



Large Trucks

There were 3,380 fatalities and 74,000 people injured in crashes involving large trucks in 2009. In the United States, 296,000 large trucks (gross vehicle weight rating greater than 10,000 pounds) were involved in traffic crashes during 2009.

Fatalities in crashes involving large trucks showed a 20-percent drop from 4,245 in 2008 to 3,380 in 2009. Of the fatalities in crashes involving large trucks during 2009, 75 percent were occupants of another vehicle, 10 percent were nonoccupants, and 15 percent were occupants of a large truck. There was a slight change in fatalities in crashes involving large trucks from 2008, when 74 percent were occupants of another vehicle, 10 percent were nonoccupants, and 16 percent were occupants of a large truck.

In 2009, 74,000 people were injured in crashes involving large trucks – a decline of 18 percent from 90,000 in 2008. Of the people injured in crashes involving large trucks during 2009, 76 percent were occupants of another vehicle, 2 percent were nonoccupants, and 22 percent were occupants of a large truck. Whereas in 2008, of the people injured in crashes involving large trucks, 71 percent were occupants of another vehicle, 3 percent were nonoccupants, and 26 percent were occupants of a large truck.

In 2009, fatalities in crashes involving large trucks dropped by 20 percent from 2008.

Table 1
People Killed or Injured in Crashes Involving Large Trucks, 2009

People Killed	Number	Percentage of Total
Occupants of Large Trucks	503	15
— Single-Vehicle Crashes	337	10
— Multiple-Vehicle Crashes	166	5
Occupants of Other Vehicles in Crashes Involving Large Trucks	2,551	75
Nonoccupants (Pedestrians, Pedalcyclists, etc.)	326	10
Total	3,380	100
People Injured	Number	Percentage of Total
Occupants of Large Trucks	17,000	22
— Single-Vehicle Crashes	7,000	10
— Multiple-Vehicle Crashes	9,000	13
Occupants of Other Vehicles in Crashes Involving Large Trucks	56,000	76
Nonoccupants (Pedestrians, Pedalcyclists, etc.)	1,000	2
Total	74,000	100

In 2009, large trucks accounted for 4 percent of all registered vehicles and 10 percent of the total vehicle miles traveled. In 2009, large trucks accounted for 7 percent of all vehicles involved in fatal crashes and 3 percent of all vehicles involved in injury and property-damage-only crashes.

Table 2

Large Truck Involvement in Fatal and Injury Crashes and Involvement Rates, 2000-2009

Year	Number of Large Trucks Involved in Fatal Crashes	Number of Large Trucks Registered	Vehicle Involvement Rate*	Vehicle Miles Traveled (millions)	Vehicle Involvement Rate**
2000	4,995	8,987,685	55.58	205,520	2.43
2001	4,823	9,443,051	51.07	208,928	2.31
2002	4,587	9,378,475	48.91	214,603	2.14
2003	4,721	9,450,089	49.96	217,876	2.17
2004	4,902	9,573,625	51.20	220,811	2.22
2005	4,951	9,884,443	50.09	222,523	2.22
2006	4,766	10,333,922	46.12	222,513	2.14
2007	4,633	10,752,019	43.09	304,178	1.52
2008	4,089	10,873,275	37.61	310,680	1.32
2009	3,215	10,973,214	29.30	288,005	1.12
Year	Number of Large Trucks Involved in Injury Crashes	Number of Large Trucks Registered	Vehicle Involvement Rate*	Vehicle Miles Traveled (millions)	Vehicle Involvement Rate**
2000	101,000	8,987,685	1,118	205,520	49
2001	90,000	9,443,051	951	208,928	43
2002	94,000	9,378,475	1,005	214,603	44
2003	89,000	9,450,089	940	217,876	41
2004	87,000	9,573,625	906	220,811	39
2005	82,000	9,884,443	834	222,523	37
2006	80,000	10,333,922	777	222,513	36
2007	76,000	10,752,019	705	304,178	25
2008	66,000	10,873,275	608	310,680	21
2009	53,000	10,973,214	487	288,005	19

*Rate per 100,000 registered vehicles. **Rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled.

Source: Vehicle miles traveled and registered vehicles – Federal Highway Administration.

Note: In August 2011, starting with 2009 data, FHWA implemented an enhanced methodology for estimating registered vehicles and vehicle miles traveled by vehicle type. In addition, revisions were made to 2008 and 2007 data using the enhanced methodology. As a result, vehicle involvement rates may differ, and in some cases significantly, from previously published rates.

