

BROOKINGS

DMV Monitor – key findings for the region and City of Alexandria

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In January 2025, the White House began making dramatic cuts to federal jobs and spending, which have been codified by law

- **352,285** federal workers departed
- **13,000+** federal contracts terminated
- **15,000+** federal grants canceled
- Office leases ended



119th CONGRESS
1st Session

H.R. 4

The Rescissions Act of 2025

*A White House **Budget Rescissions** request to
cancel \$9.4 billion in vital program funding
already approved by Congress.*

Those actions had a disproportionate impact on the greater Washington region, a major economic and global center



- **6.3 million** people
- **19** counties / **4** states
- **6th** largest metro economy
- **47%** of VA state GDP
- **40%** of MD state GDP
- **52.6%** college grads
- **24%** foreign-born, **60%** non-white
- **4** of the top 20 counties on the Black Progress Index
- **~430K** federal workers

Why the DMV Monitor?

- To inform
- To come together
- To act

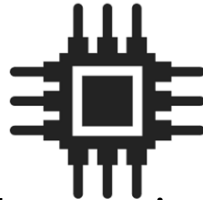
The **DMV Monitor** examines the impact of federal downsizing on the regional economy and its jurisdictions



Economy



Labor market



Innovation



Real estate



Municipal health



Social services/
HH wellbeing

Select data sources

- BLS
- Lightcast
- WARN tracker
- Crunchbase
- CoStar
- Realtor.com
- Federal Reserve Bank

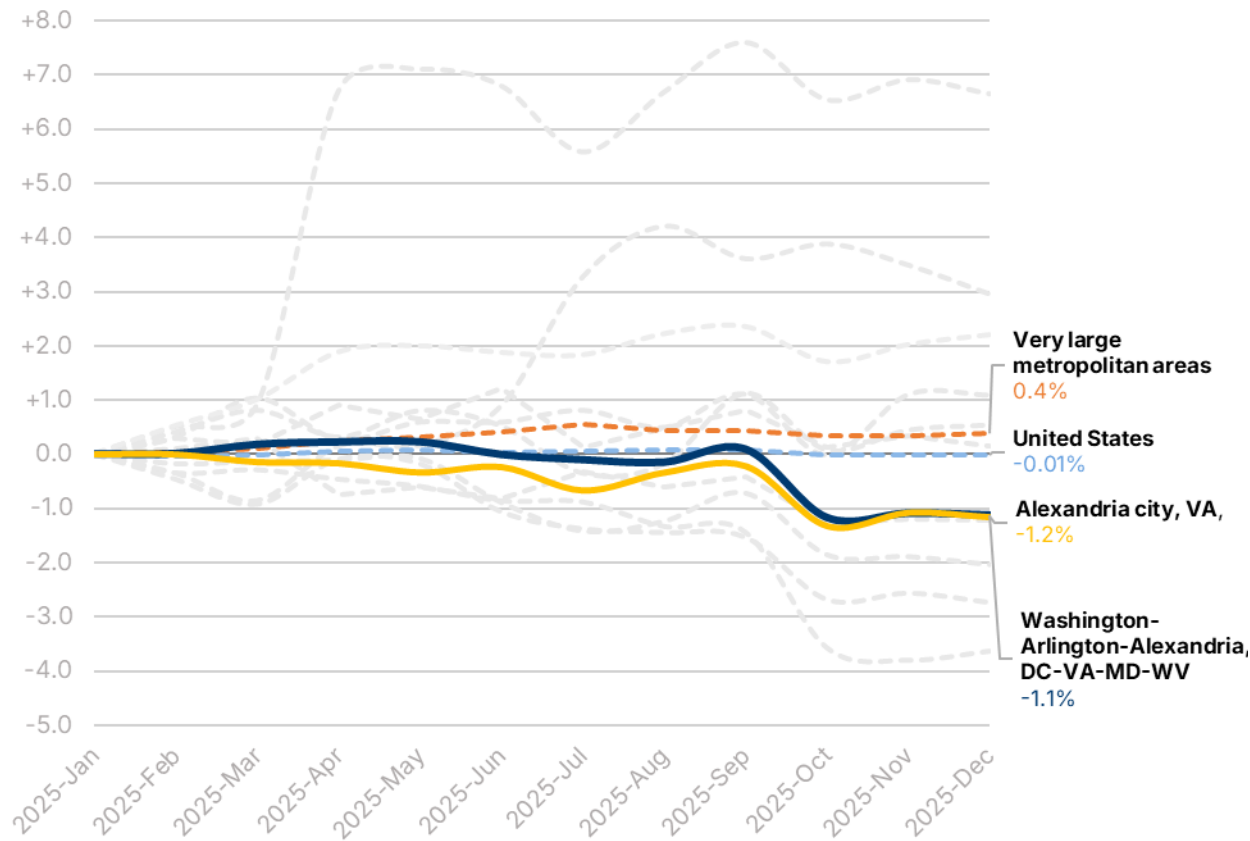
The DMV Monitor: Findings

The greater Washington region economy took a **dramatic downturn** in 2025, as compared to the nation and other large metro areas

