

2011

District of Columbia Economic Report

Department of Employment Services
Office of Labor Market Research and Information

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1. Introduction

The 2011 District of Columbia Annual Economic Report provides a detailed description of the demographic, labor-market, and economic situation in the District of Columbia in 2011. We start by discussing the demographics of the District's population in terms of its racial, age, and gender composition. We also provide data on education and income of the District's residents. We then proceed to the analysis of the District's labor market, focusing on three main outcomes: the unemployment rate, the labor force participation rate, and the employment rate. We study how these outcomes vary among the District's demographic groups and over time. Next, we move to the analysis of jobs available in the District. We describe the general employment trends in the District and analyze the patterns of employment and wages by major industry sector. In addition, we present data on size and number of the District's establishments and list the District's 20 largest private-sector employers. We conclude the report by looking at the District's occupational employment statistics and discussing the patterns of employment and wages by major occupational group.

In addition to presenting the most current data on the outcomes of interest, we also attempt to analyze recent historical trends going back to the beginning of this millennium (i.e., circa year 2000) or even earlier. This is because we believe that looking at the past can help us better understand the present. Furthermore, we try as much as possible to compare the current outcomes and the dynamic trends in the District of Columbia to those observed in the United States as a whole. This comparison allows us to see the commonalities and the peculiarities of the District's economic situation.

The Department of Employment Services (DOES) submits this report in fulfillment of its commitment to providing past year as well as current information. It was prepared in accordance with guidelines from the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration (ETA), the Program Year 2011 Workforce Information Grant to aid District of Columbia policy makers, the District of Columbia Workforce Investment Council, and DOES program managers and administrators of workforce development programs.

2. Highlights

- Between 2000 and 2011, the District's population grew by 8 percent, compared to the national population growth of 10.7 percent.
- In 2011, African Americans were the largest racial group in the District, representing 50.7 percent of its population. However, since 2000 the District's population of African Americans has declined by 10 percent (from 349,409 to 313,106).
- In 2011, when compared to the nation, the District had a much smaller proportion of its population under the age of 15 (14.4 percent versus 19.6 percent) and above the age of 55 (22.2 percent versus 25.5 percent).
- In 2011, women represented 52.7 percent of the District's population as compared to 50.8 percent nationally.
- In 2010, educational attainment among the District's residents was above the national average with a majority of the gap occurring over the past decade: 87.4 percent of the District's residents 25 years and over were high school graduates, and 50.1 percent held a college degree, compared to the national averages of 85.6 percent and 26.2 percent, respectively. Much of this educational gap has developed since the year 2000.
- The District's residents were wealthier than the national average. In 2009, the per capita income in the District was \$41,240, compared to \$26,059 nationally. Similarly, the median household income in the District was \$60,903, compared to \$50,046 nationally.
- Between 2000 and 2011, the District's unemployment rate remained above the national rate. In 2011, the annual average unemployment rates in the District and the U.S. were 10.4 percent and 8.9 percent, respectively.
- In 2011, the labor force participation rate in the District was higher than the national rate (67.7 percent versus 64.1 percent). The District also had a higher employment rate (60.7 percent versus 58.4. percent nationally).
- In 2011, the District's African American residents had the highest unemployment rate (19.2 percent) as well as the lowest labor force participation and employment rates 55.7 percent and 45 percent, respectively.

- In recent years, the District's African American–White labor market outcomes gap has widened.
- Comparable to national patterns, the District's rate of labor force participation in 2011 was higher for men than for women (73.3 percent versus 63 percent). The District's employment rate was also higher for men than for women (63.9 percent versus 53.2 percent).
- In 2011, District residents ages 16 to 19 years had an extremely high unemployment rate of 46.7 percent with more than half (50.7 percent) of the African American teens being unemployed.
- In 2011, 22 percent of the District's residents 65 years and over continued working as opposed to only 16.7 percent nationally.
- The total number of jobs in the District grew from 650,300 in 2000 to 727,800 in 2011, for a growth rate of 11.9 percent. Over the same period, the number of jobs in the United States declined by 0.3 percent. In 2011 alone, the number of jobs in the District grew by 2.2 percent, the fastest annual growth since 2000.
- Between 2000 and 2011, the District's annual rates of job growth were less volatile than the corresponding national rates, being relatively high during the national recessions and relatively low when the national economy was booming. The District's ability to mitigate the impact of the national business cycles on its employment was due to the District's large government sector and this sector's countercyclical employment tendencies.
- Education and health services (with the growth rate of 31.8 percent) and leisure and hospitality (28.5 percent) were the two private-sector industries that experienced the fastest employment growth in the District since 2000. Manufacturing and information saw a particularly fast decline in the number of jobs by 73 percent and 27.1 percent, respectively.
- The list of the District's 20 largest private-sector employers in the fourth quarter of 2011 included seven hospitals and six universities. George Washington University, Georgetown University, and Washington Hospital Center topped the list.

- In 2011, the average weekly wage in the District was 70 percent higher than the national average weekly wage (\$1,568 versus \$924). The District's public sector workers earned more than the District's private sector employees: \$1,815 per week versus \$1,436 per week.
- Between 2003 and 2011, the (nominal) wages in the District grew by 34.9 percent, as compared to the growth of only 27.3 percent nationally. The District experienced the highest rates of wage growth in manufacturing (60.5 percent) and professional and business services (42.4 percent).
- In 2011, business and financial operations, office and administrative support, and management were the three largest occupational groups in the District, representing 14.8 percent, 13.6 percent, and 12.9 percent, respectively.
- Between 2000 and 2011, the District's recorded substantial employment growth in business and financial operations (67.1 percent), healthcare support (49.4 percent), and computer and mathematical occupations (48.1 percent). While over the same period, production and office and administrative support recorded the largest decline, 40.5 percent and 36.6 percent, respectively.
- In 2011, District workers, regardless of occupation, earned higher annual wages than the national average. Legal and management occupations paid especially high wages in the District, with the median annual wages of \$135,680 and \$122,890, respectively.

3. Population demographics

3.1. General population trends

Table 1 presents historical population trends in the District of Columbia since 1800. It shows that the District’s population reached its peak in 1950, when it stood at 802,178 people. Since, the 1950s, the city experienced a five-decade population decline, losing more than 230,000 people (or 29 percent) by the year 2000. This trend was reversed in 2010 when the 2010 Decennial census reported that, between 2000 and 2010, the city’s population increased by 5.2 percent, reaching 601,723 people in April 2010. Between 2010 and 2011, the District’s population continued to grow, increasing by 2.2 percent in a single year and reaching 617,996 people in July 2011.

Table 1: Historical population trends in District of Columbia, 1800-2011

Census	Population	Percent Change			
1800	8,144	****			
1810	15,471	90.0%			
1820	23,336	50.8%			
1830	30,261	29.7%			
1840	33,745	11.5%			
1850	51,687	53.2%			
1860	75,080	45.3%			
1870	131,700	75.4%			
1880	177,624	34.9%			
1890	230,392	29.7%			
1900	278,718	21.0%			
1910	331,069	18.8%			
1920	437,571	32.2%			
1930	486,869	11.3%			
1940	663,091	36.2%			
1950	802,178	21.0%			
1960	763,956	-4.8%			
1970	756,510	-1.0%			
1980	638,333	-15.6%			
1990	606,900	-4.9%			
			Survey Estimates	Population	Percent Change
2000	572,086	-5.7%	July 1, 2010	604,912	****
2010	601,723	5.2%	July 1, 2011	617,996	2.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division

Although the recent population growth in the District was reasonably fast, it was still slower than the population growth in the United States as a whole. Table 2 shows that, between 2000 and

2011, the District’s population grew by 8 percent, while the national rate of population growth at the same time period was 10.7 percent.

Table 2: Population growth in District of Columbia and the United States, 2000-2011

Area	Population		Percent Change 2000-2011
	2000	2011	
District of Columbia	572,086	617,996	8.0%
United States	281,424,600	311,591,917	10.7%
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division			

3.2. Population by race and ethnicity

Table 3 shows that, in 2011, African Americans were the largest ethnic group in the District: with a population of 313,106, which represented 50.7 percent of the city’s population. African Americans were followed by Whites with 262,304 people (or 42.4 percent), Asians with 23,041 people (or 3.7 percent) and all other races with 19,545 people (or 3.2 percent). The District’s population of Hispanics (who can be of any race) stood at 58,744 (or 9.5 percent of the city’s total).

Table 3 also shows that the racial and ethnic composition of the District is very different than that of the nation. For example, in 2011, the percent of African Americans (13.1 percent) was much smaller and the percent of Whites (78.1 percent) was much larger nationally than in the District. The percent of Hispanics and Asians was also larger in the United States (16.7 percent and 5 percent respectively) than it was in the District.

It is also interesting to look at recent changes in racial and ethnic composition of the District’s population and compare them to the corresponding national trends. Table 3 indicates that between 2000 and 2011 the District’s population of African Americans declined both in absolute terms (from 349,409 to 313,106, or by 10.4 percent) and as percent of the city’s total population (from 61.1 to 50.7 percent). This trend contrasts what happened nationally, where the African American population increased by 14.1 percent in absolute terms and from 12.7 to 13.1 percent as proportion of the country’s population.

The size of all the other racial or ethnic groups in the District increased between 2000 and 2011. The number of Whites and members of Other Races in the District has increased by 33 percent and 100.7 percent, respectively, which is much faster than the corresponding national increases of 6.7 percent and 67.9 percent. In contrast, the growth of the District’s Asian and, especially, Hispanic population was somewhat slower than the growth of these groups nationally: 46.2 percent versus 47.1 percent growth rate for the Asians and 30.7 percent versus 47.4 percent growth rate for the Hispanics.

Table 3: Population by race and ethnicity in District of Columbia and the United States, 2000-2011

<i>District of Columbia</i>						
Race or ethnicity	Population		Percent Change 2000-2011	Percent of Population		Net Change 2000-2011
	2000	2011		2000	2011	
<i>Total All Races</i>	572,086	617,996	8.0%	100	100	****
White	197,177	262,304	33.0%	34.5	42.4	8.0
Black	349,409	313,106	-10.4%	61.1	50.7	-10.4
Asian	15,760	23,041	46.2%	2.8	3.7	1.0
Other Races*	9,740	19,545	100.7%	1.7	3.2	1.5
Hispanic (of any race)	44,954	58,744	30.7%	7.9	9.5	1.6
<i>United States</i>						
Race or ethnicity	Population		Percent Change 2000-2011	Percent of Population		Net Change 2000-2011
	2000	2011		2000	2011	
<i>Total All Races</i>	281,424,600	311,591,917	10.7%	100	100	****
White	228,106,498	243,470,497	6.7%	81.1	78.1	-2.9
Black	35,704,871	40,750,746	14.1%	12.7	13.1	0.4
Asian	10,589,122	15,578,383	47.1%	3.8	5.0	1.2
Other Races*	7,024,109	11,792,291	67.9%	2.5	3.8	1.3
Hispanic (of any race)	35,306,376	52,045,277	47.4%	12.5	16.7	4.2
*Other Races include American Indian and Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander, and two or more races.						
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division						

3.3. Population by age and gender

Table 4 shows that, in 2011, the District had a much smaller proportion of children under the age of 15 than the nation (14.4 percent versus 19.6 percent of the population). At the same time, the District also had a smaller proportion of people at or near retirement: people above the age of 55 accounted for 22.2 percent of the District’s population as opposed to 25.5 percent nationally. In contrast, as compared to the nation, the District had a larger share of young people (15 to 24 years old) and people of prime working age (25 to 54 years old). In particular, people 15 to 24

years old accounted for 16.3 percent of the District’s population as opposed to 14.1 percent nationally, while people 25 to 54 years old accounted for 47.2 percent of the District’s population as opposed to only 40.8 percent nationally.

