

# Cross-Border Fraud Complaints with Canadian and United States Consumer Complaint Details

January - December 2006



#### **Federal Trade Commission**

August 2007

Source: Data from Consumer Sentinel



#### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Report Subject Pa	age No.
Introduction  Cross-Border Complaint Count by Calendar Year  All Fraud and Cross-Border Fraud Complaints  Cross-Border Fraud Complaints by Consumer and Company Location	3
U.S. Consumers  Complaints from U.S. Consumers Against Companies Located in Foreign Countries  Top Products or Services for Cross-Border Fraud Complaints from U.S. Consumers  Amount Paid Information for Cross-Border Fraud Complaints from U.S. Consumers  Methods of Payment for Cross-Border Fraud Complaints from U.S. Consumers  Methods of Initial Contact for Cross-Border Fraud Complaints from U.S. Consumers	7 8 9
Cross-Border U.S. & Canada Fraud Complaints from U.S. Consumers  Against Companies Located in Canada  Against Companies Located in Ontario  Against Companies Located in Quebec  Against Companies Located in British Columbia  Against Companies Located in Alberta  Canadian Consumer Fraud Complaints Against Companies Located in the U.S.	12 13 14 15
Canadian Consumers Fraud Complaints from Canadian Consumers Located in Ontario Located in British Columbia. Located in Alberta Located in Quebec	18 19
Econsumer.gov         Top Products or Services for Econsumer Complaints          Top Law Violations for Econsumer Complaints          Top Consumer and Company Locations for Econsumer Complaints	22
Appendices Appendix A1: Description of the Sentinel Network Appendix A2: Sentinel Major Data Contributors Appendix A3: Other Sentinel Data Contributors	

#### INTRODUCTION

Consumer Sentinel is a secure automated consumer complaint database developed by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), in cooperation with its law enforcement partners, to collect and make available investigative information about consumer fraud and deception. Currently, the Consumer Sentinel database includes over **4 million** complaints received by the FTC and other data contributors. The collected investigative information is accessible to federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in the United States, Canada, and Australia through a secure, password-protected Web site. Between January 1999 and December 2006, more than 150 organizations contributed data to Consumer Sentinel. More information on this joint project is available at

During calendar year 2006, Consumer Sentinel received over 428,000 fraud-related complaints, of which 23% were cross-border fraud-related. The following are a series of statistical reports from the Consumer Sentinel database presenting information about cross-border fraud-related complaints. For the purposes of this report, a fraud complaint is "cross-border" if: (1) a U.S. consumer complained about a company located in Canada or another foreign country; (2) a Canadian consumer complained about a company located in the U.S. or another foreign country; or (3) a consumer from a foreign country complained about a company located in the U.S. or Canada. Company location is based on addresses reported by the complaining consumers and, thus, likely understates the number of cross-border complaints. In some instances the company address provided by the consumer actually may be a mail drop in the consumer's country rather than the physical location of the company in a foreign country, and in other cases, the consumer does not know whether the location is in the U.S. or abroad. Please also note that we continue to add data provided by various organizations, which may contain complaint data from previous months. This may retroactively change some totals and percentages on our graphs and charts.

### Consumer Sentinel Leading Partners & Data Contributors



The Consumer Sentinel Network (For detailed description and data contributors, see Appendices A1 through A3)



www.consumer.gov/sentinel.



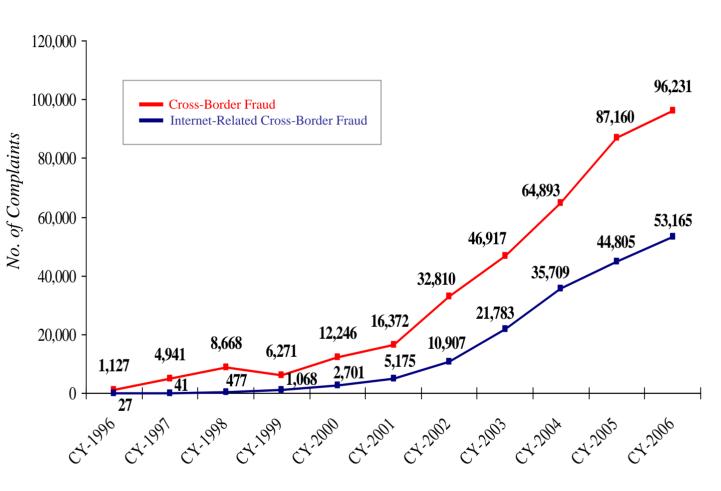




www.consumer.gov/ idtheft

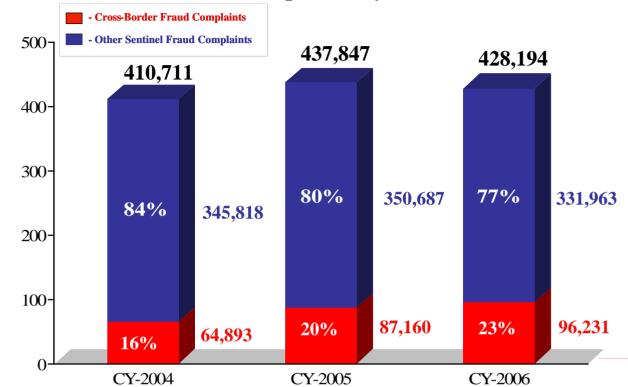


#### Cross-Border Complaint Count by Calendar Year<sup>1</sup>



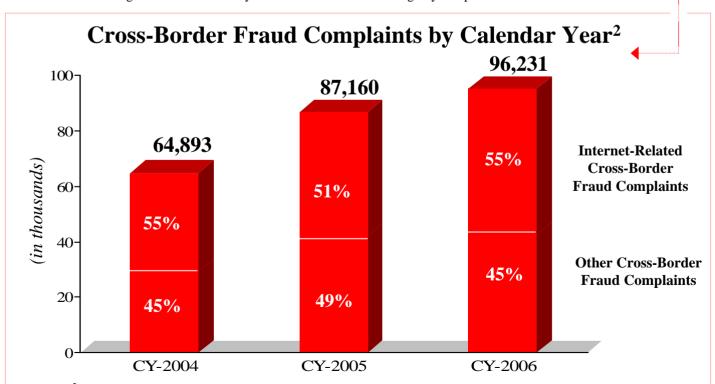
<sup>1</sup>For the purposes of this report, a fraud complaint is "cross-border" if: (1) a U.S. consumer complained about a company located in Canada or another foreign country; (2) a Canadian consumer complained about a company located in the U.S. or another foreign country; or (3) a consumer from a foreign country complained about a company located in the U.S. or Canada. Excludes "Identity Theft" and "Do Not Call" registry complaints.

