

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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Annual Report

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MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

1952 and 1953

Data on motor vehicle traffic accidents which were formerly included in the annual "Motor Vehicle" report are herewith presented, for the years 1952 and 1953. This new series, which has been established to provide more current data on motor vehicle accidents than was heretofore possible, complements the quarterly series of motor vehicle accident reports which commenced with the first quarter of 1952. The statistics contained in these reports relate to motor vehicle traffic accidents only and are based on police records of accidents reported. A motor vehicle traffic accident is defined as one which occurs on a public way including the boulevards or paths beside or between the main travelled portions of the street or highway. This report excludes non-traffic accidents which are defined as those occurring entirely on private property or elsewhere not on a public way.

The traffic accident fatalities reported in this bulletin are based upon the police reports of persons involved in motor traffic accidents who died within 24 hours as a result of injuries received after the accident occurred. These figures will differ slightly from the number of motor vehicle traffic deaths published in the DBS Annual Report "Vital Statistics", which are based on the official provincial death registration records completed by the coroner or medical examiner conducting the medical enquiry into all accidental or violent deaths. Differences between the totals from these two sources of data are, therefore, due to differing time limits and the medical examiner's opinion as to the actual or underlying cause of the death. For example, in the case of a person dying later than 24 hours after a motor vehicle traffic accident, the police investigation record would include such a person among the "injured", whereas the official death registration record would presumably classify this death as a motor vehicle traffic fatality; in the case of a person who suffered a heart attack which presumably caused the accident, such a death would ordinarily be reported by the police as a motor vehicle fatality, whereas the medical examiner might conceivably consider the heart disease as the underlying cause of the death in his official medical certificate.

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MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

Year ended December 31, 1953.

	Canada	Newfoundland	Prince Edward Island	Nova Scotia	New Brunswick	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	British Columbia	Yukon and Northwest Territories
<u>NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS</u>												
Fatal (Resulting in the death of one or more persons)	2,597	27	9	118	87	816	920	96	138	196	183	7
Non-Fatal -												
(a) Resulting in the injury of one or more persons	42,502	488	160	1,858	1,170	8,405	16,639	2,298	3,311	2,886	5,224	63
(b) Resulting in property damage only (1)	196,003	2,177	813	7,008	3,629	79,478	48,307	10,444	13,309	13,882	16,689	267
Total Number of Accidents												
Year, 1953	241,102	2,692	982	8,984	4,886	88,699	65,866	12,838	16,758	16,964	22,096	337
Year, 1952	...	...	1,041	8,519	4,329	99,153	58,515	10,254	9,463	14,697	21,189	245
<u>PERSONS KILLED</u>												
Drivers	...	6	5	39	24	..	307	) 64	70	84	55	4
Passengers	...	6	6	29	27	..	395	)	39	73	69	2
Pedestrians	...	15	1	49	43	..	320	33	13	48	71	1
Bicyclists	...	1	1	7	2	..	27	2	1	4	6	-
Motor Cyclists (drivers and passengers)	...	-	-	-	-	..	26	2	-	6	4	-
Others	...	1	-	-	1	..	7	-	1	5	3	-
Total Number Killed												
Year, 1953	2,906	29	13	124	97	901	1,082	101	124	220	208	7
Year, 1952	...	...	28	120	117	859	1,010	107	106	139	209	4
<u>PERSONS INJURED</u>												
Drivers	...	114	70	673	441	..	7,011	1,005	1,287	1,447	2,202	50
Passengers	...	208	121	1,059	631	..	10,551	1,305	1,739	2,108	3,839	55
Pedestrians	...	243	36	714	352	..	4,853	559	263	528	1,230	4
Bicyclists	...	18	5	87	70	..	1,069	225	64	86	305	-
Motor Cyclists (drivers and passengers)	...	4	2	1	6	..	752	(2)	23	49	146	-
Others	...	15	-	2	7	..	117	8	17	20	15	-
Total Number Injured												
Year, 1953	56,734	602	23	2,536	1,507	8,923	24,353	3,102	3,393	4,238	7,737	109
Year, 1952	...	...	139	2,315	1,228	12,706	23,634	2,867	3,451	3,839	7,197	90
<u>TOTAL PROPERTY DAMAGE</u>												
Year, 1953 \$	...	712,374	305,430	1,983,992	1,507,383	..	24,261,814	..	3,975,230	6,519,509	7,128,013	223,108
Year, 1952 \$	...	...	260,929	1,765,965	1,380,764	..	19,457,858	..	3,560,515	4,976,266	6,448,892	133,642
(Totals of estimates of damage caused in reportable accidents) (1)												

(1) All reports are for accidents causing property damage estimated at \$50 or over except for the following:

Saskatchewan - \$100 and over
 Alberta and N.W.T. - \$ 75 and over
 Quebec and Yukon - \$ 25 and over
 Charlottetown, P.E.I. - all accidents

(2) Included with "Drivers" and "Passengers".

... Figures not complete

.. Not available

- Nil

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MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

Year ended December 31, 1953.

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MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

Year ended December 31, 1952.

