

## employment monitor: september 2016

### resident unemployment

Unemployment continues to decline in Montgomery County and throughout the region. As of September 2016, the unemployment rate among Montgomery County residents fell to 3.2 percent, down from 4 percent in September 2015. The number of unemployed residents in the county declined by 4,051 over the year. Region-wide, unemployment fell from 4.3 percent to 3.9 percent over the same period. Montgomery County currently has the region's third lowest unemployment rate, behind Arlington (2.7 percent) and Alexandria (3.0 percent).

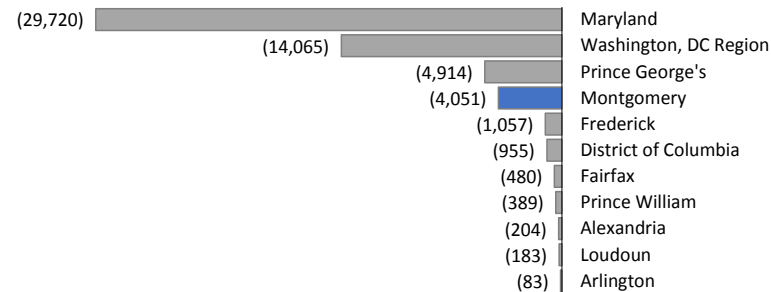
Unemployment among County residents remains relatively low. Montgomery County's 3.2 percent unemployment rate in September 2016 was nearly half a percentage point above the rate posted in the same month in 2006 (2.8 percent). But this unemployment rate was well below the 4.7 to 5.8 percent "natural" rate of unemployment defined by the Federal Reserve. The spread between the unemployment rate in the county versus the nation—which peaked at 4.6 percentage points in 2010—narrowed to 1.6 percentage points, identical to the spread in September 2006.

### workforce

The number of Montgomery County residents who are in the workforce is growing. The county's employed resident labor force increased by 7,476 from September 2015 to September 2016. This was the second highest increase in the region, behind Prince George's County, which added 10,536 workers. Accounting for 17 percent of the region's workforce, Montgomery County residents filled 20 percent of all jobs added region-wide from September 2015 to September 2016.

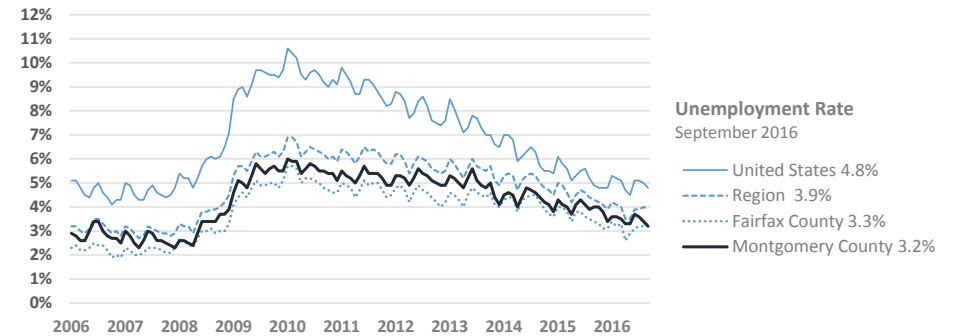
### CHANGE IN NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED RESIDENTS

September 2015-September 2016



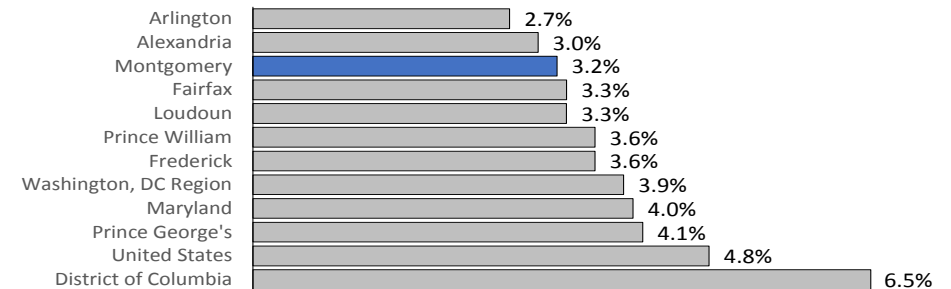
### MONTHLY RESIDENT UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

January 2006 to September 2016



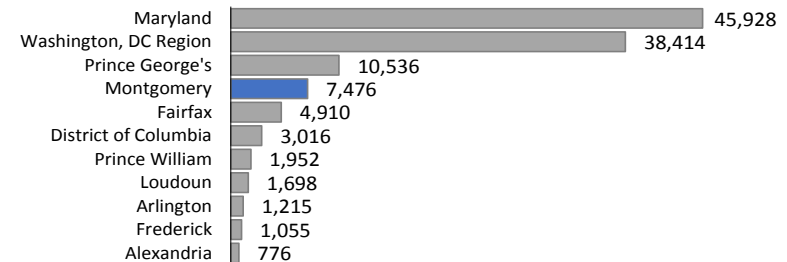
### RESIDENT UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

September 2016



### CHANGE IN NUMBER OF EMPLOYED RESIDENTS

September 2015-September 2016



Source: Research & Special Projects Division, Montgomery County Planning Department analysis of U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Statistics data as of November, 2016.

