

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS STATISTICS, SEPTEMBER QUARTER, 1959

This summary contains an analysis of the Road Traffic Accidents (known to the Police) which occurred in public thoroughfares during the quarter ended 30th September, 1959, and which resulted in death or in bodily injury to any person to an extent requiring medical or surgical treatment. Accidents involving damage to property only are no longer collected due to lack of comparability of the statistics between States.

TABLE I - ACCIDENTS INVOLVING CASUALTIES

Period	N.S.W.	VIC.	Q'LD.	S.A.	W.A.	TAS.	A.C.T.	Total (a)
<u>NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS</u>								
Year - 1955-56	12,917	10,606	7,116	2,886	3,211	874	56	37,766
1956-57	13,473	10,804	7,527	3,142	3,082	852	186	39,066
1957-58	14,646	11,233	6,565	4,372	3,338	779	237	41,170
1958-59	15,216	12,462	5,603	3,984	3,450	791	260	41,766
June Qtr. 1958	3,869	2,898	1,696	1,063	889	191	65	10,671
September " 1958	3,613	3,076	1,348	1,070	856	189	84	10,236
December " 1958	4,065	3,030	1,516	1,037	873	209	74	10,804
March " 1959	3,443	3,069	1,300	941	871	199	51	9,874
June " 1959	4,095	3,287	1,439	936	850	194	51	10,852
September " 1959	3,900	3,144	1,410	1,165	860	220	79	10,778

PERSONS KILLED

Year - 1955-56	808	582	298	167	185	72	7	2,119
1956-57	774	589	325	185	168	65	7	2,113
1957-58	795	571	342	200	164	70	5	2,147
1958-59	833	661	333	185	178	68	6	2,264
June Qtr. 1958	213	153	102	63	42	22	1	596
September " 1958	206	164	87	38	48	10	1	554
December " 1958	211	149	96	45	44	23	1	569
March " 1959	176	168	65	52	46	13	2	522
June " 1959	240	180	85	50	40	22	2	619
September " 1959	219	142	113	36	27	18	4	559

PERSONS INJURED

Year - 1955-56	17,047	13,483	9,170	3,709	4,098	1,046	220	48,773
1956-57	17,321	14,120	9,800	3,944	3,921	1,107	237	50,450
1957-58	19,378	15,015	8,739	5,492	4,249	1,000	320	54,193
1958-59	19,854	16,784	7,700	5,183	4,506	990	342	55,359
June Qtr. 1958	5,138	3,844	2,248	1,318	1,126	233	92	13,999
September " 1958	4,585	4,078	1,785	1,352	1,076	232	105	13,213
December " 1958	5,370	4,093	2,110	1,355	1,200	268	102	14,498
March " 1959	4,617	4,295	1,769	1,305	1,170	257	66	13,478
June " 1959	5,282	4,318	2,036	1,171	1,060	233	69	14,169
September " 1959	5,043	4,029	1,914	1,472	1,128	269	130	13,985

(a) Excludes Northern Territory.

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

Type of Road User	September Quarter, 1958					September Quarter, 1959				
	Males	Fe-males	Persons			Males	Fe-males	Persons		
			No.	Per Mill. of Popul-ation	Per 100,000 of Motor Vehicles Reg'd.			No.	Per Mill. of Popul-ation	Per 100,000 of Motor Vehicles Reg'd.
<u>PERSONS KILLED</u>										
Drivers of Motor Vehicles	120	14	134	13	5	139	12	151	15	6
Motor Cyclists	42	-	42	4	2	38	1	39	4	2
Pedal Cyclists	43	4	47	5	2	36	1	37	4	1
Passengers (a)	93	41	134	14	5	104	40	144	14	5
Pedestrians	147	48	195	20	8	134	51	185	18	7
Other Classes(b)	1	1	2	..	..	3	-	3	..	..
Not Stated	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Total:</u>	446	108	554	56	22	454	105	559	55	21
<u>PERSONS INJURED</u>										
Drivers of Motor Vehicles	3,394	402	3,796	385	150	3,673	459	4,132	410	155
Motor Cyclists	1,242	60	1,302	132	51	1,249	83	1,332	132	50
Pedal Cyclists	985	164	1,149	116	45	914	139	1,053	105	39
Passengers (a)	2,433	2,292	4,725	480	186	2,516	2,547	5,063	503	190
Pedestrians	1,418	784	2,202	224	87	1,573	814	2,387	237	89
Other Classes(b)	31	7	38	4	2	15	3	18	2	1
Not Stated	1	-	1	..	..	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Total:</u>	9,504	3,709	13,213	1,341	521	9,940	4,045	13,985	1,389	524

(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 INVOLVING CASUALTIES OCCURRED
AUSTRALIA, SEPTEMBER QUARTER, 1959.

Location	Number of Accidents	Persons Killed	Persons Injured
At Intersections:			
Controlled by Police ..	13	-	13
Controlled by Traffic Lights ..	210	3	261
Uncontrolled ..	3,815	121	4,956
Other than at Intersections			
Straight Road ..	4,882	289	6,059
Bend or Curve - view open ..	1,161	96	1,710
view obscured ..	247	18	391
Bridge, Culvert or Causeway ..	132	13	174
Steep Hill ..	106	8	136
Top of Hill ..	39	-	73
Railway Level Crossing -			
(a) Guarded by gates ..	16	1	15
(b) Guarded by lights, flagmen or other mechanically operated signals ..	7	-	8
(c) Unguarded ..	32	5	58
Other Locations: ..	113	3	124
Locations not stated: ..	5	2	7
Total:	10,778	559	13,985

TABLE IV - CLASSIFICATION OF ROAD ACCIDENTS INVOLVING CASUALTIES ACCORDING TO CAUSE -

AUSTRALIA, SEPTEMBER QUARTER, 1959.

