



Department of Local Government,
Industry Regulation and Safety



Agricultural industry fatality report **2019–20 to 2023–24**



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Reference

WorkSafe Western Australia, 2025, Agricultural industry fatality report: 2019–20 to 2023–24: Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western Australia, 9 pp.

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Data notes

Work-related traumatic injury fatality information used in this report is derived from information recorded and published by the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety and relates to fatalities that result from a physical trauma or poisoning in Western Australia in accordance with the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020*, *Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984*, *Energy Safety Act 2006*, *Electricity Act 1945*, *Gas Standards Act 1972*, *Mines Safety and Inspection Act 1994*, *Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1982*, *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources Act 1967* and the *Petroleum Pipelines Act 1969*.

In scope are workers, self-employed workers, volunteers and bystanders. Diseases and most disorders that would be seen as 'diseases', such as cancers and heart attacks, are out of scope. Other exclusions include self-inflicted injuries; Commonwealth Government workers; workers covered by Comcare; and defence personnel.

For completeness, included in the statistics are work-related fatalities covered by the Civil Aviation Act 1988 and Transport Safety Investigation Act 2003 under the respective jurisdictions of the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) and the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB); and where possible, those covered under the *Australian Maritime Safety Authority Act 1990* under the jurisdiction of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA). For more information see Recording of traumatic work-related fatalities by WorkSafe.

The industry classification codes are in accordance with the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The classification codes are based on a hierarchal structure consisting of one digit codes (broadest level) down to four digit codes (finest level).

The occupation classification codes are in accordance with the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The classification codes are based on a hierarchal structure consisting of one digit codes (broadest level) down to six digit codes (finest level).

The injury and disease classification groupings and descriptions are standard terms taken from the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission publication: Type of Occurrence Classification System (TOOCS) Third Edition.

Incidence rates are used to provide an indication of the relative number of work-related fatalities across different categories, scaled for changes in the size of the workforce. Incidence rates published in this document are per hundred thousand employees. The fatality incidence rate is calculated as the annual fatality total divided by the number of employees, multiplied by one hundred thousand.

Notes: Investigations into fatalities can be protracted and final decisions are often dependent on the release of information from other agencies. Accordingly, all information is subject to revision and thus, the work-related traumatic injury fatality figures in this report are yet to be finalised.

Information relating to fatality investigations yet to be determined have been removed from this report as the information was considered to be immature, incomplete or incorrect.



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Recorded work-related traumatic injuries in the last five financial years (2019–20 to 2023–24)

All (100%) of agriculture, forestry and fishing industry work-related fatalities occurred in the agriculture subdivision

