

Virginia Unemployment Claims Data Demographics

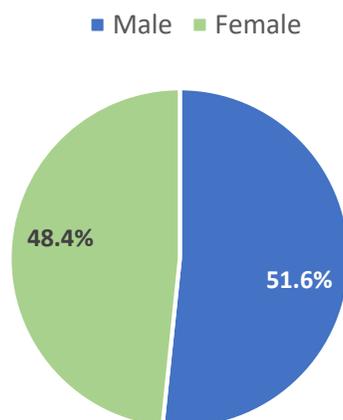
Week Ending August 22, 2020

Prepared by EIA/VEC

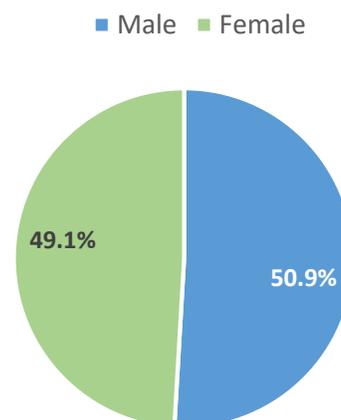
The week of August 16th – 22nd marks the 23rd week since the COVID-19 crisis began in the Commonwealth. This week there were 11,436 initial unemployment benefit claims, down 24.5% compared to the previous week. In recent weeks we have seen the number of initial benefit claims fluctuate, but overall, they have maintained a steady downward trend. Initial claims have fallen 73.4% from the previous peak of 42,966 in the week ending July 25th. The following analysis was completed using intrastate and interstate claims data, but not agent claims¹, therefore, the totals below will not match the state totals when aggregated.

Of the individuals who filed an initial claim this week, 51.6% identified as male and 48.4% identified as female, a change of 0.7 percentage points from the week prior. According to a survey from the BLS approximately 53.0% of Virginia’s workforce is male and 47.0% is female. In the beginning weeks of the COVID-19 crisis, however, we saw female claimants making up the majority of claims filed. Between the week ending March 21st and the week ending June 20th, the first 14 weeks of the crisis, 56.2% of all initial claims were filed by female claimants. In the following weeks the gender breakdown of claims has looked much more like the BLS estimates for Virginia’s workforce with 53.6% of initial claims being filed by males and 46.4% being filed by females.

8/16 - 8/22 Claims by Gender



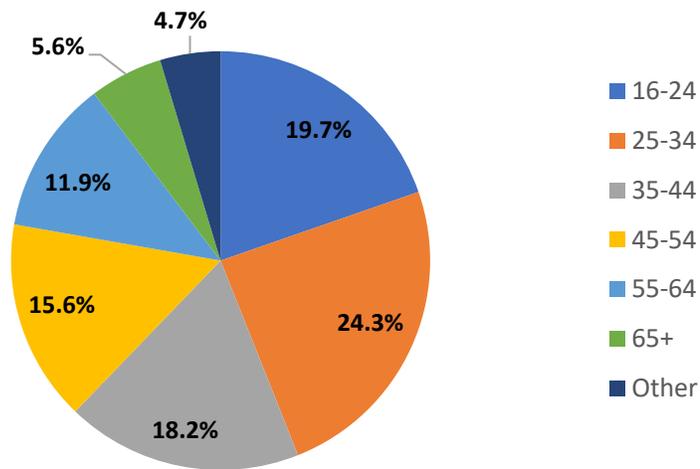
8/9 - 8/15 Claims by Gender



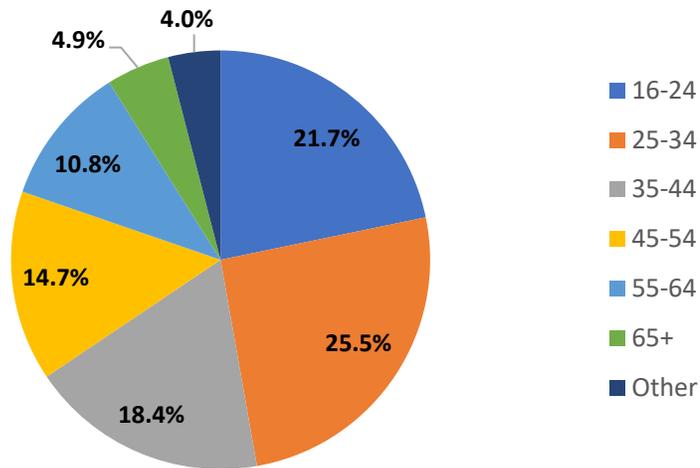
¹ When a participant is enrolled, they might receive benefits from a different location than that which is providing them with assistance. Those intermediary claims are considered agent claims.

Grouping initial claimants into age cohorts is another way to analyze their demographic data. This allows us to see the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on different segments of the workforce. This week, workers in the first cohort, ages 16-24, accounted for 19.7% of initial claims, 2.0 percentage points lower than in the previous week. Additionally, workers in the next cohort, ages 25-34, made up 24.3% of claims this week 1.2 percentage points lower than the week prior. Since the beginning of the crisis in the week ending March 21st, younger workers in the first two cohorts, ages 16-34, have filed approximately 45.5% of all initial claims. On the other hand, workers in the next two cohorts, ages 35-54, have filed 34.6% of all initial claims in the same time period. According to a survey by the BLS roughly 33.8% of Virginia’s workers are between the ages of 16-34 and 41.0% are between the ages of 35-54. This disparity between the age breakdown in claims and the BLS estimates leads us to believe that younger workers have been more negatively affected by the COVID-19 crisis than older workers.

