

News Release

4 April 2025

Results of the 2024 Canadian UFO Survey

In 2024, 1008 UFO reports were officially filed in Canada with official government agencies, participating private organizations, media, and social media.

In 2024, about 80 UFO sightings were reported each month in Canada.

The percentage of UFO cases considered Unexplained in 2024 was 3.77 per cent.

The provinces with larger populations tended to have the most UFO reports, with Ontario, Quebec, and BC leading the pack.

In 2024, the usual summer peak in UAP report numbers was supplanted by a large increase in numbers during the last quarter of the year, with more than 40 per cent of reports during October, November, and December, which normally have low report numbers.

Most reported UFOs were simple lights in the sky, known as Nocturnal Lights (NL) in more than 45 per cent of cases.

The most common shape of UFO reported in 2024 was a simple point source of light (41 per cent).

More than 25,000 Canadian UFO reports have been catalogued during the past 35 years.

For more information, and for the full detailed analyses of 2024 Canadian UFO reports, visit [The Canadian UFO Survey](#).

The 2024 Canadian UFO Survey

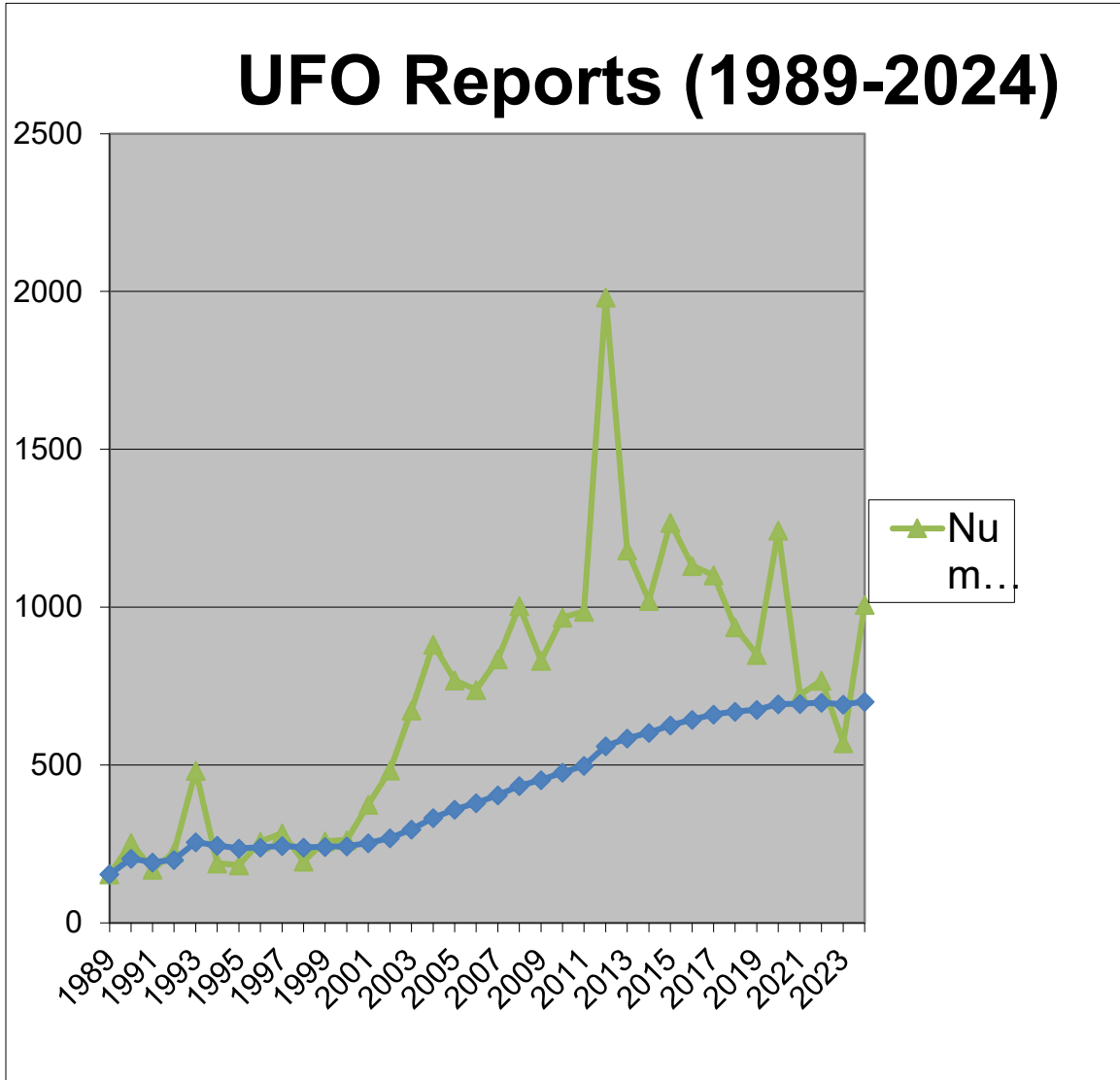
Findings of the 2024 Canadian UFO Survey: An Overview

The results of the 2024 Canadian UFO Survey show that UFO sightings continue to be reported in Canada at a significant rate. **In 2024, 1008 UFO reports were officially filed in Canada with official government agencies, participating private organizations, media, and social media.**

