



SCHAR SCHOOL OF POLICY
AND GOVERNMENT
George Mason University



Standing at the Crossroads of Our Economic Future

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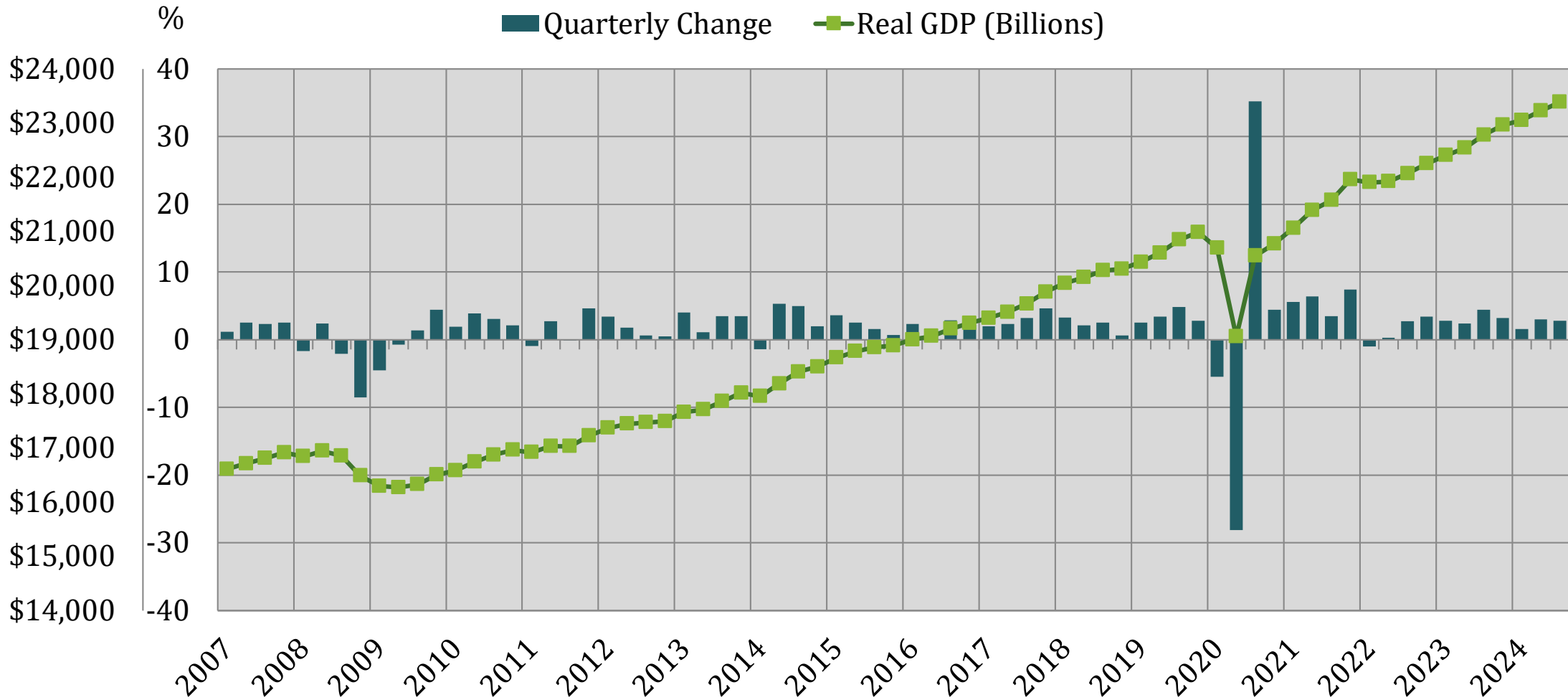
How Others See Us

Area Development 2023 Metro Rankings

Metro Area	Overall	Economic Strength	Core Econ Indicators	Job Growth	Prime Workforce	Wage Growth	Workforce Readiness
Salt Lake City	1	3	47	1	3	14	7
Olympia, WA	2	2	22	3	14	20	16
Decatur, AL	3	5	4	29	13	15	17
Miami	4	4	2	20	41	25	62
Austin	5	15	156	6	1	31	1
Missoula, MT	6	9	7	46	12	7	25
Palm Bay, FL	7	12	100	10	4	53	3
Tampa, FL	8	7	8	31	22	49	26
Tallahassee, FL	9	1	18	2	82	145	84
Ogden, UT	10	19	124	12	10	35	8
Washington DC	314	251	259	225	338	334	319