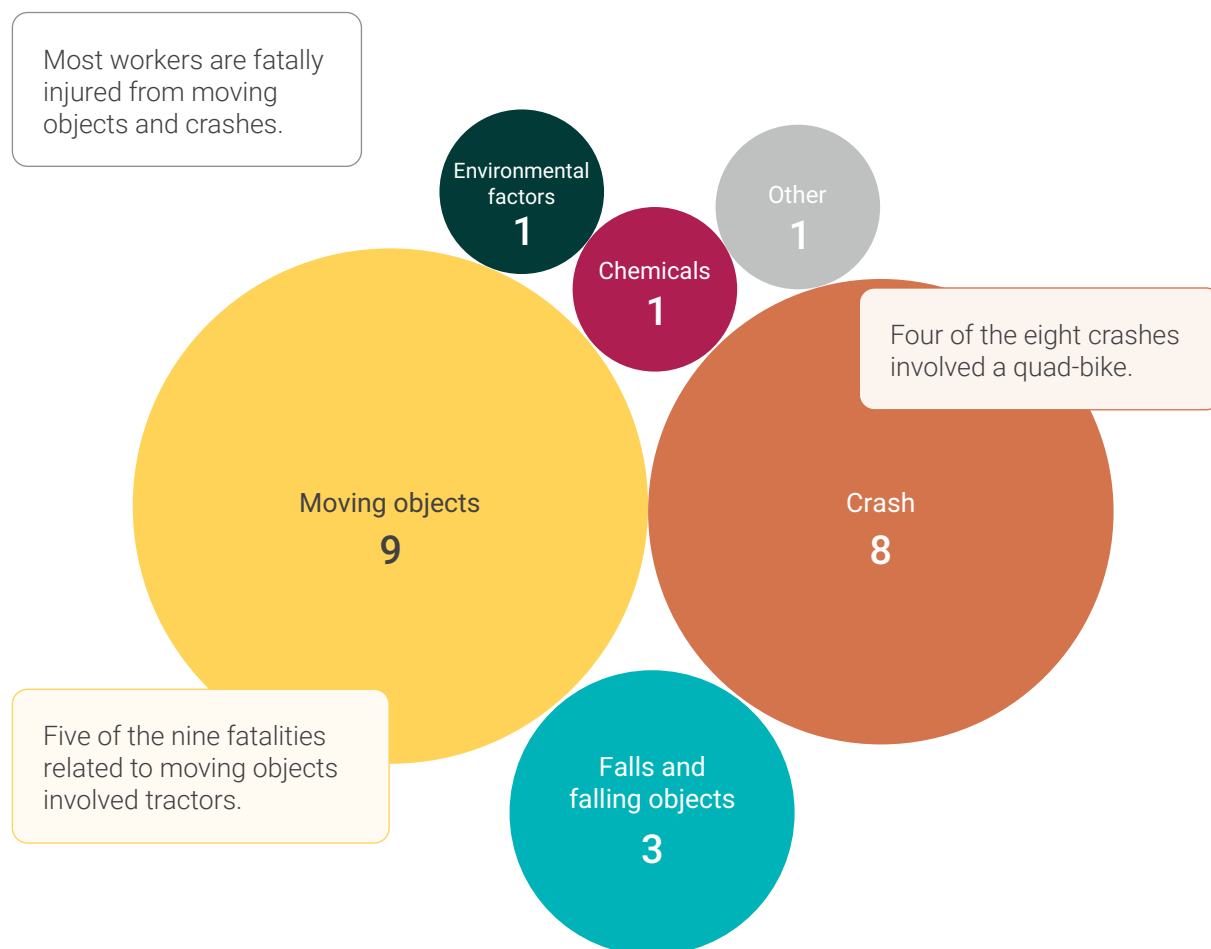


Figure 1 Work-related traumatic injury fatalities by hazard, 2019–20 to 2023–24

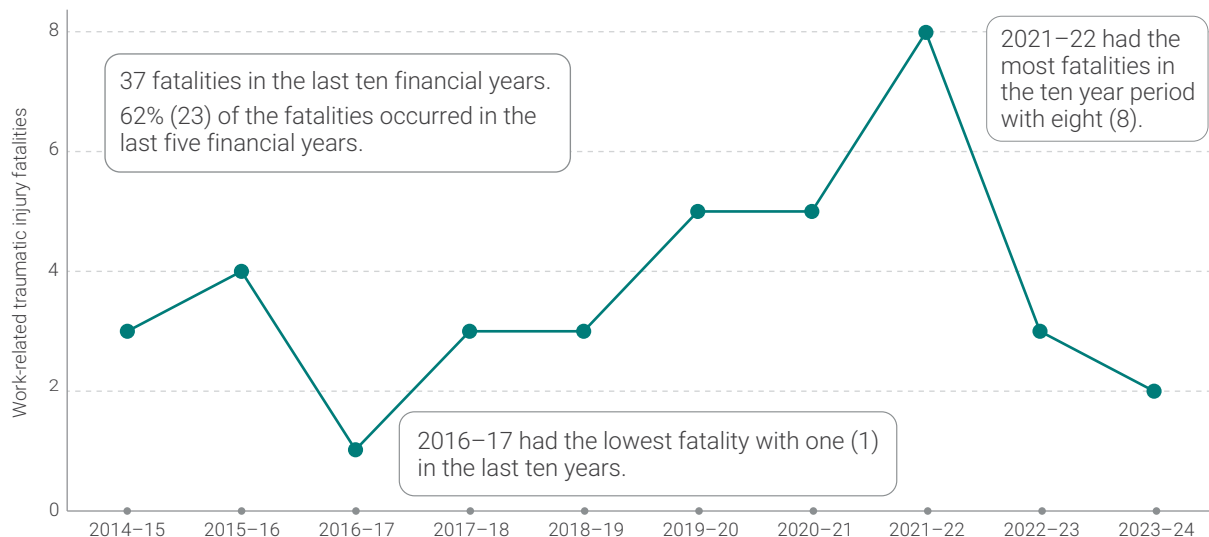


Figure 2 Work-related traumatic injury fatalities by financial years

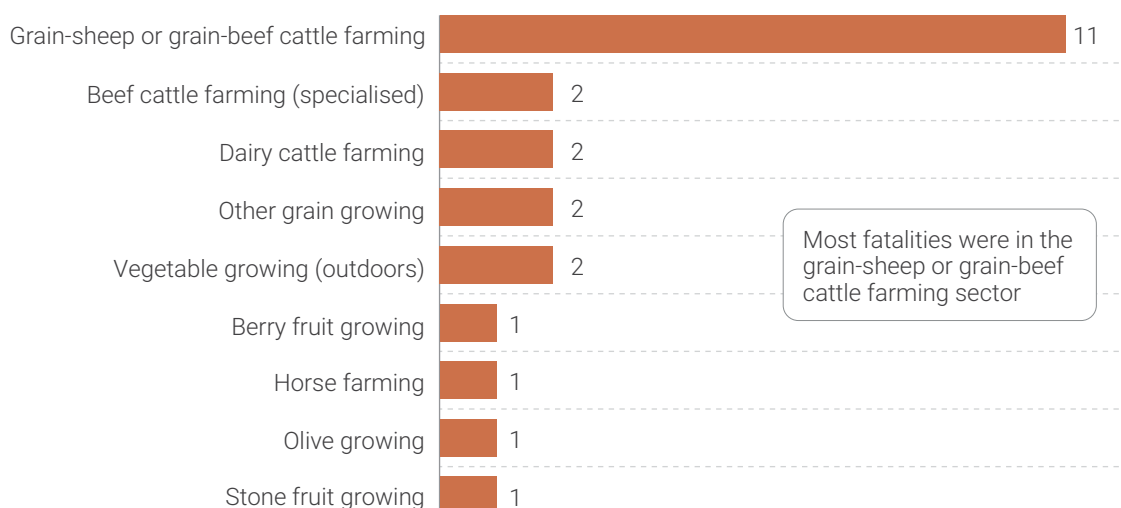


