

This report is based on information gathered by HSA inspectors for work-related vehicle fatality investigations in 2010. By law, employers are required to report work related deaths to the Authority<sup>1</sup>. For more information on work related vehicle deaths from 2003-2009, please see footnote 2 below.

### Summary

There was a total of **48** work related deaths reported to the HSA in 2010. **17** of these deaths involved work related vehicles (WRV) (35%<sup>\*</sup>). **12** of these deaths were workplace transport deaths (71%<sup>+</sup>) and **5** (29%<sup>+</sup>) were work related road safety incidents

\*= Percentage based on total deaths.

+ = Percentage based on Workplace Transport Deaths only.

Of the seventeen people killed:

- All were male.
- **16** were Irish and one was “Other EU”.
- **8** people were aged in the category 55 – 64.
- **9** people were not in control of the vehicle.
- **6** people were killed by tractors.
- February has the highest number of WRV deaths with **4** people being killed in this month alone.
- Thursday was the worst day for WRV deaths with **5** of the seventeen people being killed on Thursdays.
- Counties Clare, Cork and Kerry were the worst counties for WRV deaths during 2010. Each having **2** deaths per county.

The top two causes of the 12 workplace transport deaths identified were (1) being hit or run over by a vehicle, followed by (2) being crushed by a vehicle (see Figure 1). The 12 deaths were all male. 8 people (55%<sup>+</sup>) died at the scene of the accident. 4 people died on the day of the accident. At the time

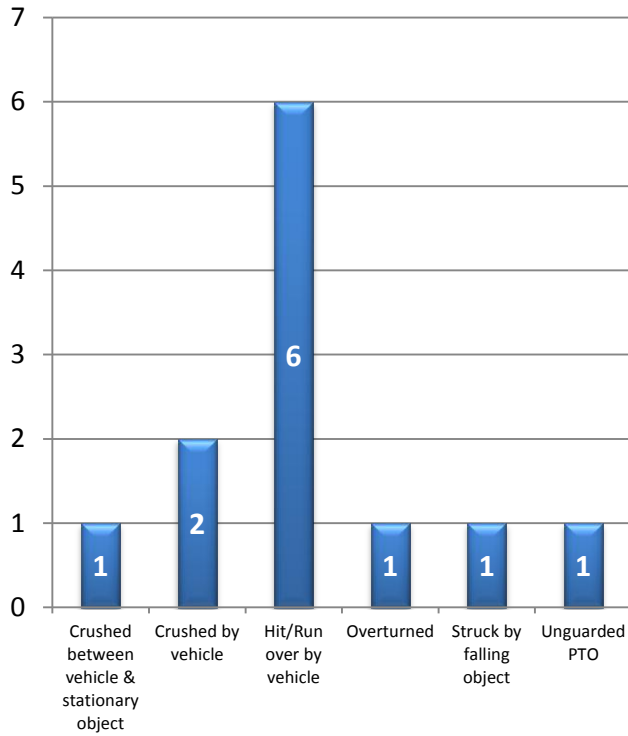
of the workplace transport incident, 4 (33%<sup>+</sup>) of the vehicles were reversing, whilst 2 were manoeuvring (see Figure 2). Tractors were the main vehicle type involved in vehicle related deaths in 2010, accounting for 42%<sup>+</sup> of all deaths (Figure 3). In more than half of the deaths involving tractors, the victim was aged 60 or over.

In the majority of cases (58%<sup>+</sup>) the driver was appropriately trained for the vehicle being driven (Figure 5). 83% of the drivers were authorised drivers. The 60 – 64 year age bracket was the main group affected by workplace transport deaths, accounting for 33%<sup>+</sup> of the deaths (Figure 6). However, all age categories experienced workplace transport deaths. Employees accounted for 42%<sup>+</sup> of the deaths. Self-employed people accounted for exactly 50%<sup>+</sup> of the deaths (see Figure 11), a sharp rise on the 2009 figure of 21%. 1 child was also killed (Figure 7).

