

ROAD FATALITIES

The number of road motor vehicles is high and rising among OECD countries, and reducing road accidents is a concern in all countries. The table in this section shows the numbers of road fatalities per million inhabitants and the chart combines the number of road fatalities per million inhabitants and per million vehicles.

Definition

A road motor vehicle is a vehicle running on wheels and intended for use on roads with an engine providing 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. Thus buses, coaches, freight vehicles and motor cycles are included as well as passenger motor cars. Motor vehicles running on rails are excluded.

Road fatality means any person killed immediately or dying within 30 days as a result of a road accident.

Comparability

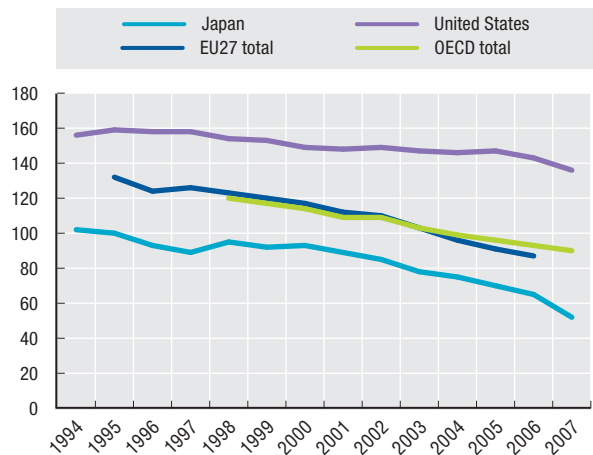
Road motor vehicles are attributed to the countries where they are registered while deaths are attributed to the countries in which they occur. As a result, ratios of fatalities to million inhabitants and of fatalities to million vehicles cannot strictly be interpreted as indicating the proportion of a country's population that is at risk of suffering a fatal road accident or the likelihood of a vehicle registered in a given country being involved in a fatal accident. In practice,


however, this is not considered to be a serious problem because discrepancies between the numerators and denominators tend to cancel out.

The numbers of vehicles entering the existing stock is usually accurate but information on the numbers of vehicles withdrawn from use is less certain.

Evolution of road fatalities

Per million inhabitants



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Long-term trends

In 2007, road fatalities per million inhabitants ranged from over 235 per million inhabitants in Russia to 48 in Iceland. Over the period shown in the table, rates have decreased in all countries except in India, with particularly sharp falls in Portugal, New Zealand and France.

Road fatality rates per million inhabitants are an ambiguous indicator of road safety since the number of accidents depends to a great extent on the number of vehicles in each country. The chart shows the number of fatalities per million vehicles together with fatalities per million inhabitants. Both ratios refer to 2007. Rates per million vehicles are affected by driving habits, traffic legislation and the effectiveness of its enforcement, road design and other factors over which governments may exercise control. In 2007, fatality rates per million vehicles were less than 80 in Iceland, Switzerland and Norway, but exceeded 400 in Slovak Republic, Turkey and Russia. Note that low fatality rates per million inhabitants may be associated with very high fatality rates per million vehicles. For example, a country with a small vehicle population may show a low fatality rate per million inhabitants but a high fatality rate per vehicle.

Source

- ITF (2008), *Trends in the Transport Sector 1970-2006*, 2008 Edition, ITF, Paris.

Further information

Analytical publications

- ECMT (2006), *Road Safety Performance: National Peer Review: Russian Federation*, ECMT, Paris.
- ECMT (2006), *Young Drivers: The Road to Safety*, ECMT, Paris.
- ITF (2008), *Towards Zero: Ambitious Road Safety Targets and the Safe System Approach*, ITF, Paris.
- ECMT (2006), *ECMT Annual Report 2005*, ECMT, Paris.
- ECMT (2006), *Speed Management*, ECMT, Paris.

Statistical publications

- ECMT (2003), *Statistical Report on Road Accidents*, ECMT, Paris.

Methodological publications

- UNECE, ECMT, Eurostat (2003), *Glossary for Transport Statistics*, ECMT, Paris.

Websites

- International Transport Forum, www.internationaltransportforum.org/.