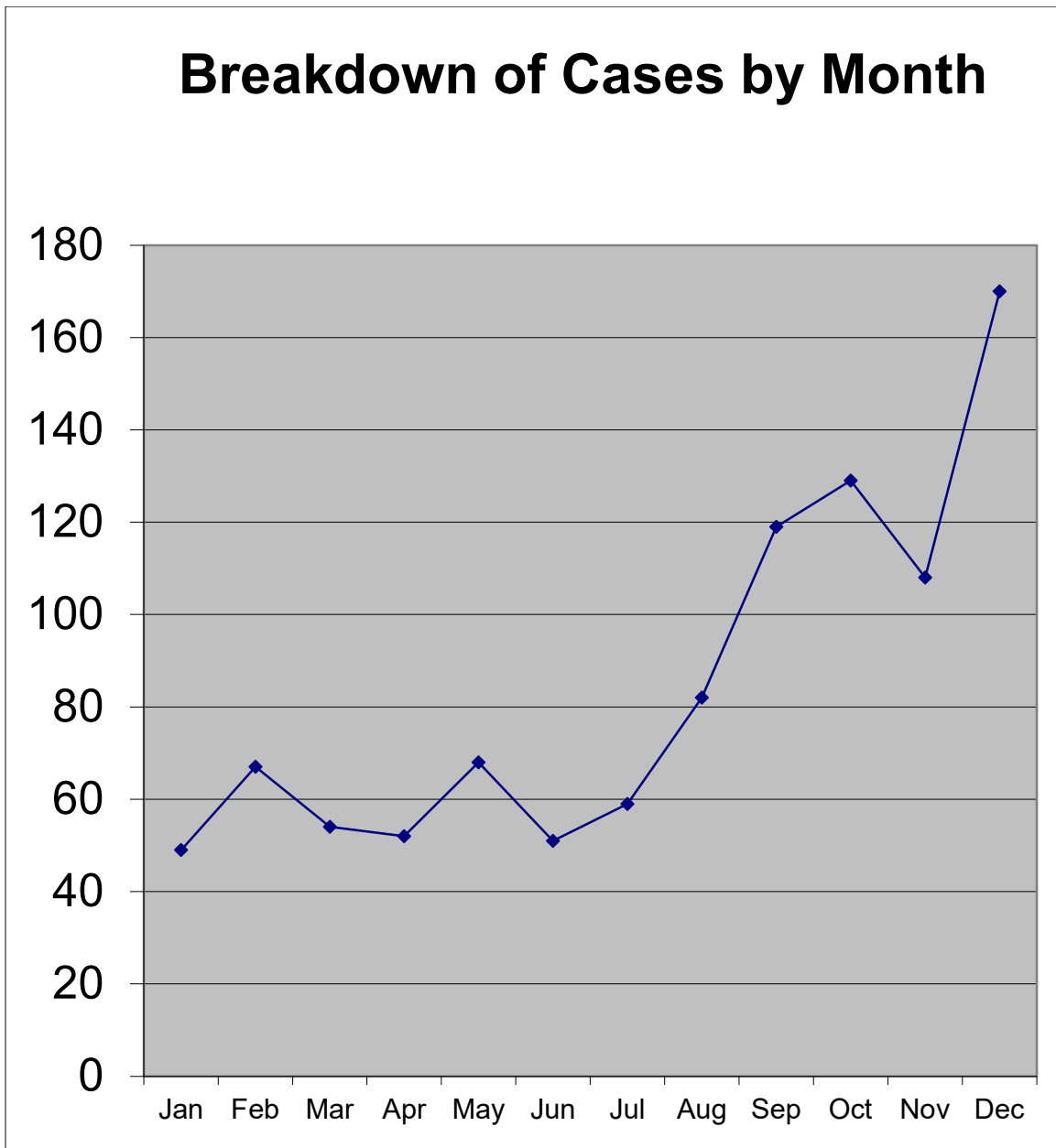
The annual Canadian UFO Survey is produced by Ufology Research, based in Manitoba, with the cooperation of investigators and researchers across the country who are working together and sharing data so as to better understand what is being seen and reported across the country.

Since the annual Canadian UFO Survey was initiated in 1989, **more than 25,000 Canadian UFO reports have been catalogued during the past 35 years.** This is much more than the files of the United States Air Force's infamous Project Blue Book, which investigated and recorded 12,618 UFO reports from around the world between 1952 and 1969. And, while Blue Book listed 701 cases as Unexplained, there are currently 2,650 Unexplained cases in the Canadian UFO Survey database.

Total Number of Canadian UFO Reports since 1989

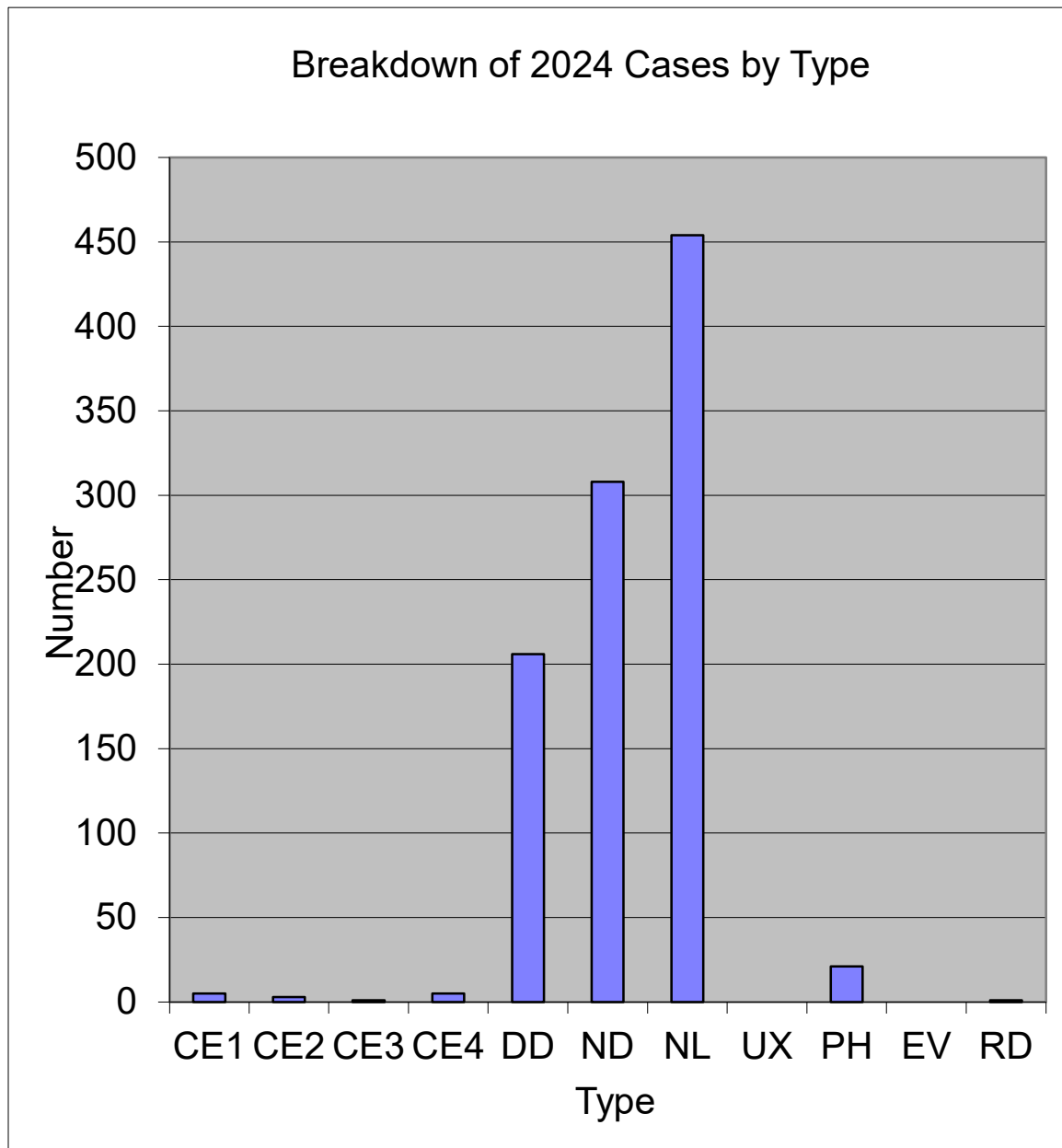


Monthly breakdown of Canadian UFO Reports in 2024



In 2024, most UAP reports were in the fall and winter instead the summer months as usual. This was certainly due to the “drone wave” that received great attention from media. For example, December 2024 had a large number of UAP reports compared with December 2023, from 3.8 per cent last year to 16.87 per cent this year.

