



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Monday, February 23, 2004

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Trends in drug offences and the role of alcohol and drugs in crime, 2002**

The police-reported drug crime rate has risen an estimated 42% since the early 1990s and now stands at a 20-year high. Three in four drug-related incidents in 2002 involved cannabis offences, about 72% of which were possession offences.

2

- **Study: Information and communication technology gap between small and large companies, 1999 to 2002**

Small firms have managed to close the technological gap with their larger counterparts when it comes to adopting basic technologies. However, new gaps have appeared, as large firms have implemented complex, advanced technologies more rapidly, according to a new study.

5

OTHER RELEASES

- Crude oil and natural gas, 2003 and December 2003 6
- Deliveries of major grains, January 2004 7
- Cereals and oilseeds review, December 2003 7
- Crushing statistics, January 2004 7
- Steel pipe and tubing, December 2003 7

NEW PRODUCTS 8



MAJOR RELEASES

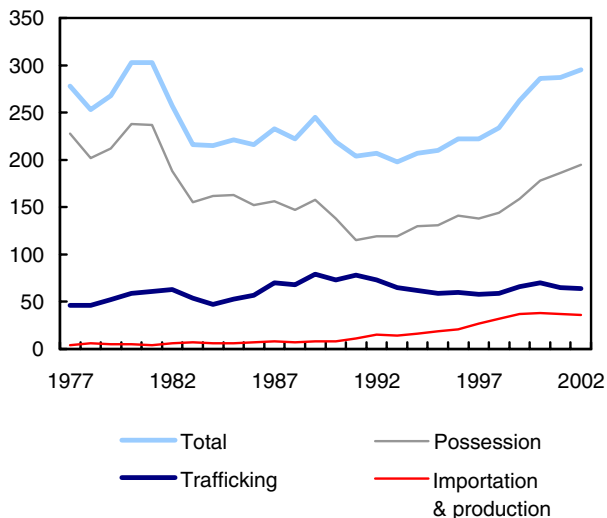
Trends in drug offences and the role of alcohol and drugs in crime

2002

The police-reported drug crime rate has risen an estimated 42% since the early 1990s and now stands at a 20-year high. Three in four drug-related incidents in 2002 involved cannabis offences, about 72% of which were possession offences.

The overall rate of drug-related incidents has risen since 1993

Rate per 100,000 population



The overall drug-related crime rate has been on an upward trend since 1993, driven by increases in cannabis possession, as well as production and importation offences. The cannabis offence rate has risen approximately 80% from 1992 to 2002, largely the result of increased numbers of possession offences. Trafficking offences declined over the same period.

Police reported almost 93,000 incidents related to the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* in 2002. Of these, about two-thirds were for possession, 22% were for trafficking, and the remainder were for offences involving importation and production.

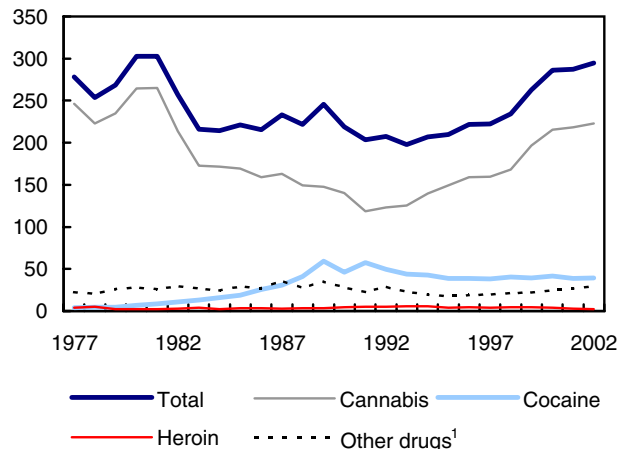
From 1992 to 2002, about one in 10 homicides involved activities such as trafficking or the settling of drug-related accounts. Cocaine was involved in 60% of these drug-related homicides.

Note to readers

Data used in this release include police-reported statistics from the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey and the Homicide Survey, data from the Adult Criminal Court Survey and the Youth Court Survey, as well as estimates of self-reported victimization experiences from the 1999 General Social Survey. The number of police incidents and charges do not match the number of cases processed in court, because of differences in survey coverage, time period between police response and court appearance, changes in the type of charge, dropping of charges and/or post-charge diversion programs.

Cannabis-related violations dominate the general trend in drug-related incidents

Rate per 100,000 population



¹ Examples of Other Drugs include: LSD, ecstasy, amphetamines, barbiturates or anabolic steroids.