U. S. Gross Domestic Product



Q3 2024 2.8%



DC Metro Used To Lead

GDP: U.S. & Washington MSA 2001 - 2022 (Billions, \$2017)



Compound
Growth Rate

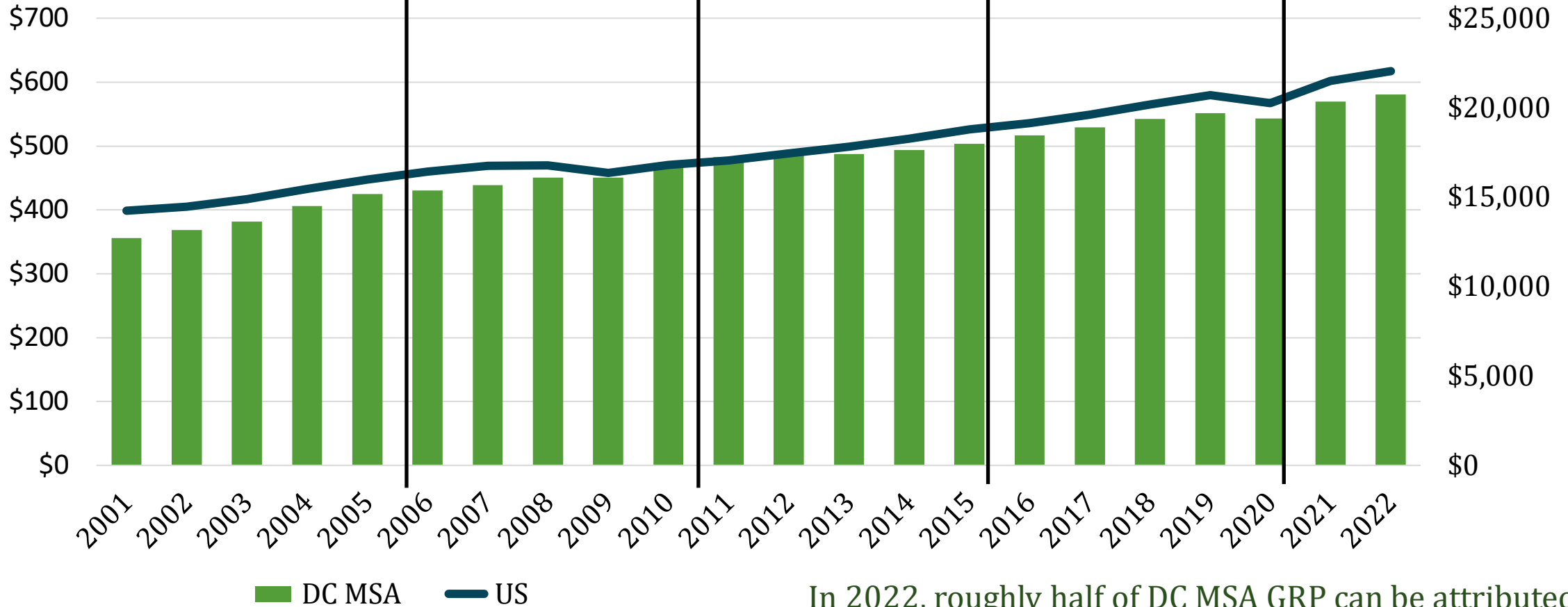
DC 4.5%
