

The Daily

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- **Motor vehicle theft, 1996** 2
 Thieves drove away with a record 178,580 motor vehicles in 1996, meaning that about 1 in every 100 registered vehicles in Canada was reported stolen. The rate of vehicle theft has increased for eight straight years, and has almost doubled since 1988.

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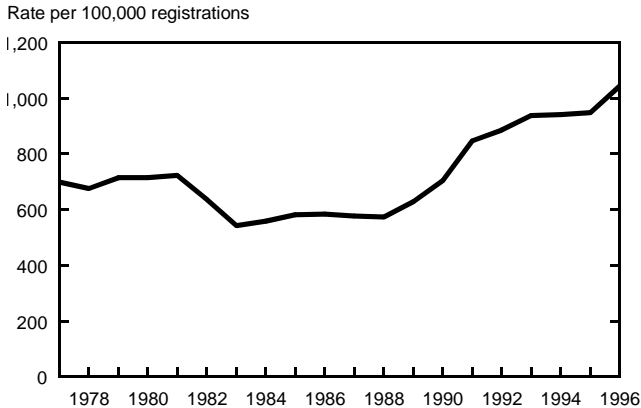
MAJOR RELEASES

Motor vehicle theft

1996

Thieves drove away with a record 178,580 motor vehicles in 1996, meaning that about one in every 100 registered vehicles in Canada was reported stolen. While most property crimes have been declining in recent years, motor vehicle thefts have been rising steadily. The rate of vehicle theft has increased for eight straight years, and has almost doubled since 1988. The 1996 rate was 10% higher than in 1995.

Motor vehicle theft rate, 1977-1996



Despite the increasing number of thefts in 1995, Canada still ranked as one of the lowest among a number of industrialized countries in terms of the proportion of vehicle owners experiencing a motor vehicle theft. Canada's victimization rate for vehicle theft was 18% lower than in the United States and 45% lower than in England.

Minivans and sport-utility vehicles becoming popular targets for thieves

While cars still account for two-thirds of vehicles stolen, minivans and sport-utility vehicles have become increasingly targeted by thieves over the past five years. Thefts of these vehicles have increased 59% during that period, compared with an 18% increase in car thefts. This trend is consistent with recent increases in the number of minivans and sport-utility vehicles on Canada's roads.

Note to readers

A motor vehicle is defined as a car, truck, van, bus, recreational vehicle, motorcycle, semi-trailer truck, construction or agricultural machinery, or other land-based motorized vehicle such as an all-terrain vehicle or snowmobile.

Motor vehicle theft consists of taking or attempting to take a vehicle without the owner's authorization.

Vehicles are usually stolen for one of three reasons: joy-riding, use in committing other crimes, or re-sale. Vehicles stolen for re-sale are often linked to organized crime and may be exported to other parts of Canada, the United States or overseas. According to police statistics, one in every four stolen vehicles is never recovered, an indication of the number of vehicles stolen each year by organized theft rings.

Just over half of all vehicle thefts took place in parking lots in 1996. Parking lots are attractive to thieves as the owners are generally away for a period of time and there is little chance of being detected. Other common locations included at the side of a road or highway (18%) and at the owner's residence (18%).

Vehicle theft is very much a youth crime. According to a sample of police departments, youths aged 15 to 19 accounted for almost half (45%) of all persons accused of stealing a motor vehicle.

Highest rates in British Columbia and Manitoba

Thieves took almost 36,000 motor vehicles in British Columbia in 1996, resulting in a rate of 1,627 thefts for every 100,000 registered vehicles, the highest of any province.

British Columbia was followed closely by Manitoba, with a rate of 1,518 thefts per 100,000 registrations. Vehicle thefts have almost tripled in Manitoba since 1992, the fastest increase among the provinces. Newfoundland continued to report the lowest rate, while Prince Edward Island was the only province to show a decrease in vehicle thefts in 1996.

Consistent with the provincial pattern, Vancouver and Winnipeg reported the highest vehicle theft rates among the nine largest metropolitan areas. Quebec City reported the lowest rate, one-third that of Vancouver.

Insurance costs soaring

Although automobile owners are covered for theft through their insurance, consumers ultimately pay for

vehicle thefts through higher insurance premiums. In 1995/96, the theft of motor vehicles and their components cost the insurance industry almost \$600 million, an increase of \$100 million from the previous year.

In response to this growing problem, many vehicle owners now take preventative measures such as installing vehicle alarm systems and steering wheel locking bars to discourage thieves. Some insurance companies offer discounts to clients who use these protective devices.

