



Road deaths in crashes involving heavy vehicles

Quarterly bulletin: January to March 2026

This quarter's key figures

- There was a total of 50 road deaths involving heavy vehicles during the quarter ending March 2026. The current figure is 10.1% higher than the average for the March quarter over the previous 5 years (2021-2025).
- During the 12 months ending March 2026, there were 225 road deaths which involved a heavy vehicle. This is a 22.3% increase compared to the 12-month period ending March 2025.
 - 96 people died in crashes involving heavy rigid trucks, a 24.7% increase compared to the previous 12-month period.
 - 118 people died in crashes involving articulated trucks, a 26.9% increase compared to the previous 12-month period.
 - 21 people died in crashes involving buses, a 16.0% decrease compared to the previous 12-month period.

Figure 1 Quarterly and annual heavy vehicle involved road deaths over last five years, national

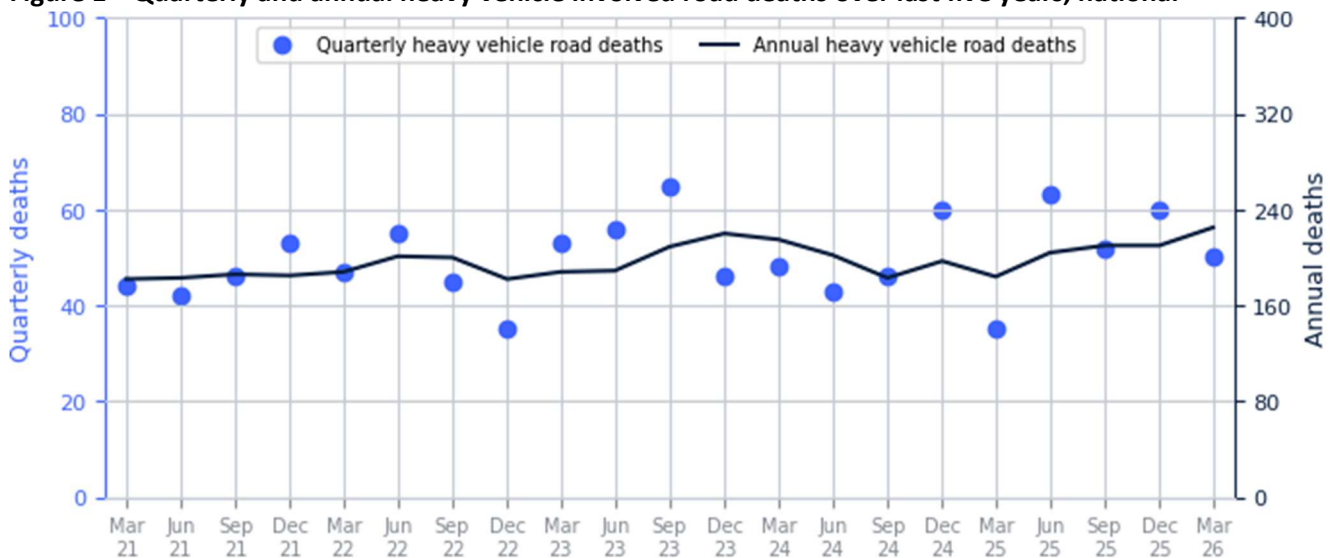


Table 1 Quarterly road deaths involving heavy vehicles over the last 5 years

| Year | March quarter | June quarter | September quarter | December quarter | Total |
|------|---------------|--------------|-------------------|------------------|-------|
| 2021 | 44 | 42 | 46 | 53 | 185 |
| 2022 | 47 | 55 | 45 | 35 | 182 |
| 2023 | 53 | 56 | 65 | 46 | 220 |
| 2024 | 48 | 43 | 46 | 60 | 197 |
| 2025 | 35 | 63 | 52 | 60 | 210 |
| 2026 | 50 | – | – | – | 50 |

1. Heavy vehicle involved deaths by type of vehicle – 5 years

Figure 2 Quarterly and annual heavy rigid truck involved road deaths over last five years, national

