

employment monitor - March 2011 employment data

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

In March 2011, Montgomery County's unemployment rate dropped seven-tenths of a percent from the previous March to 5 percent – the lowest rate since April 2009. The current rate reflects 25,870 unemployed residents in the county. Overall, the local jobs outlook is improving, mirroring the national trend.

STATE AND REGION

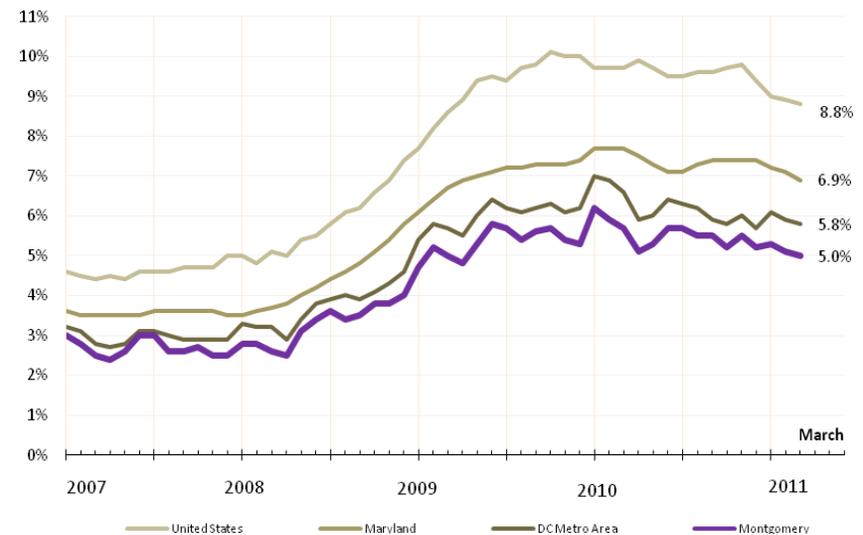
At 6.9 percent, Maryland's March 2011 unemployment rate decreased eight-tenths of a percent since March a year ago. Statewide, 206,945 persons were unemployed in March. The Washington, D.C. metropolitan area's unemployment rate also decreased eight-tenths of a percent from last year to 5.8 percent in March, with 178,174 unemployed persons in the region. Among neighboring counties, Arlington County had the lowest unemployment rate at 3.9 percent, down eight-tenths of a percent posted one year ago, with 5,515 people. Fairfax County's March 2011 unemployment rate was 4.5 percent, down nine-tenths of a percent from March 2010.

NATION

The nation's March 2011 unemployment rate was 8.8 percent – down nine-tenths of a percent from March 2010. The number of unemployed people in the nation decreased by 1.4 million – from 14.94 million unemployed persons in March 2010 to 13.54 million in March 2011.

The jobs outlook in Montgomery County improves as signs point to economic growth nationally. The County unemployment rate dropped from 5.7 percent to 5 percent in the past year, the lowest since April 2009.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, 2007 - 2011



UNEMPLOYMENT TRENDS

	Mar-07		Mar-08		Mar-09		Mar-10		Mar-11	
	rate	persons								
Montgomery County, MD	2.5%	12,877	2.6%	13,626	5.0%	25,612	5.7%	29,513	5.0%	25,870
Washington, D.C. Metro Area	2.8%	84,511	3.2%	98,083	5.7%	175,618	6.6%	200,961	5.8%	178,174
Washington, D.C.	5.1%	16,756	5.9%	19,746	8.8%	28,049	10.1%	33,854	10.0%	33,247
Alexandria, VA	2.0%	1,814	2.5%	2,292	4.8%	4,547	5.3%	5,122	4.5%	4,386
Arlington, VA	1.7%	2,290	2.1%	2,910	4.3%	5,895	4.7%	6,632	3.9%	5,515
Fairfax County, VA	2.0%	11,607	2.5%	14,542	4.6%	27,659	5.4%	32,223	4.5%	27,287
Howard County, MD	2.4%	3,802	2.5%	4,103	4.9%	7,763	5.5%	8,713	5.1%	8,093
Prince George's County, MD	3.5%	15,710	3.7%	16,576	6.5%	29,361	7.7%	34,299	6.8%	30,626
Maryland	3.5%	105,585	3.7%	112,430	6.7%	204,942	7.7%	225,836	6.9%	206,945
United States	4.4%	6,721,000	5.1%	7,781,000	8.6%	13,278,000	9.7%	14,943,000	8.8%	13,542,000

Source: Montgomery County Planning Department analysis of U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics and Current Employment Survey data