

Police-reported crime statistics, 2012

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in *The Daily*, Thursday, July 25, 2013

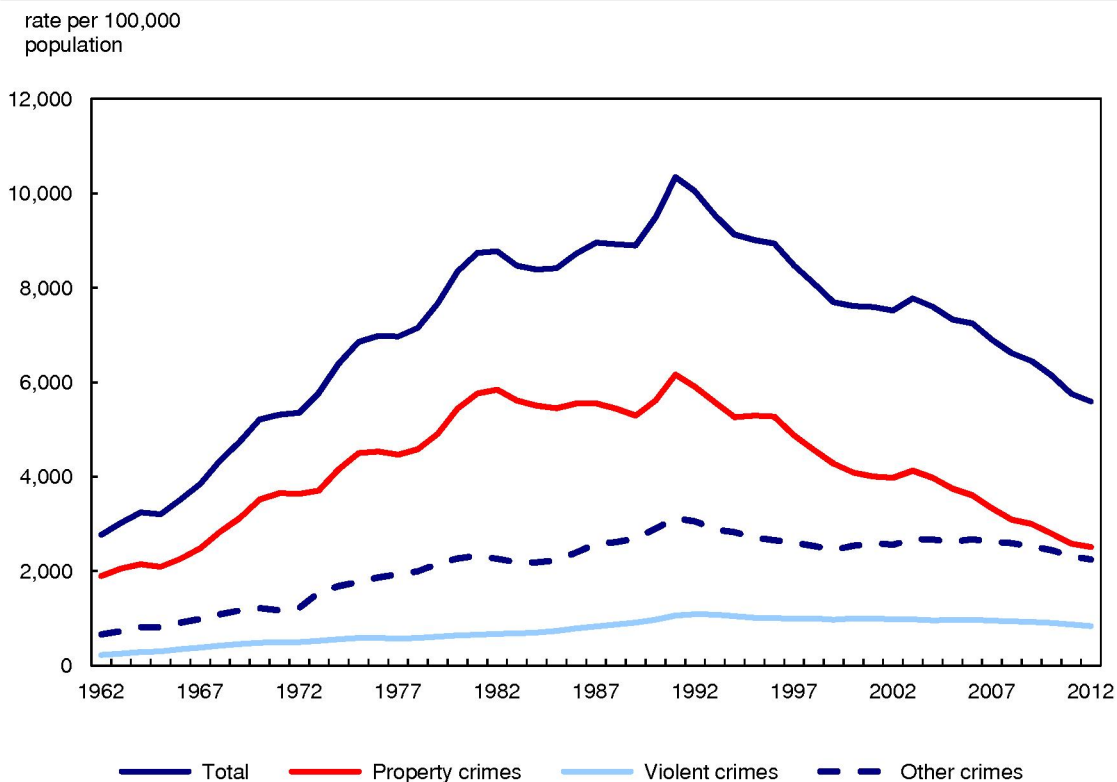
The police-reported crime rate, which measures the overall volume of crime that came to the attention of police, continued a long-term decline in 2012, falling 3% from 2011. The Crime Severity Index (CSI), which measures the severity of crime, also decreased 3%.

Canadian police services reported almost 2 million criminal incidents (excluding traffic) in 2012, about 36,000 fewer than in the previous year.

After peaking in 1991, the police-reported crime rate has followed a downward trend, and, in 2012, reached its lowest level since 1972. The CSI was down 28% over the 10 years since 2002.

The decline in the crime rate in 2012 was driven by decreases in some of the most common offences, including mischief, break and enter, disturbing the peace, motor vehicle theft and possession of stolen property.

