

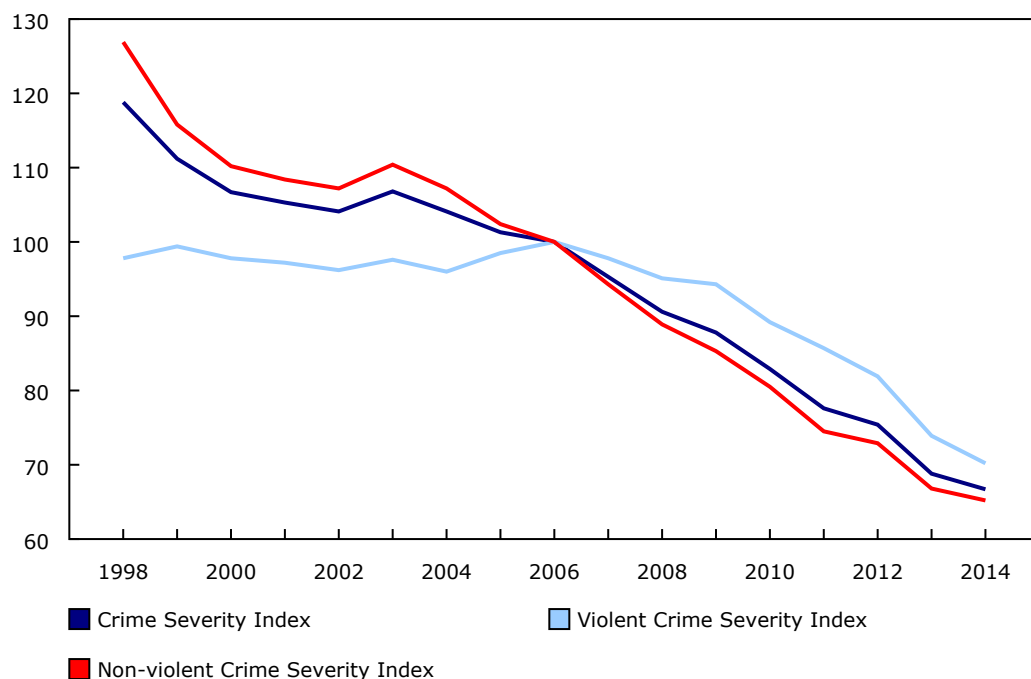
Police-reported crime statistics, 2014

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The Crime Severity Index (CSI) measures the volume and severity of police-reported crime. From 2013 to 2014, the CSI decreased 3%, which was primarily a result of fewer incidents of breaking and entering, and robbery. The decline in the CSI in 2014 represented the 11th consecutive decrease. This was the lowest index level recorded since 1998 (the first year for which CSI data are available).

Chart 1
Police-reported crime severity indexes, 1998 to 2014

index (2006=100)



Note(s): Crime severity indexes are based on *Criminal Code* incidents, including traffic offences as well as other federal statute violations. The base index was set at 100 for 2006 for Canada. Populations are based on Statistics Canada's July 1 estimates.

