

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS
CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT STATISTICS, YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1953.

This summary contains an analysis of the Road Traffic Accidents (known to the Police) which occurred in public thoroughfares during the year ended 31st December, 1953 and which resulted in death or in bodily injury to any person to an extent requiring medical or surgical treatment, or in damage to property in excess of £10. It should be noted, however, that the comparability of the statistics between States, even on this basis, still depends on the degree to which accidents so defined are in fact recorded by the Police.

TABLE I - ACCIDENTS (KNOWN TO THE POLICE) AND CASUALTIES RESULTING THEREFROM

		N.S.W.	VIC.	Q'LD.	S.A.	W.A.	TAS.	A.C.T.	TOTAL
									♂
<u>TOTAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED</u>									
1950		18,232	14,275	8,046	5,575	3,107	2,417	264	51,916
1951		21,356	15,751	11,340	7,952	3,932	2,961	274	63,566
1952		23,501	16,605	13,741	7,708	5,846	3,384	290	71,075
1953		26,921	16,086	16,233	9,208	*8,443	3,879	315	81,085
Per million of mean	1952	6,931	7,113	11,128	10,423	9,711	11,125	10,743	8,233
Population	1953	7,814	6,745	12,869	12,152	*13,559	12,385	10,602	9,199
Per 100,000 Motor Vehicles	1952	3,902	3,061	5,283	3,845	4,276	5,842	4,411	3,934
Registered	1953	4,230	3,013	5,875	4,297	*5,761	6,206	4,201	4,319
<u>ACCIDENTS INVOLVING CASUALTIES</u>									
1950		9,162	9,047	4,176	2,059	1,897	952	131	27,424
1951		10,103	9,678	4,969	2,478	2,193	1,059	124	30,604
1952		10,095	10,114	5,518	1,462	2,361	1,036	123	30,709
1953		10,803	10,161	6,105	2,490	*2,906	992	157	33,614
Per million of mean	1952	2,977	4,332	4,469	1,977	3,922	3,406	4,556	3,557
Population	1953	3,136	4,260	4,840	3,286	*4,667	3,167	5,284	3,813
Per 100,000 Motor Vehicles	1952	1,676	1,864	2,122	729	1,727	1,789	1,871	1,700
Registered	1953	1,698	1,903	2,210	1,162	*1,983	1,587	2,094	1,790
<u>PERSONS KILLED</u>									
1950		634	573	207	202	161	56	6	1,839
1951		728	579	246	181	173	74	5	1,986
1952		700	584	284	145	187	77	6	1,983
1953		704	480	276	147	192	59	5	1,863
Per million of mean	1952	206	249	230	196	311	253	185	230
Population	1953	204	201	219	194	308	188	168	211
Per 100,000 Motor Vehicles	1952	116	107	109	72	137	133	91	110
Registered	1953	111	90	100	69	131	94	67	99
<u>PERSONS INJURED</u>									
1950		11,096	11,001	4,969	2,393	2,370	1,141	164	33,134
1951		12,290	12,058	6,132	2,938	2,782	1,291	158	37,649
1952		21,556	12,502	6,985	1,723	2,876	1,227	158	38,027
1953		13,454	12,693	7,568	3,109	*3,664	1,175	195	41,858
Per million of mean	1952	3,703	5,355	5,657	2,330	4,777	4,034	5,853	4,405
Population	1953	3,905	5,322	6,000	4,103	*5,884	3,752	6,563	4,748
Per 100,000 Motor Vehicles	1952	2,085	2,305	2,686	860	2,103	2,118	2,403	2,105
Registered	1953	2,114	2,377	2,739	1,451	*2,500	1,880	2,601	2,230

* Figures have been collected on a basis comparable with other States from 1st January, 1953. Prior to that date details for Western Australia related to all accidents which occurred in the Metropolitan Area but only to those involving fatal or "near fatal" injury in the remainder of the State. ♂ Excludes Northern Territory.

