

Labor Market Trends

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Cover Story

D.C. Workforce Faces Tough Challenges

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DCWIC: Turning the Tide on High Unemployment

By Barbara Lang



The recent explosion of development projects and economic boom has been labeled “unprecedented” by those of us who follow such trends. Yet amidst

this exciting and unparalleled prosperity for many District residents and businesses is an ever increasing number of citizens who lack the most basic skills needed to succeed in our region's competitive marketplace. According to the 2005 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics study of the D.C. Department of Employment Services (DOES), the District had the highest unemployment rate in the U.S. in 2004 and placed 6th in 2005. How can this be? We have made tremendous progress in the last decade, reviving rundown neighborhoods, attracting businesses, and building new entertainment venues. However, we still have more work to do. Persistent poverty, illiteracy, and high drop-out rates

contribute to this society of “haves and have-nots.” Our school system faces seemingly insurmountable challenges with a crumbling infrastructure, substandard K-12 curriculums, and a student body that is ill-prepared to meet the rigors of today's competitive marketplace and the demands of the digital age. We now have a generation of Washingtonians, who are underemployed and possibly unemployable. Add to this, the influx of a demanding and often needy immigrant population, and we have a recipe for disaster that no “economic boom” alone can fix.

Currently, nearly three-fourths of all jobs in the District are held by non-residents. In other words, roughly 190,000 of approximately 690,000 District jobs are filled today by city residents, (approximately 26%), according to the 2006 State of the Business Report, issued by the D.C. Chamber of Commerce in February. Consequently, our city continues to lose

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much-needed revenue as people are taking their incomes and tax dollars out of the District and are improving their state's economy, school system, and neighborhoods. The District of Columbia, on the other hand, suffers as we lose an incredible amount of revenue to suburban jurisdictions and our residents and businesses are left to pay tremendously high taxes.

This is where the District of Columbia Workforce Investment Council (DCWIC) steps in and our charge becomes invaluable. As a public-private partnership of businesses, union, community leaders and government policymakers, we are committed to building a highly-skilled, knowledgeable District workforce that is prepared to compete in a global 21st Century marketplace.

One critical element to our success is preparing our residents with the right skills and quality training. Otherwise, District employers will have no choice but to continue hiring more qualified workers from Virginia and Maryland. To help develop solutions to this problem, the D.C. Chamber of Commerce, in January 2003, also produced a "State of the Workforce Report Overview." Among the findings in this report is that Washington, D.C. is one of the nation's leading "new economy" locales, with two leading industry divisions, Services and Government.

This "new economy" requires workers to possess new skills and knowledge of project and task management, problem solving, communications, team contribution and leadership, self-directed and continuous learning, sales and marketing, customer and personal service, economics and accounting. With these projected job opportunities, the need

for literacy is critical. Incorporating these skills and knowledge requirements into the secondary school curriculum will be a major challenge.

DCWIC has set a goal to increase the number of District jobs held by city residents by 5% over the next three years. The DCWIC's strategy is simple: We will develop programs that emphasize the "three Es"—education, employment, and economic development. We will integrate all three Es to build a workforce of primarily District residents.

The first "E"—education—is most important. The WIC initiative expects to improve the education of our unemployed adults through literacy and lifelong learning programs, as well as through career and technical education. Partnerships must be developed with organizations that can offer the resources needed to help create more effective education programs. WIC acts as a facilitator between the D.C. Public Schools, the District government and employers, and engages the support and participation of employers for different purposes at different times.

We will consider "sector-based strategies" to focus on industry targets that are emerging or currently providing competitive employment advantages. We will also commission a comprehensive analysis of workforce preparation in the D.C. Public School system.

We will continue to invigorate and inspire our residents through customized employment strategies because our residents must see themselves as part of the District's future workforce.

Finally, the DCWIC has developed economic development strategies that

identify industries in need of trained workers. Training our workforce is crucial, but we must also ensure that there are jobs available. The DCWIC has targeted fast growing industries, such as the Health Care industry, in need of qualified employees. Our training opportunities will provide industries access to qualified District residents.

Through our "three Es" initiative, the DCWIC expects to turn the tide on high unemployment and underemployment in the District. The District's economy is thriving and its residents must have the necessary skill sets to gain access to the high-wage, high-demand jobs, in the District's thriving economy.

Barbara Lang is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the D.C. Chamber of Commerce where she oversees the day-to-day and strategic operation of the 2,000+ member organization and serves as chairperson of the Workforce Investment Council. She earned a bachelor's degree in business from Edward Waters College, Jacksonville, Florida, and has taken graduate courses at Harvard University. She is a 1999 graduate of the Fannie Mae's Executive Development Program and a 2001 graduate of Leadership Washington. Lang and her husband, Gerald, live in Washington, D.C. and Maryland's Eastern Shore.



