

Press release 13 055-083/23

Share of alcohol-related road accidents at record level in 2022

Number of children killed in accidents rose to 13

Vienna, 2023-04-27 – According to Statistics Austria, 8% of all road accidents with personal injury (2 775 of 34 869) were alcohol-related accidents in 2022. This is the highest share since digital records started in 1992. 3 519 people were injured in these accidents and a further 26 were fatally injured (7% of total 370 fatalities). In a comparison of the federal provinces, Burgenland recorded the highest share at 12%.

The vast majority, i.e. 85% of all drunk drivers in 2022, were men. 77% of the drunk drivers who conducted an alcohol test were driving with a blood alcohol level of more than one per mille at the time of the accident, 16% even with more than two per mille. The alcohol levels also differed according to age. While 21% of all 30 to 59-year-old drunk drivers were on the road with a blood alcohol level of more than two per mille, the figure for drivers older than 60 and under 30 was 11% each. 61% of all alcohol-related accidents were single-vehicle accidents.

13 children fatally injured, especially infants affected

The number of children (0-14 years) killed in road traffic accidents increased particularly significantly compared to 2021. 13 children were killed (2021: 6 children), which is the second highest figure since 2011. Eight of the 13 fatally injured children were four years old or younger. These eight infants were killed as car passengers or as pedestrians. In addition, a further 2 689 children were injured in traffic accidents, 12% more than in 2021.

Record low for killed motorcyclists

55 **motorcyclists** were killed on Austria's roads in 2022, the lowest number since digital records began in 1992. Compared to 2021, this represents a decrease of 27% (2021: 75 fatally injured, see Table 2). A total of 370 people was killed in road accidents in 2022.

In contrast, the number of injured **light truck drivers** reached a 30-year high in 2022. 1 118 people driving in a light truck (max. 3.5 t) were injured, and another 18 were killed. Compared to the previous year, the number of injured light truck drivers increased by 14% (2021: 984 people).

More than 10 000 cyclists injured for the first time

After the highest number of injured cyclists since records began was recorded in 2020 and 2021, the number continued to rise in 2022 and reached a five-digit figure for the first time (10 871). 33% of all injured cyclists were riding an e-bike, compared to only 18% in 2019. In addition, the average age of injured e-bikers decreased every year. While the average age in 2019 was still 53 years, injured e-bikers in 2022 were on average six and a half years younger than in the year before Corona, at 46.5 years. Furthermore, a decrease in the degree of injury among e-bikers can be observed: While 31% of all injured e-bikers were seriously injured in 2019, this was only the case for 26% in 2022.

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

Table 1: Road traffic accidents, injuries and fatalities 2019–2022

	2019	2020	2021	2022	Change 2021/22 in %
Accidents	35 736	30 670	32 774	34 869	+6.4
Injuries	45 140	37 730	40 889	43 262	+5.8
Fatalities	416	344	362	370	+2.2

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Road traffic accidents.

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

Traffic unit	Injuries		Fatalities	
	2021	2022	2021	2022
Pedestrians	2 817	3 254	37	49
Bikes ¹	9 617	10 871	50	44
Mopeds	3 359	3 039	13	8
Motorcycles	3 684	3 882	75	55
Passenger cars	18 950	19 398	161	180
Trucks ²	1 243	1 356	19	21
thereof light trucks max. 3.5 t	984	1 118	15	18
thereof heavy trucks more than 3.5 t	259	238	4	3
Other	1 219	1 462	7	13
Overall	40 889	43 262	362	370

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Road traffic accidents. – 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.

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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