



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

ISSN 1449-1168

bitre

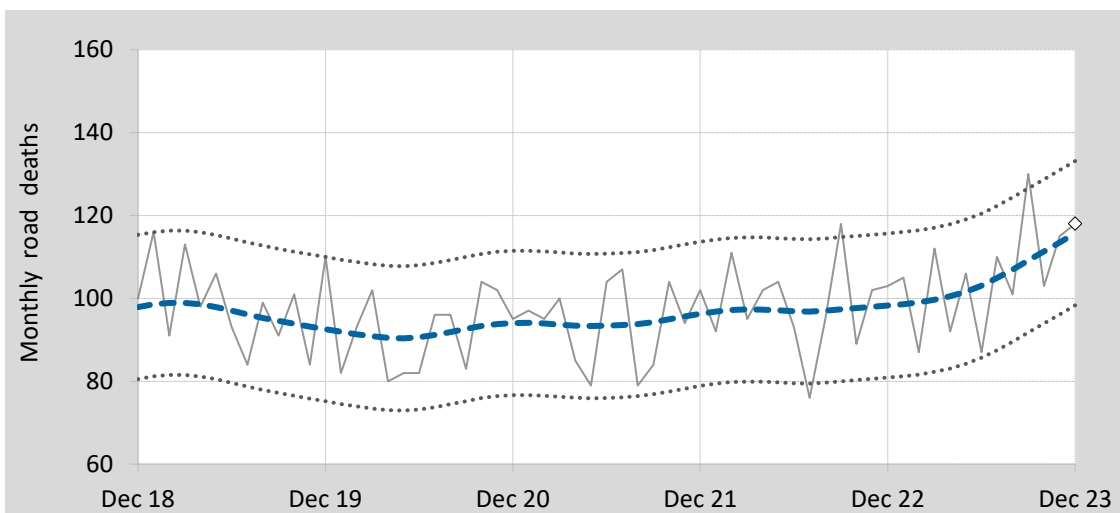
Road deaths Australia

December 2023

This month's key figures

- There was a total of 118 road deaths during the month of December 2023. The current figure is 15.7 per cent higher than the average for December over the previous five years.
- During the 12 months ended December 2023, there were 1,266 road deaths. This is an increase of 7.3 per cent from the 12-month period ending December 2022.
- Presently, the rate of annual deaths per 100,000 population stands at 4.8. This is a 4.8 per cent increase compared to the rate for the 12-month period ending December 2022.

Monthly road deaths—last five years, with trend and error bounds



Note: Shown is a trend and a 90 per cent prediction interval for the monthly observations.

Monthly fatalities over the last 5 years

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | July | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Total |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| 2018 | 101 | 86 | 113 | 88 | 90 | 78 | 96 | 104 | 106 | 74 | 99 | 100 | 1,135 |
| 2019 | 116 | 91 | 113 | 98 | 106 | 93 | 84 | 99 | 91 | 101 | 84 | 110 | 1,186 |
| 2020 | 82 | 93 | 102 | 80 | 82 | 82 | 96 | 96 | 83 | 104 | 102 | 95 | 1,097 |
| 2021 | 97 | 95 | 100 | 85 | 79 | 104 | 107 | 79 | 84 | 104 | 94 | 102 | 1,130 |
| 2022 | 92 | 111 | 95 | 102 | 104 | 93 | 76 | 95 | 118 | 89 | 102 | 103 | 1,180 |
| 2023 | 105 | 87 | 112 | 92 | 106 | 87 | 110 | 101 | 130 | 103 | 115 | 118 | 1,266 |

I. Monthly deaths by jurisdiction — 2 years

— raw
 - - - smoothed
 (Whittaker-Henderson)

