



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Workforce Development and Advancement

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Virginia's September's Unemployment Rate remained unchanged at 2.5%; Labor Force Participation Rate increased by 0.1 percentage points to 66.8% and Employment increased by 5,834 to 4,494,360.

RICHMOND— Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in September remained unchanged at 2.5%, which is 0.5 percentage points below the rate from a year ago. According to household survey data in September, the labor force increased by 9,025 to 4,610,653 as the number of unemployed residents increased by 3,191 to 116,293. The number of employed residents increased by 5,834 to 4,494,360. Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is 1.3 percentage points below the national rate, which remained unchanged at 3.8%.

The Commonwealth's labor force participation rate increased by 0.1 percentage points to 66.8% 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.

In September, Virginia's nonagricultural employment, from the monthly establishment survey decreased by 100 to 4,157,700. August's preliminary estimate of employment, after revision, increased by 1,000 to 4,157,800. In September, private sector employment increased by 3,500 to 3,422,100 while government employment decreased by 3,600 to 735,600. Within that sector, federal government jobs increased by 400 to 186,100, state government employment increased by 800 to 162,600, and local government decreased by 4,800 to 386,900 over the month.

(more)

Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment data is produced for eleven industry sectors. In September, four experienced over-the-month job gains, one remained unchanged, and six experienced a decline. The largest job gain occurred in Education and Health Services (+3,900) to 583,600. The second largest job gain occurred in Professional and Business Services (+3,400) to 818,200. The third largest job gain occurred in Leisure and Hospitality (+1,400) to 407,900. The other gain was in Financial Activities (+400) to 217,700.

The largest job loss occurred in Construction (-3,800) to 210,200. The second largest job loss occurred in Government (-3,600) to 735,600. The third largest job loss occurred in Information (-800) to 71,600. The other losses were in Manufacturing (-500) to 244,800; Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-300) to 667,400; and Miscellaneous Services (-200) to 193,700. Mining and Logging remained unchanged.

Nonfarm Employment in Virginia* Seasonally Adjusted							
Industry	Employment			August 2023 to September 2023		September 2022 to September 2023	
	September 2023	August 2023	September 2022	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm	4,157,700	4,157,800	4,106,700	-100	-0.0%	51,000	1.2%
Total Private	3,422,100	3,418,600	3,385,900	3,500	0.1%	36,200	1.1%
Goods Producing	462,000	466,300	464,800	-4,300	-0.9%	-2,800	-0.6%
Mining and Logging	7,000	7,000	7,200	0	0.0%	-200	-2.8%
Construction	210,200	214,000	211,500	-3,800	-1.8%	-1,300	-0.6%
Manufacturing	244,800	245,300	246,100	-500	-0.2%	-1,300	-0.5%
Service-Providing	3,695,700	3,691,500	3,641,900	4,200	0.1%	53,800	1.5%
Private Service Providing	2,960,100	2,952,300	2,921,100	7,800	0.3%	39,000	1.3%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	667,400	667,700	669,700	-300	-0.0%	-2,300	-0.3%
Information	71,600	72,400	70,600	-800	-1.1%	1,000	1.4%
Financial Activities	217,700	217,300	218,500	400	0.2%	-800	-0.4%
Professional and Business Services	818,200	814,800	811,700	3,400	0.4%	6,500	0.8%
Education and Health Services	583,600	579,700	561,300	3,900	0.7%	22,300	4.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	407,900	406,500	397,700	1,400	0.3%	10,200	2.6%
Miscellaneous Services	193,700	193,900	191,600	-200	-0.1%	2,100	1.1%
Government	735,600	739,200	720,800	-3,600	-0.5%	14,800	2.1%
Federal Government	186,100	185,700	186,900	400	0.2%	-800	-0.4%
State Government	162,600	161,800	153,700	800	0.5%	8,900	5.8%
Local Government	386,900	391,700	380,200	-4,800	-1.2%	6,700	1.8%

*Current month's estimates are preliminary.

From September 2022 to September 2023, the DWDA estimates that total nonfarm employment in Virginia increased by 51,000 to 4,157,700, private sector employment increased by 36,200 to 3,422,100, and government employment increased by 14,800 to 735,600 jobs. Within that sector, federal government jobs decreased by 800 to 186,100, state government employment increased by 8,900 to 162,600, and local government increased by 6,700 to 386,900 over the year.

