



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Employment Commission
703 East Main Street

Dolores A. Esser
Commissioner

Post Office Box 1358
Richmond, Virginia 23218-1358

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Contact: William F. Mezger, Chief Economist
Economic Information Services Division
(804) 786-5669 or (804) 786-7496

March-Over-March Virginia Job Loss is 89,500, or 2.4 Percent —March 2009 nonfarm employment stands at 3,659,500—

RICHMOND—March 2009 saw a nonagricultural employment level of 3,659,500 in Virginia, which was 89,500, or 2.4 percent, below the March 2008 Virginia nonfarm level of 3,749,000. According to the recent benchmark revisions, job growth in Virginia turned negative in September 2008. U.S. nonfarm employment has been losing jobs since January 2008. The Virginia March-over-March job loss was 2.4 percent compared to a March-over-March U.S. job contraction of 3.5 percent.

Virginia's seasonally adjusted March 2009 unemployment rate of 6.8 percent provided Virginia a ranking of the fifteenth-lowest jobless rate among the states in the nation. North Dakota, with 4.2 percent March seasonally adjusted unemployment, was the lowest state. Virginia was the second-lowest large state among the thirteen-largest states with over 3.5 million nonfarm employment bases. Texas, with a 6.7 percent March 2009 seasonally adjusted unemployment rate, was the lowest large state and ranked fourteenth-lowest among all the states. (Only seasonally adjusted jobless rates are used for national and state unemployment rankings.)

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Virginia's three-largest metropolitan areas still made a relatively good showing in the national rankings again in March 2009. This March, no major area had less than 5.3 percent seasonally unadjusted unemployment. The Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C./Virginia/Maryland/West Virginia area had the third-best ranking among the nation's 49 major metropolitan areas with populations of one million, or more, with 5.9 percent seasonally unadjusted unemployment. The Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, Virginia/North Carolina area was the seventh-best large area with 6.9 percent seasonally unadjusted unemployment. Although layoffs have pushed Richmond area seasonally unadjusted unemployment up to 7.8 percent in March 2009, Richmond was still ranked thirteenth-best of the large metropolitan areas. (Not seasonally adjusted jobless rates are used for metropolitan area comparisons, and Northern Virginia is not treated as separate from the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C./Virginia/Maryland/West Virginia area in national metropolitan area comparisons.)

Of all the nation's 372 metropolitan areas in March 2009, Charlottesville, Virginia, at 5.7 percent unadjusted unemployment, was the forty-third-best U.S. metropolitan area.

Industry Gain or Loss *(Using the 2007 revisions to NAICS categories)*

In the most recent 12-month period (March 2008 to March 2009), three Virginia industrial sectors still managed to add new jobs. They were: total government, up 7,100 jobs, or 1.0 percent; private education and health care, up 6,200 jobs, or 1.4 percent; and mining, up 300 jobs, or 2.8 percent. Virginia's job loss last year was largely caused by contractions in three industries: construction, down 30,700 jobs, or 13.7 percent; manufacturing, down 17,600 jobs, or 6.6 percent; and trade, down 14,100 jobs, or 2.6 percent; but cutbacks of 13,600, or 2.1 percent, in professional and business services and 13,000, or 3.8 percent, in leisure and hospitality were also factors.

Total government, still running on the tax revenues from previous periods, added 7,100 jobs, or 1.0 percent, for a job total of 708,200 in March 2009. This sector also saw continued staffing with the new school semester. Federal government employment rose 5,600, or 3.6 percent, as federal agencies, especially in Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads, have added staff. State government employment increased 3,800, or 2.4 percent, mostly in the public college system. Some variances in state government employment between March 2008 and March 2009 may be caused by timing differences of spring-break at the public colleges. Local governments, beginning to fear budget problems, were down 2,300, or 0.6 percent.

Private education and health care added 6,200 jobs, or 1.4 percent, to a March 2009 level of 443,600. These figures were also influenced by the timing of spring break at the private schools and colleges. The health care portion of this industry saw good subsector increases of 3,700, or 7.2 percent, in private social assistance; 1,400, or 1.1 percent, at physicians' and dentists' private practices; 1,300, or 2.0 percent, at nursing and resident homes; and 1,100, or 1.1 percent, at hospitals.