8/16 - 8/22 Claims by Age



8/9 - 8/15 Claims by Age



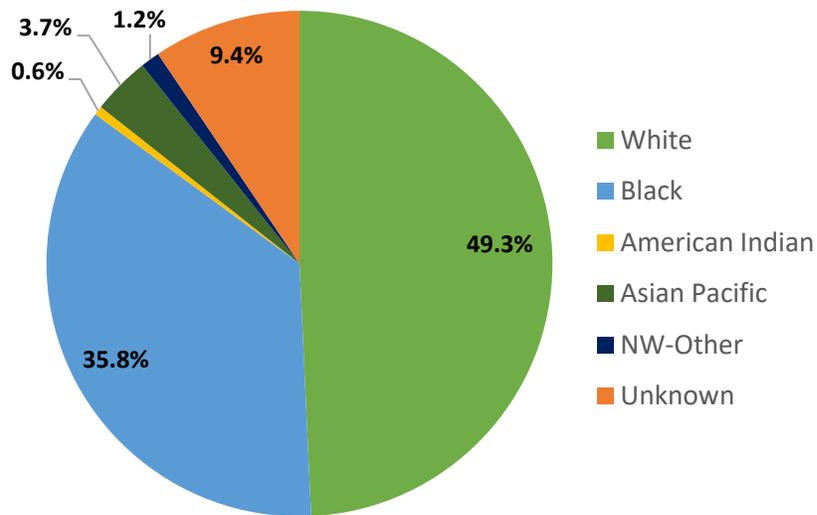
The occupation code of workers filing an initial claim is another important metric we need to examine. This gives us a general idea of the types of jobs that workers are being laid off from. Overall, the breakdown in the share of initial claims filed from each occupation code was similar to the week prior. The largest change came from *Construction and Extraction Occupations* (47-0000) who saw their share of initial claims decrease by 0.9 percentage points from 6.9% in the previous week to 6.0% this week. All but one of the 23 two-digit classifications saw a decrease in the number of initial claims filed. *Military Specific Occupations* (55-0000) was the only classification to see an increase with an additional 2 claims this week compared to the week prior. *Office and Administrative Support Occupations* (43-0000) saw the largest decrease in claims with 328 fewer initial claims than the previous week. Please note that the SOC codes are self-reported. To learn more about SOC codes or classifications visit <https://www.onetonline.org/>.

SOC Code	Number of Claims	Change from the previous week	Percentage of Initial Claims
11-0000	779	-205	7.40%
13-0000	306	-48	2.91%
15-0000	226	-162	2.15%
17-0000	175	-31	1.66%
19-0000	77	-5	0.73%
21-0000	134	-15	1.27%
23-0000	47	-10	0.45%
25-0000	265	-113	2.52%
27-0000	363	-31	3.45%
29-0000	295	-69	2.80%
31-0000	386	-110	3.67%
33-0000	142	-48	1.35%
35-0000	748	-127	7.11%
37-0000	483	-131	4.59%
39-0000	734	-117	6.97%
41-0000	979	-290	9.30%
43-0000	1,055	-328	10.02%
45-0000	45	-12	0.43%
47-0000	635	-279	6.03%
49-0000	379	-72	3.60%
51-0000	530	-166	5.03%
53-0000	754	-212	7.16%
55-0000	10	2	0.09%
Unknown	980	-175	9.31%

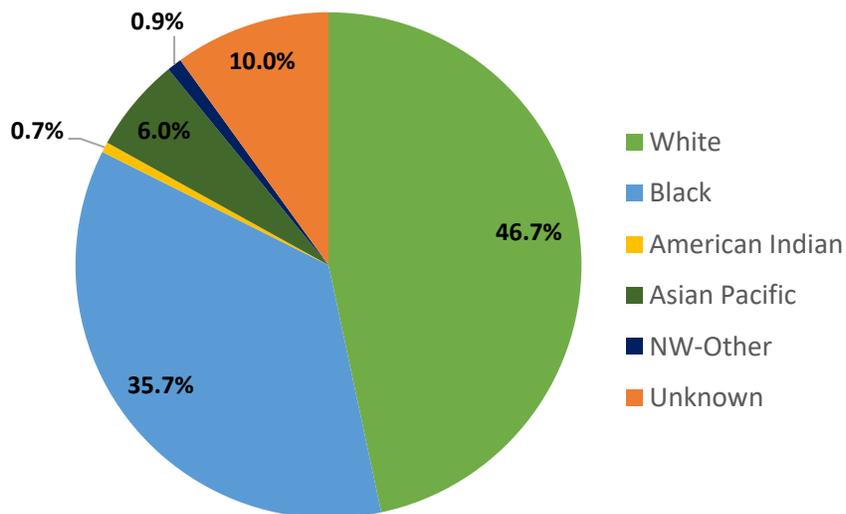
**This sample includes intrastate and interstate claims data, but not agent claims, totals will not equal reported state totals when aggregated.

Another important metric to analyze is the race of initial claimants. Over the last week 49.3% of claimants identified as white, a 2.6 percentage point increase from the week prior. Additionally, 35.8% of claimants identified as black, a 0.1 percentage point increase. We also saw a large decrease in initial claimants who identified as Asian Pacific, falling 2.3 percentage points from 6.0% to 3.7% this week. Since the beginning of the crisis in the week ending March 21st, 50.3% of all initial claimants have identified as white, 31.5% have identified as black and 8.0% have identified as Asian Pacific.

8/16 - 8/22 Claims by Race

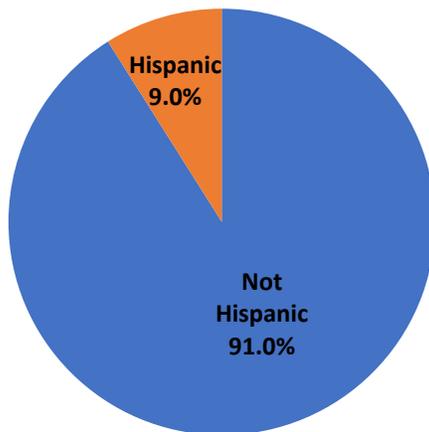


8/9 - 8/15 Claims by Race

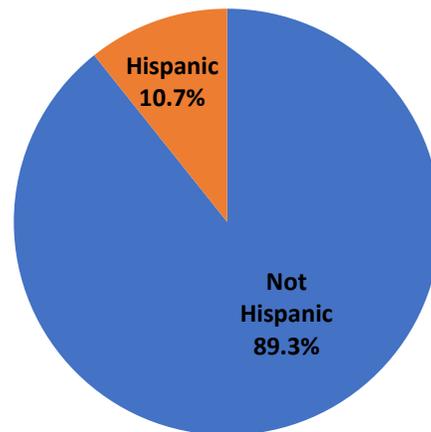


The ethnicity of initial claimants is yet another factor that is important to explore. According to the Census Bureau, approximately 9.6% of Virginians identify as either Hispanic or Latino. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, 9.7% of initial claimants have self-identified as either Hispanic or Latino. This week 9.0% of initial claimants identified as Hispanic or Latino, a 1.7 percentage point decrease from the week prior. Please note that the percentages above are calculated only from claimants who report their ethnicity and may be subject to revisions in the future.

