



# Large Trucks

In 2011, 3,757 people were killed and 88,000 people injured in crashes involving large trucks (gross vehicle weight rating greater than 10,000 pounds). In the United States, 287,000 large trucks were involved in traffic crashes during 2011.

Fatalities in crashes involving large trucks showed a 2-percent increase from 3,686 in 2010 to 3,757 in 2011. Of these fatalities in 2011, 72 percent were occupants of other vehicles, 11 percent were nonoccupants, and 17 percent were occupants of large trucks. Between 2010 and 2011 fatalities in these crashes showed a 4-percent drop in the number of occupants of other vehicles killed, but a 3-percent increase in the percentage of large-truck occupants killed. The percentage of nonoccupants killed also increased by 1 percent.

In 2011, 88,000 people were injured in crashes involving large trucks – an increase of 10 percent from 80,000 in 2010. Of these people injured in 2011, 72 percent were occupants of other vehicles, 2 percent were nonoccupants, and 26 percent were occupants of large trucks. The 2011 percentages show non-significant change when compared to 2010. There was a 1-percent drop in occupants of other vehicles injured and a 1-percent increase in the occupants of large trucks injured. The percentage of nonoccupants injured remained unchanged (Table 1).

*In 2011, fatalities in crashes involving large trucks increased by 2 percent from 2010.*

Table 1  
**People Killed or Injured in Crashes Involving Large Trucks, 2011**

People Killed	Number	Percentage of Total
Occupants of Large Trucks	635	17
— Single-Vehicle Crashes	403	11
— Multiple-Vehicle Crashes	232	6
Occupants of Other Vehicles in Crashes Involving Large Trucks	2,695	72
Nonoccupants (Pedestrians, Pedalcyclists, etc.)	427	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,757</b>	<b>100</b>
People Injured	Number	Percentage of Total
Occupants of Large Trucks	23,000	26
— Single-Vehicle Crashes	7,000	8
— Multiple-Vehicle Crashes	15,000	17
Occupants of Other Vehicles in Crashes Involving Large Trucks	64,000	72
Nonoccupants (Pedestrians, Pedalcyclists, etc.)	2,000	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>88,000</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: Injury totals may not equal the sum of components due to independent rounding.

In 2010, large trucks accounted for 4 percent of all registered vehicles and 10 percent of the total vehicle miles traveled (2011 registered vehicle and vehicle miles traveled data not available). In 2011, 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).

Table 2

**Large-Truck Involvement in Fatal and Injury Crashes and Involvement Rates**

Year	Number of Large Trucks Involved in Fatal Crashes	Number of Large Trucks Registered	Vehicle Involvement Rate*	Vehicle Miles Traveled (millions)	Vehicle Involvement Rate**
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	288,306	1.11
2010	3,494	10,770,054	32.44	286,527	1.22
2011	3,608	10,270,693	35.13	267,207	1.35
Year	Number of Large Trucks Involved in Injury Crashes	Number of Large Trucks Registered	Vehicle Involvement Rate*	Vehicle Miles Traveled (millions)	Vehicle Involvement Rate**
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	288,306	19
2010	58,000	10,770,054	541	286,527	20
2011	63,000	10,270,693	609	267,207	23

\*Rate per 100,000 registered vehicles.

\*\*Rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled.

Note: In 2011, the Federal Highway Administration implemented an enhanced methodology for estimating registered vehicles and vehicle miles traveled by vehicle type. These revisions were applied to data from 2007 through 2011. In some cases the changes were significant and should be taken into account when comparing registered vehicle counts and/or vehicle miles traveled for 2006 and earlier years with the numbers for 2007 and later years.

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 (80% of fatal crashes involving large trucks are multiple-vehicle crashes, compared with 58% for fatal crashes involving passenger vehicles).

In 45 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 8 percent of the crashes, the other vehicle was turning. In 28 percent, either the truck or the other vehicle was negotiating a curve. In 6 percent of fatal crashes, either the truck or the other vehicle was stopped or parked in a traffic lane (4% and 2%, respectively).

