

Washington, DC Grocery Market



Grocery stores are in high demand in Washington, DC due to an increasing population and a focus on investments that provide fresh food options in the city. DC's mixed-use neighborhoods offer access to both evening and daytime populations looking for convenient access to groceries and prepared meals. In addition, the city's highly educated and diverse population provides significant demand for an extensive range of products and cuisines. Twenty new grocery stores have opened in DC in the past five years including more recent openings by Wegmans, Whole Foods, and Lidl.

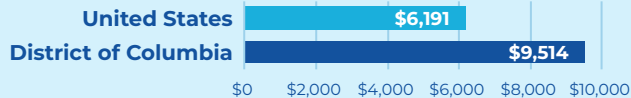
TOP 5 GROCERY STORE CHAINS IN DC



SOURCE: WASHINGTON DC ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP (MAY 2023). BASED ON STORE COUNT.

FOOD AT HOME

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURES



SOURCE: ESRI FORECASTS FOR 2022. AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD CONSUMER EXPENDITURES

20 New Grocery Stores in the Past 5 Years

SOURCE: WASHINGTON DC ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP (2018 - 2022)

RECENT STORE OPENINGS (2020+)

STORE	NEIGHBORHOOD	EST. SF	YEAR
Safeway	Capitol Hill	50,000	2020
Whole Foods	Shaw	51,540	2020
AmazonFresh	14th & U Streets, NW	7,300	2021
Wegmans	Tenleytown / City Ridge	82,000	2022
Lidl	Skyland / Hillcrest	29,100	2022
Lidl*	Columbia Heights	27,000	2023
MOMs*	Van Ness	16,600	2023
Whole Foods*	Georgia Ave / Parks at Walter Reed	40,000	2023
Aldi*	Fort Totten	25,000	2024
Lidl*	Tenleytown	29,000	2024

SOURCE: WASHINGTON DC ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP (MAY 2023). STORES > 5,000 SF; *PIPELINE STORES

GROCERY STORE

Incentives & Resources*

SUPERMARKET TAX INCENTIVES: Through the Supermarket Tax Exemption Act of 2000, the District waives certain taxes and fees to eligible grocery stores that locate in specific neighborhoods. The incentive encourages development and investment in areas lacking access to groceries and fresh food. Qualifying supermarkets may be eligible to receive one or more of the following benefits for up to 10 years after development or renovation:

- Real property tax exemption
- Business license fee exemption
- Personal property tax exemption
- Sales and use tax exemption on building materials necessary for construction

Learn more: <https://dmped.dc.gov/page/supermarket-tax-incentives>

ON THE JOB TRAINING: OJT is a workforce development strategy where employers of all sizes have an opportunity to train, mentor and hire candidates as they become fully proficient in a particular skillset or job function. Pre-screened and job-ready candidates are matched with employers willing to provide skills-based, on-the-job training. The Department of Employment Services (DOES) will provide wage reimbursement from 50 to 75% of the candidate's salary from one to six months (in some cases up to one year) for qualifying District of Columbia residents and employers.

Learn more: <https://does.dc.gov/page/job-training>

DC GREEN BANK: DC Green Bank focuses its investments on solar energy, greener and more efficient buildings, infrastructure resilience, and transportation electrification. Programs such as DC PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) and CLEER (Commercial Loan For Energy Efficiency

And Renewables) can provide financing to commercial tenants or owners of existing buildings in DC for upgrades that reduce energy and resource consumption and for distributed renewable energy solutions.

Learn more: <https://dcgreenbank.com/>

FOOD ACCESS FUND: The purpose of the Food Access Fund (FAF) Grant is to increase equitable access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food by securing grocery stores, and restaurants; support existing small businesses; attract new businesses; increase the District's tax base; create new job opportunities for District residents; and transform designated emerging commercial corridors into thriving and inviting neighborhood centers. FAF supports qualified businesses with capital for tenant improvements related to expansion of operations into a new location in an area identified as having low food access, with priority given to locations in Ward 7 or Ward 8.

Learn more: <https://dmped.dc.gov/page/food-access-fund>

NEIGHBORHOOD PROSPERITY FUND: NPF incentivizes community development, economic growth, and job creation by providing financing for eligible projects that attract private investment to distressed communities. Grant funds can support architectural and engineering costs, construction costs, tenant improvements, historical preservation building improvements to maintain compliance with applicable laws, development analysis, rent abatement and/or tenant concessions for up to three years to stabilize market rent.

Learn more: <https://dmped.dc.gov/page/neighborhood-prosperity-fund-npf>

*subject to the availability of funds

WDCEP Resources



DC Development Report
wdcep.co/dcdr



Neighborhood Profiles
wdcep.co/np



DC Grocery Map
wdcep.co/grocery-map

Contact Us

DEREK FORD
SVP of Neighborhood Development
(202) 661-8673 • dford@wdcep.com

About WDCEP

The Washington DC Economic Partnership (WDCEP) is a non-profit, public-private organization whose core mission is to promote the District of Columbia's economic and business opportunities, and support business retention, expansion, and attraction activities.