

# Analysis of Work Related Vehicle Fatalities 2009-2013

This report is based on information gathered by HSA inspectors for work-related vehicle fatality investigations in 2009-2013<sup>1</sup>. By law, employers are required to report work related deaths to the Authority<sup>2</sup>.

## Summary

There was a total of **240** work related deaths reported to the HSA in 2009-2013<sup>1</sup>. **99** of these deaths (41%\*) involved work related vehicles (WRV). **76** of these deaths (77%<sup>+</sup>) were workplace transport deaths and **23** (23%<sup>+</sup>) 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 ninety-nine people killed:

- **4** were Female
- **87** were Irish, **9** were 'Other EU'. **3** were 'Outside EU'
- **18** people were in the 65 – 99 age category
- **6** people were in the 0 – 17 age category
- **20** people were killed using Tractors
- **17** people were killed using trailers of varying types
- The month of **July** recorded the highest number of WRV deaths with **12** people killed.
- **Monday, Wednesday** and **Saturday** were the worst days for WRV deaths, each with **15** people being killed on the respective days.
- County **Cork** had the highest number of Work Related Vehicle deaths at **15** during 2009-2013

The top two causes of the 99 work related vehicle deaths identified were (1) being hit or run over by a vehicle followed by (2) being crushed between vehicle & object (see Figure 1). **17** (17%<sup>+</sup>) deaths occurred during reversing operations, and **10** (10%<sup>+</sup>) deaths during maintenance operations. **Tractors** were the main type of vehicle involved in vehicle related deaths in 2009-2013, accounting for 20%<sup>+</sup> of deaths (Figure 3).

The **55-64** year age category was the main group affected by work related vehicle deaths, accounting for 26 (26%<sup>+</sup>) of the deaths (Figure 4). **Self-employed** people accounted for 35 (35%<sup>+</sup>) of the deaths. Non-workers accounted for 12 (12%<sup>+</sup>) of the deaths (Figure 5).

**Cork** had the highest number of work related vehicle deaths (Figure 6). **Monday, Wednesday and Saturday** were the worst days for work related vehicle deaths (Figure 7). **July** was the month with the most work related transport deaths (Figure 8).

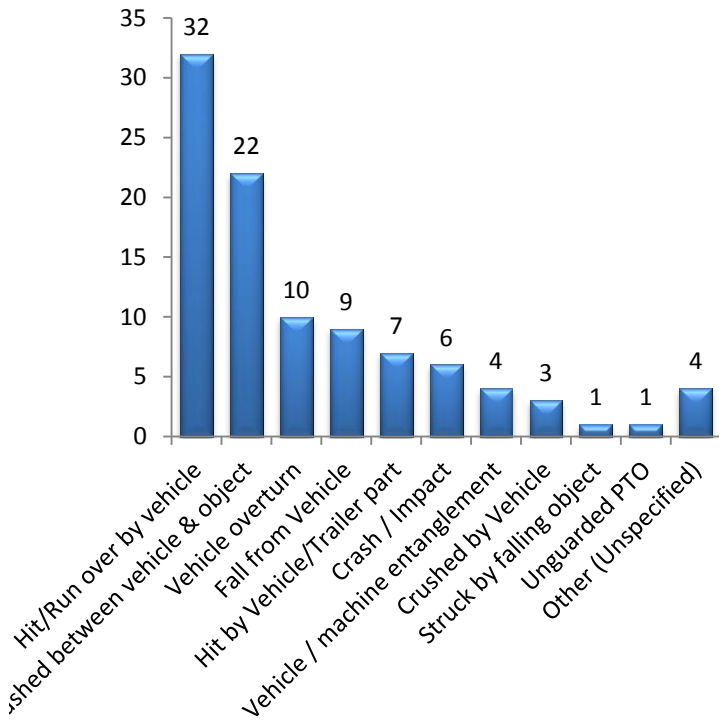
Most of the deaths occurred in small & micro businesses 78%<sup>+</sup> (Figure 9).

