

District of Columbia • District Reports 2021

The District Profile highlights key aspects of the local economy, including details related to demographics, the cost of living, and the labor landscape.

2021 Point-in-Time-Data

Population: 670,050 **Number of Households:** Number of Households: 319,565 (10% change from 2019)

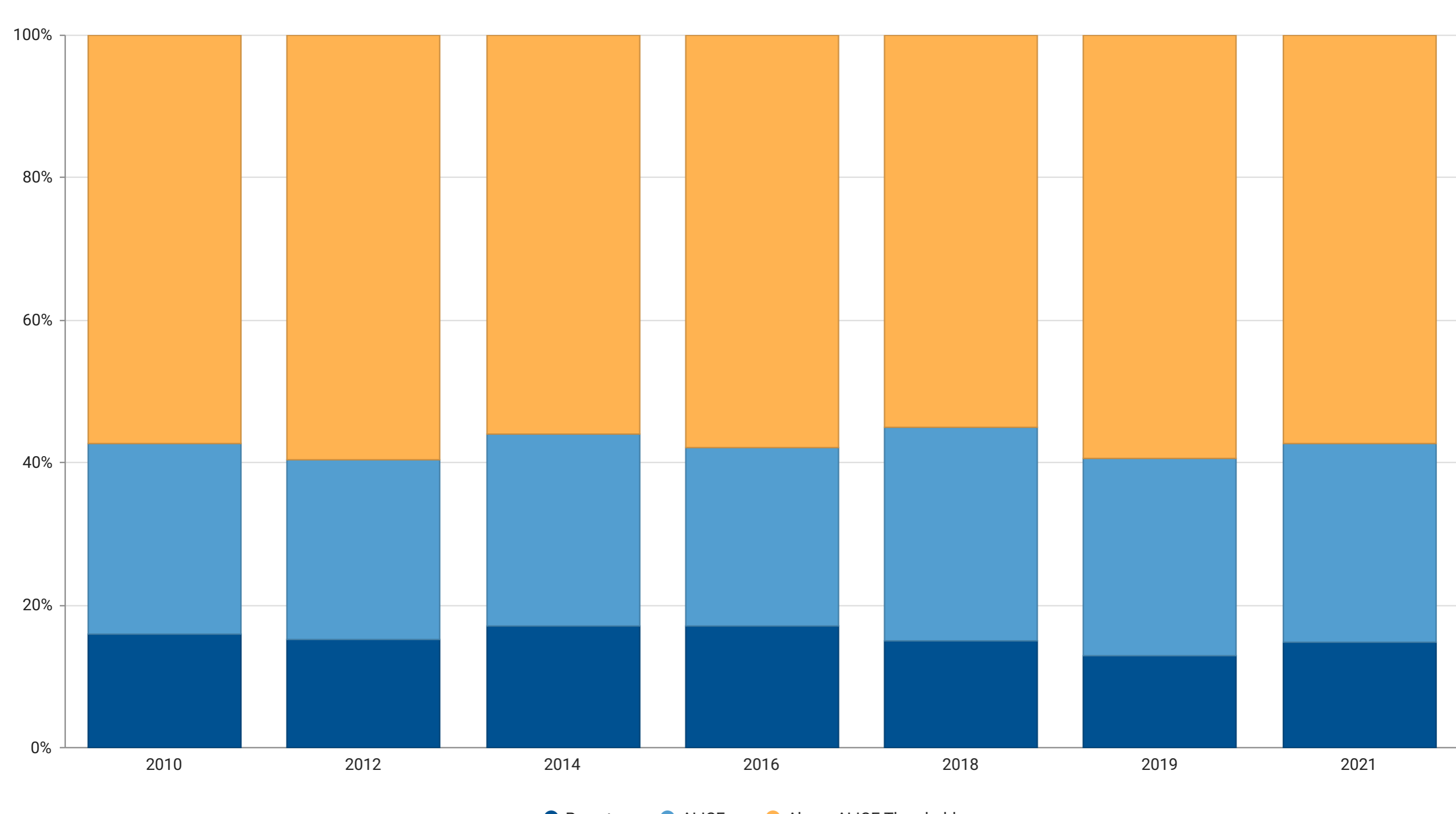
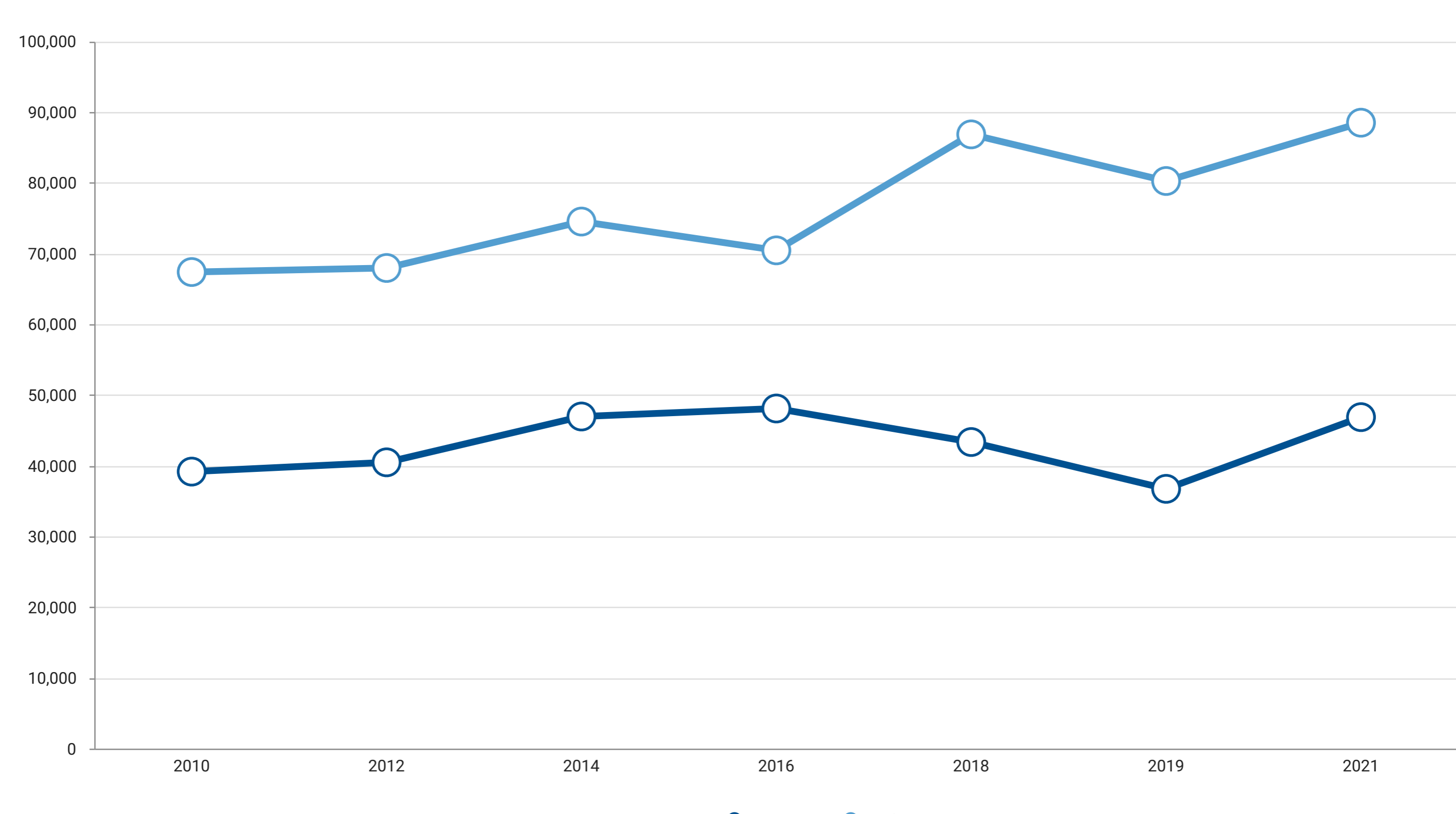
Median Household Income: \$90,088

