

Road crash casualties and rates, Australia, 1925 to 2005

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This table is updated as new data become available (usually annually). While it is presented as a time series, it is more a compilation of the data available from different data collections in use over the period and users should read the notes carefully.

Year	Road deaths	Persons seriously injured	Deaths per 10,000 vehicles	Seriously injured per 10,000 vehicles	Deaths per 100,000 population	Seriously injured per 100,000 population	Deaths per 100 million vehicle kilometres	Seriously injured per 100 million vehicle kilometres
1925	700	-	22.9	-	11.8	-	-	-
1926	901	-	23.1	-	14.9	-	-	-
1927	943	-	19.0	-	15.3	-	-	-
1928	1,003	-	17.7	-	15.9	-	-	-
1929	1,145	-	18.1	-	17.9	-	-	-
1930	1,054	-	16.1	-	16.3	-	-	-
1931	916	-	15.2	-	14.0	-	-	-
1932	818	-	13.9	-	12.4	-	-	-
1933	914	-	14.8	-	13.8	-	-	-
1934	952	-	14.8	-	14.3	-	-	-
1935	1,100	-	16.0	-	16.4	-	-	-
1936	1,350	-	18.2	-	19.9	-	-	-
1937	1,387	-	17.5	-	20.3	-	-	-
1938	1,483	-	17.3	-	21.5	-	-	-
1939	1,426	-	15.9	-	20.5	-	-	-
1940	1,558	-	17.4	-	22.1	-	-	-
1941	1,298	-	14.9	-	18.3	-	-	-
1942	1,297	-	17.3	-	18.1	-	-	-
1943	1,340	-	17.3	-	18.5	-	-	-
1944	1,089	-	13.3	-	14.9	-	-	-
1945	1,011	-	11.8	-	13.7	-	-	-
1946	1,270	-	13.7	-	17.0	-	-	-
1947	1,346	-	13.3	-	17.8	-	-	-
1948	1,348	-	12.2	-	17.5	-	-	-
1949	1,424	-	11.6	-	18.0	-	-	-
1950	1,643	-	11.8	-	20.1	-	-	-
1951	1,926	-	12.2	-	22.9	-	-	-
1952	2,054	-	11.6	-	23.8	-	-	-
1953	1,856	-	10.1	-	21.1	-	-	-
1954	1,976	-	10.1	-	22.0	-	-	-
1955	2,042	-	9.6	-	22.2	-	-	-
1956	2,119	-	9.4	-	22.5	-	-	-
1957	2,113	-	8.9	-	21.9	-	-	-
1958	2,146	-	8.6	-	21.8	-	-	-
1959	2,264	-	8.5	-	22.5	-	-	-
1960	2,468	-	8.7	-	24.0	-	-	-
1961	2,542	-	8.6	-	24.1	-	-	-
1962	2,535	-	8.2	-	23.6	-	-	-
1963	2,598	-	7.9	-	23.7	-	-	-
1964	2,966	-	8.4	-	26.6	-	-	-
1965	3,164	-	8.5	-	27.8	-	-	-

Year	Road deaths	Persons seriously injured	Deaths per 10,000 vehicles	Seriously injured per 10,000 vehicles	Deaths per 100,000 population	Seriously injured per 100,000 population	Deaths per 100 million vehicle kilometres	Seriously injured per 100 million vehicle kilometres
1966	3,242	-	8.3	-	27.9	-	-	-
1967	3,166	-	7.7	-	26.8	-	-	-
1968	3,382	-	7.9	-	28.2	-	-	-
1969	3,502	-	7.8	-	28.6	-	-	-
1970	3,798	-	8.0	-	30.4	-	-	-
1971	3,590	-	7.1	-	27.7	-	4.4	-
1972	3,422	-	6.4	-	26.0	-	-	-
1973	3,679	-	6.6	-	27.5	-	-	-
1974	3,572	-	6.0	-	26.3	-	-	-
1975	3,694	-	5.9	-	26.6	-	-	-
1976	3,583	-	5.4	-	25.5	-	3.6	-
1977	3,578	-	5.2	-	25.2	-	-	-
1978	3,705	-	5.2	-	25.8	-	-	-
1979	3,508	-	4.8	-	24.2	-	3.1	-
1980	3,272	32,054	4.3	42.3	22.3	218.1	-	-
1981	3,321	32,108	4.2	40.6	22.3	215.2	-	-
1982	3,252	30,654	3.9	36.7	21.4	201.9	2.6	24.2
1983	2,755	28,080	3.2	32.7	17.9	182.4	-	-
1984	2,822	28,795	3.2	32.6	18.1	184.8	-	-
1985	2,941	29,248	3.2	32.1	18.6	185.3	2.1	20.8
1986	2,888	29,169	3.1	31.4	18.0	182.1	-	-
1987	2,772	29,698	3.0	31.7	17.0	182.6	-	-
1988	2,887	29,705	3.0	31.1	17.5	179.7	1.9	19.3
1989	2,801	28,483	2.9	29.0	16.7	169.4	-	-
1990	2,331	24,961	2.3	24.8	13.7	146.3	-	-
1991	2,113	22,528	2.1	22.7	12.2	130.3	1.4	15.0
1992	1,974	21,512	1.9	21.0	11.3	123.0	-	-
1993	1,953	21,557	1.9	20.7	11.1	122.0	-	-
1994	1,928	22,133	1.8	20.7	10.8	124.0	-	-
1995	2,017	22,368	1.8	20.4	11.2	123.8	1.2	13.4
1996	1,970	21,989	1.7	19.3	10.8	120.1	-	-
1997	1,767	-	1.5	-	9.5	-	-	-
1998	1,755	-	1.5	-	9.4	-	1.0	-
1999	1,764	-	1.4	-	9.3	-	1.0	-
2000	1,817	26,963	-	-	9.5	140.8	1.0	14.6
2001	1,737	27,471	1.4	22.0	8.9	141.5	0.9	14.4
2002	1,715	27,934	1.3	21.8	8.7	142.2	0.9	14.5
2003	1,621	28,422	1.2	21.6	8.2	143.0	0.8	14.1
2004	1,583	28,864	1.2	21.3	7.9	143.7	0.8	14.5
2005	1,627	30,574	1.2	22.0	8.0	150.3	0.8	14.8

