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# Introduction

**Information in this report is based on the Reported Road Casualties, Transport Scotland's annual National Statistics publication on injury road collisions in Scotland.**

These statistics are based on information Police Scotland collect for road collisions where someone has been injured or killed. Collisions in which there are no injuries, or collisions not reported to the police are therefore not included in these figures.

A casualty is someone who was injured or killed in a collision. Depending on the severity of the injury, Police Scotland classifies the casualty as killed, seriously injured or slightly injured.



**The statistics in the publication are used by Transport Scotland, Police Scotland, Local Authorities and road safety professionals to target interventions to make Scotland's roads safer.**

# Number of casualties

**There were 5,829 road casualties reported in 2023. This is 186 or 3% higher than 2022, and a decrease of 48% compared to 2014.**

The total number of casualties has increased each year since 2020, the first year of the pandemic.

The Department for Transport (DfT) [estimate](#) that motor traffic volume has also increased in Scotland each year since 2020, with a 2% increase in 2023. Traffic levels are now very close to pre-pandemic levels.

**Total number of casualties, 2014 - 2023.**



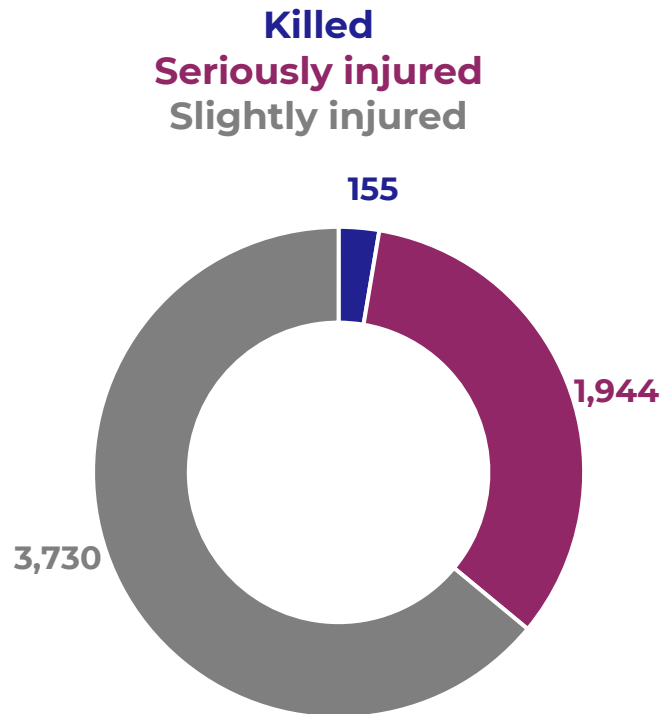
**The number of casualties recorded in 2023 is the fourth lowest since annual records began in 1950.**

# Casualties by severity

In 2023, 155 people were killed, 1,944 people were seriously injured and 3,730 people were slightly injured in road collisions.

There were 582 child casualties reported in 2023, representing 10% of all casualties. Five children were killed, and 178 children were seriously injured.

Road casualties by severity, 2023



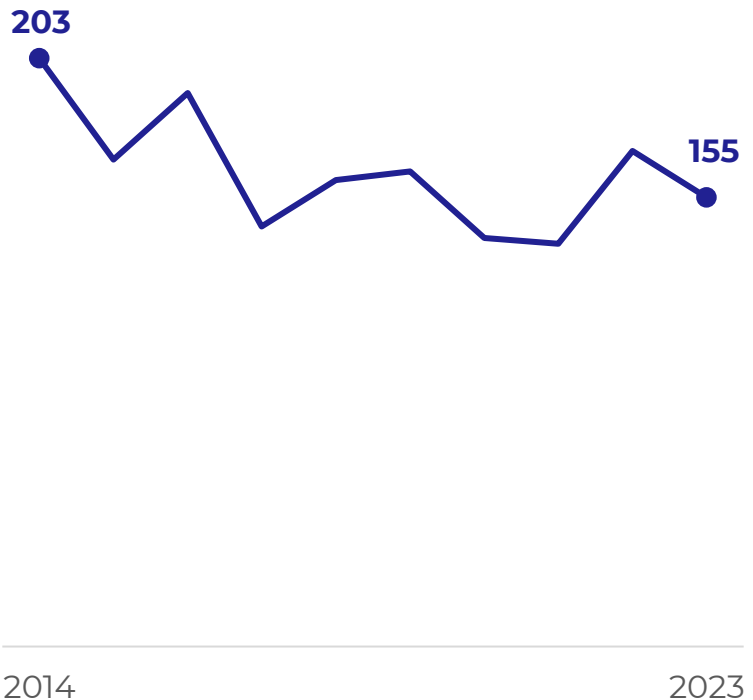
The number of people seriously injured rose by 9% and the number of people slightly injured rose by 1%.

# Number of people killed

**In 2023, the number of people killed fell by 16, from 171 to 155.**

Fatality rates in 2023 are 25% lower than a decade ago. This follows on from a long-term downward trend. Since 2000, the number of people killed decreased by 52%.