US 3.0%

2.4%
0.5%

1.1%
2.5%

1.3%
1.4%

3.4%
4.5%

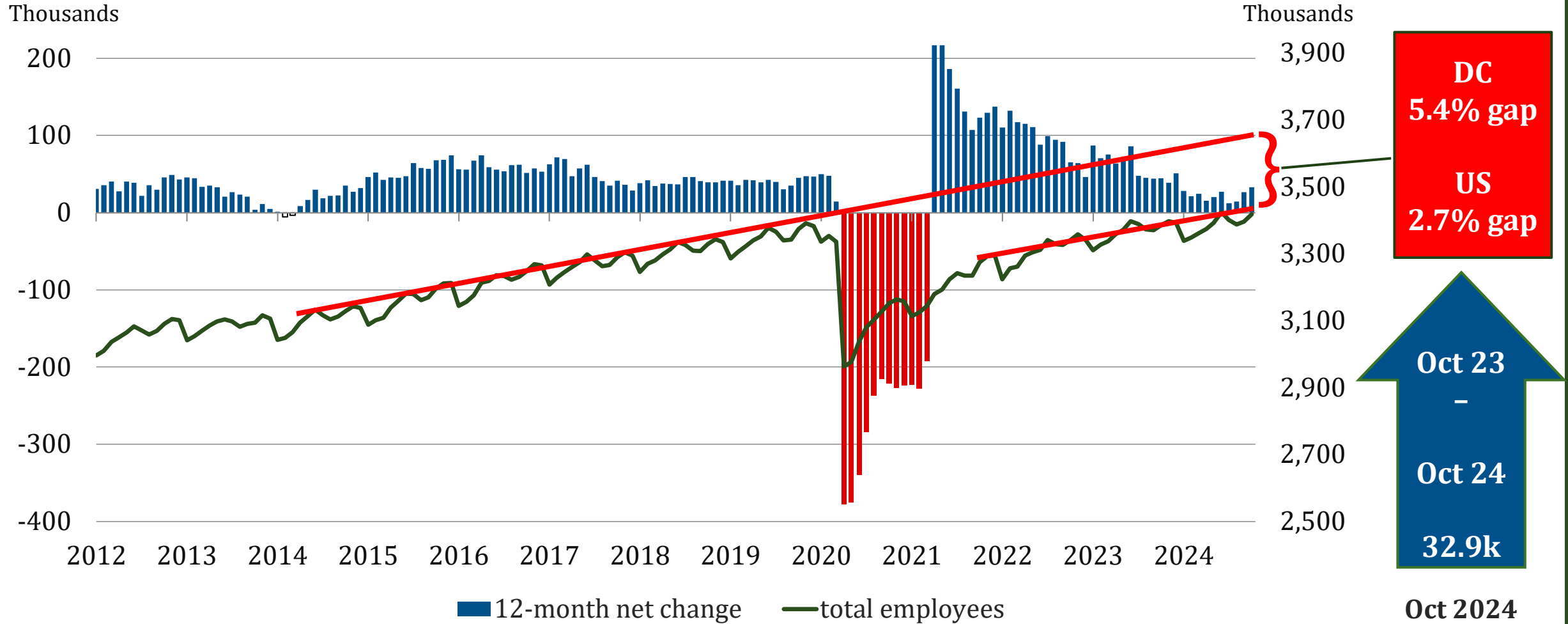


In 2022, roughly half of DC MSA GRP can be attributed to data centers built that year in Loudoun