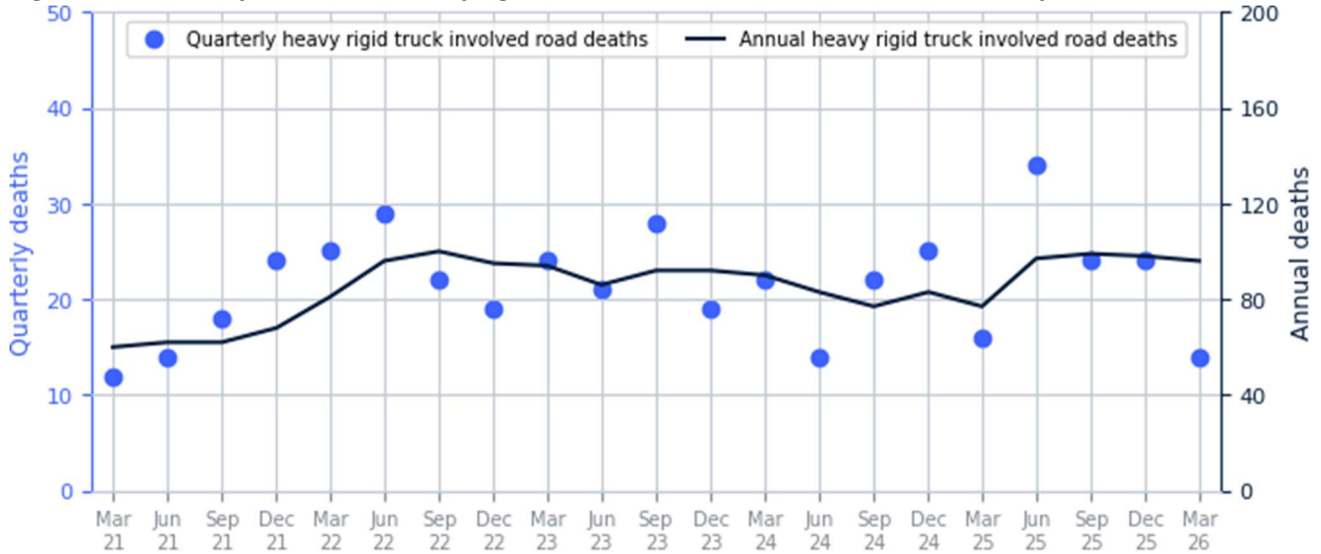


Figure 3 Quarterly and annual articulated truck involved road deaths over last five years, national

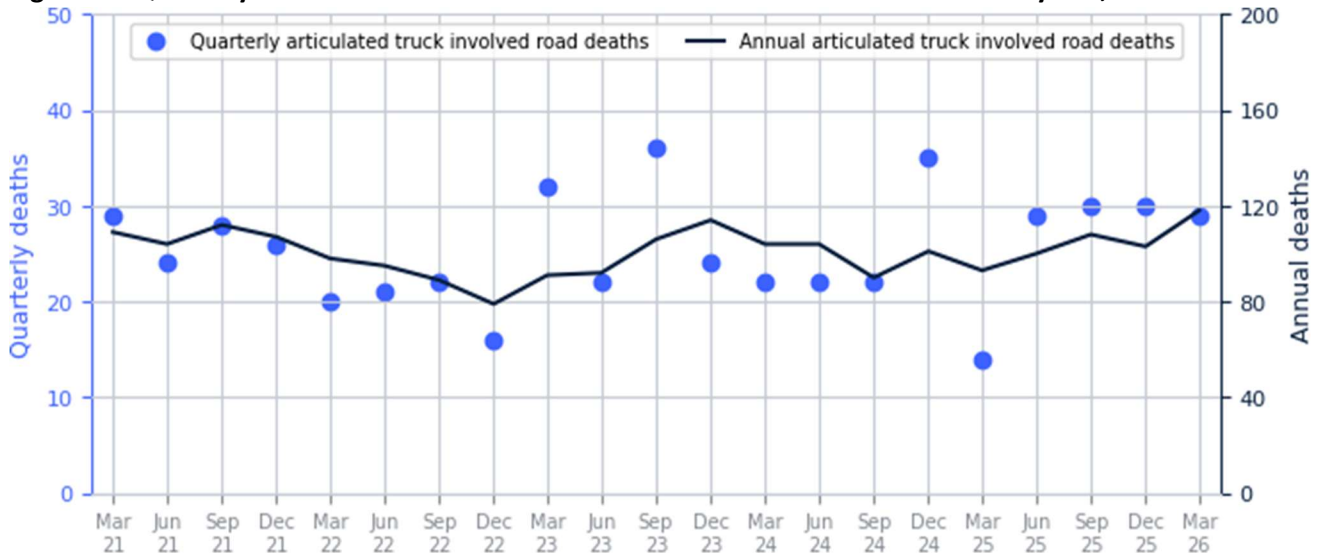
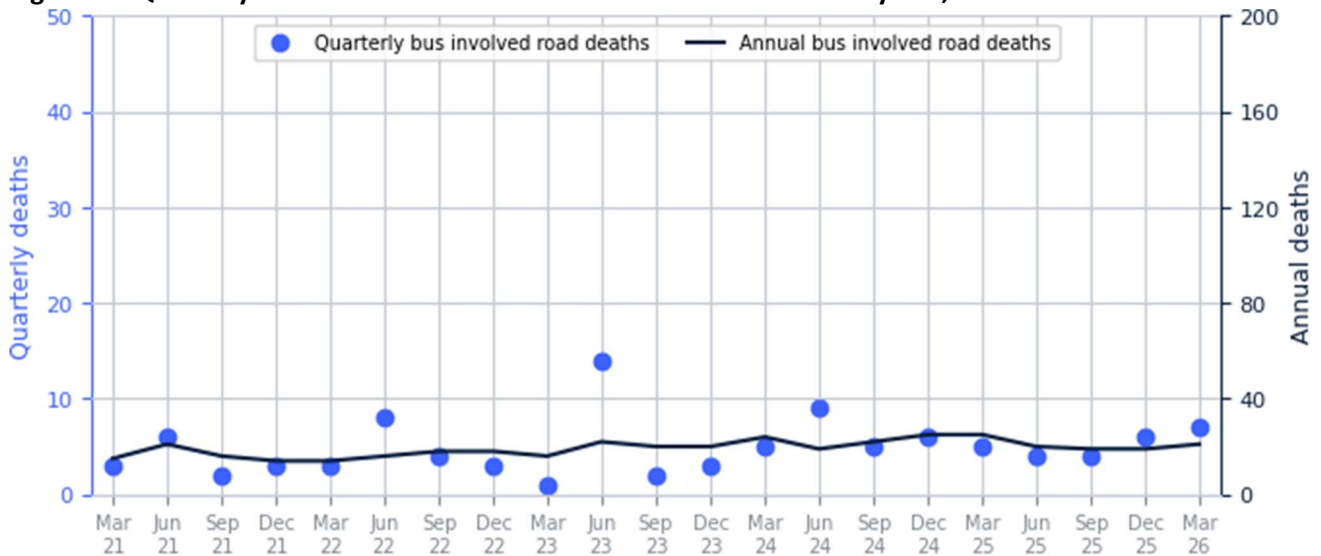


