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Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

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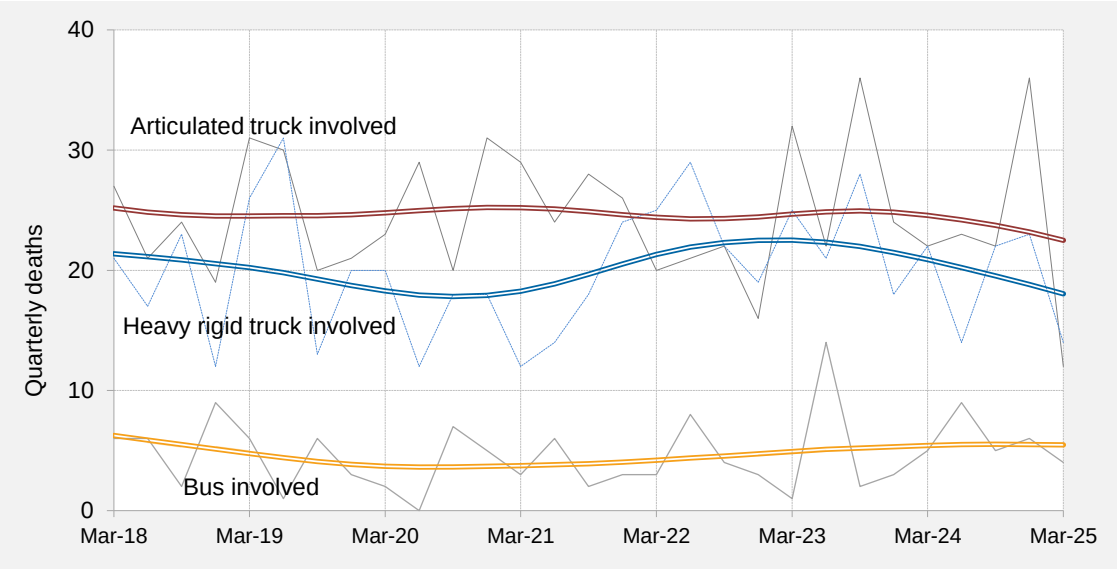
Road deaths in crashes involving heavy vehicles - quarterly bulletin, Jan-Mar 2025

Quarterly counts of deaths in crashes involving heavy vehicles, Australia, with trends



Key features

- During the 12 months to the end of March 2025, 157 people died in crashes involving heavy trucks[a]. There were 93 deaths in crashes involving articulated trucks and 73 deaths in crashes involving heavy rigid trucks.
- Fatalities in crashes involving heavy trucks:
  – decreased by 17.4% when compared with the corresponding 12-month period one year earlier;
  – decreased by an average of 5.6% per year over the three years to March 2025.
- Fatalities in crashes involving articulated trucks:
  – decreased by 10.6% when compared with the corresponding period one year earlier;
  – increased by 1.1% per year over the three years to March 2025.
- Fatalities in crashes involving heavy rigid trucks:
  – decreased by 18.0% when compared with the corresponding period one year earlier;
  – decreased by an average of 12.3% per year over the three years to March 2025.
- During the 12 months to March 2025, 24 people died in crashes involving buses.
  Fatalities in crashes involving buses:
  – were unchanged when compared with the corresponding period one year earlier;
  – increased by an average of 22.5% per year over the three years to March 2025.

a Figures sum to more than the total because some crashes involved more than one type of heavy vehicle.

ANNUAL TRENDS

Table 1 Deaths

	Articulated truck involved	Heavy rigid truck involved	Any heavy truck involved [a]	Bus involved	All road crash deaths [b]
12 Months ended					
March 2016	108	83	185	23	1,250
March 2017	115	79	186	25	1,237
March 2018	104	93	187	32	1,263
March 2019	95	78	168	23	1,155
March 2020	94	84	175	12	1,143
March 2021	109	60	167	15	1,112
March 2022	98	81	175	14	1,136
March 2023	91	95	176	16	1,187
March 2024	104	89	190	24	1,265
March 2025	93	73	157	24	1,300
Change last 12 months (%)	-10.6	-18.0	-17.4	0.0	2.8
Ave. trend change p.a.(%)					
- for last 10 years	-1.5	-0.3	-0.9	-2.8	0.1
- for last 3 years	1.1	-12.3	-5.6	22.5	4.7

