



## PRESS RELEASE

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### Progress in road safety slowing down

Road fatalities for the countries for which data are available show a slowdown in the downward trend of recent years (see [Table 1](#) below). It is important, however, to consider the data within a larger timeframe. This table compares recent data with that for the years 2000, 1990 and 1980. Most countries succeeded in substantially reducing the number of road deaths over that period, but wide disparities in the risk levels of different countries exist. (See [Table 2](#) for ranking by different indicators.)

There are also 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.

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.internationaltransportforum.org/jtrc/safety/targets/Performance/performance.html>
- The IRTAD Group has published several Special Reports on topical issues in the field of road safety which are available at: <http://www.cemt.org/irtad/IRTADPUBLIC/irtadpub.htm>

For further information on IRTAD see [www.irtad.net](http://www.irtad.net) or contact [irtad@irtad.net](mailto:irtad@irtad.net).

Table 1. Road safety development

Road Fatalities <sup>1)</sup>						
Recent data				Long-term trends <sup>6)</sup>		
Country	2006	2007 <sup>2)</sup>	2007 compared to 2006	compared to 1980	compared to 1990	compared to 2000
<a href="#">Australia</a> <sup>4)</sup>	1 598	1 617	1.2%	-51%	-31%	-11%
<a href="#">Austria</a> <sup>4)</sup>	730	691	-5.3%	-65%	-56%	-29%
<a href="#">Belgium</a> <sup>3)</sup>	940	970	3.2%	-55%	-46%	-27%
<a href="#">Canada</a>	2 892	2 729	-5.6%	-50%	-31%	-7%
<a href="#">Czech Republic</a> <sup>4)</sup>	1 063	1 222	15.0%	-3%	-5%	-18%
<a href="#">Denmark</a>	306	407	33.0%	-41%	-36%	-18%
<a href="#">Finland</a>	336	377	12.2%	-32%	-42%	-5%
<a href="#">France</a> <sup>4)</sup>	4 709	4 620	-1.9%	-66%	-59%	-43%
<a href="#">Germany</a>	5 091	4 958	-2.6%	-67%	-55%	-34%
<a href="#">Great Britain</a> <sup>5)</sup>	3 194	3 030	-5.1%	-47%	-39%	-7%
Greece*	1 657	1 607	-3.0%	11%	-22%	-21%
<a href="#">Hungary</a> <sup>4)</sup>	1 303	1 230	-5.6%	-25%	-49%	3%
<a href="#">Iceland</a> <sup>4)</sup>	31	15	-51.6%	-40%	-38%	-53%
Ireland*	365	338	-7.4%	-40%	-29%	-19%
<a href="#">Israel</a> <sup>4)</sup>	414	399	-3.6%	-8%	-7%	-13%
Italy	-	-	-	-41%	-24%	-18%
<a href="#">Japan</a> <sup>4)</sup>	7 272	6 639	-8.7%	-42%	-55%	-36%
Korea	6 327	-	-	-2%	-55%	-38%
Luxembourg*	36	43	19.4%	-56%	-39%	-43%
<a href="#">Netherlands</a> <sup>4)</sup>	730	709	-2.9%	-64%	-48%	-34%
<a href="#">New Zealand</a>	391	423	8.2%	-29%	-42%	-8%
<a href="#">Norway</a>	242	233	-3.7%	-36%	-30%	-32%
<a href="#">Poland</a> <sup>4)</sup>	5 243	5 583	6.5%	-7%	-24%	-11%
<a href="#">Portugal</a> *	969	974	0.5%	-62%	-63%	-48%
<a href="#">Slovenia</a>	263	293	11.4%	-47%	-43%	-7%
<a href="#">Spain</a>	4 104	3 821	-6.9%	-41%	-58%	-34%
<a href="#">Sweden</a> <sup>4)</sup>	445	471	5.8%	-44%	-39%	-20%
<a href="#">Switzerland</a>	370	384	3.8%	-68%	-58%	-35%
<a href="#">USA</a>	42 642	-	-	-17%	-4%	2%

Source: IRTAD, see: [www.irtad.net](http://www.irtad.net)

ITF, see: [www.internationaltransportforum.org/shorttermrends/](http://www.internationaltransportforum.org/shorttermrends/)

1. Police-recorded fatalities. Death within 30 days unless otherwise indicated.
2. Provisional data unless otherwise indicated.
3. Death on the spot for 2006 and 2007.
4. Final data.
5. Data for the 12-month period October to September 2006 compared to same period for 2007.
6. Latest year available compared with 1980, 1990 and 2000.  
Year 2007 data marked with \* have not been confirmed after going to press.