**38** of the victims had over 10 years' experience working in their sector (Figure 10). **53** of the victims had over 1 years' experience in their role at the time of incident (Figure 11). The **Agriculture sector** accounted for the highest number of Work Related Vehicle deaths at **33** (33%<sup>+</sup>).

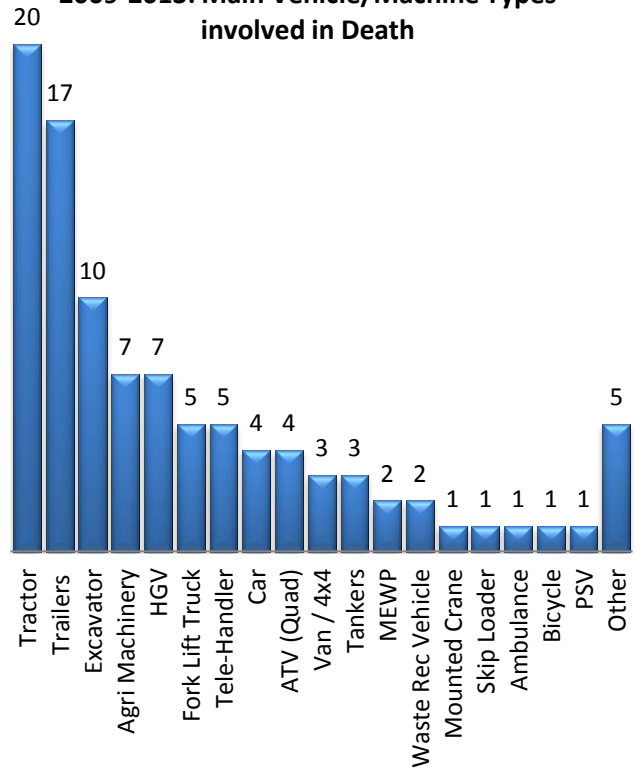
<sup>1</sup> Official recorded Health and Safety Authority fatality figures

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

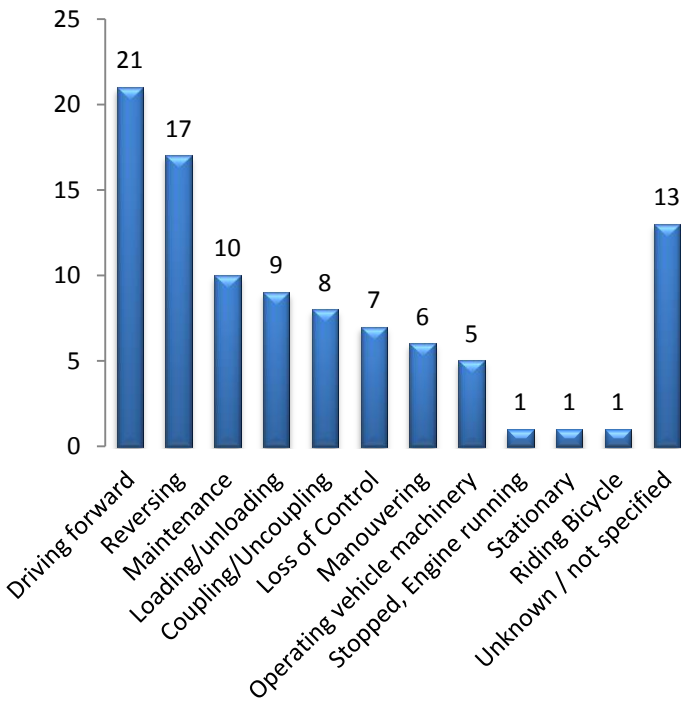
**Figure 1: Work Related Vehicle Death Causal Factors 2009-2013**



