

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Department of Employment Services

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Washington Metropolitan Area Adds 14,700 Jobs in February *Washington Metro Division's Unemployment Rate at 5.0 Percent*

(Washington, DC) - The District of Columbia Department of Employment Services (DOES) reported today that the preliminary February job estimates show an increase of 14,700 jobs for a total of 2,540,100 jobs in the Washington Metropolitan Division. The private sector increased by 6,300 jobs, while the public sector gained 8,400 jobs. The Washington Metropolitan Division's not seasonally adjusted February 2015 unemployment rate was 5.0 percent, which is unchanged from the January rate.

Over-the-Month Area Civilian Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment Data

The total civilian labor force in the Washington Metropolitan Division for February 2015 was 2,602,000, of which 2,471,200 were employed and 130,800 were unemployed. The unemployment rate was 5.0 percent. The total civilian labor force in the Suburban Ring of the communities surrounding the District of Columbia was 2,880,200, of which 2,752,900 were employed and 127,500 were unemployed. The unemployment rate for this area was 4.4 percent. In the Washington Metropolitan Statistical Area, which includes the Washington Metropolitan Division and the Bethesda-Gaithersburg-Frederick, Maryland Metropolitan Division, the civilian labor force was 3,267,400, of which 3,108,500 were employed and 159,000 were unemployed. The unemployment rate for this area was 4.9 percent. For the month, the unemployment rates for the Washington Metropolitan Division, the Washington Metropolitan Statistical Area and the Suburban Ring were unchanged from last month.

Over-the-Year Area Civilian Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment Data

The Washington Metropolitan Division's civilian labor force increased over the year by 14,100, while the number of employed increased by 25,300, and the number of unemployed decreased by 11,200. The civilian labor force for the Suburban Ring increased over the year by 1,500, while the number of employed increased by 17,700, and the number of unemployed decreased by 15,900. Meanwhile, the Washington Metropolitan Statistical Area's civilian labor force increased by 15,700, while the number of employed increased by 30,400 and the number of unemployed decreased by 14,600. For the year, the unemployment rate for the Washington Metropolitan Division decreased by 0.5 percentage points, the unemployment rate for the Washington Metropolitan Statistical Area decreased by 0.4 percentage points and the unemployment rate for the Suburban Ring decreased by 0.6 percentage points.

Metropolitan Division's Job Growth

Total wage and salary employment in the Washington Metropolitan Division increased over the month by 14,700 jobs. The private sector increased by 6,300 jobs, and the public sector increased by 8,400 jobs over the month. Four private sectors along with the state and local government had over-the-month job gains. Job gains were registered in professional and business services, which gained 3,300 jobs; other services gained 300 jobs; educational and health services gained 7,800 jobs; and financial activities gained 300 jobs. Four private sectors along with the federal government had over-the-month job losses. Job losses were registered in trade, transportation, and utilities which lost (3,600 jobs); manufacturing lost (200 jobs); mining, logging and construction lost (1,200 jobs); and information lost (400 jobs). Meanwhile, leisure and hospitality had no over-the-month job change. Government overall gained (8,400 jobs) over the month. State government gained (7,900 jobs), while the federal government decreased by (800 jobs), and the local government increased by (1,300 jobs).

During the last 12 months, employment in the Washington Metropolitan Division increased by 47,400 jobs. The private sector added 40,700 jobs, while the public sector gained 6,700 jobs. Educational and health services reported the greatest year-over growth, up 12,000 jobs. Five other private sector industries along with the federal, state and local government posted year-over job gains: mining, logging and construction up (3,100 jobs); trade, transportation and utilities up (8,100 jobs); other services up (1,200 jobs); professional and business services up (11,600 jobs); and leisure and hospitality up (7,400 jobs). Manufacturing recorded the greatest year-over downturn, down 1,000 jobs. Two other private sector industries posted year-over job losses: information down (900 jobs); and financial activities down (800 jobs).

Washington Metropolitan Statistical Area Explanations

Estimated Labor Force and Employment for the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metropolitan Division

includes: The District of Columbia, Virginia Cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Manassas, Manassas Park and the Virginia Counties of Arlington, Clarke, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudon, Prince William, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Warren, Rappahannock and Culpeper; the Maryland Counties of Calvert, Charles, and Prince Georges; and the West Virginia County of Jefferson.

The estimates for the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metropolitan Statistical Area will be the summation of the estimates for the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metropolitan Division (contained in this release) and the Bethesda-Gaithersburg-Frederick, MD Metropolitan Division (to be released by the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation).

Data reflects the 2014 annual benchmark revisions.

Attachments