



Analysis of Work Related Vehicle Fatalities 2011

This report is based on information gathered by HSA inspectors for work-related vehicle fatality investigations in 2011¹. By law, employers are required to report work related deaths to the Authority².

Summary

There were a total of **54** work related deaths reported to the HSA in 2011¹. **25** of these deaths involved work related vehicles (WRV) (46%^{*}). **20** of these deaths were workplace transport deaths (80%⁺) and **5** (20%⁺) were work related road safety incidents, including driving for work and working on or near the road.

*= Percentage based on total deaths.

+ = Percentage based on Work Related Vehicle Deaths only.

Of the twenty five people killed:

- **2** were Female.
- **21** were Irish, **3** were "Other EU" & **1** outside EU.
- **8** people were aged in the category 65 – 99.
- **3** people were killed using Quad Bikes (ATV's).
- July had the highest number of WRV deaths with **5** people being killed in this month alone.
- Thursday was the worst day for WRV deaths with **5** of the 25 people being killed on this day.
- The Munster region had the highest incidence of WRV deaths (**11**) during 2011. Five (**5**) of which occurred in Cork.

The top two causes of the 25 work related vehicle deaths identified, were (1) being hit or run over by a vehicle, followed by (2) being crushed by a vehicle (see Figure 1). 19 people (76%⁺) died on the

day of the incident. At the time of the work related vehicle incidents, 7 (28%⁺) deaths can be attributed to vehicles reversing, and 4 (16%⁺) deaths to maintenance operations. Heavy Plant was the main category of vehicle involved in vehicle related deaths in 2011, accounting for 16%⁺ of all deaths (Figure 3). In both of the deaths involving tractors, the victims were male aged in the 65-99 age category.

The 65 – 99 year age bracket was the main group affected by work related vehicle deaths, accounting for 8 (32%⁺) of the deaths (Figure 4). Employees accounted for 14 (56%⁺) of the deaths. Self-employed people accounted for 9 (36%⁺) of the deaths (Figure 5). One member of the public died as a result of a Work Related Vehicle incident.

Cork, Limerick and Galway were the three counties with the highest number of workplace transport deaths (Figure 6). Thursday was the worst day for workplace transport deaths (Figure 7). July was the month with the most workplace transport deaths (Figure 8).

The majority of deaths occurred in small & micro businesses 88%⁺ (Figure 9).

In the majority of cases the victim had more than 10 years' experience in the sector (Figures 10, 11 and 12) but in 28%⁺ of the cases the victim was only working at the accident location less than a month. Two victims had less than 1 weeks experience in their work role

¹ Official recorded Health and Safety Authority fatality figure

² Safety Health & Welfare at Work (General Applications) Regulations, 1993: Part X: Notification of Accidents and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 58-63

