

## employment monitor

### MONTGOMERY COUNTY

In February 2011, Montgomery County's unemployment rate dropped two-tenths of a percent from the previous month to 5.1 percent – the lowest rate since April 2009. The current rate reflects 26,167 unemployed residents in the county, down 1,174 persons from January and eight-tenths of a percent lower than the 5.9 percent unemployment rate posted in February 2010. Overall, the local jobs outlook is improving, mirroring the national trend.

### STATE AND REGION

At 7.1 percent, Maryland's February 2011 unemployment rate decreased one-tenth of a percent from January. Statewide, 210,120 persons were unemployed in February. The Washington, D.C. metropolitan area's unemployment rate decreased from 6.1 percent in January to 5.9 percent in February, with 179,417 unemployed persons in the region. Among neighboring counties, Arlington County had the lowest unemployment rate at 3.9 percent, down from 4.1 percent in January and down from the 4.8 percent posted one year ago. Fairfax County's February 2011 unemployment rate was 4.6 percent, down one-tenth of a percent from January and down nine-tenths of a percent from February 2010.

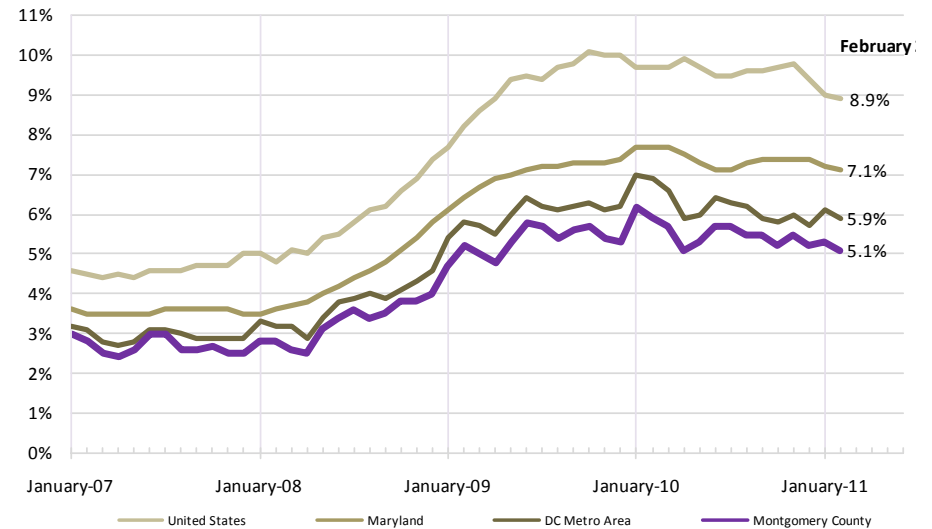
### NATION

The nation's February 2011 unemployment rate was 8.9 percent —down one-tenth of a percent from January. The number of unemployed persons in the nation decreased by 190,000, from 13.86 million unemployed persons in January to 13.67 million in February.

### UNEMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The jobs outlook in Montgomery County improves – the February 2011 unemployment rate dropped two-tenths of a percent to 5.1 percent -as signs point to economic growth nationally.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, 2007 - 2011



	Feb-07		Feb-08		Feb-09		Feb-10		Feb-11	
	rate	persons	rate	persons	rate	persons	rate	persons	rate	persons
<b>Montgomery County, MD</b>	<b>2.8%</b>	<b>14,347</b>	<b>2.8%</b>	<b>14,236</b>	<b>5.2%</b>	<b>26,572</b>	<b>5.9%</b>	<b>29,902</b>	<b>5.1%</b>	<b>26,167</b>
Washington, D.C. Metro Area	3.1%	90,715	3.2%	95,903	5.8%	176,846	6.9%	209,960	5.9%	179,417
Washington, D.C.	5.5%	17,817	5.4%	17,833	9.0%	29,985	10.6%	35,129	9.5%	31,648
Alexandria, VA	2.2%	1,965	2.5%	2,260	4.7%	4,447	5.4%	5,100	4.7%	4,532
Arlington, VA	1.9%	2,529	2.1%	2,871	4.1%	2,529	4.8%	6,594	3.9%	5,517
Fairfax County, VA	2.2%	12,452	2.5%	14,297	4.5%	26,787	5.5%	33,084	4.6%	27,567
Howard County, MD	2.7%	4,284	2.6%	4,202	5.1%	8,098	5.8%	8,982	5.1%	8,046
Prince George's County, MD	3.8%	16,848	3.8%	16,969	6.9%	30,984	7.8%	34,528	7.0%	31,028
Maryland	3.5%	107,217	3.6%	109,843	6.5%	197,138	7.6%	227,964	7.1%	210,120
United States	4.5%	6,900,000	4.8%	7,441,000	8.2%	12,737,000	9.7%	14,860,000	8.9%	13,673,000

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