



Australia's international road safety performance 1997

This monograph compares Australia's road safety performance with its OECD counterparts. The comparisons are drawn taking into account the level of motorisation and population of the countries reported. The results highlight the substantial gains made in road safety both in Australia and many other countries from 1975 to 1997. Full details of these comparisons are reported in *Benchmarking Road Safety – The 1997 Report*, published by the Australian Transport Safety Bureau.

Fatalities per 10 000 registered vehicles

The number of deaths for every 10 000 registered vehicles is a method of comparing road fatalities taking into account the level of motorisation.

Road fatalities relative to vehicle ownership have declined significantly in Australia since 1975.

In 1975, there were 5.8 deaths per 10 000 registered vehicles in Australia, in 1997 this had decreased to 1.5.

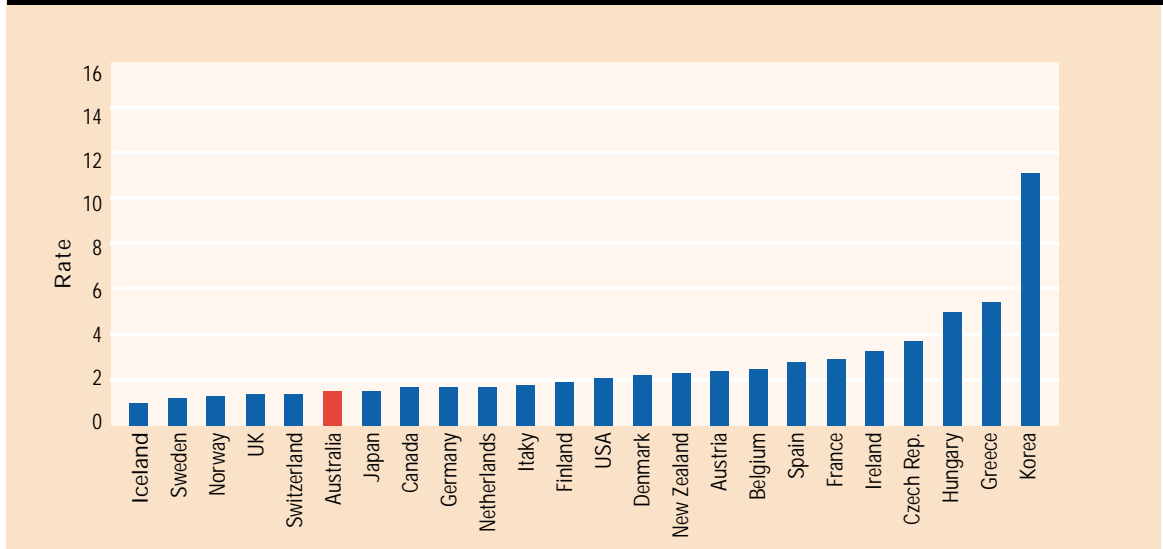
The median rate for the OECD nations reported has also declined. In 1975, the OECD median was 6.6, by 1997 it was 2.0.

For the years reported, Australia's rate of death per 10 000 registered vehicles was equal or below that reported for the OECD median.

In 1997, Australia recorded 1.5 deaths per 10 000 registered vehicles. Australia ranked 6th of the 21 OECD nations for which this information was available.

