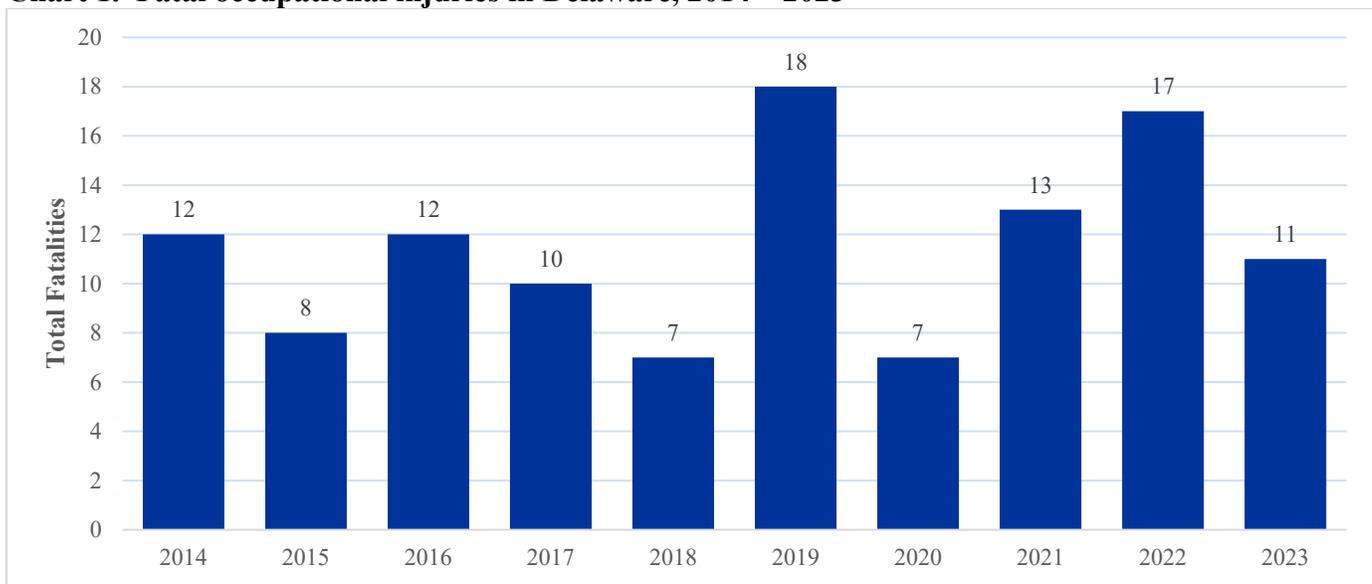


DELAWARE WORKPLACE FATALITIES - 2023

The Delaware Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) reported 11 total fatal work injuries for Delaware in 2023. The number of work-related fatalities in Delaware decreased by six from the previous year. Fatal occupational injuries in the state have ranged from a high of 18 in 1996 and 2019 to a low of 7 in 2009, 2018, and 2020. (See chart 1.)

Nationwide, a total of 5,283 fatal work injuries were recorded in 2023, a 4-percent decrease from the 5,486 fatal injuries in 2022, according to the results from the CFOI program.

Chart 1. Fatal occupational injuries in Delaware, 2014 – 2023



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

The two most frequent types of fatal injuries in Delaware in 2023 were transportation incidents and falls, slips, and trips, each with four fatalities. Of the four falls, slips, and trips, three were falls to a lower level. (See table 1.) Transportation incidents was the most frequent type of fatal workplace event nationwide, accounting for 37 percent of all fatal work injuries in 2023. Likewise, falls, slips, and trips comprised the second-most frequent type of workplace fatalities nationwide, comprising 17 percent of such incidents.

All Delaware fatal workplace injuries in 2023 occurred in private industry. Among all fatally injured workers in the United States, 92 percent occurred in private industry. Notably, in Delaware four work fatalities occurred within private construction industries. (See table 2.) Nationwide, private industry construction accounted for 20 percent of work-related fatalities.

As such, construction and extraction occupations suffered more fatalities in the workplace in Delaware in 2023 than any other occupation. Three such workers were fatally injured on the job. (See table 3.) Of all fatally injured workers in the United States in 2023, 20 percent were construction and extraction occupations. This occupational group had the second-highest total workplace fatalities nationwide.

Additional key characteristics in Delaware:

- Four of the fatally injured Delaware workers were between the ages of 55 and 64. Another three workers were between the ages of 45 and 54. (See table 4.) In the United States, 20 percent of all work-related fatalities were between the ages of 35 and 44, and 20 percent were between the ages of 45 and 54.
- Seven fatally injured workers in Delaware were classified as white, non-Hispanic. (See table 4.) Nationally, 56 percent of all fatally wounded workers were white, non-Hispanic.

