



The Daily

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Releases

Offences against the administration of justice, 1994/95 to 2003/04	2
Offences against the administration of justice, such as breach of probation and failure to appear, are accounting for a much larger share of the workload in Canada's criminal courts, according to a new report.	
Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey, third quarter 2005	5
Cement, November 2005	6
The supply and disposition of refined petroleum products, August 2005	6
Commercial Software Price Index, November 2005	6

New products	7
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Releases

Offences against the administration of justice

1994/95 to 2003/04

Offences against the administration of justice, such as breach of probation and failure to appear, are accounting for a much larger share of the workload in Canada's criminal courts, according to a new report.

In 2003/04, nearly one-third (31%) of all cases before adult criminal courts involved at least one offence against the administration of justice. This was substantially higher than the proportion of 22% about a decade earlier.

The growth in the number of cases involving failure to comply with an order and breach of probation has fuelled much of this increased workload in adult courts.

The same trend has been apparent in youth courts. In 2003/04, 4 out of 10 cases included at least one offence against the administration of justice, up from 3 out of every 10 in 1994/95.

Offences against the administration of justice include failure to appear, breach of a probation order, unlawfully at large and failure to comply with an order. In addition, offences against the *Young Offenders Act* and the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* are essentially offences against the administration of justice.

This type of offence was more often associated with property offences than with crimes against the person.

The data show that processing offences against the administration of justice by adult criminal courts takes much longer. In 1994/95, only 12% of single-charge cases involving such offences took courts more than eight months to process. By 2003/04, this proportion had jumped to 18% of such cases.

Most provinces experience increases

During the past 10 years, data on cases before adult criminal courts were available for eight provinces and territories. During that period, seven of these eight provinces and territories experienced increases in the proportion of cases involving at least one offence against the administration of justice.

The proportion of cases before adult criminal courts including at least one offence against the administration

Note to readers

This release is based on a Juristat released today by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. This report examines, for the first time, offences against the administration of justice and trends over time.

The data are from three surveys: the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS) and the Youth Court Survey (YCS).

The Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) trend database contains historical data on individual criminal incidents reported to police. This database currently includes 69 police services that have reported to the UCR2 Survey consistently since 1998. These respondents accounted for 45% of the national volume of crime in 2004.

The ACCS Trend Database contains historical data on the processing of cases through the adult criminal court system. These data have been submitted by eight jurisdictions since 1994/95 and represent about 80% of the national adult criminal court caseload. The jurisdictions include Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Yukon.

The YCS is a census of Criminal Code and other federal statute offences heard in youth court for youths aged 12 to 17 (up to the 18th birthday) at the time of the offence.

of justice in Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Yukon climbed from a range of 10% to 33% in 1994/95 to a range of 21% to 43% in 2003/04.

Prince Edward Island had the biggest increase, from 10% in 1994/95 to 21% in 2003/04.

Saskatchewan and Yukon had the largest proportion of these cases in 2003/04, with 43%.

In Quebec, this proportion stood at 23% in 1994/95 and 2003/04, and fluctuated during these years.

Offences against the administration of justice are most often associated with property offences

In adult criminal courts and youth courts, offences against the administration of justice were most often associated with property offences.

In 2003/04, such offences in adult criminal courts were present in 39% of multiple-charge cases in which a property offence was the most serious offence. This compares with 32% of offence against the person cases.

Offences against the administration of justice were present in 51% of theft cases in 2003/04 where there were multiple charges, 40% of breaking and entering cases and 35% of possession of stolen property cases.

Proportions were somewhat smaller for specific crimes against the person. For example, offences against the administration of justice were present in 39% of both common assault and criminal harassment cases involving multiple charges in 2003/04.

In youth courts in 2003/04, just under one-half (49%) of multiple-charge cases involving property offences had at least one offence against the administration of justice. The corresponding proportion for offences against the person was 43%.

Conviction rate similar to the rate for offences overall

The conviction rate for offences against the administration of justice cases in adult criminal courts was roughly similar to the rate for offences overall.

However, the incarceration rate for offences against the administration of justice was much higher than that for offences overall.

In adult criminal courts, 51% of single-charge cases involving offences against the administration of justice resulted in a guilty verdict in 2003/04. By comparison, the conviction rate was less than one-half (47%) for all offences.

In youth courts, one-half of single-charge cases involving offences against the administration of justice

resulted in a jail term in 2003/04. This compares to 43% for all offences.

Conviction rates varied widely with the severity of the offence. For example, in 72% of single-charge cases against offenders unlawfully at large, judges in adult criminal courts rendered a guilty verdict. As well, 62% of cases involving breach of probation resulted in a guilty verdict.

