



D.C. Office of Revenue Analysis Briefing Document Number: 2015-7 Date: July 2015

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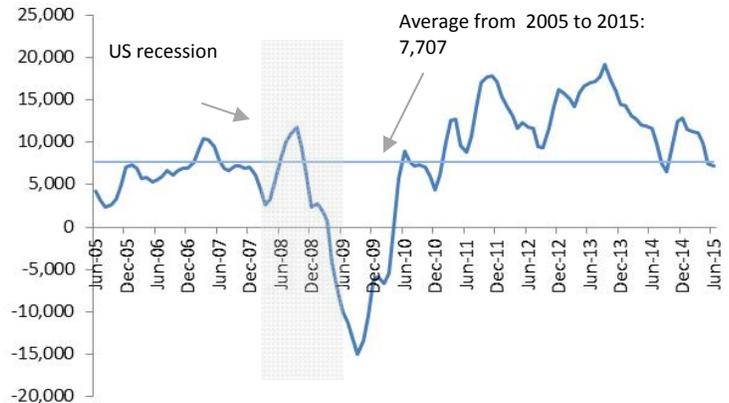
DC’s post-recession surge in private sector employment is showing signs of slowing down

Private sector job growth in the June quarter, a gain of 7,267 from a year ago, was the second slowest in 4 1/2 years

According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, an average of 526,533 wage and salaried workers were employed in the District of Columbia’s private sector in the three months ending June 2015. This June level was 7,267 (1.4%) above that of the prior year, a positive indicator of continued growth in the District’s economy.

The June employment level may also, however, be a sign that the rapid increase in DC’s private sector employment that has occurred since the end of the US recession may be slowing down. June was the second-slowest year-over-year increase since January 2011 (the other was 6,500 in September 2014). DC’s private sector job growth in June was about at the level that occurred before the recession’s onset, and was slightly under the average annual growth for the past decade (7,707).

Annual change in DC private sector wage employment: June 2005 to June 2015
(Change from prior year in 3-month moving average)



Weaknesses in DC’s private sector were not economy-wide. Indeed, four of DC’s major sectors, ones that account for over half of all private sector jobs (professional services, business services, health, and organizations), added 9,067 jobs from June 2014 to June 2015, more than twice as much as in the previous year. The weakness came primarily from six sectors that together account for a little more than one-third of all private jobs: education, food services, accommodations, retail, information, and finance. Those sector grew by about 6,600 from 2013 to 2014, but they fell by 1,900 in 2015. (See table on p. 2)

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This briefing document was prepared by Stephen Swaim, DC Office of Revenue Analysis

This brief first appeared in the July 2015 DC Economic and Revenue Trends. District of Columbia briefing documents are prepared by the Office of Revenue Analysis, which is part of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer of the District of Columbia government. The purpose of these documents is to make information available that is not of a policy nature. See also District of Columbia Economic and Revenue Trends and Economic Indicators issued monthly by the D.C. Office of the Chief Financial Officer [www.cfo.dc.gov/Reports/Economic Reports/Briefing documents](http://www.cfo.dc.gov/Reports/Economic-Reports/Briefing%20documents)). For comment or further information, please contact Fitzroy Lee, Deputy Chief Financial Officer and Chief Economist, Office of Revenue Analysis, 1101 4th St., SW, Suite W770, Washington D.C. 20024, fitzroy.lee@dc.gov, 202-727-7775.

DC private sector jobs: June 2013, June 2014, and June 2015

sectors	Level (3-month average)			Change	
	June 2013	June 2014	June 2015	June 2013 to June 2014	June 2014 to June 2015
Major sectors that grew more in 2015 than 2014					
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	107,900	108,200	110,767	300	2,567
Business Services	47,433	48,900	51,933	1,467	3,033
Health Care and Social Assistance	65,200	66,400	68,333	1,200	1,933
Organizations	61,567	62,767	64,300	1,200	1,533
subtotal	282,100	286,267	295,333	4,167	9,067
Significant sectors that grew less in 2015 than 2014					
Educational Services	58,667	60,367	57,833	1,700	-2,533
Food Services and Drinking Places	47,100	48,800	48,700	1,700	-100
Accommodations	15,467	15,433	14,967	-33	-467
Retail Trade	19,633	21,200	22,167	1,567	967
Information	17,033	17,300	16,967	267	-333
Financial Activities	28,833	30,200	30,733	1,367	533
subtotal	186,733	193,300	191,367	6,567	-1,933
All other	38,800	39,700	39,833	900	133
Total Private Sector	507,633	519,267	526,533	11,633	7,267

Source: BLS (3-month moving average from seasonally unadjusted data)

—Stephen Swaim, DC Office of Revenue Analysis