

REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS)

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A Regional Strategy for a Changing Economy

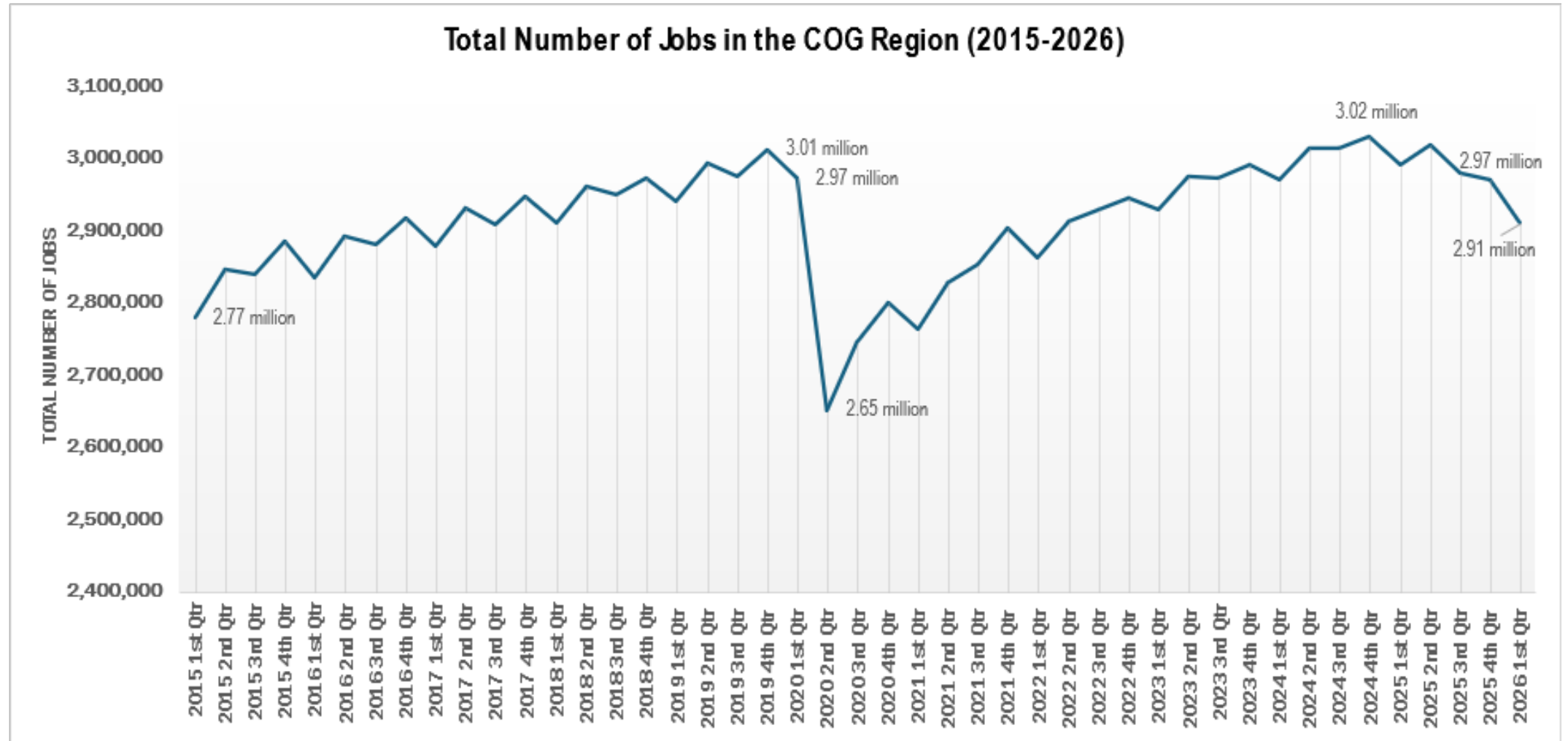
The region is facing new and unprecedented economic conditions.

These challenges cross jurisdictional boundaries – residents, workers, visitors and businesses experience the region as an interconnected place and economy.

We need coordinated solutions.

A shared economic framework can align jobs, businesses, housing, transportation, infrastructure, and land use so that the region can respond collectively, grow inclusively, compete effectively and build long-term economic resilience.

