



Department of Local Government,
Industry Regulation and Safety



State of the work environment

Work-related traumatic injury fatalities in Western Australia

2014–15 to 2023–24



Statistical summary: Financial year 2023-24

Figure 1: Work-related fatalities by gender

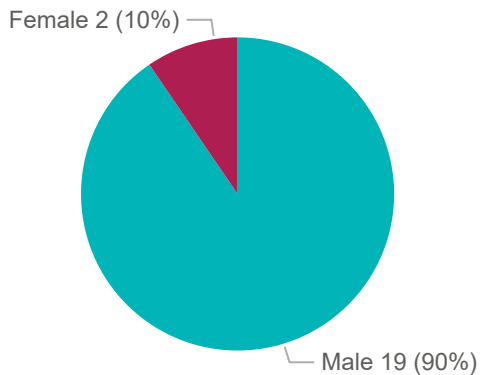


Figure 2: Work-related fatalities by worker classification

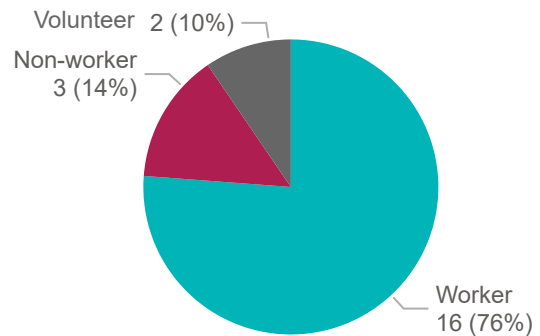


Figure 3: Work-related fatalities by age

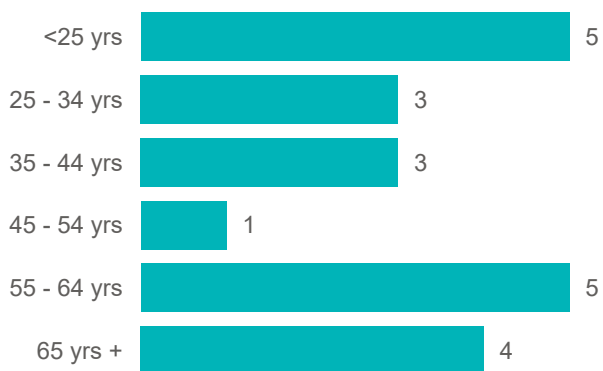


Figure 4: Work-related fatalities by most common industry of workplace

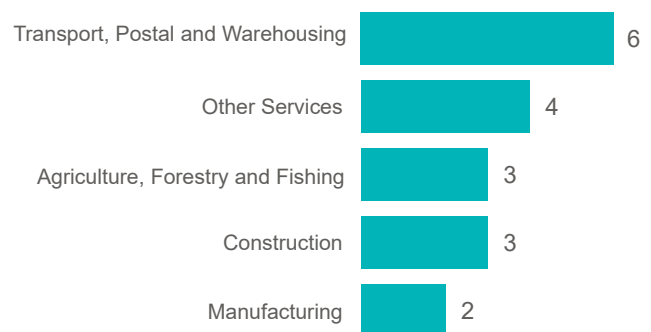
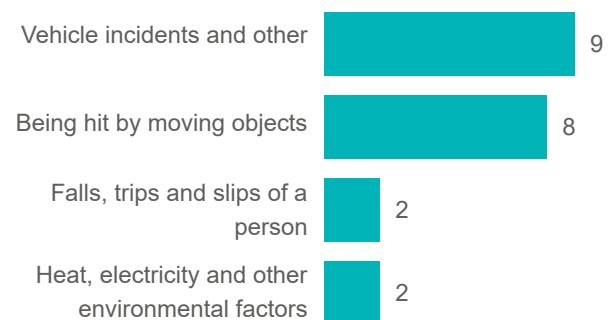


Figure 5: Work-related fatalities by most common occupation



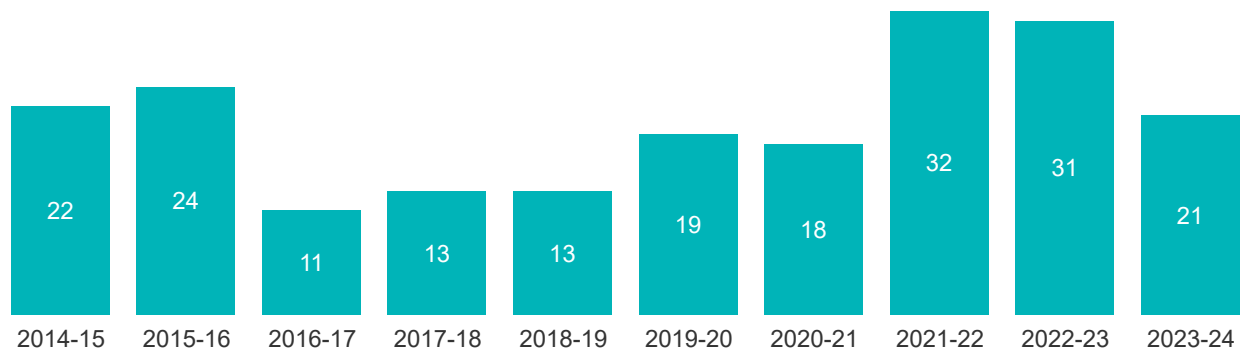
Figure 6: Work-related fatalities by most common mechanism of incident



For the definitions of industry of workplace, occupation, and mechanism of incident, please refer to Appendix A.

