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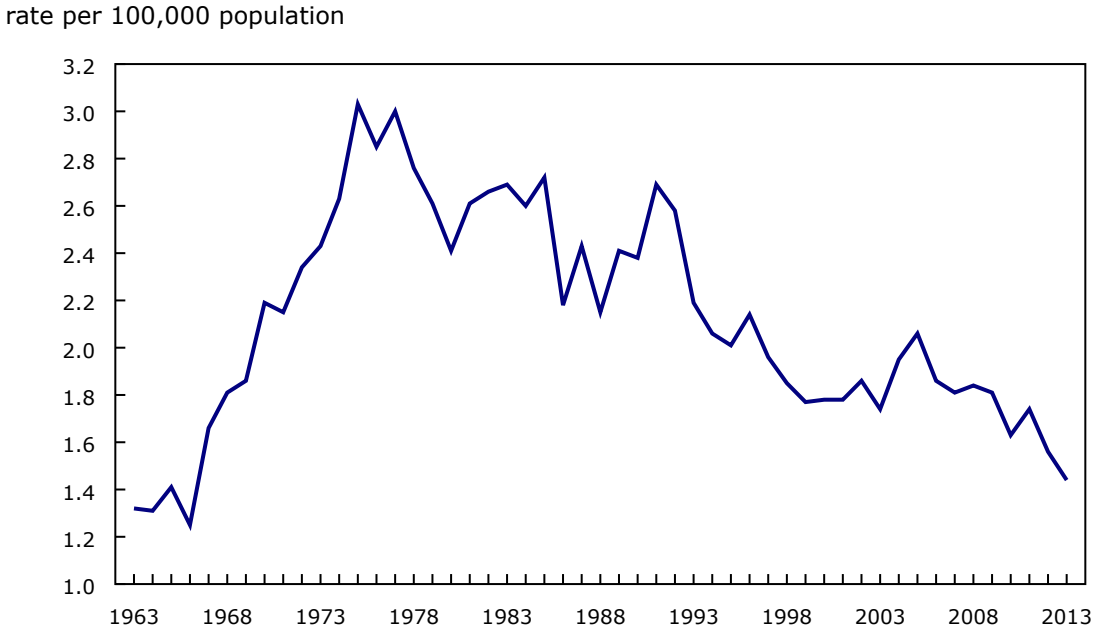
Homicide in Canada, 2013

Canadian police services reported 505 homicides in 2013, 38 fewer than the previous year. The homicide rate fell 8% from 2012 to 1.44 victims per 100,000 population. This marks the lowest homicide rate since 1966.

Chart 1
Homicides, Canada, 1963 to 2013



Note(s): Excludes 329 victims killed in the Air India incident in 1985.
Source(s): Data on homicide are available back to 1961 in CANSIM table 253-0001.

The overall decrease in homicides was the result of 40 fewer homicides reported in Quebec. The decrease in Quebec followed two years with higher than average numbers of homicides. There were 68 homicides in the province in 2013, representing a rate of 0.83 per 100,000 population. This was the lowest rate recorded in Quebec since reporting began in 1961.

While Quebec experienced a marked decline, six provinces reported modest increases in the number of homicides in 2013. Taking these increases into account, the homicide rates in nearly every province and territory were below their 10-year averages in 2013. The exceptions were Newfoundland and Labrador and Prince Edward Island, where the 2013 homicide rates were above their previous 10-year average.

Homicide rates continued to be generally highest in the West and the North. Provincially, Manitoba reported the highest homicide rate (3.87 per 100,000 population), followed by Saskatchewan (2.71), Alberta (2.04) and British Columbia (1.66). Nunavut (11.24) and the Northwest Territories (4.59) reported homicide rates higher than any province, while there were no homicides in Yukon for the third consecutive year.

Among Canada's census metropolitan areas (CMAs), Regina reported the highest homicide rate (3.84 per 100,000 population), followed by Winnipeg (3.24) and Thunder Bay (2.46). Homicide rates were below the national average in Canada's two largest CMAs, Toronto (1.34) and Montréal (1.08), while the third largest CMA, Vancouver (1.72), reported a homicide rate above the national average. No homicides were reported in Moncton, Saguenay, Sherbrooke, Peterborough or Guelph in 2013.