#### Sentinel Fraud Complaints by Calendar Year<sup>1</sup>



(in thousands)

<sup>1</sup>Percentages are based on the total number of Consumer Sentinel fraud complaints by calendar year. These figures exclude "Identity Theft" and "Do Not Call" registry complaints.

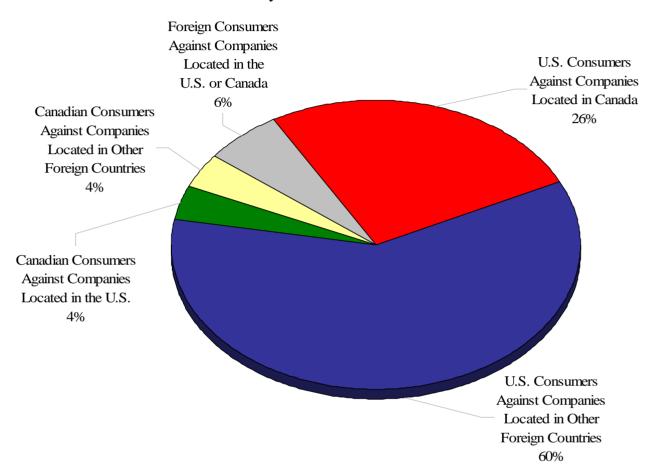


<sup>2</sup>Percentages are based on the total number of Consumer Sentinel cross-border fraud complaints by calendar year. These figures exclude "Identity Theft" and "Do Not Call" registry complaints.



## Cross-Border Fraud Complaints By Consumer and Company Location<sup>1</sup>

*January 1 – December 31, 2006* 



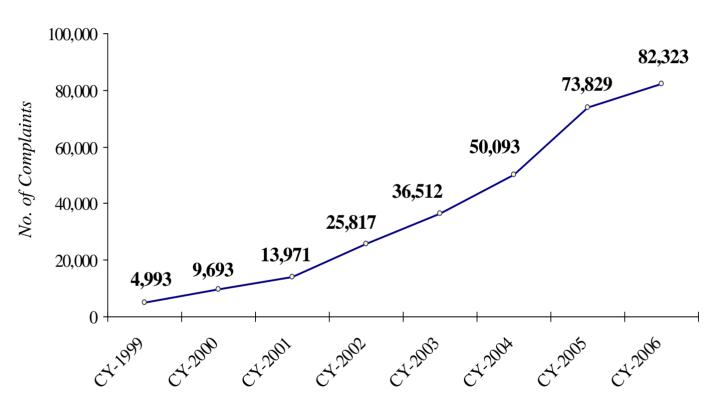
## Cross-Border Fraud Complaints By Consumer and Company Location<sup>1</sup> Calendar Years 2004 through 2006

				Canadian Consumers	Foreign Consumers
	U.S. Consumers Against	U.S. Consumers Against	Canadian Consumers	Against Companies	Against Companies
	Companies Located in	Companies Located in	<b>Against Companies</b>	Located in Other Foreign	Located in the U.S. or
CY	Canada	<b>Other Foreign Countries</b>	Located in the U.S.	Countries	Canada
2004	25%	52%	7%	8%	8%
2005	21%	64%	5%	4%	6%
2006	26%	60%	4%	4%	6%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Percentages are based on the total number of cross-border fraud complaints for each calendar year: CY-2004 = 64,893; CY-2005 = 87,160; and CY-2006 = 96,231.



#### Complaints from U.S. Consumers Against Companies Located in Foreign Countries By Calendar Year<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup>Number of cross-border fraud complaints from U.S. consumers against companies located in Canada or other foreign countries by calendar year.



#### Top Products or Services for Cross-Border Fraud Complaints From U.S. Consumers<sup>1</sup>

*January 1 – December 31, 2006* 

Rank	Top Products or Services	Complaints	Percentage <sup>1</sup>
1	Prizes\Sweepstakes\Gifts	13,135	16%
2	<b>Lotteries\Lottery Ticket Buying Clubs</b>	6,451	8%
3	<b>Internet Auction</b>	6,355	8%
4	<b>Foreign Money Offers</b>	5,850	<b>7%</b>
5	Shop-at-Home\Catalog Sales	5,499	<b>7%</b>

<sup>1</sup>Percentages are based on the total number of cross-border fraud complaints (82,323) from U.S. consumers against companies located in Canada or other foreign countries received between January 1 and December 31, 2006. Forty-six percent (38,706) of the cross-border complaints from U.S. consumers against companies located in Canada or other foreign countries did not contain specific product service codes.

#### Top Products or Services for Complaints from U.S. Consumers Against Companies Located in Canada

January 1 – December 31, 2006

Rank	Product or Service	Complaints	Percentage <sup>2</sup>
1	Prizes\Sweepstakes\Gifts	11,565	46%
2	Lotteries\Lottery Ticket Buying Clubs	3,766	15%
3	Advance-Fee Loans, Credit Arrangers	1,910	8%
4	Foreign Money Offers	1,139	5%
5	Shop-at-Home\Catalog Sales	1,083	4%

<sup>2</sup>Percentages are based on the total number of cross-border fraud complaints (24,897) from U.S. consumers against companies located in Canada received between January 1 and December 31, 2006.

