

AUSTRALIA'S INTERNATIONAL ROAD SAFETY PERFORMANCE

This monograph compares Australia's road safety performance to its OECD counterparts. The comparisons are drawn taking into account the level of motorisation and population of the countries reported. The results highlight the substantial gains made in road safety both in Australia and many other countries from 1970 to 1994. Full details of these comparisons are reported in *Benchmarking Road Safety – The 1994 Report*, published by the Federal Office of Road Safety.

Fatalities Per 10,000 Registered Vehicles

The number of deaths for every 10,000 registered vehicles is a method of comparing road fatalities taking into account the level of motorisation.

Road fatalities relative to vehicle ownership have declined significantly in Australia since 1970.

In 1970, there were 8.0 deaths per 10,000 registered vehicles in Australia, in 1994 this had decreased to 1.8.

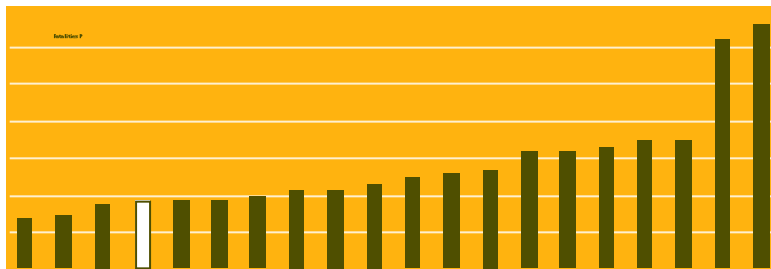
The median rate for the OECD nations reported has also declined. In 1970, the OECD median was 10.5, by 1994 it was 2.3.

For the years reported, Australia's rate of death per 10,000 registered vehicles is equal or below that reported for the OECD median.

In 1994, Australia recorded 1.8 deaths per 10,000 registered vehicles. Australia ranked fourth of the 20 OECD nations for which this information was available.

Norway had the lowest rate recording 1.3 deaths per 10,000 registered vehicles.

Greece with 6.5 deaths per 10,000 registered vehicles had the highest rate of the OECD nations.



Fatalities Per 100,000 Population

The number of deaths for every 100,000 of population is a measure of the public health risk associated with road trauma.

Fatalities Per 10,000 Registered Vehicles - OECD Nations and Australian States/Territories

	1970	1975	1980	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Australia	8.0	5.8	4.3	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.3	2.1	1.9	1.9	1.8
Austria	15.7	11.6	7.2	5.8	4.8	4.6	4.4	4.7	4.4	4.2	4.1	3.6	3.1	3.1
Belgium	-	7.5	6.4	4.8	4.5	4.8	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.3	4.0	3.5	3.4	3.4
Canada	6.0	5.3	4.0	2.9	3.0	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.3	2.2	2.0	2.0	1.8
Denmark	8.2	5.0	3.7	3.7	4.1	3.7	3.5	3.5	3.2	3.1	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.6
Finland	11.6	7.2	4.0	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.1	3.3	3.5	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.1	2.2
France	11.8	8.1	6.3	5.2	4.6	4.8	4.3	4.5	4.4	4.2	3.9	3.6	3.4	3.2
Germany	11.4	7.2	4.9	3.5	2.9	2.9	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.1
Greece	25.9	16.5	10.4	10.4	9.6	7.7	7.6	7.2	7.6	7.2	7.1	7.0	6.6	6.5
Hungary	18.3	12.6	9.0	8.5	9.0	7.9	7.2	7.4	8.8	11.2	8.8	8.5	6.7	6.1
Iceland	-	-	2.8	2.5	2.1	2.1	1.9	2.2	2.0	1.7	2.0	1.5	1.3	-
Ireland	9.7	8.6	6.2	5.1	4.5	4.2	4.8	4.7	4.5	4.5	4.0	3.7	3.7	3.4
Italy	-	6.0	4.7	3.2	3.1	2.9	2.6	2.6	2.3	2.3	2.5	2.4	2.0	-
Japan	9.7	4.3	2.7	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.2	1.9	1.8
Luxemburg	15.5	11.7	6.4	4.0	4.0	4.1	3.4	4.0	3.2	3.3	3.6	3.1	3.1	2.4
Netherlands	11.2	6.1	4.0	3.0	2.6	2.8	2.6	2.3	2.4	2.2	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9
New Zealand	-	4.3	3.5	3.6	3.9	-	3.9	3.6	3.6	3.3	2.9	2.9	2.7	2.5
Norway	-	-	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.3	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.3
Portugal	23.4	26.1	15.2	9.6	9.3	9.2	9.9	10.0	8.6	7.7	7.6	6.7	5.4	-
Spain	-	9.0	6.4	5.6	5.4	5.7	5.8	6.0	6.3	5.8	5.4	4.5	3.6	3.1
Sweden	4.9	3.8	2.5	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.2	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.4
Switzerland	9.9	5.9	4.5	3.4	2.7	3.0	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.2	2.1	1.8	1.7
Turkey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UK	5.3	3.9	3.4	2.9	2.6	2.7	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.2	1.9	1.8	1.6	-
USA	4.7	3.2	3.2	2.6	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.1
OECD Median	10.5	6.6	4.4	3.5	3.2	3.2	3.0	3.2	3.0	2.8	2.7	2.5	2.2	2.3

