



# Delaware Economic Update

April 15, 2016

## Summary

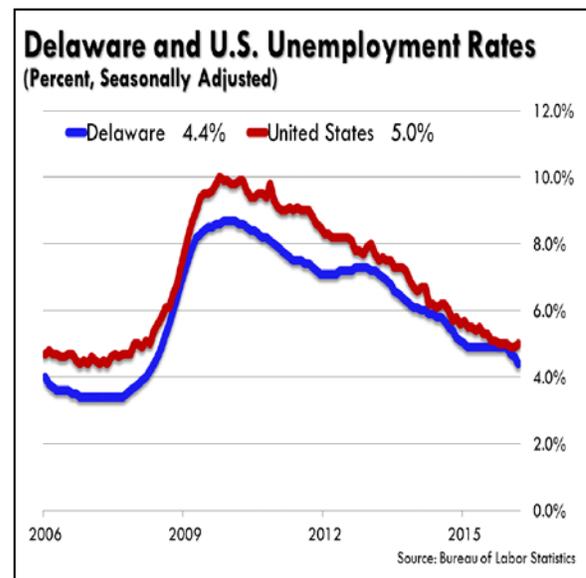
Nonfarm payroll employment in Delaware increased by 1,300 jobs and the unemployment rate fell to 4.4 percent in March according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

## Delaware Unemployment Rate

During March, the unemployment rate in Delaware declined by 0.2 percentage point to 4.4 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed fell by 752 in March to 21,084, while the labor force grew by 2,565 to 479,912. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 18 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than Delaware. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Delaware stood at 4.9 percent.

The 10 year peak for the unemployment rate in Delaware was 8.7 percent in February 2010. The series high for the unemployment rate in Delaware occurred in December 1976 when the unemployment rate reached 9.8 percent. The 10 year low for the unemployment rate in Delaware was 3.4 percent in September 2007. The series low for the unemployment rate in Delaware occurred in June 1988 when the unemployment rate reached 3.0 percent. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 5.0 percent in March. March's unemployment rate was 0.5 percentage point lower than a year earlier. The 10-year high for the national unemployment rate was 10.0 percent in October 2009. The 10-year low was 4.4 percent in May 2007.



## Delaware Payroll Employment

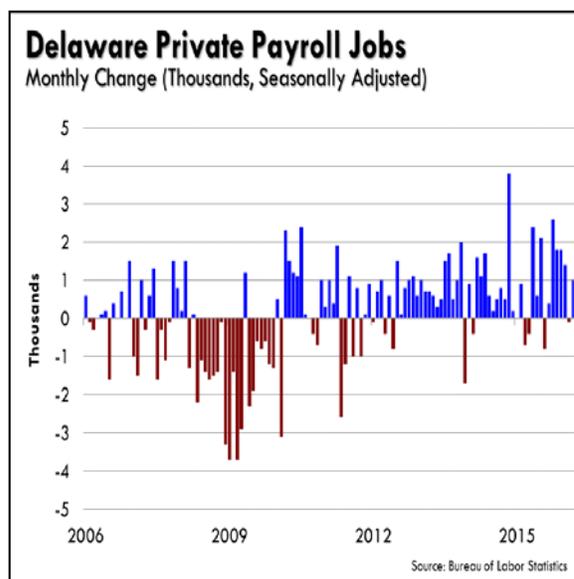
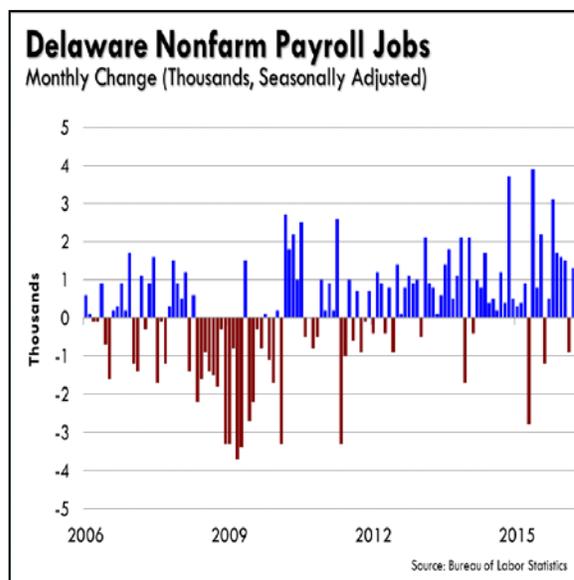
Delaware nonfarm payrolls increased by 1,300 jobs, or 0.28 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during March. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls declined by 900. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in Delaware increased by 11,700, or 2.62 percent. Delaware nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 9 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 215,000 jobs in March, or 0.15 percent. Over the 12-month period ending March 2016 nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,802,000 jobs, or 1.99 percent. Delaware ranks 15th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During March, Delaware private sector payrolls increased by 1,000, or 0.26 percent. Private sector payrolls declined by 100 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in Delaware increased by 12,800, or 3.37 percent. Delaware private sector payroll employment has increased in 9 of the past 12 months.