## Short-term development

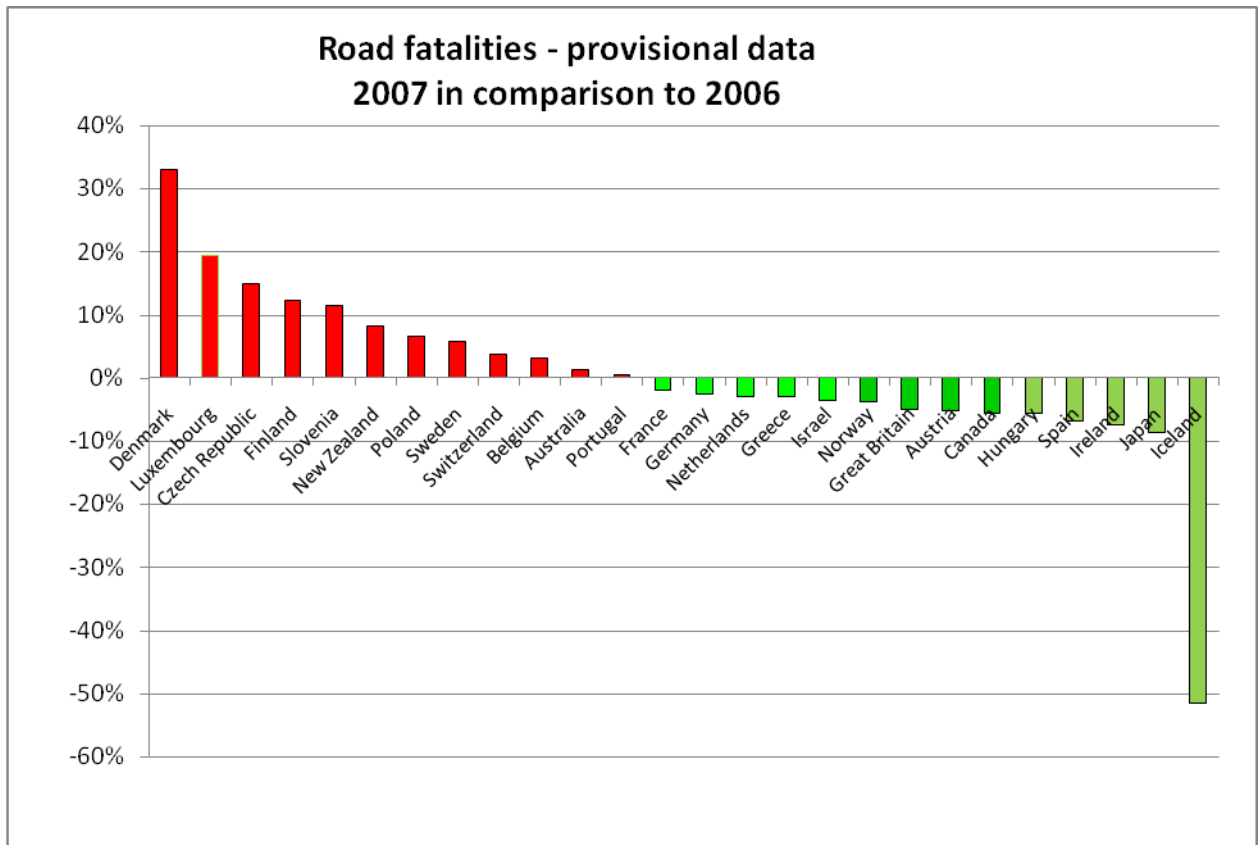


Table 2. Risk Indicators

Road deaths								
	Year	per 100 000 population <sup>1</sup>		Year	per 100 000 motor vehicles <sup>2</sup>		Year	per billion vehicles kilometres <sup>3</sup>
Netherlands	2006	4.5	Switzerland	2006	7.2	Sweden	2006	5.9
Sweden	2006	4.9	Norway	2006	8.0	Switzerland	2006	5.9
Switzerland	2006	5.0	Netherlands	2006	8.4	Great Britain	2006	6.3
Norway	2006	5.2	Sweden	2006	8.5	Finland	2006	6.4
Great Britain	2006	5.4	Japan	2006	8.8	Norway	2006	6.5
Denmark	2006	5.7	Germany	2006	9.3	Germany	2006	7.4
Japan	2006	5.7	Great Britain	2006	9.5	Netherlands	2003	7.7
Israel	2006	5.9	Luxembourg	2006	9.6	Denmark	2004	7.7
Germany	2006	6.2	Australia	2006	11.1	Australia	2005	7.9
Finland	2006	6.4	Finland	2006	11.3	France	2006	8.5
Australia	2006	7.7	Denmark	2006	12.0	USA	2006	8.8
France	2006	7.7	New Zealand	2006	12.5	Austria	2006	8.9
Luxembourg	2006	7.7	France	2006	12.6	Canada	2005	9.2
Austria	2006	8.8	Italy	2006	12.6	Israel	2006	9.6
Canada	2005	9.1	Iceland	2006	13.1	New Zealand	2006	10.1
Ireland	2005	9.3	Austria	2006	13.7	Japan	2005	10.3
Spain	2006	9.3	Spain	2006	14.4	Iceland	2006	10.9
New Zealand	2006	9.4	Canada	2005	14.8	Belgium	2006	11.1
Italy	2004	9.7	USA	2006	17.0	Slovenia	2006	16.5
Belgium	2006	10.2	Belgium	2006	17.1	Korea	2006	19.3
Iceland	2006	10.3	Portugal	2006	17.7	Czech Republic	2006	20.6
Czech Republic	2006	10.4	Ireland	2006	18.5	Luxembourg		-
Portugal	2005	11.8	Israel	2006	19.0	Ireland		-
Hungary	2005	12.7	Czech Republic	2006	21.5	Spain		-
Korea	2006	13.1	Slovenia	2006	22.5	Italy		-
Slovenia	2006	13.1	Greece	2006	23.7	Portugal		-
Poland	2006	13.8	Poland	2006	29.1	Hungary		-
USA	2006	14.2	Korea	2006	33.6	Poland		-
Greece	2006	14.9	Hungary	2006	37.7	Greece		-

Source: IRTAD, [www.irtad.net](http://www.irtad.net)

1. The number of road deaths for every 100 000 population is a means of comparing road death levels among countries by taking into account their different sizes in population. It is also a measure of the public health risk associated with road trauma.
2. The number of deaths for every 100 000 registered vehicles is a means of comparing road death levels among countries by taking into account their different levels of motorisation.
3. The number of road deaths for every billion vehicle kilometres travelled is a direct measure of the risk associated with road travel.