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**A six-year perspective on the Great Recession’s impact on DC’s private sector jobs: more jobs, changing structure**

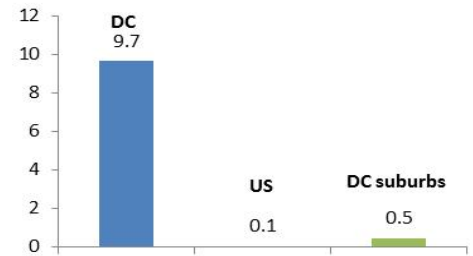
*DC’s rate of job growth far outpaced the US and the suburbs; biggest gains were in education, food services, and health*

It has taken six years, but in the first quarter of 2014 private sector wage and salary employment in the US finally reached its pre-recession level. By contrast, jobs in the District of Columbia’s private sector grew 9.7% (44,733) over the period of the Great Recession and recovery. The jobs gain in the Washington metropolitan area was largely centered in DC, as the suburban increase was only 0.5%.

Although total US private sector employment is about the same as six years ago, the structure is not; some sectors gained, others lost. This analysis breaks private sector employment into 16 sectors and tracks what happened from 2008.1 to 2014.1 in both the US and DC as well as in the DC suburbs. US jobs actually increased in 7 of the sectors which accounted for 47.1% of all jobs in 2008.1.

DC private sector jobs fared better than in the US because (1) DC started with a larger share (63.3% v 42.0%) of its private jobs in the 6 sectors that grew in both DC and the US, and (2) taken as a whole, those sectors increased faster in DC (14.3% v 8.9%). (The sectors are professional services, business services, education, health, arts, and food service.) With-

% change in private sector employment in DC, the US, and DC sub-



in this category, however, almost all (93%) of DC’s growth was in education, food services and health. DC’s rate of increase in professional services and business services was well below that of the US (and the suburbs, too).

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Change in wage and salary employment in DC, the US, and DC suburbs by category of growth pattern: 2008.1 to 2014.1

Growth pattern category	DC		US		DC suburbs	
	% of all 08 jobs	% ch, 08 to 14	% of all 08 jobs	% ch, 08 to 14	% of all 08 jobs	% ch, 08 to 14
<b>1. DC and US both increase</b>						
Professional services, business services, education, health ,arts, food services	63.3	14.3	42.0	8.9	49.9	8.3
<b>2. DC increase, US decline</b>						
Construction, wholesale trade, retail trade, financial services,accomodations, organizations, personal services	30.8	6.0	38.4	-5.4	39.9	-5.2
<b>3. US increase, DC decline</b>						
Transportation, utilities, mining	1.0	-12.5	5.1	2.6	3.1	-2.6
<b>4. US and DC both decline</b>						
Manufacturing and information services	4.9	-22.4	14.5	-11.9	7.0	-21.2

Source: BLS, quarterly average from seasonally unadjusted data.

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

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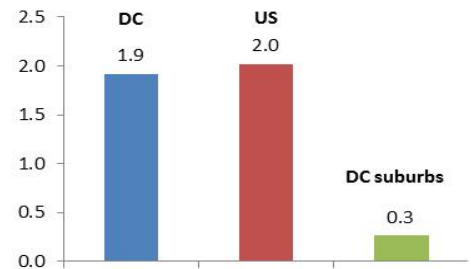
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DC private sector jobs also fared better because it experienced growth in 7 sectors in which US jobs declined. These sectors, which accounted for 30.8% of 2008 DC jobs, grew by 6%. In the US these sectors (40.3% of all jobs in 2008) declined by 5.4%. Within this category, DC's biggest numerical gains were in organizations, but retail and personal services grew at double digit rates. DC also benefitted from having a small percentage of its 2008.1 jobs in manufacturing and information (4.9% v 14.5% in the US) where employment fell sharply.

**The most recent year: 2013 to 2014.** During the recovery period, US private sector jobs have been growing steadily. In the most recent year, 2013.1 to 2014.1, they grew by 2.0%. Only one (information) of the 9 sectors that lost jobs in the US over the entire six year period failed to grow this past year. DC grew almost as fast (1.9%) as the US, and the pattern was similar to that for the entire 6 years after the start of the recession: more jobs in education, health, and food service, joined also by retail and personal services. Job growth in the suburbs continued to lag at 0.3%.