8/16 - 8/22 Claims by Ethnicity



8/9 - 8/15 Claims by Ethnicity



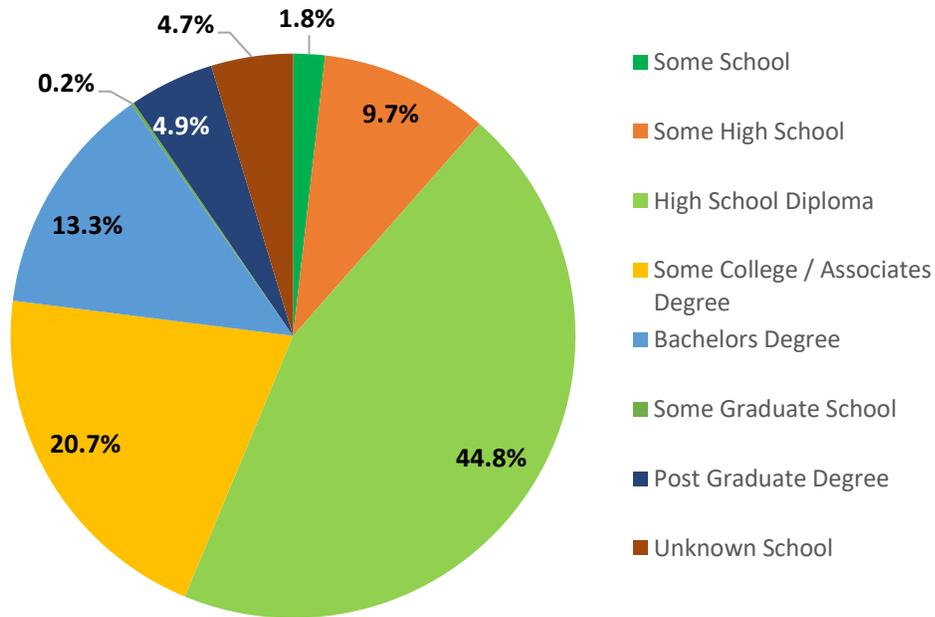
The citizenship status of initial claimants is also an important metric to look into. According to an American Community Survey report, approximately 94.2% of Virginians are citizens, either through naturalization or birth, and 5.8% are non-citizens. Throughout the crisis roughly 7.2% of initial claimants have identified as being non-citizens, including 4.6% this week. The 4.6% of initial claimants who identified as non-citizens this week is 4.2 percentage points lower than the previous week which saw 8.8% non-citizen claimants.

Citizenship Status	Number of Claims	Change from the previous week	Percentage of Initial Claims	Percentage of Population (ACS)
Citizen	10,047	-2,063	95.44%	94.23%
Non-citizen	480	-691	4.56%	5.77%

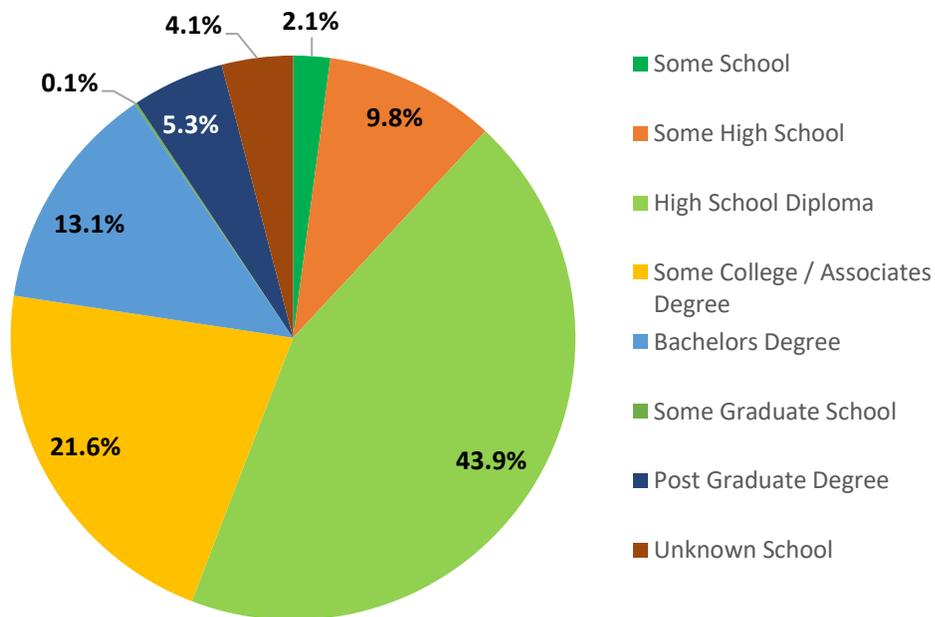
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The highest level of education attained by initial claimants is another useful data point to explore. This week 44.8% of initial claimants reported having a high school diploma, 0.9 percentage points higher than the previous week. Furthermore, the share of initial claimants who reported some college experience or an associate’s degree fell 0.9 percentage points from 21.6% to 20.7% this week. The share of claimants who had attained a bachelor’s degree increased slightly by 0.2 percentage points to 13.3%.

8/16 - 8/22 Claims by Education Level



8/9 - 8/15 Claims by Education Level



Finally, we need to look at the counties and independent cities where individuals are filing initial claims. Looking strictly at the number of claims this week, Fairfax County had the most filings with 775 initial claims. Virginia Beach City and Norfolk City followed with 562 and 467 claims respectively. Manassas Park City was the only locality this week to record zero initial benefit claims. Out of the 133 localities in the Commonwealth, only 26 saw an increase in the number of claims filed. The additional 107 localities had either no change or a decrease in the number of claims filed compared to the previous week. Fairfax County saw the largest drop in initial claims with 426 fewer filings than in the previous week.

Although the total number of claims is important, it does not provide us with enough detail about the extent to which each locality has been affected by the COVID-19 crisis. Instead we should look at the total number of claims as a percentage of the labor force in that area. This helps account for differences in population sizes between localities and gives us a better comparison of the effects felt in each area. By this metric, Petersburg City was the locality most affected with 1.0% of its labor force filing an initial claim. Emporia City and Hopewell City followed with 0.7% and 0.6% of their respective labor forces filing a claim.