Figure 4 Quarterly and annual bus involved road deaths over last five years, national



2. Heavy vehicle involvement: Annual deaths and fatal crashes

Table 2.1 Deaths by type of vehicle involved

| 12 months ending March | Heavy vehicle involved | No heavy vehicle involved | Total |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| 2022 | 188 | 948 | 1,136 |
| 2023 | 188 | 985 | 1,187 |
| 2024 | 215 | 1,047 | 1,262 |
| 2025 | 184 | 1,101 | 1,285 |
| 2026 | 225 | 1,081 | 1,326 |
| Latest per cent change | 22.3% | -1.8% | 3.2% |

Totals may include unknown values

Table 2.2 Fatal crashes by type of vehicle involved

| 12 months ending March | Heavy vehicle involved | No heavy vehicle involved | Total |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| 2022 | 172 | 884 | 1,056 |
| 2023 | 168 | 923 | 1,105 |
| 2024 | 183 | 972 | 1,155 |
| 2025 | 166 | 1,015 | 1,181 |
| 2026 | 201 | 1,008 | 1,229 |
| Latest per cent change | 21.1% | -0.7% | 4.1% |

Totals may include unknown values

3. Deaths by jurisdiction: Any heavy vehicle involved

Table 3.1 Current quarter

| Current quarter | NSW | VIC | QLD | SA | WA | TAS | NT | ACT | Total |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|----|----|-----|----|-----|-------|
| Mar 2025 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 35 |
| Mar 2026 | 26 | 6 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 |

Table 3.2 Calendar year to date

| Year to date | NSW | VIC | QLD | SA | WA | TAS | NT | ACT | Total |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Jan to Mar 2025 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 35 |
| Jan to Mar 2026 | 26 | 6 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 |
| Latest per cent change | 271.4% | -14.3% | 0.0% | 20.0% | -57.1% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 42.9% |

Table 3.3 12 months ending March

| 12 months ending March | NSW | VIC | QLD | SA | WA | TAS | NT | ACT | Total |
|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| 2022 | 62 | 34 | 50 | 12 | 19 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 188 |
| 2023 | 46 | 41 | 52 | 5 | 31 | 7 | 6 | 0 | 188 |
| 2024 | 73 | 47 | 46 | 16 | 24 | 1 | 8 | 0 | 215 |
| 2025 | 44 | 31 | 56 | 18 | 25 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 184 |
| 2026 | 78 | 50 | 47 | 13 | 29 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 225 |
| Latest per cent change | 77.3% | 61.3% | -16.1% | -27.8% | 16.0% | 0.0% | -50.0% | 0.0% | 22.3% |

