



ROAD MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD FATALITIES

The number of road motor vehicles is high and rising among OECD countries, and reducing road accidents is a concern in all countries. The tables in this section show the numbers of road motor vehicles per thousand inhabitants and two indicators of road safety – the number of road fatalities per million inhabitants and the number of road fatalities per million vehicles.

Definitions

A road motor vehicle is a vehicle running on wheels and intended for use on roads with an engine providing its sole means of propulsion and which is normally used for carrying persons or goods or for drawing, on the road, vehicles used for the carriage of persons or goods. Thus

buses, coaches, freight vehicles and motor cycles are included as well as passenger motor cars. Motor vehicles running on rails are excluded.

Road fatality means any person killed immediately or dying within 30 days as a result of a road accident.

Comparability

Road motor vehicles are attributed to the countries where they are registered while deaths are attributed to the countries in which they occur. As a result, ratios of fatalities to million inhabitants and of fatalities to million vehicles cannot strictly be interpreted as indicating the proportion of a country's population that is at risk of suffering a fatal road accident or the likelihood of a vehicle registered in a given country being involved in a fatal accident. In practice, however, this is not considered to be a serious problem because discrepancies between the numerators and denominators tend to cancel out.

The numbers of vehicles entering the existing stock is usually accurate but information on the numbers of vehicles withdrawn from use is less certain.

Long-term trends

In 2004, ratios of motor vehicles to population range from 768 per thousand inhabitants in the United States to 125 in Turkey. Over the periods shown in the table, ratios of vehicles to population increased in all countries except in the United States and Austria. The ratios almost doubled in Turkey and sharp increases also occurred in Russian Federation, the Slovak Republic and Poland.

In 2004, road fatalities per million inhabitants ranged from over 240 per million inhabitants in Russian Federation to 53 in Sweden. Over the periods shown in the table, rates have decreased in all other countries with particularly sharp falls in Portugal, New Zealand, Hungary, Luxembourg and France.

Road fatality rates per million inhabitants are an ambiguous indicator of road safety since the number of accidents depends to a great extent on the number of vehicles in each country. The last chart shows the number of fatalities per million vehicles together with fatalities per million inhabitants. Both ratios refer to 2004. Rates per million vehicles are affected by driving habits, traffic legislation and the effectiveness of its enforcement, road design and other factors over which governments may exercise control. In 2004, fatality rates per million vehicles were less than 110 in the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway and the United Kingdom, but exceeded 400 in Poland, Hungary, Korea, Turkey and 1200 in Russian Federation. Note that low fatality rates per million inhabitants may be associated with very high fatality rates per million vehicles. For example, a country with a small vehicle population may show a low fatality rate per million inhabitants but a high fatality rate per vehicle.

Source

- ECMT (2005), *Trends in the Transport Sector*, ECMT, Paris.

Further information

Analytical publications

- ECMT (2004), *Road Safety Performance: National Peer Review: Lithuania*, ECMT, Paris.
- ECMT (2005), *ECMT Annual Report 2004*, ECMT, Paris.

Statistical publications

- ECMT (2003), *Statistical Report on Road Accidents*, ECMT, Paris.

Methodological publications

- UNECE, ECMT, Eurostat (2003), *Glossary for Transport Statistics*, ECMT, Paris.

Web sites

- European Conference of Ministers of Transport, www.cemt.org.

