

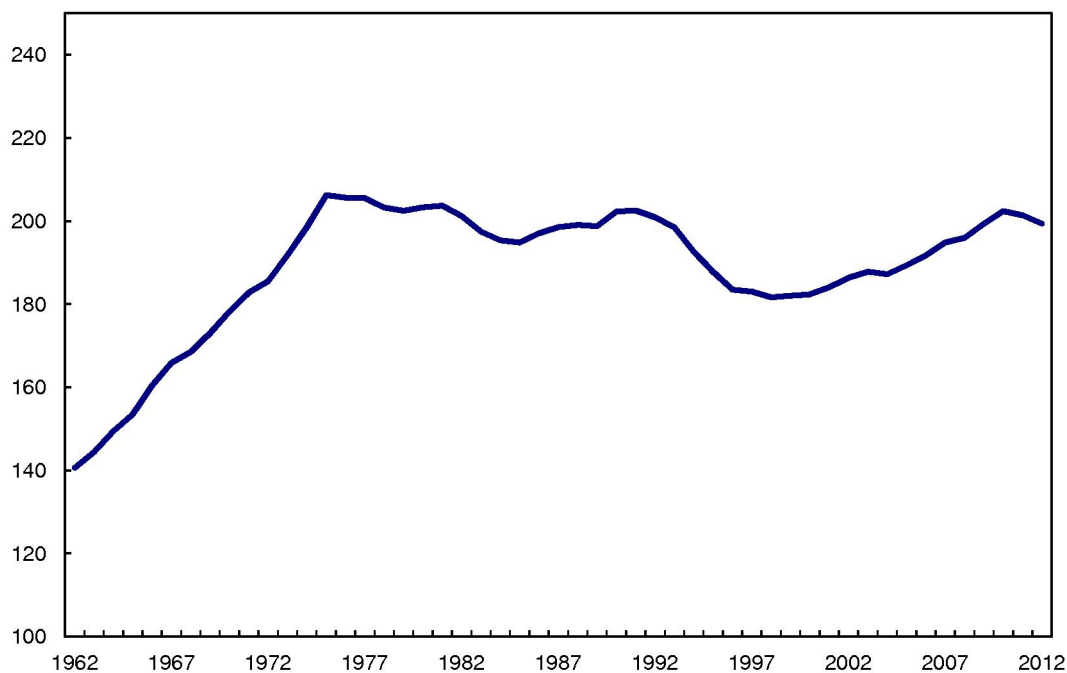
Police personnel and expenditures, 2012

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As of May 15, 2012, Canadian police services had 69,539 police officers, an increase of 115 from 2011. However, police strength, as measured by the number of police officers per capita, declined 1.0% to 199 officers for every 100,000 population.

Chart 1
Police strength per 100,000 population, Canada

Police officers per 100,000 population



Despite small declines in recent years, police strength in Canada has generally grown over the past decade.

Provincially, the largest growth in the rate of police strength from 2011 to 2012 occurred in Manitoba (+3%). As a result, Manitoba replaced Saskatchewan as the province with the highest police strength. Prince Edward Island and Alberta reported the lowest.

Police strength decreased in the majority of Canada's census metropolitan areas in 2012. The largest declines occurred in Moncton (-8%) and Saint John (-6%). Winnipeg replaced Saint John as the metropolitan area with the highest rate of police strength, while Moncton reported the lowest rate.

For the second year in a row, the number of female officers increased, while the number of male officers declined. There were 234 more female and 119 fewer male officers in 2012 than in 2011. Women accounted for 20% of all police officers in 2012, compared with 15% a decade earlier. The proportion of women among the higher ranks of policing has also increased steadily since the early 1990's, growing from 1% in 1992 to 16% in 2012.

About 7,500 police officers were eligible for retirement with full pension in 2011, representing approximately one in ten officers across Canada. Just under 1,300 actually retired that year, representing 2% of the total number of police officers.



Expenditures on policing totalled \$12.9 billion in 2011, a 0.7% decrease from the previous year when controlling for inflation. This was the first decline since 1996 and was driven by the conclusion of Royal Canadian Mounted Police expenditures on national special events such as the 2010 Olympic Games and G8/G20 Summits.

