

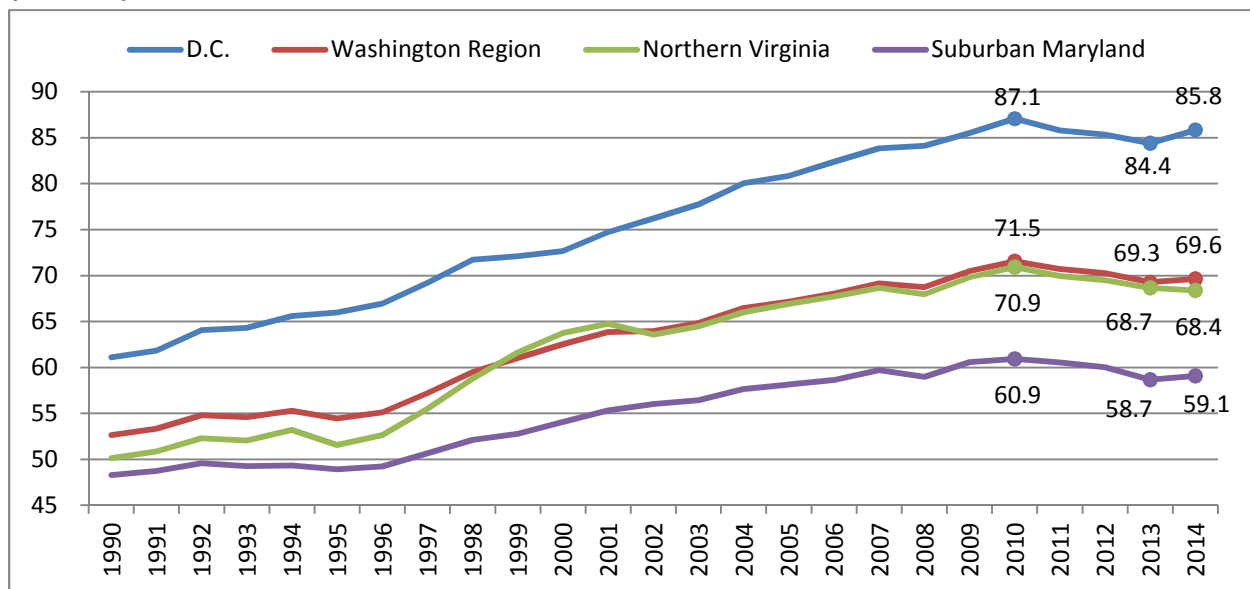


## Update from the Bureau of Labor Statistics

### Average Wage in the Washington Metropolitan Area

After three years of declines, the average wage<sup>1</sup> in the Washington Metropolitan Area<sup>2</sup> increased 0.5 percent between 2013 and 2014. Between 1996 and 2007 the average wage in the region steadily increased, growing an average of 2.1 percent per year after adjusting for inflation (Figure 1). The Recession modestly affected wages, and between 2007 and 2008 the average wage in the region decreased 0.6 percent. But wage growth returned in 2009 and continued in 2010. This growth ended in 2011 and the average in the region declined by 1.1 percent from the prior year. The declines persisted in 2012 (-0.6 percent) and 2013 (-1.4 percent), marking the longest and sharpest decrease in average wage since 1990. In 2014, the average wage began to rise again.

**Figure 1. Average Wage in the Washington Metro Area, 1990-2014**  
(2014 \$s)



By job location

Source: U.S. Census Bureau of Labor Statistics (Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages), and GMU Center for Regional Analysis.

<sup>1</sup> The average wage reflects both the wages and the composition of the jobs in the area and includes both full time and part time jobs.

<sup>2</sup> All metropolitan statistical areas in this report use the 2013 definition from the Office of Management and Budget in 2013.



