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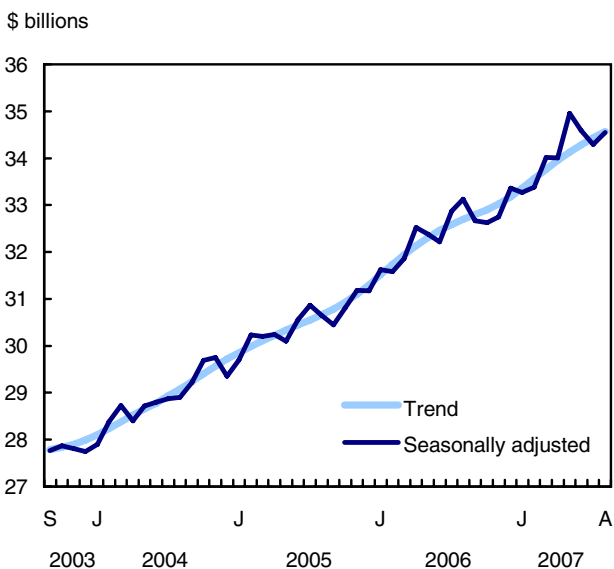
Releases

Retail trade

August 2007

After two consecutive decreases in June and July, total retail sales increased 0.7% in August to an estimated \$34.5 billion. Although sales in all eight retail trade sectors were up, sales by new car dealers (+3.0%) led the way.

Sales increase after two consecutive months of declines



Despite a significant decline in gasoline station sales (-3.7%), which was mainly due to a drop of 4.9% in gasoline prices, according to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), sales in the automotive sector increased 0.3%.

Excluding sales from dealers of new, used and recreational vehicles and auto parts, retail sales increased by 0.3%.

Among the sectors, five had sales increases above 1.0%: pharmacies and personal care stores (+1.8%), furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores (+1.5%), clothing and accessories stores (+1.4%), together with miscellaneous retailers (+1.4%), and general merchandise stores (+1.3%).

In constant dollars, total retail sales grew 1.4% in August, indicating that there was a price effect. In addition to the decline in gasoline prices, the CPI showed a reduction of 1.8% in the cost of vehicle purchases

and leases. Manufacturers' discounts on 2007 models accounted for this downward movement in new vehicle prices.

Sales of new cars recover in August

The increase of 3.0% in sales by new car dealers largely offset the 3.1% decline observed in July. The New Motor Vehicle Sales Survey revealed a 2.8% increase in sales, mainly due to the recovery of truck sales (which include minivans, sport-utility vehicles, light and heavy trucks, vans and buses).

Used and recreational vehicle and auto parts dealers experienced a decrease of 0.6% in their sales after a relatively flat month in July (+0.1%).

Sales in gasoline stations fell (-3.7%) for the third consecutive month. Nevertheless, since the drop in sales observed in September 2006, the trend has generally been upward.

Generalized increase in sales cancels out most of the decline in July

The pharmacies and personal care stores sector's advance of 1.8% in August was the second largest increase since the beginning of the year. Moreover, this sector posted only two months of declines since the middle of 2005.

The August rise of 1.5% in the furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores sector was the second consecutive monthly increase of over 1.0%. Rising sales in this sector were mainly due to the increase of 3.7% in sales by home electronics and appliance stores, representing the sharpest advance observed since February 2005. Sales in this trade group have not declined since the spring of 2006.

Both the clothing and accessories stores and the miscellaneous retailers sectors recorded an increase of 1.4% in sales in August, offsetting the decline in their July sales. The increase in sales in the clothing and accessories stores sector was mainly due to a rise of 1.7% in clothing stores sales, which more than offset the decline observed in July (-0.6%).

Sales in the general merchandise stores sector rebounded (+1.3%), almost entirely offsetting the decreases observed in this sector for the previous two months.

The building and outdoor home supplies stores sector saw an increase of 0.7% in its sales in August, offsetting most of the 1.0% decline in July sales.

The increase in this sector's sales was attributable to home centres and hardware stores (+1.2 %), which experienced a rebound in sales that had decreased in the previous two months. According to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the seasonally adjusted annual rate of housing starts advanced 5.1% in August. Sales by specialized building material and garden stores decreased (-1.6%) for the second month in a row.

