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# Number of children injured or killed in traffic accidents at 15-year high

**Negative record: one in ten road deaths caused by an alcohol-related accident**

Vienna, 2025-01-31 – According to Statistics Austria, more than 36 000 people were injured in road traffic accidents in Austria between January and September 2024. This is an increase of 6% compared to the same period in the previous year and the highest figure for the first three quarters since 2017. The number of children injured or killed in accidents rose to the highest level in the past 15 years. The proportion of fatalities caused by alcohol-related accidents has never been higher since digital records began in 1992.

„Between January and September 2024, the number of people injured in road traffic accidents rose to its highest level for the first three quarters in seven years. At the same time, the number of road deaths fell: 281 people lost their lives on Austria’s roads – fewer road deaths were only recorded in the first three quarters of the coronavirus years 2020 and 2021. However, alcohol remains a major factor in fatal accidents: Ten per cent of all road deaths were caused by alcohol-related accidents, a higher proportion than ever before“, says Tobias Thomas, Director General of Statistics Austria.

## Highest number of injured or killed children in traffic accidents in the past 15 years

From January to September 2024, 2 476 children up to the age of 14 were injured in road traffic accidents and four children died (see table 1). This is the highest number of injured or killed children from January to September in the past 15 years. The increase (+40%) was particularly high for those travelling by bicycle or e-scooter: 855 children were injured as riders or passengers, the highest figure in the past 24 years. Only 39% of these injured children were wearing a bicycle helmet at the time of the accident.

## Record share of fatalities in alcohol-related accidents

28 people died in alcohol-related accidents from January to September 2024. This means that one in ten fatalities was due to an alcohol-related accident, the highest proportion since digital records started in 1992. Twelve of the 28 people killed were under the influence of alcohol. The remaining fatalities were non-alcoholic drivers (7), passengers (6) or pedestrians (3).

A total of 1 218 drunk drivers of motor vehicles were involved in a road traffic accident from January to September 2024, 85% were men. 73% of the drunk drivers who conducted an alcohol test were driving with a blood alcohol level of at least one per mille at the time of the accident, 14% even with more than two per mille.

## Substantial increase of e-scooter riders injured or killed

In addition, a sharp increase was recorded in the number of injured or killed e-scooter riders in the first nine months of 2024: 1 670 people were injured and seven died (see table 2). As a result, the number of injured e-scooter riders increased by around a third (34%) compared to the same period of the previous year, while the number of e-scooter riders killed rose from one person in the period from January to September 2023 to seven in the first three quarters of 2024. The injured or killed e-scooter riders were on average 31 years old and 70% were male. Furthermore, a high proportion of the injured or killed e-scooter riders (16%) were under the influence of alcohol at the time of the accident.

For detailed results and further information please refer to our [website](#).

**Table 1: Accidents, injuries and fatalities in Q1 to Q3 2019–2024**

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Change 2023/2024 in %
Accidents	27 745	24 642	25 687	27 236	27 804	29 478	6.0%
Injuries	34 988	30 298	31 864	33 716	34 408	36 351	5.6%
thereof children <sup>1</sup>	2 179	1 793	1 938	2 174	2 180	2 476	13.6%
Fatalities	323	265	276	304	316	281	-11.1%
thereof children <sup>1</sup>	15	2	6	12	6	4	-33.3%

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Road traffic accidents. – Preliminary data.

1) 0–14 old.

**Table 2: Injuries and fatalities in Q1 to Q3 2023 and 2024 by traffic unit**

Traffic unit	Injuries		Fatalities	
	2023	2024	2023	2024
Moped und Motorcycle	6 153	6 608	82	79
Passenger car	14 415	14 638	136	109
Truck <sup>1</sup>	940	903	11	20
Bike <sup>2</sup>	8 013	8 687	35	28
E-scooter	1 244	1 670	1	7
Pedestrian	2 361	2 400	34	31
Others	1 282	1 445	17	7
<b>All traffic units</b>	<b>34 408</b>	<b>36 351</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>281</b>

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA. Road traffic accidents. – Preliminary data.

1) Incl. articulated vehicles. – 2) Incl. e-bike.

**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.

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

**Statistics Austria** is the central organisation for official data and statistics on society, the economy, the state and the environment. As a national statistical institute, it is committed to the statutory principles of independence, impartiality and objectivity. Statistics Austria is headed by Tobias Thomas, Director General Statistics, and Franz Haslauer, Director General Finance.

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