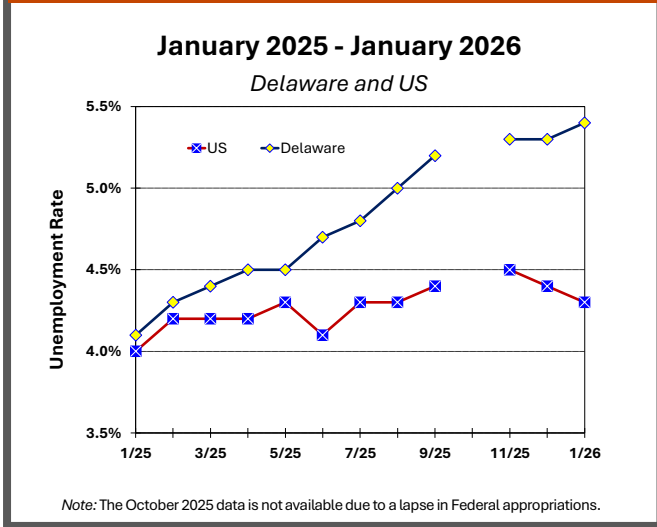


January 2026

Published April 6, 2026

Unemployment Rate



Monthly Commentary

January's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose to 5.4 percent, marking its highest level since August 2021. Annual revisions to previously published data indicate that Delaware's total seasonally adjusted nonfarm average annual employment was higher than originally estimated, increasing by 2,400 jobs in 2024 and 1,900 jobs in 2025. Benchmark revisions also resulted in higher unemployment over the past two years. In 2024, the number of seasonally adjusted unemployed individuals was revised up by 1,300, raising the annual average unemployment rate from 3.7 percent to 3.9 percent. In 2025, the number of unemployed workers increased by 3,100, with the annual average unemployment rate revised upward from 4.2 percent to 4.7 percent, a gain of 0.6 percentage points.

Delaware Civilian Labor Force

Delaware Residents

	Jan. 2026	Dec. 2025	Jan. 2025
Civilian Labor Force	516,200	517,100	513,600
Employed	488,300	489,600	492,300
Unemployed	27,900	27,500	21,300
Unemployment Rate %	5.4	5.3	4.1
US Unemployment Rate %	4.3	4.4	4.0

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

Area Unemployment Rates (%)

	Jan. 2026	Dec. 2025	Jan. 2025
New Castle County	5.5	5.0	4.2
Wilmington	7.5	6.7	6.5
Newark	6.7	7.1	4.2
Middletown	4.7	4.4	3.9
Kent County	6.0	5.7	4.7
Dover	7.2	7.1	5.5
Sussex County	5.8	5.2	4.8

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)

	Jan. 2026	Dec. 2025	Jan. 2025
Weekly Earnings	\$1,073.33	\$1,080.54	\$1,030.37
Weekly Hours	32.3	32.4	31.9
Hourly Earnings	\$33.23	\$33.35	\$32.30

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

Office of Occupational and Labor Market Information

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

Delaware Labor Force Trends

Delaware’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in January 2026 was 5.4%, up from 5.3% in December 2025. There were 27,900 unemployed Delawareans in January 2026 compared to 21,300 in January 2025. The US unemployment rate was 4.3% in January 2026, down from 4.4% in December 2025. In January 2025, the US unemployment rate was 4.0%, while Delaware’s rate was 4.1%.

In January 2026, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment was 495,300, up from 494,800 in December 2025. Since January 2025, Delaware’s total nonfarm jobs have increased by a net gain of 1,300, a rise of 0.3%. Nationally, jobs during that period increased by 0.2%.

Delaware Nonfarm Employment

Jobs at Delaware Locations
Seasonally Adjusted (in 000s)

INDUSTRY GROUP	Jan. 2026	Dec. 2025	Over the Month Change	Over the Year Change†
TOTAL NONAG. EMP.	495.3	494.8	0.5	1.3
CONSTRUCTION	25.0	24.8	0.2	0.8
MANUFACTURING	26.3	26.5	-0.2	-0.4
Durable Goods	7.8	7.8	0.0	-0.3
Nondurable Goods	18.5	18.7	-0.2	-0.1
TRADE, TRANSP., & UTIL.	90.8	89.8	1.0	0.4
Wholesale Trade	13.0	12.8	0.2	0.1
Retail Trade	50.7	50.6	0.1	-0.1
Transp. & Utilities	27.1	26.4	0.7	0.4
INFORMATION	3.4	3.4	0.0	-0.1
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	48.9	49.4	-0.5	-0.7
PROF. & BUS. SERVICES	64.7	65.1	-0.4	0.5
PRIV. EDUCATION & HEALTH	93.6	92.9	0.7	2.5
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	51.3	51.7	-0.4	-1.8
OTHER SERVICES	19.8	19.7	0.1	0.4
GOVERNMENT	71.5	71.5	0.0	-0.3
Federal Government	6.2	6.2	0.0	-0.6
State Government	33.2	33.3	-0.1	-0.4
Local Government	32.1	32.0	0.1	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.

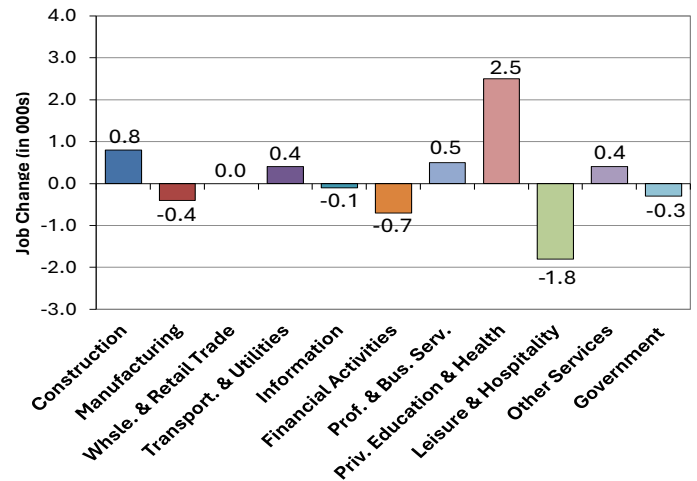
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<https://lmi.delaware.gov/>

Delaware Over-the-Year Job Change

January 2025 — January 2026



Consumer Price Index

All Urban Consumers

	Percent Change to Jan. 2026 from:		
	Jan. 2025	Nov. 2025	Dec. 2025
US City Average	2.4	0.3	0.4
Phila.-Camden-Wilm.*	NA	NA	NA

* Data are published on a bi-monthly basis.

Delaware Annual Net Job Change

Annual Average 2005—2025

