



REGIONAL PROFILE 2008

PEACE RIVER REGION

REGIONAL POLICING

- Peace River Region is policed by RCMP detachments located in Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Hudson's Hope, and Tumbler Ridge. The RCMP provides municipal police services to the Cities of Dawson Creek and Fort St. John while the RCMP Provincial Force polices the region's unincorporated or rural areas.
- In 2008, there were 87 RCMP members assigned to police the region: 55 members directly policed the Cities of Dawson Creek and Fort St. John while 32 were responsible for policing the region's unincorporated areas.
- A case load of 87 Criminal Code offences per RCMP member was recorded for Peace River Region in 2008. This was 8% lower than the member workload of 95 recorded in 2007. The region's 2008 case load was higher than the provincial case load of 67.
- In 2008, the total population of the region was 60,272; the population served per member was 693.

REGIONAL CRIME TRENDS

- Police in BC record criminal activity using Statistics Canada's Uniform Crime Reporting Survey. Criminal Code offences are used in police workload and crime rate calculations. They include violent, property, and other Criminal Code crimes.
- In 2008, 7,603 Criminal Code offences were recorded within the region. This was a 4% decrease from the 7,944 recorded in 2007.
- In 2008, Peace River recorded a crime rate of 126, higher than the provincial crime rate of 96, but 6% lower than the region's 2007 crime rate of 134 offences per 1,000 population.
- In 2008, 1,079 violent crimes were reported by police, a 2% increase from the 1,060 recorded in 2007. The 2008 Peace River violent crime rate remained stable at 17.9 violent crimes per 1,000 population. The region's 2008 violent crime rate was higher than the provincial violent crime rate of 11.4 violent offences per 1,000 population.
- The volume of Level 1 Assaults (common assault) is the major driver of the violent crime rate. In 2008, 721 common assaults were reported within the region, a 1% rise from the 714 reported in 2007. The 2008 Peace River common assault rate was 12.0 offences per 1,000 population, a 1% decrease from the 2007 rate of 12.1. The region's 2008 common assault rate was higher than the provincial common assault rate of 6.7 offences per 1,000 population.
- In 2008, 2,704 property crimes were recorded within the region, a 10% decrease from the 3,001 reported in 2007. The 2008 Peace River property crime rate was 45 property crimes per 1,000 population, a 12% decrease from the 2007 rate of 51. The region's 2008 property crime rate was comparable to the provincial property crime rate of 45 property offences per 1,000 population.



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REGIONAL CRIME TRENDS Cont'd

- Motor vehicle theft includes the theft or attempted theft of automobiles, trucks, motorcycles and other motorized vehicles. In 2008, 538 motor vehicle thefts were reported within the region, a 13% increase from the 478 reported in 2007. The 2008 Peace River motor vehicle theft rate was 8.9 offences per 1,000 population, a 10% increase from the 2007 rate of 8.1. The region's 2008 motor vehicle theft rate was higher than the provincial motor vehicle theft rate of 5.2 offences per 1,000 population.
- In 2008, 3,820 other crimes were reported within the region, a 2% decrease from the 3,883 reported in 2007. The 2008 Peace River other crime rate was 63 other crimes per 1,000 population, a 5% drop from the 2007 rate of 66. The region's 2008 other crime rate was higher than the provincial other crime rate of 39 other offences per 1,000 population.
- Not included in crime rate and case load calculations are drug crimes which include heroin, cocaine, cannabis, and other CSDA drug offences. In 2008, 563 drug crimes were reported within the region, a 21% decrease from the 715 reported in 2007. The 2008 Peace River drug crime rate was 9.3 offences per 1,000 population, a 23% decrease from the 2007 rate of 12.1. The region's 2008 drug crime rate was higher than the provincial drug crime rate of 6.3 offences per 1,000 population.

REGIONAL POPULATION

- In 2008, Census estimates indicated that the population for the region was 60,272, a 2% increase from the 2007 population of 59,168.
- Over the past ten years, the population for the region has increased 4% overall, from 57,813 in 1999 to 60,272 in 2008.



