

Fewer traffic accidents

Danes are injured less often in traffic accidents than previously. This is the current trend although the total number of cars on Danish roads has grown considerably and we travel ever longer distances.

The number of Danes injured in traffic accidents is continuously decreasing. Since 1971, when the number of traffic casualties set a sad record of 1,213 casualties, this number has decreased. Contributory factors were the introduction of speed limits and mandatory use of seatbelts in the early 1970s. Speed limits in city zones have also had a considerable impact. In 2004, 369 persons were killed in traffic accidents, corresponding to one person every day.

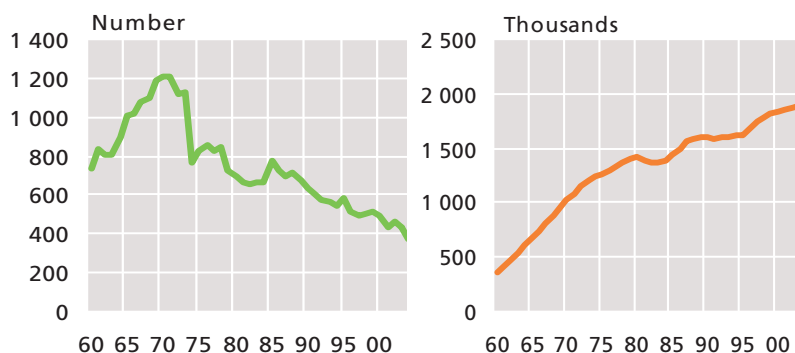
Since 1961, a considerably greater number of cars drive on Danish roads. At that time, traffic was created by 354,000 passenger cars – today, there are almost 2 million cars. During the same period, considerably more families have bought a car. In general, families outside the metropolitan area have a car more often than elsewhere.

••• DID YOU KNOW THAT

The weight of Danish cars is continuously increasing. New passenger cars put on an average of 12 kg a year, and the number of passenger cars weighing more than 2 tonnes has more than doubled in four years. •••

An average Dane travels 13,400 km a year. Three-fourths of the distance is covered by cars, while trains and buses (in the order mentioned) are the second and third most ordinary type of transport. 3 per cent of all passenger transport is covered by bicycles or mopeds, while motor cycles account for 1 per cent.

KILLED PERSONS (LEFT) AND PRIVATE CARS (RIGHT) 1960-2004



TRANSPORT

	Unit	2001	2002	2003
Passenger transport, total	<i>mio. km.</i>	70 170	71 144	72 151
Motor cars	<i>per cent</i>	74,6	74,6	74,7
Motorcycles		1,1	1,1	1,2
Buses in scheduled services		4,8	4,8	4,8
Coaches and other buses		7,8	7,8	7,7
Bicycles/mopeds		3,2	3,4	3,3
Metropolitan S-trains		1,7	1,6	1,7
Other trains		6,5	6,5	6,5
Ferries		0,3	12,2	12,4
Aeroplanes		16,9	0,4	0,4
Motor vehicles, total	<i>number</i>	2 254	2 280	2 305
Of which private cars	<i>1 000</i>	1 854	1 873	1 888
Private cars per 1 000 inhabitants		346,6	348,8	350,8
Road accidents with casualties		11 287	9 254	8 844
Of which killed		431	463	432
Seriously injured		6 396	4 088	3 868