Young adults, adolescents have highest rates for drug-related offences

The incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR2) captures detailed information on individual criminal incidents reported to police. Data from this non-representative subset account for 56% of the national volume of crime.

Based upon the UCR2, young adults aged 18 to 24 had the highest drug-related offence rate in 2002 (860 offences for every 100,000 people), followed by youth aged 12 to 17 (645 offences for every 100,000 people).

Rates for both cannabis possession and cannabis trafficking offences were also highest among young

adults aged 18 to 24, followed by 12- to 17-year-olds in both instances.

The age group 18 to 24 also recorded the highest rates for cocaine trafficking and possession. Rates for both offences declined with age.

Provincial rates

There are a number of factors that can affect the rate of drug-related incidents, including differences in, and changes to, local police resources and enforcement priorities.

In 2002, among the provinces, the rate of drug-related incidents was highest in British Columbia, at 544 per 100,000 population, almost double the national rate (295). This was followed by Saskatchewan, at 351, and New Brunswick, at 343. Rates of drug offences in British Columbia have been above the national average each year for the past 25 years.

Since 1993, all provinces have shown an increase in the number of drug offences reported by police. New Brunswick has had the largest increase (+134%), followed by Saskatchewan (+97%) and Quebec (+81%).

Among census metropolitan areas (CMAs) in 2002, the highest rates of police-reported drug offences were in Thunder Bay, Vancouver, and Victoria.

Rates of drug offences reported by police among census metropolitan areas 2002

	Rate per 100,000 population
Thunder Bay	571
Vancouver	468
Victoria	459
Trois-Rivières	364
St.Catharines–Niagara	316
Saskatoon	306
Gatineau ¹	287
Sherbrooke	280
London	269
Québec	252
Halifax	249
Hamilton	245
Saint John	241
Montréal	215
Toronto	211
Calgary	206
Winnipeg	200
Regina	198
Ottawa ²	188
Saguenay	187
Windsor	186
Sudbury	180
St. John's	174
Edmonton	166
Kitchener	151

¹ Includes the Gatineau portion of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.

² Includes the Ottawa portion of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.

Note: The Oshawa CMA is excluded because of the incongruity between the police boundary and the CMA boundary.

Rates of drug offences across CMAs have varied considerably over the past decade, although rates in Vancouver and Victoria were among the highest in each year.

Drug-related incidents account for nearly one in ten court cases

In 2001/02, for the eight provinces and one territory providing drug case data to the Adult Criminal Court Survey, drug offences represented 9% of all adult criminal court cases. Cases were equally distributed between possession and trafficking.

Drug-related cases accounted for 7% of cases processed in youth courts; 5% were for possession and 2% for trafficking.

Half of adult and youth court cases resulted in a finding of guilt

For reporting jurisdictions, the accused was found guilty in about half of drug-related cases heard in adult criminal court and 54% of youth court cases in 2001/02. The accused was acquitted in 1% of adult and youth court drug cases.

About 42% of cases resulted in charges being stayed, withdrawn or dismissed in adult courts, while 44% of cases were stayed, withdrawn or dismissed in youth courts.

About 4% of adult cases were resolved through other means. For example, an accused may have been unfit to stand trial and some cases may have been transferred in, or out, of a province or territory.

Majority of possession convictions result in a fine for adults and probation for youth

Cases in both adult and youth courts can result in multiple sentences. In 2001/02, more than half (57%) of adult drug possession cases resulting in convictions in reporting jurisdictions received a fine. Probation and prison dispositions were imposed in 28% and 12% of cases, respectively, while case convictions resulted in a conditional sentence in 1% of drug possession.

In youth court, the majority (56%) of drug possession cases resulted in a probation sentence. Community service was ordered in less than one-third of cases, while about one in five were given a fine. Courts ordered custody in 5% of youth drug possession case convictions.

In both adult and youth court, trafficking offences were dealt with more harshly than drug possession crimes. In adult court, trafficking convictions resulted in a prison sentence in 42% of cases. Probation and conditional sentences were each ordered in 30% of cases, while fines were issued in 20% of convictions.

In youth courts, probation was imposed in 83% of convicted trafficking cases, while custody (secure or open) sentences were ordered in 21% of cases and fines in 9%. Community service was imposed in 43% of youth trafficking cases.