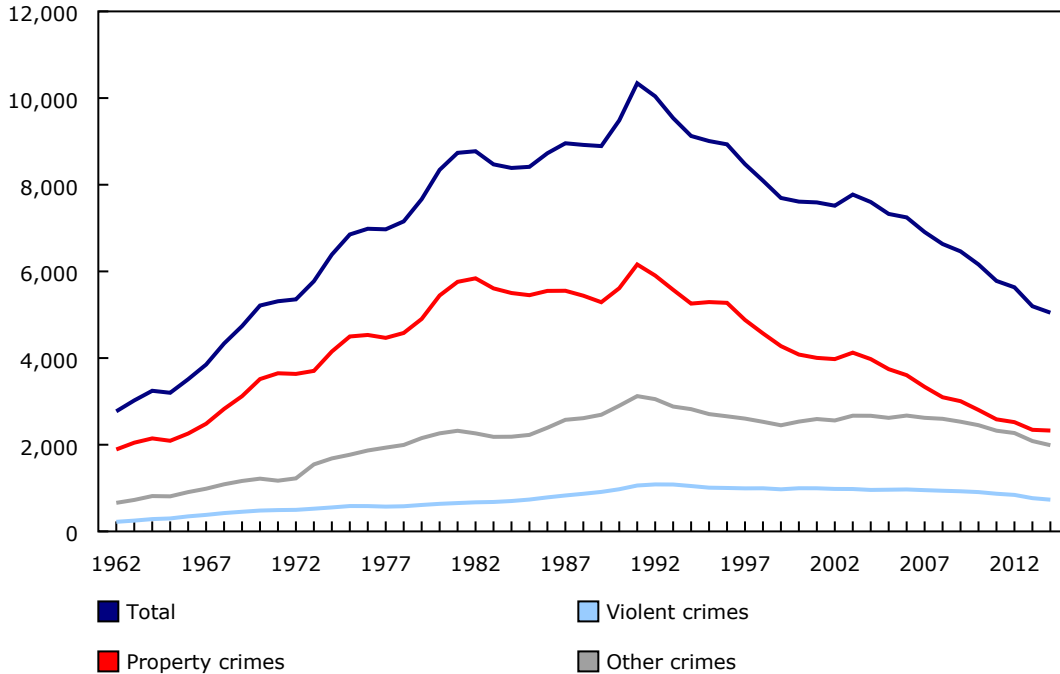
Source(s): CANSIM table [252-0052](#).

The traditional police-reported crime rate, which measures the volume of crime relative to the population size, also declined 3% from 2013 to 2014. The decline in the crime rate in 2014 represented the 11th consecutive decrease. This was the lowest rate recorded since 1969.



Chart 2
Police-reported crime rates, 1962 to 2014

rate per 100,000 population



Note(s): Information presented in this chart represents data from the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey Aggregate (UCR), and permits historical comparisons back to 1962. New definitions of crime categories were introduced in 2009 and are only available in the new format back to 1998. As a result, numbers in this chart do not match data released in the new format. Specifically, the definition of violent crime has been expanded. In addition, UCR aggregates include some different offences in the 'other crimes' category. Populations are based on Statistics Canada's July 1 estimates.

Source(s): Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (3302).

Police services reported just under 1.8 million *Criminal Code* incidents (excluding traffic) in 2014, approximately 33,000 fewer incidents than the previous year.

Most offences were down between 2013 and 2014, but there were some violations that increased over the same period. In particular, rates for the police-reported *Criminal Code* violations (excluding traffic) of child pornography (+41%), terrorism (+39%), extortion (+16%), identity fraud (+8%), sexual violations against children (+6%), abduction (+4%), fraud (+2%) and motor vehicle theft (+1%) increased in 2014.

Most provinces and territories record a decline in police-reported crime in 2014

Both the police-reported CSI and crime rate declined in most of the provinces and territories in 2014. Among the provinces and territories that recorded a decline in the CSI, fewer incidents of breaking and entering largely contributed to the decrease. In Saskatchewan, however, the decrease in the CSI was primarily related to a decline in police-reported incidents of the trafficking, production or distribution of cocaine.

In contrast with the decreases in most provinces and territories, Yukon's CSI was up 11% from 2013 and its crime rate was stable, while both the CSI (+3%) and crime rate (+2%) in British Columbia increased from the previous year. The increase in Yukon's CSI was driven primarily by more homicides, while several violations contributed to the increase in British Columbia (that is, theft of \$5,000 or under, child pornography, breaking and entering and theft of a motor vehicle). In addition, Alberta's CSI increased slightly (+1%) from 2013 to 2014, while its crime rate was stable.

Prince Edward Island recorded the largest drop in both the CSI (-17%) and the crime rate (-20%) from 2013 to 2014. The drop in Prince Edward Island's CSI was driven primarily by fewer thefts of \$5,000 or under and breaking and entering.

The territories continued to report higher police-reported CSI values and crime rates compared with the provinces. Among the provinces, Saskatchewan recorded both the highest CSI and crime rate in 2014, despite having seen declines in both its CSI and crime rate. Ontario recorded the lowest CSI in 2014, while Quebec reported the lowest crime rate.