**Total number of people killed, 2014 - 2023.**



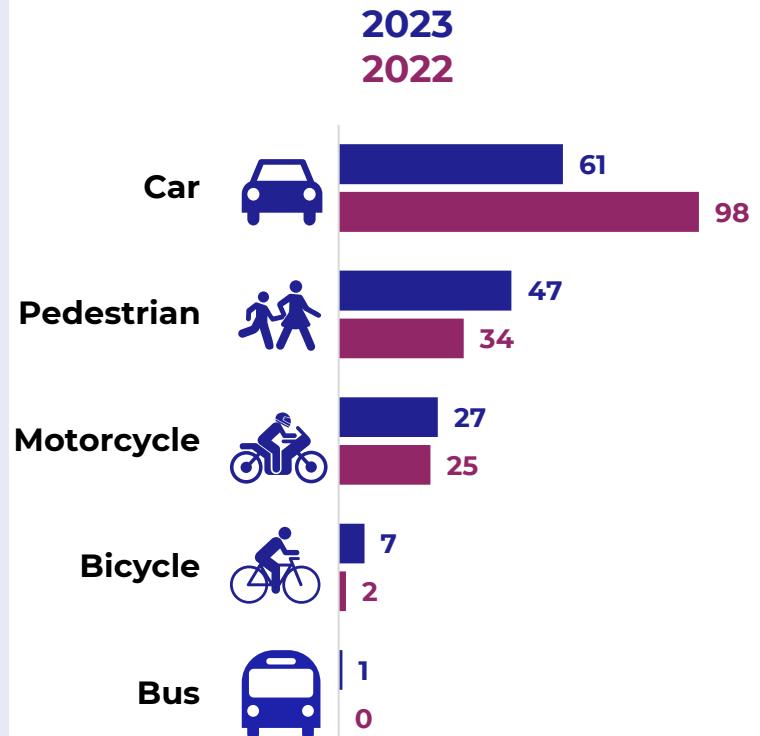
**The number of people killed in 2023 is the third lowest since records began.**

# Casualties by mode

Car was the mode of transport with the highest number of casualties (3,402), and the highest number of people killed (61), followed by pedestrians (972 casualties, 47 killed).

Compared to last year, the total reported casualties decreased for cars (down 38%) but rose for pedestrians (up 38%), pedal cyclists (up 250%), and motorcycles (up 8%).

Number of people killed, by mode



Compared to 2022, the number of people killed increased for pedestrians, pedal cyclists and motor cyclists but decreased for cars.

# Assessment of 2030 targets

**Scotland's Road Safety Framework sets out the vision for road safety in Scotland. It includes specific casualty reduction targets to be achieved by 2030.**

To illustrate the reductions necessary, the following table shows the figures for the 2014-2018 baseline period, the latest position, and the eventual target levels.



Target description	2014-2018 average	2023	2030 target
People killed (50% reduction)	174	155	87
People seriously injured* (50% reduction)	2,728	1,944	1,364
Children (aged < 16) killed (3 year average) (60% reduction)	6	4	3
Children (aged < 16) seriously injured * (60% reduction)	259	178	155

\* Please note that due to changes in severity recording, the number of seriously and slightly injured people cannot be directly compared to those reported in previous years. Progress against these targets has been calculated on the basis of adjusted figures provided by the Department for Transport.

# International comparisons

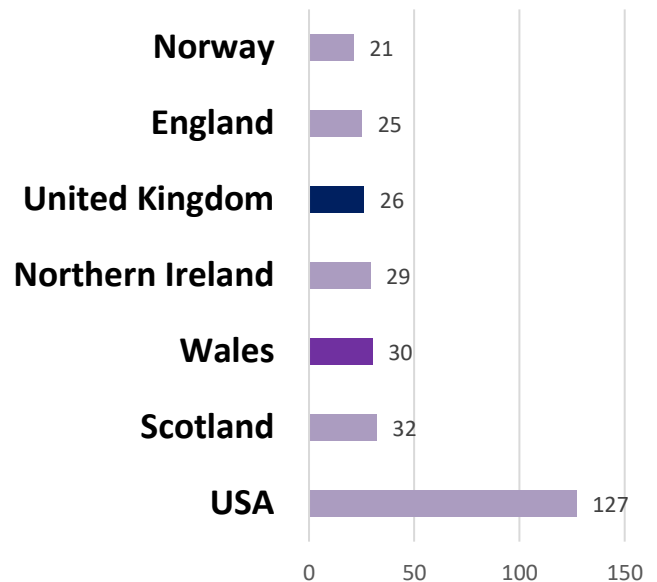
**In 2022 (the most recent year with finalised, comparisons) Scotland had the eleventh lowest rate of people killed in road collisions out of a list of 40 comparable countries.**

In Scotland, 32 people were killed for every million people in the population. This figure was higher than for the United Kingdom as a whole, where 26 people were killed for every million people in the population.

The list of countries with comparable road casualty figures includes most European countries and selected developed countries Worldwide.

Of the countries compared, Norway had the lowest number of road deaths per million population (21), whereas the USA had the highest (127).

**Number of people killed per million population 2022, selected countries**



**The number of people killed as a proportion of the population has historically been higher in Scotland than in the UK as a whole.**



# Key Resources

**Key Reported Road Casualties Scotland** presents provisional annual headline figures for road casualties reported to the police in Scotland. It is usually published in May.

**Reported Road Casualties Scotland** presents the final annual figures for road casualties reported to the police in Scotland. This publication also provides detailed statistics and analysis on the circumstances of road casualties. It is usually published in October.

Both publications are available on the [Transport Scotland](#) website. The website also provides more information about [Transport Scotland's approach](#) to maintaining and improving road safety.



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