

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS,

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS STATISTICS, DECEMBER 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 31st December, 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)
NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS								
Year - 1954-55	12,557	10,217	6,586	3,098	3,149	864	131	36,602
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
September Qtr., 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
December " 1958	4,065	3,030	1,516	1,037	873	209	74	10,804
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
September Qtr., 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
December " 1958	211	149	96	45	44	23	1	569
PERSONS INJURED								
Year - 1954-55	15,959	12,833	6,421	3,926	4,036	1,111	179	46,465
1955-56	17,047	13,463	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
September Qtr., 1957	4,377	3,901	2,173	1,236	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
December " 1958	5,370	4,093	2,110	1,355	1,200	268	102	14,498

(a) Excludes Northern Territory.

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

Type of Road User	December Quarter, 1957					December Quarter, 1958				
	Males	Females	Persons			Males	Females	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.
Drivers of Motor Vehicles	148	13	161	17	7	164	16	180	18	7
Motor Cyclists	50	1	51	5	2	46	1	47	5	2
Pedal Cyclists	24	2	26	2	1	19	6	25	2	1
Passengers (a)	86	48	134	14	5	91	66	157	16	6
Pedestrians	104	41	145	15	6	114	44	158	16	6
Other Classes (b)	1	-	1	..	..	1	1	2	..	..
Not Stated	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:	413	105	518	53	21	435	134	569	57	22

PERSONS KILLED

Drivers of Motor Vehicles	3,502	397	3,899	402	160	3,651	465	4,116	416	160
Motor Cyclists	1,549	58	1,607	166	65	1,396	83	1,479	149	57
Pedal Cyclists	1,010	160	1,170	121	48	860	150	1,010	102	39
Passengers (a)	2,642	2,664	5,306	547	217	2,970	2,817	5,787	584	225
Pedestrians	1,228	677	1,905	196	78	1,316	766	2,082	210	81
Other Classes (b)	13	1	14	1	1	19	5	24	3	1
Not Stated	1	-	1	..	..	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:	9,945	3,957	13,902	1,433	569	10,212	4,286	14,498	1,464	563

(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, DECEMBER QUARTER, 1958

Location	Number of Accidents	Persons Killed	Persons Injured
At Intersections:			
Controlled by Police ..	11	1	15
Controlled by Traffic Lights ..	168	4	209
Uncontrolled ..	3,776	116	5,164
Other than at Intersections:			
Straight Road ..	4,939	299	6,252
Bend or Curve - view open ..	1,279	92	1,914
view obscured ..	257	22	424
Bridge, Culvert or Causeway ..	112	8	163
Step Hill ..	72	7	112
Top of Hill ..	39	8	65
Railway Level Crossing -			
(a) Guarded by gates ..	12	3	10
(b) Guarded by lights, flagmen or other mechanically operated signals ..	4	-	6
(c) Unguarded ..	39	3	61
Other Locations: ..	91	6	96
Locations not stated: ..	5	-	5
Totals:	10,804	569	14,498

