



# Delaware Economic Update

September 18, 2015

## Summary

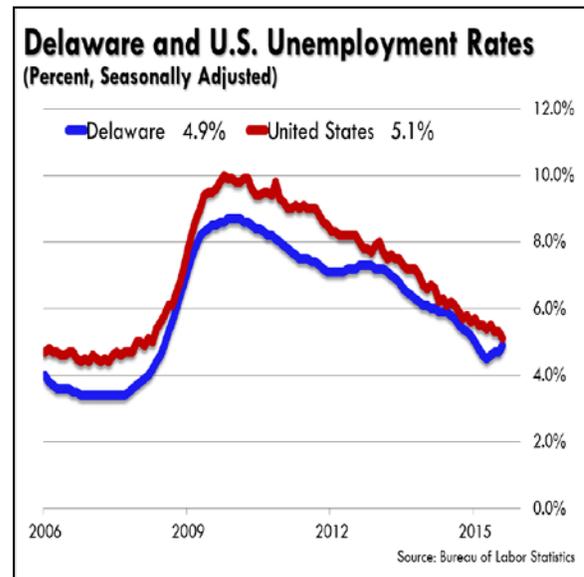
Nonfarm payroll employment in Delaware declined by 2,500 jobs and the unemployment rate rose to 4.9 percent in August according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

## Delaware Unemployment Rate

During August, the unemployment rate in Delaware increased by 0.2 percentage point to 4.9 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed rose by 530 in August to 22,475, while the labor force grew by 277 to 463,395. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 22 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than Delaware. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Delaware stood at 5.7 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 declined by 0.2 percentage point to 5.1 percent in August. August's unemployment rate was 1.0 percentage point lower than a year earlier. The ten year high for the national unemployment rate was 10.0 percent in October 2009. The ten year low was 4.4 percent in May 2007.



## Delaware Payroll Employment

Delaware nonfarm payrolls declined by 2,500 jobs, or 0.56 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during August. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls increased by 1,600. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in Delaware increased by 5,800, or 1.32 percent. Delaware nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 8 of the past 12 months.

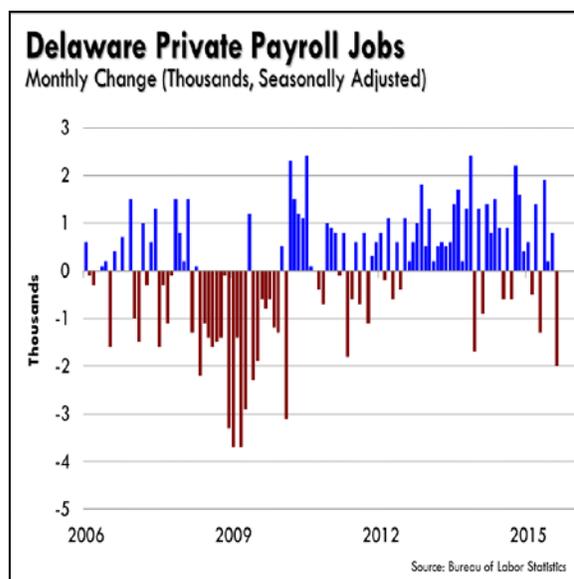
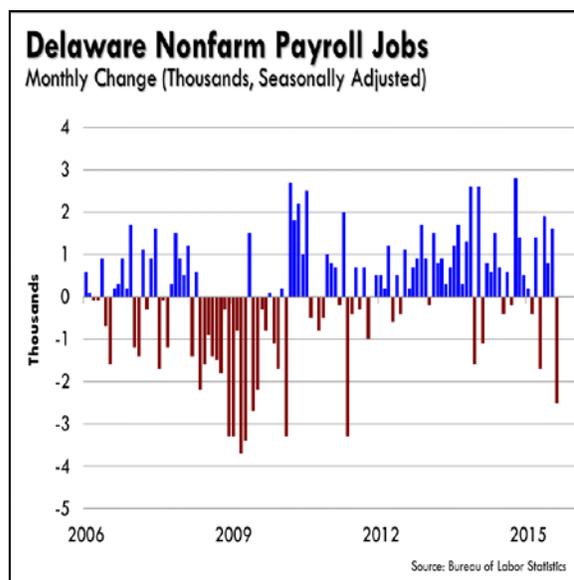
Nationally nonfarm payrolls increased by 173,000 jobs in August, or 0.12 percent. Over the 12 month period ending in August 2015 nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,919,000 jobs, or 2.09 percent. Delaware ranks 31st among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During August, Delaware private sector payrolls declined by 2,000, or 0.53 percent. Private sector payrolls increased by 800 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in Delaware increased by 4,700, or 1.26 percent. Delaware private sector payroll employment has increased in 8 of the past 12 months.

