

OFFICE OF LABOR MARKET
RESEARCH AND PERFORMANCE

DOES RESEARCH SNAPSHOT

January-March 2025

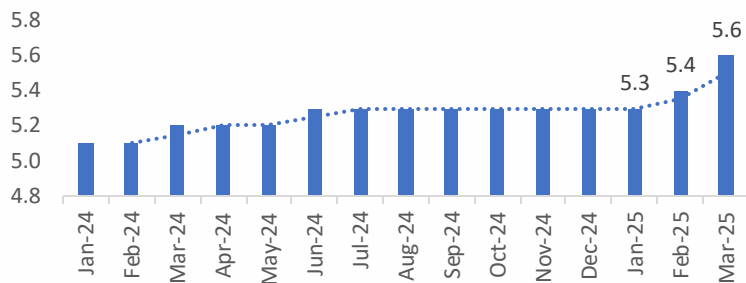


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Labor Market

D.C. Unemployment Rate

January: 5.3 | February: 5.4 | March: 5.6

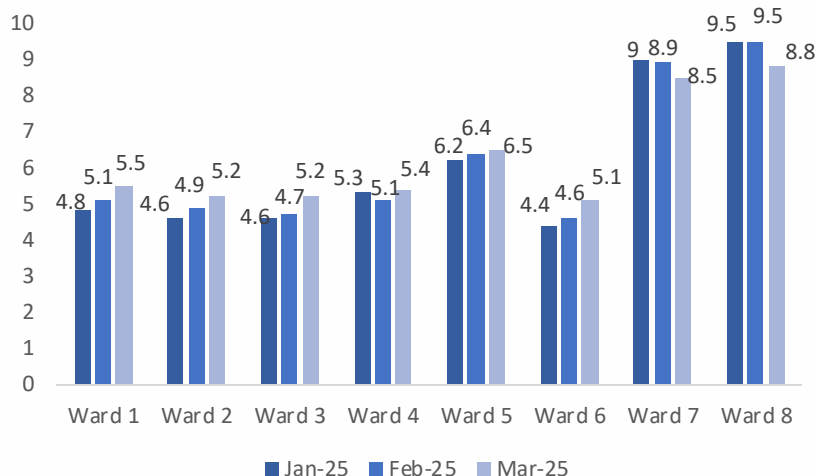


The District of Columbia's civilian labor force increased from 418,255 in January, and 420,027 in February to 420,973 in March. From January to March, the size of the labor force increased by 2,718 representing 0.65% growth.

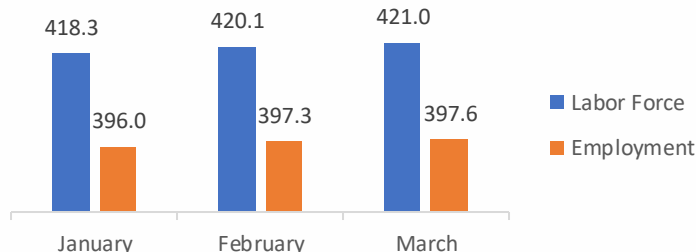
The total number of employed DC residents grew steadily from 395,955 in January to 397,560 residents in March.

The unemployment rate increased by 0.3 percentage points, from 5.3% in January to 5.6% in March.

Unemployment Rate by Ward in %

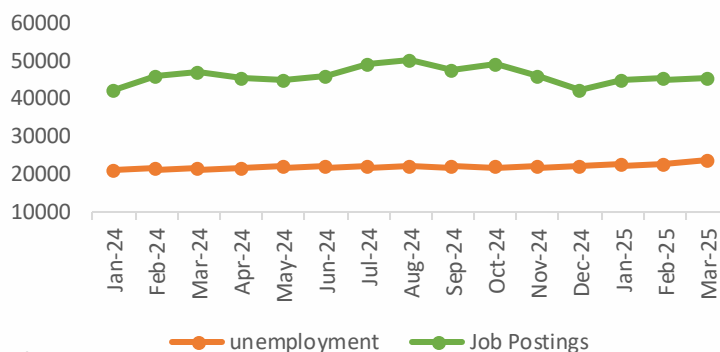


Labor Force and Employment



Between January and March 2025, the District of Columbia had an average of 45,027 job postings and 22,806 unemployed residents. Data shows that approximately 2 jobs were potentially available per 1 unemployed DC resident.