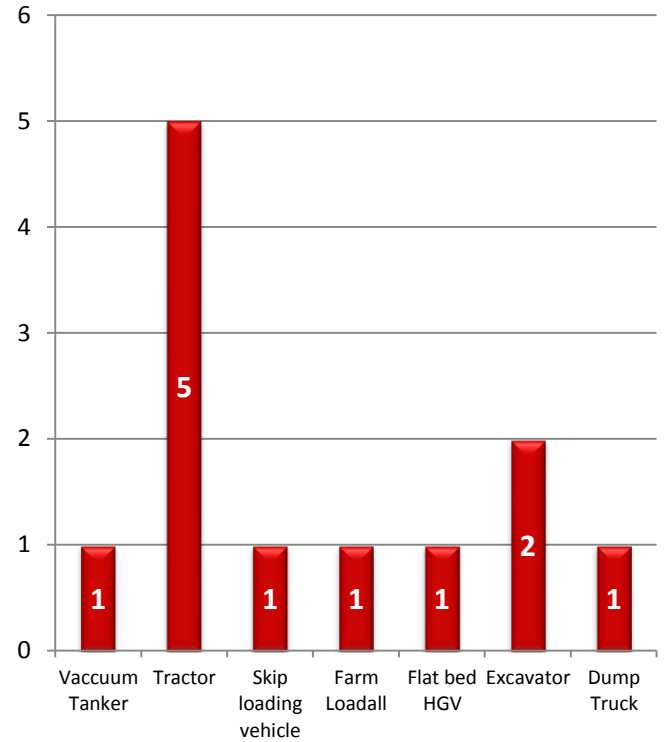
Clare, Cork and Kerry were the three counties with the highest number of workplace transport deaths (Figure 8). Monday and Tuesday were the worst days for workplace transport deaths (Figure 9). February was the month with the most workplace transport deaths (Figure 10). A majority of deaths also occurred in small & micro businesses (42%<sup>+</sup>) (Figure 12).

Of the 12 deaths, half of the victims were in control of the vehicle at the time of the incident whilst the other half were pedestrians and not in control of the vehicle (Figure 13). A quarter of the victims were killed within an hour of starting work, with 1 person killed 10 hours after starting work. In the majority of cases the victim had more than a years experience in carrying out the job (Figures 14 and 15) but in 75%<sup>+</sup> of the cases the victim was only working at the accident location less than a month (Figure 16). All 12 of the workplace transport deaths involved Irish people (Figure 17).

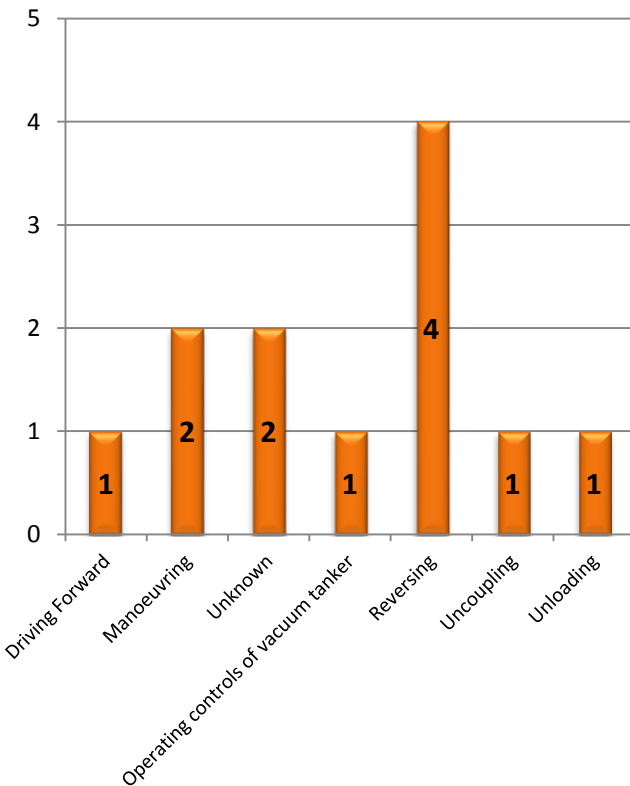
**Figure 1: Work Related Vehicle Death Causal Factors 2010**



