



Virginia Unemployment Rate for September 2022

Virginia's September Unemployment Rate Held Steady at 2.6 Percent; The Labor Force Participation Rate Decreased to 63.6% and Employed Virginians Rose by 993.

- Virginia's seasonally adjusted **unemployment rate** held steady in September at **2.6 percent**, which is 0.8 percentage points below the rate from a year ago. According to household survey data in September, the labor force increased by 108 to 4,346,936, as the number of unemployed residents decreased by 885 to 113,220. The number of employed residents rose by 993 to 4,233,716. Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be below the national rate, which declined 0.2 percentage point to 3.5 percent.
- The Commonwealth's **labor force participation rate** decreased by 0.1 of a percentage point to **63.6 percent** in September. The labor force participation rate measures the proportion of the civilian population age 16 and older that is employed or actively looking for work.
- Virginia's **nonagricultural employment**, from the monthly establishment survey, rose by 8,000 jobs in September to **4,093,600**. August's preliminary estimate was revised upward by 300, adding to that month's job gain. In September, private sector employment increased by 7,000 jobs to 3,367,800, while public sector employment increased 1,000 to end at 725,800. Increases within that sector occurred in state government employment (+800 jobs), federal government (+200 jobs), and local government held steady.
- Employment rose in nine of eleven major industry sectors and declined in two. The largest job gain during September occurred in Construction, with an increase of 3,300 jobs to 209,100. The second largest increase occurred in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+2,400 jobs) to 673,900. Professional and Business Services was third, with a gain of 1,600 jobs, rising to 796,300.
- The largest job loss during September occurred in Leisure and Hospitality (-3,500 jobs) to 406,800. The remaining loss was in Mining and Logging, with a decrease of 200 jobs to 7,300.

Virginia Employment - September 2022 (seasonally adjusted)

United States Unemployment Rate (September 2021 - September 2022 percentage point)	3.5% (-1.2)
Virginia Unemployment Rate (September 2021 - September 2022 percentage point)	2.6% (-0.8)
Civilian Labor Force (September 2021 - September 2022 Change)	4,346,936 (2.1%)
Labor Force Participation Rate (September 2021 - September 2022 Change)	63.6% (1.4%)
Total Nonfarm Employment (September 2021 - September 2022 Change)	4,093,600 (3.4%)
Number of Establishments, 1st Quarter 2022 (1st Quarter 2021 - 1st Quarter 2022 Change)	310,760 (7.5%)
Average Weekly Wage, 1st Quarter 2022 (1st Quarter 2021 - 1st Quarter 2022 Change)	\$1,366 (6.6%)

Unemployment Rates (percent) - August 2022 (not seasonally adjusted) (August 2021 - August 2022 percentage point)

Virginia	3.2 (-0.8)
Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford MSA	3.1 (-0.4)
Bristol MSA (VA part)	3.3 (-0.4)
Charlottesville MSA	3.0 (-0.5)
Harrisonburg MSA	3.2 (-0.2)
Lynchburg MSA	3.7 (-0.4)
Northern VA MSA (VA part)	2.7 (-0.9)
Richmond MSA	3.5 (-0.7)
Roanoke MSA	3.2 (-0.6)
Staunton-Waynesboro MSA	3.1 (-0.3)
Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, Virginia/NC MSA (VA part)	3.6 (-1.0)
Winchester, Virginia/WV MSA (VA part)	2.7 (-0.3)

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Labor Market Information and a Lynchburg Layoff

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According to [news reports](#), manufacturer Masterbrand Cabinets, Inc. is closing its Lynchburg cabinet making factory this fall. The business is dependent upon the construction sector and that part of the economy has faced challenges in recent months, with rising mortgage rates, a tight labor market, and materials shortages. The employer is working with the VEC to find new jobs for the 250 displaced workers. They are optimistic since there are few other large layoffs and low unemployment currently and there still are many job openings in the Lynchburg area and statewide. In this environment, what local industries might hire these workers and how do they compare with one another?

The home market has slowed this year and many suppliers to builders are feeling the pinch. The U.S. economy decreased at an annual rate of 0.6 percent in the second quarter of 2022 and BEA [Gross Domestic Product by Industry](#) figures show that residential real estate was a leading drag, as evidenced by large realtor commission decreases and by steep declines in residential (and nonresidential) construction. However, this has yet to be felt in [Virginia construction employment](#) as it has held steady at the pre-pandemic level of a little over 200,000 workers this year.