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PEACE RIVER REGION DATA TABLES

REGION SUMMARY	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Population	57,813	56,925	57,031	57,217	56,971	59,674	59,926	58,864	59,168	60,272
Police Strength	75	74	74	73	73	74	79	81	84	87
Case Load	104	101	107	114	118	122	118	110	95	87
Population Served Per Member	771	769	771	784	780	806	759	727	704	693
Violent Crimes										
Number of Offences	1,114	1,141	1,135	1,144	1,173	1,221	1,284	1,147	1,060	1,079
Crime Rate	19.3	20.0	19.9	20.0	20.6	20.5	21.4	19.5	17.9	17.9
Property Crimes										
Number of Offences	2,889	2,763	2,822	3,245	3,335	3,367	3,169	3,304	3,001	2,704
Crime Rate	50	49	49	57	59	56	53	56	51	45
Other Crimes										
Number of Offences	3,798	3,598	3,954	3,899	4,119	4,445	4,885	4,477	3,883	3,820
Crime Rate	66	63	69	68	72	74	82	76	66	63
TOTAL CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES	7,801	7,502	7,911	8,288	8,627	9,033	9,338	8,928	7,944	7,603
CRIME RATE	135	132	139	145	151	151	156	152	134	126
Drug Crimes¹										
Number of Offences	524	416	458	490	589	665	616	776	715	563
Crime Rate	9.1	7.3	8.0	8.6	10.3	11.1	10.3	13.2	12.1	9.3
Assault: Level 1										
Number of Offences	781	845	817	873	834	870	862	759	714	721
Crime Rate	13.5	14.8	14.3	15.3	14.6	14.6	14.4	12.9	12.1	12.0
Motor Vehicle Theft²										
Number of Offences	285	307	328	412	523	477	562	602	478	538
Crime Rate	4.9	5.4	5.8	7.2	9.2	8.0	9.4	10.2	8.1	8.9
AREA POLICED AS CHETWYND PROV										
Population	6,070	6,019	5,384	5,299	5,147	5,533	5,510	5,450	5,348	5,406
Police Strength	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	10	10
Case Load	99	79	87	84	92	93	110	115	96	75
Population Served Per Member	674	669	598	589	572	615	612	606	535	541
Violent Crimes										
Number of Offences	106	111	143	102	127	101	128	145	154	125
Crime Rate	17.5	18.4	26.6	19.2	24.7	18.3	23.2	26.6	28.8	23.1
Property Crimes										
Number of Offences	351	256	244	257	244	257	262	315	283	220
Crime Rate	58	43	45	48	47	46	48	58	53	41
Other Crimes										
Number of Offences	438	344	395	397	458	479	601	572	526	408
Crime Rate	72	57	73	75	89	87	109	105	98	75
TOTAL CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES	895	711	782	756	829	837	991	1,032	963	753
CRIME RATE	147	118	145	143	161	151	180	189	180	139
Drug Crimes¹										
Number of Offences	36	31	31	64	78	71	68	93	77	59
Crime Rate	5.9	5.2	5.8	12.1	15.2	12.8	12.3	17.1	14.4	10.9
Assault: Level 1										
Number of Offences	76	82	98	72	84	78	89	93	98	64
Crime Rate	12.5	13.6	18.2	13.6	16.3	14.1	16.2	17.1	18.3	11.8
Motor Vehicle Theft²										
Number of Offences	42	34	39	38	37	37	51	48	52	42
Crime Rate	6.9	5.6	7.2	7.2	7.2	6.7	9.3	8.8	9.7	7.8

