

Middletown, Delaware

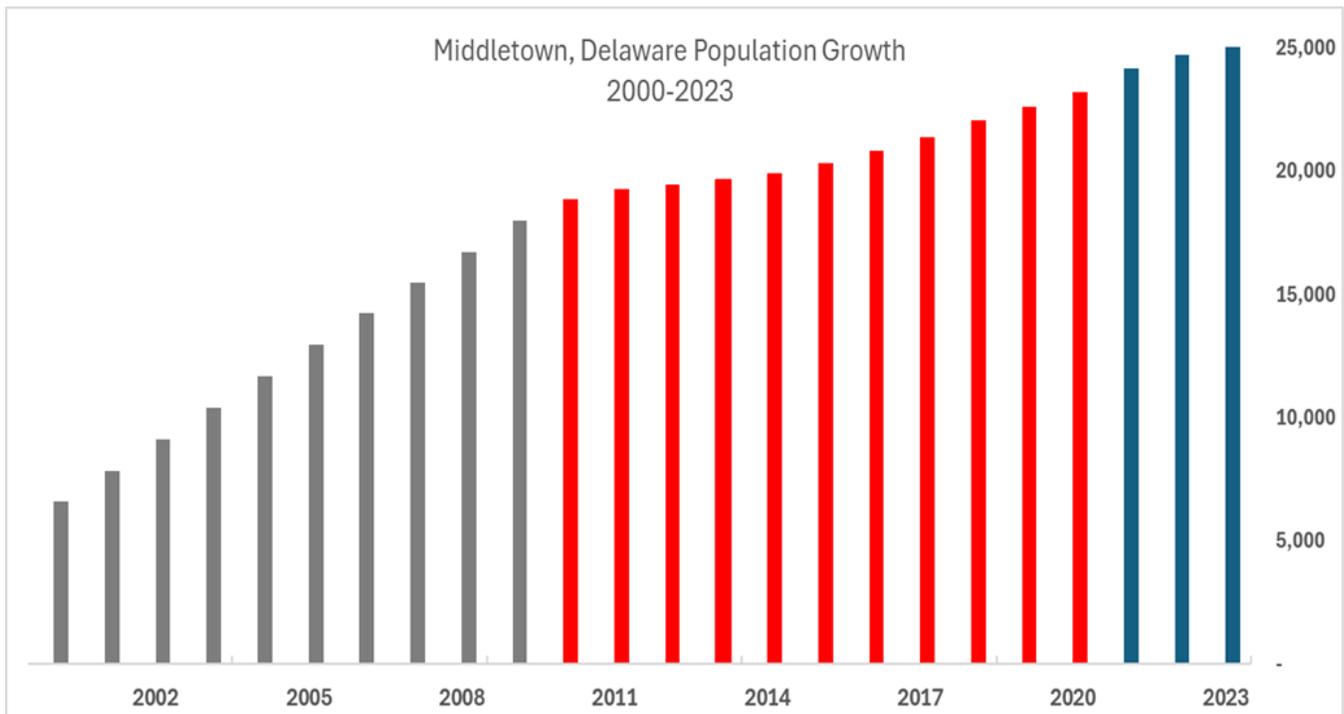
In 2024, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) identified that Middletown, Delaware reached the 25,000-population threshold to be considered Delaware's fourth Small Labor Market Area (SLMA) based on the American Community Survey's July 1, 2023 1-year supplemental estimate.¹ According to BLS, the federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) establishes standard delineations of areas for federal statistical purposes, and updates to these standards occur each decade following the census. In January 2025, the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program estimates for federal statistical areas were updated to reflect the delineations, adding Middletown.² Middletown joins the cities of Wilmington, Newark, and Dover, with populations of 25,000 residents or more.



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Population Growth

According to the US Census, over the past 23 years, Middletown has seen a population growth of 280%, increasing from roughly 6,600 residents in 2000 to slightly over 25,000 in 2023. On average, Middletown's growth increased 6.1 percent annually over this period, the largest percentage growth occurring between 2000 and 2006 when the annual average growth rate was 13.7 percent. From 2010 to 2023, the annual average growth rate was 2.4 percent.³



¹ US Census, American Community Survey, [2023 - Census Bureau Tables](#)

² Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Geographic Concepts. <https://www.bls.gov/lau/lauggeo.htm>

³ US Census, American Community Survey 1-year estimates for 2021-2023 & 2000-2020 Intercensal Estimates.

Middletown’s Labor Market

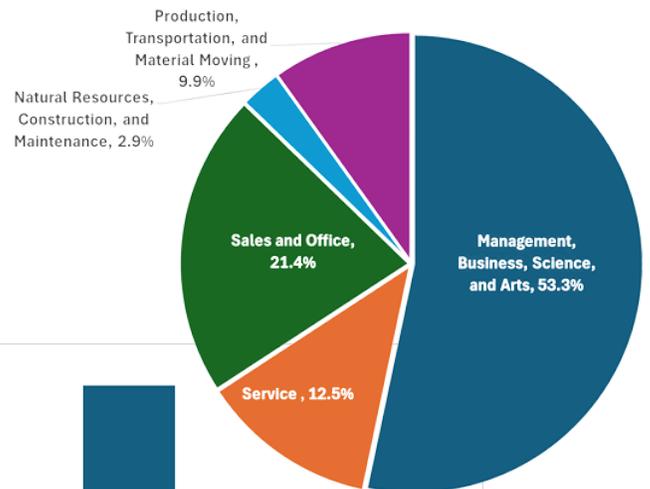
According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program, in 2024, Middletown’s seasonally adjusted annual average labor force (those working or looking for work) totaled 12,400. The area had both the lowest annual average level of unemployment and the lowest unemployment rate among cities with populations greater than 25,000.

Area Employment & Unemployment, Seasonally Adjusted Annual Average 2024

	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Dover, DE	17,788	16,897	891	5.0
Middletown, DE	12,400	12,010	390	3.1
Newark, DE	13,632	13,071	561	4.1
Wilmington, DE	36,873	34,959	1,914	5.2

BLS does not track industry employment data at the local area level. However, the US Census provides an estimate on the Occupations and Industries where Middletown residents are employed. More than half of Middletown residents (53.3%) are in Management, Business, Science, and Arts occupations. The Educational Services & Health Care and Social Assistance Industry employs the greatest number of Middletown residents, at 3,300, or 28.5 percent.

Percentage of Middletown Workers by Occupational Category, 2023 ACS-5-Year Estimate



Percentage of Middletown Workers by Industry Category, 2023 ACS-5-Year Estimate

