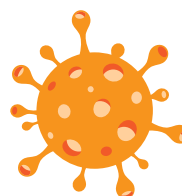
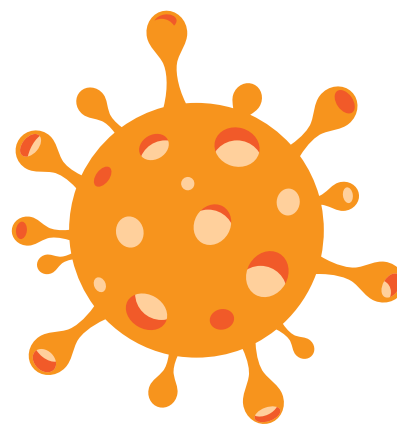


COVID-19 AND ROAD SAFETY



ROAD DEATHS DROPPED SIGNIFICANTLY IN EARLY 2020

The number of road fatalities fell significantly during the first months of 2020. The main reason for this was lockdown imposed in many countries in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Strict containment measures aimed at reducing the spread of the virus resulted in a decrease in economic activity and in the movement of people and, therefore, in the number of road casualties.

However, it seems that the number of road deaths has not fallen in proportion to the decrease in traffic. Some countries contributing to this report registered increases in average speeds and in the severity of road crashes. A full analysis will need to take into account the type and scale of lockdown measures

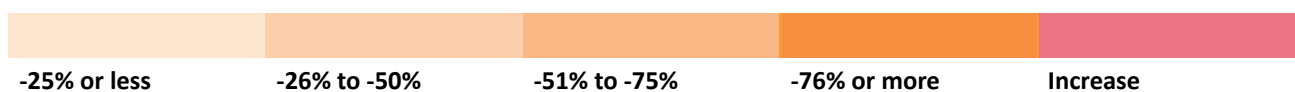
and their impact on traffic, on driving behaviour and on the composition of traffic – for instance the increase in the number of cyclists in many countries as a result of Covid-19.

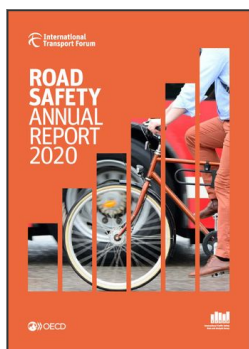
Confinement commenced in March 2020 in most countries. In some, the restrictions were progressively eased from May onwards, while in other countries, mainly in Latin America, they were still in force in the summer of 2020. All countries saw a decrease in the number of fatalities during the lockdown period, with a drop in fatalities of up to 80%. Table 1 compares the number of road deaths and traffic volumes in April 2020, when most countries were in lockdown, with April 2019.

Table 1. Road deaths and traffic in April 2020 compared to April 2019

Country	Road deaths (% change)	Traffic (% change)	Lockdown in spring 2020
Australia	-23	-43	From 23 March; gradual lifting in May/June
Austria	-30	-50	16 March-14 April (gradual lifting)
Canada	-34	n.a.	Varies by jurisdictions
Chile	-24 (June on June)	-56.5 (Santiago)	18-Mar-14 May partial, to 24 June total
Czech Rep.	-11	-50 (motorways)	13 March-17 May
Denmark	+9	-25	13 March-15 April (gradual lifting)
Finland	-24	-34	17 March- 4 May (gradual lifting)
France	-56	-75	17 March-10 May (gradual lifting)
Germany	-1	-48 (overall), -19 (HGV)	22 March-19 April (gradual lifting)
Greece	-58	n.a.	23 March-27 April (gradual lifting)
Hungary	-43	-33	28 March-4 May (18 May in Budapest)
Ireland	-22	-62 (cars), -17 (HGV)	13 March-18 May (gradual lifting)
Israel	-28	-60	15 March-29 April
Italy	-79	-75 (overall), -39 (HGV)	9 March-18 May (gradual lifting)
Japan	-21	n.a.	9 March-18 May (gradual lifting)
Lithuania	-71	-36 (overall), -15 (HGV)	17 March-17 June
Mexico	-23	-59	23 March-1 June
Morocco	-65	n.a.	20 March-24 June
Netherlands	+6	-35	No full lockdown
New Zealand	-80	-74	26 March-14 May
Norway	n.a.	-25	12 March-11 May
Poland	-32	n.a.	13 March-20 April (gradual lifting)
Portugal	-59	n.a.	19 March-18 May
Serbia	-49	n.a.	15 March-4 May
Slovenia	-11 (Mar to May)	-53.5	15 March-18 May (gradual lifting)
South Africa	-78	-77	26 March through July
Spain	-49	-75	15 March-11 May
Sweden	+6	-22	No lockdown
Uruguay	-51	n.a.	No mandatory measures

Changes in road deaths based on provisional data, for Canada based on preliminary data from a sample of jurisdictions.





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