Chart 1
Police-reported crime rates, Canada, 1962 to 2012



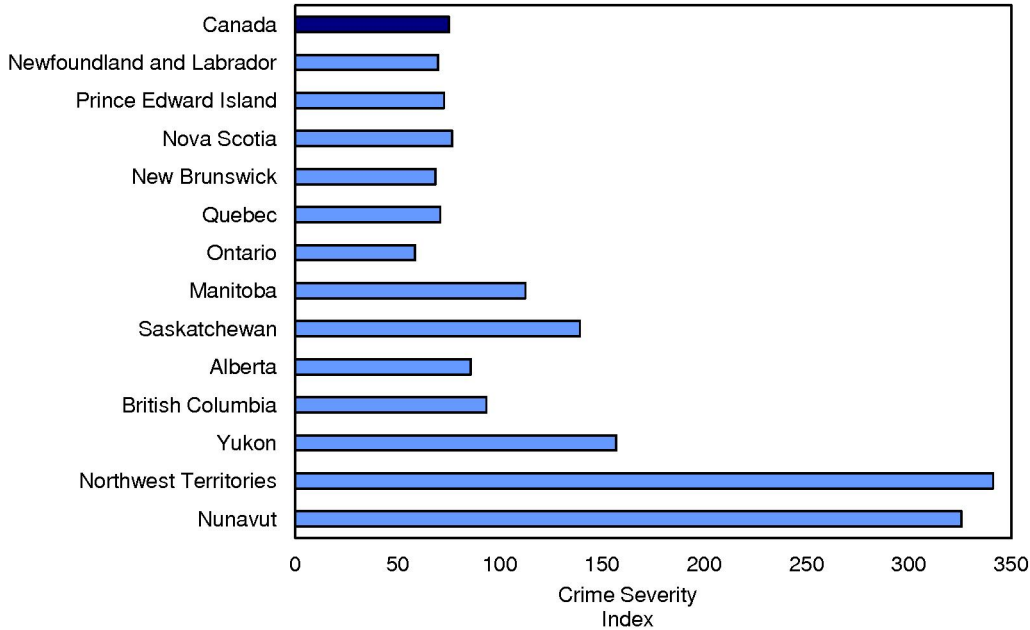
Saskatchewan reports the largest decrease in crime, but continues to have the highest rate among all the provinces

The police-reported crime rate and the CSI fell in most provinces in 2012. However, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and the territories had an increase in their police-reported crime rates and CSIs.



As in previous years, the police-reported crime rates and the crime severity indexes were generally higher in the territories and the western provinces. While Saskatchewan reported the largest decrease in the crime rate, it still had the highest crime rate and CSI among the provinces. Ontario reported the lowest crime rate and CSI.

Chart 2
Police-reported Crime Severity Index, by province and territory, 2012



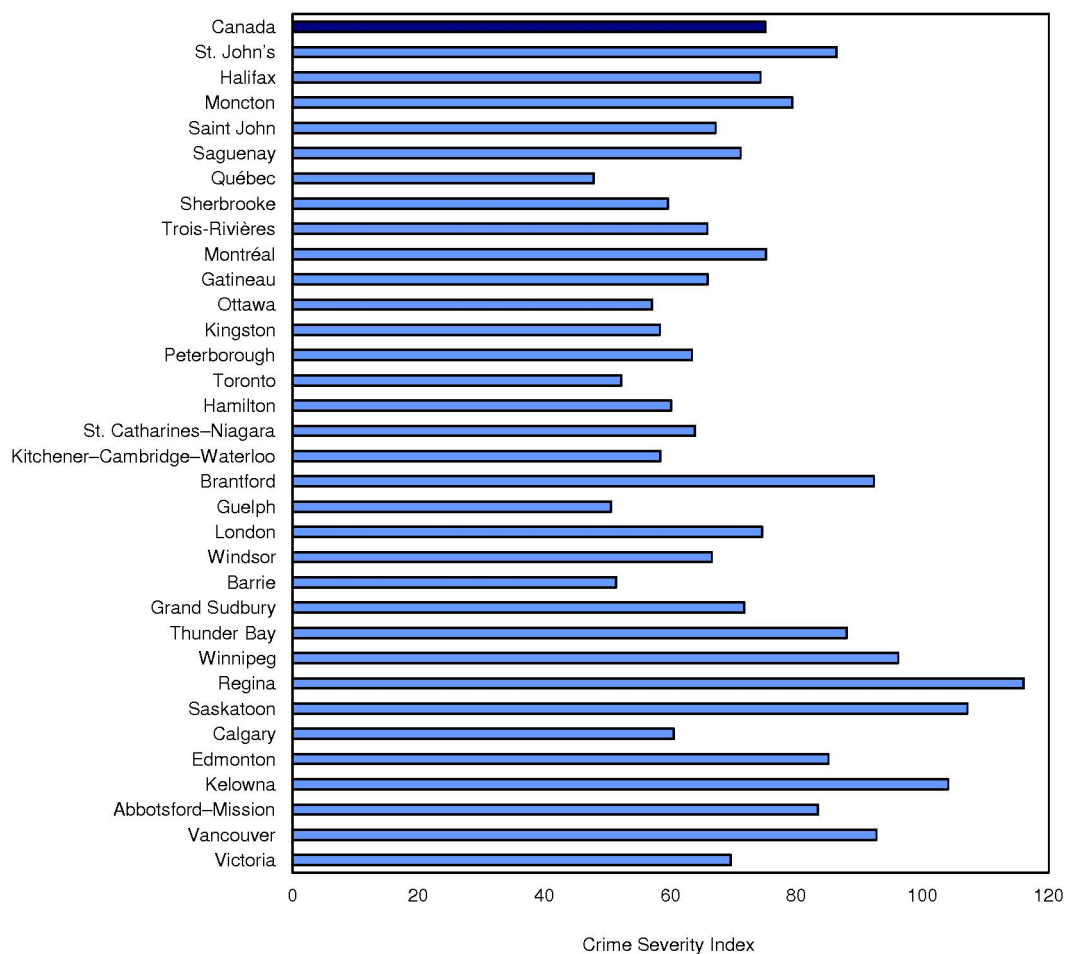
Kelowna reports the highest crime rate, Toronto the lowest