—Stephen Swaim, DC Office of Revenue Analysis

% change in private sector employment in DC, the US, and DC suburbs: 2013.1 to 2014.1



**Wage and salary employment in sectors in which the US and DC both gained employment from 2008.1 to 2014.1**

Sector	Level in DC 2014.1	Change from 2008.1 to 2014.1				Change from 2013.1 to 2014.1			
		DC		US %	DC suburb %	DC		US %	DC suburb %
		#	%			#	%		
Education	62,800	16,767	36.4	12.4	15.1	5,600	9.8	1.4	4.3
Health services	65,900	11,367	20.8	12.3	15.4	1,267	2.0	1.6	0.1
Food services	44,500	10,733	31.8	9.1	14.4	1,233	2.9	3.2	3.8
Professional services	107,233	3,000	2.9	5.3	4.0	167	0.2	2.6	-3.1
Business services	47,767	67	0.1	5.9	1.7	567	1.2	4.7	-0.7
Arts and recreation	6,567	33	0.5	5.4	12.5	33	0.5	4.5	7.6
Total	334,767	41,967	14.3	8.9	8.3	8,867	2.7	2.8	-0.2

Source of all tables in this series: BLS

**Wage and salary employment in sectors in which DC gained and the US lost employment from 2008.1 to 2014.1**

Sector	Level in DC 2014.1	Change from 2008.1 to 2014.1				Change from 2013.1 to 2014.1			
		DC		US %	DC suburb %	DC		US %	DC suburb %
		#	%			#	%		
Organizations	60,200	3,533	6.2	-1.5	2.7	-700	-1.1	0.3	1.7
Retail trade	21,133	2,967	16.3	-1.9	-1.2	1,633	8.4	2.0	1.9
Personal services	7,933	967	13.9	0.0	<i>na</i>	400	5.3	0.9	<i>na</i>
Construction	13,133	367	2.9	-20.7	-19.1	-467	-3.4	2.9	2.1
Accommodations	15,133	300	2.0	-1.4	8.6	300	2.0	1.1	-1.9
Financial services	28,567	233	0.8	-4.4	-2.4	167	0.6	0.8	1.9
Wholesale trade	4,867	133	2.8	-3.3	-11.1	-67	-1.4	2.0	-0.1
Total	150,967	8,500	6.0	-5.4	-5.2	1,267	0.9	1.7	1.6

*na = not available; personal services are included in Organizations.*

**Wage and salary employment in sectors in which DC and the US both lost employment from 2008.1 to 2014.1**

Sector	Level in DC 2014.1	Change from 2008.1 to 2014.1				Change from 2013.1 to 2014.1			
		DC		US %	DC suburb %	DC		US %	DC suburb %
		#	%			#	%		
Manufacturing	800	-900	-52.9	-11.8	-24.6	-200	-31.4	0.6	-5.0
Information	16,967	-4,233	-20.0	-12.1	-18.3	-200	-8.1	-1.2	-3.0
Total	17,767	-5,133	-22.4	-11.9	-21.2	-400	-0.4	0.3	-3.8

**Wage and salary employment in sectors in which DC lost and the US gained employment from 2008.1 to 2014.1**

Sector	Level in DC 2014.1	Change from 2008.1 to 2014.1				Change from 2013.1 to 2014.1			
		DC		US %	DC suburb %	DC		US %	DC suburb %
		#	%			#	%		
Transp., utilities, mining	3,967	-567	-12.5	2.6	-2.6	-167	-4.0	2.2	0.5

**Wage and salary employment in all sectors in DC, the US and the DC suburbs from 2008.1 to 2014.1**

Sector	Level in DC 2014.1	Change from 2008.1 to 2014.1				Change from 2013.1 to 2014.1			
		DC		US %	DC suburb %	DC		US %	DC suburb %
		#	%			#	%		
All sectors	507,467	44,733	9.7	0.1	0.5	9,533	1.9	2.0	0.3