

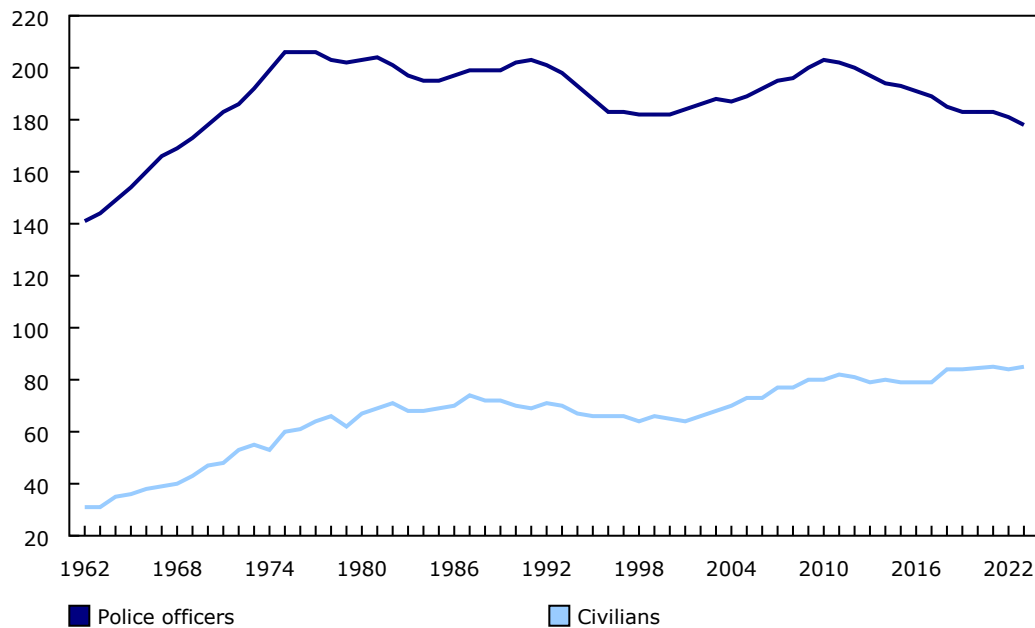
# Police resources in Canada, 2023

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in *The Daily*, Tuesday, March 26, 2024

On May 15, 2023, there were 71,472 police officers across all Canadian police services, 892 more than on the same date in 2022. Despite this increase in police strength in 2023, the rate of police strength in Canada continued the downward trend that started more than 10 years earlier. This was largely attributable to the increase of the Canadian population in 2023, when the growth of the population outpaced that of the number of police officers. The rate of police strength measures the number of police officers per 100,000 population, taking into account the overall Canadian population. The rate of police strength was 178 officers per 100,000 population, down almost 2% from 2022 and the lowest rate since 1970. In 2023, five provinces and territories presented a rate of police strength higher than the national level: Quebec, Saskatchewan and the three territories (Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut).

**Chart 1**  
**Rate of police officers and civilian personnel per 100,000 population, Canada, 1962 to 2023**

police and civilians per 100,000 population



... not applicable

**Note(s):** Police officers represent full-time equivalent, permanent, fully sworn police officers of all ranks. Civilian personnel include all permanent civilian personnel, permanent special constables and recruits employed by a police service. Despite the Police Administration Survey being an annual survey, the 2020 cycle was cancelled. Therefore, there are no data associated with the 2020 cycle. Populations are based on July 1, 2023, estimates from Statistics Canada's Centre for Demography. Additional data are available in Statistics Canada tables 35-10-0076 and 35-10-0078.

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

## Fewer than 1 in 10 police officers are part of a racialized group

Diversity and inclusion are central to discussions about police culture, given the importance of representing the diversity of the Canadian population within police personnel. To that end, efforts are being made through various hiring policies. According to data from the 2021 Census of Population, 26.5% of Canada's population was part of a racialized group. By comparison, 8% of all police officers and 13% of all recruits in Canada in 2023 identified as part of a racialized group, unchanged from 2022. In the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) in 2023, 13% of police officers were part of a racialized group. The proportion was 7% in municipal police services, 2% within the Ontario Provincial Police and 1% within the Sûreté du Québec.