For the eleven industry sectors in Virginia over the year, six experienced over-the-year job gains, and five experienced a decline. The largest job gain occurred in Education and Health Services (+22,300) to 583,600. The second largest job gain occurred in Government (+14,800) to 735,600. The third largest job gain occurred in Leisure and Hospitality (+10,200) to 407,900. The other gains were in Professional and Business Services (+6,500) to 818,200; Miscellaneous Services (+2,100) to 193,700; and Information (+1,000) to 71,600.

The largest job loss occurred in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-2,300) to 667,400. The second largest job loss occurred in Construction (-1,300) to 210,200. The third largest job loss occurred in Manufacturing (-1,300) to 244,800. The other losses were in Financial Activities (-800) to 217,700 and Mining and Logging (-200) to 7,000.

Nonfarm Employment in Virginia* Seasonally Adjusted							
Area	Employment			August 2023 to September 2023		September 2022 to September 2023	
	September 2023	August 2023	September 2022	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
Virginia	4,157,700	4,157,800	4,106,700	-100	-0.0%	51,000	1.2%
Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford MSA	81,800	80,300	81,800	1,500	1.9%	0	0.0%
Charlottesville MSA	123,400	123,400	120,600	0	0.0%	2,800	2.3%
Harrisonburg MSA	72,500	72,100	69,800	400	0.6%	2,700	3.9%
Lynchburg MSA	105,100	104,500	104,500	600	0.6%	600	0.6%
Northern Virginia MSA	1,578,800	1,576,500	1,548,700	2,300	0.1%	30,100	1.9%
Richmond MSA	714,800	710,800	704,300	4,000	0.6%	10,500	1.5%
Roanoke MSA	165,300	165,300	162,900	0	0.0%	2,400	1.5%
Staunton MSA	52,800	52,900	52,700	-100	-0.2%	100	0.2%
Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News MSA	794,400	792,800	794,400	1,600	0.2%	0	0.0%
Winchester MSA	71,400	70,800	70,500	600	0.8%	900	1.3%

*Current month's estimates are preliminary.

Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment data is produced for ten metropolitan areas. In September, seven experienced over-the-month job gains, two remained unchanged, and one experienced a decline. The largest job gain occurred in Richmond (+4,000) to 714,800. The second largest job gain occurred in Northern Virginia (+2,300) to 1,578,800. The third largest job gain occurred in Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News (+1,600) to 794,400. The other gains were in Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford

(+1,500) to 81,800; Lynchburg (+600) to 105,100; Winchester (+600) to 71,400; and Harrisonburg (+400) to 72,500.

The only job loss occurred in Staunton (-100) to 52,800. Charlottesville and Roanoke remained unchanged.

Over the year, eight experienced over-the-year job gains, two remained unchanged, and none experienced a decline. The largest job gain occurred in Northern Virginia (+30,100) to 1,578,800. The second largest job gain occurred in Richmond (+10,500) to 714,800. The third largest job gain occurred in Charlottesville (+2,800) to 123,400. The other gains were in Harrisonburg (+2,700) to 72,500; Roanoke (+2,400) to 165,300; Winchester (+900) to 71,400; Lynchburg (+600) to 105,100; and Staunton (+100) to 52,800.

Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford and Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News remained unchanged.

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

Virginia's unadjusted unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 percentage points to 3.0% in September. It has remained unchanged at 3.0% compared to last year. Compared to a year ago, the number of unemployed increased by 7,011 to 138,664, household employment increased by 165,514 to 4,481,811, and the labor force increased by 172,525 to 4,620,475. Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is 0.6 percentage points below the national unadjusted rate, which decreased by 0.3 percentage points to 3.6%.

Compared to last month, the September unadjusted workweek for Virginia's 158,500 manufacturing production workers decreased by 0.4 to 40.9 hours. Average hourly earnings of private-sector production workers increased by \$0.65 to \$25.42, and average weekly earnings increased by \$16.68 to \$1,039.68.

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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 2020, refer to the BLS September [Employment Situation](#) press release for details.

The statistical reference week for the household survey this month was the week of September 10-16, 2023

The Department of Workforce Development and Advancement plans to release the September local area unemployment rates on Wednesday November 01, 2023. The data will be available on our website www.VirginiaWorks.com. The October 2023 statewide unemployment rate and employment data for both the state and metropolitan areas are scheduled to be released on Friday November 17, 2023.