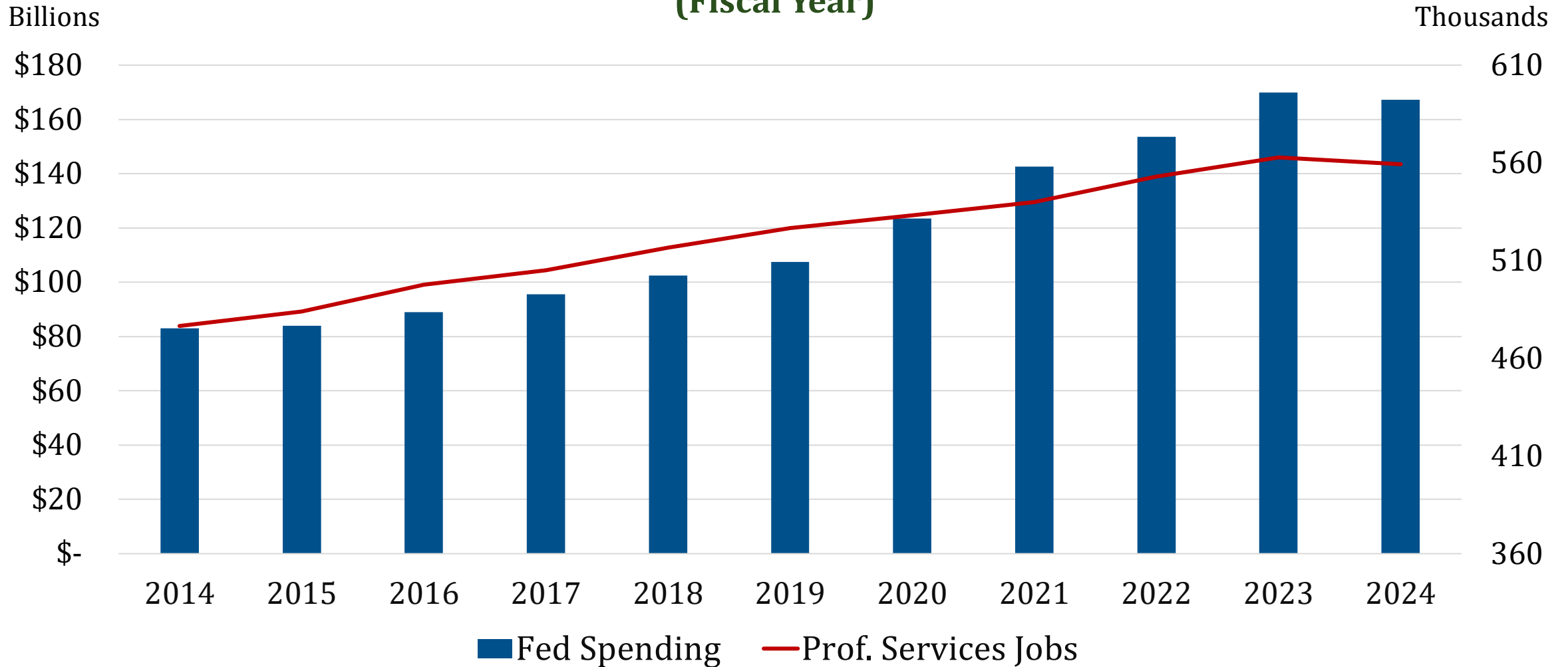
Job Recovery Trailing

Washington MSA Jobs (2012-2024)



Professional Services Jobs Not Tracking with Federal Spending

(Fiscal Year)