Crash Characteristics

Large trucks were more likely to be involved in a fatal multiple-vehicle crash – as opposed to a fatal single-vehicle crash – than were passenger vehicles (81% of fatal crashes involving large trucks are multiple-vehicle crashes, compared with 58% for crashes involving passenger vehicles).

In half of the two-vehicle fatal crashes, both the large truck and the other vehicle were proceeding straight at the time of the crash. In 10 percent of the crashes, the other vehicle was turning. In 9 percent, either the truck or the other vehicle was negotiating a curve. In 8 percent of fatal crashes, either the truck or the other vehicle was stopped or parked in a traffic lane (6% and 2%, respectively).

In 30 percent of the two-vehicle fatal crashes involving a large truck and another type of vehicle, both vehicles were impacted in the front. The truck was struck in the rear four times as often as the other vehicle (20% and 5%, respectively).

Table 3

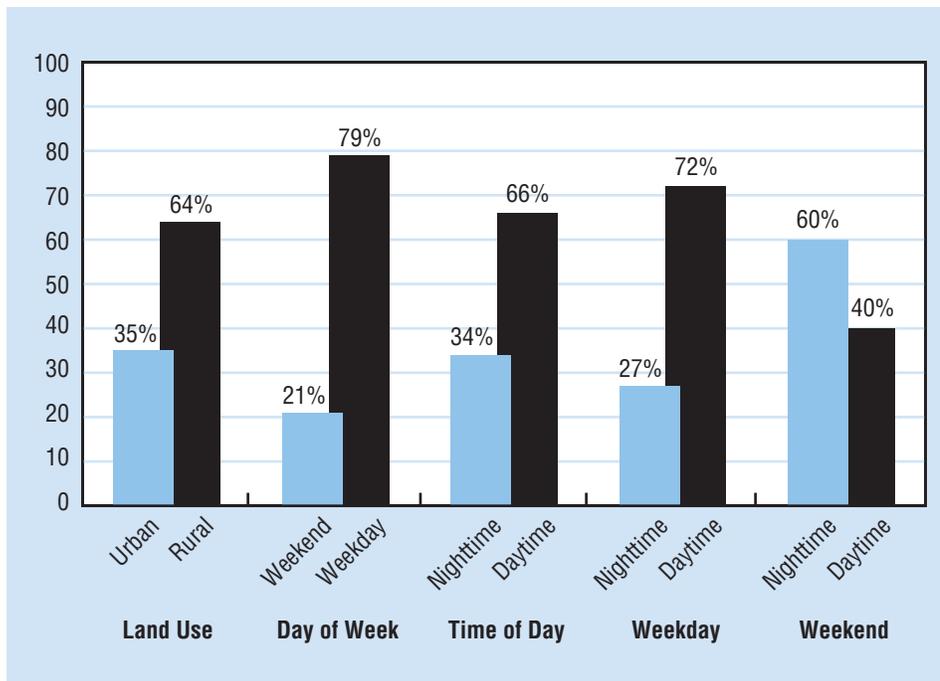
Percentage of Principal Impact Points in Two-Vehicle Fatal Crashes Involving Large Trucks, 2009

Impact Point on Large Truck	Impact Point on Other Vehicle (%)				Total
	Front	Left Side	Right Side	Rear	
Front	30	16	12	4	62
Left Side	9	1	1	0	11
Right Side	5	1	0	0	7
Rear	18	1	1	0	20
Total	63	19	13	5	100

Note: Total may not equal sum of components due to independent rounding.

Figure 1

Fatal Crashes Involving Large Trucks, by Land Use, Day of Week, Time of Day, Time of Day (Weekday), and Time of Day (Weekend), 2009



Note: Unknown within various categories are not shown.