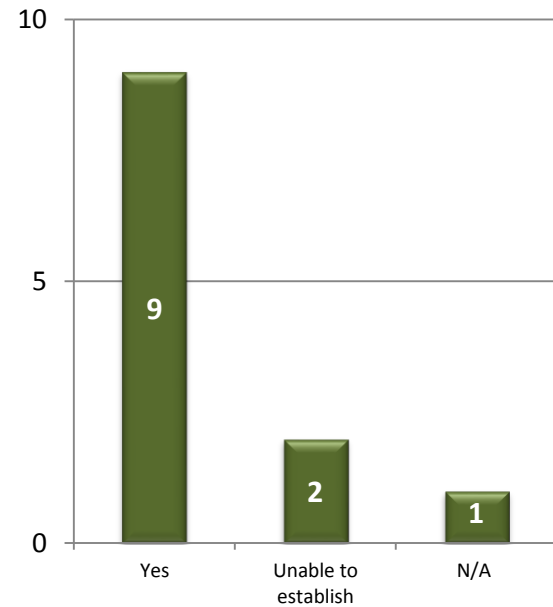
**Figure 3: Workplace Transport Deaths 2010, Main Vehicle Types involved in Deaths**



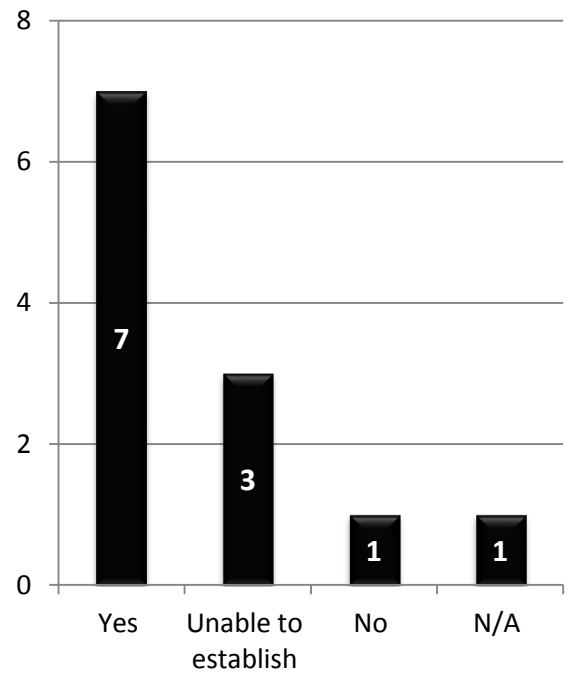
**Figure 2: Workplace Transport Deaths 2010, Vehicle Activity at Time of the Incident**



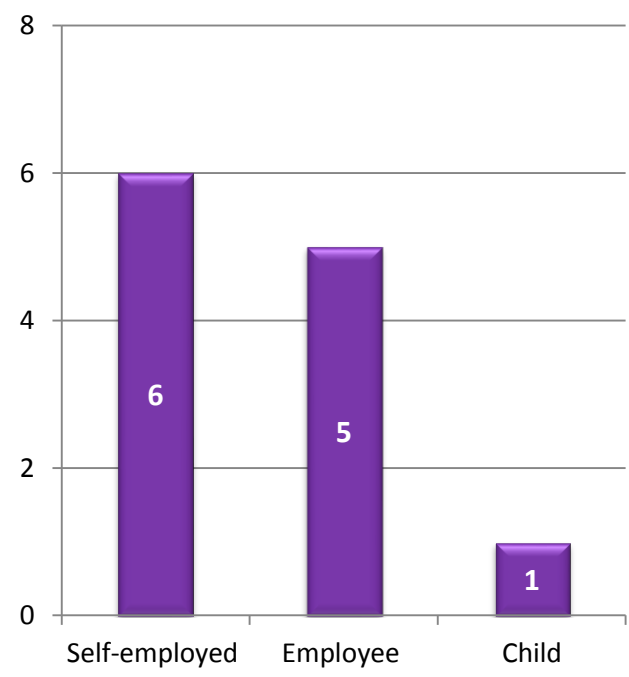
**Figure 4: Workplace Transport Deaths 2010, Valid Driver's Licence**



