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

TRAFFIC SAFETY FACTS
2012 Data

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Large Trucks

In 2012, there were 3,921 people killed and 104,000 people injured in crashes involving large trucks (gross vehicle weight rating greater than 10,000 pounds) (Table 1). In the United States, 333,000 large trucks were involved in traffic crashes during 2012.

Fatalities in crashes involving large trucks showed a 4-percent increase from 3,781 in 2011 to 3,921 in 2012. Of these fatalities in 2012, 73 percent were occupants of other vehicles, 10 percent were nonoccupants, and 18 percent were occupants of large trucks. Between 2011 and 2012, fatalities in these crashes showed a 5-percent increase in the number of occupants of other vehicles killed and a 9-percent increase in the number of large-truck occupants killed. The number of nonoccupants killed decreased by 11 percent (Table 1).

In 2012, fatalities in crashes involving large trucks increased by 4 percent from 2011.

In 2012, there were 104,000 people injured in crashes involving large trucks—an increase of 18 percent from 88,000 in 2011. Of these people injured in 2012, 73 percent were occupants of other vehicles, 3 percent were nonoccupants, and 24 percent were occupants of large trucks. The 2012 percentages show non-significant change when compared to 2011. There was a 1-percentage-point increase in occupants of other vehicles injured and a 2-percentage-point decrease in large-truck occupants injured. The percentage of nonoccupants injured increased by 1 percentage point (Table 1).

Table 1
People Killed or Injured in Crashes Involving Large Trucks, 2011–2012

	2011		2012	
People Killed	**Number**	**Percentage of Total**	**Number**	**Percentage of Total**
Occupants of Large Trucks	640	17%	697	18%
— Single-Vehicle Crashes	*408*	*11%*	*424*	*11%*
— Multiple-Vehicle Crashes	*232*	*6%*	*273*	*7%*
Occupants of Other Vehicles in Crashes Involving Large Trucks	2,713	72%	2,843	73%
Nonoccupants (Pedestrians, Pedalcyclists, etc.)	428	11%	381	10%
Total	**3,781**	**100%**	**3,921**	**100%**
People Injured	**Number**	**Percentage of Total**	**Number**	**Percentage of Total**
Occupants of Large Trucks	23,000	26%	25,000	24%
— Single-Vehicle Crashes	*7,000*	*8%*	*9,000*	*9%*
— Multiple-Vehicle Crashes	*15,000*	*17%*	*17,000*	*16%*
Occupants of Other Vehicles in Crashes Involving Large Trucks	64,000	72%	76,000	73%
Nonoccupants (Pedestrians, Pedalcyclists, etc.)	2,000	2%	3,000	3%
Total	**88,000**	**100%**	**104,000**	**100%**

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

In 2012, large trucks accounted for 4 percent of all registered vehicles and 9 percent of the total vehicle miles traveled. In 2012, 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, 2003–2012

Year	Number of Large Trucks Involved in Fatal Crashes	Number of Large Trucks Registered	Vehicle Involvement Rate*	Vehicle Miles Traveled (millions)	Vehicle Involvement Rate**
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	3,633	10,270,693	35.37	267,594	1.36
2012	3,802	10,659,380	35.67	268,318	1.42
Year	**Number of Large Trucks Involved in Injury Crashes**	**Number of Large Trucks Registered**	**Vehicle Involvement Rate***	**Vehicle Miles Traveled (millions)**	**Vehicle Involvement Rate****
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	267,594	23
2012	77,000	10,659,380	719	268,318	29

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

Note: In 2012, 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 2012. 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

In 2012, 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 fatal crashes involving passenger vehicles).

In 46 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 12 percent, either the truck or the other vehicle was negotiating a curve. In 7 percent of fatal crashes, either the truck or the other vehicle was stopped or parked in a traffic lane (5% and 2%, respectively).

In 31 percent of the two-vehicle fatal crashes involving a large truck and another type of vehicle, both vehicles were struck in the front. The truck was struck in the rear more than three times as often as the other vehicle (20% and 6%, respectively; Table 3).

Table 3
Percentage of Two-Vehicle Crashes Involving Large Trucks, by Initial Impact Point of the Large Truck and Other Vehicle, 2012

