



# District of Columbia Economic Update

April 15, 2016

## Summary

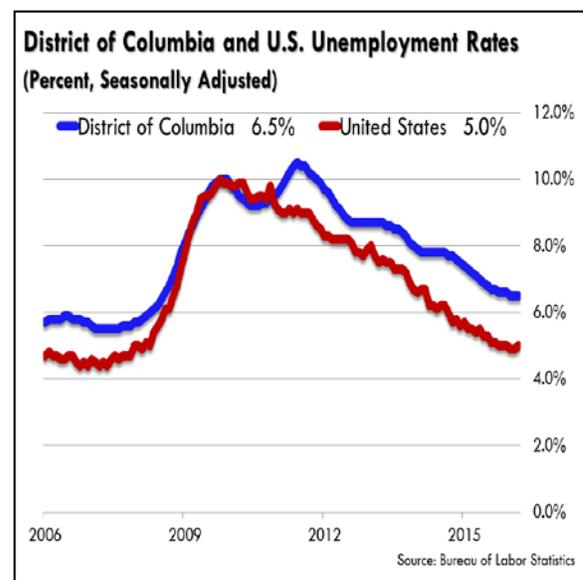
Nonfarm payroll employment in District of Columbia declined by 500 jobs and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 6.5 percent in March according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

## District of Columbia Unemployment Rate

During March, the unemployment rate in District of Columbia was unchanged at 6.5 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed fell by 7 in March to 25,700, while the labor force grew by 1,508 to 394,297. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 47 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than District of Columbia. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in District of Columbia stood at 7.2 percent.

The 10 year peak for the unemployment rate in District of Columbia was 10.5 percent in June 2011. The series high for the unemployment rate in District of Columbia occurred in September 1983 when the unemployment rate reached 11.3 percent. The 10 year low for the unemployment rate in District of Columbia was 5.5 percent in August 2007. The series low for the unemployment rate in District of Columbia occurred in September 1989 when the unemployment rate reached 4.8 percent. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 5.0 percent in March. March's unemployment rate was 0.5 percentage point lower than a year earlier. The 10-year high for the national unemployment rate was 10.0 percent in October 2009. The 10-year low was 4.4 percent in May 2007.



## District of Columbia Payroll Employment

District of Columbia nonfarm payrolls declined by 500 jobs, or 0.06 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during March. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls declined by 200. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in District of Columbia increased by 9,900, or 1.29 percent. District of Columbia nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 6 of the past 12 months.

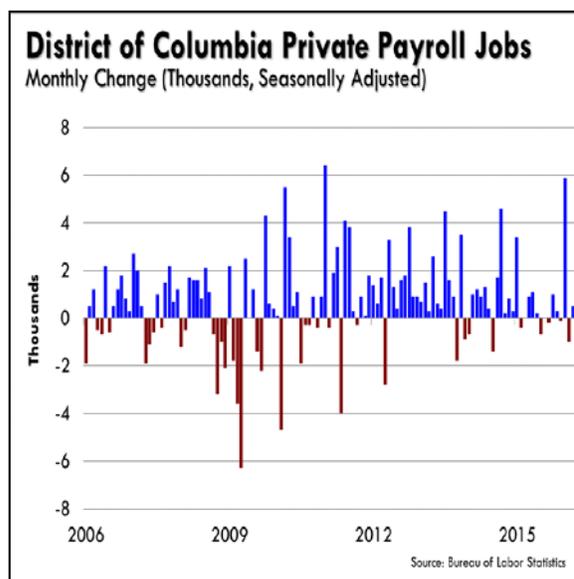
Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 215,000 jobs in March, or 0.15 percent. Over the 12-month period ending March 2016 nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,802,000 jobs, or 1.99 percent. District of Columbia ranks 34th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During March, District of Columbia private sector payrolls increased by 500, or 0.09 percent. Private sector payrolls declined by 1,000 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in District of Columbia increased by 7,900, or 1.50 percent. District of Columbia private sector payroll employment has increased in 7 of the past 12 months.

Nationally private-sector payroll jobs increased by 195,000 jobs in 1.99, or 0.16 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,681,000 jobs in the private sector, an increase of 2.25 percent. District of Columbia ranks 33rd among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During March, total government payroll employment in District of Columbia declined by 1,000, or 0.42 percent. Federal government payroll employment declined by 900, or 0.45 percent.