County/City	Number of Claims	Change from the previous week	Percentage of Initial Claims	Claims as a percentage of labor force
Accomack County	41	3	0.39%	0.25%
Albemarle County	50	-28	0.47%	0.09%
Alexandria City	143	-77	1.36%	0.14%
Alleghany County	4	-3	0.04%	0.06%
Amelia County	11	-1	0.10%	0.17%
Amherst County	32	-8	0.30%	0.21%
Appomattox County	15	0	0.14%	0.21%
Arlington County	151	-42	1.43%	0.10%
Augusta County	25	-13	0.24%	0.07%
Bath County	3	-3	0.03%	0.12%
Bedford County	58	-5	0.55%	0.15%
Bland County	7	1	0.07%	0.25%
Botetourt County	13	-9	0.12%	0.07%
Bristol City	26	-1	0.25%	0.36%
Brunswick County	24	1	0.23%	0.40%
Buchanan County	30	2	0.28%	0.44%
Buckingham County	9	-7	0.09%	0.14%
Buena Vista City	10	0	0.09%	0.27%
Campbell County	32	-10	0.30%	0.12%
Caroline County	29	2	0.28%	0.19%
Carroll County	49	-13	0.47%	0.37%
Charles City County	3	0	0.03%	0.08%
Charlotte County	9	-7	0.09%	0.17%

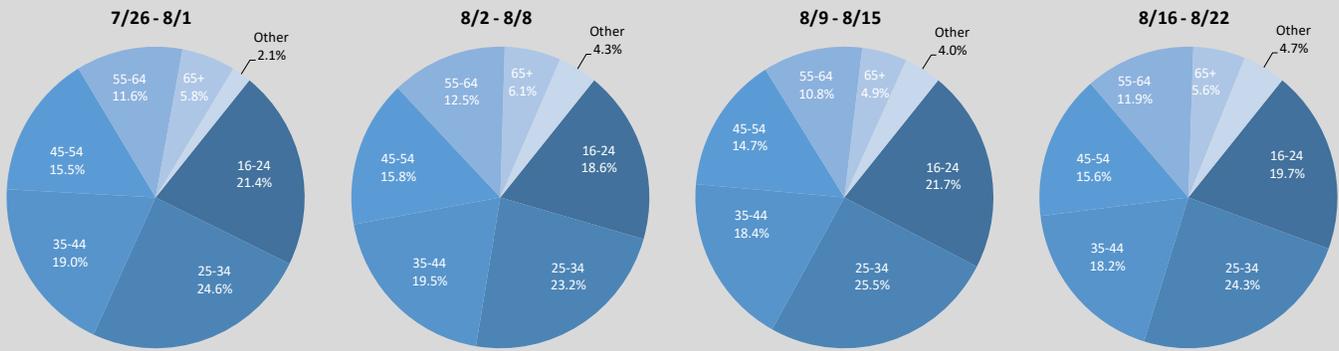
Charlottesville City	56	-12	0.53%	0.21%
Chesapeake City	250	-91	2.37%	0.20%
Chesterfield County	341	-40	3.24%	0.18%
Clarke County	13	5	0.12%	0.17%
Colonial Heights City	28	-4	0.27%	0.31%
Covington City	13	-1	0.12%	0.53%
Craig County	1	-6	0.01%	0.04%
Culpeper County	47	-7	0.45%	0.19%
Cumberland County	5	1	0.05%	0.11%
Danville City	99	-41	0.94%	0.51%
Dickenson County	14	0	0.13%	0.29%
Dinwiddie County	10	-2	0.09%	0.07%
Emporia City	16	9	0.15%	0.70%
Essex County	8	-10	0.08%	0.14%
Fairfax City	8	-6	0.08%	0.06%
Fairfax County	775	-426	7.36%	0.12%
Falls Church City	13	-5	0.12%	0.15%
Fauquier County	45	-22	0.43%	0.12%
Floyd County	4	-11	0.04%	0.05%
Fluvanna County	22	6	0.21%	0.16%
Franklin City	20	-8	0.19%	0.56%
Franklin County	81	-9	0.77%	0.30%
Frederick County	56	9	0.53%	0.11%
Fredericksburg City	52	-13	0.49%	0.36%
Galax City	5	2	0.05%	0.17%
Giles County	14	-5	0.13%	0.18%
Gloucester County	38	-8	0.36%	0.19%
Goochland County	9	1	0.09%	0.08%
Grayson County	10	-4	0.09%	0.12%
Greene County	11	7	0.10%	0.10%
Greensville County	24	-10	0.23%	0.56%
Halifax County	43	-6	0.41%	0.27%
Hampton City	214	-83	2.03%	0.33%
Hanover County	53	-18	0.50%	0.09%
Harrisonburg City	41	-23	0.39%	0.16%
Henrico County	281	-94	2.67%	0.15%
Henry County	95	-41	0.90%	0.40%
Highland County	1	0	0.01%	0.08%
Hopewell City	57	-7	0.54%	0.58%
Isle of Wight County	29	-10	0.28%	0.15%
James City County	55	-24	0.52%	0.15%
King and Queen County	4	0	0.04%	0.10%
King George County	19	-11	0.18%	0.14%
King William County	11	-13	0.10%	0.12%

Lancaster County	8	-1	0.08%	0.14%
Lee County	34	15	0.32%	0.41%
Lexington City	1	-1	0.01%	0.05%
Loudoun County	252	-107	2.39%	0.11%
Louisa County	22	1	0.21%	0.11%
Lunenburg County	6	-4	0.06%	0.11%
Lynchburg City	112	-66	1.06%	0.31%
Madison County	5	-1	0.05%	0.07%
Manassas City	40	-24	0.38%	0.18%
Manassas Park City	0	-2	0.00%	0.00%
Martinsville City	10	-30	0.09%	0.18%
Mathews County	10	2	0.09%	0.24%
Mecklenburg County	27	-14	0.26%	0.22%
Middlesex County	7	-4	0.07%	0.13%
Montgomery County	76	-7	0.72%	0.15%
Nelson County	16	6	0.15%	0.22%
New Kent County	14	0	0.13%	0.11%
Newport News City	257	-132	2.44%	0.30%
Norfolk City	467	-56	4.44%	0.43%
Northampton County	12	-6	0.11%	0.23%
Northumberland County	13	0	0.12%	0.24%
Norton City	7	-2	0.07%	0.43%
Nottoway County	20	7	0.19%	0.28%
Orange County	38	-2	0.36%	0.22%
Page County	30	-7	0.28%	0.26%
Patrick County	16	-2	0.15%	0.23%
Petersburg City	127	-31	1.21%	1.01%
Pittsylvania County	47	-17	0.45%	0.16%
Poquoson City	5	-8	0.05%	0.08%
Portsmouth City	202	-79	1.92%	0.47%
Powhatan County	19	-4	0.18%	0.14%
Prince Edward County	22	-12	0.21%	0.22%
Prince George County	26	-9	0.25%	0.18%
Prince William County	438	-220	4.16%	0.18%
Pulaski County	32	-11	0.30%	0.21%
Radford City	20	-18	0.19%	0.24%
Rappahannock County	3	0	0.03%	0.08%
Richmond City	451	-134	4.28%	0.39%
Richmond County	18	6	0.17%	0.45%
Roanoke City	186	-28	1.77%	0.39%
Roanoke County	78	-5	0.74%	0.16%
Rockbridge County	19	1	0.18%	0.18%
Rockingham County	33	-18	0.31%	0.08%
Russell County	20	-14	0.19%	0.18%