Job Postings and Unemployed Individuals



Unemployment Claims

A total of 4,013 initial unemployment claims were made in January. The number of initial claims increased to 4,885 in February but decreased to 3,782 in March. Compared to the previous quarter, the number of initial unemployment claims has increased by approximately 91%.

Month	Initial Unemployment Claims	Benefits Paid in \$
Jan-25	4,013	10,766,754
Feb-25	4,885	10,902,690
March-25	3,782	15,337,458

Source: Local Area Employment Statistics, Current Population survey, U.S. Department of Labor, Lightcast



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Industry Employment

Industry	Jan-Feb- March/2025	Oct-Nov- Dec/2024	Jan-Feb- March/2024	Net Change From	
				Oct-Nov-Dec 2024	Jan-Feb-March 2024
Total Nonfarm	762.9	775.1	764.8	-12.2	-1.9
Total Private	528.9	538.3	529.1	-9.4	-0.2
Government	234.0	236.9	235.7	-2.8	-1.7
Goods Producing	15.7	16.0	15.2	-0.3	0.6
Manufacturing	1.2	1.2	1.1	0.0	0.1
Mining, Logging and Construction	14.5	14.8	14.1	-0.3	0.5
Service-Providing	747.2	759.1	749.7	-11.9	-2.5
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	29.5	30.7	29.8	-1.2	-0.3
Wholesale Trade	5.5	5.8	5.6	-0.2	0.0
Retail Trade	19.6	20.5	19.9	-0.9	-0.3
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	4.4	4.5	4.4	-0.1	0.0
Information	18.3	18.6	18.8	-0.3	-0.6
Financial Activities	25.3	25.7	25.2	-0.3	0.1
Finance and Insurance	12.6	12.7	12.8	-0.1	-0.2
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	12.7	12.9	12.4	-0.2	0.3
Professional and Business Services	170.3	174.0	173.0	-3.7	-2.7
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	122.3	123.3	122.3	-1.0	0.0
Legal Services	28.8	29.1	28.1	-0.3	0.7
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	44.7	47.2	47.4	-2.5	-2.7
Employment Services	13.2	14.0	13.8	-0.7	-0.6
Private Education and Health Services	126.6	127.7	125.5	-1.2	1.1
Private Educational Services	53.2	53.3	53.3	-0.1	0.0
Private Colleges, Universities, and Professional Schools	33.7	33.6	34.5	0.2	-0.8
Health Care and Social Assistance	73.3	74.4	72.2	-1.1	1.1
Ambulatory Health Care Services	20.4	20.5	19.9	-0.1	0.5
Hospitals	26.3	26.6	25.8	-0.3	0.4
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	8.0	8.1	7.9	-0.1	0.1
Leisure and Hospitality	76.3	77.7	74.8	-1.4	1.5
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	9.0	9.5	9.6	-0.4	-0.6
Accommodation and Food Services	67.3	68.2	65.2	-1.0	2.1
Accommodation	14.2	14.4	13.7	-0.2	0.5
Food Services and Drinking Places	53.1	53.8	51.5	-0.8	1.5
Restaurants and Other Eating Places	42.6	43.3	42.1	-0.8	0.5
Full-Service Restaurants	29.1	29.6	28.9	-0.5	0.2
Limited-Service Restaurants and Other Eating Places	13.5	13.7	13.2	-0.2	0.3
Special Food Services	7.0	7.1	6.5	0.0	0.5
Other Services	66.9	67.8	66.8	-1.0	0.1
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional, and Similar Organizations	59.1	59.7	59.4	-0.6	-0.2
Business, Professional, Labor, Political, and Similar Organizations	25.7	26.0	25.8	-0.3	-0.1
Government	234.0	236.9	235.7	-2.8	-1.7
Federal Government	191.2	194.1	193.0	-2.9	-1.8
Total State and Local Government	42.8	42.8	42.7	0.0	0.1
District of Columbia Government	39.1	39.0	38.8	0.1	0.3
Transportation	3.7	3.8	3.9	-0.1	-0.2

