

ROAD FATALITIES

The number of road motor vehicles is high amongst member countries of the International Transport Forum and reducing road accidents is a concern for all governments. Such concern becomes more challenging with increasing needs for more mobility.

Definition

A road vehicle is a vehicle running on wheels and intended for use on roads, it includes bicycles and road motor vehicles. A road motor vehicle is a road vehicle fitted with an engine whence it derives its sole means of propulsion, and which is normally used for carrying persons or goods or for drawing, on the road, vehicles used for the carriage of persons or goods. They include buses, coaches, trolley buses, goods road vehicles and passenger road motor vehicles. Although tramways (street-cars) are rail borne vehicles they are integrated into the urban road network and considered as road motor vehicles.

Road fatality means any person killed immediately or dying within 30 days as a result of a road injury accident. Suicides involving the use of a road motor vehicle are excluded.

Comparability

Road motor vehicles are attributed to the countries where they are registered while deaths are attributed to the countries in which they occur.

Fatalities per million inhabitants express the mortality rate, or an overall risk of being killed in traffic for a citizen.

Overview

The first ten years of the 21st century saw record road safety performance in most countries of the International Transport Forum (ITF). Following three consecutive years of record improvements in 2008, 2009 and 2010, the number of people killed in road accidents continued to fall in 2014 recording a drop of 1.2% in OECD countries (excluding Chile and Israel). However, in 2014 one third of ITF countries reported an increase in road fatalities when compared to 2013, Russia (10.9%), the United Kingdom (4.7%), France (3.5%) and Germany (1.1%) Countries used to good road safety performance might report an increase in road fatalities; this could be explained by the difficulty in improving further an already good level of safety performance.

These overall positive developments should not hide the economic costs and human tragedies behind the data. While high-income countries look back on a record decade in reducing road fatalities, 90% of global road deaths occur in low and middle income countries and estimates put annual world road fatalities above 1.3 million, with 50 million serious injuries.

It can be compared with other causes of death in a country (heart diseases, cancer, HIV, etc.), however when comparing countries road fatality risks, this indicator loses its relevance if countries do not have the same level of motorisation. Fatalities per vehicle-kilometre provides a better measure of fatality risk on road networks, even if it does not take into account non-motorised vehicles such as bicycles, but there is currently no harmonisation in the methodology to calculate distances travelled, and not all countries collect this indicator.

The numbers of vehicles entering the existing stock is usually accurate, but information on the numbers of vehicles withdrawn from use is less certain. Therefore it can only be used to compare safety performance between countries with similar traffic and car use characteristics. In addition it does not take into account non-motorised vehicles such as bicycles.

Sources

- International Transport Forum (ITF) (2015), "Road traffic Injury Accidents" (Database).
- ITF (2015), *Quarterly Transport Statistics* (Database).

Further information

Analytical publications

- ITF (2015), *IRTAD Road Safety Annual Report*, OECD Publishing.
- ITF (2011), *Reporting on Serious Road Traffic Casualties*, ITF, Paris.
- OECD, ITF (2013), *Cycling, Health and Safety*, OECD Publishing.

Statistical publications

- ITF (2015), *Key Transport Statistics*, ITF, Paris.
- ITF (2012), *Trends in the Transport Sector*, OECD Publishing.

Methodological publications

- ITF, Statistical Office of the European Communities and United Nations Economic Commission (2010), *Illustrated Glossary for Transport Statistics 4th Edition*, OECD Publishing.

Websites

- International Transport Forum, www.internationaltransportforum.org.

