



Virginia’s December County and Area Employment Figures Released —Year-Over-Year Unemployment Rates Decreased in Most of Virginia’s Counties¹ and Metropolitan Statistical Areas—

RICHMOND— Virginia Works (the Department of Workforce Development and Advancement) announced today that, compared to a year earlier, December 2024 unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 94 of Virginia’s 133 counties and cities, remained unchanged in 24, and increased in 15. In December, Highland County had the lowest unemployment rate at 1.8 percent, while Emporia had the highest at 8.0 percent. The employment estimates in this release are subject to large seasonal patterns; therefore, it is advisable to focus on year-over-year changes in the not seasonally adjusted estimates.

Among the metro areas, Winchester and Charlottesville had the lowest unemployment rates at 2.2 percent, while Lynchburg had the highest at 2.9 percent. The not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 2.5 percent, a 0.2 percentage point decrease from a year earlier and 1.3 points lower than the national rate. The December 2024 local unemployment rates are online accompanying this release. You can also access the local unemployment rates by visiting VirginiaWorks.com.

The statistical reference week for the household survey this month was the week of December 8-14, 2024.

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

The January 2025 statewide unemployment rate and employment data for both the state and metropolitan areas are scheduled to be released on Monday, March 11, 2024. The data will be available on our website www.VirginiaWorks.com. The Virginia Department of Workforce Development and Advancement plans to release the January 2025 local area unemployment rates on Wednesday, March 13, 2024.

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Virginia Employment - December 2024 (seasonally adjusted)

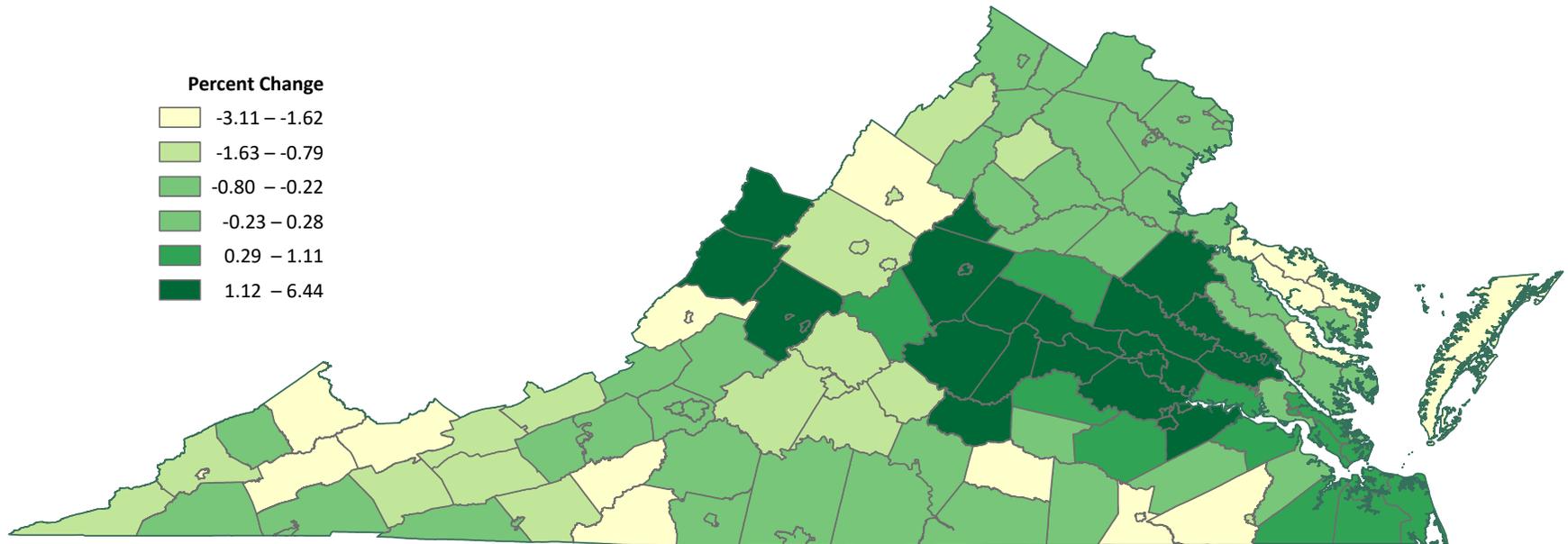
Virginia Unemployment Rate (December 2023 - December 2024 percentage point)	3.0% (0.0)
Civilian Labor Force (December 2023 - December 2024 percent change)	4,581,450 (0.0%)
Labor Force Participation Rate (December 2023 - December 2024 percentage point)	66.0% (-0.5)
Total Nonfarm Employment (December 2023 - December 2024 percent change)	4,268,200 (1.8%)
Employment (December 2023 - December 2024 percent change)	4,444,640 (0.1%)
Unemployment (December 2023 - December 2024 percent change)	136,810 (-1.8%)
Number of Establishments, 3rd Quarter 2024 (3rd Quarter 2023 - 3rd Quarter 2024 percent change)	311,365 (1.6%)
Average Weekly Wage, 3rd Quarter 2024 (3rd Quarter 2023 - 3rd Quarter 2024 percent change)	\$1,439 (4.0%)

December 2024 Unemployment Rates by MSA (Percent - not seasonally adjusted) (December 2023 - December 2024 percentage point)

Virginia	2.5 (-0.2)
Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford MSA	2.5 (-0.1)
Bristol MSA (VA part)	2.8 (-0.1)
Charlottesville MSA	2.2 (-0.2)
Harrisonburg MSA	2.5 (-0.2)
Lynchburg MSA	2.9 (-0.3)
Northern VA MSA (VA part)	2.3 (-0.1)
Richmond MSA	2.7 (-0.2)
Roanoke MSA	2.5 (-0.2)
Staunton-Waynesboro MSA	2.3 (0.0)
Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, Virginia/NC MSA (VA part)	2.7 (-0.2)
Winchester, Virginia/WV MSA (VA part)	2.2 (-0.2)

Employment Growth Rate

Percent Change from December 2023 to December 2024
(not seasonally adjusted)



Source: Virginia Works - Economic Information & Analytics, December 2024

Top 5 Counties and Cities by Employment Growth Rate

Percent Change from December 2023 to December 2024
(not seasonally adjusted)