Not just construction has maintained employment as Virginia's overall labor market remained very tight over the summer, with record-high numbers of job openings with very low numbers of layoffs and unemployed. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' August 2022 [Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey \(JOLTS\)](#) reported that Virginia job openings were at the very high level of 318,000. At the same time, the number of layoffs and discharges in Virginia was 37,000 in August 2022, which was nearly 15% lower than during the strong economy of 2018. Affirming this trend has been the low number of new claims for unemployment insurance in 2022. All of these indicators are reflected somewhat in the Commonwealth's [unemployment rate](#), which remained at the very low, pre-pandemic rate of 2.6% in September.

This means that, while Lynchburg is facing a large manufacturing layoff, demand for skilled production workers remains strong there and, with the VEC's assistance, most of Masterbrand's laid

off workers will likely find great new jobs. Even so, what can we ascertain from published labor market information to help better match local employing industries to laid-off workers? After all, even in a tight labor market, some industries may provide a better fit with a better career path than others and this type of intelligence provided to workforce professionals early in the process could be a useful aid when recruiting regional employers for hiring fairs and other efforts. But perhaps more important, future economic conditions could weaken to the point where layoffs become much more common, with the need for actionable information even more valuable.

To get a head start, before any interviews to collect information from the employer, labor market analysts can make reasonable inferences about the layoff with just some basic information like the industry in which the business is classified. BLS 'staffing pattern' data¹ on that industry provides a list of major occupations that are needed to staff the industry in the proportions that are employed nationwide. As the name implies, cabinet makers comprise the largest portion of cabinet making staffing, with miscellaneous assemblers and fabricators the second-most numerous. First-line supervisors of production workers and laborers/ material movers are also needed, in addition to many other types of production and back office occupations. Obviously, information on impacted job titles that are provided by the employer should be the primary source but the staffing pattern based list can be a great tool used in conjunction with it. With this information, analysts can then consult the same BLS staffing pattern data to obtain a list of industries that employ those key occupations. Small industries that heavily rely on a given occupation or large industries that are not reliant yet are sources of jobs can both be important to reach out to. For example, furniture makers in Lynchburg are not a large source of jobs overall yet are key employers of cabinet makers. Wholesalers are a much larger source of jobs overall but rely much less on cabinet makers. Both could be potential industries to reemploy those in that occupation. Similarly, machinery manufacturing and fabricated metal product manufacturing employ production managers, which is not surprising. Less obvious are food and beverage stores that also employ production managers and could be great choices for a laid-off production manager. An additional useful piece of information is the numbers employed in the Lynchburg metro area in layoff impacted occupations. Are there many workers in an occupation like upholstery, or is the closing business the only employer for a hundred miles? Published information from the BLS OEWS program provides this information by state and metro area.

Once a list of likely employing industries in the Lynchburg area for impacted occupations is established, published Census Bureau Local Employment Dynamics (LED) data can be used to get a better understanding of how local industries compare to one another. This is a relatively new source and allows the analyst to parse the data in additional ways like by educational attainment or age of business. One way to compare industries is by size, or how many workers are employed in the industries of interest. Size can be measured in terms of the number of jobs, the prevalence of the industries' jobs

¹ <https://www.bls.gov/emp/tables/industry-occupation-matrix-occupation.htm>
<https://www.bls.gov/emp/tables/industry-occupation-matrix-industry.htm>

in Lynchburg compared to nationwide, and also by the amount of hiring that they do. For example, the industry ‘construction of buildings’ is a large employer of wood workers and carpenters and also hired a lot in recent years.

Another criteria is local industry job and hiring growth performance. How does recent employment in an industry compare to a year earlier? Five years earlier? During the worst of the pandemic? Conditions before the pandemic? Such information may provide clues about the health of the industry in the area. For example, wood product manufacturing saw the number of its jobs decrease last year, yet it also undertook increased hiring. This might imply that it lost workers during the pandemic but was trying to re-staff, like many businesses were at that time.

A third criterion is how well a regional industry pays. A team assembler, for example, might expect significantly lower pay working for a temp firm than if employed fulltime in the computer and electronic production manufacturing industry. A fourth criterion that also looks at earnings may be called ‘career path’ –meaning, in this case, how likely it will be that workers stay in an industry for a while, perhaps receiving raises along the way. Evaluating this is very imprecise, but using information on the rate of turnover in an industry and the difference between starting earnings and overall earnings may provide some clues. For example, Lynchburg industries that employ material handlers offer a wide range of starting pay, but most have a smaller difference between starting and overall earnings than the Lynchburg metro area average. On the plus side, the ‘turnover rate’ (the pace of job hires and job separations churn) among those industries was comparable to the metro area average. Perhaps surprisingly, one strong performer was the couriers and messengers industry, which had a slightly lower employee turnover rate and also had a starting vs. overall earnings hike larger than average. Knowing this, a laid off material handler might explore that industry more closely as a reemployment option.

