



Large Trucks

In 2010, 3,675 people were killed and 80,000 people injured in crashes involving large trucks (gross vehicle weight rating greater than 10,000 pounds). In the United States, 276,000 large trucks were involved in traffic crashes during 2010.

Fatalities in crashes involving large trucks showed a 9-percent increase from 3,380 in 2009 to 3,675 in 2010. Of the fatalities in crashes involving large trucks during 2010, 76 percent were occupants of other vehicles, 10 percent were nonoccupants, and 14 percent were occupants of large trucks. There was very little change in fatalities in crashes involving large trucks from 2009, when 76 percent were occupants of other vehicles, 10 percent were nonoccupants, and 15 percent were occupants of large trucks.

In 2010, 80,000 people were injured in crashes involving large trucks – an increase of 8 percent from 74,000 in 2009. Of the people injured in crashes involving large trucks during 2010, 73 percent were occupants of other vehicles, 2 percent were nonoccupants, and 25 percent were occupants of large trucks. Whereas in 2009, of the people injured in crashes involving large trucks, 76 percent were occupants of other vehicles, 2 percent were nonoccupants, and 22 percent were occupants of large trucks.

In 2010, fatalities in crashes involving large trucks increased by 9 percent from 2009.

Table 1
People Killed or Injured in Crashes Involving Large Trucks, 2010

| People Killed | Number | Percentage of Total |
|---|---------------|---------------------|
| Occupants of Large Trucks | 529 | 14 |
| — Single-Vehicle Crashes | 337 | 9 |
| — Multiple-Vehicle Crashes | 192 | 5 |
| Occupants of Other Vehicles in Crashes Involving Large Trucks | 2,790 | 76 |
| Nonoccupants (Pedestrians, Pedalcyclists, etc.) | 356 | 10 |
| Total | 3,675 | 100 |
| People Injured | Number | Percentage of Total |
| Occupants of Large Trucks | 20,000 | 25 |
| — Single-Vehicle Crashes | 9,000 | 11 |
| — Multiple-Vehicle Crashes | 11,000 | 13 |
| Occupants of Other Vehicles in Crashes Involving Large Trucks | 58,000 | 73 |
| Nonoccupants (Pedestrians, Pedalcyclists, etc.) | 2,000 | 2 |
| Total | 80,000 | 100 |

In 2010, large trucks accounted for 4 percent of all registered vehicles and 10 percent of the total vehicle miles traveled. These large trucks accounted for 8 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, 2001-2010

| Year | Number of Large Trucks Involved in Fatal Crashes | Number of Large Trucks Registered | Vehicle Involvement Rate* | Vehicle Miles Traveled (millions) | Vehicle Involvement Rate** |
|------|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2001 | 4,823 | 7,857,675 | 61.38 | 208,928 | 2.31 |
| 2002 | 4,587 | 7,927,280 | 57.86 | 214,603 | 2.14 |
| 2003 | 4,721 | 7,756,888 | 60.86 | 217,876 | 2.17 |
| 2004 | 4,902 | 8,171,364 | 59.99 | 220,811 | 2.22 |
| 2005 | 4,951 | 8,481,999 | 58.37 | 222,523 | 2.22 |
| 2006 | 4,766 | 8,819,007 | 54.04 | 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 | 3,211 | 10,973,214 | 29.26 | 288,005 | 1.11 |
| 2010 | 3,484 | 10,770,054 | 32.35 | 286,585 | 1.22 |
| Year | Number of Large Trucks Involved in Injury Crashes | Number of Large Trucks Registered | Vehicle Involvement Rate* | Vehicle Miles Traveled (millions) | Vehicle Involvement Rate** |
| 2001 | 90,000 | 7,857,675 | 1,143 | 208,928 | 43 |
| 2002 | 94,000 | 7,927,280 | 1,189 | 214,603 | 44 |
| 2003 | 89,000 | 7,756,888 | 1,145 | 217,876 | 41 |
| 2004 | 87,000 | 8,171,364 | 1,062 | 220,811 | 39 |
| 2005 | 82,000 | 8,481,999 | 971 | 222,523 | 37 |
| 2006 | 80,000 | 8,819,007 | 911 | 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 |
| 2010 | 58,000 | 10,770,054 | 541 | 286,585 | 20 |

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

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

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 (82% of fatal crashes involving large trucks are multiple-vehicle crashes, compared with 58% for fatal crashes involving passenger vehicles).