Sales in the food and beverage stores sector increased 0.3% in August. The major player in this sector, supermarkets, saw an increase in sales of a similar magnitude (+0.2%) after a decline of 1.0% in July. Beer, wine and liquor stores partially recovered (+0.7%) after a decline of 2.0% in July, whereas sales by convenience and specialty food stores remained practically flat (+0.1%).

New cars revive sales in Ontario and stimulate sales in Quebec and Prince Edward Island in August

In eight of the provinces and territories, retail sales were up in August. Prince Edward Island (+2.5%) and Ontario (+2.0%) recorded the two strongest sales growth rates, mainly because of increased sales by new car dealers. In the case of Prince Edward Island, this was the fourth consecutive monthly increase. Furthermore, according to the New Motor Vehicle Sales Survey, sales in Prince Edward Island advanced 13.2%.

The increases in Ontario (+2.0%) and Quebec (+0.6%) accounted for almost the entire advance in retail sales, with the automotive sector mainly responsible for this increase. The increase in August in Ontario almost totally offset the decline in July, which followed the strongest quarterly growth since the first quarter of 2002. In Quebec, growth in retail sales cancelled out most of the decline in July, which followed the strongest quarterly growth since the second quarter of 2001.

Of the provinces recording rising sales, Saskatchewan (+0.7%) experienced its sixth

consecutive advance since the beginning of the year. The rise in Newfoundland and Labrador (+0.4%) was the sixth in the previous seven months.

Alberta (-0.5%) experienced a decline in retail sales for the second consecutive month, whereas sales in British Columbia, after stagnating in July, remained relatively flat (-0.1%).

Related indicators for September

In September, the unemployment rate edged down 0.1% to 5.9%. The unemployment rate was less than 6.0% for the first time since November 1974. This decline in the unemployment rate coincided with an estimated increase in employment of 51,000 jobs, and most of these were full-time jobs.

Provisional data on automotive industry sales indicate that the number of new motor vehicles sold dropped 2% in September.

According to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the seasonally adjusted annual rate of housing starts increased for the second consecutive month in September by 19.6%, from 232,700 units in August to 278,200 units in September.

Available on CANSIM: tables 080-0014 to 080-0017.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2406 and 2408.

The August 2007 issue of *Retail Trade* (63-005-XWE, free) will soon be available.

Data on retail trade for September will be released on November 21.

For more information or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; retailinfo@statcan.ca). For analytical information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Claude Bilodeau (613-951-1816), Distributive Trades Division.

□

Retail sales

	August 2006	May 2007 ^r	June 2007 ^r	July 2007 ^r	August 2007 ^p	July to August 2007	August 2006 to August 2007
Seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions					% change	
Automotive	11,629	12,318	11,967	11,751	11,787	0.3	1.4
New car dealers	6,465	6,736	6,507	6,308	6,494	3.0	0.5
Used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	1,478	1,665	1,600	1,601	1,592	-0.6	7.7
Gasoline stations	3,686	3,917	3,860	3,842	3,700	-3.7	0.4
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores	2,324	2,490	2,485	2,530	2,569	1.5	10.5
Furniture stores	806	853	835	855	847	-0.9	5.2
Home furnishings stores	445	494	504	513	517	0.8	16.3
Computer and software stores	132	122	115	112	115	2.8	-13.0
Home electronics and appliance stores	941	1,021	1,031	1,051	1,089	3.7	15.7
Building and outdoor home supplies stores	2,110	2,241	2,248	2,225	2,240	0.7	6.2
Home centres and hardware stores	1,717	1,828	1,818	1,803	1,825	1.2	6.3
Specialized building materials and garden stores	393	413	430	422	415	-1.6	5.6
Food and beverage stores	7,390	7,648	7,700	7,620	7,639	0.3	3.4
Supermarkets	5,332	5,457	5,501	5,447	5,457	0.2	2.3
Convenience and specialty food stores	785	848	844	845	846	0.1	7.8
Beer, wine and liquor stores	1,273	1,343	1,355	1,328	1,337	0.7	5.0
Pharmacies and personal care stores	2,209	2,368	2,352	2,369	2,411	1.8	9.1
Clothing and accessories stores	1,889	2,010	2,011	2,006	2,035	1.4	7.7
Clothing stores	1,433	1,545	1,545	1,536	1,562	1.7	9.0
Shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores	457	465	466	470	472	0.5	3.4
General merchandise stores	3,898	4,084	4,044	4,022	4,073	1.3	4.5
Miscellaneous retailers	1,682	1,793	1,784	1,769	1,794	1.4	6.7
Sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores	828	890	889	873	882	1.1	6.6
Miscellaneous store retailers	854	903	895	896	912	1.8	6.7
Total retail sales	33,131	34,952	34,592	34,291	34,547	0.7	4.3
Total excluding new car dealers, used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	25,187	26,552	26,484	26,382	26,460	0.3	5.1
Provinces and territories							
Newfoundland and Labrador	505	546	557	553	555	0.4	9.9
Prince Edward Island	123	131	133	135	138	2.5	12.1
Nova Scotia	944	974	956	975	968	-0.7	2.6
New Brunswick	739	796	792	793	795	0.3	7.6
Quebec	7,373	7,888	7,566	7,508	7,552	0.6	2.4
Ontario	11,967	12,346	12,281	12,016	12,251	2.0	2.4
Manitoba	1,097	1,176	1,174	1,181	1,179	-0.2	7.4
Saskatchewan	969	1,069	1,069	1,081	1,089	0.7	12.4
Alberta	4,835	5,180	5,209	5,196	5,173	-0.5	7.0
British Columbia	4,468	4,725	4,733	4,733	4,727	-0.1	5.8
Yukon	38	41	42	41	41	0.6	7.7
Northwest Territories	51	56	55	57	56	-1.7	10.0
Nunavut	22	24	23	23	24	3.0	7.3

