

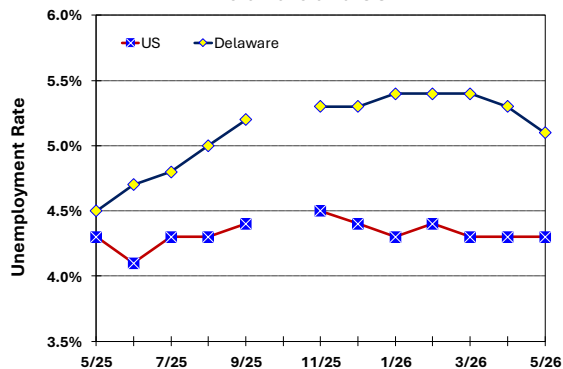
May 2026

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Unemployment Rate

May 2025 - May 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

	May 2026	Apr. 2026	May 2025
Civilian Labor Force	510,200	511,700	515,200
Employed	484,200	484,600	491,800
Unemployed	26,000	27,100	23,400
Unemployment Rate %	5.1	5.3	4.5
US Unemployment Rate %	4.3	4.3	4.3

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

Area Unemployment Rates (%)

	May 2026	Apr. 2026	May 2025
New Castle County	4.1	4.6	4.2
Wilmington	5.6	6.2	5.8
Newark	4.2	6.2	4.6
Middletown	3.6	4.2	3.8
Kent County	4.6	5.3	4.6
Dover	5.5	6.6	5.5
Sussex County	4.2	4.9	4.1

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

May's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 5.1 percent, its lowest level since August 2025, when it was 5.0 percent. Delaware private sector workers earned an average of \$33.21 per hour in May, including wages and overtime, up \$0.54 (1.7 percent) from a year earlier. Nationally, average hourly earnings were \$37.46, an increase of \$1.26 over the year. Among Delaware industries, Financial Activities workers had the highest average hourly earnings at \$43.21, followed by Construction (\$38.86) and Professional and Business Services (\$38.46). Leisure and Hospitality workers earned the lowest average hourly wage at \$21.96. Meanwhile, the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which measures changes in prices paid by urban consumers, increased 4.2 percent between May 2025 and May 2026.

Hours & Earnings

All Employee (Total Private)

	May 2026	Apr. 2026	May 2025
Weekly Earnings	\$1,066.04	\$1,083.46	\$1,061.78
Weekly Hours	32.1	32.4	32.5
Hourly Earnings	\$33.21	\$33.44	\$32.67

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 May 2026 was 5.1%, down from 5.3% in April 2026. There were 26,000 unemployed Delawareans in May 2026 compared to 23,400 in May 2025. The US unemployment rate was 4.3% in May 2026, unchanged from April 2026. In April 2025, the US unemployment rate was 4.3%, while Delaware's rate was 4.5%.

In May 2026, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment was 496,600, up from 494,600 in April 2026. Since May 2025, Delaware's total nonfarm jobs have decreased by a net loss of 600, a drop of 0.1%. Nationally, jobs increased by 0.3% during the same period.

Delaware Nonfarm Employment

Jobs at Delaware Locations
Seasonally Adjusted (in 000s)

INDUSTRY GROUP	May 2026	Apr. 2026	Over the Month Change	Over the Year Change†
TOTAL NONAG. EMP.	496.6	494.6	2.0	-0.6
CONSTRUCTION	24.6	24.8	-0.2	0.1
MANUFACTURING	25.9	25.8	0.1	-1.2
Durable Goods	7.9	7.8	0.1	-0.2
Nondurable Goods	18.0	18.0	0.0	-1.0
TRADE, TRANSP., & UTIL.	90.3	90.1	0.2	-0.5
Wholesale Trade	13.2	13.0	0.2	0.0
Retail Trade	50.4	50.4	0.0	-0.7
Transp. & Utilities	26.7	26.7	0.0	0.2
INFORMATION	3.4	3.4	0.0	-0.2
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	49.1	48.9	0.2	-0.1
PROF. & BUS. SERVICES	66.1	65.4	0.7	1.8
PRIV. EDUCATION & HEALTH	94.1	93.6	0.5	1.4
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	51.7	51.5	0.2	-1.7
OTHER SERVICES	20.0	19.8	0.2	0.5
GOVERNMENT	71.4	71.3	0.1	-0.7
Federal Government	6.3	6.3	0.0	-0.3
State Government	33.2	33.2	0.0	-0.5
Local Government	31.9	31.8	0.1	0.1

† 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.

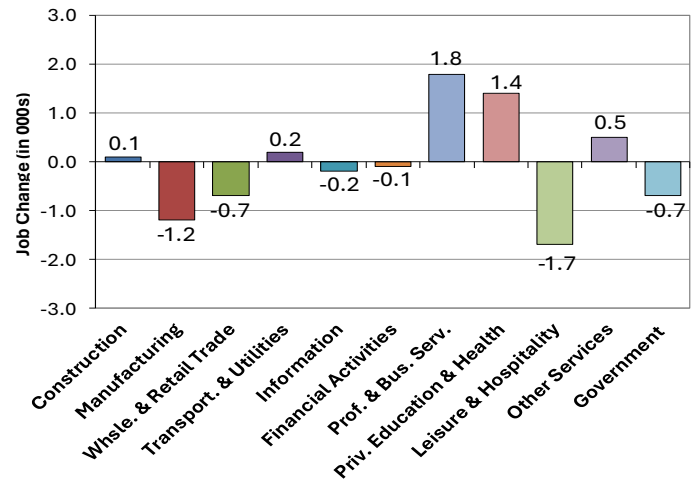
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<https://lmi.delaware.gov/>

Delaware Over-the-Year Job Change

May 2025 — May 2026



Consumer Price Index

All Urban Consumers

	Percent Change to May 2026 from:		
	May 2025	Mar. 2026	Apr. 2026
US City Average	4.2	1.5	0.6
Phila.-Camden-Wilm.*	NA	NA	NA

* Data are published on a bi-monthly basis.

Delaware Annual Net Job Change

Annual Average 2005—2025