Figure 3 Work-related traumatic injury fatalities by ANZSIC industry of workplace class, 2019-20 to 2023-24

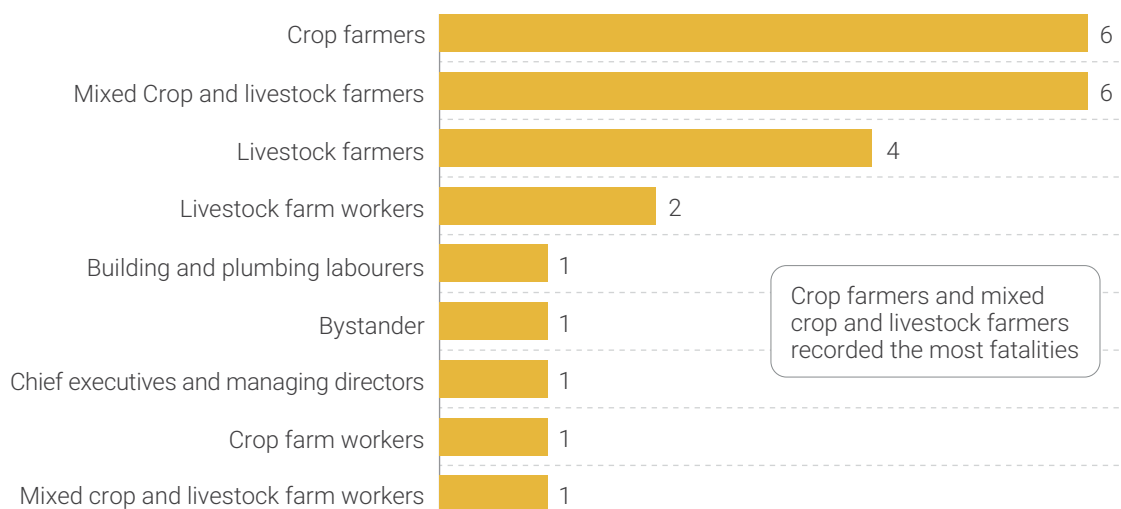


Figure 4 Work-related traumatic injury fatalities by ANZSCO occupation unit group, 2019-20 to 2023-24

