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Substantially more hit-and-run accidents in Q1

Number of traffic fatalities slightly below the first quarter of the previous year

Vienna, 2023-07-28 – According to Statistics Austria, 76 people died in road traffic accidents in Austria in the first quarter of 2023. In the first three months of the previous year, there were 77 road fatalities. The number of injuries was 7 366, which is 3% higher than in the same quarter last year (see table 1). The increase number of hit-and-run accidents was particularly noticeable.

In the first quarter of 2023, 450 traffic hit-and-run accidents were recorded. This amounts to is 8% of all accidents with personal injury (see table 2), this percentage has never been higher since digital recording began in 1992. A particularly high proportion of 14% was registered in Vienna. Overall, the number of hit-and-run accidents increased by 22% between January and March compared to the same quarter last year (Q1 2022: 370 accidents). The two biggest groups among people moving away from the accident scene were drivers of passenger cars (66%) and drivers of bicycles (11%).

Number of road traffic fatalities at Pre-Corona level, sharp increase in Salzburg and Vorarlberg

76 people died in road traffic accidents in Austria in the first quarter of 2023, putting the number of road fatalities at the same level as in the years before the pandemic (average 2016–2018: 76 people). The development in the federal provinces showed a differentiated picture. While Salzburg (from four to ten) and Vorarlberg (from two to five) recorded significant increases in the number of fatalities, Styria saw a decrease of 42% from 19 to eleven people killed in road traffic accidents.

8.3% of all accidents were alcohol accidents

Particularly remarkable in the first quarter of 2023 was the high proportion of alcohol-related accidents among all accidents, which at 8.3% was the second highest share since digital records began in 1992 (Q1 2022: 8.5%). Eight people were killed in those accidents, which is the highest value since 2017.

21% increase of injured pedestrians

781 pedestrians were injured in road traffic in the first quarter of 2023, 21% more than in the same period of the previous year (Q1 2022: 648 persons). Compared to the same quarter of the previous year, the number of pedestrians injured at dusk or in the dark increased by 41% (291 persons, share: 37%). The number of pedestrians killed also increased from 14 to 15, of which one in three (five persons) was killed on a crosswalk. This figure was thus the highest since 2018.

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

Table 1: Road traffic accidents and casualties in the first quarter 2019–2023

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Change of casualties 2022/23 in %
Accidents	6 169	5 096	4 739	5 536	5 660	+2.2
Injuries	8 020	6 668	6 064	7 154	7 366	+3.0
Fatalities	64	69	48	77	76	-1.3

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

Table 2: Fatalities, accidents and hit-and-run accidents by federal province in first quarter 2023

Federal province	Fatalities	Accidents	Hit-and-run accidents	Share of hit-and-run accidents in %
Burgenland	4	138	4	2.9
Carinthia	5	329	20	6.1
Lower Austria	20	1 038	54	5.2
Upper Austria	11	1 047	81	7.7
Salzburg	10	434	36	8.3
Styria	11	854	65	7.6
Tyrol	6	554	31	5.6
Vorarlberg	5	299	20	6.7
Vienna	4	967	139	14.4
Austria	76	5 660	450	8.0

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

Information on methodology, 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. 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.

A **hit-and-run accident** applies if at least one driver or pedestrian involved is reported as a hit-and-run driver.

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