PEACE RIVER REGION DATA TABLES

CITY OF DAWSON CREEK	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Population	11,432	11,222	11,224	11,164	11,144	11,274	11,336	11,093	11,238	11,420
Police Strength	21	21	21	21	21	21	22	22	23	23
Case Load	113	113	107	101	96	124	117	104	99	84
Population Served Per Member	544	534	534	532	531	537	515	504	489	497
Violent Crimes										
Number of Offences	354	329	254	311	261	344	349	211	225	231
Crime Rate	31.0	29.3	22.6	27.9	23.4	30.5	30.8	19.0	20.0	20.2
Property Crimes										
Number of Offences	895	980	862	890	898	1,198	879	860	841	635
Crime Rate	78	87	77	80	81	106	78	78	75	56
Other Crimes										
Number of Offences	1,128	1,072	1,127	926	861	1,058	1,336	1,224	1,217	1,066
Crime Rate	99	96	100	83	77	94	118	110	108	93
TOTAL CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES	2,377	2,381	2,243	2,127	2,020	2,600	2,564	2,295	2,283	1,932
CRIME RATE	208	212	200	191	181	231	226	207	203	169
Drug Crimes¹										
Number of Offences	200	116	91	77	97	156	143	158	198	129
Crime Rate	17.5	10.3	8.1	6.9	8.7	13.8	12.6	14.2	17.6	11.3
Assault: Level 1										
Number of Offences	228	229	179	235	187	244	220	137	134	142
Crime Rate	19.9	20.4	15.9	21.0	16.8	21.6	19.4	12.4	11.9	12.4
Motor Vehicle Theft²										
Number of Offences	87	84	101	68	101	109	81	121	103	92
Crime Rate	7.6	7.5	9.0	6.1	9.1	9.7	7.1	10.9	9.2	8.1
AREA POLICED AS DAWSON CREEK PROV	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Population	7,859	7,738	7,523	7,385	7,301	7,928	7,814	7,216	7,154	7,288
Police Strength	4	4	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	4
Case Load	71	75	68	84	96	113	99	91	70	67
Population Served Per Member	1,965	1,935	1,881	2,462	2,434	2,643	1,954	1,804	1,789	1,822
Violent Crimes										
Number of Offences	36	43	46	34	41	40	44	45	35	26
Crime Rate	4.6	5.6	6.1	4.6	5.6	5.0	5.6	6.2	4.9	3.6
Property Crimes										
Number of Offences	131	127	96	113	149	155	207	150	133	116
Crime Rate	17	16	13	15	20	20	26	21	19	16
Other Crimes										
Number of Offences	117	131	130	106	97	145	143	169	111	124
Crime Rate	15	17	17	14	13	18	18	23	16	17
TOTAL CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES	284	301	272	253	287	340	394	364	279	266
CRIME RATE	36	39	36	34	39	43	50	50	39	36
Drug Crimes¹										
Number of Offences	19	11	12	17	13	31	31	79	36	29
Crime Rate	2.4	1.4	1.6	2.3	1.8	3.9	4.0	10.9	5.0	4.0
Assault: Level 1										
Number of Offences	25	32	34	29	30	33	26	26	22	19
Crime Rate	3.2	4.1	4.5	3.9	4.1	4.2	3.3	3.6	3.1	2.6
Motor Vehicle Theft²										
Number of Offences	20	17	19	15	33	20	34	34	37	29
Crime Rate	2.5	2.2	2.5	2.0	4.5	2.5	4.4	4.7	5.2	4.0



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PEACE RIVER REGION DATA TABLES