Unemployment Rates Seasonally Adjusted

	Mar. 2006	Feb. 2006	Mar. 2005
Mississippi	7.9	8.4	6.9
Alaska	7.0	7.0	6.8
Michigan	6.8	6.6	7.0
South Carolina	6.5	6.4	6.5
Kentucky	6.0	6.3	5.8
Oregon	5.5	5.6	6.2
District Of Columbia	5.3	5.3	6.9
Illinois	5.1	5.0	5.9
Rhode Island	5.1	5.1	5.0
Tennessee	5.1	5.2	5.6
Ohio	5.0	5.3	6.1
Texas	5.0	5.0	5.3
Indiana	4.9	5.1	5.5
Massachusetts	4.9	5.0	4.9
Arkansas	4.8	4.7	4.9
California	4.8	5.0	5.5
Louisiana	4.8	4.3	5.3
Kansas	4.7	4.7	5.1
New York	4.7	4.7	4.8
Wisconsin	4.7	4.8	4.8
Connecticut	4.6	4.5	5.1
Washington	4.6	4.8	5.5
Georgia	4.5	5.0	5.1
Missouri	4.5	4.8	5.5
New Jersey	4.5	4.7	4.4
North Carolina	4.5	4.6	5.1
Pennsylvania	4.5	4.5	5.2
Colorado	4.3	4.3	5.2
Arizona	4.1	4.4	4.6
Maine	4.1	4.6	4.8
Minnesota	4.1	4.4	4.2
New Mexico	4.0	4.8	5.4
Oklahoma	4.0	3.6	4.5
West Virginia	3.9	4.1	4.9
Iowa	3.8	4.4	4.6
Nevada	3.8	3.8	4.2
Delaware	3.6	4.0	4.0
Maryland	3.4	3.5	4.2
Montana	3.4	3.7	4.1
New Hampshire	3.4	3.5	3.7
Utah	3.4	3.8	4.3
Alabama	3.3	3.6	4.1
South Dakota	3.3	3.5	3.9
Vermont	3.3	3.5	3.5
Idaho	3.2	3.4	4.0
Nebraska	3.2	3.4	3.4
North Dakota	3.2	3.4	3.4
Florida	3.1	3.2	4.0
Virginia	3.1	3.0	3.4
Wyoming	2.9	3.3	3.1
Hawaii	2.6	2.5	2.9

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, D.C. Department of Employment Services, Office of Labor Market Research and Information

National Unemployment Rates

The March 2006 national unemployment rate of 4.8 percent (not seasonally adjusted) was down 0.3 percent from the rate in February 2006 and 0.6 percent lower than the rate in March 2005.

The seasonally adjusted national unemployment rate in March 2006 was 4.7 percent; down 0.1 percent from the February 2006 rate and 0.4 percent lower than the March 2005, seasonally adjusted, national unemployment rate.

State Unemployment (Seasonally Adjusted)

In March, the District of Columbia had the seventh highest unemployment rate at 5.3 percent. Mississippi recorded the highest jobless rate at 7.9 percent.

Alaska, at 7.0 percent, and Michigan, at 6.8 percent, had the next highest rates. Hawaii, at 2.6 percent, again posted the lowest unemployment rate, followed by Wyoming, at 2.9 percent, and Virginia and Florida, at 3.1 percent each. Sixteen additional states recorded rates of 4.0 percent or below including Maryland at 3.4 percent.

Over the month, unemployment rates were unchanged in the District of Columbia and eight states, lower in 33 states, and higher in nine states. The largest rate decreases were in New Mexico (down 0.8 percentage point), Iowa (down 0.6 percentage point), and Georgia, Maine and Mississippi (down 0.5 percentage point each). Louisiana (up 0.5 percentage point) recorded the largest rate increase, followed by Oklahoma (up 0.4 percentage point), and Michigan (up 0.2 percentage point). Six additional states recorded unemployment rate increases of 0.1 percent.

State Unemployment

(Seasonally Adjusted) continued

Compared to a year earlier, unemployment rates were lower in the District of Columbia and 43 states, higher in five states and unchanged in two states. The District of Columbia (down 1.6 percentage points) recorded the largest over-the-year unemployment rate decrease followed by New Mexico (down 1.4 percentage points), Ohio (down 1.1 points), and Missouri and West Virginia (down 1.0 point each). The largest over-the-year unemployment rate increase was in Mississippi (up 1.0 percentage point). Four additional states had over-the-year rate increases of 0.2 percentage point or less.



Unemployment Rates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	Mar. 06	Feb. 06	Mar. 05 a
U.S.A.	4.8	5.1	5.4
Washington, DC MSA	2.9	3.0	3.6
Washington, DC MD	3.0	3.0	3.6
D.C.	5.5	5.5	7.0
<hr/>			
D.C. Ward			
1	4.5	4.5	5.8
2	2.7	2.8	3.5
3	1.3	1.4	1.8
4	4.1	4.2	5.4
5	8.0	8.0	10.2
6	6.3	6.3	8.0
7	8.8	8.9	11.3
8	14.8	14.9	18.5

Unemployment Rates (Seasonally Adjusted)

U.S.A.	4.7	4.8	5.1
D.C.	5.3	5.3	6.9

a: Reflecting 2005 benchmark revisions

Note: Estimates for the latest year are subject to revision early the following calendar year.

District of Columbia's Unemployment Rate

The District of Columbia's seasonally adjusted March 2006 unemployment rate was 5.3 percent, unchanged from the February 2006 rate. The March 2006 rate was 1.6 percent lower than the rate in March 2005.

The March unemployment rate remains at a sixteen year low and shows substantial over-the-year improvement in

unemployment among District residents. Compared to a year earlier, there were 5,100 fewer unemployed residents.

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March 2006 was 5.5 percent; unchanged from the February 2006 rate and 1.5 percent lower than the 7.0 percent rate in March 2005.

