



Downward trend in road fatalities continues in IRTAD member countries in 2006

Road fatalities for the countries for which data are available (see table) show an overall reduction of almost 6% in 2006 compared to 2005, continuing the downward trend of recent years. But wide disparities in the performances of different countries exist. While some countries, such as Portugal, the Czech Republic, France and Switzerland, achieved substantial reductions in fatalities in 2006, others saw road safety conditions actually worsen. It is also important, however, to consider the data within a larger timeframe, and the table below compares 2005 data with that for the year 2000. Most countries succeeded in reducing the number of road deaths over that period.

There are wide differences in the long-term performances of the different countries. This is the focus of current research being conducted by the IRTAD Group and the Working Group of the OECD and the International Transport Forum on *Achieving Ambitious Road Safety Targets* making use of the time series offered in the IRTAD Database.

The IRTAD Group has published several Special Reports on topical issues in the field of road safety. The recent report on *Under-reporting of Road Traffic Casualties* highlights the need to assess the real magnitude of the road safety issue, which requires having a better understanding of the real numbers of road traffic casualties. The report reviews the known causes of underreporting and the experience of countries in assessing the magnitude of underreporting. It suggests a method to estimate the rate of underreporting and provides a set of recommendations to improve the data reporting mechanism.

In order to implement road safety policy effectively it is essential to have suitable data sources for monitoring and analysing progress and evaluating the effects on safety of the measures taken. For that, the IRTAD Group considers it very useful to exchange views on up-to-date information related to new road safety developments in OECD member and non-member countries. To facilitate this exchange the following documents are available on the web:

- Detailed information on the performances of the different countries and key road safety issues can be found on the IRTAD web site at <http://www.cemt.org/irtad/IRTADPUBLIC/irtadtrends.htm>.
- For cross-country comparisons and performance indicators see <http://cemt.org/IRTAD/IRTADPUBLIC/we2.html> and <http://cemt.org/IRTAD/IRTADPUBLIC/irtadgraphs.htm>
- Country reports on road safety performance are available at <http://www.cemt.org/JTRC/WorkingGroups/RoadSafety/performance.htm>
- IRTAD Special report on Underreporting of Road Traffic Casualties is available at: <http://www.cemt.org/irtad/IRTADPUBLIC/irtadpub.htm>

For further information on IRTAD see www.irtad.net or contact irtad@irtad.net.

Road Fatalities ¹				
Country	2005	2006 ²	Comparison 2006/2005	Comparison 2005/2000
Australia	1 627	1 598	-1.8%	-9.8%
Austria	768	730	-4.9%	-21.3%
Belgium	1 089	1 069	-2.0%	-25.9%
Canada	2 925	-	-	-0.1%
Czech Republic	1 286	1 063	-17.3%	-13.5%
Denmark	331	306	-7.6%	-33.5%
Finland	379	336	-11.3%	-4.3%
France	5 318	4 709	-11.5%	-34.2%
Germany	5 361	5 091	-5.0%	-28.5%
Great Britain	3 201	3 172	-1.0%	-6.1%
Greece	1 658	1 657	-0.1%	-18.6%
Hungary	1 278	1 303	+2.0%	+6.5%
Iceland	19	31	+63.0%	-40.6%
Ireland	396	-	-	-4.6%
Israel	448	414	-7.6%	-2.8%
Italy	5 426	-	-	-18.4%
Japan	7 931	7 272	-8.3%	-23.8%
Korea	6 376	6327	-0.8%	-37.7%
Netherlands	750	730	-2.7%	-30.7%
New Zealand	405	391	-3.5%	-12.3%
Norway	223	242	+8.5%	-34.6%
Poland	5 444	5 243	-3.7%	-13.5%
Portugal	1 247	969	-22.0%	-33.0%
Slovenia	258	263	+1.9%	-17.8%
Spain	4 442	4 104	- 7.6%	-23.1%
Sweden	440	445	+1.1%	-25.5%
Switzerland	409	370	-9.6%	-30.9%
USA	43 443	-	-	+3.6%

1. Police-recorded fatalities. Death within 30 days.
2. Provisional figures for 2006 for Finland, Iceland and Korea.

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