

2024

Published September 2025



DELAWARE ANNUAL ECONOMIC REPORT



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

CONTENTS

Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) Average Monthly Employment and Average Annual Wage by Industry	3
Delaware's Annual Unemployment Rate	5
Comparative Unemployment Rates	6
Unemployment Rate by Educational Attainment	7
Delaware's Labor Force Participation	8
Delaware Personal Income	11
City of Wilmington Employment and Wages	13
City of Dover Employment and Wages	17
City of Newark Employment and Wages	21
Business Employment Dynamics	25
County Employment (Jobs)	30
Delaware Migration Flows	33
Delaware's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by Industry	38
Middletown, Delaware	42
Current Population Survey Demographics	45

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Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)

Average Monthly Employment and Average Annual Wage by Industry

The Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program is a federal/state cooperative program that produces employment and wage data from employers subject to unemployment insurance coverage. Delaware's average employment for all industries increased by 7,634 workers or 1.6 percent from 2023 to 2024, according to data from the QCEW program.

The *Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation* sector, which represented 2.1 percent of all employees in the State in 2024, had the greatest percentage of monthly average year-over-year growth, increasing by 7.4 percent. The total number of employees in the *Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation* sector grew by 684. The second sector with the greatest employment growth in 2024 was *Federal Government*, followed by *Health Care and Social Assistance* workers. *Federal Government* workers ranked eighteenth in their total number of employees at 6,725, increasing by 6.7 percent or by 423 average monthly workers in 2024. *Health Care and Social Assistance* employment grew by 5.7 percent in 2024, an increase of 4,521 average monthly employees. The *Local Government* and *Educational Services* industries were the fourth and fifth in their monthly average employment growth, each with a percent change of 4.2, respectively.

Delaware Average Monthly Employment, 2023 - 2024

Industry Description	NAICS	2023 Average Monthly Empl.	2024 Average Monthly Empl.	Change In Average Monthly Empl.	% Change in Average Monthly Empl.	Rank by % Change (Largest to Smallest)
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	71	9,263	9,947	684	7.4%	1
Federal Government	Federal	6,302	6,725	423	6.7%	2
Health Care and Social Assistance	62	78,870	83,391	4,521	5.7%	3
Local Government	Local	29,484	30,725	1,241	4.2%	4
Educational Services	61	38,253	39,855	1,602	4.2%	5
State Government	State	29,419	30,189	770	2.6%	6
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	21	79	81	2	2.5%	7
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	54	28,356	29,050	694	2.4%	8
Other Services (except Public Administration)	81	12,386	12,683	297	2.4%	9
Utilities	22	2,104	2,140	36	1.7%	10
Total Industries		469,512	477,146	7,634	1.6%	11
Construction	23	25,386	25,738	352	1.4%	12
Accommodation and Food Services	72	43,331	43,873	542	1.3%	13
Wholesale Trade	42	12,588	12,731	143	1.1%	14
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	11	1,238	1,251	13	1.1%	15
Management of Companies and Enterprises	55	7,735	7,734	-1	0.0%	16
Retail Trade	44-45	51,460	51,179	-281	-0.5%	17
Manufacturing	31-33	26,818	26,662	-156	-0.6%	18
Transportation and Warehousing	48-49	26,264	26,074	-190	-0.7%	19
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	53	6,359	6,292	-67	-1.1%	20
Finance and Insurance	52	44,409	43,850	-559	-1.3%	21
Administrative and Waste Services	56	29,638	28,887	-751	-2.5%	22
Information	51	3,954	3,850	-104	-2.6%	23

The *Information* industry led annual average percentage declines in employment in 2024, declining by 104 average monthly employees or -2.6 percent. *Administration and Waste Services* was second among declining industries, falling by -2.5 percent or 751 average monthly workers.

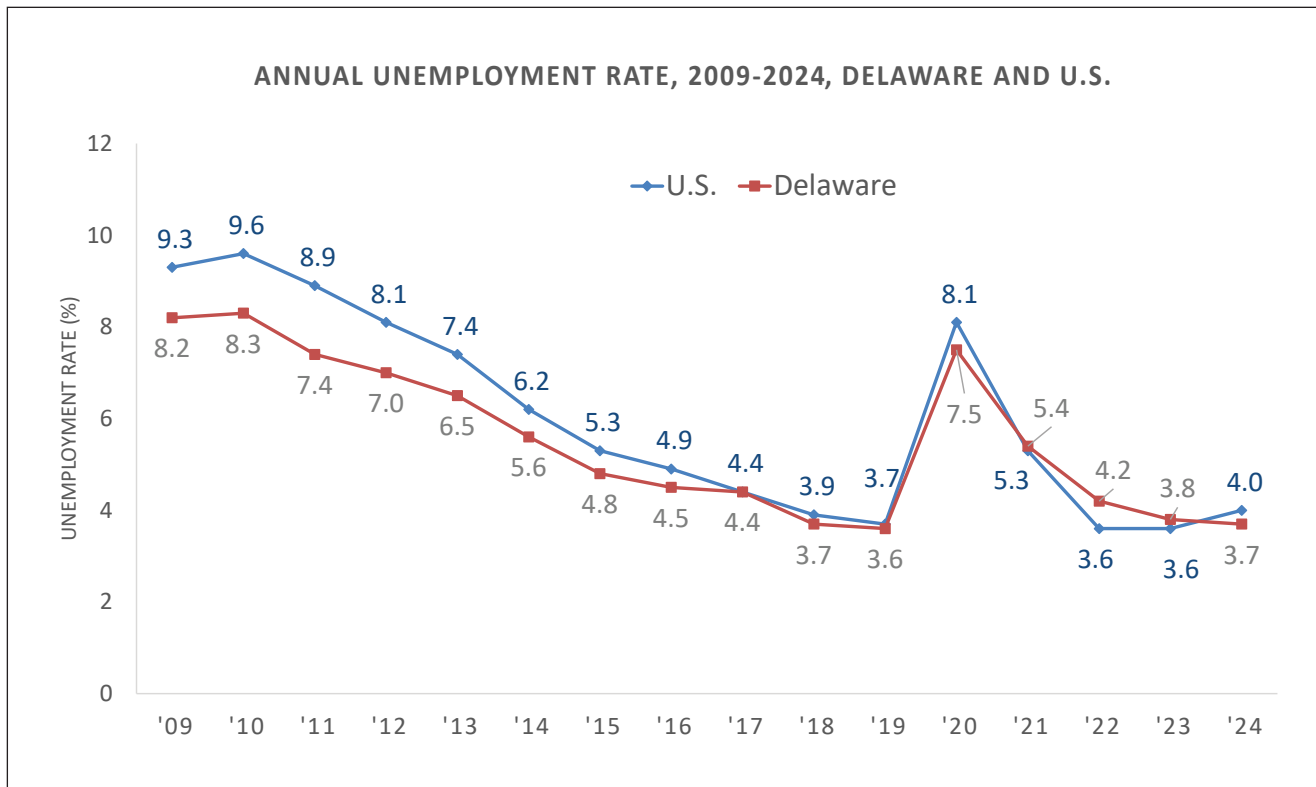
Delaware Average Annual Wages, 2023-2024

Industry Description	NAICS	2023 Average Annual Wage	2024 Average Annual Wage	Change In Average Annual Wage	% Change in Average Annual Wage	Rank by % Change (Largest to Smallest)
Federal Government	Federal	\$67,392	\$73,736	\$6,344	9.4%	1
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	53	\$66,040	\$71,448	\$5,408	8.2%	2
Information	51	\$95,420	\$103,012	\$7,592	8.0%	3
Educational Services	61	\$65,156	\$69,992	\$4,836	7.4%	4
State Government	State	\$89,284	\$95,056	\$5,772	6.5%	5
Other Services (except Public Administration)	81	\$45,032	\$47,840	\$2,808	6.2%	6
Local Government	Local	\$59,748	\$63,388	\$3,640	6.1%	7
Finance and Insurance	52	\$122,772	\$129,376	\$6,604	5.4%	8
Construction	23	\$72,228	\$76,024	\$3,796	5.3%	9
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	54	\$119,444	\$125,372	\$5,928	5.0%	10
Utilities	22	\$128,908	\$135,200	\$6,292	4.9%	11
Transportation and Warehousing	48-49	\$51,376	\$53,716	\$2,340	4.6%	12
Total Industries		\$69,368	\$72,436	\$3,068	4.4%	13
Accommodation and Food Services	72	\$26,000	\$27,040	\$1,040	4.0%	14
Health Care and Social Assistance	62	\$68,588	\$71,084	\$2,496	3.6%	15
Manufacturing	31-33	\$74,256	\$76,804	\$2,548	3.4%	16
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	11	\$49,296	\$50,804	\$1,508	3.1%	17
Wholesale Trade	42	\$95,940	\$98,332	\$2,392	2.5%	18
Management of Companies and Enterprises	55	\$161,980	\$165,984	\$4,004	2.5%	19
Administrative and Waste Services	56	\$55,952	\$57,304	\$1,352	2.4%	20
Retail Trade	44-45	\$38,688	\$39,572	\$884	2.3%	21
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	21	\$64,168	\$64,844	\$676	1.1%	22
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	71	\$30,212	\$29,848	-\$364	-1.2%	23

For annual average wages, *Federal Government* workers had the largest annual percentage wage growth at 9.4 percent or \$6,344 from 2023 to 2024. The second and third highest annual wage growth was in the *Real Estate and Rental and Leasing* and *Information* industries, which increased by 8.2 and 8.0 percent, respectively. *Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation* employees had the only over-the-year decline in wages, decreasing from an average annual salary of \$30,212 to \$29,848 or by -1.2 percent from 2023 to 2024. Total average annual wages for all industries rose by \$3,068 or 4.4 percent to \$72,436.

The Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate is a key economic indicator of the health of the economy and one that is widely watched by the public. The Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program is a state and federal cooperative program that generates the unemployment rate for the state, counties, and cities with populations over 25,000. The unemployment rate is measured by dividing the number of unemployed by the total labor force. To be considered unemployed, one has to be not employed but actively seeking employment and available to work during the month.



In 2024, Delaware's not seasonally adjusted annual unemployment rate was 3.7 percent, 0.1 percentage point lower than the prior year. Delaware's annual unemployment rate was 0.3 percentage points lower than the national average of 4.0 percent in 2024. In 2010, Delaware's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate peaked at 8.3 percent and the U.S. unemployment rate peaked at an annual rate of 9.6 percent following one of the most severe post-World War II recessions, ending in June of 2009.

Historical Local Area Unemployment Statistics for states begin in 1976. Delaware's not seasonally adjusted average annual average unemployment rate has been higher than the US unemployment rate three times since 1990. In 2021, 2022 and 2023, Delaware's unemployment rate was higher than the US unemployment rate by 0.1, 0.6, and 0.2 percentage points, respectively.

Comparative Unemployment Rates

The Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program is an important Federal and State government cooperative program that produces monthly and annual data on employment, unemployment, the unemployment rate and the labor force for States, counties, and cities. The state unemployment rate data below are produced from the LAUS program.

Delaware and Neighboring States Annual Average Unemployment Rates

Delaware’s annual average unemployment rate of 3.7 percent in 2024 was ranked as the 28th lowest rate in the nation. Delaware’s unemployment rate was ranked third highest among neighboring states Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania in 2024. Maryland’s annual average unemployment rate of 3.0 percent tied for 7th lowest in the nation. New Jersey’s annual average unemployment rate of 4.5 percent tied for 43rd and Pennsylvania’s annual average unemployment rate of 3.6 percent tied with three other states for 24th lowest in the nation.

Delaware’s annual average unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage points from 2023 to 2024. Among neighboring states, Maryland experienced the largest change, rising by 0.8 percentage points. Pennsylvania matched Delaware’s decline of 0.1 percentage points, while New Jersey’s rate increased by 0.2 percentage points. The U.S. average unemployment rate in 2024 was 4.0 percent, up 0.4 percentage points from 2023.



Comparative Annual Unemployment Rates

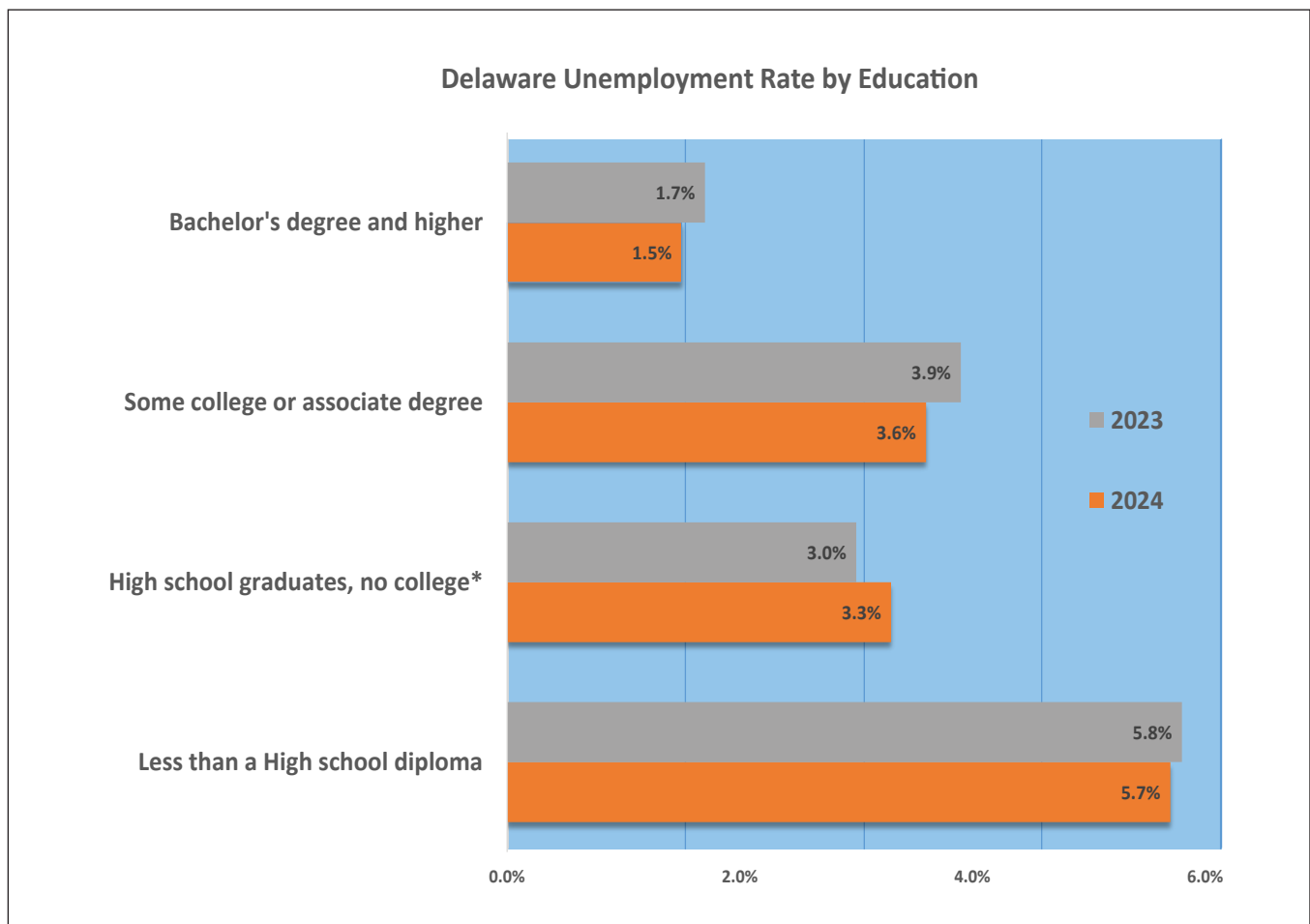
	Unemployment Rate (%)		National Ranking*	
	2023	2024	2023	2024
Delaware	3.8	3.7	38 (t)	28 (t)
Maryland	2.2	3.0	4	7 (t)
New Jersey	4.3	4.5	46 (t)	43 (t)
Pennsylvania	3.7	3.6	33 (t)	24 (t)
United States	3.6	4.0	--	--

* Lower ranking indicates a lower rate. (t) indicates ranking was tied with other state(s).