Statistical summary: 10-year period, 2014-15 to 2023-24

Figure 7: Work-related fatalities by financial years

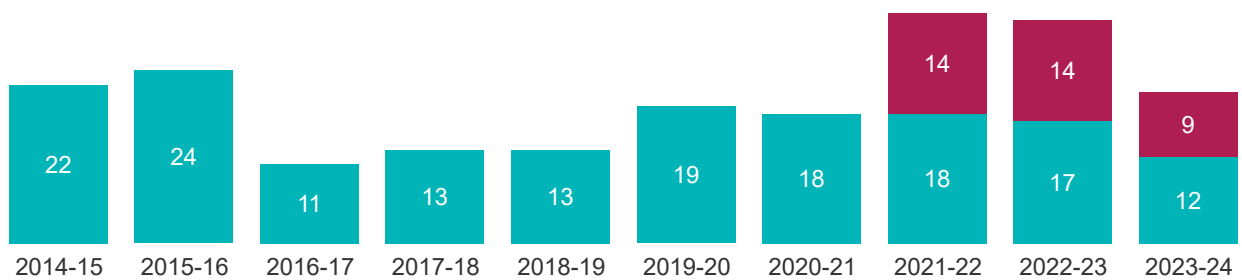


For the definition of work-related fatalities, please refer to Appendices A and B.

Figure 8: Work-related fatalities by financial years and motor vehicle incidents

Motor vehicle incident (MVI) ● Not MVI ● MVI

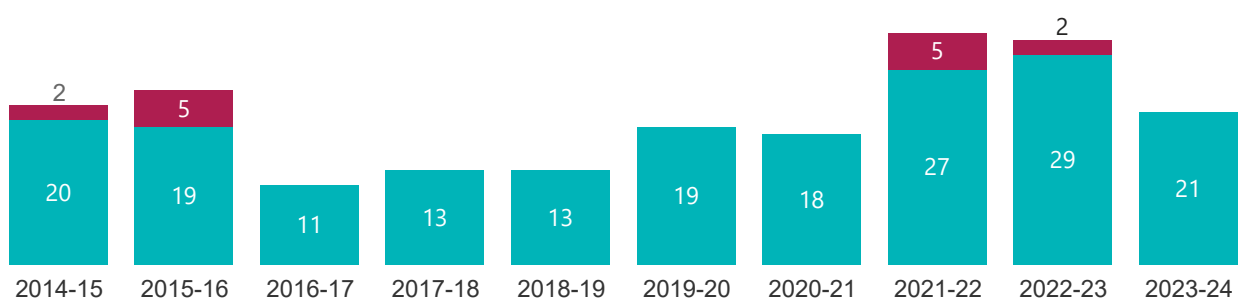
Note: WorkSafe began recording MVIs in 2021-22



For the definition of a motor vehicle incident, please refer to Appendix A.

Figure 9: Work-related fatalities by financial years and multiple fatality event

Multiple fatality event ● No ● Yes



For the definition of a multiple fatality event, please refer to Appendix A.

Statistical summary: By region, 2014-15 to 2023-24

Figure 10: Work-related fatalities summary by region



Note:
The colour gradient used in the map and table reflects each region's fatality incidence rate (fatalities per 100,000 workers). Regions with higher rates are shown in darker shades, while those with lower rates appear in lighter tones.

Region	Work-related fatalities	Fatalities per 100,000 workers	Most common fatalities by industry	Most common fatalities by occupation
Wheatbelt	39	12	Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	Managers
Goldfields/Esperance	24	7	Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	Machinery Operators and Drivers
Gascoyne	3	6	Transport, Postal and Warehousing	Machinery Operators and Drivers
Pilbara	23	4	Mining	Machinery Operators and Drivers
Mid West	11	4	Transport, Postal and Warehousing	Machinery Operators and Drivers
Kimberley	5	3	Construction/ Transport, Postal and Warehousing	Professionals/ Other person
Great Southern	7	3	Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	Labourers
South West	19	2	Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	Managers
Peel	7	2	Construction/ Transport, Postal and Warehousing	Technicians and Trades Workers
Perth	65	1	Construction	Machinery Operators and Drivers/ Labourers

