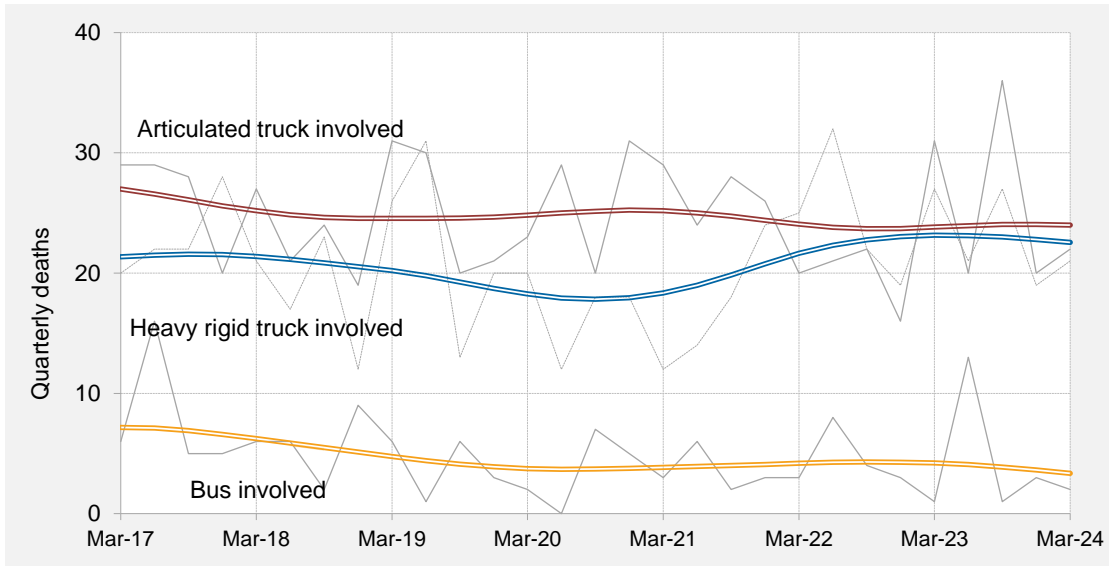




Road deaths in crashes involving heavy vehicles - quarterly bulletin, Jan-Mar 2024

Quarterly counts of deaths in crashes involving heavy vehicles, Australia, with trends



Key features

- During the 12 months to the end of March 2024, 183 people died in crashes involving heavy trucks^a. There were 98 deaths in crashes involving articulated trucks and 88 deaths in crashes involving heavy rigid trucks.
- Fatalities in crashes involving heavy trucks:
 - increased by 2.2% when compared with the corresponding 12-month period one year earlier;
 - increased by an average of 2.3% per year over the three years to March 2024.
- Fatalities in crashes involving articulated trucks:
 - increased by 8.9% when compared with the corresponding period one year earlier;
 - showed a flat trend of 0.0% per year over the three years to March 2024.
- Fatalities in crashes involving heavy rigid trucks:
 - decreased by 12.0% when compared with the corresponding period one year earlier;
 - increased by an average of 4.2% per year over the three years to March 2024.
- During the 12 months to March 2024, 19 people died in crashes involving buses. Fatalities in crashes involving buses:
 - increased by 18.8% when compared with the corresponding period one year earlier;
 - increased by an average of 16.5% per year over the three years to March 2024.

^a Figures sum to more than the total because some crashes involved more than one type of heavy vehicle.

ANNUAL TRENDS

Table 1 Deaths

	<i>Articulated truck involved</i>	<i>Heavy rigid truck involved</i>	<i>Any heavy truck involved^a</i>	<i>Bus involved</i>	<i>All road crash deaths^b</i>
12 Months ended					
<i>March 2015</i>	112	84	196	22	1,127
<i>March 2016</i>	108	83	185	23	1,250
<i>March 2017</i>	115	79	186	25	1,237
<i>March 2018</i>	104	93	187	32	1,263
<i>March 2019</i>	95	78	168	23	1,155
<i>March 2020</i>	94	84	175	12	1,143
<i>March 2021</i>	109	60	167	15	1,112
<i>March 2022</i>	98	81	175	14	1,136
<i>March 2023</i>	90	100	179	16	1,189
<i>March 2024</i>	98	88	183	19	1,282
<i>Change last 12 months (%)</i>	8.9	-12.0	2.2	18.8	7.8
<i>Ave. trend change p.a.(%)</i>					
<i>- for last 10 years</i>	-1.9	0.4	-0.9	-5.7	0.0
<i>- for last 3 years</i>	0.0	4.2	2.3	16.5	6.2