Table 4 also shows that between 2000 and 2011, the District experienced a 9.3 percent decline in the number of children under the age of 15. This trend was rather unique to the District, as in the same time period the number of children nationally actually increased by 1.6 percent. In contrast, the large increase in the number of District’s residents of pre-retirement age (55 to 64 years old), which grew by 34.1 percent, largely reflected the national trend of the aging baby-boomers. In fact, in the United States as a whole, the number of people between 55 and 64 years of age grew even faster (by 56.8 percent) than it did in the District. Another interesting feature of the data is the relatively fast (19.6. percent) growth of the District’s population between 25 and 39 years of age, as opposed to the 1.9 percent decline of this group’s population nationally.

Table 4: Population by age in District of Columbia and the United States, 2000-2011

<i>District of Columbia</i>						
Age	Population		Percent Change	Percent of Population		Net Change
	2000	2011	2000-2011	2000	2011	2000-2011
<i>Total All Ages</i>	572,086	617,996	8.0%	100	100	****
Under 15 years	97,941	88,849	-9.3%	17.1	14.4	-2.7
15 to 24 years	89,697	100,700	12.3%	15.7	16.3	0.6
25 to 39 years	147,714	176,662	19.6%	25.8	28.6	2.8
40 to 54 years	117,040	114,854	-1.9%	20.5	18.6	-1.9
55 to 64 years	49,793	66,752	34.1%	8.7	10.8	2.1
65 years and over	69,901	70,179	0.4%	12.2	11.4	-0.9
<i>United States</i>						
Age	Population		Percent Change	Percent of Population		Net Change
	2000	2011	2000-2011	2000	2011	2000-2011
<i>Total All Ages</i>	281,424,600	311,591,917	10.7%	100	100	****
Under 15 years	60,254,434	61,201,106	1.6%	21.4	19.6	-1.8
15 to 24 years	39,181,746	43,797,875	11.8%	13.9	14.1	0.1
25 to 39 years	62,600,249	61,384,807	-1.9%	22.2	19.7	-2.5
40 to 54 years	60,120,977	65,751,848	9.4%	21.4	21.1	-0.3
55 to 64 years	24,275,000	38,062,140	56.8%	8.6	12.2	3.6
65 years and over	34,992,194	41,394,141	18.3%	12.4	13.3	0.9
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division						

Table 5 reports that, in 2011, the District had a slightly larger share of female residents (52.7 percent) than the country as a whole (50.8. percent). These shares have only changed slightly since 2000, increasing by only 2 percentage points.

Table 5: Gender composition of population in District of Columbia and the United States, 2000-2011

Area	Percent Women	
	2000	2011
District of Columbia	52.9%	52.7%
United States	50.9%	50.8%
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division		

3.4. Population by education and income

Table 6 indicates that, in 2010, the District had a more highly educated population than the nation as a whole. The difference in percent of college graduates was particularly large: 50.1 percent of the District’s population 25 years and over had a college degree, compared to only 26.2 percent for the nation. Also, the District had a slightly larger proportion of high school graduates: 87.4 percent for the District, compared to 85.6 percent for the nation.

Table 6 suggests that much of the educational gap between the District and the nation has developed over the last decade. Since 2000, the percent of District’s residents with a college degree has increased by 11 percentage points, compared to an increase of only 1.8 percentage points nationally. As for the percent of high school graduates, in 2000 it was actually lower in the District than it was in the nation (77.8 percent versus 80.4 percent). But the large 9.6 percentage-point increase between 2000 and 2010 has allowed the District to jump ahead of the nation in this measure of educational attainment.

Table 6: Educational attainment of population 25 years and over in District of Columbia and the United States, 2000-2010

Area	Percent High School Graduates Net Change			Percent College Graduates Net Change		
	2000	2010	2000-2010	2000	2010	2000-2010
District of Columbia	77.8	87.4	9.6	39.1	50.1	11.0
United States	80.4	85.6	5.2	24.4	26.2	1.8
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 and American Community Survey 2010						

Given their better education, it is probably not surprising that the District’s residents also have, on average, higher levels of income when compared to the national average. Indeed, Table 7 reports that, in 2009, the per capita income in the District was \$41,240, compared to only \$26,059 nationally. Similarly, the median household income in the District was \$60,903 as opposed to only \$50,046 nationally.

Table 7: Income in District of Columbia and the United States, 1999-2009

Area	Median Household Income			Per Capita Income		
	1999	2009	Percent Change 1999-2009	1999	2009	Percent Change 1999-2009
District of Columbia	40,127	60,903	51.8%	28,659	41,240	43.9%
United States	41,994	50,046	19.2%	21,587	26,059	20.7%
Note: Income is in nominal dollars.						
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 and American Community Survey 2010						

Interestingly, like the educational gap discussed above, the income gap between the District and the nation has also mainly materialized over the last 10 years. In fact, between 1999 and 2009, the (nominal) per capita income in the District grew by 43.9 percent, but only by 20.7 percent nationally. Over the same time period, the (nominal) median household income in the District increased by 51.8 percent, compared to the 19.2 percent increase nationally.

Yet, good education is only one factor that explains the District’s relatively high levels of income. In addition, even workers with the same education tend to earn more in the District than their counterparts do nationally. Table 8 shows that this is true for every educational category for people 25 years and over when measured by median earnings. For example, in 2009 the District’s residents without a high-school diploma earned 21 percent more than their counterparts nationally (\$22,249 versus \$18,413). Likewise, DC residents with a bachelor’s degree earned 20 percent more (\$56,869 versus \$47,422), and those with graduate or professional degree earned 24 percent more (\$77,482 versus \$62,618) than people with the same level of education nationally.¹

¹ It is well known that workers in the cities tend to earn more than workers in the rural areas, even controlling for their education and other demographic characteristics. High earnings in the District, as compared to the nation, conform to this general pattern.

Table 8: Median earnings for population 25 years and over with earnings by educational attainment in District of Columbia and the United States, 2009

Educational Attainment	Median Earnings		DC - US
	DC	US	Percent Difference
<i>All people 25 years and over with earnings</i>	49,512	33,298	49%
Less than high school graduate	22,249	18,413	21%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	31,309	26,349	19%
Some college or associate's degree	35,530	31,928	11%
Bachelor's degree	56,869	47,422	20%
Graduate or professional degree	77,482	62,618	24%
Note: Earnings are in 2010 dollars.			
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2010			

In addition to its relatively high average level of income, the District is also characterized by high income inequality. Table 9 shows that while the District had a much larger percent of households with income above \$100,000 (30.5 percent versus 19.9 percent); it also had a larger percent of households with income below \$15,000 (15.9 percent versus 13.4 percent).

Table 9: Income distribution in District of Columbia and the United States, 2009

Household Income	Percent of Households	
	DC	US
Less than \$10,000	10.4%	7.6%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	5.5%	5.8%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	8.1%	11.5%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	7.7%	10.8%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	10.5%	14.2%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	15.7%	18.3%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	11.5%	11.8%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	13.1%	11.8%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	7.1%	4.2%
\$200,000 or more	10.3%	3.9%
Note: Income is in 2010 dollars.		
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2010		

4. Labor market analysis

This section focuses on three labor market outcomes: the unemployment rate, the labor force participation rate, and the employment rate. The unemployment rate measures the number of unemployed (i.e., people who look for work but cannot find a job) expressed as a percent of the labor force (i.e., people who either work or look for work). Thus, the unemployment rate indicates how difficult it is for someone who is looking for work to find a job. The labor force participation rate measures the number of people in the labor force expressed as a percent of population. Thus, the labor force participation rate measures the willingness of people to look for work. The employment rate measures the number of people who work as a percent of population.² It is a labor market outcome which is most directly related to the number of jobs held by the area's residents. Notice that the employment rate is strongly influenced by the other two labor market outcomes and combines information from both of them. Specifically, the employment rate will be high when the labor force participation rate is high and/or when the unemployment rate is low (i.e., when many people look for work and/or when they can find a job more easily).

4.1. General labor market trends

Table 10 shows that, in 2011, the District's civilian, non-institutional population 16 years and over was 506,000: 342,000 were in the labor force, making the District's labor force participation rate equal to 67.7 percent; 307,000 of the District's residents were employed, while 36,000 were unemployed. As a result, the District's unemployment rate was 10.4 percent, while the District's employment rate stood at 60.7 percent.³

² All three labor market outcomes are typically defined for civilian, non-institutional population 16 years and over.

³ The District's labor force, employment, and unemployment numbers in Table 10 are based on the Current Population Survey conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). They may be slightly different from the official numbers provided by the Local Area Unemployment Statistics program of the BLS. In particular, the District's official unemployment rate in 2011 was 10.2 percent. This is the number used in Figure 1 and the related discussion below.

Table 10: Employment status of the civilian non-institutional population in District of Columbia and the United States, 2011 annual averages

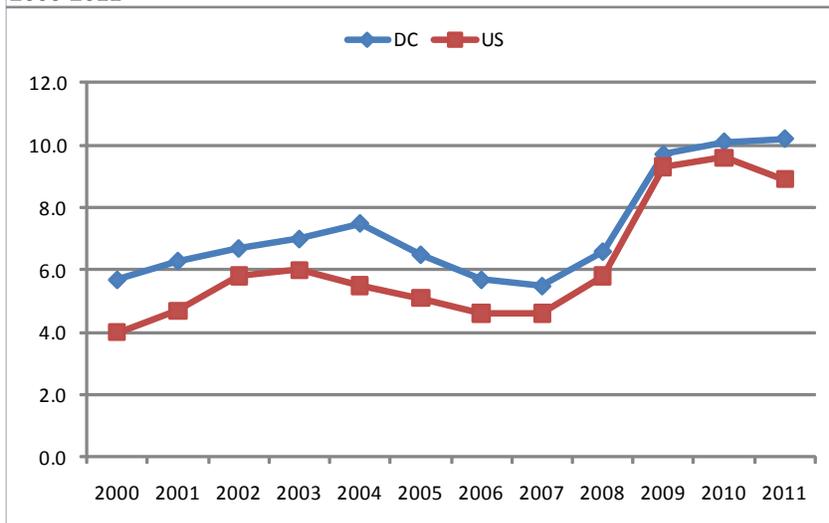
Area	Civilian Non-Institutional Population	Civilian Labor Force		Employment		Unemployment	
		Number	Percent of Population	Number	Percent of Population	Number	Rate
District of Columbia	506,000	342,000	67.7	307,000	60.7	36,000	10.4
United States	239,618,000	153,617,000	64.1	139,869,000	58.4	13,747,000	8.9

Note: Data is for population 16 years and over.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey

Table 10 indicates that in 2011 the District’s unemployment rate was above the national unemployment rate (10.4 percent versus 8.9 percent). However, the labor force participation rate in the District was also higher than in the United States as a whole (67.7 percent versus 64.1 percent). As a result of its stronger labor force participation, the District had a higher employment rate: 60.7 percent of the District’s residents of working age were employed as opposed to only 58.4 percent nationally.