Work-related fatality frequency and incidence rates, 2014-15 to 2023-24

Figure 11: Work-related fatality frequency rate by financial year

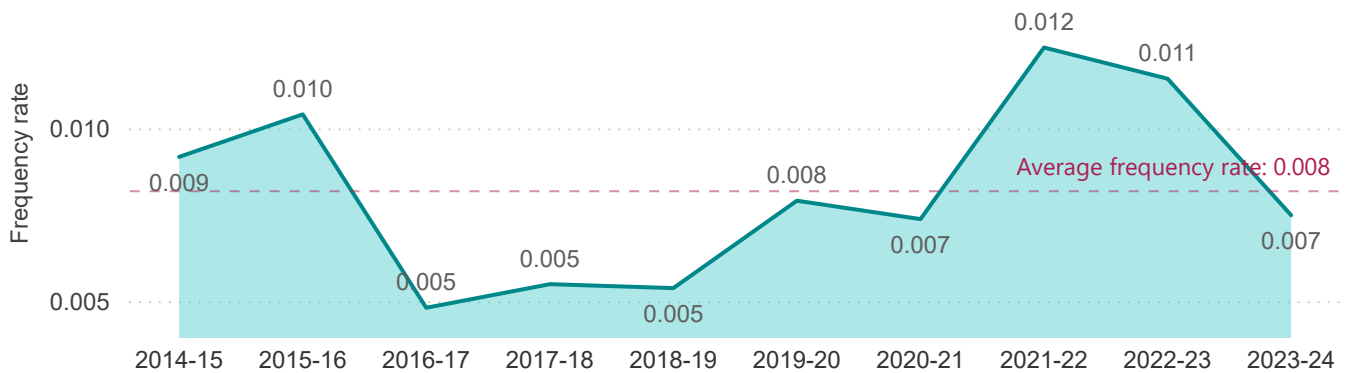


Figure 12: Work-related fatality incidence rate by financial year

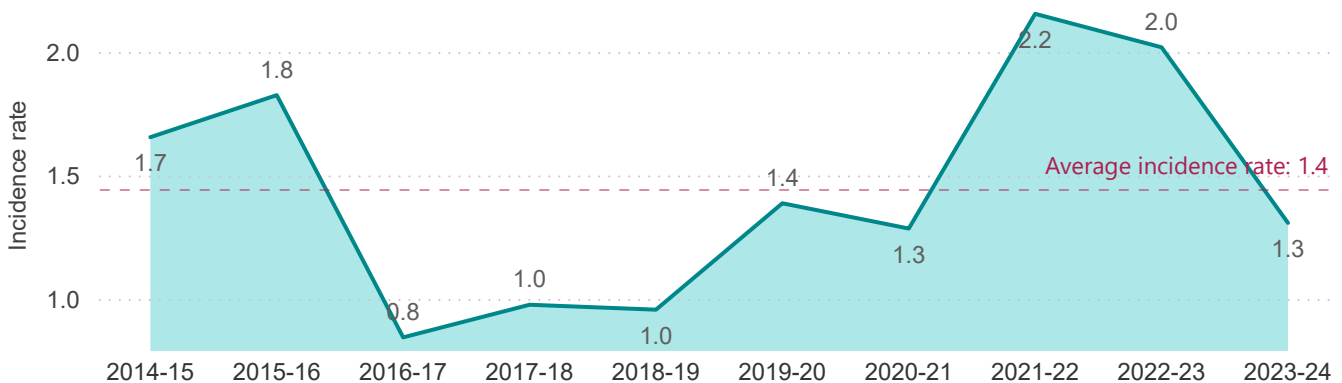


Figure 13: Work-related fatalities by most common industry of workplace

Industry of workplace	Work-related fatalities	Fatalities per million hours worked	Fatalities per 100,000 workers
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	44	0.063	12.9
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	44	0.033	6.4
Construction	37	0.014	2.7
Mining	22	0.008	1.8
Manufacturing	18	0.011	2.2
Other Services	10	0.010	1.7
Arts and Recreation Services	6	0.016	2.2
Public Administration and Safety	6	0.004	0.7
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	4	0.002	0.4
Accommodation and Food Services	3	0.002	0.3
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	3	0.008	1.6

For the definitions of frequency rate (fatalities per million hours worked) and incidence rate (fatalities per hundred thousand workers), please refer to Appendix A.

Industry summary - Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, 2014-15 to 2023-24

44

Work-related fatalities from 2014-15 to 2023-24

22%

Of total fatalities from 2014-15 to 2023-24

13

Fatalities per 100,000 workers in this industry

Figure 14: Work-related fatalities by financial year

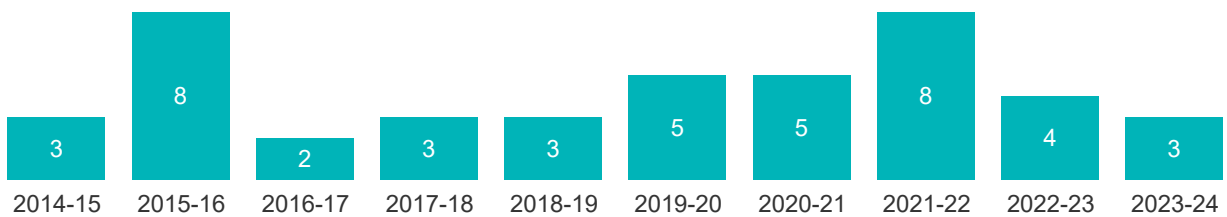


Figure 15: Work-related fatalities by age

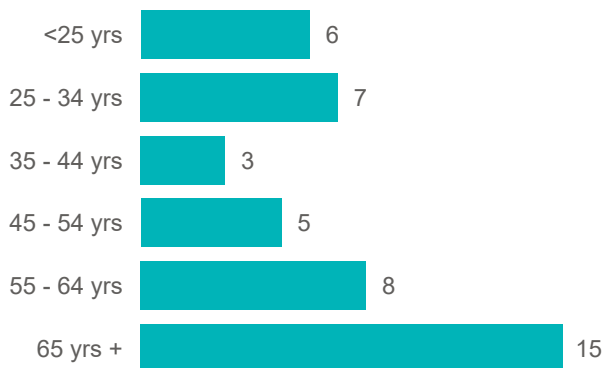


Figure 16: Work-related fatalities by most common industry of workplace subdivisions

