This summary presents a sampling of economic information for the area; supplemental data are provided for regions and the nation. Subjects include **unemployment**, **employment**, **wages**, **prices**, **spending**, and **benefits**. All data are not seasonally adjusted and some may be subject to revision. Area definitions may differ by subject. For more area summaries and geographic definitions, see [www.bls.gov/regions/economic-summaries.htm](http://www.bls.gov/regions/economic-summaries.htm).

### Unemployment rates for the nation and selected areas

![Unemployment rates chart]

- **United States**: 3.9% (Mar-19) 4.5% (Mar-20)
- **Washington division**: 3.3% 3.4%
- **Alexandria city, VA**: 2.3% 2.5%
- **Arlington Co., VA**: 2.1% 2.2%
- **District of Columbia**: 5.6% 5.9%
- **Loudoun Co., VA**: 2.5% 2.6%

Source: U.S. BLS, Local Area Unemployment Statistics.

### Average weekly wages for all industries by county

**Washington division, third quarter 2019**

(U.S. = $1,093; Area = $1,476)

![Average weekly wages chart]

### Over-the-year changes in employment on nonfarm payrolls and employment by major industry sector

**12-month percent changes in employment**

![12-month percent changes in employment chart]

- **Total nonfarm**: 3.49% 1.3%
- **Mining, logging, and construction**: 2.5% 2.0%
- **Manufacturing**: 1.0% 2.7%
- **Trade, transportation, and utilities**: 2.9% 0.9%
- **Information**: 3.4% 5.3%
- **Financial activities**: 2.6% 2.1%
- **Professional and business services**: 13.7% 2.2%
- **Education and health services**: -2.6% -0.7%
- **Leisure and hospitality**: 0.9% 0.3%
- **Other services**: 3.1% 1.7%
- **Government**: 7.4% 1.2%

Over-the-year change in the prices paid by urban consumers for selected categories

12-month percent change in CPI-U, March 2020

![Graph showing 12-month percent changes in CPI-U, March 2020](image)

- All items
- Food
- Energy
- Washington area
- U.S. city average

Source: U.S. BLS, Consumer Price Index.

Average annual spending and percent distribution for selected categories

Average annual expenditures, United States and Washington area, 2017-18

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>United States</th>
<th>Washington area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>$6,301</td>
<td>$11,178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$12,930</td>
<td>$13,095</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare</td>
<td>$11,211</td>
<td>$30,872</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal insurance &amp; pensions</td>
<td>$13,095</td>
<td>$19,971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>$11,178</td>
<td>$12,930</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. BLS, Consumer Expenditure Survey.

Employer costs per hour worked for wages and selected employee benefits by geographic division

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Private industry, December 2019</th>
<th>South Atlantic</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total compensation</td>
<td>$31.10</td>
<td>$34.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages and salaries</td>
<td>$22.33</td>
<td>$24.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total benefits</td>
<td>$8.77</td>
<td>$10.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid leave</td>
<td>$2.18</td>
<td>$2.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacation</td>
<td>$1.12</td>
<td>$1.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplemental pay</td>
<td>$1.03</td>
<td>$1.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>$2.21</td>
<td>$2.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirement and savings</td>
<td>$0.98</td>
<td>$1.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legally required benefits</td>
<td>$2.36</td>
<td>$2.66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. BLS, Employer Costs for Employee Compensation.

Over-the-year changes in wages and salaries

12-month percent changes in ECI

![Graph showing 12-month percent changes in ECI](image)

Source: U.S. BLS, Employment Cost Index.