



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Employment Commission

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Virginia's Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate Decreased to 8.0 Percent in July

— Seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment increased by 9,300 jobs
between June 2020 and July 2020—

RICHMOND— Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell 0.1 percentage points in July to 8.0 percent, which is 5.3 percentage points above the rate from a year ago. According to household survey data in July, the labor force expanded by 7,974, or 0.2 percent, to 4,322,234, as the number of unemployed residents fell by 5,489. The number of employed residents increased by 13,463 to 3,978,099. Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be below the national rate, which fell to 10.2 percent.

Virginia's nonagricultural wage and salary employment, from the monthly establishment survey, rose by 9,300 jobs in July to 3,775,000. June's preliminary estimates were revised upward 15,200, adding to that month's job gains. In July, private sector employment increased by 18,300 jobs to 3,102,500, while public sector payrolls decreased by 9,000 jobs to 672,500.

From June 2020 to July 2020, **seasonally adjusted** employment increased in five major industry divisions and decreased in six. The largest job gains during July occurred in **leisure and hospitality** with an increase of 23,800 jobs to 317,800. The second largest job gain was in **trade and transportation** which increased 3,900 jobs to 632,500. Other employment gains included: **miscellaneous services**, (+3,800 jobs) to 189,200, **education and health services** (+2,900 jobs) to 516,600, and **construction** (+1,100 jobs) to 208,100.

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The largest job loss occurred in **Government** employment which dropped by 9,000 jobs in July. For total government, a gain occurred in federal government (+1,800 jobs) and losses in state government (-1,000 jobs) and local government (-9,800 jobs). Other employment losses included: **manufacturing** (-6,700 jobs) to 228,000, **professional and business services** (-6,400 jobs) to 731,500, **finance** (-2,500 jobs) to 206,700, **information** (-1,500 jobs) to 65,000, and **mining**, (-100 jobs) to 7,100.

Nonfarm Employment in Virginia* Seasonally Adjusted

Industry	Employment			June 2020 to July 2020		July 2019 to July 2020	
	July 2020	June 2020	July 2019	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm	3,775,000	3,765,700	4,059,100	9,300	0.2%	-284,100	-7.0%
Total Private Sector	3,102,500	3,084,200	3,327,500	18,300	0.6%	-225,000	-6.8%
Goods-Producing	443,200	448,900	454,200	-5,700	-1.3%	-11,000	-2.4%
Mining	7,100	7,200	7,700	-100	-1.4%	-600	-7.8%
Construction	208,100	207,000	203,500	1,100	0.5%	4,600	2.3%
Manufacturing	228,000	234,700	243,000	-6,700	-2.9%	-15,000	-6.2%
Service-Providing	3,331,800	3,316,800	3,604,900	15,000	0.5%	-273,100	-7.6%
Private Service-Providing	2,659,300	2,635,300	2,873,300	24,000	0.9%	-214,000	-7.4%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	632,500	628,600	658,200	3,900	0.6%	-25,700	-3.9%
Information	65,000	66,500	68,200	-1,500	-2.3%	-3,200	-4.7%
Finance	206,700	209,200	212,300	-2,500	-1.2%	-5,600	-2.6%
Professional and Business Services	731,500	737,900	768,400	-6,400	-0.9%	-36,900	-4.8%
Education and Health Services	516,600	513,700	554,700	2,900	0.6%	-38,100	-6.9%
Leisure and Hospitality Services	317,800	294,000	409,100	23,800	8.1%	-91,300	-22.3%
Miscellaneous Services	189,200	185,400	202,400	3,800	2.0%	-13,200	-6.5%
Government	672,500	681,500	731,600	-9,000	-1.3%	-59,100	-8.1%
Federal Government	183,800	182,000	181,500	1,800	1.0%	2,300	1.3%
State Government	145,500	146,500	160,800	-1,000	-0.7%	-15,300	-9.5%
Local Government	343,200	353,000	389,300	-9,800	-2.8%	-46,100	-11.8%

*Current month's estimates are preliminary.

From July 2019 to July 2020, the VEC estimates that establishments in Virginia lost 284,100 jobs, or 7.0 percent. In July, the private sector recorded an over-the-year loss of 225,000 jobs, while employment in the public sector lost 59,100 jobs.

Compared to a year ago, on a **seasonally adjusted** basis, ten out of eleven major industry divisions experienced employment declines, with one experiencing a gain. The only job gain occurred in **construction**, up 4,600 jobs (+2.3%).