Figure I.1 NSW

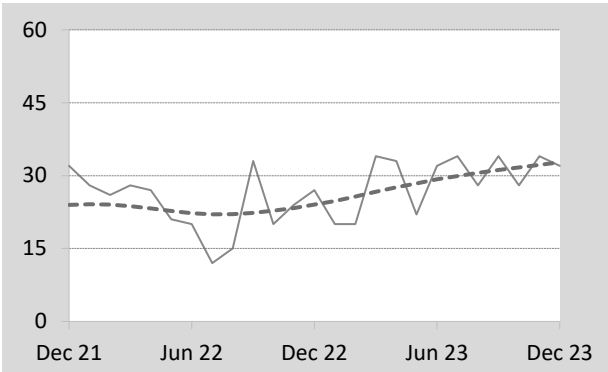


Figure I.2 Vic

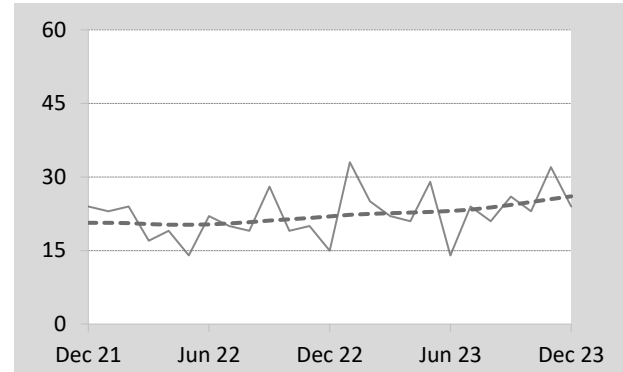


Figure I.3 Qld

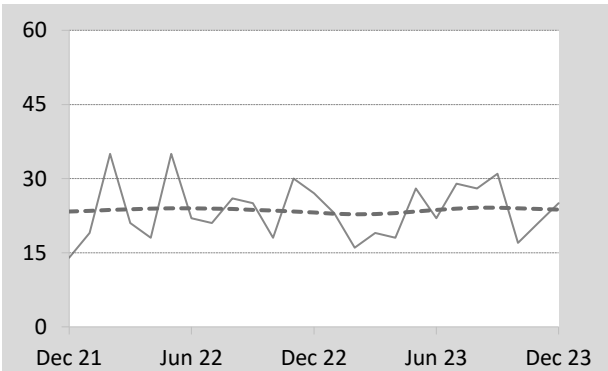


Figure I.4 SA

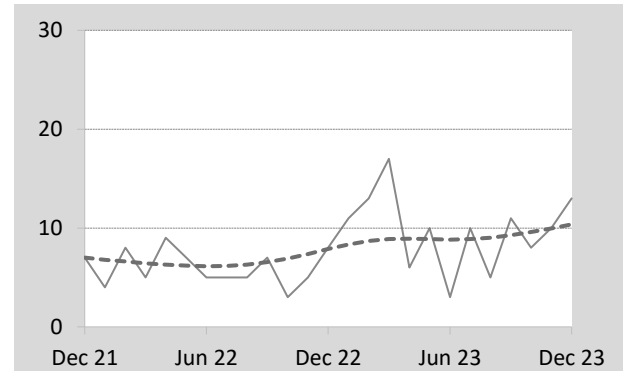


Figure I.5 WA

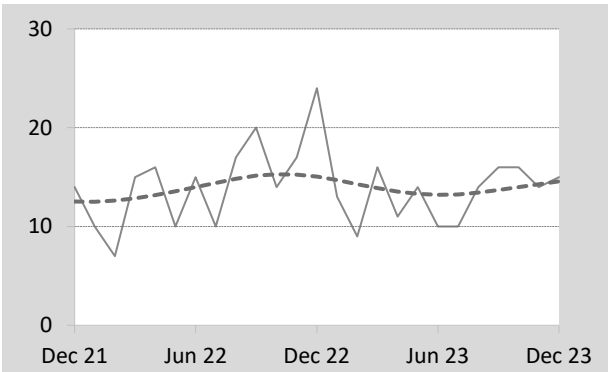


Figure I.6 Tas

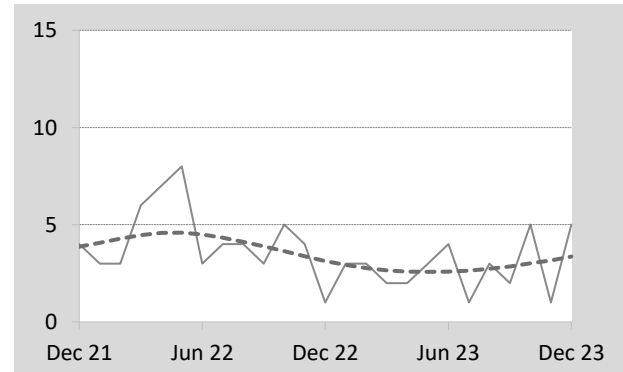


Figure I.7 NT

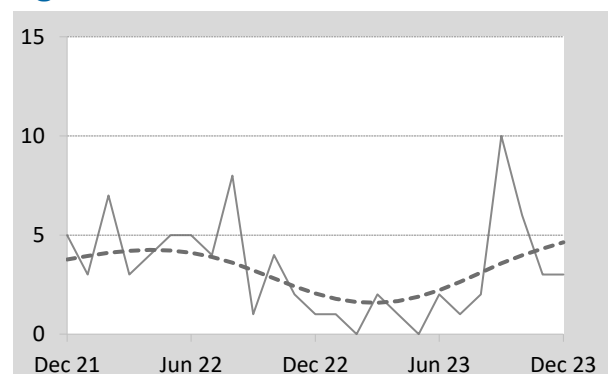
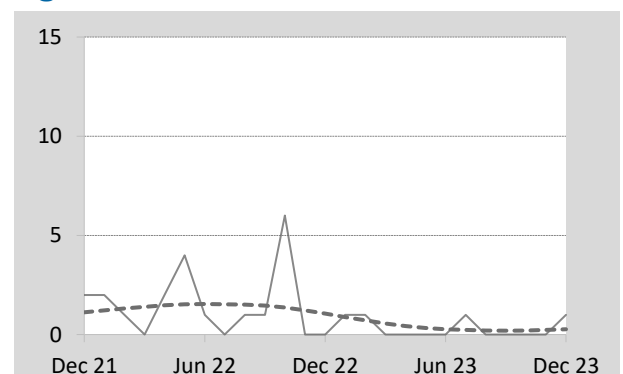


Figure I.8 ACT



2. Deaths by jurisdiction - Current month, calendar year and last 12 months

Table 2.1 Current month

| Current month | NSW | Vic | Qld | SA | WA | Tas | NT | ACT | Australia |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|-----|-----------|
| December 2022 | 27 | 15 | 27 | 8 | 24 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 103 |
| December 2023 | 32 | 24 | 25 | 13 | 15 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 118 |
| Per cent change | 19% | 60% | -7% | 63% | -38% | 400% | 200% | - | 14.6% |

Table 2.2 Calendar year to date

| Year to date | NSW | Vic | Qld | SA | WA | Tas | NT | ACT | Australia |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|-----------|
| January - December 2022 | 281 | 240 | 297 | 71 | 175 | 51 | 47 | 18 | 1,180 |
| January - December 2023 | 351 | 294 | 277 | 117 | 158 | 34 | 31 | 4 | 1,266 |
| Per cent change | 25% | 23% | -7% | 65% | -10% | -33% | -34% | -78% | 7.3% |