The Current Employment Statistics (CES) data shows that the total nonfarm employment in DC increased from 761,400 in January to 762,100 in February and increased again to 765,300 in March 2025. On average, the District had 762,900 jobs during this quarter, which reflects a decrease of 12,200 jobs relative to the previous quarter.

Relative to the same quarter last year, the District lost a total of 1,900 jobs. The private sector lost 200 jobs while Government lost 1,700 jobs.

Nonetheless, some sectors experienced Job growth. Goods Producing added 600 jobs compared to the same quarter last year. The District of Columbia Government added 300 jobs. Also, Leisure and Hospitality has seen a job growth, with 1,500 more jobs created relative to the same quarter last year. Additionally, Private Education and Health Services added 1,100 jobs compared to the same quarter last year.

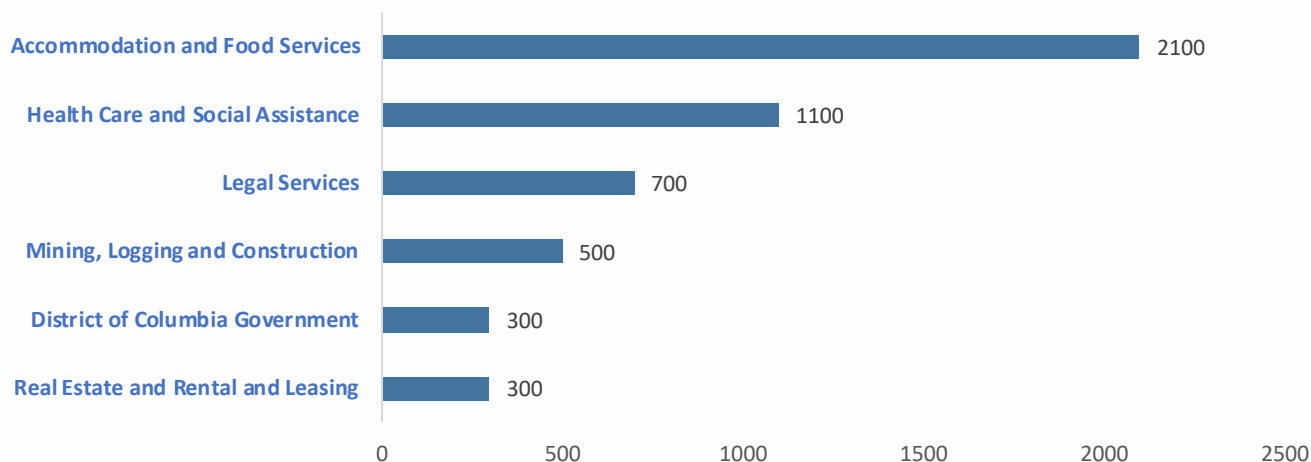
Source: Current Employment Statistics



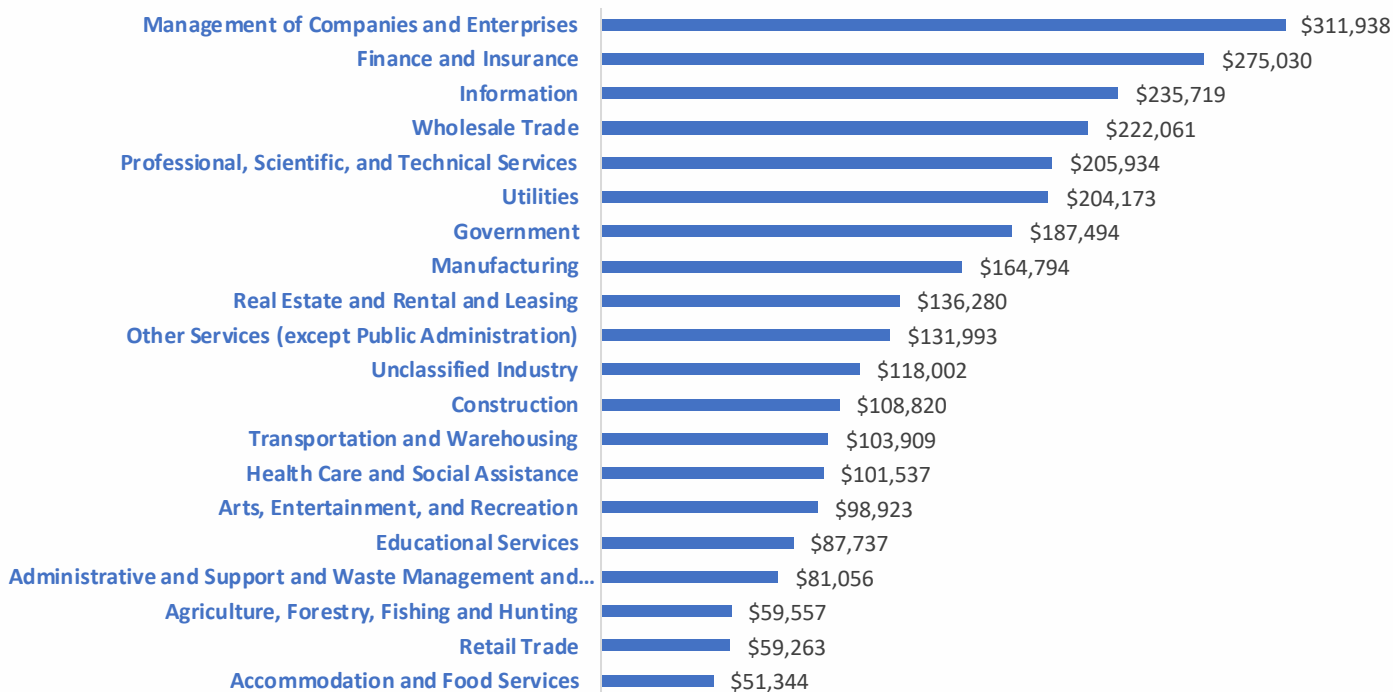
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Industry Employment

Sub-sectors with Highest Employment Increase (CY2024 Q1- CY2025 Q1)



Sub-sectors with Highest Average Earnings (2024-2025)



Source: BLS Current Employment Statistics (CES) and Lightcast



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Job Market Outlook

During the quarter, Computer Occupations had the highest number of job postings, averaging 720, followed by Software Developers with 704 and Registered Nurses with 656 postings.

Top Occupations by Avg. Unique Jobs Postings (January 2025 – March 2025)



Top Skills Advertised in Job Postings by DC Employers

Software

Skill or Qualification	Unique Postings from Jan 2025 - Mar 2025
Microsoft Office	6,608
Microsoft Excel	6,330
Microsoft PowerPoint	4,527
Microsoft Outlook	2,876
Python (Programming Language)	2,381
SQL (Programming Language)	2,077
Amazon Web Services	1,902
Microsoft Word	1,771
Microsoft SharePoint	1,709
Microsoft Azure	1,652

Certifications

Skill or Qualification	Unique Postings from Jan 2025 - Mar 2025
Top Secret-Sensitive Compartmented Information (TS/SCI Clearance)	2,875
Valid Driver's License	2,821
Security Clearance	2,566
Secret Clearance	1,980
Registered Nurse (RN)	1,769
Top Secret Clearance	1,567
Basic Life Support (BLS) Certification	1,560
Project Management Professional Certification	1,066
Master Of Business Administration (MBA)	905
Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Certification	885

