

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS
CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

To be treated as strictly CONFIDENTIAL and NOT to be published, broadcast
or cabled before MIDNIGHT, TUESDAY, 24TH JULY, 1956.

ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS STATISTICS, DECEMBER QUARTER, 1955

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, 1955 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. Under legislation passed in Tasmania on 10th August, 1954, it is no longer obligatory to report accidents involving only damage to property.

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

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A. (a)	Tas.	A.C.T.	Total (b)
<u>TOTAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED</u>								
Year - 1951-52	22,662	16,559	12,545	8,373	4,552	3,162	257	68,110
1952-53	24,382	16,351	14,916	8,154	7,510	3,664	318	75,295
1953-54	29,514	16,314	11,875	10,320	8,979	3,957	265	87,224
1954-55	35,315	15,093	21,438	12,304	10,715	2,642	251	97,758
December Qtr. 1954	9,212	3,769	5,456	3,119	2,810	639	60	25,065
March " 1955	8,418	3,469	5,128	2,614	2,559	512	55	22,755
June " 1955	883	4,215	5,917	3,390	2,662	591	74	26,332
September " 1955	5,182	3,670	6,410	3,419	2,946	604	82	26,313
December " 1955	10,296	3,581	6,884	3,413	2,898	578	93	27,743

ACCIDENTS INVOLVING CASUALTIES

Year - 1951-52	10,292	10,111	5,214	2,114	2,265	1,027	121	31,144
1952-53	9,944	10,098	5,748	1,998	2,688	1,028	131	31,635
1953-54	11,691	10,537	6,349	2,742	3,079	982	143	35,523
1954-55	12,557	10,217	6,586	3,098	3,149	864	131	36,602
December Qtr. 1954	3,370	2,505	1,753	773	806	209	36	9,452
March " 1955	2,957	2,338	1,611	667	781	173	32	8,559
June " 1955	3,214	2,943	1,688	830	724	233	40	9,672
September " 1955	3,102	2,548	1,731	815	839	206	32	9,273
December " 1955	3,542	2,582	1,967	737	814	209	39	9,890

PERSONS KILLED

Year - 1951-52	741	603	251	172	194	87	6	2,054
1952-53	663	515	301	136	182	56	3	1,856
1953-54	728	569	278	153	175	67	6	1,976
1954-55	798	528	273	173	206	57	7	2,042
December Qtr. 1954	180	123	89	53	55	15	2	517
March " 1955	206	125	65	34	61	6	2	499
June " 1955	210	159	63	56	46	16	1	551
September " 1955	179	152	78	46	42	13	2	512
December " 1955	225	112	71	43	50	18	3	522

PERSONS INJURED

Year - 1951-52	12,637	12,531	6,561	2,497	2,771	1,215	164	38,376
1952-53	12,459	12,564	7,152	2,449	3,373	1,246	162	39,405
1953-54	14,660	13,351	7,933	3,420	3,935	1,156	174	44,629
1954-55	15,959	12,833	8,421	3,926	4,036	1,111	179	46,465
December Qtr. 1954	4,401	3,131	2,271	1,036	1,064	269	48	12,220
March " 1955	3,878	3,042	2,040	870	970	231	44	11,075
June " 1955	3,999	3,704	2,109	989	908	297	59	12,065
September " 1955	3,909	3,216	2,217	974	1,038	255	49	11,658
December " 1955	4,651	3,408	2,515	1,010	1,071	246	58	12,959

- (a) Figures have been collected on a basis comparable with that in 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.

- (b) Excludes Northern Territory.