The DMV region has started shedding jobs, driven by federal loss

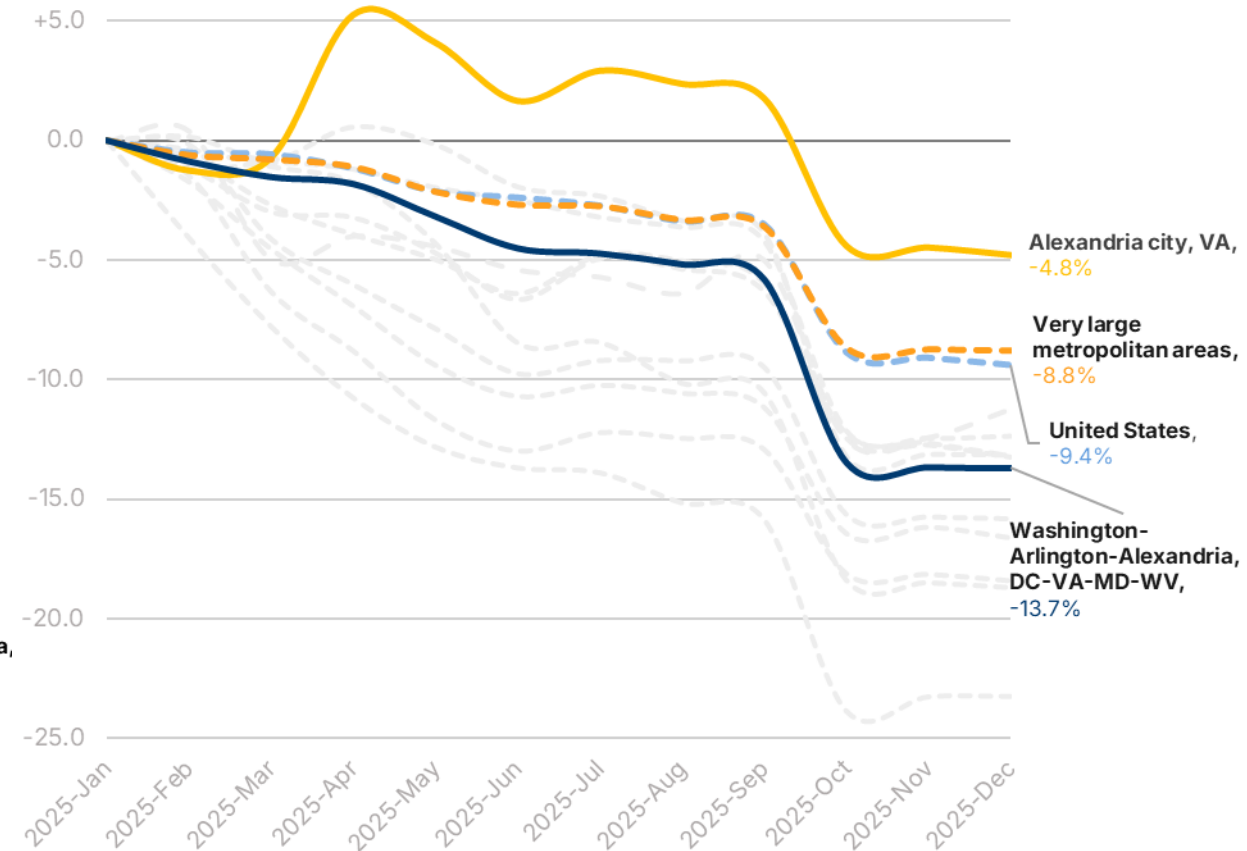
Total employment

Percent change from January 2025



Federal employment

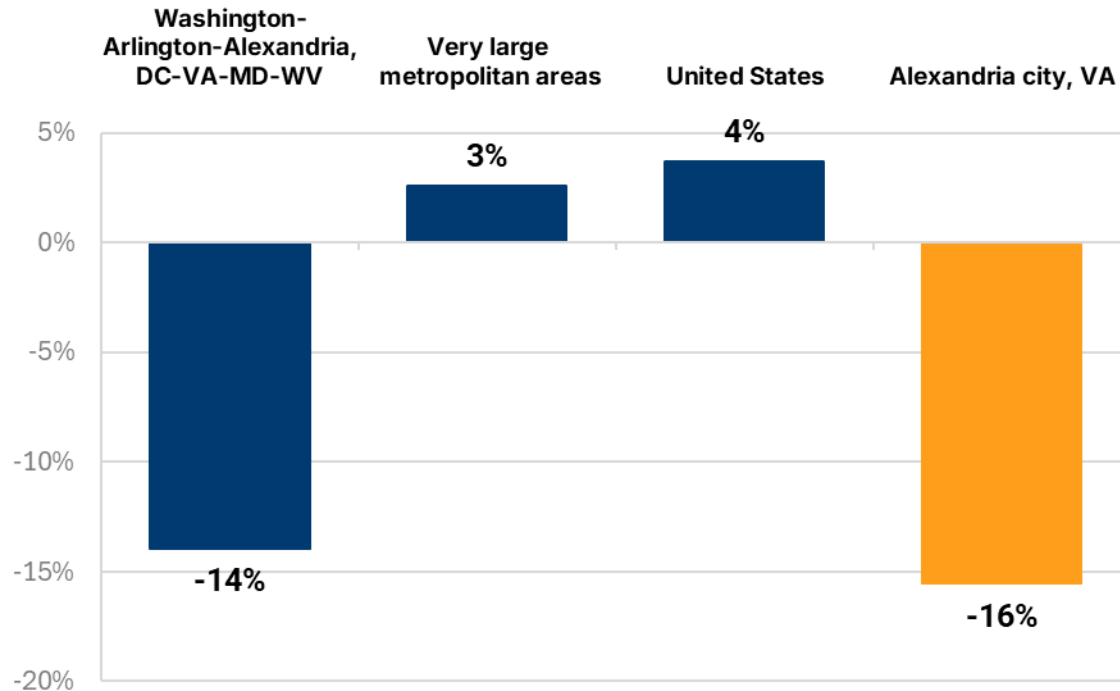