	Canada	Newfoundland (2)	Prince Edward Island	Nova Scotia	New Brunswick
NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS					
Fatal (Resulting in the death of one or more persons)	2,400	2	26	107	103
Non-Fatal -					
(a) Resulting in the injury of one or more persons	41,756	196	133	1,619	865
(b) Resulting in property damage only (1)	183,814	367	882	6,793	3,361
Total Number of Accidents					
Year, 1952	227,970	565	1,041	8,519	4,329
Year, 1951	199,090	909	951	7,149	3,422
PERSONS KILLED					
Drivers	...	-	7	28	33
Passengers	...	-	10	36	37
Pedestrians	...	2	10	52	45
Bicyclists	...	-	1	3	2
Motor Cyclists (drivers and passengers)	...	-	-	-	-
Others	...	-	-	1	-
Total Number Killed					
Year, 1952	2,701	2	28	120	117
Year, 1951	2,396	11	22	105	107
PERSONS INJURED					
Drivers	...	6	48	621	347
Passengers	...	37	91	905	536
Pedestrians	...	152	34	681	273
Bicyclists	...	18	13	88	72
Motor Cyclists (drivers and passengers)	...	3	-	2	-
Others	...	6	3	18	-
Total Number Injured					
Year, 1952	57,738	222	189	2,315	1,228
Year, 1951	54,575	305	162	2,131	1,134
TOTAL PROPERTY DAMAGE					
Year, 1952	...	93,303	260,929	1,765,965	1,380,764
Year, 1951	...	44,326	160,541	2,529,005	1,023,413
(Totals of estimates of damage caused in reportable accidents) (1)					

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MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

Year ended December 31, 1952.

	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	British Columbia	Yukon and Northwest Territories
	789	893	85	83	131	177	4
	10,604	16,300	2,043	2,380	2,694	4,864	58
	87,760	41,322	8,126	7,000	11,872	16,148	183
	99,153	58,515	10,254	9,463	14,697	21,189	245
	82,211	54,920	9,743	7,324	11,865	20,381	215
	..	286	25	46	56	61	3
	..	348	46	38	45	78	-
	..	316	32	19	28	53	1
	..	29	3	-	6	7	-
	..	26	1	2	2	7	-
	..	5	-	1	2	3	-
	859	1,010	107	106	139	209	4
	645	949	92	73	182	208	2
	..	6,719	886	1,244	1,309	1,969	33
	..	10,486	1,277	1,762	1,910	3,595	55
	..	4,619	461	275	455	1,147	2
	..	1,028	167	82	80	294	-
	..	706	69	65	65	171	-
	..	76	7	23	20	21	-
	12,706	23,634	2,867	3,451	3,839	7,197	90
	13,490	22,557	2,226	2,479	3,377	6,624	90
	..	19,457,858	..	3,560,515	4,976,266	6,448,892	133,642
	..	17,701,576	2,473,000	2,526,183	2,833,735	5,784,077	103,415

(1) All reports are for accidents causing property damage estimated at \$50 or over except for the following:

Saskatchewan - \$100 and over
Alberta and N.W.T. - \$75 and over
Quebec and Yukon - \$25 and over
Charlottetown, P.E.I. - all accidents

(2) City of St. John's only.

... Figures not complete
.. Not available
- Nil

The total number of motor vehicle traffic accidents reported in Canada during 1953 was 241,102. Exactly comparable figures for 1952 are not available as data for Newfoundland for that year included only the city of St. John's. Traffic accidents during 1953 included 2,597 fatal, 42,502 injury and 196,003 property damage accidents. For the regions reported in 1952 the totals were fatal 2,400, injury 41,756, and property damage 183,814 giving a grand total of 227,970 accidents.

The amount of property damage caused has not been totalled for Canada as some provinces do not provide this compilation. Use of property damage data must be related to the provincial or local regulations regarding the minimum amount per accident which must be reported: thus Saskatchewan, which has a \$100 minimum, might reasonably be expected to report a lower ratio of property damage accidents to total accidents and a higher average amount of damage per accident than Manitoba which has a \$50 minimum.

The 2,597 fatal motor traffic accidents which occurred during 1953 caused the death of 2,906 persons. Traffic accidents involving motor vehicles resulted in injuries to 56,734 other persons during 1953. The 1952 totals (excluding Newfoundland, outside the city of St. John's) were 2,701 killed and 57,738 injured.

Provincial comparisons show that fewer accidents were reported in Prince Edward Island and Quebec, but that all other provinces recorded increases. Fatal and property damage accidents led to the reduction in the Prince Edward Island total while that in Quebec was due to the reporting of fewer injury and property damage accidents. Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, the four Western Provinces and the Territories all had more fatal accidents. Only Quebec reported fewer injury accidents while Prince Edward Island and Quebec were the only areas to show less property accidents.

Deaths due to motor vehicle traffic accidents were lower in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Manitoba and British Columbia in 1953 compared with 1952. Alberta experienced a sharp rise from 139 to 220 deaths in the interval. Injuries were more numerous in all areas except Quebec and Saskatchewan. Quebec reported a very great improvement in persons injured with 8,923 in 1953 contrasted to 12,706 in 1952.

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