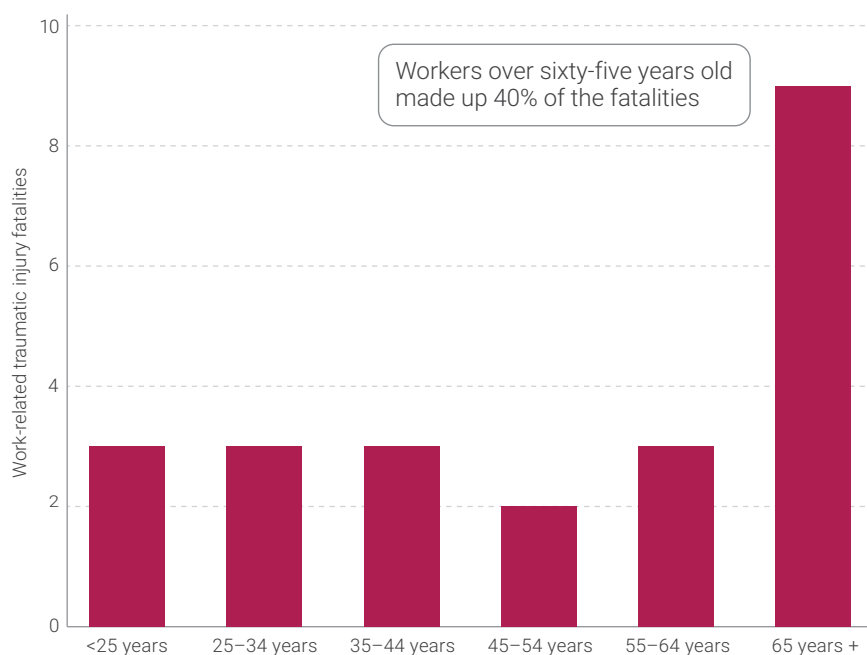


Figure 5 Work-related traumatic injury fatalities by age group, 2019–20 to 2023–24

Table 1 Ten worst hazards by years lost, number of claims, and costs

Mechanism of incident subgroup	No.
Vehicle incident	7
Being hit by moving objects	5
Being trapped between stationary and moving objects	2
Being trapped by moving machinery or equipment	2
Falls from a height	2
Being hit by falling objects	1
Contact with hot objects	1
Insect and spider bites and stings	1
Rollover	1
Unspecified mechanisms of incident	1
Total	23

Most incidents involved a vehicle or being hit by objects

Region	No.
Wheatbelt	13
South West	4
Goldfields-Esperance	3
Great Southern	1
Peel	1
Perth	1
Total	23