Labor Force Participation Rate: 71%

ALICE Households: 28% **Households in Poverty:** 15%

Financial Hardship Has Changed Over Time in District of Columbia

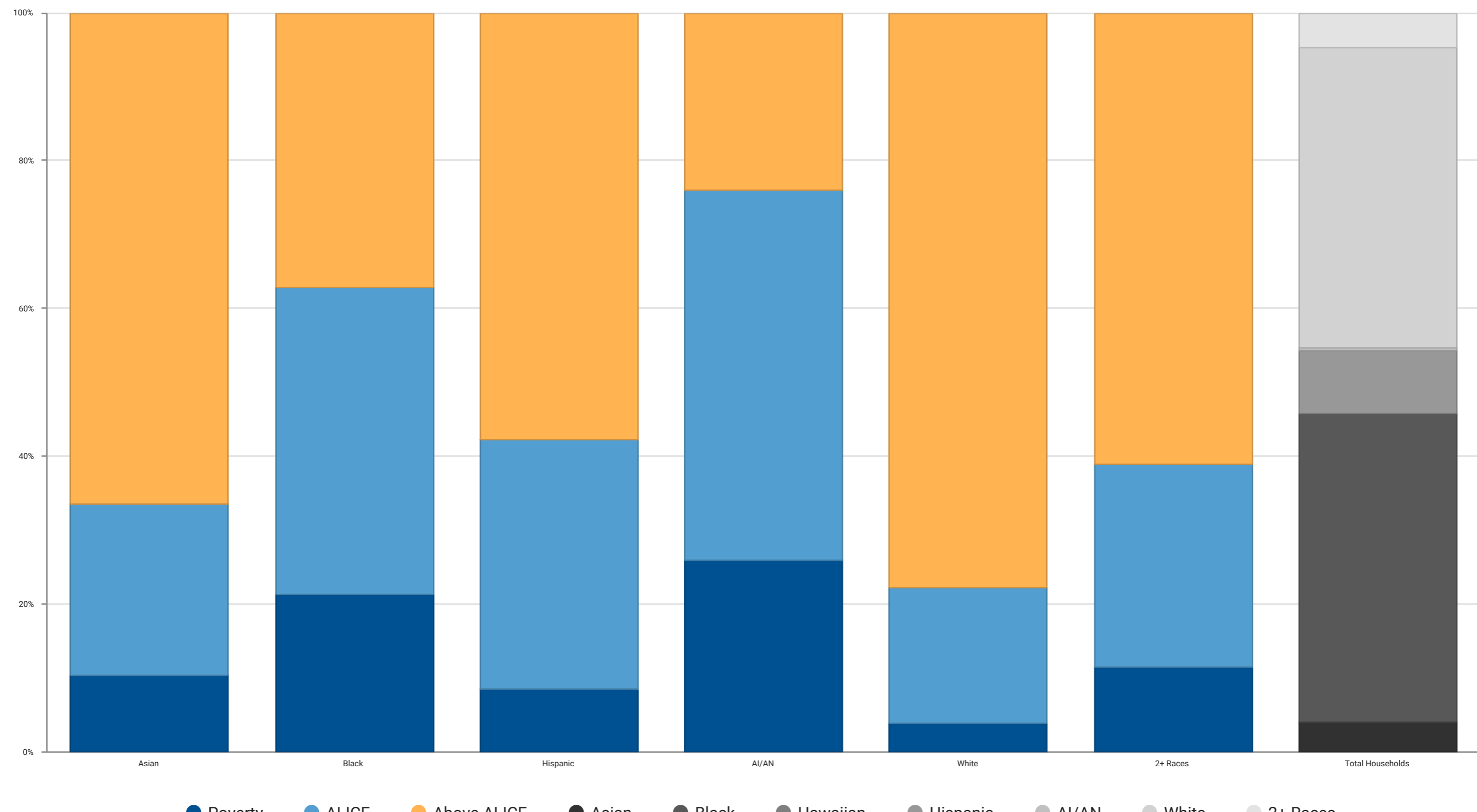
As circumstances change, households may find themselves below or above the ALICE Threshold at different times. While the COVID-19 pandemic brought employment shifts, health struggles, and school/business closures in 2021, it also spurred unprecedented public assistance through pandemic relief measures. In 2019, 116,939 households in District of Columbia were below the ALICE Threshold; by 2021 that number had changed to 135,314.