After having the highest police-reported crime rate for the previous four years, Regina ranked second among census metropolitan areas (CMAs) in 2012. Regina's crime rate fell 10% from 2011. With a 6% increase in its rate, Kelowna had the highest crime rate in 2012. However, Regina continued to report the highest CSI.

Toronto reported a 7% decrease in its police-reported crime rate in 2012 and had the lowest crime rate for the sixth consecutive year. Québec had the second lowest rate, and it recorded the lowest CSI.

Most CMAs saw lower CSIs in 2012. However, Moncton, Windsor, Kelowna, Guelph, St. Catharines–Niagara, Gatineau and Brantford had higher CSIs in 2012 than in the previous year.

Chart 3
Police-reported Crime Severity Index, by census metropolitan area, 2012



Crime rate is down for most violent crimes

Police services reported just over 415,000 violent incidents in 2012, down about 9,000 from the previous year. The violent crime rate fell 3% to its lowest level since 1987.

The violent Crime Severity Index declined 5% in 2012. This marked the sixth consecutive decrease in the violent CSI.

Police reported 543 homicides in 2012, 55 fewer than in 2011. The homicide rate of 1.56 homicides per 100,000 population was the lowest since 1966.

The police-reported crime rate fell for most violent crimes. In addition to homicides, the largest decreases were in the rates for major sexual assault (levels 2 and 3), robbery, and assault on a peace officer.

In contrast, offences causing death other than homicide, as well as extortion, violent firearm offences and sexual violations against children were among the few violent offences that rose in 2012.

Ninth consecutive decrease in the non-violent Crime Severity Index

As in previous years, 4 out of 5 crimes reported by police were non-violent in nature. Theft of \$5,000 or under, mischief, break and enter, and offences related to the administration of justice were the most frequent types of non-violent crime.

The non-violent CSI fell 3% in 2012, its ninth consecutive decline.

The rate of motor vehicle theft declined 7% in 2012, one of the largest decreases among property crimes. Police reported just under 78,000 incidents of motor vehicle theft in 2012.

The rate of break and enter fell 4% in 2012 and was nearly three times lower than 30 years earlier.

Increases in identify fraud, terrorism-related offences and drug offences other than cannabis

Identify fraud was among the few non-violent offences that saw an increase. In 2012, police services reported 12,739 incidents of identity theft or identify fraud, about 700 more than in 2011.

Police reported 114 terrorism-related incidents in 2012, 55 more than in the previous year. This increase was largely because of an unusually high number of hoax terrorism incidents, most of which occurred in Quebec during the student demonstrations in the Spring of 2012.

Police reported more than 109,000 drug-related incidents in 2012, nearly 4,000 fewer than in 2011. This decline was because of a decrease in cannabis-related incidents. At the same time, incidents related to other types of drugs increased.

Theft, mischief, and common assault are the offences most frequently committed by youth

Police reported that just over 125,000 youth aged 12 to 17 were accused of a criminal offence in 2012, about 11,000 less than the previous year. The youth accused rate fell 7%, while the youth CSI declined 6%.