Percent change from January 2025



But for the City of Alexandria, the concern is the private sector

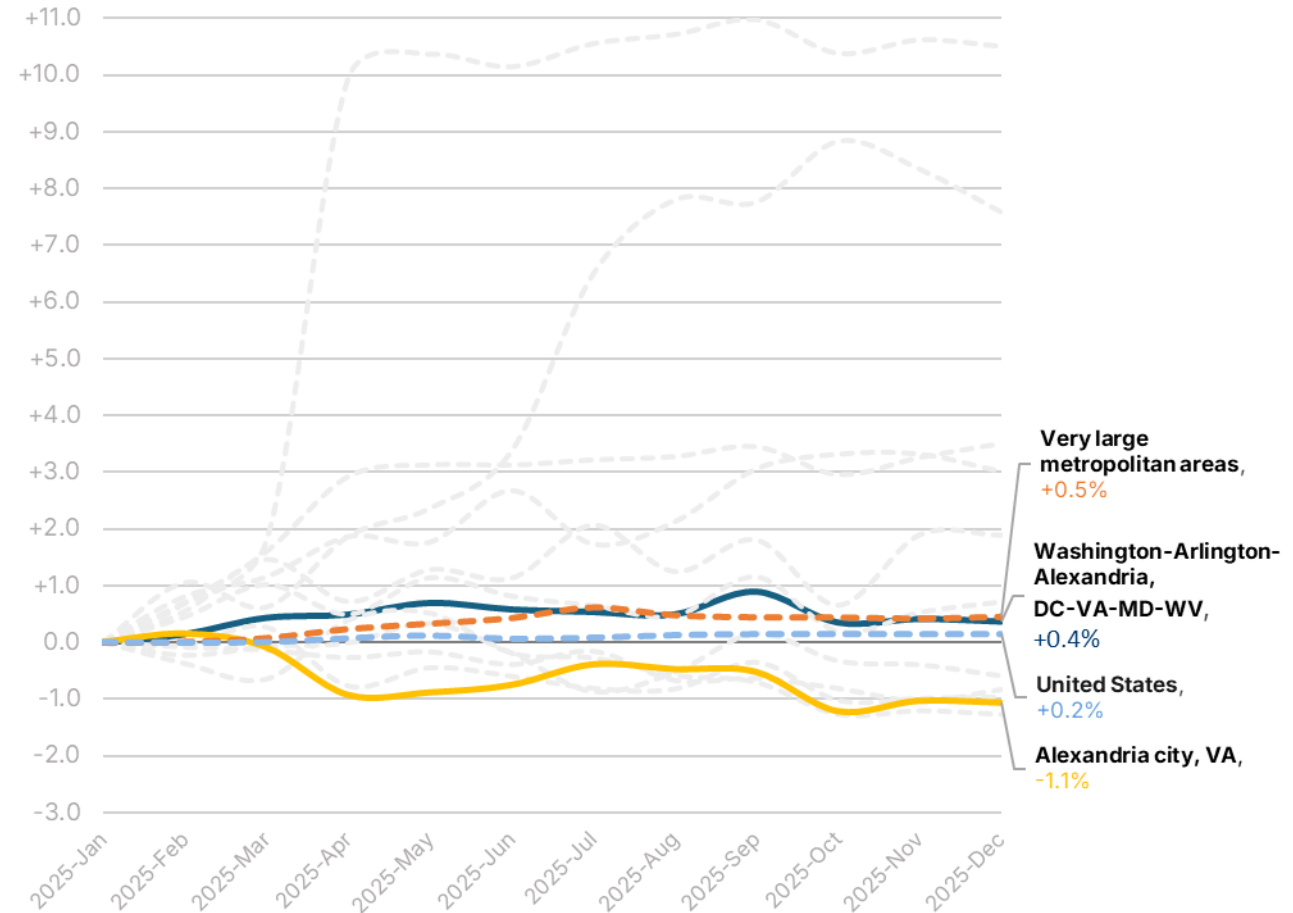
Change in federal obligations, contracts

