

Fewer accidents on EU railways in 2010

Today, the European Railway Agency has published the EU railway safety data for 2010. Since data were first collected in the EU in 2006, the year 2010 can be seen as the safest on EU railways.

The data show that the positive trend continued in 2010 as there were 10% fewer fatalities compared to the previous year. **1,256 people were killed** and a further 1,236 seriously injured on railways of 27 EU countries in 2010. Among the 1,256 fatalities reported, **60% (750)** were other party victims: **unauthorized persons** on railway premises. Passenger and employee fatalities made up 5% of all persons killed on European railways, excluding suicides.

There were **2,743 suicides** recorded on EU railways in 2010, comparable to the 2009 record of 2,773.

Overall, the 27 Member States reported **2,401 significant railway accidents** that occurred in 2010. The number of significant accidents fell in 2010 in all categories. The reduction was most significant in the categories of derailments and other accidents. However, we should remember that prior to 2010, the accident reporting procedures were still developing in the Member States and several countries only adopted EU definitions in 2010.

The number of level-crossing accidents constitutes a substantial share of the total number of accidents. Member States reported that 359 level-crossing users were killed and 327 were seriously injured in a total of 619 accidents occurring on more than 120,000 level crossings in the EU. Level-crossing accidents represent one fourth of all railway accidents, but their number has halved compared to the period 2006-2007.

After a 2% drop in 2009, the traffic performance in terms of train-km was stable in 2010; **4,019 million train-km** were recorded on the EU railway network. The number of passenger-km decreased slightly to 397 billion km.

Railway safety data has been collected by the European Railway Agency since 2006 as so-called Common Safety Indicators (CSIs), which were introduced by Annex I of the Railway Safety Directive in 2004. Member States have a legal obligation to submit their CSI data for the preceding year to the Agency by 30 September.

The Agency is publishing an overview of selected CSIs as soon as data has been consolidated. The overview of selected CSIs for 2010 can be found [here](#).

The full set of CSI data will be made available in the Railway Safety Performance Report published annually by the Agency. The next issue will be available in March 2012. Besides CSI related information, it will also give details about serious accidents that occurred in Europe in 2010. The most recent report on Safety Performance in the EU can be found [here](#).

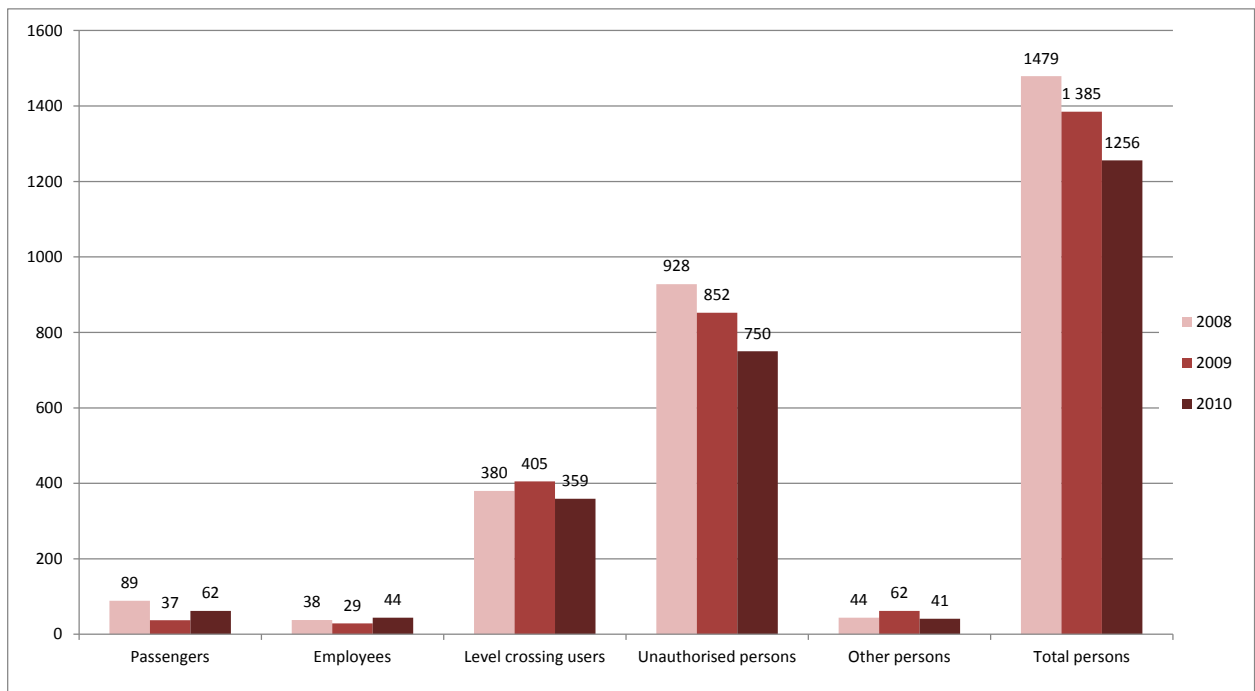


Figure 1: Number of fatalities in railway accidents in 2010 (EU-27 countries)