Technical Note

Background of the program

The Delaware Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) was conducted by the Delaware Department of Labor in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The CFOI program, part of the BLS Occupational Safety and Health Statistics (OSHS) program, is a count of all fatalities resulting from workplace injuries occurring in the U.S. during the calendar year. The CFOI program uses a variety of state, federal, and independent data sources to identify, verify, and describe fatal work injuries. This ensures counts are as complete and accurate as possible.

For technical information and definitions for the CFOI, see the BLS Handbook of Methods on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cfoi/home.htm and the CFOI definitions at www.bls.gov/iif/definitions/occupational-safety-and-health-definitions.htm.

Federal/State agency coverage

The CFOI includes data for all fatal work injuries, some of which may be outside the scope of other agencies or regulatory coverage. Comparisons between CFOI counts and those released by other agencies should account for the different coverage requirements and definitions being used by each agency.

Table 1. Fatal occupational injuries by event or exposure, Delaware, 2022–23

Event or exposure ^[1]	2022	2023	
	Number	Number	Percent
Total	17	11	100
Transportation incidents	7	4	36
Falls, slips, trips	--	4	36
Fall to lower level	--	3	27

^[1] Based on the BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System (OIICS) 3.02 implemented for 2023 data forward.

NOTE: Data for all years are final. Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. For complete information on how the data are coded and presented see our definitions page at <https://www.bls.gov/iif/definitions/census-of-fatal-occupational-injuries-definitions.htm>. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. CFOI fatality counts exclude illness-related deaths unless precipitated by an injury event.

Table 2. Fatal occupational injuries by industry, Delaware, 2022–23

Industry ^[1]	2022	2023	
	Number	Number	Percent
Total	17	11	100
Private industry	16	11	100
Goods producing	--	--	--
Construction	5	4	36
Construction	5	4	36
Heavy and civil engineering construction	--	1	9
Utility system construction	--	1	9
Water and sewer line and related structures construction	--	1	9
Specialty trade contractors	--	3	27

^[1] CFOI has used several versions of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) since 2003 to define industry. For complete information on the version of NAICS used in this year, see our definitions page at <https://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cfoi/concepts.htm#north-american-industry-classification-system-naics>. Cases where ownership is unknown are included in private industry counts. Cases classified as foreign government and other government are included in all government counts, but not displayed separately. Cases where industry is unknown are included in the service sector counts.

NOTE: Data for all years are final. Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. For complete information on how the data are coded and presented see our definitions page at <https://www.bls.gov/iif/definitions/census-of-fatal-occupational-injuries-definitions.htm>. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. CFOI fatality counts exclude illness-related deaths unless precipitated by an injury event.

Table 3. Fatal occupational injuries by occupation, Delaware, 2022–23

Occupation ^[1]	2022	2023	
	Number	Number	Percent
Total	17	11	100
Sales and related occupations	--	1	9
Retail sales workers	--	1	9
Counter and rental clerks and parts salespersons	--	1	9
Construction and extraction occupations	6	3	27
Construction trades workers	4	3	27

^[1] CFOI has used several versions of the Standard Occupation Classification (SOC) system since 2003 to define occupation. For complete information on the version of SOC used in this year, see our definitions page at <https://www.bls.gov/opus/hom/cfoi/concepts.htm#standard-occupational-classification-soc>. Cases where occupation is unknown are included in the total.

NOTE: Data for all years are final. Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. For complete information on how the data are coded and presented see our definitions page at <https://www.bls.gov/iif/definitions/census-of-fatal-occupational-injuries-definitions.htm>. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. CFOI fatality counts exclude illness-related deaths unless precipitated by an injury event.

Table 4. Fatal occupational injuries by selected demographic characteristics, Delaware, 2022–23

Worker characteristics	2022	2023	
	Number	Number	Percent
Total	17	11	100
Age ^[1]			
45 to 54 years	5	3	27
55 to 64 years	3	4	36
Race or ethnic origin ^[2]			
White, non-Hispanic	12	7	64

^[1] Information may not be available for all age groups.

^[2] Persons identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. The race categories shown exclude data for Hispanics and Latinos. Cases where ethnicity is unknown are included in counts of non-Hispanic workers.

NOTE: Data for all years are final. Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. For complete information on how the data are coded and presented see our definitions page at <https://www.bls.gov/iif/definitions/census-of-fatal-occupational-injuries-definitions.htm>. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. CFOI fatality counts exclude illness-related deaths unless precipitated by an injury event.