Breakdown of UFO Reports by Type



The types of UFOs are categorized in this Survey as follows:

NL (Nocturnal Light) - light source in night sky

ND (Nocturnal Disc) - light source in night sky that appears to have a definite shape

DD (Daylight Disc) - unknown object observed during daytime hours

C1 (Close Encounter of the First Kind) - ND or DD occurring within 200 metres of a witness

C2 (Close Encounter of the Second Kind) - C1 where physical effects left or noted

C3 (Close Encounter of the Third Kind) - C1 where figures/entities are encountered

C4 (Close Encounter of the Fourth Kind) - an alleged “abduction” or “contact” experience

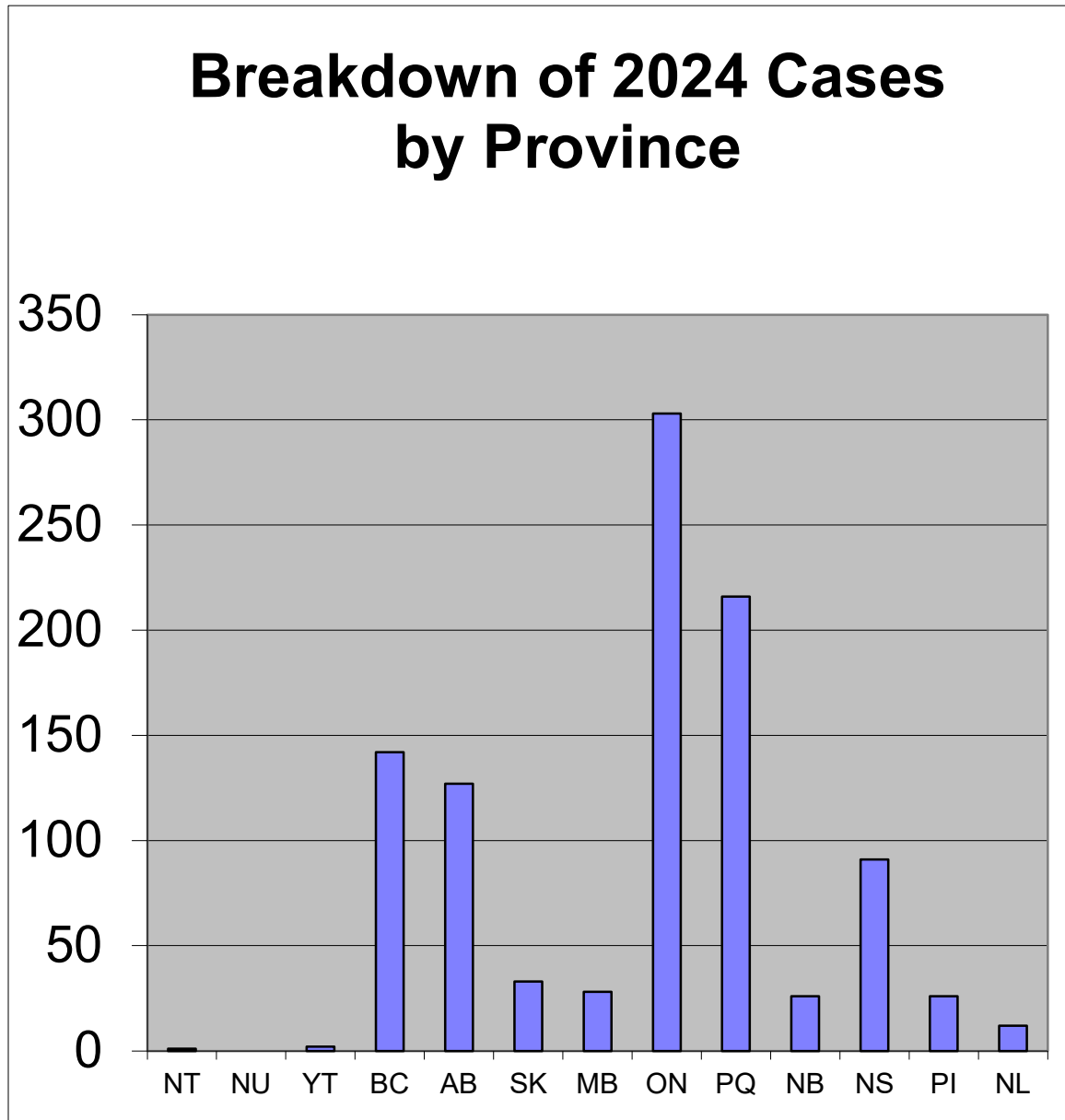
PH (Photo only) – where a witness examines a photo taken earlier and notes a UAP

RD (Radar) – where a UAP was detected on radar

Most reported UFOs were simple lights in the sky, known as Nocturnal Lights (NL) in 45.2 per cent of cases, similar to 2023, while Close Encounters comprised less than 1.5 per cent of the total. Slightly more than 20 per cent of cases were daytime observations.

Provincial Distribution of UFO Reports

In general, provinces with larger populations tend to have the most UFO reports. In 2024, BC had 14 per cent of the total number of UFO reports, while Quebec had 21.5 per cent, and Alberta had about 12 per cent, very much in line with the distribution of population in Canada. Nova Scotia was greatly overrepresented with 12.1 per cent (instead of only about 3 per cent), while Ontario was slightly underrepresented, with 30 per cent. The higher number of reports in Nova Scotia was largely due to the fact that it has very active social media where witnesses can report their UFO sightings.