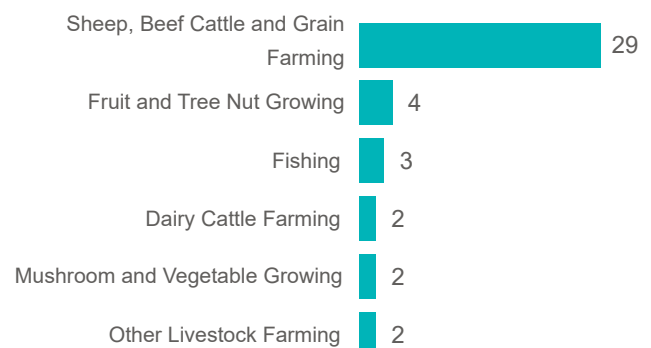


Figure 17: Work-related fatalities by most common occupation minor groups

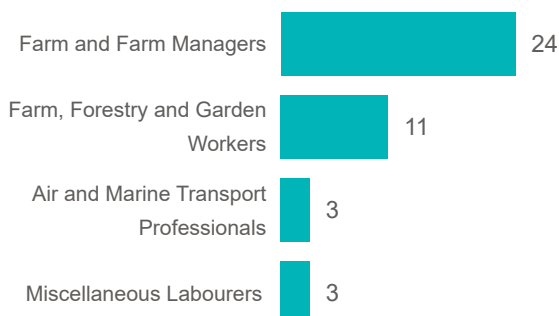
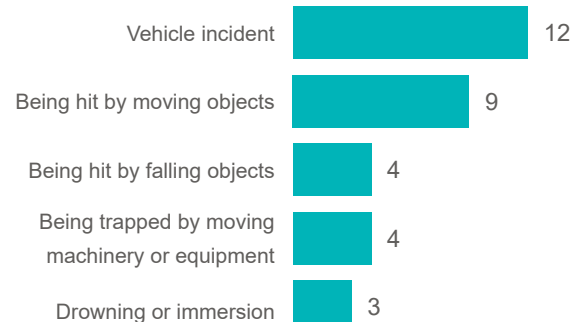


Figure 18: Work-related fatalities by most common mechanism of incident sub-groups



Industry summary - Transport, Postal and Warehousing, 2014-15 to 2023-24

44

Work-related injury fatalities from 2014-15 to 2023-24

22%

Of total fatalities from 2014-15 to 2023-24

6

Fatalities per 100,000 workers in this industry

Figure 19: Work-related fatalities by financial years

Motor vehicle incident (MVI) ● Not MVI ● MVI



Figure 20: Work-related fatalities by age group

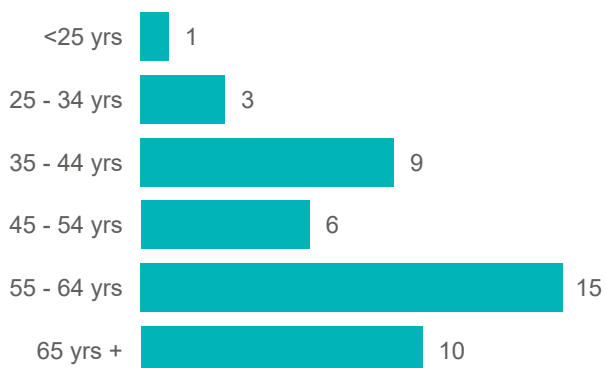


Figure 21: Work-related fatalities by most common industry of workplace subdivisions

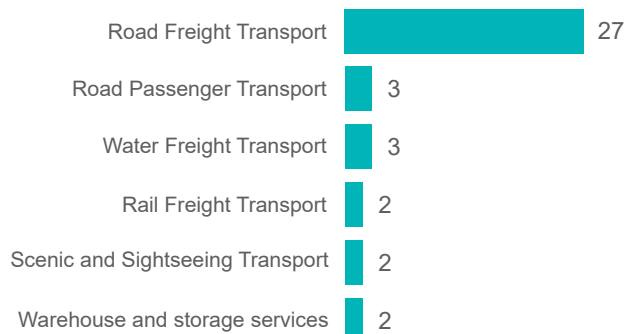


Figure 22: Most common work-related fatalities by most common occupation minor groups

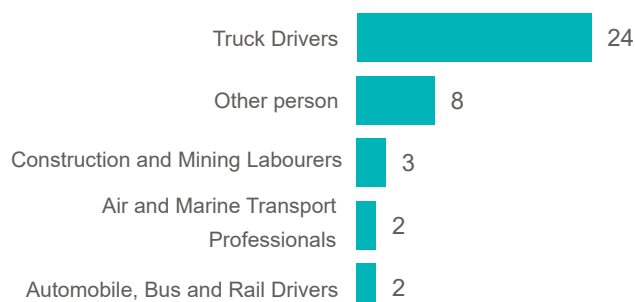
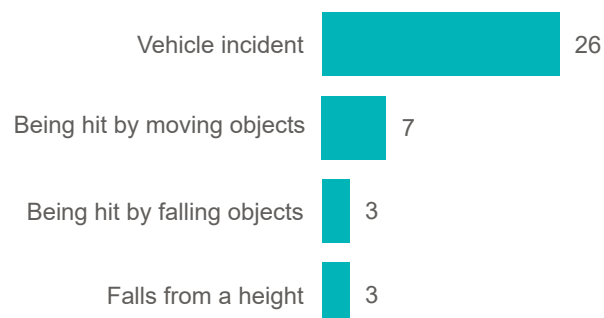