Percent change, November 2024 to November 2025



Private employment

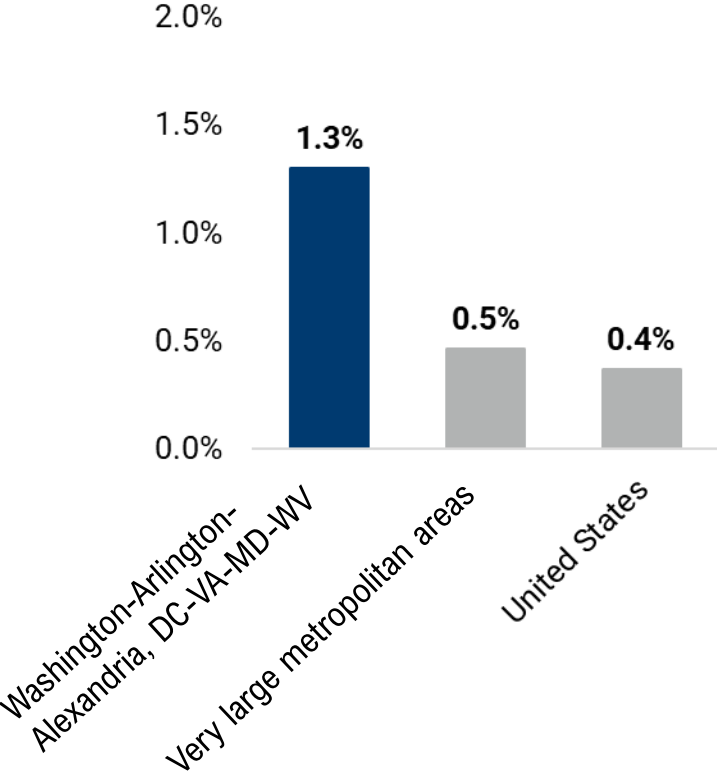
Percent change from January 2025



As a result, unemployment has surged

Unemployment rate

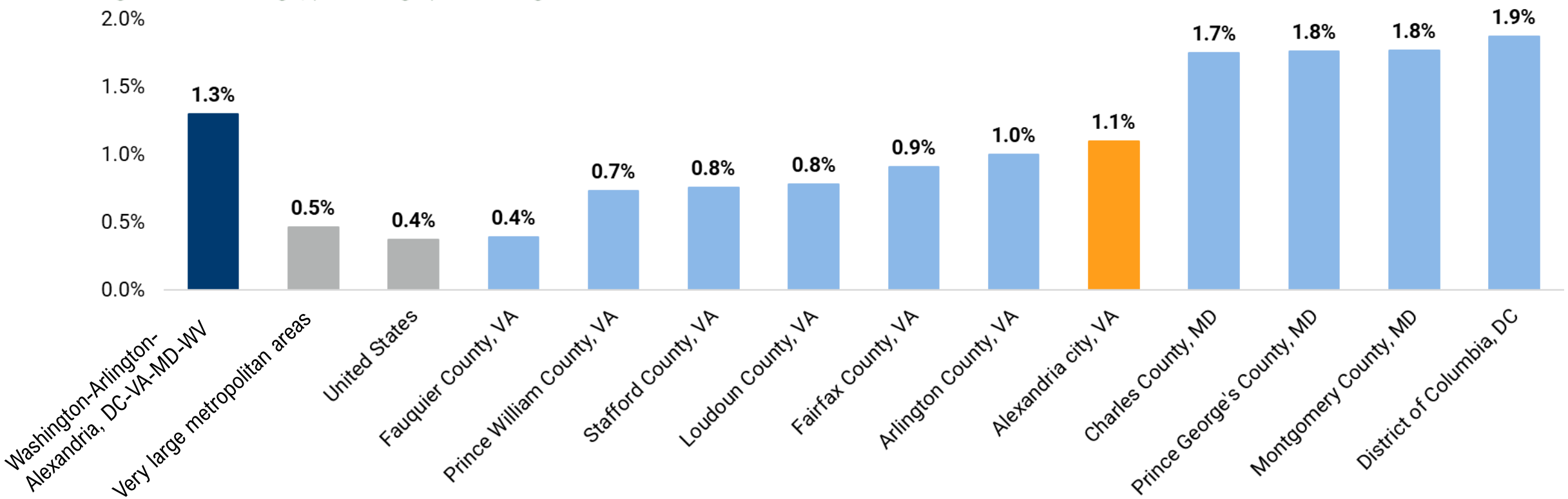
Rolling 3-month average, percentage point change November 2024 to November 2025



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Unemployment rate

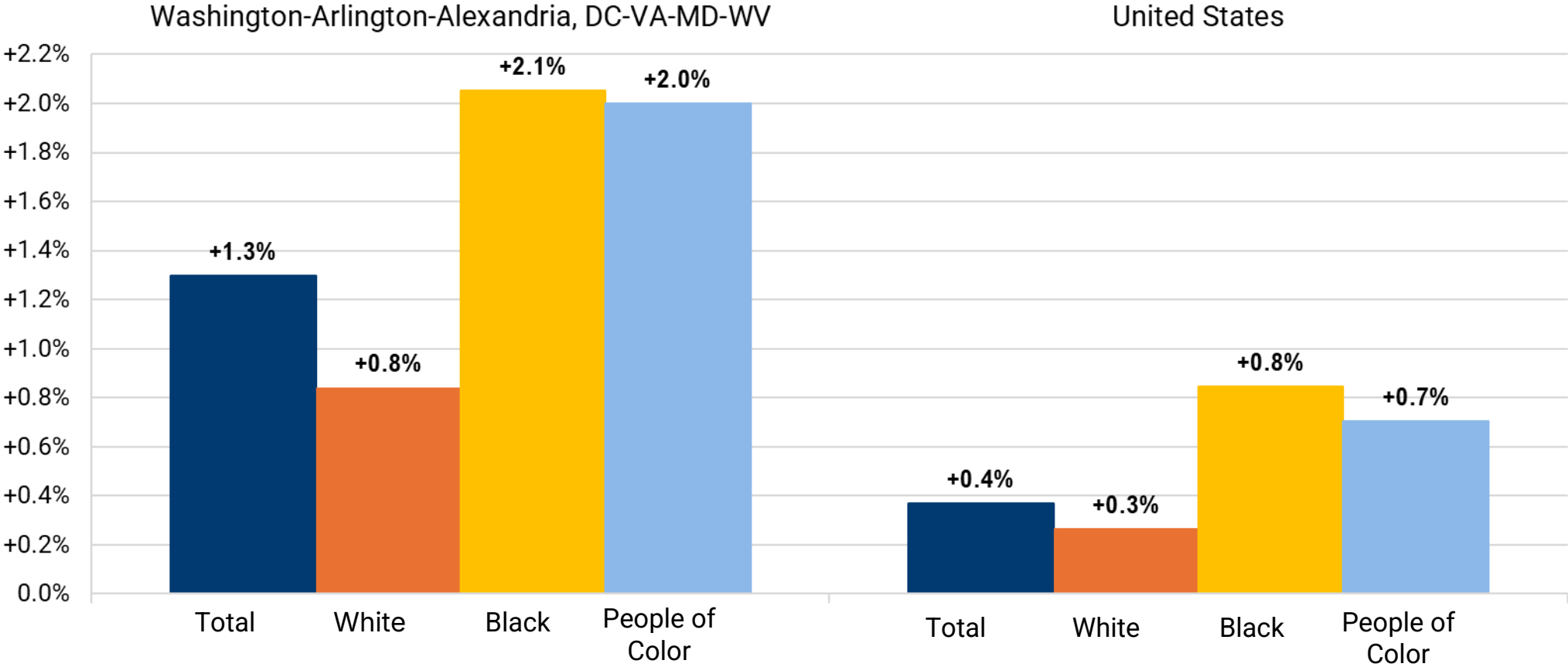
Rolling 3-month average, percentage point change November 2024 to November 2025