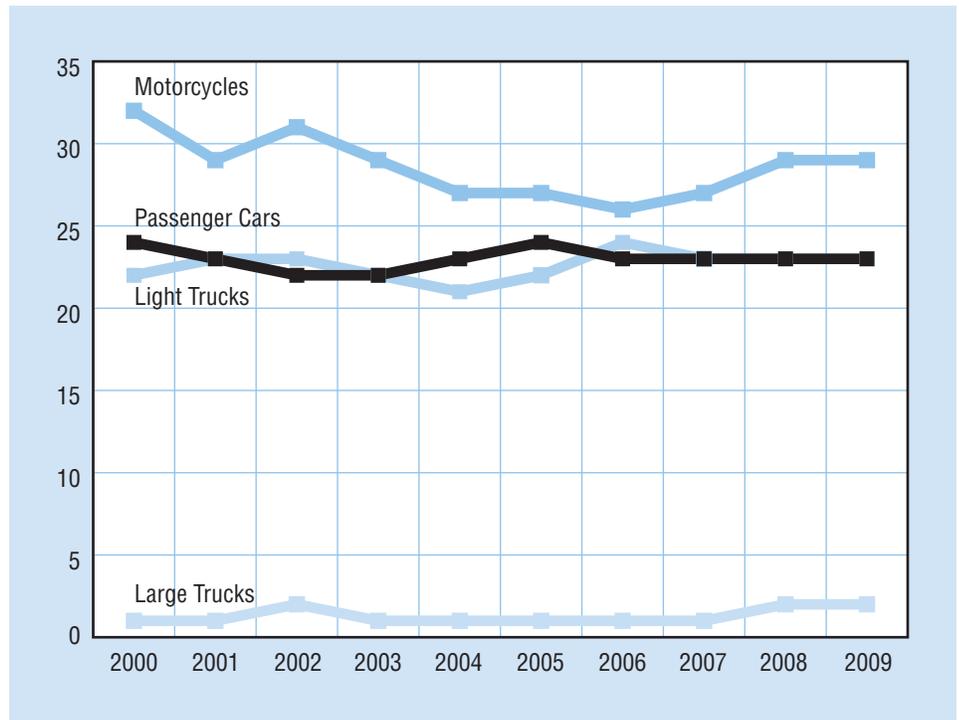
Large-Truck Drivers

The percentage of large-truck drivers involved in fatal crashes that had a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 grams per deciliter (g/dL) or higher was 2 percent in 2009. For drivers of other types of vehicles involved in fatal crashes in 2009, the percentages of drivers with BAC levels .08 g/dL or higher were 23 percent for passenger cars, 23 percent for light trucks, and 29 percent for motorcycles.

In 2009, large trucks were four times more likely than other vehicles to be struck in the rear in two-vehicle fatal crashes.

Figure 2
Estimated Proportions of Drivers in Fatal Crashes With BAC .08 g/dL or Greater, 2000-2009

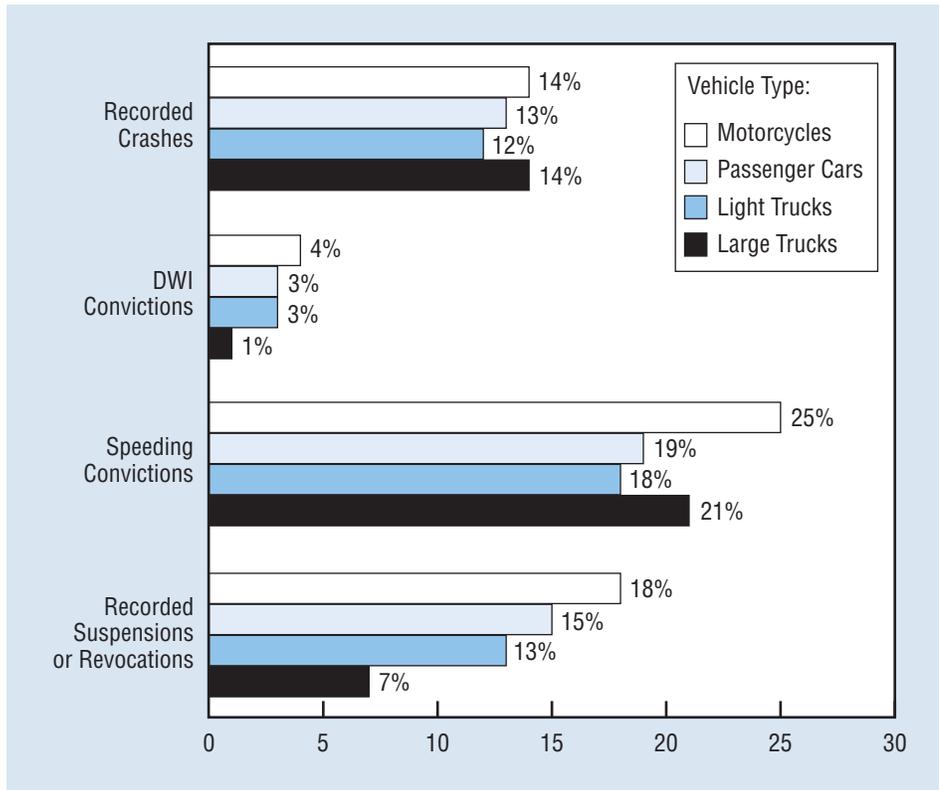
Drivers of large trucks were less likely to have a previous license suspension or revocation than were passenger car drivers.



