D.C. Labor Market Indicators: January 2015 - December 2020

Dr. Unique Morris-Hughes, Director

Ta-Tanisha Wallace, Chief Strategist for Education and Workforce Innovation

Jonathan Toye, Program Analysis Officer

Prepared by the Office of Labor Market Research and Performance
From January 2015 to December 2020:

- The unemployment rate in DC increased by 0.5 percentage points (or 6.8% increase);
- Unemployment rate in Ward 7 and Ward 8 increased by 0.5 percentage points (3.9% increase) and increased by 1.4 percentage points (8.7% increase) respectively;
- Total number of DC residents that are employed increased by 24,900;
- Total number of jobs in DC increased by 4,300;
- Initial monthly unemployment insurance benefits claimants increased by 324%;
- Total number of unemployed DC residents increased by 4,400 people;
- In DC there are 1.0 jobs available (advertised) for 1 unemployed DC resident;
- The average weekly median duration of unemployment for Black and African American decreased by 23.7 weeks;
- The private sector total number of payroll jobs in the District decreased by -4,100 jobs or -0.80% decrease from January 2015;
- Government has the highest employment increase by industry with 8,400 since January 2015;
- The highest in-demand occupation is Software Developers and Software Quality Assurance Analysts and Testers with an average monthly opening of 4,888;
- The highest in-demand occupation requiring less than a bachelor’s degree is Computer User Support Specialists with an average monthly opening of 2,065.
DC Annual Average Unemployment Rate (2015-2019)
The District's Monthly Unemployment Rate: Jan. 2015 - Dec. 2020
Unemployment Rate (January 2015 - December 2020)

- USA
- D.C.

Jan-15: 5.7% (USA), 7.4% (D.C.)
Dec-20: 6.7% (USA), 7.9% (D.C.)
Difference (Jan-15 - Dec-20): 1.0% (USA), 0.5% (D.C.)
Unemployment Rate by Ward (January 2015 - December 2020)

- Ward 8: 14% (Jan-15), 16.1% (Dec-20)
- Ward 7: 0.5% (Jan-15), 13.4% (Dec-20)
- Ward 6: -0.1% (Jan-15), 6.5% (Dec-20)
- Ward 5: 0.4% (Jan-15), 10.0% (Dec-20)
- Ward 4: 1.5% (Jan-15), 8.8% (Dec-20)
- Ward 3: -1.5% (Jan-15), 3.5% (Dec-20)
- Ward 2: -1.7% (Jan-15), 3.6% (Dec-20)
- Ward 1: -0.2% (Jan-15), 5.7% (Dec-20)

The chart shows the unemployment rate by ward from January 2015 to December 2020, with differences in percentage points compared to the previous year.
Unemployment Rate by Ward: December 2020

- Ward 1: 5.7%
- Ward 2: 3.6%
- Ward 3: 3.5%
- Ward 4: 8.8%
- Ward 5: 10.0%
- Ward 6: 6.5%
- Ward 7: 13.4%
- Ward 8: 17.5%
Total Number of Jobs and Total Private Sector Jobs in DC (Jan. 2015 - Dec. 2020)

- **Total Number of Jobs in D.C.**
  - Jan-15: 748,100
  - Dec-20: 752,400
  - Difference: +4,300

- **Total Private Sector Jobs in D.C.**
  - Jan-15: 512,300
  - Dec-20: 508,200
  - Difference: -4,100

**Legend:**
- Green: Total Number of Jobs in D.C.
- Blue: Total Private Sector Jobs in D.C.

COVID  Total Employment (in Thousand)  Total Private Sector Employment (in Thousand)
The District's Labor Force (Jan. 2015 - Dec. 2020) (In Thousands)
Employed D.C. Residents (Jan. 2015 - Dec. 2020) (In Thousands)
Median Duration of Unemployment (in weeks) (Jan. 2015 - Dec. 2020)

- Government: +8,400
- Professional and Business Services: +6,900
- Other Services: +5,100
- Trade, Transportation & Utilities: +2,100
- Information: +1,800
Job Openings vs. Number of Unemployed DC Residents (Jan. 2015 - Dec. 2020)

- Jan-15: Number Unemployed in D.C. = 28,600, Number of Job Openings (Advertised Jobs) = 52,221
- Dec-20: Number Unemployed in D.C. = 33,000, Number of Job Openings (Advertised Jobs) = 34,442

Difference: -17,779

Difference: 4,400
Top 5 Job Openings: January 2018 - December 2020 (Average Monthly Unique Job Postings)

- Software Developers and Software Quality Assurance Analysts and Testers: $117,130, 4,888 jobs
- Computer Occupations, All Other: $119,000, 3,534 jobs
- Information Security Analysts: $118,740, 3,030 jobs
- Registered Nurses: $91,470, 2,849 jobs
- Management Analysts: $103,420, 2,697 jobs
Top 5 Job Openings Requiring Less Than Bachelor's Degree: January 2018 - December 2020 (Avg Monthly Unique Job Postings)

- **Computer User Support Specialists**: $68,240, 2,065 openings
- **Web Developers and Digital Interface Designers**: $82,640, 1,545 openings
- **First-Line Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers**: $75,220, 1,256 openings
- **Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants**: $72,590, 953 openings
- **Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive**: $49,240, 917 openings
This workforce product was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration. The product was created by the recipient and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The U.S. Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership. This product is copyrighted by the institution that created it. Internal use by an organization and/or personal use by an individual for non-commercial purposes is permissible. All other uses require the prior authorization of the copyright owner.
Contact Information

- Opeyemi Fasakin, Labor Economist
- Thomas Tsegaye, Labor Economist
- Data Request: [https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/631658c092ef4395ab27b76716df8068](https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/631658c092ef4395ab27b76716df8068)
- Email: lmi.does@dc.gov
- Phone: (202) 671-1633
- Website: [www.does.dc.gov](http://www.does.dc.gov)