One-third of census metropolitan areas record an increase in the Crime Severity Index

In 2014, 11 out of 33 census metropolitan areas (CMAs) saw an increase in their CSI and/or crime rate. Saskatoon (+10%), Thunder Bay (+10%) and Guelph (+9%) recorded the largest increases in their CSI from 2013, while Montréal recorded the largest decline (-9%).

Saskatoon recorded the highest CSI among CMAs for the first time. The increase in Saskatoon's CSI was primarily driven by a large increase in breaking and entering. Prior to 2014, Regina had consistently recorded the highest CSI among CMAs since 1998 (the first year for which the CSI was calculated). The high CSI recorded in Saskatoon was followed by Regina, Vancouver and Thunder Bay. In contrast, Barrie recorded the lowest CSI among all CMAs in 2014, despite a 2% increase.

The Violent Crime Severity Index continues to decline

Police reported about 369,500 violent incidents in 2014, approximately 15,000 fewer than the previous year. Violent crimes continued to account for about one-fifth of all police-reported *Criminal Code* offences (excluding traffic) in 2014.

Both the violent CSI and the violent crime rate decreased by 5% in 2014, representing the eighth consecutive annual decline for both measures of police-reported violent crime.

Yukon (+50%), Prince Edward Island (+3%) and Alberta (+1%) were the only jurisdictions to record an increase in their violent CSI from 2013 to 2014, while in Saskatchewan, the violent CSI was stable. The increases in Yukon, Prince Edward Island and Alberta were primarily attributable to more homicides.

Coinciding with the overall drop in violent crime, rates for most violent violations decreased in 2014. However, the overall number of homicides edged up from 512 in 2013 to 516 in 2014. Despite the slight increase in homicides, the homicide rate (1.45 homicides per 100,000 population) was virtually unchanged from the previous year.

Police-reported sexual violations against children up from 2013

The number of police-reported sexual violations against children rose in 2014, representing one of the few categories of violent violations to increase from the previous year. There were approximately 4,500 police-reported sexual violations against children in 2014, about 300 more than in 2013, resulting in a rate increase of 6%.

The increase in sexual violations against children was primarily the result of incidents of luring a child via a computer (including the agreement or arrangement to commit a sexual offence against a child), which increased from 850 incidents in 2013 to 1,190 incidents in 2014.

Various factors could account for the increase in sexual violations against children, such as specialized units within a police service to proactively investigate this type of crime.

The Non-violent Crime Severity Index continues to decline

In 2014, most crime reported by police continued to be non-violent in nature. Police reported approximately 1.4 million non-violent incidents in 2014, of which about 1.1 million were property crimes.

The non-violent CSI, which accounts for both the volume and severity of police-reported non-violent crime, decreased 2% from the previous year to 65.2 in 2014.

All of the territories and every province except British Columbia (+6%) and Alberta (+1%) recorded a decrease in their non-violent CSI in 2014. The gain in British Columbia's non-violent CSI was the result of increases in several violations, including theft of \$5,000 or under, child pornography, breaking and entering and motor vehicle theft.

While the rates for most non-violent *Criminal Code* violations (excluding traffic) decreased in 2014, increases were recorded for certain forms of property crime, including identity fraud (+8%), fraud (+2%) and motor vehicle theft (+1%). In addition, among the violations that fall under the category of other *Criminal Code* offences, significant increases were recorded in the rate of child pornography (+41%), as well as violations related to terrorism (+39%).

Incidents related to accessing, possessing, making, printing or distributing child pornography continued to rise, up from approximately 2,800 incidents in 2013 to about 4,000 incidents in 2014, resulting in a rate of 11 incidents per 100,000 population. Similar to sexual violations against children, various factors could account for the increase in child pornography, including specialized units within a police service that proactively investigate this type of crime.

Police reported 100 incidents related to terrorism in Canada in 2014, which was 29 more than in 2013. While this resulted in a 39% increase in rate, it remained below 1 incident per 100,000 population. The increase was primarily attributable to new terrorism violations (for example, leaving Canada to participate in the activity of a terrorist group) that were added to the *Criminal Code of Canada* part way through 2013, as well as an increase in violations related to facilitating terrorist activity.