## The representation of Indigenous people in police services is similar to that observed in the 2021 Census of Population

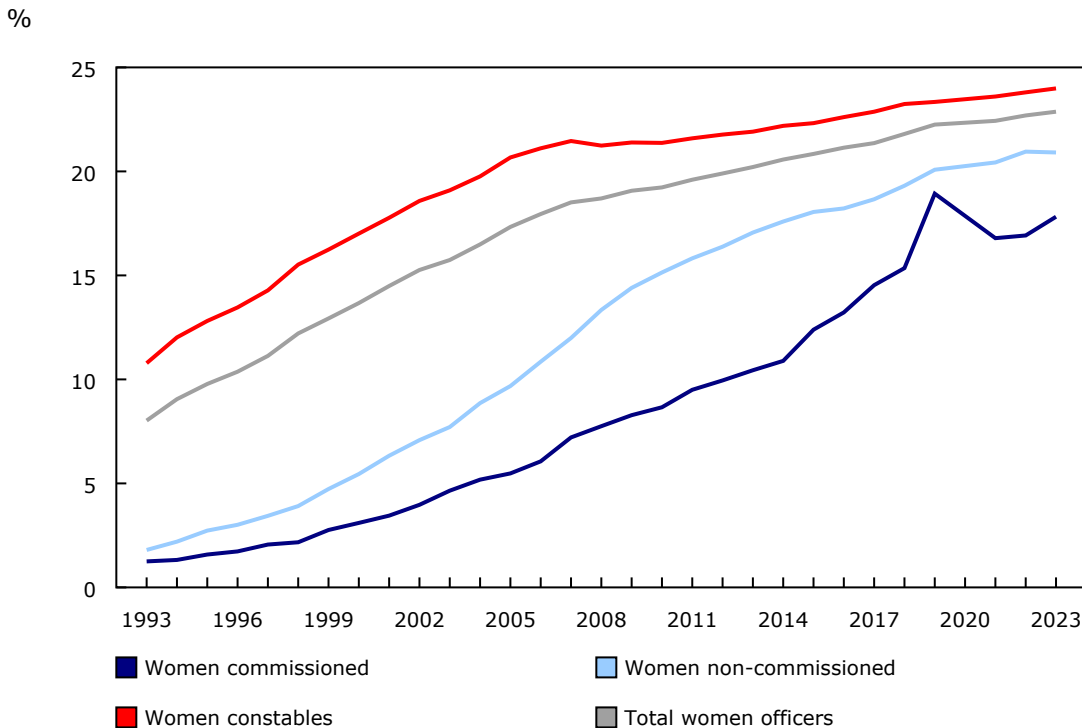
In the 2021 Census, 5% of the Canadian population identified as Indigenous, that is, First Nations, Métis or Inuit. On May 15, 2023, 4% (or 2,701) of all police officers in Canada identified as Indigenous, as well as 5% (or 87) of all recruits. In First Nations police services, over half (57%) of police officers identified as Indigenous. Indigenous officers accounted for 7% of RCMP officers, 2% of officers within municipal police services and within the Sûreté du Québec and 1% of officers within the Ontario Provincial Police.

## The number of women officers grows in all ranks

While the number of women in Canadian police services continues to rise, this growth has happened over a long period. Their presence in policing has increased steadily since 1986, when data on women in policing were first collected. That year, women accounted for just under 4% of all police officers, while in 2023, women represented 23% of all police officers. On May 15, 2023, there were 16,342 women police officers in Canada, 324 more than on the same date in 2022.

Across different officer ranks, women police officers mostly held constable positions, making up about one-quarter (24%) of all constables in Canada in 2023. Although women represent a slightly smaller proportion of commissioned and non-commissioned officers, their presence in these roles continues to increase. From 2022 to 2023, the number of women commissioned officers rose from 605 to 622 and the number of women non-commissioned officers rose from 3,928 to 4,000.