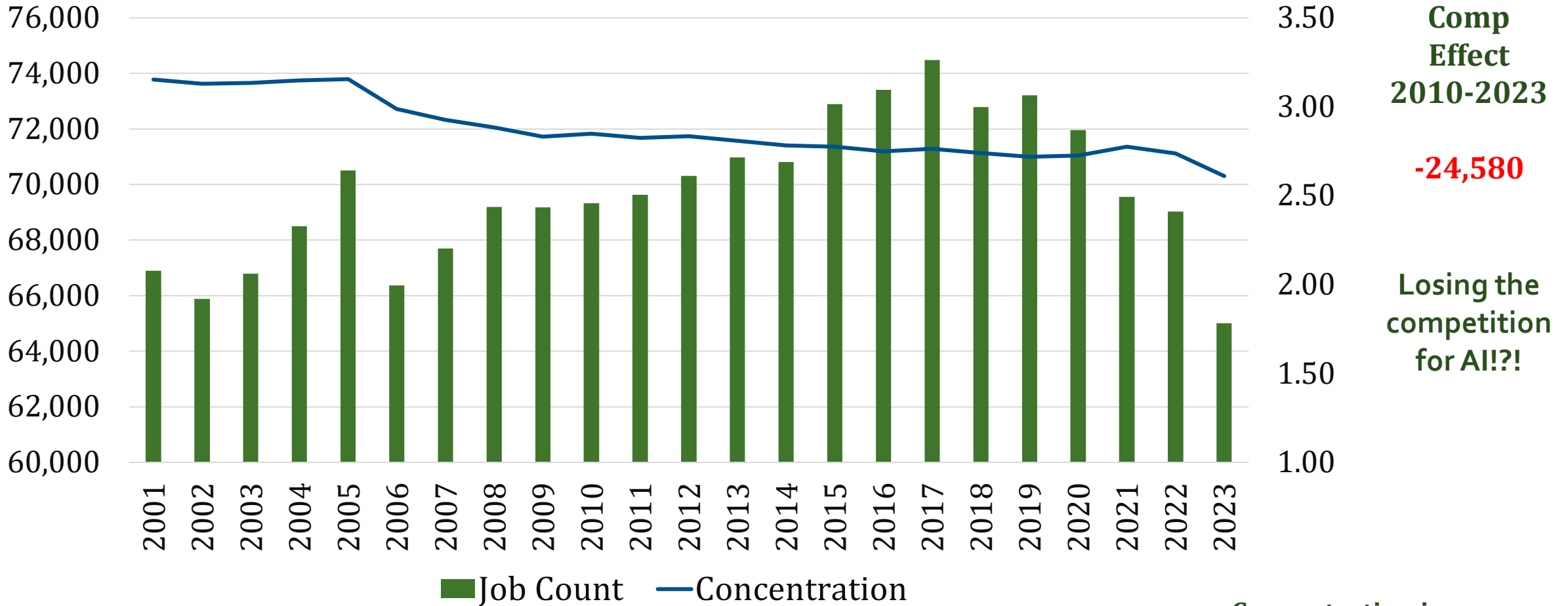


Sources: BLS, USA Spending.gov

Job counts are average annual for fiscal year.



Losing Cyber-Related Jobs Washington MSA 2001-2023



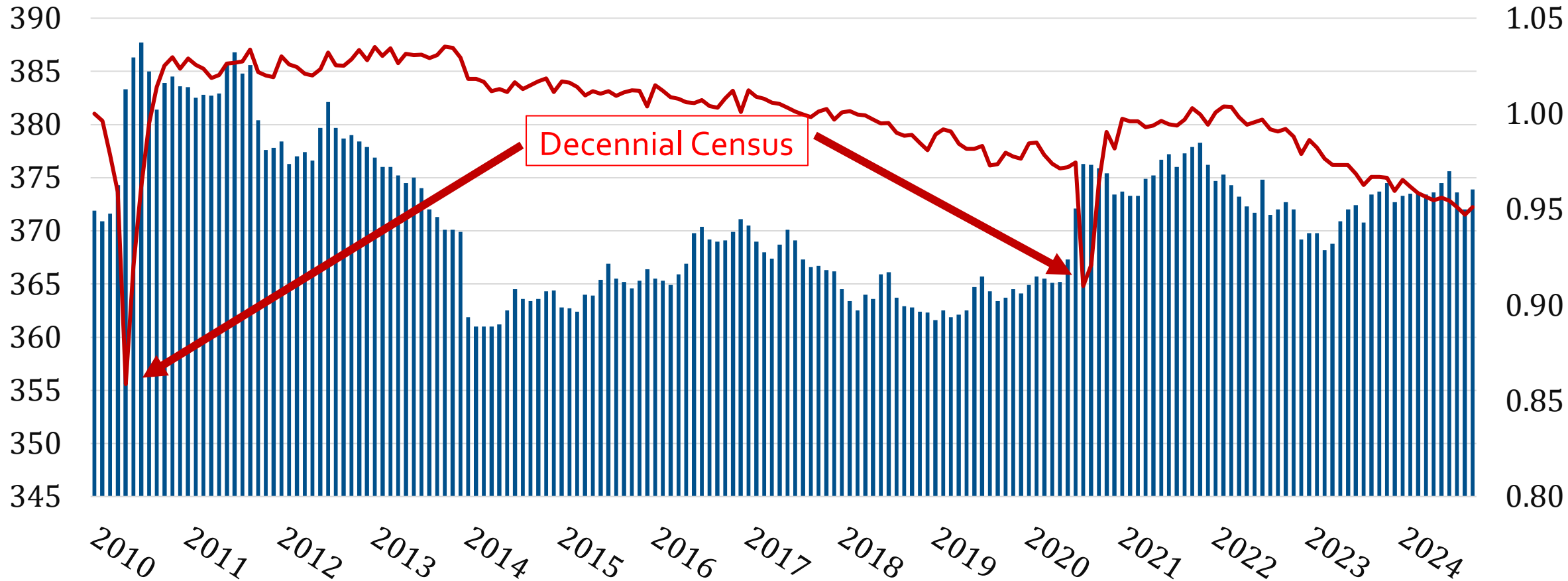
Concentration is a measure of competitiveness



