



**OTTAWA POLICE SERVICE
SERVICE DE POLICE D'OTTAWA**

*Working together for a safer community
La sécurité de notre communauté, un travail d'équipe*

**2009 Crime, Police, and
Traffic Statistics Report**

**Prepared By: Corporate Planning
May 2010**

Working together for a safer community

About This Report

The Crime, Police, and Traffic Statistics report presents a snapshot of police activity for the period of **January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009**.

This report examines all founded Criminal Code of Canada offences that were reported to the Ottawa Police over the last three years. Offences have been categorized according to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey version 2.2. A rate per 100,000-population measure is used to control for variation in population size in order to provide a more equitable comparison from year to year and across jurisdictions.

Please visit ottawapolice.ca for additional information on our organization or contact the Corporate Planning Section by email at Planning@ottawapolice.ca. Specific inquiries about the information contained in this report may be directed to the Corporate Planning Section, (613) 236-1222, ext.: 5456.

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2009 Highlights

- In 2009, the City experienced a three percent decline in the total number of non-traffic *Criminal Code of Canada* offences, attributed to a two percent decline in both violent and property-related crime.
- The solvency rate for total *Criminal Code* offences, excluding traffic, remained constant with improvements made in 2008, at approximately 37 percent citywide.
- The level of violent crime dropped by two percent in 2009, or 150 incidents, the result of fewer crimes in all major offence categories with the exception of robbery.
- The number of assaults remains unchanged in 2009; however, the solvency rate has improved by two percentage points to 75 percent.
- The number of homicides remains in line with the historical average of nine, with eight cases solved to date.
- The volume of break and enter offences declined nine percent from 2008, while the solvency rate has improved by nearly seven percentage points to 25 percent.
- In the past five years the Ottawa Police handled an average of 365,000 calls annually. After reaching peak call volumes in 2007, the number of calls returned to historical levels in 2008. The total number of calls rose less than one percent in 2009 to 366,000.
- The number of emergency response calls (crime in progress/life threatening situation) has continued to rise over the past five years, growing by two percent in 2009 to more than 78,000 calls.
- Average response times for emergency calls citywide slowed by nearly a full minute to 10 minutes 24 seconds – down eight percent from 2008.
- In 2009, response performance to Priority 1 calls continues to be near the benchmark of 90 percent, with an on-scene police presence within 15 minutes, 87 percent of the time.
- On average, in the past three years the Ottawa Police Service has handed out 151,000 tickets (Provincial Offence Notices) annually. The majority of tickets were for speeding, failure to surrender insurance, and disobey official signs.

Annual Crime Trends and Statistics

This report examines all founded *Criminal Code of Canada* offences that were reported to the Ottawa Police over the last 3 years. Offences have been categorized according to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey version 2.2.

The crime statistics published in this report are accurate on the day that they were produced. Due to ongoing police investigations and internal data quality control efforts, this information is subject to change, including addition, deletion and reclassification of any and all data.

In 2009, the city experienced a three percent decline in the total number of non-traffic Criminal Code of Canada offences. The declining trend of criminal offences may be attributed to a two percent decline in both violent and property related crime. Historically, crimes against property have accounted for nearly 75 percent of all reported crime in the City of Ottawa.

As the level of reported crime in the City of Ottawa declined last year, the solvency rate for total Criminal Code of Canada offences, excluding traffic offences, remained constant at 37 percent citywide. Solvency for crimes against the persons improved by two percent in 2009 to 66 percent; whereas, crimes against the property remained at 25 percent. The solvency rate for other *Criminal Code* violations (85%) remains high because of the charge rate of administration of justice offences such as bail violations and breach of probation. The number of *Criminal Code* traffic offences has shown no change in the past year; however, solvency has fallen by two percent.