Road motor vehicles

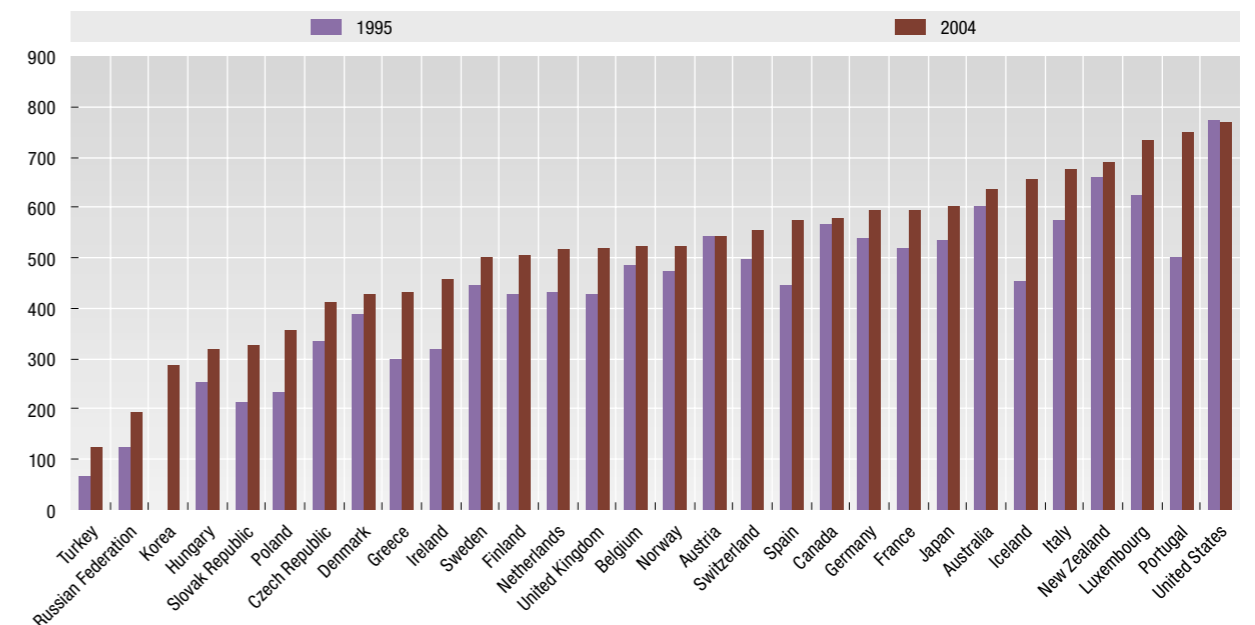
Per thousand population

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Australia	..	..	..	..	..	603	599	591	626	629	623	625	634	643	635
Austria	462	463	503	515	528	543	495	509	529	544	555	563	535	542	543
Belgium	432	442	441	454	464	487	494	482	490	500	511	517	520	524	523
Canada	600	619	627	595	569	565	565	564	580	568	574	573	582	585	580
Czech Republic	..	..	..	434	455	333	383	383	369	373	373	383	394	409	410
Denmark	371	367	370	373	374	386	398	406	411	420	421	425	428	428	427
France	503	504	505	509	518	520	526	532	548	559	573	583	587	598	595
Finland	447	441	445	425	422	427	434	436	451	465	476	481	488	503	504
Germany	527	527	427	478	523	540	547	551	556	564	570	582	589	592	592
Greece	248	246	257	271	283	298	313	328	351	378	406	428	450	433	432
Hungary	211	208	216	232	239	253	257	262	255	261	270	283	300	317	318
Iceland	484	475	465	457	433	453	467	554	574	609	636	629	645	657	655
Ireland	279	283	286	295	305	318	348	367	387	409	425	442	445	458	458
Italy	557	556	556	562	562	573	581	586	603	622	632	656	660	674	675
Japan	482	479	493	507	520	537	566	575	580	586	592	596	600	601	600
Korea	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	254	236	237	243	243	290	289
Luxembourg	532	549	542	580	580	625	669	675	671	666	693	719	728	736	733
Netherlands	411	412	414	419	426	430	443	450	464	461	478	496	504	516	516
New Zealand	..	..	..	645	649	658	654	636	643	659	679	684	688	699	690
Norway	460	457	458	461	465	474	467	491	498	503	511	516	521	527	525
Poland	168	192	203	210	222	232	246	261	272	286	309	325	347	357	357
Portugal	310	370	407	439	438	501	533	569	610	654	698	711	756	748	748
Slovak Republic	..	..	222	248	247	213	217	232	245	253	259	291	291	326	326
Spain	372	394	412	422	419	447	464	481	502	526	541	557	567	561	573
Sweden	457	456	452	444	442	447	450	456	468	481	494	497	500	504	502
Switzerland	489	494	494	487	492	498	504	511	518	528	536	545	551	556	554
Turkey	57	47	53	61	64	68	97	105	111	116	124	148	148	127	125
United Kingdom	443	433	453	441	439	428	448	458	474	486	493	516	533	521	520
United States	842	718	779	725	719	771	783	784	792	765	754	759	766	775	768
Russian Federation	98	111	124	139	145	154	161	174	182	191	194	194

