



Cerron Cade, Secretary

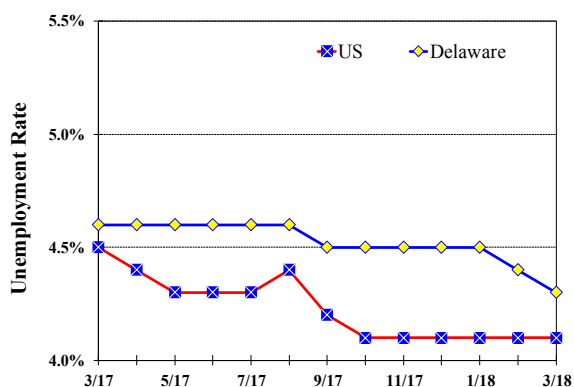
# Monthly Labor Review

## March 2018

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

#### Delaware and US

March 2017 - March 2018



### MONTHLY COMMENTARY

A recent CNBC survey showed that a majority of American workers felt confident that if they quit their jobs, they could find similar employment relatively quickly; that confidence is a familiar sign of a tight labor market. In Delaware, the number of people who are voluntarily unemployed is indeed up. With the median duration of unemployment now 11.4 weeks, 14.3 percent of the state’s unemployed are voluntary job leavers (these are averages over the past 12 months). In 2012, when the economy was still emerging from the recession and it took the median job seeker 23.4 weeks to find work, only 7.3 percent of the unemployed left their jobs voluntarily.

As the unemployment rate falls, the re-entry of people who previously left the labor force has been pointed to as a way of maintaining economic growth. This is possible, though skills do erode, but there are few signs that it is currently happening. Over the past 12 months, about one-third of the unemployed (7,100 people) were re-entrants, with about half having been out of the workforce for over a year. This total is roughly unchanged since the recession, and is offset by a clear drop in new entrants to the labor force. After a steady 2,600 or better average per month since 2012, the number of Delawareans seeking their first job has dropped in each of last two years; it is now down to 1,500 per month over the last year.

### DELAWARE CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

Delaware Residents

	Mar. 2018	Feb. 2018	Mar. 2017
Civilian Labor Force	480,300	479,000	476,700
Employed	459,600	457,900	454,600
Unemployed	20,700	21,100	22,100
Unemployment Rate %	4.3	4.4	4.6
US Unemployment Rate %	4.1	4.1	4.5

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

### AREA UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%)

	Mar. 2018	Feb. 2018	Mar. 2017
<b>New Castle County</b>	3.9	4.2	4.5
Wilmington	5.4	5.7	6.5
Newark	4.1	4.1	4.9
<b>Kent County</b>	4.5	4.8	5.0
Dover	5.7	5.9	6.2
<b>Sussex County</b>	4.5	5.0	5.2

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 March 2018 was 4.3%, down from 4.4% in February 2018. There were 20,700 unemployed Delawareans in March 2018 compared to 22,100 in March 2017. The US unemployment rate was 4.1% in March 2018, unchanged from February 2018. In March 2017 the US unemployment rate was 4.5%, while Delaware's rate was 4.6%.

In March 2018, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment was 459,600, up from 457,900 in February 2018. Since March 2017, Delaware's total nonfarm jobs have increased by a net gain of +3,100, a rise of 0.7%. Nationally, jobs during that period increased 1.6%.

### DELAWARE NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

*Jobs at Delaware Locations*  
Seasonally Adjusted (in 000s)

INDUSTRY GROUP	Mar. 2018	Feb. 2018	Over the Month Change	Over the Year Change†
TOTAL NONAG. EMP.	459.6	457.9	1.7	3.1
CONSTRUCTION	23.1	23.0	0.1	0.6
MANUFACTURING	25.8	26.0	-0.2	-0.1
Durable Goods	9.3	9.5	-0.2	0.0
Nondurable Goods	16.5	16.5	0.0	-0.1
TRADE, TRANSP., & UTIL.	82.4	82.0	0.4	1.3
Wholesale Trade	10.1	10.3	-0.2	-0.7
Retail Trade	54.0	53.6	0.4	0.6
Transp. & Utilities	18.3	18.1	0.2	1.4
INFORMATION *	4.3	4.4	-0.1	-0.3
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	48.2	48.0	0.2	0.2
PROF. & BUS. SERVICES	62.7	62.7	0.0	1.4
EDUCATION & HEALTH	78.3	78.1	0.2	0.7
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	49.4	49.2	0.2	-1.2
OTHER SERVICES	19.0	18.9	0.1	0.2
GOVERNMENT	66.4	65.6	0.8	0.3
Federal Government *	5.6	5.6	0.0	-0.1
State Government	32.8	32.1	0.7	-0.4
Local Government	27.9	27.9	0.0	0.8

\* 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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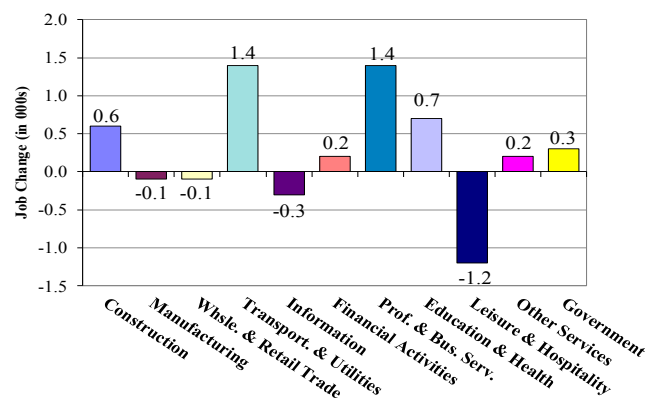
(302) 761-8060

<https://lmi.delawareworks.com>



### DELAWARE OVER-THE-YEAR JOB CHANGE

March 2017—March 2018



### CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

All Urban Consumers

	Percent Change to Mar. 2018 from:		
	Feb. 2018	Jan. 2018	Mar. 2017
US City Average	0.2	0.7	2.4
Phila.-Camden-Wilm.*	NA	NA	NA

\* Data are published on a bi-monthly basis.

### DELAWARE ANNUAL NET JOB CHANGE

Annual Average 1997—2017