In 47 percent of the two-vehicle fatal crashes, both the large truck and the other vehicle were proceeding straight at the time of the crash. In 9 percent of the crashes, the other vehicle was turning. In 13 percent, either the truck or the other vehicle was negotiating a curve. In 10 percent of fatal crashes, either the truck or the other vehicle was stopped or parked in a traffic lane (7% and 3%, 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 three times as often as the other vehicle (18% and 6%, respectively).

Table 3

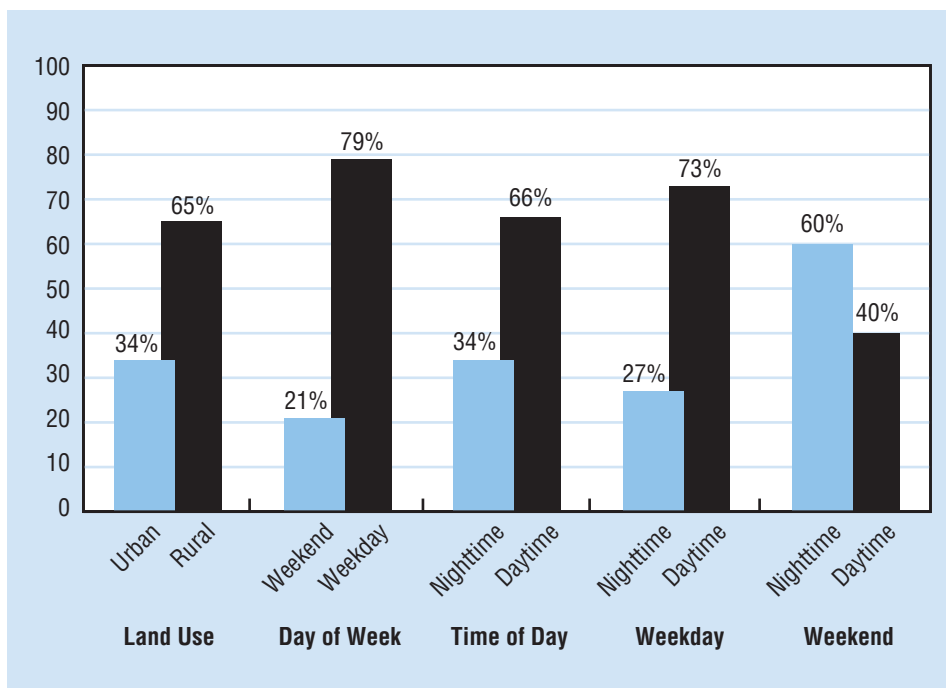
Percentage of Principal Impact Points in Two-Vehicle Fatal Crashes Involving Large Trucks, 2010

| Impact Point on Large Truck | Impact Point on Other Vehicle (%) | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|------------|----------|------------|
| | Front | Left Side | Right Side | Rear | Total |
| Front | 30 | 15 | 11 | 6 | 62 |
| Left Side | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Right Side | 9 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 12 |
| Rear | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 18 |
| Total | 60 | 19 | 12 | 6 | 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), 2010



Note: Unknown within various categories are not shown.

