

Number of road traffic fatalities down by 19 per cent

A total of 6,414 road traffic accidents involving personal injury occurred in 2009. In them, 279 persons were killed and 8,057 injured. There were 65 fewer fatalities than in 2008. The numbers of accidents involving personal injury and injured persons were also lower than before.

Table. Persons killed and injured in road traffic 1995–2009

Year	Killed	Injured	Accidents involving personal injury
1995	441	10,191	7,812
1996	404	9,299	7,274
1997	438	8,957	6,980
1998	400	9,097	6,902
1999	431	9,052	6,997
2000	396	8,508	6,633
2001	433	8,411	6,451
2002	415	8,156	6,196
2003	379	9,088 ⁽¹⁾	6,907 ⁽¹⁾
2004	375	8,791	6,767
2005	379	8,983	7,022
2006	336	8,580	6,740
2007	380	8,446	6,657
2008	344	8,513	6,881
2009	279	8,057	6,414

¹⁾ Compilation method changed

Compared with 2008, the number of road traffic fatalities fell clearly in July, as well as in October–November. In July the number of persons killed was 15 lower and in October–November 38 lower than in the same time periods of the previous year.

The number of fatalities in head-on collisions was the lowest in the 2000s. Fatalities numbered 76, which is 16 fewer than in 2008. The number of persons killed in swerving accidents decreased by ten. There were 100 fatalities in 2009.

No **major accidents** (min. four fatalities) occurred in 2009.

The good development of pedestrian safety continued. Pedestrian fatalities decreased by 23. The favourable development has now continued since the beginning of the 2000s.

Examined by age group, the number of road traffic deaths decreased most among the **elderly** (aged over 64). Fatalities numbered 69, which is 24 fewer than in 2008. Road traffic deaths decreased by ten among persons aged over 64 and by 14 among the over 74 age group.

Children's road traffic fatalities decreased when compared with 2008. Six children died in road traffic, which is two fewer than in 2008.

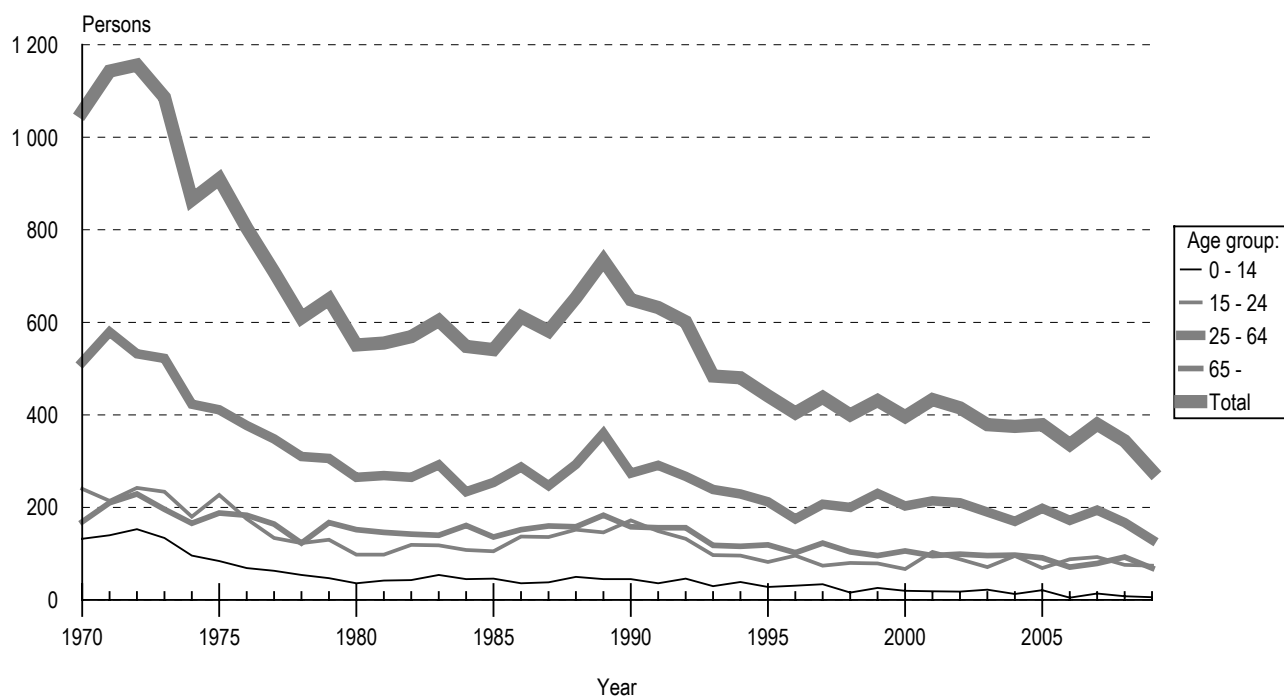


Figure 1. Persons killed in road traffic by age group

The number of road traffic fatalities among **young people** remained almost unchanged. A total of 74 young people (aged 15 to 24) died in road traffic, which is two fewer than in 2008. One in four of those having died in road traffic was a young person.