The majority of youth accused in 2012 were involved in non-violent incidents. The most common type of youth crime was theft of \$5,000 and under, committed by 18% of youth accused. Common assault (level 1) was the most common type of violent offence committed by youth in 2012, accounting for 11% of youth accused.

Other relatively common offences committed by youth were mischief (11%), administration of justice violations (10%) and cannabis possession (10%).

In 2012, 44% of youth accused were formally charged by police, the rest were dealt with by other means under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*.

Note to readers

This release is based on a Juristat article that presents information on trends in the volume and severity of overall, violent and non-violent police-reported crime at the national, provincial/territorial and census metropolitan area levels.

The crime rate and the Crime Severity Index are complementary measures of police-reported crime. The crime rate measures the volume of crime reported to, and substantiated by, the police, while the Crime Severity Index measures the seriousness of crime.

Data are drawn from the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, a census of all crime known to, and substantiated by, police services. These crime statistics conform to a nationally-approved set of common crime categories and definitions and have been systematically reported by police services and submitted to Statistics Canada each year since 1962. Differences in local police service policies, procedures and enforcement practices can affect the comparability of crime statistics at the municipal level.

In 2012, it was discovered that a police service had been incorrectly applying the agreed upon definition for reporting child pornography incidents to the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey. As such, the number of violations has been revised for the years 2008 to 2011.

Statistics Canada also collects self-reported victimization data from the General Social Survey on Victimization (GSS). The GSS collects information on self-reported incidents of criminal victimization. The GSS on victimization is carried out every five years, with the most recent cycle in 2009.

Table 1
Police-reported crime for selected offences, Canada, 2012

	2012		Percent change in rate 2011 to 2012	Percent change in rate 2002 to 2012
	number	rate		
Total, all violations	2,235,325	6,409	-3	-23
Total crime (excluding traffic)—"crime rate"	1,949,160	5,588	-3	-26
Violent crime, total	415,119	1,190	-3	-17
Homicide	543	2	-10	-16
Other violations causing death	97	0	26	-54
Attempted murder	676	2	0	-10
Sexual assault — Level 3 — aggravated	130	0	-14	-24
Sexual assault — Level 2 — weapon or bodily harm	369	1	-9	-11
Sexual assault — Level 1	21,422	61	-1	-20
Sexual violations against children	3,968	11	3	...
Assault — Level 3 — aggravated	3,514	10	-1	16
Assault — Level 2 — weapon or bodily harm	49,537	142	-3	2
Assault — Level 1	169,996	487	-3	-19
Assault against peace officer	10,612	30	-8	12
Other assaults	2,904	8	-4	-36
Firearms — use of, discharge, pointing	2,040	6	4	-15
Robbery	27,680	79	-8	-17
Forcible confinement or kidnapping	3,609	10	-6	6
Abduction	390	1	-5	-42
Extortion	1,713	5	11	-17
Criminal harassment	22,203	64	1	-5
Uttering threats	70,383	202	-3	-26
Indecent or harassing phone calls	18,712	54	-9	-42
Other violent Criminal Code violations	4,621	13	-1	4
Property crime, total	1,190,972	3,414	-3	-33
Breaking and entering	175,712	504	-4	-43
Possession of stolen property	17,359	50	-21	-48
Theft of motor vehicle	77,939	223	-7	-57
Theft over \$5,000 (non-motor vehicle)	15,449	44	1	-30
Theft of \$5,000 or under (non-motor vehicle)	496,781	1,424	-1	-33
Fraud (excluding identity fraud)	78,433	225	0	-11
Identity fraud	12,739	37	5	...
Mischief	305,520	876	-4	-18
Arson	11,040	32	5	-23
Other Criminal Code offences, total	343,069	984	-2	-1
Counterfeiting	441	1	-30	-84
Weapons violations	13,946	40	-2	-5
Child pornography ^{1, 2}	1,919	6	-3	91
Prostitution	2,077	6	-16	-68
Terrorism	114	0	91	...
Disturbing the peace	112,513	323	-5	13
Administration of justice violations	180,652	518	0	1
Other violations	31,407	90	-1	-26
Criminal Code traffic violations, total	140,869	404	-4	7
Impaired driving	84,483	242	-7	-5
Other Criminal Code traffic violations	56,386	162	0	31
Drug offences, total	109,455	314	-5	6
Possession — cannabis	57,429	165	-8	4
Possession — cocaine	7,847	22	5	19
Possession — other drugs	10,661	31	2	89
Trafficking, production or distribution — cannabis	15,674	45	-6	-30
Trafficking, production or distribution — cocaine	10,553	30	3	39
Trafficking, production or distribution — other drugs	7,291	21	0	24

