

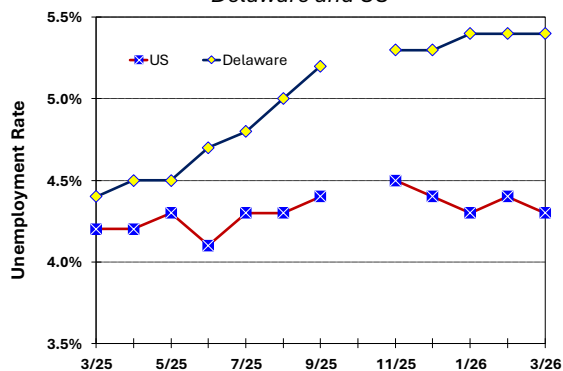
March 2026

Published May 1, 2026

Unemployment Rate

March 2025 - March 2026

Delaware and US



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

Delaware Civilian Labor Force

Delaware Residents

	Mar. 2026	Feb. 2026	Mar. 2025
Civilian Labor Force	513,200	514,700	514,500
Employed	485,700	486,800	492,100
Unemployed	27,500	27,900	22,400
Unemployment Rate %	5.4	5.4	4.4
US Unemployment Rate %	4.3	4.4	4.2

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

Area Unemployment Rates (%)

	Mar. 2026	Feb. 2026	Mar. 2025
New Castle County	4.9	5.3	4.3
Wilmington	6.3	7.0	5.6
Newark	7.5	7.0	6.6
Middletown	4.6	4.8	3.9
Kent County	5.6	6.0	4.9
Dover	7.1	7.1	5.9
Sussex County	5.3	5.7	4.6

Note: Area rates are not seasonally adjusted.

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

Monthly Commentary

Delaware's labor force participation rate—the share of residents who are working or looking for work—fell to a record low of 59.1% in March, with data going back to 1976. This decline largely reflects the size of Delaware's population of residents age 65 and older, who account for roughly 30% of the 16 and older, civilian population. Fewer than one in five residents in this group participate in the labor force, placing downward pressure on the overall rate. Delaware's prime working-age residents, ages 25 to 54, remain highly engaged with a labor force participation rate of 86.3%, 2.2 percentage points higher than the national rate of 84.1% for this group. According to the Current Population Survey's (CPS) 11-month average, in March these workers made up 41.8% of Delaware's total 16 and older, civilian population compared to 47.3% nationally.

Hours & Earnings

All Employee (Total Private)

	Mar. 2026	Feb. 2026	Mar. 2025
Weekly Earnings	\$1,093.73	\$1,095.03	\$1,066.29
Weekly Hours	32.6	32.6	32.9
Hourly Earnings	\$33.55	\$33.59	\$32.41

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 March 2026 was 5.4%, unchanged from February 2026. There were 27,500 unemployed Delawareans in March 2026 compared to 22,400 in March 2025. The US unemployment rate was 4.3% in March 2026, down from 4.4% in February 2026. In March 2025, the US unemployment rate was 4.2%, while Delaware's rate was 4.4%.

In March 2026, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment was 496,000, up from 495,000 in February 2026. Since March 2025, Delaware's total nonfarm jobs have decreased by a net loss of 400, a drop of 0.1%. Nationally, jobs increased by 0.1% during the same period.

Delaware Nonfarm Employment

Jobs at Delaware Locations
Seasonally Adjusted (in 000s)

INDUSTRY GROUP	Mar. 2026	Feb. 2026	Over the Month Change	Over the Year Change†
TOTAL NONAG. EMP.	496.0	495.0	1.0	-0.4
CONSTRUCTION	24.9	23.9	1.0	0.3
MANUFACTURING	26.1	26.2	-0.1	-0.7
Durable Goods	7.8	7.8	0.0	-0.3
Nondurable Goods	18.3	18.4	-0.1	-0.4
TRADE, TRANSP., & UTIL.	89.6	89.7	-0.1	-0.9
Wholesale Trade	13.0	13.0	0.0	0.1
Retail Trade	50.2	50.2	0.0	-0.7
Transp. & Utilities	26.4	26.5	-0.1	-0.3
INFORMATION	3.4	3.4	0.0	-0.2
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	49.4	49.2	0.2	-0.3
PROF. & BUS. SERVICES	65.7	65.0	0.7	0.6
PRIV. EDUCATION & HEALTH	93.3	94.0	-0.7	1.9
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	51.4	51.6	-0.2	-2.1
OTHER SERVICES	20.1	20.0	0.1	0.4
GOVERNMENT	72.1	72.0	0.1	0.6
Federal Government	6.2	6.3	-0.1	-0.5
State Government	33.9	33.6	0.3	0.6
Local Government	32.0	32.1	-0.1	0.5

† 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.

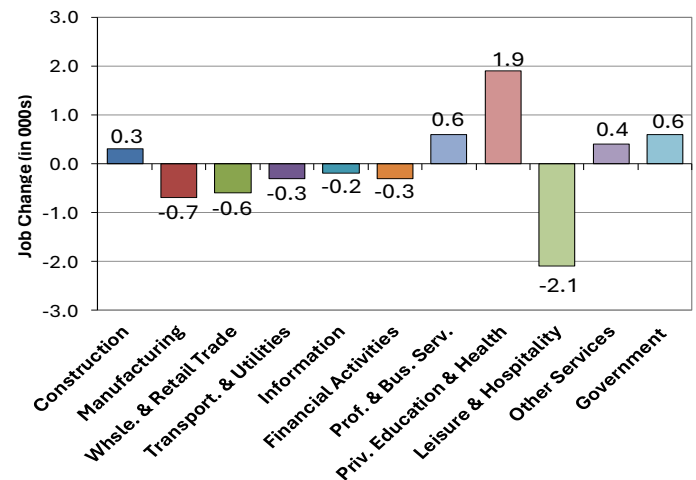
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<https://lmi.delaware.gov/>

Delaware Over-the-Year Job Change

March 2025 — March 2026



Consumer Price Index

All Urban Consumers

	Percent Change to Mar. 2026 from:		
	Mar. 2025	Jan. 2026	Feb. 2026
US City Average	3.3	1.5	1.0
Phila.-Camden-Wilm.*	NA	NA	NA

* Data are published on a bi-monthly basis.

Delaware Annual Net Job Change

Annual Average 2005—2025