DC Metro Declining Share of Federal Jobs (Index Jan. 2010 = 1.0)



Thousands



■ DC Federal Jobs — Index to US Share

Oct. 2024: 374k

Source: BLS

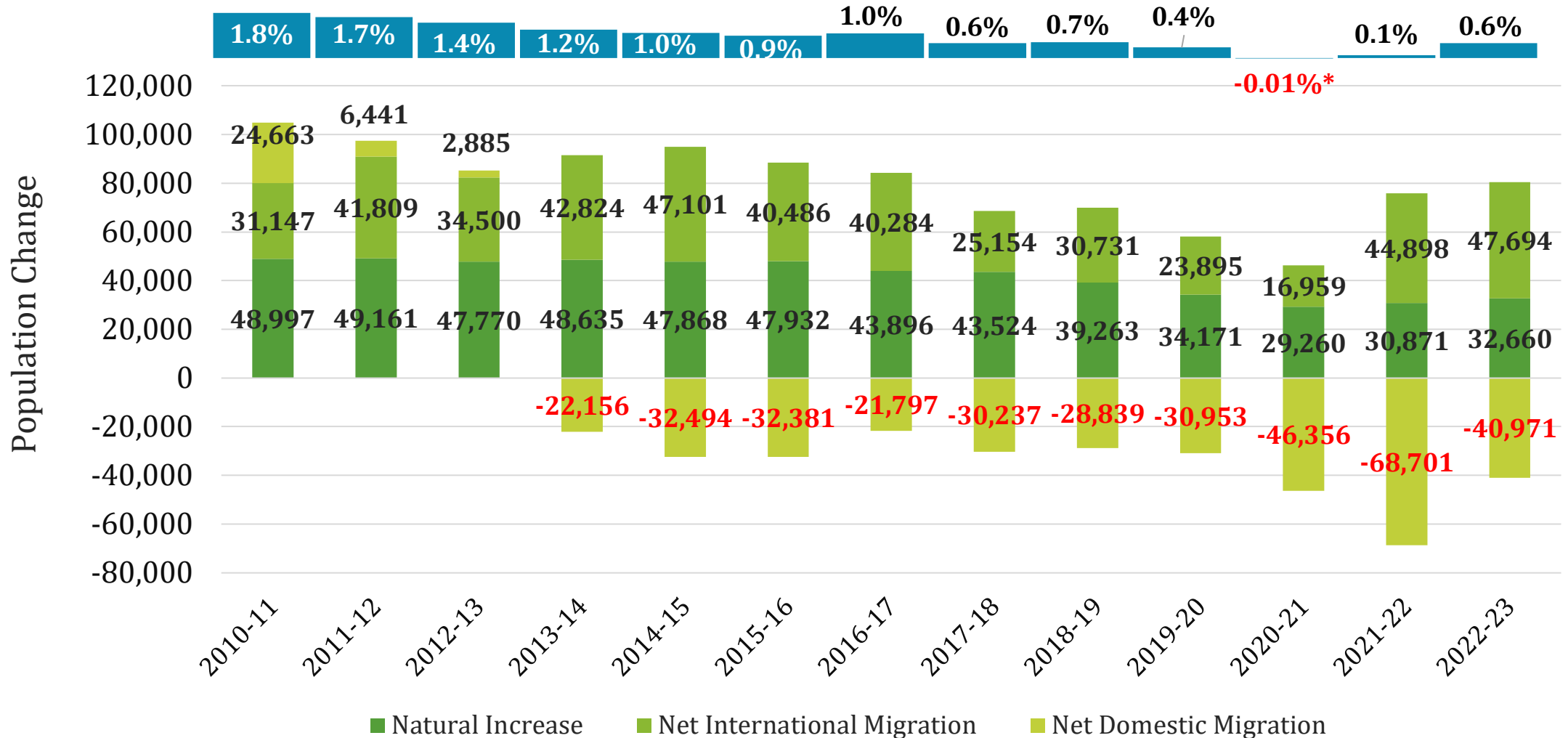
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Workers Continue to Leave