Figure 23: Work-related fatalities by most common mechanism of incident sub-groups



Industry summary - Construction, 2014-15 to 2023-24

37

Work-related injury fatalities from 2014-15 to 2023-24

18%

Of total fatalities from 2014-15 to 2023-24

3

Fatalities per 100,000 workers in this industry

Figure 24: Work-related fatalities by financial years

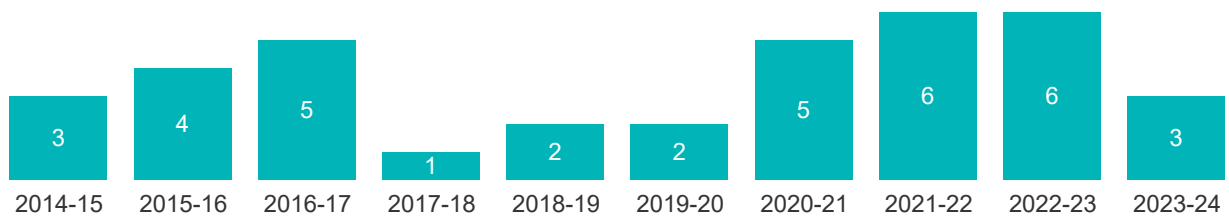


Figure 25: Work-related fatalities by age group

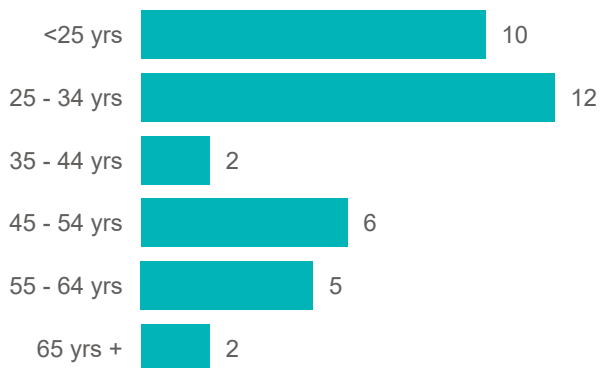


Figure 26: Work-related fatalities by most common industry of workplace subdivisions

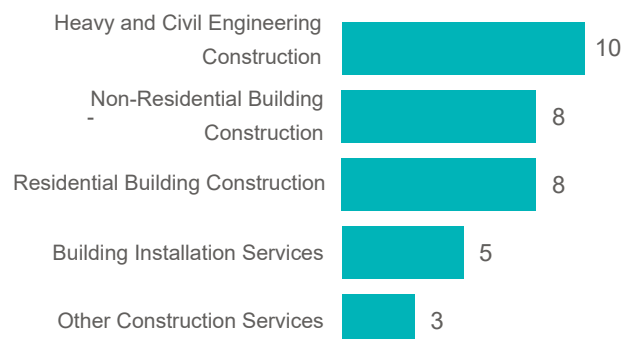


Figure 27: Work-related fatalities by most common occupation minor groups

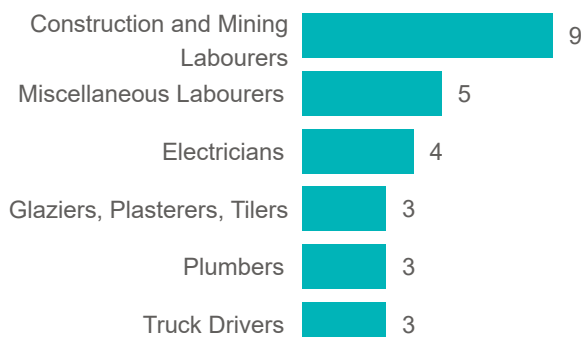
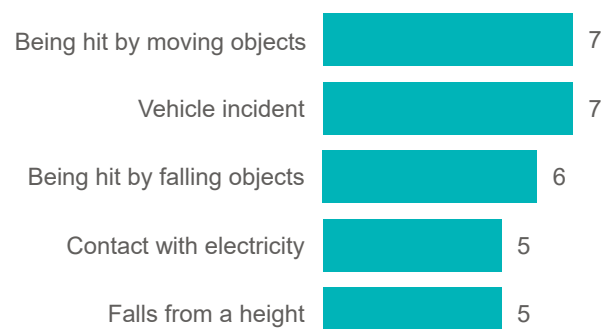


Figure 28: Work-related fatalities by most common mechanism of incident sub-groups