Financial Hardship is Not Equally Distributed

By total number, groups with the largest population of households below the ALICE Threshold tend to also be in the largest demographic groups. However, when looking at the proportion of each group that is below the ALICE Threshold, it is clear that some groups are more likely to be ALICE than others.

Households by Race/Ethnicity, District of Columbia, District of Columbia, 2021



There were also differences in financial hardship by household type and age of householder.

Group	% Below ALICE Threshold
Single or Cohabiting (no children)	39%
Married (with children)	14%
Single-Female-Headed (with children)	78%
Single-Male-Headed (with children)	34%

Group	% Below ALICE Threshold
Under 25	72%
25 to 44 Years	33%
45 to 64 Years	44%
Seniors (65+)	56%

The Cost of Basics Outpaces Wages

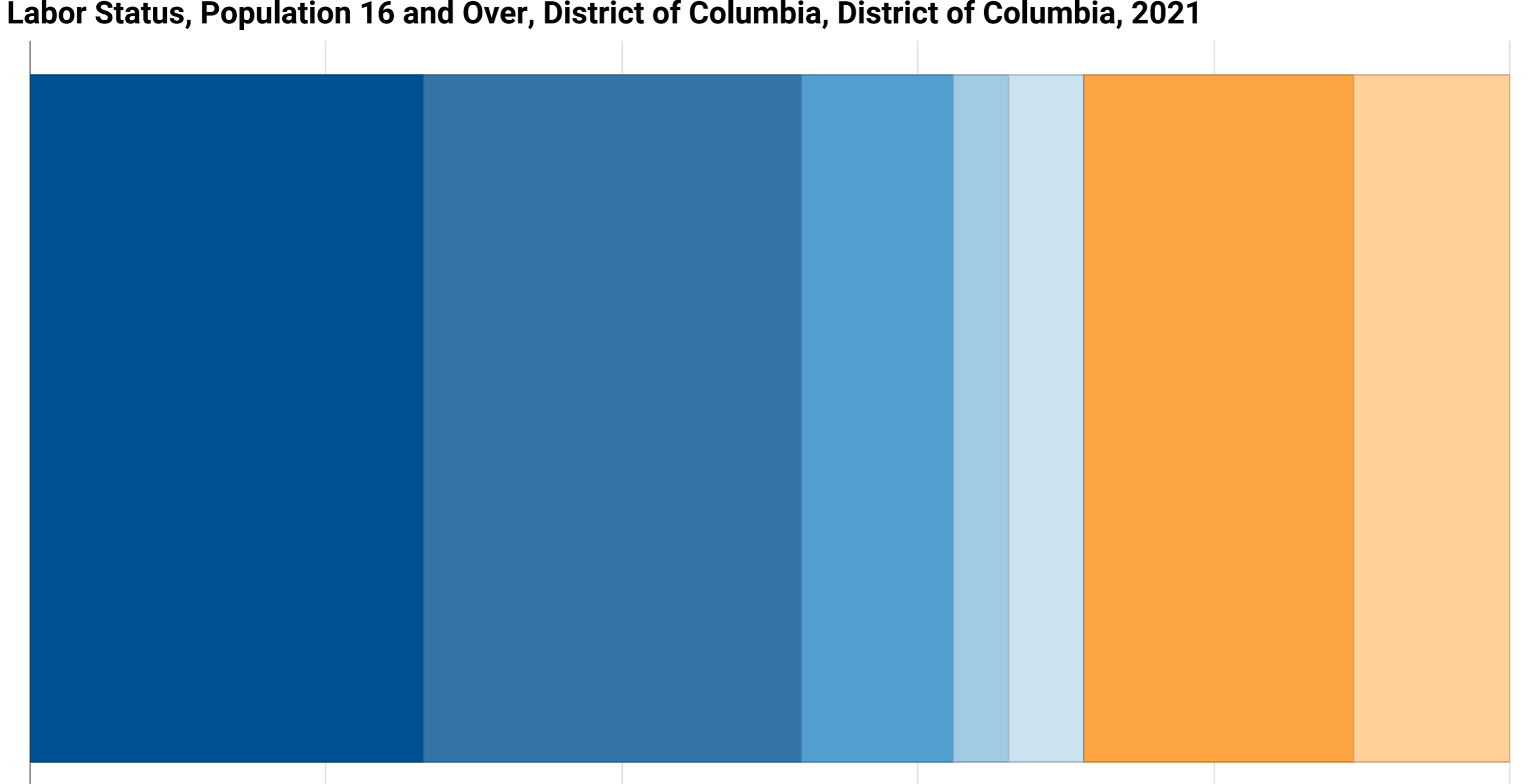
The Household Survival Budget reflects the minimum cost to live and work in the modern economy and includes housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, a smartphone plan, and taxes. It does not include savings for emergencies or future goals like college or retirement. In 2021, household costs in the District of Columbia were well above the Federal Poverty Level of \$12,880 for a single adult and \$26,500 for a family of four.