Country	1975	1980	1985	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Australia	5.8	4.3	3.2	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.3	2.1	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.5
Austria	11.6	7.2	4.8	4.4	4.7	4.4	4.2	4.1	3.6	3.1	3.1	2.7	2.3	2.4
Belgium	7.5	6.4	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.3	4.0	3.5	3.4	3.4	2.8	2.6	2.5
Canada	5.3	4.0	3.0	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.3	2.2	2.0	2.0	1.8	2.0	1.8	1.7
Czech Republic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.1	3.9	3.7
Denmark	5.0	3.7	4.1	3.5	3.5	3.2	3.1	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.3	2.2
Finland	7.2	4.0	3.2	3.1	3.3	3.5	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.1	2.2	2.0	1.8	1.9
France	8.1	6.3	4.6	4.3	4.5	4.4	4.2	3.9	3.6	3.4	3.2	3.1	3.0	2.9
Germany	7.2	4.9	2.9	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.0	1.8	1.7
Greece	16.5	10.4	9.6	7.6	7.2	7.6	7.2	7.1	7.0	6.6	6.5	6.7	-	5.4
Hungary	12.6	9.0	9.0	7.2	7.4	8.8	11.2	8.8	8.5	6.7	6.1	6.0	5.0	5.0
Iceland	-	2.8	2.1	1.9	2.2	2.0	1.7	2.0	1.5	1.3	-	1.8	0.7	1.0
Ireland	8.6	6.2	4.5	4.8	4.7	4.5	4.5	4.0	3.7	3.7	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.3
Italy	6.0	4.7	3.1	2.6	2.6	2.3	2.3	2.5	2.4	2.0	-	2.0	-	1.8
Japan	4.3	2.7	2.4	2.2	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.2	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.5
Korea	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12.5	13.5	11.1
Luxemburg	11.7	6.4	4.0	3.4	4.0	3.2	3.3	3.6	3.1	3.1	2.4	2.2	-	-
Netherlands	6.1	4.0	2.6	2.6	2.3	2.4	2.2	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.7	1.7
New Zealand	4.3	3.5	3.9	3.9	3.6	3.6	3.3	2.9	2.9	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.2	2.3
Norway	-	2.4	2.2	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.3
Portugal	26.1	15.2	9.3	9.9	10.0	8.6	7.7	7.6	6.7	5.4	-	4.8	4.5	-
Spain	9.0	6.4	5.4	5.8	6.0	6.3	5.8	5.4	4.5	3.6	3.1	3.1	2.8	2.8
Sweden	3.8	2.5	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.2	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.2
Switzerland	5.9	4.5	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.2	2.1	1.8	1.7	1.7	-	1.4
UK	3.9	3.4	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.2	1.9	1.8	1.6	-	1.5	1.4	1.4
USA	3.2	3.2	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1
OECD median	6.7	4.4	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.1	2.8	2.7	2.5	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.0

Fatalities per 10 000 registered vehicles, 1997



Iceland had the lowest rate recording 1.0 deaths per 10 000 registered vehicles.

Korea, with 11.1 deaths per 10 000 registered vehicles, had the highest rate of the OECD nations.

Fatalities per 100 000 population

The number of deaths for every 100 000 of population is a measure of the public health risk associated with road use.

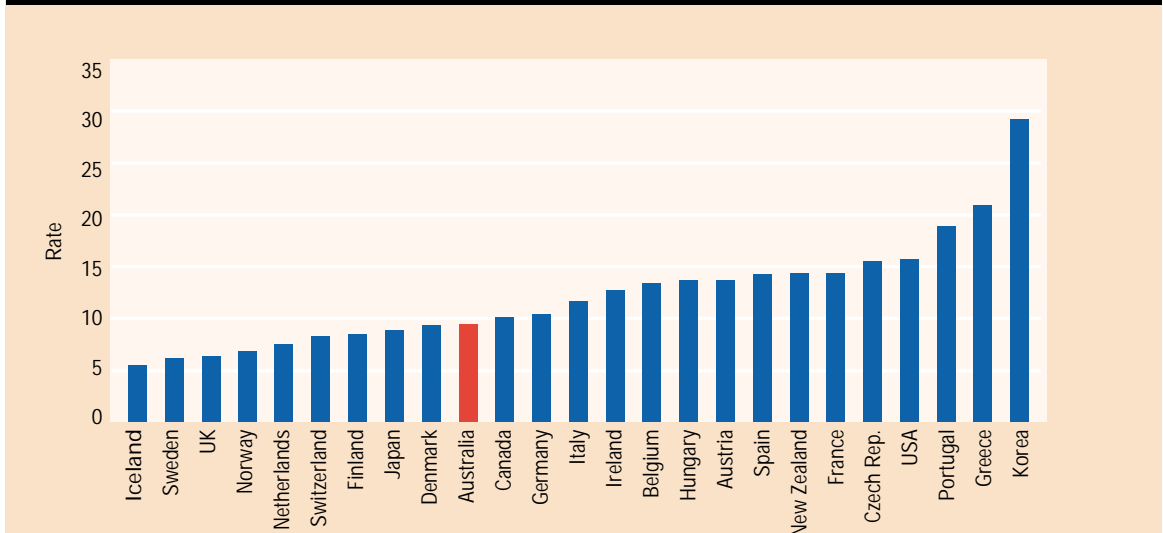
The public health risk associated with road use has declined significantly in Australia since 1975.

In 1975 there were 26.6 deaths per 100 000 population in Australia, in 1997 this had decreased to 9.5.

The median rate for the OECD nations reported has also declined. In 1975, the OECD median was 18.8, by 1997 it was 11.7.

