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Number of road traffic fatalities in Q3 2021 at pre-pandemic level; significantly more accidents on heat days

Vienna, 2022-01-31 – 125 people were killed in road traffic accidents in Austria in the third quarter of 2021, according to Statistics Austria. This corresponds roughly to the number of traffic fatalities before the pandemic (Q3 2019: 126 fatalities). Compared to the same quarter of the previous year, in which 113 people were killed in road traffic accidents, there were twelve more traffic fatalities in the third quarter of 2021 (+11%; see Table 1). The number of moped riders (+250%) and car occupants (+29%) killed rose particularly sharply. In contrast, the number of people injured in the third quarter 2021 was 14 210 which shows a decrease of 3% compared to the same quarter of the previous year; the decrease was particularly high in August (-9%).

On average 24% more accidents on heat days

In the summer months of July and August 2021, significantly more accidents were recorded in Austria on heat days (weather data from Open Data ZAMG) than on non-heat days, with an increase of 24%. On average, 148 accidents per day occurred on heat days, while around 120 accidents were recorded on non-heat days. This increase was particularly remarkable in the federal state of Salzburg, where the number of accidents increased by one third on the five heat days compared to the other days. In Tyrol the effect was similarly strong (+31%), while in Carinthia (+11%) and Lower Austria (+16%) the increase was lower.

Fatalities of moped riders increased sharply from two to seven

A remarkable increase in fatalities was recorded for moped riders in the third quarter of 2021, with seven fatalities, compared to two in the same period in 2020 and three in the third quarter of 2019 (see Table 2). All of the fatally injured moped riders were men, with six drivers and one passenger killed. Five of the six moped drivers killed were recorded as having originated the accident. Three moped riders were killed in accidents with passenger cars, two in single-vehicle accidents and one rider in an accident with a tractor.

Number of cyclists killed rises again, 79% originate accidents themselves

19 cyclists were killed on the roads between July and September 2021. This represents a further increase of 12% compared to the same quarter last year (17 fatalities), in which high figures have been recorded already, and of 58% compared to the same period in 2019 (12 fatalities). Eight fatally injured cyclists had an accident with their e-bike. 15 of the 19 cyclists killed in accidents were male. More than half (53%) of all cyclists killed (10) were fatally injured in single-vehicle accidents, which is a noteworthy increase in the same quarter compared to the years before (2020: 35%, 2019: 8%). 15 of the 19 fatally injured cyclists (79%) were the main originator of the accident.

40% of car occupants killed not using seat belts

A total of 5 394 car occupants were injured in the third quarter of 2021, and a further 40 people were fatally injured. While 97% of all lightly injured car occupants had used a seat belt or child restraint in the accident, this was the case for 90% of all seriously injured, but only for 60% of all killed car occupants.

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

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.

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

The information on the **presumed main originator** of the accident is provided according to the assessment of the police authorities who carry out the registration of the accident.

Heat days are days on which 30 degrees and more are reached. In the analysis, the maximum temperature of the regional capital was compared to the total number of accidents per day for each federal state. The weather data was obtained from the Open Data Hub of the Central Institute for Meteorology and Geodynamics (ZAMG).

Table 1: Accidents, injuries and fatalities in the third quarter 2019 to 2021

	2019	2020	2021	Change 2020/2021 in %
Accidents	11 283	11 999	11 562	-3.6
Injuries	14 045	14 638	14 210	-2.9
Fatalities	126	113	125	+10.6

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, road traffic accidents. - Preliminary results.

Table 2: Injuries and Fatalities in the third quarter in 2019 to 2021 by traffic unit

Traffic Unit	Injuries				Fatalities			
	2019	2020	2021	Change 2020/2021 in %	2019	2020	2021	Change 2020/2021 in %
Pedestrians	771	729	766	+5.1	11	14	7	-50.0
Bikes ¹⁾	3 416	4 348	4 131	-5.0	12	17	19	+11.8
thereof e-bikes ²⁾	696	1 011	1 180	+16.7	7	10	8	-20.0
Mopeds	1 493	1 654	1 439	-13.0	3	2	7	+250.0
Motorcycles	1 913	1 988	1 760	-11.5	30	40	44	+10.0
Cars	5 763	5 228	5 394	+3.2	61	31	40	+29.0
Trucks ³⁾	315	299	325	+8.7	4	6	3	-50.0
Other	374	392	395	+0.8	5	3	5	+66.7
Overall	14 045	14 638	14 210	-2.9	126	113	125	+10.6

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, road traffic accidents. – Preliminary results. – 1) incl. E-Bike, E-Scooter. – 2) incl. E-Scooter. – 3) incl. articulated vehicles.

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