Layoffs and business closures have been relatively few in 2022, but they have been “top of mind” to workforce services staff in Lynchburg as they work with an employer that is closing its business. While it is expected that there will be brisk interest in the factory’s workers from employing industries, timely intelligence regarding the nature of those industries could boost the success of reemployment efforts. Especially during a period of economic weakness with few job openings, information on the; size, growth, earnings, and career path of local industries may provide valuable context to those striving to rapidly reemploy layoff-impacted workers.



Trust Fund Data - September 2022

Financial Data

- Trust Fund Balance (millions) \$1,447.0
- Tax Revenue (Monthly) (millions) \$547.9

Benefits Data

- Benefits Paid (Monthly) (millions) \$89.3
- Average Weekly Benefit \$334
- Initial Claims (YTD) 133,756

Initial and Continued Claims

Initial Claims:

- There were 12,073 initial claims in September.
- Initial claims declined by 57.3% over the month.
- Year-to-date initial claims were over 73.1% lower in September 2022 compared to the same period in 2021, though that magnitude of difference has trended steadily downward since last March.

Continued Claims:

- There were 55,920 continued claims in September 2022.
- This was a 28.0% decrease over-the-month and a 70.8% decrease over-the-year.
- Year-to-date continued claims were 75.5% lower than during the same period in 2021.

*Claims counts include interstate and intrastate.

Claims Data			
	Initial Claims	Recipients	Final Payments
September 2022	12,073	11,643	1,680
August 2022	28,304	13,430	4,724
September 2021	37,355	20,297	3,453



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Upcoming Events

Richmond Behavioral Health (RBH) Career Fair with Sign-On Bonus Opportunities!

Not sure what to apply for? Take the next step to join our team of Champions by completing our Career Fair application today! Once the application is complete, visit our Talent AcquisitionTeam at on of our events!

It takes bold, brave steps to heal people, families, and communities.

Mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance use – these are challenges that change the course of life for millions of people. Each of these people deserve to live every day to its fullest and achieve their maximum potential. That is the goal of Richmond Behavioral Health. Working at RBH, you can change lives.

Richmond Behavioral Health (RBH) fearlessly champions the health, wellness, and recovery of individuals and families throughout the Richmond region. Richmond Behavioral Health Authority (RBHA) is a community health agency committed to bringing essential care to the people we serve through crisis intervention, mental health services, developmental support, and substance use prevention and treatment.

Working at RBH:

Working at RBH provides the opportunity to contribute to community-based, mission-driven work that has a direct impact on people’s lives. We value innovation, compassion, and integrity with a culture of inclusion and equity.

At RBH, we value professional growth and provide support for trainings, educational workshops, and certifications and licensure supervision (when applicable).

We offer a competitive benefits package including insurance, paid time off (personal and sick), paid holidays, and retirement plans. In addition to professional benefits, employees have access to wellness programs, an on-site fitness center, and opportunities for social engagement

Join the fearless. Change the world.

RBH is always interested in meeting new people with specialized skills and diverse perspectives. Some of the positions we routinely hire for include:

- Program Supervisors
- Case Managers
- Clinicians
- Technicians
- Registered Nurses
- Licensed Practical Nurses

Certified Peer Recovery Specialist

Van Drivers

Cooks

Administrative positions and more!

Opportunities are available as full time, part time, and PRN.

Requirements:

We have opportunities for you, if you meet or exceed one of the minimum qualifications listed below:

High School Diploma 1 one year of experience in human services

Bachelor’s degree in a human services or closely related field

QMHP-A/C/T

CPRS

Master’s degree and 1 one year of experience in human services

Current License as an RN or LPN

Current Virginia license as an LPC, LCP, LCSW, or LMFT or are license eligible

Must have a valid driver’s license

Qualifying new staff will be eligible for sign-on bonuses up to 7500 K, as defined by the terms and conditions of the approved sign-on bonus policy.

Date:

Wednesday, November 16, 2022 - 10:00am to 6:00pm

Address:

The Westin (Richmond, Va.)

6631 W. Board Street

Richmond, Va. 23230

**For more Info
on Upcoming Job Fairs,
Visit the Job fair page at**
<https://www.vec.virginia.gov/job-fairs>