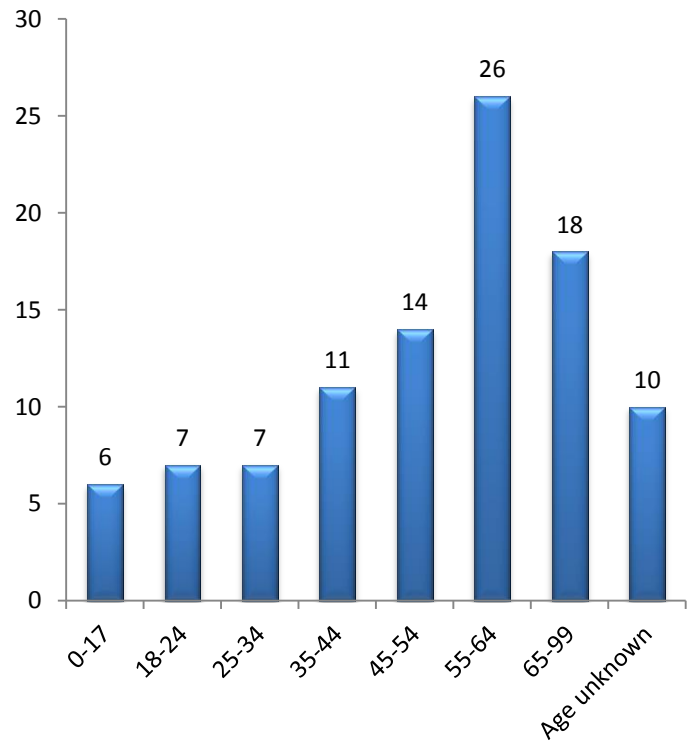
**Figure 3: Work Related Transport Deaths 2009-2013: Main Vehicle/Machine Types involved in Death**



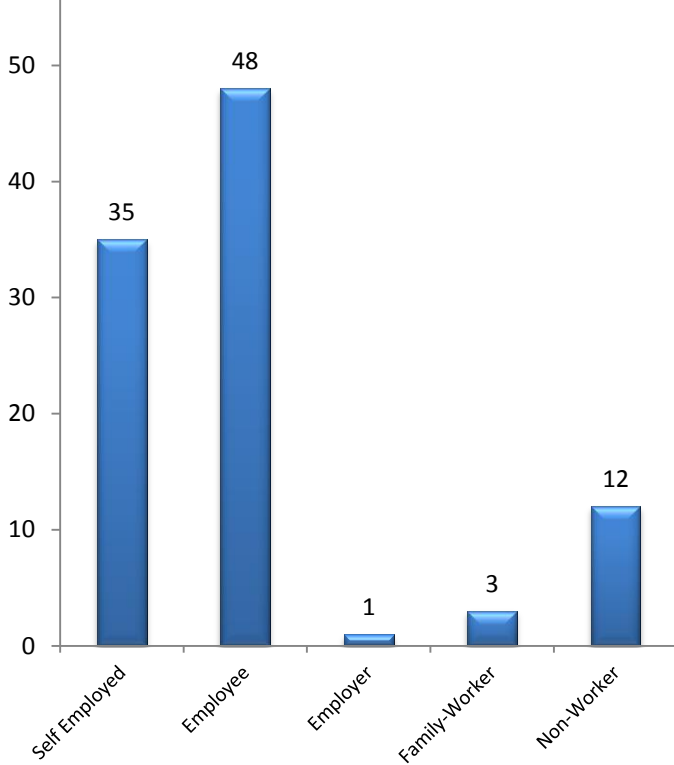
**Figure 2: Workplace Related Transport Deaths 2009-2013, Vehicle Activity at Time of the Incident**



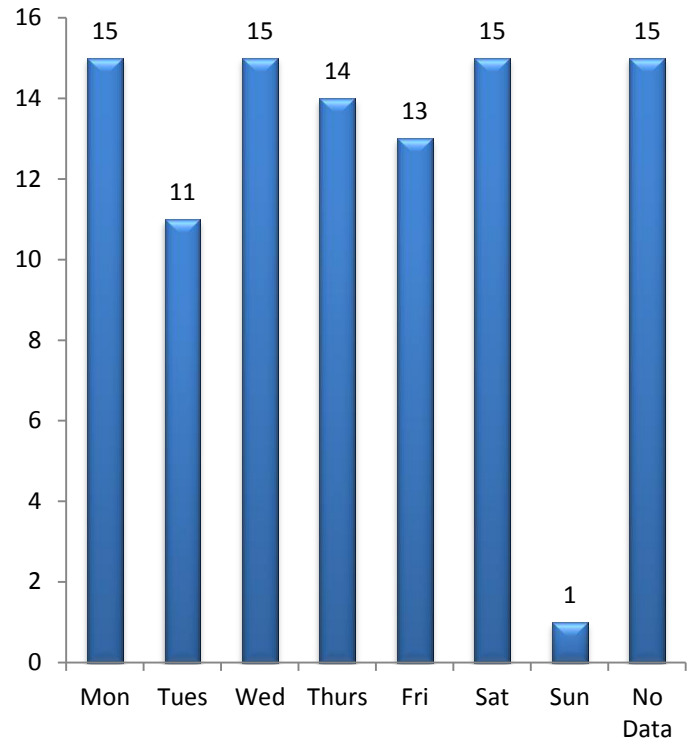
**Figure 4: Age Category of People killed by Workplace Transport in 2009-2013**