Nationally private-sector payroll jobs increased by 140,000 jobs in August, or 0.12 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,789,000 jobs in the private sector, an increase of 2.37 percent.

Delaware ranks 35th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

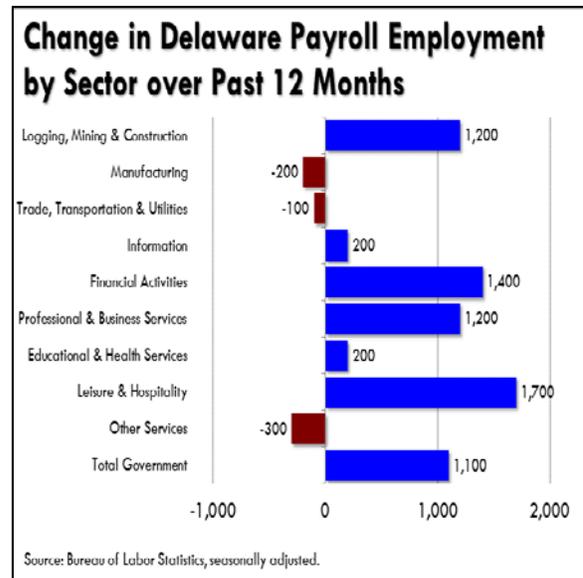
During August, total government payroll employment in Delaware declined by 500, or 0.76 percent. Federal government payroll employment was unchanged. State government payroll employment was unchanged, while local government payroll employment declined by 300, or 1.09 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment increased by 1,100, or 1.71 percent. State government payroll employment was unchanged. Local government payroll employment increased by 700, or 2.64 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during August were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+500) and Financial Activities (+300). The poorest performing sector during the month was Professional & Business Services (-1,100).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Leisure & Hospitality (+1,700) and Financial Activities (+1,400). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Other Services (-300) and Manufacturing (-200).

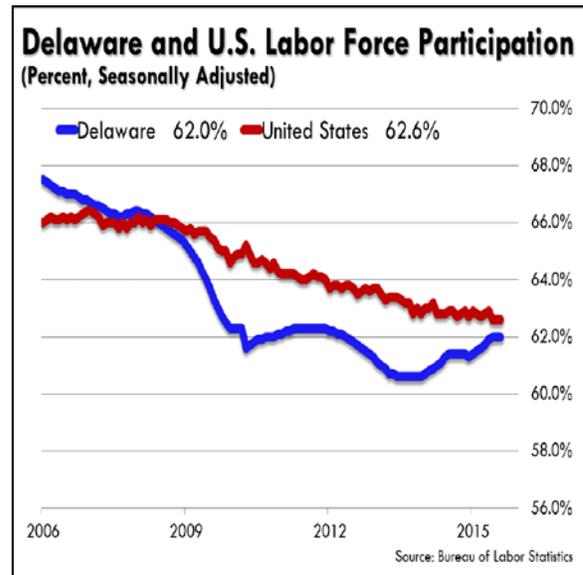


### Other Delaware Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Delaware was unchanged at 62.0 percent in August. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 32 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 67.6 percent in December 2005. 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 60.6 percent in December 2013. This also represents the series low for the labor force participation rate in Delaware.

The national labor force participation rate was unchanged at 62.6 percent in August. That rate was 0.3 percentage point lower than a year earlier. At 62.6 percent, the labor force participation rate is at its lowest level since October 1977.



The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Delaware civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, declined to 58.9 percent in August from 59.1 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 33 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Delaware. The employment-to-population ratio in Delaware is 0.9 percentage point higher than a year earlier.

The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Delaware was 64.9 percent in February 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 59.4 percent in August. That rate was 0.4 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The employment-to-population ratio stood at 59.4 percent when the recession ended in June 2009. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 percent 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 posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

State employment and unemployment data for September is scheduled for release on Tuesday, October 20. The national employment situation report for September will be released on Friday, October 2.