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Road motor vehicles

Per thousand population



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ROAD MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD FATALITIES

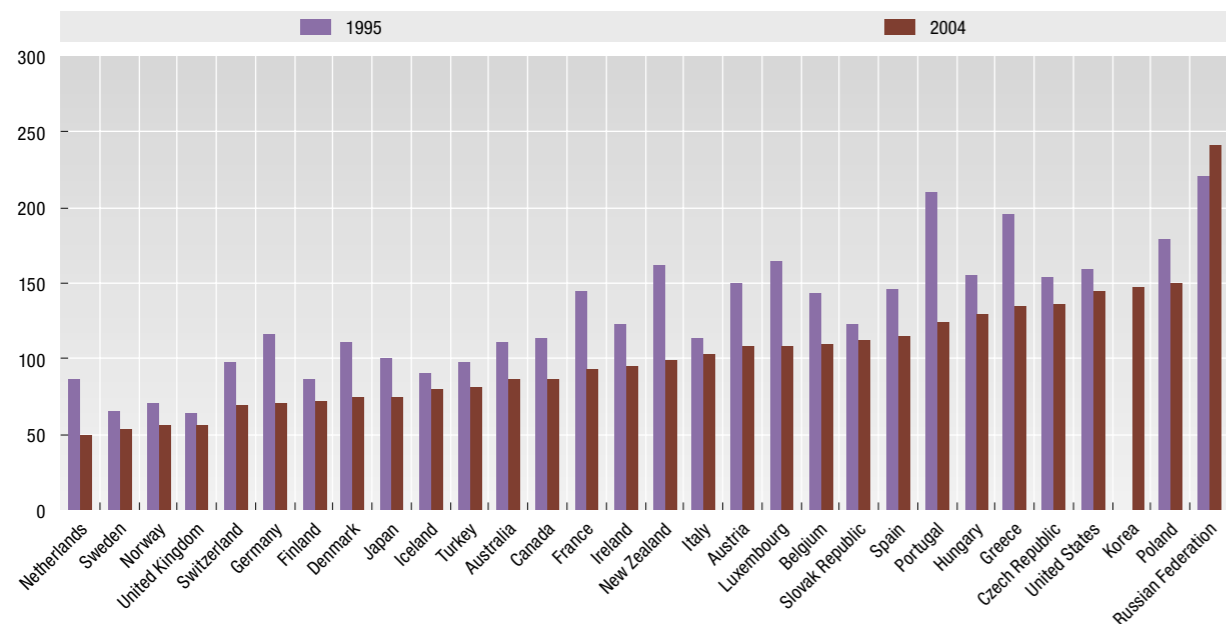
ROAD MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD FATALITIES

Road fatalities
Per million population

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Australia	137	123	113	111	109	111	108	95	94	93	95	90	88	87	86
Austria	200	199	177	161	167	150	127	137	121	135	122	119	118	114	108
Belgium	199	187	166	165	167	143	134	134	147	136	143	144	131	118	109
Canada	150	135	128	125	111	113	103	101	97	98	95	90	93	87	87
Czech Republic	125	129	150	147	158	154	155	155	132	141	145	130	140	142	136
Denmark	123	117	111	108	105	111	98	93	94	97	93	80	86	80	74
France	182	168	158	157	147	144	138	136	143	136	129	130	121	101	92
Finland	130	126	119	95	94	86	79	85	78	83	76	83	80	73	72
Germany	176	176	131	123	121	116	107	104	95	95	91	85	83	80	71
Greece	195	197	193	193	199	195	198	204	207	201	193	178	154	146	135
Hungary	235	195	193	163	152	155	135	137	136	130	118	122	141	131	129
Iceland	96	94	92	91	89	90	37	55	98	75	113	84	101	80	79
Ireland	139	126	118	122	113	122	125	129	124	110	110	107	96	84	95
Italy	115	130	129	116	115	114	108	108	110	116	115	117	117	112	103
Japan	90	89	92	106	102	100	93	89	85	82	82	79	75	75	75
Korea	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	226	232	218	171	149	148	147
Luxembourg	185	208	188	191	186	165	172	132	134	133	172	159	140	118	109
Netherlands	92	85	84	82	84	86	76	74	68	69	68	62	61	63	49
New Zealand	217	191	188	172	164	162	141	144	132	134	121	118	103	101	99
Norway	91	76	76	65	65	70	58	69	79	68	76	61	69	62	56
Poland	192	206	181	165	175	179	165	189	183	174	163	143	152	148	150
Portugal	234	251	240	210	195	210	241	222	213	200	186	161	165	148	124
Slovak Republic	137	134	131	109	118	123	115	146	152	122	120	116	116	121	113
Spain	179	174	154	163	146	147	139	142	150	144	143	135	129	128	115
Sweden	90	86	88	72	67	65	61	61	60	65	67	65	63	59	53
Switzerland	141	126	121	104	97	98	87	83	84	81	82	75	70	74	69
Turkey	125	109	106	108	97	97	86	81	76	69	58	58	58	73	80
United Kingdom	94	82	78	68	65	64	63	63	59	59	59	60	60	62	57
United States	188	165	154	156	156	159	158	158	155	153	149	148	149	147	145
Russian Federation	238	252	245	250	239	221	199	188	198	203	203	213	228	248	241

