

Traffic Safety Basic Facts 2004

Car Occupants

In 1998, the latest year for which data are available for all of the 14 European countries included in these Tables, 12.981 car drivers were killed in traffic accidents and 6.424 car passengers. Tables 1 and 2 present the annual data by country available from CARE since 1993.

In 2002, 38% of people killed in traffic accidents in 14 European countries were car drivers and 18% were car passengers.

Table 1: Car driver fatalities by country and by year

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
BE	749	781	688	637	642	670	644	697	662	—
DK	185	198	190	174	194	193	186	146	169	170
EL	492	513	549	520	537	567	536	571	508	—
ES	2129	1787	1873	1803	1829	2048	1983	2033	1972	1921
FR	4290	3913	3826	3757	3674	4011	3786	3712	3751	3485
IE	110	115	115	146	131	157	157	173	139	133
IT	2462	2493	2646	2402	2483	2401	—	—	—	—
LU	41	42	40	37	34	36	38	40	36	38
NL	423	437	465	414	399	401	378	362	351	341
AT	535	549	515	437	486	395	421	406	417	373
PT	494	456	504	560	580	511	505	420	393	401
FI	182	169	155	158	163	157	179	159	181	183
SE	281	279	263	228	254	258	262	285	261	271
UK	1147	1150	1124	1198	1217	1176	1137	1165	1217	1199
Total	13520	12882	12953	12471	12623	12981	—	—	—	—

Source: CARE Database / EC
Date of query: February 2005

Table 2: Car passenger fatalities by country and by year

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
BE	292	277	240	216	202	266	207	225	237	—
DK	69	69	100	92	65	70	85	89	73	76
EL	309	349	365	381	359	344	350	351	295	—
ES	1479	1268	1333	1205	1169	1253	1213	1260	1175	1196
FR	2070	1819	1870	1782	1684	1793	1669	1579	1532	1379
IE	77	63	78	72	89	96	79	89	92	69
IT	1462	1368	1378	1255	1242	1115	—	—	—	—
LU	14	9	12	14	12	7	11	14	15	14
NL	183	177	192	161	148	149	161	151	126	138
AT	212	258	193	187	180	170	194	143	153	151
PT	463	408	447	468	420	414	341	326	257	311
FI	92	93	76	69	84	75	72	65	81	84
SE	108	106	108	101	94	69	110	108	112	108
UK	661	694	685	679	642	603	624	601	599	633
Total	7491	6958	7077	6682	6390	6424	—	—	—	—

Source: CARE Database / EC
Date of query: February 2005

11% fewer car drivers were killed in the latest year than in 1993, and 22% fewer car passengers.

In order to allow for the differing size of these countries, Table 3 presents the number of car occupant fatalities per million population for the latest available year. The rate varies between 30 per million in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands to 117 in Luxembourg (although the latter rate may give a misleading impression of the level of safety in Luxembourg because of the relatively large volume of foreign traffic in this small country).

Table 3: Car occupant fatality rates per million population by country, 2002

	Drivers	Passengers	Occupants
BE*	65	23	88
DK	32	14	46
EL*	48	28	76
ES	48	30	77
FR	59	23	82
IE	34	18	52
IT**	42	19	61
LU	86	32	117
NL	21	9	30
AT	46	19	65
PT	39	30	68
FI	35	16	51
SE	30	12	43
UK	20	11	31
Total	41	20	60

* Data from 2001

** Data from 1998

Source: CARE Database / EC

Date of query: February 2005

Source of population data: IRTAD

The rates of car drivers and passengers killed per million population are lowest in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands

Table 4 presents the number of car occupant fatalities as a proportion of the national total of deaths in traffic accidents. Less than one quarter of Portuguese killed in road accidents were car drivers, compared with almost one half of French and Swedes.