#### Top Products or Services for Complaints from U.S. Consumers Against Companies Located in Other Foreign Countries

January 1 – December 31, 2006

Rank	Product or Service	Complaints	Percentage <sup>3</sup>
1	Internet Auction	5,747	10%
2	Foreign Money Offers	4,714	8%
3	Shop-at-Home\Catalog Sales	4,416	8%
4	Lotteries\Lottery Ticket Buying Clubs	2,692	5%
5	Prizes\Sweepstakes\Gifts	1,572	3%

<sup>3</sup>Percentages are based on the total number of cross-border fraud complaints (57,426) from U.S. consumers against companies located in other foreign countries received between January 1 and December 31, 2006.



## Fraud Complaints and Amount Paid by U.S. Consumers Against Companies Located in Canada

Calendar Years 2004 through 2006

CY	Total No. of Complaints	1 0	Percentage of Complaints Reporting Amount Paid	Amount Paid Reported	Average Amount Paid <sup>1</sup>	Median Amount Paid <sup>2</sup>
2004	16,304	14,207	87%	\$47,092,903	\$3,315	\$1,110
2005	18,387	13,759	75%	\$47,852,036	\$3,478	\$1,801
2006	24,897	20,334	82%	\$93,547,318	\$4,601	\$2,500

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Average is based on the total number of consumers who reported amount paid for each calendar year: CY-2004 = 14,207; CY-2005 = 13,759; and CY-2006 = 20,334. Four consumers reported an amount paid of \$1 million or more during CY-2006; 2 consumers in CY-2004 and 2 consumers in CY-2005.

## Fraud Complaints and Amount Paid by U.S. Consumers Against Companies Located in Other Foreign Countries

Calendar Years 2004 through 2006

	Total No. of	Complaints Reporting	Percentage of Complaints Reporting	Amount Paid	Average	Median
CY	Complaints	<b>Amount Paid</b>	Amount Paid	Reported	Amount Paid <sup>3</sup>	Amount Paid <sup>4</sup>
2004	33,789	22,116	65%	\$50,568,375	\$2,287	\$1,251
2005	55,442	28,728	52%	\$136,649,204	\$4,757	\$1,304
2006	57,426	50,268	88%	\$142,310,151	\$2,831	\$1,056

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Average is based on the total number of consumers who reported amount paid for each calendar year: CY-2004 = 22,116; CY-2005 = 28,728; and CY-2006 = 50,268. Eighteen consumers reported an amount paid of \$1 million or more during CY-2006; 2 consumers in CY-2004 and 7 consumers in CY-2005.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Median is the middle number in a set of numbers so that half the numbers have values that are greater than the median and half have values that are less. Calculation of the median excludes complaints with amount paid reported as \$0.

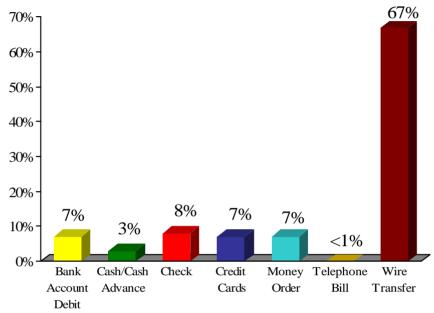
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Median is the middle number in a set of numbers so that half the numbers have values that are greater than the median and half have values that are less. Calculation of the median excludes complaints with amount paid reported as \$0.



#### **Methods of Payment Reported by Consumers**

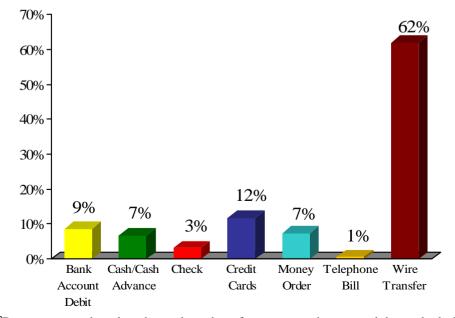
*January 1 - December 31, 2006* 

#### U.S. Consumers Against Companies Located in Canada<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup>Percentages are based on the total number of consumers who reported the method of payment (3,350). 14% of consumers reported this information.

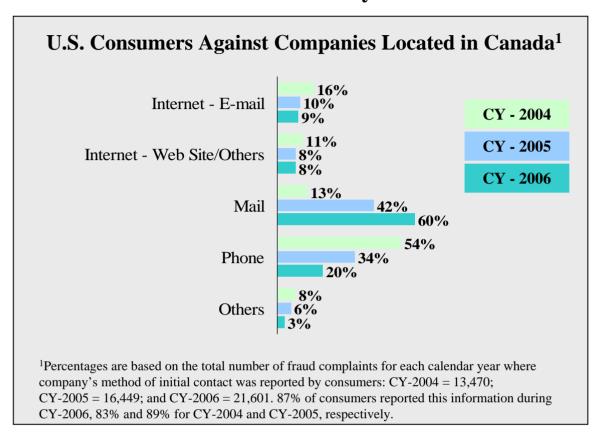
### **U.S.** Consumers Against Companies Located in Other Foreign Countries<sup>2</sup>



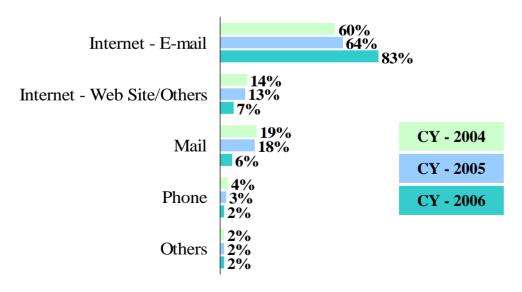
<sup>2</sup>Percentages are based on the total number of consumers who reported the method of payment (5,180). 9% of consumers reported this information.



