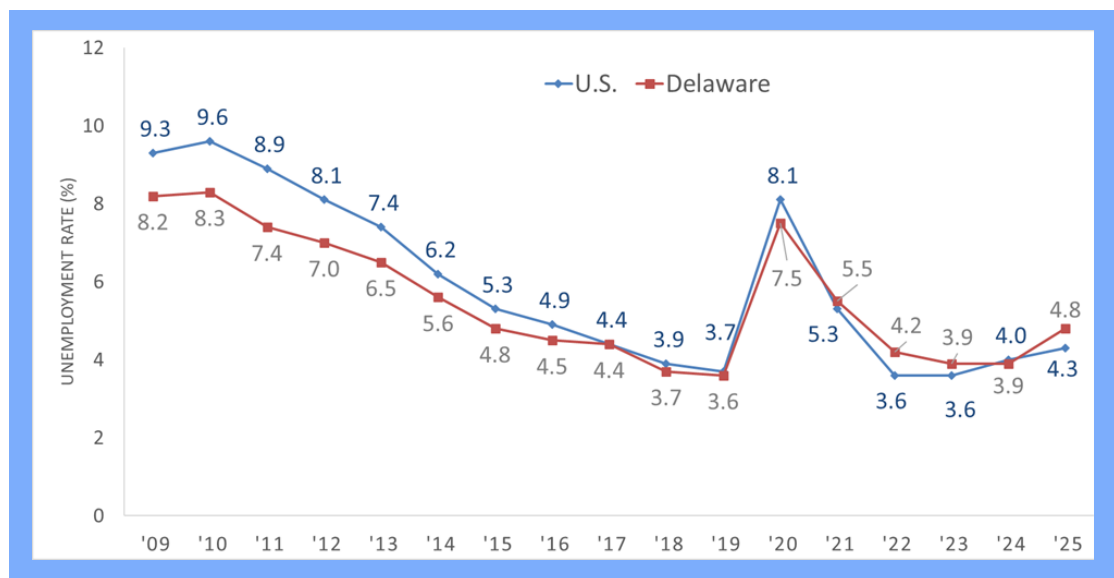


DELAWARE'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

The unemployment rate is a key economic indicator of the health of the economy and one that is widely watched by the public. The Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program is a state and federal cooperative program that generates the unemployment rate for the state, counties, and cities with populations over 25,000. The unemployment rate is measured by dividing the number of unemployed by the total labor force. To be considered unemployed, one has to be not employed but actively seeking employment and available to work during the month.



In 2025, Delaware's not seasonally adjusted annual unemployment rate was 4.8 percent, representing an increase of 0.9 percentage points from the previous year. This rate was 0.5 percentage points higher than the national average of 4.3 percent. Historically, Delaware's unemployment rate peaked at 8.3 percent in 2010, while the U.S. rate reached 9.6 percent in the aftermath of one of the most severe post-World War II recessions, which officially ended in June 2009.

Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) data for states date back to 1976. Since 1990, Delaware's annual average unemployment rate has exceeded the national rate in only four years. Most recently, in 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2025, Delaware's rate was higher than the U.S. rate by 0.2, 0.6, 0.3, and 0.5 percentage points, respectively.

Comparative Unemployment Rates

The Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program is an important Federal and State government cooperative program that produces monthly and annual data on employment, unemployment, the unemployment rate and the labor force for States, counties, and cities. The state unemployment rate data below are produced from the LAUS program.

Delaware and its Neighboring States Annual Average Unemployment Rate

Delaware’s annual average unemployment rate of 4.8 percent in 2025 was ranked as the 45th lowest rate in the nation. Delaware’s unemployment rate was ranked second highest among neighboring states Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania in 2025. Maryland’s annual average unemployment rate of 4.0 percent tied for 25th lowest in the nation. New Jersey’s annual average unemployment rate of 5.2 percent tied for 46th and Pennsylvania’s annual average unemployment rate of 4.3 percent tied with two other states for 32nd lowest in the nation.

Delaware’s annual average unemployment rate rose by 0.9 percentage points from 2024 to 2025, the largest increase among neighboring states. Maryland’s unemployment rate had the second highest change, rising by 0.8 percentage points, New Jersey’s rate increased by 0.6 percentage points and Pennsylvania, with the lowest over-the-year change, grew by 0.5 percentage points. The U.S. average unemployment rate in 2025 was 4.3 percent, up 0.3 percentage points from 2024.

Comparative Annual Unemployment Rates					
	Unemployment Rate			National Ranking*	
	2024	2025		2024	2025
Delaware	3.9	4.8		30	45
Maryland	3.2	4.0		14(t)	25(t)
New Jersey	4.6	5.2		45	46(t)
Pennsylvania	3.8	4.3		29	32(t)
United States	4.0	4.3		--	--

t indicates the ranking was tied with other state(s).