	1,121,346	1,535	137	0.1	55	20	35	4.0
Ottawa, Ont.	947,031	1,272	134	-3.4	28	34	-6	3.4
Edmonton, Alta.	928,182	1,665	179	-2.5	110	84	26	8.4
Winnipeg, Man.	709,253	1,422	200	-5.0	8	41	-33	23.9
Durham Region (Oshawa/Whitby/Ajax), Ont.	653,567	866	133	-1.0	15	26	-11	3.6
Vancouver, B.C.	649,189	1,280	197	-2.9	28	32	-4	7.2
Québec, Que.	574,298	714	124	-2.7	0	23	-23	1.7
Hamilton, Ont.	551,751	834	151	-0.2	67	51	16	20.6
Halton Region (Oakville/Burlington), Ont.	551,027	672	122	-1.3	28	16	12	3.9
Waterloo Region (Kitchener), Ont.	538,302	767	142	-0.4	23	21	2	2.6
Surrey, B.C.	498,720	641	129	9.4	61	8	53	6.6
Niagara Region (St. Catharines), Ont.	446,192	709	159	0.0	19	20	-1	8.5
Laval, Que. ⁶	420,870	567	135	-4.6
Longueuil, Que.	416,522	566	136	-0.4	2	20	-18	4.9
London, Ont.	388,615	592	152	-1.6	7	15	-8	4.4
Gatineau, Que.	276,338	396	143	-0.7	19	16	3	2.0
Saskatoon, Sask.	254,569	449	176	-2.9	14	14	0	9.4
Burnaby, B.C.	239,059	281	118	3.5	19	3	16	8.2
Halifax, N.S.	231,915	505	218	-1.8	20	16	4	1.8
Windsor, Ont.	218,270	436	200	-2.3	11	16	-5	0.0
Regina, Sask.	216,555	387	179	-0.4	14	13	1	2.1
St. John's, N.L.	204,427	326	159	-0.5	12	13	-1	33.4
Richmond, B.C. ⁷	203,178	197	97	-11.6	11	2	9	8.6
Richelieu Saint-Laurent, Que.	201,182	210	104	-1.4	0	4	-4	0.0
Greater Sudbury, Ont.	165,175	256	155	-2.7	13	10	3	3.9
Sherbrooke, Que.	162,638	204	125	-1.8	3	3	0	2.9
Saguenay, Que.	148,123	178	120	0.0	7	11	-4	2.2
Barrie, Ont.	146,250	238	163	-2.0	1	2	-1	5.5
Lévis, Que.	142,887	149	104	2.2	6	3	3	8.7
Abbotsford, B.C.	140,645	212	151	-1.0	2	4	-2	0.9
Terrebonne, Que.	137,192	151	110	-0.9	4	4	0	2.6
Coquitlam, B.C.	135,002	144	107	-5.1	6	4	2	14.6
Trois-Rivières, Que.	134,846	160	119	0.0	4	4	0	0.0
Kingston, Ont.	129,653	192	148	-2.7	6	7	-1	3.1
Guelph, Ont.	129,079	191	148	-0.7	8	7	1	9.9
Kelowna, B.C.	124,951	169	135	-4.0	3	3	0	11.2
Thunder Bay, Ont.	116,785	223	191	0.2	7	6	1	3.6
Codiac Region (Moncton), N.B.	116,029	149	128	-5.8	0	11	-11	22.8
Saanich, B.C.	113,624	156	137	-0.2	6	7	-1	3.8
Langley Township, B.C.	111,376	129	116	1.1	2	4	-2	10.1
Delta, B.C.	107,151	175	163	-0.8	10	8	2	0.0
Chatham-Kent, Ont.	105,260	161	153	-2.1	5	3	2	7.5
Roussillon Region, Que.	103,991	113	109	-1.6	0	3	-3	6.2
Red Deer, Alta. (Royal Canadian Mounted Police)	101,895	149	146	1.6	7	7	0	8.1
Victoria, B.C.	101,190	243	240	-0.4	9	6	3	21.0

.. not available for a specific reference period

1. Populations are based on preliminary postcensal estimates for 2014 and are adjusted to follow policing boundaries. Populations according to policing boundaries for 2015 were not available in time for this publication.
2. Represents the actual number of permanent, fully sworn police officers of all ranks (or their full-time equivalents) as of May 15, 2015. This number also includes officers who are deployed to contract positions and who are not available for general policing duties in their community. Police officers on long-term leave who are not being paid by the police service's annual budget are excluded.
3. Based on the number of police officers on May 15, 2015, and populations for 2014. Populations are adjusted to follow policing boundaries. Populations for 2015 are not yet available.
4. Represents hirings, departures and eligibility to retire during the 2014 calendar year or 2014/2015 fiscal year. The percentage of officers eligible to retire is calculated using these data, along with the number of fully sworn officers employed on May 15, 2015.
5. Refers to municipal stand-alone police services and municipalities policed by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police that have a population of 100,000 or more (based on 2014 populations).
6. Data for 2014/2015 on hirings, departures, and eligibility to retire are not available for Laval.
7. Includes Vancouver International Airport.

Source(s): Police Administration Survey (3301).

Note to readers

Several factors may contribute to differences in the rates of police strength across jurisdictions and police services. These include differences in police services' priorities, policies, procedures and enforcement practices, and the availability of resources.

In Canada, information on police personnel and expenditures is collected by Statistics Canada through the annual Police Administration Survey. Using data reported by each police service in Canada, this report provides details on police personnel at the national, provincial and territorial, and respondent levels.

Data in this report represent two distinct time periods. Most of the information on police personnel is based on a "snapshot date" of May 15, 2015, while data on hirings, departures, retirements, eligibility to retire, and expenditures represent the calendar year ending December 31, 2014 (or March 31, 2015 for those police services operating on a fiscal year).

In this release, rates with a percent change that rounds to 0% are considered stable.

Available in CANSIM: tables [254-0002](#) and [254-0004 to 254-0006](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [3301](#).

The *Juristat* article "[Police resources in Canada, 2015](#)" ([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*.

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