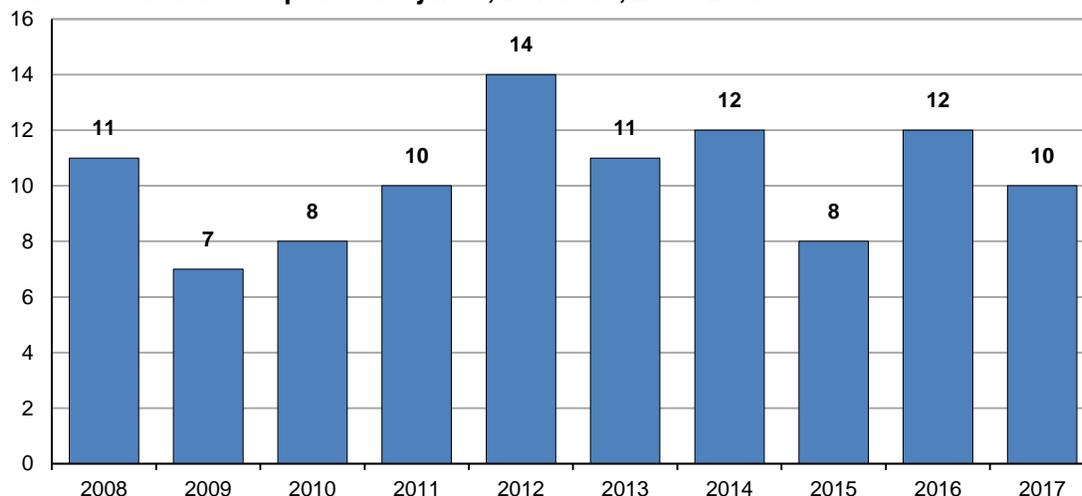


## FATAL OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES IN DELAWARE – 2017

Fatal work injuries totaled 10 in 2017 for Delaware, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau’s regional commissioner, noted that the number of work-related fatalities in Delaware decreased from the 12 fatalities in the previous year. Fatal occupational injuries in the state have ranged from a high of 18 in 1996 to a low of 7 in 2009. (See chart 1.)

Nationwide, a total of 5,147 fatal work injuries were recorded in 2017, down slightly from the 5,190 fatal injuries reported in 2016, according to the results from the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) program.

**Chart 1. Total fatal occupational injuries, Delaware, 2008–2017**



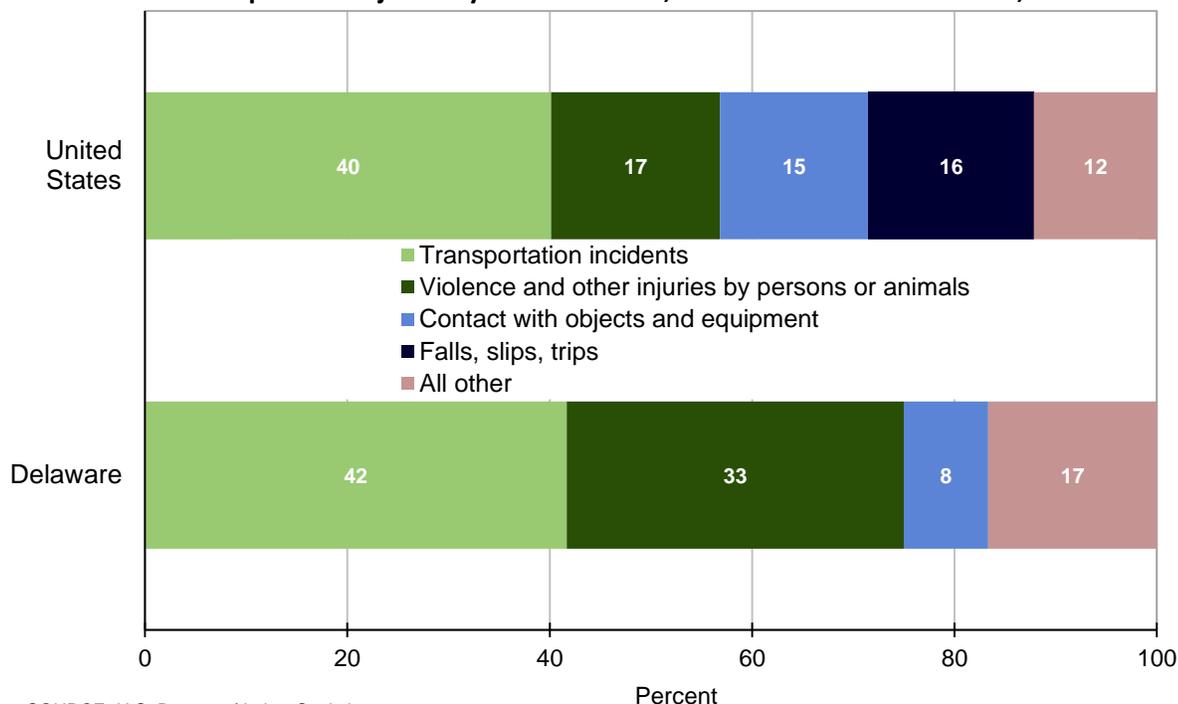
SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