Figure 1: Work Related Vehicle Death Causal Factors 2011

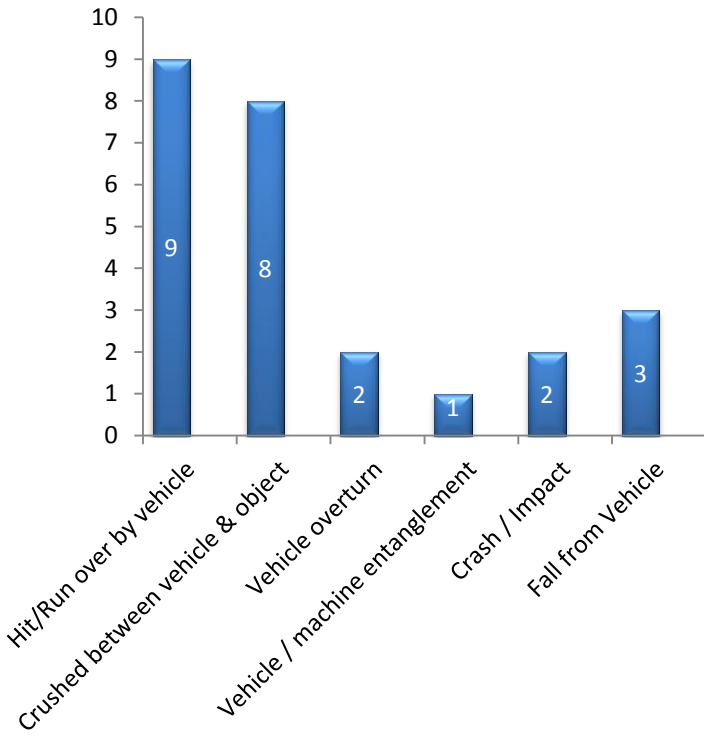


Figure 3: Work Related Transport Deaths 2011, Main Vehicle/Machine Types involved in Deaths

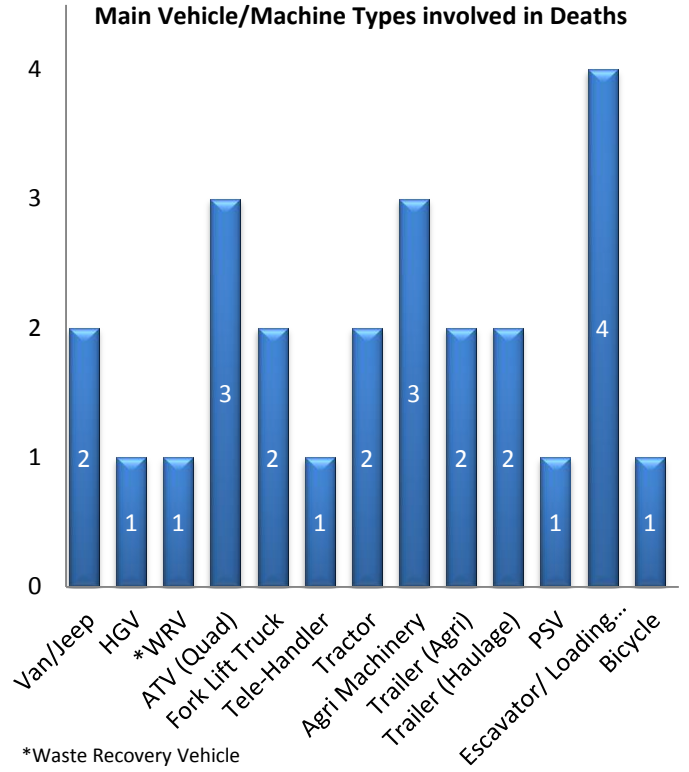


Figure 2: Workplace Related Transport Deaths 2011, Vehicle Activity at Time of the Incident

