



# District of Columbia Economic Update

September 20, 2016

## Summary

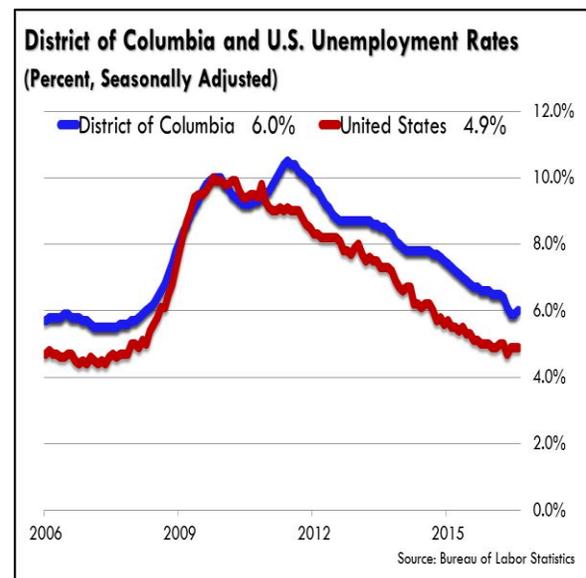
Nonfarm payroll employment in District of Columbia increased by 5,900 jobs, and the unemployment rate rose to 6.0 percent in August according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

## District of Columbia Unemployment Rate

During August, the unemployment rate in District of Columbia increased by 0.1 percentage point to 6.0 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed rose by 346 in August to 23,703, while the labor force fell by 1,896 to 394,931. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 45 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than District of Columbia. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in District of Columbia stood at 6.7 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 was 4.8 percent. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.9 percent in August. August's unemployment rate was 0.2 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 increased by 5,900 jobs, or 0.76 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during August. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls declined by 2,200. Over the past 12 months, nonfarm payrolls in District of Columbia increased by 13,200, or 1.72 percent. District of Columbia nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 7 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 151,000 jobs in August, or 0.1 percent. Over the 12-month period ending August 2016, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,447,000 jobs, or 1.72 percent. District of Columbia ranks 23rd among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

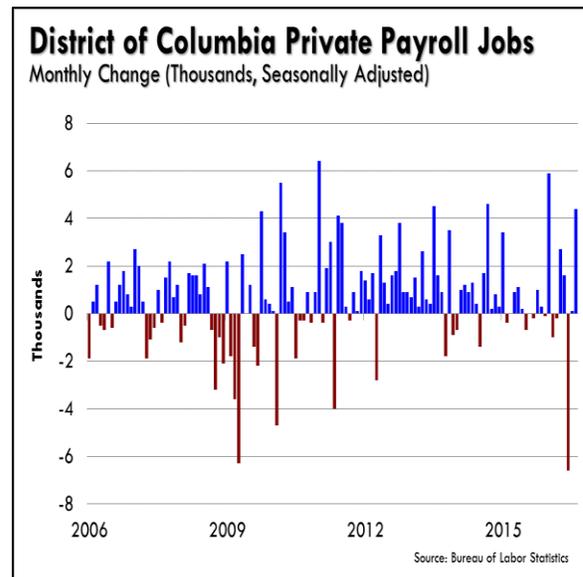
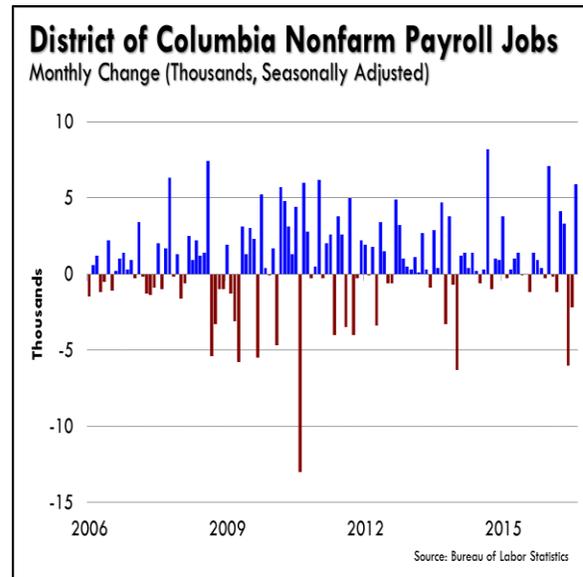
During August, District of Columbia private-sector payrolls increased by 4,400, or 0.83 percent. Private-sector payrolls increased by 100 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private-sector payrolls in District of Columbia increased by 7,900, or 1.50 percent. District of Columbia private-sector payroll employment has increased in 7 of the past 12 months.