**Chart 2**  
**Women officers as a percentage of total police officers, by rank, Canada, 1993 to 2023**



... not applicable

**Note(s):** Commissioned officers include personnel who have obtained senior officer status, normally at the rank of lieutenant or higher, such as chief, deputy chief, captain, staff superintendent, superintendent, staff inspector, inspector, lieutenant and other equivalent ranks. Non-commissioned officers include personnel at the rank of corporal sergeant major, sergeant major, staff sergeant major, staff sergeant, sergeant, corporal and other equivalent ranks. Despite the Police Administration

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Survey being an annual survey, the 2020 cycle was cancelled. Therefore, there are no data associated with the 2020 cycle. Additional data are available in Statistics Canada tables 35-10-0076 and 35-10-0078.

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

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## **The numbers of civilian employees and special constables in police services are increasing**

In addition to sworn officers, police services employed 34,193 full-time equivalents and recruits as of May 15, 2023, an increase of 1,447 compared with the same date in 2022. Among the number of full-time equivalents and recruits in 2023, almost 9 in 10 (88%) were civilian employees, 7% were special constables and 5% were recruits.

Police services are increasingly composed of civilian employees, such as clerks, communications staff, managers and other professionals in roles focusing on administrative support, operational communications, information technology services, reception services, and vehicle and facility services. Aside from sworn officers, in 2023, civilians accounted for most of the overall growth of all employees, increasing 1,316 from the previous year. This growth occurred alongside an increase of 185 special constables. By contrast, there were 55 fewer recruits than in 2022. In 2023, women represented 69% of civilian personnel within police services, 35% of special constables and 22% of recruits.

## **Calls for service decrease in 2022/2023**

The number of calls for service to police services decreased by 2% in 2022/2023 compared with 2021/2022. Police services responded to approximately 11.6 million calls in 2022/2023, or an average of 1,320 calls for service per hour. Of all police-reported calls for service, municipal police services handled 6 in 10 (60%) and the RCMP responded to 25%, followed by provincial police services (14%) and First Nations police services (1%).

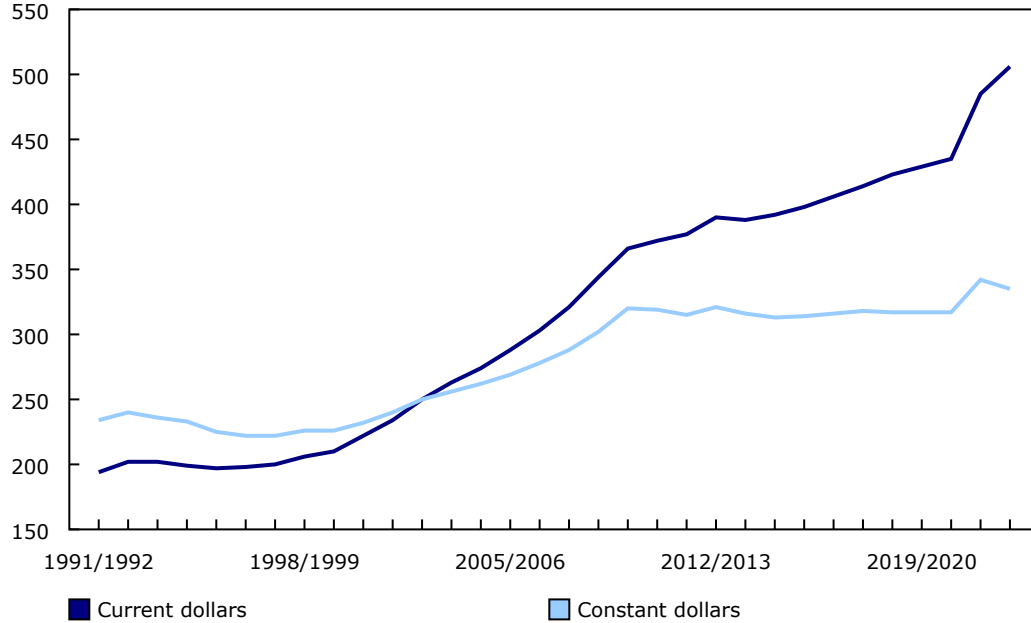
## **Police operating expenditures rise 6%, in current dollars, in 2022/2023**

In 2022/2023, the total operating expenditures for all police services in Canada were \$19.7 billion in current dollars—an increase of 6% compared with 2021/2022. These expenditures were composed of salaries and wages (61%), benefits (22%) and other operating expenditures (17%).