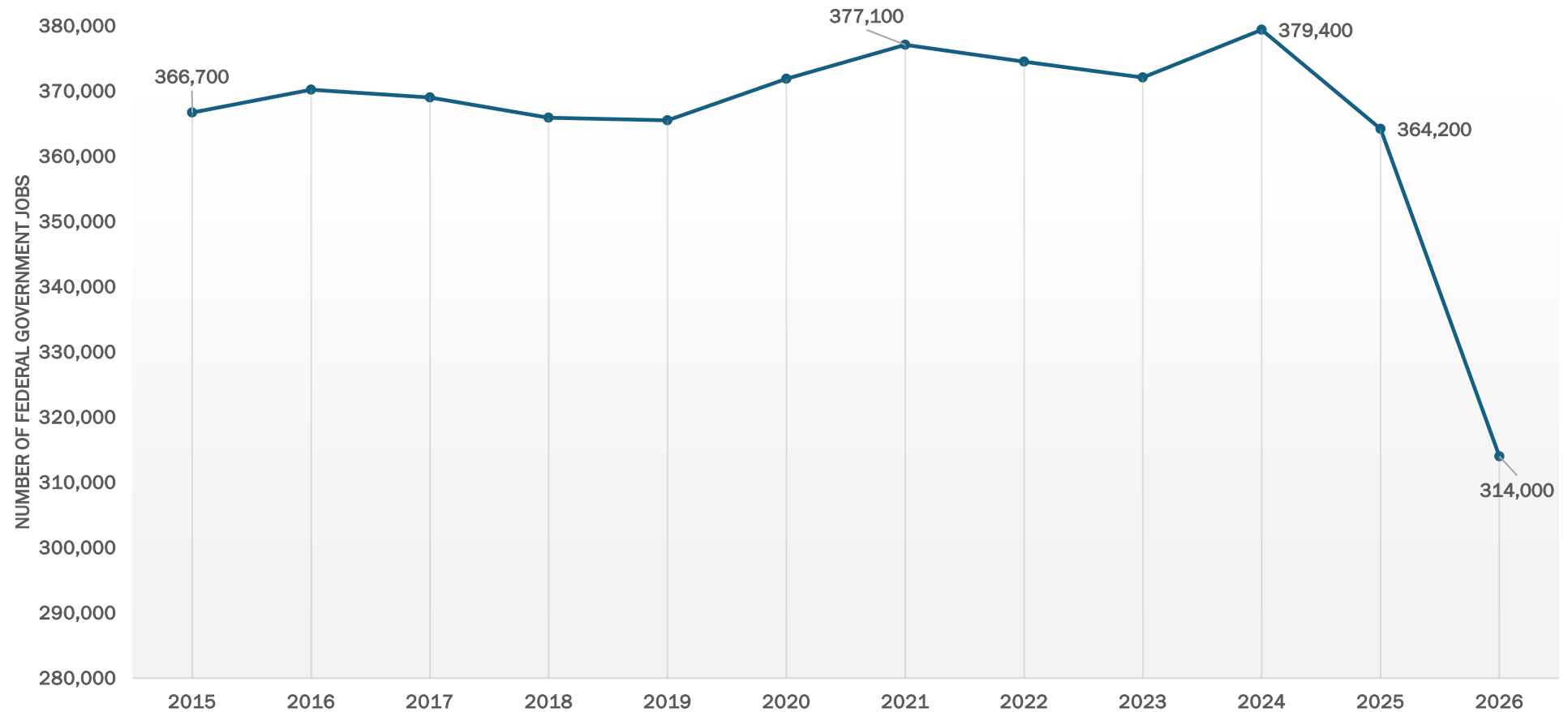
Regional Employment: Recovery and Risk



The Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program publishes a quarterly count of employment and wages reported by employers covering more than 95 percent of U.S. jobs. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Federal Employment Significance