The Unemployment Rate by Educational Attainment

In 2024, Delaware's annual average unemployment rate for all residents was 3.7 percent. In most years, data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Geographic Profile of Employment and Unemployment shows that those with less education are more likely on average to be unemployed than those with more education. In 2024, the average unemployment rate for those who have *Less than a High school diploma* had the highest rate of unemployment than the other educational categories. The benefits of educational attainment are not only that those with more education are usually less likely to be unemployed, but also that those with more education earn on average higher wages than those with less education. The Delaware Unemployment Rate by Education graph below breaks out the unemployment rate by the highest level of education an individual has obtained for persons 25 years of age and older.

The average unemployment rate in 2024 for Delaware residents with *Less than a High school diploma* was 5.7 percent and those with a *Bachelor's degree or higher* had an unemployment rate of 1.5 percent. The unemployment rate for those with *Some college or associate's degree* was 3.6 percent and *High school graduates with no college* had an average unemployment rate of 3.3 percent.



Data are for persons 25 and over.

*Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics' Geographic Profile of Employment and Unemployment.

Delaware's Labor Force Participation

The labor force is defined as the civilian, noninstitutionalized population age 16 and over, either working or looking for work. The unemployed are classified as those who meet all of the following (at the time that they are surveyed on their employment status): (1) were not employed at the time surveyed, (2) were available to work when surveyed, (3) made at least one attempt to find a job in the past 4-week period before the survey reference week or were temporarily laid off and expecting to be recalled to their job. Anyone not meeting all of the numbers 1 through 3 above is classified as not in the labor force.¹ To account for those who may not be counted in the labor force and thereby, not included in the unemployment rate calculation, economists also analyze labor force participation.

The labor force participation rate represents the number of people in the labor force as a percentage of the civilian noninstitutional population.² In other words, anyone age 16 and over, either working or looking for work (as defined by the three criteria for unemployed) divided by the total civilian 16+ noninstitutionalized population. So, for example, teenagers may be included in the labor force until the time comes for them to attend college. As teenagers substitute school for work, they are not counted among the unemployed, as they are not seeking employment and thereby no longer participate in the labor force.

Delaware's Labor Force Participation Rate (LFP Rate), Seasonally Adjusted

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has tracked Delaware's labor force participation since 1976. Since tracking began, Delaware recorded a peak LFP rate of 70.9 percent in August 1989 and its lowest level in December 2024 at a rate of 59.1 percent. Delaware's seasonally adjusted annual average rate reached its lowest point in 2024 at 59.6 percent, lower than during both the coronavirus pandemic and the years following the 2009 recession.

Delaware Monthly Labor Force Participation Rate, 2019-2024

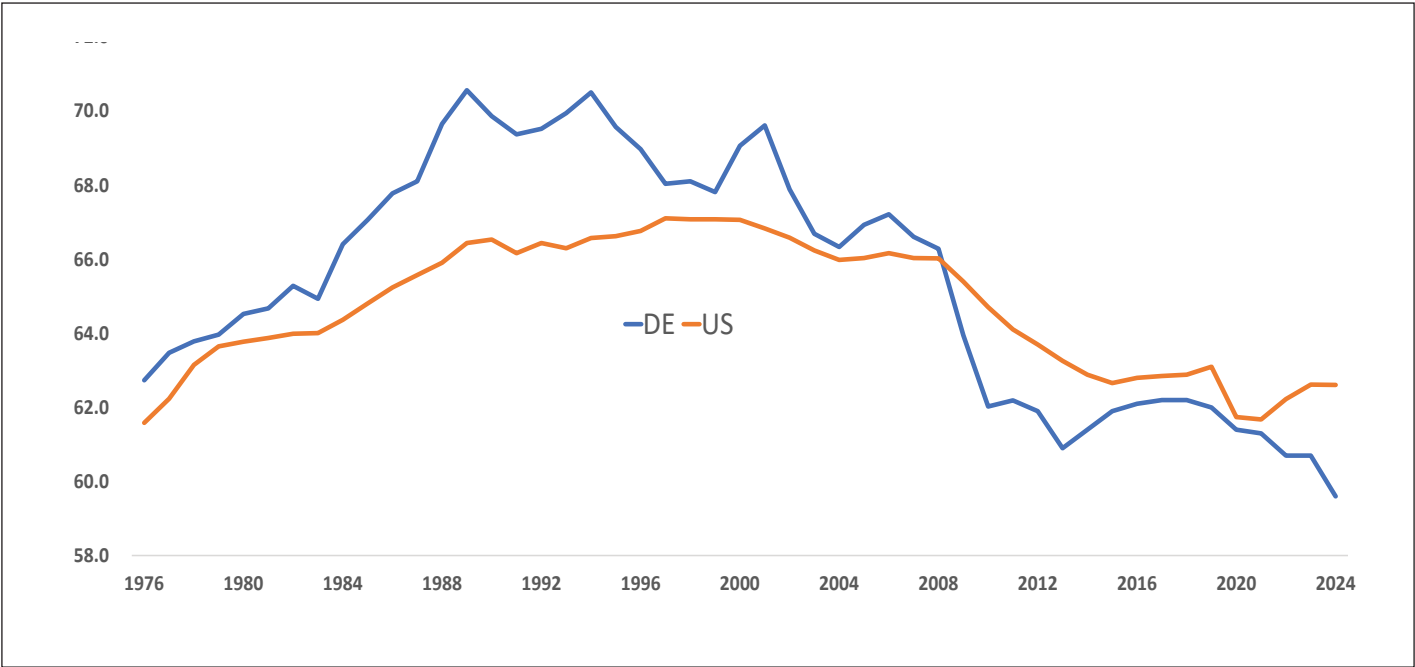
Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
2019	62.1	62.2	62.2	62.1	62.1	62.1	62.0	62.0	61.9	61.8	61.7	61.5	62.0
2020	61.3	61.0	61.7	59.5	62.6	63.2	60.6	61.3	62.0	60.8	61.1	61.3	61.4
2021	61.4	61.5	61.6	61.7	61.6	61.5	61.4	61.2	61.0	61.0	61.0	61.0	61.3
2022	61.1	61.2	61.1	61.0	60.9	60.7	60.6	60.4	60.4	60.4	60.5	60.5	60.7
2023	60.6	60.7	60.7	60.8	60.8	60.8	60.8	60.8	60.7	60.5	60.4	60.2	60.7
2024	60.1	60.0	59.9	59.8	59.7	59.7	59.6	59.5	59.4	59.3	59.2	59.1	59.6

Before 2009, Delaware's average annual labor force participation rate had been higher than the national rate. In 2009, the annual average US rate surpassed Delaware's rate for the first time and has remained higher. In 2024, the annual average US LFP rate of 62.6 percent was 3.0 percentage points higher than Delaware's rate of 59.6 percent.

⁽¹⁾ Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey, Concepts and Definitions. <https://www.bls.gov/cps/definitions>

⁽²⁾ Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey, Concepts and Definitions. <https://www.bls.gov/cps/definitions>

Labor Force Participation Rate Seasonally Adjusted, Delaware vs. US, 1976 to 2024



Population changes impact the labor force participation rate. An increase or decrease in population combined with stable labor force participation levels will cause the labor force participation rate to decrease or increase. In 2024, Delaware’s civilian noninstitutional population grew at an annual average rate of 1.8 percent over 2023 to 850,643 Delawareans. At the same time, Delaware’s labor force grew by 0.1 percent to 507,013 workers, causing the decline of the LFP rate of 1.1 percentage points, from 60.7 percent to 59.6 percent.

The Annual % Change in Population and Labor Force Participation and Percentage Point Change in LFP Rate, 2014 to 2024

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Population % Δ	1.3%	1.2%	1.1%	1.1%	1.2%	1.3%	1.4%	1.6%	1.8%	1.9%	1.8%
LFP % Δ	2.1%	2.1%	1.4%	1.4%	1.1%	0.9%	0.4%	1.5%	0.8%	1.7%	0.1%
LFP Rate Δ	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.2	0	-0.2	-0.6	-0.1	-0.6	0	-1.1

According to BLS' Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) Preliminary Demographic Data for Delaware, in 2024, men aged 45 to 54 years old had the highest labor force participation at 91.4 percent. Delawareans aged 65 and older had the lowest rate of LFP at 17.3 percent. Working-age residents, those between the ages of 25 and 54, had an LFP rate of 85.0 percent in 2024, an increase from 84.6 percent in 2023. The labor force participation rate for working-age residents has trended upward between 2013 and 2020, declined in 2021 and 2022, but rebounded in 2023 and 2024. The percentage of Delaware's working-age residents relative to all residents ages 16 and older remains below their pre-pandemic level at 42.5 percent in 2024.

Delaware Workers, Ages 25 to 54 (Working Age)

Year	LFP Rate	% of the Total Population	% of the Total Labor Force
2013	80.8%	47.3%	63.2%
2014	82.9%	46.7%	63.1%
2015	83.9%	48.9%	65.5%
2016	85.2%	47.4%	64.5%
2017	84.3%	45.0%	60.8%
2018	84.2%	45.2%	60.6%
2019	85.6%	45.6%	62.3%
2020	85.0%	43.0%	59.7%
2021	84.7%	43.9%	60.8%
2022	84.0%	43.5%	61.0%
2023	84.6%	42.6%	59.7%
2024	85.0%	42.5%	61.0%

Delaware Personal Income

The Bureau of Economic Analysis produces annual personal income data, which serves as a broad measure of the economic activity of an area. The most recent state-level personal income data available is for 2023 and all of the nominal dollar values have been deflated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers and converted to constant 2023 dollars.

Personal income is the total amount of compensation that an individual receives. Income is derived from working a job or owning a business, through investment income, and income from transfer payments, such as Unemployment Insurance, Social Security and Medicare. Per capita personal income is the total personal income of an area divided by the total resident population of that area.

Delaware Real Per Capita Income in Constant 2023 Dollars

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Per Capita Personal Income	\$63,560	\$65,009	\$67,128	\$66,698	\$66,557
Per Capita Earned Income	\$38,015	\$37,185	\$37,899	\$38,820	\$38,717
Per Capita Investment Income	\$12,214	\$11,721	\$12,312	\$12,484	\$13,065
Per Capita Transfer Payments	\$13,332	\$16,104	\$16,917	\$15,395	\$14,775

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis. Nominal income deflated using the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington CPI-U from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In 2023, Delaware's inflation-adjusted per capita personal income was \$66,557, a decrease of \$141 from 2022. With data going back to 1958, 2021 was the peak year for real per capita income. Prior to 2021, the peak years in per capita income were 2018, 2019, and 2020. Real per capita income declined by 0.2 percent over the year in 2023 compared with a decline of 0.6 percent in 2022 and a growth of 3.3 percent in 2021.

The largest share of personal income comes from earned income. Earned income is wages that come from a job or proprietors' income from owning a business. In 2023, 58.2 percent of Delaware's total per capita personal income came from earned income, below its peak share of 77.4 percent in 1973 and roughly equal to the percentage of total income in the prior year. Adjusting for inflation, real per capita earned income was \$38,717 in 2023, a decrease of 0.3 percent over 2022.

Investment income is income received from dividends, interest, and rent. In 2023, investment income was 19.6 percent of Delaware's total per capita personal income, an increase from 18.7 percent in 2022. Per capita investment income rose from \$12,484 inflation-adjusted dollars in 2022 to \$13,065 in 2023. Investment income as a percentage of total per capita income was highest in 1963, where the average share was 21.3 percent, followed by 21.1 percent in 1989. For 2023, investment income as a percentage of total per capita income was ranked 19th out of the 66 years of record keeping since 1958.

Transfer payments are income that persons receive for which no current service is performed. Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, income support programs, and unemployment insurance are all examples of government programs that provide transfer payments. Real per capita transfer payments were \$14,775 in 2023, a decrease of \$620 or -4.0 percent over 2022. As a percentage of per capita personal income, transfer payments were 22.2 percent in 2023 compared to 23.1 percent in 2022. Continuing the trend first seen in 2009, real per capita transfer payments exceed real per capita investment income.

Delaware Real Per Capita Income, Percent Change from Previous Year, 2019-2023

Per Capita	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Personal Income	0.1%	2.3%	3.3%	-0.6%	-0.2%
Earned Income	-1.4%	-2.2%	1.9%	2.4%	-0.3%
Investment Income	2.0%	-4.0%	5.0%	1.4%	4.7%
Transfer Payments	2.7%	20.8%	5.0%	-9.0%	-4.0%

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In 2019, transfer payments grew from 21.0 percent of per capita income to 24.8 percent in 2020 and 25.2 percent in 2021. Of the various transfer payments within this category, unemployment insurance (UI) benefits saw the greatest per capita change between 2017 and 2023. UI benefits grew more than 1,200% on a per capita basis from \$67.00 in 2019 to \$828.00 in 2020 as a result of the Coronavirus relief initiatives, but declined by 48.9 percent in 2021, as pandemic relief initiatives expired. In 2022, UI per capita benefits declined even further to \$42 from \$441 in 2021, but rebounded slightly to \$62 in 2023.

City of Wilmington Employment and Wages

The city of Wilmington is Delaware's most populous city. Located in New Castle County, it had an estimated population of 73,173 as of July 1st, 2024. While there are monthly estimates of employment and unemployment for city residents, no program exists to collect and report data for business establishments within the city. The Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program reports county and state level data, but QCEW data are not routinely generated for more detailed geographic levels. The Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) provides Wilmington employment data, but this is a residency-based count of employment and counts the number of residents who are employed irrespective of where they work. Here, we use the QCEW data, combined with information on the physical addresses of employers, to extract data specifically for firms and government agencies located within the city of Wilmington. The table on the next page contains detailed industry employment data for the months of December for the years 2023 and 2024.