Between 2013 and 2014, the strongest gains in average wage occurred for jobs located in the District. The average wage in D.C. increased 1.7 percent to \$85,846 (Table 1). At \$59,089, the average wage in Suburban Maryland increased 0.7 percent from 2013. The average wage in Northern Virginia continued to decline, falling by 0.4 percent to \$68,385. Table 2, at the end of this report, shows the average wage in 2013 and 2014 by jurisdiction.

**Table 1. Average Wage by Job Type in the Washington Metro Area, 2014  
(2014 \$s)**

	2014 Average Wage				2013-2014 % Change			
	Private	Federal	State & Local*	Total	Private	Federal	State & Local*	Total
D.C.	79,095	105,491	71,651	85,846	1.2%	4.7%	-4.2%	1.7%
Sub. MD	55,334	98,443	55,566	59,089	0.5%	1.8%	1.7%	0.7%
No. VA	67,962	102,713	51,422	68,385	-0.6%	2.8%	0.0%	-0.4%
<b>Region</b>	<b>66,287</b>	<b>103,238</b>	<b>55,421</b>	<b>69,645</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>0.5%</b>

\*Excludes Manassas Park city

By job location

Source: U.S. Census Bureau of Labor Statistics (Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages), and GMU Center for Regional Analysis.

All sub-state areas had increases in the average wage of a Federal job, even as the number of Federal jobs declined. The average state and local wage increased by 0.3 percent for the region overall, driven by gains for Suburban Maryland. For the region, the average wage of a private sector job was nearly unchanged between 2013 and 2014, rising 0.1 percent. However, there was considerable variation by sub-state area: D.C. (+1.2 percent), Suburban Maryland (+0.5 percent), Northern Virginia (-0.6 percent). The decrease in Northern Virginia was largely driven by the average wage<sup>3</sup> of a Professional, Scientific and Technical Service job, which decreased 1.1 percent between 2013 and 2014.

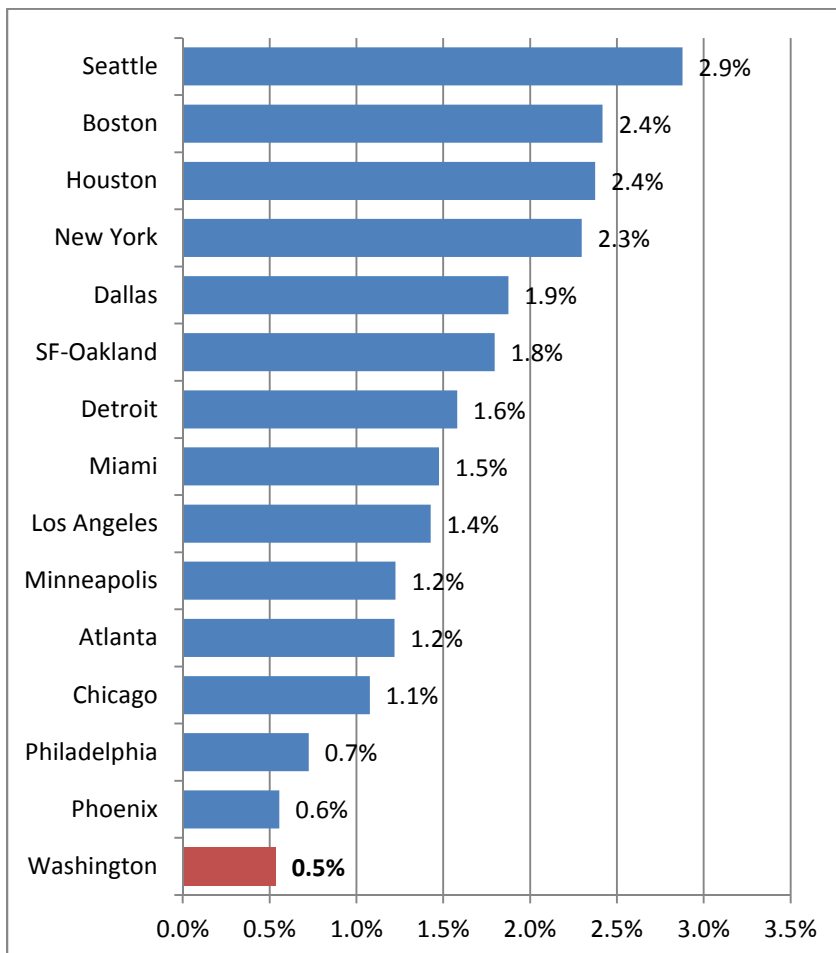
<sup>3</sup> Excludes Calvert, Clarke, Rappahannock, and the cities of Fredericksburg, Manassas and Manassas Park due to data limitations.