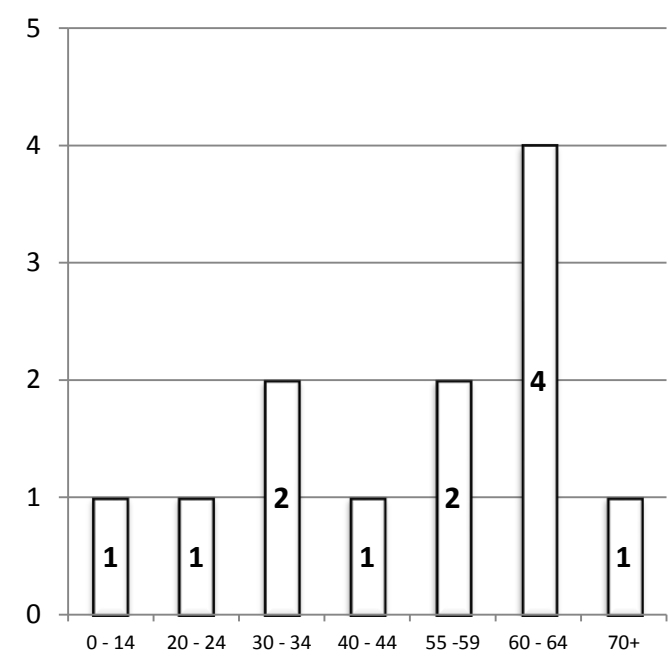
**Figure 5: Workplace Transport Deaths 2010, Driver's Training status in Relation to Vehicle being Driven**



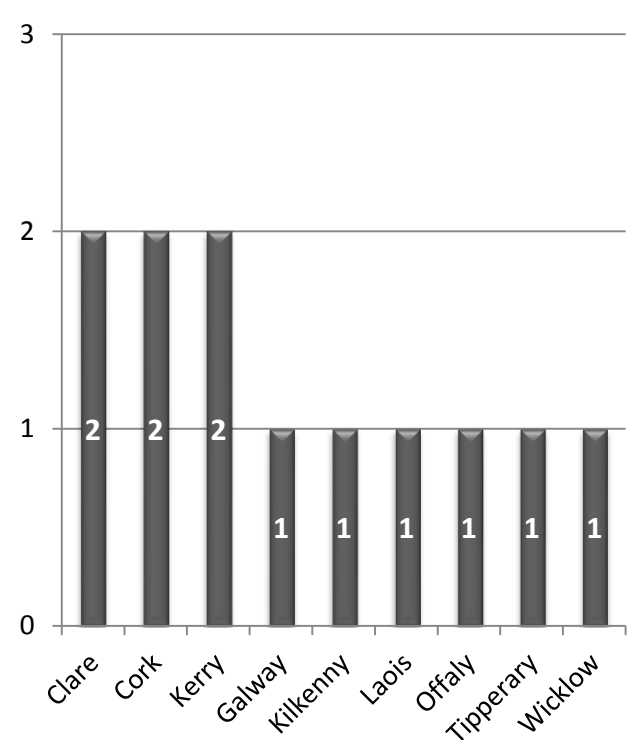
**Figure 7: Workplace Transport Deaths 2010, Status of Person Killed**