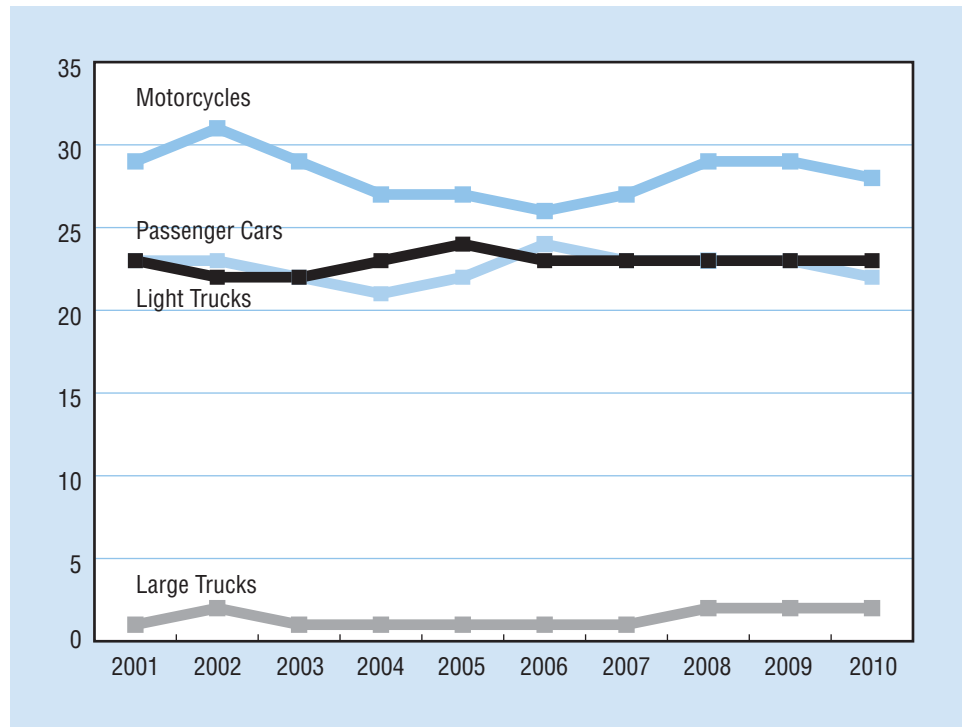
Large-Truck Drivers

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 2010. For drivers of other types of vehicles involved in fatal crashes in 2010, the percentages of drivers with BAC levels .08 g/dL or higher were 23 percent for passenger cars, 22 percent for light trucks, and 28 percent for motorcycles.

In 2010, large trucks were three 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, 2001–2010

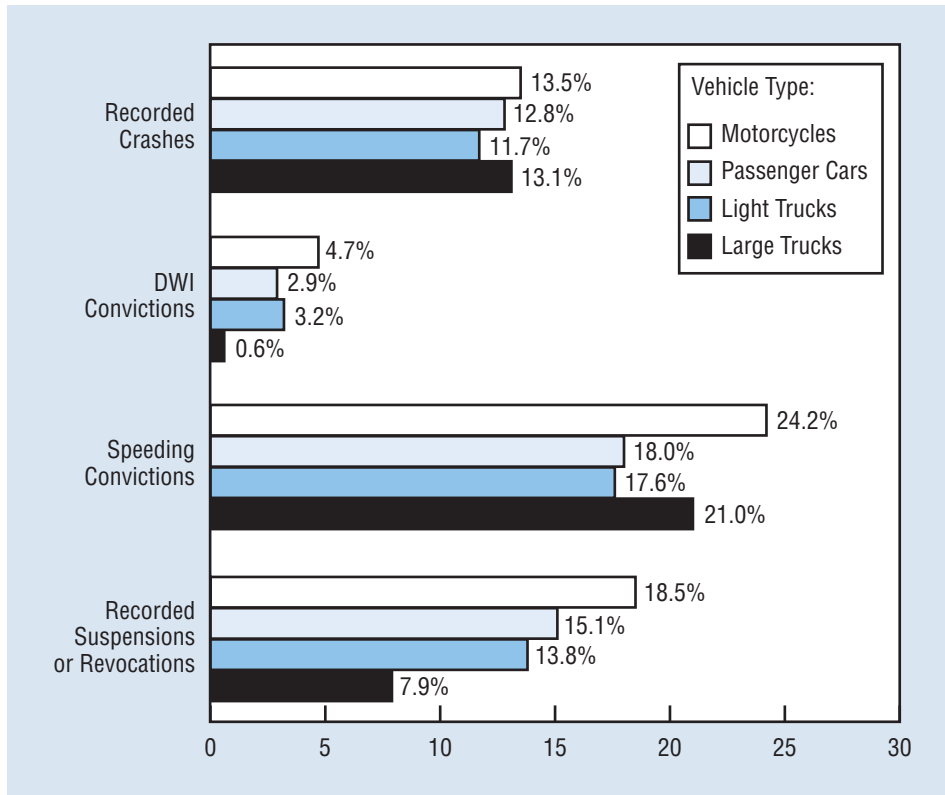
Drivers of large trucks were less likely to have a previous license suspension or revocation than were passenger car drivers.