The public health risk associated with road use has declined significantly in Australia since 1970.

In 1970 there were 30.4 deaths per 100,000 population in Australia, in 1994 this had decreased to 10.8.

Australia's rate of improvement has greatly exceeded that of the OECD median.

In 1970, the Australian rate was 29.9 per cent above the OECD median. By 1994, the Australian rate was 5.3 per cent below the OECD median.

The median rate for the OECD nations reported has also declined. In 1970, the OECD median was 23.4, by 1994 it was 11.4.

In 1994, Australia recorded 10.8 road deaths per 100,000 population. Australia ranked ninth of the 21 OECD nations for which this information was available.

The United Kingdom and Norway had the lowest rate recording 6.5 deaths per 100,000 population.

Greece with 21.1 deaths per 100,000 population had the highest rate of the OECD nations.

Key points

Compared to other OECD nations, Australia ranked:

- fourth in terms of fatalities per 10,000 registered vehicles; and
- ninth in terms of fatalities per 100,000 population.

Norway was the safest nation in terms of fatalities per 10,000 registered vehicles.

UK was the safest nation in terms of fatalities per 100,000 population.

Data Sources

Figures provided for all OECD nations, with the exception of Australia, were derived from the International Road Traffic and Accident Database (IRTAD).

Sources for Australian figures are provided below.

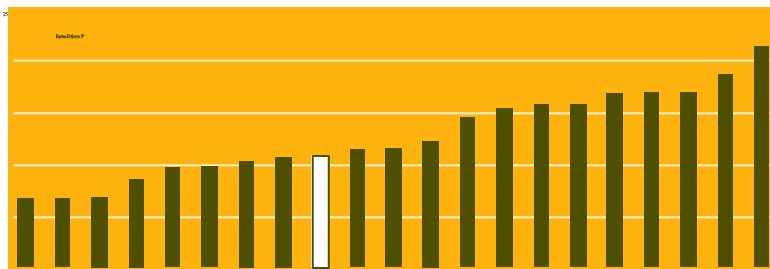
1970, 1975, 1980, 1984 - 1993

Fatalities per 100,000 population and per 10,000 registered vehicles were taken from the FORS publications *1992 Road Fatality Statistics Australia*, Tables 20 and 19 respectively, and *Road Fatalities Australia 1994 Statistical Summary*, Table 14.

1994

Fatalities per 100,000 population were calculated using the latest population and fatality figures.

Fatalities per 10,000 registered vehicles were calculated using the latest registered vehicle and fatality figures.