In 1997, Australia recorded 9.5 road deaths per 100 000 population. Australia ranked 10th of

Fatalities per 100 000 population, 1997



Fatalities per 10 000 population, 1997														
Country	1975	1980	1985	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Australia	26.6	22.3	18.6	17.0	17.4	16.7	13.7	12.2	11.3	11.1	10.8	11.2	10.8	9.5
Austria	33.4	26.5	20.1	19.3	21.3	20.6	20.3	20.0	17.8	16.1	16.7	15.0	12.8	13.7
Belgium	24.0	24.3	18.3	19.5	19.9	20.1	19.9	18.8	16.7	16.5	16.8	14.3	13.4	13.4
Canada	26.7	22.7	17.3	16.7	16.0	16.2	14.9	13.7	12.3	12.6	11.1	11.3	10.3	10.1
Czech Republic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15.4	15.2	15.5
Denmark	16.4	13.5	15.1	13.6	13.9	13.1	12.4	11.8	11.2	10.8	10.5	11.2	9.8	9.3
Finland	19.4	11.6	11.1	11.8	13.2	14.8	13.1	12.7	12.0	9.6	9.5	8.6	7.9	8.5
France	27.3	25.5	20.7	19.4	20.6	20.5	19.9	18.5	17.3	16.6	15.6	15.3	14.7	14.4
Germany	22.0	19.3	13.0	12.2	12.7	12.5	14.0	14.2	13.2	12.3	12.1	11.6	10.7	10.4
Greece	13.5	14.6	19.7	17.3	17.4	19.5	19.8	20.2	20.4	20.3	21.1	23.1	-	20.9
Hungary	16.0	15.2	16.5	14.8	16.1	20.4	23.4	20.5	20.3	16.3	15.2	15.5	13.4	13.7
Iceland	-	11.0	10.0	9.8	11.7	11.1	9.5	10.6	8.1	6.4	-	9.0	3.7	5.5
Ireland	18.5	16.6	11.6	13.0	13.1	13.1	13.7	12.6	11.7	12.1	11.4	12.1	12.4	12.8
Italy	18.6	16.4	13.5	12.8	13.1	12.0	12.4	14.0	14.2	12.6	-	12.3	-	11.7
Japan	12.5	9.7	10.0	9.9	11.0	11.7	11.8	11.6	12.0	10.6	10.2	10.1	9.3	8.9
Korea	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26.6	32.3	29.3
Luxemburg	-	27.0	21.6	18.4	22.6	17.9	18.5	20.8	18.7	19.2	18.5	-	-	-
Netherlands	17.1	14.2	10.0	10.2	9.3	9.8	9.2	8.5	8.5	8.2	8.5	8.6	7.6	7.5
New Zealand	20.3	18.9	22.7	24.1	21.7	22.7	21.5	19.0	18.8	17.2	16.5	16.2	14.1	14.4
Norway	13.5	8.9	9.7	9.5	9.0	9.0	7.8	7.6	7.6	6.5	6.5	7.0	5.8	6.9
Portugal	39.5	31.5	25.2	30.6	33.7	31.5	32.2	34.4	32.9	28.7	-	28.8	28.9	18.9
Spain	16.6	17.7	16.6	19.7	21.3	24.1	23.2	22.7	20.1	16.3	14.4	14.7	14.0	14.3
Sweden	14.3	10.2	9.7	9.4	9.7	10.7	9.1	8.7	8.8	7.3	6.7	6.5	6.1	6.1
Switzerland	19.0	19.2	13.7	14.2	14.0	13.6	13.9	12.4	12.2	10.5	9.7	9.9	8.7	8.3
UK	11.9	11.1	9.4	9.4	9.2	9.7	9.4	8.2	7.6	6.8	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.3
USA	20.7	22.5	18.4	19.1	19.2	18.5	17.9	16.4	15.4	15.6	15.6	15.9	15.8	15.7
OECD median	18.8	17.2	15.8	14.5	15.0	15.5	14.0	13.9	12.8	12.5	11.4	12.1	12.4	11.7

the 25 OECD nations for which this information was available.

Iceland had the lowest rate, recording 5.5 deaths per 100 000 population.

Korea, with 29.3 deaths per 100 000 population, had the highest rate of the OECD nations.

Key points

Compared with other OECD nations, Australia ranked:

- 6th in terms of fatalities per 10 000 registered vehicles; and
- 10th in terms of fatalities per 100 000 population.

Iceland was the safest nation in terms of fatalities per 10 000 registered vehicles, and per 100 000 population.

Data Sources

Figures provided for all OECD nations, with the exception of Australia, were derived from the International Road Traffic and Accident Database (IRTAD).

Sources for Australian figures are provided below.

1975, 1980, 1985- 1996

Fatalities per 100 000 population and per 10 000 registered vehicles were taken from the FORS publication Road Fatalities Australia 1996 Statistical Summary.

1997

Fatalities per 100 000 population were calculated using the latest population and fatality figures.

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