^r revised

^p preliminary

Note: Figures may not add up to totals due to rounding.

Retail sales

	August 2006	July 2007 ^r	August 2007 ^p	August 2006 to August 2007
	Unadjusted			
	\$ millions			% change
Automotive	12,941	13,042	13,194	2.0
New car dealers	7,178	6,915	7,284	1.5
Used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	1,627	1,880	1,767	8.6
Gasoline stations	4,137	4,246	4,143	0.2
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores	2,364	2,438	2,635	11.5
Furniture stores	853	896	905	6.1
Home furnishings stores	455	497	524	15.1
Computer and software stores	130	97	114	-12.1
Home electronics and appliance stores	926	949	1,091	17.9
Building and outdoor home supplies stores	2,389	2,596	2,553	6.9
Home centres and hardware stores	1,928	2,107	2,077	7.8
Specialized building materials and garden stores	461	489	476	3.3
Food and beverage stores	7,674	7,823	8,128	5.9
Supermarkets	5,430	5,433	5,667	4.4
Convenience and specialty food stores	849	918	927	9.2
Beer, wine and liquor stores	1,395	1,472	1,533	9.9
Pharmacies and personal care stores	2,184	2,268	2,416	10.6
Clothing and accessories stores	1,860	1,804	2,056	10.5
Clothing stores	1,399	1,379	1,558	11.4
Shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores	461	425	498	8.0
General merchandise stores	3,846	3,991	4,045	5.2
Miscellaneous retailers	1,741	1,690	1,869	7.3
Sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores	844	805	906	7.3
Miscellaneous store retailers	897	885	963	7.4
Total retail sales	34,998	35,652	36,894	5.4
Total excluding new car dealers, used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	26,194	26,857	27,844	6.3
Provinces and territories				
Newfoundland and Labrador	557	591	616	10.6
Prince Edward Island	144	157	165	14.1
Nova Scotia	1,006	1,027	1,052	4.6
New Brunswick	795	841	869	9.3
Quebec	7,812	7,828	8,097	3.6
Ontario	12,464	12,333	12,936	3.8
Manitoba	1,169	1,233	1,265	8.3
Saskatchewan	1,043	1,150	1,184	13.5
Alberta	5,143	5,426	5,498	6.9
British Columbia	4,742	4,933	5,079	7.1
Yukon	44	47	48	8.1
Northwest Territories	54	62	60	9.8
Nunavut	24	24	25	7.8

^r revised

^p preliminary

Note: Figures may not add up to totals due to rounding.

Study: Home ownership among young Canadians

2006

According to a new study, in 2006, young adults in rural and small towns were more likely to be homeowners than young adults in Canada's three largest metropolitan areas.

The study, published today in *Canadian Social Trends*, points to housing costs, which are much higher in Canada's largest metropolitan areas, as the main reason for this gap. The relative scarcity of rental housing in less populated areas may also be a factor, it said.

