

As of December 31, 2002, Delaware's unemployment rate was among the fourth lowest in the U.S. Delaware's unemployment rate as of June 2003 was 3.8%, significantly lower than the regional rate of 5.2% and the national rate of 6.4%. The following table presents the average annual unemployment rates for Delaware, the Mideast region and the United States for the last ten years.

Unemployment Rates

| Year | Delaware | Mideast Region | United States |
|------|----------|----------------|---------------|
| 1994 | 4.9 | 6.3 | 6.1 |
| 1995 | 4.3 | 5.9 | 5.6 |
| 1996 | 5.2 (1) | 5.7 | 5.4 |
| 1997 | 4.0 | 5.2 | 4.9 |
| 1998 | 3.8 | 4.6 | 4.5 |
| 1999 | 3.5 | 4.2 | 4.2 |
| 2000 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 |
| 2001 | 3.2 | 4.2 | 4.6 |
| 2002 | 4.3 | 5.2 | 5.8 |
| 2003 | 3.8 | 5.2 | 6.4 |

(1) Reflects the temporary closing of two automobile production plants

Sources: U.S. Department of Labor and Delaware Department of Labor

The table below lists the fifteen largest commercial and industrial employers in the State as of March 31, 2003.

Delaware's Largest Private Employers

| Name | Nature | Number of Employees |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| MBNA America | Commercial banking | 11,400 |
| E.I. duPont de Newmours & Co., Inc. | Chemicals and energy; corporate headquarters | 9,800 |
| Christiana Care Health Services | Hospital complex and home healthcare subsidiary | 7,200 |
| AstraZeneca, Inc. | Pharmaceuticals and specialty chemicals; corporate headquarters | 4,200 |
| Mountaire Farms of Delmarva, Inc. | Food processor | 3,300 |
| J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. | Commercial banking | 3,000 |
| Wal-Mart Inc. | Retail chain | 2,700 |
| Alfred I. duPont Institute | Children's health care facility | 2,600 |
| Bank One | Commercial banking | 2,500 |
| Perdue Farms, Inc. | Boilers, feed and grains | 2,400 |
| DaimlerChrysler | Automotive assembly | 2,200 |
| Wilmington Trust Company | Commercial banking | 2,200 |
| Bayhealth Medical Center | Hospital complex | 2,200 |
| General Motors | Automotive assembly | 2,100 |
| Happy Harry's Inc. | Retail chain | 2,000 |