Industry summary - Mining, 2014-15 to 2023-24

22

Work-related traumatic injury fatalities from 2014-15 to 2023-24

11%

Of total fatalities from 2014-15 to 2023-24

2

Fatalities per 100,000 workers in this industry

Figure 29: Work-related fatalities by financial years

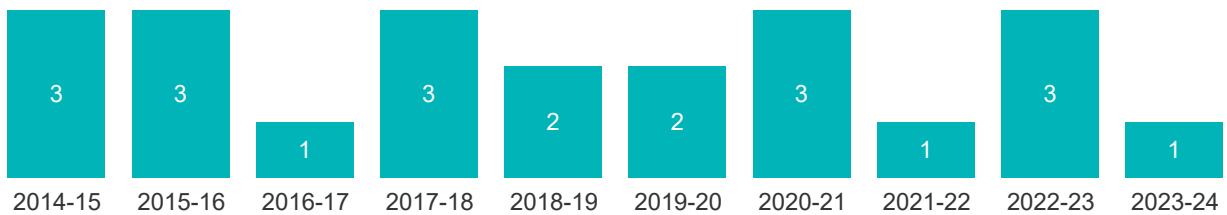


Figure 30: Work-related fatalities by age group

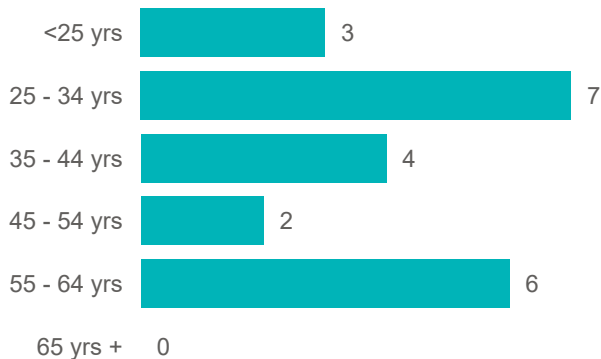


Figure 31: Work-related fatalities by most common industry of workplace subdivisions

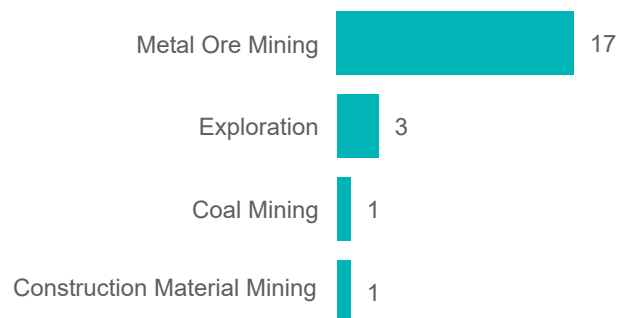


Figure 32: Work-related fatalities by most common occupation minor groups

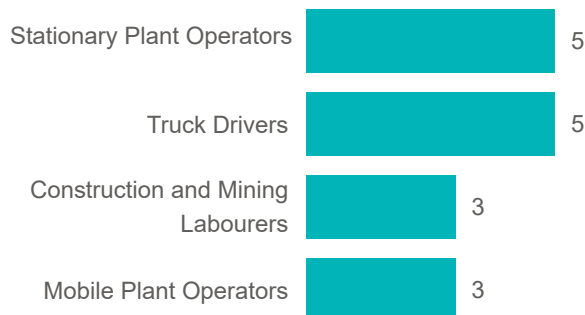
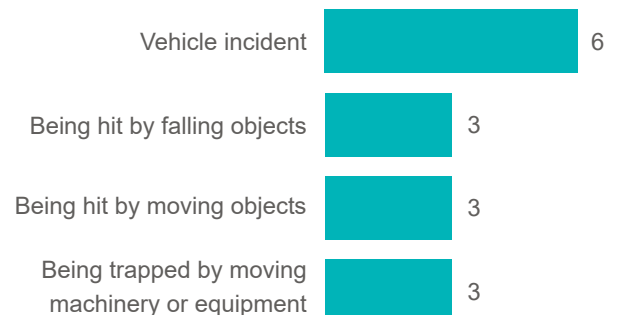


Figure 33: Work-related fatalities by most common mechanism of incident sub-groups



Statistical summary - Mechanism of incident and breakdown agency of injury, 2014-15 to 2023-24

Figure 34: Work-related fatalities by most common mechanism of incident subgroups

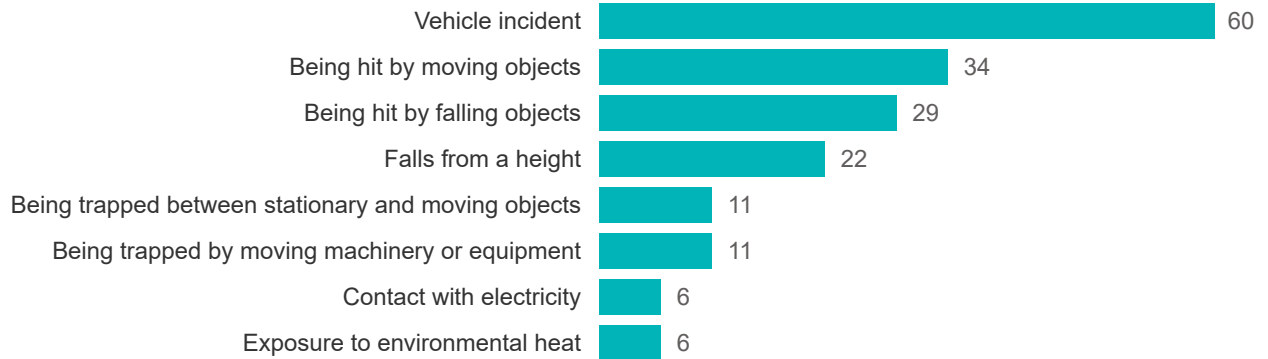


Figure 35: Work-related fatalities by most common breakdown agency of injury classes