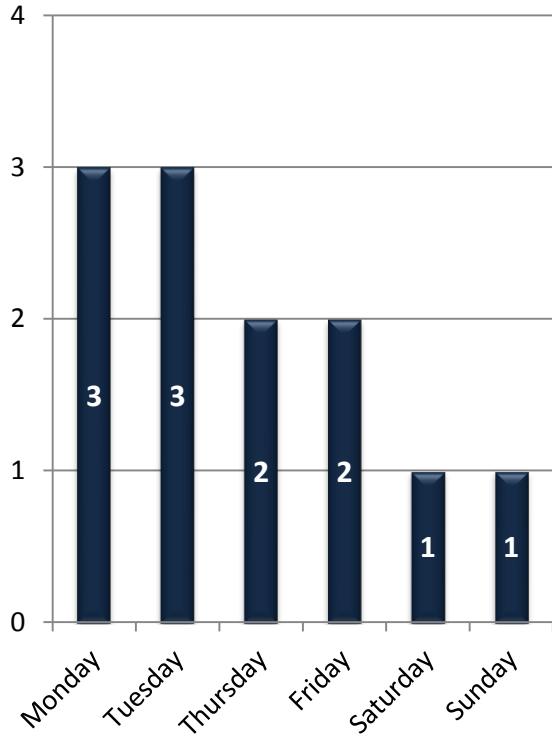
**Figure 6: Age Category of People killed by Workplace Transport in 2010**



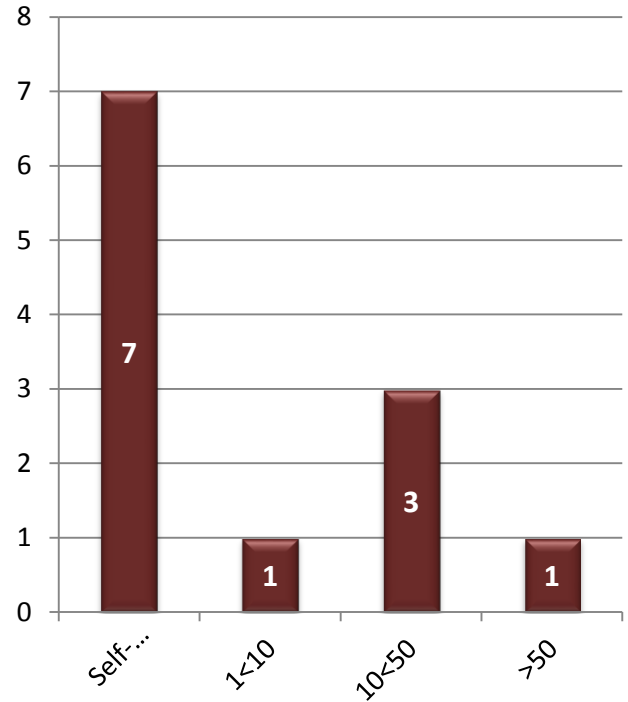
**Figure 8: Workplace Transport Deaths 2010 per County**



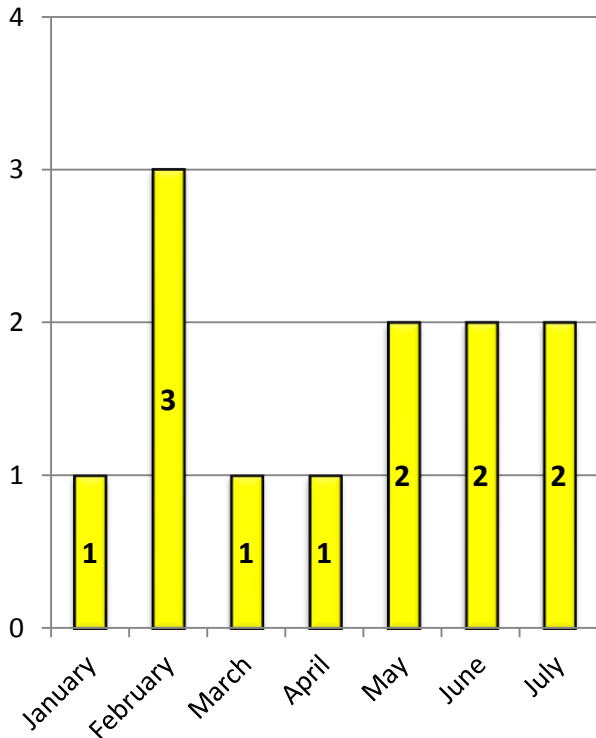
**Figure 9: Workplace Transport Deaths 2010 per Day of the Week**