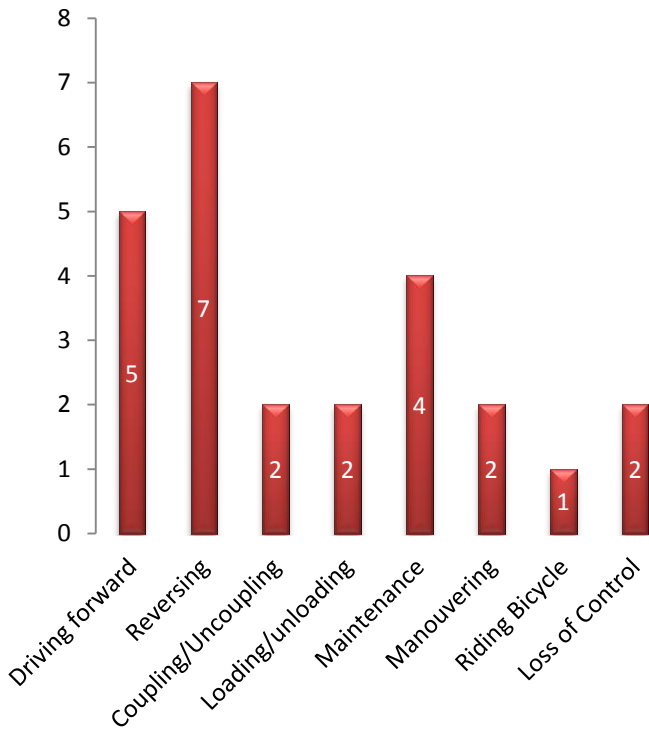


Figure 4: Age Category of People killed by Workplace Transport in 2011

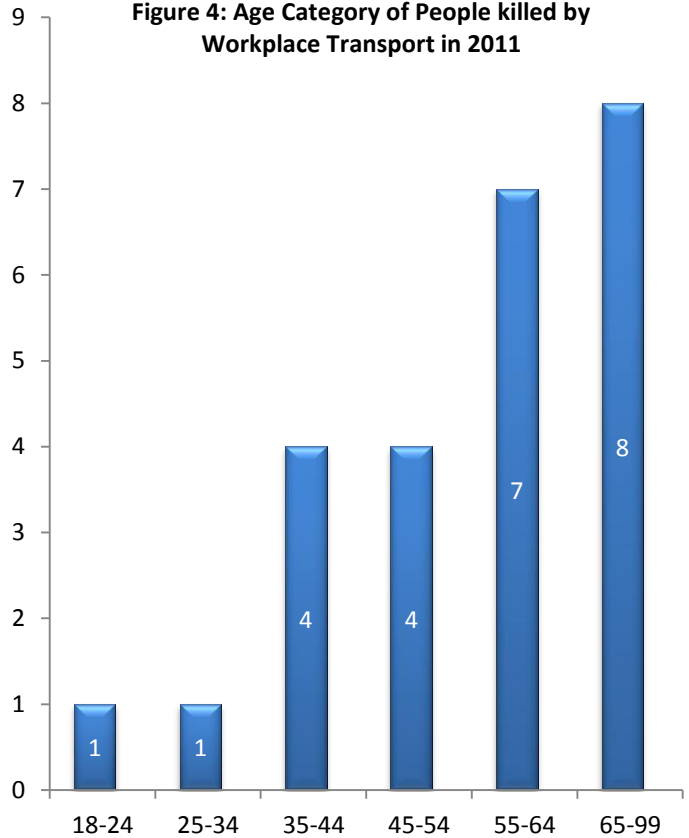


Figure 5: Workplace Transport Deaths 2011, Status of Person Killed