Wilmington Employment and Wages by Industry

		2023		2024		
Industry Name	NAICS [†] Code	Dec. Empl.	4th Quarter Wages (\$)	Dec. Empl.	4th Quarter Wages (\$)	Empl. Change
	Total	48,359	1,200,224,486	50,423	1,342,599,580	2,064
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	11	*	*	0	0	*
Mining	21	0	0	0	0	0
Utilities	22	*	*	*	*	*
Construction	23	1,268	29,776,293	1,196	31,287,773	-72
Construction of buildings	236	318	7,912,019	267	7,409,584	-51
Heavy and civil engineering construction	237	140	5,425,716	142	4,399,967	2
Specialty trade contractors	238	810	16,438,558	787	19,478,222	-23
Manufacturing	31-33	838	16,013,270	835	17,585,893	-3
Food manufacturing	311	*	*	*	*	*
Beverage and tobacco product manufacturing	312	*	*	*	*	*
Textile mills	313	0	0	0	0	0
Textile product mills	314	*	*	*	*	*
Apparel manufacturing	315	0	0	0	0	0
Leather and allied product manufacturing	316	0	0	0	0	0
Wood product manufacturing	321	0	0	0	0	0
Paper manufacturing	322	0	0	0	0	0
Printing and related support activities	323	*	*	*	*	*
Petroleum and coal products manufacturing	324	0	0	0	0	0
Chemical manufacturing	325	*	*	*	*	*
Plastics and rubber products manufacturing	326	*	*	*	*	*
Nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing	327	*	*	*	*	*
Primary metal manufacturing	331	*	*	*	*	*
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	332	*	*	32	565,014	*
Machinery manufacturing	333	*	*	*	*	*
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	334	*	*	*	*	*
Electrical equipment and appliance manufacturing	335	0	0	0	0	0
Transportation equipment manufacturing	336	*	*	*	*	*
Furniture and related product manufacturing	337	*	*	*	*	*
Miscellaneous manufacturing	339	*	*	*	*	*
Wholesale Trade	42	367	10,532,840	680	15,596,755	313
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	423	280	8,495,917	279	7,650,996	-1
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	424	*	*	*	*	*
Electronic markets and agents and brokers	425	*	*	*	*	*
Retail Trade	44-45	1,966	25,249,720	1,957	26,367,512	-9
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	441	501	10,625,314	598	11,762,171	97
Building material and garden supply stores	444	*	*	*	*	*

Wilmington Employment and Wages by Industry

		2023		2024		
Industry Name	NAICS [†] Code	Dec. Empl.	4th Quarter Wages (\$)	Dec. Empl.	4th Quarter Wages (\$)	Empl. Change
Food and beverage stores	445	539	4,461,512	492	4,418,036	-47
Furniture, electronics, and appl. retailers	449	127	2,320,023	95	2,232,013	-32
General merchandise retailers	455	111	697,675	108	724,416	-3
Health and personal care retailers	456	201	2,419,205	182	2,599,367	-19
Gasoline stations and fuel dealers	457	86	1,244,800	76	1,108,088	-10
Clothing, clothing acc., and jewelry retailers	458	159	1,165,176	167	1,225,747	8
Sporting goods, hobby, and book retailers	459	*	*	*	*	*
Transportation and Warehousing	48-49	1,149	20,038,475	1,191	22,848,067	42
Air transportation	481	*	*	*	*	*
Water transportation	483	*	*	*	*	*
Truck transportation	484	56	821,938	36	767,138	-20
Transit and ground passenger transportation	485	*	*	*	*	*
Pipeline transportation	486	0	0	0	0	0
Scenic and sightseeing transportation	487	*	*	*	*	*
Support activities for transportation	488	*	*	*	*	*
Couriers and messengers	492	231	2,197,975	*	*	*
Warehousing and storage	493	56	736,461	108	2,326,460	52
Information	51	247	6,664,457	*	*	*
Motion picture and sound recording industries	512	*	*	*	*	*
Publishing industries	513	56	1,979,858	76	2,596,376	20
Broadcasting and content providers	516	*	*	*	*	*
Telecommunications	517	*	*	*	*	*
Data processing, hosting and related services	518	*	*	*	*	*
Other information services	519	*	*	*	*	*
Finance and Insurance	52	11,511	403,596,037	10,971	414,134,447	-540
Monetary authorities - central bank	521	0	0	0	0	0
Credit intermediation and related activities	522	6,669	244,608,409	6,771	266,438,429	102
Securities, commodity contracts, investments	523	*	*	3,000	121,304,046	*
Insurance carriers and related activities	524	*	*	*	*	*
Funds, trusts, and other financial vehicles	525	*	*	*	*	*
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	53	803	14,530,432	1,313	30,544,520	510
Real estate	531	*	*	*	*	*
Rental and leasing services	532	*	*	*	*	*
Lessors of nonfinancial intangible assets	533	0	0	*	*	*
Professional and Technical Services	54	5,061	285,383,109	5,237	344,160,523	176
Management of Companies and Enterprises	55	1,166	39,673,101	1,083	37,753,639	-83
Administrative and Waste Services	56	2,396	39,005,526	2,580	45,900,575	184

Wilmington Employment and Wages by Industry

		2023		2024		
Industry Name	NAICS †	Dec. Empl.	4th Quarter Wages (\$)	Dec. Empl.	4th Quarter Wages (\$)	Empl. Change
Administrative and support services	561	*	*	*	*	*
Waste management and remediation services	562	*	*	*	*	*
Educational Services	61	709	8,099,120	807	10,427,850	98
Health Care and Social Assistance	62	6,862	94,451,869	7,836	110,338,715	974
Ambulatory health care services	621	2,743	45,775,271	3,160	49,831,428	417
Hospitals	622	*	*	*	*	*
Nursing and residential care facilities	623	*	*	*	*	*
Social assistance	624	2,063	17,220,275	2,677	25,821,086	614
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	71	725	5,513,956	700	6,032,650	-25
Performing arts and spectator sports	711	357	3,062,764	364	3,405,833	7
Museums, historical sites, zoos, and parks	712	112	981,370	*	*	*
Amusements, gambling, and recreation	713	256	1,469,822	*	*	*
Accommodation and Food Services	72	2,197	17,079,742	2,473	19,942,258	276
Accommodation	721	*	*	197	2,360,021	*
Food services and drinking places	722	*	*	2,276	17,582,237	*
Other Services, Except Public Administration	81	1,320	17,192,021	1,347	25,895,945	27
Repair and maintenance	811	209	3,257,552	245	3,676,188	36
Personal and laundry services	812	529	4,925,101	505	4,859,212	-24
Membership associations and organizations	813	559	8,849,899	576	17,180,235	17
Private households	814	23	159,469	21	180,310	-2
Federal Government	Fed	888	16,664,863	832	16,469,635	-56
State Government	State	5,088	71,637,688	5,164	77,217,153	76
Local Government	Local	3,132	59,197,385	3,219	60,440,599	87
Total Government	Govt	9,108	147,499,936	9,215	154,127,387	107

An asterisk (*) represents data that cannot be released due to employer confidentiality restrictions.

† North American Industry Classification System.

City of Dover Employment and Wages

The city of Dover is Delaware's second most populous city. Located in Kent County, it had an estimated population of 39,491 as of July 1st, 2024. While there are monthly estimates of employment and unemployment for city residents, no program exists to collect and report data for business establishments within the city. The Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program reports county and state level data, but QCEW data are not routinely generated for more detailed geographic levels. The Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) provides Dover employment data, but this is a residency-based count of employment and counts the number of residents who are employed irrespective of where they work. Here, we use the QCEW data, combined with information on the physical addresses of employers, to extract data specifically for firms and government agencies located within the city of Dover. The table on the next page contains detailed industry employment data for the month of December for the years 2023 and 2024.



Dover Employment and Wages by Industry

Industry Name	NAICS [†] Code	2023		2024		Empl. Change
		Dec. Empl.	4th Quarter Wages (\$)	Dec. Empl.	4th Quarter Wages (\$)	
	Total	33,204	491,656,549	35,300	543,093,276	2,096
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	11	0	0	0	0	0
Mining	21	0	0	0	0	0
Utilities	22	299	7,326,954	286	7,371,504	-13
Construction	23	571	11,659,629	713	14,021,555	142
Construction of buildings	236	*	*	65	1,239,652	*
Heavy and civil engineering construction	237	*	*	*	*	*
Specialty trade contractors	238	240	5,436,261	264	5,001,599	24
Manufacturing	31-33	1,652	32,425,746	1,638	33,809,400	-14
Food manufacturing	311	*	*	*	*	*
Beverage and tobacco product manufacturing	312	*	*	*	*	*
Textile mills	313	*	*	*	*	*
Textile product mills	314	*	*	*	*	*
Apparel manufacturing	315	0	0	0	0	*
Leather and allied product manufacturing	316	0	0	0	0	0
Wood product manufacturing	321	0	0	0	0	0
Paper manufacturing	322	*	*	*	*	*
Printing and related support activities	323	*	*	*	*	*
Petroleum and coal products manufacturing	324	0	0	0	0	0
Chemical manufacturing	325	*	*	*	*	*
Plastics and rubber products manufacturing	326	0	0	*	*	0
Nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing	327	0	0	0	0	*
Primary metal manufacturing	331	*	*	*	*	*
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	332	*	*	*	*	*
Machinery manufacturing	333	0	0	*	*	0
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	334	*	*	*	*	*
Electrical equipment and appliance manufacturing	335	0	0	0	0	0
Transportation equipment manufacturing	336	*	*	*	*	*
Furniture and related product manufacturing	337	*	*	*	*	*
Miscellaneous manufacturing	339	0	0	0	0	*
Wholesale Trade	42	263	3,904,005	272	3,851,533	9
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	423	189	2,745,064	169	2,585,158	-20
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	424	*	*	79	1,208,264	*
Electronic markets and agents and brokers	425	*	*	*	*	*
Retail Trade	44-45	3,454	27,813,518	3,507	28,399,182	53
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	441	433	6,319,202	379	5,428,181	-54
Building material and garden supply stores	444	*	*	*	*	*

Dover Employment and Wages by Industry

		2023		2024		
Industry Name	NAICS † Code	Dec. Empl.	4th Quarter Wages (\$)	Dec. Empl.	4th Quarter Wages (\$)	Empl. Change
Food and beverage stores	445	309	2,292,423	306	2,403,568	-3
Furniture, electronics, and appl. retailers	449	267	2,158,686	252	2,310,888	-15
General merchandise retailers	455	901	5,809,007	876	5,840,766	-25
Health and personal care retailers	456	274	2,815,228	247	2,639,997	-27
Gasoline stations and fuel dealers	457	*	*	*	*	*
Clothing, clothing acc., and jewelry retailers	458	387	2,033,896	384	2,054,513	-3
Sporting goods, hobby, and book retailers	459	402	2,548,051	450	2,630,329	48
Transportation and Warehousing	48-49	270	2,565,434	208	2,729,728	-62
Air transportation	481	0	0	0	0	0
Water transportation	483	0	0	0	0	0
Truck transportation	484	35	410,405	32	361,383	-3
Transit and ground passenger transportation	485	123	979,794	124	1,481,993	1
Pipeline transportation	486	0	0	0	0	0
Scenic and sightseeing transportation	487	0	0	0	0	0
Support activities for transportation	488	32	591,838	31	479,312	-1
Couriers and messengers	492	*	*	*	*	*
Warehousing and storage	493	*	*	*	*	*
Information	51	170	2,912,772	126	2,263,532	-44
Motion picture and sound recording industries	512	*	*	0	0	*
Publishing industries	513	*	*	*	*	*
Broadcasting and content providers	516	*	*	*	*	*
Telecommunications	517	*	*	*	*	*
Data processing, hosting and related services	518	*	*	*	*	*
Other information services	519	*	*	*	*	*
Finance and Insurance	52	1,123	22,832,744	1,166	24,608,738	43
Monetary authorities - central bank	521	0	0	0	0	0
Credit intermediation and related activities	522	847	13,701,688	861	14,071,708	14
Securities, commodity contracts, investments	523	*	*	*	*	*
Insurance carriers and related activities	524	184	5,733,920	188	5,500,571	4
Funds, trusts, and other financial vehicles	525	*	*	*	*	*
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	53	136	2,016,845	149	2,073,265	13
Real estate	531	97	1,444,853	104	1,277,661	7
Rental and leasing services	532	39	571,992	45	795,604	6
Lessors of nonfinancial intangible assets	533	0	0	0	0	0
Professional and Technical Services	54	1,233	27,856,422	1,689	36,199,476	456
Management of Companies and Enterprises	55	256	5,846,149	*	*	*
Administrative and Waste Services	56	1,243	18,622,258	1,368	22,428,362	125

Dover Employment and Wages by Industry

		2023		2024		
Industry Name	NAICS †	Dec. Empl.	4th Quarter Wages (\$)	Dec. Empl.	4th Quarter Wages (\$)	Empl. Change
Administrative and support services	561	*	*	*	*	*
Waste management and remediation services	562	*	*	*	*	*
Educational Services	61	147	1,196,524	167	1,405,801	20
Health Care and Social Assistance	62	7,179	113,029,127	7,681	122,096,063	502
Ambulatory health care services	621	2,260	41,712,779	2,397	43,836,015	137
Hospitals	622	2,743	49,758,782	*	*	*
Nursing and residential care facilities	623	1,062	11,284,143	*	*	*
Social assistance	624	1,114	10,273,423	1,119	11,521,687	5
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	71	434	3,822,418	475	3,920,306	41
Performing arts and spectator sports	711	*	*	*	*	*
Museums, historical sites, zoos, and parks	712	*	*	*	*	*
Amusements, gambling, and recreation	713	396	2,372,607	404	2,557,583	8
Accommodation and Food Services	72	3,458	23,402,793	3,799	26,320,066	341
Accommodation	721	929	8,513,880	*	*	*
Food services and drinking places	722	2,529	14,888,913	*	*	*
Other Services, Except Public Administration	81	773	8,040,800	758	8,771,101	-15
Repair and maintenance	811	*	*	213	2,524,083	*
Personal and laundry services	812	316	2,449,055	356	3,605,578	40
Membership associations and organizations	813	255	3,260,770	*	*	*
Private households	814	*	*	*	*	*
Federal Government	Fed	261	2,944,654	275	3,014,448	14
State Government	State	8,153	140,073,912	8,408	155,660,523	255
Local Government	Local	2,129	33,363,845	2,316	35,719,868	187
Total Government	Govt	10,543	176,382,411	10,999	194,394,839	456

An asterisk (*) represents data that cannot be released due to employer confidentiality restrictions.

† North American Industry Classification System.

City of Newark Employment and Wages

The city of Newark is Delaware's third most populous city. Located in New Castle County, it had an estimated population of 30,309 as of July 1st, 2024. While there are monthly estimates of employment and unemployment for city residents, no program exists to collect and report data for business establishments within the city. The Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program reports county and state level data, but QCEW data are not routinely generated for more detailed geographic levels. The Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) provides Newark employment data, but this is a residency-based count of employment and counts the number of residents who are employed irrespective of where they work. Here, we use the QCEW data, combined with information on the physical addresses of employers, to extract data specifically for firms and government agencies located within the city of Newark. The table on the next page contains detailed industry employment data for the month of December for the years 2023 and 2024.