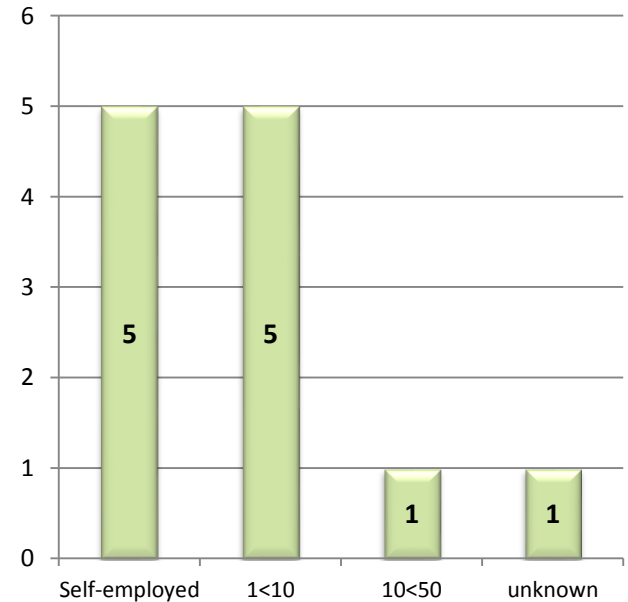
**Figure 11: Workplace Transport Deaths 2010, deaths per organisation size**



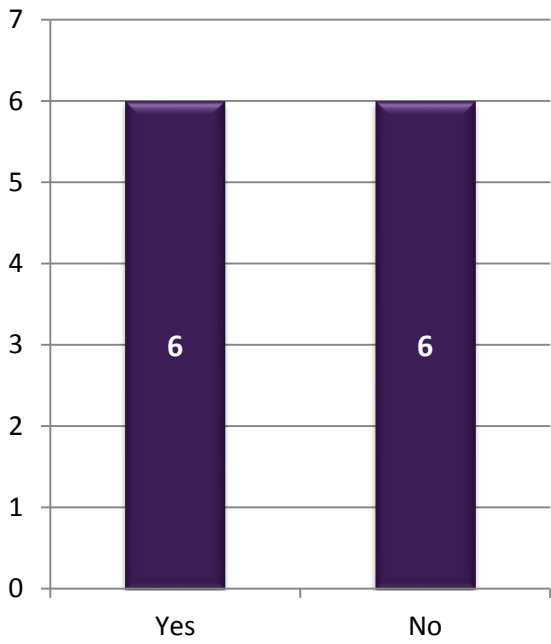
**Figure 10: Workplace Transport Deaths 2010 per Month**



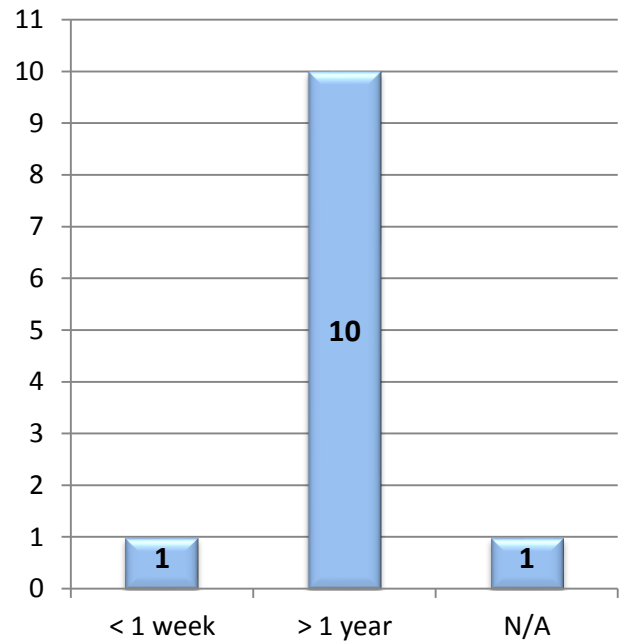
**Figure 12: Workplace Transport Deaths 2010, Number employed at accident location**