NOTE

A dash in a cell indicates that data are not available for that cell.

SOURCES

Data contained within this document have been extracted from Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) publications (or those of its predecessors). Further details relating to the data are usually available in the source publications or directly from the publishing organisation. Revised or updated Australian Bureau of Statistics figures are used where applicable.

1925 to 1979

Road deaths 1925 to 1979 are from Office of Road Safety, OR 7, *Road traffic accident data and rates: Australia, States and Territories 1925-1981*. Note in particular that Northern Territory fatalities are excluded from the Australian fatalities count and fatality rates for 1925 to 1961. Injury data prior to 1980 were for all injury, not just serious injury, and are not comparable with the data since 1980.

1980 to 1989

Deaths and injured 1980-89 are from *Road traffic accidents involving casualties, Australia* (ABS, cat.no. 9405.0). In that publication, 'person killed' was defined as 'death of any person within 30 days of the road vehicle accident where death is attributable to injuries sustained during the accident'. 'Person injured' was defined as 'injury to any person involved in a road vehicle accident resulting in the injured person being admitted to hospital'.

1990 to present

The road crash data contained in this report from 1990 onwards are compiled by the ATSB using police road crash data supplied by the New South Wales Roads and Traffic Authority; VicRoads; Queensland Transport; South Australian Police; Western Australian Police; Main Roads Western Australia; Tasmanian Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources; Northern Territory police; and the Australian Capital Territory Department of Urban Services. Deaths since 1990 are from the ATSB's Monthly Road Death Series.

In this database, a road crash death is defined as 'death of any person within 30 days of the road vehicle accident where death is attributable to injuries sustained during the accident'. Injured 1990 to 1996 are from *Road injury Australia: 1996 statistical summary* (Federal Office of Road Safety, 1998). In that publication, a 'person hospitalised' was defined as 'a person classified by police as admitted to hospital from injuries received in either a hospitalisation or fatal road crash'. Injured 2000 to 2005 are from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's National Hospital Morbidity Database. For the purpose here, 'serious injury' is defined as 'an injury that results in the person being admitted to hospital and subsequently discharged alive either on the same day or after one or more nights stay in a hospital bed (i.e. deaths are excluded)'.

Injury data

Injury figures from 1980 to 1996 are based on police reports. Injury figures from 2000 are based on hospital records. Injury figures for 1997-99 are not available as police reports were not nationally collated from 1997 and reporting of figures based on hospital records 1997-99 was not comparable with 2000 and later data due to coding changes. Hospital data on serious injury from 2000 are not comparable with the 1980 to 1996 'admitted to hospital' data based on police reports. They are presented together here simply as the only data available for Australia for the years they cover.

A known deficiency of the police data was the under-reporting of serious injury to motorcyclists and pedal cyclists involved in road crashes, which perhaps partly explains the lower numbers compared with the figures derived from the hospital data. It is in fact increases in the numbers of motorcyclists and pedal cyclists seriously injured that largely account for the overall increase from 2000 to 2005. There were 35 per cent more motorcyclists seriously injured in 2005 than in 2000, 25 per cent more pedal cyclists and 14 per cent more drivers. For more information on this topic, interested readers should refer to the publication *Serious injury due to land transport accidents, Australia, 2003-04*, available on the ATSB website.

Population

Population data are sourced from the annual *Australian Demographic Statistics* (ABS Catalogue No. 3101.0, June quarter) or its predecessors.

Vehicle registrations

Registration data are sourced from the annual publication *Motor Vehicle Census Australia* (ABS Catalogue No. 9309.0) or its predecessors.

Vehicle kilometres travelled

Kilometres travelled data are sourced from the annual *Survey of Motor Vehicle Use* (ABS Catalogue No. 9208.0) or its predecessors.