Table 1: Key Crime Trends

Offence	2008			2009				
	Actual	Rate (1)	Solvency%	Actual	Rate (1)	Solvency%	3-Year Average (2)	%Change (2)
Crimes Against The Person	6,029	671.3	64.1%	5,882	647.5	66.4%	6,164.0	-2.4%
Crimes Against Property	30,751	3,423.8	24.8%	30,125	3,316.1	24.8%	31,472.0	-2.0%
Other Criminal Code of Canada Offences	4,201	467.7	81.2%	3,589	395.1	85.4%	4,061.7	-14.6%
Total CCC Offences Excl. Traffic	40,981	4,562.8	36.4%	39,596	4,358.7	36.5%	41,697.7	-3.4%
Criminal Code Traffic Offences	2,802	312.0	38.0%	2,802	308.4	36.0%	2,756.3	0.0%
Total CCC Offences Incl. Traffic	43,783	4,874.8	36.5%	42,398	4,667.1	36.5%	44,454.0	-3.2%

(1) Rate is calculated per 100,000 of population. As provided by the City of Ottawa's Planning and Growth Management Department, the population for 2008 was 898,148 and for 2009 was 908,441

(2) 3 Year Average and %Change are based on actual values

Crimes Against the Person

In 2008 the number of crimes against the person reported to the Ottawa Police Service fell by eight percent. This declining trend continued last year as the level of violent crime dropped by two percent, or 150 incidents. The decline was driven by fewer incidents in all major offence categories with the exception of robbery. The number of robberies grew by eight percent in 2009, or 61 offences. The increase was partly attributed to a rise in business and financial institution robberies. The creation of a dedicated robbery unit in April 2008 has had a positive impact on the investigation of robberies, with solvency reaching 38 percent last year.

Assaults represent 60 percent of all violent crime in the city. Last year, the number of assaults showed nominal change while solvency improved by two percent (75%). The most serious of violent crimes fell in 2009, including: homicides (-18%), attempted murder (-14%), and abductions (-27%).

In the past 10 years the Ottawa Police Service has solved 90 percent of all homicides in the city. In 2009 there were nine homicides, which is in line with the historical average for the City in the past decade. To date, there have been eight cases solved (89%).

Table 2: Crimes Against the Person

Offence	2008			2009			3-Year Average (2)	%Change (2)
	Actual	Rate (1)	Solvency%	Actual	Rate (1)	Solvency%		
Homicide (Incidents)	11	1.2	72.7%	9	1.0	88.9%	9.3	-18.2%
Attempted Murder	14	1.6	100.0%	12	1.3	83.3%	13.0	-14.3%
Robbery	758	84.4	37.3%	819	90.2	38.0%	760.7	8.0%
Assault (Incl. Sexual Assaults)	3,514	391.2	73.3%	3,505	385.8	75.3%	3,606.7	-0.3%
Other Sexual Offences	36	4.0	58.3%	28	3.1	67.9%	33.3	-22.2%
Abduction	136	15.1	89.7%	100	11.0	94.0%	109.0	-26.5%
Uttering Threats or Intimidation	514	57.2	75.3%	501	55.1	79.4%	524.7	-2.5%
Other Offences	1,046	116.5	43.2%	908	100.0	47.1%	1,107.3	-13.2%
Crimes Against The Person	6,029	671.3	64.1%	5,882	647.5	66.4%	6,164.0	-2.4%

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Crimes Against Property

In the past four years the number of property crimes has fallen by roughly 5,000 incidents, declining by two percent in the last year. The solvency rate for property crimes has risen in recent years, but remains unchanged in 2009. The decline in property offences have been stimulated by fewer break and enters (-9%), fraud (-10%), and mischief (-9%).

Theft under \$5,000 accounts for 48 percent of all crimes against the property. Last year the number of theft under \$5,000 incidents increased by over 600 (5%), but remains in line with the 3-year average. The increase in number of offences had a negative impact on solvency, declining by approximately two percent.

