Press release: 14 234-153/26

Again more people injured in Austrian road traffic

The upward trend since 2020 is set to continue in Q1 2026

Vienna, 2026-07-29 – According to Statistics Austria, the number of people injured in road traffic accidents has been rising steadily since it reached its lowest point in 2020, the year of the coronavirus pandemic. In recent years, the number of people injured has increased by between 2% and 8% annually. This trend has continued into the first quarter of 2026: with 8 011 people injured, the highest figure since 2019 was recorded.

“Since hitting a historic low in 2020, the number of people injured on Austria’s roads has been rising steadily. By 2025, it was already a quarter higher than in 2020. The first quarter of 2026 confirms this trend. Compared with the first 3 months of 2025, the number of people injured rose by 4%, reaching 8 011 – the highest figure for a first quarter since 2019. This was primarily due to the higher number of accidents in Upper Austria and Lower Austria. Vienna and Salzburg were the only federal provinces where there were fewer injuries than a year earlier,” says Manuela Lenk, Director General Statistics of Statistics Austria.

Highest number of injuries in Upper Austria, most traffic fatalities in Lower Austria

In a comparison of the federal provinces, Upper and Lower Austria again recorded the highest number of injuries in the first quarter of 2026. With increases of 11% and 10% compared to 2025, these two federal provinces registered the highest rises – the only other region to see a similarly steep rise, in percentage terms, was Burgenland, which also recorded an 11% increase.

Lower Austria topped the list for the number of road traffic fatalities, with 24 deaths, marking the highest figure since 2015. It was followed by Styria with 15 and Upper Austria with 14 road traffic fatalities. In total, 67 people lost their lives in road traffic accidents across Austria during this period (see table 2).

Number of injured car occupants at its highest since 2019

While the number of injured car occupants remained rather stable in recent years, the period from January to March 2026 saw the highest figure since 2019, with 4 662 people injured (see table 3). Compared with the same period last year, this represents an increase of 5%, or by 219 people. Of those injured, 9% or more than 400 people suffered serious injuries. Once again, a clear association was evident between the severity of injuries and **seatbelt use**. As in previous years, only 83% of car occupants who were killed in accidents were using a seatbelt at the time of the accident. Among those with serious injuries, this proportion stood at 93%, and among those with slight injuries, at 98%. There is also a marked difference in seat belt use between men and women. 97% of seriously injured female car occupants were wearing a seat belt, while the corresponding figure for men was 90%.

Men are injured more frequently and more seriously than women

4 459 men and 3 544 women were injured in road traffic accidents in the first quarter of 2026; this means that 56% of those injured were male. The number of injured men was the highest recorded between January and March since 2017. As in previous years, men were not only more frequently involved in road traffic accidents, but also suffered serious injuries more often. Around 1 in 6 men involved in accidents was seriously injured or killed, compared with around 1 in 8 women.

Table 1: Injuries and fatalities 2021–2026 (annual results and first quarter results)

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Change 2025/26 in %
Injuries	40 889	43 262	44 585	45 995	47 041	.	.
Thereof Q1[1]	6 046	7 154	7 366	7 928	7 691	8 011	4.2
Fatalities	362	370	402	351	403	.	.
Thereof Q1[1]	48	77	76	54	63	67	6.3

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Road traffic accidents.
1) Preliminary results.

Table 2: Injuries and fatalities in first quarter 2025 and 2026 by federal province

Federal province	Injuries		Fatalities	
	2025	2026	2025	2026
Burgenland	162	180	3	-
Carinthia	471	497	2	2
Lower Austria	1 402	1 540	21	24
Upper Austria	1 418	1 573	12	14
Salzburg	617	549	3	7
Styria	1 087	1 138	9	15
Tyrol	763	824	6	2
Vorarlberg	434	434	3	3
Vienna	1 337	1 276	4	-
Austria in total	**7 691**	**8 011**	**63**	**67**

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

Table 3: Injuries and fatalities in first quarter of 2025 and 2026 by traffic unit

Traffic unit	Injuries		Fatalities	
	2025	2026	2025	2026
Moped	329	273	2	-
Motorcycle	272	308	6	4
Passenger car	4 443	4 662	32	35
Truck[1]	265	283	3	9
Bicycle[2]	954	959	5	5
E-scooter	291	317	-	-
Pedestrian	790	802	13	11
Others	347	407	2	3
All traffic units	**7 691**	**8 011**	**63**	**67**

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Road traffic accidents. – Preliminary results.
1) Incl. articulated vehicles. – 2) Incl. e-bikes

For detailed results and further information please refer to our website and the traffic accident map.

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 quarterly results currently published 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 may still be added 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.

A person is considered **seriously injured** if they have "damage to their health lasting longer than 24 days or occupational disability or a serious injury in itself" in accordance with Section 84 of the Austrian Criminal Code (StGB).

The term **seatbelt use** refers to the proper use of a seat belt or child restraint system.

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

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