Firearm-related homicides down, but fatal stabbings increase

There were 131 firearm-related homicides in 2013, down 41 from 2012. This resulted in the lowest rate of firearm-related homicide since comparable data became available in 1974. Despite the decline, shooting was the cause of death in about one-quarter (27%) of homicides.

The majority (68%) of firearm-related homicides were committed with the use of a handgun, a trend that has held over the last 20 years. Despite this trend, the rate of handgun-related homicides reached its lowest point since 1998.

While firearm-related homicides decreased in 2013, the number of fatal stabbings grew. There were 195 fatal stabbings, 31 more than in 2012. Stabbings accounted for 40% of all homicides in Canada in 2013.

Gang-related homicide declines

Police confirmed or suspected the involvement of gangs in 85 homicides in 2013. This compares with 96 reported in the previous year and marks the first decline after three years of no change. The rate of gang-related homicide was 0.24 per 100,000 population, its lowest level since 2004.

The rate of gang-related homicide was highest in British Columbia and Manitoba, the only two regions where the number of gang-related homicides increased compared with 2012. Among CMAs, Kelowna and Regina recorded the highest rates of gang-related homicide. Rates of gang-related homicide tend to be higher in CMAs than in non-CMAs, a trend that continued in 2013.

Most victims knew the accused person

Almost 9 in 10 (87%) solved homicides in 2013 involved a victim being killed by someone they knew, compared with 13% of victims who were killed by a stranger. As a result, the rate of stranger homicide (0.14 per 100,000 population) was the lowest recorded in over 40 years.

More specifically, victims of homicide in 2013 typically knew the accused person as an acquaintance (45%), a family member (33%) or through a criminal relationship (9%). While the number of homicides involving strangers decreased 25% in 2013, those involving acquaintances or non-spousal family members were relatively stable. The number of homicides committed in the context of a criminal relationship increased 57% from 23 to 36.

Fewer intimate partner homicides

The number of victims of intimate partner homicide (homicide committed by a current or former spouse, common-law partner, dating partner or other intimate partner) decreased in 2013. There were 68 intimate partner homicides reported in 2013, 14 fewer than in the previous year. As has been the case historically, most victims of intimate partner homicides were female (82%).

The rate of intimate partner homicide for both male and female victims has declined considerably over the past two decades. The 2013 intimate partner homicide rate for males was 73% lower than it was in 1993, while the rate for females (-48%) declined by nearly half over the same period.

Most solved homicides are solved within one week of their occurrence

Since 2003, about three-quarters (76%) of all homicides that occurred have been solved by police. Of these, nearly 7 in 10 (69%) were solved within 7 days. A further 26% were solved between 8 and 364 days, while 5% were solved one year or more after the incident occurred.

Of homicides that have been committed and solved since 2003, the median length of time between the homicide occurring and being solved was 2 days. Gang-related homicides (6 days) and homicides related to the illegal drug trade (7 days) had a longer median length of time between occurring and being solved. Gang-related homicides committed with the use of a firearm had a median of 16.5 days between occurring and being solved by police.

Note to readers

The data presented in this article are drawn from the 2013 Homicide Survey, which collects police-reported information on the characteristics of all homicide incidents, victims and accused persons in Canada. The Homicide Survey began collecting information on all murders in 1961 and was expanded in 1974 to include all incidents of manslaughter and infanticide. Although details on these incidents are not available prior to 1974, counts are available from the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey and have been included in the historical aggregate totals.

There are cases where homicides become known to police months or years after they occurred. These incidents are counted in the year in which they become known to police. Historical revisions are not made to total counts of incidents or victims. New information pertaining to the detailed information on homicides that have already been reported to Statistics Canada is updated annually as is information on accused persons.

Information on persons accused of homicide are only available for solved incidents (that is, where at least one accused has been identified). For incidents involving more than one accused, only the relationship between the victim and the closest accused is recorded.

Revised data on the Aboriginal identity of victims that were reported to Statistics Canada as a result of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) report Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women: A National Operational Overview are not included in this release and are planned for release with the 2014 Homicide Survey data.

