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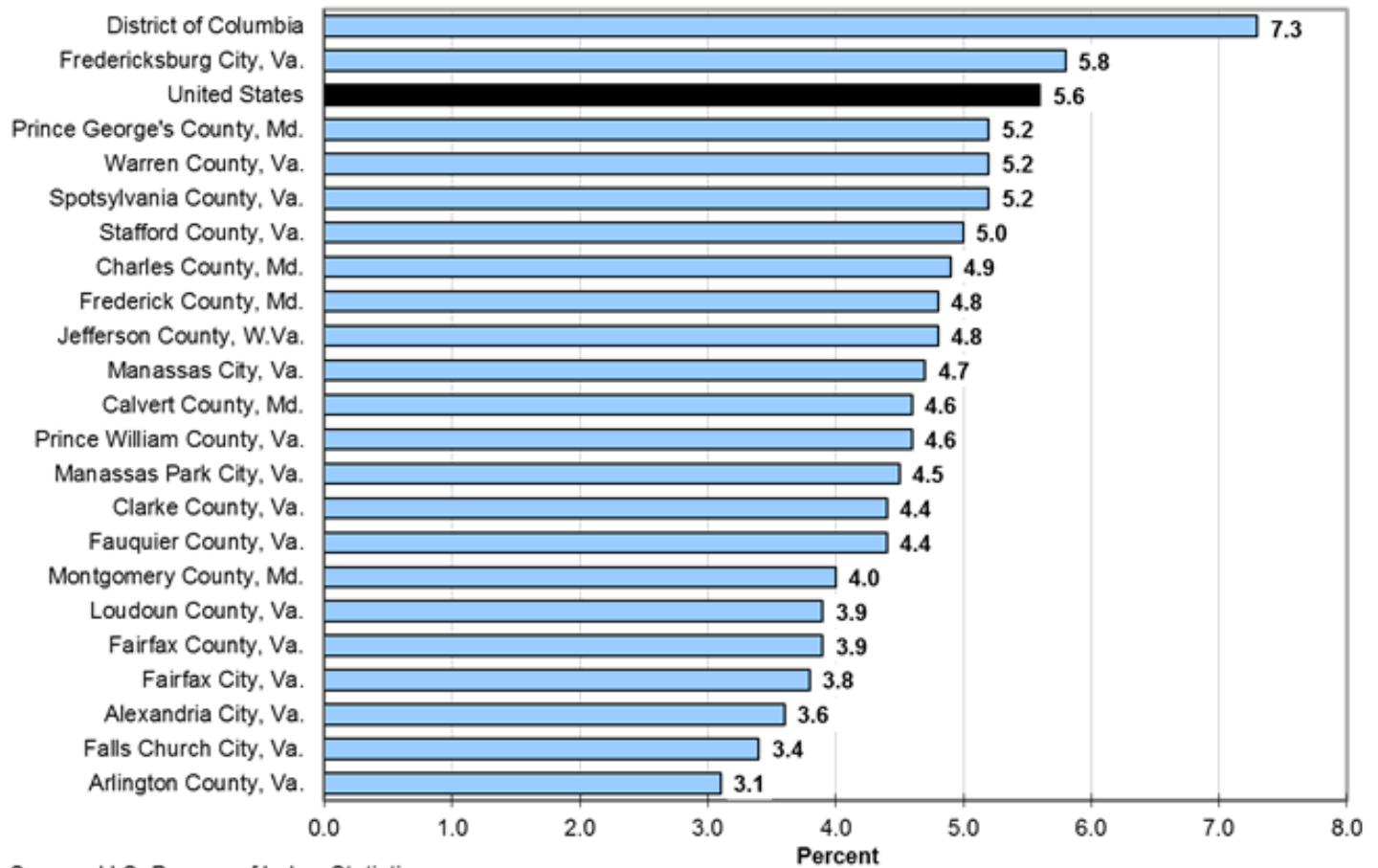
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## **Unemployment in the Washington Area by County – March 2015**

### **20 of 22 Area Counties Posted Unemployment Rates below the National Average**

In March, Arlington County, Va., had the lowest unemployment rate in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Va.-Md.-W.Va. Metropolitan Statistical Area at 3.1 percent, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that the District of Columbia had an unemployment rate of 7.3 percent, the highest among the 22 counties that make up the metropolitan area. Fredericksburg City, Va., had the second-highest rate at 5.8 percent and was the only other county with a rate higher than the national rate of 5.6 percent. The remaining 19 counties in the area had rates ranging from 5.2 percent in Prince George's County, Md., Warren County, Va., and Spotsylvania County, Va., to 3.4 percent in Fall Church City, Va. (See [chart 1](#) and [chart 2](#). The Technical Note at the end of this release contains the metropolitan area definitions. All data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year analysis is used throughout.)