Fewer youth accused of crime in 2014

Both the police-reported youth CSI and the rate of youth accused of crime decreased by 9% in 2014, representing the fifth consecutive annual decline for both measures of youth crime. Compared with a decade ago, the youth CSI was 40% lower in 2014, and the rate of youth accused of crime was 42% lower. Youth accused include those aged 12 to 17 years who were either charged by police or not charged as a result of the implementation of alternatives under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (for example, warnings, cautions or referrals to community programs).

Declines in youth accused of crime were seen among almost all types of violations, including all forms of property crime. For instance, the police-reported rate of youth accused of theft of \$5,000 or under (-4%) and mischief (-13%), two of the most common violations among this age group, declined from 2013 to 2014.

The number and rate of youth accused of some of the most serious crimes also decreased in 2014. There were 25 youth accused of homicide in 2014, 16 fewer than in 2013, and well below the previous 10-year average number of 59 youth accused of homicide. The 2014 youth homicide rate (1.07 per 100,000 youth) was down 38% from the previous year and represented the lowest rate since 1984.

The rate of youth accused of attempted murder was one of the few violent offences to have increased (+37%) from 2013 to 2014. However, the rate of youth accused of attempted murder (2.18 per 100,000 youth) remained lower than average rate over the previous 10 years (2.25 per 100,000 youth).

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 reported to the police.

To calculate the CSI, each violation is assigned a weight. CSI weights are based on the violation's incarceration rate, as well as the average length of prison sentence handed down by criminal courts. 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 the other indexes, to simplify comparison, the CSI is then standardized to a base 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](#).

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, because of the complexity of these incidents, the data likely reflect the number of active or closed investigations for the year and that reside within the police records management system, rather than the total number of incidents reported to police. Police-reported 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, with national and provincial data from the 2014 survey cycle planned to be released in the fall of 2015.

Table 1
Police-reported crime for selected offences, Canada

	2014		2013 to 2014	2004 to 2014
	number	rate	% change in rate	% change in rate
Total, all violations	2,052,191	5,774	-3	-31
Total <i>Criminal Code</i> (excluding traffic) – "crime rate"	1,793,534	5,046	-3	-34
Violent crime, total	369,359	1,039	-5	-26
Homicide	516	1	0	-26
Other violations causing death ¹	90	0	-37	-41
Attempted murder	617	2	-4	-17
Sexual assault – level 3 – aggravated	105	0	-22	-50
Sexual assault – level 2 – weapon or bodily harm	319	1	-14	-28
Sexual assault – level 1	20,311	57	-3	-19
Sexual violations against children ²	4,452	13	6	...
Assault – level 3 – aggravated	3,242	9	-1	7
Assault – level 2 – weapon or bodily harm	44,788	126	-4	-14
Assault – level 1	153,352	431	-4	-25
Assault peace officer	9,450	27	-5	-7
Other assaults ³	2,091	6	-22	-49
Firearms – use of, discharge, pointing	1,828	5	-4	-26
Robbery	20,924	59	-11	-39
Forcible confinement or kidnapping	3,266	9	0	-15
Abduction	393	1	4	-45
Extortion	2,716	8	16	43
Criminal harassment	19,653	55	-10	-27
Uttering threats	62,387	176	-4	-34
Threatening or harassing phone calls	14,375	40	-14	-49
Other violent <i>Criminal Code</i> violations	4,484	13	-5	-1
Property crime, total	1,100,403	3,096	-2	-40
Breaking and entering	151,921	427	-4	-51
Possess stolen property	17,143	48	0	-57
Theft of motor vehicle	73,964	208	1	-61
Theft over \$5,000 (non-motor vehicle)	14,258	40	-2	-24
Theft of \$5,000 or under (non-motor vehicle)	474,879	1,336	-1	-37
Fraud (excluding identity fraud)	82,049	231	2	-24
Identity fraud	12,729	36	8	...
Mischief	264,976	746	-4	-33
Arson	8,484	24	-6	-41
Other <i>Criminal Code</i> offences, total	323,772	911	-5	-15
Counterfeiting	572	2	-10	-76
Weapons violations	13,898	39	0	-19
Child pornography	4,020	11	41	264
Prostitution ⁴	1,073	3	-48	-85
Terrorism ⁵	100	0	39	...
Disturbing the peace	103,266	291	-7	-21
Administration of justice violations	171,897	484	-4	-7
Other violations	28,946	81	-3	-24
<i>Criminal Code</i> traffic violations	129,505	364	-6	-4
Impaired driving	74,781	210	-5	-16
Other <i>Criminal Code</i> traffic violations	54,724	154	-7	20