Newark Employment and Wages by Industry

Industry Name	NAICS [†] Code	2023		2024		Empl. Change
		Dec. Empl.	4th Quarter Wages (\$)	Dec. Empl.	4th Quarter Wages (\$)	
	Total	20,241	358,416,193	20,379	401,186,004	138
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	11	*	*	*	*	*
Mining	21	0	0	*	*	*
Utilities	22	*	*	0	0	*
Construction	23	746	15,060,211	952	20,878,360	206
Construction of buildings	236	*	*	*	*	*
Heavy and civil engineering construction	237	*	*	*	*	*
Specialty trade contractors	238	560	11,373,731	662	15,073,641	102
Manufacturing	31-33	1,568	34,821,959	1,514	38,149,430	-54
Food manufacturing	311	*	*	*	*	*
Beverage and tobacco product manufacturing	312	0	0	0	0	0
Textile mills	313	*	*	*	*	*
Textile product mills	314	*	*	*	*	*
Apparel manufacturing	315	0	0	0	0	0
Leather and allied product manufacturing	316	0	0	0	0	0
Wood product manufacturing	321	0	0	0	0	0
Paper manufacturing	322	0	0	0	0	0
Printing and related support activities	323	*	*	*	*	*
Petroleum and coal products manufacturing	324	0	0	0	0	0
Chemical manufacturing	325	*	*	*	*	*
Plastics and rubber products manufacturing	326	*	*	*	*	*
Nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing	327	0	0	0	0	0
Primary metal manufacturing	331	0	0	0	0	0
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	332	*	*	*	*	*
Machinery manufacturing	333	*	*	*	*	*
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	334	*	*	*	*	*
Electrical equipment and appliance manufacturing	335	*	*	*	*	*
Transportation equipment manufacturing	336	*	*	*	*	*
Furniture and related product manufacturing	337	*	*	*	*	*
Miscellaneous manufacturing	339	0	0	0	0	*
Wholesale Trade	42	399	7,879,518	342	7,983,528	-57
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	423	197	3,768,014	218	4,426,476	21
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	424	*	*	*	*	*
Electronic markets and agents and brokers	425	*	*	*	*	*
Retail Trade	44-45	2,108	25,459,465	1,972	25,316,715	-136
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	441	844	14,399,519	797	14,724,956	-47
Building material and garden supply stores	444	*	*	*	*	*

Newark Employment and Wages by Industry

		2023		2024		
Industry Name	NAICS † Code	Dec. Empl.	4th Quarter Wages (\$)	Dec. Empl.	4th Quarter Wages (\$)	Empl. Change
Food and beverage stores	445	433	3,556,555	361	3,041,293	-72
Furniture, electronics, and appl. retailers	449	94	1,530,438	*	*	*
General merchandise retailers	455	*	*	*	*	*
Health and personal care retailers	456	156	1,236,737	135	1,068,971	-21
Gasoline stations and fuel dealers	457	61	609,167	53	537,253	-8
Clothing, clothing acc., and jewelry retailers	458	112	659,354	121	656,044	9
Sporting goods, hobby, and book retailers	459	208	1,726,292	220	1,967,038	12
Transportation and Warehousing	48-49	184	2,630,605	118	1,884,406	-66
Air transportation	481	0	0	0	0	0
Water transportation	483	0	0	0	0	0
Truck transportation	484	134	2,101,747	86	1,478,550	-48
Transit and ground passenger transportation	485	*	*	*	*	*
Pipeline transportation	486	*	*	*	*	*
Scenic and sightseeing transportation	487	0	0	0	0	0
Support activities for transportation	488	*	*	*	*	*
Couriers and messengers	492	0	0	0	0	0
Warehousing and storage	493	*	*	*	*	*
Information	51	116	2,306,835	58	1,022,072	*
Motion picture and sound recording industries	512	*	*	*	*	*
Publishing industries	513	*	*	*	*	*
Broadcasting and content providers	516	*	*	*	*	*
Telecommunications	517	*	*	*	*	*
Data processing, hosting and related services	518	*	*	*	*	*
Other information services	519	*	*	*	*	*
Finance and Insurance	52	338	5,707,538	273	4,810,850	-65
Monetary authorities - central bank	521	0	0	0	0	0
Credit intermediation and related activities	522	293	4,842,676	239	3,945,914	-54
Securities, commodity contracts, investments	523	*	*	*	*	*
Insurance carriers and related activities	524	*	*	*	*	*
Funds, trusts, and other financial vehicles	525	*	*	*	*	*
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	53	159	2,299,365	190	2,692,899	31
Real estate	531	*	*	*	*	*
Rental and leasing services	532	*	*	*	*	*
Lessors of nonfinancial intangible assets	533	0	0	0	0	0
Professional and Technical Services	54	1,255	28,607,453	1,341	31,701,312	86
Management of Companies and Enterprises	55	*	*	*	*	*
Administrative and Waste Services	56	482	8,799,694	429	8,589,488	-53

Newark Employment and Wages by Industry

		2023		2024		
Industry Name	NAICS †	Dec. Empl.	4th Quarter Wages (\$)	Dec. Empl.	4th Quarter Wages (\$)	Empl. Change
Administrative and support services	561	482	8,799,694	*	*	*
Waste management and remediation services	562	0	0	*	*	*
Educational Services	61	72	667,984	63	693,759	-9
Health Care and Social Assistance	62	779	10,862,950	1,381	17,316,640	602
Ambulatory health care services	621	465	8,174,304	436	8,411,892	-29
Hospitals	622	0	0	0	0	0
Nursing and residential care facilities	623	*	*	*	*	*
Social assistance	624	*	*	*	*	*
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	71	168	1,160,394	193	1,367,935	25
Performing arts and spectator sports	711	*	*	*	*	*
Museums, historical sites, zoos, and parks	712	0	0	0	0	*
Amusements, gambling, and recreation	713	*	*	*	*	*
Accommodation and Food Services	72	3,382	22,129,582	3,424	23,744,953	42
Accommodation	721	*	*	*	*	*
Food services and drinking places	722	*	*	*	*	*
Other Services, Except Public Administration	81	328	3,991,636	367	4,278,346	39
Repair and maintenance	811	117	1,748,312	127	1,893,146	10
Personal and laundry services	812	134	1,138,930	167	1,201,317	33
Membership associations and organizations	813	*	*	*	*	*
Private households	814	*	*	*	*	*
Federal Government	Fed	135	2,315,145	134	2,366,212	-1
State Government	State	6,719	156,268,131	6,520	186,330,497	-199
Local Government	Local	990	17,332,373	983	17,911,420	-7
Total Government	Govt	7,844	175,915,649	7,637	206,608,129	-207

An asterisk (*) represents data that cannot be released due to employer confidentiality restrictions.

† North American Industry Classification System.

State of Delaware

Business Employment Dynamics

Business Employment Dynamics (BED) measures the gross job gains and gross job losses at privately-owned businesses in the economy on a quarterly basis. Gross job gains are increases in employment from expanding and opening establishments and gross job losses are decreases in employment from contracting and closing establishments. The net change in employment is the difference between gross job gains and gross job losses. BED allows a look at the dynamic flows in the labor market which underlay the more commonly reported net job change. While there are typically still gross job gains even during recessions and gross job losses during expansions, the net job change is typically negative in recessions and positive in expansions.

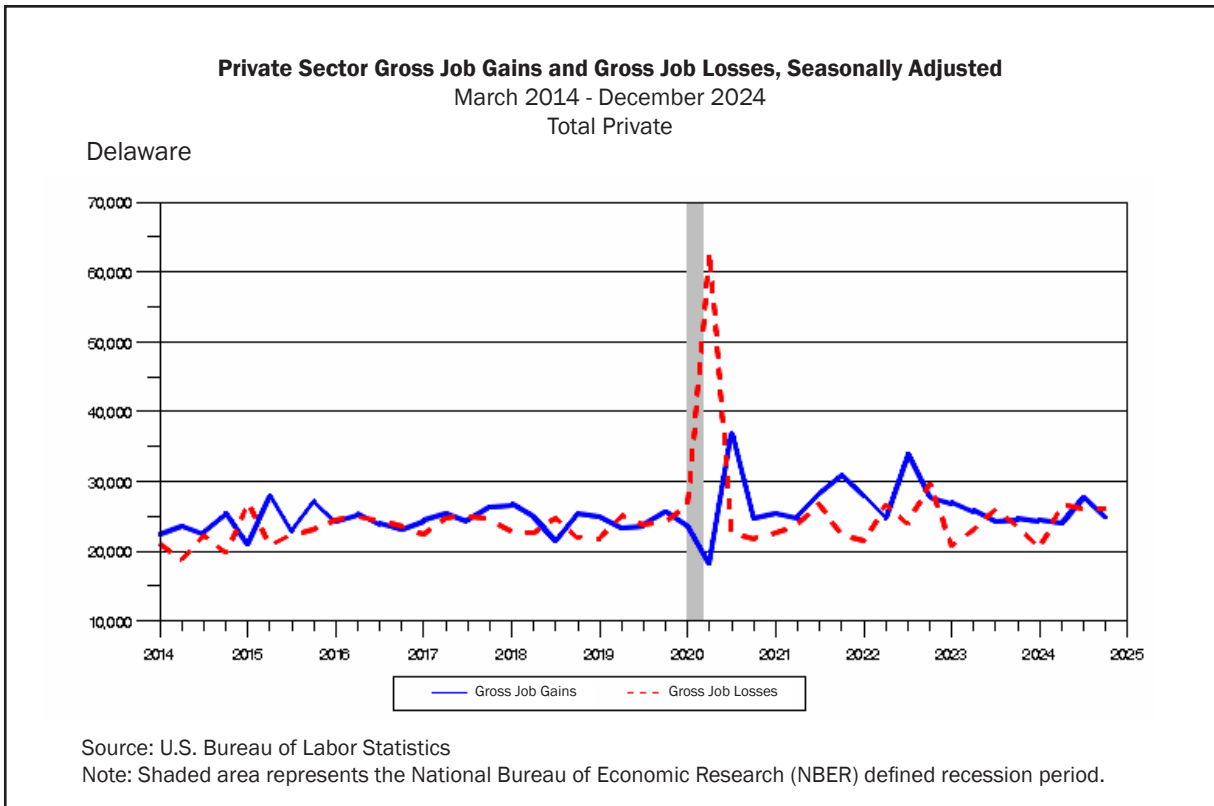
BED also measures the number of establishments with gross job gains at either expanding or opening establishments and the number of establishments with gross job losses at either contracting or closing establishments. An establishment is defined as an economic unit that produces goods or services, while a firm or company may consist of one establishment or multiple establishments at several locations.



BED data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program, linking administrative Unemployment Insurance establishment data across time. The employment changes in the BED are measured from the third month of each quarter. All the data referenced in this article are seasonally adjusted.

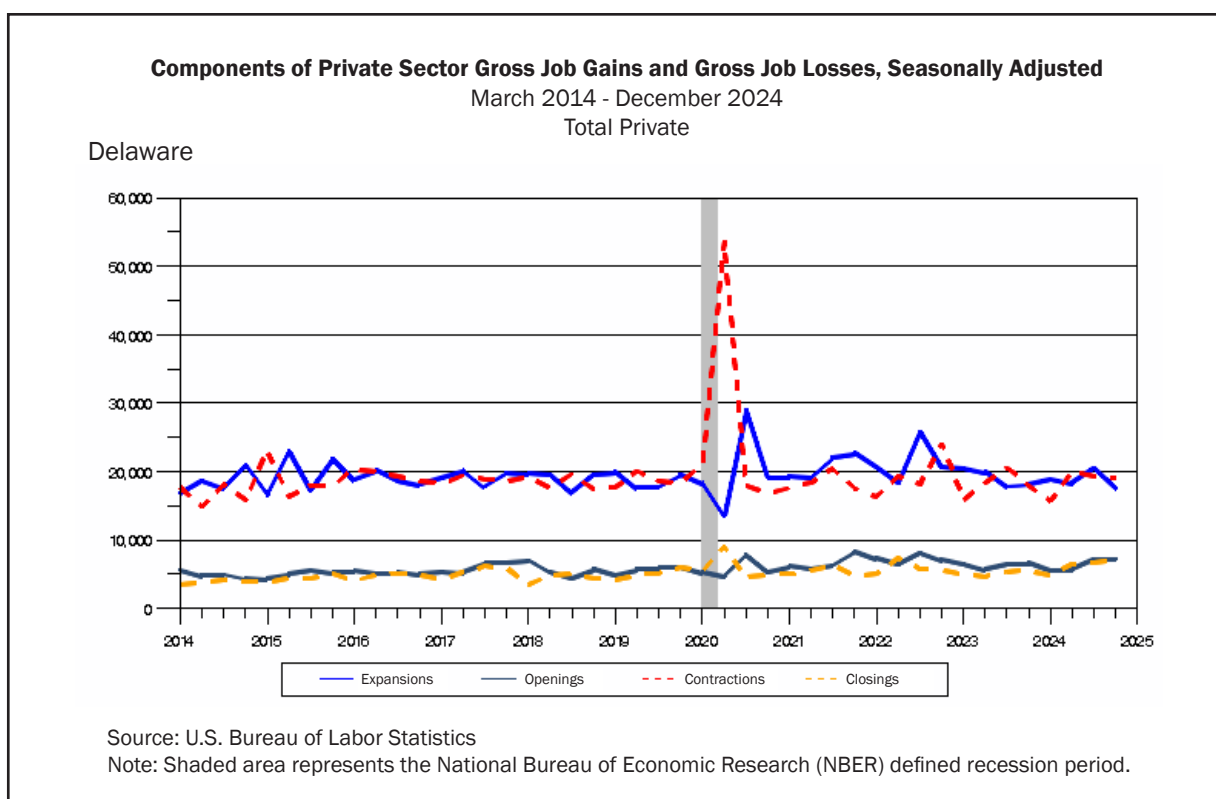
Delaware Business Employment Dynamics – 4th Quarter, 2024

In the fourth quarter of 2024 there were 24,900 gross job gains at opening and expanding establishments in Delaware. At the same time, there were 26,076 job losses from closing and contracting establishments. Expanding and contracting establishments accounted for most of the jobs gained and lost. The net job change, i.e., the difference between total gross job gains and total gross job losses, decreased -1,176.



Trends in Gross Job Gains and Job Losses

Opening and expanding private sector business establishments in Delaware gained 24,900 jobs in the fourth quarter of 2024, or 2,903 less than in the third quarter of 2024. In the fourth quarter of 2024, expanding establishments added 17,606 jobs, while opening establishments added 7,294. Gross job gains were smaller than in the previous quarter at expanding establishments but larger at opening establishments.



Gross job losses totaled 26,076 in the fourth quarter of 2024, down by 40 from the third quarter, 2024. In the fourth quarter of 2024, contracting establishments lost 19,180 jobs, while closing establishments accounted for a loss of 6,896 jobs. Gross job losses were smaller than in the previous quarter at contracting establishments but larger at closing establishments.

Table A: Delaware 3-month private sector gross job gains and losses, seasonally adjusted

Category	3 months ended				
	Dec. 2023	Mar. 2024	Jun. 2024	Sept. 2024	Dec. 2024
	Levels				
Gross job gains	24,771	24,458	24,091	27,803	24,900
At expanding establishments	18,128	18,825	18,352	20,582	17,606
At opening establishments	6,643	5,633	5,739	7,221	7,294
Gross job losses	23,563	20,535	26,580	26,116	26,076
At contracting establishments	17,932	15,700	20,051	19,299	19,180
At closing establishments	5,631	4,835	6,529	6,817	6,896
Net employment change*	1,208	3,923	-2,489	1,687	-1,176

* The net employment change is the difference between total gross job gains and total gross job losses.

Rates of Gross Job Gains and Gross Job Losses

In the fourth quarter of 2024, Delaware's gross job gains represented 6.1 percent of private sector employment. This was more than the national rate of gross job gains of 5.8 percent. Delaware's gross job gains at expanding establishments represented 4.3 percent of private sector employment, and gross job gains at opening establishments represented 1.8 percent. Nationally this quarter, gross job gains at expanding establishment represented 4.6 percent of private sector employment, and at opening establishments represented 1.2 percent.