About one in 10 homicides involved drugs

From 1992 to 2002, 684 homicide incidents in Canada were reported to be drug-related, representing 11% of all incidents during that period.

Cocaine was involved in 60% of drug-related homicide incidents, while cannabis was involved in 20%, heroin in 5% and other unspecified drugs in 15%. In addition, 26% of all drug-related homicides were also gang-related.

From 1992 to 2002, British Columbia and Quebec each accounted for 29% of drug-related homicides, the highest proportions. They were followed by Ontario, with 24%.

Heroin and cocaine involvement were highest in British Columbia. About 58% of heroin-related homicide incidents occurred there, as well as 33% of cocaine-related incidents.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3302, 3309, 3312, 3315 and 4505.

Juristat: Trends in Drug Offences and the Role of Alcohol and Drugs in Crime, 2002, Vol. 24, no. 1 (85-002-XIE, \$9/\$75; 85-002-XPE, \$11/\$100) 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 Information and Client Services (1-800-387-2231; 613-951-9023), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Drug-related crime rate per 100,000 population by age group 2002

	Ages 12 to 17	Ages 18 to 24	Ages 25 to 34	Ages 35 to 44	Ages 45 to 54	Ages 55 and over	Total
Cannabis							
Possession	478	502	112	58	20	2	133
Trafficking	101	121	44	31	15	3	40
Importation and production	5	16	17	13	7	2	10
Cocaine							
Possession	9	58	38	28	7	1	21
Trafficking	19	91	49	28	12	2	29
Importation and production	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Heroin							
Possession	0	3	2	1	0	0	1
Trafficking	1	4	2	1	0	0	1
Importation and production	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other drugs							
Possession	22	34	12	6	2	0	9
Trafficking	12	30	11	6	3	1	8
Importation and production	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Total	645	860	288	174	68	11	253



Study: Information and communication technology gap between small and large companies 1999 to 2002

Small firms have managed to close the technological gap with their larger counterparts when it comes to adopting basic technologies. However, new gaps have appeared, as large firms have implemented complex, advanced technologies more rapidly, according to a new study.

This growing gap between large and small firms in implementing more complex technologies is important because it may result in competitive disadvantages that small firms find difficult to overcome.

Initially, integrating information and communication technologies (ICTs) into the workplace was a challenge for many small firms, largely because of the high infrastructure costs and the inability to adjust business plans accordingly.

Basic technologies — computers, e-mail and Internet use — have now become more accessible and affordable for small firms. However, the same technologies have reached saturation for large firms.

Large firms have now expanded into more complex technologies such as websites, intranets and extranets. They are also involved in e-commerce, because they have the resources and infrastructure necessary to sell their goods and services online.

For the purposes of this study, size is based on the number of full-time employees. Small firms are those with 19 or less employees. Large firms have over 100 employees, except for those in the manufacturing sector, where large firms are defined as those with over 500 employees.

Small firms catch up with basic technology

In today's highly advanced world, personal computers, e-mail and the Internet have become fundamental and basic technologies for the majority of companies. In 1999, 82% of all private sector enterprises were using PCs, workstations or terminals. By 2002, this proportion had only risen to 86%.

During the same period, the proportion of small firms using PCs rose from 79% to 84%, while medium and large firms did not experience any growth at all in PC use. The same trend is observed for e-mail use.

Similarly, Internet use among small firms jumped from 59% to 73% between 2000 and 2002, but remained stagnant for large firms. Virtually all large firms are using the Internet, so there is little or no room for further growth.

Large firms far ahead in advanced technologies

The largest firms are far ahead of their small counterparts when it comes to adopting the newest technologies, such as high-speed Internet. In addition, developments such as intranets, extranets and electronic data interchange (EDI) systems are the exclusive domain of large firms.

In 2002, 84% of large firms used high-speed Internet, compared with only 56% of small firms. Two years earlier, 68% of large firms used high-speed Internet, compared with 33% of small firms.

Meanwhile, between 2000 and 2002, the proportion of small firms with websites increased from 21% to 27%. While only 64% of large firms had a website in 2000, by 2002, more than 77% had one.

An extranet is a private network which can be used to grant certain people access to the supply catalogue of a business, or its information or operations. They are most commonly used by firms to enable communication with suppliers, vendors or customers. While only 5% of all firms used an extranet in 2002, 30% of large firms did so.

Small firms purchase online, but few manage to sell

Small firms have made important gains in online purchasing. In 2002, about 57% of large firms engaged in online purchasing, nearly twice the proportion of 29% among small firms. Only two years earlier, the gap was more pronounced: 51% of large firms purchased online, compared with 16% of small firms.

