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Increase in road traffic accidents in the 3rd quarter 2020; highest number of seriously injured persons in the last 25 years

Vienna, 2021-03-10 – In the 3rd quarter of 2020, the number of road traffic accidents with personal injury increased by 6% compared to the 3rd quarter of 2019 to 11 999 accidents with 14 638 injured persons (+4%). As Statistics Austria further reports, the number of fatal accidents decreased by 10% compared to the same quarter last year to 113. There were significantly more accidents and injuries than in the respective months of the previous year, especially in August (accidents: +8%, injuries: +6%) and September (accidents: +9%, injuries: +7%). In the first half of 2020, the accident figures had still decreased considerably due to the first lockdown.

One in five injured was seriously injured

The number of people seriously injured in road accidents rose by 10% to 2 896 in the 3rd quarter of 2020, the highest quarterly figure in 25 years. In contrast, the number of lightly injured persons (11 742 persons) increased by only 3%. Serious injuries also accounted for 20% of all road traffic injuries in the 3rd quarter of 2020, higher than in previous years (2018–2019: 19%, 2011–2017: 18%). Two-thirds of those seriously injured were on a bicycle (39%, 1 131 people) or a motorbike (27%, 776 people).

Almost all fatally injured motorcyclists were male

In the 3rd quarter of 2020, a total of 113 people died in road traffic accidents in Austria, 13 persons (-10%) fewer than in the 3rd quarter of 2019 (126 fatalities). This decrease is mainly due to the significantly lower number of car occupants who died in traffic accidents. 31 people had fatal accidents in a car in the 3rd quarter 2020 (see table 2), 30 people or 49% fewer than in the 3rd quarter of 2019 (61 people). This is the lowest number of fatally injured car occupants between July and September in the last 30 years. In contrast, there was an increase in road fatalities in almost all other traffic types in the 3rd quarter 2020: 40 people (+33%) had a fatal motorbike accident, 39 men (38 drivers and 1 passenger) and one female passenger. By bicycle, 17 people had fatal accidents (+42%), 14 pedestrians (+27%) died in road traffic accidents and 6 people had fatal accidents with a truck (+50%).

Never before so many injured cyclists

In the 3rd quarter of 2020, not only the number of fatally injured cyclists rose sharply, but also the number of injured cyclists (4 348 people). This is an increase of 932 people or 27% compared to the previous year. Among the seriously injured cyclists (1 131 people), the increase is even higher (+32%). In the last 30 years, there were not as many cyclists injured in the 3rd quarter as in 2020. The number of injured ebike-riders has also increased (1 011 people, +45%). Overall, 23% of all injured cyclists had an accident with an electric bike, compared to 20% in 2019 and 14% in 2018. Nearly 60% of the fatal injured cyclists had an accident with an electric bicycle.

For more detailed results and further information concerning statistics of road traffic accidents please refer to our [website](#) or the [German version](#).

Information on methods, definitions: In 2012, a change in the survey method took place. The survey based on paper questionnaires was replaced by electronic police reports. Since then, the results also include accidents which become known later as well as additional injury reports. Another change in the structure of the survey took place in 2018. Due to these changes in the data collecting method, a break in time-series from the years 2016–2018 (final results) towards 2019–2020 (preliminary results; additional injury reports are possible) has to be considered.

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.

Table 1: Road traffic accidents, injuries and fatalities, third quarter 2016 – 2020

Road traffic accidents, injuries and fatalities	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹⁾	2020 ¹⁾	Changes 2019 to 2020 in %
Road traffic accidents, injuries and fatalities in total						
Accidents	12 277	11 413	11 562	11 283	11 999	+6.3
Injuries	15 250	14 353	14 406	14 045	14 638	+4.2
Fatalities	144	146	118	126	113	-10.3

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

Table 2: Injuries and fatalities by mode of transport, third quarter 2020

Injuries and fatalities ¹⁾	Pedestrian	Bicycle ²⁾	Moped	Motor-cycle	Car	Truck ³⁾	Other transport mode	Total
Injuries	729	4 348	1 654	1 988	5 228	299	392	14 638
Changes 2019 to 2020 in %	-5.4	+27.3	+10.8	+3.9	-9.3	-5.1	+4.8	+4.2
Fatalities	14	17	2	40	31	6	3	113
Changes 2019 to 2020 in %	+27.3	+41.7	-33.3	+33.3	-49.2	+50.0	-40.0	-10.3

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, road traffic accidents. - 1) Preliminary results. 2) incl. electric bicycle, electric scooter. 3) incl. articulated vehicles

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