**Chart 1. Unemployment rates for the United States and counties in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Va.-Md.-W.Va. Metropolitan Statistical Area, March 2015, not seasonally adjusted**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.
















All 22 Washington-area counties had lower unemployment rates in March 2015 than in March 2014. (See [table A](#).) While no county had a rate decline that exceeded the national decrease of 1.2 percentage points, Maryland's Calvert, Charles, and Prince George's Counties, recorded the area's largest decreases at 0.9 point each. The remaining over-the-year declines in the area ranged from 0.7 percentage point in Warren County and Manassas City, Va., to 0.1 point in Clarke County, Va.

**Table A. Unemployment rates for the United States, the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Va.-Md.-W.Va. Metropolitan Statistical Area, and its components, not seasonally adjusted**

Area	Back data	Unemployment rates			Change from	
		Mar 2013	Mar 2014	Mar 2015 <sup>(1)</sup>	Mar 2013 to Mar 2015 <sup>(1)</sup>	Mar 2014 to Mar 2015 <sup>(1)</sup>
United States.....		7.6	6.8	5.6	-2.0	-1.2
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Va.-Md.-W.Va. Metropolitan Statistical Area .....		5.5	5.2	4.7	-0.8	-0.5
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Va.-Md.-W.Va. Metropolitan Division .....		5.6	5.4	4.8	-0.8	-0.6
District of Columbia .....		8.6	7.9	7.3	-1.3	-0.6
Arlington County, Va. ....		3.3	3.3	3.1	-0.2	-0.2
Clarke County, Va. ....		4.8	4.5	4.4	-0.4	-0.1
Fairfax County, Va. ....		4.2	4.3	3.9	-0.3	-0.4
Fauquier County, Va. ....		4.9	4.9	4.4	-0.5	-0.5
Loudoun County, Va. ....		4.2	4.4	3.9	-0.3	-0.5
Prince William County, Va. ....		5.1	5.2	4.6	-0.5	-0.6
Spotsylvania County, Va. ....		5.7	5.7	5.2	-0.5	-0.5

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table A. Unemployment rates for the United States, the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Va.-Md.-W.Va. Metropolitan Statistical Area, and its components, not seasonally adjusted - Continued**

Area	Back data	Unemployment rates			Change from	
		Mar 2013	Mar 2014	Mar 2015 <sup>(1)</sup>	Mar 2013 to Mar 2015 <sup>(1)</sup>	Mar 2014 to Mar 2015 <sup>(1)</sup>
Stafford County, Va.....		5.5	5.6	5.0	-0.5	-0.6
Warren County, Va. ....		6.2	5.9	5.2	-1.0	-0.7
Alexandria City, Va. ....		3.8	3.9	3.6	-0.2	-0.3
Fairfax City, Va. ....		4.1	4.3	3.8	-0.3	-0.5
Falls Church City, Va. ....		3.8	3.7	3.4	-0.4	-0.3
Fredericksburg City, Va. ....		6.3	6.3	5.8	-0.5	-0.5
Manassas City, Va. ....		5.3	5.4	4.7	-0.6	-0.7
Manassas Park City, Va.....		5.1	5.0	4.5	-0.6	-0.5
Calvert County, Md.....		6.0	5.5	4.6	-1.4	-0.9
Charles County, Md.....		6.4	5.8	4.9	-1.5	-0.9
Prince George's County, Md.....		6.7	6.1	5.2	-1.5	-0.9
Jefferson County, W.Va. ....		4.8	5.1	4.8	0.0	-0.3
Silver Spring-Frederick-Rockville, Md. Metropolitan Division .....		5.2	4.7	4.1	-1.1	-0.6
Frederick County, Md. ....		6.0	5.3	4.8	-1.2	-0.5
Montgomery County, Md. ....		5.0	4.5	4.0	-1.0	-0.5

**Footnotes**

(1) Data for the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Va.-Md.-W.Va. Metropolitan Statistical Area and its components are preliminary for the most recent month.

