



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Employment Commission

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Commissioner

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For Release: May 22, 2020

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The Virginia unemployment rate rose to 10.6 percent in April while total nonfarm payroll employment fell by 383,400

— The changes in these measures reflect the effects of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and efforts to contain it. —

RICHMOND— Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose 7.3 percentage points in April to 10.6 percent, which is 7.7 percentage points above the rate from a year ago. According to household survey data in April, the labor force contracted by 141,611, or 3.2 percent, to 4,297,739, as the number of unemployed residents rose by 308,629. The number of employed residents decreased by 450,240 to 3,843,816. Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be below the national rate, which rose to 14.7 percent.

Virginia nonagricultural wage and salary employment, from the monthly establishment survey, fell by 383,400 jobs in April to 3,684,000. March's preliminary estimates were revised downward 3,900, adding to that month's job losses. In April, private sector employment decreased by 351,900 jobs to 2,981,000, while public sector payrolls decreased by 31,500 jobs to 703,000.

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Employment fell in all major industry sectors, with particularly heavy job losses in leisure and hospitality. The largest job loss during April occurred in **leisure and hospitality** with a decline of 161,400 jobs to 240,800. Nationwide, much of the decrease within the leisure and hospitality sector occurred in food services and drinking places, but employment also fell in the arts, entertainment, and recreation industry and in the accommodation industry. Other employment losses included **education and health services** (-57,400 jobs) to 497,800, **trade and transportation** (-49,100 jobs) to 611,700, **professional and business services** (-43,700 jobs) to 730,200, **miscellaneous services** (-19,900 jobs) to 182,800, **construction** (-7,200 jobs) to 196,200, and **manufacturing** (-6,300 jobs) to 233,800. **Government** employment dropped by 31,500 jobs in April. Employment in local government was down by 19,000 jobs, and declined in state government (-11,600 jobs) while federal government slipped by 900 jobs.

Nonfarm Employment in Virginia* Seasonally Adjusted

Industry	Employment			March 2020 to April 2020		April 2019 to April 2020	
	April 2020	March 2020	April 2019	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm	3,684,000	4,067,400	4,049,200	-383,400	-9.4%	-365,200	-9.0%
Total Private Sector	2,981,000	3,332,900	3,320,900	-351,900	-10.6%	-339,900	-10.2%
Goods-Producing	437,500	451,200	455,000	-13,700	-3.0%	-17,500	-3.8%
Mining	7,500	7,700	8,000	-200	-2.6%	-500	-6.3%
Construction	196,200	203,400	202,600	-7,200	-3.5%	-6,400	-3.2%
Manufacturing	233,800	240,100	244,400	-6,300	-2.6%	-10,600	-4.3%
Service-Providing	3,246,500	3,616,200	3,594,200	-369,700	-10.2%	-347,700	-9.7%
Private Service-Providing	2,543,500	2,881,700	2,865,900	-338,200	-11.7%	-322,400	-11.2%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	611,700	660,800	660,400	-49,100	-7.4%	-48,700	-7.4%
Information	66,000	67,600	67,800	-1,600	-2.4%	-1,800	-2.7%
Finance	214,200	219,300	211,300	-5,100	-2.3%	2,900	1.4%
Professional and Business Services	730,200	773,900	763,400	-43,700	-5.6%	-33,200	-4.3%
Education and Health Services	497,800	555,200	552,000	-57,400	-10.3%	-54,200	-9.8%
Leisure and Hospitality Services	240,800	402,200	409,800	-161,400	-40.1%	-169,000	-41.2%
Miscellaneous Services	182,800	202,700	201,200	-19,900	-9.8%	-18,400	-9.1%
Government	703,000	734,500	728,300	-31,500	-4.3%	-25,300	-3.5%
Federal Government	182,800	183,700	180,800	-900	-0.5%	2,000	1.1%
State Government	150,600	162,200	161,000	-11,600	-7.2%	-10,400	-6.5%
Local Government	369,600	388,600	386,500	-19,000	-4.9%	-16,900	-4.4%

*Current month's estimates are preliminary.

From April 2019 to April 2020, the VEC estimates that establishments in Virginia lost 365,200 jobs, or nine percent. Over-the-year employment growth in Virginia had been positive for 72 consecutive

(more)

months leading up to April's sharp decline. In April, the private sector recorded an over-the-year loss of 339,900 jobs, while employment in the public sector lost 25,300 jobs.

Compared to a year ago, on a **seasonally adjusted** basis, ten out of eleven major industry divisions experienced employment declines, with some experiencing more severe losses than others. The largest over-the-year job loss occurred in **leisure and hospitality**, down 169,000 jobs (-41.2%). The next largest over-the-year job loss occurred in **education and health services**, down 54,200 jobs (-9.8%). **Trade and transportation** experienced the third largest over-the-year job loss of 48,700 jobs (-7.4%). **Professional and business services** lost 33,200 jobs (-4.3%). **Government** experienced an over-the-year decrease of 25,300 jobs (-3.5%). Within government, there were decreases in state government employment (-10,400 jobs) and local government employment (-16,900 jobs). Federal government experienced a small increase in employment (+2,000 jobs). Other losses were in **miscellaneous services**, down 18,400 jobs (-9.1%); **manufacturing**, down 10,600 jobs (-4.3%); **construction**, down 6,400 jobs (-3.2%); **information**, down 1,800 jobs (-2.7%); and **mining** down 500 jobs (-6.3%). The sole increase occurred in **finance**, up 2,900 jobs (+1.4%).