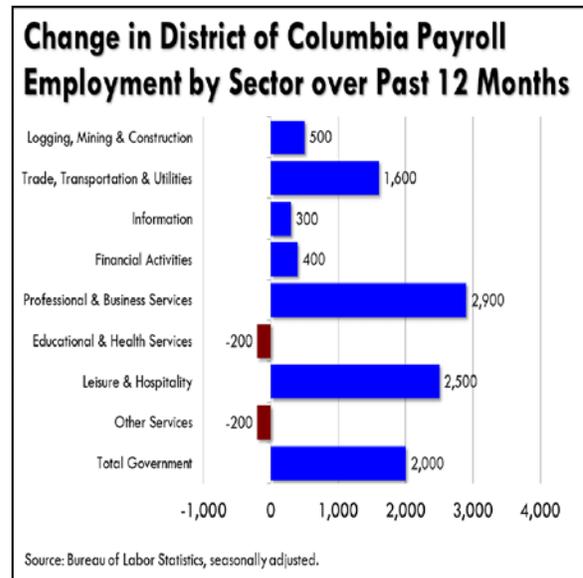
Over the past year, total government payroll employment increased by 2,000, or 0.84 percent.



The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during March were Professional & Business Services (+500) and Other Services (+500). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Total Government (-1,000) and Leisure & Hospitality (-700).

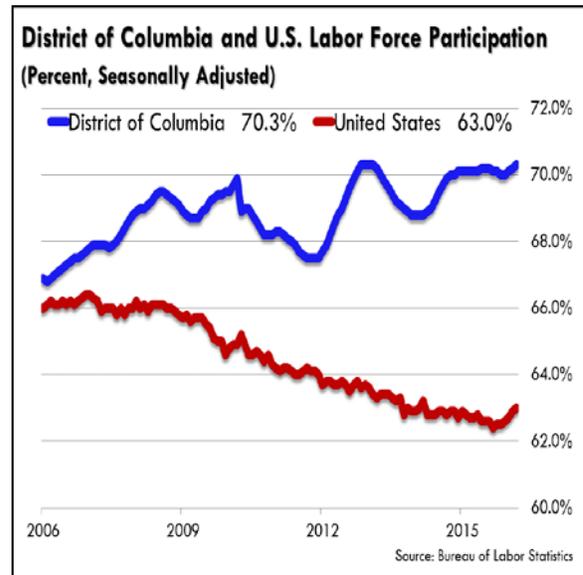
The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Professional & Business Services (+2,900) and Leisure & Hospitality (+2,500). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Other Services (-200) and Educational & Health Services (-200).

### Other District of Columbia Labor Force Statistics



The labor force participation rate in District of Columbia rose to 70.3 percent in March from 70.2 percent the prior month. At 70.3 percent, District of Columbia has one of the five highest labor force participation rates in the nation. The labor force participation rate in District of Columbia is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10 year high for the labor force participation rate in District of Columbia was 70.3 percent in March 2016. The series high for the labor force participation rate in District of Columbia occurred in July 1988 when the labor force participation rate hit 71.2 percent. The 10 year low for the labor force participation rate was 67.0 percent in April 2006. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in October 1981 when the labor force participation rate hit 62.0 percent.

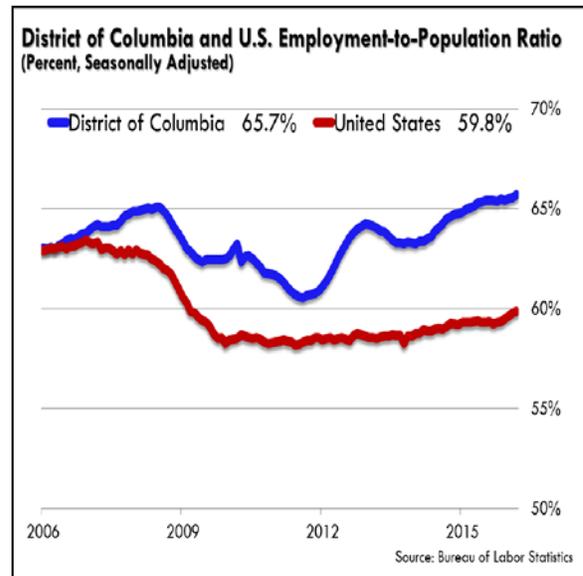


The national labor force participation rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 63.0 percent in March, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the District of Columbia civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, increased to 65.7 percent in March from 65.6 percent the prior month. At 65.7 percent, District of Columbia

has the lowest employment-to-population ratio in the nation. The employment-to-population ratio in District of Columbia is 0.01 percentage point higher than a year earlier.

The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio in District of Columbia was 65.7 percent in March 2016. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in District of Columbia occurred in July 1988 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 67.7 percent. The 10 year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 60.6 percent in August 2011. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in March 1982 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 56.3 percent.



The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.1 percentage point to 59.9 percent in March. That rate was 0.6 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

State employment and unemployment data for April is scheduled for release on May 20, 2016. The national employment situation report for April will be released on Friday, May 6, 2016.