Nationally private-sector payroll jobs increased by 126,000 jobs in August, or 0.1 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,283,000 jobs in the private sector, an increase of 1.9 percent.

District of Columbia ranks 28th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

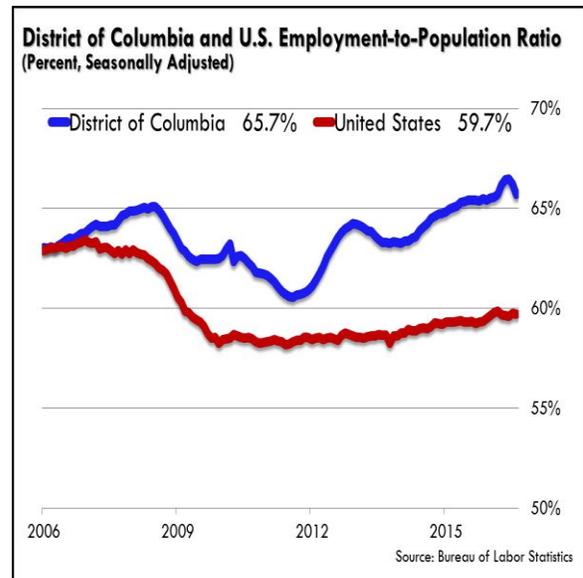
During August, total government payroll employment in District of Columbia increased by 1,500, or 0.62 percent. Federal government payroll employment increased by 100, or 0.05 percent.

Over the past year, total government payroll employment increased by 5,300, or 2.23 percent.



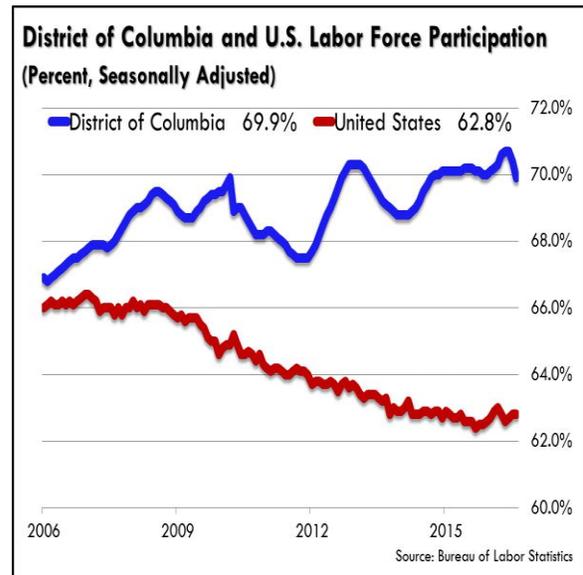
The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during August were Professional & Business Services (+1,500) and Total Government (+1,500). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Information (-100) and Logging, Mining & Construction (-100).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Total Government (+5,300) and Professional & Business Services (+2,300). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Logging, Mining & Construction (-300) and Information (-200).



### Other District of Columbia Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in District of Columbia declined to 69.9 percent in August from 70.4 percent the prior month. At 69.9 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 70.7 percent in June 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 67.5 percent in December 2011. 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 was unchanged at 62.8 percent, 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, declined to 65.7 percent in August from 66.2 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District

of Columbia, 6 have higher employment-to-population ratios than the District. The employment-to-population ratio in District of Columbia is 0.3 percentage point higher than a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in District of Columbia was 66.5 percent in June 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 was 56.3 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio held steady at 59.7 percent in August. That rate was 0.3 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 September is scheduled for release on October 21, 2016. The national employment situation report for September will be released on Friday, October 7, 2016.