



EMPLOYMENT IN THE DISTRICT

Ending poverty through economic opportunity

All workers want a good job where they can earn family-supporting wages with the benefits they need to provide their children with a better life than they have had.

Creating stable, productive employment opportunities is critical to sustaining economic development and the reduction of poverty. Combating unemployment and underemployment

Strengthens our Economy by increasing our tax base and the consumer base for District businesses;

Builds our Neighborhoods by improving access to resources and improving our schools; and

Empowers our Families by providing economic security and stable homes.

The NUMBERS:

Over 11% of District residents are currently unemployed

20% of 16-24 year olds in the District are unemployed

25% of District residents with no more than a High School Diploma are unemployed

24% of single adults with children are unemployed

Facts on Unemployment & Underemployment in the District

Unemployment by Age

Since 2007, the highest increase in unemployment has been in DC's youth, workers ages 16-24. This group had an unemployment rate of 20.5 percent in the third quarter of 2011, which was the highest among all age groups. The unemployment rate of this age group is growing more rapidly than the District's overall unemployment rate.

Unemployment by Education

In recent years, unemployment has increased for District residents of all education levels; however the greatest increase has been for individuals who have no more than a high school diploma. In 2007, the unemployment rate for this group was 9.7; as of 2011, it increased to 23.9 percent.

College graduates have also experienced a growth in unemployment. The unemployment rate has doubled from 2.4 to 5.4 percent for District residents with a bachelor's degree or higher.

Since the start of 2011, there has been a decrease in unemployment for those who have less than a high school diploma. In 2010 the rate stood at 25.9 percent, it currently stands at 21.3 percent.

Unemployment by Occupation

Although unemployment rates have increased for District workers of all wages, the unemployment rate for low-wage workers have been ordinarily higher. The jobless rate for this group has increased nearly 9 percentage-points from 2007 to 2010. Low-wage workers have experienced an increase from 10.3 percent to 17.2 percent.

High-wage workers have also experienced an increase in unemployment. Specifically, the rate has increased from 2.2 percent to 5.9 percent from 2007 to 2011. In addition, medium-wage workers' unemployment rate has increased from 4.4 percent to 10 percent during the same time period.

Unemployment by Household

Even though there has been growth in the unemployment rate for all family types, the rate has consistently been the higher for households with single adults (currently 11.9 percent). Moreover, single-parent households have an unemployment rate of more than 24 percent compared to 6.2 percent for two-parent District households. Married District residents without children have an unemployment rate of 6.9 percent.