Table 3: Crimes Against the Property

Offence	2008			2009			3-Year Average (2)	%Change (2)
	Actual	Rate (1)	Solvency%	Actual	Rate (1)	Solvency%		
Break and Enter	3,504	390.1	18.0%	3,181	350.2	24.5%	3,522.7	-9.2%
Theft - Motor Vehicle	1,747	194.5	10.9%	1,764	194.2	12.0%	1,931.0	1.0%
Theft Over \$5000	247	27.5	16.2%	252	27.7	21.4%	253.0	2.0%
Theft \$5000 and Under	13,718	1,527.4	29.2%	14,329	1,577.3	26.8%	14,340.7	4.5%
Possession of Stolen Goods	464	51.7	93.5%	465	51.2	95.7%	468.3	0.2%
Fraud	2,920	325.1	32.8%	2,634	289.9	31.9%	2,857.3	-9.8%
Mischief	7,956	885.8	17.0%	7,281	801.5	17.6%	7,877.0	-8.5%
Arson	195	21.7	12.3%	219	24.1	12.3%	222.0	12.3%
Total Crimes Against Property	30,751	3,423.8	24.8%	30,125	3,316.1	24.8%	31,472.0	-2.0%

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Other Criminal Code of Canada Offences

In 2009, other *Criminal Code of Canada* offences fell by 14 percent from the previous year. The decline was driven by fewer offensive weapons charges (-16%); bail violations (-19%); counterfeit currency (-32%); breach probation (-10%); and, threats via the internet (-8%). Solvency for other Criminal Code offences remains high, rising four percent to 85 percent.

Table 4: Other Criminal Code of Canada Offences

Offence	2008			2009			3-Year Average (2)	%Change (2)
	Actual	Rate (1)	Solvency%	Actual	Rate (1)	Solvency%		
Offensive Weapons	221	24.6	80.1%	185	20.4	79.5%	217.3	-16.3%
Bail Violations	1,918	213.6	96.8%	1,552	170.8	98.1%	1,722.7	-19.1%
Counterfeiting Currency	164	18.3	8.5%	111	12.2	7.2%	163.7	-32.3%
Breach Probation	262	29.2	95.8%	235	25.9	99.1%	243.0	-10.3%
Threats via the Internet	156	17.4	30.8%	144	15.9	47.2%	177.3	-7.7%
Prostitution	75	8.4	97.3%	50	5.5	100.0%	68.7	-33.3%
Other Criminal Code Offences	1,405	156.4	70.7%	1,312	144.4	79.0%	1,469.0	-6.6%
Total Other CCC Offences	4201	467.7	81.2%	3589	395.1	85.4%	4,061.7	-14.6%

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Criminal Code Traffic Offences

After growing by roughly fifteen percent in the past two years, the number of *Criminal Code of Canada* traffic offences dealt with by the Ottawa Police remained unchanged in 2009. The increase in dangerous operation of a motor vehicle (8%), failure to stop or remain (2%), and driving a motor vehicle while prohibited offences were offset by fewer impaired operation of a motor vehicle charges (-8%).

The solvency rate for Criminal Code traffic offences (36%) is a result of the low charge rate for failure to stop or remain offences. Accounting for 65 percent of all traffic offences, the challenge remains that suspects of failure to stop or remain offences have left the scene of the crime.

Table 5: Criminal Code Traffic Offences

Offence	2008			2009			3-Year Average (2)	%Change (2)
	Actual	Rate (1)	Solvency%	Actual	Rate (1)	Solvency%		
Dangerous Operation of Motor Vehicle	120	13.4	89.2%	129	14.2	88.4%	116.3	7.5%
Impaired Operation of Vehicle	793	88.3	100.0%	729	80.2	100.0%	762.3	-8.1%
Failure to Stop or Remain	1,815	202.1	5.2%	1,852	203.9	4.1%	1,786.3	2.0%
Driving Motor Vehicle While Prohibited	64	7.1	98.4%	75	8.3	100.0%	77.7	17.2%
Other Criminal Code Offences	10	1.1	80.0%	17	1.9	82.4%	13.7	70.0%
Total Criminal Code Traffic Offences	2,802	312.0	38.0%	2802	308.4	36.0%	2,756.3	0.0%

(1) Rate is calculated per 100,000 of population. As provided by the City of Ottawa's Planning and Growth Management Department, the population for 2008 was 898,148 and for 2009 was 908,441

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Other Traffic Offences

On average in the past three years, the Ottawa Police Service has handed out 151,000 tickets (Provincial Offence Notices) annually. The majority of tickets were for speeding, failure to surrender insurance, and disobey official signs. The number of Highway Traffic Act (HTA) Offences and other provincial and municipal offences fell by roughly one percent last year.