In Canada, 6 out of every 10 young people aged 25 to 39 in Canada who did not live with their parents owned their own home in 2006, according to the study, which was based on data from the 2006 General Social Survey (GSS).

However, the proportion was highest (71%) among young people in this age group who lived in a rural area or in a small town.

In contrast, 54% of those living in the census metropolitan area of Vancouver and 53% of those living in Toronto owned their own home. The proportion fell to less than one-half (48%) among those living in Montréal.

Overall, three-quarters of young adults aged 25 to 39 who no longer lived with their parents reported in the GSS that owning their own home was very important to them.

However, several factors in the last few years may have had a negative impact on home ownership for young people. These include rising housing prices, particularly in large urban centres, their desire to stay in school longer, and their decision to delay various milestones in life, such as marriage.

Income: A major determining factor

Despite the impact on home ownership rates of various factors relating to individuals themselves, it was household characteristics that mattered most to a person's chances of being a homeowner.

Young adults were most likely to own their own home if they were married and had children, as well as if they had higher household incomes.

The study found that household income is one of the factors, if not the single factor, with the biggest impact on the likelihood of owning a home.

Holding the other factors such as age, highest level of schooling, living arrangements and place of residence constant, the odds of being a homeowner were 1.7 times higher for young adults with a household

income of over \$100,000 than for those with an income between \$50,000 and \$80,000.

This association is hardly surprising and reflects results of numerous earlier studies. Obviously, insufficient income represents the major obstacle to home ownership. This was quite apparent when it came to living in larger urban centres.

Just 22% of young adults reporting a household income of less than \$30,000 per year were homeowners in 2006. On the other hand, 68% of those with a household income of \$50,000 to \$80,000 were homeowners, as were 82% of those with an income of \$100,000 or more.

Location also made a significant difference. Two-fifths (40%) of young adults who had household incomes of under \$30,000 a year but who lived in rural settings were homeowners. This was more than twice the proportion of only 16% among their counterparts who lived in one of Canada's six largest metropolitan areas.

Even for those young people with the highest household incomes (\$80,000 or more a year), there was a difference, although not as great. The study found that 78% of these big city dwellers were homeowners, compared with 85% of those living in rural areas and small towns.

Home ownership rates vary with age, living arrangements, employment

The study found, not surprisingly, that home ownership rates increase directly with age, and are strongly associated with living arrangements and employment.

Only 38% of young people aged between 25 and 27 owned their own homes in 2006. This proportion rose to 63% among individuals aged 31 to 33, and 73% among those aged 37 to 39.

Even when all other factors that influence home ownership are held constant, the impact of age remains statistically significant. For example, the odds that people aged 37 to 39 would own their own home were 2.2 times higher than those for individuals aged 25 to 27.

Home ownership also varies strongly according to living arrangements. In 2006, 79% of married young adults who had children owned their own home. This proportion was only 40% among individuals living alone and 33% among lone parents.

GSS data show that even when the impact of income and other factors are held constant, young people with temporary jobs had 40% lower odds of owning their own home than people with permanent employment.

Few recent immigrants own their own home

GSS data show that the number of years spent in Canada since immigration is associated with the probability of being a homeowner.

Almost two-thirds (64%) of young adults born in Canada and no longer living with their parents were homeowners.

However, this was true of less than half (48%) of their counterparts who had immigrated to Canada five to nine years prior to the survey, and of only 20% of immigrants who had arrived in Canada sometime in the five years preceding the 2006 GSS.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4501.

The study, "Young people's access to home ownership", is now available in the October 2007 issue of *Canadian Social Trends*, Vol. 84 (11-008-XWE, free) from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-5979; sasd-dssea@statcan.ca), Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division. ■

Employment Insurance

August 2007 (preliminary)

An estimated 488,600 Canadians (seasonally adjusted) received regular Employment Insurance benefits in August, a 7.6% decrease from the previous month.

The August figures are showing a decrease due to a temporary jump in July that was caused by the timing of the reference week for that month.

Over the last four years, the number of regular beneficiaries has declined 16% nationally. The decline over this period has been pronounced in Alberta (-48.4%), British Columbia (-43.4%) and Manitoba (-22.9%).

Regular benefit payments in August totalled \$702.3 million, while 209,800 people made initial and renewal claims.

Note: Employment Insurance Statistics Program data are produced from an administrative data source and may, from time to time, be affected by changes to the *Employment Insurance Act* or administrative

procedures. The number of beneficiaries is a measure of all persons who received Employment Insurance benefits from the 12th to the 18th of the month. This coincides with the reference week of the Labour Force Survey. The regular benefit payments figure measures the total of all monies paid to individuals from the 1st to the end of the month.

