

2014 Liberty Mutual Workplace Safety Index



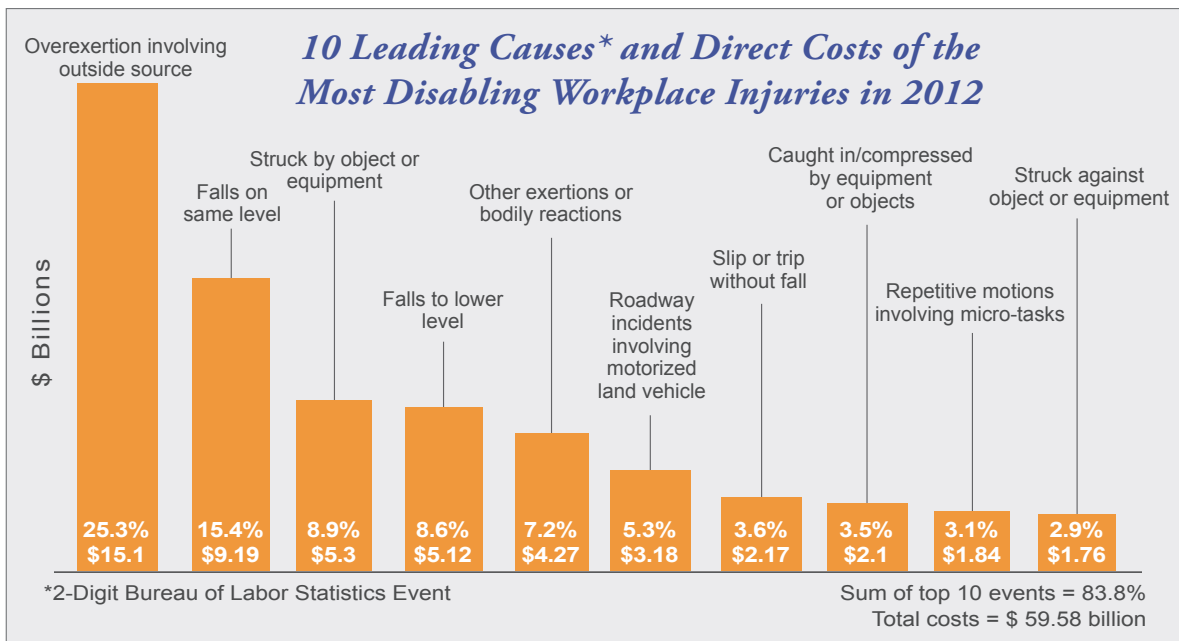
According to the *2014 Liberty Mutual Workplace Safety Index*, the most disabling workplace injuries and illnesses in 2012 amounted to nearly \$60 billion in direct U.S. workers compensation costs. This translates into over a billion dollars a week spent by businesses on the most disabling injuries.

In its 15th year, the *Liberty Mutual Workplace Safety Index* provides an annual ranking of the top 10 causes of serious, nonfatal workplace injuries based on information from Liberty Mutual, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), and the National Academy of Social Insurance. Researchers at the Liberty Mutual Research Institute for Safety examine BLS injury data to determine which events caused an employee to miss six or more days of work and then rank those events by total workers compensation costs.

The *2014 Liberty Mutual Workplace Safety Index* provides statistics for injuries that occurred in 2012, the most recent year for which data are available. The second in a new series reflecting a significant change in the BLS' injury event coding,¹ the latest *Index* shows that in 2012, the most disabling injuries and illnesses amounted to \$59.58 billion.

¹Beginning in 2011, the BLS introduced a new coding scheme with several new categories and revised the definitions for most categories. Institute researchers modified the Workplace Safety Index to incorporate these revisions. Among the changes, many of the new BLS categories are clearer, which makes some events, like slipping and tripping without a fall, easier to discern. Because of these modifications, the new series (2013 and 2014) are not directly comparable to those of the prior series.





Note: A PDF containing more detailed information on the updated U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics occupational injury and illness classification system can be found in the August 2012 Monthly Labor Review, available at <http://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2012/08/art3full.pdf>.

Top Five Injury Causes in 2012

Overexertion involving outside sources was ranked first among the leading causes of disabling injury. This event category, which includes injuries related to lifting, pushing, pulling, holding, carrying, or throwing, cost businesses \$15.1 billion in direct costs and accounted for more than one quarter of the overall national burden. *Falls on same level* ranked second. With direct costs of \$9.19 billion, this category accounted for 15.4 percent of the total injury burden. *Struck by object or equipment* ranked third at \$5.3 billion in costs and 8.9 percent of the burden, and *falls to lower level* ranked fourth at \$5.12 billion and 8.6 percent. *Other exertions or bodily reactions* ranked fifth at \$4.27 billion and 7.2 percent of the total injury burden. This category includes injuries resulting from bending, crawling, reaching, twisting, climbing, stepping, kneeling, sitting, standing, or walking (and no longer includes slipping or tripping without falling). These top five injury causes accounted for 65.4 percent of the total 2012 cost burden.

Remaining Injury Causes in 2012

The remaining five injury causes in 2012 combined accounted for 18.4 percent of the direct cost of disabling injuries: *roadway incidents involving motorized land vehicle* represented 5.3 percent of the total injury burden at \$3.18 billion; *slip or trip without fall* accounted for 3.6 percent at \$2.17 billion; moving up one ranking from last year's Index, *caught in/compressed by equipment or objects* accounted for 3.5 percent of the total injury burden at \$2.1 billion; *repetitive motions involving micro-tasks* accounted for 3.1 percent at \$1.84 billion; and *struck against object or equipment* accounted for 2.9 percent at \$1.76 billion.

Overall, these top 10 cause categories comprised 83.8 percent of the total cost burden of disabling work-related injuries reported in 2012.

To learn more about the Liberty Mutual Research Institute for Safety and its programs, or to download Scientific Updates and our Annual Report of Scientific Activities, visit our website at www.libertymutual.com/researchinstitute.