

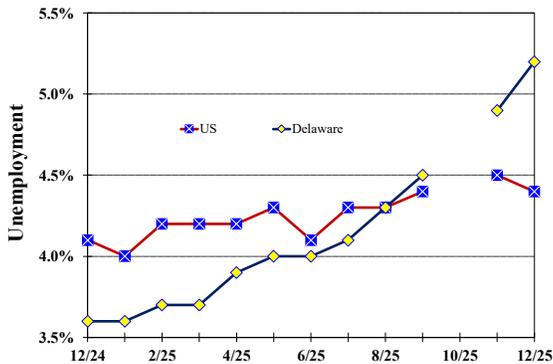
December 2025

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Unemployment Rate

Delaware and US

December 2024 - December 2025



Monthly Commentary

In December, Delaware’s seasonally adjusted number of unemployed workers increased by 8,300 compared to a year earlier (an increase of 45 percent). This marked the largest year-over-year increase since February 2021, when the number of unemployed workers rose by 11,600. By comparison, the number of unemployed workers nationwide increased by 8.4 percent over the same period. Delaware’s seasonally adjusted labor force grew by 9,500 workers, a 1.9 percent increase and the largest over the year growth since October 2023, when the labor force expanded by 10,300 workers or 2.1 percent. The labor force participation rate in December was 59.4 percent.

Delaware Civilian Labor Force

Delaware Residents

	Dec. 2025	Nov. 2025	Dec. 2024
Civilian Labor Force	516,200	515,000	506,700
Employed	489,600	489,600	488,400
Unemployed	26,600	25,400	18,300
Unemployment Rate %	5.2	4.9	3.6
US Unemployment Rate %	4.4	4.5	4.1

Source: Delaware Dept. of Labor in cooperation with the US Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Area Unemployment Rates (%)

	Dec. 2025	Nov. 2025	Dec. 2024
New Castle County	5.0	5.2	3.0
Wilmington	6.5	6.9	4.3
Newark	7.0	6.2	3.9
Middletown	4.3	4.7	2.7
Kent County	5.6	5.7	3.4
Dover	6.8	6.9	4.2
Sussex County	5.1	5.4	3.2

Note: Area rates are not seasonally adjusted.

Source: Delaware Dept. of Labor in cooperation with the US Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Hours & Earnings

All Employee (Total Private)

	Dec. 2025	Nov. 2025	Dec. 2024
Weekly Earnings	\$1,095.77	\$1,114.74	\$1,057.80
Weekly Hours	32.4	32.7	32.8
Hourly Earnings	\$33.82	\$34.09	\$32.25

Source: Delaware Dept. of Labor in cooperation with the US Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Office of Occupational and Labor Market Infor-

For data questions, contact Tom Dougherty (302) 761-8062

Delaware Labor Force Trends

Delaware's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in December 2025 was 5.2%, up from 4.9% in November 2025. There were 26,600 unemployed Delawareans in December 2025 compared to 18,300 in December 2024. The US unemployment rate was 4.4% in December 2025, down from 4.5% in November 2025. In December 2024, the US unemployment rate was 4.1%, while Delaware's rate was 3.6%.

In December 2025, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment was 496,100, up from 494,300 in November 2025. Since December 2024, Delaware's total nonfarm jobs have increased by a net gain of 5,400, a rise of 1.1%. Nationally, jobs during that period increased by 0.3%.

Delaware Nonfarm Employment

Jobs at Delaware Locations
Seasonally Adjusted (in 000s)

INDUSTRY GROUP	Dec. 2025	Nov. 2025	Over the Month Change	Over the Year Change†
TOTAL NONAG. EMP.	496.1	494.3	1.8	5.4
CONSTRUCTION	24.7	24.3	0.4	0.2
MANUFACTURING	26.2	26.0	0.2	-0.6
Durable Goods	8.0	8.0	0.0	-0.1
Nondurable Goods	18.2	18.0	0.2	-0.5
TRADE, TRANSP., & UTIL.	90.4	90.6	-0.2	0.1
Wholesale Trade	12.7	12.7	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	52.2	52.1	0.1	0.4
Transp. & Utilities	25.5	25.8	-0.3	-0.3
INFORMATION	3.5	3.5	0.0	0.0
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	49.7	49.6	0.1	0.9
PROF. & BUS. SERVICES	65.5	65.4	0.1	1.1
PRIV. EDUCATION & HEALTH	91.3	90.9	0.4	3.1
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	53.2	52.6	0.6	-0.4
OTHER SERVICES	20.5	20.4	0.1	0.9
GOVERNMENT	71.1	71.0	0.1	0.1
Federal Government	6.3	6.3	0.0	-0.5
State Government	33.0	32.9	0.1	-0.1
Local Government	31.8	31.8	0.0	0.7

† Annual changes are not seasonally adjusted.
Details may not add up due to rounding and seasonal adjustment.
Source: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

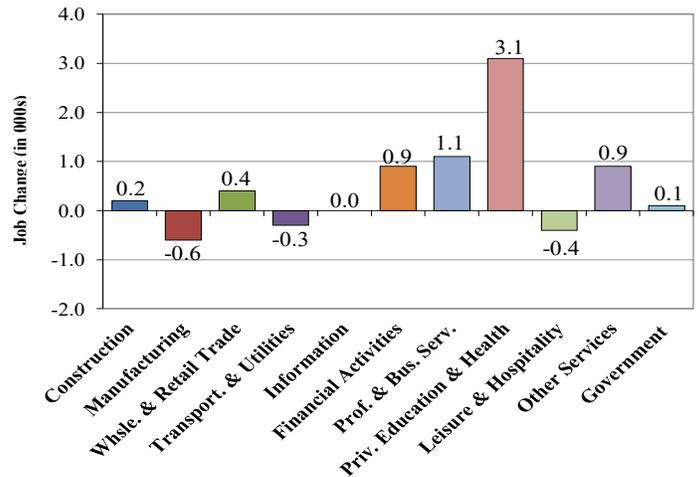
Office of Occupational and Labor Market Information

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<https://lmi.delaware.gov/>

Delaware Over-the-Year Job Change

December 2024 – December 2025



Consumer Price Index

All Urban Consumers

	Percent Change to Dec. 2025 from:		
	Dec. 2024	Oct. 2025	Nov. 2025
US City Average	2.7	NA	0.0
Phila.-Camden-Wilm.*	3.9	NA	NA

Note: The October 2025 data is not available due to a lapse in Federal appropriations.
* Data are published on a bi-monthly basis.

Delaware Annual Net Job Change

Annual Average 2004–2024