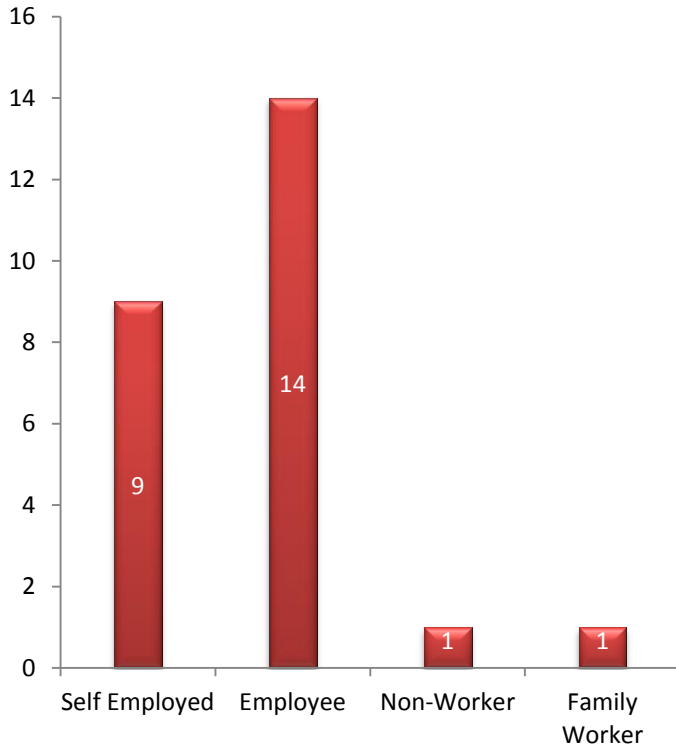


Figure 7: Workplace Transport Deaths 2011 per Day of the Week

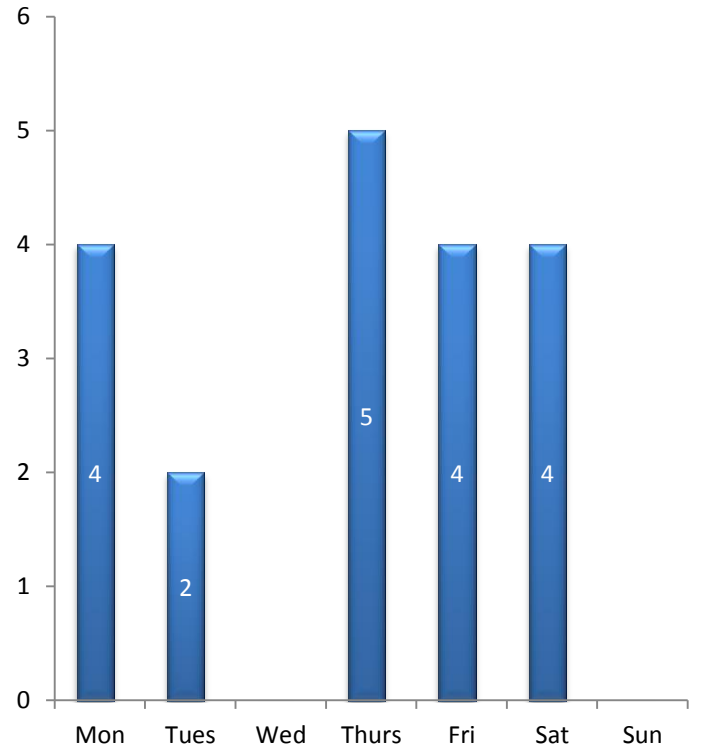


Figure 6: Workplace Transport Deaths 2011 per County

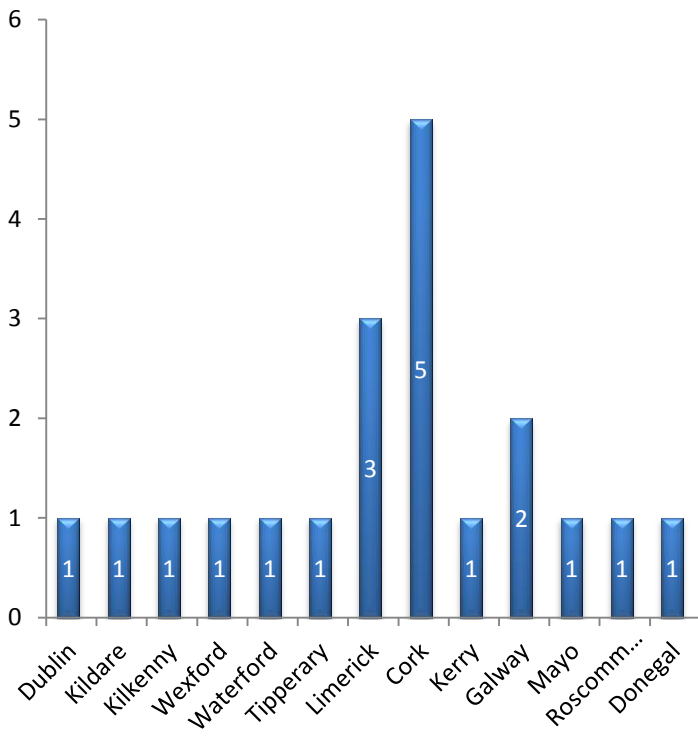