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

Cause of Accident	Number of Accidents	Persons Killed	Persons Injured
Drivers of Motor Vehicles (excluding Motor Cycles) responsible:			
Excessive speed having regard to conditions	825	96	1,306
Failing to keep to the left ..	354	17	593
Failing to give right of way at intersection	1,483	21	2,096
Failing to make right hand turn with due care	401	6	538
Inexperience or infirmity of driver ..	157	10	235
Inattentive driving ..	1,756	90	2,321
Driver intoxicated ..	268	36	377
Reversing without care ..	75	-	80
Overtaking or following vehicle too closely	278	12	396
Driver asleep or drowsy ..	143	15	193
Dazzled by lights of an approaching vehicle	82	5	109
Failing to give or observe traffic signs/signals	345	10	452
Hit run drivers (not elsewhere classified)	44	3	44
Other causes ..	103	6	122
Total:	6,314	327	8,862
Riders of Motor Cycles responsible:			
Excessive speed having regard to conditions	77	7	82
Failing to keep to the left	33	1	36
Failing to give right of way at intersection	134	2	158
Failing to make right hand turn with due care	15	1	16
Rider intoxicated ..	11	2	11
Inexperience with type of vehicle in use	57	3	59
Inattentive riding ..	207	7	229
Overtaking or following vehicle too closely	93	6	111
Failing to give or observe traffic signs/signals	32	1	38
Other causes ..	21	-	22
Total:	680	30	762
Pedal Cyclists responsible:			
Failing to keep to the left	35	2	35
Failing to give right of way at intersection	73	1	74
Failing to make right hand turn with due care	43	2	42
Inattentive riding ..	206	3	210
Failing to give or observe traffic signs/signals	41	1	41
Other causes ..	96	6	95
Total:	494	15	497
Drivers of Animal-drawn Vehicles and Riders of Animals responsible:			
..	5	-	6
Pedestrians responsible:			
Crossing roadway without due care ..	1,000	78	963
Stepping off kerb without due care ..	24	1	24
Intoxicated ..	139	13	131
Children not under, or breaking away from, supervision ..	330	11	325
Boarding vehicle on wrong side or in motion	6	1	5
Infirmity or sudden illness ..	27	4	24
Other causes ..	58	11	54
Total:	1,584	119	1,526
Passengers responsible:			
Alighting from vehicle in motion or on wrong side	20	-	21
Falling from, or riding improperly on, vehicle	53	5	52
Interfering with driver's control ..	10	-	11
Other causes ..	38	1	37
Total:	121	6	121

TABLE IV - CLASSIFICATION OF ROAD ACCIDENTS INVOLVING CASUALTIES ACCORDING TO CAUSE

AUSTRALIA, SEPTEMBER QUARTER, 1959 - (Cont'd)

Cause of Accident	Number of Accidents	Persons Killed	Persons Injured
<u>Vehicle Defects:</u>			
Defective brakes	101	3	160
Defective steering	101	4	165
Defective tyres (i.e., blow-out) ..	156	7	238
Inadequate or incorrectly adjusted lights	86	2	118
Insecure or excessive loading ..	12	1	13
Other defects	116	5	143
<u>Total:</u>	572	22	837
<u>Accidents Attributed to Animals:</u>	90	2	105
<u>Accidents Attributed to Road Conditions:</u>			
Road surface loosely gravelled ..	179	9	253
Road surface wet and slippery ..	205	6	270
Road obstructions and other faults ..	136	3	180
<u>Total:</u>	520	18	703
<u>Accidents Attributed to Weather:</u> ..	82	4	135
<u>Accidents Attributed to Parties not Involved:</u>	276	9	382
<u>Other Causes:</u>	40	7	49
<u>GRAND TOTAL:</u>	10,778	559	13,985

TABLE V - NATURE OF ROAD ACCIDENTS INVOLVING CASUALTIES

AUSTRALIA, SEPTEMBER QUARTER, 1959

Nature of Accident	Number of Accidents	Persons Killed	Persons Injured
<u>COLLISIONS:</u>			
<u>Motor Vehicle (other than Motor Cycle) with -</u>			
Motor Vehicle (other than motor cycle)	3,180	103	5,022
Motor Cycle	1,054	27	1,169
Pedal Cycle	932	33	922
Tram	36	2	48
Railway Vehicle	35	5	54
Pedestrian	2,245	179	2,199
Animal or Animal-drawn Vehicle ..	59	2	72
Fixed Object (including parked vehicle)	598	42	893
Other	5	-	11
<u>Motor Cycle with -</u>			
Motor Cycle	27	3	39
Pedal Cycle	37	-	48
Tram	1	-	1
Railway Vehicle	2	1	1
Pedestrian	120	3	151
Animal or Animal-drawn Vehicle ..	37	1	38
Fixed Object (including parked vehicle)	53	2	58
Other	-	-	-
<u>Total: Collisions involving motor vehicles:</u>	8,421	403	10,726
<u>Other Collisions involving -</u>			
Pedal Cycle	66	3	73
Tram	29	3	27
Animal or Animal-drawn Vehicle ..	-	-	-
Other Vehicle	1	-	1
<u>Total: Collisions:</u>	8,517	409	10,827
<u>NON-COLLISIONS:</u>			
Vehicles overturning or leaving roadway	2,106	139	3,001
Passenger Accidents	144	6	145
Other Accidents	11	5	12
<u>Total: Non-Collisions:</u>	2,261	150	3,158
<u>GRAND TOTAL:</u>	10,778	559	13,985