

2007/08 Financial Year, Queensland Road Toll in Review

(Data extracted 24 September 2008)

In this section, the characteristics of road fatalities within Queensland during the 2007/08 financial year are analysed and compared with 2002/03 to 2006/07 financial year average.

Queensland's preliminary road toll for the 2007/08 financial year was 331 fatalities. This is 35 fatalities (or 9.6%) fewer than the previous financial year and the same as the previous five year average.

This represents a rate of 7.83 fatalities per 100,000 population which is 11.6 % fewer than the previous financial year rate of 8.86.

During the 2007/08 financial year, 148 fatalities (or 44.7%) were drivers, 71 fatalities (or 21.5%) were motorcycle riders and pillion, 67 fatalities (or 20.2%) were passengers, 37 fatalities (or 11.2%) were pedestrians and eight fatalities (or 2.4%) were bicyclists.

Table 1: Fatalities listed by Road User Type, Queensland

Road User Type	07/08	06/07	02/03 to 06/07 Average	Variation in 07/08 from 02/03 to 06/07 average (%)
Driver	148	180	153	-3.4%
Passenger	67	68	73	-8.0%
Motorcycle rider/pillion	71	67	56	26.8%
Bicyclist	8	11	8	0.0%
Pedestrian	37	40	41	-10.2%
Total	331	366	331	-0.1%

During 2007/08 financial year, there were 148 driver fatalities which is 32 fatalities (or 17.8%) fewer than the previous financial year and five fatalities (or 3.4%) fewer than the previous five year average. There were 37 pedestrian fatalities which is three fatalities (or 7.5%) fewer than the previous financial year and four fatalities (or 10.2%) fewer than the previous five year average. There were 71 motorcycle rider and pillion fatalities which is four fatalities (or 6.0%) greater than the previous financial year and 15 fatalities (or 26.8%) greater than the previous five year average.

During 2007/08, 245 fatalities (or 74.0%) were male and 86 fatalities (or 26.0%) were female.

Seventy-three fatalities (or 22.1%) were 17-24 year olds and 62 fatalities (or 18.8%) were 30-39 year olds, where age was known.

Two hundred and thirteen fatalities (or 64.4%) occurred along State controlled roads and 118 fatalities (or 35.6%) occurred along locally controlled roads.

One hundred and four fatalities (or 31.4%) were involved in hit object type crashes, 60 fatalities (or 18.1%) were involved in head-on type crashes and 53 fatalities (or 16.0%) were involved in angle type crashes.

One hundred and forty-eight fatalities (or 44.7%) occurred within 100 - 110 km/h zones.

Restraint use could be determined for 120 vehicle occupant fatalities. Of those 120, 94 fatalities (or 78.3%) were restrained and 26 fatalities (or 21.7%) were not restrained.

One hundred and one fatalities (or 30.5%) were as a result of crashes involving young adult drivers or riders (aged 17 to 24 years), 97 fatalities (or 26.9%) were as a result of drink drivers or riders*, 77 fatalities (or 23.3%) were as a result of speeding drivers or riders, 75 fatalities (or 22.7%) were as a result of crashes involving heavy freight vehicles, 72 fatalities (or 21.8%) were as a result of crashes involving motorcycles, 63 fatalities (or 19.0%) were as a result of performing illegal manoeuvres and 58 fatalities (or 17.5%) were involved in fatigue related crashes.

Table 2: Fatalities listed by age group, where age was known, Queensland

Age Group	07/08	06/07	02/03 to 06/07 Average	Variation in 07/08 from 02/03 to 06/07 average (%)
Children (0-16)	24	24	27	-12.4%
Young adults (17-24)	73	84	85	-13.9%
Mature adults (25-59)	174	199	164	5.8%
Senior adults (60+)	59	59	55	8.1%
Total	330	366	331	-0.4%

Table 2 shows the age group of fatalities for 2007/08 financial year compared with previous financial year and the previous five year average.

During the 2007/08 financial year, there were 25 mature adult (aged 25 to 59 years) fatalities (or 12.6%) fewer than the previous financial year, and 10 fatalities (or 5.8%) greater than the previous five year average. There were the same number of senior adult (aged 60 years and over) fatalities as the previous financial year and four fatalities (or 8.1%) greater than the previous five year average. There were 11 young adult (aged 17 to 24 years) fatalities (or 13.1%) fewer than the previous financial year, and 12 fatalities (or 13.9%) fewer than the previous five year average.

Table 3: Fatalities listed by Police Region, Queensland

Region	07/08	06/07	02/03 to 06/07 Average	Variation in 07/08 from 02/03 to 06/07 average (%)
Metropolitan North	19	23	20	-5.0%
Metropolitan South	28	31	34	-16.7%
South Eastern	67	63	48	38.4%
Southern	48	57	57	-16.1%
North Coast	77	76	79	-2.0%
Central	48	57	44	8.1%
Northern	20	33	25	-20.6%
Far Northern	24	26	24	0.8%
Total	331	366	331	-0.1%

Table 3 shows the geographic distribution of fatalities for 2007/08 by Police Region.

2007/08 Financial Year, Queensland Road Toll in Review (Continued)

North Coast Police Region recorded the greatest number of fatalities which was 77 fatalities (or 23.3% of the Queensland road toll). South Eastern Police Region recorded the greatest increase in road fatalities for 2007/08, having four fatalities (or 6.3%) greater than the previous financial year and 19 (or 38.4%) greater than the previous five year average. Northern Police Region recorded 13 fatalities (or 39.4%) fewer than the previous financial year and five fatalities (or 20.6%) fewer than the previous five year average. Southern Police Region recorded nine fatalities (or 15.8%) fewer than the previous financial year and nine fatalities (or 16.1%) fewer than the previous five year average.

National Road Toll

The preliminary road toll for all Australian states and territories for 2007/08 financial year is 1,507. This is a decrease of 90 fatalities when compared with the 2006/07 financial year (Table 4).

The national road toll per 100,000 population in the 2007/08 financial year was 7.11. Queensland's road toll per 100,000 population of 7.83 is 10.1% greater than the overall Australian rate. Compared with the previous financial year, the Queensland fatality rate per 100,000 population decreased by 11.6%. The Queensland road fatality rate ranked fifth in the nation with Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia having lower fatality per capita rates.

Table 4: 2007/08 Road Toll compared with 2006/07 financial year, Australian States and Territories

	Road Fatalities		Road toll per 100,000		Road toll per 100,000 population: %
	07/08	06/07	07/08	06/07	
Queensland	331	366	7.83	8.86	-11.6%
New South Wales	392	442	5.66	6.45	-12.2%
Victoria	331	337	6.31	6.52	-3.3%
South Australia	107	105	6.72	6.66	0.9%
Western Australia	221	225	10.37	10.81	-4.1%
Tasmania	42	56	8.47	11.39	-25.6%
Northern Territory	69	49	31.72	23.05	37.6%
ACT	14	17	4.11	5.05	-18.7%
Australian Total	1,507	1,597	7.11	7.66	-7.1%

Summary

The road toll for Queensland during the 2007/08 financial year was 35 fatalities fewer than the previous year. There was a significant increase in the number of motorcycle rider and pillion fatalities when compared with the previous five year average. There was a significant increase in the number of fatalities within South Eastern Police Region and a significant reduction in the number of fatalities within the Northern Police Region and Southern Police Region when compared with the previous five year average.

* Note: Alcohol figures are not finalised as test results can take up to 12 months to be finalised. Therefore the drink driving figure is from 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007.