Between 1999 and 2002, sales over the Internet, with or without online payment, have more than tripled, rising from \$4.2 billion to \$13.3 billion. The proportion of large enterprises selling online has fallen since 2000, while the proportion of smaller firms has increased slightly.

Small firms are catching up in this regard, but only by the smallest of margins. In 2002, 16% of large firms sold online, while only 7% of small firms did so. Despite this growth, online sales in Canada still accounted for less than 1% of the value of overall sales.

The analytical article *Information and Communication Technology Use: Are Small Firms Catching Up?* (11-621-MIE2004009, free) is now available online in the *Analysis in Brief* series.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Mark Uhrbach (613-951-2856) or Bryan van Tol (613-951-6663), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division. ■

OTHER RELEASES

Crude oil and natural gas

2003 (preliminary) and December 2003 (preliminary)

Crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbon production reached a record high of 144.2 million cubic metres in 2003. This represents a 5.3% rise from 2002. Most of this increase was the result of the commencement of the Athabasca Oil Sands Project in Alberta and strong growth in offshore Newfoundland and Labrador production. Alberta production, driven by a 44.0% increase in crude bitumen, grew 6.1% totaling 95.4 million cubic metres. Newfoundland and Labrador production grew 16.4% totaling 19.3 million cubic metres.

With continued strong demand from the United States, Canadian crude oil exports grew 5.5% over 2002. Exports accounted for 62.1% of the total crude oil and equivalent production.

Crude oil imports for 2003 increased 3.1% from 2002. Canada imports significant volumes of crude oil from Norway, the United Kingdom and Algeria. In 2003, these three countries accounted for 64.0% of the total Canadian imports.

In December, production of crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons totalled 12.9 million cubic metres, up 7.6% from December 2002. Alberta crude bitumen production accounted for most of this gain. Exports of crude oil, which accounted for 60.8% of total production, increased 7.3% from December 2002.

Marketable natural gas production for the year 2003 declined 3.8% from 2002. Sustained strong demand in Canada by the residential and commercial sectors saw domestic sales rise 2.2% over 2002, while natural gas exports declined 5.6%.

In December, marketable natural gas production decreased 2.2% from December 2002. Domestic sales rose for the second straight month, increasing 2.7%, while exports of natural gas were also on the rise, advancing 2.4% from December 2002.

Crude oil and natural gas

	December 2002	December 2003	December 2002 to December 2003
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons¹			
Production	12 047.9	12 966.1	7.6
Exports	7 351.5	7 889.0	7.3
Imports ²	4 467.3	4 543.9	1.7
Refinery receipts	9 026.1	9 207.8	2.0
	millions of cubic metres		% change
Natural gas³			
Marketable production	15 362.7	15 030.9	-2.2
Exports	9 990.5	10 225.5	2.4
Canadian domestic sales ⁴	7 802.2	8 011.8	2.7
	Jan. to Dec. 2002	Jan. to Dec. 2003	Jan.-Dec. 2002 to Jan.-Dec. 2003
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons¹			
Production	136 969.8	144 222.6	5.3
Exports	84 917.0	89 545.5	5.5
Imports ²	51 073.4	52 652.5	3.1
Refinery receipts	104 173.3	105 957.9	1.7
	millions of cubic metres		% change
Natural gas³			
Marketable production	172 197.2	165 737.4	-3.8
Exports	107 728.3	101 652.0	-5.6
Canadian domestic sales ⁴	71 681.4	73 292.1	2.2

¹ Disposition may differ from production because of inventory change, industry own-use, etc.

² Crude oil received by Canadian refineries from foreign countries for processing. Data may differ from International Trade Division (ITD) estimates because of timing differences and the inclusion of crude oil landed in Canada for future re-export in the ITD data.

³ Disposition may differ from production because of inventory change, usage as pipeline fuel, pipeline losses, line-pack fluctuations, etc.

⁴ Includes direct sales.

Available on CANSIM: tables 126-0001 and 131-0001.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2198.

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; energ@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Deliveries of major grains

January 2004

Data on grain deliveries are now available for January.

Available on CANSIM: table 001-0001.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3403, 3404 and 3443.

