



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

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

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**2008 Crime, Police, and  
Traffic Statistics Report**

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**Prepared By: Corporate Planning  
May 2009**

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## About This Report

The Crime, Police, and Traffic Statistics report presents a snapshot of police activity for the period of **January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008**.

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. The survey presents a more detailed set of offence categories, compared to the aggregate UCR version 1.0 survey reported by Statistics Canada, through the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. 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](http://ottawapolice.ca) for additional information on our organization or contact the Corporate Planning Section by email at [corporateplanning@ottawapolice.ca](mailto:corporateplanning@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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## 2008 Highlights

- In 2008, the City experienced an eight percent decline in the total number of non-traffic *Criminal Code of Canada* offences, partly attributed to an eight percent decline in property-related crime.
- The solvency rate for total *Criminal Code* offences, excluding traffic, improved by four percentage points, to 36 percent citywide, the fourth straight year in which solvency rates increased.
- Driven by a seven percent decline in the number of Assaults, violent crime remains well below the three-year average, falling to a rate of 672 crimes per 100,000 residents.
- In the past 10 years the Ottawa Police Service solved nearly 90 percent of all homicide incidents in the city. Slightly above the average of nine homicides per year over the past decade, there were 10 homicides in 2008, with seven cases solved to date.
- The volume of breaking and enter offences declined 10 percent from 2007, while the solvency rate has remained relatively stable, with nearly 18 percent of all cases solved.
- After reaching peak call levels in 2007, citywide demand for service declined by two percent last year to 364,000 calls. The decline in total calls is due to nearly 10,000 fewer non-emergency calls, including: traffic stops (-9%), false alarm (-11%), and, traffic complaints (-15%).
- Although total demand for service declined last year, the number emergency response calls (crime in progress/life threatening situation) have continued to rise over the past four years, growing by two percent, or 1,148 calls, in 2008.
- Average response times for emergency calls citywide slowed by nearly a full minute to 9 minutes 36 seconds – down eight percent from 2007.
- In 2008, 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.
- After reaching peak levels in 2007, the numbers of traffic fatalities (21) and collisions have returned to more historical levels. Upon review, there has been no single variable identified that explains the increased number of fatalities in 2007.
- The Ottawa Police Service issued over 150,000 traffic tickets (Provincial Offence Notices) in 2007, the majority of which were for speeding (24%), failure to surrender insurance (13%), and disobey official signs (11%).

## 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. Rates and percentages have been rounded.

In 2008, the city experienced nearly an eight percent decline in the total number of non-traffic Criminal Code of Canada offences. The declining trend of criminal offences may be attributed to an eight percent decline in property related crime. Historically, crimes against property have accounted for more than 70 percent of all reported crime in the City of Ottawa. Similarly, the number of crimes against the person fell by approximately eight percent in 2008, to 6,037 offences.

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, improved by four percent to 36 percent citywide. Solvency for crimes against the persons (63%) and crimes against the property (24%) also improved in 2008. The most dramatic improvement in solvency has been in other *Criminal Code* violations (81%), rising by 13 percentage points from the previous year. The increase has been driven by the high charge rate of administration of justice offences such as bail violations and breach of probation. *Criminal Code* traffic offences have risen by five percent in 2008 - 312 incidents per 100,000 residents.

**Table 1: Key Crime Trends**

Offence	2007			2008			3-Year Average (2)	%Change 2007-2008 (2)
	Actual	Rate (1)	Solvency %	Actual	Rate (1)	Solvency %		
Crimes Against The Person	6,584	740.7	57.2%	6,037	672.2	63.3%	6,503.0	-8.3%
Crimes Against Property	33,560	3,775.6	21.8%	30,781	3,427.2	24.1%	33,241.7	-8.3%
Other Criminal Code of Canada Offences	4,392	494.1	67.5%	4,238	471.9	80.9%	4,571.0	-3.5%
<b>Total CCC Offences Excl. Traffic</b>	<b>44,536</b>	<b>5,010.4</b>	<b>31.6%</b>	<b>41,056</b>	<b>4,571.2</b>	<b>35.8%</b>	<b>44,315.7</b>	<b>-7.8%</b>
Criminal Code Traffic Offences	2,664	299.7	42.2%	2,798	311.5	37.9%	2,627.0	5.0%
<b>Total CCC Offences Incl. Traffic</b>	<b>47,200</b>	<b>5,310.1</b>	<b>32.2%</b>	<b>43,854</b>	<b>4,882.7</b>	<b>35.9%</b>	<b>46,942.7</b>	<b>-7.1%</b>

(1) Rate is calculated per 100,000 residents for each year. As provided by the City of Ottawa's Planning and Growth Management Department, the 2007 population was 888,865 and the 2008 population was 898,148.