TABLE II - TYPES OF ROAD USERS KILLED OR INJURED - AUSTRALIA

Types of Road Users	1952					1953				
	Males	Females	Total	Per Mill. of Mean Population	Per 100,000 Motor Veh's. Reg'd.	Males	Females	Total	Per Mill. of Mean Population	Per 100,000 Motor Veh's. Reg'd.
PERSONS KILLED										
Drivers of Motor Vehicles	320	20	340	39	19	301	13	314	36	17
Motor Cyclists	355	2	357	42	19	349	-	349	40	18
Pedal Cyclists	128	11	139	16	8	130	13	143	16	8
Passengers (a)	409	168	577	67	32	322	169	491	56	26
Pedestrians	397	156	553	64	31	407	151	558	62	30
Other Classes(b)	17	-	17	2	1	6	1	7	1	-
Not Stated	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
TOTAL:	1,626	357	1,983	230	110	1,516	347	1,863	211	99

PERSONS INJURED										
Drivers of Motor Vehicles	6,189	570	6,759	782	374	7,337	658	7,995	907	416
Motor Cyclists	6,828	70	6,898	799	382	7,284	72	7,356	834	393
Pedal Cyclists	3,394	547	3,941	457	218	3,982	598	4,580	520	244
Passengers (a)	7,086	5,829	12,915	1,496	716	7,507	6,565	14,072	1,596	760
Pedestrians	4,761	2,548	7,309	847	404	5,037	2,655	7,692	873	410
Other Classes(b)	171	32	203	24	11	142	10	152	17	8
Not Stated	-	2	2	-	-	11	-	11	1	-
TOTAL:	28,429	9,598	38,027	4,405	2,105	31,300	10,558	41,858	4,748	2,230

(a) All types including Pillion Riders. (b) Includes Tram Drivers, Riders of Horses and Drivers of Horse-drawn Vehicles.

TABLE III - FEATURES OF ROADWAYS ON WHICH ACCIDENTS OCCURRED - AUSTRALIA, 1953

Location	Total Accidents Reported	Accidents Involving Casualties	Persons Killed	Persons Injured
At Intersections:				
Controlled by Police ..	327	84	-	94
Controlled by Traffic Lights ..	1,102	477	13	542
Uncontrolled ..	27,214	11,481	413	14,179
Other than at Intersections:				
Straight Road ..	40,389	16,798	970	20,334
Bend or Curve - view open ..	6,829	2,874	205	4,123
Bend or Curve - view obscured ..	1,916	811	62	1,154
Bridge, Culvert or Causeway ..	1,166	386	22	542
Steep Hill ..	1,104	377	26	483
Top of Hill ..	356	111	8	134
Railway Level Crossing -				
(a) Guarded by gates ..	92	23	9	33
(b) Guarded by lights, flagmen or other mechanically operated signals ..	30	11	5	16
(c) Unguarded by (a) or (b) ..	282	120	35	171
Other Locations ..	224	49	2	62
Location not stated ..	54	12	3	11
TOTAL:	81,085	33,614	1,863	41,858

TABLE IV - CLASSIFICATION OF ACCIDENTS AND CASUALTIES ACCORDING TO CAUSE
AUSTRALIA, 1953

Note: Classification according to cause of accident must be regarded as approximate only. Contributory causes and conflicting or incomplete evidence make precise classification difficult.

Causes of Road Accidents	Total Accidents Reported	Accidents Involving Casualties	Persons Killed	Persons Injured
Drivers of Motor Vehicles (excluding Motor Cycles) responsible				
Excessive speed having regard to conditions	4,286	2,174	293	3,413
Failing to keep to the left ..	3,977	1,240	76	2,025
Failing to give right of way at intersection	8,872	2,319	46	3,323
Failing to make right hand turn with due care	2,393	809	16	1,022
Inexperience or infirmity of driver	893	334	20	490
Inattentive driving ..	13,345	4,034	175	5,242
Driver intoxicated ..	2,001	650	56	893
Reversing without care ..	2,500	243	5	263
Overtaking ..	3,734	578	20	781
Driver asleep or drowsy ..	705	342	22	442
Dazzled by lights of an approaching vehicle	888	344	15	496
Failing to give or observe traffic signs/signals	3,999	781	14	1,059
Crossing railway level crossing without due care	205	84	32	131
Other causes ..	1,995	501	40	562
TOTAL:	49,793	14,433	830	20,142
Riders of Motor Cycles responsible				
Excessive speed having regard to conditions	1,017	876	134	990
Failing to keep to the left ..	313	274	33	308
Failing to give right of way at intersection	802	541	17	644
Failing to make right hand turn with due care	129	85	4	103
Rider intoxicated ..	152	117	8	139
Inexperience with type of vehicle in use	255	216	6	248
Inattentive riding ..	1,765	1,418	57	1,633
Overtaking ..	467	337	16	409
Failing to give or observe traffic signs/signals	393	273	5	321
Other causes ..	216	190	17	213
TOTAL:	5,509	4,327	297	5,008
Pedal Cyclists responsible				
Failing to keep to the left ..	195	191	7	204
Failing to give right of way at intersection	309	289	13	296
Failing to make right hand turn with due care	105	100	3	99
Inattentive riding ..	1,258	1,199	24	1,226
Failing to give or observe traffic signs/signals	212	198	3	205
Other causes ..	525	499	23	502
TOTAL:	2,604	2,476	73	2,532
Drivers of Animal-drawn Vehicles and Riders of Animals responsible				
..	73	40	2	46
Pedestrians responsible				
Crossing roadway without due care ..	3,281	3,246	214	3,224
Stepping off kerb without due care ..	488	488	37	479
Intoxicated ..	344	341	27	342
Children not under, or breaking away from, supervision ..	1,269	1,260	52	1,235
Boarding vehicle on wrong side or in motion	156	156	3	155
Infirmity or sudden illness ..	48	48	12	37
Other causes ..	186	184	15	187
TOTAL:	5,772	5,723	361	5,659
Passengers responsible				
Alighting from vehicle in motion or on wrong side	274	274	8	269
Falling from or riding improperly on, vehicle	483	479	43	453
Intoxicated ..	80	79	6	75
Other causes ..	177	126	7	149
TOTAL:	1,014	958	64	946