Road fatalities

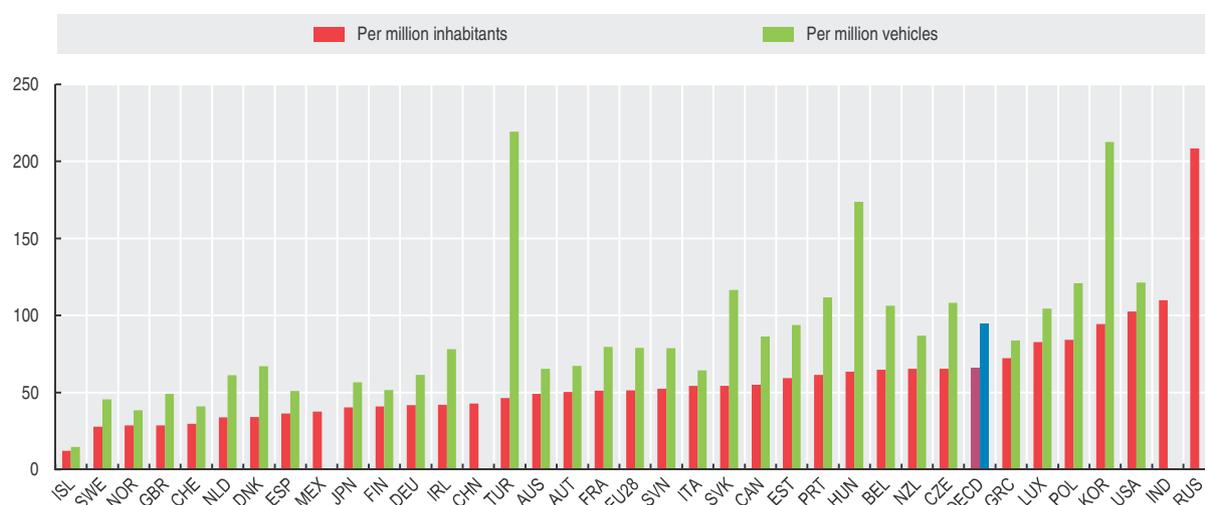
Per million inhabitants

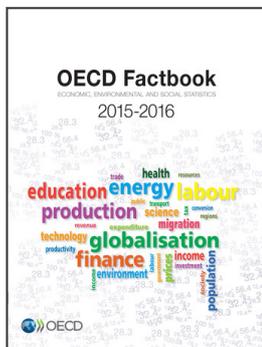
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Australia	87	81	79	80	77	77	68	69	61	57	57	51	49
Austria	118	115	107	93	88	83	82	76	66	62	63	54	50
Belgium	131	117	112	104	101	100	88	87	77	78	69	65	..
Canada	93	88	85	90	88	84	73	66	66	59	60	55	..
Chile	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Czech Republic	140	142	136	126	104	119	104	86	77	74	71	62	65
Denmark	86	80	68	61	56	74	74	55	46	39	30	34	..
Estonia	162	120	125	125	151	146	99	75	59	76	66	61	59
Finland	80	73	72	72	64	72	65	52	51	54	47	47	41
France	124	97	89	84	74	72	66	66	61	61	56	50	51
Germany	83	80	71	65	62	60	55	51	45	49	45	41	42
Greece	149	146	151	149	149	144	139	130	113	103	89	79	72
Hungary	141	131	128	127	129	123	99	82	74	64	61	60	63
Iceland	101	79	79	64	102	48	38	53	25	38	28	46	12
Ireland	96	84	92	95	85	77	62	52	46	41	35	41	42
Israel	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Italy	122	115	106	100	97	88	80	72	69	65	63	56	54
Japan	76	70	67	63	57	52	47	46	45	43	41	40	..
Korea	152	151	137	132	131	127	120	119	111	105	108	101	94
Luxembourg	139	117	109	101	91	96	72	96	63	64	64	83	..
Mexico	46	43	42	43	44	48	47	42	43	37	38	..	..
Netherlands	66	67	54	50	50	48	46	44	39	40	39	34	34
New Zealand	103	114	106	98	94	100	86	89	86	65	70	57	65
Norway	68	61	56	48	52	49	53	44	43	34	29	37	29
Poland	152	148	150	143	137	146	143	120	103	110	94	88	84
Portugal	161	148	123	119	92	92	84	70	89	84	68	61	61
Slovak Republic	116	122	113	112	113	123	113	71	65	60	65	46	54
Slovenia	134	121	137	129	131	145	106	84	67	69	63	61	52
Spain	129	128	110	88	92	85	67	59	53	44	41	36	36
Sweden	63	59	53	49	49	51	43	39	28	34	30	27	28
Switzerland	70	74	69	55	49	51	47	45	42	40	42	33	30
Turkey	63	60	66	67	68	72	60	61	56	52	51	49	46
United Kingdom	60	61	56	55	54	50	43	38	30	31	28	28	29
United States	150	148	146	147	143	137	123	110	107	104	107	103	102
EU 28	110	104	97	92	88	86	79	70	63	61	56	51	..
OECD	107	103	99	96	93	90	81	74	70	68	66	..	..
Brazil	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
China	..	..	83	76	68	62	55	51	49	46	44	43	..
India	79	79	83	84	92	99	102	106	112	117	112	110	110
Indonesia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Russian Federation	229	246	240	237	229	233	210	194	186	196	195	188	208
South Africa

1 2 <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933336538>

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2014 or latest available year

1 2 <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933335413>



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