Figures 1, 2, and 3 display the evolution of the unemployment rate, the labor force participation rate, and the employment rate in the District of Columbia and the United States between 2000 and 2011. Figure 1 shows that the District’s unemployment rate rose from 5.7 percent in 2000 to 7.5 percent in 2004. It then fell to 5.5 percent in 2007, before rising again to 10.2 percent in 2011. The District’s unemployment rate in 2011 was the highest since 1983 (when it was 11 percent).

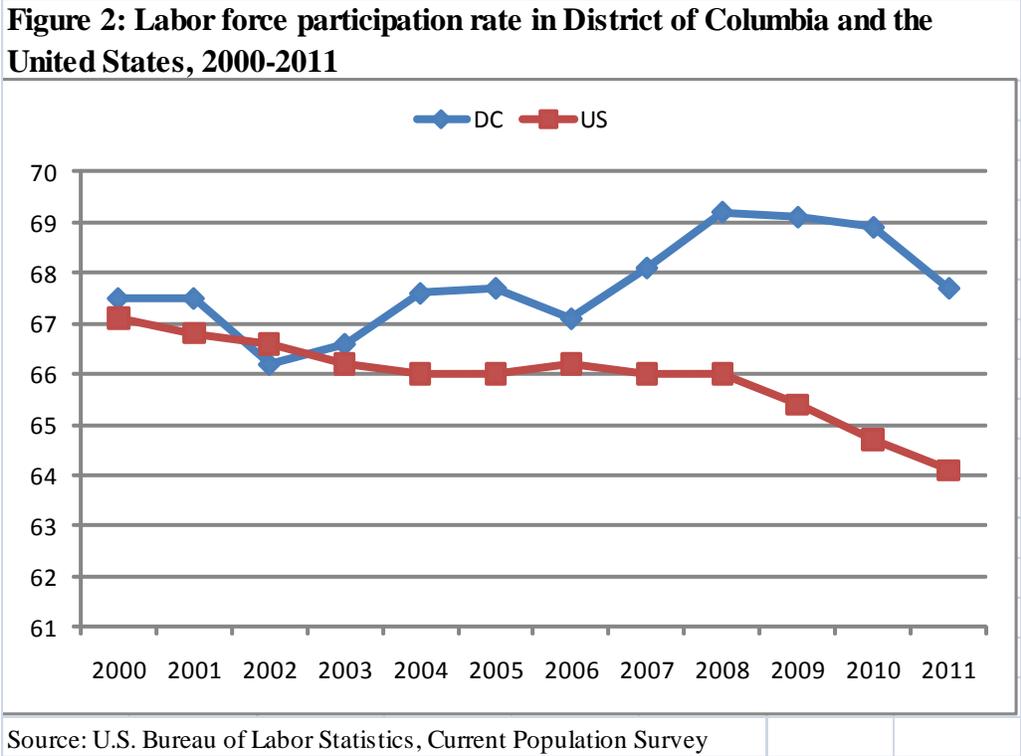
Figure 1: Unemployment rate in District of Columbia and the United States, 2000-2011



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey

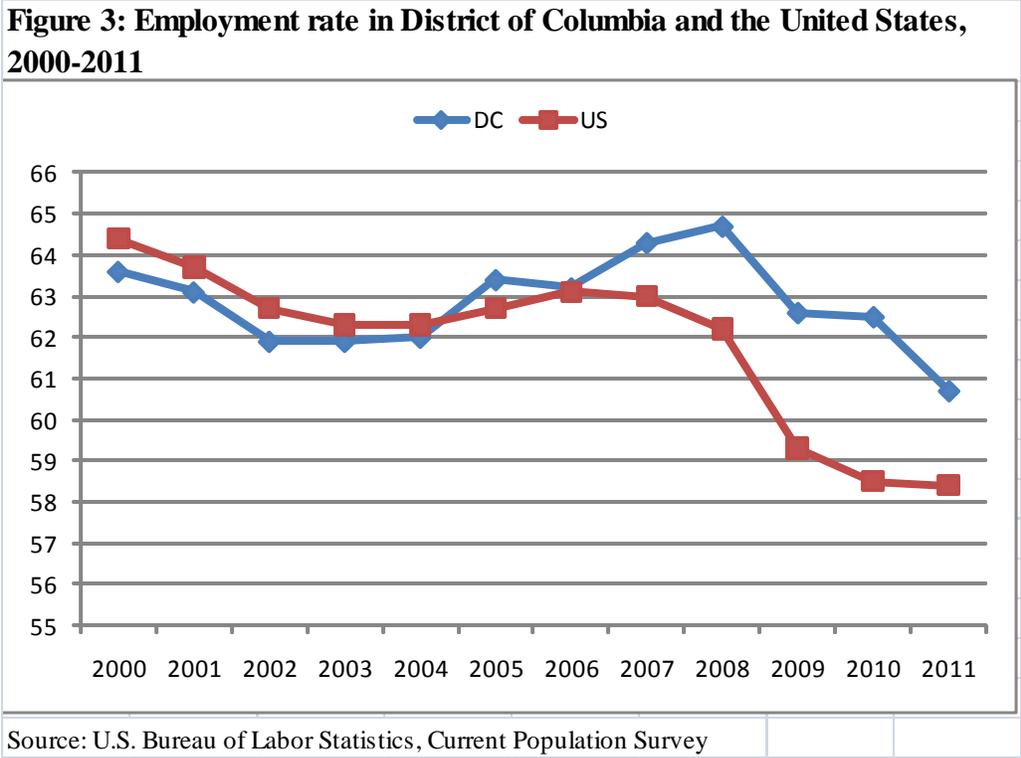
Figure 1 also shows that between 2000 and 2011 changes in the District’s unemployment rate largely mirrored changes in the national unemployment. Throughout the entire period, the District’s unemployment rate stayed above the national rate with the difference between the two rates varying from 2 percentage points in 2004 to only 0.4 percentage points in 2009.⁴ In 2011, this difference stood at 1.3 percentage points (10.2 percent in the District versus 8.9 percent in the United States) which could be considered quite typical.

Figure 2 shows that the District’s labor force participation rate ranged from 66 percent to 68 percent between 2000 and 2006. It then sharply increased to 69.2 percent in 2008, before falling back to 67.7 percent in 2011. At the same time, the national labor force participation rate constantly declined from 67.1 percent in 2000 to 64.1 percent in 2011. As a result of these trends, the District’s labor force participation rate, which was quite similar to the national rate in the early 2000s, has become 3 to 4 percentage points higher than the national rate in the recent years.



⁴ 1989 was the last year in which the unemployment rate in the District was lower than in the nation as a whole (5.1 percent in the District versus 5.3 percent nationwide).

Figure 3 shows that the District’s employment rate fell from 63.6 percent in 2000 to 61.9 percent in 2003. It then rose to 64.7 percent in 2008 before sharply falling to 60.7 percent in 2011. The recent drop in the District’s employment rate can be explained by the combination of rising unemployment and falling labor force participation as discussed above. The national employment rate gradually declined from 64.4 percent in 2000 to 58.4 percent in 2011. As a result, the District’s employment rate, which was about 0.5 percentage points lower than the national rate in the early 2000s, has become 2 to 4 percentage points higher than the national rate in the recent years.



4.2. Labor market outcomes by race and ethnicity

Table 11 reports that, in 2011, African American residents of the District had a much higher unemployment rate (19.2 percent) than either White (4.1 percent) or the Hispanic (7.3 percent) residents. While the District’s African American unemployment rate was larger than the rate nationally (which stood at 15.8 percent), the District’s unemployment rates for Whites and Hispanics were actually lower than the corresponding national rates (7.9 percent and 11.5 percent respectively). Thus, from the race and ethnicity perspective, the District’s relatively high

overall unemployment rate was driven entirely by high unemployment among its African American residents.

Table 11: Employment status of the civilian non-institutional population by race or ethnicity in District of Columbia and the United States, 2000-2011

<i>District of Columbia</i>									
Race or Ethnicity	Unemployment Rate			Labor Force Participation Rate			Employment Rate		
	2000	2011	Net Change 2000-2011	2000	2011	Net Change 2000-2011	2000	2011	Net Change 2000-2011
<i>Total All Races</i>	5.8	10.4	4.6	67.5	67.7	0.2	63.6	60.7	-2.9
White	2.5	4.1	1.6	77	80.8	3.8	75.1	77.5	2.4
Black	8.3	19.2	10.9	61.6	55.7	-5.9	56.5	45	-11.5
Hispanic (of any race)	3.6	7.3	3.7	78.9	77.3	-1.6	76	71.6	-4.4
<i>United States</i>									
Race or Ethnicity	Unemployment Rate			Labor Force Participation Rate			Employment Rate		
	2000	2011	Net Change 2000-2011	2000	2011	Net Change 2000-2011	2000	2011	Net Change 2000-2011
<i>Total All Races</i>	4.0	8.9	4.9	67.1	64.1	-3.0	64.4	58.4	-6.0
White	3.5	7.9	4.4	67.3	64.5	-2.8	64.9	59.4	-5.5
Black	7.6	15.8	8.2	65.8	61.4	-4.4	60.9	51.7	-9.2
Hispanic (of any race)	5.7	11.5	5.8	69.7	66.5	-3.2	65.7	58.9	-6.8
Note: Unemployment rate is expressed as percent of labor force. Labor force participation rate and employment rate are expressed as percent of population.									
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey									

Between 2000 and 2011, all ethnic/racial groups in the city experienced an increase in unemployment. However, the increase in unemployment was much larger among African Americans (10.9 percentage points) than it was among Whites (1.6 percentage points) or Hispanics (3.7 percentage points). African Americans have historically experienced higher level of unemployment than other racial/ethnic groups, and this unemployment gap has significantly widened in recent years.