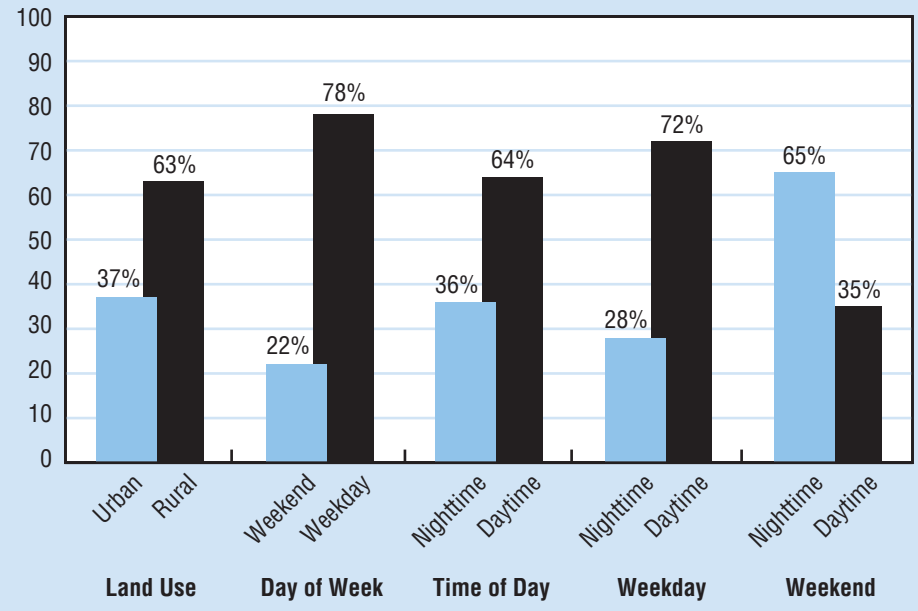
Impact Point on Large Truck	Initial Impact Point on Other Vehicle				
	Front	Left Side	Right Side	Rear	Total
Front	31%	14%	11%	6%	62%
Left Side	9%	1%	1%	0%	11%
Right Side	6%	1%	0%	0%	7%
Rear	19%	1%	0%	0%	20%
Total	**65%**	**17%**	**12%**	**6%**	**100%**

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

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

In 2012, large trucks were more than three times more likely than other vehicles to be struck in the rear in two-vehicle fatal crashes.

Figure 1
Percentage of Fatal Crashes Involving Large Trucks, by Land Use, Day of Week, Time of Day, Time of Day (Weekday), and Time of Day (Weekend), 2012



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.

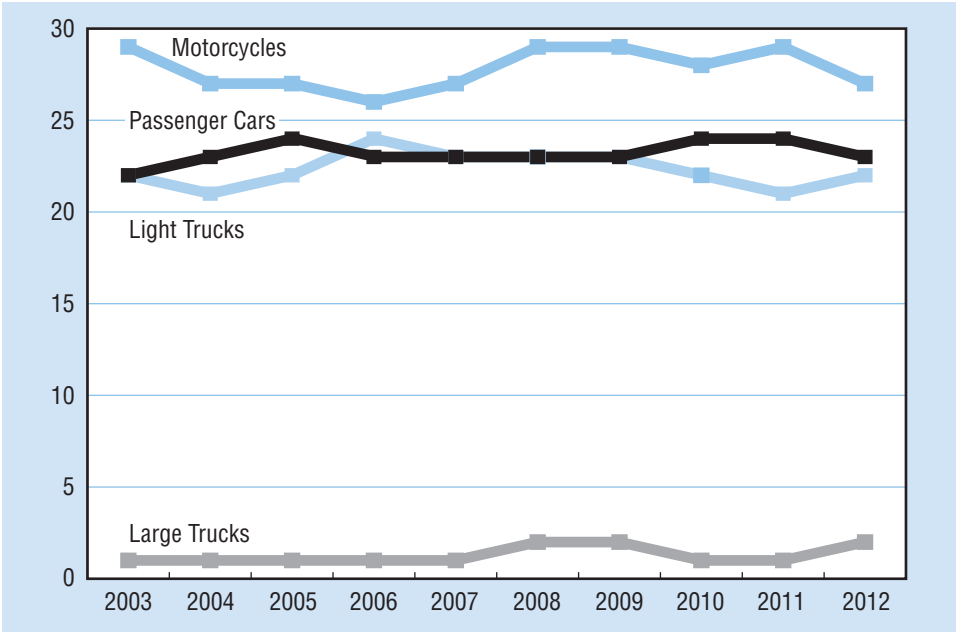
Large-Truck Drivers

The percentage of large-truck drivers involved in fatal crashes who had blood alcohol concentrations (BAC) of .08 grams per deciliter (g/dL) or higher was 2 percent in 2012. For drivers of other types of vehicles involved in fatal crashes in 2012, the percentages of drivers with BAC levels .08 g/dL or higher were 23 percent for passenger cars, 22 percent for light trucks, and 27 percent for motorcycles (Figure 2).

