

There have been periods when the forecasting value of this series has been less clear, and unfortunately, the present is one of those times. But the indication, coming as early as the last months of last year, is that 1968 will be worse than 1967. Past experience indicates further that this unfavorable trend could continue beyond 1968.

Although deaths increased slightly in 1967 over 1966, the death rate (deaths per 100,000,000 vehicle miles of travel) was down. The statistical series relating to these rates, which is similar to the series relating to deaths, indicates, though, that the reduction in rates which occurred in 1967 will be giving way to an increase before 1968 is over.

STATE-MOTOR VEHICLE DEATHS, CHANGES, AND RATES

State	Months reported	Deaths for identical periods			Percent change		1968 population rate	1968 mileage rate	Number of months ¹
		1968	1967	1966	1967 to 1968	1966 to 1968			
Total, United States.....	4	15,610	14,810	15,076	+5	+4	27.9	4.9	4
Alabama.....	4	334	342	304	-2	+10	28.3	4.7	2
Alaska.....	4	17	12	10	+42	+70	18.7		
Arizona.....	4	187	168	211	+11	-11	34.3	6.0	3
Arkansas.....	4	190	198	199	-4	-5	28.9	5.2	2
California.....	4	1,409	1,428	1,422	-1	-1	22.1	3.7	2
Colorado.....	4	160	134	179	+19	-11	24.3	3.9	2
Connecticut.....	4	122	129	120	-5	+2	12.5	3.0	2
Delaware.....	4	33	41	30	-20	+10	18.9	2.5	3
District of Columbia.....	4	29	30	32	-3	-9	10.8	2.2	2
Florida.....	4	721	618	622	+17	+16	36.1	6.4	2
Georgia.....	4	514	474	443	+8	+16	34.2	6.1	2
Hawaii.....	4	45	44	35	+2	+29	18.2	4.1	1
Idaho.....	4	78	68	62	+15	+26	33.5	7.7	2
Illinois.....	4	713	680	753	+5	-5	19.6	3.8	1
Indiana.....	4	419	365	460	+15	-9	25.1	4.2	1
Iowa.....	4	228	198	222	+15	+3	24.8	4.3	2
Kansas.....	4	189	162	189	+17	0	24.9		
Kentucky.....	4	277	271	284	+2	-2	26.0	5.2	2
Louisiana.....	4	371	355	358	+5	+4	30.4	7.2	3
Maine.....	4	42	39	58	+8	-28	12.9	2.8	2
Maryland.....	4	233	213	212	+9	+10	19.0	3.9	2
Massachusetts.....	4	240	247	234	-3	+3	13.3		
Michigan.....	4	487	515	597	+14	-2	20.5	3.7	2
Minnesota.....	4	263	202	178	+30	+48	22.0	3.9	2
Mississippi.....	4	203	257	221	-21	-8	25.9	7.0	1
Missouri.....	4	388	356	417	+9	-7	25.3	4.3	2
Montana.....	4	56	58	74	-3	-24	24.0	2.0	2
Nebraska.....	4	120	119	117	+1	+3	25.1	4.7	2
Nevada.....	4	54	41	57	+32	-5	36.5	3.0	2
New Hampshire.....	4	38	30	37	+27	+3	16.6	3.2	2
New Jersey.....	4	411	330	326	+25	+26	17.6	3.7	3
New Mexico.....	4	109	102	131	+7	-17	32.6	5.9	2
New York.....	4	868	721	792	+20	+10	14.2	4.1	2
North Carolina.....	4	537	468	497	+15	-8	32.0	5.5	2
North Dakota.....	4	55	37	38	+49	+45	25.8		
Ohio.....	4	649	676	726	-4	-11	18.6	3.6	2
Oklahoma.....	4	221	280	241	-21	-8	26.6	3.7	1
Oregon.....	4	181	189	169	-4	+7	27.2		
Pennsylvania.....	4	573	597	571	-4	+*	14.8		
Rhode Island.....	4	32	43	30	-26	+7	10.7	2.8	3
South Carolina.....	4	292	245	262	+19	+11	33.7	5.2	2
South Dakota.....	4	68	53	62	+28	+10	30.3	4.5	2
Tennessee.....	4	347	379	310	-8	+12	26.8	4.7	2
Texas.....	4	1,051	1,013	969	+4	+8	28.9		
Utah.....	4	58	67	75	-13	-23	17.0	3.1	2
Vermont.....	4	27	28	20	-1	+35	19.5	4.3	3
Virginia.....	4	362	365	308	+4	+18	24.0	4.8	3
Washington.....	4	246	239	236	+3	+4	23.9	4.6	2
West Virginia.....	4	131	136	137	-4	-4	21.9	4.4	2
Wisconsin.....	4	318	253	268	+26	+19	22.8		
Wyoming.....	4	36	32	36	+13	0	34.3	4.5	2
Puerto Rico.....	4	159	144	139	+10	+14	17.9	11.9	2
Virgin Islands.....	4	10	3	0	+233		60.6		
Guam.....	4	8	8	12	0	-33	30.3	13.3	2

¹ Indicates the number of months for which rates are calculated for each State.

Note: Deaths are reported by State traffic authorities. All figures are preliminary. To insure proper comparison, 1966 and 1967 figures are the preliminary figures covering the same reporting period as those for 1968. Population rate: Annual number of deaths per 100,000 population. Mileage rate: Deaths per 100,000,000 vehicle miles.