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More road fatalities in the first quarter of 2022

Proportion of alcohol-related accidents in all road accidents with personal injury marks a record high of 8.5 % in the past 30 years

Vienna, 2022-07-28 – From January to March 2022, 77 people were killed in road traffic accidents in Austria. Therefore the number of road fatalities was not only up by 60 % compared to the first quarter of 2021 (48 fatalities), but also 20 % higher than in the pre-pandemic quarter of 2019 (64 fatalities). Particularly striking was the high proportion of alcohol-related accidents in total accidents, which at 8.5 % is the highest value since digital recording began in 1992.

According to Statistics Austria, 650 people were injured or fatally injured in 469 alcohol accidents in the first three months of 2022. Seven people lost their lives, which meant that one of eleven traffic fatalities was related to an alcohol accident. Compared to the same quarter of the previous year, the number of casualties in alcohol accidents (384) increased by 69 % and reached its highest level in the last ten years. In 67 % of all alcohol accidents (313), the main causer of the accident was an alcoholised driver of a passenger car; 47 % of these accidents were single-vehicle accidents (148).

Road traffic fatalities in Styria tripled

A strong increase in traffic fatalities was recorded for the federal province of Styria in the first quarter of 2022, namely by more than three times from six to 19 fatalities (see Table 2). This is the second highest number of traffic fatalities in Styria from January to March since 2008. Significant increases compared to 2021 were also recorded in Vienna, Tyrol (from 2 to 7 each) and Lower Austria (from 12 to 19).

Once again record number of cyclists casualties

Compared to the first quarter of 2021, which was characterised by a lockdown, the number of accidents increased in almost all traffic units. A particularly high increase was recorded in the number of injured or fatally injured **cyclists** (1 093) in the first quarter of 2022: Compared to the same quarter of the previous year, 22% more cyclists were injured on Austrian roads than ever before since digital records began in 1992. Since 2018, the number of cyclist casualties in accidents has doubled (2018: 530), and the number of e-bike casualties increased more than eight times from 37 to 318 in this period.

The number of **pedestrians** involved in accidents in the first quarter 2022 was 662, the second lowest figure since 1992; the number was only lower in the previous year (548). 32 % of the injured or killed pedestrians had accidents at twilight or in the dark, whereby the proportion was significantly higher for fatally injured pedestrians at 57 % (8 of 14 fatalities).

A particularly high increase in the number of fatalities was recorded among **passenger car users**, with an increase of 69 % from 26 to 44 in comparison to 2021. 13 car users who were killed (30 %) were not using seat belts or child safety equipment during the accident. In comparison to previous years, the high number of car passengers killed (16) was also noticeable, which had been lower in the first quarter of the last ten years. Two of the car passengers killed were two-year-old children.

More detailed results and further tables are available on our [website](#).

Table 1: Road traffic accidents and casualties in the first quarter 2019–2022

	2019	2020	2021	2022	Change of casualties 2021/22 in %
Accidents	6 169	5 096	4 739	5 536	16.8
Injuries	8 020	6 668	6 064	7 154	18.0
Fatalities	64	69	48	77	60.4
Casualties	8 084	6 737	6 112	7 231	18.3

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

Table 2: Road traffic casualties first quarter 2022 by federal state

Federal state	Injuries	Fatalities	Casualties	Change of casualties 2021/22 in %
Burgenland	147	3	150	27.1
Carinthia	484	6	490	9.6
Lower Austria	1 235	19	1 254	7.3
Upper Austria	1 366	10	1 376	6.3
Salzburg	506	4	510	30.4
Styria	1 112	19	1 131	13.0
Tyrol	686	7	693	40.0
Vorarlberg	421	2	423	33.0
Vienna	1 197	7	1 204	37.0
Austria	7 154	77	7 231	18.3

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

Information on methods, 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 currently published quarterly results 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 are still possible 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.

Casualties: include persons injured or killed in and as a result of an accident.

Person killed: Any person killed immediately or dying within 30 days as a result of an injury accident.

The traffic unit "bicycle" also include e-bikes and electric scooters.

An **alcohol accident** is an accident in which at least one person involved (driver or pedestrian) is influenced by alcohol (in accordance with § 5 (1) of the Road Traffic Act) or exceeds of the blood limit (specified in § 14 (8) of the Driving License Act) or breath alcohol level was determined, alcohol consumption was suspected by the police or the alcohol test was refused.

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