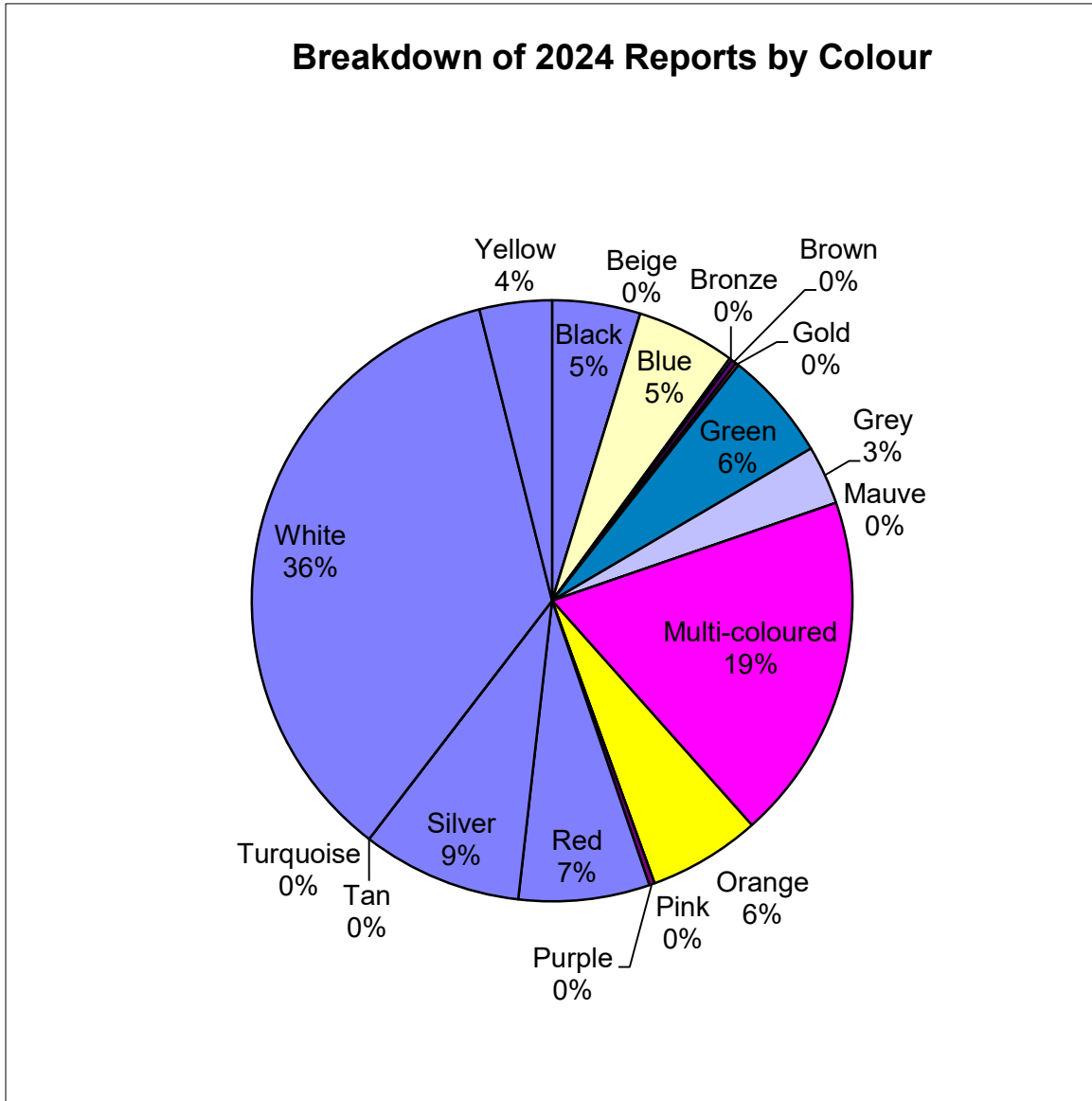


The metropolitan city centres with the most UFO reports in 2024 were:

Metropolitan Areas	Number
Toronto	70
Vancouver	37
Montreal	30
Calgary	28
Edmonton	24
Hamilton	20
London	18
Victoria	15
Halifax	12
Sherbrooke	12

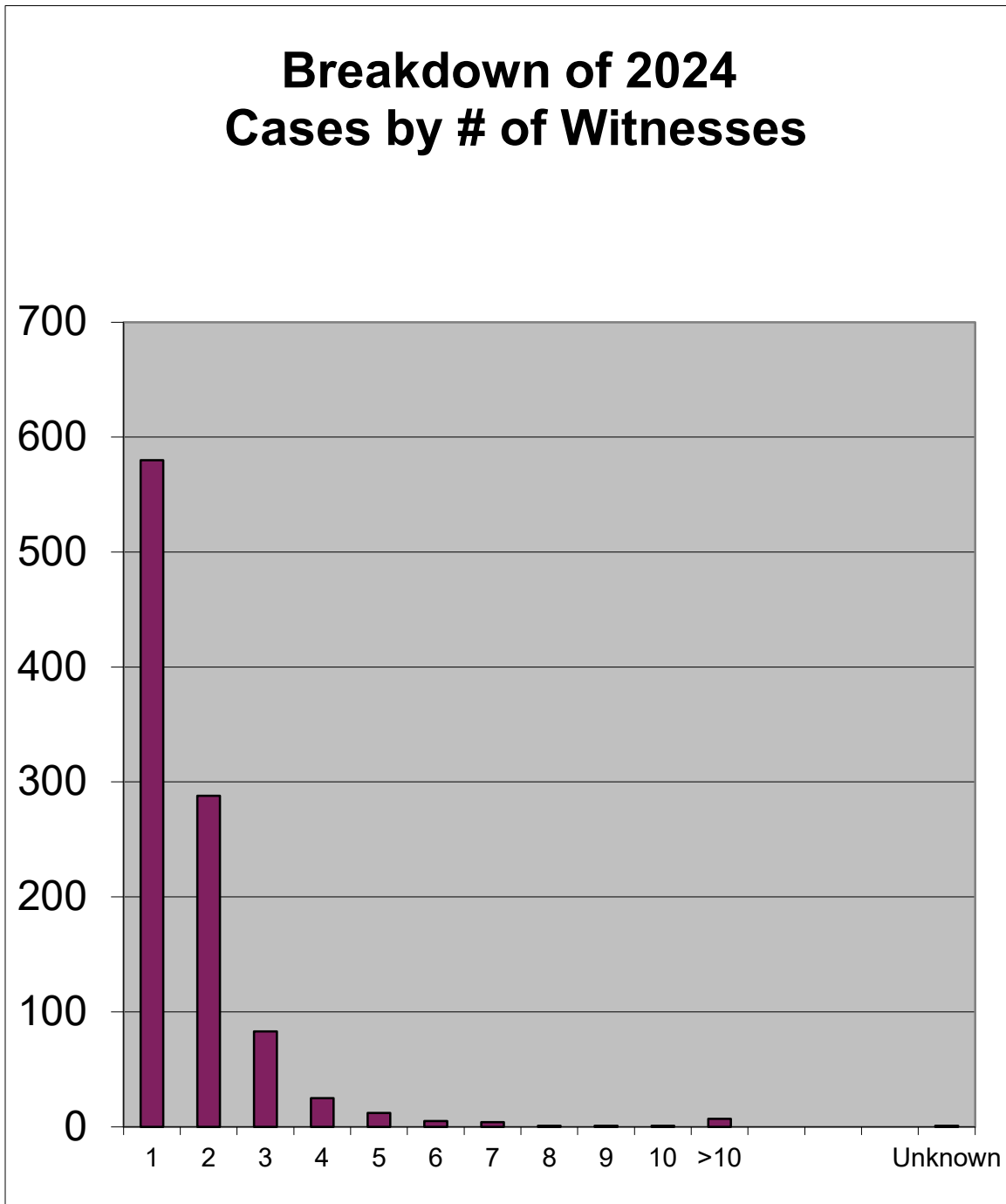
Reported Colours of UFOs

As in previous years, the most common colour of UFO in 2024 was White, reported 36 per cent of the time. The next most common was “Multicoloured” with 19 per cent, Silver with 9 per cent, and Red, with 7 per cent. The Silver UFOs were daytime cases.