Table 1
Police-reported crime for selected offences, Canada, 2012

	2012		Percent change in rate 2011 to 2012	Percent change in rate 2002 to 2012
	number	rate		
Other federal statute violations, total	35,841	103	10	-20
Youth Criminal Justice Act	12,544	36	5	-36
Other federal statutes	23,297	67	13	23

... not applicable

1. In 2012, it was discovered that a police service had been incorrectly applying the agreed upon definition for reporting child pornography incidents to the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey. As such, the number of violations has been revised for the years 2008 to 2011.

2. In 2002, legislative changes were made to include the use of the Internet for the purpose of committing child pornography offences. Thus, the percentage change in this offence is calculated from 2003 to 2012 in the last column.

Note(s): Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Percentage changes are based on unrounded rates.

Table 2
Crime Severity Index and crime rate, by province and territory, 2012

	Crime Severity Index		Crime rate	
	index	percent change 2011 to 2012	rate	percent change in rate 2011 to 2012
Canada	75.0	-3	5,588	-3
Newfoundland and Labrador	69.6	-5	6,196	-3
Prince Edward Island	72.6	9	6,524	4
Nova Scotia	76.5	-3	6,329	-2
New Brunswick	68.4	3	5,519	4
Quebec	70.7	-5	4,316	-3
Ontario	58.4	-4	4,016	-4
Manitoba	112.4	-2	8,809	-2
Saskatchewan	139.0	-4	11,513	-7
Alberta	85.6	-3	7,262	-2
British Columbia	93.4	-2	7,727	-2
Yukon	156.7	1	20,717	1
Northwest Territories	341.0	1	48,052	1
Nunavut	325.6	1	39,229	3

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

Table 3
Crime Severity Index and crime rate, by census metropolitan area, 2012

	Crime Severity Index		Crime rate	
	index	percent change 2011 to 2012	rate	percent change in rate 2011 to 2012
Canada	75.0	-3	5,588	-3
St. John's	86.3	-5	7,056	-3
Halifax	74.3	-15	5,810	-10
Moncton	79.3	15	7,039	17
Saint John	67.1	-3	5,646	1
Saguenay	71.1	-3	4,101	-3
Québec	47.8	-11	3,216	-11
Sherbrooke	59.6	-1	3,925	3
Trois-Rivières	65.8	-7	4,192	-6
Montréal	75.1	-6	4,541	-5
Gatineau	65.9	2	4,621	0
Ottawa	57.0	-2	4,102	-1
Kingston	58.3	-2	5,166	3
Peterborough	63.4	-1	4,648	2
Toronto	52.1	-6	3,131	-7
Hamilton	60.1	-6	4,241	-7
St. Catharines–Niagara	63.9	5	4,490	3
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	58.3	-8	4,524	-4
Brantford	92.2	1	6,921	1
Guelph	50.5	6	4,084	3
London	74.5	-5	5,639	-3
Windsor	66.5	7	4,768	4
Barrie	51.3	-5	4,555	-5
Greater Sudbury	71.7	-10	5,061	-6
Thunder Bay	88.0	-17	7,050	-15
Winnipeg	96.1	-5	6,222	-3
Regina	116.0	-6	8,755	-10
Saskatoon	107.1	-7	8,512	-10
Calgary	60.5	-7	4,330	-6
Edmonton	85.0	-3	6,796	-2
Kelowna	104.1	6	8,875	6
Abbotsford–Mission	83.4	-6	6,148	-7
Vancouver	92.7	-1	6,958	-2
Victoria	69.6	-2	5,958	-7

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

Available in CANSIM: tables 252-0051 and 252-0052.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3302.

The *Juristat* article "Police-reported crime statistics in Canada, 2012" (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.

Additional information related to this release will be available in CANSIM soon.

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