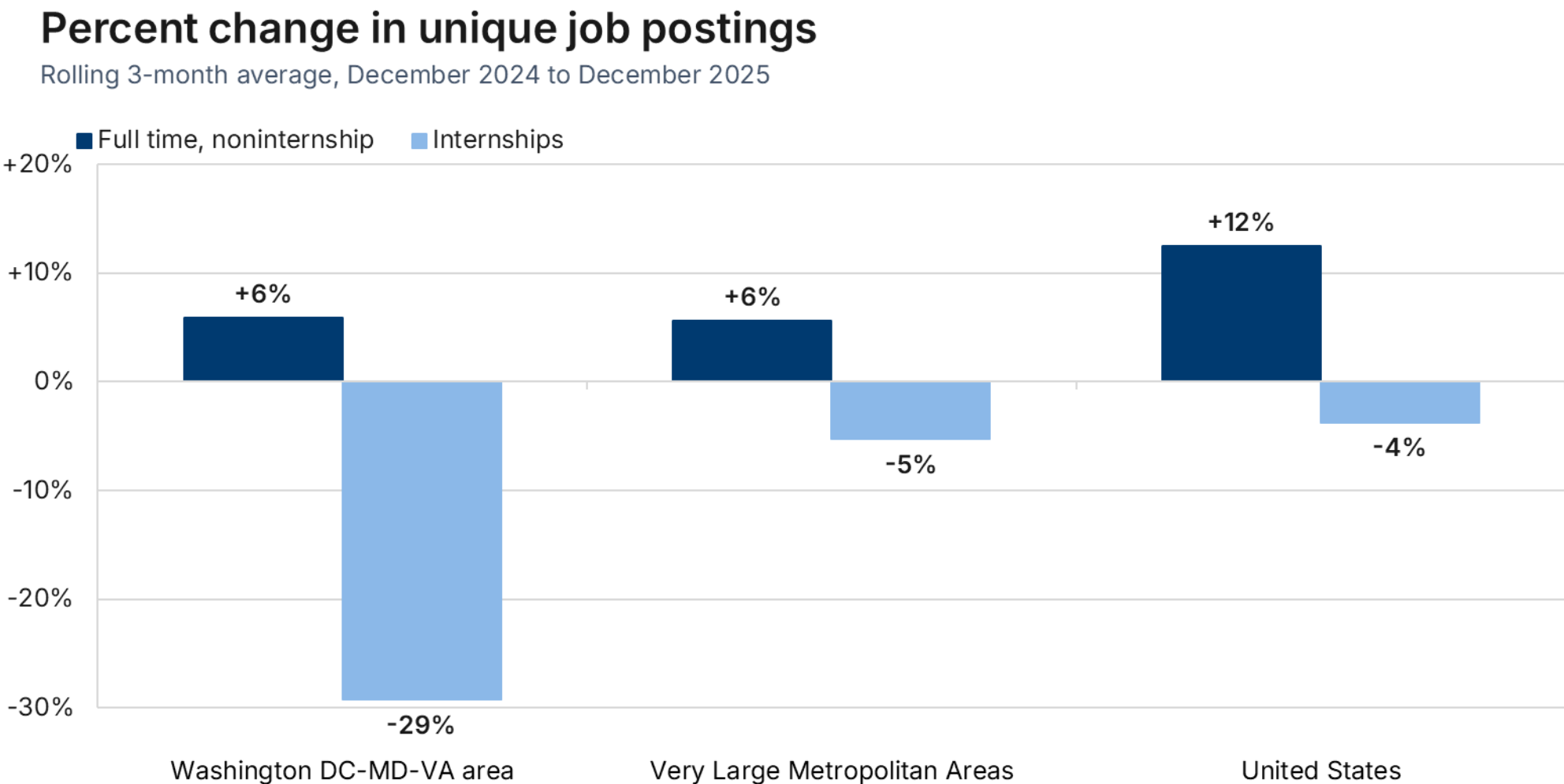
Cumulative job losses hit Black workers hardest

Change in unemployment by race

Rolling 3-month average (seasonally adjusted), percentage point change November 2024 to November 2025