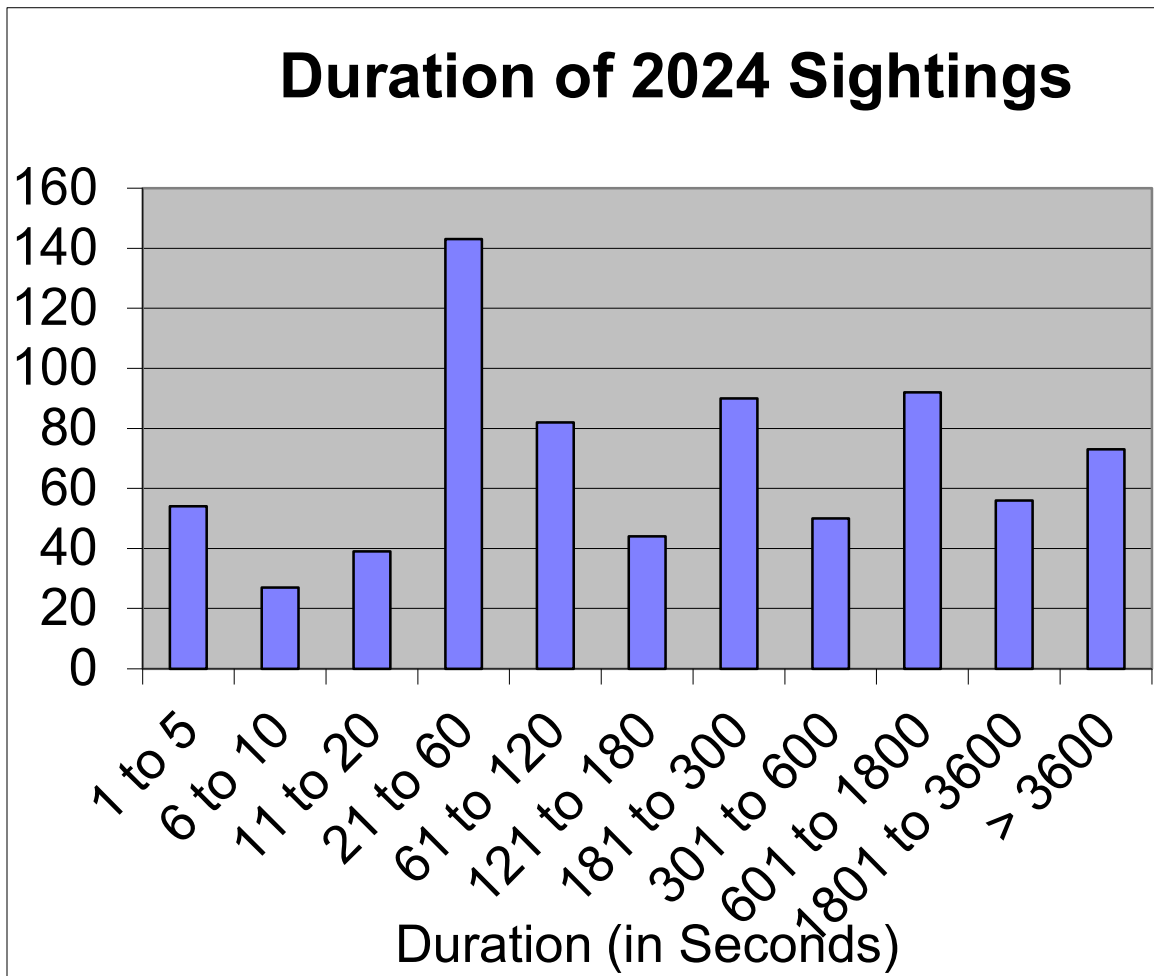


Number of Witnesses per Case

In terms of the number of witnesses per case, many sightings were experienced by more than one person. The average number of witnesses per report in 2024 was 1.72, up from 1.45 in 2023. This means that it was more likely in 2024 for a case to have more than one witness.



Duration of UFO Sightings

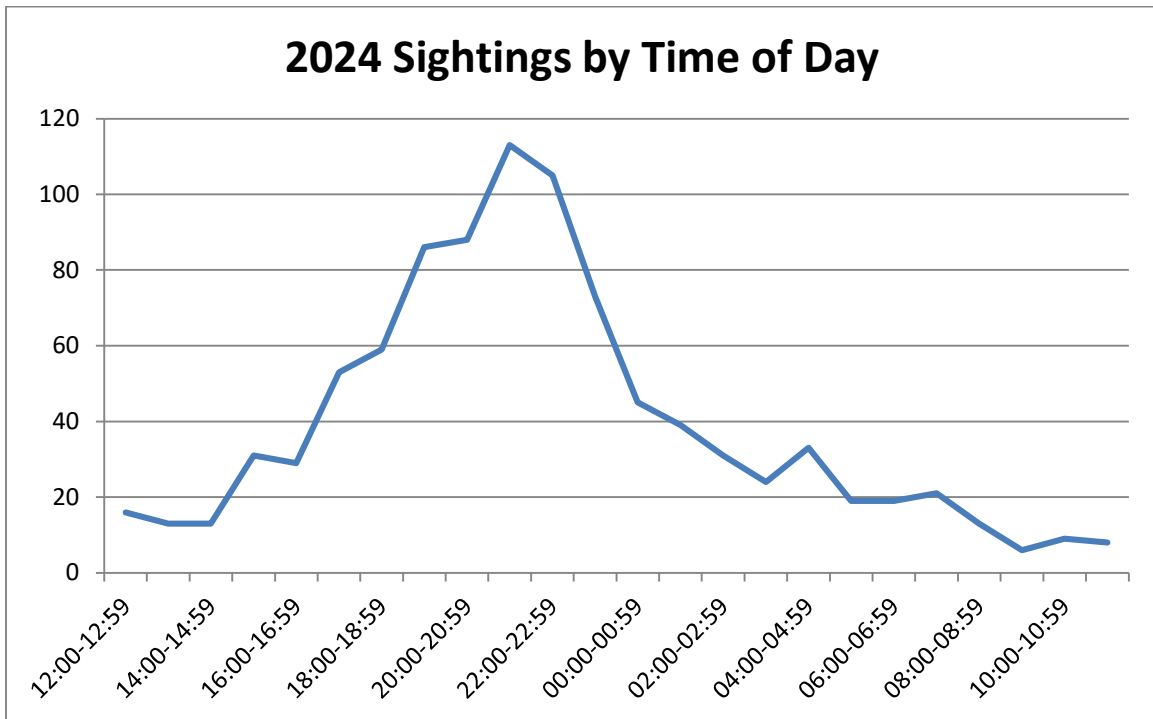


The average duration of UFO sightings in Canada in 2024 was 36 minutes, almost twice the length of a sighting in 2023, which was about 16 minutes, and only 13 minutes in 2022.

The length of time an object is seen suggests some simple explanations for what was being observed by the witness. In fact, the duration of a sighting is one of the biggest clues to its explanation. Experience in studying UFO reports has shown that short duration events are usually fireballs or bolides, and long duration events of an hour or more are very probably astronomical objects moving slowly with Earth's rotation. Long-duration sightings tend to occur in the early morning hours, from about midnight until 6:00 a.m.