Monthly Costs and Credits	Single Adult	One Adult, One Child	One Adult, One In Child Care	Two Adults	Two Adults Two Children	Two Adults, Two In Child Care	Single Senior	Two Seniors
Housing - Rent	\$1,833	\$1,794	\$1,794	\$1,794	\$2,025	\$2,025	\$1,833	\$1,794
Housing - Utilities	\$154	\$239	\$239	\$239	\$292	\$292	\$154	\$239
Child Care	\$0	\$241	\$643	\$0	\$482	\$1,694	\$0	\$0
Food	\$573	\$972	\$872	\$1,051	\$1,713	\$1,562	\$529	\$970
Transportation	\$166	\$332	\$166	\$332	\$663	\$332	\$166	\$332
Health Care	\$209	\$547	\$547	\$547	\$922	\$922	\$593	\$1,187
Technology	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$110	\$110	\$110	\$75	\$110
Miscellaneous	\$301	\$420	\$434	\$407	\$621	\$694	\$335	\$463
Tax Payments	\$629	\$864	\$903	\$726	\$1,335	\$1,556	\$725	\$1,162
Tax Credits	\$0	(\$409)	(\$724)	\$0	(\$818)	(\$1,459)	\$0	\$0
Monthly Total	\$3,940	\$5,075	\$4,949	\$5,206	\$7,345	\$7,728	\$4,410	\$6,257
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$47,280	\$60,900	\$59,388	\$62,472	\$88,140	\$92,736	\$52,920	\$75,084
Hourly Wage	\$23.64	\$30.45	\$29.69	\$31.24	\$44.07	\$46.37	\$26.46	\$37.54

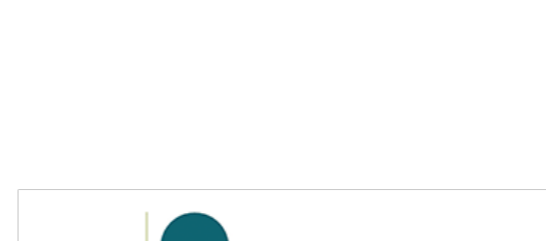
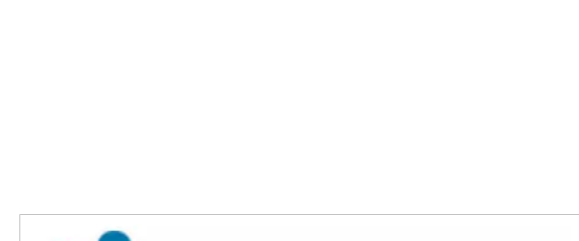
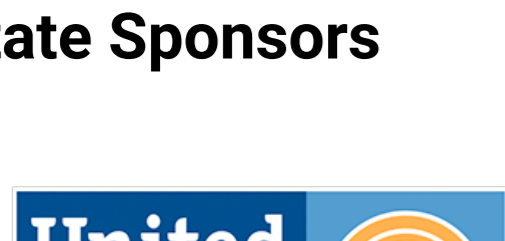
The Labor Landscape is Challenging for ALICE Workers

A small portion of adults (16 years and older) in District of Columbia were unemployed and a large number were working in 2021. However, a significant portion of both full and part-time workers are paid by the hour; these workers are more likely to have fluctuations in income and less likely to receive benefits.

Labor Status, Population 16 and Over, District of Columbia, District of Columbia, 2021



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