TABLE IV - CLASSIFICATION OF ACCIDENTS AND CASUALTIES ACCORDING TO CAUSE
AUSTRALIA, 1953 (CONT'D.)

Causes of Road Accidents	Total Accidents Reported	Accidents Involving Casualties	Persons Killed	Persons Injured
Vehicle Defects				
Defective brakes ..	1,455	385	21	496
Defective steering ..	1,276	520	21	811
Defective tyres (i.e. blow-out) ..	916	387	14	573
Inadequate or incorrectly adjusted lights	749	426	27	537
Other defects ..	1,181	451	24	592
Total:	5,577	2,199	107	3,009
Accidents Attributed to Animals	2,406	535	23	607
Accidents Attributed to Road Conditions				
Road surface loosely gravelled ..	1,830	733	22	985
Road surface wet and slippery ..	1,750	550	22	738
Road obstructions and other faults ..	1,505	650	24	837
Total:	5,085	1,933	68	2,560
Accidents Attributed to Weather ..	798	280	18	375
Accidents Attributed to Parties not Involved	1,876	524	9	689
Other Causes ..	578	186	11	285
GRAND TOTAL:	81,085	33,614	1,863	41,858

TABLE V - CLASSES OF VEHICLES OR ROAD USERS INVOLVED IN ROAD ACCIDENTS -
AUSTRALIA, 1953

Nature of Accident	Total Accidents Reported	Accidents Involving Casualties	Persons Killed	Persons Injured
COLLISIONS				
Motor Vehicle (other than Motor Cycle) with -				
Motor Vehicle (other than motor cycle)	35,532	6,088	220	9,774
Motor Cycle ..	7,331	4,935	225	5,659
Pedal Cycle ..	3,659	3,374	111	3,429
Tram ..	1,199	187	13	267
Railway Vehicle ..	282	106	44	170
Pedestrian ..	6,429	6,391	497	6,263
Animal or Animal-drawn vehicle ..	2,211	242	4	288
Fixed Object (including parked vehicle)	6,371	1,504	93	2,135
Other ..	45	13	1	14
Motor Cycle with -				
Motor Cycle ..	412	331	16	488
Pedal Cycle ..	420	390	8	518
Tram ..	34	24	2	26
Railway Vehicle ..	11	9	2	10
Pedestrian ..	792	782	24	955
Animal or Animal-drawn vehicle ..	781	633	50	702
Fixed Object (including parked vehicle)	1	1	-	1
Total : Collisions involving motor vehicles	65,510	25,010	1,310	30,699
Other Collisions involving -				
Pedal Cycle ..	527	513	11	574
Tram ..	386	358	24	423
Animal or Animal-drawn vehicle ..	42	17	1	17
Other Vehicle ..	11	9	3	6
Total Collisions:	66,476	25,907	1,349	31,719
NON-COLLISIONS:				
Vehicle overturning or leaving roadway	13,480	6,651	442	9,097
Passenger Accidents ..	1,050	1,008	67	992
Other Accidents ..	79	48	5	50
Total : Non-Collisions	14,609	7,707	514	10,139
GRAND TOTAL:	81,085	33,614	1,863	41,858

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