The January 2004 issue of *Cereals and Oilseeds Review* (22-007-XIB, \$12/\$120; 22-007-XPB, \$17/\$160) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

For general information, contact Client Services (1-800-465-1991; agriculture@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Susan Anderson (613-951-3859; sue.anderson@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Cereals and oilseeds review

December 2003

In January, Chicago corn and soybean futures' prices rallied as a result of a weaker US dollar and tighter supply forecasts from the US Department of Agriculture. Prices plummeted at the end of the month, as Asian demand weakened and US government feed restrictions were announced. Winnipeg canola futures' prices were buoyed by rallying Chicago soybean prices and steady crush demand amid the absence of fresh export demand.

Data from the December 2003 issue of the *Cereals and Oilseeds Review* are now available, including data on production, stocks, cash and futures prices, domestic processing, exports, farmers' deliveries, and supply-disposition analyses.

The January situation report, an overview of current domestic and international market conditions, is also included in the December issue of *Cereals and Oilseeds Review* (22-007-XIB, \$12/\$120), which will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

For general information, contact Client Services (1-800-465-1991; agriculture@statcan.ca). To enquire

about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Les Macartney (613-951-8714; les.macartney@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Crushing statistics

January 2004

According to the monthly survey of crushing plants, Canadian oilseed processors crushed 300,216 metric tonnes of canola in January, the highest January crush ever. Oil production last month totalled 123,292 tonnes, while meal production amounted to 188,917 tonnes.

Available on CANSIM: table 001-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3404.

The January 2004 issue of *Cereals and Oilseeds Review* (22-007-XIB, \$12/\$120; 22-007-XPB, \$17/\$160) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

For general information, contact Client Services (1-800-465-1991; agriculture@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Les Macartney (613-951-8714; les.macartney@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Steel pipe and tubing

December 2003

Data on production and shipments of steel pipe and tubing are now available for December.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2105.

The December 2003 issue *Production and Shipments of Steel Pipe and Tubing*, Vol. 27, no. 12 (41-011-XIB, \$6/\$51) 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 the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Analysis in Brief: Information and Communication Technology Use: Are Small Firms Catching Up?, no. 9
Catalogue number 11-621-MIE2004009
(free).

General Review of the Mineral Industries, Mines, Quarries and Sand Pits, 2001
Catalogue number 26-201-XIB
(free).

Production and Shipments of Steel Pipe and Tubing, December 2003, Vol. 27, no. 12
Catalogue number 41-011-XIB (\$6/\$51).

Juristat: Trends in Drug Offences and the Role of Alcohol and Drugs in Crime, Vol. 24, no. 1
Catalogue number 85-002-XIE2004001 (\$9/\$75).

Juristat: Trends in Drug Offences and the Role of Alcohol and Drugs in Crime, Vol. 24, no. 1
Catalogue number 85-002-XPE2004001 (\$11/\$100).

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

Catalogue numbers with an -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 and -XCB or -XCE are electronic versions on compact disc.

How to order products

Order products by phone:

Please refer to the • Title • Catalogue number • Volume number • Issue number • Your VISA or MasterCard number.


In Canada and the United States call:	1-800-267-6677
From other countries call:	1-613-951-7277
To fax your order:	1-877-287-4369
Address changes or account inquiries:	1-800-700-1033

To order a product by mail write: Statistics Canada, Circulation Management, Dissemination Division, Ottawa, K1A 0T6. Include a cheque or money order payable to **Receiver General of Canada/Publications**. Canadian customers add 7% GST and applicable PST.

To order by Internet: write to infostats@statcan.ca or download an electronic version by accessing Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca). From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *For sale*.

Authorized agents and bookstores also carry Statistics Canada's catalogued publications.

Design 1 - 2004 07 04 11:02:13 1524 6597 6:45



Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
For release at 8:30 a.m.



MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about six 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 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- Map-based index, May 1997 3
- Short-term Expectations Survey 8
- Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997 12
- Egg production, Apr 8, 1997 13

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11



Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10-H, R.H. Coats Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

To access *The Daily* on the Internet, visit our site at <http://www.statcan.ca>. To receive *The Daily* each morning by e-mail, send an e-mail message to listproc@statcan.ca. Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "subscribe daily firstname lastname".

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada. © Minister of Industry, 2004. Citation in newsprint, magazine, radio, and television reporting is permitted subject to the requirement that Statistics Canada is acknowledged as the source. Any other reproduction is permitted subject to the requirement that Statistics Canada is acknowledged as the source on all copies as follows: Statistics Canada, *The Daily*, catalogue 11-001-XIE, along with date and page references.