

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS.
CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS STATISTICS. SEPTEMBER QUARTER, 1958

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, 1958, 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 - 1954-55	12,557	10,217	6,586	3,098	3,149	864	131	26,602
1955-56	12,917	10,606	7,116	2,886	3,211	874	156	37,766
1956-57	13,473	10,804	7,527	3,142	3,082	852	186	39,066
1957-58	14,646	9,536	6,565	4,372	3,338	779	237	39,473
June Qtr., 1957	3,574	2,889	1,946	1,013	806	254	37	10,519
September " 1957	3,381	2,914	1,638	991	753	206	54	9,937
December " 1957	3,824	2,667	1,687	1,252	863	185	63	10,541
March " 1958	3,572	2,059	1,544	1,066	833	197	55	9,326
June " 1958	3,869	1,896	1,696	1,063	889	191	65	9,669
September " 1958	3,613	1,854	1,348	1,070	856	189	84	9,014

PERSONS KILLED

Year - 1954-55	798	528	273	173	206	57	7	2,042
1955-56	808	582	298	167	185	72	7	2,119
1956-57	774	589	325	185	168	65	7	2,113
1957-58	794	571	342	200	164	70	5	2,146
June Qtr., 1957	209	164	90	39	46	16	-	564
September " 1957	188	161	89	50	32	14	2	536
December " 1957	199	127	83	48	41	19	1	518
March " 1958	194	130	68	39	49	15	1	496
June " 1958	213	153	102	63	42	22	1	596
September " 1958	206	164	87	38	48	10	1	554

PERSONS INJURED

Year - 1954-55	15,959	12,833	8,421	3,926	4,036	1,111	179	46,465
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	13,035	8,739	5,492	4,249	1,000	320	52,213
June Qtr., 1957	4,579	3,780	2,578	1,258	1,014	314	46	13,569
September " 1957	4,377	3,901	2,173	1,296	922	268	75	13,012
December " 1957	5,005	3,561	2,314	1,558	1,125	247	92	13,902
March " 1958	4,858	2,873	2,004	1,320	1,076	252	61	12,444
June " 1958	5,138	2,700	2,248	1,318	1,126	233	92	12,855
September " 1958	4,585	2,694	1,785	1,352	1,076	232	105	11,829

(a) Excludes Northern Territory

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

Type of Road User	September Quarter, 1957					September Quarter, 1958				
	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	118	5	123	13	5	120	14	134	15	5
Motor Cyclists	42	-	42	5	2	42	-	42	4	2
Pedal Cyclists	26	3	29	3	1	43	4	47	5	2
Passengers (a)	98	48	146	15	6	93	41	134	14	5
Pedestrians	142	52	194	20	9	147	48	195	20	8
Other Classes (b)	2	-	2	..	..	1	1	2	..	..
Not Stated	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total:	428	108	536	56	23	446	108	554	56	22

PERSONS INJURED

Drivers of Motor Vehicles	3,233	387	3,620	376	156	3,193	368	3,561	361	141
Motor Cyclists	1,267	43	1,310	136	56	1,111	51	1,162	118	46
Pedal Cyclists	989	149	1,138	118	49	763	131	894	91	35
Passengers (a)	2,407	2,381	4,788	497	206	2,279	2,151	4,430	450	175
Pedestrians	1,370	749	2,119	220	92	1,143	616	1,759	179	69
Other Classes (b)	31	6	37	4	2	19	3	22	2	1
Not Stated	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	..	..
Total:	9,297	3,715	13,012	1,351	561	8,509	3,320	11,829	1,201	467

(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, 1958

Location	Number of Accidents	Persons Killed	Persons Injured
At Intersections:			
Controlled by Police	18	-	18
Controlled by Traffic Lights	113	-	150
Uncontrolled	3,229	117	4,334
Other than at Intersections:			
Straight Road	4,104	309	5,097
Bend or Curve - view open	992	82	1,460
view obscured	207	18	327
Bridge, Culvert or Causeway	112	9	146
Steep Hill	83	3	100
Top of Hill	42	1	68
Railway Level Crossing -			
(a) Guarded by gates	6	-	7
(b) Guarded by lights, flagmen or other mechanically operated signals	10	4	8
(c) Unguarded	36	8	45
Other Locations:	58	2	65
Locations not stated:	4	1	4
Total:	9,014	554	11,829

**TABLE IV - CLASSIFICATION OF ROAD ACCIDENTS INVOLVING CASUALTIES ACCORDING TO CAUSE -
AUSTRALIA, SEPTEMBER QUARTER, 1958**