#### **Methods of Initial Contact by Calendar Year**



## **U.S.** Consumers Against Companies Located in Other Foreign Countries<sup>2</sup>

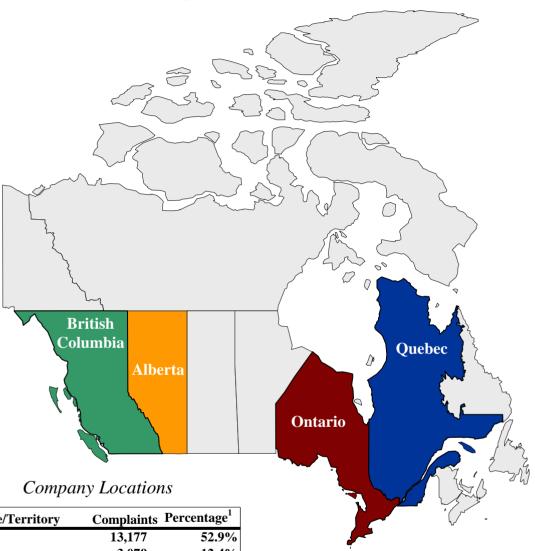


 $^{2}$ Percentages are based on the total number of fraud complaints for each calendar year where company's method of initial contact was reported by consumers: CY-2004 = 26,003; CY-2005 = 39,155; and CY-2006 = 43,494. 76% of consumers reported this information during CY-2006, 77% and 71% for CY-2004 and CY-2005, respectively.



## Fraud Complaints from U.S. Consumers Against Companies Located in Canada<sup>1</sup>

*January 1 – December 31, 2006* 

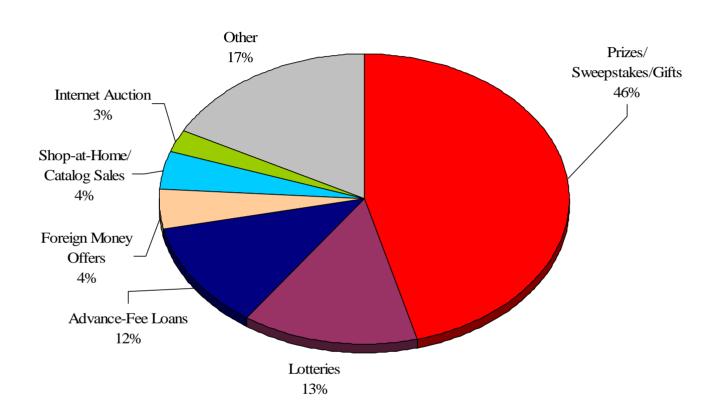


Province/Territory Ontario Ouebec 12.4% 3,079 **British Columbia** 2,840 11.4% Alberta 2,379 9.6% Manitoba 1,253 5.0% **Nova Scotia** 1,020 4.1% Newfoundland 368 1.5% Saskatchewan 344 1.4% **New Brunswick** 297 1.2% Prince Edward Island **70** 0.3% Yukon 32 0.1% **Northwest Territories** 21 0.1% 17 0.1% **Not Reported** 

<sup>1</sup>Percentages are based on the 24,897 fraud complaints received between January 1 and December 31, 2006 from U.S. consumers against companies located in Canada.



## Top Products or Services for Fraud Complaints from U.S. Consumers Against Companies Located in Ontario, Canada<sup>1</sup>

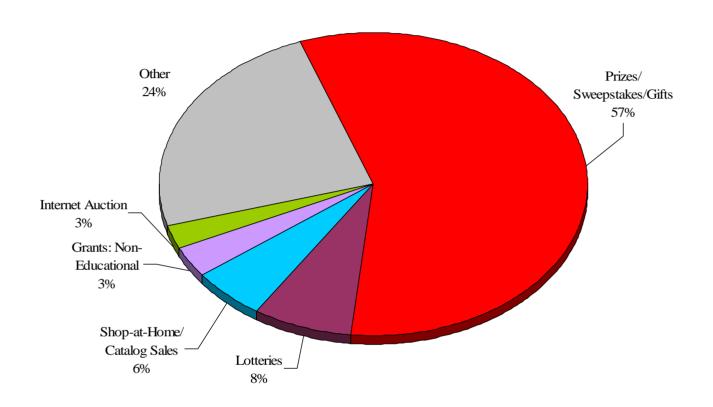


		No. of	Percentage of
Rank	Product or Service	Complaints	Complaints
1	Prizes\Sweepstakes\Gifts	6,070	46%
2	Lotteries\Lottery Ticket Buying Clubs	1,745	13%
3	Advance-Fee Loans, Credit Arrangers	1,592	12%
4	Foreign Money Offers	566	4%
5	Shop-at-Home\Catalog Sales	554	4%
6	Internet Auction	355	3%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Percentages are based upon the total number of fraud complaints (13,177) by U.S. consumers complaining about companies in Ontario, Canada received between January 1 and December 31, 2006.



## Top Products or Services for Fraud Complaints from U.S. Consumers Against Companies Located in Quebec, Canada<sup>1</sup>

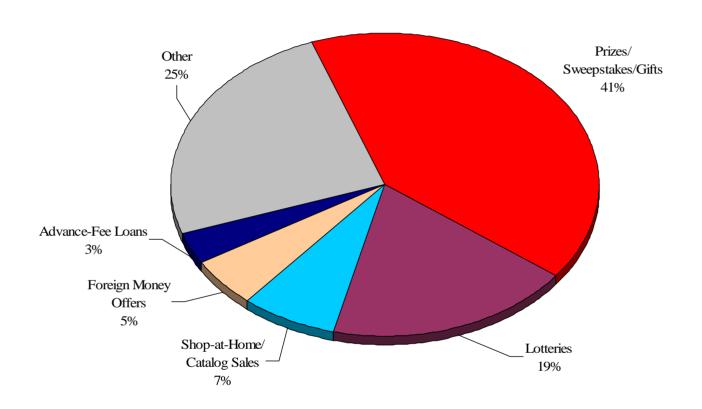


		No. of	Percentage of
Rank	Product or Service	Complaints	Complaints
1	Prizes\Sweepstakes\Gifts	1,759	57%
2	Lotteries\Lottery Ticket Buying Clubs	231	8%
3	Shop-at-Home\Catalog Sales	171	6%
4	Grants: Non-Educational	102	3%
5	Internet Auction	82	3%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Percentages are based upon the total number of fraud complaints (3,079) by U.S. consumers complaining about companies in Quebec, Canada received between January 1 and December 31, 2006.