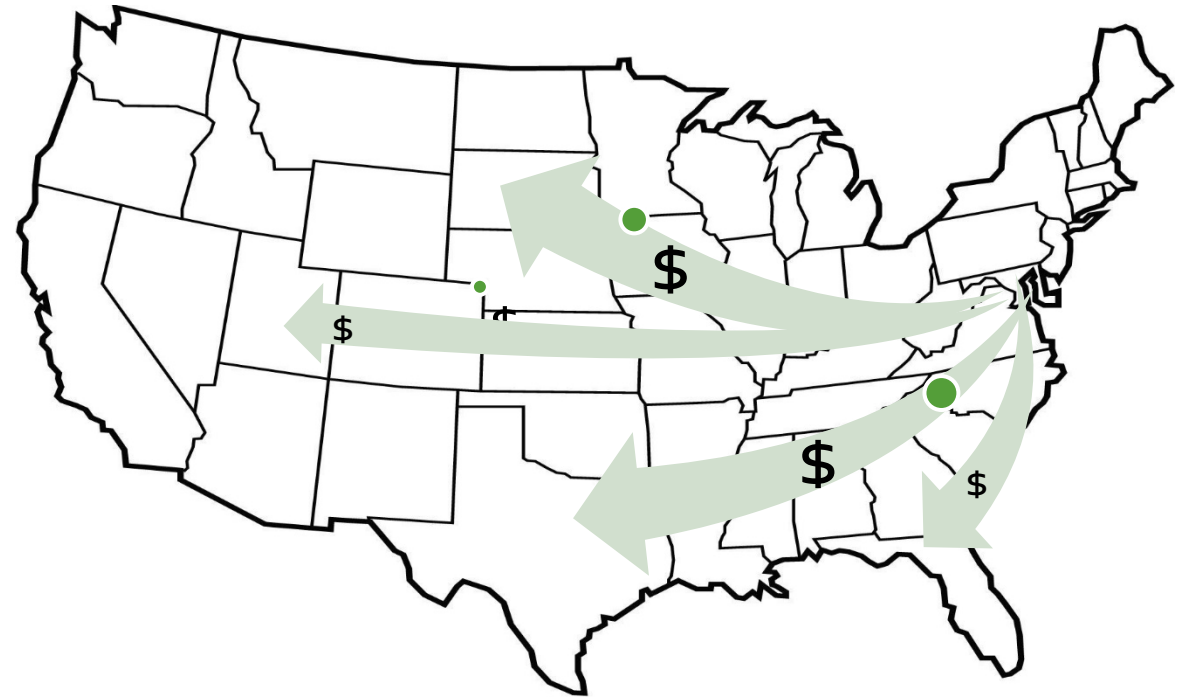
Elements of Population Change, Washington MSA



Source: U. S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program . *PEP Vintage 2020 used for 2020 population estimate.

Trump II

- Federal workers back to the office
 - Moving the deck chairs
- Agency relocation
 - Multiplier effect
- Immigration impacts
 - Impact on wages and projects
- Department/Agency Closures
 - ?
- Reduced spending
 - On what?



Summary

- We have the ingredients to be competitive
 - Highly educated workforce, educational/research assets, smaller but still large federal sector
 - Build more of the right kind of housing
 - Transform our built environment
 - Solve transportation challenges
 - Support workforce transitions
- Change how we think about economic development
 - Recognize that we have not had any laurels to rest upon for a while
 - Get past customer capture
 - Meaningful collaboration through a business led economic development innovation cell
 - Pivot entrepreneurship to product based focus
 - Be the place where leading innovation happens
 - Alter “Only IF” to “Find a way” – and do it quickly!





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