In the fourth quarter of 2024, Delaware's gross job losses represented 6.4 percent of private sector employment. This was the larger than the national rate of gross job losses of 5.7 percent. Delaware's gross job losses at contracting establishments represented 4.7 percent of private sector employment, which was greater than the national rate at contracting establishments of 4.5 percent. The rate of gross job losses at closing establishments was 1.7 percent for Delaware, while the nation had 1.2 percent gross job losses at closing establishments. The rates of gross job gains and losses provide a picture of the amount of "job churning" that occurs in the labor market.

Table B: Delaware and U.S. 3-month private sector gross job gains and losses as a percent of employment, seasonally adjusted

Category	3 months ended				
	Dec. 2023	Mar. 2024	Jun. 2024	Sep. 2024	Dec. 2024
Total Private for State of Delaware	Rates (percent)				
Gross job gains	6.1	6.0	5.9	6.8	6.1
At expanding establishments	4.5	4.6	4.5	5.0	4.3
At opening establishments	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.8	1.8
Gross job losses	5.8	5.1	6.5	6.4	6.4
At contracting establishments	4.4	3.9	4.9	4.7	4.7
At closing establishments	1.4	1.2	1.6	1.7	1.7
Net employment change*	0.3	0.9	-0.6	0.4	-0.3
Total Private for U.S. as a whole	Rates (percent)				
Gross job gains	6.0	5.7	5.8	5.8	5.8
At expanding establishments	4.8	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6
At opening establishments	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2
Gross job losses	5.7	5.4	5.9	5.8	5.7
At contracting establishments	4.6	4.3	4.7	4.6	4.5
At closing establishments	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2
Net employment change*	0.3	0.3	-0.1	0.0	0.1

* The net employment change is the difference between total gross job gains and total gross job losses.

Number of Establishments Gaining and Losing Employment

Another way to observe the dynamics of employment change is to count the number of establishments that opened, closed, expanded, or contracted during the quarter. Out of 45,169 active private sector establishments, a total of 6,961 establishments gained jobs in the fourth quarter of 2024. (See table C.) Of these, 4,949 were expanding establishments and 2,012 were opening establishments. During the fourth quarter of 2024, 7,098 establishments lost jobs. Of these, 5,061 were contracting establishments and 2,037 were closing establishments. The statistics from tables A and C indicate that the average expanding establishment added 3.6 jobs during the quarter and the average contracting establishment lost 3.8 jobs during the quarter.



Table C: Delaware's number of private sector establishments by direction of employment change, seasonally adjusted

Category	3 months ended				
	Dec. 2023	Mar. 2024	Jun. 2024	Sep. 2024	Dec. 2024
Establishments gaining jobs.....	7,115	6,249	6,947	6,900	6,961
Expanding establishments.....	5,180	4,639	5,143	4,957	4,949
Opening establishments.....	1,935	1,610	1,804	1,943	2,012
Establishments losing jobs.....	6,746	6,622	7,452	7,381	7,098
Contracting establishments.....	5,022	5,367	5,494	5,230	5,061
Closing establishments.....	1,724	1,255	1,958	2,151	2,037
Net establishment change*.....	211	355	-154	-208	-25

* The net establishment change is the difference between the number of opening establishments and the number of closing establishments.

County Employment (Jobs)

Delaware is unique in its location along the eastern coast and proximity to other regional states, such as Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. Delaware is also unique in its size, having only three counties and a total population of just over 1 million residents¹. This article will analyze the change in the annual employment of each of Delaware's three counties from 2023 to 2024 using data from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program, a federal-state cooperative effort between the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Office of Occupational & Labor Market Information (OOLMI). The CES program is a monthly survey that provides nonfarm employment, hours, and earnings estimates based on payroll records of business establishments. For more information on the CES program, follow this link: <https://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/sae/home.htm>.

New Castle County

In 2024, the total annual average number of jobs in New Castle County increased by 2,000 workers or 0.6% over 2023 to 320,300 and represented two-thirds of all jobs in Delaware. The *Private Education and Health Services* industry moved from being the County's second largest employer in 2023 to the County's largest employment industry in 2024, at 60,600 jobs or 18.9% of total County jobs. In 2024, the *Trade, Transportation, and Utilities* sector dropped from first to second in total employment, with 58,100 jobs (18.1% of all county jobs), while *Professional and Business Services* ranked third with 48,500 jobs (15.1%).

From 2023 to 2024, the *Private Education and Health Services* sector led all industries in percent job growth, adding 2,400 jobs (4.1%). *Other Services* followed with an increase of 2.4%. *Manufacturing* saw the largest percentage decline, losing 700 jobs (-6.1%), while the *Information* sector experienced the second-largest percentage drop at -3.8%.

New Castle County Employment by Industry, 2023 to 2024

Industry	2023	2024	Change in No. of Jobs	% Change in the No. of Jobs	Percentage of Total Jobs
Total Non-Farm	318,300	320,300	2,000	0.6%	100.0%
Private Education and Health Services	58,200	60,600	2,400	4.1%	18.9%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	58,300	58,100	-200	-0.3%	18.1%
Professional and Business Services	48,400	48,500	100	0.2%	15.1%
Financial Activities	43,900	43,400	-500	-1.1%	13.5%
Government	39,300	39,700	400	1.0%	12.4%
Leisure and Hospitality	28,700	28,900	200	0.7%	9.0%
Retail Trade	28,800	28,600	-200	-0.7%	*
Mining, Logging, and Construction	14,900	15,000	100	0.7%	4.7%
Other Services	12,500	12,800	300	2.4%	4.0%
Manufacturing	11,500	10,800	-700	-6.1%	3.4%
Wholesale Trade	8,700	8,900	200	2.3%	*
Information	2,600	2,500	-100	-3.8%	0.8%

Source: Delaware Department of Labor in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

* Retail and Wholesale Trade jobs are included in the Trade, Transportation, and Utilities supersector.

⁽¹⁾ US Census Bureau, Quickfacts Delaware, July 1, 2024 population estimates. <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/DE>

Kent County

Kent County, located in the middle of the State, is Delaware's capital. In 2024, Kent County's total number of jobs increased by 600 or 0.8% over 2023 to 73,500, which represented 15.0% of statewide jobs. The *Government* sector, the county's largest employer (27.9% of county jobs), led job growth with a gain of 600 jobs (3.0%). *Private Education and Health Services* followed, adding 400 jobs (3.5%) to reach 11,700. The *Trade, Transportation, and Utilities* sector saw the largest decline in the number of jobs, declining by 300 (−2.1%).

Kent County Employment by Industry, 2023 to 2024

Industry	2023	2024	Change in No. of Jobs	% Change in the No. of Jobs	Percentage of Total Jobs
Total Nonfarm	72,900	73,500	600	0.8%	100%
Government	19,900	20,500	600	3.0%	27.9%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	14,300	14,000	(300)	-2.1%	19.0%
Private Education and Health Services	11,300	11,700	400	3.5%	15.9%
Retail Trade	9,300	9,200	(100)	-1.1%	*
Leisure and Hospitality	7,600	7,900	300	3.9%	10.7%
Professional and Business Services	7,000	6,800	(200)	-2.9%	9.3%
Manufacturing	4,600	4,500	(100)	-2.2%	6.1%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	2,700	2,800	100	3.7%	3.8%
Other Services	2,700	2,700	.	0.0%	3.7%
Financial Activities	2,400	2,300	(100)	-4.2%	3.1%
Information	400	300	(100)	-25.0%	0.4%

Source: Delaware Department of Labor in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

* Retail Trade jobs are included in the Trade, Transportation, and Utilities supersector.

Sussex County

Sussex County, Delaware's southernmost County, had the highest job growth in 2024, growing by 2,500 or 2.7% over 2023. Sussex County's 95,200 total jobs represented 19.5% of all jobs statewide. *Manufacturing* led growth with 700 new jobs (6.5%), followed by *Private Education and Health Services* with 600 jobs (4.3%), and *Government* with 500 jobs. Sussex was the only county with no industry job losses during this period.



Sussex County Employment by Industry, 2023 to 2024

Industry	2023	2024	Change in No. of Jobs	% Change in the No. of Jobs	Percentage of Total Jobs
Total Nonfarm	92,700	95,200	2,500	2.7%	100.0%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	17,700	17,800	100	0.6%	18.7%
Leisure and Hospitality	16,300	16,600	300	1.8%	17.4%
Private Education and Health Services	14,000	14,600	600	4.3%	15.3%
Retail Trade	13,300	13,500	200	1.5%	*
Manufacturing	10,700	11,400	700	6.5%	12.0%
Professional and Business Services	9,900	10,100	200	2.0%	10.6%
Government	9,400	9,900	500	5.3%	10.4%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	6,400	6,500	100	1.6%	6.8%
Financial Activities	4,100	4,100	.	0.0%	4.3%
Other Services	3,500	3,700	200	5.7%	3.9%
Wholesale Trade	2,100	2,100	.	0.0%	*

Source: Delaware Department of Labor in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

* Retail and Wholesale Trade jobs are included in the Trade, Transportation, and Utilities supersector.

Delaware Migration Flows

The U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) provides information on state-to-state migration flows. The most current data available is from the 2023 ACS's one-year estimates. The ACS state-to-state migration flows show from which states new Delaware residents are coming (inflow migration) and to which states Delawareans are moving (outflow migration). Respondents were asked where they lived one year ago, therefore, the ACS estimates are for the population of 1 year and older. Domestic migration is an important component of population change for states. The ACS data gives us the ability to calculate which states have the highest net migration to and from Delaware.

Inflow Migration

Delaware inflow migration data from the ACS is displayed in Table 1. It lists the top ten states with migration inflow to Delaware and total U.S. migration inflow to Delaware in terms of the number of people. Pennsylvania ranked first in the number of people moving to Delaware with 13,350 migrating to Delaware in 2023. This was followed by Delaware's other nearby neighboring states, Maryland and New Jersey, with 7,829 and 4,041 inflow migration, respectively. Delaware's neighboring states of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and New Jersey, ranked 1st, 2nd, and 3rd respectively, totaling 65 percent of all people moving to Delaware from other states in 2023. Residents from as far away as California and Arizona were in the top ten states with inflow migration. In total, 39,006 individuals moved to Delaware from another state, the District of Columbia, or Puerto Rico.

Table 1: State Migration to Delaware, 2023

Rank	State	Inflow to Delaware
1	Pennsylvania	13,350
2	Maryland	7,829
3	New Jersey	4,041
4	New York	2,552
5	Florida	1,763
6	North Carolina	1,563
7	Virginia	882
8	Tennessee	629
9	California	516
10	Arizona	476
Total	U.S. ¹	39,006

Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 1-year estimate.

⁽¹⁾ Includes all fifty states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Outflow Migration

The top ten states to where Delawareans have moved in 2023 are given in the Delaware outflow migration data in Table 2. It provides ACS data on outflow migration from Delaware to another state and the total outflow migration from Delaware to the U.S. in 2023. The states listed in the second column of Table 2 were the top ten destination states to where Delawareans moved as reported in the ACS. Pennsylvania, which ranked number one for inflow migration to Delaware, also ranked first

as the top destination state for outflow migration from Delaware with 6,612 Delawareans moving to Pennsylvania. Maryland ranked second as a destination state for outflow migration for Delaware residents at 5,245. Virginia, which ranked 7th as an inflow state to Delaware, ranked 3rd as an outflow state for Delawareans at 2,450. Delaware’s neighboring states of Pennsylvania, Maryland and New Jersey, ranked 1st, 2nd, and 7th respectively, totaled 45 percent of all outflow migration from Delaware. In total, 29,121 Delaware residents had moved to another state, the District of Columbia, or Puerto Rico in 2023.

Table 2: Delaware Migration to Destination State, 2023

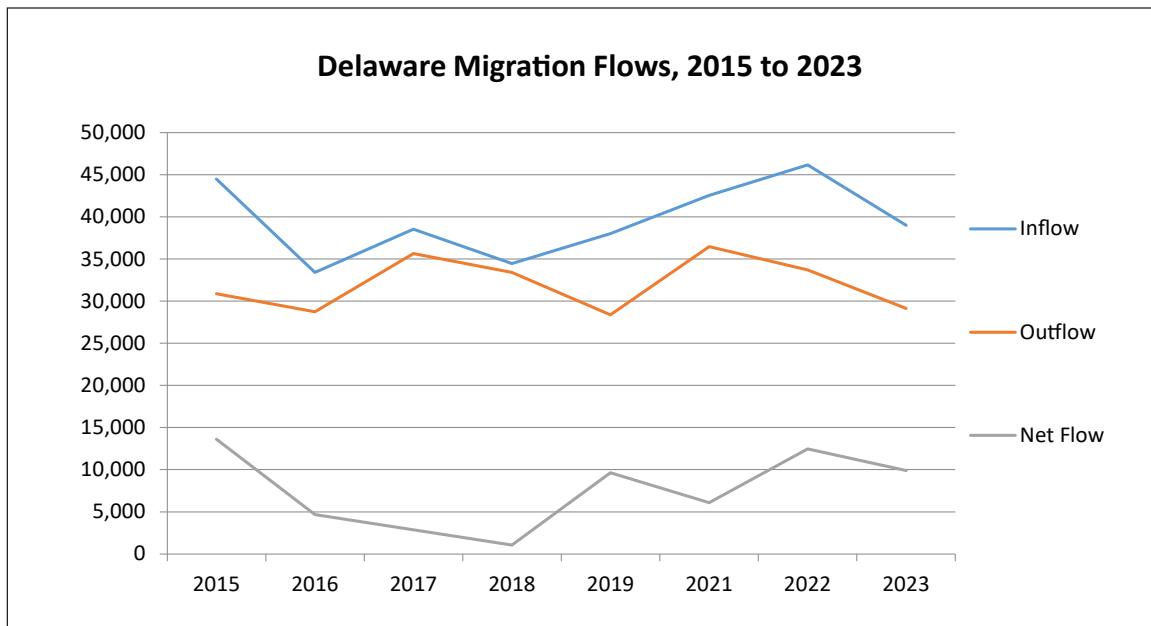
Rank	State	Outflow from Delaware
1	Pennsylvania	6,612
2	Maryland	5,245
3	Virginia	2,450
4	New York	1,867
5	North Carolina	1,745
6	Florida	1,739
7	New Jersey	1,291
8	South Carolina	1,103
9	Texas	876
10	California	772
Total	U.S. ¹	29,121

Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 1-year estimate.
⁽¹⁾ Includes all fifty states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Total Net Migration

Figure 1 shows the total U.S. migration to and from Delaware. In 2020, there is no data from the American Community Survey so that year is omitted from the graph and commentary. Subtracting the total inflow migration from the total outflow migration gives the net migration flow. Delaware has had a positive net flow of migration to Delaware every year from 2015 through 2023. Net migration to Delaware peaked in 2015 at 13,614 people. Net inflow migration to Delaware fell from 2015 through 2018, as the gap between inflow migration and outflow migration narrowed. In 2023, the net flow migration to Delaware was positive with 9,885 more people moving to Delaware than leaving Delaware to another state.

Figure 1: Delaware Migration Inflow, Outflow, and Net Migration Flow with U.S.¹



Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 1-year estimate and author's calculations.

⁽¹⁾ Includes all fifty states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Net Migration by State

Net migration flows with particular states are given in Tables 3 and 4. Table 3 shows the top five states with net migration to Delaware. Table 4 shows the top five states destinations state with net migration from Delaware. Delaware's neighboring states of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Maryland were in the top 5 of net migration to Delaware. Virginia ranks first as the top U.S. state with net migration from Delaware in 2023. South Carolina and Mississippi ranked 2nd and 3rd, respectively, with net migration from Delaware.

