



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Workforce Development and Advancement

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Virginia's October County and Area Employment Figures Released
—Over-the-Year Employment Increases in All of Virginia's Counties¹ and Metropolitan Statistical Areas—

RICHMOND— Compared to a year earlier, October 2023 unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 40 of Virginia's 133 counties and cities, remained unchanged in 42, and increased in 51. In October, Petersburg City had the highest unemployment rate at 5.3 percent, while Arlington County had the lowest rate at 2.2 percent. The employment estimates in this release are subject to large seasonal patterns; therefore, it is advisable to focus on over-the-year changes in the not seasonally adjusted estimates.

Among the metro areas, Charlottesville, Northern Virginia², and Winchester had the lowest unemployment rate at 2.6 percent, while Lynchburg had the highest at 3.5 percent. The not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 3.0 percent, a 0.1 percentage point increase from a year earlier.

The October 2023 local unemployment rates are online [here](#). You can also access the local unemployment rates by clicking the Area Rates link under the unemployment graph located on www.VirginiaWorks.com.

The statistical reference week for the household survey this month was the week of October 8-14, 2023.

The November 2023 statewide unemployment rate and employment data for both the state and metropolitan areas are scheduled to be released on Friday, December 22, 2023. The data will be available on our website www.VirginiaWorks.com. The Virginia Department of Workforce Development and Advancement plans to release the November local area unemployment rates on Thursday, January 4, 2023.

¹ The Commonwealth of Virginia is divided into 95 counties, along with 38 independent cities that are considered county-equivalents for census purposes.

² Northern Virginia is defined as the Virginia portion of the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).