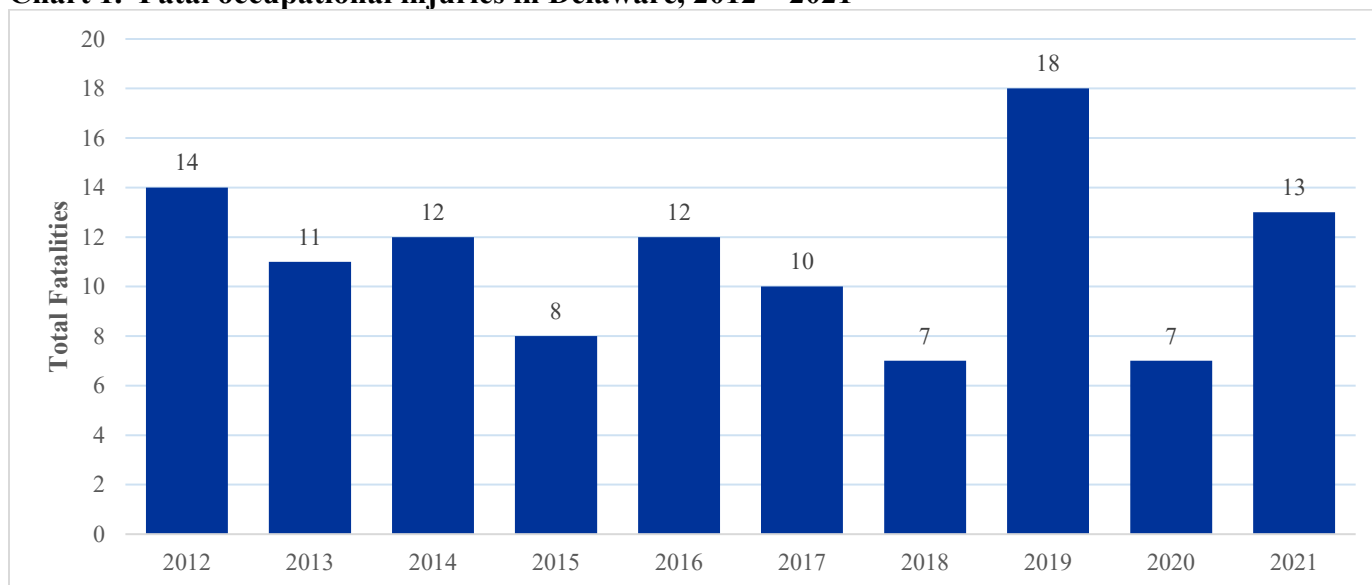


DELAWARE WORKPLACE FATALITIES - 2021

The Delaware Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) reported 13 total fatal work injuries for Delaware in 2021. The number of work-related fatalities in Delaware increased 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 5,190 fatal work injuries were recorded in 2021, a 9-percent increase from the 4,764 fatal injuries in 2020, according to the results from the CFOI program.

Chart 1. Fatal occupational injuries in Delaware, 2012 – 2021



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

The most frequent type of fatal injury in Delaware in 2021 was falls, slips, and trips, which resulted in four fatalities. Of the four, two were on falls on the same level and two were on falls to a lower level. (See table 1.) Falls, slips, and trips was the second-most frequent type of fatal workplace event among all United States workers, accounting for 16 percent of such incidents. Transportation incidents was the most frequent fatal workplace event nationwide, accounting for 38 percent of fatal work injuries in 2021.

The second-most frequent type of fatal workplace event for Delaware in 2021 was exposure to harmful substances or environments. Three workers perished from an unintentional overdose from nonmedicinal use of drugs or alcohol. (See table 1.) Nationally, nine percent of fatal workplace incidents in 2021 were due to unintentional overdoses from nonmedicinal use of drugs or alcohol.

The majority of Delaware fatal workplace injuries in 2021 – 77 percent – occurred in private industry. Among all fatally injured workers in the United States, 91 percent occurred in private industry. The private industries in Delaware with multiple fatal incidents were construction with four fatalities and retail trade with three fatalities. (See table 2.) Nationwide, private construction accounted for 19 percent of work-related fatalities and private retail trade accounted for 5 percent of work-related fatalities.

Construction trades workers suffered more fatalities in the workplace in Delaware in 2021 than any other occupation. Four such workers were fatally injured on the job. (See table 3.) Of all fatally injured workers in the United States in 2021, 14 percent were construction trades workers.