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

AUSTRALIA, DECEMBER 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	1,109	108	1,885
Failing to keep to the left ..	343	31	603
Failing to give right of way at intersection	1,526	40	2,344
Failing to make right hand turn with due care	338	7	472
Inexperience or infirmity of driver ..	177	9	271
Inattentive driving ..	1,410	64	1,838
Driver intoxicated ..	237	24	342
Reversing without care ..	62	1	69
Overtaking or following vehicle too closely	247	13	373
Driver asleep or drowsy ..	163	20	210
Dazzled by lights or an approaching vehicle	70	6	113
Failing to give or observe traffic signs/signals	353	3	449
Hit run drivers (not elsewhere classified)	63	1	68
Other causes ..	186	14	234
Total:	6,284	341	9,271
<u>Riders of Motor Cycles responsible:</u>			
Excessive speed having regard to conditions	136	15	163
Failing to keep to the left ..	33	5	36
Failing to give right of way at intersection	136	2	158
Failing to make right hand turn with due care	18	-	20
Rider intoxicated ..	5	1	5
Inexperience with type of vehicle in use	77	4	86
Inattentive riding ..	220	12	244
Overtaking or following vehicle too closely	67	-	80
Failing to give or observe traffic signs/signals	46	1	56
Other causes ..	36	2	39
Total:	774	42	887
<u>Pedal Cyclists responsible:</u>			
Failing to keep to the left ..	44	2	48
Failing to give right of way at intersection	107	1	114
Failing to make right hand turn with due care	33	-	34
Inattentive riding ..	209	3	216
Failing to give or observe traffic signs/signals	55	2	56
Other causes ..	118	4	118
Total:	566	12	586
<u>Drivers of Animal-drawn Vehicles and Riders of Animals responsible:</u>			
	2	-	2
<u>Pedestrians responsible:</u>			
Crossing roadway without due care ..	899	53	887
Stepping off kerb without due care ..	30	1	30
Intoxicated ..	98	9	91
Children not under, or breaking away from, supervision ..	333	16	328
Boarding vehicle on wrong side or in action	15	1	14
Infirmity or sudden illness ..	10	1	11
Other causes ..	37	5	35
Total:	1,422	86	1,396
<u>Passengers responsible:</u>			
Alighting from vehicle in motion or on wrong side	32	1	31
Falling from, or riding improperly on, vehicle	63	5	62
Interfering with driver's control ..	6	-	14
Other causes ..	54	3	55
Total:	155	9	162

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

Cause of Accident	Number of Accidents	Persons Killed	Persons Injured
<u>Vehicle Defects:</u>			
Defective brakes	126	5	172
Defective steering	127	5	193
Defective tyres (i.e., blow-out) ..	188	5	266
Inadequate or incorrectly adjusted lights	78	7	108
Insecure or excessive loading	13	-	15
Other defects	146	13	187
<u>Total:</u>	678	35	941
<u>Accidents Attributed to Animals:</u>	96	2	109
<u>Accidents Attributed to Road Conditions:</u>			
Road surface loosely gravelled	193	7	281
Road surface wet and slippery	146	5	198
Road obstructions and other faults ..	151	10	222
<u>Total:</u>	490	22	701
<u>Accidents Attributed to Weather:</u> ..	58	2	75
<u>Accidents Attributed to Parties not Involved:</u>	236	6	306
<u>Other Causes:</u>	43	12	62
<u>GRAND TOTAL:</u>	10,804	569	14,498

TABLE V - NATURE OF ROAD ACCIDENTS INVOLVING CASUALTIES
AUSTRALIA, DECEMBER 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) ..	3,079	124	5,152
Motor Cycle	1,098	34	1,226
Pedal Cycle	857	20	870
Tram	30	-	38
Railway Vehicle	39	6	57
Pedestrian	1,897	143	1,847
Animal or Animal-drawn Vehicle	41	-	50
Fixed Object (including parked vehicle) ..	644	25	889
Other	28	2	28
<u>Motor Cycle with -</u>			
Motor Cycle	30	1	48
Pedal Cycle	48	-	68
Tram	3	-	3
Railway Vehicle	2	-	3
Pedestrian	138	9	160
Animal or Animal-drawn Vehicle	53	2	58
Fixed Object (including parked vehicle) ..	68	4	76
Other	22	-	29
<u>Total: Collisions involving motor vehicles:</u>	8,077	370	10,602
<u>Other Collisions involving -</u>			
Pedal Cycle	115	4	121
Tram	34	-	38
Animal or Animal-drawn Vehicle	5	-	5
Other Vehicle	1	-	1
<u>Total: Collisions:</u>	8,232	374	10,767
<u>NON-COLLISIONS:</u>			
Vehicles overturning or leaving roadway ..	2,399	181	3,555
Passenger Accidents	165	12	170
Other Accidents	8	2	6
<u>Total: Non-Collisions:</u>	2,572	195	3,731
<u>GRAND TOTAL:</u>	10,804	569	14,498