### Type of incident

In Delaware, violence and other injuries by persons or animals accounted for four fatalities and falls, slips or trips resulted in three deaths. These two major categories accounted for 70 percent of all workplace fatalities in the state. In the previous year, the fatality count for violence and other injuries by persons or animals was the same as the count for 2017.

Nationally, transportation incidents remained the most frequent fatal workplace event in 2017, accounting for 40 percent of fatal work injuries. Falls, slips, or trips was the second-most common fatal event (17 percent), followed by violence and other injuries by persons or animals (16 percent).

**Chart 2. Fatal occupational injuries by selected event, United States and Delaware, 2016**



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**Industry**

Government had three fatalities in the state in 2017. Violence and other injuries by persons or animals accounted for all of the fatalities in government.

**Occupation**

Protective service occupations had the highest number of workplace fatalities with three. The majority of the fatalities within this group were police and sheriff’s patrol officers (2).

**Contracted Workers**

A contractor is defined as a worker employed by one firm but working at the behest of another firm that exercises overall responsibility for the operations at the site of the fatal injury. In 2017, Delaware had two fatally-injured workers identified as fitting the contractor criteria, the same count as the prior year.

**Additional highlights**

- Men accounted for 90 percent of the work-related fatalities in Delaware, similar to the 93-percent national share. The most frequent fatal event for men in the state was violence and other injuries by persons or animals (4) followed by falls, slips, or trips (3).
- White, non-Hispanic workers accounted for 60 percent of those who died from a workplace injury. Nationwide, this group accounted for 67 percent of work-related deaths.
- Workers 35-54 years old accounted for half of the state’s work-related fatalities in 2017, compared to 38 percent of on-the-job fatalities nationally.

- Of the 10 fatally-injured workers in Delaware, 70 percent worked for wages and salaries; the remainder were self-employed. Violence and other injuries by persons or animals accounted for 43 percent of the fatalities to wage and salary workers.

### **Technical Note**

**Background of the program.** The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI), part of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Occupational Safety and Health Statistics (OSHS) program, compiles a count of all fatal work injuries occurring in the U.S. during the calendar year. The CFOI program uses diverse 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 the 2017 national data, over 23,400 unique source documents were reviewed as part of the data collection process. For technical information and definitions for CFOI, please go to the BLS Handbook of Methods on the BLS website at [www.bls.gov/pub/hom/cfoi/home.htm](http://www.bls.gov/pub/hom/cfoi/home.htm).

**Federal/State agency coverage.** The CFOI includes data for all fatal work injuries, even those that may be outside the scope of other agencies or regulatory coverage. Thus, any comparison between the BLS fatality census counts and those released by other agencies should take into account the different coverage requirements and definitions being used by each agency. More on the scope of CFOI can be found at [www.bls.gov/iif/cfoiscope.htm](http://www.bls.gov/iif/cfoiscope.htm) and [www.bls.gov/pub/hom/cfoi/concepts.htm](http://www.bls.gov/pub/hom/cfoi/concepts.htm).

**Acknowledgments.** BLS thanks the Delaware Department of Labor for their efforts in collecting accurate, comprehensive, and useful data on fatal work injuries. BLS also appreciates the efforts of all federal, state, local, and private sector entities that provided source documents used to identify fatal work injuries. Among these agencies are the Occupational Safety and Health Administration; the National Transportation Safety Board; the U.S. Coast Guard; the Mine Safety and Health Administration; the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (Federal Employees' Compensation and Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation divisions); the Federal Railroad Administration; the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; state vital statistics registrars, coroners, and medical examiners; state departments of health, labor, and industrial relations and workers' compensation agencies; state and local police departments; and state farm bureaus.

Information in this release is available to sensory-impaired individuals. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.