Table 11 indicates that, in 2011, the labor force participation rate was much lower among the District's African American residents (55.7 percent) than it was among its White (80.8 percent) or Hispanic (77.3 percent) residents. The labor force participation of the District's African American residents was also lower than the rate of African American labor force participation

nationally (61.4 percent). In contrast, White and Hispanic labor force participation was significantly stronger in the District than in the United States as a whole (where it was 64.5 percent and 66.5 percent for Whites and Hispanics, respectively).

Between 2000 and 2011, the national labor force participation rates went down for all racial/ethnic groups. The labor force participation of the District's African American and Hispanic residents mirrored the national trends and declined by 5.9 and 1.6 percentage points, respectively. However, over the same time period, the labor force participation rate of the District's White residents has actually increased by 3.8 percentage points, as opposed to the 2.8 percentage point decline in the White labor force participation nationally.

4.3. Labor market outcomes by gender

Table 12 shows that, in 2011, the District's unemployment rate was somewhat higher for women than for men: 10.7 percent versus 10.1 percent, respectively. This contrasts to the pattern observed in the United States as a whole, where the unemployment was lower among women (8.5 percent) than it was among men (9.4 percent). Interestingly, both in the District and nation, the gender differences in unemployment have developed quite recently. In particular, the District's men and women had virtually the same unemployment rate (5.8 percent and 5.7 percent, respectively) in 2000, but, between 2000 and 2011, the growth in unemployment was faster for women than for men. The national rates of unemployment were also quite similar for men and women in 2000 (3.9 percent and 4.1 percent, respectively), with the nationwide growth in unemployment being faster for men than for women in the last decade.

Table 12: Employment status of the civilian non-institutional population by sex in District of Columbia and the United States, 2000-2011

<i>District of Columbia</i>									
Sex	Unemployment Rate			Labor Force Participation Rate			Employment Rate		
	2000	2011	Net Change 2000-2011	2000	2011	Net Change 2000-2011	2000	2011	Net Change 2000-2011
Men	5.8	10.1	4.3	70.8	73.3	2.5	66.6	65.9	-0.7
Women	5.7	10.7	5	64.7	63	-1.7	61	56.3	-4.7
<i>United States</i>									
Sex	Unemployment Rate			Labor Force Participation Rate			Employment Rate		
	2000	2011	Net Change 2000-2011	2000	2011	Net Change 2000-2011	2000	2011	Net Change 2000-2011
Men	3.9	9.4	5.5	74.8	70.5	-4.3	71.9	63.9	-8
Women	4.1	8.5	4.4	59.9	58.1	-1.8	57.5	53.2	-4.3
Note: Unemployment rate is expressed as percent of labor force. Labor force participation rate and employment rate are expressed as percent of population.									
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey									

In 2011, the District’s labor force participation rate was higher for men than for women (73.3 percent versus 63 percent), which was in line with the national pattern (70.5 percent versus 58.1 percent, respectively). For both genders, the labor force participation was stronger in the District than it was nationally. While the women’s rate of labor force participation was already higher in the District back in 2000 (64.7 percent for the District compared to 59.9 percent for the nation), the relatively strong labor force participation of the District’s men is a more recent phenomenon. In fact, in 2000 the men’s rate of labor force participation was lower in the District than it was nationwide (70.8 percent versus 74.8 percent, respectively), but its recent growth in the District coupled with its decline in the United States as a whole reversed the comparison.

Table 12 also reports that, in 2011, 65.9 percent of the District’s men of working age were employed, compared to 56.3 percent of the working-age women. Nationally, the employment rate was also higher for men than for women (63.9 percent versus 53.2 percent). For both genders, the employment rate was higher in the District than it was nationwide. Between 2000 and 2011, the women in the District experienced a similar decline in their employment rate as did the women elsewhere else in the country (by 4.7 and 4.3 percentage points, respectively). But

for men, the trends were quite different: a very small 0.7 percentage-point decline in the men's employment rate in the District versus a large 8 percentage-point decline nationally.

4.4. Labor market outcomes by age

Table 13 shows that, in 2011, the District's younger residents of 16 to 19 years of age had a particularly high unemployment rate of 46.7 percent. Although people of the same age group also had the highest national rate of unemployment, it was considerably lower than in the District and stood at 24.4 percent. In addition, older workers of 45 to 54 and 55 to 64 years of age had a significantly higher unemployment rate in the District (11.8 percent and 9.2 percent, respectively) than they did nationwide (7.1 percent and 6.6 percent). In contrast, for people of other ages, the District's rate of unemployment was quite similar to that in the United States as a whole.

Table 13: Employment status of the civilian non-institutional population by age in District of Columbia and the United States, 2000-2011

<i>District of Columbia</i>									
Age	Unemployment Rate		Net Change	Labor Force Participation Rate		Net Change	Employment Rate		Net Change
	2000	2011	2000-2011	2000	2011	2000-2011	2000	2011	2000-2011
<i>16 years and over</i>	5.8	10.4	4.6	67.5	67.7	0.2	63.6	60.7	-2.9
16 to 19 years	33.1	46.7	13.6	33.3	24.7	-8.6	22.3	13.3	-9
20 to 24 years	10	16.3	6.3	73	68.1	-4.9	65.7	56.9	-8.8
25 to 34 years	4.7	8.6	3.9	87	85.3	-1.7	82.9	78	-4.9
35 to 44 years	4.6	7.7	3.1	86.9	86.1	-0.8	82.9	79.5	-3.4
45 to 54 years	4.3	11.8	7.5	83.3	79.4	-3.9	79.7	70	-9.7
55 to 64 years	2.6	9.2	6.6	63.6	65	1.4	61.9	59	-2.9
65 years and over	NA	6.3	NA	14.7	23.5	8.8	14.3	22	7.7
<i>United States</i>									
Age	Unemployment Rate		Net Change	Labor Force Participation Rate		Net Change	Employment Rate		Net Change
	2000	2011	2000-2011	2000	2011	2000-2011	2000	2011	2000-2011
<i>16 years and over</i>	4.0	8.9	4.9	67.1	64.1	-3	64.4	58.4	-6
16 to 19 years	13.1	24.4	11.3	52.0	34.1	-17.9	45.2	25.8	-19.4
20 to 24 years	7.2	14.6	7.4	77.8	71.3	-6.5	72.2	60.8	-11.4
25 to 34 years	3.7	9.5	5.8	84.6	81.5	-3.1	81.5	73.8	-7.7
35 to 44 years	3.0	7.3	4.3	84.8	82.7	-2.1	82.2	76.6	-5.6
45 to 54 years	2.5	7.1	4.6	82.5	80.7	-1.8	80.5	75.0	-5.5
55 to 64 years	2.5	6.6	4.1	59.2	64.3	5.1	57.8	60.0	2.2
65 years and over	3.1	6.5	3.4	12.9	17.9	5	12.5	16.7	4.2
Note: Unemployment rate is expressed as percent of labor force. Labor force participation rate and employment rate are expressed as percent of population.									
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey									

While the general rise in unemployment that occurred between 2000 and 2011 has affected District's residents of all ages, the increase in unemployment was especially large (13.6 percentage points) among those aged 16 to 19. The increase in unemployment was much smaller for the District's residents aged 35 to 44 and 25 to 34 (3.1 and 3.9 percentage points, respectively). These patterns were similar to those observed nationally.

In 2011, the District's rates of labor force participation and employment were also the lowest among those aged 16 to 19 (24.7 percent for labor force participation and 13.3 percent for employment). Furthermore, they were lower than the corresponding labor force participation and national employment rate (34.1 percent and 25.8 percent, respectively). However, these numbers are somewhat difficult to interpret because they may indicate higher rates of school attendance of the District's teens rather than their weaker attachment to the labor force.

In 2011, The District's residents ages 25 to 34 and 35 to 44 had higher rates of labor force participation (85.3 percent and 86.1 percent) and employment (78 percent and 79.5 percent) than members of the same age groups nationwide (81.5 and 82.7 percent, respectively, for labor force participation; 73.8 percent and 76.6 percent, respectively, for employment). This was also the case for people 65 years and over, which suggests that the District's older workers were more willing to postpone retirement and continue working (or looking for work) than their counterparts elsewhere in the country. Specifically, 22 percent of the District's residents 65 years and over were employed in 2011 as opposed to only 16.7 percent nationally.

Given the extremely high unemployment rate of the District's residents of 16 to 19 years of age, it is interesting to look at their employment situation in more detail. Table 14 provides information on the District's teen unemployment rates in 2011 by race/ethnicity and gender. It also compares the unemployment rates in the District with those in the United States as a whole.

Table 14 shows that, in 2011, the District's African American teens had the highest unemployment rate, which stood at 50.7 percent. Although the national unemployment rate of African American teens was also high (41.3 percent), it was 9.4 percentage points lower than that in the District. In 2011 the District's unemployment rate among White teens was also

considerably higher than the corresponding rate nationwide: 28.1 percent for the District as compared to 21.7 percent for the nation. Hispanic teens in the District had a lower unemployment rate (26.2 percent) than their counterparts nationally (31.1 percent).

Table 14 further reports that, in 2011, teen unemployment was higher for women than for men (48.2 percent versus 45 percent). This contrasts with the pattern observed in the nation as a whole, where men had a significantly higher teen unemployment rate (27.2 percent) than women (21.7 percent).

Table 14: Unemployment rate for population 16 to 19 years old by race or ethnicity and sex in District of Columbia and the United States, 2011

Population Group	Unemployment Rate		DC - US Difference
	DC	US	
Total All Races, Both Sexes	46.7	24.4	22.3
White	28.1	21.7	6.4
Black	50.7	41.3	9.4
Hispanic (of any race)	26.2	31.1	-4.9
Men	45	27.2	17.8
Women	48.2	21.7	26.5

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey

4.5. Labor market outcomes by education

Table 15 indicates that the national unemployment rate tends to decrease with educational attainment (e.g., in 2003 or 2011). To a large extent, this was also true for the District in 2011, when the residents with a bachelor’s degree or higher had the unemployment rate of only 4.2 percent. They were followed by the residents with some college or an associate’s degree, whose unemployment rate was 12.3 percent. Surprisingly, however, the unemployment rate was highest among the District’s residents who finished high school but did not attend college (21.7 percent), rather than among those who did not even have a high school diploma (18.4. percent).

Looking at the 2011 numbers in Table 15, one may also notice that for people with a bachelor’s degree or higher, the unemployment rate in the District was very similar to that in the United States as a whole (4.2 percent versus 4.3 percent). In contrast, members of the other educational groups had higher unemployment in the District than nationwide, with the gap for the “high school graduates, no college” being particularly large (21.7 percent versus 9.4 percent).

