

Summary

The accident risk of Norwegian and foreign heavy goods vehicles in Norway

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The study compares the accident risk of Norwegian and foreign registered heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) in Norway based on numbers from the period 2007-2018. Norwegian HGVs have the lowest accident risk, with 0.25 injuries per million km. HGVs from other EU15³ (0.66) had over 2.5 times higher accident risk than the Norwegian, followed by Swedish HGVs (0.48), other EU28⁴ (0.39), Polish and Baltic (0.39) and Danish HGVs. (0.35). The risk has decreased significantly during the period, for all groups. The accident risk of the foreign HGVs approached the risk of the Norwegian HGVs in 2016 and 2017, but the annual figures are small for the foreign HGVs. To disregard annual variations, we compare the risk for Norwegian and foreign HGVs in two six-year periods: 2007-2012 and 2013-2018. The risk of both groups is almost halved in the second six-year period. In addition, the accident risk of foreign HGVs is almost twice as high as the accident risk of Norwegian HGVs, in both periods. We also conduct calculations of risk where we “control” for vehicle type, for the period 2015-2018. The foreign tractors with semitrailers have on average twice as high a risk as the Norwegian. The tractors with semitrailers from the rest of the EU28 have 2.4 times higher risk than the Norwegian ones. We also compare the risk of Norwegian and foreign HGVs in different parts of Norway. Foreign HGVs have a 2.3 times higher risk than Norwegians when driving in western, central and northern Norway. In addition, the foreign HGVs have a 1.6 times higher risk in western, central and northern Norway than they have when driving in southern and eastern Norway. The accident risk of Norwegian HGVs does not vary as much between the parts of the country as the foreign HGVs. This indicates that it is more demanding to drive a HGV in some parts of Norway than others, and that Norwegian HGVs (three-axle tractor) and drivers (experience) are better equipped for this.

³ Other EU15 refers to the EU's 15 first member states, with the exception of Sweden and Denmark, i.e. Finland, the United Kingdom, Ireland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Austria, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal, Spain.

⁴ Other EU28 refers to the EU's 28 member states, with the exception of Sweden and Denmark, Other EU15, Poland and the Baltic countries, i.e. Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, Slovenia. We do not take into account that the UK withdrew from the EU on 31.01.2020, as the figures we use in the calculations are for the period 2007-2018.