Nationally private-sector payroll jobs increased by 195,000 jobs in 1.99, or 0.16 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,681,000 jobs in the private sector, an increase of 2.25 percent. Delaware ranks 10th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

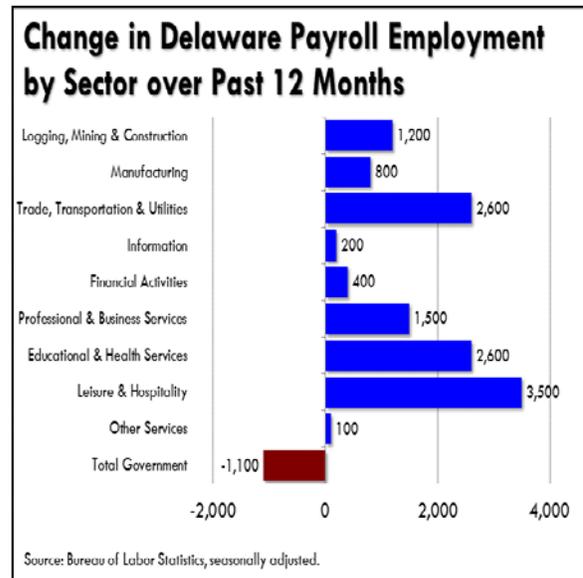
During March, total government payroll employment in Delaware increased by 300, or 0.46 percent. Federal government payroll employment was unchanged. State government payroll employment increased by 400, or 1.25 percent, while local government payroll employment increased by 100, or 0.37 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment declined by 1,100, or 1.66 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 1,400, or 4.13 percent. Local government payroll employment increased by 300, or 1.12 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during March were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+1,200) and Leisure & Hospitality (+300). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Professional & Business Services (-1,000) and Manufacturing (-100).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Leisure & Hospitality (+3,500) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+2,600). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Total Government (-1,100) and Other Services (+100).

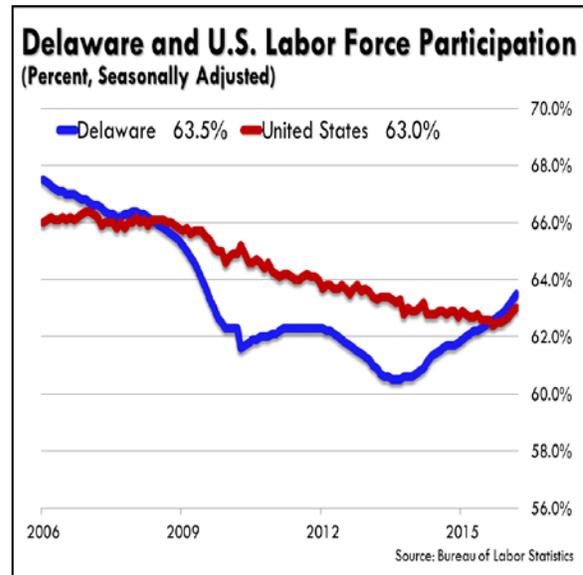


#### Other Delaware Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Delaware rose to 63.5 percent in March from 63.3 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 27 have a higher labor force participation rate than Delaware. The labor force participation rate in Delaware is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10 year high for the labor force participation rate in Delaware was 67.2 percent in April 2006. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Delaware occurred in January 1990 when the labor force participation rate hit 71.0 percent. The 10 year low for the labor force participation rate was 60.5 percent in September 2013. This also represents the series low for the labor force participation rate in Delaware.

The national labor force participation rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 63.0 percent in March, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.



The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Delaware civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, rose to 60.8 percent in March from 60.3 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 26 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Delaware. The employment-to-population ratio in Delaware is 1.8 percentage points higher than a year earlier.

The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Delaware was 64.8 percent in April 2006. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Delaware occurred in January 1990 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 68.3 percent. The 10 year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 56.3 percent in April 2010. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in May 2010 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 56.3 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.1 percentage point to 59.9 percent in March. That rate was 0.6 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

State employment and unemployment data for April is scheduled for release on May 20, 2016. The national employment situation report for April will be released on Friday, May 6, 2016.

