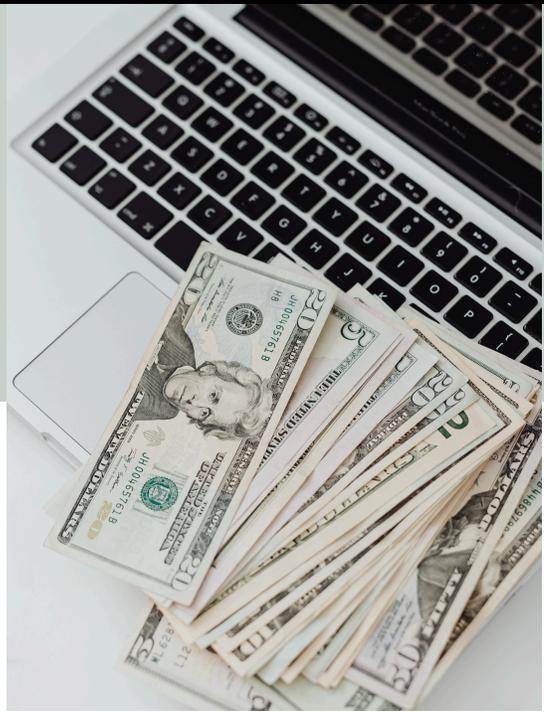


# Personal Income

The Bureau of Economic Analysis produces annual personal income data, which serves as a broad measure of the economic activity of an area. The most recent state-level personal income data available is for 2023 and all of the nominal dollar values have been deflated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers and converted to constant 2023 dollars.

Personal income is the total amount of compensation that an individual receives. Income is derived from working a job or owning a business, through investment income, and income from transfer payments, such as Unemployment Insurance, Social Security and Medicare. Per capita personal income is the total personal income of an area divided by the total resident population of that area.



## Delaware Real Per Capita Income in Constant 2023 Dollars

Per Capita	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Personal Income	\$63,560	\$65,009	\$67,128	\$66,698	\$66,557
Earned Income	\$38,015	\$37,185	\$37,899	\$38,820	\$38,717
Investment Income	\$12,214	\$11,721	\$12,312	\$12,484	\$13,065
Transfer Payments	\$13,332	\$16,104	\$16,917	\$15,395	\$14,775

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis. Nominal income deflated using the Philadelphia- Camden-Wilmington CPI-U from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In 2023, Delaware's inflation-adjusted per capita personal income was \$66,557, a decrease of \$141 from 2022. With data going back to 1958, 2021 was the peak year for real per capita income. Prior to 2021, the peak years in per capita income were 2018, 2019, and 2020. Real per capita income declined by 0.2 percent over the year in 2023 compared with a decline of 0.6 percent in 2022 and a growth of 3.3 percent in 2021.

The largest share of personal income comes from earned income. Earned income is wages that come from a job or proprietors' income from owning a business. In 2023, 58.2 percent of Delaware's total per capita personal income came from earned income, below its peak share of 77.4 percent in 1973 and roughly equal to the percentage of total income in the prior year. Adjusting for inflation, real per capita earned income was \$38,717 in 2023, a decrease of 0.3 percent over 2022.

Investment income is income received from dividends, interest, and rent. In 2023, investment income was 19.6 percent of Delaware's total per capita personal income, an increase from 18.7 percent in 2022. Per capita investment income rose from \$12,484 inflation-adjusted dollars in 2022 to \$13,065 in 2023. Investment income as a percentage of total per capita income was highest in 1963, where the average share was 21.3 percent, followed by 21.1 percent in 1989. For 2023, investment income as a percentage of total per capita income was ranked 19th out of the 66 years of record keeping since 1958.

Transfer payments are income that persons receive for which no current service is performed. Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, income support programs, and unemployment insurance are all examples of government programs that provide transfer payments. Real per capita transfer payments were \$14,775 in 2023, a decrease of \$620 or -4.0 percent over 2022. As a percentage of per capita personal income, transfer payments were 22.2 percent in 2023 compared to 23.1 percent in 2022. Continuing the trend first seen in 2009, real per capita transfer payments exceed real per capita investment income.

### Delaware Real Per Capita Income, Percent Change from Previous Year, 2019-2023

Per Capita	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Personal Income</b>	0.1%	2.3%	3.3%	-0.6%	-0.2%
<b>Earned Income</b>	-1.4%	-2.2%	1.9%	2.4%	-0.3%
<b>Investment Income</b>	2.0%	-4.0%	5.0%	1.4%	4.7%
<b>Transfer Payments</b>	2.7%	20.8%	5.0%	-9.0%	-4.0%

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In 2019, transfer payments grew from 21.0 percent of per capita income to 24.8 percent in 2020 and 25.2 percent in 2021. Of the various transfer payments within this category, unemployment insurance (UI) benefits saw the greatest per capita change between 2017 and 2023. UI benefits grew more than 1,200% on a per capita basis from \$67.00 in 2019 to \$828.00 in 2020 as a result of the Coronavirus relief initiatives, but declined by 48.9 percent in 2021, as pandemic relief initiatives expired. In 2022, UI per capita benefits declined even further to \$42 from \$441 in 2021, but rebounded slightly to \$62 in 2023.