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

Types of Road Users	December Quarter, 1954					December Quarter, 1955				
	Males	Fe-males	Persons			Males	Fe-males	Persons		
			No.	Per Mill. of Population	Per 100,000 Motor Veh's. Reg'd.			No.	Per Mill. of Population	Per 100,000 Motor Veh's. Reg'd.
<u>PERSONS KILLED</u>										
Drivers of Motor Vehicles	110	5	115	13	6	123	6	129	14	6
Motor Cyclists	82	1	83	9	4	53	-	53	6	3
Pedal Cyclists	27	1	28	3	1	22	1	23	2	1
Passengers (a)	94	47	141	16	7	121	61	182	20	8
Pedestrians	109	38	147	16	7	90	45	135	14	6
Other Classes (b)	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not Stated	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Total:</u>	425	92	517	57	25	409	113	522	56	24
<u>PERSONS INJURED</u>										
Drivers of Motor Vehicles	2,418	201	2,619	289	129	2,998	329	3,327	358	152
Motor Cyclists	1,928	23	1,951	215	96	1,700	33	1,733	187	79
Pedal Cyclists	935	154	1,089	120	54	921	157	1,078	116	49
Passengers (a)	2,353	2,252	4,605	508	228	2,463	2,292	4,755	512	217
Pedestrians	1,208	718	1,926	213	95	1,331	707	2,038	220	93
Other Classes (b)	25	4	29	3	1	22	3	25	3	1
Not Stated	1	-	1	-	-	3	-	3	-	-
<u>Total:</u>	8,868	3,352	12,220	1,348	603	9,438	3,521	12,959	1,396	591

(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 : DECEMBER QUARTER, 1955

Location	Total Accidents Reported.	Accidents Involving Casualties	Persons Killed	Persons Injured
<u>At Intersection:</u>				
Controlled by Police ..	89	13	-	15
Controlled by Traffic Lights ..	328	126	2	158
Uncontrolled ..	9,002	3,234	75	4,228
<u>Other than at Intersections:</u>				
Straight Road ..	14,277	4,953	277	6,164
Bend or Curve - view open ..	2,504	1,075	94	1,681
Bend or Curve - view obscured ..	548	207	20	318
Bridge, Culvert or Causeway ..	423	95	11	132
Steep Hill ..	304	92	11	117
Top of Hill ..	103	34	1	57
Railway Level Crossing -				
(a) Guarded by gates ..	27	10	5	13
(b) Guarded by lights, flagmen or other mechanically operated signals ..	9	4	1	9
(c) Unguarded by (a) or (b) ..	70	24	6	27
<u>Other Locations:</u> ..	38	8	-	11
<u>Location not Stated:</u> ..	21	15	19	29
<u>Total:</u>	27,743	9,890	522	12,959

TABLE IV : CLASSIFICATION OF ACCIDENTS AND CASUALTIES ACCORDING TO CAUSE
AUSTRALIA : DECEMBER QUARTER, 1955

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	1,333	681	92	1,109
Failing to keep to the left	1,314	363	30	631
Failing to give right of way at intersection	3,680	961	20	1,420
Failing to make right hand turn with due care	697	193	3	250
Inexperience or infirmity of driver	337	129	14	200
Inattentive driving	5,631	1,360	58	1,863
Driver intoxicated	715	215	22	325
Reversing without care	757	46	1	48
Overtaking or following vehicle too closely	1,356	151	10	229
Driver asleep or drowsy	327	160	9	199
Dazzled by light of an approaching vehicle	252	72	6	101
Failing to give or observe traffic signs/signals	1,433	317	3	437
Hit run drivers (not elsewhere classified)	136	41	3	41
Other causes	465	98	8	125
TOTAL:	18,433	4,787	279	6,978
Riders of Motor Cycles responsible:				
Excessive speed having regard to conditions	197	162	19	186
Failing to keep to the left	71	47	1	66
Failing to give right of way at intersection	230	156	4	182
Failing to make right hand turn with due care	31	13	-	14
Rider intoxicated	24	19	6	22
Inexperience with type of vehicle in use	97	78	1	95
Inattentive riding	438	322	14	375
Overtaking or following vehicle too closely	115	69	-	83
Failing to give or observe traffic signs/signals	87	62	1	68
Other causes	52	45	1	51
TOTAL:	1,342	973	47	1,142
Pedal Cyclists responsible:				
Failing to keep to the left	36	34	-	37
Failing to give right of way at intersection	68	60	-	63
Failing to make right hand turn with due care	40	36	-	38
Inattentive riding	319	306	7	312
Failing to give or observe traffic signs/signals	61	59	1	59
Other causes	97	95	5	94
TOTAL:	621	590	13	603
Drivers of Animal-drawn Vehicles and Riders of Animals responsible:				
	10	6	-	5
Pedestrians responsible:				
Crossing roadway without due care	1,034	1,020	55	1,014
Stepping off kerb without due care	85	84	3	88
Intoxicated	88	88	10	82
Children not under, or breaking away from supervision	322	321	11	315
Boarding vehicle on wrong side or in motion	28	28	-	28
Infirmity or sudden illness	10	10	2	8
Other causes	45	44	4	45
TOTAL:	1,612	1,595	85	1,580
Passengers responsible				
Alighting from vehicle in motion or on wrong side	42	40	-	40
Falling from or riding improperly on vehicle	88	88	6	87
Interfering with driver's control	14	8	2	9
Other causes	31	-	-	29
TOTAL:	175	165	8	265