Table 3: Net Migration to Delaware in 2023

Rank	State	Net Inflow to Delaware
1	Pennsylvania	6,738
2	New Jersey	2,750
3	Maryland	2,584
4	New York	685
5	Arkansas	372

Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 1-year estimate and author's calculations.

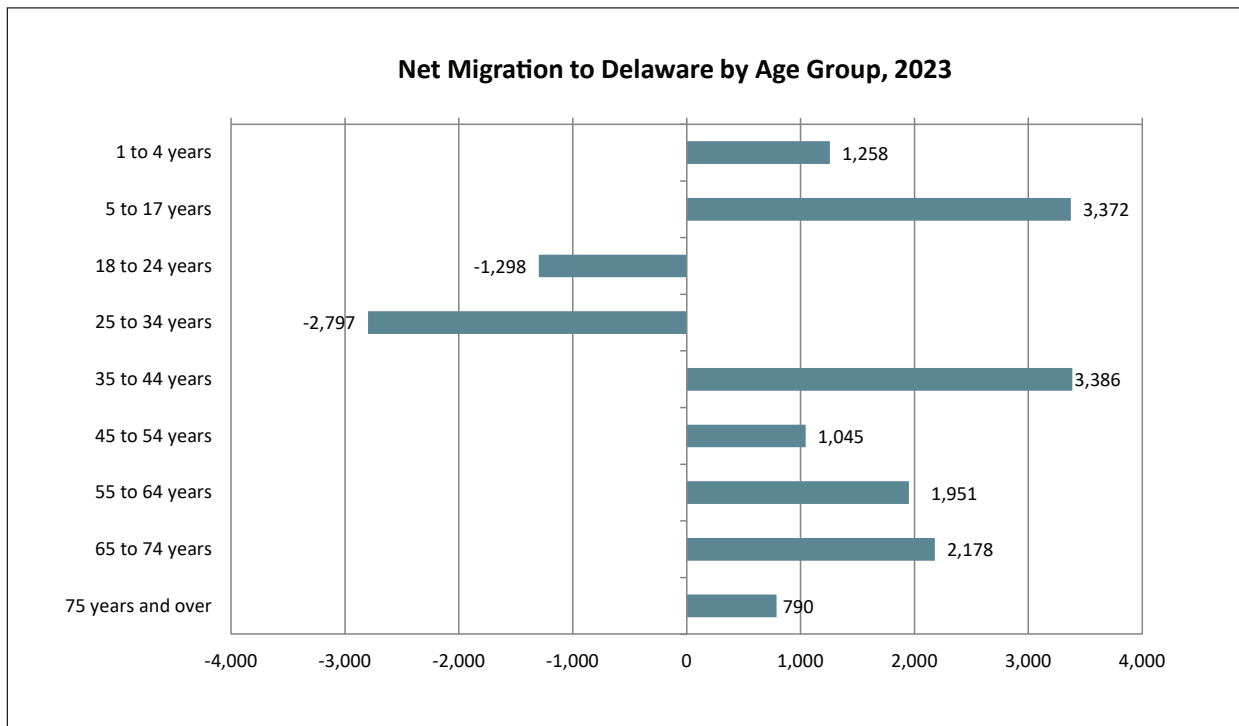
Table 4: Net Migration from Delaware in 2023

Rank	State	Net Outflow from Delaware
1	Virginia	-1,568
2	South Carolina	-718
3	Mississippi	-541
4	Georgia	-498
5	Texas	-476

Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 1-year estimate and author's calculations.

Net Migration by Age Group

In 2023, there was a net inflow to Delaware of 9,885 people. Figure 2 shows the net migration to Delaware by age group for 2023. There was positive net migration to Delaware for every age group except those between the age of 18 to 24 and 25 to 34 years old. Individuals between the age of 25 and 54 are considered to be in their prime working years and are the group mostly likely to be in the labor force. Delaware had a net migration inflow of 1,634 people in their prime working years. Along with housing and family-related reasons, jobs are one of the main reasons why individual move to another residence.

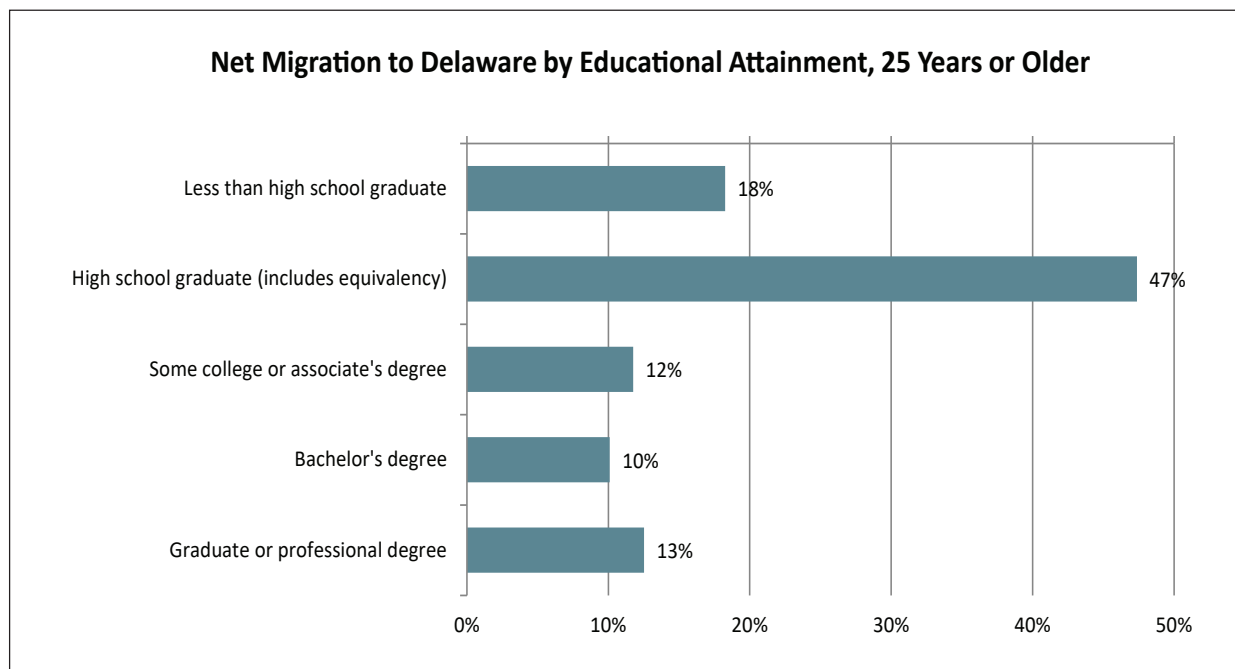
Figure 2: Net Migration to Delaware by Age Group, 2023

Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 1-year estimate and author's calculations.

Net Migration by Educational Attainment

The ACS provides migration data by educational attainment for individuals 25 years old and older. In 2023 there was positive net migration to Delaware for every educational attainment level for individuals 25 years or older. Figure 3 shows the migration flow to Delaware was greatest for High school graduates, representing 47 percent of the total net inflow. Those with Less than high school graduate status represented 18 percent of the total net inflow, followed by those with a Graduate or professional degree with 13 percent of the total.

Figure 3: Migration to Delaware by Educational Attainment for Individual 25 years and older, 2023



Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 1-year estimate and author's calculations.

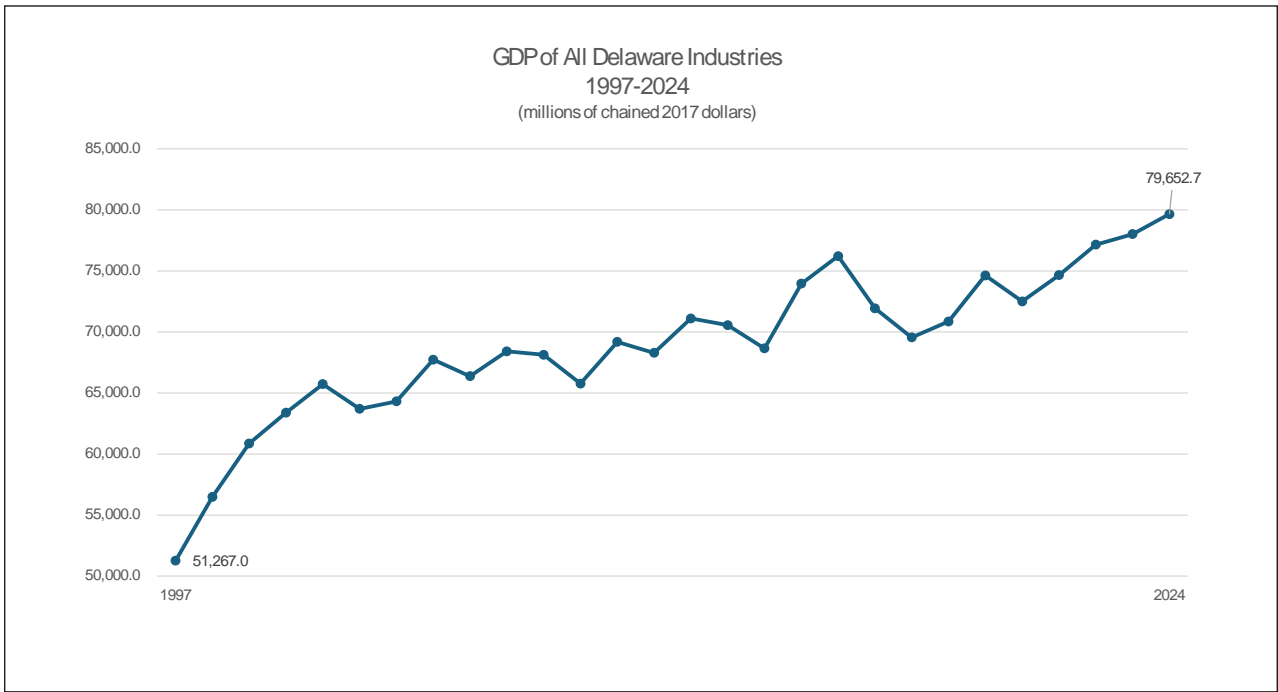
Delaware’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by Industry

This article reviews the direct economic impact of the fifteen (15) major industries driving employment in Delaware. The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) provides state-level estimates for Gross Domestic Product (GDP), personal income, wages and salaries, employee compensation, earnings, and subsidies by industry. The information provided uses these reports for Delaware industries from 1997 to 2024.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

Delaware’s GDP is calculated as the sum of the gross domestic product derived from all industries in the state. Each industry’s GDP is equal to its gross output (sales or receipts and other operating income, commodity taxes, and inventory change) minus the value of its intermediate inputs (consumption of goods and services purchased from other industries or imported).

Since 1997, real GDP in Delaware has grown at an annual average rate of 1.7 percent and by a total of 55 percent over the period. By comparison, US GDP grew at an annual average rate of 2.4 percent and by a total of 88.4 percent over the same period. Delaware experienced 10 over-the-year declines in GDP over the 28 years, the largest, 5.6 percent, in 2016. Over-the-year GDP growth peaked in 2014 at 7.7 percent



Among Delaware’s fifteen major industry categories, the *Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing* sector led all sectors in GDP in 2024 at \$32,591.3 million, accounting for roughly 41.2 percent of Delaware’s total GDP. The *Professional and Business Services* sector ranked second in GDP, at \$9,973.0, or 12.6 percent of total state GDP. The *Other Services* industry ranked last in GDP at \$978.8 or 1.2 percent of total State GDP.

GDP by Major Industry, 2024 (in Millions)

All Industries	\$79,652.7	% of Total
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	32,591.3	41.2%
Professional and Business Services	9,973.0	12.6%
Government and Government Enterprises	7,637.6	9.7%
Educational Services, Health Care, and Social Assistance	6,877.5	8.7%
Manufacturing	6,254.9	7.9%
Retail Trade	3,531.9	4.5%
Construction	2,635.6	3.3%
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation, and Food Services	2,195.1	2.8%
Wholesale Trade	1,963.3	2.5%
Transportation and Warehousing	1,582.7	2.0%
Information	1,546.6	2.0%
Utilities	1,252.3	1.6%
Other Services (except Government and Government Enterprises)	978.8	1.2%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	D	-
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	D	-

(Totals may not sum due to rounding)

(D) Not shown to avoid disclosure of confidential information; estimates are included in higher-level totals.

GDP percentage growth from 2023 to 2024 was greatest in the *Retail Trade* industry, which grew by 9.2 percent over the year to \$3.5 billion. The *Construction* Industry was second in over-the-year percentage growth, rising by 6.8 percent to \$2.6 billion, and *Manufacturing* was ranked third, increasing by 5.5 percent to roughly \$6.3 billion. Industries with declining GDP from the prior year included *Wholesale Trade*, *Transportation and Warehousing*, and *Professional and Business Services*, which saw declines of 1.6 percent, 1.0 percent, and 0.8 percent, respectively.

GDP by Major Industry, 2024 (in Millions)	2023	2024	Year-Over-Year % Change
Retail Trade	\$3,233.5	\$3,531.9	9.2%
Construction	\$2,467.6	\$2,635.6	6.8%
Manufacturing	\$5,926.6	\$6,254.9	5.5%
Utilities	\$1,203.4	\$1,252.3	4.1%
Government and Government Enterprises	\$7396.7	\$7637.6	3.3%
Educational Services, Health Care, and Social Assistance	\$6,683.3	\$6,877.5	2.9%
All Industries	\$78,014.4	\$79,652.7	2.1%
Information	\$1,518.8	\$1,546.6	1.8%
Other Services (except Government and Government Enterprises)	\$970.9	\$978.8	0.8%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	\$32,426.2	\$32,591.3	0.5%
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation, and Food Services	\$2,192.0	\$2,195.1	0.1%
Professional and Business Services	\$10,056.3	\$9,973.0	-0.8%
Transportation and Warehousing	\$1,598.4	\$1,582.7	-1.0%
Wholesale Trade	\$1,995.9	\$1,963.3	-1.6%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	\$505.6	(D)	-
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	\$6.3	(D)	-

* (D) Not shown to avoid disclosure of confidential information; estimates are included in higher-level totals.

Industry Wages and Salaries

Employee compensation is the largest component of Delaware's GDP and is estimated as the sum of three components: wage and salary accruals, employer contributions for employee pension and insurance funds, and employer contributions for government social insurance.

Wage and Salary Accruals

Delaware's estimate of wage and salary accruals is derived directly from the wage and salary disbursements estimated as part of BEA's State Personal Income (SPI) calculations. Wage and salary accruals include the monetary payment to employees and the compensation of corporate officers as well as commissions, tips and bonuses, voluntary employee contributions to certain deferred compensation plans, such as 401(k) plans, and receipts in kind that represent income. Compensation excluded includes the wages and salaries of federal military and civilian personnel stationed abroad. Total Wages and Salaries paid in 2024 were roughly \$36.1 billion.

The *Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing* industry led in the total amount of wages and salaries paid in 2024 at \$6.1 billion. Wages and Salaries for the *Educational Services, Health Care, and Social Assistance* industry ranked second in the total amount of wages and salaries paid in 2024, while the Utilities industry had the lowest level at \$290.1 million.