Table 4: Car occupant fatalities in proportion to national totals by country, 2002

	Drivers	Passengers	Occupants
BE*	45%	16%	60%
DK	37%	16%	53%
EL*	27%	16%	43%
ES	36%	22%	58%
FR	46%	18%	64%
IE	35%	18%	53%
IT**	38%	18%	56%
LU	61%	23%	84%
NL	35%	14%	49%
AT	39%	16%	55%
PT	24%	19%	43%
FI	44%	20%	64%
SE	48%	19%	68%
UK	33%	18%	51%
Total	38%	18%	56%

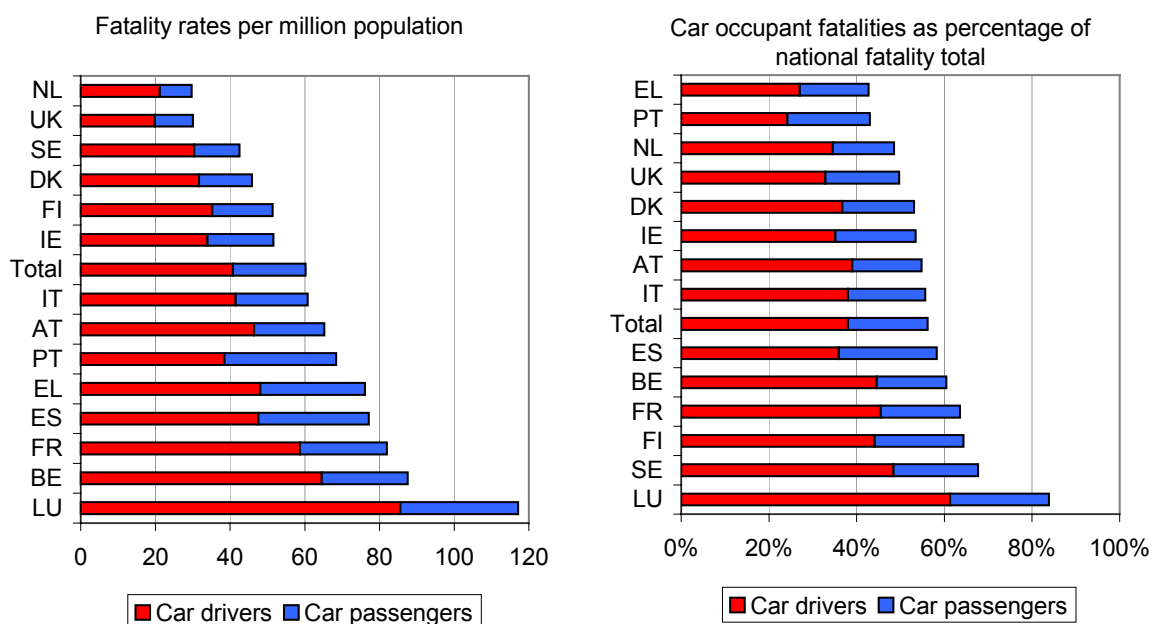
* Data from 2001

** Data from 1998

Source: CARE Database / EC

Date of query: February 2005

The data from Tables 3 and 4 are illustrated below.



Age and sex of fatalities

Tables 5 and 6 present the distribution of car driver and passenger fatalities by age and sex. The proportion of dead drivers who were women varies between 8% in Greece to 24% in Ireland, while the proportion for passengers varies between 41% in Portugal to 55% in Austria. The age distributions also vary between countries. For example, over one third of dead drivers in the Netherlands were at most 25 years old, compared with one fifth in Greece. Sweden had the proportion of dead drivers over 60 years old.

The proportion of driver fatalities who were women is highest in Ireland and the United Kingdom.

