

Virginia Unemployment Claims Data Demographics

Week Ending August 29, 2020

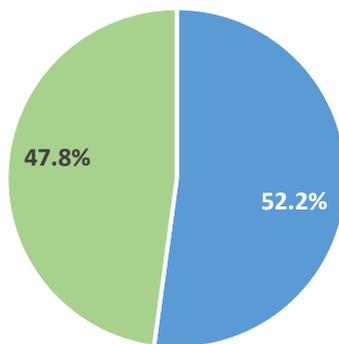
Prepared by EIA/VEC

The week of August 23rd – 29th marks the 24th week since the COVID-19 crisis began in the Commonwealth. This week there were 10,305 initial unemployment benefit claims, down 9.9% compared to the previous week. For the second consecutive week we saw initial claims fall, continuing the trend of decreasing claims numbers that goes back to 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 initial claims this week, 52.2% identified as male and 47.8% identified as female, a 0.6 percentage point change from the previous week. According to a survey from the BLS, approximately 53.0% of Virginia’s workforce is male and 47.0% is female. Through the first 14 weeks of the COVID-19 crisis, the week ending March 21st until the week ending June 20th, female claimants made up 56.2% of all initial claims filed in the Commonwealth. In the weeks following, however, male claimants have accounted for the majority of initial claims with 53.5% of all claimants identifying as male, much closer to the BLS estimates for Virginia’s workforce.

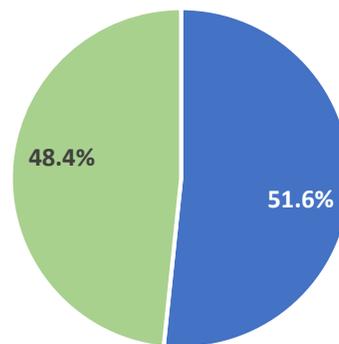
8/23 - 8/29 Claims by Gender

■ Male ■ Female



8/16 - 8/22 Claims by Gender

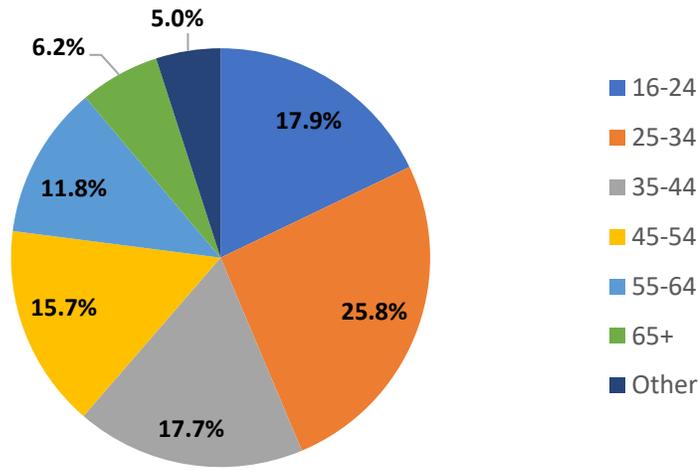
■ Male ■ Female



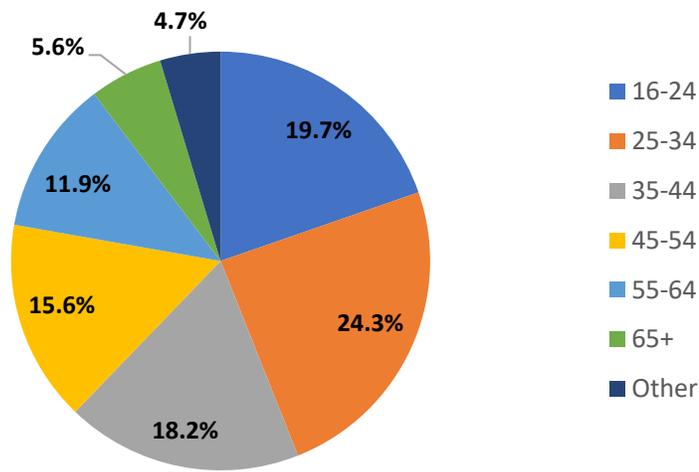
¹ When a participant is enrolled, they might receive benefits from a different location than that which is providing them with assistance. Those intermediary claims are considered agent claims.

Grouping initial claimants into age cohorts is another way to analyze their demographics. 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 17.9% of initial claims, down 1.8 percentage points from the week prior. Additionally, workers in the next cohort, ages 25-34, made up 25.8% of initial claims last week, an increase of 1.5 percentage points from the week before. Since the beginning of the crisis in the week ending March 21st, these two cohorts have made up the largest chunk of workers filing an initial claim. In total, workers in the first two cohorts, ages 16-34, have accounted for 45.5% of initial claims while workers in the next two cohorts, ages 35-54, have accounted for 34.6% of claims. Despite this, a survey from the BLS estimates that workers ages 16-34 make up roughly 33.8% of Virginia’s workforce and workers ages 35-54 make up 41.0%. 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.