Table 15: Employment status of the civilian non-institutional population 25 years and over by educational attainment in District of Columbia and the United States, 2003-2011

<i>District of Columbia</i>									
Educational attainment	Unemployment Rate			Labor Force Participation Rate			Employment Rate		
	2003	2011	Net Change 2003-2011	2003	2011	Net Change 2003-2011	2003	2011	Net Change 2003-2011
Less than a high school diploma	15.3	18.4	3.1	42.8	44.6	1.8	36.3	36.4	0.1
High school graduates, no college	8.5	21.7	13.2	60.6	54	-6.6	55.4	42.3	-13.1
Some college or associate's degree	8.4	12.3	3.9	68.6	65.5	-3.1	62.8	57.4	-5.4
Bachelor's degree and higher	3.4	4.2	0.8	80.4	82.4	2	77.7	78.9	1.2
<i>United States</i>									
Educational attainment	Unemployment Rate			Labor Force Participation Rate			Employment Rate		
	2003	2011	Net Change 2003-2011	2003	2011	Net Change 2003-2011	2003	2011	Net Change 2003-2011
Less than a high school diploma	8.8	14.1	5.3	44.9	46.2	1.3	41	39.7	-1.3
High school graduates, no college	5.5	9.4	3.9	63.8	60.3	-3.5	60.3	54.6	-5.7
Some college or associate's degree	4.8	8	3.2	72.8	69.4	-3.4	69.4	63.8	-5.6
Bachelor's degree and higher	3.1	4.3	1.2	78.2	76.4	-1.8	75.8	73.1	-2.7
Note: Unemployment rate is expressed as percent of labor force. Labor force participation rate and employment rate are expressed as percent of population.									
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey									

Between 2003 and 2011, members of all the educational groups in the District experienced some increase in unemployment. The increase was negligible for the residents with a bachelor’s degree or higher (0.8 percentage points), more significant for those with some college or an associate’s degree and those with less than high school diploma (3.9 and 3.1 percentage points, respectively), and very large for the residents with high school diploma but no college (13.2 percentage points).

The rate of labor force participation in the District tends to be higher for residents with more education. Table 15 shows that, in 2011, this rate was 44.6 percent for the residents with less

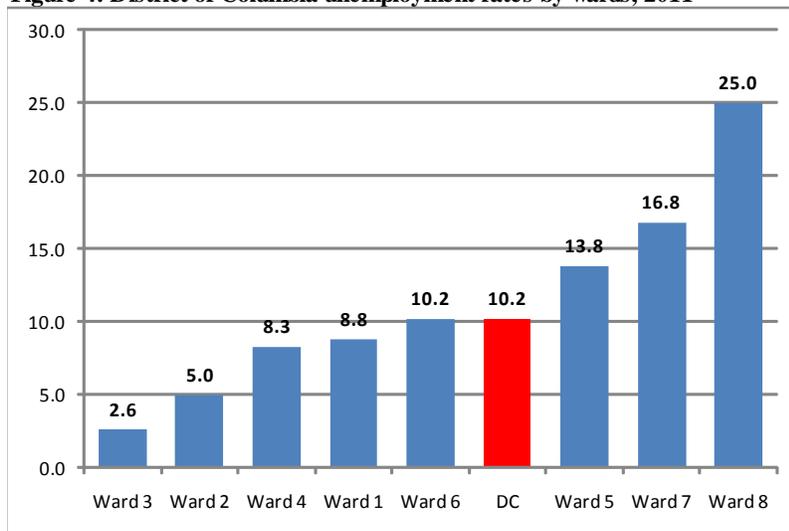
than a high school diploma, 54 percent for high school graduates with no college, 65.5 percent for the residents with some college or an associate's degree, and as high as 82.4 percent for the residents with a bachelor's degree or higher. For the first three educational groups, the rate of labor force participation was lower in the District than it was nationally. In contrast, the District's residents with at least a bachelor's degree had stronger labor force participation than their counterparts elsewhere in the country (82.4 percent versus 76.4 percent). Thus, college graduates are entirely responsible for the District's total rate of labor force participation being higher than the national average in recent years.

The patterns of employment rate (by educational attainment) observed in the District are similar to those for labor force participation. In 2011, the employment rate was lowest among the District's residents with less than high school diploma (36.4 percent), followed by the rate among the high school graduates with no college (42.3 percent). The employment rate was 57.4 percent among the residents with some college or an associate's degree and 78.9 percent among the residents with a bachelor's degree or higher. As in the case of labor force participation, the District's employment rate was higher than the national rate for college graduates (78.9 percent versus 73.1 percent) but was lower than the national rate for the three other educational groups.

4.6. Unemployment rates by Wards

In 2011, unemployment rates varied significantly across the District's Wards. Figure 4 shows that the areas east of the Anacostia River suffered from particularly high unemployment, with the unemployment rates of 25 percent and 16.8 percent in Wards 8 and 7, respectively. The unemployment rate in Ward 5 was also above the city's average and stood at 13.8 percent. On the other side of the spectrum, Ward 3 had the lowest unemployment in the city with the unemployment rate of 2.6 percent. It was followed by Ward 2 with the unemployment rate of 5 percent. Wards 4, 1, and 6 had the unemployment rates of 8.3 percent, 8.8 percent, and 10.2 percent, respectively.

Figure 4: District of Columbia unemployment rates by wards, 2011



Source: District of Columbia Department of Employment Services, Office of Labor Market Research & Information

5. Job market analysis

5.1. Non-farm payroll employment

Non-farm payroll employment measures the number of jobs in the city. It is an important indicator of a city's economic conditions. Table 16 presents historical trends in total non-farm employment in the District of Columbia since 1940 and compares them with the corresponding national trends.

Table 16 shows that, like the nation as a whole, the District saw a fast growth in employment during the 1940s (for the 10-year growth rate of 37 percent). However, between 1950 and 1990 the District's rate of job growth considerably declined, ranging between 0.9 percent and 13 percent per decade. In each of the four decades, the employment growth in the District was substantially slower than it was nationally (where it ranged between 19.9 percent and 30.8 percent per decade). The economic situation in the District became even worse during the 1990s, when its number of jobs decreased by 5.2 percent, while increasing by 20.4 percent in the United States as a whole. The District's weak employment growth in the second half of the 20th century may not be very surprising in light of the city's large population decline in the same time period (See Table 1 above and the related discussion).

Table 16: Historical trends in total non-farm employment in District of Columbia and the United States, 1940-2010

Year	Employment DC	Percent Change	
		DC	US
1940	362,900	****	****
1950	497,300	37.0%	39.7%
1960	501,600	0.9%	19.9%
1970	566,700	13.0%	30.8%
1980	616,100	8.7%	27.5%
1990	686,100	11.4%	20.9%
2000	650,300	-5.2%	20.4%
2011	727,800	11.9%	-0.3%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

Since the year 2000, the District’s economic situation has improved, with the number of jobs in the city growing by 11.9 percent, from 650,300 jobs in 2000 to 727,800 jobs in 2011. This rate of job growth was particularly impressive given that at the same time the nation experienced a 0.3 percent decline in employment.

Overall, between 1940 and 2011, the number of jobs in the District more than doubled, from 362,900 jobs in 1940 to 727,800 in 2011. At the same time, the District’s population fell from 663,091 in 1940 to 617,996 in 2011 (See Table 1). This suggests that, over time, a much larger share of the District’s jobs are being held by people who live in the suburbs and commute to work in the District.

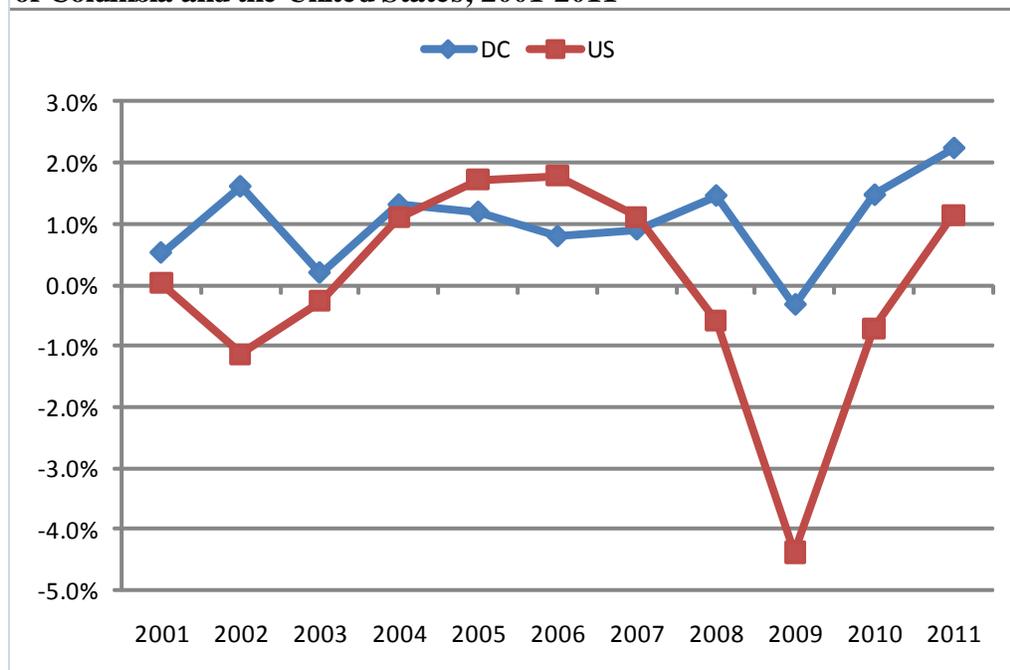
Table 17 and Figure 5 focus on the more recent past and provide a more detailed comparison of employment growth in the District of Columbia and the United States between 2000 and 2011. They show that, in 10 of the last 11 years, the District experienced a positive employment growth, with 2011 having the fastest rate of job growth (2.2 percent per year or a gain of 15,900 jobs). Only in 2009 did the number of jobs in the District decline (by 0.3 percent or for a loss of 2,300 jobs).