District of Columbia's Civilian Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment

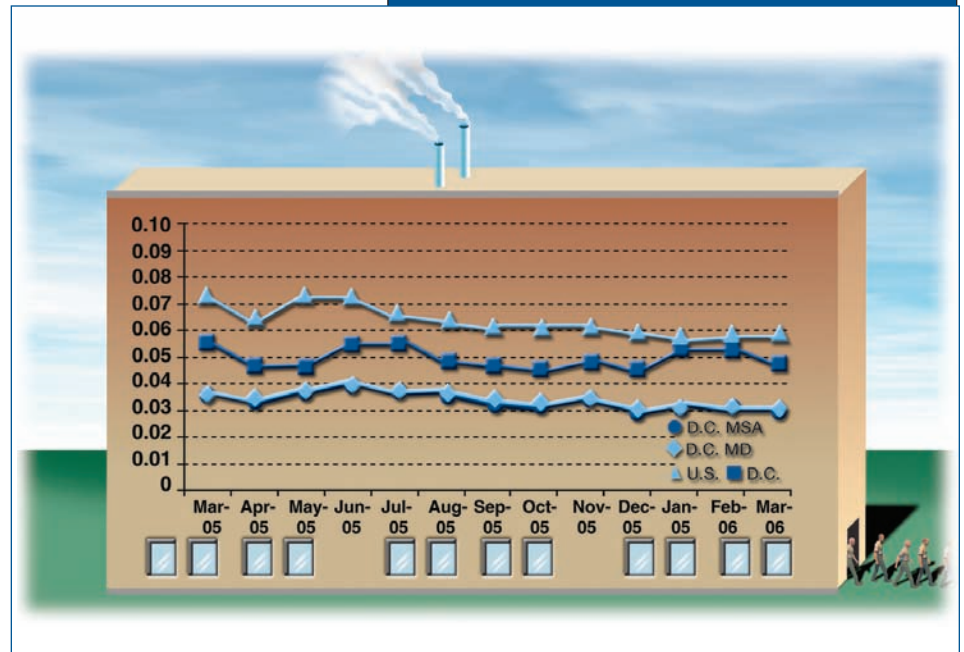
Over the month, the District's civilian labor force decreased by 2,500 to 289,400. A total of 273,600 residents were employed and 15,800 were unemployed in March 2006. A 2,200 decrease in the number of employed residents along with a 300 drop in the number of unemployed residents resulted in no change in the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate.

From March 2005 to March 2006, the District's civilian labor force decreased by 7,400 as the number of employed residents decreased by 2,300 and the number of unemployed residents decreased by 5,100. The District's March 2006 unemployment rate was 1.5 percent lower than the 7.0 percent rate in March 2005.

Unemployment Rate

Mar. 2005 - Mar. 2006

Not Seasonally Adjusted



Unemployment Insurance Benefit Statistics

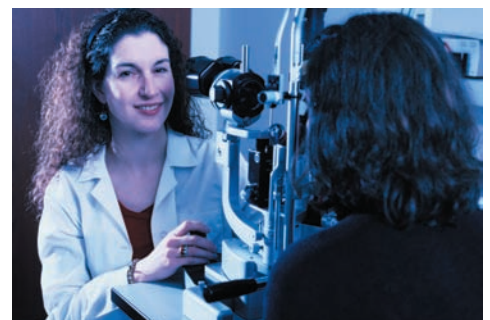
In March 2006, initial claims filed for Unemployment Insurance (UI) in the District of Columbia rose 8.9 percent from the February 2006 level of 1,111 to 1,210. Over the year, UI initial claims were down 5.3 percent from the 1,278 level in March 2005. The March 2006 initial claims for all programs were up from February 2006 by 92 to 1,241 and lower by 108 or 8 percent from the March 2005 level of 1,349.

For the all programs total, most other benefit statistics were higher in March 2006 compared to February 2006.

Weeks claimed rose 3.3 percent to 16,239, weeks compensated were up 3.8 percent to 26,309, benefits paid increased 3.8 percent to \$7,331,689, and the average weekly benefit amount (A.W.B.A.) fell nine cents to \$278.68. First payments were up 4.5 percent to 1,266, while final payments decreased 9.1 percent to 720.

Over the year, most other benefit statistics were lower in March 2006 compared to March 2005. Weeks claimed were down 8 percent and weeks compensated were down 13.4 percent. Benefits paid

decreased by 4.7 percent and the average weekly benefit amount rose 10 percent from the \$253.24 March 2005 amount. First payments were down 11.2 percent while final payments were 0.1 percent higher.



Washington Metropolitan Division Civilian Labor Force Employment and Unemployment Rates

The civilian labor force in the Washington Metropolitan Division increased by 10,300 in March 2006 as employment increased by 11,300 and the number unemployed decreased by 1,000. The unemployment rate in the Washington Metropolitan Division, at 3.0 percent in March, was unchanged from the rate in February 2006.

Over the last twelve months, the number of employed residents in the Washington Metropolitan Division rose by 67,100. With 13,100 fewer unemployed division residents, the division civilian labor force rose by 54,000. The metropolitan division's March 2006 unemployment rate of 3.0 percent was 0.6 percent lower than the 3.6 percent rate in March 2005.

Washington Metropolitan Area Civilian Labor Force Employment and Unemployment Rates

The civilian labor force in the suburban ring of communities surrounding the District of Columbia increased by 13,900 in March 2006 as employment rose by 15,600 and the number unemployed decreased by 1,700. The unemployment rate in the suburban ring, at 2.6 percent in March, was 0.1 percent lower than the rate in February 2006.

