

2016 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 the most disabling, nonfatal workplace injuries.

Whether you are a small business owner or a risk manager at a large corporation, you know the importance of safety in your workplace. 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 *2016 Liberty Mutual Workplace Safety Index*, the most disabling, nonfatal workplace injuries amounted to nearly \$62 billion in direct U.S. workers compensation costs. This translates into more than a billion dollars a week spent by businesses on these injuries.

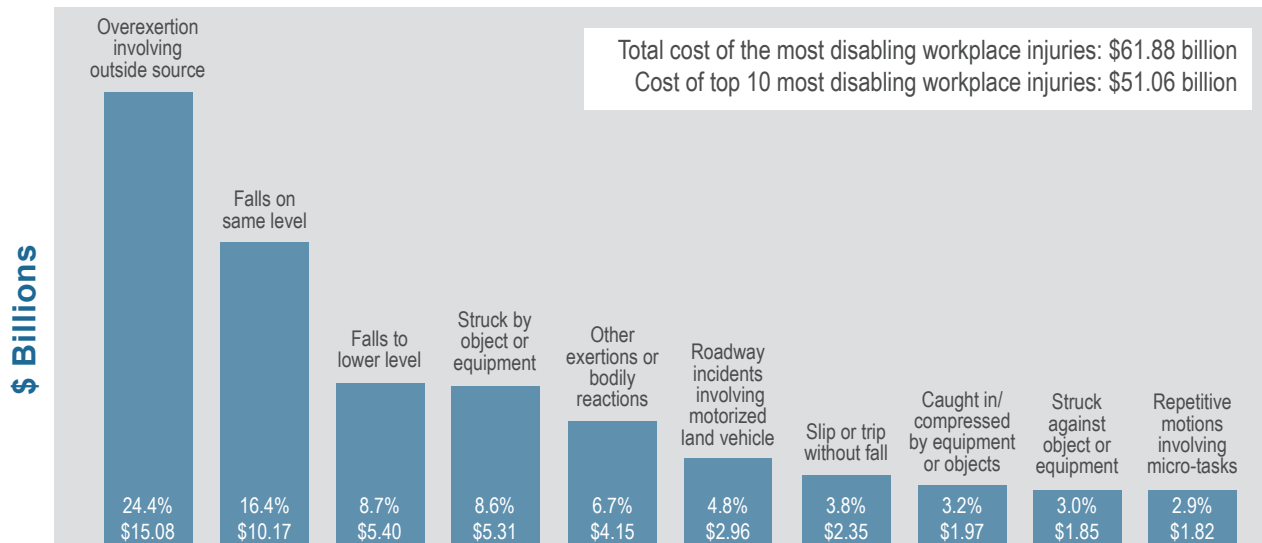
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FROM RESEARCH TO REALITY®



Liberty Mutual
RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR SAFETY

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



2016 Liberty Mutual Workplace Safety Index (based on 2013 injury data)

Top 10 Injury Causes³

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 \$15.08 billion in direct costs and accounted for nearly a quarter of the overall national burden. *Falls on same level* ranked second with direct costs of \$10.17 billion and accounted for 16.4 percent of the total injury burden. *Falls to a lower level* ranked third at \$5.4 billion and 8.7 percent of the burden, and *struck by object or equipment* ranked fourth at \$5.31 billion and 8.6 percent. *Other exertions or bodily reactions* ranked fifth at \$4.15 billion and 6.7 percent of the total injury burden. These top five injury causes accounted for 64.8 percent of the total cost burden.

The Liberty Mutual Research Institute for Safety is owned and operated by Liberty Mutual Insurance a leading, diversified, global insurer. To find out more about Liberty Mutual Insurance and the award-winning science of the Research Institute, visit www.libertymutualinsurance.com.

The remaining five injury causes combined accounted for 17.7 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 \$61.88 billion, with the top 10 causes comprising 82.5 percent — or \$51.06 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.

1 The 2016 *Liberty Mutual Workplace Safety Index* is based on 2013 injury data.
 2 Based on release date changes, this year's index is titled *2016 Liberty Mutual Workplace Safety Index* and does not represent a break in the series.
 3 Due to a new BLS coding system implemented in 2011, the latest index series (2013, 2014, 2016) is not directly comparable to the prior series (2000 – 2012).