Table 17: Changes in total non-farm employment in District of Columbia and the United States, 2000-2011

Year	Employment	Annual Change	Annual Percent Change	
	DC	DC	DC	US
2000	650,300	****	****	****
2001	653,700	3,400	0.5%	0.03%
2002	664,200	10,500	1.6%	-1.1%
2003	665,500	1,300	0.2%	-0.3%
2004	674,200	8,700	1.3%	1.1%
2005	682,200	8,000	1.2%	1.7%
2006	687,600	5,400	0.8%	1.8%
2007	693,800	6,200	0.9%	1.1%
2008	703,900	10,100	1.5%	-0.6%
2009	701,600	-2,300	-0.3%	-4.4%
2010	711,900	10,300	1.5%	-0.7%
2011	727,800	15,900	2.2%	1.1%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

Figure 5: Annual percent changes in total non-farm employment in District of Columbia and the United States, 2001-2011



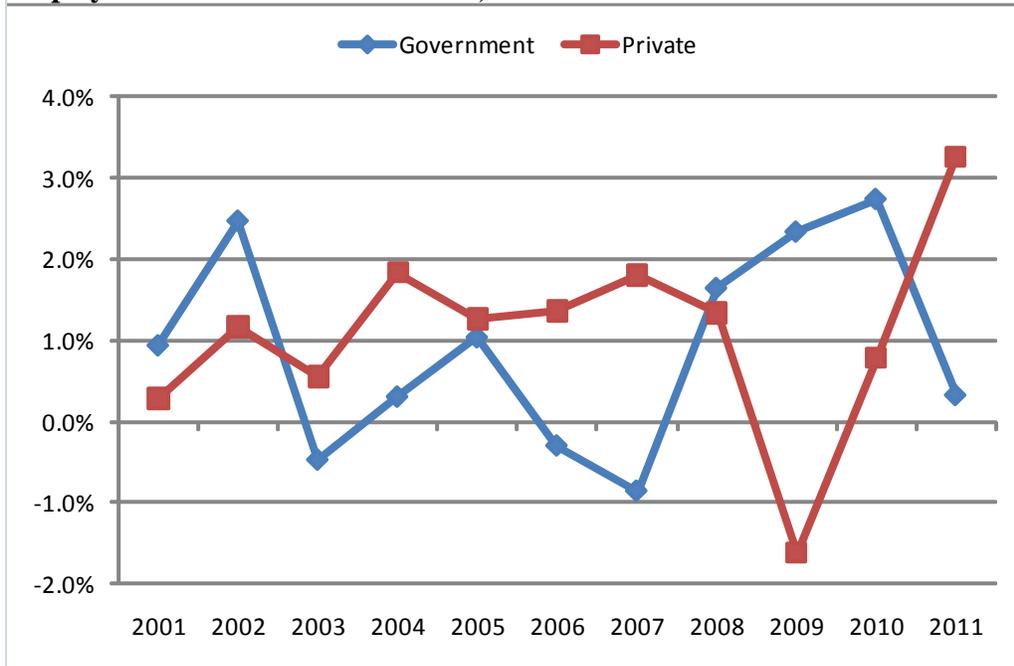
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

Table 17 and Figure 5 show that in eight of the last 11 years (from 2001 to 2004 and from 2008 to 2011), the annual rate of job growth in the District was higher than it was nationwide. The difference between the two rates was particularly large in 2002 and 2009, the years of national recessionary troughs. In contrast, the employment in the District grew slower than in the United States between 2005 and 2007, when the national economy was booming. Thus, it appears that the District was able to mitigate the effects of the national business cycles, successfully withstanding the recessions but having somewhat slower expansions during the booms. Another way to see this is by observing that in Figure 5 the District's annual rates of employment growth exhibit much less volatility than their national counterparts. Indeed, between 2000 and 2011, the standard deviation of the annual rates of employment growth was 0.7 percentage points for the District, while being 1.8 percentage points for the United States as a whole.

Figure 6 provides an explanation for the District's ability to lessen the impact of the national business cycles on its employment. It shows that while the annual changes in the District's private employment mirror the national employment trends, the changes in the District's government employment tend to be countercyclical. Thus, when the national employment growth (or the District's own growth in private employment) was weak, the District's growth in government employment was strong (e.g., in 2002 or 2009) and vice versa, when the national employment growth was relatively strong, the District's growth in government employment was weaker (from 2003 to 2007).⁵ These patterns suggest that the existence of a large government sector with its countercyclical employment tendencies was essential in helping the District to withstand the recent recessions.

⁵ Quantitatively, the District's annual changes in government employment had a correlation of -0.45 with the District's changes in private employment and a correlation of -0.66 with the national changes in total non-farm employment.

Figure 6: Annual percent changes in total government and total private employment in District of Columbia, 2001-2011



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

5.2. Employment by major industry sector

Table 18 shows the decomposition of employment by major industry sector for the District of Columbia and the United States. Not surprisingly, in 2011 the District had a larger share of government employment than the country as a whole: 34 percent of all the District’s jobs were in the government compared to 16.8 percent nationally. More interestingly, while the District had a much larger share of jobs in the federal government (29.2 percent for the District versus 2.2 percent nationally), it actually had a significantly smaller share of jobs in state and local government (4.8 percent for the District versus 14.7 percent nationally).

Table 18: Employment by major industry sector in District of Columbia and the United States, 2000-2011

<i>District of Columbia</i>						
Industry	Employment		Percent Change	Percent of Total Non-Farm		Net Change
	2000	2011	2000-2011	2000	2011	2000-2011
<i>Total Non-Farm</i>	650,300	727,800	11.9%	100	100	****
<i>Total Private</i>	426,300	480,200	12.6%	65.6	66.0	0.4
Mining, Logging & Construction	11,300	12,000	6.2%	1.7	1.6	-0.1
Manufacturing	3,700	1,000	-73.0%	0.6	0.1	-0.4
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	29,600	27,200	-8.1%	4.6	3.7	-0.8
Information	25,500	18,600	-27.1%	3.9	2.6	-1.4
Financial Activities	30,000	26,800	-10.7%	4.6	3.7	-0.9
Professional & Business Services	133,800	150,100	12.2%	20.6	20.6	0
Education & Health Services	87,400	115,200	31.8%	13.4	15.8	2.4
Leisure & Hospitality	48,100	61,800	28.5%	7.4	8.5	1.1
Other Services	57,000	67,400	18.2%	8.8	9.3	0.5
<i>Total Government</i>	224,000	247,700	10.6%	34.4	34.0	-0.4
Federal Government	183,600	212,600	15.8%	28.2	29.2	1.0
State & Local Government	40,400	35,100	-13.1%	6.2	4.8	-1.4
<i>United States</i>						
Industry	Employment		Percent Change	Percent of Total Non-Farm		Net Change
	2000	2011	2000-2011	2000	2011	2000-2011
<i>Total Non-Farm</i>	131,785,000	131,359,000	-0.3%	100	100	****
<i>Total Private</i>	110,995,000	109,254,000	-1.6%	84.2	83.2	-1.1
Mining, Logging & Construction	7,386,000	6,288,000	-14.9%	5.6	4.8	-0.8
Manufacturing	17,263,000	11,733,000	-32.0%	13.1	8.9	-4.2
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	26,225,000	25,019,000	-4.6%	19.9	19.0	-0.9
Information	3,630,000	2,659,000	-26.7%	2.8	2.0	-0.7
Financial Activities	7,687,000	7,681,000	-0.1%	5.8	5.8	0
Professional & Business Services	16,666,000	17,331,000	4.0%	12.6	13.2	0.5
Education & Health Services	15,109,000	19,884,000	31.6%	11.5	15.1	3.7
Leisure & Hospitality	11,862,000	13,320,000	12.3%	9.0	10.1	1.1
Other Services	5,168,000	5,342,000	3.4%	3.9	4.1	0.1
<i>Total Government</i>	20,790,000	22,104,000	6.3%	15.8	16.8	1.1
Federal Government	2,865,000	2,858,000	-0.2%	2.2	2.2	0
State & Local Government	17,925,000	19,247,000	7.4%	13.6	14.7	1.1
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics						

In the private sector, the District had the largest number of jobs in professional and business services (20.6 percent of the District’s total employment), education and health services (15.8 percent), other services (which include religious, grant-making, civic, professional and similar organizations—9.3 percent), and leisure and hospitality (8.5 percent). As compared to the nation, the District had a significantly larger share of jobs in professional and business services (20.6 percent versus 13.2 percent) and other services (9.3 percent versus 4.1 percent). In contrast, the District had a significantly smaller share of jobs in trade, transportation, and utilities (3.7 percent

for the District versus 19 percent nationally), manufacturing (0.1 percent versus 8.9 percent) and mining, logging, and construction (1.6 percent versus 4.8 percent).

Between 2000 and 2011, the District saw a slightly faster growth in private sector employment than in government employment (12.6 percent versus 10.6 percent, respectively). Interestingly, while the number of the federal government jobs in the District grew by 15.8 percent, the number of jobs in the state and local government declined by 13.1 percent. Furthermore, these latter patterns were the opposite of what happened in the country as a whole, where the federal government employment decreased by 0.2 percent but the state and local government employment increased by 7.4 percent.

Since the year 2000, four of the District's private sector industries had employment growth of more than 10 percent: education and health services (31.8 percent), leisure and hospitality (28.5 percent), other services (18.2 percent), and professional and business services (12.2 percent). Interestingly, these were also the only private sector industries that experienced a positive (albeit much slower) growth rate nationwide. Two of the District's private sector industries saw a particularly fast decline in the number of jobs: manufacturing (a decrease of 73 percent) and information (a decrease of 27.1 percent). These were also the two industries that had the fastest national decline in employment in the same period.

5.3. Covered employment, total wages, and number and size of establishments by major industry sector

Table 19 uses data from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages to provide more information on the industrial composition in the District of Columbia and the United States. It shows that in 2011, 40.3 percent of all the wages in the District were paid to government workers, while 59.7 percent of the wages were paid to private sector employees. Nationwide, the corresponding numbers were 16.8 percent and 83.2 percent, respectively. When compared to the nation, the District had a much larger percent of wages in the federal government (36.1 percent versus 3.4 percent), roughly the same percent of wages of wages in the state government (3.6 percent versus 3.7 percent), and a much smaller percent of wages in the local government (0.5 percent versus 9.8 percent).