Over the last twelve months, the number of employed residents in the suburban ring rose by 92,000. With 12,600 fewer unemployed suburban residents, the suburban civilian labor force rose by 79,400. The suburban ring's March 2006 unemployment rate of 2.6 percent was 0.6 percent lower than the rate in March 2005.

For the Washington Metropolitan Statistical Area, the number of persons in the civilian labor force increased by 11,400 in March 2006. The number of employed residents in the metropolitan area rose by 13,400, and the number of unemployed residents decreased by 2,000. The metropolitan area's

unemployment rate at 2.9 percent in March 2006 was 0.1 percent lower than the rate in February 2006.

Compared to March 2005, the metropolitan area's civilian labor force rose by 72,000. Employment

increased by 89,700 and unemployment decreased by 17,700. The Washington Metropolitan Area's March 2006 unemployment rate was 0.7 percent lower than the March 2005 rate of 3.6 percent.

Employment Status for the Civilian Population

District of Columbia, Washington Metropolitan Division and Statistical Area
March 2006/a

	Mar. 2006	Feb. 2006	Mar./b 2005	Feb./b 2005	Feb. 2006	Mar./b 2005
Net Change From						
Seasonally Adjusted						
Washington, D.C.						
Civilian Labor Force	290,900	294,300	298,800	300,000	-3,400	-7,900
Total Employed	275,600	278,700	278,300	279,100	-3,100	-2,700
Total Unemployed	15,400	15,600	20,500	20,900	-200	-5,100
Unemployment Rate	5.3	5.3	6.9	7.0	0.0	-1.6
Not Seasonally Adjusted						
Washington, D.C.						
Civilian Labor Force	298,400	291,900	296,800	298,200	-2,500	-7,400
Total Employed	273,600	275,800	275,900	275,400	-2,200	-2,300
Total Unemployed	15,800	16,100	20,900	22,800	-300	-5,100
Unemployment Rate	5.5	5.5	7.0	7.6	0.0	-1.5
Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Division						
Civilian Labor Force	2,277,400	2,267,100	2,223,400	2,217,600	10,300	54,000
Total Employed	2,209,700	2,198,400	2,142,600	2,131,500	11,300	67,100
Total Unemployed	67,700	68,700	80,800	86,100	-1,000	-13,100
Unemployment Rate	3.0	3.0	3.6	3.9	0.0	-0.6
Suburban Ring						
Civilian Labor Force	2,625,800	2,611,900	2,546,400	2,537,100	13,900	79,400
Total Employed	2,557,500	2,541,900	2,465,500	2,452,100	15,600	92,000
Total Unemployed	68,300	70,000	80,900	85,000	-1,700	-12,600
Unemployment Rate	2.6	2.7	3.2	3.4	-0.1	-0.6
Washington, D.C. MSA						
Civilian Labor Force	2,915,200	2,903,800	2,843,200	2,835,300	11,400	72,000
Total Employed	2,831,100	2,817,700	2,741,400	2,727,500	13,400	89,700
Total Unemployed	84,100	86,100	101,800	107,800	-2,000	-17,700
Unemployment Rate	2.9	3.0	3.6	3.8	-0.1	-0.7

a: Data may not add to the totals due to independent rounding.

b: Data reflect 2005 benchmark revisions.

Note: Estimates for the latest year are subject to revision early the following calendar year.

Estimated Labor Force and Employment for the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metropolitan Division includes the District of Columbia, Virginia cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Manassas, and Manassas Park; the Virginia counties of Arlington, Clarke, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudon, Prince William, Spotsylvania, Stafford, and Warren; the Maryland counties of Calvert, Charles, and Prince Georges; and the West Virginia county of Jefferson.

Estimated labor Force and Employment for the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metropolitan Statistical Area includes the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria Metropolitan Division and the Bethesda-Frederick-Gaithersburg Metropolitan Division which includes the counties of Frederick and Montgomery in Maryland.

SOURCE: Prepared by the Department of Employment Services, Office of Labor Market Research and Information in cooperation with the Virginia Employment Commission, the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, the West Virginia Bureau of Employment Programs, and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

District of Columbia Job Growth

The number of District wage and salary jobs increased by 4,200 in March 2006. The private sector gained 3,900 jobs and the public sector added 300 jobs. In the private sector, professional and business

services and leisure and hospitality added 1,100 jobs each; other services added 600 jobs; and natural resources and construction and information increased by 300 jobs each; educational and health

services gained 200 jobs; manufacturing, trade, transportation and utilities and financial activities added 100 jobs each. In the public sector, the federal government shed 200 jobs, the District government gained 400 jobs and transportation added 100 jobs.

In the last twelve months, the District gained a total of 10,300 jobs. The private sector added 11,900 jobs, while the public sector lost 1,600 jobs. The private sector growth occurred in professional and business services (up by 3,700 jobs), educational and health services (up by 3,500 jobs), leisure and hospitality (up by 3,300 jobs), financial activities (up by 900 jobs), information (up by 600 jobs), and trade, transportation and utilities (up by 200 jobs).

Losses were noted in natural resources and construction (down by 200 jobs) and manufacturing (down by 100 jobs). Other services was unchanged over the year. In the public sector, the federal government lost 1,800 jobs and transportation lost 200 jobs while the District government gained 400 jobs.

