

# Historical Summary

## PERFORMANCE OF INDICATORS OVER THE BUSINESS CYCLE

For those interested in studying the business cycle in Virginia, this publication includes several of the economic time series for which data is readily available on a monthly basis. From time to time, new series will be added and, if necessary, others presently included will be discontinued.

### Business Cycle Turning Points

The beginning of a recession is defined as the month when aggregate economic activity in the U.S. reaches a cyclical high, from which it begins to turn down, and the end as the month when it reaches a cyclical low, from which it begins to turn up. On November 26, 2001, the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) announced a recession had begun in March 2001. On July 17, 2003, NBER announced the recession ended in November 2001.

### Seasonal Adjustment

To correlate changes in a time series and changes in the business cycle, it is desirable to eliminate, insofar as possible, the effect of irrelevant factors from the data comprising the series. All series currently published in the *Virginia Economic Indicators* have been adjusted to minimize regular seasonal fluctuations in the data in order to show only activity related to the business cycle.

### Historical Graphs

Historical graphs are published in the back of the fourth quarter issue for each year.

## Data Sources

<b>U.S. Census Bureau:</b>	Average Weekly Initial Claims
Single Family Housing Permits	Deflated Average Hourly Earnings
<b>Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles:</b>	Deflated Average Weekly Earnings
New Vehicle Registrations	Insured Unemployment Rate
<b>Virginia Department of Taxation:</b>	Manufacturing Employment
Deflated Taxable Retail Sales	Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
Taxable Retail Sales	Total Production Hours
<b>Virginia Employment Commission:</b>	Total Unemployment Rate
Average Hourly Earnings	Unemployment Insurance Final Payments
Average Weekly Earnings	<b>Virginia State Corporation Commission:</b>
Average Weekly Hours	New Business Incorporations