Available on CANSIM: tables 276-0001 to 276-0006, 276-0009, 276-0011, 276-0015 and 276-0016.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2604.

Data on Employment Insurance for September will be released on November 27.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; labour@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gilles Groleau (613-951-4091), Labour Statistics Division.

Employment Insurance statistics

	August 2007	July 2007	August 2006	July to August 2007	August 2006 to August 2007
Seasonally adjusted					
				% change	
Regular beneficiaries	488,600 ^P	529,070 ^r	508,860	-7.6	-4.0
Regular benefits paid (\$ millions)	702.3 ^P	702.9 ^r	697.6	-0.1	0.7
Initial and Renewal Claims received ('000)	209.8 ^P	215.9 ^r	219.2	-2.8	-4.3
Unadjusted					
All beneficiaries ('000) ¹	709.4 ^P	720.7 ^P	745.6		
Regular beneficiaries ('000)	473.9 ^P	486.8 ^P	501.4		
Initial and Renewal Claims received ('000)	155.3	302.9	172.0		
Payments (\$ millions)	1,115.6	1,100.7	1,121.6		
Year-to-date (January to August)					
			2007	2006	2006 to 2007
					% change
Claims received ('000)			1,680.6	1,711.4	-1.8
Payments (\$ millions)			10,077.0	10,196.4	-1.2

^r revised

^P preliminary

1. "All beneficiaries" includes all claimants receiving regular benefits (for example, as a result of a layoff) or special benefits (for example, as a result of illness) and are representative of data for the Labour Force Survey reference week, which is usually the week containing the 15th of the month.

Number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits

	August 2007 ^P	July to August 2007 Seasonally adjusted	August 2006 to August 2007
	% change		
Canada	488,600	-7.6	-4.0
Newfoundland and Labrador	36,470	0.9	-4.8
Prince Edward Island	8,140	-6.9	-3.6
Nova Scotia	28,310	-2.9	-8.3
New Brunswick	29,930	-4.0	-11.1
Quebec	164,200	-13.6	-5.7
Ontario	134,600	-5.7	0.1
Manitoba	11,160	-16.2	-2.7
Saskatchewan	10,210	-9.7	-5.6
Alberta	18,020	-2.6	-14.9
British Columbia	39,090	-7.1	-6.8
Yukon	790	0.0	-8.1
Northwest Territories	600	-1.6	-13.0
Nunavut	340	0.0	-8.1

^P preliminary

Note: The number of beneficiaries includes all claimants who received regular benefits for the Labour Force Survey reference week, usually containing the 15th day of the month.

Natural gas sales

August 2007 (preliminary)

Cooler than normal temperatures in most of the Western Provinces led to an increase in natural gas sales in the residential sector in August.

Higher sales volume in the residential sector (+9.7%) was more than offset by a decline of 13.5% in the volume of industrial sales (including direct sales) and weakness (-5.2%) in the commercial sector.

Natural gas sales totalled 3 564 million cubic metres, down 10.4% from August 2006.

On a year-to-date basis, sales at the end of August were up 4.0% from the same eight-month period last year in the wake of across-the-board increases in all sectors.

The volume of natural gas sales to the industrial sector (including direct sales) has risen only 0.3% so far this year, while sales were up 9.8% in the residential sector and 8.7% in the commercial sector.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2149.

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

Natural gas sales

	August 2007 ^P	August 2006	August 2006 to August 2007 % change
thousands of cubic metres			
Total sales	3 564 138	3 978 727	-10.4
Residential	434 128	395 900	9.7
Commercial	358 232	377 708	-5.2
Industrial and direct	2 771 778	3 205 119	-13.5
Year-to-date			
	2007 ^P	2006	2006 to 2007 % change
thousands of cubic metres			
Total sales	46 958 076	45 155 275	4.0
Residential	11 707 260	10 664 607	9.8
Commercial	8 499 223	7 819 400	8.7
Industrial and direct	26 751 593	26 671 268	0.3

^P preliminary

Adult criminal court statistics 2005/2006

Adult criminal court cases have become more complex during the last 10 years, as cases involving multiple charges are accounting for a growing share of the total caseload.