Although total operating expenditures, in current dollars, increased in 2022/2023, in constant dollars (i.e., after inflation was accounted for), total operating expenditures decreased 0.5% from the previous collection period. On a per capita basis for Canada, in constant dollars, police operating expenditures amounted to \$335 per person in 2022/2023, a decrease of 2% compared with the previous period.

**Chart 3**  
**Police expenditures per capita, current dollars and constant dollars,**  
**Canada, 1991/1992 to 2022/2023**

dollars per capita expenditures



... not applicable

**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). Despite the Police Administration Survey being an annual survey, the 2020 cycle was cancelled. Therefore, there are no data associated with the 2020 cycle. Populations are based on July 1, 2022, estimates from Statistics Canada's Centre for Demography. While data on police personnel are based on a "snapshot date" of May 15, 2023, the data on expenditures are based on the calendar year ending December 31, 2022 (or March 31, 2023, as some police services operate on a fiscal year basis).

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

**Table 1**  
**Trends in police personnel, Canada, 1962 to 2023**

	Police officers <sup>1</sup>			Civilian personnel <sup>2,3</sup>			Total personnel	Police officers as a proportion of total personnel	Civilian personnel as a proportion of total personnel	Police to civilians
	Total	Rate per 100,000 population	Percentage change in rate <sup>4</sup>	Total	Rate per 100,000 population	Percentage change in rate <sup>4</sup>				
	number	rate <sup>5</sup>	%	number	rate <sup>5</sup>	%				
1962	26,129	140.6	...	5,699	30.7	...	31,828	82.1	17.9	4.6
1963	27,333	144.4	2.7	5,935	31.4	2.3	33,268	82.2	17.8	4.6
1964	28,823	149.4	3.5	6,655	34.5	9.9	35,478	81.2	18.8	4.3
1965	30,146	153.5	2.7	7,133	36.3	5.2	37,279	80.9	19.1	4.2
1966	32,086	160.3	4.4	7,583	37.9	4.4	39,669	80.9	19.1	4.2
1967	33,792	165.8	3.4	8,018	39.3	3.7	41,810	80.8	19.2	4.2
1968	34,887	168.5	1.6	8,351	40.3	2.5	43,238	80.7	19.3	4.2
1969	36,342	173.0	2.7	8,963	42.7	6.0	45,305	80.2	19.8	4.1
1970	37,949	178.2	3.0	9,936	46.7	9.4	47,885	79.3	20.7	3.8
1971	40,148	182.8	2.6	10,597	48.3	3.4	50,745	79.1	20.9	3.8
1972	41,214	185.5	1.5	11,762	52.9	9.5	52,976	77.8	22.2	3.5
1973	43,142	191.8	3.4	12,297	54.7	3.4	55,439	77.8	22.2	3.5
1974	45,276	198.5	3.5	12,085	53.0	-3.1	57,361	78.9	21.1	3.7
1975	47,713	206.2	3.9	13,794	59.6	12.5	61,507	77.6	22.4	3.5
1976	48,213	205.6	-0.3	14,377	61.3	2.9	62,590	77.0	23.0	3.4
1977	48,764	205.5	0.0	15,231	64.2	4.7	63,995	76.2	23.8	3.2
1978	48,705	203.2	-1.1	15,749	65.7	2.3	64,454	75.6	24.4	3.1
1979	48,990	202.4	-0.4	15,001	62.0	-5.6	63,991	76.6	23.4	3.3
1980	49,841	203.3	0.4	16,410	66.9	7.9	66,251	75.2	24.8	3.0