Table 5: Distribution of car driver fatalities by age and sex, 2002

	16-25	26-40	41-60	61-99	Female	Male
BE*	26%	34%	24%	17%	21%	79%
DK	22%	35%	21%	22%	21%	79%
EL*	20%	34%	31%	16%	8%	92%
ES	22%	36%	27%	15%	14%	86%
FR	28%	29%	25%	19%	22%	78%
IE	27%	35%	17%	20%	24%	76%
IT**	23%	32%	25%	20%	15%	85%
LU	13%	53%	29%	5%	16%	84%
NL	34%	27%	22%	16%	19%	81%
AT	31%	28%	23%	18%	21%	79%
PT	24%	37%	26%	14%	15%	85%
FI	23%	22%	32%	22%	19%	81%
SE	21%	23%	29%	27%	15%	85%
UK	31%	29%	21%	19%	23%	77%
Total	26%	31%	25%	18%	18%	82%

* Data from 2001

** Data from 1998

Source: CARE Database / EC

Date of query: February 2005

Table 6: Distribution of car passenger fatalities by age and sex, 2002

	0-15	16-25	26-40	41-60	61-99	Female	Male
BE*	14%	35%	23%	11%	17%	46%	54%
DK	8%	41%	14%	13%	24%	47%	53%
EL*	7%	34%	21%	18%	21%	54%	46%
ES	8%	32%	22%	18%	20%	50%	50%
FR	11%	37%	16%	15%	22%	44%	56%
IE	11%	41%	16%	16%	15%	49%	51%
IT**	8%	34%	23%	16%	19%	51%	49%
LU	14%	64%	14%	7%	0%	29%	71%
NL	7%	35%	24%	14%	20%	42%	58%
AT	13%	32%	21%	18%	15%	55%	45%
PT	11%	32%	23%	17%	18%	41%	59%
FI	8%	35%	19%	20%	18%	45%	55%
SE	10%	31%	25%	7%	27%	46%	54%
UK	12%	43%	15%	10%	20%	48%	52%
Total	10%	35%	20%	15%	20%	48%	52%

* Data from 2001

** Data from 1998

Source: CARE Database / EC

Date of query: February 2005

The proportion of passenger fatalities who were female is highest in Austria and Greece.

Type of road

The CARE data show whether accidents occurred on motorways and, for non-motorway accidents, whether on urban or rural roads. These data are not fully recorded in Greece and Ireland, and Table 7 shows the distribution of fatalities in the remaining countries.

Table 7: Distribution of car occupant fatalities by road type, 2002

	motorway	non-motorway	
		rural	urban
BE*	16%	62%	22%
DK	14%	71%	15%
ES	8%	85%	8%
FR	7%	76%	17%
IT**	16%	53%	32%
LU	9%	57%	34%
NL	17%	63%	20%
AT	18%	68%	14%
PT	10%	66%	24%
FI	4%	82%	14%
SE	6%	77%	18%
UK	7%	67%	25%
Total	10%	70%	20%

* Data from 2001

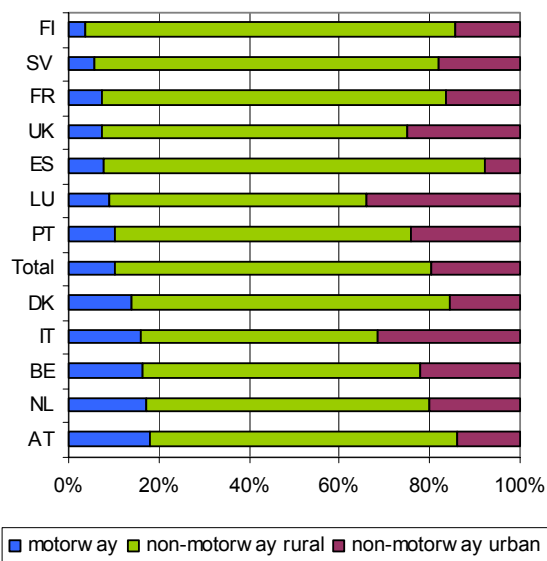
** Data from 1998

Source: CARE Database / EC

Date of query: February 2005

The proportion of car occupant fatalities occurring on motorways is highest in Austria and the Netherlands

The data from Table 7 are illustrated below.



The number of car occupant fatalities varies most by time of day in Ireland and the United Kingdom and least in Italy.

Time of day

The CARE data record the time of accidents. Table 8 divides the day into 6 segments to show how car occupant fatalities are distributed through the day. The number between midnight and 4am is relatively high in Ireland, but fatalities are distributed rather uniformly in Italy.