Table 6: Other Traffic Offences

Offence	2008		2009		3-Year Average (2)	% Change 2007-2008 (2)
	Actual	Rate (1)	Actual	Rate (1)		
Highway Traffic Act Offences	109,388	12,306	109,039	12,140	109,075	-0.3%
Other Provincial/Municipal Offences	42,293	4,758	41,846	4,659	42,218	-1.1%
Provincial Offence Notices - Part I	151,681	17,065	150,885	16,800	151,293	-0.5%

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(2) 3 Year Average and %Change are based on actual values

Drug Offences

The number of drug offences declined by nearly 20 percent in 2009. The decline is primarily attributed to fewer cannabis and cocaine related offences. The solvency rate for drug related offences has improved by roughly one percent last year to 98 percent.

Table 7: Drug Offences

Offence	2008			2009			3-Year Average (2)	%Change (2)
	Actual	Rate (1)	Solvency%	Actual	Rate (1)	Solvency%		
Cannabis	1,065	118.6	96.6%	953	104.9	98.7%	982.7	-10.5%
Ecstasy (Methylenedioxyamphetamine)	2	0.2	100.0%	12	1.3	100.0%	4.7	500.0%
Crystal Meth (Methamphetamine)	0	0.0	0.0%	1	0.1	100.0%	0.3	0.0%
Heroin	5	0.6	100.0%	1	0.1	100.0%	2.7	-80.0%
Cocaine	631	70.3	97.9%	409	45.0	97.3%	528.3	-35.2%
Other Controlled Drugs and Substances	113	12.6	99.1%	90	9.9	95.6%	108.7	-20.4%
Total Drug Offences	1,816	202.2	97.2%	1,466	161.4	98.2%	1,627.3	-19.3%

(1) Rate is calculated per 100,000 of population. As provided by the City of Ottawa's Planning and Growth Management Department, the population for 2008 was 898,148 and for 2009 was 908,441

(2) 3 Year Average and %Change are based on actual values

Calls for Service

In the past five years the Ottawa Police handled an average of 365,000 calls annually. After reaching peak call volumes in 2007, the number of calls returned to historical levels in 2008.

Between 2008 and 2009 there has been nominal change in the total number of calls for service. The number of emergency response calls (crime in progress/life threatening situation) has continued to rise over the past five years, growing by two percent in 2009. Consistently over the past five years, roughly 60 percent of all calls were Priority 2 (urgent, but not life threatening situations). The number of Priority 2 calls remained unchanged in 2009, the result of fewer calls requiring an on-scene police presence (-3%). Priority 3 calls (non-urgent and other inquiries) represent 22 percent of all calls for service, and also remained constant in 2009.

Table 8: Calls for Service

Offence	2008	2009	3 Year Average (2)	%Change (2)	
Priority 1	Mobile Response	76,652	78,289	76,815	2.1%
	Alternative Response	39	33	41	-15.4%
	Total	76,691	78,322	76,856	2.1%
Priority 2	Mobile Response	174,495	168,636	175,527	-3.4%
	Alternative Response	35,638	42,080	36,890	18.1%
	Total	210,133	210,716	212,417	0.3%
Priority 3	Mobile Response	26,952	28,009	26,787	3.9%
	Alternative Response	48,277	47,300	49,587	-2.0%
	Total	75,229	75,309	76,374	0.1%
Priority 4	Mobile Response	890	786	912	-11.7%
	Alternative Response	1,114	880	1,046	-21.0%
	Total	2,004	1,666	1,958	-16.9%
All Priorities	Total Mobile Response	278,989	275,720	280,041	-1.2%
	Total Alternative Response	85,072	90,298	87,569	6.1%
	Total Calls For Service	364,057	366,013	367,605	0.5%

(2) The 3-Year Average and %Change are based on the actual values.

