New record low in road deaths
Fatalities among pedestrians and two-wheel drivers decline more slowly than car passengers / Disparities between high and lower income countries

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2012 will mark a record year, with figures showing the lowest fatalities on record for most OECD-IRTAD countries*.

However, road safety performance in terms of fatalities per 100 000 population varies considerably: Among OECD-IRTAD countries, the difference between the best and the worst road safety performers is 3-fold. Across all IRTAD members and observers, the difference is 9-fold.

The disparity reflects the divide between developed countries with effective road safety policies and emerging economies facing rapid motorisation that outpaces the implementation of safety measures, according to the IRTAD Annual Road Safety Report 2013, published today by the International Transport Forum at the OECD.

The bulk of reductions in fatalities has benefitted car occupants. Largely due to increased passive safety features of cars, deaths among car passengers have halved in the past decade.

Results have been less positive for vulnerable road users. Between 2000 and 2010, in OECD-IRTAD countries pedestrian and cyclist deaths fell by only one third, and those of moped and motorcycle riders by only 14%.

The safety of vulnerable road users continues to be a core road safety issue, not least in lower income countries. Also, with many countries seeking to encourage active mobility, improving safety for pedestrians and cyclists is a priority.

Another core challenge is the reduction of serious injuries caused by road crashes. Such injuries often result in lifelong disabilities associated with considerable economic as well as emotional costs.

The impact of serious road injuries is often greatly underestimated, partly because of gaps in the data recording injury crashes. Currently, only a limited number of countries are able to provide sound road injury data.

An internationally accepted definition of a serious injury did not exist until recently. A proposal made by an IRTAD expert group has now been adopted by the European Commission, which is expected to issue a reduction target on serious injuries for the
year 2020. The challenge for IRTAD members now is to implement the recommendations.

**Download the report:** [www.internationaltransportforum.org/2013/free-publications](http://www.internationaltransportforum.org/2013/free-publications)

* About IRTAD
IRTAD is an international expert network and database on road safety data. IRTAD, short for International Traffic Safety Data and Analysis Group is a permanent working group of the International Transport Forum.

IRTAD’s main objective is to contribute to international co-operation on safety data and its analysis.

IRTAD is composed of road safety experts and statisticians from safety research institutes, national road and transport administrations, international organisations, universities, automobile associations, the automobile industry, and others from OECD and non-OECD countries.

More than 70 organisations from 34 countries are currently IRTAD members, representing a wide range of public and private bodies with an interest in road safety.

The most visible product of the IRTAD Group is the International Road Traffic and Accident Database. The database includes aggregated data on injury accidents, road fatalities, injured and hospitalised road users, as well as relevant exposure data.

The ambition of IRTAD is to include new countries and to build and maintain a high-quality database on road safety information. IRTAD co-operates with the World Bank’s Global Road Safety Facility and the Inter-American Development Bank to involve low- and middle-income countries in the work of the Group.

**IRTAD on the web:** [http://www.internationaltransportforum.org/Irtadpublic](http://www.internationaltransportforum.org/Irtadpublic)

OAD-IERTAD members: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States.

Non-OECD countries participating in IRTAD activities: Argentina, Cambodia, Colombia, Jamaica, Lithuania, Malaysia, Serbia, South Africa.

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