Selected Unemployment Insurance Benefit Statistics

(Regular Programs)
District of Columbia

	Mar. 2006	Feb. 2006	Mar. 2005	% Change From	
				Feb. 2006	Mar. 2005
State UI Program^a					
Initial Claims	1,210	1,111	1,278	8.9	-5.3
Weeks Claimed	15,447	14,984	16,428	3.1	-6.0
Weeks Compensated	25,081	24,144	28,245	3.9	-11.2
Benefits Paid	\$6,933,131	\$6,673,040	\$7,075,993	3.9	-2.0
A.W.B.A.	\$276.43	\$276.39	\$250.52	0.0	10.3
First Payments	1,207	1,167	1,323	3.4	-8.8
Final Payments	679	744	684	-8.7	-0.7
Beneficiaries	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Federal Program^b					
Initial Claims	27	30	50	-10.0	-46.0
Weeks Claimed	610	565	934	8.0	-34.7
Weeks Compensated	1,069	1,037	1,864	3.1	-42.7
Benefits Paid	\$342,727	\$335,006	\$535,076	2.3	-35.9
A.W.B.A.	\$320.61	\$323.05	\$287.06	-0.8	11.7
First Payments	55	38	89	44.7	-38.2
Final Payments	31	42	28	-26.2	10.7
Beneficiaries	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Ex-Servicepersons Program^c					
Initial Claims	4	8	21	-50.0	-81.0
Weeks Claimed	182	166	281	9.6	-35.2
Weeks Compensated	159	161	284	-1.2	-44.0
Benefits Paid	\$55,831	\$56,556	\$85,770	-1.3	-34.9
A.W.B.A.	\$351.14	\$351.28	\$302.01	0.0	16.3
First Payments	4	7	14	-42.9	-71.4
Final Payments	10	6	7	66.7	42.9
Beneficiaries	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total - All Programs					
Initial Claims	1,241	1,149	1,349	8.0	-8.0
Weeks Claimed	16,239	15,715	17,643	3.3	-8.0
Weeks Compensated	26,309	25,342	30,393	3.8	-13.4
Benefits Paid	\$7,331,689	\$7,064,602	\$7,696,839	3.8	-4.7
A.W.B.A.	\$278.68	\$278.77	\$253.24	0.0	10.0
First Payments	1,266	1,212	1,426	4.5	-11.2
Final Payments	720	792	719	-9.1	0.1
Beneficiaries	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

a: Includes joint claims with Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) and/or Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Servicepersons (UCX).

b: Includes joint claims with Unemployment Compensation of Ex-Servicepersons (UCX).

c: No joint claims.

Average Weekly Benefit Amount (A.W.B.A)



Wage and Salary Employment by Industry and Place of Work^a

(In Thousands)

INDUSTRY	District of Columbia			Metropolitan Division		
	Mar. b/ 2006	Feb. c/ 2006	Mar. 2005	Mar. b/ 2005	Feb. c/ 2006	Mar. 2005
TOTAL	689.6	685.4	679.3	2,378.9	2,378.9	2,318.3
Total Private Sector	460.0	456.1	448.1	1,836.3	1,822.9	1,782.5
Total Government	229.6	229.3	231.2	542.6	540.0	535.8
Total Goods Producing	14.5	14.1	14.8	189.5	187.6	181.9
Manufacturing	2.1	2.0	2.2	44.2	43.8	43.9
Durable Goods	na	na	na	26.0	25.7	25.7
Non-Durable Goods	na	na	na	18.2	18.1	18.2
Printing and Related Support Activities	na	na	na	8.6	8.5	8.6
Natural Resources, Mining & Construction	12.4	12.1	12.6	145.3	143.8	138.0
Construction	na	na	na	144.3	142.8	137.2
Construction of Buildings	na	na	na	34.0	33.7	32.0
Residential Building Construction	na	na	na	18.8	18.5	18.1
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	na	na	na	16.8	16.4	16.5
Specialty Trade Contractors	na	na	na	93.5	92.7	88.7
Total Service Providing	675.1	671.3	664.5	2,189.4	2,175.3	2,136.4
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	27.8	27.7	27.6	323.8	322.1	317.8
Wholesale Trade	4.5	4.6	4.6	56.4	56.2	55.5
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	na	na	na	30.8	30.6	31.6
Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	na	na	na	14.1	14.2	13.8
Retail Trade	17.9	17.7	17.5	208.1	207.1	202.4
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	na	na	na	26.2	26.1	25.9
Building Material and Garden Equipment and Supplies Dealers	na	na	na	17.2	16.6	16.3
Food & Beverage Stores	na	na	na	33.4	33.1	33.6
Health and Personal Care Stores	na	na	na	11.0	10.8	11.0
Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores	na	na	na	23.2	23.0	22.5
General Merchandise Stores	na	na	na	38.2	37.5	36.7
Department Stores	na	na	na	24.7	24.3	23.6
Other General Merchandise Stores	na	na	na	13.5	13.2	13.1
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	5.4	5.4	5.5	59.3	58.8	59.9
Utilities	na	na	na	7.5	7.4	7.8
Electric Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution	na	na	na	4.7	4.7	5.1
Transportation & Warehousing	2.9	2.9	3.0	51.8	51.4	52.1
Air Transportation	na	na	na	13.3	13.4	15.3
Couriers and Messengers	na	na	na	7.8	7.8	8.8
Warehousing and Storage	na	na	na	4.7	4.5	4.9
Information	23.4	23.1	22.8	81.4	81.1	83.4
Publishing Industries (except Internet)	8.7	8.6	8.8	na	na	na
Newspaper, Periodical, Book, and Directory Publishers	7.8	7.7	7.8	15.5	15.3	15.3
Telecommunications	na	na	na	26.4	26.5	28.2
Wired Telecommunications Carriers	na	na	na	19.0	19.3	21.6
Financial Activities	30.7	30.6	29.8	116.8	116.3	114.4
Finance and Insurance	19.0	18.9	18.7	75.9	75.6	73.3
Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	8.5	8.5	8.4	44.0	43.8	41.5
Depository Credit Intermediation	3.7	3.8	3.7	19.1	19.1	17.9
Nondepository Credit Intermediation	na	na	na	19.9	19.8	19.0
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	na	na	na	16.9	16.7	17.3
Funds, Trusts, and Other Financial Vehicles	na	na	na	5.8	5.8	5.9
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	11.7	11.7	11.1	40.9	40.7	41.1
Real Estate	na	na	na	30.6	30.4	31.1

