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Number of fatally injured motorcyclists in Q3 2022 at the lowest value

Proportion of alcohol-related accidents in all accidents at 30-year high

Vienna, 2023-01-31 – According to Statistics Austria, 113 people died in road traffic accidents in Austria in the third quarter of 2022. Compared to the same quarter of the previous year, this corresponds to a decrease of 10 % (2021: 125 fatalities). Thus, the number of traffic fatalities between July and September 2022 was as high as the 113 killed in the third quarter of the first pandemic year of 2020.

“Between July and September 2022, 13 731 people were involved in accidents on Austria’s roads, 4,2 % fewer than in the same period last year, of which 13 618 were injured and 113 died. Compared to the summer of 2021, the number of fatalities in motorcycle accidents in particular has halved, falling to the lowest level since digital records began in 1992,” says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

21 motorcyclists died on Austria’s roads in the third quarter of 2022, a decrease of more than 50 % compared to the same quarter of the previous year (2021: 44 fatalities). While in the third quarters of 2020 and 2021, 35 % of all fatalities were motorcyclists, this proportion was 19 % in 2022. In addition, in no third quarter since 2010 have so few motorcyclists been injured in traffic accidents as in 2022 (1 672 people, 2021: 1 760). 82 % of the injured motorcyclists were men, among those killed 95 % (20 of 21).

Never before so many injured light truck drivers

In contrast, the number of light truck drivers injured in the third quarter of 2022 reached a 30-year high. 321 people driving light trucks were injured, and another seven were killed (see Table 2). Compared to the same quarter of the previous year, the number of light truck drivers injured increased by 19 % (2021: 269 persons). The most frequent cause for accidents resulting in injured or killed light truck drivers was inappropriate speed (25 %), followed by a lack of safety distance (19 %).

Highest proportion of alcohol-related accidents since 1992

Having already recorded the highest proportion of alcohol-related accidents since digital recording began in the first half of 2022, this trend continues: 7.8 % of all accidents (867) were alcohol-related in the third quarter of 2022 which was also the highest proportion since digital records began in 1992. 1 089 people were injured in these accidents and another four were killed. 46 % of people driving under the influence of alcohol were driving a car at the time of the accident, followed by 38 % of alcoholic cyclists.

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

Table 1: Road traffic accidents, injuries and fatalities in the third quarter 2019–2022

	2019	2020	2021	2022	Change 2021/22 in %
Accidents	11 283	11 999	11 562	11 107	-3.9
Injuries	14 045	14 638	14 210	13 618	-4.2
Fatalities	126	113	125	113	-9.6

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

Table 2: Injuries and fatalities in third quarter 2019–2022 by traffic unit

Traffic unit	Injuries		Fatalities	
	2021	2022	2021	2022
Pedestrians	766	728	7	13
Bikes ¹	4 131	4 204	19	14
Mopeds	1 439	1 204	7	3
Motorcycles	1 760	1 672	44	21
Passenger cars	5 394	5 078	40	53
Trucks ²	325	379	3	7
thereof light trucks max. 3.5 t	269	321	2	7
thereof heavy trucks more than 3.5 t	56	58	1	-
Other	395	353	5	2
Overall	14 210	13 618	125	113

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

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

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.

Light trucks include trucks, semitrailer trucks and tractor-trailer vehicles up to 3.5 t.

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