Salem City	41	13	0.39%	0.32%
Scott County	10	-16	0.09%	0.11%
Shenandoah County	54	8	0.51%	0.24%
Smyth County	42	-12	0.40%	0.32%
Southampton County	15	3	0.14%	0.17%
Spotsylvania County	131	-35	1.24%	0.20%
Stafford County	124	-41	1.18%	0.17%
Staunton City	31	-9	0.29%	0.26%
Suffolk City	107	-60	1.02%	0.25%
Surry County	7	-1	0.07%	0.20%
Sussex County	18	5	0.17%	0.49%
Tazewell County	47	-6	0.45%	0.31%
Virginia Beach City	562	-49	5.34%	0.25%
Warren County	30	-32	0.28%	0.15%
Washington County	51	5	0.48%	0.20%
Waynesboro City	36	-1	0.34%	0.34%
Westmoreland County	21	-2	0.20%	0.23%
Williamsburg City	7	-1	0.07%	0.11%
Winchester City	43	6	0.41%	0.29%
Wise County	51	-5	0.48%	0.40%
Wythe County	33	-4	0.31%	0.25%
York County	27	-1	0.26%	0.08%
Other	2028	-232	19.26%	N/A

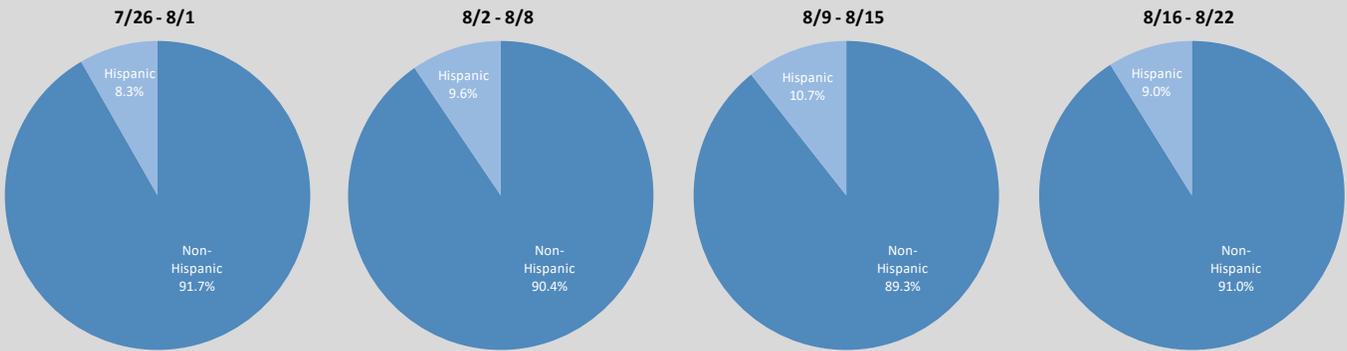
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Virginia Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance: Age



Source: Virginia Employment Commission - EIA

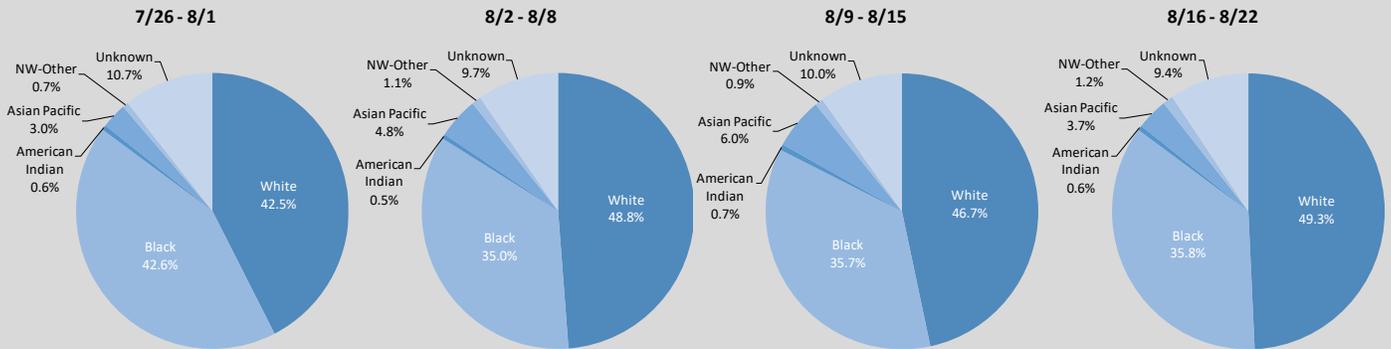
Virginia Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance: Ethnicity Composition



Source: Virginia Employment Commission - EIA

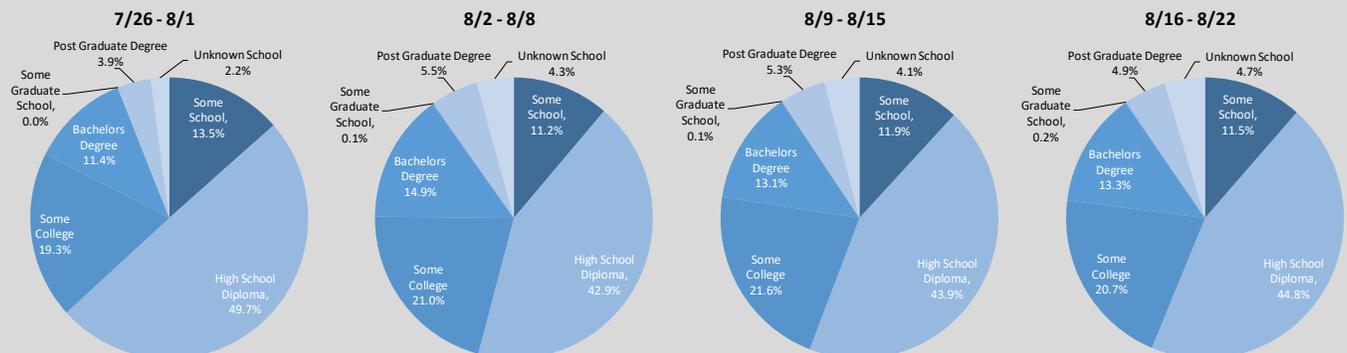
*Data self reported and subject to revision

Virginia Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance: Race Composition



Source: Virginia Employment Commission - EIA

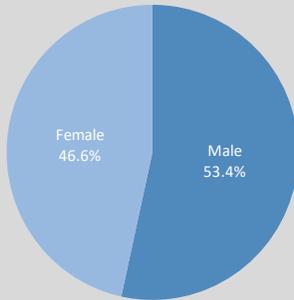
Virginia Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance: Education Level