In 29 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 more than three times as often as the other vehicle (18% and 6%, respectively; Table 3).

Table 3

### Percentage of Principal Impact Points in Two-Vehicle Fatal Crashes Involving Large Trucks, 2011

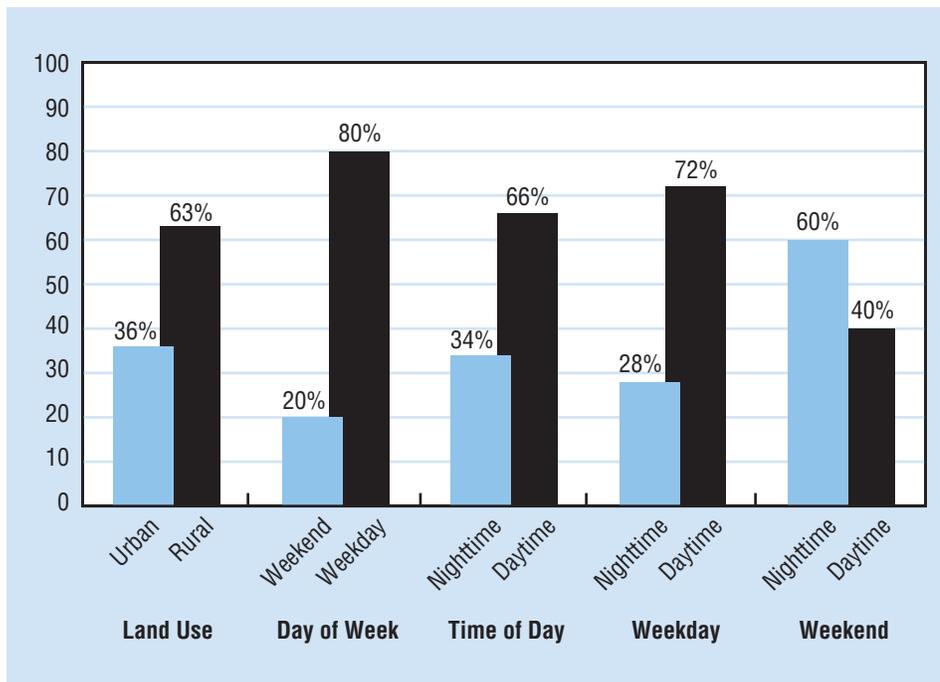
Impact Point on Large Truck	Impact Point on Other Vehicle (%)				
	Front	Left Side	Right Side	Rear	Total
Front	29	18	11	6	65
Left Side	8	1	0	0	9
Right Side	5	1	0	0	6
Rear	18	1	1	0	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100</b>

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

Eighty percent of the fatal crashes involving large trucks occurred on weekdays. Of those, 72 percent occurred during the daytime hours of 6 a.m. to 5:59 p.m. (Figure 1).

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), 2011



Note: Unknown within various categories are not shown.  
 Weekday: 6 a.m. Monday to 5:59 p.m. Friday  
 Weekend: 6 p.m. Friday to 5:59 a.m. Monday  
 Daytime: 6 a.m. to 5:59 p.m. Nighttime: 6 p.m. to 5:59 a.m.