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

### Crimes Against the Person

Following a slight increase in the number of crimes against the person reported to the Ottawa Police Service in 2007, the level of violent crime fell by more than eight percent in 2008. Driven by an eight percent decline in the number of assaults, violent crime remains well below the three-year average falling to a rate of 672 crimes per 100,000 residents. The most serious of violent crimes rose in 2008, including: homicides (25%), attempted murder (8%), robbery (8%), and abductions (51%).

In the past 10 years the Ottawa Police Service has solved nearly 90 percent of all homicides in the city. Slightly above the average of nine homicides per year over the past decade, there were 10 homicides in 2008 with seven cases solved to date. Additionally, the creation of a dedicated robbery unit in April 2008 has had a positive impact on the solvency of robberies, improving by eight percent to 36 percent citywide. Additionally, the improvements in solvency of assaults (4%) have driven the increase in solvency of crimes against the persons.

**Table 2: Crimes Against the Person**

Offence	2007			2008			3-Year Average (2)	%Change 2007-2008 (2)
	Actual	Rate (1)	Solvency %	Actual	Rate (1)	Solvency %		
Homicide (Incidents)	8	0.9	62.5%	10	1.1	70.0%	9.5	25.0%
Attempted Murder	13	1.5	92.3%	14	1.6	100.0%	13.5	7.7%
Robbery	705	79.3	28.1%	760	84.6	35.8%	760.0	7.8%
Assault (Incl. Sexual Assaults)	3,802	427.7	69.1%	3,516	391.5	72.8%	3,765.2	-7.5%
Other Sexual Offences	37	4.2	35.1%	37	4.1	48.6%	29.2	0.0%
Abduction	90	10.1	88.9%	136	15.1	89.7%	99.8	51.1%
Uttering Threats or Intimidation	560	63.0	66.4%	516	57.5	75.0%	544.2	-7.9%
Other Offences	1,369	154.0	33.5%	1,048	116.7	42.4%	1,522.8	-23.4%
<b>Total Crimes Against The Person</b>	<b>6,584</b>	<b>740.7</b>	<b>57.2%</b>	<b>6,037</b>	<b>672.2</b>	<b>63.3%</b>	<b>6,744.2</b>	<b>-8.3%</b>

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## Crimes Against Property

According to Statistics Canada, the rate of property crime in the City of Ottawa has declined by 26 percent over the past decade. Following a five percent decline in 2007, property crimes dropped by an additional eight percent in 2008. The solvency rate for property crimes has continued to rise throughout the past year, up three percent from 2007 to 24 percent. Even though all major property related offence categories have fallen, the decline has been stimulated by fewer break and enters (10%), theft of motor vehicle (23%), theft under \$5,000 (8%), and fraud (1%).

Theft under \$5,000 and mischief related offences account for 52 percent of all non-traffic *Criminal Code of Canada* offences in the City. Solvency for these two high volume offences drives the property crime and City of Ottawa solvency rate.

