

employment monitor

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

The County's unemployment rate in December 2010 improved from the previous month—down to 5.2 percent, a drop of three-tenths of a percent from the rate posted in November 2010. The December rate was one-tenth of a percent lower than the 5.3 percent unemployment rate posted 12 months ago. In December 2010, there were 26,399 unemployed County residents, down 1,600 persons from the previous month.

STATE AND REGION

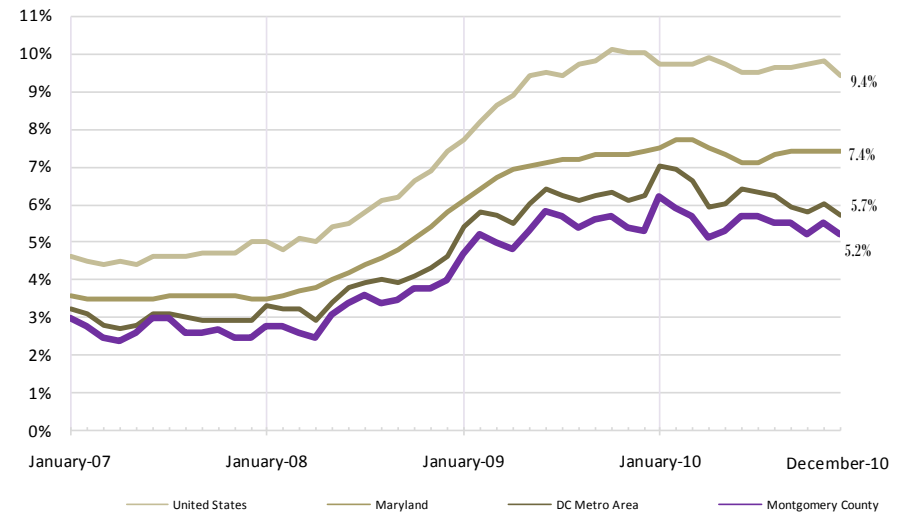
At 7.4 percent, Maryland's December unemployment rate was unchanged from November. Statewide, 219,009 persons were unemployed in December. The Washington, D.C. metropolitan area's unemployment rate fell from 6.0 percent in November to 5.7 percent in December, with 173,956 unemployed persons in the region. Among neighboring counties, Arlington County had the lowest unemployment rate at 3.7 percent, down from 3.9 percent in November and 4.0 percent one year ago. Fairfax County's December 2010 unemployment rate is 4.4 percent, down two-tenths of a percent from November and three-tenths of a percent from December 2009.

NATION

The nation's December 2010 unemployment rate was 9.4 percent—down four-tenths of a percent from November 2010. The number of unemployed persons in the nation decreased by 634,000, from 15.12 million unemployed persons in November to 14.49 million in December.

The nation's December unemployment rate was at its lowest in more than a year. The last time the nation had 9.4 percent unemployment was July 2009.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, 2007 - 2010



UNEMPLOYMENT TRENDS

	Dec-07		Dec-08		Dec-09		Dec-10	
	rate	persons	rate	persons	rate	persons	rate	persons
Montgomery County, MD	2.5%	12,803	4.0%	20,318	5.3%	26,970	5.2%	26,399
Washington, D.C. Metro Area	2.9%	88,435	4.6%	139,239	6.2%	186,786	5.7%	173,956
Washington, D.C.	5.4%	17,829	8.1%	26,820	11.9%	39,570	9.2%	30,211
Alexandria, VA	2.3%	2,105	3.5%	3,231	4.6%	4,345	4.4%	4,230
Arlington, VA	2.0%	2,693	3.1%	4,673	4.0%	5,542	3.7%	5,177
Fairfax County, VA	2.2%	13,074	3.4%	20,182	4.7%	27,833	4.4%	26,717
Howard County, MD	2.4%	3,851	3.8%	6,168	5.2%	8,033	5.1%	8,021
Prince George's County, MD	3.5%	15,764	5.4%	24,636	7.0%	31,050	7.0%	31,385
Maryland	3.5%	107,337	5.8%	173,993	7.4%	217,291	7.4%	219,009
United States	5.0%	7,696,000	7.4%	11,400,000	10.0%	15,267,000	9.4%	14,485,000

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

