



Cerron Cade, Secretary

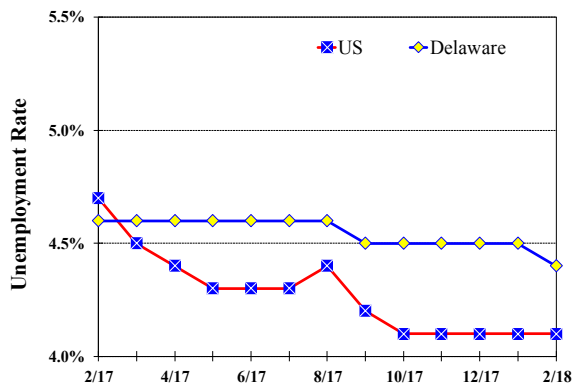
Monthly Labor Review

February 2018

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Delaware and US

February 2017 - February 2018



MONTHLY COMMENTARY

Delaware’s job growth has slowed lately to a pace below that of the nation and neighboring states, but this is more likely due to the typical ups and downs of a small state than indicative of a long-term systemic problem. Using annual average data, US growth of 1.6 percent last year outstrips any state in our area, whose job growth rates were: NJ 1.3 percent; PA 1.1 percent; MD 0.9 percent; and DE 0.6 percent. Over the past two years, the story is much the same, with US job growth at 3.4 percent, NJ 2.9, MD 2.1, PA 1.9, and DE 1.7 percent. Go back a few more years, though, and the story changes.

Since the Great Recession, none of the neighboring states has a single year of 2 percent growth. The US had one year (2015), while Delaware managed three consecutive years of over 2 percent growth (2013-2015). Cumulatively, Delaware has outgrown the neighbors since 2012, even with the recent slowdown. Over the last five years, Delaware had 8.6 percent job growth, while NJ grew by 6.1 percent, MD by 5.6 percent, and PA by 3.8 percent. The US edged out DE with 9.3 percent growth. Delaware’s job growth was above trend a few years ago and more recently has been below it; we expect it to come in somewhere between the two, closer to the long-term trend, this year and likely next.

DELAWARE CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

Delaware Residents

	Feb. 2018	Jan. 2018	Feb. 2017
Civilian Labor Force	479,000	478,400	476,100
Employed	457,900	456,900	454,100
Unemployed	21,100	21,500	22,000
Unemployment Rate %	4.4	4.5	4.6
US Unemployment Rate %	4.1	4.1	4.7

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

AREA UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%)

	Feb. 2018	Jan. 2018	Feb. 2017
New Castle County	4.2	4.4	4.7
Wilmington	5.7	6.3	6.4
Newark	4.1	4.1	4.6
Kent County	4.8	5.0	5.3
Dover	5.8	5.9	6.3
Sussex County	5.0	5.5	5.7

Note: Area rates are not seasonally adjusted.

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: George Sharpley, Ph.D. (302) 761-8060

DELAWARE LABOR FORCE TRENDS

Delaware's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in February 2018 was 4.4%, down from 4.5% in January 2018. There were 21,100 unemployed Delawareans in February 2018 compared to 22,000 in February 2017. The US unemployment rate was 4.1% in February 2018, unchanged from January 2018. In February 2017 the US unemployment rate was 4.7%, while Delaware's rate was 4.6%.

In February 2018, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment was 456,800, down from 457,100 in January 2018. Since February 2017, Delaware's total nonfarm jobs have increased by a net gain of +900, a rise of 0.2%. Nationally, jobs during that period increased 1.6%.

DELAWARE NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

Jobs at Delaware Locations
Seasonally Adjusted (in 000s)

INDUSTRY GROUP	Feb. 2018	Jan. 2018	Over the Month Change	Over the Year Change†
TOTAL NONAG. EMP.	456.8	457.1	-0.3	0.9
CONSTRUCTION	22.9	22.6	0.3	0.9
MANUFACTURING	26.1	26.0	0.1	-0.2
Durable Goods	9.5	9.4	0.1	0.0
Nondurable Goods	16.6	16.6	0.0	-0.2
TRADE, TRANSP., & UTIL.	81.6	81.6	0.0	0.5
Wholesale Trade	10.2	10.2	0.0	-0.6
Retail Trade	53.4	53.2	0.2	-0.1
Transp. & Utilities	18.0	18.2	-0.2	1.2
INFORMATION *	4.3	4.3	0.0	-0.3
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	48.0	47.7	0.3	0.2
PROF. & BUS. SERVICES	62.8	62.6	0.2	0.9
EDUCATION & HEALTH	78.1	78.1	0.0	0.4
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	49.1	49.3	-0.2	-1.7
OTHER SERVICES	18.8	18.8	0.0	0.0
GOVERNMENT	65.1	66.1	-1.0	0.2
Federal Government *	5.6	5.7	-0.1	-0.1
State Government	31.8	32.8	-1.0	-0.3
Local Government	27.7	27.6	0.1	0.6

* Industries are not seasonally adjusted.

† 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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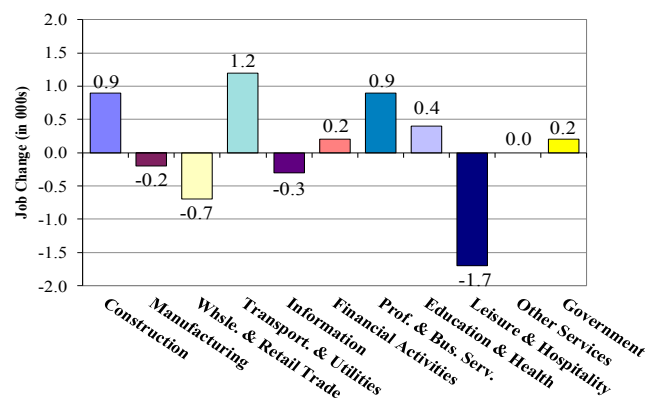
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DELAWARE OVER-THE-YEAR JOB CHANGE

February 2017—February 2018



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

All Urban Consumers

	Percent Change to Feb. 2018 from:		
	Jan. 2018	Dec. 2017	Feb. 2017
US City Average	0.5	1.0	2.2
Phila.-Camden-Wilm.*	NA	0.4	0.5

* Data are published on a bi-monthly basis.

DELAWARE ANNUAL NET JOB CHANGE

Annual Average 1997—2017