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
<u>Drivers of Motor Vehicles (excluding Motor Cycles) responsible:</u>			
Excessive speed having regard to conditions	1,017	109	1,618
Failing to keep to the left	300	27	539
Failing to give right of way at intersection	1,272	31	1,917
Failing to make right hand turn with due care	355	7	469
Inexperience or infirmity of driver	117	15	182
Inattentive driving	1,100	66	1,421
Driver intoxicated	256	23	359
Reversing without care	55	1	68
Overtaking or following vehicle too closely	222	10	313
Driver asleep or drowsy	89	16	102
Dazzled by lights or an approaching vehicle	50	3	71
Failing to give or observe traffic signs/signals	258	8	340
Hit run drivers (not elsewhere classified)	70	3	73
Other causes	159	14	198
Total:	5,320	333	7,668
<u>Riders of Motor Cycles responsible:</u>			
Excessive speed having regard to conditions	75	7	89
Failing to keep to the left	30	5	35
Failing to give right of way at intersection	113	4	127
Failing to make right hand turn with due care	11	-	12
Rider intoxicated	8	-	9
Inexperience with type of vehicle in use	41	1	47
Inattentive riding	162	6	188
Overtaking or following vehicle too closely	62	3	68
Failing to give or observe traffic signs/signals	27	-	31
Other causes	36	1	39
Total:	565	27	645
<u>Pedal Cyclists responsible:</u>			
Failing to keep to the left	37	6	39
Failing to give right of way at intersection	54	-	55
Failing to make right hand turn with due care	49	1	50
Inattentive riding	131	5	128
Failing to give or observe traffic signs/signals	39	3	38
Other causes	95	2	94
Total:	405	17	404
<u>Drivers of Animal-drawn Vehicles and Riders of Animals responsible:</u>			
	2	-	3
<u>Pedestrians responsible:</u>			
Crossing roadway without due care	770	84	720
Stepping off kerb without due care	27	4	25
Intoxicated	90	12	79
Children not under, or breaking away from, supervision	255	10	253
Boarding vehicle on wrong side or in motion	12	-	12
Infirmity or sudden illness	19	3	16
Other causes	43	2	48
Total:	1,216	115	1,153
<u>Passengers responsible:</u>			
Alighting from vehicle in motion or on wrong side	23	-	23
Falling from, or riding improperly on, vehicle	55	1	58
Interfering with driver's control	7	1	11
Other causes	34	3	33
Total:	119	5	125

TABLE IV - CLASSIFICATION OF ROAD ACCIDENTS INVOLVING CASUALTIES ACCORDING TO CAUSE
AUSTRALIA, SEPTEMBER QUARTER, 1958 (Cont'd)

Cause of Accident	Number of Accidents	Persons Killed	Persons Injured
<u>Vehicle Defects:</u>			
Defective brakes	99	1	130
Defective steering	105	5	137
Defective tyres (i.e., blow-out)	137	4	219
Inadequate or incorrectly adjusted lights	99	9	120
Insecure or excessive loading	14	1	14
Other defects	107	6	136
Total:	561	26	756
<u>Accidents Attributed to Animals:</u>	104	4	119
<u>Accidents Attributed to Road Conditions:</u>			
Road surface loosely gravelled	145	10	201
Road surface wet and slippery	182	5	250
Road obstructions and other faults	118	4	162
Total:	445	19	613
<u>Accidents Attributed to Weather:</u>	77	4	88
<u>Accidents Attributed to Parties not Involved:</u>	175	4	224
<u>Other Causes:</u>	25	-	31
GRAND TOTAL:	9,014	554	11,829

TABLE V - NATURE OF ROAD ACCIDENTS INVOLVING CASUALTIES
AUSTRALIA, SEPTEMBER QUARTER, 1958

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)	2,631	105	4,308
Motor Cycle	937	29	1,059
Pedal Cycle	793	44	781
Tram	45	2	67
Railway Vehicle	41	9	54
Pedestrian	1,673	184	1,582
Animal or Animal-drawn Vehicle	62	-	79
Fixed Object (including parked vehicle)	512	23	748
Other	7	1	6
<u>Motor Cycle with -</u>			
Motor Cycle	20	-	28
Pedal Cycle	41	2	54
Tram	2	-	2
Railway Vehicle	2	-	2
Pedestrian	114	5	141
Animal or Animal-drawn Vehicle	51	4	54
Fixed Object (including parked vehicle)	46	4	53
Other	-	-	-
Total: Collisions involving motor vehicles;	6,977	412	9,018
<u>Other Collisions involving -</u>			
Pedal Cycle	62	2	66
Tram	35	4	31
Animal or Animal-drawn Vehicle	3	-	3
Other Vehicle	-	-	-
Total: Collisions:	7,077	418	9,118
<u>NON-COLLISIONS:</u>			
Vehicles overturning or leaving roadway	1,796	129	2,565
Passenger Accidents	131	6	136
Other Accidents	10	1	10
Total: Non-Collisions:	1,937	136	2,711
GRAND TOTAL:	9,014	554	11,829