1981	50,563	203.7	0.2	16,999	68.5	2.4	67,562	74.8	25.2	3.0
1982	50,539	201.2	-1.2	17,738	70.6	3.1	68,277	74.0	26.0	2.8
1983	50,081	197.4	-1.9	17,342	68.4	-3.1	67,423	74.3	25.7	2.9
1984	50,010	195.3	-1.1	17,503	68.4	0.0	67,513	74.1	25.9	2.9
1985	50,351	194.8	-0.3	17,702	68.5	0.1	68,053	74.0	26.0	2.8
1986	51,425	197.0	1.1	18,273	70.0	2.2	69,698	73.8	26.2	2.8
1987	52,510	198.5	0.8	19,558	73.9	5.6	72,068	72.9	27.1	2.7
1988	53,312	199.0	0.2	19,407	72.4	-2.1	72,719	73.3	26.7	2.7
1989	54,211	198.7	-0.1	19,526	71.6	-1.2	73,737	73.5	26.5	2.8
1990	56,034	202.3	1.8	19,259	69.5	-2.8	75,293	74.4	25.6	2.9
1991	56,768	202.5	0.1	19,440	69.4	-0.3	76,208	74.5	25.5	2.9
1992	56,992	200.9	-0.8	20,059	70.7	2.0	77,051	74.0	26.0	2.8
1993	56,901	198.4	-1.3	19,956	69.6	-1.6	76,857	74.0	26.0	2.9
1994	55,859	192.6	-2.9	19,492	67.2	-3.4	75,351	74.1	25.9	2.9
1995	55,008	187.7	-2.5	19,259	65.7	-2.2	74,267	74.1	25.9	2.9
1996	54,323	183.5	-2.3	19,603	66.2	0.7	73,926	73.5	26.5	2.8
1997	54,719	183.0	-0.3	19,679	65.8	-0.6	74,398	73.5	26.5	2.8
1998	54,763	181.6	-0.7	19,383	64.3	-2.3	74,146	73.9	26.1	2.8
1999	55,321	182.0	0.2	20,169	66.3	3.2	75,490	73.3	26.7	2.7
2000	55,954	182.3	0.2	19,917	64.9	-2.2	75,871	73.7	26.3	2.8
2001	57,076	184.0	0.9	19,982	64.4	-0.7	77,058	74.1	25.9	2.9
2002	58,422	186.3	1.3	20,732	66.1	2.6	79,154	73.8	26.2	2.8
2003	59,412	187.8	0.8	21,476	67.9	2.7	80,888	73.4	26.6	2.8
2004	59,800	187.2	-0.3	22,212	69.5	2.5	82,012	72.9	27.1	2.7
2005	61,026	189.3	1.1	23,391	72.5	4.3	84,417	72.3	27.7	2.6
2006	62,461	191.8	1.3	23,911	73.4	1.2	86,372	72.3	27.7	2.6
2007	64,134	195.0	1.7	25,295	76.9	4.8	89,429	71.7	28.3	2.5
2008	65,283	196.4	0.7	25,630	77.1	0.2	90,913	71.8	28.2	2.5
2009	67,243	200.0	1.8	27,056	80.5	4.4	94,299	71.3	28.7	2.5
2010	69,068	203.1	1.6	27,357	80.4	0.0	96,425	71.6	28.4	2.5
2011	69,424	202.2	-0.5	28,142	82.0	1.9	97,566	71.2	28.8	2.5
2012	69,505	200.2	-1.0	28,202	81.2	-0.9	97,707	71.1	28.9	2.5
2013	69,250	197.4	-1.4	27,870	79.4	-2.2	97,120	71.3	28.7	2.5
2014	68,806	194.2	-1.6	28,425	80.2	1.0	97,231	70.8	29.2	2.4
2015	68,772	192.6	-0.8	28,371	79.5	-0.9	97,143	70.8	29.2	2.4
2016	68,859	190.7	-1.0	28,436	78.7	-0.9	97,295	70.8	29.2	2.4

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	Total	Rate per 100,000 population	Percentage change in rate <sup>4</sup>	Total	Rate per 100,000 population	Percentage change in rate <sup>4</sup>				
2017	69,025	188.9	-1.0	29,052	79.5	1.0	98,077	70.4	29.6	2.4
2018	68,532	184.9	-2.1	31,027	83.7	5.3	99,559	68.8	31.2	2.2
2019	68,847	183.0	-1.0	31,718	84.3	0.7	100,565	68.5	31.5	2.2
2020 <sup>6</sup>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2021	70,160	183.5	0.3	32,407	84.7	0.5	102,567	68.4	31.6	2.2
2022 <sup>r</sup>	70,581	181.3	-1.2	32,747	84.1	-0.8	103,327	68.3	31.7	2.2
2023	71,472	178.2	-1.7	34,193	85.3	1.4	105,666	67.6	32.4	2.1