Specialized Skills

Skill or Qualification	Unique Postings from Jan 2025 - Mar 2025
Project Management	8,321
Marketing	4,552
Finance	4,363
Computer Science	4,026
Auditing	3,966
Data Analysis	3,670
Workflow Management	3,369
Accounting	3,287
Agile Methodology	2,705
Automation	2,473

Common Skills

Skill or Qualification	Unique Postings from Jan 2025 - Mar 2025
Communication	25,028
Management	18,722
Leadership	13,622
Operations	12,833
Customer Service	11,490
Writing	10,263
Problem Solving	10,084
Detail Oriented	9,542
Planning	9,474
Research	9,114



Source: Lightcast

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The District Economy

Population	702,250
Number of Households	321,556
Median Household Income	\$106,287
Per Capita Income in past 12 months	\$75,253
% of Population in Poverty	15.2%
% of population (ages over 25 years) with high school or higher education	92.80%

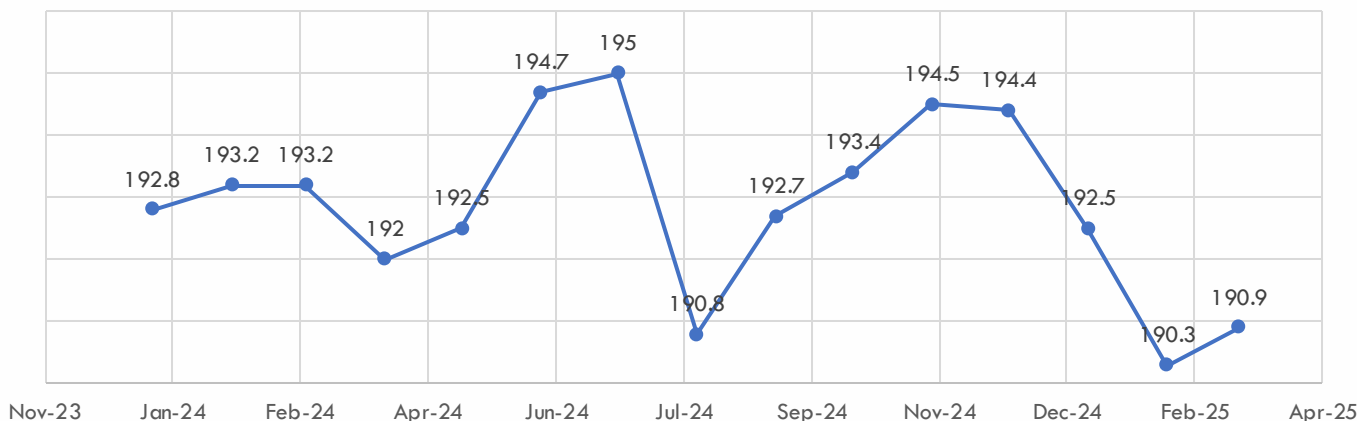
Data Sources: Census Bureau

In the Spotlight: Federal Layoffs In DC

During the first quarter of 2025, the District navigated through a critical economic transition, driven by widespread federal workforce reductions, a new budget plan, and market shifts.

- During the first quarter, total federal layoffs announcement reached over 280,000, accounting for approximately 9% of the federal workforce
- Due to termination of federal contracts, 4,400 job losses reported in non-profits and other organizations relying on these contracts
- In February 2025, more than 75,000 federal employees opted for buyouts
- Between January and March 2025, federal employment declined from 192,500 to 190,900, a reduction of 1,600 jobs.
- More federal workers will depart in October 2025 as part of the deferred resignation program and as several have been terminated but are still on payroll due to court orders. A further decline in federal employment is expected later this year.

Monthly Federal Government Employment



Data Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics, The Current Employment Statistics (June 2025), (<https://www.mayor.dc.gov>)



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