Three in four of the road traffic fatalities of young people occurred in a passenger car. A total of 26 passenger car drivers died, which is five fewer than in 2008. Fatalities of young people as car passengers numbered 29, which is six more than in the previous year. More than one-third (36%) of the drunk drivers involved in fatal accidents were under 25 years old. Forty-one per cent of the drunk drivers in accidents involving personal injury were under 25 years old.

The number of road traffic fatalities among **middle-aged people (aged 45 to 54)** decreased clearly. In 2009, the number of middle-aged people having died in road traffic was 26, which is 21 fewer than in 2008.

A total of 30 **pedestrians** were killed in 2009, which is 23 fewer than in 2008. More than half of the victims were elderly. One in four of the pedestrian victims died at a pedestrian crossing.

The number of **cyclists'** road traffic fatalities (20) was slightly up on the year before (18). More than half of the victims were elderly.

Road traffic fatalities among **moped riders** (11) decreased from the year before (13). The number of injured moped riders has grown 2.5-fold during the 2000s. In 2009, a total of 1,124 moped riders sustained

injuries, which is 119 more than in 2008. One in seven (14%) of all persons injured in road traffic was a moped rider. Eighty per cent of those injured were aged 15 to 17.

The number of **motorcyclists killed** (27) decreased. There were six fewer fatalities than in 2008. Of the fatalities, ten occurred in swerving accidents and six in head-on collisions.

The number of fatalities in **railway level crossing accidents** rose slightly. There were 11 fatalities, as against eight in 2008.

A total of 68 persons were killed and 965 persons injured in **drunk driving accidents** in 2009. The number of fatalities was 28 down and that of injured persons eight up on 2008. Twelve persons died and 71 were injured in accidents in which an involved person was under the influence of medication or other intoxicating substances. There were two fewer fatalities than in 2008. In 2009, the drunk driving cases known to the police numbered 23,248, which is 2,571 fewer than in 2008.

Over 53 billion kilometres were driven on Finnish roads in 2009. The growth of traffic halted in 2008 and vehicle-kilometres decreased by 0.5 per cent. In 2009, the volume of traffic started to go up again. The growth amounted to 0.7 per cent. The automobile stock grew by over five per cent in 2008. In 2009, the growth rate of the automobile stock slowed down to 2.5 per cent. There are over 3.2 million cars in Finland at the moment.

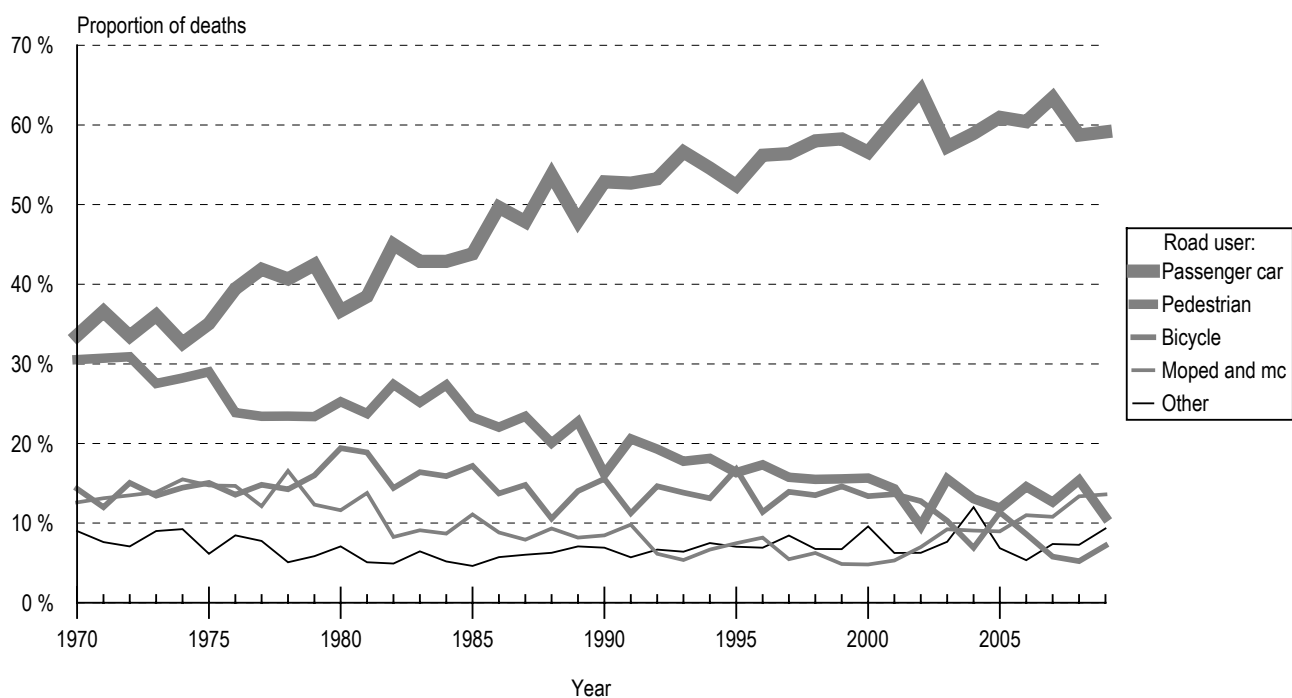


Figure 2. Share of persons killed in road traffic by road user group