

## employment monitor: january 2013

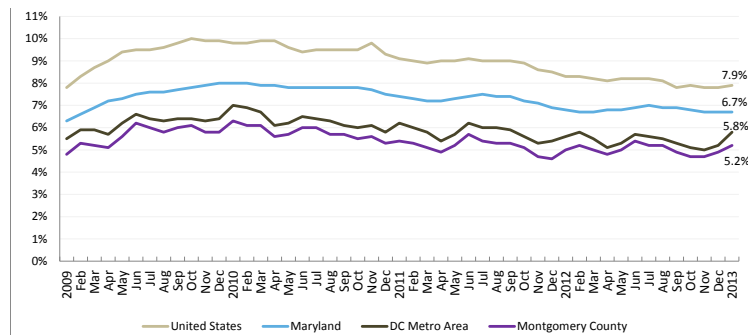
### montgomery county

In January 2013, there were 27,839 unemployed residents in Montgomery County, up 1,508 from January 2012. The County's unemployment rate reached 5.2 percent in January, up three-tenths of a percent from the 4.9 percent rate posted in December 2012 and two-tenths of a percent higher than the 5 percent unemployment rate posted the previous year. Though the unemployment rate has improved since its peak of 6.3 percent in January 2010, it is still far above the pre-recession 2.3 percent seen in December 2007.

### state and region

At 6.7 percent, Maryland's January 2013 unemployment rate dropped from 6.8 percent in January 2012 and remained the same as in December 2012. Statewide, 211,364 people were unemployed in January. The Washington, D.C., metropolitan area's unemployment rate increased from 5.6 percent in January 2012 to 5.8 percent in 2013, with 183,570 unemployed persons in the region. Among neighboring counties, Arlington County had the lowest unemployment rate at 3.9 percent, up from 3.3 percent in December and slightly above the 3.7 percent posted one year prior. Washington, D.C. continued to have the highest unemployment rate at 9.4 percent, down from 9.8 percent in the previous year. Fairfax County's January 2013 unemployment rate was 4.2 percent, up five-tenths of a percent from December and up one-tenth of a percent from January 2012.

### UNEMPLOYMENT TRENDS, 2009-2013



**The January 2013 unemployment rate increased in Montgomery County and the Metro Area compared to the same period in 2012. Although the unemployment rate is higher, the total number of employed persons increased as discouraged workers returned to the labor force, pointing to a healthier labor market in the first month of the year compared to January 2012.**

### nation

The nation's January 2013 unemployment rate was 7.9 percent – up one-tenth of a percent from December, but dropping from the 8.2 percent rate seen in January 2012. The number of unemployed people in the nation decreased over the past year by 416,000 – from 12.78 million in January 2012 to 12.33 million in 2013.

### UNEMPLOYMENT TRENDS, 2009-2013

	Jan-09		Jan-10		Jan-11		Jan-12		Jan-13	
	rate	persons	rate	persons	rate	persons	rate	persons	rate	persons
<b>Montgomery County, MD</b>	<b>4.8%</b>	<b>24,850</b>	<b>6.3%</b>	<b>32,565</b>	<b>5.4%</b>	<b>28,566</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>26,331</b>	<b>5.2%</b>	<b>27,839</b>
Washington, D.C. Metro Area	5.5%	167,858	7.0%	215,211	6.2%	194,205	5.6%	178,643	5.8%	183,570
Washington, D.C.	8.7%	28,994	10.8%	36,644	10.4%	36,257	9.8%	34,389	9.4%	34,653
Alexandria, VA	4.3%	4,073	5.8%	5,162	5.1%	4,656	5.0%	4,613	4.9%	4,496
Arlington, VA	3.7%	5,133	5.0%	6,517	4.1%	5,578	3.7%	5,038	3.9%	5,333
Fairfax County, VA	4.3%	25,095	5.5%	34,166	4.7%	29,389	4.1%	26,123	4.2%	26,165
Howard County, MD	4.6%	7,537	6.0%	9,845	5.3%	8,738	4.8%	7,983	5.0%	8,696
Prince George's County, MD	6.6%	30,006	8.0%	36,620	7.4%	34,041	6.7%	31,051	7.1%	32,827
Maryland	6.3%	191,000	8.0%	243,575	7.4%	228,273	6.8%	211,394	6.7%	211,364
United States	7.8%	12,079,000	9.8%	15,016,000	9.1%	13,992,000	8.3%	12,748,000	7.9%	12,332,000