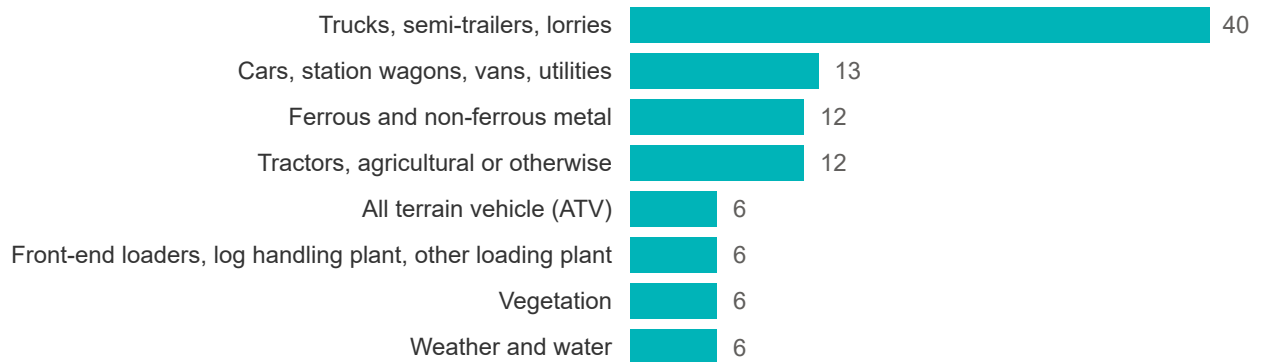


Figure 36: Work-related fatalities by most common mechanism of incident and breakdown agency of injury

Mechanism of incident subgroup	Breakdown agency of injury class	Work-related fatalities
Vehicle incident	Trucks, semi-trailers, lorries	27
Being hit by moving objects	Trucks, semi-trailers, lorries	8
Being hit by moving objects	Tractors, agricultural or otherwise	7
Vehicle incident	Cars, station wagons, vans, utilities	7
Being hit by falling objects	Ferrous and non-ferrous metal	6
Being hit by moving objects	Cars, station wagons, vans, utilities	5
Contact with electricity	Distribution lines: low tension	4
Exposure to environmental heat	Weather and water	4
Insect and spider bites and stings	Insects	4
Vehicle incident	All terrain vehicle (ATV)	4

Motor vehicle incidents - 2021-22 to 2023-24

37

Work-related motor vehicle incident fatalities (MVI) since 1 July 2021 (WorkSafe began recording MVIs from 2021-22)

44%

Of total fatalities from 2021-22 to 2023-24

7

Fatalities involved a non-worker

Figure 37: Motor vehicle incident fatalities by region

Region	Work-related fatalities
Goldfields/Esperance	7
Perth	7
Wheatbelt	7
South West	5
Mid West	3
Pilbara	3
Gascoyne	2
Peel	2
Great Southern	1
Kimberley	0



Note:

The colour gradient displayed in the map and table represents the number of work-related fatalities in each region. Darker shades indicate higher fatality counts, while lighter shades correspond to fewer fatalities

Figure 38: Motor vehicle incident fatalities by age

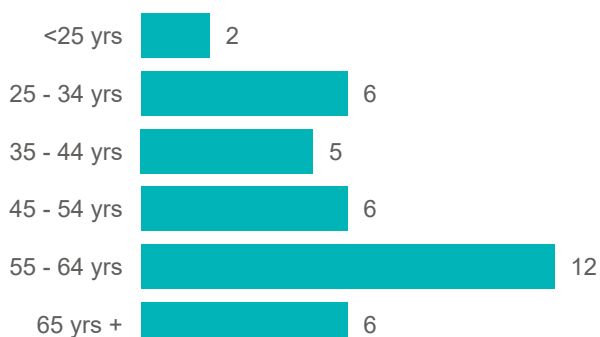
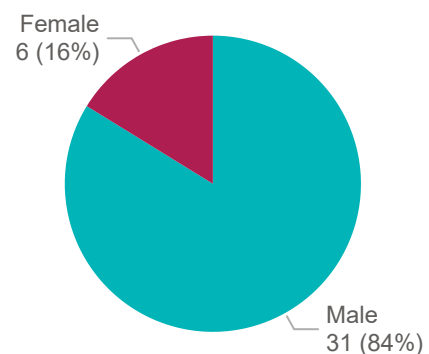


Figure 39: Motor vehicle incident fatalities by gender



Appendix A - Explanatory notes

Scope and exclusions

Work-related traumatic injury fatality information used in this report is derived from information recorded and published by WorkSafe and relates to fatalities that result from a physical trauma or poisoning in Western Australia (WA) in accordance with the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020* (the WHS Act), *Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984* (the OSH Act), *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*.

Fatalities are listed according to the day, month and year in which the death occurred.

Fatalities occurring before 1 July 2021 may have been determined by a different criteria. In particular, before this date, motor vehicle incident fatalities were recorded as not work-related.

The report excludes:

- fatalities related to activities not classified as work
- self-inflicted injuries and homicides as these were not recorded as work-related
- Commonwealth Government workers, workers covered by Comcare, and Australian Defence Force personnel
- work-related fatalities resulting from occupational diseases. Information on fatalities from work-related diseases is available through workers' compensation (WorkCover WA) and other sources
- motor vehicle incident fatalities occurring before 1 July 2021
- fatalities due to diseases and most disorders that would be seen as 'diseases', such as cancers, heart disease, heart attacks, or other natural causes, unless there is a clear relationship between the incident and the work being performed at the time of the incident.

Jurisdictions of work-related fatalities

WorkSafe will only record work-related fatality events which occur within the legislative jurisdiction of the WHS Act and, previously, the OSH Act and the *Mines Safety and Inspection Act 1994*.