CITY OF FORT ST. JOHN	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Population	16,208	16,486	16,734	16,912	16,934	17,291	17,739	17,933	18,385	18,760
Police Strength	25	25	25	25	25	25	26	28	29	32
Case Load	128	127	145	160	170	164	157	136	112	106
Population Served Per Member	648	659	669	676	677	692	682	640	634	586
Violent Crimes										
Number of Offences	441	497	526	518	553	520	549	516	454	495
Crime Rate	27.2	30.1	31.4	30.6	32.7	30.1	30.9	28.8	24.7	26.4
Property Crimes										
Number of Offences	1,072	1,034	1,210	1,477	1,502	1,293	1,338	1,468	1,324	1,237
Crime Rate	66	63	72	87	89	75	75	82	72	66
Other Crimes										
Number of Offences	1,696	1,650	1,891	2,016	2,207	2,291	2,184	1,831	1,466	1,672
Crime Rate	105	100	113	119	130	132	123	102	80	89
TOTAL CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES	3,209	3,181	3,627	4,011	4,262	4,104	4,071	3,815	3,244	3,404
CRIME RATE	198	193	217	237	252	237	229	213	176	181
Drug Crimes¹										
Number of Offences	224	224	270	273	332	316	270	315	321	276
Crime Rate	13.8	13.6	16.1	16.1	19.6	18.3	15.2	17.6	17.5	14.7
Assault: Level 1										
Number of Offences	330	385	392	400	410	354	380	334	322	350
Crime Rate	20.4	23.4	23.4	23.7	24.2	20.5	21.4	18.6	17.5	18.7
Motor Vehicle Theft²										
Number of Offences	94	129	118	188	251	202	265	261	189	247
Crime Rate	5.8	7.8	7.1	11.1	14.8	11.7	14.9	14.6	10.3	13.2
AREA POLICED AS FORT ST. JOHN PROV	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Population	12,138	11,870	12,960	12,828	12,778	13,958	13,827	13,287	13,218	13,539
Police Strength	8	8	8	8	8	9	10	10	10	10
Case Load	86	82	81	88	96	86	87	86	67	75
Population Served Per Member	1,517	1,484	1,620	1,604	1,597	1,551	1,383	1,329	1,322	1,354
Violent Crimes										
Number of Offences	126	125	120	131	147	166	167	174	130	126
Crime Rate	10.4	10.5	9.3	10.2	11.5	11.9	12.1	13.1	9.8	9.3
Property Crimes										
Number of Offences	281	263	283	302	326	317	358	364	285	335
Crime Rate	23	22	22	24	26	23	26	27	22	25
Other Crimes										
Number of Offences	280	271	244	270	296	292	347	320	254	285
Crime Rate	23	23	19	21	23	21	25	24	19	21
TOTAL CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES	687	659	647	703	769	775	872	858	669	746
CRIME RATE	57	56	50	55	60	56	63	65	51	55
Drug Crimes¹										
Number of Offences	34	30	45	47	46	59	44	63	40	42
Crime Rate	2.8	2.5	3.5	3.7	3.6	4.2	3.2	4.7	3.0	3.1
Assault: Level 1										
Number of Offences	97	88	81	99	93	120	107	124	92	91
Crime Rate	8.0	7.4	6.3	7.7	7.3	8.6	7.7	9.3	7.0	6.7
Motor Vehicle Theft²										
Number of Offences	38	42	47	85	76	96	119	118	79	110
Crime Rate	3.1	3.5	3.6	6.6	5.9	6.9	8.6	8.9	6.0	8.1