After controlling for inflation, Yukon (-2.5%) and Nova Scotia (-1.7%) were the only jurisdictions to report a decrease in spending. Spending increased the most in Alberta (+5.3%) and Saskatchewan (+4.9%).

Note to readers

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 and expenditures at the national, provincial and municipal levels. For the first time, in 2012, a new Supplemental Survey was added to collect detailed information on police hirings, retirements, eligibility to retire and, where available, visible minority status.

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, 2012, while data on hirings, departures and expenditures represent the calendar year ending December 31, 2011 (or March 31, 2012 for those police services operating on a fiscal year).

**Table 1
Police officers by province/territory**

	Police officers – 2012			Crime Severity Index 2011 ²
	number	rate ¹	percent change in rate 2011 to 2012	
Canada total	69,539	199	-1.0	77.6
Provincial/territorial total	67,858	195	-0.8	77.6
Newfoundland and Labrador	926	181	-0.9	74.0
Prince Edward Island	247	169	0.9	65.8
Nova Scotia	1,934	204	1.0	79.1
New Brunswick	1,364	180	-1.0	65.0
Quebec	15,992	199	0.2	73.5
Ontario	26,274	195	-1.5	61.1
Manitoba	2,706	214	3.1	117.5
Saskatchewan	2,298	213	-2.4	144.8
Alberta	6,787	175	-1.1	88.6
British Columbia	8,887	192	-1.7	95.1
Yukon	119	330	-4.4	159.2
Northwest Territories	199	459	3.0	342.7
Nunavut	125	371	-4.3	326.1
Royal Canadian Mounted Police Headquarters and Training Academy	1,681

... not applicable

1. Rate per 100,000 population.

2. The Crime Severity Index for 2012 is not yet available.

Table 2
Police officers by census metropolitan area

	Police officers – 2012			Crime Severity Index 2011 ²
	number	rate ¹	percent change in rate 2011 to 2012	
Census metropolitan area				
Winnipeg	1,517	198	5.5	107.2
Thunder Bay	228	190	-1.7	107.3
Regina	422	190	-2.8	124.5
Saint John	195	189	-5.7	79.2
Saskatoon	497	179	-1.9	118.7
St. John's	336	178	-0.7	93.3
Montréal	6,986	178	-0.6	80.9
Windsor	589	178	-1.3	62.5
Brantford	245	175	3.7	92.2
Toronto	10,023	173	-3.4	54.9
Halifax	698	171	0.5	87.4
St. Catharines–Niagara	737	165	-3.4	60.7
Calgary	2,081	164	2.8	65.8
Vancouver	3,950	163	-1.5	94.5
Edmonton	1,928	161	-1.8	89.4
Greater Sudbury	262	161	1.4	78.9
Barrie	313	156	0.9	58.3
London	769	154	-0.4	79.0
Guelph	194	154	0.9	47.0
Peterborough	189	154	-5.2	62.2
Hamilton	1,129	153	-0.2	65.2
Victoria	552	152	-1.6	71.3
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	802	151	4.7	62.9
Ottawa ³	1,402	148	0.8	57.9
Abbotsford–Mission	262	147	-2.7	87.9
Kingston	234	145	-1.7	59.5
Gatineau ⁴	435	140	3.5	63.6
Sherbrooke	250	131	-0.4	60.7
Québec	998	131	2.9	52.2
Trois-Rivières	189	126	-1.0	67.9
Saguenay	179	123	-0.1	71.1
Kelowna	206	113	1.8	97.4
Moncton	145	105	-8.4	68.8

1. Rate per 100,000 population. Based on the number of police officers in 2012 and populations for 2011. Populations for 2012 are not yet available.
2. The Crime Severity Index for 2012 is not yet available.
3. Represents the Ontario portion of the Ottawa–Gatineau census metropolitan area.
4. Represents the Quebec portion of the Ottawa–Gatineau census metropolitan area.

Available in CANSIM: table 254-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3301.

The report, *Police Resources in Canada, 2012* (85-225-X), is now available. From the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Publications*, choose *All subjects*, then *Crime and justice*.

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