## Top Products or Services for Fraud Complaints from U.S. Consumers Against Companies Located in British Columbia, Canada<sup>1</sup>

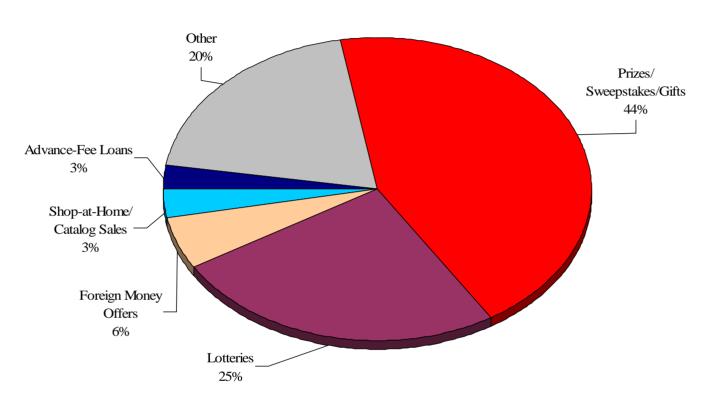


		No. of	Percentage of
Rank	Product or Service	Complaints	Complaints
1	Prizes\Sweepstakes\Gifts	1,158	41%
2	Lotteries\Lottery Ticket Buying Clubs	530	19%
3	Shop-at-Home\Catalog Sales	207	7%
4	Foreign Money Offers	150	5%
5	Advance-Fee Loans, Credit Arrangers	93	3%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Percentages are based upon the total number of fraud complaints (2,840) by U.S. consumers complaining about companies in British Columbia, Canada received between January 1 and December 31, 2006.



## Top Products or Services for Fraud Complaints from U.S. Consumers Against Companies Located in Alberta, Canada<sup>1</sup>



		No. of	Percentage of
Rank	Product or Service	Complaints	Complaints
1	Prizes\Sweepstakes\Gifts	1,041	44%
2	Lotteries\Lottery Ticket Buying Clubs	602	25%
3	Foreign Money Offers	137	6%
4	Shop-at-Home\Catalog Sales	71	3%
5	Advance-Fee Loans, Credit Arrangers	62	3%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Percentages are based upon the total number of fraud complaints (2,379) by U.S. consumers complaining about companies in Alberta, Canada received between January 1 and December 31, 2006.

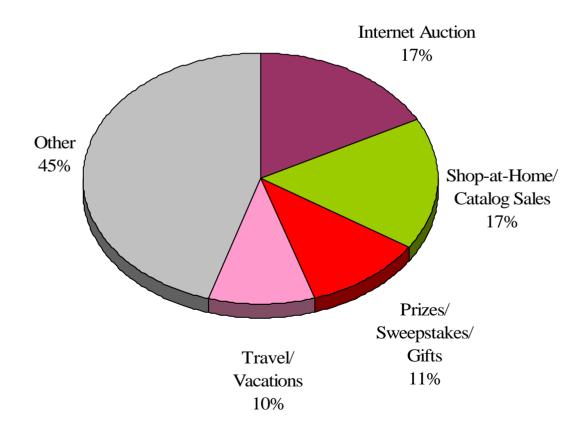


## Canadian Consumer Fraud Complaints Against Companies Located in the U.S.

*January 1 – December 31, 2006* 

<u>Totals</u>		
<b>Complaint Count</b>	Amount Paid	
4,250	\$8,146,123	

#### Top Products or Services by Complaint Count<sup>1</sup>



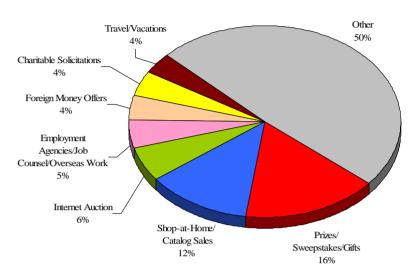
<sup>1</sup>Percentages are based upon the total number of fraud complaints (4,250) by Canadian consumers complaining about companies in the United States received between January 1 and December 31, 2006.



#### Sentinel Fraud Complaints from Consumers Located in Ontario, Canada

January 1-December 31, 2006

#### Top Products or Services<sup>1</sup>



Percentages are based on the total number of fraud complaints (8,490) received from consumers in Ontario, Canada, during the time period.

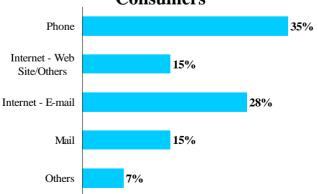
#### **Reported Amount Paid**

No. of	<b>Complaints Reporting</b>	Percentage of Complaints	Total Amount	Average	Median
Complaints	Amount Paid	<b>Reporting Amount Paid</b>	Paid Reported	Amount Paid <sup>2</sup>	Amount Paid <sup>3</sup>
8,490	5,210	61%	\$21,452,556	\$4,118	\$448

Average amount paid is based upon the total number of complaints where amount paid was reported. Two consumers reported an amount paid over \$1 million.

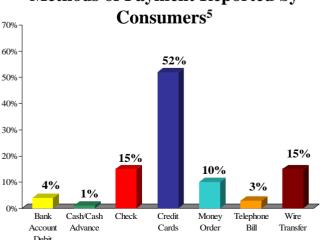
<sup>3</sup>Median is the middle number in a set of numbers so that half the numbers have values that are greater than the median and half have values that are less. Calculation of the median excludes complaints with amount paid reported as \$0.

#### Company's Method of Contacting Consumers<sup>4</sup>



<sup>4</sup>Percentages are based on the total number of fraud complaints where company's method of initial contact was reported by consumers from Ontario, Canada, during the time period (7,261). 86% of consumers reported this information.