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Road fatalities
Per million population



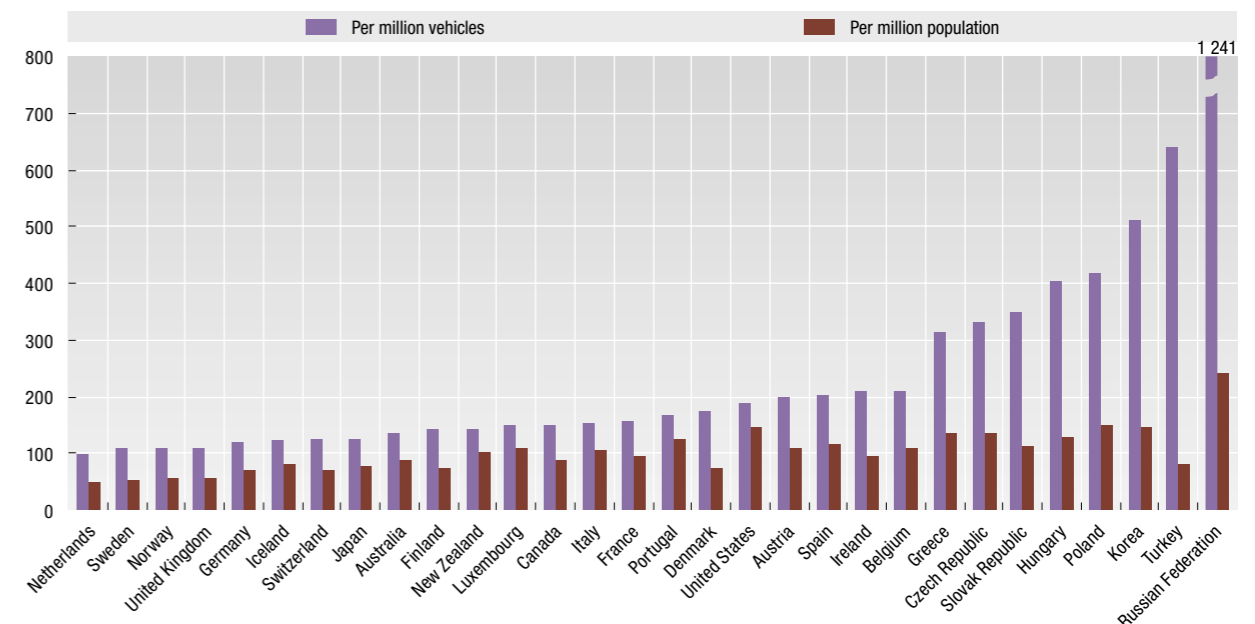
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Road fatalities
Per million vehicles