Figure 8: Workplace Transport Deaths 2011 per Month

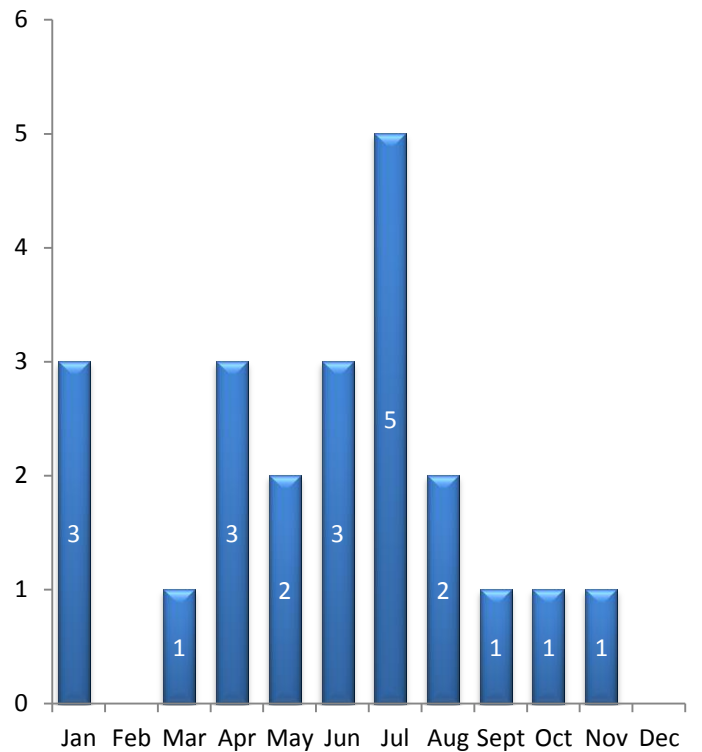


Figure 9: Workplace Transport Deaths 2011, deaths per organisation size

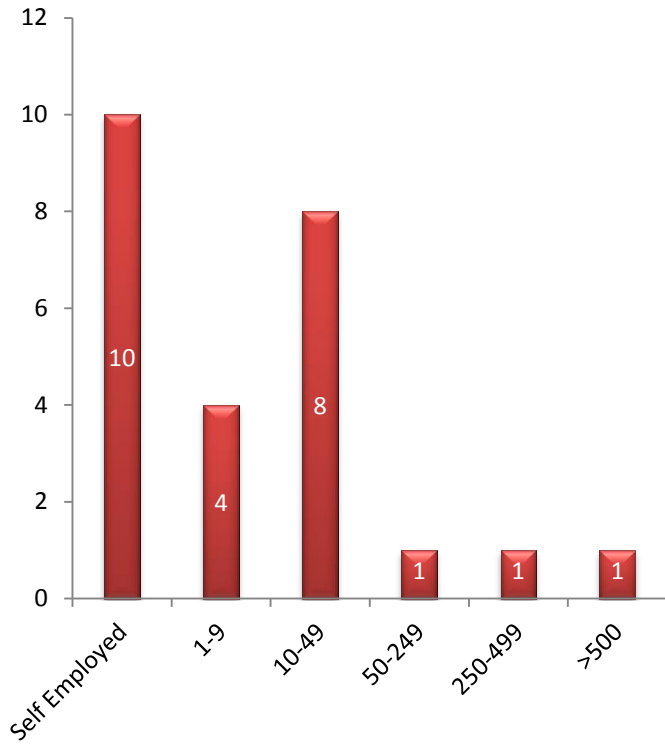


Figure 11: Workplace Transport Deaths 