

# Traffic Safety Facts

2007 Data

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**NHTSA**

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## Large Trucks

*“One out of nine traffic fatalities in 2007 resulted from a collision involving a large truck.”*

In 2007, 413,000 large trucks (gross vehicle weight rating greater than 10,000 pounds) were involved in traffic crashes in the United States; 4,584 were involved in fatal crashes. A total of 4,808 people died (12% of all the traffic fatalities reported in 2007) and an additional 101,000 were injured in those crashes.

In 2006, large trucks accounted for 4 percent of all registered vehicles and 7 percent of total vehicle miles traveled (2007 registered vehicle and vehicle miles traveled data not available). In 2007, large trucks accounted for 8 percent of all vehicles involved in fatal crashes and 4 percent of all vehicles involved in injury and property-damage-only crashes.

One out of nine traffic fatalities in 2007 resulted from a collision involving a large truck.

Table 1  
**Involvement in Fatal and Injury Crashes and Involvement Rates for Large Trucks, 1997-2007**

Year	Number of Large Trucks Involved in Fatal Crashes	Number of Large Trucks Registered	Vehicle Involvement Rate*	Vehicle Miles Traveled (millions)	Vehicle Involvement Rate**
1997	4,917	7,083,326	69.42	191,477	2.57
1998	4,955	7,732,270	64.08	196,380	2.52
1999	4,920	7,791,426	63.15	202,688	2.43
2000	4,995	8,022,649	62.26	205,520	2.43
2001	4,823	7,857,675	61.38	209,032	2.31
2002	4,587	7,927,280	57.86	214,603	2.14
2003	4,721	7,756,888	60.86	217,917	2.17
2004	4,902	8,171,364	59.99	220,792	2.22
2005	4,951	8,481,999	58.37	222,523	2.22
2006	4,766	8,819,007	54.04	223,037	2.14
2007	4,584	-	-	-	-

Year	Number of Large Trucks Involved in Injury Crashes	Number of Large Trucks Registered	Vehicle Involvement Rate*	Vehicle Miles Traveled (millions)	Vehicle Involvement Rate**
1997	96,000	7,083,326	1,349	191,477	50
1998	89,000	7,732,270	1,146	196,380	45
1999	101,000	7,791,426	1,292	202,688	50
2000	101,000	8,022,649	1,253	205,520	49
2001	90,000	7,857,675	1,143	209,032	43
2002	94,000	7,927,280	1,189	214,603	44
2003	89,000	7,756,888	1,145	217,917	41
2004	87,000	8,171,364	1,062	220,792	39
2005	82,000	8,481,999	971	222,523	37
2006	80,000	8,819,007	911	223,037	36
2007	76,000	-	-	-	-

\*Rate per 100,000 registered vehicles. \*\*Rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled - = not available  
Source: Vehicle miles traveled and registered vehicles – Federal Highway Administration.

Of the fatalities that resulted from crashes involving large trucks, 75 percent were occupants of another vehicle, 8 percent were nonoccupants, and 17 percent were occupants of a large truck.

Of the injuries that resulted from crashes involving large trucks, 75 percent were occupants of another vehicle, 2 percent were nonoccupants, and 23 percent were occupants of a large truck.

Table 2  
**Fatalities and Injuries in Crashes Involving Large Trucks, 2007**

<b>FARS Type of Fatality</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage of Total</b>
Occupants of Large Trucks	802	17
-- Single-Vehicle Crashes	502	10
-- Multiple-Vehicle Crashes	300	6
Occupants of Other Vehicles in Crashes Involving Large Trucks	3,601	75
Nonoccupants (Pedestrians, Pedalcyclists, etc.)	405	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,808</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>GES Type of Injury</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage of Total</b>
Occupants of Large Trucks	23,000	23
-- Single-Vehicle Crashes	10,000	10
-- Multiple-Vehicle Crashes	13,000	13
Occupants of Other Vehicles in Crashes Involving Large Trucks	75,000	75
Nonoccupants (Pedestrians, Pedalcyclists, etc.)	2,000	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>100</b>

*“In 2007, large trucks were 2.7 times more likely than other vehicles to be struck in the rear in two-vehicle fatal crashes.”*

Large trucks were much 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 all large trucks involved in fatal crashes, compared with 59% of all passenger vehicles).