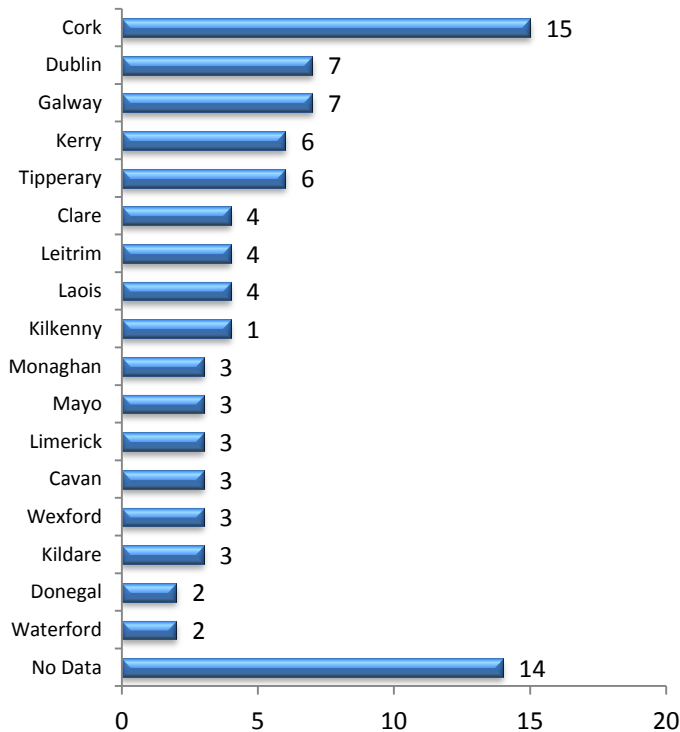
**Figure 5: Workplace Transport Deaths 2009-2013: Status of Person Killed**



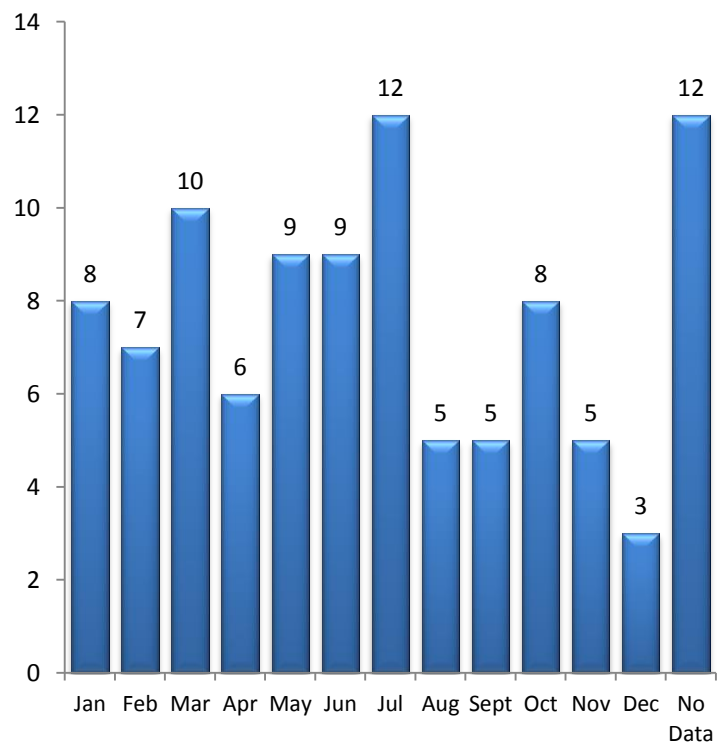
**Figure 7: Workplace Transport Deaths 2009-2013 per Day of the Week**