Prison sentences for offences against the administration of justice are shorter than for offences overall. Judges imposed a sentence of one month or less in 84% of single-conviction cases involving an offence against the administration of justice in 2003/04. By comparison, this proportion was only 67% for offences overall.

The *Juristat: Offences Against the Administration of Justice, 1994/95 to 2003/04*, Vol. 26, no. 1 (85-002-XIE, \$9/\$75; 85-002-XPE, \$11/\$100) is now available. See *How to order products*.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3302, 3309 and 3312.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Information and Client Services (1-800-387-2231; 613-951-9023; fax: 613-951-6615), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

□

Number of adult criminal court cases involving at least one offence against the administration of justice, eight provinces and territories¹

Offence group	1994/95		2002/03		2003/04	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total offences^{2,3}	436,928	100.0	396,701	100.0	380,439	100.0
Offences against the administration of justice	96,074	22.0	115,040	29.0	116,613	30.7
Criminal Code: Offences against the administration of justice						
Fail to appear	16,175	3.7	16,894	4.3	17,826	4.7
Breach of probation	30,139	6.9	41,947	10.6	43,340	11.4
Unlawfully at large	5,676	1.3	3,833	1.0	3,812	1.0
Fail to comply with an order	44,846	10.3	59,268	14.9	60,269	15.8
Other offences against the administration of justice	5,813	1.3	4,100	1.0	4,156	1.1
Youth Offender Act/Youth Criminal Justice Act	2,042	0.5	3,629	0.9	2,278	0.6

... Figures not applicable.

1. The total for eight provinces and territories does not include New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut, Superior court data in Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, and Saskatchewan are not reported. Superior court data were collected in Alberta from 1998/99, in Yukon from 1999/00, in Prince Edward Island from 2000/01, in New Brunswick and British Columbia in 2001/02, and in Nova Scotia in 2002/03. Cases completed in superior courts represent about 2% of total cases in each of these jurisdictions.
2. Total offences include the offences against the administration of justice.
3. Due to multiple charge cases with more than one offence against the administration of justice, percentages do not add up to the total.

Number of youth court cases involving at least one offence against the administration of justice

Offence group	1994/95		2002/03		2003/04	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total offences^{1, 2}	96,247	100.0	84,592	100.0	70,465	100.0
Offences against the administration of justice	28,992	30.1	33,206	39.3	28,937	40.3
Criminal Code: Offences against the administration of justice						
Fail to appear	2,545	2.6	2,305	2.7	2,559	3.6
Breach of probation	870	0.9	571	0.7	493	0.7
Unlawfully at large	2,488	2.6	1,542	1.8	1,220	1.7
Fail to comply with an order	8,729	9.1	11,454	13.5	11,374	16.1
Other offences against the administration of justice	759	0.8	614	0.7	974	1.4
Youth Offender Act/Youth Criminal Justice Act	13,601	14.1	16,720	19.8	13,905	19.7

... Figures not applicable.

1. Total offences include the offences against the administration of justice.
2. Due to multiple charge cases with more than one offence against the administration of justice, percentages do not add up to the total.



Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey

Third quarter 2005

Powered largely by a 22.3% increase in the price of gasoline, the share of retail spending on automotive fuels, oils and additives reached a historical peak in the third quarter of 2005.

Sales by retailers of automotive fuels, oils and additives in the third quarter of 2005 rose to a record \$9.7 billion, or 10 cents of every dollar spent in retail stores, a 26.0% increase over the same quarter a year earlier. By comparison, in 2004 this commodity group represented only 8 cents of every retail dollar spent.

In total, consumers spent \$96.4 billion on goods and services in retail stores in the third quarter of 2005, up 7.2% over the third quarter of 2004. Except for the large increase in automotive fuels, oils and additives, all other commodity groups showed more modest increases, ranging from 2.3% for all other goods and services (which includes items such as tobacco and pet food) to 7.9% for hardware, lawn and garden products.

Consumers dealt with the increase in spending on automotive fuels, oils and additives by spending fewer cents per retail dollar on all other major commodity groups, except for hardware, lawn and garden products. The commodity groups with the most significant year-over-year declines were all other goods and services as well as clothing, footwear and accessories.

With sales of \$7.1 billion, hardware, lawn and garden products registered the second highest year-over-year increase (+7.9%) of all the major commodity groups in the third quarter of 2005. This represented 7 cents of every retail dollar in the third quarter compared to 8 cents in the second quarter of 2005. Within the hardware, lawn and garden products category, the largest component, hardware and home renovation products, rose 7.8% in the third quarter compared to the same quarter of 2004.