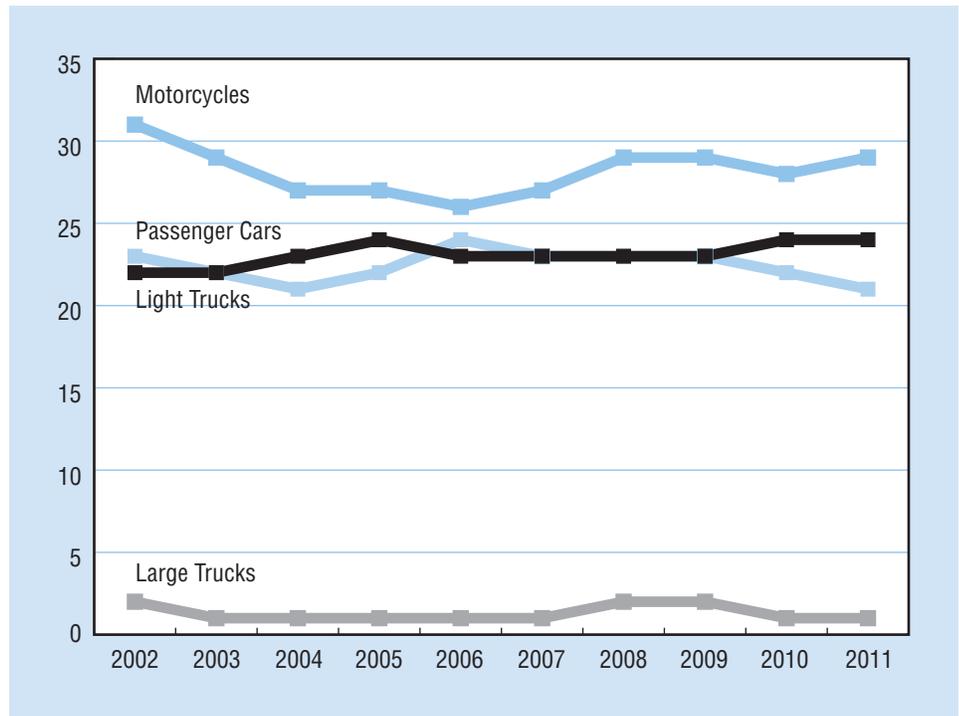
## Large-Truck Drivers

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 1 percent in 2011. For drivers of other types of vehicles involved in fatal crashes in 2011, the percentages of drivers with BAC levels .08 g/dL or higher were 24 percent for passenger cars, 21 percent for light trucks, and 29 percent for motorcycles (Figure 2).

*In 2011, large trucks were more than 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, 2002–2011**

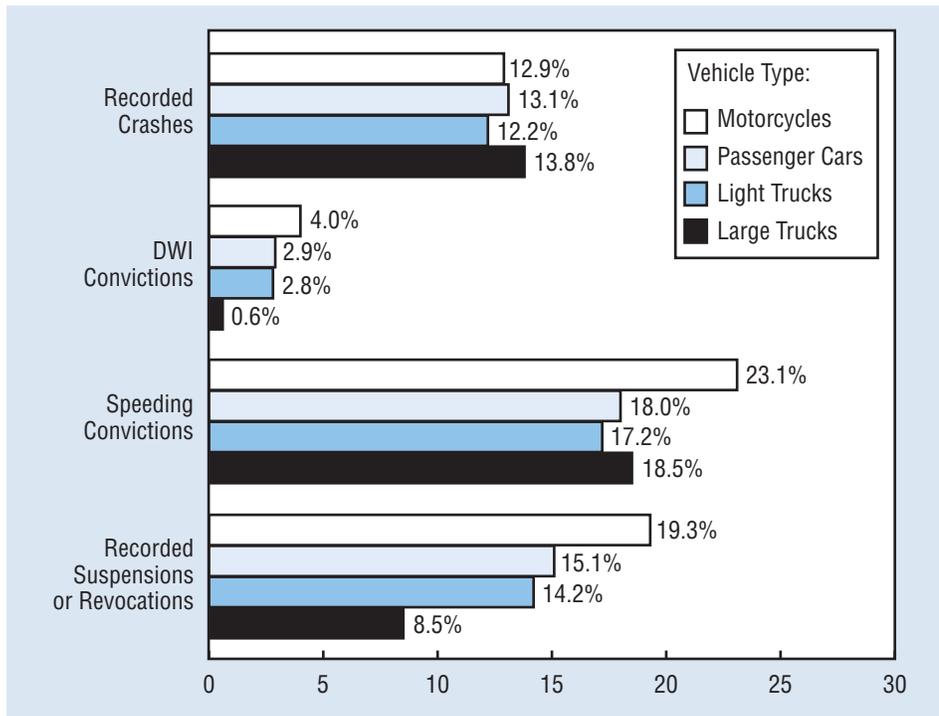
*Drivers of large trucks were less likely to have a previous license suspension or revocation than were passenger car drivers.*



Drivers of large trucks in fatal crashes were less likely to have a previous license suspension or revocation than were passenger car drivers (8.5% and 15.1%, respectively; Figure 3).

