

Press release: 12 921-219/22

Strong increase in road fatalities in first half of 2022

Never since digital records began in 1992 have so many senior citizens had accidents in the first half of the year as this year

Vienna, 2022-10-21 – According to Statistics Austria, 191 people were killed in road traffic accidents in Austria in the first half of 2022. This corresponds to an increase of 26 % compared to the first halves of 2021 (151 fatalities) and 2020 (152, see Table 1). Particularly notable was the number of casualties aged 65 years and above.

2 799 **senior** citizens (65 years and older) were killed or injured in accidents on Austrian roads between January and June 2022. This is 22 % more than in the same period of the previous year (2021: 2 288 casualties). This means that the number of older people killed and injured in road traffic in the first half of the year rose to the highest value since digital records began in 1992. The number of senior citizens fatally injured increased by 63 % to 57 (2021: 35 fatalities). 19 senior citizens were killed in accidents while driving a passenger car, 17 of them were the presumed main originator of the respective accident (89 %). Almost half of them (eight passenger car drivers) died in single-vehicle accidents. Another six senior citizens were killed as passengers and twelve as pedestrians.

Among the total of 191 road traffic fatalities in the first half of 2022, six were **children** (up to 14 years of age). In the past seven years, this figure was only higher in 2019 with eight fatally injured children. Four of the six children were under four years old at the time of the accident.

Highest share of alcohol-related accidents in past 30 years

8 % of all road traffic accidents with personal injury were alcohol-related accidents in the first half of 2022. This was the highest share of alcohol-related accidents in a first half-year since the beginning of digital recording in 1992. Compared to other federal provinces, the highest share was recorded in Burgenland with 12 %, followed by Styria and Vorarlberg with 9 % each. Nationwide, 15 people died in alcohol-related accidents.

Number of cyclists injured in accidents peaks again; 45 % more e-bike casualties than in the first half of 2021

After the highest number of cyclist casualties was recorded from January to June in 2021 with 4 079, the figure rose again in the first half of 2022 by 19 % to 4 847 (see Table 2). Compared to 2019, the number of cyclist casualties even increased by 45 % in the first half of the year. The number of casualties on e-bikes rose particularly sharply. At 1 442, this was 45 % higher than in the first half of 2021, while the number of injured or fatally injured cyclists without an electric drive increased by 10 % in this period.

As in the previous year, 23 people were killed riding a bicycle between January and June 2022, with only five of them wearing a **bicycle helmet** at the time of the accident (22 %). In comparison, the helmet rate among injured cyclists was significantly higher at 40 %.

More detailed results and further tables are available on our [website](#).

Table 1: Road traffic accidents and casualties in the first half 2019–2022

	2019	2020	2021	2022	Change 2021/22 in %
Accidents	16 187	12 525	14 065	16 042	14.1
Injuries	20 602	15 524	17 585	19 990	13.7
Fatalities	196	152	151	191	26.5
Casualties	20 798	15 676	17 736	20 181	13.8

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Road traffic accidents – preliminary results.

Table 2: Road traffic casualties first half 2019–2022 by traffic unit

Traffic unit	2019	2020	2021	2022	Change 2021/22 in %
Pedestrian	1 722	1 179	1 261	1 473	16.8
Bikes ¹	3 352	3 640	4 079	4 847	18.8
thereof e-bikes ²	524	679	995	1 442	44.9
Mopeds	1 512	979	1 381	1 280	-7.3
Motorcycles	1 695	1 248	1 526	1 751	14.7
Passenger cars	11 248	7 732	8 371	9 474	13.2
Trucks ³	552	425	590	634	7.5
Other	717	473	528	722	36.7
Overall	20 798	15 676	17 736	20 181	13.8

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Road traffic accidents – preliminary results. 1) incl. e-bike, e-scooter – 2) incl. e-scooter. – 3) incl. articulated vehicles.

Information on methods, definitions: Statistics Austria has been compiling and publishing statistics on road traffic accidents with personal injury since 1961. The traffic accidents are recorded electronically by the police authorities and transmitted to Statistics Austria via a web service. The currently published half-year results are to be regarded as provisional until the final annual results are available, as changes to the accident data (e.g. subsequent injury reports) that subsequently become known are still possible by the Federal Ministry of the Interior or the police authorities.

Injury accident: Any accident involving at least one road vehicle in motion on a public road, resulting in at least one injured or killed person.

Casualties: include persons injured or killed in and as a result of an accident.

Person killed: Any person killed immediately or dying within 30 days as a result of an injury accident.

The traffic unit **bicycle** also include e-bikes and electric scooters.

An **alcohol accident** is an accident in which at least one person involved (driver or pedestrian) is influenced by alcohol (in accordance with § 5 (1) of the Road Traffic Act) or exceeds of the blood limit (specified in § 14 (8) of the Driving License Act) or breath alcohol level was determined, alcohol consumption was suspected by the police or the alcohol test was refused.

The information on the **presumed main accident originator** is provided according to the estimation of the police bodies carrying out the registration of the accident.

If you have any questions on this topic, please contact:

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