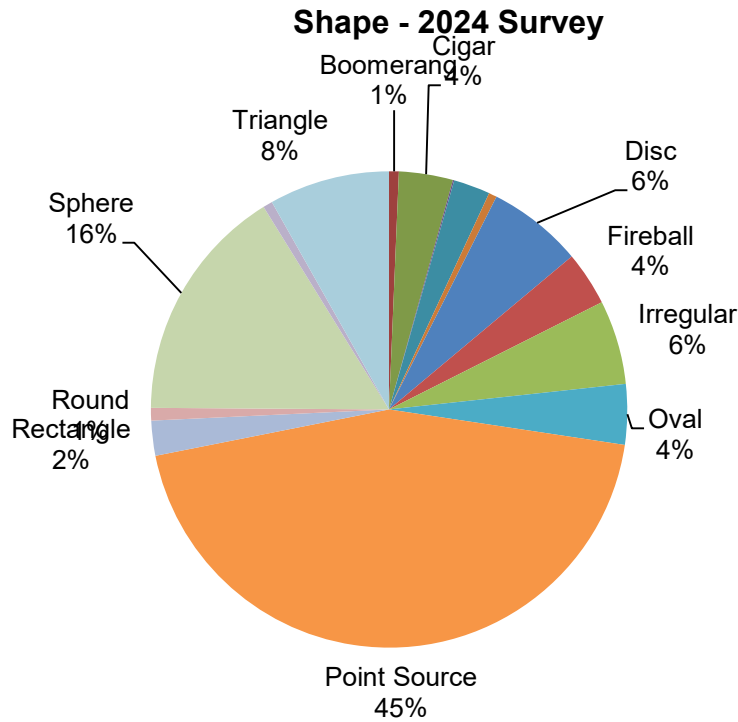
Hourly Distribution of UFO Sightings

The hourly distribution of cases has usually followed a similar pattern every year, with a peak at 2200 hours local and a trough around 0900 hours local. Since most UFOs are nocturnal lights, most sightings will occur during the evening hours. Since the number of possible observers drops off sharply near midnight, we would expect the hourly rate of UFO reports would vary with two factors: potential observers and darkness.



Reported Shapes of UFOs

The most common shape of UFO reported in 2024 was a simple point source of light (45 per cent), exactly as in previous years. Other shapes reported were Triangle (8 per cent), Sphere (16 per cent), Cigar (4 per cent) and Fireball (4 per cent). The classic “flying saucer” was only reported 18 times (6 per cent) in 2024. An “Irregular” object was reported in 6 per cent of the cases.

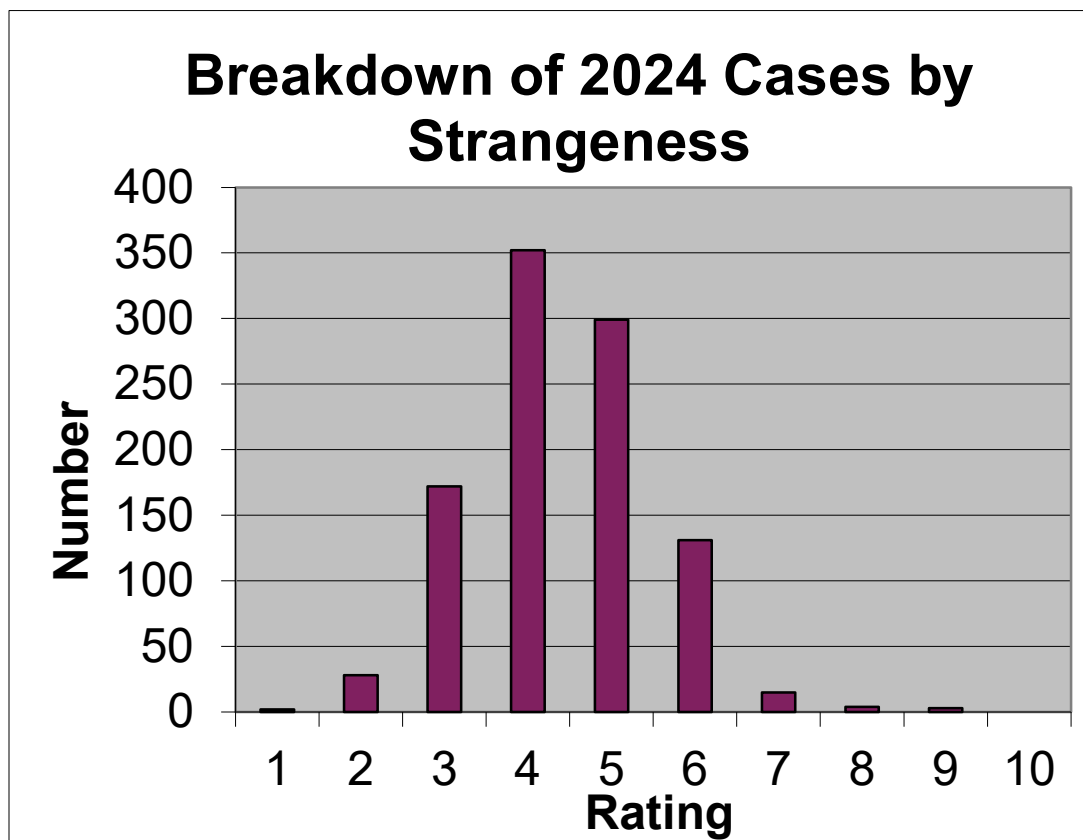


Strangeness

The average Strangeness rating for UFO reports during 2024 was 4.4, where 1 is considered not strange at all and 9 is considered exceptionally unusual. This is slightly up from 4.0 in 2023, suggesting reported objects in 2024 seemed to be more unusual than in previous years.

The assigning of a Strangeness rating to a UFO report is based on a classification adopted by researchers who noted that the inclusion of a subjective evaluation of the degree to which a particular case is in itself unusual might yield some insight into the data. For example, the observation of a single, stationary, starlike light in the sky, seen for several hours, is not particularly unusual and might likely have a prosaic explanation such as that of a star or planet. On the other hand, a detailed observation of a saucer-shaped object which glides slowly away from a witness after an encounter with grey-skinned aliens would be considered highly strange.

A Strangeness rating is assigned during the data entry process, based on the given information about each case. It is subjective, but based on the general criteria noted above.

