

2017 Liberty Mutual Workplace Safety Index



The Liberty Mutual Workplace Safety Index ranks the top 10 causes of disabling work-related injuries and their direct costs.

U.S. businesses spend more than a billion dollars a week on serious, nonfatal workplace injuries.

When it comes to managing risk in the workplace, knowledge is power. The *Liberty Mutual Workplace Safety Index* helps employers, risk managers and safety practitioners make workplaces safer by identifying critical risk areas so that businesses can better allocate safety resources. Developed annually by the Liberty Mutual Research Institute for Safety, the index ranks the top 10 causes of serious, nonfatal workplace injuries and their direct costs to U.S. businesses.

According to the *2017 Liberty Mutual Workplace Safety Index*, serious, nonfatal workplace injuries amounted to nearly \$60 billion in direct U.S. workers compensation costs. This translates into more than a billion dollars a week spent by businesses on these injuries.

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Liberty Mutual
RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR SAFETY

Top 10 Causes and Direct Costs of the Most Disabling U.S. Workplace Injuries^{1,2}



Top 10 Injury Causes

Overexertion involving outside sources ranked first among the leading causes of disabling injury. This event category, which includes injuries related to lifting, pushing, pulling, holding, carrying or throwing objects, cost businesses \$13.79 billion in direct costs and accounted for 23 percent of the overall national burden. *Falls on same level* ranked second with direct costs of \$10.62 billion and accounted for 17.7 percent of the total injury burden. *Falls to a lower level* ranked third at \$5.50 billion and 9.2 percent of the burden, and *struck by object or equipment* ranked fourth at \$4.43 billion and 7.4 percent. *Other exertions or bodily reactions* ranked fifth at \$3.89 billion and 6.5 percent of the total injury burden. These top five injury causes accounted for 63.8 percent of the total cost burden.

The remaining five injury causes combined accounted for 19.5 percent of the total direct cost of disabling injuries. These included: *roadway incidents involving motorized land vehicle*; *slip or trip without fall*; *caught in/compressed by equipment or objects*; *struck against objects or equipment*; and *repetitive motions involving micro-tasks*.

Direct costs of all disabling work-related injuries equaled \$59.87 billion, with the top 10 causes comprising 83.4 percent — or \$49.92 billion of the total cost burden.

Scientific Methodology

The *Liberty Mutual Workplace Safety Index* is developed based on information from Liberty Mutual, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the National Academy of Social Insurance. Liberty Mutual researchers examine BLS injury data to determine which events caused employees to miss six or more days of work and then rank those events by total workers compensation costs.

The Liberty Mutual Research Institute for Safety is owned and operated by Liberty Mutual Insurance, a leading, diversified, global insurer. To learn more about Liberty Mutual or the science behind the Research Institute, visit www.libertymutualinsurance.com.

¹The 2017 *Liberty Mutual Workplace Safety Index* is based on 2014 injury data.
²Due to a change in BLS coding, Index series 2013–2017 is not directly comparable to Index series 2000–2012.