

Content

Staying safe on the school bus: "Taking the bus has to be learned, too."

Thousands of schoolchildren take the bus to school every day without a second thought. "However, even though the school timetable demands lots of homework, time still needs to be found to learn bus travel correctly," says Stefanie Ritter, accident researcher at DEKRA. A bus was involved in about one in ten accidents on the way to school; in 2023 that translated into a total of 4,600 incidents..

DEKRA Labor Market Report 2024: No academics in the Top Ten

The labor market currently presents a mixed picture. Whereas some sectors are more cautious about their recruitment intentions in comparison to last year, demand in other areas continues to grow. This is the conclusion of the DEKRA Academy's Labor Market Report 2024. For the first time since the survey was launched in 2008, no academic profession has made it into the top 10 most sought-after occupations.

Senior citizens behind the wheel: more clarity with a confidential check

Many things change over the years: as we get older, our vitality declines, illnesses occur, and the use of medication becomes increasingly unavoidable. All of this impacts our driving ability. However, there are now several options available to help senior citizens get a clearer picture of their fitness behind the wheel.

Further topics

- Hazard warning lights: The button that could save your life
- DEKRA back to school campaign: "Safety – use your head"
- Missed mandatory vehicle inspection: not covered by Road Traffic Licensing Regulations.



*One in ten school-related
accidents involves the bus*

Photo: DEKRA
Reproduction free of charge.
Please mention DEKRA and
send reference copy.

Editorial offices please note:
The image can be obtained from
the DEKRA Press Office.
Tel. +49 711 7861-2122

Staying safe on the school bus

"Taking the bus has to be learned, too."

Thousands of schoolchildren take the bus to school every day without a second thought. "However, even though the school timetable demands lots of homework, time still needs to be found to learn bus travel correctly," says Stefanie Ritter, accident researcher at DEKRA. A bus was involved in about one in ten accidents on the way to school. According to the German Social Accident Insurance, which insures all students on their way to school, this translated into a total of 4,600 incidents in 2023.

"There are a lot of things you can do wrong when taking the bus, whether it's waiting at the bus stop, getting on or off the bus itself or, most importantly, when crossing the road," says Ritter. "That's why it's important to learn the right behavior on the bus and at the bus stop at an early age. This is the way to ensure that children acquire the skills they need to be safe on the roads."

The most important rule for bus travel is still: "Never cross the road directly in front of or behind the bus. It's all too easy to be hit by a passing vehicle," says the accident researcher. "That's why you have to wait until the bus has moved off, so that all road users can see each other better." If there is a crosswalk or traffic light, that is the safest place to cross. It's also important to leave home early so you don't have to rush to the bus stop and overlook an approaching car.

Buses can easily swerve when entering or exiting a bus stop. When waiting, keep at least three feet from the curb and do not play tag, run or push. Boarding is quickest when done in an orderly fashion.. If a seat is available, sit down and place your school bag between your feet or on your lap. If you are standing, put your bag between your feet and hold on tight. Also be careful when getting off the bus: look left and right to see if a cyclist is coming and don't push to avoid falling.

Several educational films and more information for children about safe routes to school are available at www.dekra.de/kinderkappen (DEKRA Info)



Still fit to drive? Medical examination and an observation driving session can provide important information

Photo: DEKRA
Reproduction free of charge.
Please mention DEKRA and
send reference copy.

Editorial offices please note:
The image can be obtained from
the DEKRA Press Office.
Tel. +49 711 7861-2122

Driving safely as you age

More clarity with confidential checks

Many things change over the years: as we get older, our vitality declines, illnesses occur, and taking medication becomes increasingly unavoidable. Some people may readily admit: "I am not good at seeing well, but I am good at hearing badly." All of this also has consequences for participation in road traffic.

For a certain amount of time, the many years driving experience can compensate for such changes, at least partially. However, in addition to hearing and vision, mobility and the ability to react and cope with complex traffic situations can also deteriorate. At some point, the question arises: "Am I still fit enough to drive?" An honest answer is needed. The 65+ age group alone accounts for more than one-third of traffic fatalities. The consequences of accidents are also generally more serious for older people than for younger people.