Wage and Salary Employment by Industry and Place of Work^a

(In Thousands)

INDUSTRY	District of Columbia			Metropolitan Division		
	Mar. b/ 2006	Feb. c/ 2006	Mar. 2005	Mar. b/ 2006	Feb. c/ 2006	Mar. 2005
Professional and Business Services	150.7	149.6	147.0	538.8	535.0	515.2
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	101.8	101.1	99.3	359.4	358.1	342.7
Legal Services	35.0	34.7	34.4	48.1	47.8	46.9
Accounting, Tax Preparation, Bookkeeping, & Payroll Services	na	na	na	22.5	22.3	21.9
Architectural, Engineering, & Related Services	6.7	6.7	6.7	48.5	48.2	47.2
Computer Systems Design and Related Services	17.8	15.2	16.7	118.4	118.5	114.1
Management, Scientific, and Technical Consulting Services	13.5	14.5	12.5	58.8	58.6	54.1
Scientific Research and Development Services	15.9	15.9	14.8	36.5	36.2	35.0
Advertising and Related Services	na	na	na	13.0	13.0	12.3
Management of Companies and Enterprises	na	na	na	31.4	31.2	30.3
Administrative & Support & Waste Management & Remediation Services	47.5	46.4	46.3	148.0	145.7	142.2
Employment Services	12.7	12.6	11.8	32.5	32.2	31.4
Business Support Services	na	na	na	8.8	8.5	9.7
Investigation and Security Services	8.4	8.1	8.5	23.4	23.1	24.9
Services to Buildings and Dwellings	11.8	13.2	12.1	48.2	46.2	48.3
Educational and Health Services	98.1	99.1	93.7	249.0	248.7	238.1
Educational Services	44.9	44.7	41.0	75.4	74.9	69.9
Colleges, Universities, and Professional Schools	34.6	34.9	31.6	45.5	44.9	42.8
Health Care and Social Assistance	53.2	54.4	52.7	173.6	173.8	168.2
Ambulatory Health Care Services	10.3	10.1	10.1	59.6	59.7	58.2
Offices of Physicians	na	na	na	25.5	25.5	24.7
Outpatient Care Centers	na	na	na	7.5	7.5	7.7
Hospitals	25.0	25.6	24.7	55.8	55.5	53.7
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	7.6	7.6	7.2	26.8	27.0	26.3
Social Assistance	10.3	11.1	10.7	31.4	31.6	30.2
Child Day Care Services	na	na	na	14.6	14.8	13.8
Leisure and Hospitality	56.1	54.5	51.8	200.6	197.0	193.2
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	6.7	6.0	6.0	24.6	23.6	23.2
Amusement, Gambling, and Recreation Industries	na	na	na	15.0	14.3	15.5
Accommodation and Food Services	49.4	48.5	45.8	176.0	173.4	170.0
Accommodation	15.6	16.0	14.9	35.0	34.5	34.4
Food Services and Drinking Places	33.8	32.5	30.9	141.0	138.9	135.6
Full-Service Restaurants	16.7	15.8	15.2	72.4	71.6	70.5
Limited-Service Eating Places	10.6	10.3	10.0	54.8	54.1	53.3
Special Food Services	5.0	4.8	4.2	11.5	11.0	10.2
Other Services	58.7	60.6	59.2	136.4	135.1	134.7
Repair and Maintenance	na	na	na	16.9	16.7	16.3
Personal and Laundry Services	na	na	na	26.3	26.0	26.0
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional, & Similar Organizations	51.9	54.1	52.4	93.2	92.4	92.4
Business, Professional, Labor, Political, & Similar Organizations	25.5	27.0	26.2	41.9	41.6	41.8
Government	229.6	229.7	230.3	542.6	540.0	535.8
Federal Government	190.5	191.3	191.8	293.0	293.4	241.6
State Government & Local Government / Public Transportation	39.1	38.4	38.5	249.6	246.6	238.4
State Government	34.4	33.9	33.6	75.9	73.7	75.2
Local Government	na	na	na	173.7	172.9	166.4
Public Transportation	4.7	4.5	4.9	na	na	na

a: Data may not equal totals due to independent rounding. Data reflect 2005 benchmark revisions.

b: Preliminary.

c: Revised.

Data includes all full and part-time employees who worked or received pay for any part of pay period which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employed, unpaid family workers, and private household workers are excluded.

The Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metropolitan Division includes the District of Columbia; Calvert County, MD; Charles County, MD; Prince George's County, MD; Arlington County, VA; Clarke County, VA; Fairfax County, VA; Fauquier County, VA; Loudoun County, VA; Prince William County, VA; Spotsylvania County, VA; Stafford County, VA; Warren County, VA; Alexandria City, VA; Fairfax City, VA; Falls Church City, VA; Fredericksburg city, VA; Manassas City, VA; Manassas Park City, VA; and Jefferson County, WV

SOURCE: Prepared by the Department of Employment Services Office of Labor Market Research and Information in cooperation with the Virginia Employment Commission, the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, the West Virginia Bureau of Employment Programs and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Washington Metropolitan Statistical Area Job Growth

Total wage and salary employment in the Washington Metropolitan Area increased over the month in March 2006 by 20,700. The private sector gained 17,700 jobs and the public sector added 3,000 jobs over the month. Within the private sector, gains were noted in professional and business services (up by 5,700 jobs), leisure and hospitality (up by 4,200 jobs), natural resources, mining and construction (up by 2,400 jobs), trade, transportation, and utilities (up by 1,900 jobs), other services (up by 1,700 jobs), financial activities (up by 600 jobs), educational and health services (up by 500 jobs), information (up by 400 jobs), and manufacturing (up by 300 jobs). In the public sector, the federal government lost 400 jobs over the month.

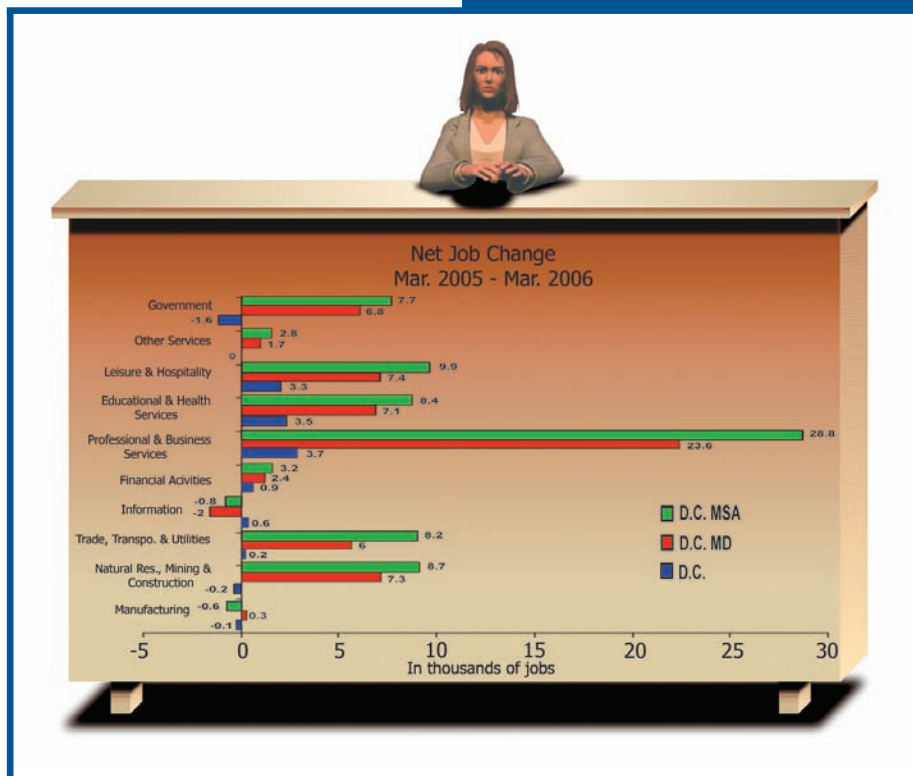
During the past twelve months, the Washington Metropolitan Area gained 76,300 jobs. The private sector gained 68,600 jobs and the public sector added 7,700 jobs. Private sector gains were registered in professional and business services (up by 28,800 jobs), leisure and hospitality (up by 9,900 jobs),

natural resources, mining and construction (up by 8,700 jobs), educational and health services (up by 8,400 jobs), trade, transportation, and utilities (up by 8,200 jobs), financial activities (up by 3,200 jobs), and other services (up by 2,800 jobs). Losses were noted in information (down by 800 jobs) and

manufacturing (down by 600 jobs). In government, the federal government lost 1,800 jobs.

Net Job Change

In Thousands of Jobs
Not Seasonally Adjusted
Mar. 2005 - Mar. 2006



Washington Metropolitan Division Job Growth

Total wage and salary employment in the Washington Metropolitan Division increased over the month in March 2006 by 16,000. The private sector increased by 13,400 jobs and the public sector gained 2,600 jobs. Within the private sector, gains were registered in professional and business services (up by 3,800 jobs), leisure and hospitality (up by 3,600 jobs), trade, transportation, and utilities (up by 1,700 jobs), natural resources, mining and construction (up by 1,500 jobs), other services (up by 1,300 jobs), financial activities

(up by 500 jobs), manufacturing (up by 400 jobs), and information and educational and health services (up by 300 jobs each). In the public sector, state government added 2,200 jobs; local government gained 800 jobs; and the federal government lost 400 jobs.

During the past twelve months, the Washington Metropolitan Division gained 60,600 jobs. The private sector gained 53,800 jobs and the public sector added 6,800 jobs. Private sector gains were registered in professional and business services (up by 23,600

jobs), leisure and hospitality (up by 7,400 jobs), natural resources, mining and construction (up by 7,300 jobs), educational and health services (up by 7,100 jobs), trade, transportation, and utilities (up by 6,000 jobs), financial activities (up by 2,400 jobs), other services (up by 1,700 jobs), and manufacturing (up by 300 jobs). Information lost 2,000 jobs. In government, local government gained 7,300 jobs and state government added 700 jobs while the federal government lost 1,200 jobs.