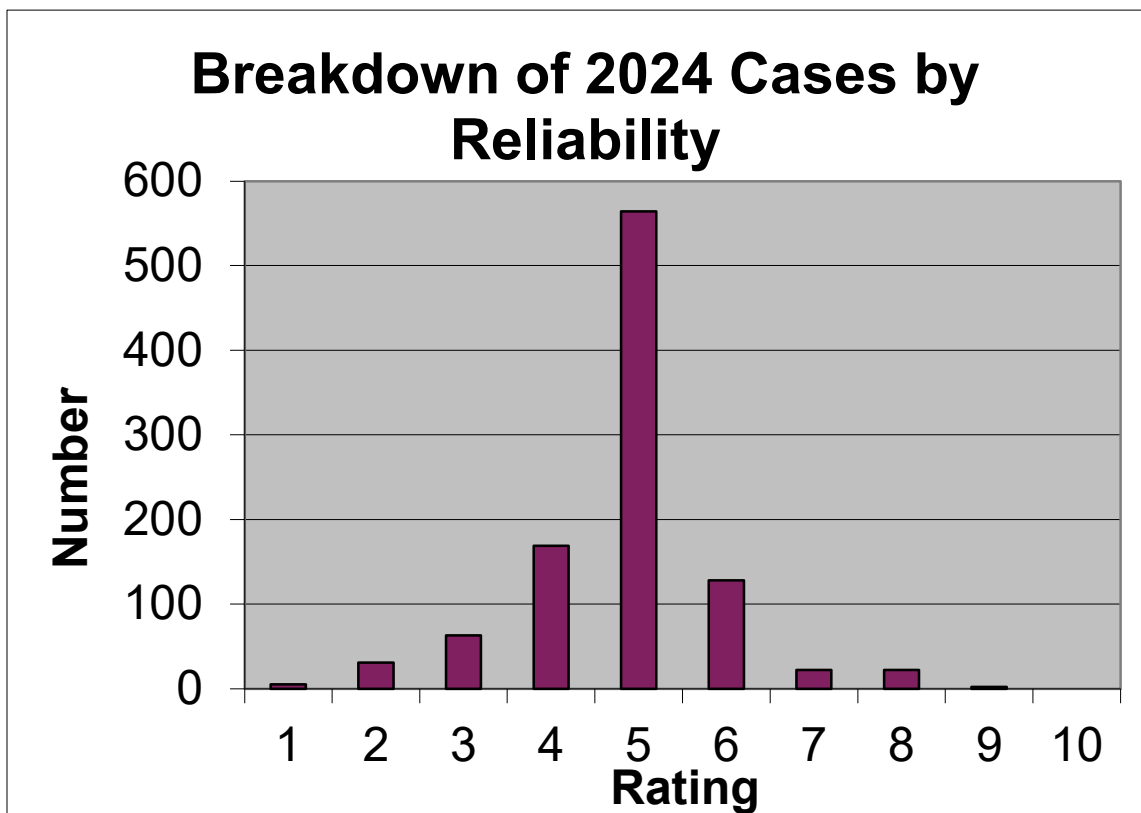


Reliability of UFO Reports

The average Reliability rating of Canadian UFO reports in 2024 was just under 5, meaning that most cases had minimal investigation, and were likely only report forms filled out by a witness, without extensive supporting documentation or investigation.

Higher reliability cases include actual interviews with witnesses, a detailed case investigation, multiple witnesses, supporting documentation, and other evidence. Since data for many cases are taken from websites and second-hand postings, or in fact self-postings, there is usually no significant investigation of UFO sightings. Well-investigated cases comprise only a small fraction of all UFO data, a fact that makes UFO case data have limited value.

Reliability and Strangeness ratings tend to vary in classic bell-shaped curves. In other words, there are very few cases which were both highly unusual and well-reported. Most cases are of medium strangeness and medium reliability. These are the “high-quality unknowns.” However, there are also very few low-strangeness cases with low reliability. Low-strangeness cases, therefore, tend to be well-reported and probably have explanations.



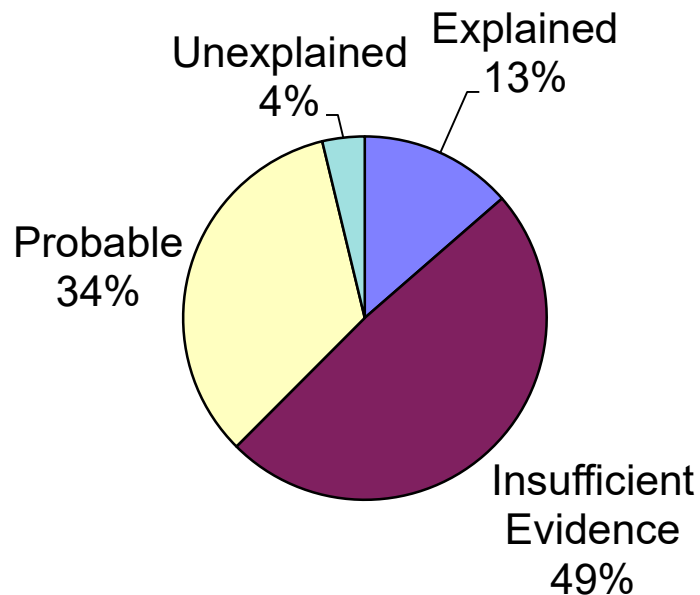
Conclusions and Explanations for UFO Reports

The percentage of UFO cases considered Unexplained in 2024 was 3.77 per cent, down from 6 per cent in 2023. This is a result of careful scrutiny of raw report information available for analyses. The percentage of Explained cases in 2024 was 14 per cent, up from 10 per cent in 2023.

In 2024, Probable Explanation cases represented 34 per cent of the total and Insufficient Information cases were 49 per cent, much greater than 37 in 2023. This was because of a more rigorous evaluation process during data entry, objectively assessing the amount of information available for review in the reports. Many reports in 2024 did not have enough information to allow assessment, thus the percentage of Insufficient Information cases was higher than in 2023. Conversely, this situation also resulted in a decrease in Explained cases.

It should be emphasized the classification of Unknown does not imply alien visitation. Each case may still have an explanation following further investigation. And of those that remain unexplained, they may remain unexplained, but still are not incontrovertible proof of extraterrestrial intervention or some mysterious natural phenomenon.

Breakdown of 2024 Reports by Conclusion



Sources of UFO Case Data

Sources for UFO reports in 2024 included civilian Canadian UFO organizations, major USA-based groups such as NUFORC, cases reported directly to Ufology Research, and also Canadian government agencies. Sources also included Paranormal Phenomena Research & Investigation (PPRI) and Groupe d'assistance et de recherche sur les phénomènes aérospatiaux non-identifiés (GARPAN). MUFON case data was not made available to us for this study.

One of the most significant hindrances of UFO/UAP research is the lack of a central repository or data collection agency, either civilian or governmental. There are many UFO groups and organizations that claim to be such, and encourage the public to consider them first, but the field is so fractured that coordination is almost impossible. A comprehensive collection of Canadian UFO case data has not been possible due to some organizations withholding proprietary case data from scientific study.

A user-friendly UFO reporting app was released in 2023 by EnigmaLabs, which kindly provided Canadian UFO report data for the Canadian UFO Survey. In 2023, 205 Canadian UFO reports were filed with EnigmaLabs, but as adding EnigmaLabs data into the Canadian UFO Survey for 2023 would have skewed comparisons with previous years, this data was not included in the yearly numbers.

However, as EnigmaLabs has continued to generously share its data with the Canadian UFO Survey, the 558 Canadian UFO sightings reported to EnigmaLabs in 2024 have been included this year. As there were 571 cases in the 2023 Canadian UFO Survey, not including EnigmaLabs data, if we add in their data, that increases the total number of Canadian UAP reports in 2023 to 776. With the inclusion of EnigmaLabs data in 2004, the 1008 cases represent an increase of about 30 per cent from 2023.

Five-Year Variance of UFO Report Numbers from Selected Sources

Over the past five years, the number of UFO reports has varied up and down considerably. This variance is due to many factors. The general increase in reports in 2020 was undoubtedly related to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in some way. The decrease the following year might have been related to the pandemic too, in a kind of suppression effect. Other factors probably include increased media interest in the subject and the surge in social media.

This variance of the actual UFO reports received does not support statements made by some experts that UFO sightings have “increased dramatically” or are at “an all-time high.”