Drivers of large trucks in fatal crashes were less likely to have a previous license suspension or revocation than were passenger car drivers (8% and 15%, respectively).

Twenty-one percent of all large-truck drivers involved in fatal crashes in 2010 had at least one prior speeding conviction, compared to 18 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, 2010



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.



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

Table 4
Large-Truck Involvement in Fatal Crashes, by State, 2010

| 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 | 1,165 | 105 | 9.0 | 3.0 |
| Alaska | 76 | 5 | 6.6 | 0.1 |
| Arizona | 1,005 | 53 | 5.3 | 1.5 |
| Arkansas | 745 | 79 | 10.6 | 2.3 |
| California | 3,691 | 239 | 6.5 | 6.9 |
| Colorado | 599 | 46 | 7.7 | 1.3 |
| Connecticut | 424 | 23 | 5.4 | 0.7 |
| Delaware | 136 | 9 | 6.6 | 0.3 |
| Dist of Columbia | 28 | 3 | 10.7 | 0.1 |
| Florida | 3,445 | 179 | 5.2 | 5.1 |
| Georgia | 1,702 | 144 | 8.5 | 4.1 |
| Hawaii | 153 | 4 | 2.6 | 0.1 |
| Idaho | 253 | 15 | 5.9 | 0.4 |
| Illinois | 1,313 | 113 | 8.6 | 3.2 |
| Indiana | 1,095 | 108 | 9.9 | 3.1 |
| Iowa | 545 | 90 | 16.5 | 2.6 |
| Kansas | 574 | 71 | 12.4 | 2.0 |
| Kentucky | 1,043 | 90 | 8.6 | 2.6 |
| Louisiana | 917 | 93 | 10.1 | 2.7 |
| Maine | 203 | 13 | 6.4 | 0.4 |
| Maryland | 687 | 38 | 5.5 | 1.1 |
| Massachusetts | 404 | 16 | 4.0 | 0.5 |
| Michigan | 1,320 | 83 | 6.3 | 2.4 |
| Minnesota | 593 | 77 | 13.0 | 2.2 |
| Mississippi | 799 | 56 | 7.0 | 1.6 |
| Missouri | 1,148 | 76 | 6.6 | 2.2 |
| Montana | 221 | 13 | 5.9 | 0.4 |
| Nebraska | 249 | 49 | 19.7 | 1.4 |
| Nevada | 347 | 16 | 4.6 | 0.5 |
| New Hampshire | 168 | 5 | 3.0 | 0.1 |
| New Jersey | 801 | 58 | 7.2 | 1.7 |
| New Mexico | 446 | 43 | 9.6 | 1.2 |
| New York | 1,574 | 116 | 7.4 | 3.3 |
| North Carolina | 1,792 | 104 | 5.8 | 3.0 |
| North Dakota | 145 | 17 | 11.7 | 0.5 |
| Ohio | 1,507 | 123 | 8.2 | 3.5 |
| Oklahoma | 895 | 88 | 9.8 | 2.5 |
| Oregon | 419 | 49 | 11.7 | 1.4 |
| Pennsylvania | 1,783 | 159 | 8.9 | 4.6 |
| Rhode Island | 85 | 2 | 2.4 | 0.1 |
| South Carolina | 1,085 | 61 | 5.6 | 1.8 |
| South Dakota | 185 | 19 | 10.3 | 0.5 |
| Tennessee | 1,389 | 89 | 6.4 | 2.6 |
| Texas | 4,154 | 377 | 9.1 | 10.8 |
| Utah | 303 | 28 | 9.2 | 0.8 |
| Vermont | 87 | 11 | 12.6 | 0.3 |
| Virginia | 992 | 87 | 8.8 | 2.5 |
| Washington | 618 | 27 | 4.4 | 0.8 |
| West Virginia | 406 | 40 | 9.9 | 1.1 |
| Wisconsin | 814 | 53 | 6.5 | 1.5 |
| Wyoming | 185 | 22 | 11.9 | 0.6 |
| U.S. Total | 44,713 | 3,484 | 7.8 | 100.0 |
| Puerto Rico | 448 | 16 | 3.6 | - |

Note: Percentage of U.S. total for large trucks may not equal 100% due to independent rounding.