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The largest over-the-year job loss occurred in **leisure and hospitality**, down 91,300 jobs (-22.3%). The next largest job loss occurred in **Government**, down 59,100 jobs (-8.1%). Within government, federal experienced a small increase in employment (+2,300 jobs) while there were decreases in state government employment (-15,300 jobs) and local government employment (-46,100 jobs). **Education and health services** experienced the third largest over-the-year job loss of 38,100 jobs (-6.9%). Other losses were in **professional and business services**, down 36,900 jobs (-4.8%), **trade and transportation**, down 25,700 jobs (-3.9%), **manufacturing**, down 15,000 jobs (-6.2%); **miscellaneous services**, down 13,200 jobs (-6.5%); **finance**, down 5,600 jobs (-2.6%); **information**, down 3,200 jobs (-4.7%); and **mining**, down 600 jobs (-7.8%).

Total Nonfarm Employment in Virginia* Seasonally Adjusted

Area	Employment			June 2020 to July 2020		July 2019 to July 2020	
	July 2020	June 2020	July 2019	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
Virginia	3,775,000	3,765,700	4,059,100	9,300	0.2%	-284,100	-7.0%
Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford MSA	71,600	69,700	78,100	1,900	2.7%	-6,500	-8.3%
Charlottesville MSA	112,800	112,100	121,200	700	0.6%	-8,400	-6.9%
Harrisonburg MSA	64,500	63,700	69,200	800	1.3%	-4,700	-6.8%
Lynchburg MSA	98,900	96,900	105,000	2,000	2.1%	-6,100	-5.8%
Northern Virginia MSA	1,395,500	1,407,200	1,516,800	-11,700	-0.8%	-121,300	-8.0%
Richmond MSA	638,100	632,600	686,700	5,500	0.9%	-48,600	-7.1%
Roanoke MSA	151,700	148,500	162,600	3,200	2.2%	-10,900	-6.7%
Staunton-Waynesboro MSA	52,600	51,100	51,600	1,500	2.9%	1,000	1.9%
Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, Virginia/North Carolina MSA	745,400	736,400	794,800	9,000	1.2%	-49,400	-6.2%
Winchester, Virginia/West Virginia MSA	60,100	59,400	65,900	700	1.2%	-5,800	-8.8%

*Current month's estimates are preliminary.

Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment data is produced for ten metropolitan areas. In July, nine metropolitan areas experienced over-the-month job gains, while Northern Virginia (-11,700 jobs) experienced the only job losses. The largest absolute job gain occurred in Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News (+9,000 jobs). The second largest absolute job gain occurred in Richmond (+5,500 jobs). The third largest absolute job gain was in Roanoke (+3,200 jobs). Other gains include Lynchburg (+2,000 jobs), Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford (+1,900 jobs) Staunton-Waynesboro (+1,500 jobs), Harrisonburg (+800 jobs), Charlottesville and Winchester both with (+700 jobs).

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Over the year, **seasonally adjusted** total nonfarm employment decreased in nine of the ten metropolitan areas, with the only gain being in Staunton-Waynesboro up 1,000 jobs (+1.9%). The Northern Virginia metropolitan area experienced the largest absolute job loss, down 121,300 jobs (-8.0%). Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News ranked second, with a loss of 49,400 jobs (-6.2%). Richmond ranked third with a decline of 48,600 jobs (-7.1%).

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

Virginia's **unadjusted** unemployment rate fell 0.2 percentage points in July to 8.0 percent, and was up 5.0 percentage points from a year ago. Compared to a year ago, the number of unemployed increased by 220,047, household employment decreased by 310,963, and the labor force decreased by 90,916. Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be below the national unadjusted rate, which fell by 0.7 percentage points in July to 10.5 percent.

Compared to last month, the July **unadjusted** workweek for Virginia's 153,200 manufacturing production workers increased by 0.1 hours to 40.1 hours. Average hourly earnings of private-sector production workers increased by \$.29 to \$20.19 in July. Average weekly earnings rose \$13.62 to \$809.62.

Technical note: Estimates of unemployment and industry employment levels are obtained from two separate monthly surveys. Resident employment and unemployment data are mainly derived from the Virginia portion of the national Current Population Survey (CPS), a household survey conducted each month by the U.S. Census Bureau under contract with BLS, which provides input to the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program (often referred to as the "household" survey). Industry employment data is mainly derived from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) survey, a monthly survey of approximately 18,000 Virginia businesses conducted by BLS, which provides estimates of employment, hours, and earnings data broken down by industry for the nation as a whole, all states and most major metropolitan areas (often referred to as the "establishment" survey). Both industry and household estimates are revised each month based on additional information from updated survey reports compiled by the BLS. **For national figures and information on how COVID-19 affected collection of the BLS establishment and household surveys in July, refer to the BLS [July 2020 Employment Situation](#) press release for details.**

The statistical reference week for the household survey this month was the week of July 12-18, 2020.

The Virginia Employment Commission plans to release the July local area unemployment rates on Wednesday, September 2, 2020. The data will be available on our website, www.VirginiaWorks.com.

The August statewide unemployment rate and employment data for both the state and metropolitan areas are scheduled to be released on Friday, September 18, 2020.

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