Table 2 Fatal crashes

	<i>Articulated truck involved</i>	<i>Heavy rigid truck involved</i>	<i>Any heavy truck involved^a</i>	<i>Bus involved</i>	<i>All fatal road crashes^c</i>
12 Months ended					
<i>March 2015</i>	94	74	168	18	1,026
<i>March 2016</i>	98	75	169	20	1,147
<i>March 2017</i>	101	72	167	24	1,153
<i>March 2018</i>	90	85	166	27	1,160
<i>March 2019</i>	86	70	152	20	1,069
<i>March 2020</i>	85	77	159	11	1,057
<i>March 2021</i>	92	56	146	14	1,020
<i>March 2022</i>	88	75	159	14	1,056
<i>March 2023</i>	78	88	158	16	1,107
<i>March 2024</i>	79	86	162	10	1,172
<i>Change last 12 months (%)</i>	1.3	-2.3	2.5	-37.5	5.9
<i>Ave. trend change p.a.(%)</i>					
<i>- for last 10 years</i>	-2.3	0.9	-0.8	-7.1	0.1
<i>- for last 3 years</i>	-5.3	7.1	0.9	-15.5	5.3

a Figures sum to more than the total because some crashes involved more than one type of heavy vehicle.

b All deaths, whether or not crash involved a heavy vehicle.

c All fatal road crashes, whether or not involving a heavy vehicle.

ARTICULATED TRUCK INVOLVEMENT

Table 3 Quarterly counts of deaths in crashes involving articulated trucks

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia
Quarter ended									
June-21	6	2	8	2	5	1	0	0	24
September-21	9	5	10	1	1	2	0	0	28
December-21	7	6	8	4	0	0	1	0	26
March-22	6	2	9	0	1	0	2	0	20
June-22	5	2	9	1	4	0	0	0	21
September-22	3	9	6	0	2	0	2	0	22
December-22	5	4	5	0	2	0	0	0	16
March-23	11	6	8	1	2	2	1	0	31
June-23	4	10	3	0	2	1	0	0	20
September-23	10	6	13	1	0	0	6	0	36
December-23	6	12	1	0	1	0	0	0	20
March-24	13	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	22

Figure 1 Quarterly counts of deaths in crashes involving articulated trucks, with trend

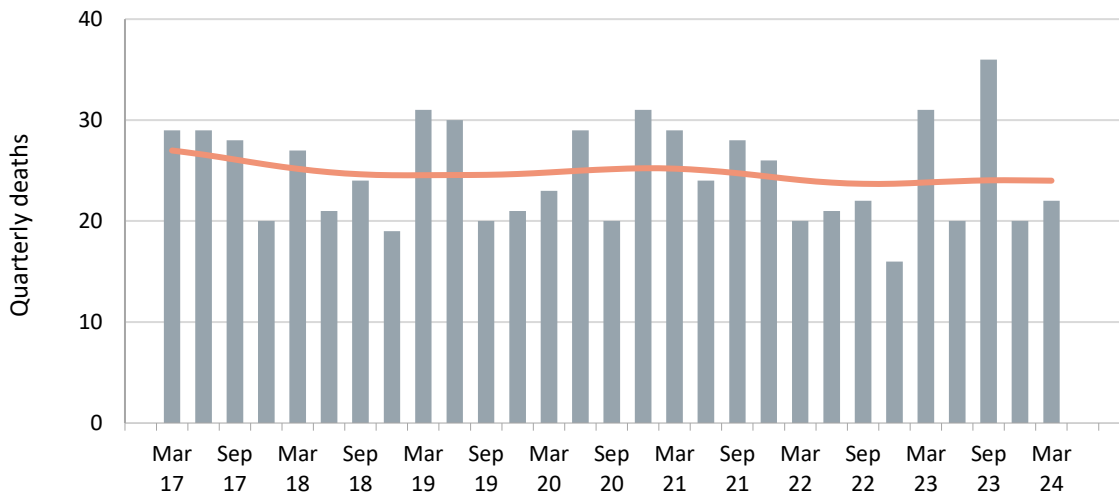


Table 4 Annual counts of deaths in crashes involving articulated trucks

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia
12 Months ended									
March 2020	21	21	20	17	10	4	0	1	94
March 2021	27	20	43	6	11	1	1	0	109
March 2022	28	15	35	7	7	3	3	0	98
March 2023	24	21	28	2	10	2	3	0	90
March 2024	33	31	23	1	3	1	6	0	98
Change last 12 months (%)	37.5	47.6	-17.9	-50.0	-70.0	-50.0	100.0	0.0	8.9
Ave. trend change p.a.(%)	8.6	43.8	-18.9	-62.2	-34.5	-42.3	41.4	-	0.0
- for last 3 years ^a									

a Average annual percentage change based on the exponential trend for the last three 12-month periods.

