

Condition of Missouri Bridges Improves

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) - Missouri has made progress in improving its bridges in recent years. But the state still ranks near the top in the number of bridges that are in poor condition and lack structural redundancies to guard against collapse.

Federal figures show Missouri had 687 bridges that were both structurally deficient and "fracture critical," meaning they are designed in a way that could risk collapse if a single, vital component fails.

That ranked as the third largest number nationally behind only Iowa and Nebraska. And it was double the percentage of bridges nationally that were both structurally deficient and fracture critical.

But Missouri is improving.

The Missouri Department of Transportation says that list has been reduced by 47 bridges since it was submitted to the federal government last year.

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