Fatalities Per 100,000 Population - OECD Nations and Australian States/Territories

	1970	1975	1980	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Australia	30.4	26.6	22.3	18.1	18.6	17.9	17.0	17.4	16.7	13.7	12.2	11.3	11.1	10.8
Austria	34.5	33.4	26.5	24.0	20.1	19.7	19.3	21.3	20.6	20.3	20.0	17.8	16.1	16.7
Belgium	31.8	24.0	24.3	19.2	18.3	19.8	19.5	19.9	20.1	19.9	18.8	16.7	16.5	16.8
Canada	23.8	26.7	22.7	16.5	17.3	16.1	16.7	16.0	16.2	14.9	13.7	12.3	12.6	11.1
Denmark	24.6	16.4	13.5	13.0	15.1	14.1	13.6	13.9	13.1	12.4	11.8	11.2	10.8	10.5
Finland	22.9	19.4	11.6	11.1	11.1	12.5	11.8	13.2	14.8	13.1	12.7	12.0	9.6	9.5
France	32.6	27.3	25.5	23.2	20.7	21.6	19.4	20.6	20.5	19.9	18.5	17.3	16.6	15.6
Germany	27.7	22.0	19.3	15.4	13.0	13.7	12.2	12.7	12.5	14.0	14.2	13.2	12.3	12.1
Greece	12.2	13.5	14.6	19.8	19.7	16.8	17.3	17.4	19.5	19.8	20.2	20.4	20.3	21.1
Hungary	15.8	16.0	15.2	14.9	16.5	15.3	14.8	16.1	20.4	23.4	20.5	20.3	16.3	15.2
Iceland	-	-	11.0	11.3	10.0	9.9	9.8	11.7	11.1	9.5	10.6	8.1	6.4	-
Ireland	18.3	18.5	16.6	13.2	11.6	10.9	13.0	13.1	13.1	13.7	12.6	11.7	12.1	11.4
Italy	20.5	18.6	16.4	13.6	13.5	13.4	12.8	13.1	12.0	12.4	14.0	14.2	12.6	-
Japan	21.0	12.5	9.7	10.0	10.0	10.0	9.9	11.0	11.7	11.8	11.6	12.0	10.6	10.2
Luxemburg	-	-	27.0	19.1	21.6	21.5	18.4	22.6	17.9	18.5	20.8	18.7	19.2	18.5
Netherlands	24.6	17.1	14.2	11.2	10.0	10.5	10.2	9.3	9.8	9.2	8.5	8.5	8.2	8.5
New Zealand	23.4	20.3	18.9	20.5	22.7	23.2	24.1	21.7	22.7	21.5	19.0	18.8	17.2	16.5
Norway	14.6	13.5	8.9	9.9	9.7	10.9	9.5	9.0	9.0	7.8	7.6	7.6	6.5	6.5
Portugal	22.2	39.5	31.5	24.9	25.2	26.2	30.6	33.7	31.5	32.2	34.4	32.9	28.7	-
Spain	-	16.6	17.7	16.4	16.6	18.3	19.7	21.3	24.1	23.2	22.7	20.1	16.3	14.4
Sweden	16.3	14.3	10.2	9.6	9.7	10.1	9.4	9.7	10.7	9.1	8.7	8.8	7.3	6.7
Switzerland	26.6	19.0	19.2	16.6	13.7	15.5	14.2	14.0	13.6	13.9	12.4	12.2	10.5	9.7
Turkey	-	-	-	-	14.3	18.5	19.0	17.3	15.2	14.8	14.4	14.1	14.3	-
UK	14.0	11.9	11.1	10.2	9.4	9.9	9.4	9.2	9.7	9.4	8.2	7.6	6.8	6.5
USA	25.8	20.7	22.5	18.7	18.4	19.1	19.1	19.2	18.5	17.9	16.4	15.4	15.6	15.6
OECD Median	23.4	18.8	17.1	15.9	15.1	15.5	14.8	16.0	15.2	14.0	14.0	13.2	12.6	11.4