#### **Methods of Payment Reported by**



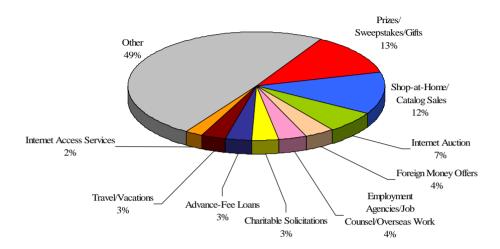
<sup>5</sup>Percentages are based on the total number of consumers from Ontario, Canada, who reported the method of payment (1,052) during the time period. 12% of consumers reported this information.



#### Sentinel Fraud Complaints from Consumers Located in British Columbia, Canada

January 1-December 31, 2006

#### Top Products or Services<sup>1</sup>



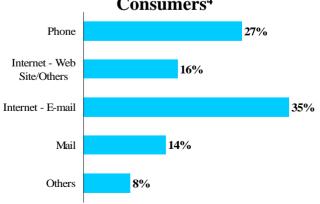
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Percentages are based on the total number of fraud complaints (2,322) received from consumers in British Columbia, Canada, during the time period.

#### **Reported Amount Paid**

No. of	<b>Complaints Reporting</b>	Percentage of Complaints	Total Amount	Average	Median
Complaints	<b>Amount Paid</b>	<b>Reporting Amount Paid</b>	Paid Reported	Amount Paid <sup>2</sup>	Amount Paid <sup>3</sup>
2,322	1,577	68%	\$5,672,762	\$3,597	\$464

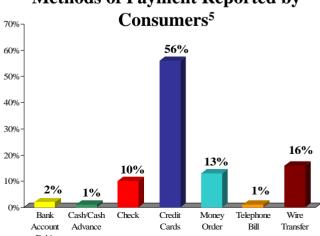
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Average amount paid is based upon the total number of complaints where amount paid was reported.

#### Company's Method of Contacting Consumers<sup>4</sup>



<sup>4</sup>Percentages are based on the total number of fraud complaints where company's method of initial contact was reported by consumers from British Columbia, Canada, during the time period (1,864). 80% of consumers reported this information.

#### **Methods of Payment Reported by**



<sup>5</sup>Percentages are based on the total number of consumers from British Columbia, Canada, who reported the method of payment (293) during the time period. 13% of consumers reported this information.

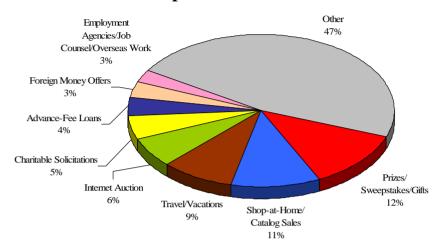
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Median is the middle number in a set of numbers so that half the numbers have values that are greater than the median and half have values that are less. Calculation of the median excludes complaints with amount paid reported as \$0.



#### Sentinel Fraud Complaints from Consumers Located in Alberta, Canada

January 1-December 31, 2006

#### Top Products or Services<sup>1</sup>



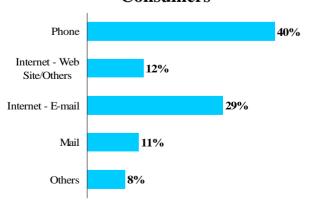
<sup>1</sup>Percentages are based on the total number of fraud complaints (2,193) received from consumers in Alberta, Canada, during the time period.

#### **Reported Amount Paid**

No. of	<b>Complaints Reporting</b>	Percentage of Complaints	Total Amount	Average	Median
Complaints	Amount Paid	<b>Reporting Amount Paid</b>	Paid Reported	Amount Paid <sup>2</sup>	Amount Paid <sup>3</sup>
2,193	1,420	65%	\$6,155,570	\$4,335	\$600

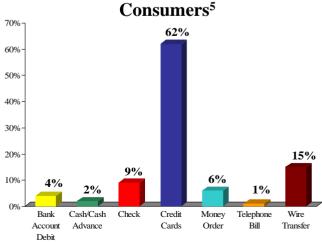
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Average amount paid is based upon the total number of complaints where amount paid was reported.

#### Company's Method of Contacting Consumers<sup>4</sup>



<sup>4</sup>Percentages are based on the total number of fraud complaints where company's method of initial contact was reported by consumers from Alberta, Canada, during the time period (1,789). 82% of consumers reported this information.

### Methods of Payment Reported by Consumors<sup>5</sup>



<sup>5</sup>Percentages are based on the total number of consumers from Alberta, Canada, who reported the method of payment (297) during the time period. 14% of consumers reported this information.

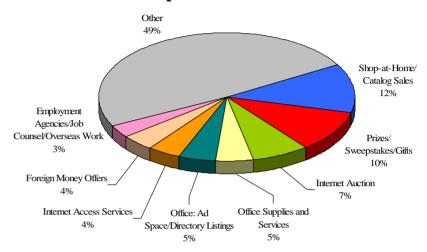
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Median is the middle number in a set of numbers so that half the numbers have values that are greater than the median and half have values that are less. Calculation of the median excludes complaints with amount paid reported as \$0.



#### Sentinel Fraud Complaints from Consumers Located in Quebec, Canada

January 1-December 31, 2006

#### Top Products or Services<sup>1</sup>



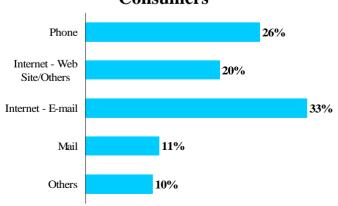
Percentages are based on the total number of fraud complaints (2,039) received from consumers in Quebec, Canada, during the time period.

#### **Reported Amount Paid**

No. of	<b>Complaints Reporting</b>	Percentage of Complaints		Average	Median
Complaints	Amount Paid	<b>Reporting Amount Paid</b>	Paid Reported	<b>Amount Paid<sup>2</sup></b>	Amount Paid <sup>3</sup>
2,039	1,412	69%	\$4,823,491	\$3,416	\$450

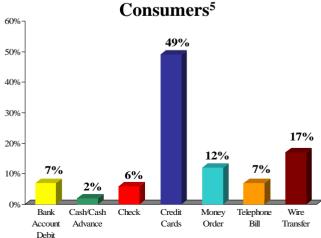
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Average amount paid is based upon the total number of complaints where amount paid was reported.