**Figure 6: Workplace Transport Deaths 2009-2013 per County\***

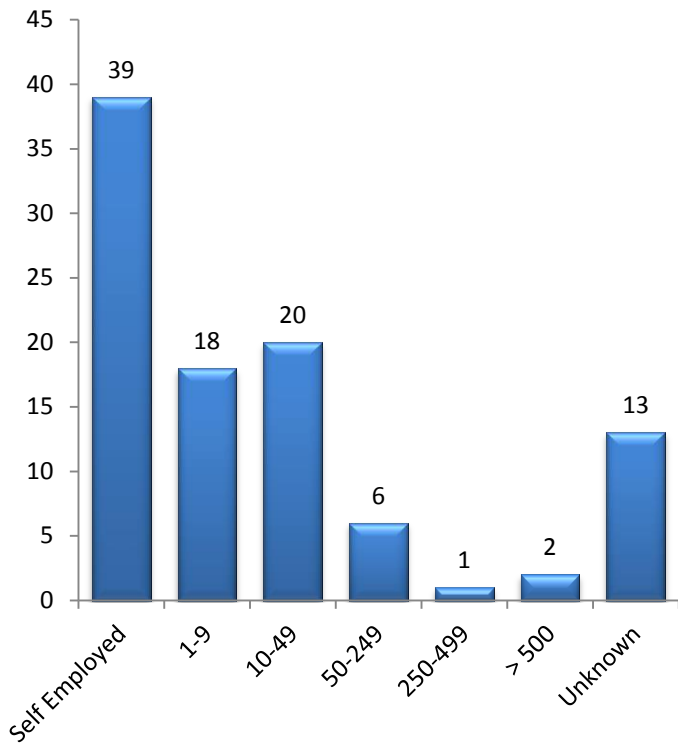


**Figure 8: Workplace Transport Deaths 2009-2013 per Month**

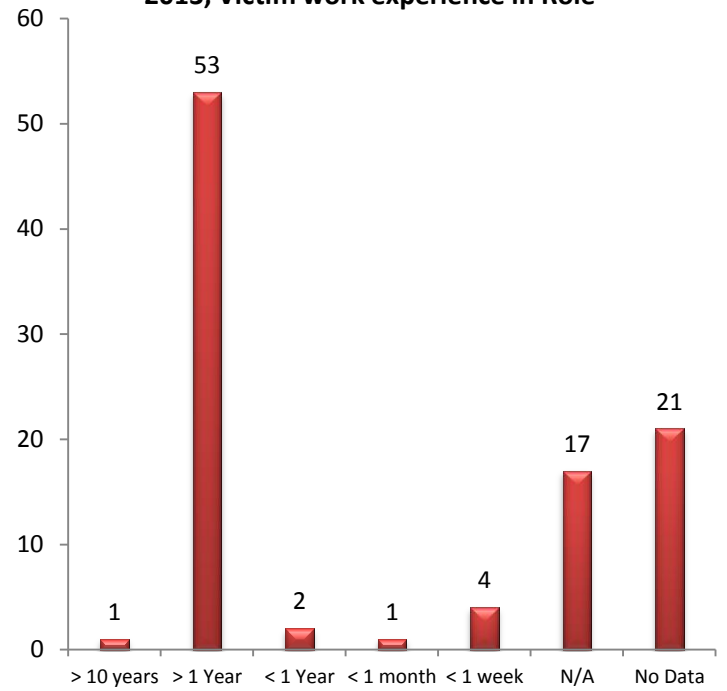


\*Plus one each in Westmeath, Longford, Louth, Offaly, Wicklow & Roscommon