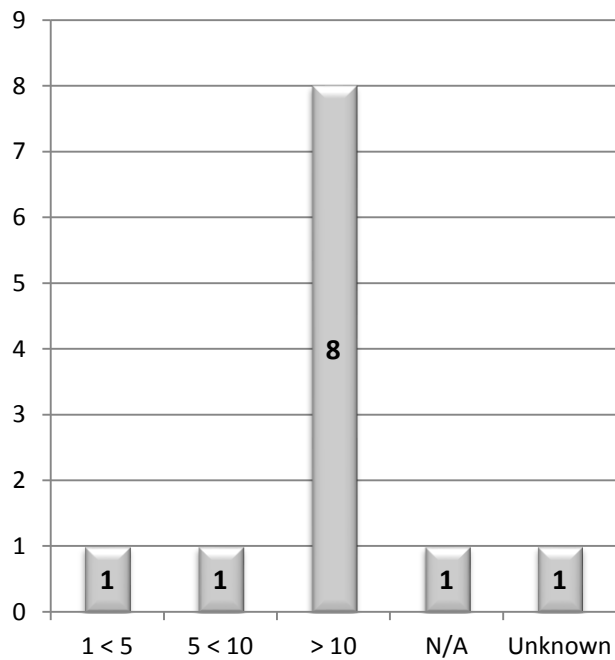
**Figure 13: Workplace Transport Deaths 2010, Victim in Control of Vehicle**



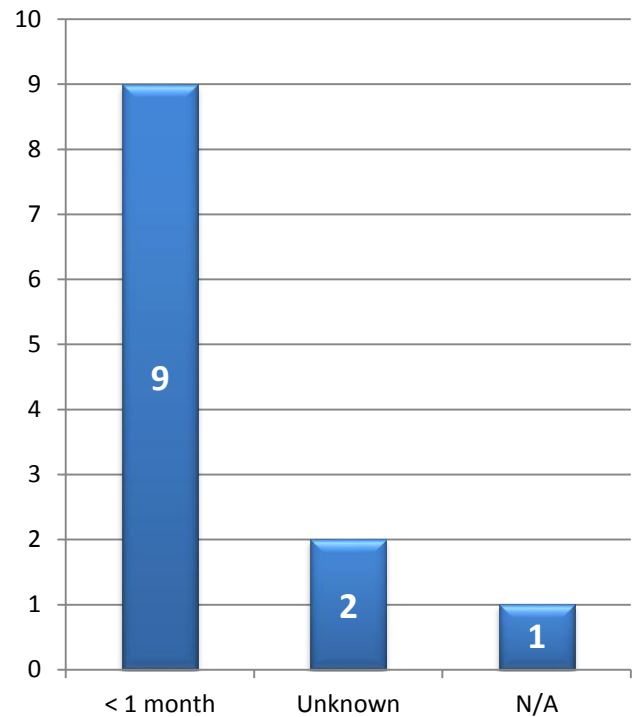
**Figure 15: Workplace Transport Deaths 2010, Victim work experience**