Cases involving multiple charges represented 60% of the adult caseload in 2005/2006, compared with 51% a decade earlier.

In turn, this increased case complexity has likely contributed to the longer average time taken to complete a case in adult court. In 2005/2006, cases took 7 months on average to complete, significantly longer than 5 months 10 years earlier.

Not surprisingly, fewer cases are being disposed of in adult criminal court each year, in light of the increased case complexity and duration, as well as a long-term downward trend in police-reported crime statistics.

In 2005/2006, cases disposed of in adult criminal courts were down 11% from a decade earlier.

Of the 373,100 cases completed in 2005/2006, 25% involved crimes against the person, and an additional 24% involved crimes against property, the two largest shares. Administration of justice offences involved 17%, and *Criminal Code* traffic offences, 14%. The remaining 20% involved other *Criminal Code* and federal statute offences.

These proportions have remained relatively stable over time, except for administration of justice offences, which include breach of probation and failure to comply

with a court order. The share for this offence group has doubled during the past decade.

This increase was offset by declines in the share of property crimes such as breaking and entering, theft and fraud offences, as well as a more significant decline for impaired driving offences.

Two-thirds (66%) of adult cases received a guilty disposition in 2005/2006. About 87% of the accused in these cases had pleaded guilty. The highest share of cases with a finding of guilt (78%) occurred in the *Criminal Code* traffic offences category. The lowest (53%) occurred in crimes against the person.

Among cases where there was a finding of guilt, probation was the most frequently imposed sanction (44%) in 2005/2006. Imprisonment was imposed in 34% of cases, and a fine in 31%.

The proportions for both probation and prison were slightly higher than they were five years earlier, while the percentage for fines was somewhat lower.

Data for the 2005/2006 fiscal year represent approximately 98% of the national adult criminal court caseload in all provinces and territories. Trend analysis for this release was performed on either a 10-year time series (1996/1997 to 2005/2006) composed of the Yukon and seven provinces: Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta, or on a five-year period (2001/2002 to 2005/2006) that also included New Brunswick and British Columbia.

Note: Statistics in this release should not be compared with statistics from previous releases.

With this release, data are available for both 2004/2005 and 2005/2006 case characteristics from the Integrated Criminal Court Survey and the Adult Criminal Court Survey.

The concept of a case has changed from previous releases to more closely reflect court processing. The new definition combines all charges against the same person having overlapping court dates into a single case. The previous definition combined all charges against the same person disposed of in court on the same day into a case. This tended to undercount the number of charges in a case, overcount the number of cases and underestimate the length of time required to process a case through court because not all charges are necessarily disposed of on the same day.

To account for the new case definition, adult court data dating back to 1994/1995 have been revised.

Available on CANSIM: tables 252-0043 to 252-0046.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3312.

For standard tables or more information on the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Information and Client Services (toll-free 1-800-387-2231; 613-951-9023), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Cases disposed of in adult criminal courts, type of decision, 2005/2006

Offence group	Total	Guilty ¹		Acquitted	Stay/Withdrawn number	Other ²
	number	number	%			
Total offences	373,143	244,572	65.5	13,948	108,819	5,804
Crimes against the person	92,240	48,843	53.0	6,521	35,047	1,829
Crimes against property	91,388	60,983	66.7	1,567	27,506	1,332
Administration of justice	62,149	44,582	71.7	956	15,824	787
Other Criminal Code	30,923	19,896	64.3	1,051	9,333	643
Criminal Code traffic	53,849	42,074	78.1	2,916	8,235	624
Other federal statute	42,594	28,194	66.2	937	12,874	589

1. " Found guilty" includes guilty of the charged offence, of an included offence, of an attempt of the charged offence, or of an attempt of an included offence. This category also includes cases where an absolute or conditional discharge has been imposed.
2. " Other decisions" includes final decisions of found not criminally responsible, waived in the province or territory, and waived out of the province or territory. This category also includes any order where a conviction was not recorded, the court's acceptance of a special plea, cases that raise Charter arguments and cases where the accused was found unfit to stand trial.

**Youth court statistics
2005/2006**

Judges are seeing fewer young people aged 12 to 17 in their courtrooms, and fewer are being sent to custody, since the enactment of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA)* in April 2003.

There were 56,271 youth court cases completed during the 2005/2006 fiscal year, down 2% from the previous year. Since 2002/2003, the year prior to the enactment of the new legislation, youth court caseload has dropped 26%.