Mine employment added 300 jobs, or 2.8 percent, bringing March 2009 employment to 11,100.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT IN VIRGINIA*

(Using the 2007 revisions to the NAICS categories)

Industry	March 2009	March 2008	Change	
			Number	Percent
Total Nonfarm Jobs	3,659,500	3,749,000	-89,500	-2.4
Mining	11,100	10,800	+300	+2.8
Construction	193,200	223,900	-30,700	-13.7
Manufacturing	248,100	265,700	-17,600	-6.6
Trade	523,700	537,800	-14,100	-2.6
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	116,600	117,500	-900	-0.8
Information	81,600	88,500	-6,900	-7.8
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	184,900	189,600	-4,700	-2.5
Professional and Business Services	636,700	650,300	-13,600	-2.1
Private Education and Health Services	443,600	437,400	+6,200	+1.4
Leisure and Hospitality Services	326,200	339,200	-13,000	-3.8
Miscellaneous Services	185,600	187,200	-1,600	-0.9
Total Government	708,200	701,100	+7,100	+1.0
Federal Government	162,500	156,900	+5,600	+3.6
State Government	161,600	157,800	+3,800	+2.4
Local Government	384,100	386,400	-2,300	-0.6

*Current month's estimates are preliminary.

Transportation, warehousing, and utilities employment was down 900, or 0.8 percent, to 116,600 with most of the decrease in trucking and shipping lines.

Miscellaneous services was down 1,600, or 0.9 percent, to 185,600, primarily because of reductions at repair shops.

Finance, insurance, and real estate contracted 4,700, or 2.5 percent, to 184,900 with reductions in most subsectors.

Information industry employment was down 6,900, or 7.8 percent, to 81,600. The loss was in telecommunications and print media.

Leisure and hospitality lost 13,000 jobs, or 3.8 percent, as most resorts and food service establishments had lower staffing levels this winter than last year. Also, Easter coming in April in 2009 meant there was less travel in March this year. The March 2009 employment level was 326,200.

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Professional and business services had a net loss of 13,600, or 2.1 percent, falling to 636,700. This reduction was caused largely by a 12,900, or 20.4 percent, decrease in the temporary employment service providers. Architects and engineers were also reducing employment. Computer systems design firms were still hiring with a 5,100, or 3.9 percent, increase.

Trade employment receded 14,100, or 2.6 percent, from last year to a March 2009 job total of 523,700. All retailers, except some discount chains, reported sluggish sales. With Easter in April this year, trade employment saw no boost this March from Easter-related sales.

Manufacturing employment was down 17,600, or 6.6 percent, to a March 2009 level of 248,100. Last year some Virginia manufacturers were producing goods for export. The export business has since dried up. Durable goods employment of 143,200 was down 9,500, or 6.2 percent, from last March. The nondurable goods job level of 104,900 was down 8,100, or 7.2 percent, from last year.

The biggest annual March job loss this time was in construction, down 30,700, or 13.7 percent, to 193,200.

Job Growth Detail by Metropolitan Area (March 2008 to March 2009)

Seven of Virginia's nine published metropolitan areas saw negative job growth in the March 2008 to March 2009 period. The combined net metropolitan job loss was 52,300, or 1.6 percent, which means the non-metropolitan balance-of-state that includes the unpublished Danville metropolitan area, had a net job loss of 37,200, or 7.7 percent. The statewide job loss was 89,500, or 2.4 percent. The Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford area was positive by 1.4 percent, or 1,000, because of a vehicle industry strike last year in March. Lynchburg, up 0.2 percent, or 200, had the only other increase. Richmond, down 21,900 jobs, lost the most actual jobs. Winchester, Virginia/West Virginia, down 4.6 percent, had the biggest percentage job loss. Unfortunately in some small- and medium-sized metropolitan areas, there are unpublishable industry sectors because of sample size and one-employer industries. The publishability problem worsens because of continued federal budget cuts to the statistical programs.