Road fatalities

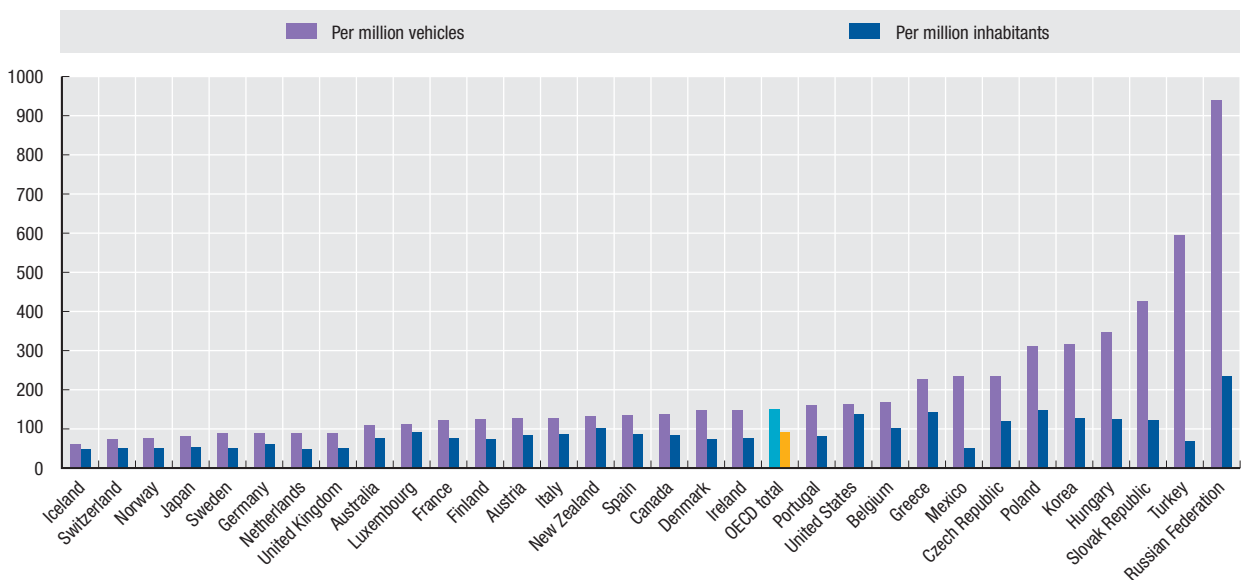
Per million inhabitants

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Australia	109	111	108	95	94	93	95	90	87	82	79	81	78	77
Austria	167	150	127	137	121	135	122	119	118	114	108	94	89	83
Belgium	167	148	134	134	147	136	143	144	131	117	112	104	102	100
Canada	111	113	103	101	97	98	95	90	93	87	85	91	..	83
Czech Republic	158	154	152	155	132	141	145	130	140	142	136	126	104	118
Denmark	105	111	98	93	94	97	93	80	86	80	68	61	56	74
Finland	94	86	79	85	78	83	76	83	80	73	72	72	64	72
France	147	144	138	136	143	136	129	130	121	96	87	88	77	75
Germany	121	116	107	104	95	95	91	85	83	80	71	65	62	60
Greece	183	195	206	201	207	201	193	178	159	145	151	150	149	141
Hungary	152	155	135	137	136	130	118	122	141	131	129	127	130	123
Iceland	44	90	37	55	98	75	113	84	101	80	79	64	104	48
Ireland	113	122	125	129	124	110	110	107	96	84	94	84	87	77
Italy	123	122	115	116	118	116	115	117	117	105	98	94	89	86
Japan	102	100	93	89	95	92	93	89	85	78	75	70	65	52
Korea	..	..	..	..	226	232	218	171	152	151	136	132	..	127
Luxembourg	166	169	170	142	134	133	172	159	140	118	109	101	78	90
Mexico	57	51	52	53	53	53	53	52	49	46	45	46	47	51
Netherlands	84	86	76	74	73	75	73	67	66	67	54	50	50	48
New Zealand	164	162	141	144	132	134	121	118	103	115	107	99	95	100
Norway	65	70	58	69	79	68	76	61	68	61	56	49	52	49
Poland	175	179	165	189	183	174	163	143	152	148	150	143	138	147
Portugal	222	242	241	222	213	200	186	161	165	148	124	118	104	81
Slovak Republic	127	130	119	154	160	125	120	116	116	121	113	111	113	122
Spain	143	147	139	142	150	144	143	135	129	128	115	89	94	85
Sweden	67	65	61	61	60	65	67	65	63	59	53	49	49	51
Switzerland	97	98	87	83	84	81	82	75	70	74	69	55	50	51
Turkey	97	97	86	81	76	69	58	45	62	56	62	62	62	68
United Kingdom	67	66	65	65	62	62	62	63	63	62	57	55	55	50
United States	156	159	158	158	154	153	149	148	149	147	146	147	143	136
EU27 total	..	132	124	126	123	120	117	112	110	103	96	91	87	..
OECD total	..	..	..	..	120	117	114	109	109	103	99	96	93	90
India	55	72	72	75	76	79	77	75	76	77	82	87	92	..
Russian Federation	239	221	199	188	198	203	203	213	228	248	241	237	230	235

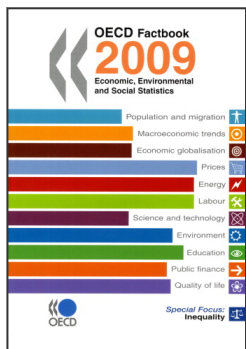
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Road fatalities

2007 or latest available year



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