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AREA POLICED AS HUDSONS HOPE PROV	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Population	1,301	1,266	1,274	1,241	1,236	1,317	1,294	1,394	1,389	1,419
Police Strength	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Case Load	30	32	34	33	38	41	34	19	15	24
Population Served Per Member	434	422	425	414	412	439	431	465	463	473
Violent Crimes										
Number of Offences	23	11	17	16	13	25	20	5	6	14
Crime Rate	17.7	8.7	13.3	12.9	10.5	19.0	15.5	3.6	4.3	9.9
Property Crimes										
Number of Offences	26	38	32	31	38	36	30	20	10	18
Crime Rate	20	30	25	25	31	27	23	14	7	13
Other Crimes										
Number of Offences	41	48	53	51	63	62	52	33	29	39
Crime Rate	32	38	42	41	51	47	40	24	21	27
TOTAL CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES	90	97	102	98	114	123	102	58	45	71
CRIME RATE	69	77	80	79	92	93	79	42	32	50
Drug Crimes¹										
Number of Offences	2	2	2	4	2	11	12	5	4	4
Crime Rate	1.5	1.6	1.6	3.2	1.6	8.4	9.3	3.6	2.9	2.8
Assault: Level 1										
Number of Offences	7	8	14	13	10	21	18	5	5	7
Crime Rate	5.4	6.3	11.0	10.5	8.1	15.9	13.9	3.6	3.6	4.9
Motor Vehicle Theft²										
Number of Offences	2	0	3	2	6	4	1	2	2	1
Crime Rate	1.5	0.0	2.4	1.6	4.9	3.0	0.8	1.4	1.4	0.7
AREA POLICED AS TUMBLER RIDGE PROV	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Population	2,805	2,324	1,932	2,388	2,431	2,373	2,406	2,491	2,436	2,440
Police Strength	5	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5
Case Load	52	43	60	85	87	64	69	101	92	86
Population Served Per Member	561	581	483	597	608	593	481	498	487	488
Violent Crimes										
Number of Offences	28	25	29	32	31	25	27	51	56	62
Crime Rate	10.0	10.8	15.0	13.4	12.8	10.5	11.2	20.5	23.0	25.4
Property Crimes										
Number of Offences	133	65	95	175	178	111	95	127	125	143
Crime Rate	47	28	49	73	73	47	39	51	51	59
Other Crimes										
Number of Offences	98	82	114	133	137	118	222	328	280	226
Crime Rate	35	35	59	56	56	50	92	132	115	93
TOTAL CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES	259	172	238	340	346	254	344	506	461	431
CRIME RATE	92	74	123	142	142	107	143	203	189	177
Drug Crimes¹										
Number of Offences	9	2	7	8	21	21	48	63	39	24
Crime Rate	3.2	0.9	3.6	3.4	8.6	8.8	20.0	25.3	16.0	9.8
Assault: Level 1										
Number of Offences	18	21	19	25	20	20	22	40	41	48
Crime Rate	6.4	9.0	9.8	10.5	8.2	8.4	9.1	16.1	16.8	19.7
Motor Vehicle Theft²										
Number of Offences	2	1	1	16	19	9	11	18	16	17
Crime Rate	0.7	0.4	0.5	6.7	7.8	3.8	4.6	7.2	6.6	7.0



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ENDNOTES

- ¹ Drug crimes include heroin, cocaine, cannabis and other CDSA drug offences. These data are not included in Total Criminal Code offences.
- ² Motor Vehicle Theft includes four UCR crime categories: Auto Theft, Truck Theft, Motorcycle Theft, and Other Motor Vehicle Theft, e.g. snowmobiles, all terrain vehicles, motorized farming and industrial vehicles. Motor Vehicle Theft is included in Property Crimes.

DATA QUALIFIERS

1. Police strengths represent an areas authorized police strength as of December 31st of each calendar year as submitted annually to Police Services Division.
2. Case burdens are defined as the number of Criminal Code offences per authorized police strength. They represent the workload per officer, and as a result, are a better indicator of the demand for police services that either an area's population base or its crime rate. The total number of Criminal Code offences and the authorized police strength as of December 31st of each calendar year are used for case burden calculations.
3. Total Criminal Code includes property, violent and other crimes. Property crimes include the offences of break and enter, theft, motor vehicle theft, possession of stolen property and fraud. Violent crimes include the offences of homicide, attempted murder, sexual and non-sexual assault, abduction and robbery. Other crimes include Criminal Code offences not classified as either violent or property crimes, e.g., prostitution, gaming & betting, weapons, bail violations, counterfeit currency, vandalism, etc.
4. The crime data contained in this report have been recorded by the police on the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR). Offences are scored according to the UCR Scoring Rules. If a single criminal incident contains a number of violations of the law, then only the most serious one is recorded for UCR purposes. Number of offences represents only those crimes reported to, or discovered by police which, upon preliminary investigation, have been deemed to have occurred or been attempted; this data does not represent or imply a count of the number of charges laid, prosecutions conducted, informations sworn or convictions obtained.
5. Crime Rate is defined as the number of offences per 1,000 population. The population figures utilized for crime rate calculations are based on the results of Canada Census which is conducted every five years. The most recent Canada Census occurred in 2006. Population figures reflect the permanent residential or "late night" population of a municipality and do not include part-time populations, i.e., commuters, students, tourists and other part-time residents.
6. The data contained in this report may vary when compared with previous reports produced by Police Services Division. Where variances occur, the report produced at the latest date will reflect the most current data available.

SOURCES: Crime Data: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS, Statistics Canada;
Population Data: BCStats, Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services, Province of British Columbia
Police Data: HRMIS Report, RCMP "E" Division.

DATE: September 2009.