Juristat: Motor vehicle theft in Canada — 1996, Vol. 18, no. 1 (85-002-XPE, \$10/\$93) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Information and Client Services (613-951-9023 or 1 800 387-2231), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

**Motor vehicle theft
1986-1996**

Year	Motor vehicle registrations ¹	Number of motor vehicle thefts	Rate per 100,000 registrations	Annual % change in rate
1986	14,642,715	85,585	584	0.5
1987	15,083,650	87,061	577	-1.2
1988	15,607,313	89,454	573	-0.7
1989	15,969,205	100,208	628	9.5
1990	16,206,306	114,082	704	12.2
1991	16,443,808	139,345	847	20.4
1992	16,580,960	146,801	885	4.5
1993	16,716,476	156,685	937	5.9
1994	16,970,447	159,469	940	0.3
1995	17,047,635	161,696	948	0.9
1996 ²	17,127,430	178,580	1,043	9.9

¹ In 1995, the method by which motor vehicle registrations were counted was revised to eliminate overcounting by Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba and British Columbia. Statistics Canada revised the numbers back to 1991 according to the new methodology and estimated 1986-1990 for these four provinces to render these data comparable with post-1990 data.

² As the 1996 data on motor vehicle registrations were not available for the release of this report, the 1996 data are estimates.

**Motor vehicle thefts by census metropolitan area
1996**

Census metropolitan area (CMA)	Population ¹	Motor vehicle thefts	Rate per 100,000 population	% change in rate 1995-1996	% change in rate 1991-1996
Population 500,000 and over					
Vancouver	1,883,679	25,077	1,331	19	29
Winnipeg ²	680,285	8,450	1,242	5	234
Montreal	3,365,160	31,211	927	12	-7
Hamilton	657,230	6,039	919	-5	141
Ottawa	781,147	6,519	835	-16	46
Calgary	853,711	5,666	664	5	-18
Edmonton	890,771	4,957	556	32	-32
Toronto	4,410,269	22,733	515	16	44
Quebec	699,035	3,040	435	-	-12
Population 250,000 to 499,999³					
London	420,614	2,957	703	-17	99
St. Catharines-Niagara ⁴	422,608	2,155	510	21	61
Halifax	344,135	1,538	447	59	41
Kitchener ⁴	427,054	1,596	374	-22	34
Victoria	315,168	1,099	349	-16	4
Hull	258,160	885	343	-6	-3
Windsor	294,063	988	336	-11	1
Population 100,000 to 249,999					
Regina	199,243	3,007	1,509	35	155
Sudbury	166,661	1,209	725	8	-31
Trois-Rivières	142,028	922	649	30	37
Sherbrooke	148,925	923	620	14	8
Saskatoon	223,524	1,279	572	12	65
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	167,854	736	438	33	30
Thunder Bay	130,006	503	387	-30	-25
Saint John	129,380	309	239	58	-31
St. John's	175,249	252	144	5	-40
Canada	29,963,600	178,580	596	9	20

- nil or zero.

¹ Motor vehicle registrations are not available at the CMA level.

² Winnipeg police have discovered an under-reporting of certain crimes, including motor vehicle theft, that has been occurring in recent years. The magnitude of this under-reporting of motor vehicle thefts is approximately 1%.

³ The Oshawa CMA is excluded from this table due to methodological concerns with the matching of the police force jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries.

⁴ Populations have been adjusted to match the police force's jurisdictional boundaries.



OTHER RELEASES

Employment Insurance

November 1997 (preliminary)

The number of Canadians who received regular Employment Insurance (EI) benefits in November is estimated to have fallen 2.2% to 576,640. Declines were widespread in November, affecting seven provinces and the Northwest Territories. After dropping 24% from March 1996 through April 1997 the number of regular beneficiaries has remained relatively flat.

Regular benefit payments increased 4.4% in November to \$673.2 million, largely offsetting the decline in payments observed in October. Led by Saskatchewan (+11.2%) seven provinces and the Northwest Territories recorded increases. Regular benefit payments have fluctuated between \$645 and \$681 million since July 1997.

Number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits

	Nov. 1997	Oct. 1997 to Nov. 1997
	seasonally adjusted	
		% change
Canada	576,640	-2.2
Newfoundland	32,000	0.3
Prince Edward Island	9,050	0.5
Nova Scotia	30,370	-0.5
New Brunswick	36,680	-0.7
Quebec	204,830	-1.5
Ontario	143,030	0.0
Manitoba	13,520	-3.6
Saskatchewan	10,380	-5.4
Alberta	27,330	-7.7
British Columbia	67,270	-1.3
Yukon	1,260	0.2
Northwest Territories	1,060	-0.5

The number of individuals who applied for Employment Insurance benefits in November rose 3.8% to 226,000. Applications increased in six provinces and the Northwest Territories with notable gains in Ontario (+10.9%) and Quebec (+5.7%). Despite the increase in November, the number of people who have applied for Employment Insurance benefits has generally been declining since March 1996 and remains near the lowest level since 1981.

Note: The discrepancy between the estimated number of regular beneficiaries and regular payments series can be explained in part by differences in the reference periods. The number of beneficiaries is a measure of all persons who received EI benefits for the week containing the 15th day of the month. The regular benefit payments series measures the total of all monies received by individuals for the entire month.