Many people put off dealing with this issue. After all, driving is such an important part of our quality of life, and, in fact, is intricately connected to our feeling of independence, autonomy and freedom. It can be a great help to get a clear and honest assessment of one's current state of health. The initiative www.team-vision-zero.de, for example, provides information on a simple self-test covering the areas of vision, hearing, mobility and responsiveness.

Driving schools, automobile clubs and experts also offer various services that allow participants to clarify where they are at without having to fear negative consequences. The DEKRA Health Check, for example, is strictly confidential and completely voluntary.

In the first place, it provides well-founded statements on driving performance, responsiveness, alertness and resilience. Secondly it looks at physical fitness and clarifies concerns about existing illnesses and necessary medications. There is also an observed driving session, which provides valuable feedback on abilities in real-life traffic situations. "The results are explained in detail by our experts. A certificate and further recommendations are also provided. It is left up to the individual to decide what to do with this knowledge," explains Thomas Wagner, driving fitness expert at DEKRA. Further information is available at www.dekra.de. (DEKRA Info)



*Boom in photovoltaic systems:
High demand for skilled workers*

Photo: DEKRA
Reproduction free of charge.
Please mention DEKRA and
send reference copy.

Editorial offices please note:
The image can be obtained from
the DEKRA Press Office.
Tel. +49 711 7861-2122

DEKRA Labor Market Report 2024

For the first time, no academics in the top ten

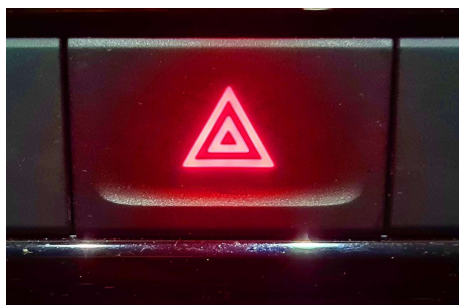
The labor market currently presents a mixed picture. Whereas some sectors are more cautious about their recruitment intentions in comparison to last year, demand in other areas continues to grow. This is the conclusion of the DEKRA Academy's Labor Market Report 2024, which analyzed 10,460 job offers posted during the spring.

For the first time since the survey began in 2008, there are no academic professions in the top 10. The development in the hitherto successful IT sector is particularly surprising. Software developers used to be among the top ten most sought-after professions, but the demand has now fallen back. Electrical engineers have also dropped out of the top ten.

Electronics specialists have been at the top of the companies' wish lists since 2021. Plumbing, heating and air conditioning technicians and automotive mechatronics technicians are also urgently needed, for example to install photovoltaic or solar systems or to manufacture and repair electric vehicles. There is also a high demand for childcare, service and reception staff as well as for cooks. There has been a slight decline in demand for nursing staff, although there are still major bottlenecks here.

"The labor market has rarely been as difficult to interpret as it is at the moment. Slumps in orders and at the same time complaints about a lack of skilled workers seem to be a contradiction in terms," explains Katrin Haupt, Managing Director of DEKRA Academy. "Gaps are often not filled, even when companies curb their recruitment intentions. Not enough young people are entering the job market, and at the same time, new occupational fields are competing with traditional fields for the same skilled workers. This is a test for the German economy; a challenge that can only be met by the immigration of qualified people and massive further development of the workforce.

The results and analyses of the DEKRA Labor Market Report 2024 can be found on www.dekra-arbeitsmarktreport.de (DEKRA Info)



If there is a risk of a rear-end collision: Turn on the hazard warning lights.

Photo: DEKRA
Reproduction free of charge.
Please mention DEKRA and
send reference copy.

