

employment monitor

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

The unemployment rate for Montgomery County fell to 5.1 percent in April, a decline of more than half a percent from the 5.7 percent rate posted in March. The number of unemployed County residents was 26,207 in April, a decrease of 2,900 from the prior month.

After peaking at 6.2 percent in January, the County's unemployment rate has declined each month. The April unemployment rate is the lowest since the April 2009 rate of 4.8 percent, but remains roughly twice the 2.5 percent rate in April two years ago.

STATE AND REGION

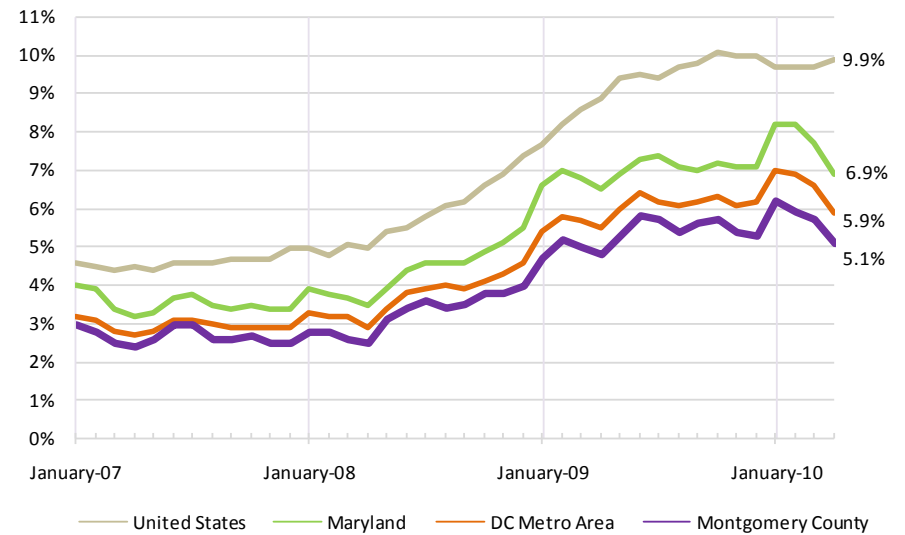
Maryland's unemployment rate fell from 7.7 percent in March to 6.9 percent in April. There were 202,100 unemployed persons in the state, down 23,850 persons from March. The Washington, D.C., metropolitan area's unemployment rate fell from 6.6 percent in March to 5.9 percent in April. The region's unemployment rate is the lowest among the nation's 49 metropolitan areas. There were 179,317 unemployed persons in the region in April, down 24,022 persons from March.

NATION

The U.S. economy gained 290,000 jobs between March and April of 2010—the biggest monthly increase since March 2006. The unemployment rate increased in April to 9.9 percent, up from 9.7 percent for the first three months of 2010. Though counter-intuitive, this rise in the unemployment rate is a positive sign of economic recovery. It shows that the number of people searching for work has increased; that is, workers who had stopped searching for jobs are now returning to seek jobs with higher expectations of finding work.

Montgomery County's job outlook continues to improve, with the unemployment rate dropping for the third consecutive month, reaching 5.1 percent in April. The County's unemployment rate is at its lowest point since April 2009.

MONTHLY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, 2007 - 2010



UNEMPLOYMENT TRENDS

	april 2007		april 2008		april 2009		april 2010	
	rate	persons	rate	persons	rate	persons	rate	persons
Montgomery County, MD	2.4%	12,183	2.5%	13,050	4.8%	24,790	5.1%	26,207
Washington, D.C. Metro Area	2.7%	79,413	2.9%	88,609	5.5%	167,030	5.9%	179,317
Washington, D.C.	4.9%	15,818	4.9%	16,390	8.5%	27,689	9.8%	32,849
Fairfax County, VA	1.9%	11,322	2.3%	13,478	4.5%	27,013	4.7%	28,449
Howard County, MD	2.3%	3,630	2.4%	3,920	4.7%	7,540	5.1%	7,993
Prince George's County, MD	3.4%	15,157	3.5%	15,902	6.3%	28,400	6.7%	29,881
Maryland	3.2%	96,539	3.5%	103,984	6.5%	192,752	6.9%	202,100
United States	4.5%	6,845,000	5.0%	7,631,000	8.9%	13,861,000	9.9%	15,260,000

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