Table 2 Fatal crashes

	Articulated truck involved	Heavy rigid truck involved	Any heavy truck involved [a]	Bus involved	All fatal road crashes [c]
12 Months ended					
March 2016	98	75	169	20	1,147
March 2017	101	72	167	24	1,153
March 2018	90	85	166	27	1,160
March 2019	86	70	152	20	1,069
March 2020	85	77	159	11	1,056
March 2021	92	56	146	14	1,020
March 2022	88	75	159	14	1,055
March 2023	78	85	156	16	1,105
March 2024	84	87	168	14	1,158
March 2025	81	69	142	21	1,194
Change last 12 months (%)	-3.6	-20.7	-15.5	50.0	3.1
Ave. trend change p.a.(%)					
- for last 10 years	-2.1	0.3	-1.1	-4.0	0.0
- for last 3 years	1.9	-9.9	-4.6	14.6	3.9

a Figures sum to more than the total because some crashes involved more than one type of heavy vehicle.
b All deaths, whether or not crash involved a heavy vehicle.
c All fatal road crashes, whether or not involving a heavy vehicle.

ARTICULATED TRUCK INVOLVEMENT

Table 3 Quarterly counts of deaths in crashes involving articulated trucks

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	**Australia**
Quarter ended									
June-22	5	2	9	1	4	0	0	0	21
September-22	3	9	6	0	2	0	2	0	22
December-22	5	4	5	0	2	0	0	0	16
March-23	11	6	8	3	2	1	1	0	32
June-23	4	10	3	2	2	1	0	0	22
September-23	10	6	13	1	0	0	6	0	36
December-23	6	12	1	4	1	0	0	0	24
March-24	13	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	22
June-24	7	3	7	5	1	0	0	0	23
September-24	6	2	8	1	1	2	2	0	22
December-24	12	6	12	2	2	1	1	0	36
March-25	3	1	4	3	1	0	0	0	12

Figure 1 Quarterly counts of deaths in crashes involving articulated trucks, with trend

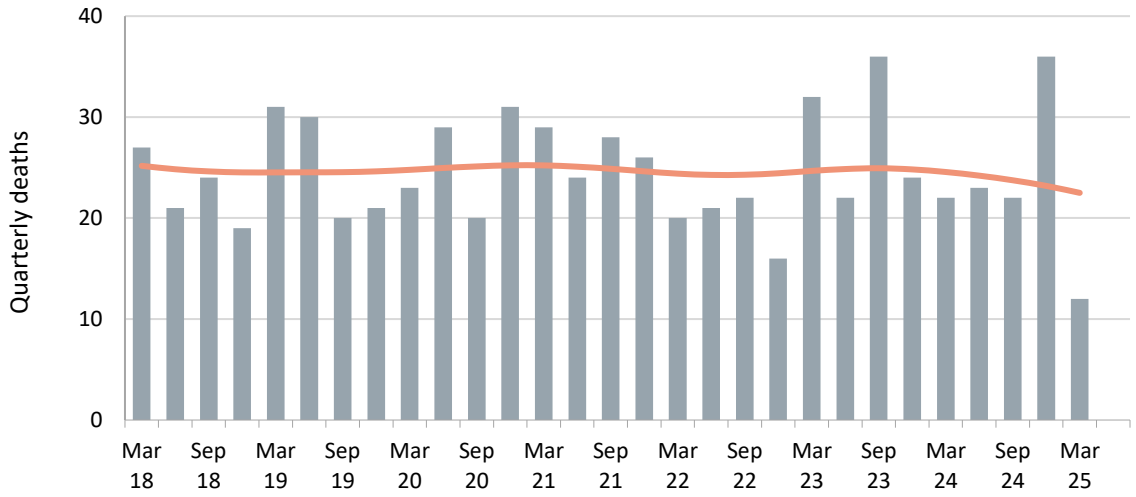


Table 4 Annual counts of deaths in crashes involving articulated trucks

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	**Australia**
12 Months ended									
March 2021	27	20	43	6	11	1	1	0	109
March 2022	28	15	35	7	7	3	3	0	98
March 2023	24	21	28	4	10	1	3	0	91
March 2024	33	31	23	7	3	1	6	0	104
March 2025	28	12	31	11	5	3	3	0	93
Change last 12 months (%)	-15.2	-61.3	34.8	57.1	66.7	200.0	-50.0	0.0	-10.6
Ave. trend change p.a.(%) - for last 3 years [a]	8.0	-24.4	5.2	65.8	-29.3	73.2	0.0	-	1.1

a Average annual percentage change based on the exponential trend for the last three 12-month periods.