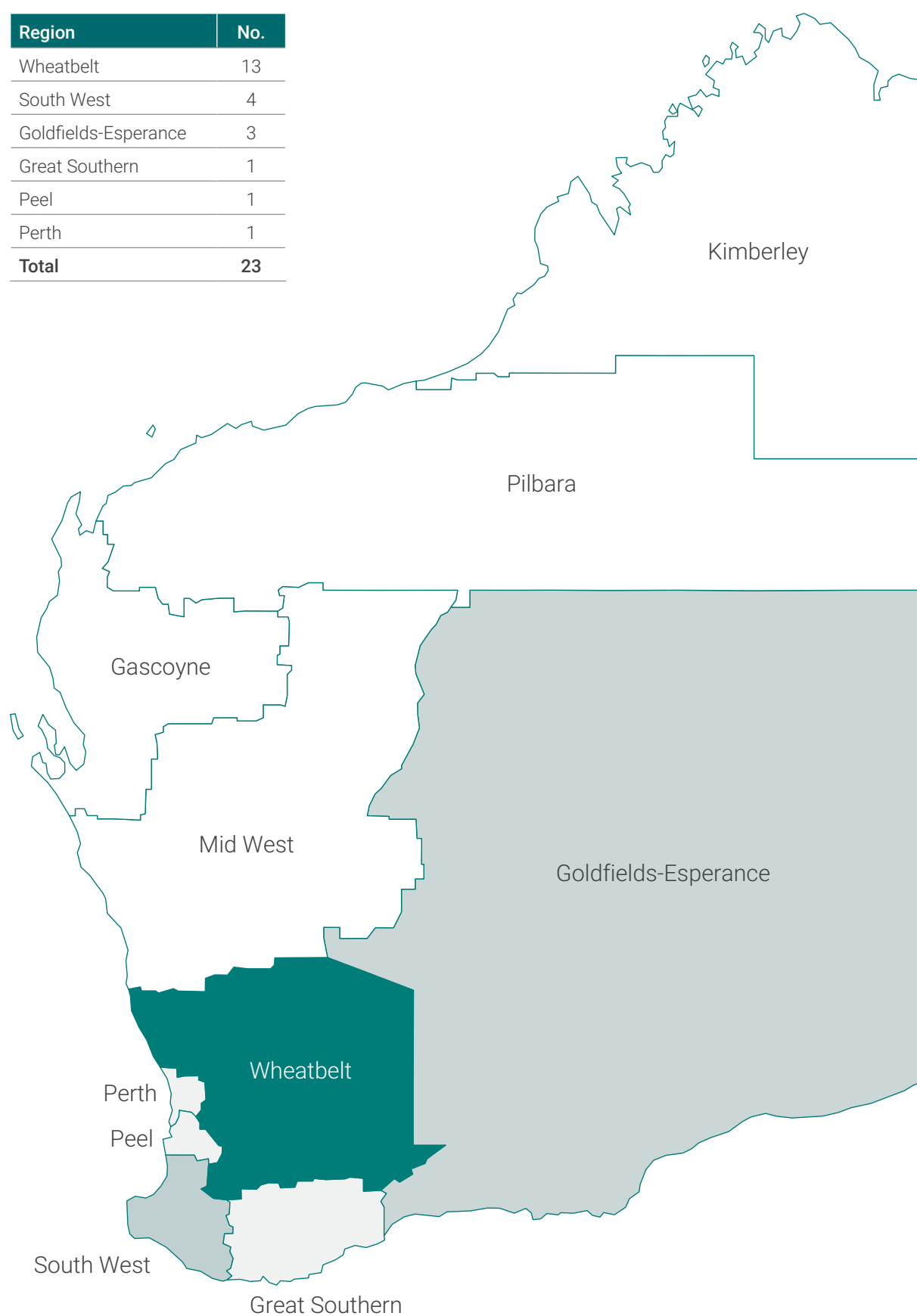


Figure 6 Work-related traumatic injury fatalities by region, 2019–20 to 2023–24

Appendix 1

Table 2 Work-related traumatic injury fatalities summary 2019–20 to 2023–24


Financial Year	Region	Industry of workplace class	Mechanism of injury subgroup	Breakdown agency of injury unit.
2019–20	Goldfields-Esperance	Beef cattle farming (specialised)	Being hit by moving objects	Other and not specified cars, station wagons, vans, utilities
2019–20	Peel	Dairy cattle farming	Insect and spider bites and stings	Insects
2019–20	Goldfields-Esperance	Grain-sheep or grain-beef cattle farming	Falls from a height	Other and not specified ferrous and non-ferrous metal
2019–20	Wheatbelt	Grain-sheep or grain-beef cattle farming	Vehicle incident	Other and not specified cars, station wagons, vans, utilities
2019–20	Great Southern	Horse farming	Rollover	Quad bike
2020–21	Wheatbelt	Beef cattle farming (specialised)	Being hit by moving objects	Tractors, agricultural or otherwise
2020–21	Wheatbelt	Berry fruit growing	Being trapped by moving machinery or equipment	Tractors, agricultural or otherwise
2020–21	South West	Dairy cattle farming	Unspecified mechanisms of incident	Agency not known
2020–21	Wheatbelt	Grain-sheep or grain-beef cattle farming	Vehicle incident	Motorcycles and sidecars, scooters
2020–21	Perth	Vegetable growing (outdoors)	Being hit by moving objects	Tractors, agricultural or otherwise
2021–22	Wheatbelt	Grain-sheep or grain-beef cattle farming	Being trapped by moving machinery or equipment	Other and not specified power presses
2021–22	Wheatbelt	Grain-sheep or grain-beef cattle farming	Vehicle incident	Quad bike
2021–22	Wheatbelt	Grain-sheep or grain-beef cattle farming	Vehicle incident	Tractors, agricultural or otherwise
2021–22	South West	Olive growing	Vehicle incident	Quad bike
2021–22	Wheatbelt	Other grain growing	Being hit by moving objects	Tractors, agricultural or otherwise
2021–22	Wheatbelt	Other grain growing	Falls from a height	Other and not specified material handling hoists
2021–22	South West	Stone fruit growing	Being trapped between stationary and moving objects	Front-end loaders, log handling plant, other loading plant
2021–22	Wheatbelt	Vegetable growing (outdoors)	Being hit by moving objects	Tractors, agricultural or otherwise