## Wage Growth in the 15 Largest Employment Metros, 2013-2014

Of the 15 largest employment metros, the Washington region had the lowest increase in average wage (Figure 3). Seattle, Boston and Houston had the highest increases in average wage, while the Washington region trailed behind Philadelphia and Phoenix. Despite the relatively small gains, the average wage in the Washington region remains the third highest of these metros, behind only San Francisco (\$78,854) and New York (\$71,224).

**Figure 3. Percent Change in Wage per Job, 2013-2014  
(2014 \$s)**



By job location

Source: U.S. Census Bureau of Labor Statistics (Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages), and GMU Center for Regional Analysis.

**Table 2. Average Wage by Jurisdiction, 2013 and 2014  
(2014 \$s)**

	Jobs* 2014	Wage per Job		
		2013	2014	2013-2014 % Change
<b>D.C.</b>	<b>729,119</b>	<b>84,401</b>	<b>85,846</b>	<b>1.7%</b>
Calvert	21,694	43,425	43,659	0.5%
Charles	41,181	41,886	42,410	1.3%
Frederick	95,146	48,141	48,575	0.9%
Montgomery	455,687	67,245	67,479	0.3%
Prince George's	302,929	52,429	53,145	1.4%
<b>Suburban MD</b>	<b>14,832</b>	<b>58,663</b>	<b>59,089</b>	<b>0.7%</b>
Arlington	164,502	82,013	82,416	0.5%
Clarke	3,797	42,593	41,038	-3.7%
Culpeper	15,324	38,664	38,834	0.4%
Fairfax	579,392	79,375	78,843	-0.7%
Fauquier	21,079	43,483	44,586	2.5%
Loudoun	148,569	60,278	60,333	0.1%
Prince William	119,249	44,231	44,072	-0.4%
Rappahannock	1,397	45,834	47,488	3.6%
Spotsylvania	32,966	37,894	37,420	-1.3%
Stafford	40,443	47,457	47,858	0.8%
Warren	12,367	39,529	38,422	-2.8%
Alexandria	94,955	70,588	71,521	1.3%
Fairfax city	19,666	53,889	53,609	-0.5%
Falls Church	11,040	61,688	63,021	2.2%
Fredericksburg	23,749	40,403	40,680	0.7%
Manassas	22,978	59,961	59,814	-0.2%
Manassas Park	2,844	45,906	48,894	6.5%
<b>Northern Virginia</b>	<b>14,833</b>	<b>68,654</b>	<b>68,385</b>	<b>-0.4%</b>
Jefferson	14,829	36,134	37,221	3.0%
<b>Washington Region</b>	<b>14,834</b>	<b>69,274</b>	<b>69,645</b>	<b>0.5%</b>

\*Jobs are primarily measured by unemployment insurance and will differ from other sources.

By job location

Source: U.S. Census Bureau of Labor Statistics (Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages), and GMU Center for Regional Analysis.

#### GMU Center for Regional Analysis

CRA provides research and analytical services to local governments, businesses and other stakeholders focusing on economic, demographic, transportation, housing and fiscal trends and forecasts.

The Center for Regional Analysis has become the “go-to” organization for economic, demographic and housing data and analysis in the Washington region and is regularly cited as the source of information for the media, research scholars, and investors interested in understanding the regional economy. CRA posts research reports, presentations, data and other information on our website at [cra.gmu.edu](http://cra.gmu.edu).