At what temperature does water attain its maximum density?

Put a piece of ice into a glass of water. Arrange two thermometers so that one measures the temperature near the surface, and the other the temperature near the bottom. It will be noticed that the water cooled by the ice falls to the bottom; this continues until the water at the bottom of the glass reaches a temperature of about 4° C. It will stay at this temperature for a long time, the colder water remaining higher up near the ice. From this it can be deduced that the water at 4° C is denser than the water at 0° C. This curious behaviour of water is of great practical significance in nature, and explains why a pond freezes from the surface downwards while the bottom surface seldom falls below 4° C.