Editorial offices please note:
The image can be obtained from
the DEKRA Press Office.
Tel. +49 711 7861-2122

When hazard warning lights are mandatory

The button can save life

When a vehicle's hazard lights are on, there is an imminent danger. At least that is what the law stipulates. As a rule, however, the button with the red triangle should only be used if the vehicle is endangering other road users or wants to warn them of danger, remind the experts at DEKRA. The best example for this is when approaching a traffic jam. The aim here is to warn following traffic on highways or other roads with fast-moving traffic. The warning function, however, is not intended for stopping in the second lane.

If there is a particularly dangerous situation in which vehicles are approaching a traffic jam that is difficult to see at high speed, there is an obligation to activate the hazard warning lights, depending on the situation. According to a ruling by the Regional Court of Memmingen (DAT 2007, 709), a driver who fails to activate the hazard warning lights may even be held liable for a rear-end collision resulting from this.

When towing, it is also mandatory to switch on the hazard warning lights on both vehicles while driving. Because it is not possible to indicate the direction of travel when the hazard warning lights are on, both drivers must agree in advance how they will proceed when turning; for example, briefly switch off the hazard warning lights if it seems more important to indicate the direction of travel than to warn of slow-moving vehicles. An alternative to this would be to turn carefully and give hand signals.

The hazard warning lights must also be activated immediately if a vehicle occupying more than one lane breaks down in a place where it may not be recognized as an obstacle in time. The Federal Court of Justice has pointed out that in the event of a breakdown, the hazard warning lights must be switched on as soon as the vehicle begins to stop, regardless of whether it is outside or within a built-up area. The hazard warning lights must remain on even if the place of breakdown is additionally indicated by a warning triangle and a warning light. If the vehicle then continues to move at a particularly slow speed, the hazard warning lights must be activated on fast roads outside built-up areas and in darkness, as is the case for particularly slow vehicles. (DEKRA Info)



Caution! Drive slowly! Back to school is a time when many children find themselves alone on the streets for the first time.

Photo: DEKRA
Reproduction free of charge.
Please mention DEKRA and send reference copy.

Editorial offices please note:
The image can be obtained from the DEKRA Press Office.
Tel. +49 711 7861-2122

DEKRA campaign "Safety – use your head" **Caps and tips for getting to school safely**

"For hundreds of thousands of children, the start of school marks the beginning of a new phase in their lives, and many of them are out on the road alone for the first time," says Guido Kutschera, Executive Vice President of the DEKRA Group, and appeals to all other road users to be even more careful and considerate at the beginning of the new school year. To ensure that children are clearly visible in all light conditions, the organization is once again distributing hundreds of thousands of signal red caps with retroreflective elements. Accident experts also recommend that parents make sure their children's clothing, shoes and schoolbags have eye-catching retroreflective elements to make them more visible at dusk and in the dark. In addition, an accompanying brochure provides children and parents with tips for a safe walk to school. It can be downloaded from www.dekra.de/kinderkappen and is available at DEKRA locations. (DEKRA Info)



Mandatory inspection: In 2024, it's time for all vehicles with a green sticker to undergo inspection

Photo: DEKRA
Reproduction free of charge.
Please mention DEKRA and send reference copy.

Editorial offices please note:
The image can be obtained from the DEKRA Press Office.
Tel. +49 711 7861-2122

Missed the inspection deadline? **Not allowed by the German Road Traffic Licensing Regulations**

Is strict adherence to the due date of the mandatory periodical vehicle inspection really necessary? Well, according to German Road Traffic Licensing Regulations, the answer is yes! The deadline indicated on the inspection sticker and in the vehicle documents must always be met, and if it is missed by more than two months, a more intensive follow-up inspection is required. The authorities can also punish missed deadlines with fines and penalty points in your driving record, depending on the severity. For a delay of two to four months, the fine is 15 euros; for four to eight months, 25 euros; and for a delay of more than eight months, 40 euros and one penalty point in your driving record. If an accident occurs due to an overdue mandatory inspection, the car insurance company can claim recourse. The situation is different for seasonal plates. If the inspection is due outside the period of use, it must be carried out in the first month of the next period of use. (DEKRA Info)