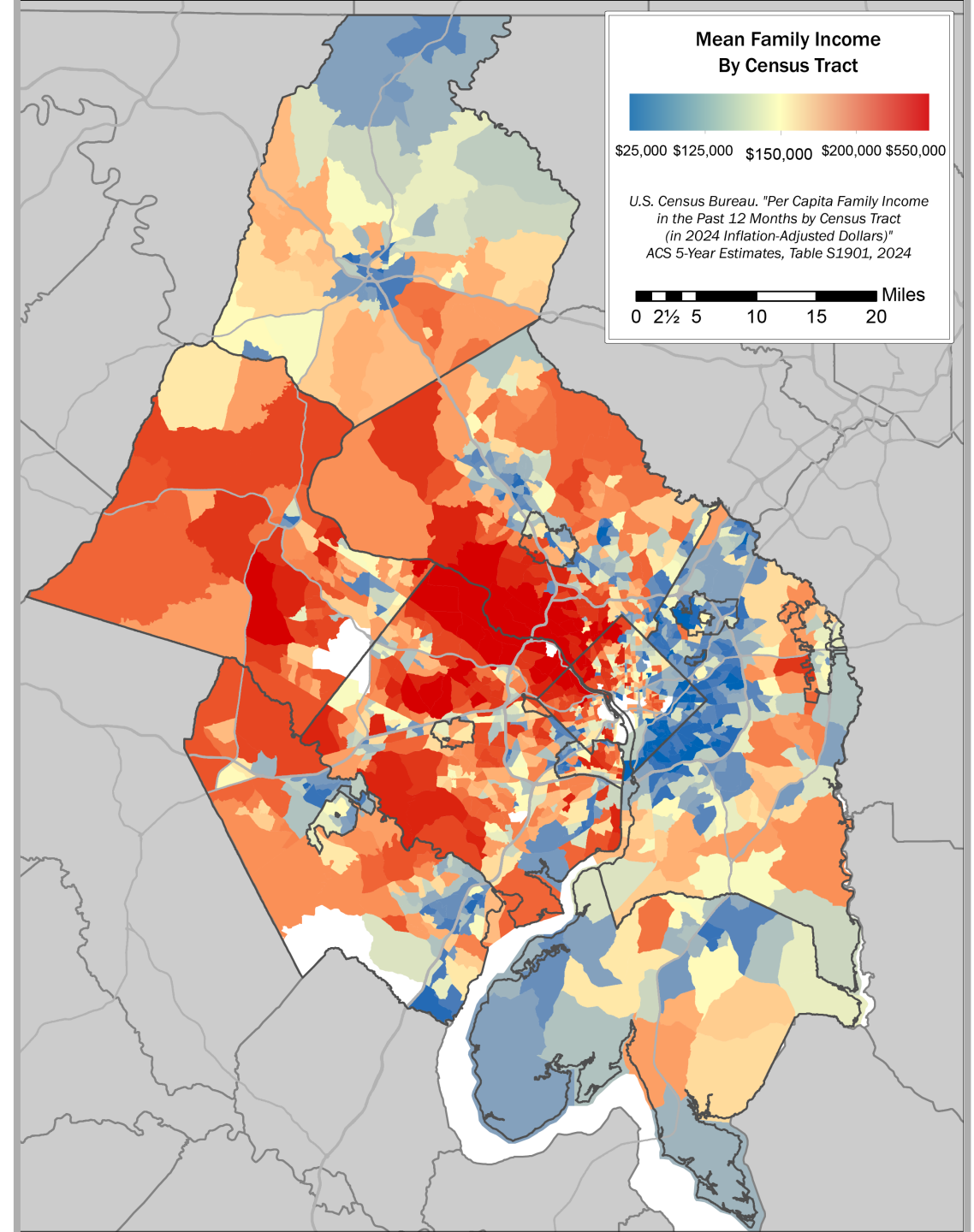
Number of Federal Government Jobs in the Washington MSA
July Data (2015 – 2026)



Source: Current Employment Survey, Not Seasonally Adjusted, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Income Inequality in COG Region

- Mean household income in the COG region ranges from \$27,000 to \$550,000
- Spatial distribution of income differences
 - The western half of the region has significantly higher incomes than the eastern side