- **Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford** – up 1.4 percent, or 1,000, to 71,600. The goods-producing industries increased 11.8 percent, or 1,500, because last year there was a strike going on at a large vehicle manufacturer. U.S. Department of Labor policy is to not count strikers as being employed. Although this industry has had layoffs this year, there were still more people working than in March 2008. The service-providing industries had a net loss of 0.9 percent, or 500. There was a publishable 200 gain in total government.
- **Lynchburg** – up 0.2 percent, or 200, to 109,100. The service-providing industries were up a net 1.5 percent, or 1,300, largely because of private education gains. Within the service-providing industries, there was a publishable loss of 100 in total government. The goods-producing industries of mining, construction, and manufacturing had a 4.6 percent, or 1,100, net loss, publishable of which was a 600 reduction in manufacturing.

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- **Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, Virginia/North Carolina** – down 0.9 percent, or 6,800, to 756,100. The biggest Hampton Roads job loss was 3.3 percent, or 4,500, in trade/transportation, partly due to less traffic through the Hampton Roads ports. Also with job losses were construction, down 7.2 percent, or 3,300; manufacturing, down 3.6 percent, or 2,000; information, down 8.6 percent, or 1,300; and finance, down 3.0 percent, or 1,200. Private education/health care increased 2.2 percent, or 2,000, for the best gain. Professional/business services, up 1.7 percent, or 1,800; leisure/hospitality, up 700; miscellaneous services, up 600; and total government, up 400, all had gains.
- **Northern Virginia** – down 1.2 percent, or 15,200, to 1,291,200. The biggest losses were 9.8 percent, or 7,800, in construction and 2.9 percent, or 5,900, in trade/transportation. Also, there were decreases of 3.2 percent, or 3,600, in leisure/hospitality; 6.2 percent, or 3,000, in information; 4.1 percent, or 2,700, in finance; 2.2 percent, or 1,600, in miscellaneous services; 900 in manufacturing; and 600 in private education/health care. Professional/business services continued to be the mainstay of the Northern Virginia economy, adding 1.9 percent, or 6,600 jobs. Also adding workers was total government, up 2.0 percent, or 4,300.
- **Roanoke** – down 1.9 percent, or 3,100, to 158,900. The losses were 3.4 percent, or 1,200, in trade/transportation; 700 in manufacturing; 500 in leisure/hospitality; 400 in finance; 300 in total government; and 200 each in professional/business services, construction, and information. There were gains of 500 in private education/health care and 100 in miscellaneous services.
- **Harrisonburg** – down 2.2 percent, or 1,400, to 62,500. The goods-producing sector, which combines mining, construction, and manufacturing, had a net loss of 5.8 percent, or 900, publishable of which was a 700, mostly vehicle-related, decrease in manufacturing. The service-providing industries had a net 1.0 percent, or 500, loss. There was a publishable 500 trade/transportation decrease and a publishable 400 total government increase.
- **Charlottesville** – down 2.4 percent, or 2,500, to 100,300. The service-providing industries were down a net 1.6 percent, or 1,500, with publishable losses of 9.4 percent, or 1,100, in leisure/hospitality; 600 in trade/transportation; and 500 in professional/business services. There was also a publishable service-providing gain of 700 in total government. The goods-producing combination of mining, construction, and manufacturing had a net loss of 9.4 percent, or 1,000.
- **Richmond** – down 3.5 percent, or 21,900, to 607,800. The Richmond area has experienced recent major employer closings in trade/transportation, manufacturing, and finance. The biggest job losses were 17.0 percent, or 7,400, in construction; 9.7 percent, or 4,300, in finance; 9.9 percent, or 4,100, in manufacturing; and 8.0 percent, or 4,100, in leisure/hospitality. Other losses were 3.4 percent, or 3,400, in professional/business services; 2.5 percent, or 2,900, in trade/transportation; 700 in total government; and 600 in information. The job increases were 5.8 percent, or 4,600, in private education/health care and 3.2 percent, or 1,000, in miscellaneous services.

- **Winchester, Virginia/West Virginia** – down 4.6 percent, or 2,600, to 53,500. Goods-producing employment, which includes mining, construction, and manufacturing, had a net loss of 16.0 percent, or 1,900. There were cutbacks in vehicle- and housing-related manufacturing. The service-providing industries had a net reduction of 1.6 percent, or 700, with a publishable 400 loss in trade/transportation and a publishable 200 increase in total government.

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