Nearly 19 percent of all large-truck drivers involved in fatal crashes in 2011 had at least one prior speeding conviction, compared to 18 percent of passenger car drivers involved in fatal crashes (Figure 3).

Figure 3  
**Previous Driving Records of Drivers Involved in Fatal Traffic Crashes, by Type of Vehicle, 2011**



Note: Excludes all drivers with previous records that were unknown.

Table 4 shows large-truck involvement in fatal crashes by State for 2011. The percentage of involvement ranged from 0 percent in Alaska to 17 percent in North Dakota. In 12 of the States, large-truck involvement was higher than 10 percent. The national average for large-truck involvement was 8 percent in 2011.

### 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](mailto:ncsaweb@dot.gov). General information on highway traffic safety can be accessed by Internet users at [www.nhtsa.gov/NCSA](http://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](http://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, 2011**

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	1,217	95	7.8	2.6
Alaska	92	0	0	0
Arizona	1,120	65	5.8	1.8
Arkansas	737	101	13.7	2.8
California	3,786	264	7.0	7.3
Colorado	587	46	7.8	1.3
Connecticut	293	14	4.8	0.4
Delaware	141	10	7.1	0.3
Dist of Columbia	29	2	6.9	0.1
Florida	3,298	201	6.1	5.6
Georgia	1,691	168	9.9	4.7
Hawaii	140	3	2.1	0.1
Idaho	216	18	8.3	0.5
Illinois	1,249	120	9.6	3.3
Indiana	1,044	130	12.5	3.6
Iowa	473	49	10.4	1.4
Kansas	544	59	10.8	1.6
Kentucky	1,005	88	8.8	2.4
Louisiana	936	81	8.7	2.2
Maine	169	17	10.1	0.5
Maryland	692	38	5.5	1.1
Massachusetts	460	28	6.1	0.8
Michigan	1,236	61	4.9	1.7
Minnesota	508	53	10.4	1.5
Mississippi	807	62	7.7	1.7
Missouri	1,001	95	9.5	2.6
Montana	264	25	9.5	0.7
Nebraska	257	29	11.3	0.8
Nevada	330	28	8.5	0.8
New Hampshire	120	8	6.7	0.2
New Jersey	877	57	6.5	1.6
New Mexico	420	46	11.0	1.3
New York	1,538	112	7.3	3.1
North Carolina	1,682	118	7.0	3.3
North Dakota	188	32	17.0	0.9
Ohio	1,438	113	7.9	3.1
Oklahoma	902	100	11.1	2.8
Oregon	436	48	11.0	1.3
Pennsylvania	1,782	163	9.1	4.5
Rhode Island	82	1	1.2	0.0
South Carolina	1,092	79	7.2	2.2
South Dakota	136	10	7.4	0.3
Tennessee	1,333	90	6.8	2.5
Texas	4,165	408	9.8	11.3
Utah	336	24	7.1	0.7
Vermont	67	6	9.0	0.2
Virginia	1,015	74	7.3	2.1
Washington	596	33	5.5	0.9
West Virginia	465	32	6.9	0.9
Wisconsin	790	77	9.7	2.1
Wyoming	163	27	16.6	0.7
<b>U.S. Total</b>	<b>43,945</b>	<b>3,608</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Puerto Rico	482	20	4.1	100.0

Note: Percentage of U.S. total for large trucks may not equal the sum of components due to independent rounding.