**Table 3: Crimes Against the Property**

Offence	2007			2008			3-Year Average (2)	%Change 2007-2008 (2)
	Actual	Rate (1)	Solvency %	Actual	Rate (1)	Solvency %		
Break and Enter	3,883	436.8	17.1%	3,507	390.5	17.6%	4,366.5	-9.7%
Theft - Motor Vehicle	2,284	257.0	10.0%	1,751	195.0	10.5%	2,379.0	-23.3%
Theft Over \$5000	258	29.0	16.3%	245	27.3	14.7%	243.0	-5.0%
Theft \$5000 and Under	14,978	1,685.1	25.7%	13,727	1,528.4	28.8%	14,803.5	-8.4%
Possession of Stolen Goods	475	53.4	90.1%	458	51.0	93.4%	442.5	-3.6%
Fraud	3,038	341.8	32.4%	2,978	331.6	29.8%	3,135.0	-2.0%
Mischief	8,392	944.1	12.7%	7,918	881.6	16.4%	8,019.2	-5.6%
Arson	252	28.4	22.2%	197	21.9	11.2%	277.0	-21.8%
<b>Total Crimes Against Property</b>	<b>33,560</b>	<b>3,775.6</b>	<b>21.8%</b>	<b>30,781</b>	<b>3,427.2</b>	<b>24.1%</b>	<b>33,665.8</b>	<b>-8.3%</b>

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## Other Criminal Code of Canada Offences

In 2008, other *Criminal Code of Canada* offences fell by four percent from the previous year. The decline was driven by fewer offensive weapons charges (-8%); counterfeit currency (-24%); threats via the internet (-32%); and, other *Criminal Code* offences (-17%). Administration of justice incidents, bail violations and breach probation, have risen 14 percent and 16 percent respectively. Bail violations are the

result of proactive measures taken by the Ottawa Police Service to monitor compliance with bail conditions (street checks, residence visits, etc).

**Table 4: Other Criminal Code of Canada Offences**

Offence	2007			2008			3-Year Average (2)	%Change 2007-2008 (2)
	Actual	Rate (1)	Solvency %	Actual	Rate (1)	Solvency %		
Offensive Weapons	246	27.7	76.8%	227	25.3	78.0%	249.2	-7.7%
Bail Violations	1,698	191.0	88.2%	1,915	213.2	96.4%	1,871.0	12.8%
Counterfeiting Currency	216	24.3	3.2%	165	18.4	6.1%	342.5	-23.6%
Breach Probation	232	26.1	84.1%	263	29.3	95.4%	295.5	13.4%
Threats via the Internet	231	26.0	29.0%	157	17.5	31.2%	206.0	-32.0%
Prostitution	81	9.1	84.0%	115	12.8	98.3%	100.5	42.0%
Other Criminal Code Offences	1,688	189.9	55.7%	1,396	155.4	70.3%	1,608.0	-17.3%
<b>Total Other CCC Offences</b>	<b>4,392</b>	<b>494.1</b>	<b>67.5%</b>	<b>4,238</b>	<b>471.9</b>	<b>80.9%</b>	<b>4,672.8</b>	<b>-3.5%</b>

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

## Criminal Code Traffic Offences

After growing by 10 percent in 2007, the number of *Criminal Code of Canada* traffic offences dealt with by the Ottawa Police climbed five percent in 2008. Dangerous operation of a motor vehicle (17%), impaired operation of a vehicle (4%), and failure to stop or remain (7%) offences drove the increase. Conversely, driving a motor vehicle while prohibited (-32%) and other Criminal Code offences (-29%) showed a decline.

The solvency rate for Criminal Code traffic offences (38%) 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	2007			2008			3-Year Average (2)	%Change 2007-2008 (2)
	Actual	Rate (1)	Solvency %	Actual	Rate (1)	Solvency %		
Dangerous Operation of Motor Vehicle	100	11.3	77.0%	117	13.0	88.9%	117.5	17.0%
Impaired Operation of Vehicle	765	86.1	99.9%	792	88.2	99.9%	755.2	3.5%
Failure to Stop or Remain	1,691	190.2	10.5%	1,815	202.1	5.2%	1,548.8	7.3%
Driving Motor Vehicle While Prohibited	94	10.6	100.0%	64	7.1	98.4%	76.0	-31.9%
Other Criminal Code Offences	14	1.6	92.9%	10	1.1	80.0%	10.2	-28.6%
<b>Total Criminal Code Traffic Offences</b>	<b>2,664</b>	<b>299.7</b>	<b>42.2%</b>	<b>2,798</b>	<b>311.5</b>	<b>37.9%</b>	<b>2,507.8</b>	<b>5.0%</b>

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

## Other Traffic Offences

The Ottawa Police Service handed out over 150,000 tickets (Provincial Offence Notices) in 2008, the majority of which were for speeding (24%), failure to surrender insurance (13%), and disobey official signs (11%). The number of Highway Traffic Act (HTA) Offences rose slightly last year while other provincial and municipal offences fell by less than one percent.