Accordingly, WorkSafe will not record work-related fatality events which occur:

- a) exclusively in Comcare's jurisdiction
- b) outside three nautical miles of the WA coastline because this falls within the exclusive jurisdiction of the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA).

WorkSafe will record fatality events as work-related fatalities when an external safety regulator and WorkSafe have concurrent regulatory jurisdiction. Such matters include fatalities falling under the WHS Act and concurrent legislation regulated by:

- a) Western Australian Police Force relating to traffic crashes occurring on a road or at a place open to the public
- b) Building and Energy relating to electrical or gas incidents
- c) Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator relating to rail incidents
- d) Comcare where a PCBU related to the incident is identified to have a duty under the WHS Act
- e) Australian Maritime Safety Authority in relation to marine safety incidents
- f) Civil Aviation Safety Authority in relation to aircraft related incidents.

Appendix A - Explanatory notes (continued)

Denominator data sources

Workforce data of total employed and total hours worked by industry, occupation and gender are sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Labour Force Survey which includes self-employed people.

Data validity

Investigations into fatalities can be protracted and final decisions are often dependent on the release of information from other agencies.

The work-related traumatic injury fatality figures for 2022-23 and 2023-24 have yet to be finalised. These figures are considered preliminary due to the number of fatalities that remains under investigation.

All information is subject to revision and even final data may change. Information provided in this report is correct as at 08 May 2026.

The classification of a work-related fatality in this report may differ from classifications used by other agencies or organisations, due to variations in definitions and reporting criteria.

Legislative change

The WHS Act was formally implemented on 31 March 2022 and all WA workplaces come under this single Act, replacing the OSH Act and the work health and safety elements of certain Acts covering mining and petroleum. The WHS Act is regulated by the WorkSafe Commissioner (the regulator).

For data reporting purposes, work-related fatalities are classified according to the WHS Act, even if the incident occurred under the previous OSH Act. For example, volunteers are classified as workers under the WHS Act, whereas under the OSH Act, they are considered as other persons.

Appendix B - Definitions

Work-related traumatic injury fatality

Includes all individual/s who sustained fatal traumatic injuries or poisoning as a result of work activities or exposures, and whose injuries occurred in an incident that took place in the State of Western Australia (WA), including Australian Territories or Territorial waters off the WA coast. The scope covers workers (including self-employed people and volunteers) and other people (including non-workers). Diseases and most disorders that would be seen as 'diseases', such as cancers and heart attacks, are not within this definition.

In this report, work-related traumatic injury fatalities are referred to as work-related fatalities.

Worker

Section 7 of the WHS Act defines a worker as any person who carries out work for a person conducting a business or undertaking under the WHS Act. See the WHS Act for full definition.

Person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU)

A PCBU is the term given to a person conducting a business or undertaking, whether alone or with others, and whether not for profit or gain. See section 5 of the WHS Act for full definition.

Volunteer

Section 4 of the WHS Act defines a volunteer as a person who is acting on a voluntary basis (irrespective of whether the person receives out-of-pocket expenses).

Other person (non-worker)

Other person is someone who sustained a fatal injury as a result of another person's work activity, while not engaged in a work activity of their own. This may include visitors, service recipients or passer-by.

Motor vehicle incident

Motor vehicle incident (MVI) means incidents which occurred on a road or at a place open to the public and within the jurisdiction of the offence provisions of the *Road Traffic Act 1974*. This is distinct from **vehicle incidents** as defined by the **Types of Occurrence Classification System 3rd Edition Revision 1 (TOOCS 3.1)** mechanism of incident, which includes transport by rail, water or air. The terms MVI and vehicle incidents should not be used interchangeably.

Multiple fatality event

A multiple fatality event is defined as an incident in which two or more individuals sustained fatal injuries as a result of a work-related activity.

Non-work activity

Non-work activity refers to actions not connected to an employment and includes:

- unpaid domestic or home duties
- studying (unless in connection with employment, for example, an apprenticeship)
- volunteer with no work connection.

Appendix B - Definitions (continued)

Frequency rate

Frequency rates are used to provide an indication of the relative number of work-related fatalities across different years, scaled for changes in the number of hours worked. The fatality frequency rate is calculated as number of fatalities per million hours worked by workers in WA.

Incidence rate

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. The fatality incidence rate is calculated as the fatality total per one hundred thousand workers in WA.

Industry of workplace

Section 8 of the WHS Act defines a workplace as a place where work is carried out for a business or undertaking and includes any place where a worker goes, or is likely to be, while at work. This report uses the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification 2006 Edition (ANZSIC) system to classify the workplace in which the fatality incident occurred.

Occupation

When the person who sustained fatal injury is identified as a worker, this report uses the Australian and New Zealand Classification of Occupations First Edition 2013 (ANZSCO) to classify the worker's occupation.

Mechanism of incident

As defined by TOOCS, mechanism of incident classification is intended to identify the mechanism or process that best describes the circumstances in which the injury or disease occurred. Thus, the code is allocated on the basis of the overall circumstances of the incident, rather than on the specific direct cause of the injury or disease. See TOOCS 3.1 for full explanation.

Breakdown agency of injury

The breakdown agency identifies the chemical, product, process or equipment that was most closely associated with the breakdown event of the fatality. The breakdown event is defined as the point at which things started to go wrong and which ultimately led to the fatality. See TOOCS 3.1 for full explanation.