

DELAWARE’S LABOR MARKET

Delaware will replace 31% of its workforce (146,139 jobs) by 2030. In addition, projected job growth of 6% will add an additional 29,421 jobs to the current workforce. The state’s labor market can be organized into three categories of employment: low-, middle-, and high-skill jobs. Low skill jobs require a high school diploma or less and provide an average wage of \$33,162 per year. Middle-skill jobs require some type of postsecondary education, (e.g., Registered Apprenticeship, non-degree certification, or an Associate’s degree) and provide an average wage of \$50,465 per year. High-skill jobs require a Bachelor’s degree or higher and provide an average wage of \$101,195 per year.

Employment in middle- and high-skill jobs represents for 63% of total occupational employment in Delaware and will represent 59% of all projected growth openings through 2030. Employment in middle-skill jobs is consistent across the state and can be accessed through cost-effective education and training programs that are desirable for youth entering the workforce and for adults seeking to upskill for better employment opportunities. Delaware Department of Education plans to create opportunities that will contribute to the state’s economic growth by defining a statewide strategy to increase the number of youth and adults prepared to enter middle- and high-skill employment.

Source: Delaware Department of Labor (DDOL) Employment Projections, 2020-2030.

DELAWARE’S LABOR MARKET BY CAREER CLUSTER

Career Cluster	MS	HS	HW	HD	Employment 2022	Employment Change 2020-2030	Employment Growth 2020-2030	Average Wage 2022
Hospitality and Tourism	●			●	58,300	9,690	18.0%	\$32,718
Health Science	●	●	●	●	43,040	6,510	17.1%	\$78,812
Architecture and Construction	●		●	●	28,909	3,560	12.8%	\$58,078
Transportation, Distribution & Logistics	●			●	43,519	3,450	8.9%	\$45,664
Human Services	●	●		●	14,998	2,250	19.1%	\$45,078
Education and Training		●	●	●	30,795	1,730	6.0%	\$60,519
Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security	●		●	●	13,993	1,340	11.3%	\$46,095
Marketing, Sales, and Service	●			●	61,139	1,200	2.1%	\$45,574
Business Management and Administration	●	●	●	●	83,664	900	1.1%	\$74,412
Manufacturing	●			●	23,222	900	4.1%	\$52,146
Information Technology		●	●	●	19,106	660	6.4%	\$119,794
Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources	●			●	7,249	360	7.5%	\$40,198

Career Cluster	MS	HS	HW	HD	Employment 2022	Employment Change 2020-2030	Employment Growth 2020-2030	Average Wage 2022
Government and Public Administration	●	●	●	●	5,499	300	4.8%	\$61,919
Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics		●	●	●	6,876	130	2.0%	\$99,995
Arts, Audio/Video Technology & Communications	●	●	●	●	1,472	60	5.1%	\$60,830
Finance	●	●	●	●	14,178	-160	-1.8%	\$78,223

Middle-Skill (MS): Middle-skill jobs include occupations that require some type of postsecondary education (e.g. Registered Apprenticeship, non-degree certification, or an Associate’s degree), but not a Bachelor’s degree. In addition, middle-skill jobs may also include those that require a high school education with work experience, or at least one month of on-the-job training, or credential attainment.

High-Skill (HS): High-skill occupations require at least a Bachelor’s degree, or an Associate’s degree with either a required residency or internship, or at least five years of work experience.

High-Wage (HW): High-wage occupations offer compensation that is greater than the Delaware median wage (\$47,150 in 2022)

High-Demand (HD): High-demand occupations are those projected to create at least four annual job openings per year due to growth in Delaware.

Sources: DDOL Employment Projections, 2020-2030, ranked by employment change. Employment 2022 source is DDOL Short-Term Employment Projections 2022-2024. Average Wage source is DDOL Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, 2022.

STATE & COUNTY JOB STATISTICS

- 67% of all Delaware jobs are in New Castle County; 34% are high-skill, 45% are middle-skill, and 21% are low-skill jobs.
- 14% of all Delaware jobs are in Kent County; 26% are high-skill, 47% are middle-skill, and 28% are low-skill jobs.
- 20% of all Delaware jobs are in Sussex County; 19% are high-skill, 45% are middle-skill, and 36% are low-skill jobs.

Note – 4% of Delaware employment is multi-county or undefined

Source: DDOL Employment Projections, 2022

YOUTH AGES 18 TO 24, LEVEL OF EDUCATION FOR DELAWARE, BY COUNTY AND GREATER WILMINGTON

- 48% of Delaware youth are prepared for middle- and high-skill jobs;
 - 44% of Delaware youth who are male are prepared for middle- and high-skill jobs;
 - 51% of Delaware youth who are female are prepared for middle- and high-skill jobs;
- 51% of New Castle County youth are prepared for middle- and high-skill jobs;
 - 50% of New Castle County youth who are male are prepared for middle- and high-skill jobs;
 - 52% of New Castle County youth who are female are prepared for middle- and high-skill jobs;
- 44% of Kent County youth are prepared for middle- and high-skill jobs;
 - 40% of Kent County youth who are male are prepared for middle- and high-skill jobs;
 - 48% of Kent County youth who are female are prepared for middle- and high-skill jobs;
- 43% of Sussex County youth are prepared for middle- and high-skill jobs;
 - 36% of Sussex County youth who are male are prepared for middle- and high-skill jobs;
 - 49% of Sussex County youth who are female are prepared for middle- and high-skill jobs;
- 39% of Greater Wilmington youth are prepared for middle- and high-skill jobs;
 - 37% of Greater Wilmington youth who are male are prepared for middle- and high-skill jobs;
 - 42% of Greater Wilmington youth who are female are prepared for middle- and high-skill jobs.

Source: American Community Survey, 2022

ADULTS AGE 25 AND OVER, LEVEL OF EDUCATION FOR DELAWARE, BY COUNTY AND GREATER WILMINGTON

- 64% of Delaware adults are prepared for middle- and high-skill jobs;
 - 60% of Delaware adults who are male are prepared for middle- and high-skill jobs;
 - 67% of Delaware adults who are female are prepared for middle- and high-skill jobs;
- 66% of New Castle County adults are prepared for middle- and high-skill jobs;
 - 63% of New Castle County adults who are male are prepared for middle- and high-skill jobs;
 - 69% of New Castle County adults who are female are prepared for middle- and high-skill jobs;
- 56% of Kent County youth are prepared for middle- and high-skill jobs;
 - 51% of Kent County adults are male are prepared for middle- and high-skill jobs;
 - 61% of Kent County adults who are female are prepared for middle- and high-skill jobs;
- 64% of Sussex County youth are prepared for middle- and high-skill jobs;
 - 61% of Sussex County adults who are male are prepared for middle- and high-skill jobs;
 - 67% of Sussex County adults who are female are prepared for middle- and high-skill jobs;
- 55% of Greater Wilmington adults are prepared for middle- and high-skill jobs;
 - 49% of Greater Wilmington adults who are male are prepared for middle- and high-skill jobs;
 - 59% of Greater Wilmington adults who are female are prepared for middle- and high-skill jobs.

Source: American Community Survey, 2022