Table 2.3 12 months ended December

| 12 months end December | NSW | Vic | Qld | SA | WA | Tas | NT | ACT | Australia |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|
| 2019 | 353 | 266 | 219 | 114 | 163 | 29 | 36 | 6 | 1,186 |
| 2020 | 284 | 211 | 278 | 93 | 155 | 38 | 31 | 7 | 1,097 |
| 2021 | 275 | 231 | 277 | 99 | 166 | 36 | 35 | 11 | 1,130 |
| 2022 | 281 | 240 | 297 | 71 | 175 | 51 | 47 | 18 | 1,180 |
| 2023 | 351 | 294 | 277 | 117 | 158 | 34 | 31 | 4 | 1,266 |
| Latest per cent change | 24.9% | 22.5% | -6.7% | 64.8% | -9.7% | -33.3% | -34.0% | -77.8% | 7.3% |
| Average trend change per year | -0.2% | 3.3% | 5.5% | -2.2% | 0.6% | 6.3% | 1.2% | 1.3% | 2.1% |

3. Annual deaths per 100,000 population

Table 3.1 12 months ended December

| 12 months end December | NSW | Vic | Qld | SA | WA | Tas | NT | ACT | Australia |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|
| 2019 | 4.4 | 4.1 | 4.3 | 6.5 | 6.1 | 5.3 | 14.6 | 1.4 | 4.7 |
| 2020 | 3.5 | 3.2 | 5.4 | 5.2 | 5.7 | 6.8 | 12.5 | 1.6 | 4.3 |
| 2021 | 3.4 | 3.5 | 5.3 | 5.5 | 6.0 | 6.3 | 14.1 | 2.4 | 4.4 |
| 2022 | 3.4 | 3.6 | 5.6 | 3.9 | 6.3 | 8.9 | 18.8 | 3.9 | 4.5 |
| 2023 | 4.2 | 4.3 | 5.1 | 6.3 | 5.5 | 5.9 | 12.3 | 0.9 | 4.8 |
| Latest per cent change | 22.3% | 19.2% | -9.1% | 62.1% | -12.4% | -33.5% | -34.6% | -78.2% | 4.8% |
| Average trend change per year | -1.0% | 2.5% | 3.7% | -3.2% | -1.3% | 5.1% | 0.6% | -0.3% | 0.9% |