4. Latest four quarters: By type of heavy vehicle involved

Table 4 Deaths over latest four quarters

| Latest four quarters | Heavy rigid truck involved | Articulated truck involved | Bus involved |
|----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Jun 2025 | 34 | 29 | 4 |
| Sep 2025 | 24 | 30 | 4 |
| Dec 2025 | 24 | 30 | 6 |
| Mar 2026 | 14 | 29 | 7 |

Figures may sum to more than the total as some deaths may have involved more than one type of heavy vehicle

5. Deaths by jurisdiction: By type of heavy vehicle involved

Table 5.1 Deaths by heavy rigid truck involvement

| 12 months ending March | NSW | VIC | QLD | SA | WA | TAS | NT | ACT | Total |
|-------------------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| 2022 | 31 | 19 | 13 | 4 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 81 |
| 2023 | 16 | 22 | 26 | 1 | 21 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 94 |
| 2024 | 27 | 16 | 19 | 5 | 21 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 90 |
| 2025 | 10 | 19 | 19 | 5 | 17 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 77 |
| 2026 | 27 | 20 | 20 | 2 | 19 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 96 |
| Latest per cent change | 170.0% | 5.3% | 5.3% | -60.0% | 11.8% | 0.0% | 100.0% | 0.0% | 24.7% |

Table 5.2 Deaths by articulated truck involvement

| 12 months ending March | NSW | VIC | QLD | SA | WA | TAS | NT | ACT | Total |
|-------------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|
| 2022 | 28 | 15 | 35 | 7 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 98 |
| 2023 | 24 | 21 | 28 | 4 | 10 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 91 |
| 2024 | 33 | 31 | 23 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 104 |
| 2025 | 26 | 13 | 32 | 11 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 93 |
| 2026 | 43 | 28 | 24 | 11 | 8 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 118 |
| Latest per cent change | 65.4% | 115.4% | -25.0% | 0.0% | 60.0% | 33.3% | -100.0% | 0.0% | 26.9% |

Table 5.3 Deaths by bus involvement

| 12 months ending March | NSW | VIC | QLD | SA | WA | TAS | NT | ACT | Total |
|-------------------------------|-------------|----------|---------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|
| 2022 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 14 |
| 2023 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 16 |
| 2024 | 15 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 24 |
| 2025 | 11 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 25 |
| 2026 | 11 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 21 |
| Latest per cent change | 0.0% | - | -57.1% | -100.0% | -50.0% | 0.0% | -100.0% | 0.0% | -16.0% |

Appendix

Road deaths from recent months are preliminary and subject to revision.

Road death

The road safety agencies in each jurisdiction use detailed criteria to define road crashes and road deaths. Briefly, a death is classified as resulting from a road crash if the crash occurred on a public road, is unintentional and the death occurred within 30 days from injuries sustained in the crash.

Heavy rigid truck

A motor vehicle of GVM greater than 4.5 tonnes constructed with a load carrying area. Includes a rigid truck with a tow bar, draw bar or other non-articulated coupling on the rear of the vehicle.

Articulated truck

A motor vehicle primarily for load carrying, consisting of a prime mover that has no significant load carrying area but with a turntable device which can be linked to one or more trailers.

Bus

A motor vehicle constructed for the carriage of passengers which has at least 10 seats, including the driver's seat.

Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM)

Tare weight (i.e. unladen weight) of the motor vehicle plus its maximum carrying capacity excluding trailers.

Other sources for tables in this bulletin

The underlying database used to produce this bulletin — the Australian Road Deaths Database — is available for data extraction at <https://catalogue.data.infrastructure.gov.au/dataset/australian-road-deaths-database>

Data sources

Data are obtained from:

- Transport for NSW
- Department of Transport and Planning, Victoria
- Department of Transport and Main Roads, Queensland
- Department for Infrastructure and Transport, South Australia
- Western Australia Police and Road Safety Commission
- Department of State Growth, Tasmania
- Department of Logistics and Infrastructure, Northern Territory
- City and Environment Directorate, Australian Capital Territory
- Australian Bureau of Statistics (National, state and territory population)

Contact us

For further information about data in this bulletin, contact:

- National Road Safety Data Hub: <https://datahub.roadsafety.gov.au>
- Email: roadsafetystatistics@infrastructure.gov.au

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