Table 1
Police-reported crime for selected offences, Canada

	2014		2013 to 2014	2004 to 2014
	number	rate	% change in rate	% change in rate
Drug offences, total	103,757	292	-6	-4
Possession – cannabis	57,314	161	-4	7
Possession – cocaine	7,596	21	-3	-17
Possession – methamphetamines ⁶	4,720	13	38	...
Possession – heroin	1,242	3	34	140
Possession – methylenedioxyamphetamine ⁶	368	1	28	...
Possession – other drugs ⁶	6,660	19	1	...
Trafficking, production or distribution – cannabis	10,696	30	-25	-52
Trafficking, production or distribution – cocaine	8,502	24	-12	-13
Trafficking, production or distribution – methamphetamines ⁶	1,528	4	17	...
Trafficking, production or distribution – heroin	714	2	12	93
Trafficking, production or distribution – methylenedioxyamphetamine ⁶	160	0	-2	...
Trafficking, production or distribution – other drugs ⁶	4,257	12	-18	...
Other federal statute violations, total	25,395	71	-9	-33
<i>Youth Criminal Justice Act</i>	7,969	22	-16	-60
Other federal statutes	17,426	49	-5	-2

... not applicable

1. The decrease in "other violations causing death" from 2013 to 2014 was partly attributable to fewer incidents of criminal negligence, which were specific to the Lac-Mégantic rail disaster in 2013.
2. Sexual violations against children is a relatively new crime category with only partial data available prior to 2010; therefore, the percentage change from 2004 to 2014 is not shown.
3. A notable portion of the decrease in "other assaults" in 2014 is attributable to a change in the Toronto Police Service's records management system whereby incidents previously reported as other assaults are now being reported as common assaults.
4. On December 20, 2013, the Supreme Court of Canada found laws surrounding prostitution to be unconstitutional, and gave Parliament 12 months to review and rewrite legislation. As a result of this, a large number of incidents of prostitution were no longer being reported, leading to a large decrease in the number of prostitution incidents in 2014. New legislation came into force on December 6, 2014; therefore, comparisons with previous years should be made with caution.
5. Includes seven new terrorism violations that were introduced mid-year 2013, as a result of the enactment of Bill S-7 (*An Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Canada Evidence Act and the Security of Information Act*). Therefore, comparisons with previous years should be made with caution. Terrorism is a relatively new crime category with only partial data available prior to 2010; therefore, the percentage change from 2004 to 2014 is not shown.
6. In April 2008, the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey began counting violations involving methamphetamines (such as crystal meth) and methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA) (such as ecstasy) under their own unique violation codes. Prior to this, violations involving methamphetamines and MDA were counted within the category of "other drugs." Therefore, the percentage changes from 2004 to 2014 for violations involving methamphetamines, MDA or "other drugs" are not shown.

Note(s): Police-reported statistics may be affected by differences in the way police services deal with offences. In some instances, police or municipalities might choose to deal with some offences using municipal by-laws or provincial provisions rather than *Criminal Code* provisions. Counts are based on the most serious violation in the incident. One incident may involve multiple violations. Data for specific types of crime are available, in most cases, from 1977. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Percentage changes are based on unrounded rates. Populations are based on Statistics Canada's July 1 estimates.

Source(s): CANSIM table [252-0051](#).