Sales of clothing, footwear and accessories were \$7.4 billion in the third quarter, up 3.0% over the same quarter in 2004. Women's clothing sales rose 4.1% and men's clothing sales were up 3.0%, while children's clothing dropped 3.9%. The prices

for women's clothing increased 0.6% compared with the same quarter a year earlier, while the prices for men's (-0.7%) and children's (-1.9%) clothing declined. Prices for children's clothing have declined significantly (-13.6%) since the third quarter of 2000.

Specialty clothing stores saw their sales of clothing, footwear and accessories increase 3.9% in the third quarter over the same quarter in 2004. However, in general merchandise stores (which include department stores) sales of clothing declined 1.5% over the same period.

General merchandisers have been losing market share for clothing, footwear and accessories over recent years. In the third quarter of 2000, the market share for this commodity group in general merchandise stores was 28%; by the third quarter of 2005, it had dropped to 25%.

Sales of motor vehicles, parts and services amounted to \$21.4 billion in the third quarter, up 6.5% over the same quarter of 2004. Incentive programs offered by dealers and manufacturers for new vehicles (cars, trucks, vans and sport utility vehicles) drove up sales of new vehicles by 7.4%. Sales of used vehicles increased 2.8% compared with the same quarter of 2004 and sales of automotive parts and services (including tires) rose 9.9%.

Note: The Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey collects national level retail sales by commodity, from a sub-sample of businesses in the Monthly Retail Trade Survey. Quarterly data have not been adjusted for seasonality. All percentage changes are year-over-year.

Available on CANSIM: table 080-0018.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2008.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; retailinfo@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Ruth Barnes (613-951-6190), Distributive Trades Division. □

Sales by commodity, all retail stores

	Third quarter 2004 ^r	Second quarter 2005 ^r	Third quarter 2005 ^p	Third quarter 2004 to third quarter 2005
	unadjusted			
	\$ millions			% change
Commodity				
Food and beverages	19,885	20,137	21,050	5.9
Health and personal care products	7,245	7,568	7,641	5.5
Clothing, footwear and accessories	7,221	7,467	7,439	3.0
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics	7,854	7,530	8,290	5.5
Motor vehicles, parts and services	20,089	23,230	21,393	6.5
Automotive fuels, oils and additives	7,738	8,288	9,749	26.0
Housewares	1,880	1,775	1,934	2.9
Hardware, lawn and garden products	6,539	8,110	7,056	7.9
Sporting and leisure goods	2,891	2,933	3,030	4.8
All other goods and services	8,581	9,225	8,782	2.3
Total	89,922	96,262	96,363	7.2

^r Revised.

^p Preliminary.

Cement

November 2005

Data on cement are now available for November 2005.

Available on CANSIM: tables 303-0060 and 303-0061.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2140.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

The supply and disposition of refined petroleum products

August 2005

Data on the supply and disposition and domestic sales of refined petroleum products are now available for August.

Available on CANSIM: tables 134-0001 to 134-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2150.

The August 2005 issue of *The Supply and Disposition of Refined Petroleum Products in Canada*

(previously titled *Refined Petroleum Products*), Vol. 60, no. 8 (45-004-XIE, \$18/\$166) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Marketing and Dissemination Section (613-951-9497; 1-866-873-8789; energ@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Commercial Software Price Index

November 2005

The *Commercial Software Price Index* (CSPI) is a monthly series measuring the change in the purchase price of pre-packaged software typically bought by businesses and governments. The CSPI (2001=100) for November was 71.1, down 1.5% from October.

This index is available at the Canada level only.

Available on CANSIM: table 331-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5068.

For more information on these indexes, contact Client Services (1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; infounit@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Fred Barzyk (613-951-2493; fred.barzyk@statcan.ca), Prices Division. ■

New products

The Supply and Disposition of Refined Petroleum Products in Canada, August 2005, Vol. 60, no. 8
Catalogue number **45-004-XIE** (\$18/\$166).

All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.

Building Permits, November 2005, Vol. 49, no. 11
Catalogue number **64-001-XIE** (\$15/\$156).

Catalogue numbers with an -XWE, -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; -XPB or -XPE are paper versions; -XDB or -XDE are electronic versions on diskette; -XCB or -XCE are electronic versions on compact disc and -XBB or -XBE a database.

Juristat, Vol. 26, no. 1
Catalogue number **85-002-XIE** (\$9/\$75).

Juristat, Vol. 26, no. 1
Catalogue number **85-002-XPE** (\$11/\$100).

Industrial Research and Development: Intentions, 2005
Catalogue number **88-202-XIE**
(free).

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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1995, each Canadian took an average of about 20 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was notably weak again in 1995, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- **Help-wanted index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 2
- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997** 12
- **Egg production, Apr. 1997** 12

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11



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