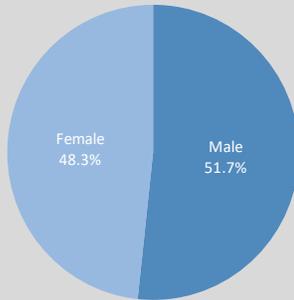
Source: Virginia Employment Commission - EIA

Virginia Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance: Gender Composition

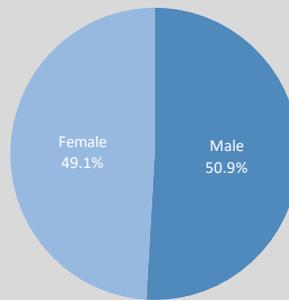
7/26 - 8/1



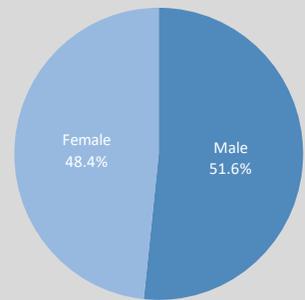
8/2 - 8/8



8/9 - 8/15



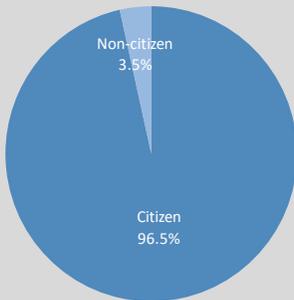
8/16 - 8/22



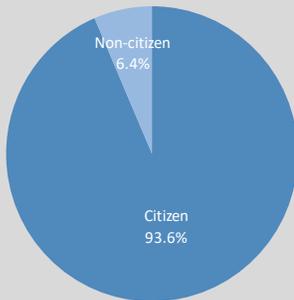
Source: Virginia Employment Commission - EIA

Virginia Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance: Citizenship Status