In 28 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 3.2 times as often as the other vehicle (19% and 6%, respectively).

Table 3  
**Percentage of Principal Impact Points in Two-Vehicle Fatal Crashes Involving Large Trucks, 2007**

<b>Impact Point on Large Truck</b>	<b>Impact Point on Other Vehicle</b>				<b>Total</b>
	<b>Front</b>	<b>Left Side</b>	<b>Right Side</b>	<b>Rear</b>	
Front	28	16	13	6	63
Left Side	9	2	1	0	11
Right Side	6	1	0	0	7
Rear	18	1	0	0	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100</b>

*“In 2007, 1 percent of the drivers of large trucks involved in fatal crashes had BAC levels above .08.”*

In half (51%) of the two-vehicle fatal crashes involving a large truck and another type of vehicle, both vehicles were proceeding straight at the time of the crash. In 11 percent of the crashes, the other vehicle was turning. In 9 percent, either the truck or the other vehicle was negotiating a curve. In 7 percent, either the truck or the other vehicle was stopped or parked in a traffic lane (5% and 2%, respectively).

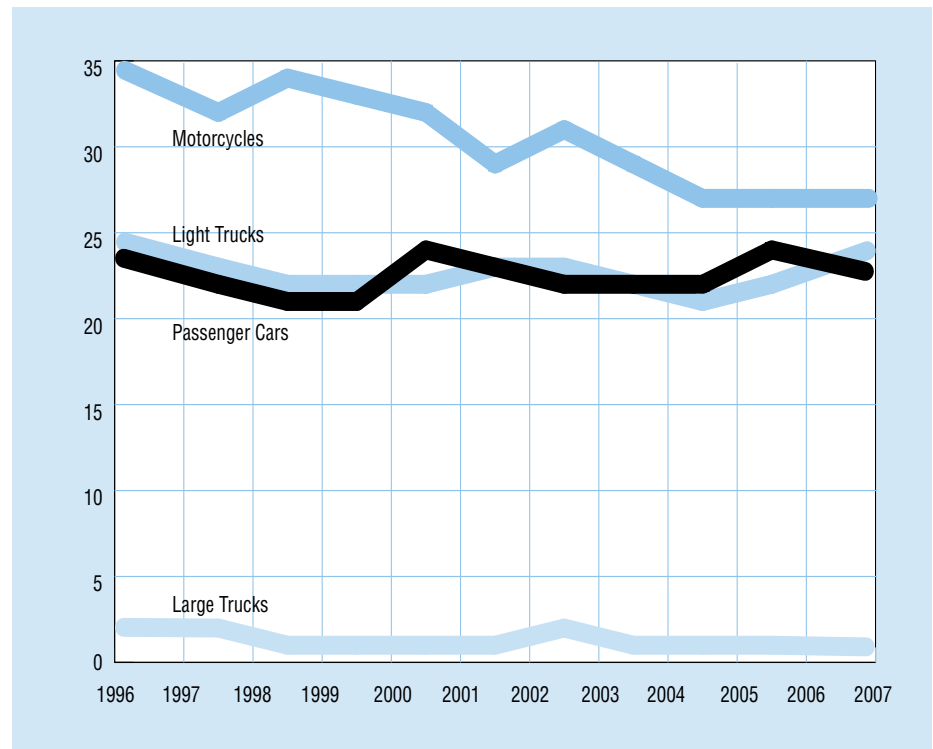
Most of the fatal crashes involving large trucks occurred in rural areas (62%), during the daytime (66%), and on weekdays (78%). During the week, 74 percent of the crashes occurred during the daytime (6 a.m. to 5:59 p.m.). On weekends, 62 percent occurred at night (6 p.m. to 5:59 a.m.).

