

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Department of Employment Services

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Washington Metropolitan Area Adds 32,000 Jobs in April

Washington Metro Division's Unemployment Rate at 4.4 Percent

(Washington, DC) - The District of Columbia Department of Employment Services (DOES) reported today that the preliminary April job estimates show an increase of 32,000 jobs for a total of 2,579,400 jobs in the Washington Metropolitan Division. The private sector increased by 31,400 jobs, while the public sector gained 600 jobs. The Washington Metropolitan Division's not seasonally adjusted April 2015 unemployment rate was 4.4 percent, which is down 0.4 percentage points from the March rate of 4.8 percent.

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

The total civilian labor force in the Washington Metropolitan Division for April 2015 was 2,606,800, of which 2,491,000 were employed and 115,800 were unemployed. The unemployment rate was 4.4 percent. The total civilian labor force in the Suburban Ring of the communities surrounding the District of Columbia was 2,894,900, of which 2,779,400 were employed and 115,600 were unemployed. The unemployment rate for this area was 4.0 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 3,278,900, of which 3,137,600 were employed and 141,400 were unemployed. The unemployment rate for this area was 4.3 percent. For the month, the unemployment rate for the Washington Metropolitan Division decreased by 0.4 percentage points, while the unemployment rates for the Washington Metropolitan Statistical Area and the Suburban Ring decreased by 0.3 percentage points each.

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

The Washington Metropolitan Division's civilian labor force increased over the year by 25,600, while the number of employed increased by 33,200, and the number of unemployed decreased by 7,600. The civilian labor force for the Suburban Ring increased over the year by 22,300, while the number of employed increased by 31,200, and the number of unemployed decreased by 8,900. Meanwhile, the Washington Metropolitan Statistical Area's civilian labor force increased by 36,300, while the number of employed increased by 45,900 and the number of unemployed decreased by 9,600. For the year, the unemployment rates for the Washington Metropolitan Division and the Washington Metropolitan Statistical Area decreased by 0.4 percentage points each and the unemployment rate for the Suburban Area decreased by 0.3 percentage points.

Metropolitan Division's Job Growth

Total wage and salary employment in the Washington Metropolitan Division increased over the month by 32,000 jobs. The private sector increased by 31,400 jobs, and the public sector increased by 600 jobs over the month. Eight private sectors along with the federal government had over-the-month job gains. Job gains were registered in professional and business services, which gained (7,200 jobs); other services gained (1,400 jobs); trade, transportation, and utilities gained (6,100 jobs); mining, logging and construction gained (3,300 jobs); financial activities gained (600 jobs); leisure and hospitality gained (10,800 jobs); information gained (500 jobs) and educational and health services gained (1,600 jobs). One private sector along with the state and local government had over-the-month job losses. Job loss was registered in manufacturing which lost (100 jobs). Government overall gained (600 jobs) over the month. State government lost (600 jobs), while the federal government increased by (1,400 jobs), and the local government decreased by (200 jobs).

During the last 12 months, employment in the Washington Metropolitan Division increased by 52,400 jobs. The private sector added 44,300 jobs, while the public sector gained 8,100 jobs. Professional and business services reported the greatest year-over growth, up 16,000 jobs. Five other private sector industries along with the federal, state and local government posted year-over job gains: Educational and health services up (8,900 jobs); mining, logging and construction up (2,700 jobs); trade, transportation and utilities up (12,000 jobs); other services up (1,100 jobs); and leisure and hospitality up (6,800 jobs). Manufacturing recorded the greatest year-over downturn, down 1,700 jobs. Two other private sector industries posted year-over job losses: information down (1,400 jobs); and financial activities down (100 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