Financial Year	Region	Industry of workplace class	Mechanism of injury subgroup	Breakdown agency of injury unit.
2022–23	Goldfields-Esperance	Grain-sheep or grain-beef cattle farming	Being hit by moving objects	Other and not specified storage equipment
2022–23	Wheatbelt	Grain-sheep or grain-beef cattle farming	Contact with hot objects	Fire, flame and smoke
2022–23	South West	Grain-sheep or grain-beef cattle farming	Vehicle incident	Embankments, sloping ground surfaces, grass or otherwise
2023–24	Wheatbelt	Grain-sheep or grain-beef cattle farming	Being trapped between stationary and moving objects	Front-end loaders, log handling plant, other loading plant
2023–24	Wheatbelt	Grain-sheep or grain-beef cattle farming	Vehicle incident	Quad bike

Appendix 2

Table 3 Work-related traumatic injury fatalities summary by financial year and description, 2019–20 to 2023–24

Financial Year	Description
2019–20	A 30 year old farm hand was involved in a vehicle rollover that occurred on a farming property. The driver of the vehicle was found in the vehicle deceased.
2019–20	A 40 year old man was working on his parent's farm, using a chainsaw to cut wood. The man was stung multiple times by a swarm of bees; he had a pre-existing allergy to bees. He was conveyed to hospital, but died the following day.
2019–20	A 71 year old bystander was run over by a Ute driven by a farm hand, The bystander was assisting to round up cattle on a farm. The bystander was transported to hospital but was later pronounced dead.
2019–20	A 76 year old self employed farmer died when the quad bike he was in control of crashed resulting in the quad bike landing on top of him, the farmer was not wearing any safety equipment at the time.
2019–20	Two workers were on the roof of a shed when extreme wind conditions caused both to fall, seriously injuring one and fatally injuring the other.
2020–21	A 27 year old farm hand was fatally injured when caught up in a harvesting attachment on a tractor.
2020–21	A co-director was operating a small tractor when it rolled and crushed her, causing fatal injuries.
2020–21	A farmer attempting to conduct maintenance was fatally struck by a tractor seeder combination.
2020–21	A farmer was found deceased in the corner of a paddock. It is believed he was trampled by a bull.
2020–21	An 89 year old farmer was riding a motorcycle and crashed into a fence. The man was not wearing a helmet and suffered a head injury. He was conveyed to hospital but died several days later.
2021–22	A 24 year old farmer was fatality injured when he was struck by a hitch pin while attempting to free a bogged seeder.
2021–22	A 35 year old farmer suffered fatal injuries after falling from a work cage attached to a telehandler.
2021–22	A 49 year old farmer, who was operating a skid steer in his orchard, was found trapped under the bucket of the vehicle with fatal injuries.
2021–22	A 54 year old farmer was operating a quadbike when he struck a rock pile causing fatal injuries.
2021–22	A 62 year old farmer was fatality injured when he was caught in a wool press machine he was operating.
2021–22	A 69 year old farmer was ejected off a quadbike and sustained fatal injuries.
2021–22	A 72 year old farmer was run over by a tractor he was attempting to start, causing fatal injuries.
2021–22	An 89 year old farmer was fatality injured when he stood at the rear of an idle tractor when it rolled backwards and struck him.
2022–23	A farmer was fatally injured after being ejected from a quad bike, which then struck her.
2022–23	A farmer was fatally injured as a result of a fire while crop harvesting on his farm.
2022–23	A farmer was fatally injured by a seed bin that fell on him after coming off the hoists.
2023–24	A 22 year old farmhand was mustering cattle on a quad bike when they hit a rock and the vehicle flipped over, fatally injuring the deceased.
2023–24	A farm hand was unloading fertiliser from a trailer when a front end loader approached the trailer but failed to stop, thereby trapping the deceased between the vehicles.



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