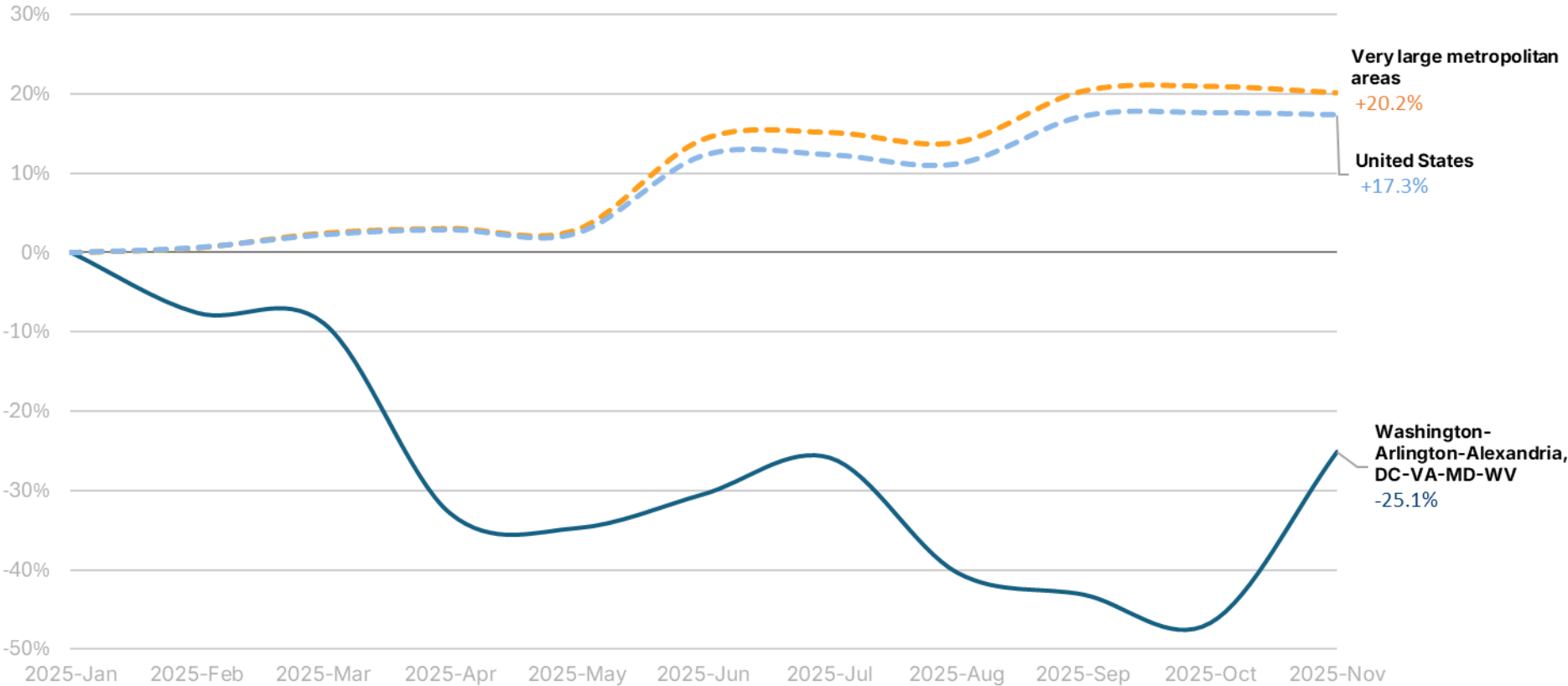
The overall uncertainty has contributed to a more cautious hiring environment in the DMV region, as compared to the nation



That caution has spread to the innovation economy, with venture capital spending down after a boom in 2024

Venture capital volume

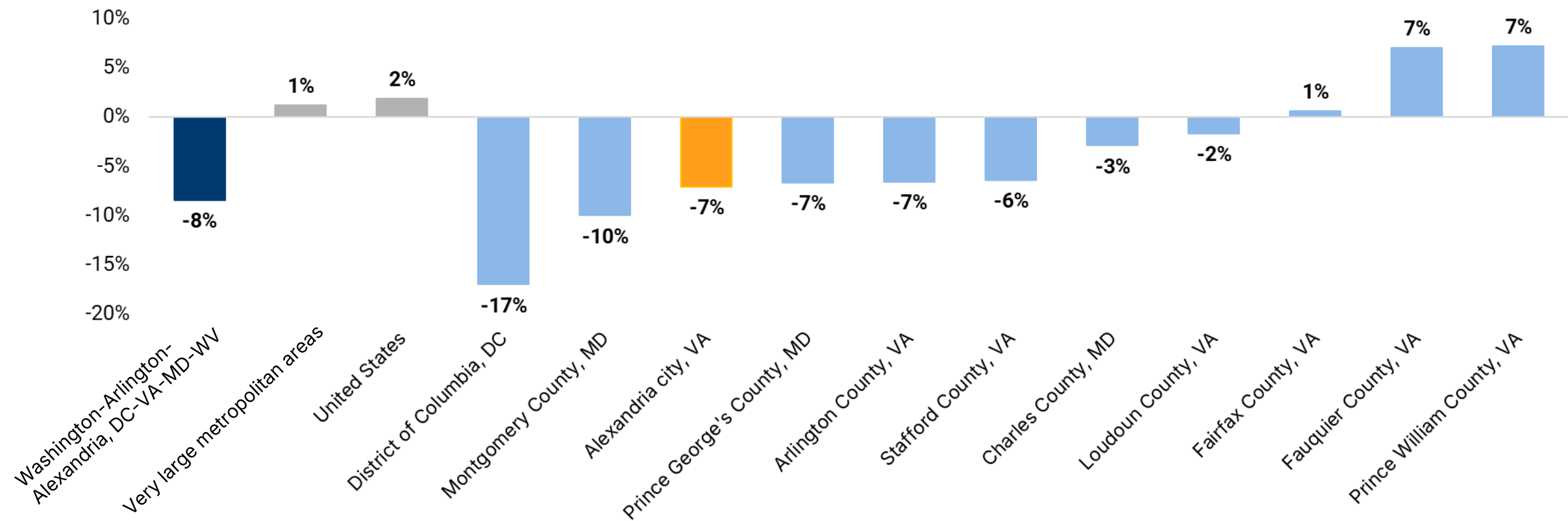
Rolling 12-month total, change from January 2025



