



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## Virginia Employment Commission

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### Virginia's Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate Held Steady at 2.8 Percent in December

— Seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment was down 100 jobs  
between November 2018 and December 2018—

**RICHMOND**—Virginia's **seasonally adjusted** unemployment rate was unchanged in December at 2.8 percent. The December 2018 seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for Virginia was down 0.8 percentage point from a year ago and continued to be the lowest rate since the April 2001 rate of 2.8 percent. The labor force, which expanded for the third consecutive month, added 4,213 for a total of 4,359,242 and set a new record high. Household employment increased by 4,953, which was the twelfth consecutive monthly increase, and at 4,236,062, set a new record high. The number of unemployed continued to drop, declining by 740 to 123,180. Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be below the national rate, which was up 0.2 percentage point in December to 3.9 percent.

Virginia's **seasonally adjusted** nonfarm employment decreased by a slight 100 jobs in December to 4,031,100, after increasing the previous eleven months, and as a preliminary estimate, the December employment figure will be revised next month. For November, the initially reported gain of 6,600 jobs was revised downward by 500 jobs to an over-the-month gain of 6,100 jobs. In December, private sector employment decreased by 1,100 jobs to 3,330,900, while public sector payrolls increased by 1,000 jobs to 700,200.

From November 2018 to December 2018, **seasonally adjusted** employment decreased in four major industry divisions, increased in six, and remained unchanged in **mining** at 8,400. The largest job loss during December occurred in the **professional and business services** sector, which decreased by 2,900 jobs to 750,600. Employment losses occurred in all the professional and business services subsectors: administrative and support services (-2,000 jobs); professional, scientific, and technical services (-800 jobs);

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and management of companies (-100 jobs). The second largest over-the-month decline occurred in **trade and transportation**, with a loss of 2,700 jobs to 670,900. The job losses in transportation and warehousing (-2,300 jobs) and retail trade (-1,200 jobs) outweighed the job gain in wholesale trade (+800 jobs). Other employment losses were 800 jobs in **finance** to 210,200 and 200 jobs in **information** to 65,300. The largest job gain during December occurred in **manufacturing**, which increased by 2,600 jobs to 248,100, and was the seventh consecutive monthly increase. The second largest over-the-month increase occurred in **private education and health services**, with a gain of 1,400 jobs to 548,500. In December, health care and social assistance increased by 1,700 jobs, while private education decreased by 300 jobs. **Total government** experienced the third largest over-the-month gain, increasing by 1,000 jobs to 700,200. For total government, the gains occurred in federal (+1,000 jobs) and state (+100 jobs) government employment, while local government employment declined (-100 jobs). Other employment gains were: 700 jobs in **construction** to 205,500; 600 jobs in **miscellaneous services** to 207,500; and 200 jobs in **leisure and hospitality** to 415,900.

### Nonfarm Employment in Virginia\* Seasonally Adjusted

Industry	Employment			November 2018 to December 2018		December 2017 to December 2018	
	December 2018	November 2018	December 2017	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>4,031,100</b>	<b>4,031,200</b>	<b>3,954,100</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>-0.0%</b>	<b>+77,000</b>	<b>+1.9%</b>
<b>Total Private Sector</b>	<b>3,330,900</b>	<b>3,332,000</b>	<b>3,238,000</b>	<b>-1,100</b>	<b>-0.0%</b>	<b>+92,900</b>	<b>+2.9%</b>
<b>Goods-Producing</b>	<b>462,000</b>	<b>458,700</b>	<b>441,900</b>	<b>+3,300</b>	<b>+0.7%</b>	<b>+20,100</b>	<b>+4.5%</b>
Mining	8,400	8,400	8,200	+0	+0.0%	+200	+2.4%
Construction	205,500	204,800	197,300	+700	+0.3%	+8,200	+4.2%
Manufacturing	248,100	245,500	236,400	+2,600	+1.1%	+11,700	+4.9%
<b>Service-Providing</b>	<b>3,569,100</b>	<b>3,572,500</b>	<b>3,512,200</b>	<b>-3,400</b>	<b>-0.1%</b>	<b>+56,900</b>	<b>+1.6%</b>
<b>Private Service-Providing</b>	<b>2,868,900</b>	<b>2,873,300</b>	<b>2,796,100</b>	<b>-4,400</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>	<b>+72,800</b>	<b>+2.6%</b>
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	670,900	673,600	662,000	-2,700	-0.4%	+8,900	+1.3%
Information	65,300	65,500	67,200	-200	-0.3%	-1,900	-2.8%
Finance	210,200	211,000	206,200	-800	-0.4%	+4,000	+1.9%
Professional and Business Services	750,600	753,500	730,000	-2,900	-0.4%	+20,600	+2.8%
Education and Health Services	548,500	547,100	528,900	+1,400	+0.3%	+19,600	+3.7%
Leisure and Hospitality Services	415,900	415,700	397,900	+200	+0.0%	+18,000	+4.5%
Miscellaneous Services	207,500	206,900	203,900	+600	+0.3%	+3,600	+1.8%
<b>Government</b>	<b>700,200</b>	<b>699,200</b>	<b>716,100</b>	<b>+1,000</b>	<b>+0.1%</b>	<b>-15,900</b>	<b>-2.2%</b>
Federal Government	178,100	177,100	177,700	+1,000	+0.6%	+400	+0.2%
State Government	159,600	159,500	159,300	+100	+0.1%	+300	+0.2%
Local Government	362,500	362,600	379,100	-100	-0.0%	-16,600	-4.4%

\*Current month's estimates are preliminary.