This is consistent with police-reported data showing that in 2005, the rate of youth charged with criminal offences was 26% lower than in 2002.

The *YCJA* aims to keep the less serious offences out of youth courts by dealing with youth in less formal manners. In 2005, the rate of youth who were not formally charged by the police was 25% higher than in 2002. This includes youth who may have received a warning or caution, a referral to a community program, or no further action by the police in lieu of charges.

Half of the reduction in the youth court caseload was the result of fewer youth appearing in court for property

crimes such as theft, breaking and entering, fraud and possession of stolen property.

However, property crime cases still accounted for 38% of youth court caseload, more than any other type of crime, such as violent crime (27%), offences against the administration of justice (9%) and drug-related crimes (6%).

Since it reached a high of 70% in 1998/1999, the proportion of cases where the accused either pleaded guilty or was found guilty has been gradually declining. Of those youth who went to court in 2005/2006, 62% of cases resulted in guilt.

One of the concerns with the *Young Offenders Act (YOA)*, which preceded the *YCJA*, was the overuse of custody. A key objective of the *YCJA* was to decrease the use of custody.

Consistent with the objectives of the *YCJA*, not only are fewer youth appearing in court, fewer are sentenced to custody. In 2005/2006, about 18% or 6,355 of all guilty cases resulted in the youth being sentenced to custody. This compares to 27% or 13,246 of all guilty cases in 2002/2003.

Court cases where the youth was guilty of being unlawfully at large were most likely to receive a sentence

to custody and supervision. Of these young people, 70% received such a sentence.

Historically, judges have sentenced youth to probation more than any other type of sentence. Although this was still true in 2005/2006, the proportion of guilty youth receiving a sentence to probation dropped to 60% from 70% in 2002/2003.

This drop may be due in part to the fact that under the YCJA, youth are subject to a period of mandatory community supervision following their release from custody. Under the former YOA, youth custody sentences were often followed by a probation order.

The YCJA introduced a number of new sentencing options for judges, including intensive support and supervision orders, deferred custody and supervision orders, and orders to attend a non-residential program.

Of the new sentences, deferred custody and supervision orders were handed down the most frequently. In 2005/2006, 1,197 youth cases received such an order, accounting for 3% of guilty cases.

Note: Statistics in this release should not be compared with those in previous releases.

These statistics are based on data collected through the Integrated Criminal Court Survey and the Youth Court Survey.

The concept of a case has changed from previous releases to more closely reflect court processing. The new definition combines all charges against the same person having overlapping court dates into a single case. The previous definition combined all charges against the same person disposed of in court on the same day into a case. This tended to undercount the number of charges in a case, overcount the number of cases and underestimate the length of time required to process a case through court because not all charges are necessarily disposed of on the same day.

To account for the new case definition, youth court data dating back to 1991/1992 have been revised.

With this release, data for 2004/2005 are also available for the first time.

Available on CANSIM: tables 252-0047 to 252-0050.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3309.

For standard tables or more information on the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Information and Client Services (toll-free 1-800-387-2231; 613-951-9023), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Cases heard in youth court by major crime category

Offence category	2002/2003		2004/2005		2005/2006		2004/2005 to 2005/2006	2002/2003 to 2005/2006
	number of cases	% of total	number of cases	% of total	number of cases	% of total	% change in number of cases	
Total cases	76,153	100.0	57,588	100.0	56,271	100.0	-2.3	-26.1
Violent crimes	18,446	24.2	15,127	26.3	15,166	27.0	0.3	-17.8
Property crimes	31,359	41.2	22,722	39.5	21,522	38.2	-5.3	-31.4
Administration of Justice offences ¹	5,924	7.8	4,904	8.5	4,793	8.5	-2.3	-19.1
Other Criminal Code offences	4,686	6.2	4,200	7.3	4,348	7.7	3.5	-7.2
Criminal Code traffic offences	1,329	1.7	1,136	2.0	1,049	1.9	-7.7	-21.1
Other Federal Statute offences ²	14,409	18.9	9,499	16.5	9,393	16.7	-1.1	-34.8

1. Administration of Justice offences under the Criminal Code include such offences as breach of probation and failure to comply with a court order.

2. Other Federal Statute offences refer to offences against Canadian federal statutes, such as the Youth Criminal Justice Act, Young Offenders Act, Customs Act, Employment Insurance Act, Firearms Act, Income Tax Act, and the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act.

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