

Car Free Day 2006

Nearly one car per two inhabitants in the EU25 in 2004

Number of cars increased by nearly 40% between 1990 and 2004

Car Free Day which takes place on 22 September 2006 is a part of **European Mobility Week**¹, dedicated to sustainable mobility. The objective of the week is to facilitate the debate on the necessity for changes in behaviour in relation to mobility and in particular the use of the private car. On this occasion **Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities**, publishes statistics on passenger cars² and road accident deaths in the **EU25** and the Member States, as well as the **EFTA** countries.

Most cars per inhabitant in Luxembourg, Italy and Portugal

There were 216 million passenger cars in total in the **EU25** in 2004. Between 1990 and 2004, the total number of cars in the **EU25** increased by 38%. The largest increases were recorded in **Lithuania** (+167%), **Latvia** (+142%), **Portugal** (+135%), **Poland** (+128%) and **Greece** (+121%). On the other hand, **Sweden** (+14%), **Denmark** (+20%) and **Finland** (+21%) registered the smallest increases.

There were 472 cars per 1 000 inhabitants on average in the **EU25** in 2004, compared to 759 cars per 1 000 inhabitants in the **USA** in 2003. The Member State with the highest ratio was **Luxembourg**, with 659 cars per 1000 inhabitants. **Italy** (581), **Portugal** (572), **Germany** (546), **Malta** (525) and **Austria** (501) also recorded more than one car per two inhabitants. At the other end of the scale were **Slovakia** (222), **Hungary** (280) and **Latvia** (297).

In 2004, more than 90% of the cars in **Sweden** (95%), **Denmark** (93% in 2002) and **Cyprus** (90%) had petrol engines, while the Member States with the highest shares of diesel engines were **Austria** (49%), **Belgium** (47%) and **France** (43% in 2003).

More than 43 000 deaths due to road accidents in the EU25 in 2004

There were 95 road accident deaths³ per million inhabitants in the **EU25** in 2004, the rate having decreased steadily from 162 in 1991. Even if the rate has fallen in nearly all Member States, the total number of deaths due to road accidents was more than 43 000 in the **EU25** in 2004.

The fatality rate halved or more between 1991 and 2004 in **Portugal, Estonia, Spain, Germany, France** and **Luxembourg**. In 2004, the Member States with the lowest rates were **Malta** (33 deaths per million inhabitants), the **Netherlands** (49), **Sweden** (53) and the **United Kingdom** (56). **Latvia** (222), **Lithuania** (218), **Cyprus** (160) and **Poland** (150) recorded the highest rates. In the **USA** the rate was 146 in 2004.

Number of cars and road accident deaths

	Number of cars per 1 000 inhabitants		% increase 1990 to 2004	Share of cars, 2004*, %		Road accident deaths per million inhabitants	
	1990	2004		petrol engines**	diesel engines**	1991***	2004
EU25	355	472	38	:	:	162	95
Belgium	387	467	26	51.1	47.2	188	112
Czech Republic	234	373	58	84.3	15.5	129	135
Denmark	309	354	20	92.6	7.4	118	68
Germany	445	546	27	81.5	18.4	142	71
Estonia	154	350	96	85.8	14.2	313	126
Greece	170	348	121	:	:	207	147
Spain	309	454	63	64.7	35.3	227	112
France	414	491	26	56.9	43.1	184	92
Ireland	226	385	99	86.0	14.0	126	94
Italy	483	581	24	76.4	19.0	143	97
Cyprus	304	448	88	90.1	10.1	175	160
Latvia	106	297	142	:	:	347	222
Lithuania	133	384	167	:	:	317	218
Luxembourg	477	659	63	67.3	32.7	216	109
Hungary	187	280	45	85.6	13.9	204	128
Malta	298	525	102	80.0	20.0	45	33
Netherlands	367	429	27	81.4	15.3	85	49
Austria	388	501	37	50.8	49.2	201	108
Poland	138	314	128	78.4	14.6	207	150
Portugal	258	572	135	:	:	323	124
Slovenia	289	456	58	:	:	231	137
Slovakia	166	222	36	:	:	116	112
Finland	388	448	21	87.6	11.7	126	72
Sweden	419	456	14	95.0	5.0	87	53
United Kingdom	359	463	34	80.9	16.3	83	56
Iceland	468	599	47	88.6	11.4	95	79
Lichtenstein	594	692	42	87.8	12.1	105	29
Norway	380	429	23	92.7	:	78	56
Switzerland	442	514	28	91.9	6.9	143	69

Source: DG Energy and Transport / Eurostat

: Data not available

* 2003: Czech Republic, Germany, France, United Kingdom, Iceland, Switzerland/2002: Denmark, Italy/2001: Luxembourg/2000: Malta, Norway

** The sum of use of petrol and diesel engines may not add up to 100, due to the use of other engines

*** Iceland, Norway, Switzerland: 1990

1. Please see: <http://www.mobilityweek-europe.org>
2. Eurostat, Statistics in focus, Transport, 9/2006 "Passenger transport in the European Union".
3. Deaths caused by road accidents include drivers and passengers of motorised vehicles and pedal cycles as well as pedestrians, killed within 30 days from the day of the accident. For Member States not using this definition, corrective factors were applied.

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