Employment Insurance statistics

	Oct. 1997	Nov. 1997	Oct. 1997 to Nov. 1997
	seasonally adjusted		
			% change
Regular beneficiaries ('000)	590 ^P	577 ^P	-2.2
Regular payments (\$ millions)	644.9	673.2	4.4
Claims ('000)	217	226	3.8
	Nov. 1996	Nov. 1997	Nov. 1996 to Nov. 1997
	unadjusted		
			% change
All beneficiaries ('000)	772	708 ^P	-8.3
Regular beneficiaries ('000)	582	511 ^P	-12.1
Claims ('000)	313	290	-7.6
Payments (\$ millions)	880.4	829.8	-5.8
	Year-to-date (January to November)		
	1996	1997	1996 to 1997
			% change
Claims ('000)	2,697	2,460	-8.8
Payments (\$ millions)	12,129.6	10,960.7	-9.6

^P Preliminary figures.

Note: "All beneficiaries" includes all claimants paid regular benefits (e.g., due to layoff) or special benefits (e.g., due to illness).

Available on CANSIM: matrices 26 (series 1.6), 5700-5717, 5735 and 5736.

For further information on this release, contact Michael Scrim (613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-4087; Internet: labour@statcan.ca), Labour Division. ■

Railway carloadings

Ten-day period ending December 31, 1997

Carloadings of freight (excluding intermodal traffic) during the 10-day period ending December 31, 1997, increased 8.6% to 5.5 million tonnes from the same period of last year. The number of cars loaded increased 9.5%.

Intermodal traffic (piggyback) tonnage totalled 339 000 tonnes, down 8.1% from the same period of last year. The year-to-date figures show an increase of 8.3%.

Total traffic (carloadings of freight and intermodal traffic) increased 7.5% during the period. This brought the year-to-date total to 265 million tonnes, up 7.2% from the same period in 1996.

All year-to-date figures have been revised.

For further information on this release, contact Robert Larocque (613-951-2486; fax: 613-951-0009; Internet: larocque@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Stocks of frozen meat products

January 1998

Total frozen meat in cold storage at the opening of the first business day of January totalled 39,797 tonnes compared with 40,804 tonnes last month and 34,349 tonnes a year earlier.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 87 and 9517-9525.

Available free on the Internet @ (<http://www.statcan.ca> under *Products and services, Downloadable publications, Index of downloadable publications*).

For further information on this release, contact Sandra Jarrett (613-951-3847; Internet: jarrsan@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Farm families' total income

1995

Farm families earned an average \$56,583 in 1995, up 6.2% from 1994. The overall increase resulted from an 8.8% gain in net farm operating income (before depreciation) and from a 5.0% increase in off-farm income. Farm families in British Columbia posted the highest average income, taking the lead over farm families in Ontario and Prince Edward Island.

Higher investment income explained largely the improvement in farm families' off-farm income. Average investment income of farm families dropped 38.2% between 1990 and 1994 before rising 20.4% in 1995. A principal factor in this upturn was an increase in the Bank of Canada rate. The bank rate fell from an average of 13.05% in 1990 to an average of 5.77% in 1994. In 1995, the average Bank of Canada rate was 7.33%. The proportion of farm families who received investment income (77.3%) increased 4.9 percentage points from 1994.

Higher average off-farm employment income (+3.3%) and pension income (+7.6%) also contributed to the growth. Average off-farm employment income increased at a slower pace than in 1994 as improvements in labour market conditions lost momentum during 1995. Little employment growth was observed in the labour market in 1995. Average other off-farm income decreased 3.2% largely due to a decline in Unemployment Insurance (UI) payments. In 1995, Unemployment Insurance payments decreased, again mirroring the impact of the first full year of changes in the UI program that came into effect in July 1994.

These estimates refer to the income of families (husband-wife, common-law and lone-parent) involved in a single unincorporated farm with a gross operating revenue of \$10,000 or more in 1995.

For further information on this release, contact Lina Di Piéto (613-951-3171; fax: 613-951-3868; Internet: dipilin@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. □

Sources of total income

	1994	1995	1994 to 1995 % change
	\$		
Off-farm employment income	23,931	24,719	3.3
Wages and salaries	22,107	22,775	3.0
Net non-farm self-employment	1,825	1,944	6.5
Investment income	4,171	5,023	20.4
Pension income	4,078	4,389	7.6
Other off-farm income	4,170	4,035	-3.2
Total off-farm income	36,350	38,166	5.0
Net farm operating income	16,924	18,417	8.8
Total income	53,275	56,583	6.2

Labour Force Survey seasonally adjusted estimates
1995-1997

Labour Force Survey seasonally adjusted estimates for 1995, 1996 and 1997 have been revised to reflect new seasonal factors.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3451, 3453, 3455, 3457, 3459, 3461, 3463, 3465, 3467, 3469, 3471 and 3483-3502.

For further information on this release, contact Nathalie Caron (613-951-4168), Household Survey Division.

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Quarterly financial statistics for enterprises, Third quarter 1997
Catalogue number 61-008-XPB
(Canada: \$35/\$114; outside Canada: US\$35/US\$114).

Wholesale trade, November 1997
Catalogue number 63-008-XPB
(Canada: \$19/\$186; outside Canada: US\$19/US\$186).

Canadian international merchandise trade, November 1997
Catalogue number 65-001-XPB
(Canada: \$19/\$188; outside Canada: US\$19/US\$188).

Juristat: Motor vehicle theft in Canada — 1996, Vol. 18, no. 1
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