#### Company's Method of Contacting Consumers<sup>4</sup>



<sup>4</sup>Percentages are based on the total number of fraud complaints where company's method of initial contact was reported by consumers from Quebec, Canada, during the time period (1,660). 81% of consumers reported this information.

### Methods of Payment Reported by Consumers<sup>5</sup>



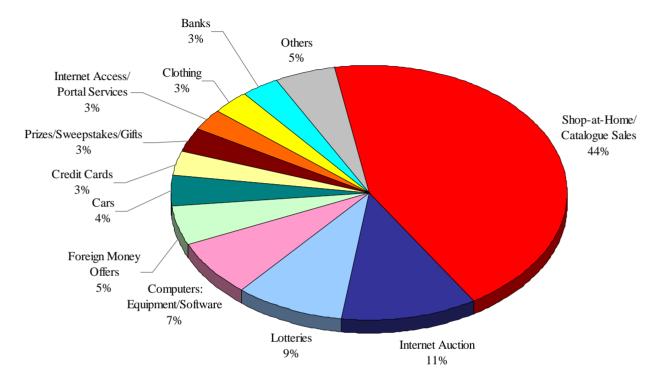
<sup>5</sup>Percentages are based on the total number of consumers from Quebec, Canada, who reported the method of payment (243) during the time period. 12% of consumers reported this information.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Median is the middle number in a set of numbers so that half the numbers have values that are greater than the median and half have values that are less. Calculation of the median excludes complaints with amount paid reported as \$0.



#### Top Products or Services for Econsumer Complaints<sup>1</sup>

*January 1 – December 31, 2006* 



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Percentages are based on the 13,123 econsumer complaints received from January 1 to December 31, 2006.

#### **Top Products or Services for Econsumer Complaints**

Calendar Years 2004 through 2006

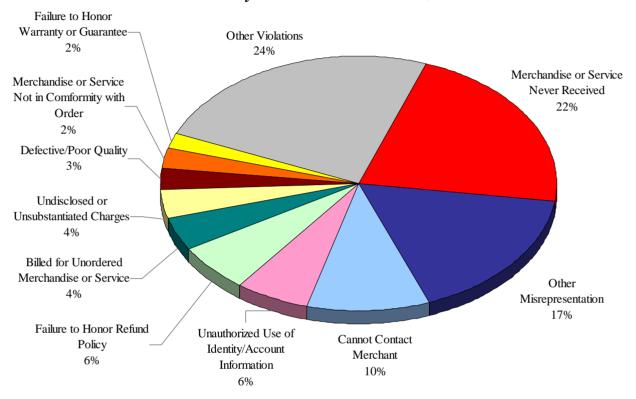
	CY-2004		CY-2005		CY-2006	
Top Product or Service	Complaints	Percentages <sup>2</sup>	Complaints	Percentages <sup>2</sup>	Complaints	Percentages <sup>2</sup>
Shop-at-Home\Catalogue Sales	2,911	40.3%	4,477	44.0%	5,828	44.4%
Internet Auction	977	13.5%	917	9.0%	1,441	11.0%
Lotteries\Lottery Ticket Buying Clubs	725	10.0%	1,002	9.8%	1,117	8.5%
Computers: Equipment\Software	569	7.9%	706	6.9%	859	6.5%
Foreign Money Offers	315	4.4%	579	5.7%	659	5.0%
Cars	251	3.5%	439	4.3%	492	3.7%
Credit Cards	198	2.7%	285	2.8%	426	3.2%
Prizes\Sweepstakes\Gifts	148	2.0%	248	2.4%	371	2.8%
Internet Access\Portal Services	279	3.9%	280	2.8%	367	2.8%
Clothing	192	2.7%	264	2.6%	358	2.7%
Banks	176	2.4%	330	3.2%	350	2.7%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Percentages are based on the total number of econsumer complaints reported in each time period: CY-2004 = 7,222; CY-2005 = 10,179; and CY-2006 = 13,123.



#### Top Law Violations for Econsumer Complaints<sup>1</sup>

*January 1 – December 31, 2006* 



<sup>1</sup>Percentages are based on the 17,811 econsumer law violations reported from January 1 to December 31, 2006. One complaint may have multiple law violations.

#### **Top Law Violations for Econsumer Complaints**

Calendar Years 2004 through 2006

	CY-2004		CY-2005		CY-2006	
Law Violation	Complaints <sup>2</sup>	Percentages <sup>3</sup>	Complaints <sup>2</sup>	Percentages <sup>3</sup>	Complaints <sup>2</sup>	Percentages <sup>3</sup>
Merchandise or Service Never Received	2,335	23.6%	2,777	20.3%	3,847	21.6%
Other Misrepresentation	1,552	15.7%	2,317	16.9%	3,031	17.0%
Cannot Contact Merchant	1,069	10.8%	1,301	9.5%	1,800	10.1%
Unauthorized Use of Identity/Account Information	601	6.1%	786	5.7%	1,088	6.1%
Failure to Honor Refund Policy	570	5.8%	884	6.5%	1,066	6.0%
Billed for Unordered Merchandise or Service	536	5.4%	649	4.7%	737	4.1%
Undisclosed or Unsubstantiated Charges	282	2.9%	488	3.6%	662	3.7%
Defective/Poor Quality	278	2.8%	362	2.6%	492	2.8%
Merchandise or Service Not in Conformity with Order	280	2.8%	378	2.8%	421	2.4%
Failure to Honor Warranty or Guarantee	226	2.3%	309	2.3%	368	2.1%

 $<sup>^{2}</sup>$ Number of complaints reporting each econsumer law violation in each time period. The total number of law violations are more than the number of complaints reported in each time period because one complaint may have multiple law violations. The total number of econsumer complaints reported in each time period are: CY-2004 = 7,222; CY-2005 = 10,179; and CY-2006 = 13,123.