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

## montgomery county and metro trends

The unemployment rate in the Washington, D.C. Metro Area increased slightly between January 2012 and 2013, from 5.6 to 5.8 percent. However, the metro area increased the number of employed people by 12,000 over the course of the year while only gaining 5,000 more unemployed. The rise in the unemployment rate in the past year can be attributed to an expansion of the labor force, partially fueled by previously discouraged workers rejoining the labor force. Those workers had stopped looking for jobs because they believed there were none available or none for which they would qualify. While approximately 5,000 more people were unemployed compared to the previous year, there were nearly 17,000 people added to the labor force in the same period. A similar trend was seen in Montgomery County's unemployment rate, with 1,500 more unemployed but an increase of 10,000 employees, with almost 12,000 people being added to the labor force.

The gradual improvement in the labor market mirrors a national trend. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the number of discouraged workers decreased by 24.1% nationwide since January 2012. A survey by the Bureau of Labor Statistics found that the average duration of unemployment decreased in the past year, from 39.1 weeks in February 2012 to 36 weeks in February 2013. All of this transpired while the average hourly earnings for all private-sector employees increased from \$23.28 to \$23.78, outpacing the rate of inflation.

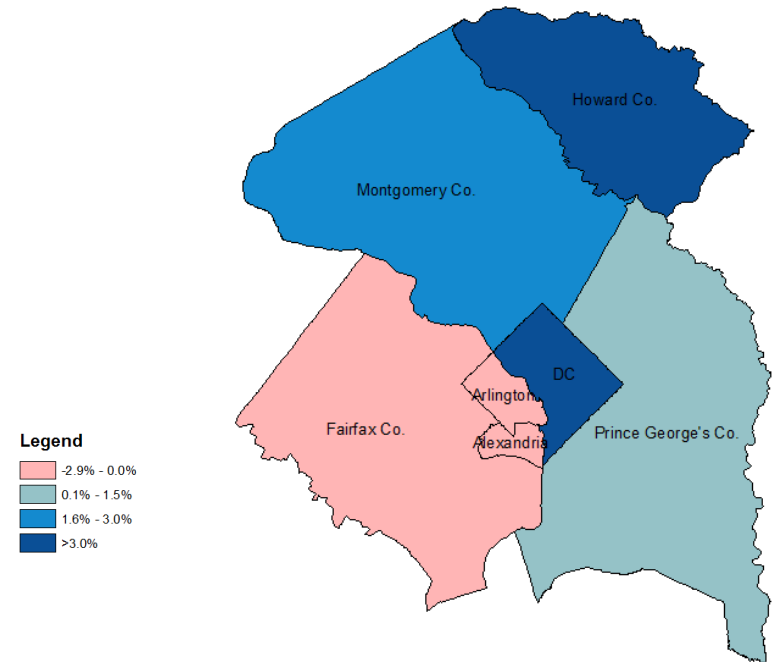
First-time unemployment claims also declined in the past year. Initial claims for unemployment decreased by 25 percent statewide in Maryland between January 2012 and January 2013. This decline mirrored a similar trend in Washington, D.C. and Virginia which saw 14 percent and 26 percent drops in initial claims, respectively.

## PEOPLE IN THE LABOR FORCE

	Jan-12	Jan-13	Change	% Change
<b>Montgomery County, MD</b>	<b>522,478</b>	<b>534,422</b>	<b>11,944</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
Washington, D.C. Metro Area	3,174,984	3,191,677	<b>16,693</b>	<b>0.5%</b>
Washington, D.C.	349,671	370,334	<b>20,663</b>	<b>5.9%</b>
Alexandria, VA	92,986	91,386	<b>(1,600)</b>	<b>-1.7%</b>
Arlington, VA	137,236	136,524	<b>(712)</b>	<b>-0.5%</b>
Fairfax County, VA	642,319	623,877	<b>(18,442)</b>	<b>-2.9%</b>
Howard County, MD	165,995	173,738	<b>7,743</b>	<b>4.7%</b>
Prince George's County, MD	461,990	465,294	<b>3,304</b>	<b>0.7%</b>
Maryland	3,108,538	3,143,729	<b>35,191</b>	<b>1.1%</b>
United States	154,356,000	155,654,000	<b>1,298,000</b>	<b>0.8%</b>

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

## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, JANUARY 2013



## PERCENT CHANGE IN LABOR FORCE, JANUARY 2012-2013