Total Nonfarm Employment in Virginia* Seasonally Adjusted

Area	Employment			March 2020 to April 2020		April 2019 to April 2020	
	April 2020	March 2020	April 2019	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
Virginia	3,684,000	4,067,400	4,049,200	-383,400	-9.4%	-365,200	-9.0%
Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford MSA	66,900	77,400	78,500	-10,500	-13.6%	-11,600	-14.8%
Charlottesville MSA	111,700	122,900	121,600	-11,200	-9.1%	-9,900	-8.1%
Harrisonburg MSA	62,400	68,400	69,400	-6,000	-8.8%	-7,000	-10.1%
Lynchburg MSA	92,100	105,400	106,200	-13,300	-12.6%	-14,100	-13.3%
Northern Virginia MSA	1,383,000	1,522,000	1,510,300	-139,000	-9.1%	-127,300	-8.4%
Richmond MSA	619,200	689,500	686,000	-70,300	-10.2%	-66,800	-9.7%
Roanoke MSA	145,500	162,200	163,000	-16,700	-10.3%	-17,500	-10.7%
Staunton-Waynesboro MSA	50,300	51,400	51,700	-1,100	-2.1%	-1,400	-2.7%
Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, Virginia/North Carolina MSA	721,200	797,100	794,600	-75,900	-9.5%	-73,400	-9.2%
Winchester, Virginia/West Virginia MSA	59,600	66,000	65,400	-6,400	-9.7%	-5,800	-8.9%

*Current month's estimates are preliminary.

Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment data is produced for ten metropolitan areas. In April, all metropolitan areas experienced over-the-month job losses. The largest absolute job loss occurred in Northern Virginia (-139,000 jobs). The second largest absolute job loss occurred in Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News (-75,900 jobs). The third largest absolute job loss was in Richmond (-70,300 jobs). Other losses include Roanoke (-16,700 jobs), Lynchburg (-13,300 jobs), Charlottesville (-11,200 jobs),

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Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford Staunton-Waynesboro (-10,500 jobs), Winchester (-6,400 jobs), Harrisonburg (-6,000 jobs), and Staunton (-1,100 jobs).

Over the year, **seasonally adjusted** total nonfarm employment decreased in all of the ten metropolitan areas. The Northern Virginia metropolitan area experienced the largest absolute job loss, down 127,300 jobs (-8.4%). Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News ranked second, with a loss of 73,400 jobs (-9.2%). Richmond ranked third with a decline of 66,800 jobs (-9.7%).

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

Virginia's **unadjusted** unemployment rate climbed 7.5 percentage points in April to 10.8 percent, and was up 8.4 percentage points from a year ago. Compared to a year ago, the number of unemployed increased by 359,412, household employment decreased by 432,952, and the labor force decreased by 73,540. Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be below the national unadjusted rate, which rose by 9.9 percentage points in April to 14.4 percent.

Compared to last month, the April **unadjusted** workweek for Virginia's 157,800 manufacturing production workers decreased by 1.9 hours to 37.3 hours. Average hourly earnings of private-sector production workers increased by \$.97 to \$20.72 in April. According to BLS, the increases in average hourly earnings largely reflect the substantial job loss among lower-paid workers; this change put upward pressure on the average hourly earnings estimates. Average weekly earnings fell \$1.34 to \$772.86.

Technical note: Estimates of unemployment and industry employment levels are obtained from two separate monthly surveys. Resident employment and unemployment data are mainly derived from the Virginia portion of the national Current Population Survey (CPS), a household survey conducted each month by the U.S. Census Bureau under contract with BLS, which provides input to the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program (often referred to as the "household" survey). Industry employment data is mainly derived from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) survey, a monthly survey of approximately 18,000 Virginia businesses conducted by BLS, which provides estimates of employment, hours, and earnings data broken down by industry for the nation as a whole, all states and most major metropolitan areas (often referred to as the "establishment" survey). Both industry and household estimates are revised each month based on additional information from updated survey reports compiled by the BLS. **For national figures and information on how COVID-19 affected collection of the BLS establishment and household surveys in April, refer to the BLS [April 2020 Employment Situation](#) press release for details.**

The statistical reference week for the household survey this month was the week of April 12-18, 2020.

The Virginia Employment Commission plans to release the April local area unemployment rates on Wednesday, June 3, 2020. The data will be available on our website, www.VirginiaWorks.com.

The May statewide unemployment rate and employment data for both the state and metropolitan areas are scheduled to be released on Friday, June 19, 2020.