The percentage of large-truck drivers involved in fatal crashes who had a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 grams per deciliter (g/dL) or higher was 1 percent in 2007. For drivers of other types of vehicles involved in fatal crashes in 2007, the percentages of drivers with BAC levels .08 g/dL or higher were 23 percent for passenger cars, 23 percent for light trucks, and 27 percent for motorcycles.

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

Figure 1

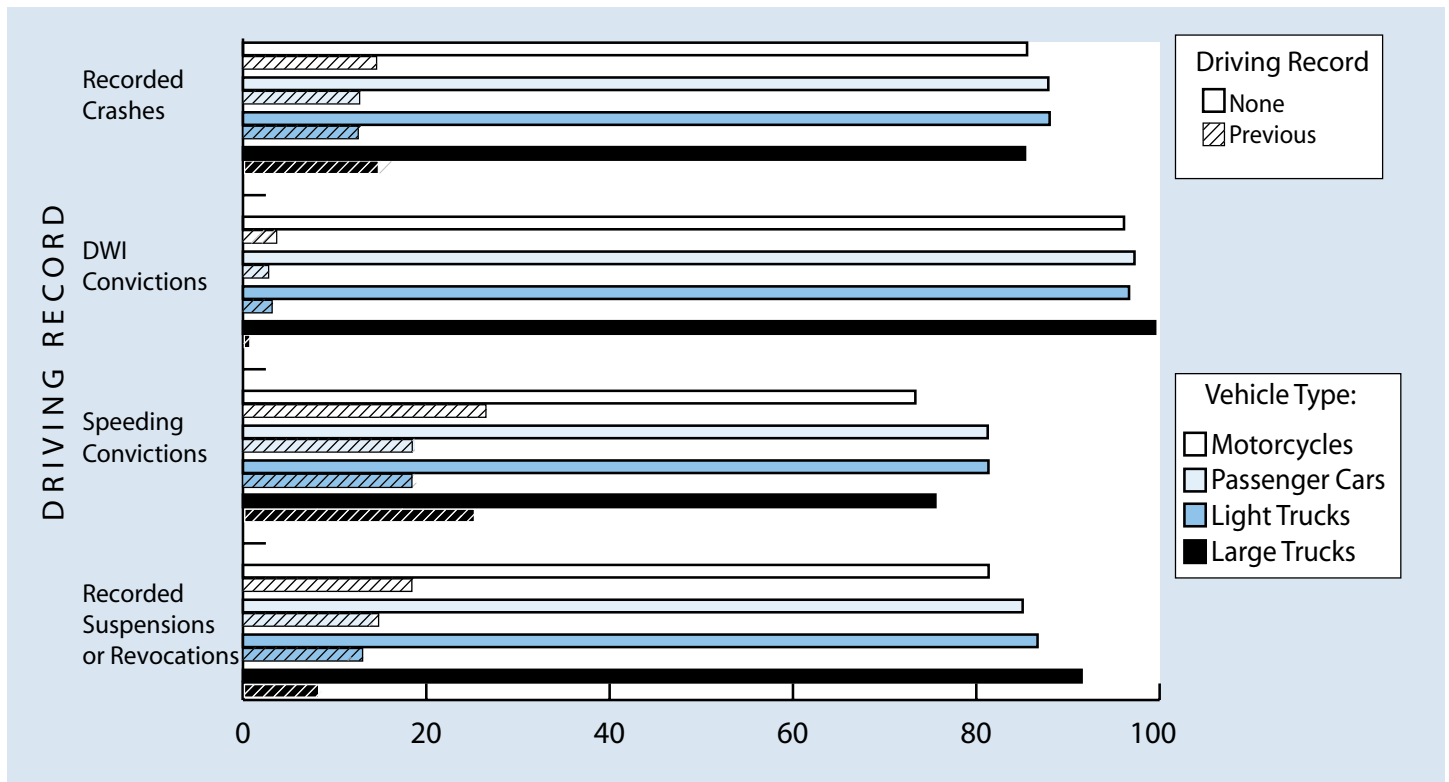
**Estimated Proportions of Drivers in Fatal Crashes with BAC .08 g/dL or Greater, 1997-2007**



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

Nearly one-fourth (24%) of all large-truck drivers involved in fatal crashes in 2007 had at least one prior speeding conviction, compared to 19 percent of passenger car drivers involved in fatal crashes.