Sources included here are the following:

l'Association québécoise d'ufologie (AQU)
National UFO Reporting Center (NUFORC)
UFOBC
Transport Canada (TC)
Ufology Research (UFOROM)

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
AQU	218	182	76	132	169	166
NUFORC	61	253	73	219	91	102
UFOBC	35	52	20	10	17	7
TC	51	36	30	45	30	21
UFOROM	99	52	120	128	112	20
Facebook		207	119	64	113	96

A note about “UFO” versus “UAP”

In the 1950s, the term used for objects seen in the sky that could not be identified was simply “flying saucer.” But the US Air Force decided that the phrase was too loaded with an assumption of aliens that it adopted the more objective term UFO. However, over the years, even UFO has come to mean ‘aliens’ in common parlance, so there have been attempts to steer things away from an extraterrestrial assumption. In 1980, a scientist suggested shifting terminology from UFO to “Transient Optical Phenomena of the Atmosphere” (TOPA) to again move away from the concept of aliens, but his recommendation was ignored.

Currently, several terms are interchangeably used, including Unidentified Flying Object (UFO), Unidentified Aerial Object (UAO), Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon (UAP), and Unidentified Anomalous Phenomenon (also UAP).

In Canada, however, Transport Canada has a classification system for report aircraft incidents as part of its Civil Aviation Daily Occurrence Reporting System (CADORS). One of the categories for an “Occurrence Event” is: “Weather balloon, meteor, rocket, CIRVIS/UFO.” The abbreviation CIRVIS means “Communications Instructions for Reporting Vital Intelligence Sightings” and refers to a government requirement that pilots report any unusual aerial activity, including Unidentified Flying Objects. As this is an official designation, the Canadian UFO Survey (which was initiated decades before the term UAP became popularized) continues to use the term UFO.

Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to the many researchers across Canada whose dedication and passion for the subject allow studies like the annual Canadian UFO Survey. The willingness to share UFO case data is essential for the analyses and testing of hypotheses that may allow scientists to gain a better understanding of the UFO phenomenon.

Thanks are due to Leanne Sallenback, Ashley Kircher, Geoff Dittman, Curt Collins, and Ralph Howard for their assistance in preparation of the annual Canadian UFO Survey.

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X/Twitter: @ufologyresearch
Canadian UFO Survey: <http://canadianuforeport.com>

Appendix: Higher-Quality UAP/UFO Reports in 2024

Higher Quality UFO Reports in 2024

April 21, 2024 5:16 am

Greater Sudbury ON

video: multiple white discs in the sky appearing, hovering, re-appearing

“Posted the video onto my wedding film channel on YouTube and through it on reddit for others opinions and someone suggested I report it through a website. Here's the link to the video. Daytime shot by my wife on her phone but I stabilized it with my editing software to get a better look when I got home by zooming in more the I could see in the original. Hoping for new details I couldn't see while driving.”

Source: <https://enigmalabs.io/sighting/297535>

May 11, 2024 10:32 pm

Mission BC

10-12 lights in V, going SW-NE silently, very fast

“I saw an extremely large V shaped object going very fast and silent with several lights visible (approx 10-12 lights) showing a V pattern. Heading SW to NE”

Source: Nighttime Podcast May 12, 2024 (Ufology Research files)

July 18, 2024 6:06 pm

Terrace BC

CADORS 2024P2092: "unidentified aircraft" observed on radar, vanished

“At 0206Z, an unidentified aircraft was seen on radar in the CYZP control zone. Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS) reported weather of SVFR with visibility of 1 1/2 and ASP675 was on the approach Runway 13. Unidentified aircraft did not answer to radio calls. ASP675 informed of the position and direction of travel of unidentified aircraft before unidentified aircraft disappeared from radar.”

Source: Transport Canada

August 30, 2024 8:45 pm

Steveston BC

video: lights came up from ocean into sky, stopped, blinked

“My husband saw this come out of the river/ocean in Steveston BC & I caught a bit of it on camera! It was blinking in & out & then it was gone! No boats were on water at the time and it was roughly round 8:45 - 9:00 pm on Aug 30,2024! Also when it came out of the water hubby said it split into two orbs, then attached together.”

Source: https://ufobc.ca/Sightings/sights2024_v2.html

September 21, 2024 5:30 pm

Roberval PQ

several white balls in a cluster moving across sky

“It was a beautiful afternoon, the sky was blue and clear. Not a single cloud. A few minutes BEFORE seeing the object in question, I heard a distant sound, similar to what you hear when a jet plane passes overhead at high altitude. The noise lasted about 15 to 30 seconds. The noise was already gone when I looked up at the sky to try to find the plane that had made the noise. The only thing I detected in the clear sky was this white object, formed of several balls that, to me, did not look very much like a jet plane. To the naked eye, the object was tiny and looked like it was really high in the sky. I started filming and taking pictures with my cell phone. By zooming in as much as possible, I could see the different white balls that, together, formed the object. Sometimes 4, sometimes 6 or 8 balls. They were moving among themselves. **Note that in the videos, the object appears to be moving quickly. In fact, it's not moving; it's the phone that's moving, as it was difficult to stay focused on the object at maximum zoom. I thought it must be a satellite, but a friend of mine thinks it's more of a UFO formation.”

Source: <https://ovni-expert.com/2024/09/23/boules-blanches-en-formation-ciel-degage-fin-dapres-midi/>

September 27, 2024 9:00 pm

Moose Heights BC

“large craft sitting close to ground near hwy., w/bright green square lights”

“I approached the Power Line fields and could see a massive circle shaped craft sitting still in the field on a slight tilt. It was dark/black outside so it didn't have a color but it was surrounded by very large square green glowing lights forming a circle. I slowly drove towards it and stopped in front of it. I opened my window half way down after I stopped the car to get a better look at it. The circle was enormous taking up the entire field. It was a massive object and was overwhelming how huge it was. It was approx 100 ft away from the side of the road/ditch. I was in sitting on the road in my car. I was heading in the direction towards town and it was on my side of the road in the field (drivers side window). The object was silent. I had to look up at it to see the top and was nearly looking directly at it as I stopped my car directly in front of it.”

Source: <https://nuforc.org/sighting/?id=184362>

November 1, 2024 11:00 pm

Hatchet Lake NS

stationary light over trees, second light approached, resolved to dark triangle, loud noise

“My sister and I saw something unusual over Hatchet Lake on the same night and similar time (November 1st, around 11 pm). It began as a bright yellowish light across the lake, which we observed from the dock. At first, we thought it might be a planet or star, as it stayed in one place, brightening and dimming slightly while low clouds occasionally blocked it out. After some time, we decided to make it clear we had noticed it by waving in its direction. Suddenly, it started moving up on the horizon and then began approaching us from across the lake at a slightly higher altitude. As it got closer, we thought it looked smaller than expected and assumed it might be a drone—though it made no sound. As we continued watching, we noticed additional white lights at the back of it. Then, as if there was a “glitch” in our experience, the light in front of us vanished, and there was a sudden, loud sound like that of a fighter jet overhead. When we looked higher up, we saw what looked like a large black triangle with lights passing behind the clouds”.

Source: In reply to a post by Anonymous on November 1, 2024 to UFO Sightings in NS