## at-place employment

Montgomery County added jobs at a relatively slow pace over the year. As of March 2016, at-place employment in Montgomery County stood at 459,039, a 1.1 percent increase (5,205 jobs) since March 2015. Employment growth in the county, however, fell behind the nation's increase (2.0 percent) and that of the Washington, DC metro area (2.2 percent, or 66,385 jobs). The District of Columbia and Fairfax County led job growth in the region, adding 14,500 and 12,276 net new jobs, respectively, over the year. At 1.9 percent (5,802 jobs), job growth in Prince George's County also outpaced Montgomery County.

Montgomery County lags the region in recovering pre-recession job levels. Despite six consecutive years of positive job growth, Montgomery County had 0.6 percent (2,964) fewer jobs in March 2016 compared to the same month in 2006, indicating that job losses sustained during the Great Recession have not been fully offset. In contrast, the Washington, DC metro area added 191,718 net new jobs over the decade. Three jurisdictions together accounted for 70 percent of the region's job expansion: The District of Columbia (82,397), Loudoun County (32,081) and Fairfax County (19,550).

On average, jobs added were lower paying than jobs lost over the year. Education and health care industries, which pay an average of \$49,088 per year, accounted for nearly one out of three new jobs in Montgomery County between March of 2015 and 2016. Relatively higher paying sectors, such as advanced manufacturing (\$145,808), professional and business services (\$95,940), and the federal government (\$94,328), also expanded, but more than half of the county's job growth was in lower-paying health, education, leisure, construction and other industries. In contrast, job losses were concentrated in relatively higher-paying sectors, including financial activities (\$142,636) and information (\$119,340).

## AT-PLACE EMPLOYMENT

March 2016

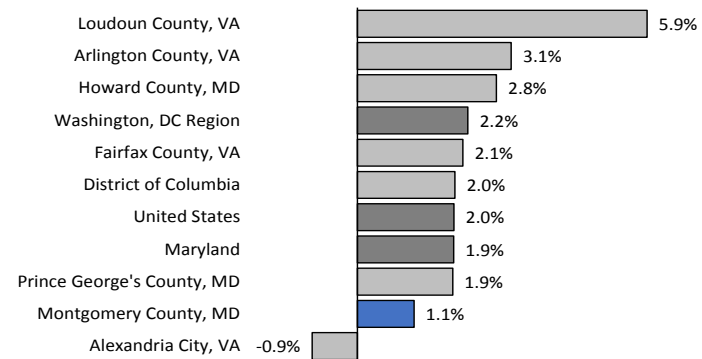
	Total Employment	1-year change		5-year change		10-year change	
		number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
<b>United States</b>	<b>140,070,814</b>	<b>2,683,023</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	<b>12,233,435</b>	<b>9.6%</b>	<b>7,552,199</b>	<b>5.7%</b>
<b>Maryland</b>	<b>2,591,721</b>	<b>49,514</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>139,800</b>	<b>5.7%</b>	<b>80,274</b>	<b>3.2%</b>
<b>Washington, DC Region</b>	<b>3,038,507</b>	<b>66,385</b>	<b>2.2%</b>	<b>168,687</b>	<b>5.9%</b>	<b>191,718</b>	<b>6.7%</b>
Alexandria City, VA	93,845	(865)	-0.9%	264	0.3%	1,398	1.5%
Arlington County, VA	170,851	5,157	3.1%	3,547	2.1%	13,740	8.7%
District of Columbia	749,569	14,500	2.0%	46,900	6.7%	82,397	12.4%
Fairfax County, VA	588,080	12,276	2.1%	15,218	2.7%	19,550	3.4%
Howard County, MD	165,601	4,530	2.8%	18,082	12.3%	23,605	16.6%
Loudoun County, VA	155,881	8,627	5.9%	20,877	15.5%	32,081	25.9%
<b>Montgomery County, MD</b>	<b>459,039</b>	<b>5,205</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>13,819</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>(2,964)</b>	<b>-0.6%</b>
Prince George's County, MD	306,603	5,802	1.9%	9,112	3.1%	(5,319)	-1.7%

Source: Research & Special Projects Division, Montgomery County Planning Department analysis of U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics *Quarterly Census of Earnings & Wages* data as of November, 2016.

**Relatively higher paying sectors such as advanced manufacturing, professional & business services and the federal government expanded, but more than half of the county's job growth was in lower-paying health, education, leisure, construction and other industries.**

## EMPLOYMENT CHANGE

March 2015 to 2016



## MONTGOMERY COUNTY EMPLOYMENT CHANGE BY SECTOR

March 2015 to 2016

Net employment change = +5,205

	Jobs gained	Average annual wage
<b>JOBS GAINED</b>	<b>7,260</b>	<b>\$75,568</b>
Education and health services	2,215	\$49,088
Professional and business services	1,726	\$95,940
Leisure and hospitality	1,609	\$24,232
Federal government	713	\$94,328
Construction	471	\$63,076
Other services	168	\$45,032
Manufacturing	165	\$145,808
Local government	153	\$59,956
Natural resources and mining	40	\$34,112
	<b>Jobs lost</b>	<b>Average annual wage</b>
<b>JOBS LOST</b>	<b>(2,055)</b>	<b>\$108,801</b>
State government	(37)	\$43,836
Information	(549)	\$119,340
Trade, transportation and utilities	(574)	\$43,628
Financial activities	(895)	\$142,636

## questions?

E [Lisa.Tate@MontgomeryPlanning.org](mailto:Lisa.Tate@MontgomeryPlanning.org)  
P 301 650 5623