**Figure 2**  
**Previous Driving Records of Drivers Involved in Fatal Traffic Crashes, by Type of Vehicle, 2007**



**For more information:**

Information on traffic fatalities is available from the National Center for Statistics and Analysis, NVS-424, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590. NCSA can be contacted at 800-934-8517. Fax messages should be sent to 202-366-7078. General information on highway traffic safety can be accessed by Internet users at [www.nhtsa.gov/portal/site/nhtsa/ncsa](http://www.nhtsa.gov/portal/site/nhtsa/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 *Overview*, *Alcohol*, *African American*, *Bicyclists and Other Cyclists* (formerly titled *Pedalcyclists*), *Children*, *Hispanic*, *Motorcycles*, *Occupant Protection*, *Older Population*, *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](http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Cats)

Table 4  
**Large-Truck Involvement in Fatal Crashes by State, 2007**

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	1,471	127	8.6	2.8
Alaska	118	6	5.1	0.1
Arizona	1,448	94	6.5	2.1
Arkansas	860	110	12.8	2.4
California	5,503	361	6.6	7.9
Colorado	789	77	9.8	1.7
Connecticut	384	24	6.3	0.5
Delaware	159	6	3.8	0.1
Dist of Columbia	48	2	4.2	0.0
Florida	4,566	288	6.3	6.3
Georgia	2,301	212	9.2	4.6
Hawaii	171	3	1.8	0.1
Idaho	291	26	8.9	0.6
Illinois	1,710	148	8.7	3.2
Indiana	1,240	142	11.5	3.1
Iowa	578	70	12.1	1.5
Kansas	624	74	11.9	1.6
Kentucky	1,188	103	8.7	2.2
Louisiana	1,300	115	8.8	2.5
Maine	232	20	8.6	0.4
Maryland	849	63	7.4	1.4
Massachusetts	551	26	4.7	0.6
Michigan	1,543	114	7.4	2.5
Minnesota	783	72	9.2	1.6
Mississippi	1,117	70	6.3	1.5
Missouri	1,331	138	10.4	3.0
Montana	328	29	8.8	0.6
Nebraska	358	44	12.3	1.0
Nevada	514	25	4.9	0.5
New Hampshire	181	10	5.5	0.2
New Jersey	1,003	70	7.0	1.5
New Mexico	498	60	12.0	1.3
New York	1,847	146	7.9	3.2
North Carolina	2,224	151	6.8	3.3
North Dakota	124	13	10.5	0.3
Ohio	1,749	124	7.1	2.7
Oklahoma	983	94	9.6	2.1
Oregon	585	52	8.9	1.1
Pennsylvania	2,163	214	9.9	4.7
Rhode Island	79	6	7.6	0.1
South Carolina	1,400	80	5.7	1.7
South Dakota	176	14	8.0	0.3
Tennessee	1,643	146	8.9	3.2
Texas	4,585	455	9.9	9.9
Utah	372	36	9.7	0.8
Vermont	86	4	4.7	0.1
Virginia	1,359	105	7.7	2.3
Washington	787	71	9.0	1.5
West Virginia	544	45	8.3	1.0
Wisconsin	1,006	78	7.8	1.7
Wyoming	177	21	11.9	0.5
<b>U.S. Total</b>	<b>55,926</b>	<b>4,584</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Puerto Rico	616	19	3.1	100.0

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