**Table 6: Other Traffic Offences**

Offence	2007		2008		3-Year Average (2)	% Change 2007-2008 (2)
	Actual	Rate (1)	Actual	Rate (1)		
Highway Traffic Act Offences	108,798	12,240.1	109,388	12,179.2	106,011	0.5%
Other Provincial/Municipal Offences	42,514	4,782.9	42,294	4,709.0	40,059	-0.5%
Provincial Offence Notices - Part I	151,312	17,023.0	151,682	16,888.3	146,070	0.2%

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

## Traffic Collisions

Table 7 shows the volume of motor vehicle collisions and associated fatalities. After reaching peak levels in 2007, the numbers of fatalities and collisions have returned to more traditional levels. Upon review, there has been no single variable identified that explains the volume of fatalities in 2007. The Ottawa Police Service remains committed to the Integrated Road Safety Program (IRSP). The City's IRSP is a partnership between the Ottawa Police Service, the Department of Public Works, Ottawa Public Health and community partners. Established in 2003, the program uses a 3 E approach to road safety - Engineering, Enforcement and Education. Reducing speeding, educating young drivers and encouraging sharing of the road are keystones of this program to decrease by 30 per cent, the number of people killed or seriously injured on Ottawa's roads by 2010.

**Table 7: Reportable Traffic Collisions<sup>3</sup>**

	2007		2008		3-Year Average (2)	% Change 2007-2008 (2)
	Actual	Rate (1)	Actual	Rate (1)		
Public Roadways						
Fatal Collisions	32	3.6	18	2.0	23.7	-43.8%
Collisions with Injuries	2,834	318.8	2,815	313.4	2,771.0	-0.7%
Collisions with Property Damage	10,941	1,230.9	11,218	1,249.0	10,831.7	2.5%
<b>Public Roadway Collisions</b>	<b>13,814</b>	<b>1,554.1</b>	<b>14,051</b>	<b>1,564.4</b>	<b>13,628.7</b>	<b>1.7%</b>
Traffic Fatalities	33	3.7	21	2.3	25.3	-36.4%
Serious Injuries	164	18.5	146	16.3	155.3	-11.0%
Minor / Minimal Injuries	3,701	416.4	3,598	400.6	3,583.0	-2.8%
<b>Total Injuries Resulting from Collisions</b>	<b>3,865</b>	<b>434.8</b>	<b>3,744</b>	<b>416.9</b>	<b>3,738.3</b>	<b>-3.1%</b>

(1) Rate is calculated per 100,000 residents for each year. As provided by the City of Ottawa's Planning and Growth Management Department, the 2007 population was 888,865 and the 2008 population was 898,148.

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

(3) Collision & Injury Data is supplied by the City of Ottawa, Traffic & Parking Operations Branch and includes only motor vehicle collisions attended by the Ottawa Police Service on public roadways. The data does not include collisions on private property or those collisions attended by RCMP or OPP.

## Calls for Service

After reaching peak levels in 2007, citywide demand for service declined by two percent last year. The decline in total calls may be attributed to nearly 10,000 fewer non-emergency calls, including: traffic stops (-9%), false alarm (-11%), traffic complaints (-15%), false 911 call – human error (-16%).

Even though total demand declined last year, the number of emergency response calls (crime in progress/life threatening situation) has continued to rise over the past four years, growing by two percent in 2008. Consistently over the past five years, the majority of calls (58%) were Priority 2 (urgent, but not

life threatening situations). Priority 2 calls declined by three percent in 2008, the result of fewer mobile response calls for service (-5%). Priority 3 calls (non-urgent and other inquiries) represent 22 percent of all calls for service, and declined by four percent in 2008, the result of a nine percent decline in alternative response calls.

