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**INQUIRIES**

If you want to know more about these statistics -  
ring Mr Valdis Juskevics, Canberra 526068 or our State Office, or  
write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616.  
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**ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS INVOLVING CASUALTIES, MARCH QUARTER 1977  
(PRELIMINARY)**

**Introduction**

This statement contains preliminary details of road traffic accidents involving casualties which occurred in each State and Territory of Australia during the three months ended 31 March 1977. Comparative details for earlier periods are also shown. This statement will be followed at a later date by the bulletin *Road Traffic Accidents Involving Casualties* (Catalogue No. 9403.0. Previously Ref. No. 14.9) which will give information in greater detail.

**Seasonally adjusted**

2. Seasonally adjusted statistics of road traffic accidents involving casualties, persons killed and persons injured, are shown in this statement. Because of the irregular nature of the data, caution should be exercised in interpreting quarter to quarter movements. In this statement the seasonally adjusted series has been revised. The revision is the result of annual re-analysis, details of which, together with the information regarding the methods used in seasonally adjusting these and other series are given in *Seasonally Adjusted Indicators 1977* (Catalogue No 1308.0. Previously Ref. No. 1.10)

**Scope**

3. Details of road traffic accidents involving casualties relate to accidents which were reported to the police and which satisfy the following conditions -

- (a) that the accident occurred on any road, street, thoroughfare, etc., open to the public, including railway level crossing;
- (b) that it involved a road vehicle which at the time of the accident was in motion; and
- (c) that the accident resulted in -
  - (i) the death of any person within a period of 30 days of the accident; or
  - (ii) bodily injury to any person to an extent requiring surgical or medical treatment.

4. The statistics in this bulletin are compiled from accident reports which are prepared by police officers in the various States and Territories.

5. Australian totals of the number of accidents which involved vehicle damage only are not available as these details are not compiled in all States.

6. Investigations recently conducted by the ABS have revealed that, in spite of the requirement for accidents involving casualties to be reported to the police, some casualty accidents, for the most part involving less severe injuries, have not in fact been reported. In addition, procedural changes adopted in recent years have led to a decrease in the number of accidents being included in the reporting system. Precise measurement of the extent to which these factors have influenced the statistics has not been possible, but they are likely to have operated to a varying degree in all States and Territories. This should be noted when using these statistics for the analysis of trends.

**Related publications**

Other ABS publications which may be of interest include :

- Road Accident Fatalities* (Catalogue No. 9401.0. Previously Ref. No. 14.13)(m)
- Road Traffic Accidents Involving Casualties* (Catalogue No. 9403.0. Previously Ref. No. 14.9)(q)

All publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Catalogue of Publications 1977* (Catalogue No. 1101.0. Previously Ref. No. 1.8) which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

**Symbols and other usages**

- p - preliminary
- r - revised

**R. J. CAMERON**  
Australian Statistician

## ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS INVOLVING CASUALTIES

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia	
									Original	Seasonally adjusted
NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS										
Year -										
1974	29,853	12,542	8,086	9,469	4,742	1,393	575	813	67,473	..
1975	28,217	(a)12,514	8,241	8,793	5,104	1,496	554	869	65,788	..
1976	r27,393	r12,680	7,814	8,090	5,286	1,603	582	833	r64,281	..
Quarter ended -										
December 1975	7,321	3,413	2,161	2,293	1,338	371	153	209	17,259	16,476
March 1976	6,743	r3,068	1,836	2,031	1,241	405	110	208	r15,642	16,237
June 1976	6,823	r3,139	2,047	1,859	1,294	375	171	199	r15,907	16,016
September 1976	6,569	r2,916	1,934	2,065	1,340	390	145	180	r15,539	15,603
December 1976	r7,258	r3,557	1,997	2,135	1,411	433	156	246	r17,193	16,406
March 1977 p	6,472	3,108	1,771	1,889	1,255	339	130	187	15,151	15,731
NUMBER OF FATAL ACCIDENTS										
Year -										
1974	1,121	739	515	342	303	98	41	30	3,189	..
1975	1,150	784	553	310	259	108	50	32	3,246	..
1976	1,119	828	497	277	255	97	48	33	3,154	..
Quarter ended -										
December 1975	276	195	148	83	68	26	15	10	821	..
March 1976	241	210	97	86	64	25	8	6	737	..
June 1976	299	209	122	59	58	25	13	7	792	..
September 1976	288	187	119	68	66	21	18	12	779	..
December 1976	291	222	159	64	67	26	9	8	846	..
March 1977 p	264	204	110	78	65	18	4	4	747	..
PERSONS KILLED										
Year -										
1974	1,275	806	589	382	334	111	44	31	3,572	..
1975	1,288	910	635	339	304	122	64	32	3,694	..
1976	1,264	938	569	307	308	108	51	38	3,583	..
Quarter ended -										
December 1975	318	226	162	93	84	28	17	10	938	903
March 1976	263	245	114	100	79	31	9	8	849	882
June 1976	341	226	134	64	66	25	13	7	876	865
September 1976	334	212	139	73	84	22	20	15	899	913
December 1976	326	255	182	70	79	30	9	8	959	922
March 1977 p	307	227	131	89	75	23	4	4	860	893
PERSONS INJURED										
Year -										
1974	40,429	17,539	10,627	12,725	6,277	1,911	788	1,042	91,338	..
1975	38,141	(a)17,437	11,019	12,020	6,832	2,137	789	1,124	89,499	..
1976	r37,327	r17,653	10,405	11,082	7,058	2,323	814	1,145	r87,807	..
Quarter ended -										
December 1975	10,073	4,816	2,871	3,161	1,743	529	216	269	23,678	22,447
March 1976	9,249	r4,360	2,559	2,854	1,675	639	133	291	r21,760	22,296
June 1976	9,215	r4,367	2,708	2,484	1,704	507	238	270	r21,493	21,812
September 1976	8,855	r3,928	2,488	2,871	1,742	559	221	244	r20,908	21,260
December 1976	r10,008	r4,998	2,650	2,873	1,937	618	222	340	r23,646	22,401
March 1977 p	9,018	3,856	2,306	2,512	1,694	477	178	234	20,275	20,775

(a) Late advice of 111 accidents involving 149 injuries which occurred in Victoria during 1975 has recently been received by the ABS. These accidents represent approximately 0.9% of all casualty accidents occurring in Victoria during 1975 and 0.2% of casualty accidents in Australia during the same period. Corresponding figures for the 149 injuries which occurred as a result of these accidents are 0.8% and 0.2% respectively. As the overall effect of these accidents and injuries on figures previously published for Victoria and Australia is negligible, it has been decided not to revise them. However further information about these accidents is available on request from the Victorian office of the ABS.