



“The competition for the best teachers in this region is more intense than ever. So, we need to pay our teachers more to win the competition with surrounding states.”

— Gov. John Carney, from his State of the State address, Jan. 19, 2023

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Delaware

Pop. (2023): 1,021,276
Median household income (2023): \$73,894
Credit Rating: AAA / Stable

Pop. growth 2023–2028: 0.56%
Median age (2023): 41.3
Right-to-work state: No

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

In April, Delaware became the 22nd state to legalize recreational use of marijuana. HB 1 legalizes possession of up to 1 oz. of cannabis by adults 21 years of age and older. HB 2 regulates and taxes cannabis sales. License applications are expected to be available in April, according to the Marijuana Policy Project.

In June, Gov. Carney signed two bills to expedite job-creating projects. HB 102 expedites the issuance of a temporary entrance permit for commercial and economic development projects. HB 104 exempts certain economic development projects from Delaware’s pre-application process for land use.

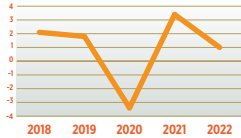
Delaware’s 2024 budget, signed by Gov. Carney on June 30, provides a 9% increase for classroom teachers, invests \$21 million for early childhood education programs and \$30 million in increased funding for mental health for K-12 students. The governor’s office says the \$30 million approved for new housing is the largest such investment in state history.

Delaware’s \$1.4 billion capital budget invests in school construction, roadway improvements, clean water projects, state building renovations and economic development. The capital budget contains a \$71.9 million package of grants providing funding to nonprofits.

GDP

42nd

GDP Growth Rate Trend



2022 GDP
(in millions of current US\$)
\$75,173



21st

Business Tax Climate Rank Change 2023–2024: -5



39th

Higher Ed. R&D Expenditure in \$000s: 397,123



49th

Number of NCRCs: 430 | Percent Improvement 2022–2023: 0.47%



23rd

2023 Workers' Comp Index Rate: 1.34



37th

Industrial power cost per kWh: \$8.79



43rd

Total Revenue as Share of Total Expenses, FY 2007–2021: 99.6%