Unemployment rates in 21 of the 22 counties in the Washington metropolitan area were lower in March 2015 than two years earlier. No county had a rate decline larger than the national decrease of 2.0 percentage points. Charles and Prince George's, Md., had the largest decreases in the local area at 1.5 percentage points each. The smallest two-year rate declines were in Arlington County and Alexandria City, Va., each at 0.2 percentage point. In the area's remaining county, Jefferson, W.Va., the unemployment rate was unchanged over the last two years.

March 2015 unemployment rates for the two metropolitan divisions in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria metropolitan area were 4.8 percent (Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Va.-Md.-W.Va.) and 4.1 percent (Silver Spring-Frederick-Rockville, Md.). Both divisions had smaller unemployment rate declines (-0.6 percentage point each) than the 1.2-percentage point national decrease from March 2014 to March 2015.

**The Metropolitan Area Employment and Unemployment news release for April is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, June 3, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. (EDT).**

### Technical Note

This release presents unemployment rate data for states and counties from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program, a federal-state cooperative endeavor.

*Definitions.* The labor force and unemployment data are based on the same concepts and definitions as those used for the official national estimates obtained from the Current Population Survey (CPS), a sample survey of households that is conducted for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) by the U.S. Census Bureau. The LAUS program measures employment and unemployment on a place-of-residence basis. The universe for each is the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years of age and over. Employed persons are those who did any work at

all for pay or profit in the reference week (the week including the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month) or worked 15 hours or more without pay in a family business or farm, plus those not working who had a job from which they were temporarily absent, whether or not paid, for such reasons as labor-management dispute, illness, or vacation. Unemployed persons are those who were not employed during the reference week (based on the definition above), had actively looked for a job sometime in the 4-week period ending with the reference week, and were currently available for work; persons on layoff expecting recall need not be looking for work to be counted as unemployed. The labor force is the sum of employed and unemployed persons. The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed as a percent of the labor force.

*Methods of Estimation.* The LAUS program is a hierarchy of non-survey methodologies for indirectly estimating employment and unemployment in states and local areas. Statewide data are produced through a modeling technique that uses estimates of payroll jobs from the Current Employment Statistics survey and unemployment insurance claims counts from the state workforce agencies to mitigate volatility in the direct CPS tabulations of employment and unemployment, respectively. Data for labor market areas, such as metropolitan areas and metropolitan divisions, are produced through a building block approach and adjusted proportionally to state model-based totals. Data for counties within labor market areas are produced through a disaggregation technique. A detailed description of the LAUS estimation procedures is available in chapter 4 of the BLS Handbook of Methods at [www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch4.htm](http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch4.htm).

*Annual revisions.* Labor force and unemployment data for prior years reflect adjustments made at the end of each year, usually implemented with January estimates. The adjusted estimates reflect updated population data from the U.S. Census Bureau, any revisions in the other data sources, and model reestimation. All substate estimates are reestimated and adjusted to add to the revised model-based estimates.

**Area definitions.** The substate area data published in this release reflect the standards and definitions established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, dated February 28, 2013. A detailed list of the geographic definitions is available at [www.bls.gov/lau/lausmsa.htm](http://www.bls.gov/lau/lausmsa.htm).

The **Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Va.-Md.-W.Va. Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes the District of Columbia; Arlington, Clarke, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, Prince William, Spotsylvania, Stafford, and Warren Counties, and Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Manassas, and Manassas Park Cities in Virginia; Calvert, Charles, Frederick, Montgomery, and Prince George's Counties in Maryland; and Jefferson County in West Virginia.

The **Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Va.-Md.-W.Va. Metropolitan Division** includes the District of Columbia; Arlington, Clarke, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, Prince William, Spotsylvania, Stafford, and Warren Counties, and Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Manassas, and Manassas Park Cities in Virginia; Calvert, Charles, and Prince George's Counties in Maryland; and Jefferson County in West Virginia.

The **Bethesda-Frederick-Rockville, Md. Metropolitan Division** includes Frederick and Montgomery Counties in Maryland.

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Chart 2. Unemployment rates for counties in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Va.-Md.-W.Va. Metropolitan Statistical Area, not seasonally adjusted, March 2015