Table 19: Employment, total wages, and number and size of establishments by major industry sector in District of Columbia and the United States, 2011

Industry	Number of Establishments		Percent of Total Covered		Percent of Employment Total Covered			Total Wages (in thousands) Total Covered			Average Size of Establishments	
	DC	DC	DC	US	DC	DC	US	DC	DC	US	DC	US
<i>Total Covered</i>	35,817	100	100		707,015	100	100	\$57,632,682	100	100	19.7	14.2
<i>Total Government</i>	381	1.1	3.3		246,166	34.8	16.4	\$23,228,741	40.3	16.8	646.1	71.4
Federal Government	341	1.0	0.7		212,232	30.0	2.2	\$20,825,547	36.1	3.4	622.4	42.9
State Government	13	0.04	0.7		29,987	4.2	3.5	\$2,088,203	3.6	3.7	2306.7	68.6
Local Government	27	0.1	1.8		3,947	0.6	10.7	\$314,991	0.5	9.8	146.2	84.2
<i>Total Private</i>	35,436	98.9	96.7		460,849	65.2	83.6	\$34,403,942	59.7	83.2	13.0	12.3
Natural Resources & Mining	0	0	1.4		0	0	1.5	\$0	0	1.6	NA	14.8
Construction	1,065	3.0	8.4		12,042	1.7	4.2	\$764,368	1.3	4.5	11.3	7.2
Manufacturing	162	0.5	3.7		1,035	0.1	9.0	\$108,202	0.2	11.1	6.4	34.7
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	3,089	8.6	20.6		26,929	3.8	19.2	\$1,354,276	2.3	16.1	8.7	13.2
Information	912	2.5	1.6		18,487	2.6	2.1	\$1,975,614	3.4	3.4	20.3	18.7
Financial Activities	2,052	5.7	8.9		24,585	3.5	5.7	\$2,739,550	4.8	9.2	12.0	9.2
Professional & Business Services	10,287	28.7	17.2		148,470	21.0	13.4	\$14,692,246	25.5	17.2	14.4	11.1
Education & Health Services	2,604	7.3	10.0		100,240	14.2	14.7	\$5,632,706	9.8	13.6	38.5	20.9
Leisure & Hospitality	2,630	7.3	8.3		61,662	8.7	10.3	\$1,975,276	3.4	4.2	23.4	17.6
Other Services	9,560	26.7	14.5		63,254	8.9	3.4	\$4,850,988	8.4	2.1	6.6	3.3
Unclassified	3,076	8.6	2.0		4,143	0.6	0.1	\$310,716	0.5	0.2	1.3	1.0

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

In the private sector, most of the District’s wages were paid in professional and business services (25.5 percent of the District’s total wages), education and health services (9.8 percent) and other services (8.4 percent). Furthermore, professional and business services and other services were the only two private sector industries that paid a higher percent of wages in the District than they did nationally (where they paid 17.2 percent and 2.1 percent of total wages, respectively). In contrast, manufacturing, (0.2 percent of total wages in the District versus 11.1 percent of total wages nationally), trade, transportation and utilities (2.3 percent versus 16.1 percent), financial activities (4.8 percent versus 9.2 percent), and construction (1.3 percent versus 4.5 percent) represented a much smaller proportion of the District’s total payroll than they did in the United States as a whole.

In 2011, there were 35,817 establishments in the District: 35,436 or 98.9 percent of these establishments were in the private sector (for comparison, 96.7 percent of all establishments nationwide were in the private sector). More than half of all the District’s establishments were either in professional and business services (28.7 percent) or other services (26.7 percent). These industries also had a larger proportion of establishments in the District than they had nationally (where these proportions stood at 17.2 percent and 14.5 percent, respectively). As a proportion of

all establishments, the District had a significantly smaller number of establishments in manufacturing (0.5 percent versus 3.7 percent nationwide), trade, transportation and utilities (8.6 percent versus 20.6 percent), and construction (3 percent versus 8.4 percent).

Table 19 also presents data on the average size of establishments by industry. It shows that, on average, the District's largest private sector establishments were in education and health services (38.5 employees per establishment), leisure and hospitality (23.4 employees), and Information (20.3 employees). These industries also had relatively large establishments nationwide, with the average size of 20.9 employees, 17.6 employees, and 18.7 employees, respectively. The District's smallest private sector establishments were in manufacturing (6.4 employees per establishment), other services (6.6 employees), and trade, transportation, and utilities (8.7 employees). Interestingly, in the United States as a whole, manufacturing was the industry with the largest size of establishments (34.7 employees per establishment).

5.4. Top 20 private-sector employers in the District of Columbia

Table 20 lists the 20 largest private sector employers in the District of Columbia in the fourth quarter of 2011. Leading the list are George Washington University, Georgetown University, and the Washington Hospital Center. The list includes seven hospitals; six universities; two employers each in administrative and support services and professional, scientific, and technical services; and one employer each in credit intermediation, publishing, and ambulatory healthcare services.

Table 20: Top 20 private sector employers in the District of Columbia, Q4 2006 and Q4 2011

Name	Rank Q4 2006	Rank Q4 2011	3-digit NAICS Industry
George Washington University	2	1	Educational Services
Georgetown University	4	2	Educational Services
Washington Hospital Center	3	3	Hospitals
Children's National Hospital	5	4	Hospitals
Howard University	1	5	Educational Services
Georgetown University Hospital	7	6	Hospitals
American University	10	7	Educational Services
The Catholic University of America	8	8	Educational Services
Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae)	6	9	Credit Intermediation and Related Activities
Providence Hospital	9	10	Hospitals
Booz Allen & Hamilton	not in top 50	11	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services
Howard University Hospital	11	12	Hospitals
Admiral Security Service	17	13	Administrative and Support Services
George Washington University Hospital	15	14	Hospitals
Sibley Memorial Hospital	14	15	Hospitals
AlliedBarton Security Services	39	16	Administrative and Support Services
The Washington Post	12	17	Publishing Industries
George Washington Medical Faculty Associates	36	18	Ambulatory Health Care Services
The Advisory Board Company	40	19	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services
Gallaudet University	18	20	Educational Services
<i>Dropped out of top 20 between Q4 2006 and Q4 2011</i>			
Corporate Advisory Board	13	not in top 50	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services
American National Red Cross	16	30	Social Assistance
Computer Sciences Corporation	19	24	Telecommunications
The Capital Hilton	20	22	Accommodation
Source: District of Columbia Department of Employment Services, Office of Labor Market Research & Information			

Table 20 shows that the list of the District's largest employers remained quite stable over the last five years. In particular, the top 5 employers in the fourth quarter of 2011 were the same as in the fourth quarter of 2006 (although their internal rankings changed). Moreover, 16 of the top 20 employers in the fourth quarter of 2011 were also in the top-20 list in the fourth quarter of 2006. The four newcomers to the top-20 list were Booz Allen & Hamilton, AlliedBarton Security Services, George Washington Medical Faculty Associates, and the Advisory Board Company. At the same time, four employers dropped from the top-20 list: the Corporate Advisory Board, the American National Red Cross, the Computer Science Corporation, and the Capital Hilton.

5.5. Average weekly wages by major industry sector

Table 21 shows that, in 2011, the average weekly wage in the District was 70 percent higher than in the United States as a whole: \$1,568 for the District compared to only \$924 nationwide. The District's government workers earned more than the District's private sector employees: \$1,815 per week versus \$1,436 per week. While the District's government workers earned 92 percent more than their national counterparts, the District's private sector employees earned 56 percent more than the private sector workers nationwide.

Table 21: Average weekly wages by major industry sector in District of Columbia and the United States, 2003-2011

Industry	Average Weekly Wage in 2003		DC - US Percent Difference	Average Weekly Wage in 2011		DC - US Percent Difference	Percent Change 2003-2011	
	DC	US		DC	US		DC	US
<i>Total Covered</i>	\$1,162	\$726	60%	\$1,568	\$924	70%	34.9%	27.3%
<i>Total Private</i>	\$1,078	\$721	50%	\$1,436	\$920	56%	33.2%	27.6%
Natural Resources & Mining	\$3,050	\$649	370%	NA	\$1,032	NA	NA	59.0%
Construction	\$896	\$760	18%	\$1,221	\$975	25%	36.3%	28.3%
Manufacturing	\$1,253	\$883	42%	\$2,011	\$1,139	77%	60.5%	29.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	\$762	\$635	20%	\$967	\$774	25%	26.9%	21.9%
Information	\$1,518	\$1,115	36%	\$2,055	\$1,506	36%	35.4%	35.1%
Financial Activities	\$1,558	\$1,099	42%	\$2,143	\$1,488	44%	37.5%	35.4%
Professional & Business Services	\$1,336	\$866	54%	\$1,903	\$1,190	60%	42.4%	37.4%
Education & Health Services	\$861	\$674	28%	\$1,081	\$854	27%	25.6%	26.7%
Leisure & Hospitality	\$496	\$310	60%	\$616	\$380	62%	24.2%	22.6%
Other Services	\$1,067	\$468	128%	\$1,475	\$577	156%	38.2%	23.3%
Unclassified	\$974	\$688	42%	\$1,442	\$1,008	43%	48.0%	46.5%
<i>Total Government</i>	<i>\$1,315</i>	<i>\$752</i>	<i>75%</i>	<i>\$1,815</i>	<i>\$946</i>	<i>92%</i>	<i>38.0%</i>	<i>25.8%</i>
Federal Government	\$1,377	\$1,043	32%	\$1,887	\$1,404	34%	37.0%	34.6%
State Government	\$982	\$770	28%	\$1,339	\$965	39%	36.4%	25.3%
Local Government	\$1,088	\$686	59%	\$1,535	\$845	82%	41.1%	23.2%
Note: Wages are in nominal dollars.								
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages								

Consistent with the national trends, the District's federal government employees earned higher wages than its state or local government workers (\$1,887 versus \$1,339 and \$1,535, respectively). In the private sector, the District's workers earned highest wages in financial activities (\$2,143 per week), information (\$2,055), manufacturing (\$2,011), and professional and business services (\$1,903). These were also the four private sector industries that paid the highest weekly wages nationwide. The District's workers earned the lowest weekly wages in leisure

and hospitality (\$616), trade, transportation and utility (\$967) and education and health services (\$1,081). These industries also paid some of the lowest weekly wages nationwide.

In all industries, the wages in the District were higher than those in the United States as a whole. The wage gap was particularly large in other services, where the District's workers earned 156 percent more than their national counterparts (\$1,475 versus \$577). The wage gap between the District and the nation was relatively small in construction (\$1,221 versus \$975, or 25 percent), trade, transportation, and utilities (\$967 versus \$774, or 25 percent) and education and health services (\$1,081 versus \$854, or 27 percent).

Between 2003 and 2011, the (nominal) wages in the District grew by 34.9 percent, as compared to the growth of only 27.3 percent nationwide. The District's government wages grew faster than its private sector wages (38 percent versus 33.2 percent), while the reverse pattern was observed in the country as whole (the growth of 27.6 percent for the private sector wages versus 25.8 percent for the government wages). The District saw the highest rates of wage growth in manufacturing (60.5 percent) and professional and business services (42.4 percent). The District's lowest rates of wage growth were in leisure and hospitality (24.2 percent), education and health services (25.6 percent) and trade, transportation, and utilities (26.9 percent).

In all industries except education and health services, the District's rates of wage growth were faster than the corresponding national rates. The difference between the two growth rates was particularly large in manufacturing (60.5 percent versus 29 percent), other services (38.2 percent versus 23.3 percent), construction (36.3 percent versus 28.3 percent), and state and local government (36.4 and 41.1 percent versus 25.3 and 23.2 percent, respectively).

6. Occupational employment statistics

6.1. Employment by major occupational group

Table 22 shows that, in 2011, business and financial operations, office and administrative support, and management were the three largest occupational groups in the District, representing 14.8 percent, 13.6 percent, and 12.9 percent of the District's total employment, respectively.

Office and administrative support was also the largest occupational group nationwide, representing 16.7 percent of the country's total employment. It was followed by sales and related occupations (10.6 percent of total national employment) and food preparation and serving-related occupations (8.7 percent).