HEAVY RIGID TRUCK INVOLVEMENT

Table 5 Quarterly counts of deaths in crashes involving heavy rigid trucks

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	**Australia**
Quarter ended									
June-22	7	8	5	1	6	2	0	0	29
September-22	2	5	7	0	6	1	1	0	22
December-22	3	2	5	0	6	3	0	0	19
March-23	4	7	10	0	3	1	0	0	25
June-23	3	5	8	1	3	1	0	0	21
September-23	10	4	7	2	4	0	1	0	28
December-23	8	3	1	1	5	0	0	0	18
March-24	6	4	2	1	9	0	0	0	22
June-24	6	1	3	1	2	1	0	0	14
September-24	0	6	7	1	4	4	0	0	22
December-24	2	6	5	2	6	1	1	0	23
March-25	1	4	3	1	5	0	0	0	14

Figure 2 Quarterly counts of deaths in crashes involving heavy rigid trucks, with trend

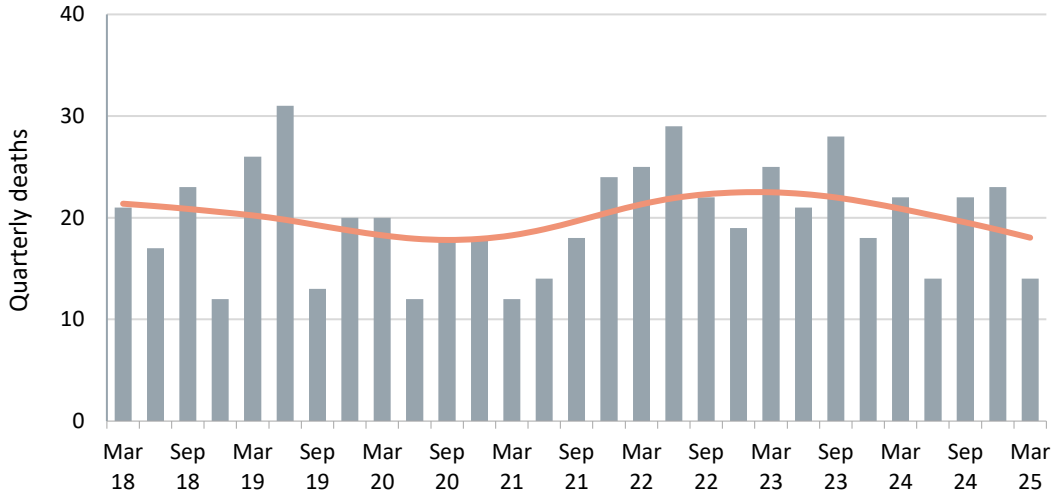


Table 6 Annual counts of deaths in crashes involving heavy rigid trucks

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	**Australia**
12 Months ended									
March 2021	22	11	11	5	9	2	0	0	60
March 2022	31	19	13	4	9	4	1	0	81
March 2023	16	22	27	1	21	7	1	0	95
March 2024	27	16	18	5	21	1	1	0	89
March 2025	9	17	18	5	17	6	1	0	73
Change last 12 months (%)	-66.7	6.3	0.0	0.0	-19.0	500.0	0.0	0.0	-18.0
Ave. trend change p.a.(%) - for last 3 years [a]	-25.0	-12.1	-18.4	123.6	-10.0	-7.4	0.0	-	-12.3

a Average annual percentage change based on the exponential trend for the last three 12-month periods.