Additional key characteristics in Delaware:

- Forty-six percent of the fatally injured Delaware workers in 2021 were between the ages of 55 and 64. (See table 4.) In the United States, 22 percent of all work-related fatalities were between the ages of 55 and 64.
- Ten of the Delaware employees who died from a workplace injury in 2021 worked for wages and salaries. The other three were self-employed. (See table 4.) Nationwide, 83 percent of all fatally injured workers in 2021 worked for wages and salaries; the remainder were self-employed.
- Men accounted for 10 of Delaware’s work-related fatalities in 2021; women accounted for three. (See table 4.) Among all work-related fatalities in the United States in 2021, men accounted for 91 percent.

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, 2020–2021

Event or exposure ^[1]	2020	2021	
	Number	Number	Percent
Total	7	13	100
Falls, slips, trips	2	4	31
Falls on same level	--	2	15
Fall on same level due to slipping	--	1	8
Falls to lower level	2	2	15
Fall from collapsing structure or equipment	--	1	8
Fall from collapsing structure or equipment more than 30 feet	--	1	8
Other fall to lower level	2	1	8
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	--	3	23
Exposure to other harmful substances	--	3	23
Nonmedical use of drugs or alcohol--unintentional overdose	--	3	23
Contact with objects and equipment	--	2	15
Struck by object or equipment	--	2	15
Struck by falling object or equipment--other than powered vehicle	--	2	15

^[1] Based on the BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System (OIICS) 2.01 implemented for 2011 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/oshcfdef.htm>. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. CFOI fatal injury counts exclude illness-related deaths unless precipitated by an injury event.

Table 2. Fatal occupational injuries by industry, Delaware, 2020-2021

Industry ^[1]	2020	2021	
	Number	Number	Percent
Total	7	13	100
Private industry ^[2]	7	10	77
Goods producing	--	--	--
Construction	--	4	31
Construction	--	4	31
Specialty trade contractors	--	2	15
Foundation, structure, and building exterior contractors	--	1	8
Masonry contractors	--	1	8
Other specialty trade contractors	--	1	8
Service providing ^[3]	--	--	--
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2	--	--
Retail trade	--	3	23
Food and beverage stores	--	1	8
Grocery stores	--	1	8
Supermarkets and other grocery (except convenience) stores	--	1	8
Professional and business services	--	1	8
Administrative and support and waste management and remediation services	--	1	8
Administrative and support services	--	1	8
Services to buildings and dwellings	--	1	8
Landscaping services	--	1	8
Government ^[4]	--	3	23
State government	--	1	8
Local government	--	2	15

^[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/iif/oshcfdef.htm>.

^[2] Cases where ownership is unknown are included in private industry counts.

^[3] Cases where industry is unknown are included in the service sector counts.

^[4] Includes fatal injuries to workers employed by governmental organizations regardless of industry. Cases classified as foreign government and other government are included in all government counts, but not displayed separately.

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/oshcfdef.htm>. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. CFOI fatal injury counts exclude illness-related deaths unless precipitated by an injury event.

Table 3. Fatal occupational injuries by occupation, Delaware, 2020-2021

Occupation ^[1]	2020	2021	
	Number	Number	Percent
Total	7	13	100
Construction and extraction occupations	--	4	31
Construction trades workers	--	4	31

^[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/iif/oshcfdef.htm>. 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/oshcfdef.htm>. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. CFOI fatal injury counts exclude illness-related deaths unless precipitated by an injury event.

Table 4. Fatal occupational injuries by selected demographic characteristics, Delaware, 2020–2021

Worker characteristics	2020	2021	
	Number	Number	Percent
Total	7	13	100
Employee status			
Wage and salary workers ^[1]	7	10	77
Self-employed ^[2]	--	3	23
Gender			
Men	7	10	77
Women	--	3	23
Age ^[3]			
55 to 64 years	--	6	46
Race or ethnic origin ^[4]			
White, non-Hispanic	3	8	62
Black or African-American, non-Hispanic	--	--	--
Hispanic or Latino	4	3	23

^[1] May include volunteers and workers receiving other types of compensation. Cases where employment status is unknown are included in the counts of wage and salary workers.

^[2] Includes self-employed workers, owners of unincorporated businesses and farms, paid and unpaid family workers, and may include some owners of incorporated businesses or members of partnerships.

^[3] Information may not be available for all age groups.

^[4] Persons identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. The race categories shown exclude data for Hispanic and Latino workers. 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/oshcfdef.htm>. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. CFOI fatal injury counts exclude illness-related deaths unless precipitated by an injury event.