DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

LaKresha Moultrie, *Secretary*

Monthly Labor Review | mlr

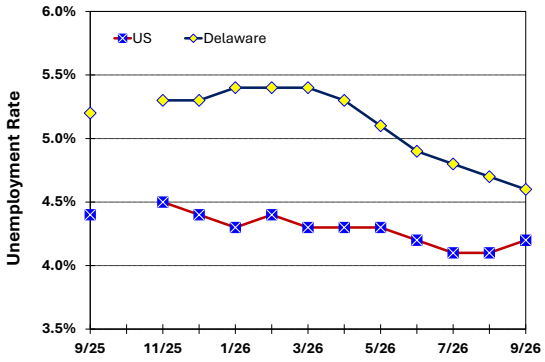
September 2026

Published October 16, 2026

Unemployment Rate

September 2025 - September 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

	Sept. 2026	Aug. 2026	Sept. 2025
Civilian Labor Force	504,800	505,300	516,800
Employed	481,400	481,700	490,100
Unemployed	23,400	23,600	26,700
Unemployment Rate %	4.6	4.7	5.2
US Unemployment Rate %	4.2	4.1	4.4

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

Area Unemployment Rates (%)

	Sept. 2026	Aug. 2026	Sept. 2025
New Castle County	4.6	4.9	5.1
Wilmington	6.3	6.6	6.9
Newark	6.3	5.9	5.7
Middletown	4.6	4.8	4.6
Kent County	5.0	5.5	5.6
Dover	6.3	6.6	6.8
Sussex County	4.2	4.5	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

In September, Delaware's not seasonally adjusted average hourly earnings in the private sector reached $34.10, reflecting a year-over-year increase of $0.75, or 2.3 percent. Although the state's average hourly earnings remained below the national average of $37.69 in September, Delaware continues to demonstrate competitive wage levels within the Mid-Atlantic region. Last month, Maryland and New Jersey reported higher average hourly earnings of $38.50 and $39.47, respectively, while Pennsylvania's average of $33.88 was slightly below Delaware's hourly rate of $34.07. In August, each regional state had over-the-year wage growth that exceeded the average Consumer Price Index growth rate for US Cities of 3.4 percent.

Hours & Earnings

All Employee (Total Private)

	Sept. 2026	Aug. 2026	Sept. 2025
Weekly Earnings	$1,098.02	$1,110.36	$1,073.87
Weekly Hours	32.2	32.6	32.2
Hourly Earnings	$34.10	$34.06	$33.35

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 September 2026 was 4.6%, down from 4.7% in August 2026. There were 23,400 unemployed Delawareans in September 2026 compared to 26,700 in September 2025. The US unemployment rate was 4.2% in September 2026, up from 4.1% in August 2026. In September 2025, the US unemployment rate was 4.4%, while Delaware's rate was 5.2%.

In September 2026, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment was 495,800, down from 496,600 in August 2026. Since September 2025, Delaware's total nonfarm jobs have increased by a net gain of 2,100, a rise of 0.4%. Nationally, jobs increased by 0.3% during the same period.

Delaware Nonfarm Employment

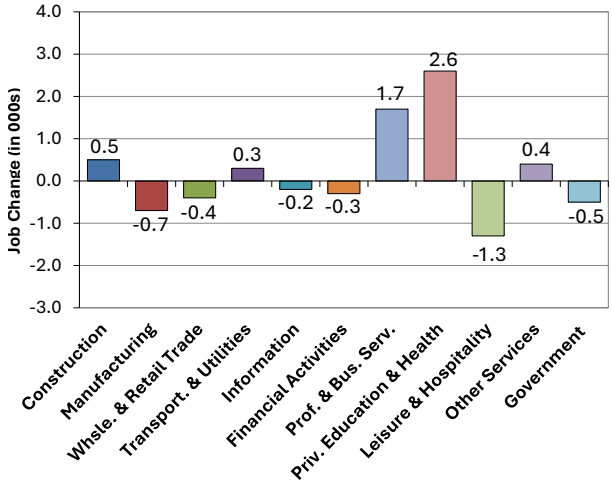
Jobs at Delaware Locations
Seasonally Adjusted (in 000s)

INDUSTRY GROUP	Sept. 2026	Aug. 2026	Over the Month Change	Over the Year Change†
TOTAL NONAG. EMP.	495.8	496.6	-0.8	2.1
CONSTRUCTION	25.1	25.1	0.0	0.5
MANUFACTURING	25.9	25.6	0.3	-0.7
Durable Goods	7.8	7.7	0.1	0.0
Nondurable Goods	18.1	17.9	0.2	-0.7
TRADE, TRANSP., & UTIL.	89.8	89.3	0.5	-0.1
Wholesale Trade	13.2	13.1	0.1	0.1
Retail Trade	50.0	49.7	0.3	-0.5
Transp. & Utilities	26.6	26.5	0.1	0.3
INFORMATION	3.2	3.2	0.0	-0.2
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	48.7	48.9	-0.2	-0.3
PROF. & BUS. SERVICES	66.3	66.4	-0.1	1.7
PRIV. EDUCATION & HEALTH	94.5	94.7	-0.2	2.6
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	50.9	51.5	-0.6	-1.3
OTHER SERVICES	19.8	19.8	0.0	0.4
GOVERNMENT	71.6	72.1	-0.5	-0.5
Federal Government	6.3	6.4	-0.1	-0.3
State Government	33.3	33.7	-0.4	-0.4
Local Government	32.0	32.0	0.0	0.2

† 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.

Delaware Over-the-Year Job Change

September 2025 - September 2026



Consumer Price Index

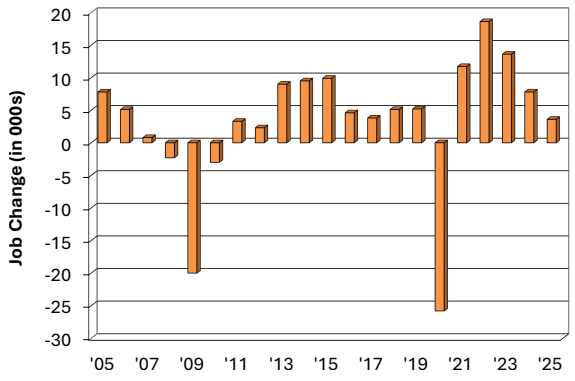
All Urban Consumers

	Percent Change to Sept. 2026 from:		
	Sept. 2025	July 2026	Aug. 2026
US City Average	3.7	0.9	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



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https://lmi.delaware.gov/