Washington DC Metropolitan Statistical Area
Wage and Salary Employment by Industry and Place of Work^a
(In Thousands)

INDUSTRY	Net Change From				
	Mar. b/ 2006	Feb. c/ 2006	Mar. 2005	Feb. 2006	Mar. 2005
TOTAL	2955.4	2934.7	2879.1	20.7	76.3
Total Private Sector	2317.8	2300.1	2249.2	17.7	68.6
Total Government	637.6	634.6	629.9	3.0	7.7
Total Goods Producing	251.0	248.3	244.1	2.7	8.1
Manufacturing	64.7	64.4	65.3	0.3	-0.6
Natural Resources, Mining & Construction	186.3	183.9	177.6	2.4	8.7
Specialty Trade Contractors	118.4	117.2	111.8	1.2	6.6
Total Service Providing	2704.4	2686.4	2636.2	18.0	68.2
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	408.3	406.4	400.1	1.9	8.2
Wholesale Trade	72.0	71.8	71.0	0.2	1.0
Retail Trade	270.3	269.1	262.5	1.2	7.8
Food & Beverage Stores	44.8	44.5	45.1	0.3	-0.3
General Merchandise Stores	48.4	47.6	46.5	0.8	1.9
Department Stores	32.9	32.5	31.4	0.4	1.5
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	66.0	65.5	66.6	0.5	-0.6
Information	99.5	99.1	100.3	0.4	-0.8
Telecommunications	32.7	32.8	34.0	-0.1	-1.3
Financial Activities	161.8	161.2	158.6	0.6	3.2
Finance and Insurance	106.6	106.2	103.4	0.4	3.2
Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	58.3	58.1	55.8	0.2	2.5
Professional and Business Services	660.2	654.5	631.4	5.7	28.8
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	434.8	433.2	416.0	1.6	18.8
Computer Systems Design and Related Services	138.2	138.3	133.7	-0.1	4.5
Scientific Research and Development Services	52.5	52.1	50.4	0.4	2.1
Administrative & Support & Waste Management & Remediation Services	191.0	186.9	181.9	4.1	9.1
Employment Services	47.1	46.3	43.9	0.8	3.2
Services to Buildings and Dwellings	63.1	59.9	60.9	3.2	2.2
Educational and Health Services	319.8	319.3	311.4	0.5	8.4
Health Care and Social Assistance	232.1	231.8	225.7	0.3	6.4
Ambulatory Health Care Services	84.2	84.2	82.3	0.0	1.9
Offices of Physicians	35.8	35.8	34.5	0.0	1.3
Hospitals	68.1	67.5	65.7	0.6	2.4
Leisure and Hospitality	248.8	244.6	238.9	4.2	9.9
Accommodation and Food Services	216.9	213.9	209.0	3.0	7.9
Food Services and Drinking Places	174.2	171.8	167.5	2.4	6.7
Other Services	168.4	166.7	165.6	1.7	2.8
Government	637.6	634.6	629.9	3.0	7.7
Federal Government	335.7	336.1	337.5	-0.4	-1.8

a: Data may not equal totals due to independent rounding. Data reflect 2005 benchmark revisions

b: Preliminary.

c: Revised

Data includes all full and part-time employees who worked or received pay for any part of pay period which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employed, unpaid family workers, and private household workers are excluded.

The Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metropolitan Statistical Area includes The Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metropolitan Division and the Bethesda-Frederick-Gaithersburg, MD Metropolitan Division

The Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metropolitan Division includes the District of Columbia; Calvert County, MD; Charles County, MD; Prince George's County, MD; Arlington County, VA; Clarke County, VA; Fairfax County, VA; Fauquier County, VA

The Bethesda-Frederick-Gaithersburg, MD Metropolitan Division includes the counties of Frederick and Montgomery in Maryland

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Table prepared by the Department of Employment Services Office of Labor Market Research and Information.

D.C. Metro Area Average Hours and Earnings (of production workers in manufacturing)

In March 2006, average weekly earnings of manufacturing production workers in the Washington Metropolitan Division rose by \$5.18 over the month to \$655.31. An increase in hourly earnings was responsible for the rise. Average hourly earnings were up 44 cents over the month to \$17.11. The average number of hours worked was 38.3, down 0.7 hour from the February 2006 average.

From March 2005 to March 2006, average weekly earnings decreased by \$11.45. This decrease was due to a decline in average weekly hours of 1.2 hours. Over the year, hourly earnings rose twenty-three cents.

Metro Hours and Earnings Of Production Workers in Manufacturing Mar. 2005 - Mar. 2006

	Mar. '06 ^p	Feb. '06 ^r	Mar. '05 ^a
Weekly Earnings	\$655.31	\$650.13	\$666.76
Weekly Hours	38.3	39.0	39.5
Hourly Earnings	\$17.11	\$16.67	\$16.88

p = Preliminary
r = Revised
a = Reflecting 2005 benchmark revisions

The Labor Market Trends Washington Metropolitan Newsletter is a monthly publication of the D.C. Department of Employment Services' Office of Labor Market Research and Information (OLMRI). Charles Roeslin is Associate Director of OLMRI. For inquiries/comments/suggestions, please call (202) 671-1633.

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