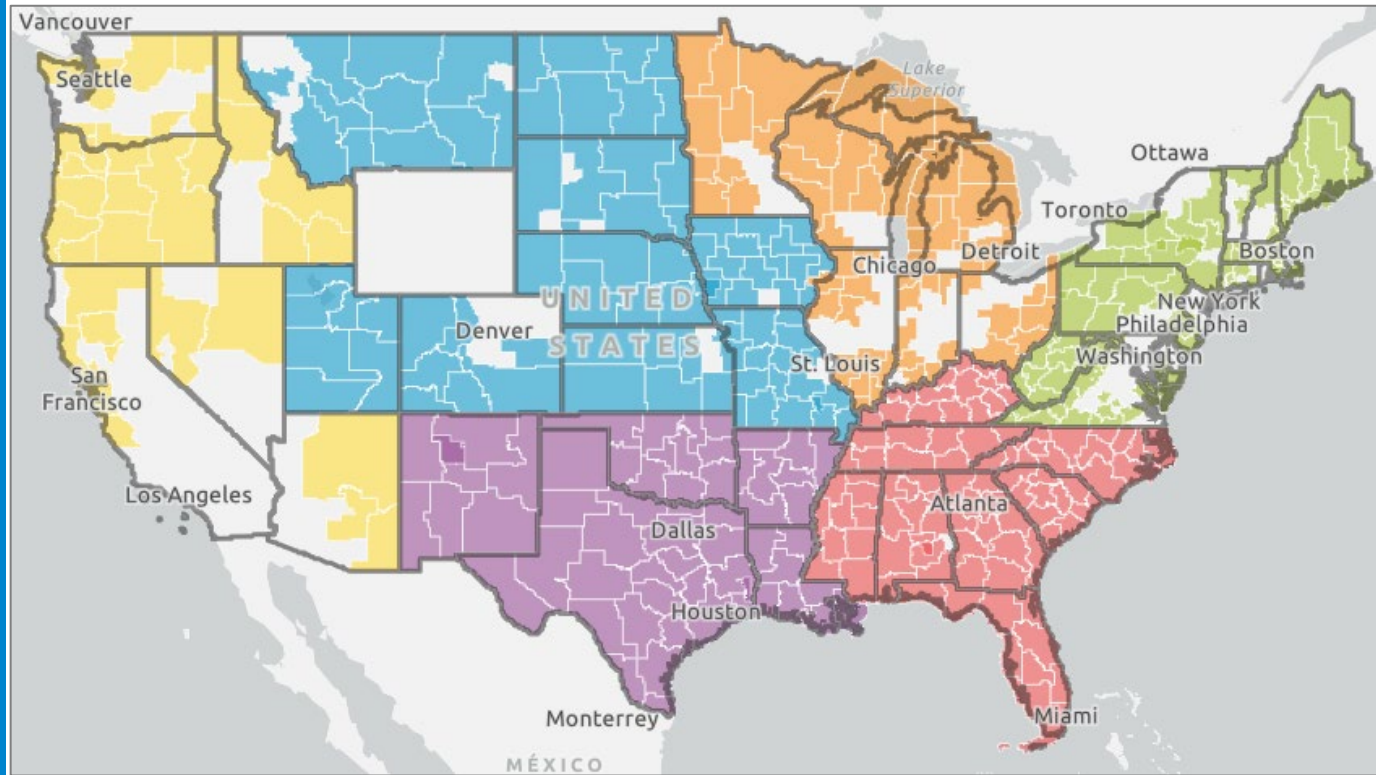
What is a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)?

- A CEDS is a shared, regional strategy for strengthening economic opportunity, competitiveness and resilience.
- Brings together leaders from local government, the private sector, non-profit organizations, foundations, and stakeholder groups to identify strategies and share ownership of actions.
- Provides the capacity-building foundation for cross-sector collaboration and creates the environment for regional economic prosperity.
- Approved by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), and a starting point for designation as an Economic Development District (EDD).
- The CEDS positions our region to strengthen talent, attract investment, and support business; advance inclusive prosperity and improve quality of life.

What will the region's first-ever regional CEDS achieve?

- Identify strategies, accompanying implementable actions, and an evaluation framework to measure the success over a five-year period
- Prioritize workforce development, strengthen economic resiliency, improve economic mobility, attract investment, and support business
- Advance inclusive economic growth and improve quality of life
- Create shared ownership across the region and sectors, focusing on a unified regional approach to economic development
- Enhance the region's ability to compete for federal, state, private sector and philanthropic funding

Economic Development Districts Across the US



Designated EDDs shaded by EDA Regional Office

- 85% of US counties are in an EDD
- Of the ten largest metro areas in the country, only New York City, LA, and DC are **without** a designated EDD
- More than 77% of EDA grants and 71% of total EDA project investment went to areas covered by an EDD
- Per capita, the total project cost invested by EDA in EDD areas is more than three times the amount of investment outside of EDD areas

Sources: NADO Research Foundation (May 2026), Urban Institute (October 2023)

Transportation is Economic Development Infrastructure

Transportation, jobs, land use, and infrastructure work together to determine how people access opportunity and businesses access talent.

- Safe and reliable transportation infrastructure is critical to attracting and retaining businesses that rely on connectivity and promoting efficient movement of goods and services across and through the region.
- It is important to have transportation choices throughout the region, focusing on connectivity across jurisdictional boundaries, to support a diverse population with differing transportation needs.
- Land use and transportation infrastructure connect people to jobs and opportunity — shorter commute times improve workforce access and regional competitiveness.
- A diverse mix of places and businesses strengthens economic resilience and supports long-term prosperity.

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