Table 3.2 Calendar year period

| Calendar year | NSW | Vic | Qld | SA | WA | Tas | NT | ACT | Australia |
|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|
| 2019 | 4.4 | 4.1 | 4.3 | 6.5 | 6.1 | 5.3 | 14.6 | 1.4 | 4.7 |
| 2020 | 3.5 | 3.2 | 5.4 | 5.2 | 5.7 | 6.8 | 12.5 | 1.6 | 4.3 |
| 2021 | 3.4 | 3.5 | 5.3 | 5.5 | 6.0 | 6.3 | 14.1 | 2.4 | 4.4 |
| 2022 | 3.4 | 3.6 | 5.6 | 3.9 | 6.3 | 8.9 | 18.8 | 3.9 | 4.5 |
| 2023 | 4.2 | 4.3 | 5.1 | 6.3 | 5.5 | 5.9 | 12.3 | 0.9 | 4.8 |
| Latest per cent change | 22.3% | 19.2% | -9.1% | 62.1% | -12.4% | -33.5% | -34.6% | -78.2% | 4.8% |

4. Deaths by road user, age-group and gender

Table 4.1 By road user

| 12 months end December | Driver | Passenger | Pedestrian | Motorcyclist ^a | Pedal cyclist ^a | Total ^b |
|--------------------------------------|--------|-----------|------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 2019 | 569 | 205 | 158 | 212 | 39 | 1,186 |
| 2020 | 534 | 192 | 138 | 187 | 42 | 1,097 |
| 2021 | 530 | 182 | 133 | 237 | 42 | 1,130 |
| 2022 | 545 | 185 | 162 | 243 | 35 | 1,180 |
| 2023 | 608 | 203 | 158 | 254 | 36 | 1,266 |
| <i>Latest per cent change</i> | 12% | 10% | -2% | 5% | 3% | 7.3% |
| <i>Average trend change per year</i> | 2% | -1% | 2% | 6% | -3% | 2.1% |

Table 4.2 By age-group (years)

| 12 months end December | 0 to 7 | 8 to 16 | 17 to 25 | 26 to 39 | 40 to 64 | 65 to 74 | ≥ 75 | Total ^b |
|--------------------------------------|--------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------|--------------------|
| 2019 | 16 | 28 | 237 | 257 | 371 | 106 | 169 | 1,186 |
| 2020 | 17 | 38 | 208 | 291 | 331 | 75 | 133 | 1,097 |
| 2021 | 22 | 43 | 212 | 243 | 352 | 113 | 140 | 1,130 |
| 2022 | 15 | 47 | 227 | 265 | 368 | 116 | 140 | 1,180 |
| 2023 | 14 | 44 | 244 | 281 | 387 | 138 | 150 | 1,266 |
| <i>Latest per cent change</i> | -7% | -6% | 7% | 6% | 5% | 19% | 7% | 7.3% |
| <i>Average trend change per year</i> | -4% | 12% | 1% | 1% | 2% | 10% | -2% | 2.1% |

Table 4.3 By gender

| 12 months end December | Male | Female | Total ^c |
|--------------------------------------|------|--------|--------------------|
| 2019 | 904 | 282 | 1,186 |
| 2020 | 793 | 300 | 1,097 |
| 2021 | 852 | 276 | 1,130 |
| 2022 | 872 | 307 | 1,180 |
| 2023 | 956 | 304 | 1,266 |
| <i>Latest per cent change</i> | 10% | -1% | 7.3% |
| <i>Average trend change per year</i> | 2% | 2% | 2.1% |

a Includes pillion passengers.

b Includes deaths of persons with either age or road user type not recorded.

c Includes deaths of persons where gender is not recorded or unspecified.