HEAVY RIGID TRUCK INVOLVEMENT

Table 5 Quarterly counts of deaths in crashes involving heavy rigid trucks

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia
Quarter ended									
June-21	6	4	1	0	1	1	1	0	14
September-21	4	3	3	3	4	1	0	0	18
December-21	12	8	2	0	2	0	0	0	24
March-22	9	4	7	1	2	2	0	0	25
June-22	7	8	5	1	9	2	0	0	32
September-22	2	5	7	0	6	1	1	0	22
December-22	3	2	5	0	6	3	0	0	19
March-23	4	7	10	0	4	2	0	0	27
June-23	4	5	8	0	3	1	0	0	21
September-23	10	4	7	1	4	0	1	0	27
December-23	9	3	1	0	6	0	0	0	19
March-24	6	4	2	0	9	0	0	0	21

Figure 2 Quarterly counts of deaths in crashes involving heavy rigid trucks, with trend

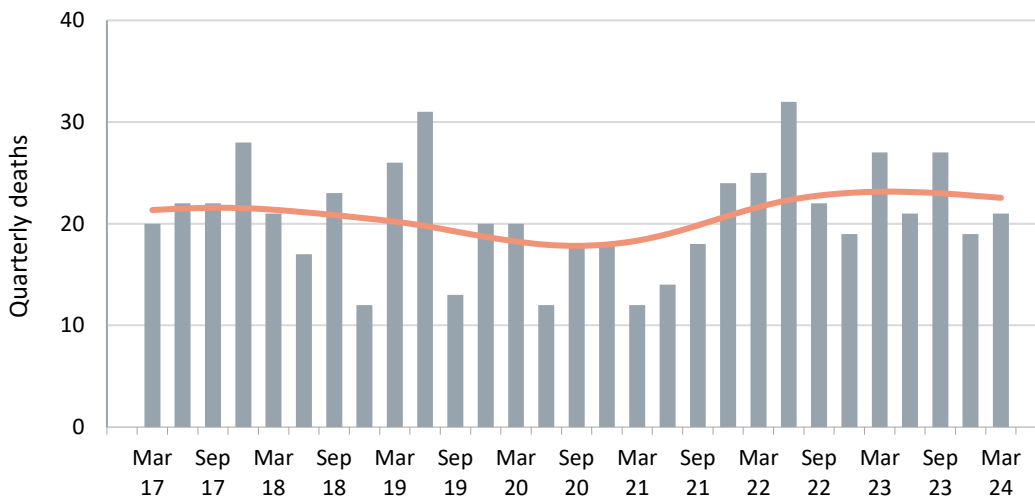


Table 6 Annual counts of deaths in crashes involving heavy rigid trucks

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia
12 Months ended									
March 2020	33	22	14	4	10	0	1	0	84
March 2021	22	11	11	5	9	2	0	0	60
March 2022	31	19	13	4	9	4	1	0	81
March 2023	16	22	27	1	25	8	1	0	100
March 2024	29	16	18	1	22	1	1	0	88
Change last 12 months (%)	81.3	-27.3	-33.3	0.0	-12.0	-87.5	0.0	0.0	-12.0
Ave. trend change p.a.(%)	-3.3	-8.2	17.7	-50.0	56.3	-50.0	0.0	-	4.2
- for last 3 years ^a									

a Average annual percentage change based on the exponential trend for the last three 12-month periods.

BUS INVOLVEMENT

Table 7 Quarterly counts of deaths in crashes involving buses

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia
Quarter ended									
June-21	2	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	6
September-21	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
December-21	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	3
March-22	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
June-22	3	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	8
September-22	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	4
December-22	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
March-23	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
June-23	12	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	13
September-23	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
December-23	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
March-24	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2