Industry Wages & Salaries, 2024 (in Millions)

All Industries	\$ 36,065,321
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	\$6,177.5
Educational Services, Health Care, and Social Assistance	\$5,928.3
Government and Government Enterprises	\$5,240.7
Professional and Business Services	\$3,727.9
Manufacturing	\$2,090.6
Retail Trade	\$1,965.0
Construction	\$1,891.9
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation, and Food Services	\$1,739.3
Transportation and Warehousing	\$1,320.6
Wholesale Trade	\$1,247.6
Other Services (except Government and Government Enterprises)	\$958.6
Information	\$347.4
Utilities	\$290.1
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	(D)
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	(D)

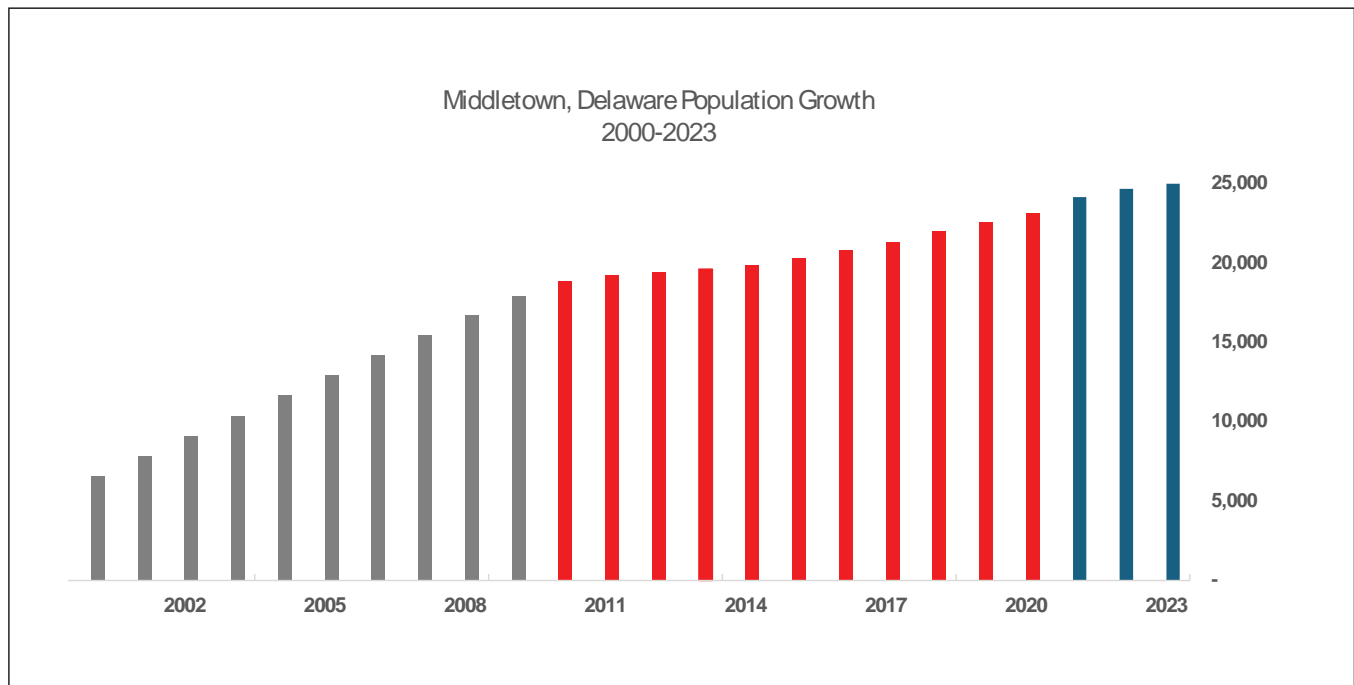
* (D) Not shown to avoid disclosure of confidential information; estimates are included in higher-level totals.

Middletown, Delaware

In 2024, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) identified that Middletown, Delaware reached the 25,000-population threshold to be considered Delaware's fourth Small Labor Market Area (SLMA) based on the American Community Survey's July 1, 2023 1-year supplemental estimate.¹ According to BLS, the federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) establishes standard delineations of areas for federal statistical purposes, and updates to these standards occur each decade following the census. In January 2025, the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program estimates for federal statistical areas were updated to reflect the delineations, adding Middletown.² Middletown joins the cities of Wilmington, Newark, and Dover, with populations of 25,000 residents or more.

Population Growth

According to the US Census, over the past 23 years, Middletown has seen a population growth of 280%, increasing from roughly 6,600 residents in 2000 to slightly over 25,000 in 2023. On average, Middletown's growth increased 6.1 percent annually over this period, the largest percentage growth occurring between 2000 and 2006 when the annual average growth rate was 13.7 percent. From 2010 to 2023, the annual average growth rate was 2.4 percent.³



Middletown's Labor Market

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program, in 2024, Middletown's seasonally adjusted annual average labor force (those working or looking for work) totaled 12,400. The area had both the lowest annual average level of unemployment and the lowest unemployment rate among cities with populations greater than 25,000.

⁽¹⁾ US Census, American Community Survey, 2023. <https://data.census.gov/table?q=2023&g=160XX00US1047030&d=ACS+1-Year+Supplemental+Estimates>

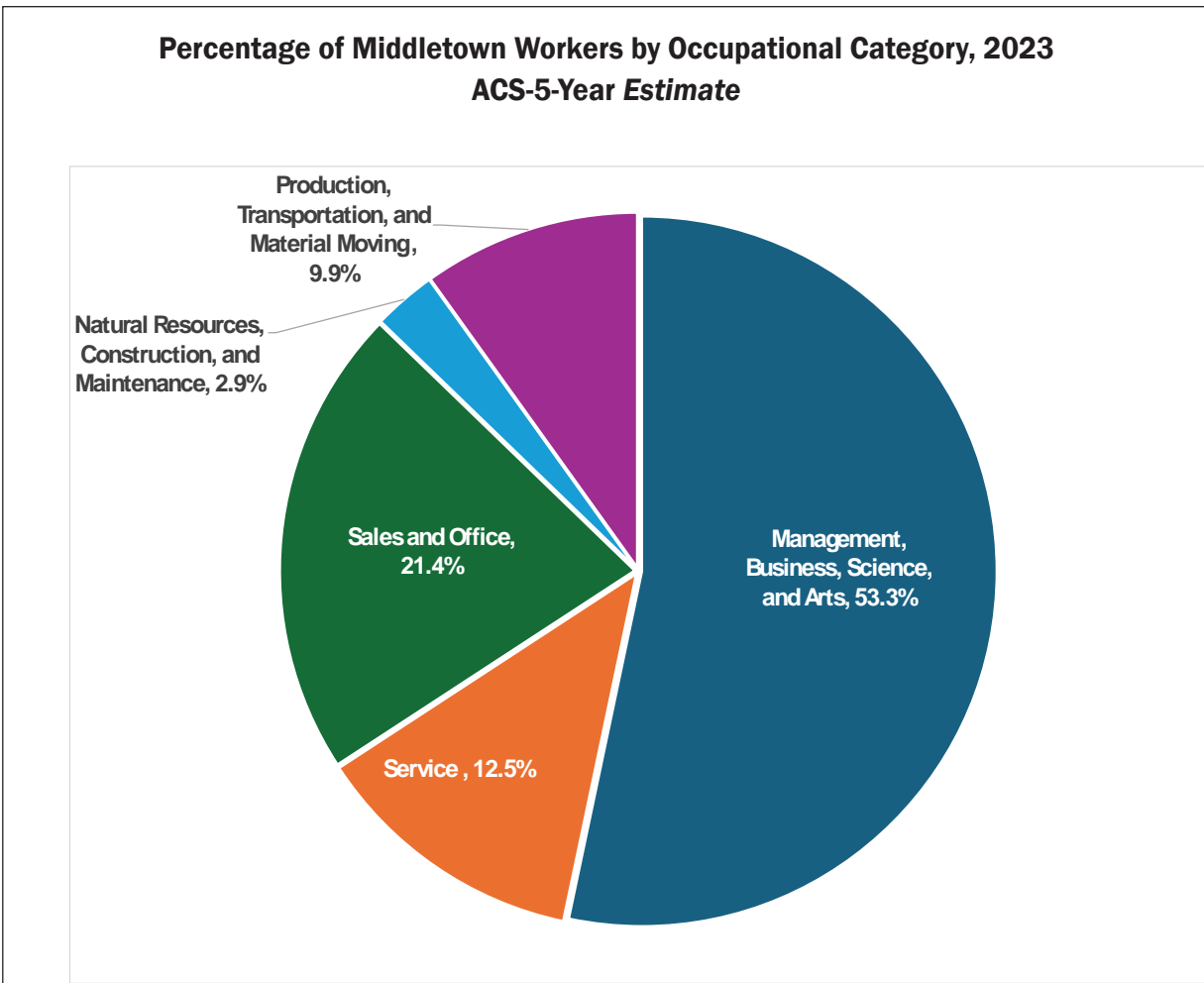
⁽²⁾ Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Geographic Concepts. <https://www.bls.gov/lau/lauggeo.htm>

⁽³⁾ US Census, American Community Survey 1-year estimates for 2021-2023 & 2000-2020 Intercensal Estimates.

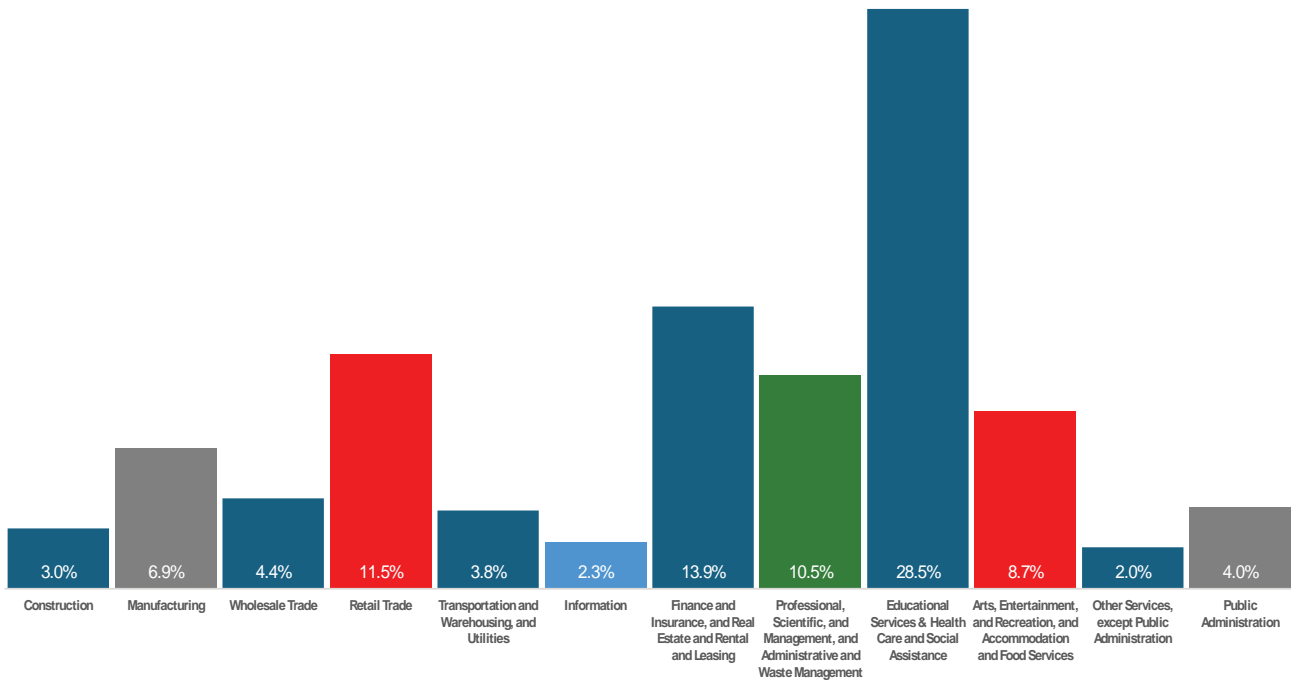
Area Employment & Unemployment, Seasonally Adjusted Annual Average 2024

	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Dover, DE	17,788	16,897	891	5.0%
Middletown, DE	12,400	12,010	390	3.1%
Newark, DE	13,632	13,071	561	4.1%
Wilmington, DE	36,873	34,959	1,914	5.2%

BLS does not track industry employment data at the local area level. However, the US Census provides an estimate on the Occupations and Industries where Middletown residents are employed. More than half of Middletown residents (53.3%) are in Management, Business, Science, and Arts occupations. The *Educational Services & Health Care and Social Assistance* industry employs the greatest number of Middletown residents, at 3,300, or 28.5 percent

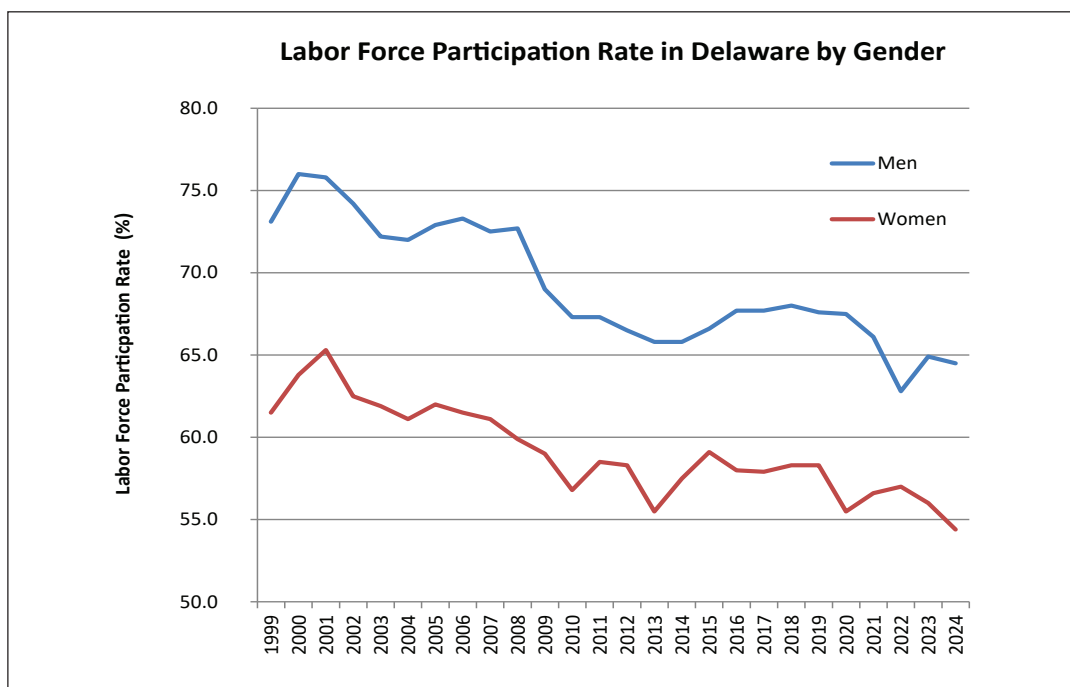
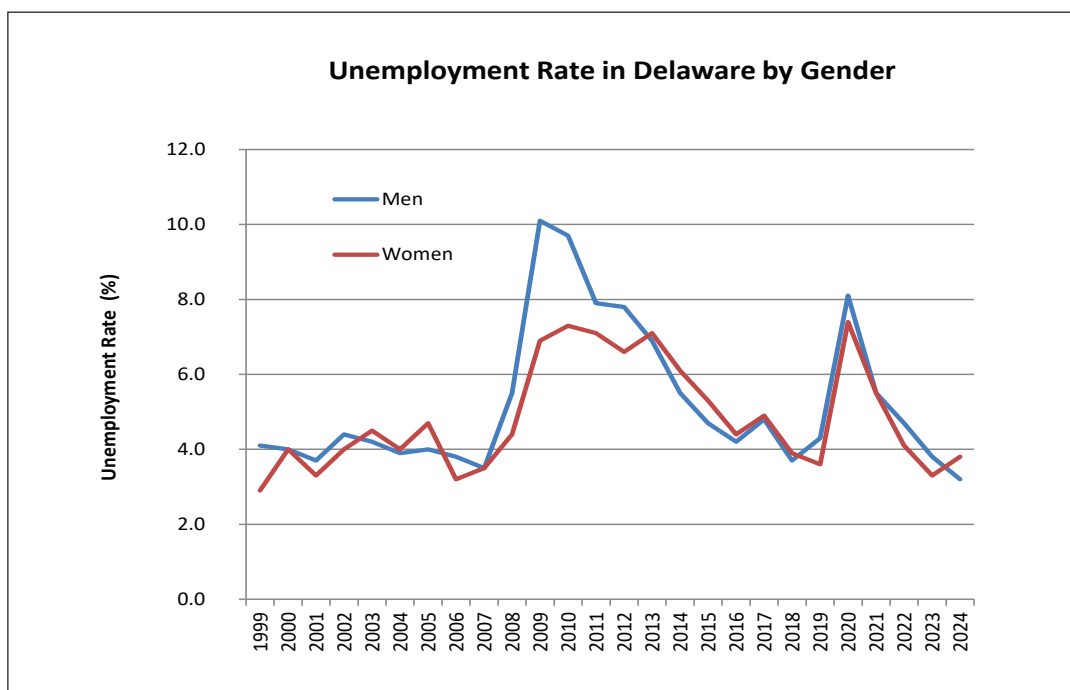