TABLE IV : CLASSIFICATION OF ACCIDENTS AND CASUALTIES ACCORDING TO CAUSE
AUSTRALIA, DECEMBER QUARTER, 1955 (Continued)

Causes of Road Accidents	Total Accidents Reported	Accidents Involving Casualties	Persons Killed	Persons Injured
<u>Vehicle Defects:</u>				
Defective brakes	499	144	5	200
Defective steering	471	208	7	319
Defective tyres (i.e., blow-out)	279	119	5	190
Inadequate or incorrectly adjusted lights	141	72	5	92
Insecure or excessive loading	66	19	2	19
Other defects	315	108	7	150
<u>TOTAL:</u>	1,771	667	31	970
<u>Accidents Attributed to Animals:</u>	586	116	4	136
<u>Accidents Attributed to Road Conditions:</u>				
Road surface loosely gravelled	777	278	11	401
Road surface wet and slippery	742	210	5	304
Road obstructions and other faults	433	156	6	206
<u>TOTAL:</u>	1,952	644	22	911
<u>Accidents Attributed to Weather:</u>	246	82	6	99
<u>Accidents Attributed to Parties not Involved:</u>	803	205	5	275
<u>Other Causes:</u>	192	60	22	91
<u>GRAND TOTAL:</u>	27,743	9,890	522	12,959

TABLE V : CLASSES OF VEHICLES OR ROAD USERS INVOLVED IN ROAD ACCIDENTS
DECEMBER QUARTER, 1955

Nature of Accident	Total Accidents Reported	Accidents Involving Casualties	Persons Killed	Persons Injured
<u>COLLISIONS:</u>				
<u>Motor Vehicle (other than Motor Cycle) with-</u>				
Motor Vehicle (other than motor cycle)	14,263	2,415	108	4,046
Motor Cycle	1,885	1,237	37	1,410
Pedal Cycle	971	899	18	914
Tram	300	59	3	84
Railway Vehicle	70	29	13	36
Pedestrian	1,805	1,789	120	1,756
Animal or Animal-drawn Vehicle	567	69	-	94
Fixed Object (including parked vehicle)	2,287	557	40	799
Other	-	-	-	-
<u>Motor Cycle with -</u>				
Motor Cycle	64	49	4	71
Pedal Cycle	70	63	-	77
Tram	6	6	-	7
Railway Vehicle	1	1	-	1
Pedestrian	147	144	6	172
Animal or Animal-drawn Vehicle	84	72	5	79
Fixed Object (including parked vehicle)	77	65	13	70
Other	-	-	-	-
<u>Total: Collisions involving motor vehicles</u>	22,677	7,454	367	9,616
<u>Other Collisions involving -</u>				
Pedal Cycle	117	114	1	129
Tram	89	78	6	79
Animal or Animal-drawn Vehicle	2	2	1	1
Other Vehicle	5	3	-	3
<u>Total: Collisions.</u>	22,890	7,651	375	9,829
<u>NON-COLLISIONS:</u>				
Vehicle overturning or leaving roadway	4,567	2,048	138	2,944
Passenger Accidents	205	185	9	181
Other Accidents	81	6	-	6
<u>Total: Non-collisions.</u>	4,853	2,239	147	3,131
<u>GRAND TOTAL:</u>	27,743	9,890	522	12,959