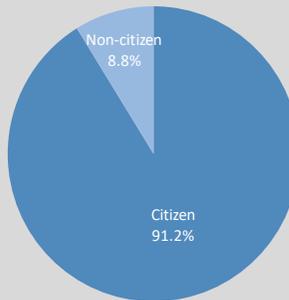
7/26 - 8/1



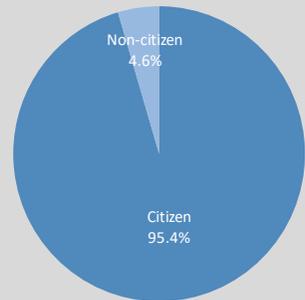
8/2 - 8/8



8/9 - 8/15

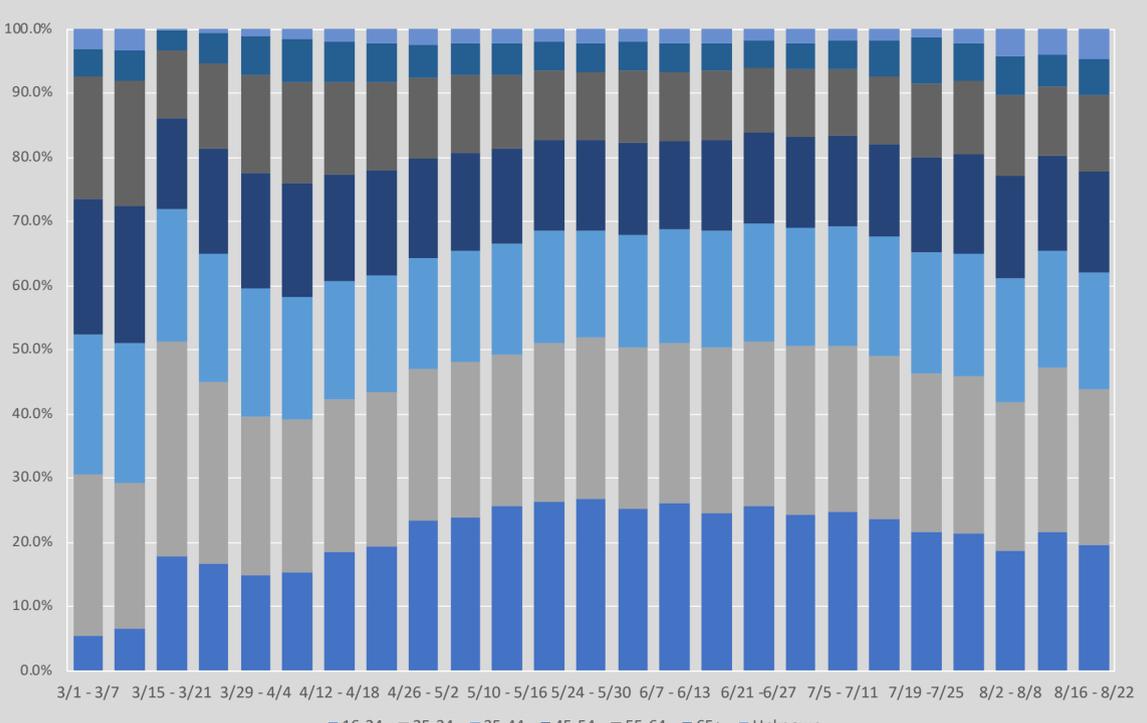


8/16 - 8/22



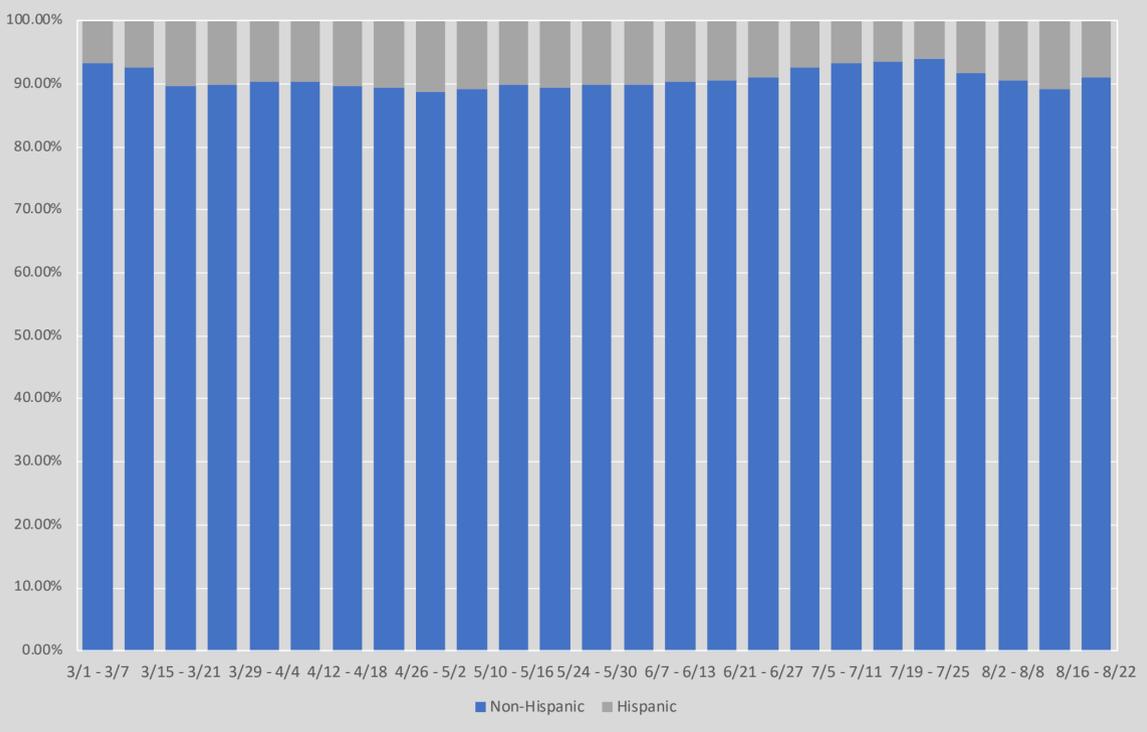
Source: Virginia Employment Commission - EIA

Virginia Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance: Age



Source: Virginia Employment Commission - EIA

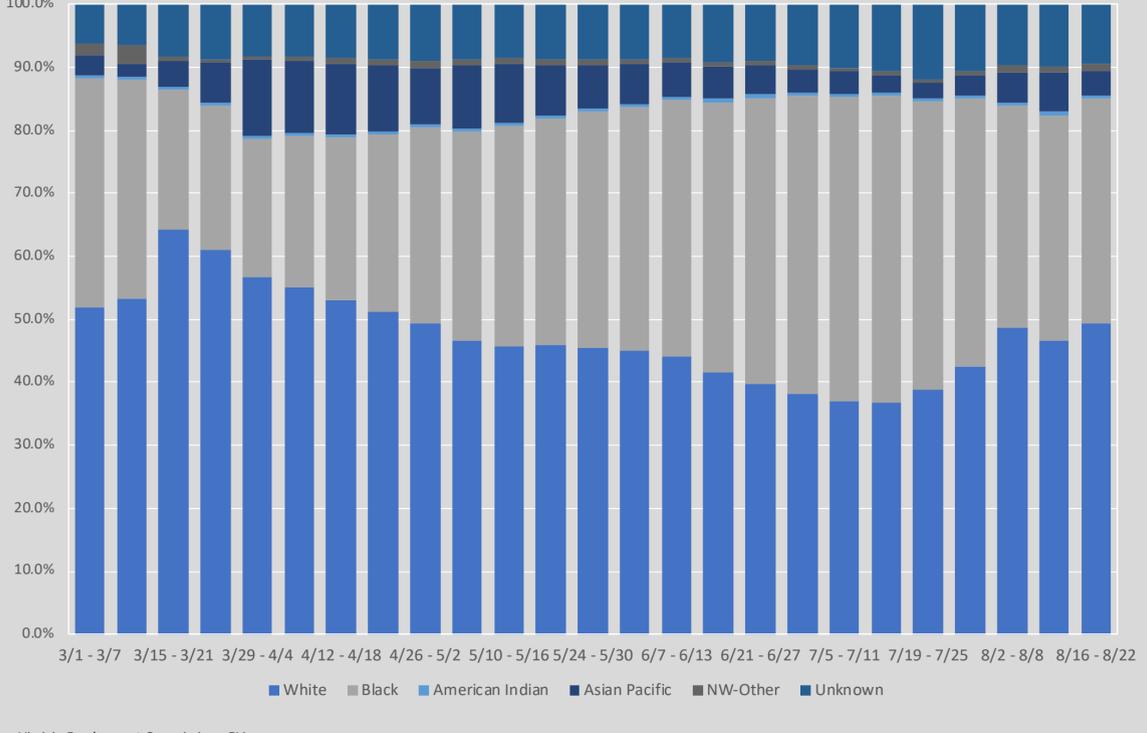
Virginia Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance: Ethnicity Composition



Source: Virginia Employment Commission - EIA

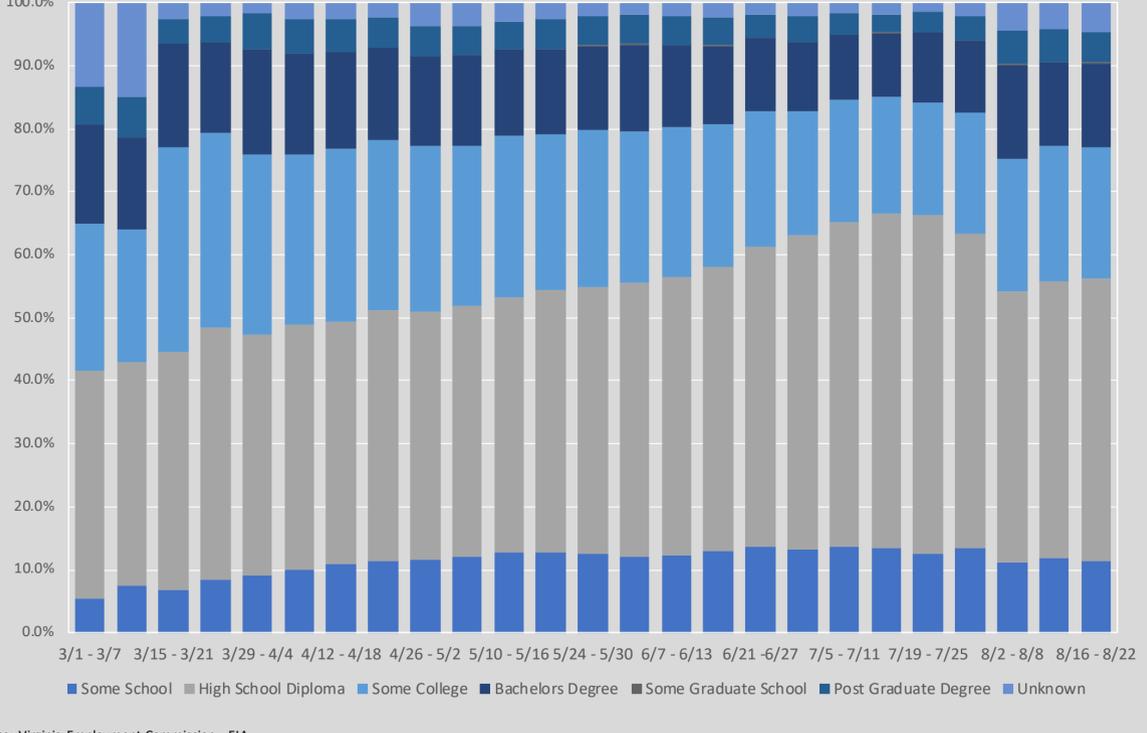
*Data self reported and subject to revision