<sup>r</sup> revised

... not applicable

1. Represents the actual number of permanent, fully sworn police officers of all ranks (or their full-time equivalents). 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.
2. Counts include civilians 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. The Police Administration Survey only collects data on civilian employees paid for by the police service. Therefore, if civilian employees of a police service are paid for by the municipality, such as in the case of Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachments and some police services, they are not captured by the survey.
3. Special constables and recruits were included in the civilian counts prior to 2017. Starting in 2018, counts for special constables and recruits were collected in a separate question but added to the civilian counts for comparability purposes in this table.
4. Percentage changes are based on unrounded rates.
5. Populations are based on July 1, 2023, estimates from Statistics Canada's Centre for Demography.
6. Despite the Police Administration Survey being an annual survey, the 2020 cycle was cancelled. Therefore, the 2021 cycle data are compared with 2019 cycle data.

**Note(s):** A new version of the Police Administration Survey was implemented in 2018. Data on police strength pertain to the snapshot date (May 15, 2023, for the most recent data). Additional data are presented in Statistics Canada Table 35-10-0076.

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

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## Note to readers

Policing in Canada is administered on three levels: municipal, provincial and federal. At the municipal level, there are stand-alone police services and self-administered First Nations police services. Self-administered First Nations police services are created under agreements between the federal, provincial and territorial governments, along with the communities looking to administer their own police service. At the provincial level, there are three provincial police services: Newfoundland and Labrador, Ontario and Quebec. At the federal level, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) provides provincial, municipal, rural and First Nations policing (where self-administered police services have not been established). The RCMP is also responsible for all federal policing matters, such as serious crimes, and organized crime and financial crime, as well as specialized policing services, such as the Canadian Firearms Program and the National Child Exploitation Crime Centre.

Many factors can account for differences in the number of police officers per 100,000 population when analyzed by jurisdiction and police service. These could include differences in police services' priorities, policies, law enforcement procedures and practices, as well as the availability of resources. In Canada, data on police personnel and expenditures are collected by Statistics Canada through the Police Administration Survey. Using data reported by each police service in Canada, it is possible to provide details on police personnel at the national, provincial, territorial and municipal levels.

The data in this release cover two distinct periods. Most of the information on police personnel is based on a "snapshot date" of May 15, 2023, while expenditures represent the calendar year ending December 31, 2022 (or the fiscal year ending March 31, 2023).

Data collection for the 2020 cycle of the Police Administration Survey was cancelled.

In this release, rates with a percentage change that rounds to 0% are considered stable, and percentages may not sum to 100% because of rounding.

In 2018 and earlier, data on police personnel were collected by sex; after 2018, data have been collected by gender.

Special constables are appointed civilians who have been conferred the powers of a police officer, to the extent and for the specific purpose set out in the appointment.

Racialized groups are defined according to the definition of "visible minorities" in the Employment Equity Act. "Visible minority" refers to whether a person belongs to one of the visible minority groups defined by the Employment Equity Act. The Act defines visible minorities as "persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour." The visible minority population consists mainly of the following groups: South Asian, Chinese, Black, Filipino, Latin American, Arab, Southeast Asian, West Asian, Korean and Japanese.

Data on Indigenous identity and racialized group are collected from police services through self-identification by personnel. Racialized group was "unknown" for 22% of police officers and 40% of recruits and was "not collected by the police service" for 21% of police officers and 27% of recruits. Indigenous identity was "unknown" for 21% of police officers and 43% of recruits and was "not collected by the police service" for 23% of police officers and 29% of recruits. It is not possible to further disaggregate the data.

**Available tables:** [35-10-0059-01](#) and [35-10-0076-01](#) to [35-10-0079-01](#) .

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

The infographic "[Police personnel and expenditures in Canada, 2023](#)," is now available ([11-627-X](#)).

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](mailto:infostats@statcan.gc.ca)) or Media Relations ([statcan.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.statcan@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:statcan.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.statcan@statcan.gc.ca)).