2011, Victim work experience in Role

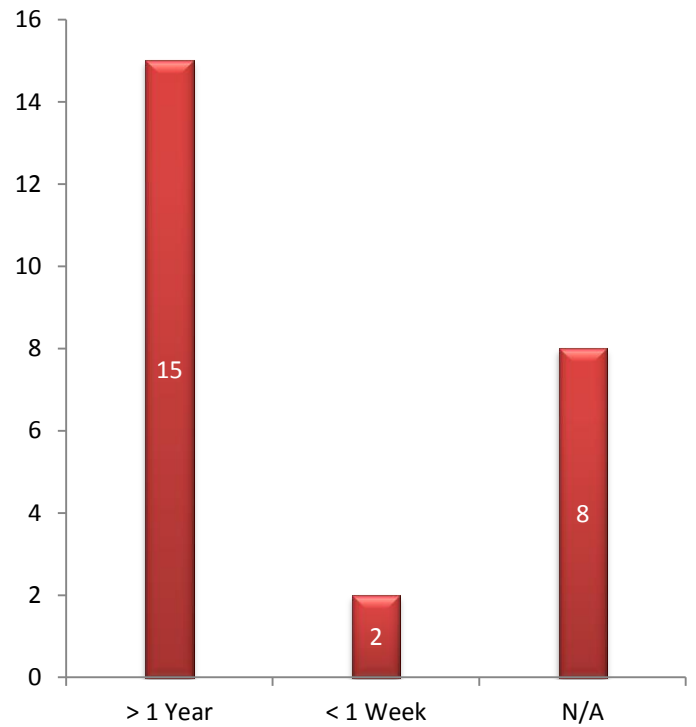


Figure 10: Workplace Transport Deaths 2011, Victim work experience in Sector

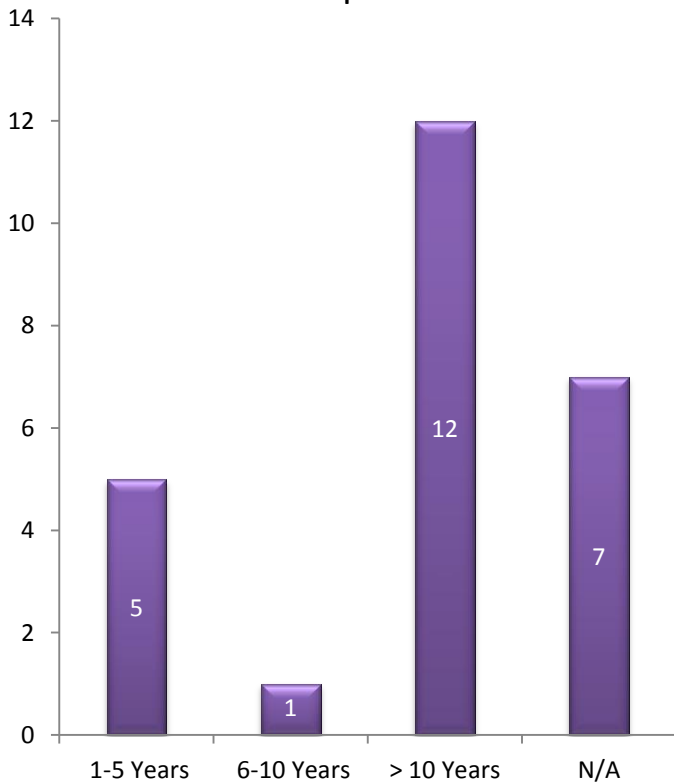
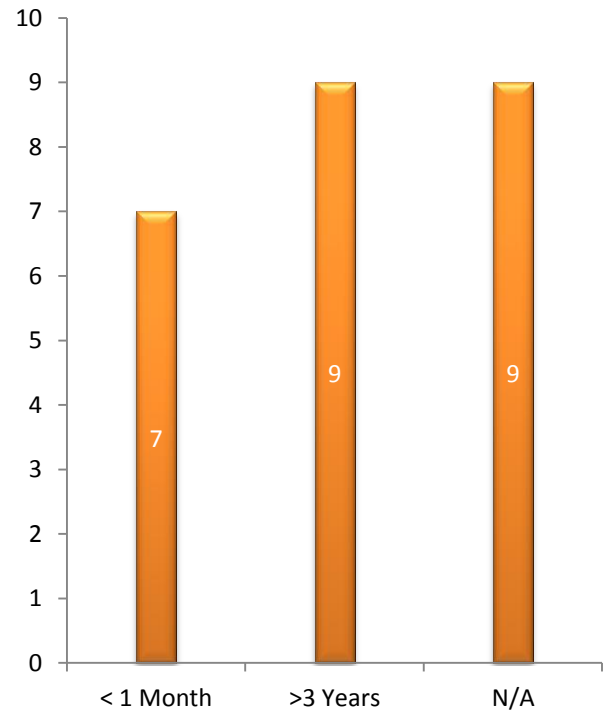