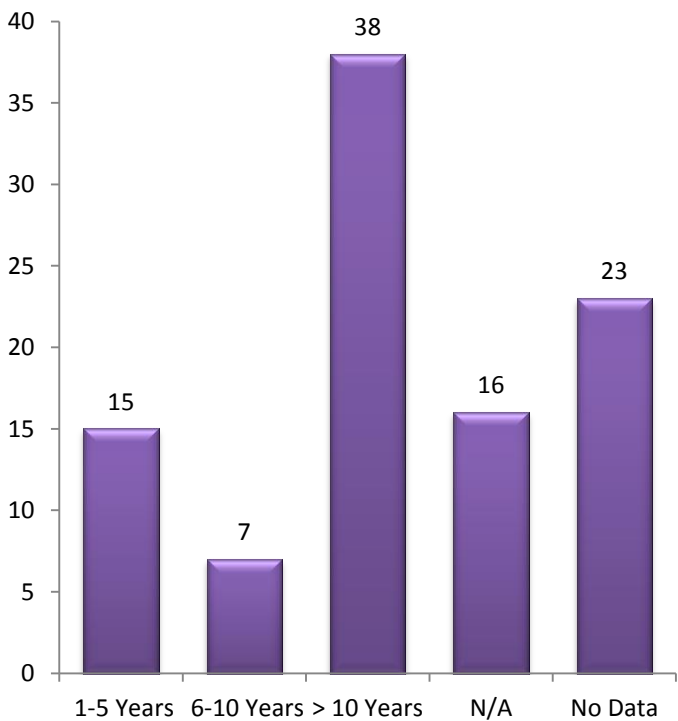
**Figure 9: Workplace Transport Deaths 2009-2013: deaths per organisation size**



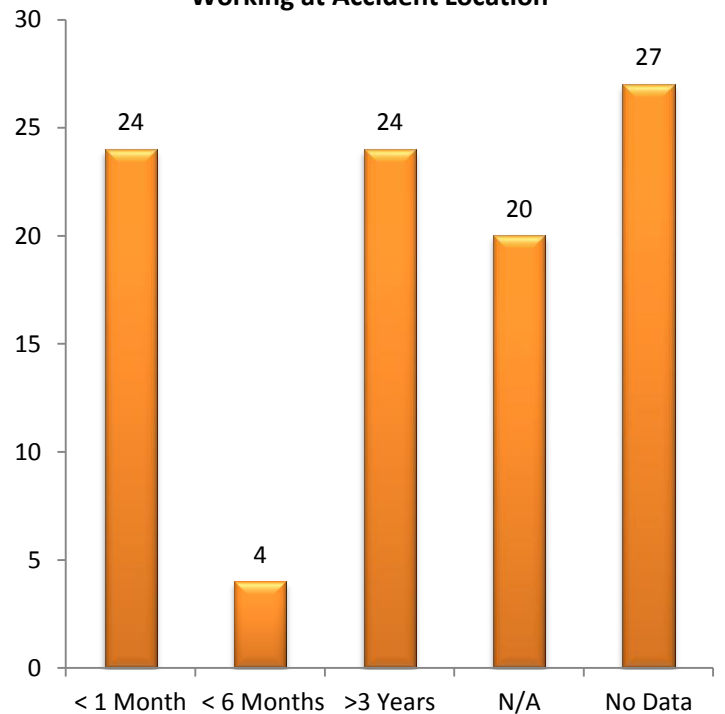
**Figure 11: Workplace Transport Deaths 2009-2013, Victim work experience in Role**