Figure 3 Quarterly counts of deaths in crashes involving buses, with trend

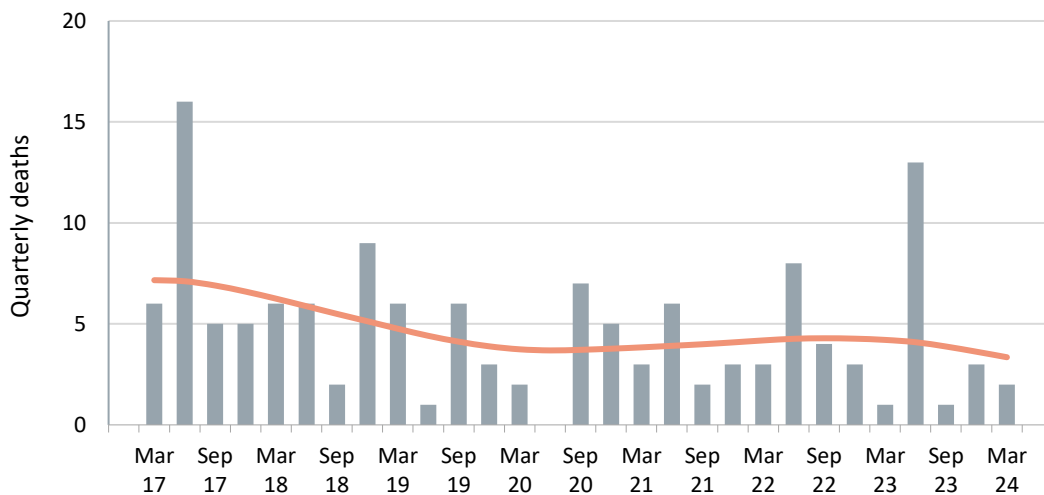


Table 8 Annual counts of deaths in crashes involving buses

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia
12 Months ended									
March 2020	6	1	0	1	3	1	0	0	12
March 2021	4	1	4	3	1	2	0	0	15
March 2022	5	1	3	1	3	0	1	0	14
March 2023	8	1	3	0	2	0	2	0	16
March 2024	15	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	19
Change last 12 months (%)	87.5	-100.0	33.3	0.0	-100.0	0.0	-100.0	0.0	18.8
Ave. trend change p.a.(%)	73.2	-	15.5	-	-	-	-	-	16.5
- for last 3 years ^a									

a Average annual percentage change based on the exponential trend for the last three 12-month periods.

APPENDIX

Glossary	<p><u>Note.</u> The following definitions are general explanations only. The precise definitions vary across the organisations that provide the source data. These differences may result in minor inconsistencies between jurisdictions for some variables.</p>
Articulated truck	A motor vehicle primarily for load carrying, consisting of a prime mover that has no significant load carrying area but with a turntable device which can be linked to one or more trailers.
Heavy rigid truck	A motor vehicle of GVM greater than 4.5 tonnes constructed with a load carrying area. Includes a rigid truck with a tow bar, draw bar or other non-articulated coupling on the rear of the vehicle.
Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM)	Tare weight (i.e. unladen weight) of the motor vehicle plus its maximum carrying capacity excluding trailers.
Bus	A motor vehicle constructed for the carriage of passengers which has at least 10 seats, including the driver's seat.
Crash	Any apparently unpremeditated event reported to police, or other relevant authority, and resulting in death, injury or property damage attributable to the movement of a road vehicle on a public road.
Road death or Fatality	A person who dies within 30 days of a crash as a result of injuries received in that crash.
Fatal crash	A crash for which there is at least one death.
Preliminary data	Data for recent months are preliminary and subject to revision.
Estimation of three year trends	In this bulletin, the figures for the 'Average annual per cent change over 3 years' are calculated by fitting an exponential trend line to the last three data points. The Excel function LOGEST performs the fit. The resulting trend line represents a constant annual percent change over the period. (Note: when fitted to a series containing small numbers, this may not be a reliable indicator of a stable trend.)
Smooth trend lines	Whittaker-Henderson smoothers with a value of 80 for the smoothing parameter. The application R (package pracma) is used.
Data sources	<p>The data presented here are obtained from the following sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transport for New South Wales;• Department of Transport, Victoria;• Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads;• Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure South Australia;• Western Australian Police;• Department of State Growth, Tasmania;• Department of Transport, Northern Territory;• Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate, Australian Capital Territory; <p>An online version of the database used to produce this bulletin is available from: < http://www.bitre.gov.au/statistics/safety/fatal_road_crash_database.aspx ></p>
Inquiries	<p>For further information about data in this bulletin, contact:</p> <p>Bureau of Infrastructure and Transport Research Economics (BITRE) Email: roadsafetystatistics@infrastructure.gov.au</p> <p>Road deaths from recent months are preliminary and subject to revision.</p>

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