 $<sup>^{3}</sup>$ Percentages are based on the total number of econsumer law violations reported in each time period: CY-2004 = 9,884; CY-2005 = 13,699; and CY-2006 = 17,811. One complaint may have multiple law violations.



## **Econsumer Complaints Top Consumer and Company Locations**

<b>Top Consumer Locations</b>	Complaints
United States	8,357
Australia	600
United Kingdom	415
Canada	294
France	132
India	87
Mexico	86
Belguim	81
Germany	80
Spain	74

<b>Top Company Locations</b>	Complaints
United States	2,503
United Kingdom	1,981
Canada	658
Nigeria	462
China	423
Spain	268
Netherlands	261
Germany	230
Italy	201
Australia	165



#### **Appendix A1: The Sentinel Network**



www.consumer.gov/idtheft

The Identity Theft Data Clearinghouse was launched in November 1999 and is the sole national repository of consumer complaints about identity theft. The Clearinghouse provides specific investigative material for law enforcement and broader reports that provide insight to both private and public sector partners on ways to reduce the incidence of identity theft. Information in the Clearinghouse is available to law enforcement members via Consumer Sentinel, the secure, password-protected government Web site. This access enables law enforcers to readily spot identity theft problems in their own backyards, and to coordinate with other law enforcement officers where the data reveals common schemes or perpetrators.



Econsumer.gov was created in April 2001 to gather and share cross-border e-commerce complaints in order to respond to the challenges of multinational Internet fraud, and enhance consumer confidence in e-commerce. The multilingual public Web site provides general information about consumer protection in all countries that belong to the International Consumer Protection and Enforcement Network, contact information for consumer protection authorities in those countries, and an online complaint form. All information is available in English, French, German, Korean, Polish, and Spanish. Using the existing Consumer Sentinel Network, the incoming complaints are shared through the government Web site with participating consumer protection law enforcers from 19 nations.



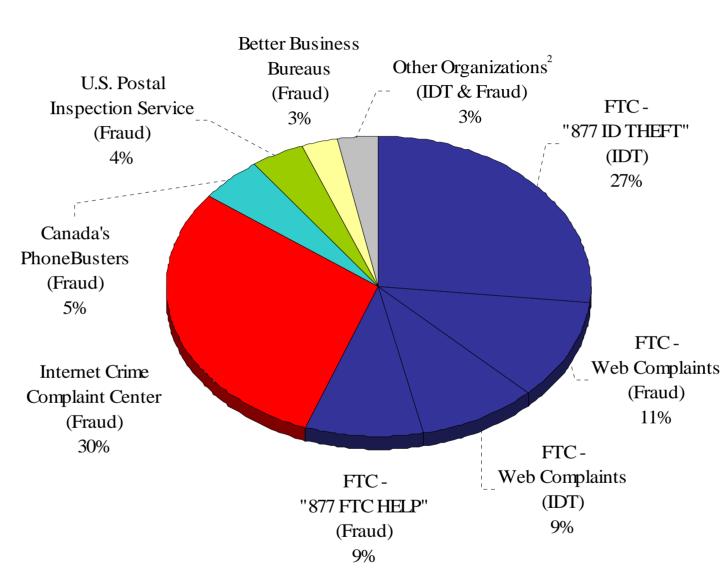
Military Sentinel, which was established in September 2002, is a project of the Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Defense to identify and target consumer protection issues that affect members of the United States Armed Forces and their families. Military Sentinel also provides a gateway to consumer education materials covering a wide range of consumer protection issues, such as auto leasing, identity theft, and work-at-home scams. Members of the United States Armed Forces can enter complaints directly into Consumer Sentinel. Through Consumer Sentinel, the secure password-protected government Web site, this information is used by law enforcement agencies, members of the JAG staff, and others in the Department of Defense to help protect armed services members and their families from consumer protection-related problems.

Federal Trade Commission Released August 2007



#### **Appendix A2: Sentinel Data Contributors**<sup>1</sup>

*January 1 – December 31, 2006* 



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Percentages are based on the total number of Sentinel complaints (674,354) received between January 1 and December 31, 2006. The type of complaints provided by the organization is indicated in parentheses.

Federal Trade Commission Released August 2007

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>For a list of other organizations contributing to Sentinel, see Appendix A3.



#### **Appendix A3: Other Sentinel Data Contributors**

*January 1 – December 31, 2006* 

#### Federal Agencies

Commodity Futures Trading Commission Federal Bureau of Investigation U.S. Department of Justice U.S. Social Security Administration

#### Attorneys General Offices

District of Columbia

Kentucky

New York

Nevada

North Dakota

Texas

Vermont

#### Other State & Local Agencies

California, Stanislaus County District Attorney
Connecticut, Department of Consumer Protection
Georgia Governor's Office of Consumer Affairs
Louisiana Department of Justice
Montana Office of Consumer Protection
North Carolina Department of Justice
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions
Pennsylvania State Police

#### Others

Belgian Ministry of Economic Affairs Identity Theft Assistance Center National Fraud Information Center Ohio University Police Department Xerox Corporation

#### Local Police/Sheriff Departments

California, Inglewood Police Department

California, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Colorado, Steamboat Springs Police Department Connecticut, Danbury Police Department Florida, Clearwater Police Department Illinois, Broadview Police Department Indiana, DeMotte Police Department Indiana, Fulton County Sheriff's Department Iowa, Clinton Police Department Massachusetts, Northampton Police Department Michigan, Buena Vista Township Police Department Michigan, Genesee County Sheriff's Department Michigan, South Haven Police Department New Jersey, Hanover Township Police Department New Jersey, Harrison Township Police Department New Mexico, Clovis Police Department New York, Newark Police Department Ohio, Bexley Police Department Ohio, Olmsted Falls Police Department Ohio, Streetsboro Police Department Ohio, Upper Arlington Police Department Pennsylvania, Colonial Regional Police Department Pennsylvania, Doylestown Township Police Department Pennsylvania, Lower Frederick Police Department Pennsylvania, York Police Department Wisconsin, Altoona Police Department Texas, Dalhart Police Department Virginia, Goochland County Sheriff's Office

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