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

	Crime Severity Index		Crime rate	
	2014	2013 to 2014	2014	2013 to 2014
	index	% change	rate	% change
Canada	66.7	-3	5,046	-3
Newfoundland and Labrador	62.5	-9	5,604	-6
Prince Edward Island	53.9	-17	4,691	-20
Nova Scotia	66.1	-5	5,452	-3
New Brunswick	55.9	-7	4,488	-7
Quebec	57.3	-8	3,492	-10
Ontario	50.0	-5	3,556	-3
Manitoba	95.9	-5	7,714	-3
Saskatchewan	123.4	-2	10,505	-2
Alberta	85.7	1	7,050	0
British Columbia	91.6	3	7,599	2
Yukon	189.1	11	23,919	0
Northwest Territories	290.5	-8	43,917	-4
Nunavut	272.0	-5	30,616	-6

Note(s): The Crime Severity Index (CSI) is based on *Criminal Code* incidents, including traffic offences, as well as other federal statute violations. For the CSI, the base index was set at 100 for 2006 for Canada. The crime rate is based upon *Criminal Code* incidents, excluding traffic offences. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Percentage changes are based on unrounded rates. Populations are based on Statistics Canada's July 1 estimates.

Source(s): CANSIM tables [252-0051](#) and [252-0052](#).

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

	Crime Severity Index		Crime rate	
	2014	2013 to 2014	2014	2013 to 2014
	index	% change	rate	% change
Census metropolitan area^{1,2,3}				
Canada	66.7	-3	5,046	-3
St. John's	73.9	-5	5,777	-10
Halifax	65.7	-4	5,280	-1
Moncton ⁴	65.4	...	5,649	...
Saint John ⁴	55.7	...	4,773	...
Saguenay	54.9	-7	3,228	-9
Québec	45.2	-2	2,977	-8
Sherbrooke	52.4	-8	3,333	-9
Trois-Rivières	58.7	-3	3,472	-10
Montréal	60.2	-9	3,728	-9
Gatineau ⁵	56.3	-1	3,682	-6
Ottawa ⁶	45.3	-7	3,424	-4
Kingston	55.2	2	4,987	3
Peterborough	53.4	-2	4,473	0
Toronto	44.9	-4	2,844	-3
Hamilton	50.7	-8	3,531	-7
St. Catharines–Niagara	57.3	0	4,117	3
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	55.2	-4	4,279	-3
Brantford	76.3	-8	5,602	-10
Guelph	47.7	9	3,745	4
London	66.3	-2	5,477	5
Windsor	58.1	-5	4,251	-3
Barrie	43.6	2	3,754	1
Greater Sudbury	61.3	-8	4,525	-3
Thunder Bay	89.9	10	6,402	-1
Winnipeg	80.7	-4	5,398	0
Regina	102.8	-3	7,858	-4
Saskatoon	109.7	10	8,229	3
Calgary	59.9	-2	4,205	-2
Edmonton	87.1	2	6,783	0
Kelowna	87.9	0	7,374	0
Abbotsford–Mission	84.4	6	6,496	7
Vancouver	96.7	8	7,425	8
Victoria	62.8	6	5,586	4

... not applicable

1. A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service.
2. CMA populations have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries.
3. The Oshawa CMA is excluded from this table because of the incongruity between the police service jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries.
4. Part way through 2013, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police revised policing boundaries for rural detachments in New Brunswick. This resulted in a change in the CMA boundaries that are determined for the purpose of reporting crime statistics. As such, 2013 data for the New Brunswick CMAs of Saint John and Moncton are not comparable with previous or future years. Further, data from 2014 onward are not comparable with years prior to 2014.
5. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.
6. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.

Note(s): Police-reported statistics may be affected by differences in the way police services deal with offences. In some instances, police or municipalities might choose to deal with some offences using municipal by-laws or provincial provisions rather than *Criminal Code* provisions. The Crime Severity Index (CSI) is based on *Criminal Code* incidents, including traffic offences, as well as other federal statute violations. For the CSI, the base index was set at 100 for 2006 for Canada. The crime rate is based upon *Criminal Code* incidents, excluding traffic offences. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Percentage changes are based on unrounded rates. Populations are based on Statistics Canada's July 1 estimates.

Source(s): CANSIM tables [252-0051](#) and [252-0052](#).

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, 2014](#)" ([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).