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Australia	..	..	..	..	..	183.9	179.9	161.5	149.5	147.7	152.8	143.2	138.4	134.8	134.8
Austria	433.0	428.8	352.8	311.9	315.5	277.0	257.1	269.0	228.1	247.7	219.3	210.9	220.5	211.2	199.1
Belgium	459.3	423.0	376.5	362.2	359.8	293.6	270.2	278.0	299.9	272.7	280.5	279.0	251.0	225.6	208.5
Canada	250.1	218.8	205.0	209.5	195.8	200.1	182.1	178.9	166.9	172.9	166.1	156.3	160.5	149.6	149.6
Czech Republic	..	..	..	339.6	348.2	461.4	404.4	404.4	358.5	379.5	388.4	338.9	356.2	346.8	331.2
Denmark	332.1	320.1	300.7	288.6	280.6	287.1	245.6	228.2	228.0	230.5	221.0	189.1	201.1	187.4	173.1
France	361.5	333.6	312.6	307.4	284.1	277.7	262.7	255.5	261.1	242.6	226.0	223.1	206.1	169.6	154.8
Finland	290.6	284.9	267.0	224.5	223.2	202.2	181.2	195.4	171.7	179.4	160.6	173.2	163.4	144.3	142.7
Germany	334.6	335.1	307.3	257.1	230.6	214.1	195.5	188.9	170.9	167.7	159.9	145.5	140.8	135.3	119.5
Greece	787.2	798.3	753.1	715.1	704.4	656.3	630.7	622.4	591.3	531.7	476.0	414.4	341.7	337.7	312.2
Hungary	1 114.1	936.4	895.2	702.7	635.7	613.5	523.9	523.3	532.8	498.9	436.5	430.1	469.6	414.1	404.7
Iceland	198.3	198.3	198.3	198.3	205.1	198.3	79.4	100.0	170.9	123.5	177.8	131.9	155.9	121.1	121.1
Ireland	495.9	445.9	411.7	414.8	371.0	384.3	359.5	350.9	319.7	269.5	258.0	242.3	215.8	183.7	207.8
Italy	206.4	233.7	231.7	207.2	205.1	198.5	185.5	184.7	182.6	186.5	181.9	178.8	177.0	165.7	153.1
Japan	186.5	185.9	186.2	209.7	196.4	186.3	163.9	155.0	147.2	139.6	138.4	132.5	125.2	124.9	124.9
Korea	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	891.8	983.4	919.5	702.9	612.7	509.9	509.9
Luxembourg	348.3	379.1	346.0	329.0	320.3	263.6	257.1	195.8	199.3	200.0	248.4	221.5	192.0	160.6	148.5
Netherlands	223.1	207.5	203.9	194.6	197.5	200.8	171.3	165.1	145.7	148.9	141.6	124.5	120.8	122.6	95.9
New Zealand	..	..	..	267.4	253.4	246.7	216.0	225.7	205.7	202.6	177.6	172.8	149.1	144.2	144.2
Norway	197.1	165.7	165.7	141.5	140.1	147.6	124.2	139.6	159.1	134.9	148.1	117.7	132.0	117.3	106.9
Poland	1 146.1	1 075.0	890.3	783.6	789.0	770.4	668.7	723.6	672.0	609.3	526.6	440.5	438.9	413.5	418.7
Portugal	757.5	677.0	590.9	479.1	444.3	419.5	452.1	390.7	349.7	305.3	265.7	226.9	217.6	198.0	165.7
Slovak Republic	..	..	588.7	441.4	477.7	577.9	527.8	629.9	620.0	481.3	463.2	396.8	396.8	372.1	346.4
Spain	480.4	442.7	373.7	385.8	347.8	327.8	300.7	295.6	298.7	273.1	264.5	242.3	227.1	228.2	200.4
Sweden	196.7	188.9	194.3	162.8	151.7	144.7	134.9	134.0	128.2	136.2	134.7	131.6	125.3	117.3	106.4
Switzerland	289.2	254.5	244.5	213.1	196.7	196.1	172.6	161.9	161.8	154.2	153.2	137.5	127.2	133.5	124.7
Turkey	..	..	..	..	..	..	886.6	770.8	680.5	596.4	469.4	391.0	391.0	574.5	641.5
United Kingdom	211.4	189.0	172.3	153.5	147.0	148.5	140.6	137.1	125.5	121.9	119.2	117.1	113.4	118.4	109.0
United States	223.1	229.4	197.5	214.7	217.3	206.1	202.2	201.0	196.1	200.0	197.2	195.1	194.9	189.2	189.2
Russian Federation	2 555.6	2 166.2	1 785.3	1 427.9	1 294.2	1 285.9	1 261.4	1 165.4	1 172.1	1 195.9	1 280.8	1 241.4

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Road fatalities
Per million vehicles and per million population, 2004



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