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

Figure 2

Estimated Proportions of Drivers in Fatal Crashes With BACs .08 g/dL or Greater, 2003–2012

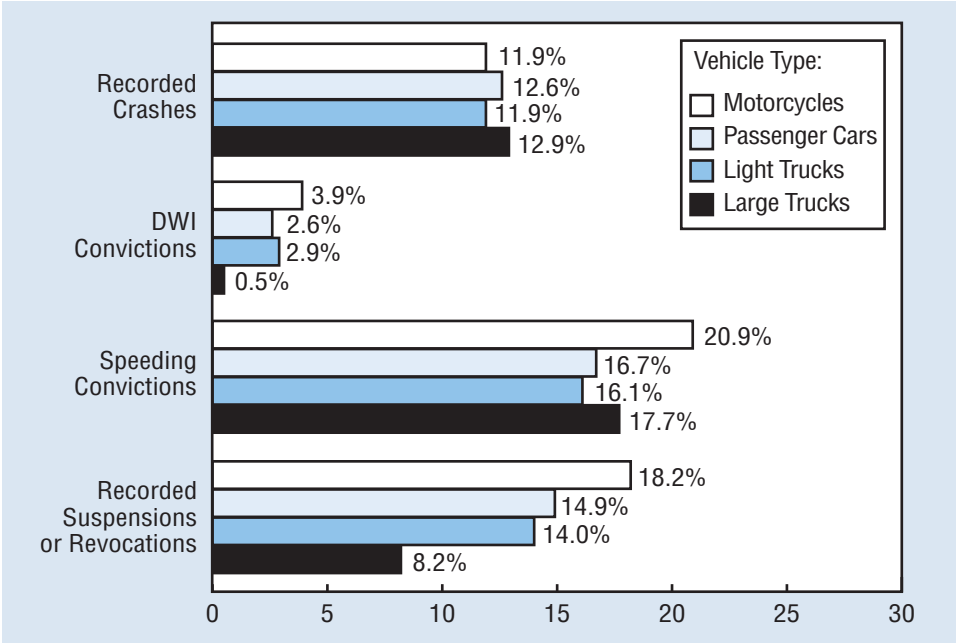


Drivers of large trucks in fatal crashes were less likely to have a previous license suspension or revocation than were passenger car drivers (8.2% and 14.9%, respectively; Figure 3).

Nearly 18 percent of all large-truck drivers involved in fatal crashes in 2012 had at least one prior speeding conviction, compared to almost 17 percent of passenger car drivers involved in fatal crashes (Figure 3).

Figure 3

Previous Driving Records of Drivers Involved in Fatal Traffic Crashes, by Vehicle Type, 2012



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

Table 4 shows large-truck involvement in fatal crashes by State for 2012. The percentage of involvement ranged from 3.1 percent in Massachusetts to 20.2 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 8.3 percent in 2012.

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.

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Table 4

Large-Truck Involvement in Fatal Crashes, by State, 2012

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	1,223	111	9.1%	2.9%
Alaska	83	4	4.8%	0.1%
Arizona	1,109	73	6.6%	1.9%
Arkansas	738	85	11.5%	2.2%
California	3,848	244	6.3%	6.4%
Colorado	635	51	8.0%	1.3%
Connecticut	336	14	4.2%	0.4%
Delaware	146	10	6.8%	0.3%
Dist of Columbia	21	1	4.8%	0.0%
Florida	3,428	194	5.7%	5.1%
Georgia	1,688	149	8.8%	3.9%
Hawaii	176	6	3.4%	0.2%
Idaho	244	17	7.0%	0.4%
Illinois	1,324	115	8.7%	3.0%
Indiana	1,112	115	10.3%	3.0%
Iowa	492	65	13.2%	1.7%
Kansas	534	59	11.0%	1.6%
Kentucky	1,029	88	8.6%	2.3%
Louisiana	952	102	10.7%	2.7%
Maine	215	10	4.7%	0.3%
Maryland	704	56	8.0%	1.5%
Massachusetts	451	14	3.1%	0.4%
Michigan	1,335	69	5.2%	1.8%
Minnesota	542	54	10.0%	1.4%
Mississippi	684	44	6.4%	1.2%
Missouri	1,106	89	8.0%	2.3%
Montana	250	11	4.4%	0.3%
Nebraska	285	42	14.7%	1.1%
Nevada	355	20	5.6%	0.5%
New Hampshire	147	6	4.1%	0.2%
New Jersey	819	61	7.4%	1.6%
New Mexico	472	39	8.3%	1.0%
New York	1,576	97	6.2%	2.6%
North Carolina	1,747	132	7.6%	3.5%
North Dakota	218	44	20.2%	1.2%
Ohio	1,578	146	9.3%	3.8%
Oklahoma	943	124	13.1%	3.3%
Oregon	426	28	6.6%	0.7%
Pennsylvania	1,808	175	9.7%	4.6%
Rhode Island	88	3	3.4%	0.1%
South Carolina	1,163	79	6.8%	2.1%
South Dakota	175	16	9.1%	0.4%
Tennessee	1,379	107	7.8%	2.8%
Texas	4,607	543	11.8%	14.3%
Utah	295	17	5.8%	0.4%
Vermont	97	6	6.2%	0.2%
Virginia	1,031	89	8.6%	2.3%
Washington	602	44	7.3%	1.2%
West Virginia	451	47	10.4%	1.2%
Wisconsin	809	60	7.4%	1.6%
Wyoming	161	27	16.8%	0.7%
U.S. Total	**45,637**	**3,802**	**8.3%**	**100%**
Puerto Rico	432	20	4.6%	100%

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