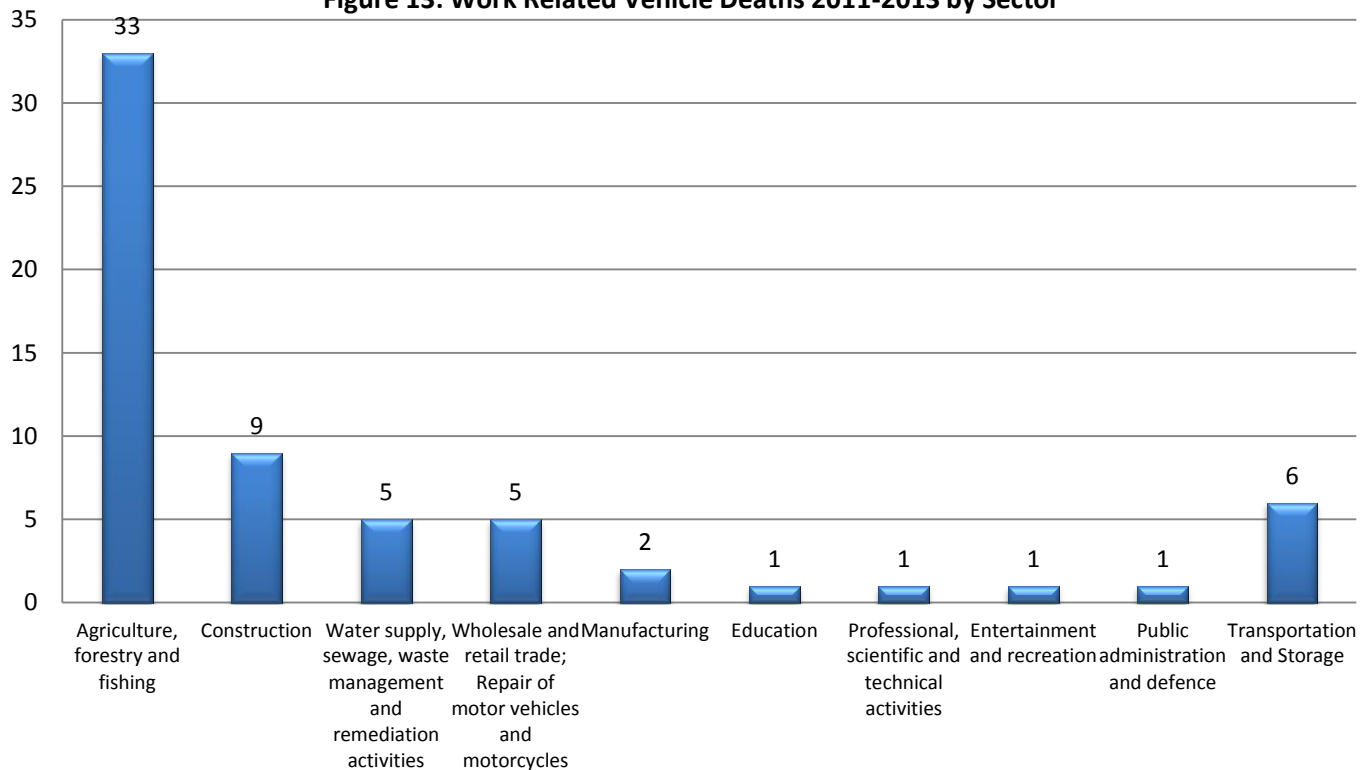
**Figure 10: Workplace Transport Deaths 2009-2013, Victim work experience in Sector**



**Figure 12: Workplace Transport Deaths 2009-2013, Accident Victim's Length of Time Working at Accident Location**



**Figure 13: Work Related Vehicle Deaths 2011-2013 by Sector\***



**\*Figures for 2009 & 2010 not available.**

### Work Related Road Deaths

There were 23 work related road deaths recorded by the Authority in 2009-2013, involving 5 professional drivers, 4 Self Employed Farmers, 3 construction workers, 3 members of the public, 2 general operatives in the waste recovery sector, 2 Gardai, 1 postal worker, 1 paramedic, and 1 Child under 17 (non-worker). The vehicles involved were:

- Car
- Van
- HGV
- Road Tanker
- Waste Recovery Vehicle
- Car Transporter
- Bicycle
- Tele-Handler
- Tractor
- Tractor/Trailer combination
- Ambulance

The fatal incident causes were: 9 cases of being hit or run over by a vehicle, 4 cases of falling from vehicle / trailer, 2 cases of entanglement in vehicle-mounted and operated machinery, 2 crashes, 2 cases of vehicle impact, 2 cases of being crushed between a vehicle and an object, and 2 cases of a vehicle overturn.