

Economic Outlook 2010

Here's how 4 experts assess Maryland's prospects for the new year



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The nation is gripped in the worst recession since the 1970s. While conditions in Maryland have deteriorated with the national recession, our unemployment rate of 7.3 percent remains far lower than the national average and is the 14th-lowest in the nation.

While conditions are tough, Maryland weathered both this recession and the last recession (2001), much better than the nation as a whole.

The national economy is showing signs of an initial recovery, with national unemployment in November falling from 10.2 percent to 10 percent. The general consensus is that employment should start to grow in the second to third quarter of 2010.

Maryland can expect to see job growth and the unemployment rate starting to fall beginning in mid-2010. This is good news!

However, as we recover, Maryland is likely to face a significant long-term challenge. As a result of current unprecedented budget deficits, federal government spending is unlikely to continue the rapid growth of the past decade.

Maryland will need to reduce its dependence on federal spending and diversify its economy. With top quality universities and a highly educated and productive workforce, we are positioned to do this, but this may present more of a challenge than the current recession.