Percentage of Middletown Workers by Industry Category, 2023
ACS-5-Year Estimate

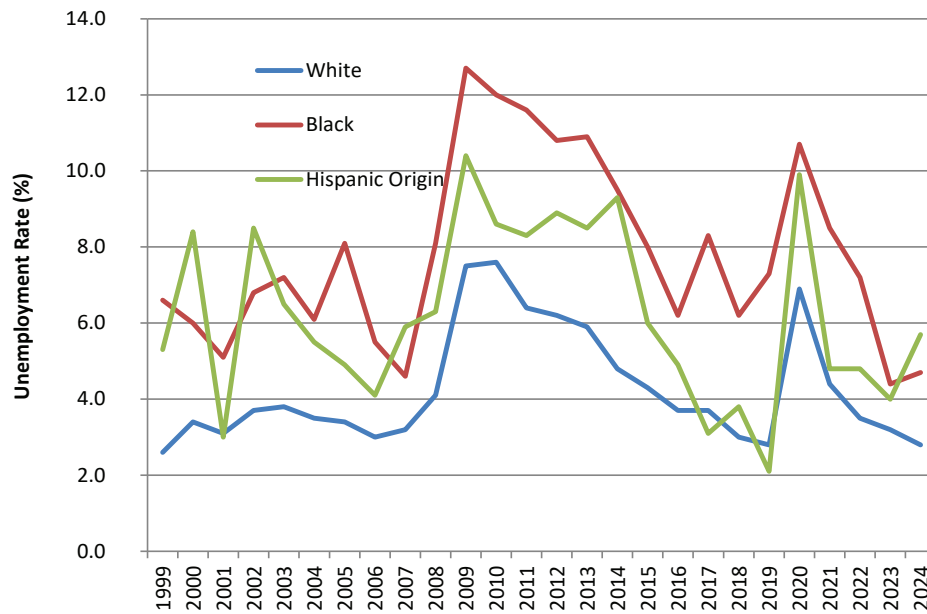


Current Population Survey Demographic Data

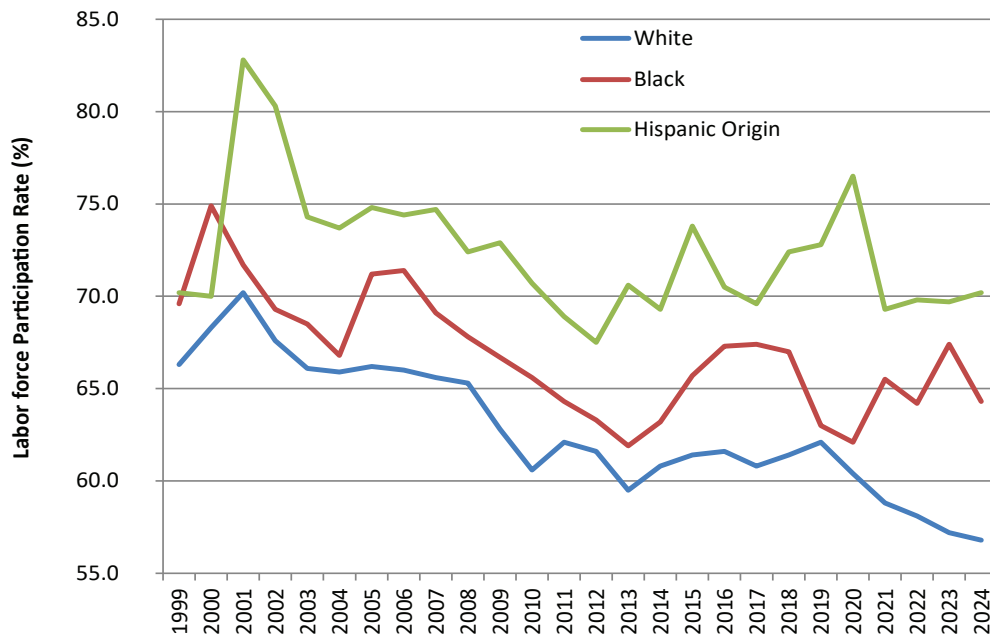
The Current Population Survey (CPS), a monthly survey of approximately 60,000 households across the US, is the source of the national unemployment rate and a great deal more economic data. In Delaware, about 750 households are in the survey each month. This is too few to generate the state's unemployment rate directly, so the CPS is used as the key component in an econometric model, as in all states. More detailed data, such as the demographic labor force graphs shown below, come directly from the survey. By using annual averages, some of the statistical variation in the data, which would be more evident monthly, is smoothed away.



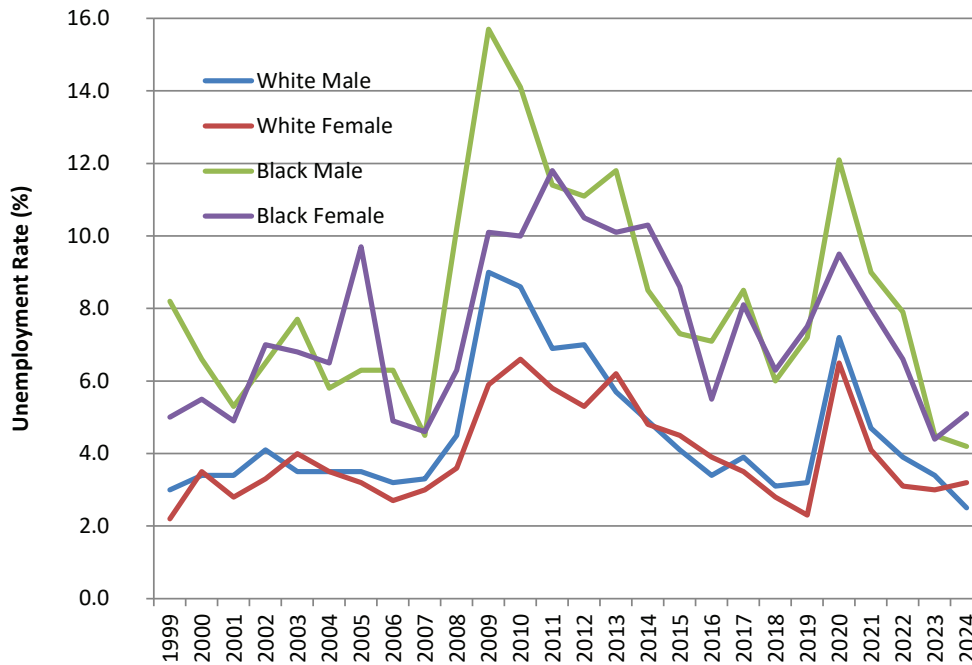
Unemployment Rate in Delaware by Race and Ethnicity



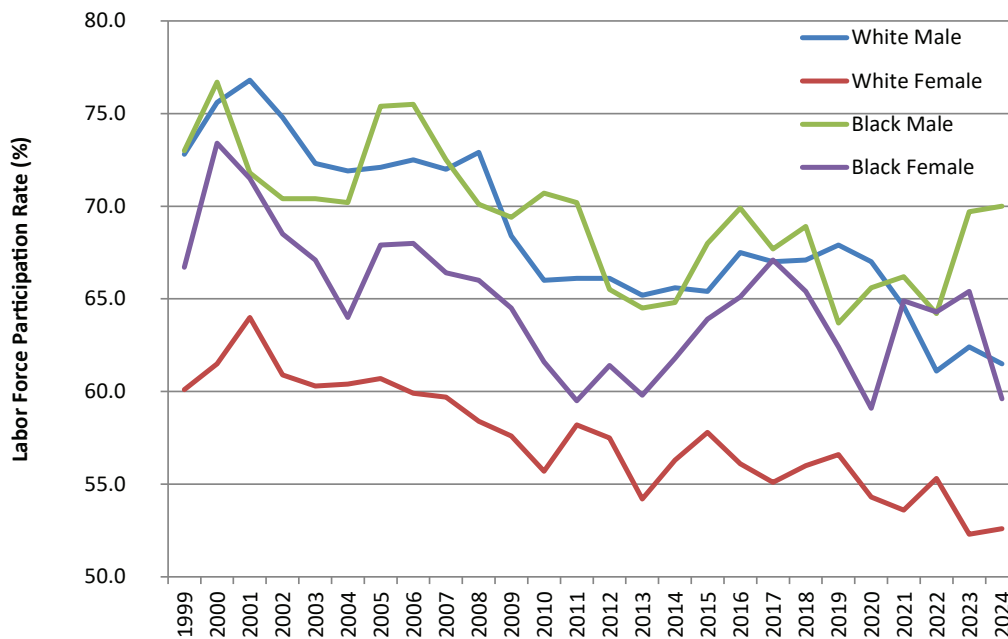
Labor Force Participation Rate in Delaware by Race and Ethnicity



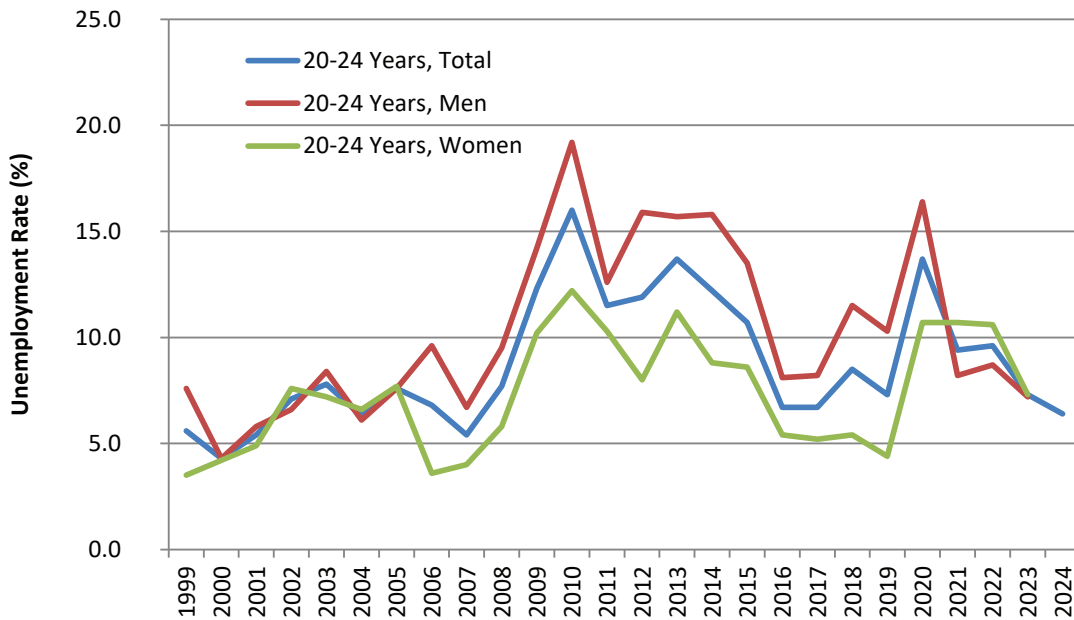
Unemployment Rate in Delaware by Race and Gender, Age 16+



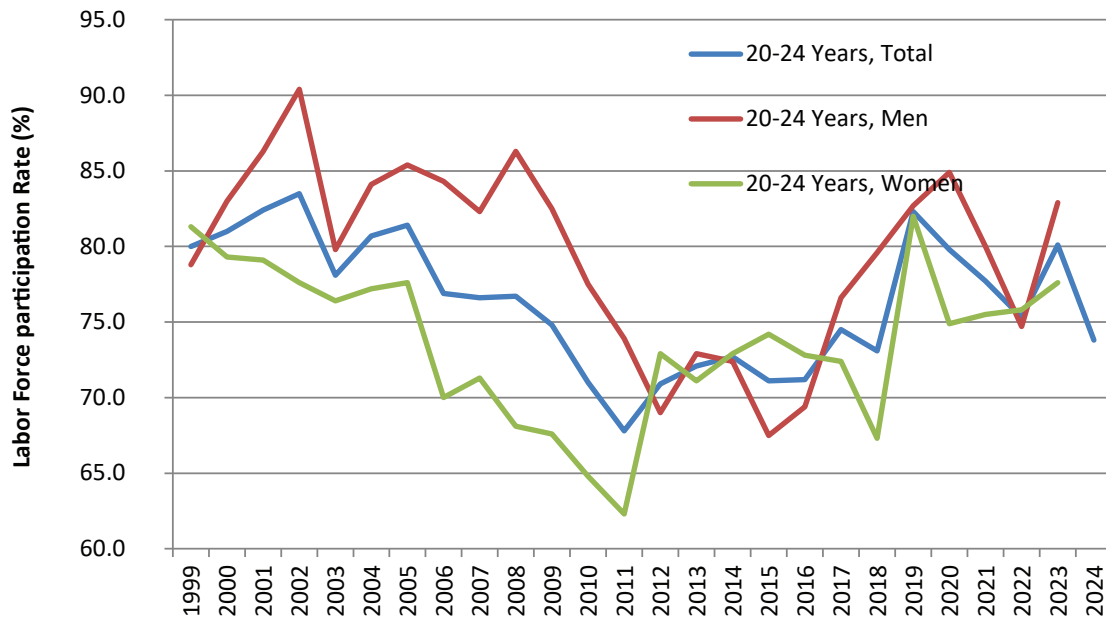
Labor Force Participation Rate in Delaware by Race and Gender, Age 16+



Unemployment Rate in Delaware, 20-24 Years Old



Labor Force Participation Rate in Delaware, 20-24 Years Old





U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Employment and Training Administration (ETA)



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DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Office of Occupational & Labor Market Information

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