**Figure 14: Workplace Transport Deaths 2010, Victim work history**



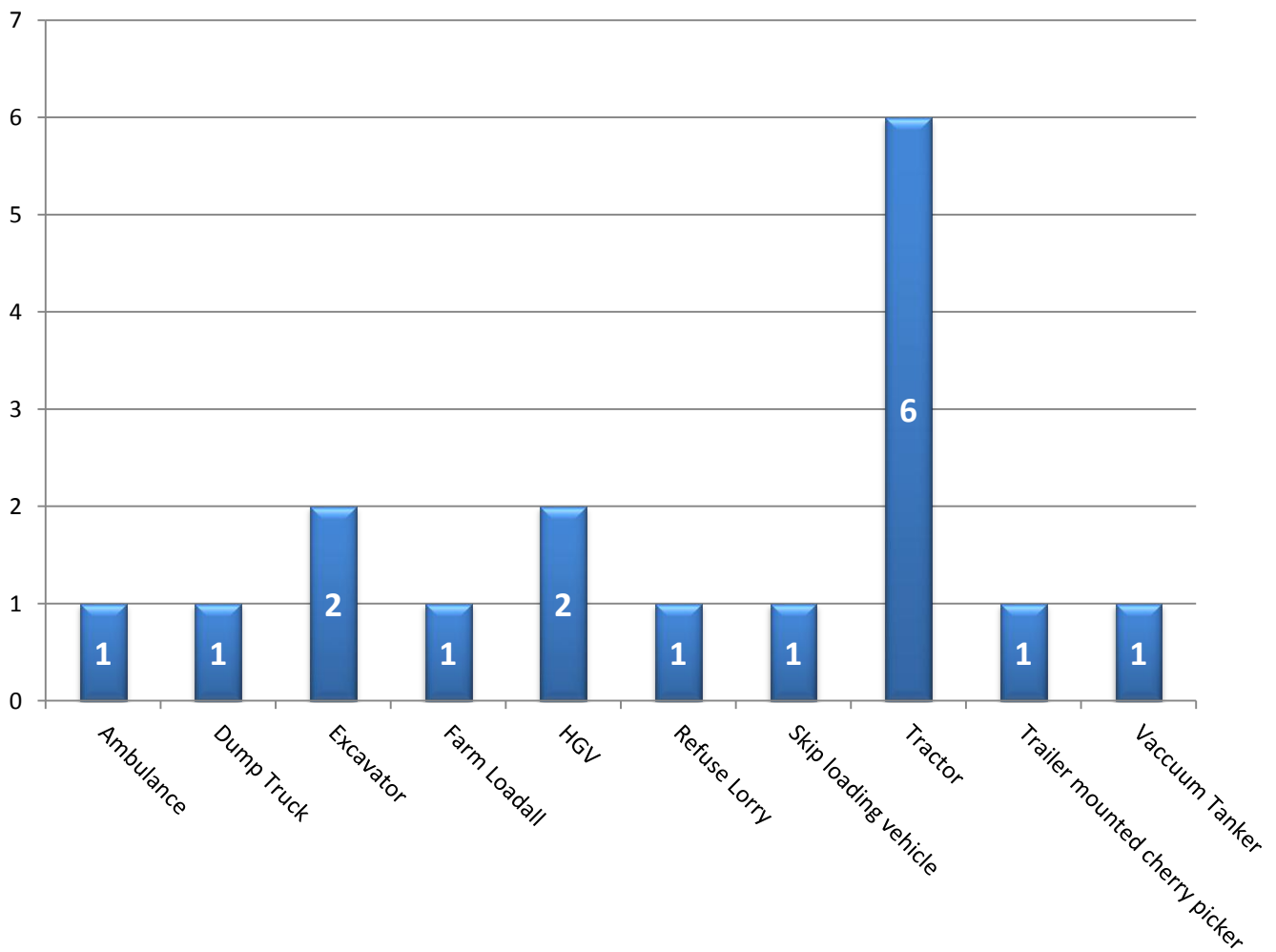
**Figure 16: Workplace Transport Deaths 2010, Accident Victim's Length of Time Working at Accident Location**



## Work Related Road Deaths

There were 5 work related road deaths in 2010 involving 1 paramedic, 1 professional driver, a farmer and 2 members of the public. Four deaths involved driving for work incidents and 1 was classified as a 'use of a public road'. The vehicles involved were a van, an ambulance, a bin lorry, a tractor and a heavy goods vehicle. The fatal accident causes were 3 cases of being hit or run over by a vehicle or part of a vehicle, a fall from a vehicle and a vehicle overturn. In two cases the victim was in charge of the vehicle. All victims were male.

**Figure 17: Work Related Vehicle Deaths 2010 by Vehicle Type**



**Figure 18: Work Related Vehicle Deaths 2010 by Sector**