Several occupational groups were significantly larger (as percent of total employment) in the District than they were nationwide. These groups included legal (with 6 percent of total employment in the District but only 0.8 percent nationwide); life, physical, and social sciences (3 percent in the District versus 0.8 percent nationwide); business and financial operations (14.8 percent versus 4.8 percent); arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media (4 percent versus 1.3 percent); and management (12.9 percent versus 4.8 percent). In contrast, the following occupational groups represented a much smaller proportion of total employment in the District than they did in the United States as a whole: production (0.8 percent in the District versus 6.5 percent nationwide); transportation and material moving (2.1 percent versus 6.7 percent); installation, maintenance, and repair (1.4 percent versus 3.9 percent); sales and related (3.8 percent versus 10.6 percent); and construction and extraction (1.7 percent versus 3.9 percent).⁶

Table 22 reports that between 2000 and 2011, 12 of the 22 occupational groups increased employment in the District. The District's employment growth was particularly fast in business and financial operations (67.1 percent), healthcare support (49.4 percent), computer and mathematical occupations (48.1 percent), and community and social service (46.3 percent). Business and financial operations, healthcare support, and community and social service were also among the fastest growing occupational groups nationwide (along with personal care and service occupations), although their national rates of growth were somewhat slower than they were in the District (33.7 percent, 30.1 percent and 28.7 percent, respectively).

⁶ In our discussion of occupational employment statistics, we ignore the farming, fishing, and forestry occupations because they represent only a tiny fraction of the District's total employment.

Table 22: Employment by major occupational group in District of Columbia and the United States, 2000-2011

<i>District of Columbia</i>						
Occupational Group	Employment		Percent Change 2000-2011	Percent of All Occupations		Net Change 2000-2011
	2000	2011		2000	2011	
<i>All Occupations</i>	602,150	644,730	7.1%	100	100	****
Management	68,370	82,930	21.3%	11.4	12.9	1.5
Business and Financial Operations	57,050	95,350	67.1%	9.5	14.8	5.3
Computer and Mathematical	22,600	33,470	48.1%	3.8	5.2	1.4
Architecture and Engineering	12,250	13,230	8.0%	2.0	2.1	0.02
Life, Physical, and Social Science	19,910	19,630	-1.4%	3.3	3.0	-0.3
Community and Social Service	6,690	9,790	46.3%	1.1	1.5	0.4
Legal	28,840	38,730	34.3%	4.8	6.0	1.2
Education, Training, and Library	27,990	33,540	19.8%	4.6	5.2	0.6
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	19,980	25,640	28.3%	3.3	4.0	0.7
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	23,540	29,200	24.0%	3.9	4.5	0.6
Healthcare Support	7,870	11,760	49.4%	1.3	1.8	0.5
Protective Service	22,970	25,200	9.7%	3.8	3.9	0.1
Food Preparation and Serving Related	34,860	44,110	26.5%	5.8	6.8	1.1
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	28,210	22,690	-19.6%	4.7	3.5	-1.2
Personal Care and Service	8,850	8,720	-1.5%	1.5	1.4	-0.1
Sales and Related	24,930	24,800	-0.5%	4.1	3.8	-0.3
Office and Administrative Support	138,370	87,690	-36.6%	23.0	13.6	-9.4
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	850	90	-89.4%	0.1	0.01	-0.1
Construction and Extraction	11,130	10,770	-3.2%	1.8	1.7	-0.2
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	10,470	9,040	-13.7%	1.7	1.4	-0.3
Production	8,490	5,050	-40.5%	1.4	0.8	-0.6
Transportation and Material Moving	17,930	13,320	-25.7%	3.0	2.1	-0.9
<i>United States</i>						
Occupational Group	Employment		Percent Change 2000-2011	Percent of All Occupations		Net Change 2000-2011
	2000	2011		2000	2011	
<i>All Occupations</i>	129,738,980	128,278,550	-1.1%	100	100	****
Management	7,782,680	6,183,820	-20.5%	6.0	4.8	-1.2
Business and Financial Operations	4,619,270	6,178,070	33.7%	3.6	4.8	1.3
Computer and Mathematical	2,932,810	3,406,720	16.2%	2.3	2.7	0.4
Architecture and Engineering	2,575,620	2,310,830	-10.3%	2.0	1.8	-0.2
Life, Physical, and Social Science	1,038,670	1,082,370	4.2%	0.8	0.8	0.04
Community and Social Service	1,469,000	1,890,410	28.7%	1.1	1.5	0.3
Legal	890,910	1,002,330	12.5%	0.7	0.8	0.1
Education, Training, and Library	7,450,860	8,409,060	12.9%	5.7	6.6	0.8
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	1,513,420	1,725,670	14.0%	1.2	1.3	0.2
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	6,041,210	7,514,980	24.4%	4.7	5.9	1.2
Healthcare Support	3,039,430	3,954,070	30.1%	2.3	3.1	0.7
Protective Service	3,009,070	3,202,500	6.4%	2.3	2.5	0.2
Food Preparation and Serving Related	9,955,060	11,218,710	12.7%	7.7	8.7	1.1
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	4,318,070	4,191,750	-2.9%	3.3	3.3	-0.1
Personal Care and Service	2,700,510	3,619,250	34.0%	2.1	2.8	0.7
Sales and Related	13,506,880	13,646,450	1.0%	10.4	10.6	0.2
Office and Administrative Support	22,936,140	21,384,330	-6.8%	17.7	16.7	-1.0
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	460,700	409,590	-11.1%	0.4	0.3	-0.04
Construction and Extraction	6,187,360	4,956,770	-19.9%	4.8	3.9	-0.9
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	5,318,490	4,988,980	-6.2%	4.1	3.9	-0.2
Production	12,400,080	8,365,980	-32.5%	9.6	6.5	-3.0
Transportation and Material Moving	9,592,740	8,635,940	-10.0%	7.4	6.7	-0.7
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics						

The occupational groups with the largest employment decline in the District included production (with the growth rate of -40.5 percent), office and administrative support (-36.6 percent), transportation and material moving (-25.7 percent), and building and ground cleaning and maintenance (-19.6 percent). All of these occupational groups also experienced a national decline in employment in the same time period.

A small number of occupational groups followed very different employment trends in the District and in the United States as a whole. Thus, between 2000 and 2011, management as well as architecture and engineering saw an increase in employment in the District (by 21.3 percent and 8 percent, respectively) but a decline in employment nationwide (by 20.5 percent and 10.3 percent respectively). In contrast, personal care and service occupations declined by 1.5 percent in the District but grew by 34 percent in the United States.

6.2. Median annual wages by major occupational group

Table 23 indicates that, in 2011, the median annual wage in the District (for all occupations) was \$61,180. This wage was 78 percent higher than the median annual wage in the nation as a whole, which stood at \$34,460. Legal and management occupations paid especially high annual wages in the District, with the median of \$135,680 and \$122,890, respectively. They were followed by architecture and engineering occupations (with the median annual wage of \$96,130); life, physical, and social science occupations (\$92,340); and computer and mathematical occupations (\$89,850). Four of these five occupational groups (with an exception of life, physical, and social sciences) were also the highest paying groups nationwide.

Table 23: Median annual wages by major occupational group in District of Columbia and the United States, 2000-2011

Occupational Group	Median Annual Wage in 2000		DC - US Percent Difference	Median Annual Wage in 2011		DC - US Percent Difference	Percent Change 2000-2011	
	DC	US		DC	US		DC	US
<i>All Occupations</i>	NA	NA	NA	61,180	34,460	78%	NA	NA
Management	74,580	61,310	22%	122,890	92,880	32%	64.8%	51.5%
Business and Financial Operations	55,650	43,900	27%	81,210	61,700	32%	45.9%	40.5%
Computer and Mathematical	59,830	55,110	9%	89,850	75,080	20%	50.2%	36.2%
Architecture and Engineering	60,220	51,530	17%	96,130	72,070	33%	59.6%	39.9%
Life, Physical, and Social Science	68,200	43,090	58%	92,340	59,330	56%	35.4%	37.7%
Community and Social Service	34,240	30,240	13%	47,670	39,880	20%	39.2%	31.9%
Legal	92,120	56,880	62%	135,680	75,470	80%	47.3%	32.7%
Education, Training, and Library	41,120	34,900	18%	55,240	46,060	20%	34.3%	32.0%
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	46,420	32,770	42%	69,980	43,640	60%	50.8%	33.2%
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	45,500	41,080	11%	67,750	59,570	14%	48.9%	45.0%
Healthcare Support	23,230	19,760	18%	29,150	25,140	16%	25.5%	27.2%
Protective Service	32,270	26,660	21%	51,410	36,740	40%	59.3%	37.8%
Food Preparation and Serving Related	17,240	14,170	22%	22,880	18,900	21%	32.7%	33.4%
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	17,430	17,380	0.3%	28,230	22,620	25%	62.0%	30.1%
Personal Care and Service	19,920	16,710	19%	29,330	20,730	41%	47.2%	24.1%
Sales and Related	22,030	19,410	13%	30,180	24,840	21%	37.0%	28.0%
Office and Administrative Support	32,210	24,140	33%	43,800	31,250	40%	36.0%	29.5%
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	17,340	15,260	14%	54,190	19,460	178%	212.5%	27.5%
Construction and Extraction	37,820	31,490	20%	52,750	39,820	32%	39.5%	26.5%
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	38,850	31,940	22%	52,770	40,600	30%	35.8%	27.1%
Production	33,520	23,390	43%	47,600	30,670	55%	42.0%	31.1%
Transportation and Material Moving	19,060	21,940	-13%	36,200	28,760	26%	89.9%	31.1%

Note: Wages are in nominal dollars.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics

Occupational groups that paid the lowest annual wages in the District were food preparation and serving related (with the median annual wage of only \$22,880), building and grounds cleaning and maintenance (\$28,230), healthcare support (\$29,150), personal care and service (\$29,330), and sales and related (\$30,180). These five occupational groups were also among the lowest paying in the country as a whole (along with farming, fishing, and forestry).

In 2011, workers of all occupations earned higher wages in the District than they did nationwide. The gap in median annual wages between the District and the nation was particularly large in legal occupations (80 percent); arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations (60 percent); life, physical, and social science occupations (56 percent); and production occupations (55 percent). The wage gap was the smallest in healthcare practitioners and technical occupations (14 percent) and healthcare support occupations (16 percent).

Between 2000 and 2011, the District saw a faster increase in median annual wages than the nation as a whole in all but three occupational groups (life, physical, and social sciences, healthcare support, and food preparation and serving related). The occupational groups that experienced the highest rates of wage growth in the District were transportation and material moving (89.9 percent), management (64.8 percent), building and grounds cleaning and maintenance (62 percent), architecture and engineering (59.6 percent), and protective service (59.3 percent). In these occupations, the growth in labor demand strongly outpaced the growth in labor supply. In contrast, healthcare support occupations and food preparation and serving related occupations had the slowest rates of wage growth in the District, 25.5 percent and 32.7 percent, respectively.