Virginia Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance: Race Composition



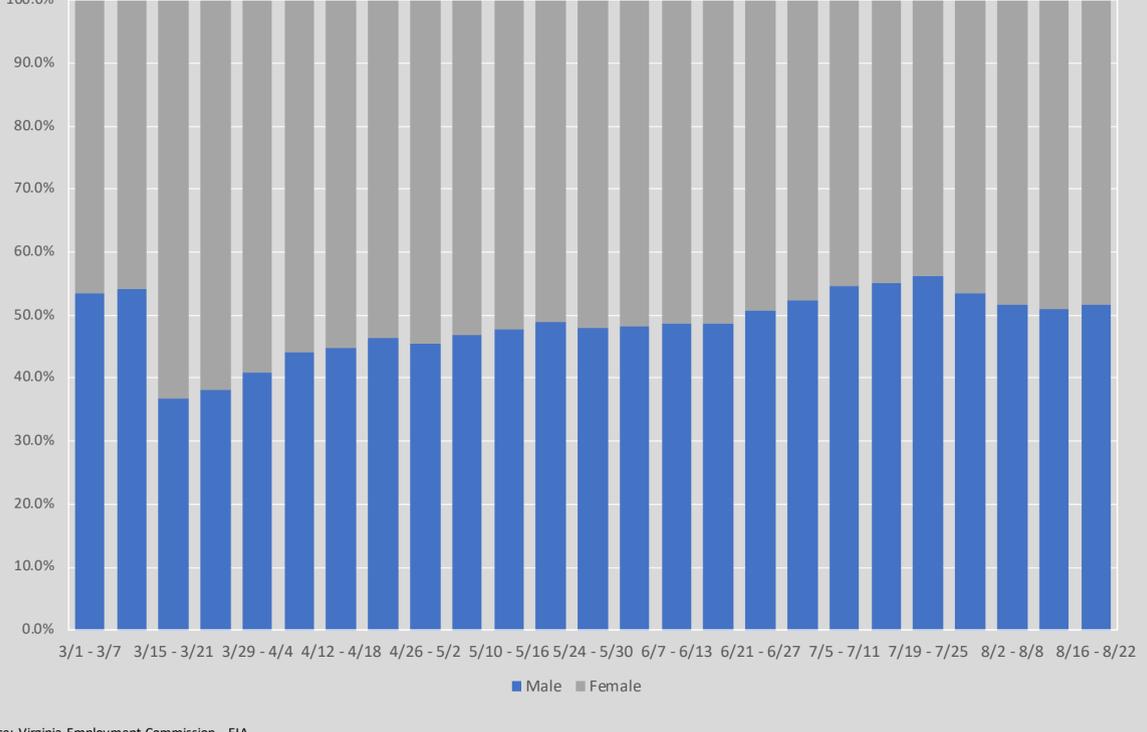
Source: Virginia Employment Commission - EIA

Virginia Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance: Education Level



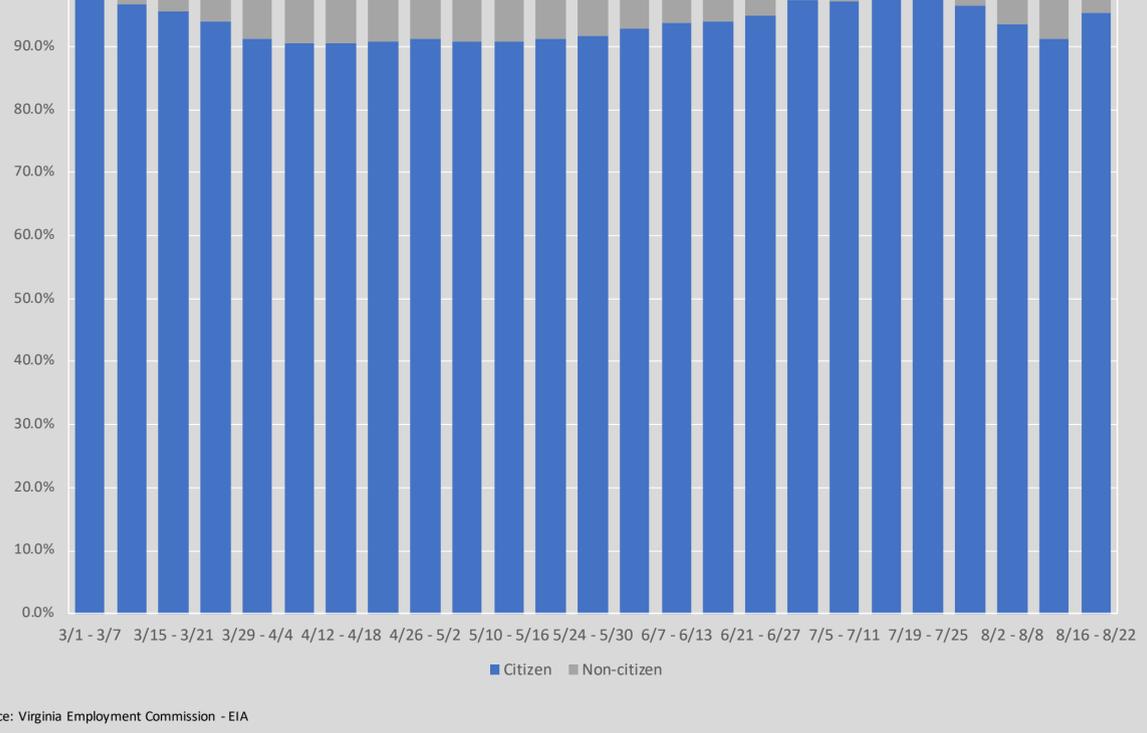
Source: Virginia Employment Commission - EIA

Virginia Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance: Gender Composition



Source: Virginia Employment Commission - EIA

Virginia Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance: Citizenship Status



Source: Virginia Employment Commission - EIA