Table 8: Distribution of car occupant fatalities by time of day, 2002

	midnight-4am	4-8am	8am-noon	noon-4pm	4-8pm	8pm-midnight
BE*	22%	16%	11%	14%	18%	19%
DK	7%	16%	13%	24%	23%	18%
EL*	13%	21%	13%	19%	17%	16%
ES	12%	17%	15%	18%	21%	17%
FR	10%	15%	16%	17%	24%	17%
IE	32%	7%	13%	11%	21%	17%
IT**	18%	15%	16%	18%	19%	15%
LU	23%	15%	6%	21%	19%	15%
NL	17%	16%	13%	18%	20%	17%
AT	16%	20%	13%	14%	21%	15%
PT	15%	16%	16%	14%	23%	16%
FI	10%	10%	15%	24%	23%	17%
SE	11%	14%	16%	23%	23%	12%
UK	14%	9%	12%	19%	26%	20%
Total	14%	15%	15%	18%	22%	17%

* Data from 2001

** Data from 1998

Source: CARE Database / EC
Date of query: February 2005

Day of week

Table 9 shows the proportion of car occupant fatalities by day of week.

All countries except Finland and Sweden have more fatalities per day at the weekend than on weekdays, and the weekend peak is more pronounced in countries such as Ireland and Portugal.

Table 9: Distribution of car occupant fatalities by day of week, 2002

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
BE*	12%	11%	13%	11%	13%	20%	21%
DK	10%	11%	12%	13%	18%	17%	20%
EL*	13%	11%	11%	11%	13%	18%	22%
ES	12%	10%	12%	11%	15%	20%	20%
FR	12%	13%	12%	12%	16%	17%	18%
IE	17%	9%	10%	12%	13%	15%	25%
IT**	14%	12%	11%	13%	14%	18%	19%
LU	13%	6%	15%	12%	17%	29%	8%
NL	10%	11%	10%	12%	18%	21%	17%
AT	12%	13%	12%	13%	12%	18%	20%
PT	12%	11%	9%	11%	16%	17%	24%
FI	18%	13%	14%	15%	15%	12%	13%
SE	13%	14%	13%	16%	14%	17%	12%
UK	13%	13%	13%	12%	17%	17%	16%
Total	13%	12%	12%	12%	15%	18%	19%

* Data from 2001

** Data from 1998

Source: CARE Database / EC

Date of query: February 2005

Part of year

The CARE data record the date of each accident, and Table 10 shows the proportion of car occupant fatalities in each 3-month period.

Fatalities are spread uniformly through the year in Greece and Spain, but have a clear peak in the last quarter in Denmark and the United Kingdom.

Table 10: Distribution of car occupant fatalities by quarter of year, 2002

	January-March	April-June	July-September	October-December
BE*	23%	23%	28%	26%
DK	19%	21%	25%	35%
EL*	24%	25%	27%	24%
ES	24%	24%	28%	25%
FR	26%	24%	25%	25%
IE	30%	23%	27%	20%
IT**	25%	27%	28%	19%
LU	13%	21%	35%	31%
NL	23%	26%	24%	27%
AT	20%	22%	31%	26%
PT	26%	22%	28%	24%
FI	24%	24%	25%	26%
SE	26%	28%	25%	22%
UK	24%	22%	23%	31%
Total	25%	24%	26%	25%

* Data from 2001

** Data from 1998

Source: CARE Database / EC

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For more information:

Further statistical information on children traffic fatalities is available from the CARE database at the Directorate General for Energy and Transport of the European Commission, 28 Rue de Mot, B -1040 Brussels.

Traffic Safety Basic Fact Sheets available from the European Commission concern: *Car Occupants, Pedestrians, Motorcycles and Mopeds, Children and Motorways*.

Detailed data on traffic accidents are published annually by the European Commission in the *Annual Statistical Report*.

For more information about the project "SafetyNet" which is co-financed by the European Commission, Directorate-General Energy and Transport please contact <http://safetynet.swov.nl/>.