5. Fatal crashes: counts and characteristics

Table 5.1 By crash type

| 12 months end December | Crash type ^a | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|----------|--------------------|
| | Single | Multiple | Total ^b |
| 2019 | 665 | 433 | 1,098 |
| 2020 | 571 | 427 | 998 |
| 2021 | 610 | 439 | 1,049 |
| 2022 | 684 | 421 | 1,105 |
| 2023 | 718 | 440 | 1,158 |
| Latest per cent change | 5% | 5% | 4.8% |
| Average trend change per year | 3% | 0% | 2.1% |

Table 5.2 By posted speed limit

| 12 months end December | Posted speed limit (km/h) | | | | | | Total ^b |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-----|----------|----------|-----|-------|--------------------|
| | ≤ 40 | 50 | 60 to 70 | 80 to 90 | 100 | ≥ 110 | |
| 2019 | 21 | 127 | 232 | 193 | 343 | 173 | 1,098 |
| 2020 | 17 | 125 | 224 | 178 | 330 | 118 | 998 |
| 2021 | 18 | 132 | 251 | 159 | 333 | 142 | 1,049 |
| 2022 | 21 | 117 | 302 | 183 | 337 | 135 | 1,105 |
| 2023 | 34 | 142 | 275 | 178 | 313 | 135 | 1,158 |
| Latest per cent change | 62% | 21% | -9% | -3% | -7% | 0% | 4.8% |
| Average trend change per year | 12% | 2% | 7% | -1% | -2% | -4% | 2.1% |

Table 5.3 By day of week

| 12 months end December | Day of week ^c | | Total ^b |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|---------|--------------------|
| | Weekday | Weekend | |
| 2019 | 669 | 429 | 1,098 |
| 2020 | 592 | 406 | 998 |
| 2021 | 650 | 399 | 1,049 |
| 2022 | 647 | 458 | 1,105 |
| 2023 | 729 | 429 | 1,158 |
| Latest per cent change | 13% | -6% | 4.8% |
| Average trend change per year | 3% | 1% | 2.1% |

Table 5.4 By time of day

| 12 months end December | Time of day ^d | | Total ^b |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-------|--------------------|
| | Day | Night | |
| 2019 | 535 | 563 | 1,098 |
| 2020 | 597 | 401 | 998 |
| 2021 | 653 | 396 | 1,049 |
| 2022 | 633 | 471 | 1,105 |
| 2023 | 721 | 437 | 1,158 |
| Latest per cent change | 14% | -7% | 4.8% |
| Average trend change per year | 7% | -3% | 2.1% |

a 'Single' and 'Multiple' refer to the number of vehicles involved in a fatal crash.

b Includes unknown or not specified.

c 'Weekday' refers to 6am Monday through to 5:59pm Friday.

d 'Day' refers to 6am through to 5:59 pm.

Appendix

Definition

The road safety agencies in each jurisdiction use detailed criteria to define road crashes and road deaths. Briefly, a death is classified as resulting from a road crash if the crash occurred on a public road, is unintentional and the death occurred within 30 days from injuries sustained in the crash.

Fatality rates

Fatality rates per population are based on road deaths over the last 12-months, and the population at the midpoint of that period. Population estimates are sourced from ABS' *National, state and territory population* statistics. The midpoint population is interpolated if necessary.

Average trend change (% per year)

Designed to provide a **one-number summary** of growth rates over recent time periods. Calculated by fitting an exponential curve through the data points, and quoting the constant (annual) change of this curve.

Smooth trend lines

These trend lines are designed to track medium-term trends and turning points in the raw data. Whittaker-Henderson smoothers have been used with value of 80 for the smoothing parameter. The application R (package *pracma*) can be used for such trend lines. Error bounds are 90% (approximately) around the monthly data.

Other sources for the tables in this bulletin

The underlying database used to produce this bulletin — *the Australian Road Deaths Database* is available for data extraction at <http://www.bitre.gov.au/statistics/safety/fatal_road_crash_database.aspx>. Road deaths from recent months are preliminary and subject to revision.

Data Sources

Data are obtained from

- Transport for NSW
- Department of Transport, Victoria
- Department of Transport and Main Roads, Queensland
- Department for Infrastructure and Transport, SA
- Western Australia Police
- Department of State Growth, Tasmania
- Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics, NT
- Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate, ACT
- Australian Bureau of Statistics (National, state and territory population)

Inquiries

For further information about data in this bulletin, contact:

Bureau of Infrastructure and Transport Research Economics (BITRE)

Web: www.bitre.gov.au

Email: roadsafetystatistics@infrastructure.gov.au

Road deaths from recent months are preliminary and subject to revision.

© Copyright. Creative Commons 3.0