Priority 1: Actual or potential danger for bodily injury or death. An officer requires immediate assistance, crimes in progress or imminent.

Priority 2: Crimes not in progress where witnesses are on scene; Crimes not in progress where evidence can be collected at the scene; All Break & Enters not in progress; Motor Vehicle Collisions where no injuries and meeting mobile dispatch criteria; All calls of a non-emergency nature where police presence at the scene is necessitated.

Priority 3: There is no physical evidence to gather; There is no injury or potential for injury; The suspect is not known and there is little likelihood of apprehension; There is no requirement to protect the scene; There is no witness waiting for police response at the scene; The complainant shows no signs of extraordinary emotion or trauma; The complainant is comfortable with reporting the incident over the phone.

Priority 4: Calls for property pickup will be entered as a Priority 4 unless any of the following criteria apply: The property to pickup is a firearm, ammunition or drugs; There is information that the property may be linked or involved in an on-going investigation; The property is of a suspicious nature or may be of evidentiary value; Dependant upon the recovered property, the complainant is concerned with their personal safety and is not satisfied with a delayed response.

Response Times

Response time, otherwise known as total response duration, refers to the accumulated time from when a call is received to when the first officer arrives on scene. Citywide, the Ottawa Police arrived on-scene to emergency calls in an average of 10 minutes and 24 seconds in 2009 – eight percent slower than the previous year.

Table 9: Response Time by Priority

Priority Level	2008	2009	3-Year Average (2)	% Change (2)
Priority 1	9.6	10.4	9.6	8.3%
Priority 2	35.3	38.3	35.0	8.4%
Priority 3	22.7	21.2	21.9	-6.8%

The Ottawa Police aims to respond to Priority 1 calls for service within 15 minutes 90 percent of the time, citywide. For the past four years response performance has fluctuated between 87 to 90 percent. Call volume, travel time, and available resources most influence police response. In 2009, Ottawa Police performance responding to emergency calls exhibited minimal change from the prior year, remaining above 87 percent.

Non-emergency or Priority 2 response performance declined slightly last year and continues to fall below the three-year average. The Ottawa Police responded to all Priority 2 calls within two hours 95 percent of time. The Ottawa Police continues to achieve the defined response standards for Priority 3 and 4 calls for service.

Table 10: Response Performance by Priority

Priority Level	Performance Target	2008	2009	3-Year Average (2)	%Change (2)
Priority 1	Response within 15 minutes, 90% of the time	87.2%	87.1%	87.7%	-0.01%
Priority 2	Response within 2 hours, 100% of the time	95.1%	94.3%	95.2%	-0.8%
Priority 3	Response within 24 hours, 100% of the time	99.8%	99.9%	99.9%	-
Priority 4	Response within 2 weeks, 100% of the time	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	-

Available On Our Website:

In addition to an Ottawa Police organizational chart and jurisdiction map (including contact information of all Divisional Police Stations and Community Police Centres), the Ottawa Police Service provides detailed information to the community on crime activity and occurrences at ottawapolice.ca.

Listed under the **Crime Files** section in the navigation menu, click on Crime in Ottawa for any of the following:

- Ottawa Crime, a Google-based crime-mapping tool that shows the distribution of police calls for service across the City of Ottawa by crime type; and,
- Annual Crime, Police, and Traffic Statistics Report by City of Ottawa Ward.

Members of the public are also encouraged to access the Media Room to view news releases and crime alerts (visit ottawapolice.ca). You can also take advantage of our Subscription Centre if you would like to be automatically notified by e-mail each time a new media release or crime alert is posted on this Web site.