**Table 8: Calls for Service**

	2007	2008	3-Year Average (2)	%Change 2007-2008 (2)	
Priority 1	Mobile Response	75,504	76,652	74,405	1.5%
	Alternative Response	50	39	41	-22.0%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>75,554</b>	<b>76,691</b>	<b>74,446</b>	<b>1.5%</b>
Priority 2	Mobile Response	183,451	174,495	178,033	-4.9%
	Alternative Response	32,951	35,638	33,954	8.2%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>216,402</b>	<b>210,133</b>	<b>211,987</b>	<b>-2.9%</b>
Priority 3	Mobile Response	25,400	26,952	26,596	6.1%
	Alternative Response	53,185	48,277	51,399	-9.2%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>78,585</b>	<b>75,229</b>	<b>77,995</b>	<b>-4.3%</b>
Priority 4	Mobile Response	1,059	890	975	-16.0%
	Alternative Response	1,144	1,114	1,146	-2.6%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,203</b>	<b>2,004</b>	<b>2,121</b>	<b>-9.0%</b>
<b>All Priorities</b>	Total Mobile Response	285,414	278,989	280,009	-2.3%
	Total Alternative Response	87,330	85,068	86,540	-2.6%
	<b>Total Calls For Service</b>	<b>372,744</b>	<b>364,057</b>	<b>366,549</b>	<b>-2.3%</b>

(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 response duration, refers to the accumulated time between when a call is received to when the first officer arrives on scene. In Ottawa, police response times have slowed from improvements made in 2007. Citywide, average response times for emergency calls has slowed by nearly a full minute to 9 minutes 36 seconds – eight percent slower than the same period in 2007.

**Table 9: Response Time by Priority**

Priority Level	2007	2008	5-Year Average	% Change 2007-2008
Priority 1	8.8	9.6	9.5	8.2%
Priority 2	31.5	35.3	32.7	12.0%
Priority 3	21.7	22.7	31.2	4.7%
Priority 4	3,406.6	3,488.8	3,379.7	2.4%
Total	20.5	22.5	21.5	9.5%

Police response to Priority 2 calls also has risen by 12 percent from 2007 - from 32 to 35 minutes. Last year, Priority 2 response times exceeded the five-year average, and achieved peak levels for the past five years. It is important to note that the police response to non-emergency calls remains well within the response benchmark of two hours. OPS response to Priority 3 Calls for Service has slowed by one

minute, rising from approximately 22 minutes in 2007 to 23 minutes in 2008, but also remains within the response benchmark of 24 hours.

The Ottawa Police aims to respond to Priority 1 calls for service within 15 minutes 90 percent of the time, citywide. In 2008, OPS response performance to Priority 1 calls continues to be near the benchmark of 90 percent, arriving on scene within 15 minutes, 87 percent of the time.

Non-emergency, or Priority 2 response performance has also declined slightly from the previous year and fallen below the five-year average. The Ottawa Police responded to all Priority 2 calls within two hours 95 percent of time. Priority 3 and Priority 4 (property pickup) calls were responded to in an extremely efficient manner achieving the response benchmark 100% of the time.

**Table 10: Response Performance by Priority**

Priority Level	Performance Target	2007	2008	5-Year Average	%Change 2007-2008
Priority 1	Response within 15 minutes, 90% of the time	88.8%	87.2%	86.7%	-1.7%
Priority 2	Response within 2 hours, 100% of the time	96.2%	95.1%	95.9%	-1.1%
Priority 3	Response within 24 hours, 100% of the time	99.9%	100.0%	99.9%	0.1%
Priority 4	Response within 2 weeks, 100% of the time	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%

## Available On Our Website:

In addition to an up-to-date 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](http://ottawapolice.ca).

Listed under the resource section in the navigation menu, click on Crime Analysis and Statistics 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;
- Annual Crime, Police, and Traffic Statistics Report by City of Ottawa Ward;
- Monthly District/Zone Reports that summarize calls for service by block addresses, call types and collision locations; and
- Neighbourhood Reports that drill down to the Ottawa Police-defined neighbourhood level, as opposed to the zone.

Members of the public are also encouraged to access the Media Room to view media releases and crime alerts (visit [ottawapolice.ca](http://ottawapolice.ca) - the Media Room is listed under the Serving Ottawa heading in the navigation menu on the left). 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.