The visitor economy has also taken a disproportionate hit

Hotel revenue per available room

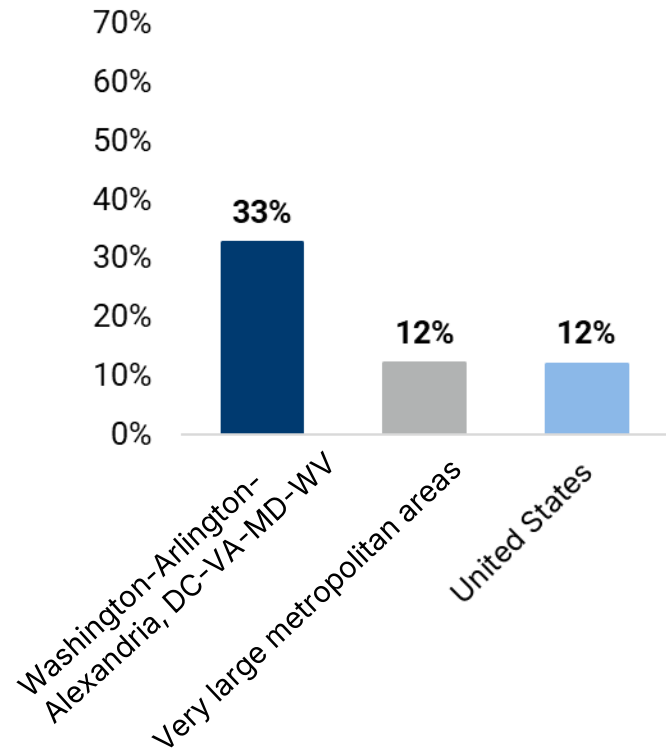
Percent change, December 2024 to December 2025



Are workers leaving? Homes for sale in the DMV have climbed to the highest level since COVID, even as interest rates remain unchanged

Active residential for-sale listings

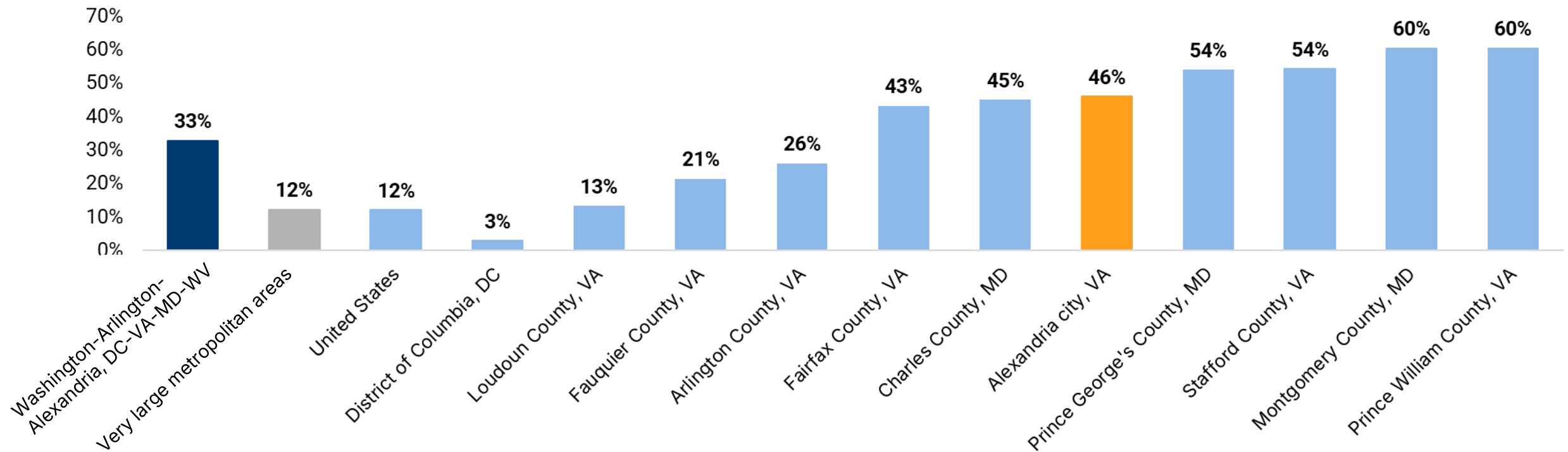
Percent change, December 2024 to December 2025



Are workers leaving? Homes for sale in the DMV have climbed to the highest level since COVID

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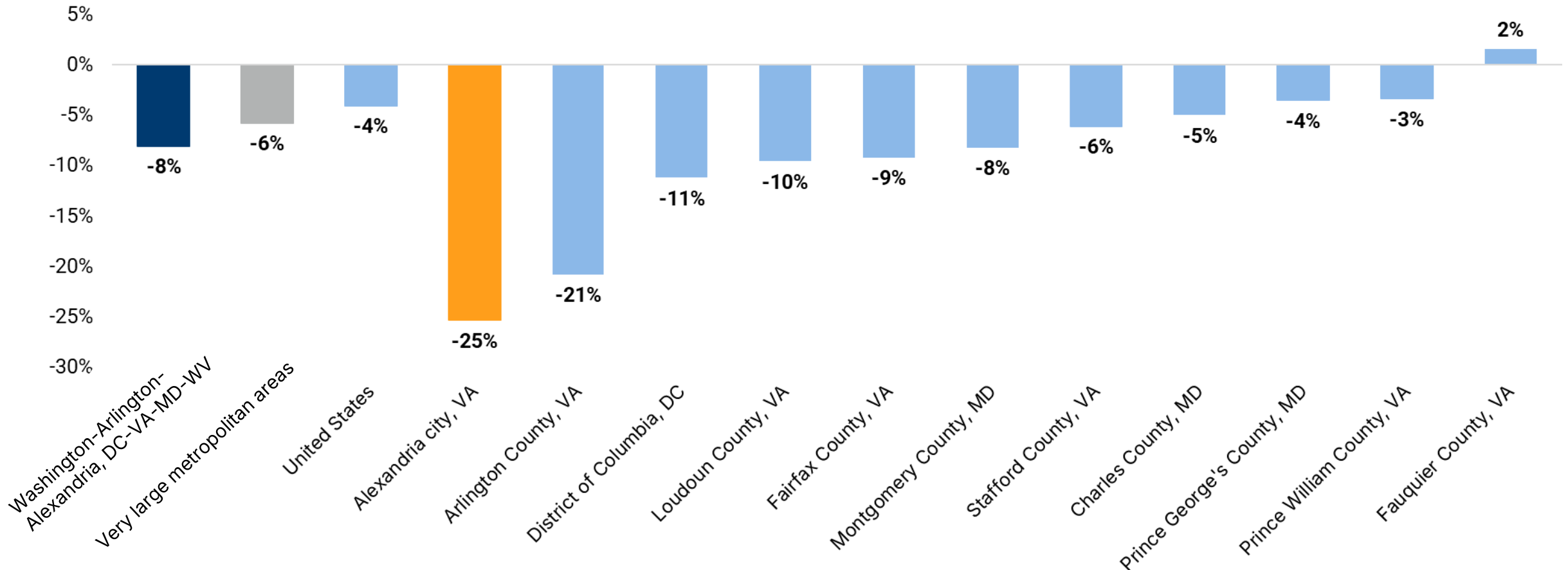
Percent change, December 2024 to December 2025



