



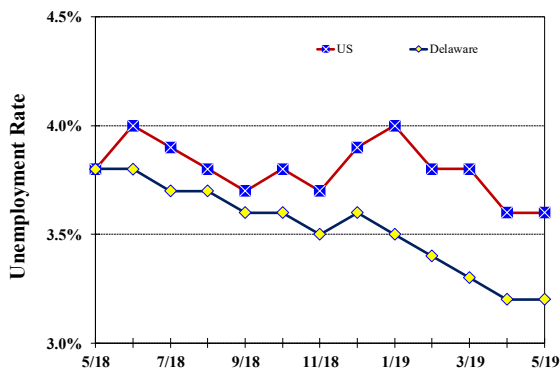
Cerron Cade, Secretary

Monthly Labor Review

May 2019

Unemployment Rate

Delaware and US
May 2018 - May 2019



Monthly Commentary

Delaware’s unemployment rate remained at 3.2% in May. Over the past year it has declined by more than the national rate and by more than any of the immediate neighbor states. But Delaware’s number of employed residents is growing twice as fast as the amount of jobs in the state. One possibility is that more state residents are commuting to jobs in nearby states. Pennsylvania is the most likely job location for DE residents, but they also are seeing greater increases in employment than jobs. Maryland has equal job and employment growth. New Jersey’s jobs are growing faster than its employed residents, but relatively few Delawareans typically work there. The latest Census data, almost a decade old, showed 6,300 DE residents working in NJ, with 20,100 in MD, and 29,200 in PA.

Another explanation would be a surge in self-employed people, which would increase employment but not jobs (unless the individual incorporates). However, there is no actual data to support this, and if it were happening, it would be local – the US shows the opposite pattern of jobs increasing about twice as fast as employment. Since commuting patterns cannot explain that at a national level, the final explanation is that one of the estimates is further off track than the other. In Delaware, payroll data indicate it is more likely that resident employment growth is overstated than job growth is understated.



Delaware Civilian Labor Force

Delaware Residents

	May. 2019	Apr. 2019	May. 2018
Civilian Labor Force	488,400	487,300	482,500
Employed	472,700	471,500	464,000
Unemployed	15,700	15,800	18,500
Unemployment Rate %	3.2	3.2	3.8
US Unemployment Rate %	3.6	3.6	3.8

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

Area Unemployment Rates (%)

	May. 2019	Apr. 2019	May. 2018
New Castle County	2.9	2.9	3.4
Wilmington	4.6	4.4	5.2
Newark	3.1	2.7	3.5
Kent County	3.3	3.2	3.8
Dover	4.5	4.0	5.2
Sussex County	2.8	3.3	3.3

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 May 2019 was 3.2%, unchanged from April 2019. There were 15,700 unemployed Delawareans in May 2019 compared to 18,500 in May 2018. The US unemployment rate was 3.6% in May 2019, unchanged from April 2019. In May 2018 the US unemployment rate was 3.8%, while Delaware's rate was also 3.8%.

In May 2019, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment was 464,800, down from 465,000 in April 2019. Since May 2018, Delaware's total nonfarm jobs have increased by a net gain of +4,200, a rise of 0.9%. Nationally, jobs during that period increased 1.5%.

Delaware Nonfarm Employment

Jobs at Delaware Locations
Seasonally Adjusted (in 000s)

INDUSTRY GROUP	May 2019	Apr. 2019	Over the Month Change	Over the Year Change†
TOTAL NONAG. EMP.	464.8	465.0	-0.2	4.2
CONSTRUCTION	23.3	23.1	0.2	1.1
MANUFACTURING	27.5	27.5	0.0	0.6
Durable Goods	9.7	9.7	0.0	0.2
Nondurable Goods	17.8	17.8	0.0	0.4
TRADE, TRANSP., & UTIL.	78.7	78.8	-0.1	-1.9
Wholesale Trade	11.1	11.1	0.0	0.4
Retail Trade	51.7	51.8	-0.1	-1.4
Transp. & Utilities	15.9	15.9	0.0	-0.9
INFORMATION *	3.9	3.9	0.0	-0.2
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	48.0	47.8	0.2	0.3
PROF. & BUS. SERVICES	63.0	63.6	-0.6	-0.3
EDUCATION & HEALTH	82.1	81.8	0.3	2.5
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	52.5	52.9	-0.4	0.8
OTHER SERVICES	18.4	18.5	-0.1	-0.2
GOVERNMENT	67.4	67.1	0.3	1.5
Federal Government	5.7	5.7	0.0	0.0
State Government	33.2	33.1	0.1	0.2
Local Government	28.5	28.3	0.2	1.3

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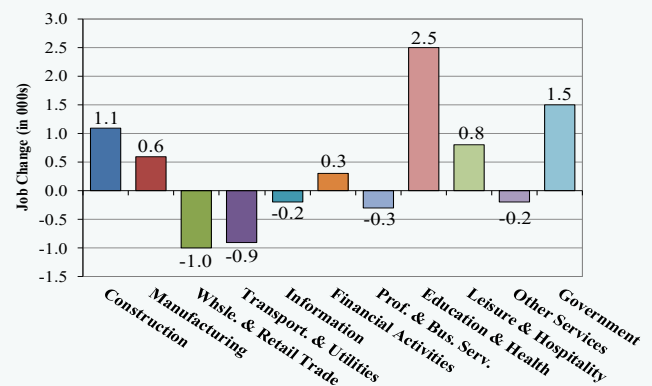
George Sharpley, Ph.D.
(302) 761-8060



<https://lmi.delawareworks.com>

Delaware Over-the-Year Job Change

May 2018—May 2019



Consumer Price Index

All Urban Consumers

	Percent Change to May 2019 from:		
	Apr. 2019	Mar. 2019	May. 2018
US City Average	0.2	0.7	1.8
Phila.-Camden-Wilm.*	NA	NA	NA

* Data are published on a bi-monthly basis.

Delaware Annual Net Job Change

Annual Average 1998—2018