Drivers of large trucks were less likely to have a previous license suspension or revocation than were passenger car drivers (7% and 15%, respectively).

Twenty-one percent of all large-truck drivers involved in fatal crashes in 2009 had at least one prior speeding conviction, compared to 19 percent of passenger car drivers involved in fatal crashes.

Figure 3
Previous Driving Records of Drivers Involved in Fatal Traffic Crashes, by Type of Vehicle, 2009



Note: Excluding all drivers with unknown previous records

For more information

Information on traffic fatalities is available from the National Center for Statistics and Analysis (NCSA), NVS-424, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590. NCSA can be contacted at 800-934-8517 or via the following e-mail address: ncsaweb@dot.gov. General information on highway traffic safety can be accessed by Internet users at www.nhtsa.gov/NCSA. To report a safety-related problem or to inquire about motor vehicle safety information, contact the Vehicle Safety Hotline at 888-327-4236.

Other fact sheets available from the National Center for Statistics and Analysis are *Alcohol-Impaired Driving*, *Bicyclists and Other Cyclists*, *Children*, *Motorcycles*, *Occupant Protection*, *Older Population*, *Overview*, *Passenger Vehicles*, *Pedestrians*, *Race and Ethnicity*, *Rural/Urban Comparisons*, *School Transportation-Related Crashes*, *Speeding*, *State Alcohol Estimates*, *State Traffic Data*, and *Young Drivers*. Detailed data on motor vehicle traffic crashes are published annually in *Traffic Safety Facts: A Compilation of Motor Vehicle Crash Data from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System and the General Estimates System*. The fact sheets and annual Traffic Safety Facts report can be accessed online at www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/CATS/index.aspx.

Table 4
Large-Truck Involvement in Fatal Crashes, by State, 2009

State	Total Vehicles Involved in Fatal Crashes	Large Trucks Involved in Fatal Crashes		
		Number	Percentage of Total Vehicles	Percentage of U.S. Total for Large Trucks
Alabama	1,142	81	7.1	2.5
Alaska	88	3	3.4	0.1
Arizona	1,008	67	6.6	2.1
Arkansas	773	79	10.2	2.5
California	4,205	262	6.2	8.1
Colorado	655	40	6.1	1.2
Connecticut	300	15	5.0	0.5
Delaware	154	7	4.5	0.2
Dist of Columbia	37	1	2.7	0.0
Florida	3,497	179	5.1	5.6
Georgia	1,750	133	7.6	4.1
Hawaii	139	4	2.9	0.1
Idaho	288	18	6.3	0.6
Illinois	1,301	90	6.9	2.8
Indiana	993	108	10.9	3.4
Iowa	506	64	12.6	2.0
Kansas	500	51	10.2	1.6
Kentucky	1,116	109	9.8	3.4
Louisiana	1,034	74	7.2	2.3
Maine	236	21	8.9	0.7
Maryland	776	51	6.6	1.6
Massachusetts	441	21	4.8	0.7
Michigan	1,240	64	5.2	2.0
Minnesota	554	50	9.0	1.6
Mississippi	857	54	6.3	1.7
Missouri	1,148	83	7.2	2.6
Montana	272	21	7.7	0.7
Nebraska	327	42	12.8	1.3
Nevada	336	19	5.7	0.6
New Hampshire	145	7	4.8	0.2
New Jersey	828	65	7.9	2.0
New Mexico	455	33	7.3	1.0
New York	1,517	102	6.7	3.2
North Carolina	1,778	115	6.5	3.6
North Dakota	169	28	16.6	0.9
Ohio	1,426	108	7.6	3.4
Oklahoma	943	82	8.7	2.6
Oregon	489	29	5.9	0.9
Pennsylvania	1,735	131	7.6	4.1
Rhode Island	100	5	5.0	0.2
South Carolina	1,156	78	6.7	2.4
South Dakota	147	12	8.2	0.4
Tennessee	1,307	88	6.7	2.7
Texas	4,187	296	7.1	9.2
Utah	346	25	7.2	0.8
Vermont	97	6	6.2	0.2
Virginia	974	75	7.7	2.3
Washington	635	30	4.7	0.9
West Virginia	450	29	6.4	0.9
Wisconsin	730	48	6.6	1.5
Wyoming	148	12	8.1	0.4
U.S. Total	45,435	3,215	7.1	100.0
Puerto Rico	472	19	4.0	-