

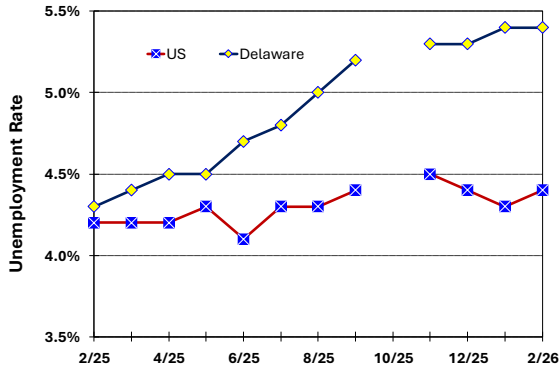
February 2026

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Unemployment Rate

February 2025 - February 2026

Delaware and US



Note: The October 2025 data is not available due to a lapse in Federal appropriations.



Monthly Commentary

Delaware’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged from the prior month but was 1.1 percentage points higher than a year earlier. The number of unemployed individuals rose by 6,000 from 21,900 in February 2025 to 27,900. According to 12-month average data from the Current Population Survey (CPS), first-time labor force entrants (new entrants) and individuals re-entering the workforce (reentrants) accounted for 43.6 percent of the total unemployed population. The estimated number of these workers has increased by just over 50 percent over the past year. Additionally, job leavers—those who voluntarily left their positions—comprised approximately 12 percent of the unemployed.

Delaware Civilian Labor Force

Delaware Residents

	Feb. 2026	Jan. 2026	Feb. 2025
Civilian Labor Force	514,700	516,200	514,100
Employed	486,800	488,300	492,200
Unemployed	27,900	27,900	21,900
Unemployment Rate %	5.4	5.4	4.3
US Unemployment Rate %	4.4	4.3	4.2

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

Area Unemployment Rates (%)

	Feb. 2026	Jan. 2026	Feb. 2025
New Castle County	5.3	5.5	4.3
Wilmington	7.0	7.5	5.9
Newark	7.1	6.6	4.9
Middletown	4.8	4.7	3.9
Kent County	6.0	6.0	4.9
Dover	7.1	7.2	5.5
Sussex County	5.8	5.8	5.0

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)

	Feb. 2026	Jan. 2026	Feb. 2025
Weekly Earnings	\$1,095.03	\$1,083.67	\$1,052.88
Weekly Hours	32.6	32.3	32.1
Hourly Earnings	\$33.59	\$33.55	\$32.80

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 February 2026 was 5.4%, unchanged from January 2026. There were 27,900 unemployed Delawareans in February 2026 compared to 21,900 in February 2025. The US unemployment rate was 4.4% in February 2026, up from 4.3% in January 2026. In February 2025, the US unemployment rate was 4.2%, while Delaware’s rate was 4.3%.

In February 2026, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment was 495,000, down from 495,400 in January 2026. Since February 2025, Delaware’s total nonfarm jobs have decreased by a net loss of 200, a drop of less than one tenth of a percent. Nationally, jobs remain unchanged over the same period.

Delaware Nonfarm Employment

Jobs at Delaware Locations
Seasonally Adjusted (in 000s)

INDUSTRY GROUP	Feb. 2026	Jan. 2026	Over the Month Change	Over the Year Change†
TOTAL NONAG. EMP.	495.0	495.4	-0.4	-0.2
CONSTRUCTION	23.9	25.0	-1.1	-0.6
MANUFACTURING	26.4	26.3	0.1	-0.4
Durable Goods	7.9	7.8	0.1	-0.2
Nondurable Goods	18.5	18.5	0.0	-0.2
TRADE, TRANSP., & UTIL.	89.8	90.5	-0.7	-1.0
Wholesale Trade	13.0	13.0	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	50.2	50.7	-0.5	-0.6
Transp. & Utilities	26.6	26.8	-0.2	-0.4
INFORMATION	3.4	3.4	0.0	-0.2
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	49.1	49.0	0.1	-0.6
PROF. & BUS. SERVICES	64.9	64.7	0.2	0.0
PRIV. EDUCATION & HEALTH	94.0	93.5	0.5	2.6
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	51.6	51.4	0.2	-1.5
OTHER SERVICES	20.0	19.9	0.1	0.6
GOVERNMENT	71.9	71.7	0.2	0.9
Federal Government	6.3	6.2	0.1	-0.5
State Government	33.5	33.5	0.0	0.8
Local Government	32.1	32.0	0.1	0.6

† 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.

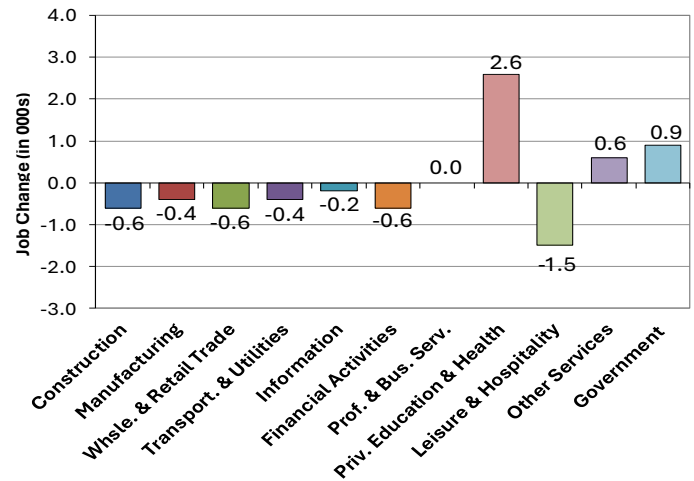
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<https://lmi.delaware.gov/>

Delaware Over-the-Year Job Change

February 2025 — February 2026



Consumer Price Index

All Urban Consumers

	Percent Change to Feb. 2026 from:		
	Feb. 2025	Dec. 2025	Jan. 2026
US City Average	2.4	0.8	0.5
Phila.-Camden-Wilm.*	3.5	1.0	NA

* Data are published on a bi-monthly basis.

Delaware Annual Net Job Change

Annual Average 2005—2025