Are workers leaving? Homes for sale in the DMV have climbed to the highest level since COVID

Median residential listing price

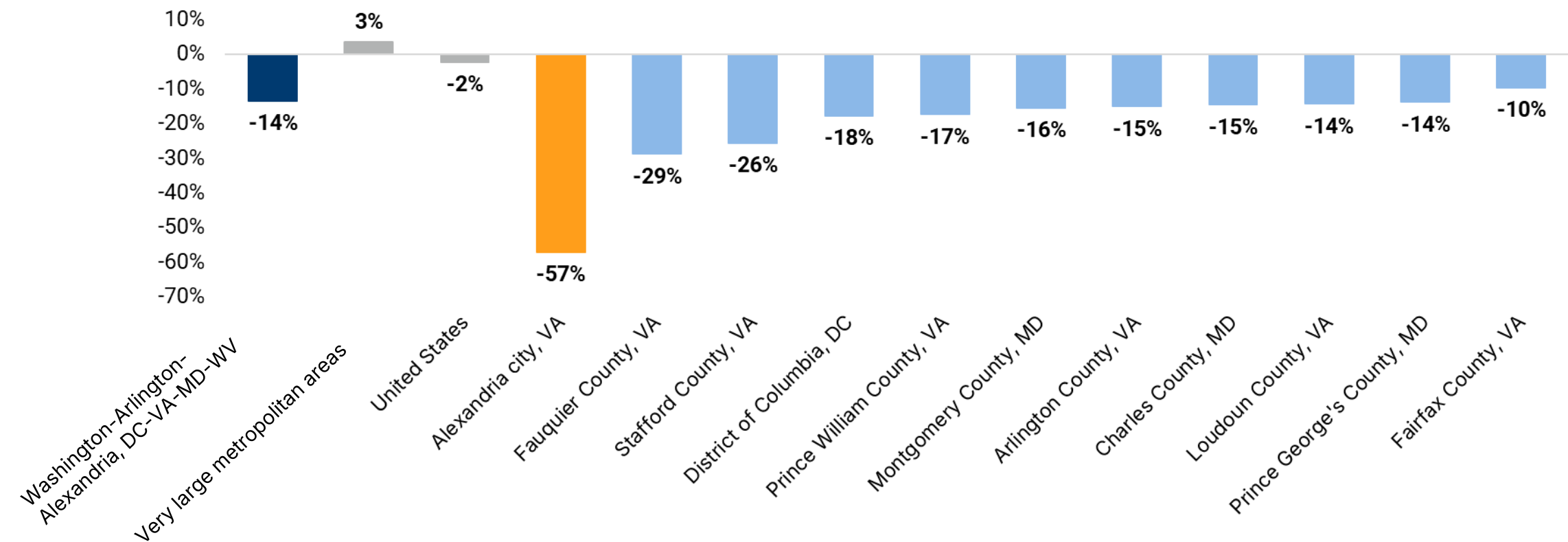
Percent change, inflation-adjusted, December 2024 to December 2025



Good news: Crime is down in every jurisdiction in the region since November of last year

Total, all major crimes

Number of major criminal incidents reported per 100,000 people, Percentage change, November 2024 to November 2025



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Regional Insights

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DMV Monitor

Tracking the impacts of federal spending and staffing cuts on the Washington region

Talent Capital.AI

The screenshot shows the Talent Capital.AI website. On the left is a dark vertical sidebar with the 'Talent Capital' logo (a star icon) and the text 'Talent Capital'. The main content area has a white background. At the top left of this area is a button labeled 'Explore Resources' with a right-pointing arrow. At the top right is a button labeled 'Start Now' with a right-pointing arrow. The main heading is 'START YOUR NEXT CHAPTER' in large, bold, black capital letters. Below this is a paragraph: 'Talent Capital is a regional initiative housed by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. Backed by employers, government, and nonprofits, we connect you with opportunities that fit your skills — and strengthen the Capital Region.' At the bottom left, there is a small circular profile picture of a woman and the text: 'I am Celeste, your personalized AI Career Agent. I can help you find your next job, training, or career event across the Capital Region — in seconds.' On the right side of the page is a large, colorful graphic featuring the silhouettes of three people's heads in profile, facing right. The colors are vibrant, including shades of orange, yellow, and magenta. In the bottom right corner of the page, there is a small blue circular icon with a white speech bubble.

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<https://www.brookings.edu/dmv-monitor/>

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