Figure 12: Workplace Transport Deaths 2011, Accident Victim's Length of Time Working at Accident Location



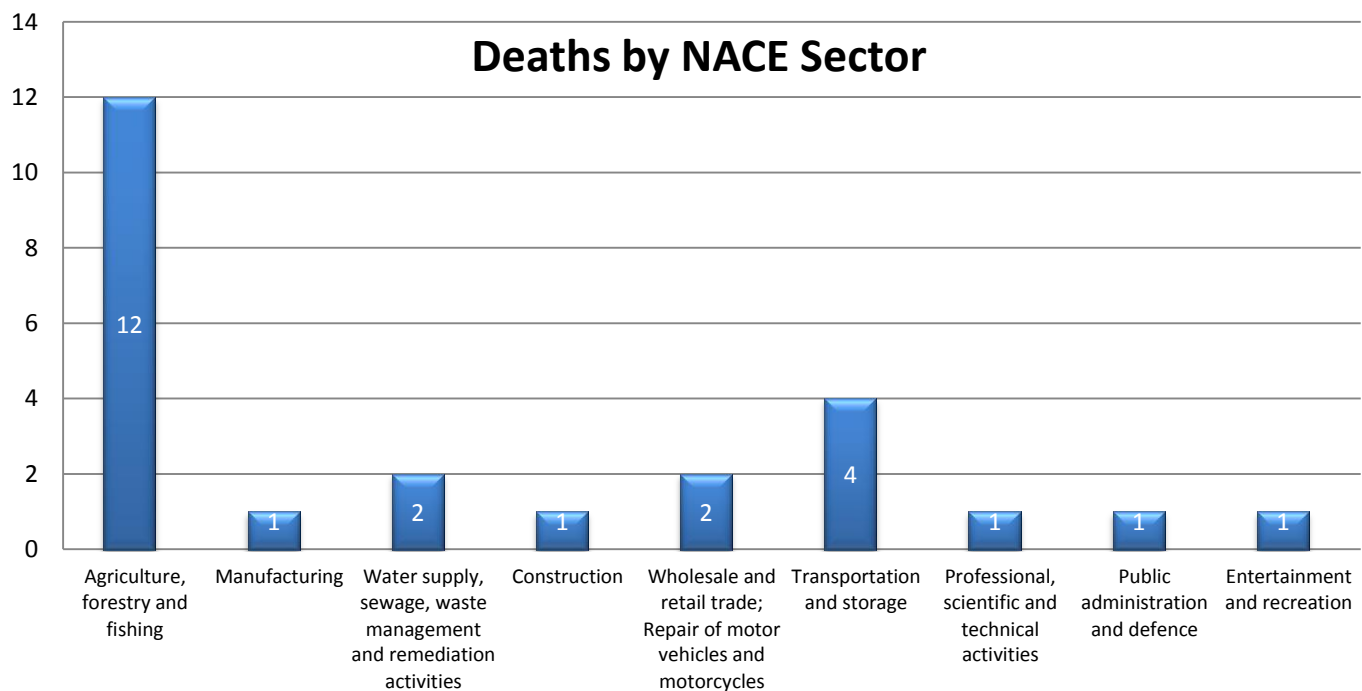
Work Related Road Deaths

There were 5 work related road deaths reported in 2011, involving 1 postal worker, 2 professional drivers, a construction worker and 1 member of the public³. Two deaths involved driving for work incidents. The vehicles types involved were:

- Van
- Heavy goods vehicle
- Bicycle
- Car transporter

The fatal incident causes were; 2 cases of being hit or run over by a vehicle or part of a vehicle, 2 cases of vehicle impact and 1 crushed between vehicle and object. In two cases the victim was in charge of the vehicle. One victim was female.

Figure 13: Work Related Vehicle Deaths 2011 by Sector



³ A public beach with vehicular access