BUS INVOLVEMENT

Table 7 Quarterly counts of deaths in crashes involving buses

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	**Australia**
Quarter ended									
June-22	3	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	8
September-22	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	4
December-22	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
March-23	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
June-23	12	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	14
September-23	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
December-23	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
March-24	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	5
June-24	2	0	5	0	2	0	0	0	9
September-24	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	5
December-24	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	6
March-25	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4

Figure 3 Quarterly counts of deaths in crashes involving buses, with trend

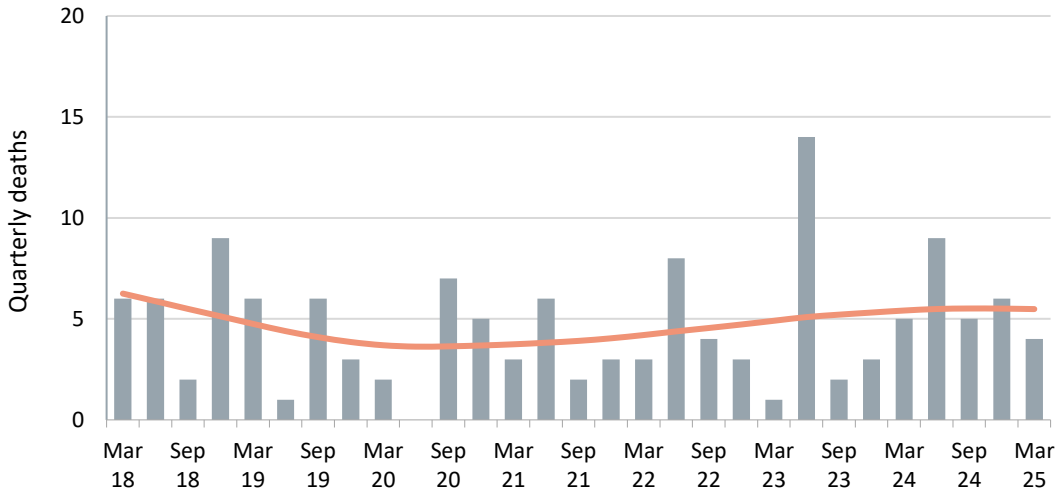


Table 8 Annual counts of deaths in crashes involving buses

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	**Australia**
12 Months ended									
March 2021	4	1	4	3	1	2	0	0	15
March 2022	5	1	3	1	3	0	1	0	14
March 2023	8	1	3	0	2	0	2	0	16
March 2024	15	0	4	4	0	0	1	0	24
March 2025	11	0	7	1	4	0	1	0	24
Change last 12 months (%)	-26.7	0.0	75.0	-75.0	-	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ave. trend change p.a.(%) - for last 3 years [a]	17.3	-	52.8	-	-	-	-29.3	-	22.5

a Average annual percentage change based on the exponential trend for the last three 12-month periods.

APPENDIX

Glossary

Note. The following definitions are general explanations only. The precise definitions vary across the organisations that provide the source data. These differences may result in minor inconsistencies between jurisdictions for some variables.

Articulated truck

A motor vehicle primarily for load carrying, consisting of a prime mover that has no significant load carrying area but with a turntable device which can be linked to one or more trailers.

Heavy rigid truck

A motor vehicle of GVM greater than 4.5 tonnes constructed with a load carrying area. Includes a rigid truck with a tow bar, draw bar or other non-articulated coupling on the rear of the vehicle.

Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM)

Tare weight (i.e. unladen weight) of the motor vehicle plus its maximum carrying capacity excluding trailers.

Bus

A motor vehicle constructed for the carriage of passengers which has at least 10 seats, including the driver's seat.

Crash

Any apparently unpremeditated event reported to police, or other relevant authority, and resulting in death, injury or property damage attributable to the movement of a road vehicle on a public road.

Road death or Fatality

A person who dies within 30 days of a crash as a result of injuries received in that crash.

Fatal crash

A crash for which there is at least one death.

Preliminary data

Data for recent months are preliminary and subject to revision.

Estimation of three year trends

In this bulletin, the figures for the 'Average annual per cent change over 3 years' are calculated by fitting an exponential trend line to the last three data points. The Excel function LOGEST performs the fit. The resulting trend line represents a constant annual percent change over the period. (Note: when fitted to a series containing small numbers, this may not be a reliable indicator of a stable trend.)

Smooth trend lines

Whittaker-Henderson smoothers with a value of 80 for the smoothing parameter.
The application R (package pracma) is used.

Data sources

The data presented here are obtained from the following sources:

- Transport for New South Wales;
- Department of Transport, Victoria;
- Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads;
- Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure South Australia;
- Western Australian Police;
- Department of State Growth, Tasmania;
- Department of Transport, Northern Territory;
- Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate, Australian Capital Territory;

An online version of the database used to produce this bulletin is available from:
https://catalogue.data.infrastructure.gov.au/

Inquiries

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Road deaths from recent months are preliminary and subject to revision.