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From December 2017 to December 2018, Virginia's **seasonally adjusted** total nonfarm employment was up 77,000 jobs, or 1.9 percent. Over-the-year employment growth in Virginia has been positive for 57 consecutive months. Virginia's over-the-year growth rate exceeded the national rate for the second consecutive month, with a Virginia December growth rate of 1.9 percent versus the national rate of 1.8 percent. In December, the private sector recorded an over-the-year gain of 92,900 jobs, while employment in the public sector declined by 15,900 jobs.

Compared to a year ago, on a **seasonally adjusted** basis, nine of the eleven major industry divisions experienced employment gains, while the other two experienced employment losses. The largest over-the-year job gain occurred in **professional and business services**, up 20,600 jobs (+2.8 percent). The next largest over-the-year job gain occurred in **private education and health services**, up 19,600 jobs (+3.7 percent). **Leisure and hospitality** experienced the third largest over-the-year job gain, up 18,000 jobs (+4.5 percent). Other gains were in **manufacturing**, up 11,700 jobs (+4.9 percent); **trade and transportation**, up 8,900 jobs (+1.3 percent); **construction**, up 8,200 jobs (+4.2 percent); **finance**, up 4,000 jobs (+1.9 percent); **miscellaneous services**, up 3,600 jobs (+1.8 percent); and **mining**, up 200 jobs (+2.4 percent). Compared to a-year-ago December, **total government** fell by 15,900 jobs (-2.2 percent), with the loss in local government employment (-16,600 jobs) outweighing the gains in federal (+400 jobs) and state (+300 jobs) government employment. In addition, employment in **information** was down 1,900 jobs (-2.8 percent).

### Total Nonfarm Employment in Virginia\* Seasonally Adjusted

Area	Employment			November 2018 to December 2018		December 2017 to December 2018	
	December 2018	November 2018	December 2017	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
<b>Virginia</b>	4,031,100	4,031,200	3,954,100	-100	-0.0%	+77,000	+1.9%
<b>Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford MSA</b>	77,600	77,800	75,800	-200	-0.3%	+1,800	+2.4%
<b>Charlottesville MSA</b>	121,600	121,600	118,400	+0	+0.0%	+3,200	+2.7%
<b>Harrisonburg MSA</b>	68,200	68,000	67,500	+200	+0.3%	+700	+1.0%
<b>Lynchburg MSA</b>	106,100	106,000	104,200	+100	+0.1%	+1,900	+1.8%
<b>Northern Virginia MSA</b>	1,488,000	1,485,900	1,475,900	+2,100	+0.1%	+12,100	+0.8%
<b>Richmond MSA</b>	683,400	683,200	672,300	+200	+0.0%	+11,100	+1.7%
<b>Roanoke MSA</b>	163,100	163,300	159,000	-200	-0.1%	+4,100	+2.6%
<b>Staunton-Waynesboro MSA</b>	51,200	51,100	50,100	+100	+0.2%	+1,100	+2.2%
<b>Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, Virginia/North Carolina MSA</b>	791,000	790,700	777,300	+300	+0.0%	+13,700	+1.8%
<b>Winchester, Virginia/West Virginia MSA</b>	66,200	65,800	64,300	+400	+0.6%	+1,900	+3.0%

\*Current month's estimates are preliminary.

**Seasonally adjusted** total nonfarm employment data is produced for ten metropolitan areas. In December, seven metropolitan areas experienced over-the-month job gains; two experienced losses; and

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employment in the Charlottesville metropolitan area remained unchanged. The largest absolute job gain occurred in Northern Virginia, with a gain of 2,100 jobs. The other metropolitan areas that experienced gains were: Winchester (+400 jobs); Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News (+300 jobs); Harrisonburg and Richmond (+200 jobs each); and Lynchburg and Staunton-Waynesboro (+100 jobs each). Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford and Roanoke experienced losses of 200 jobs each.

Over the year, **seasonally adjusted** total nonfarm employment increased in all metropolitan areas. The Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News metropolitan area experienced the largest absolute job gain, up 13,700 jobs (+1.8 percent). Northern Virginia was ranked second, with a gain of 12,100 jobs (+0.8 percent), and Richmond was ranked third, with a gain of 11,100 jobs (+1.7 percent). The other over-the-year job gains occurred in: Roanoke (+4,100 jobs); Charlottesville (+3,200 jobs); Lynchburg and Winchester (+1,900 jobs each); Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford (+1,800 jobs); Staunton-Waynesboro (+1,100 jobs); and Harrisonburg (+700 jobs).

### **NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA**

Virginia's **unadjusted** unemployment rate was down 0.1 percentage point in December to 2.6 percent and was down 0.7 percentage point from a year ago. Compared to a year ago, the number of unemployed decreased by 29,748, household employment increased by 88,150, and as a result, the labor force rose by 58,402. Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be below the national unadjusted rate, which was up 0.2 percentage point in December to 3.7 percent.

Compared to last month, the December **unadjusted** workweek for Virginia's 175,700 manufacturing production workers decreased by 1.6 hours to 39.6 hours, average hourly earnings increased by \$0.43 to \$19.94, and average weekly earnings decreased by \$14.19 to \$789.62. Compared to last December, the unadjusted workweek decreased by 1.4 hours, average hourly earnings increased by \$0.18, and average weekly earnings were lower by \$20.54.

*The statistical reference week for the household survey this month was the week of December 9-15, 2018.*

The Virginia Employment Commission plans to release the December local area unemployment rates on Wednesday, January 30, 2019. The data will be available on our website, [www.VirginiaLMI.com](http://www.VirginiaLMI.com).

The January statewide unemployment rate and employment data for both the state and metropolitan areas are scheduled to be released on Monday, March 11, 2019.

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