D.C. Labor Market Indicators: January 2015 - October 2021

Dr. Unique Morris-Hughes, Director

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

Dr. Rebati Mendali, Chief Economist/Associate Director

Prepared by the Office of Labor Market Research and Performance
Department of Employment Services
Washington, DC’s lead workforce development and labor agency

Highlights

- From January 2015 to October 2021:
  - The unemployment rate in DC decreased by **1.1** percentage points from **7.4%** to **6.3%**;
  - Unemployment rate in Ward 7 & Ward 8 decreased by **3.3** percentage points (**12.9%** to **9.6%**) and **3.1** percentage points (**16.1%** to **13.0%**) respectively;
  - Total number of DC residents that are employed increased by **29,100**;
  - Total number of jobs in DC increased by **15,700**;
  - Initial monthly unemployment insurance benefits claimants increased by **987%**;
  - Total number of unemployed DC residents decreased by **2,300** people;
  - In DC, there are **2.0** jobs available (advertised) for **1** unemployed DC resident;
  - The average weekly median duration of unemployment for Black and African American decreased by **11.1** weeks;
  - The private sector total number of payroll jobs in the District increased by **10,300** jobs (**2.01%** increase) from January 2015;
  - Professional and Business Services has the highest employment increase among industries with employment increased by **13,900** since January 2015;
  - The highest in-demand occupation is Software Developers and Software Quality Assurance Analysts and Testers with an average monthly opening of **5,750** jobs;
  - The highest in-demand occupation requiring less than a bachelor’s degree is Computer User Support Specialists with an average monthly opening of **2,212** jobs.
DC Annual Average Unemployment Rate (2015-2020)
Unemployment Rate (January 2015 - October 2021)

- USA:
  - Jan-15: 5.7%
  - Oct-21: 4.6%
  - Difference: -1.1%

- D.C.:
  - Jan-15: 7.4%
  - Oct-21: 6.3%
  - Difference: -1.1%
Unemployment Rate by Ward (January 2015 - October 2021)

-3.1% 13.0% 16.1%
-3.3% 9.6% 12.9%
-1.3% 5.3% 6.6%
-2.5% 7.1% 9.6%
-2.0% 5.3% 7.3%
-2.1% 2.9% 5.0%
-2.0% 3.3% 5.3%
-2.0% 3.9% 5.9%
Unemployment Rate by Ward: October 2021

- **Ward 4**: 5.3%
- **Ward 3**: 2.9%
- **Ward 1**: 3.9%
- **Ward 5**: 7.1%
- **Ward 2**: 3.3%
- **Ward 6**: 5.3%
- **Ward 7**: 9.6%
- **Ward 8**: 13.0%
Total Number of Jobs and Total Private Sector Jobs in DC (Jan. 2015 - Oct. 2021)

- Total Number of Jobs in D.C.:
  - Jan-15: 748,100
  - Oct-21: 763,800
  - Difference (Jan-15 - Oct-21): -55,700

- Total Private Sector Jobs in D.C.:
  - Jan-15: 512,300
  - Oct-21: 522,600
  - Difference (Jan-15 - Oct-21): 10,300

- COVID
- Total Employment (in Thousand)
- Total Private Sector Employment (in Thousand)
Median Duration of Unemployment (in weeks) (Jan. 2015 - Oct. 2021)

- White:
  - Jan-15: 12.8
  - Oct-21: 18.2
  - Difference: 5.4

- Black:
  - Jan-15: 42.5
  - Oct-21: 31.4
  - Difference: -11.1

- Hispanic:
  - Jan-15: 19.5
  - Oct-21: 30.8
  - Difference: 11.3

- All Races:
  - Jan-15: 28.5
  - Oct-21: 25.0
  - Difference: -3.5

- Professional and Business Services: +13,900
- Educational and Health Services: +6,500
- Government: +5,400
- Mining, Logging & Construction: +2,600
- Information: +2,100
Job Openings vs. Number of Unemployed DC Residents (Jan. 2015 - Oct. 2021)

- Jan-15: Number Unemployed in D.C. = 28,400
  Number of Job Openings (Advertised Jobs) = 52,221
  Difference = 2,300

- Oct-21: Number Unemployed in D.C. = 26,100
  Number of Job Openings (Advertised Jobs) = 53,322
  Difference = 1,101
Top 5 Job Openings: January 2020 - October 2021 (Average Monthly Unique Job Postings)

- **Software Developers and Software Quality Assurance Analysts and Testers**: 5,750 job openings, $117,130 median wage
- **Computer Occupations, All Other**: 4,207 job openings, $119,000 median wage
- **Management Analysts**: 3,397 job openings, $103,420 median wage
- **Registered Nurses**: 3,116 job openings, $91,470 median wage
- **Information Security Analysts**: 2,902 job openings, $118,740 median wage
Top 5 Job Openings Requiring Less Than Bachelor's Degree: January 2020 - October 2021 (Avg Monthly Unique Job Postings)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job Title</th>
<th>Job Openings</th>
<th>Annual Median Wages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer User Support Specialists</td>
<td>2,212</td>
<td>$68,240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web Developers and Digital Interface Designers</td>
<td>1,865</td>
<td>$82,640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First-Line Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers</td>
<td>1,300</td>
<td>$75,220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants</td>
<td>1,028</td>
<td>$72,590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive</td>
<td>1,012</td>
<td>$49,240</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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)