Table 1
Homicides, by province and territory, 2012 and 2013

	2012		2013	
	number of victims	rate [1]	number of victims	rate [1]
Canada	**543**	**1.56**	**505**	**1.44**
Newfoundland and Labrador	3	0.57	7	1.33
Prince Edward Island	0	0.00	1	0.69
Nova Scotia	17	1.80	13	1.38
New Brunswick	6	0.79	7	0.93
Quebec	108	1.34	68	0.83
Ontario	162	1.21	166	1.23
Manitoba	52	4.16	49	3.87
Saskatchewan	29	2.67	30	2.71
Alberta	85	2.19	82	2.04
British Columbia	71	1.56	76	1.66
Yukon	0	0.00	0	0.00
Northwest Territories	5	11.46	2	4.59
Nunavut	5	14.41	4	11.24

1. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population using revised July 1 population estimates from Statistics Canada.

Note(s): There may be a small number of homicides included in a given year's total that occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which they are reported to Statistics Canada.

Source(s): CANSIM table **253-0001**.

Table 2
Homicides, by census metropolitan area, 2012 and 2013

	2012[r]		2013	
	number of victims	rate[1]	number of victims	rate[1]
Canada	**543**	**1.56**	**505**	**1.44**
Census metropolitan area, total	353	1.46	344	1.40
Non-census metropolitan area, total	190	1.80	161	1.52
Census metropolitan area[2]				
Regina	7	3.07	9	3.84
Winnipeg	33	4.17	26	3.24
Thunder Bay[3]	7	5.83	3	2.46
Edmonton[4]	33	2.65	27	2.09
Hamilton	6	0.83	15	2.04
London[5]	8	1.61	9	1.80
Calgary	19	1.45	24	1.75
Vancouver[3]	37	1.54	42	1.72
Abbotsford–Mission	4	2.27	3	1.69
Saskatoon[3]	6	2.08	5	1.67
Kelowna	3	1.62	3	1.62
Gatineau[6]	6	1.88	5	1.55
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	4	0.76	8	1.50
St. John's	0	0.00	3	1.48
Halifax	12	2.95	6	1.47
Barrie[6]	2	0.97	3	1.44
Saint John	2	1.36	2	1.37
St.Catharines–Niagara	3	0.68	6	1.35
Toronto	81	1.39	79	1.34
Montréal[3,5]	47	1.19	43	1.08
Oshawa	3	0.76	4	0.97
Ottawa[7]	7	0.73	9	0.92
Brantford	0	0.00	1	0.70
Trois-Rivières	2	1.30	1	0.65
Kingston[5]	0	0.00	1	0.61
Greater Sudbury	1	0.61	1	0.61
Windsor	3	0.91	2	0.61
Québec	6	0.77	3	0.38
Victoria	4	1.13	1	0.28
Moncton	0	0.00	0	0.00
Saguenay	4	2.39	0	0.00
Sherbrooke	1	0.52	0	0.00
Peterborough	2	1.65	0	0.00
Guelph	0	0.00	0	0.00

r revised

1. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population using revised July 1 population estimates from Statistics Canada.
2. 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.
3. Includes one homicide committed in a correctional institution in 2012.
4. Includes two homicides committed in a correctional institution in 2013.
5. Includes one homicide committed in a correctional institution in 2013.
6. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.
7. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.

Note(s): There may be a small number of homicides included in a given year's total that occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which they are reported to Statistics Canada.

Source(s): CANSIM table **253-0004**.

Available in CANSIM: tables 253-0001 to 253-0008.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3315.

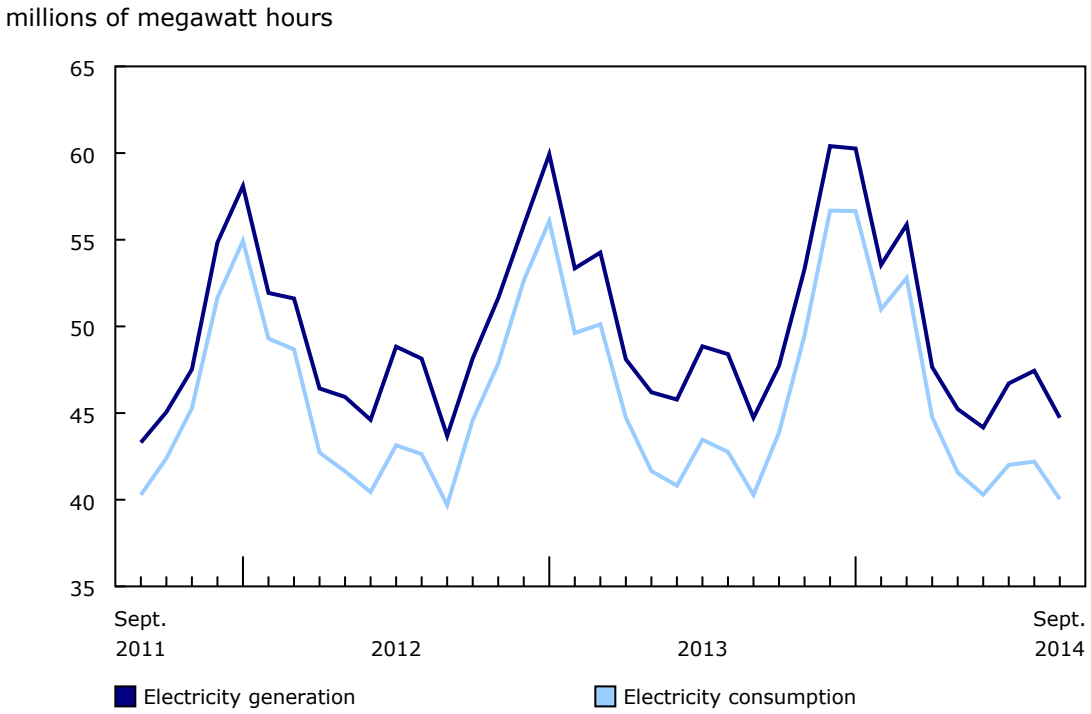
The article "Homicide in Canada, 2013" in *Juristat* (**85-002-X**) is now available. From the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Publications*, choose *All subjects*, then *Crime and justice*, and *Juristat*.

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**).

Electric power statistics, September 2014

Canada produced 44.7 million megawatt hours (MWh) of electricity in September, equalling levels generated in September 2013. Increased electrical power generation from Ontario and Alberta was offset by declines in British Columbia, Quebec as well as Newfoundland and Labrador. Demand for electricity across the country edged down 0.6% to 40.0 million MWh. This decline, combined with flat generation levels, resulted in a 6.1% uptick in exports to the United States. Imports from the United States increased 9.1% to 0.7 million MWh as British Columbia supplemented lower generation levels.

Chart 1
Electricity generation and consumption



Source(s): CANSIM tables 127-0002 and 127-0003.

Buoyed by gains in nuclear steam and hydro generation, net generation in Ontario increased 5.7% from September 2013 to 12.5 million MWh. The rise in nuclear generation was attributable to fewer maintenance days in September 2014, while hydro generation benefitted from higher inflows into the Great Lakes and above average precipitation in the Ottawa River watershed.

Alberta realized a 2.5% increase in net generation in September as output reached 5.1 million MWh. A return to service of some of the province's coal fuelled power plants, which were undergoing maintenance in September 2013, pushed steam conventional generation up 5.4% on a year-over-year basis to 3.8 million MWh.

In British Columbia, electricity generation in the province fell 5.3% to 4.5 million MWh on lower hydro production. Lower hydro generation was also behind overall production declines in Quebec (-1.6%) and Newfoundland and Labrador (-9.3%).

Note to readers

The purpose of this report is to produce a consistent monthly indicator of the supply of electricity in Canada, a key input in the calculation of monthly gross domestic product.

Total net electricity generation for Canada, the provinces and the territories combines all of the electricity generated from sources, including hydro, steam, nuclear, internal combustion, wind, solar and tidal.

Total available electricity is the total electricity generation, minus deliveries, plus receipts of electricity.

All data on imports and exports are provided directly by the National Energy Board.

Data for September 2013 and for June, July and August 2014 have been revised.

Available in CANSIM: tables 127-0002 and 127-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2151.

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Residential electricity sales, third quarter 2014

Data on the sales of electricity by residential sector for the third quarter are now available upon request.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5181.

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**).

National Graduates Survey, 2000, 2005 and 2010

Data from the National Graduates Survey for the classes of 2000, 2005 and 2010 are now available at the provincial level in CANSIM.

Tables include data on postsecondary graduates by level of study, the labour force activity of graduates, the estimated gross annual earnings of graduates working full time and student debt from all sources. Tables also provide a profile of graduates who had government student loans at graduation.

Available in CANSIM: tables 477-0062 to 477-0071.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5012.

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New products and studies

New products

Juristat, Vol. 34, no. 1
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New studies

Homicide in Canada, 2013
Juristat

Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

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