8/23 - 8/29 Claims by Age



8/16 - 8/22 Claims by Age



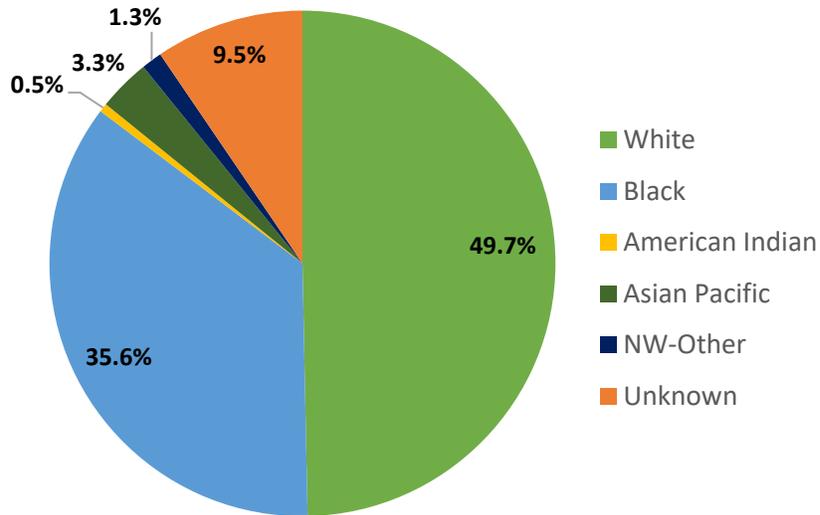
The occupation code of workers filing an initial claim is another important metric we need to examine. This gives us a general idea of the types of jobs that workers are being laid off from. Overall, the breakdown in the share of initial claims filed from each occupation code was similar to the week prior. The largest change came from *Architecture and Engineering Occupations* (17-0000) which saw a 0.7 percentage point increase in its share of initial claims, from 1.7% to 2.4%. All but two of the 23 two-digit occupation codes saw a decrease in the total number of claims filed compared to the previous week. Only *Architecture and Engineering Occupations* (17-0000) and *Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations* (45-0000) experienced an increase in initial claims, with 49 and 4 additional initial claims compared to the week prior. The largest decrease came from *Sales and Related Occupations* (41-0000) with 114 fewer initial claims than in 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	734	-45	7.76%
13-0000	270	-36	2.85%
15-0000	203	-23	2.15%
17-0000	224	49	2.37%
19-0000	59	-18	0.62%
21-0000	100	-34	1.06%
23-0000	37	-10	0.39%
25-0000	256	-9	2.71%
27-0000	316	-47	3.34%
29-0000	225	-70	2.38%
31-0000	309	-77	3.27%
33-0000	114	-28	1.20%
35-0000	702	-46	7.42%
37-0000	431	-52	4.56%
39-0000	626	-108	6.62%
41-0000	865	-114	9.14%
43-0000	993	-62	10.50%
45-0000	49	4	0.52%
47-0000	598	-37	6.32%
49-0000	352	-27	3.72%
51-0000	438	-92	4.63%
53-0000	654	-100	6.91%
55-0000	7	-3	0.07%
Unknown	899	-81	9.50%

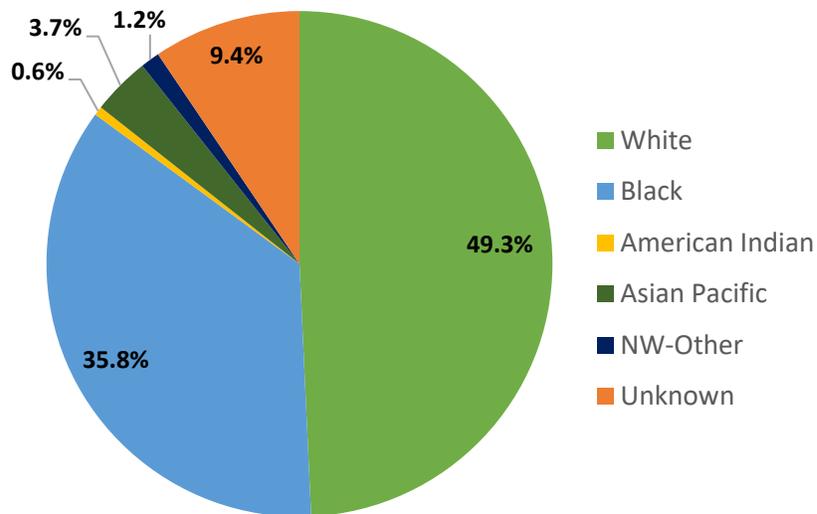
**This sample includes intrastate and interstate claims data, but not agent claims, totals will not equal reported state totals when aggregated.

Another important metric to analyze is the race of initial claimants. Over the last week 49.7% of claimants identified as white, a 0.4 percentage point increase from the previous week. Additionally, 35.6% of claimants identified as black, a 0.2 percentage point decrease from the week prior. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, 50.3% of initial claimants have identified as white and 31.6% have identified as black.

8/23 - 8/29 Claims by Race

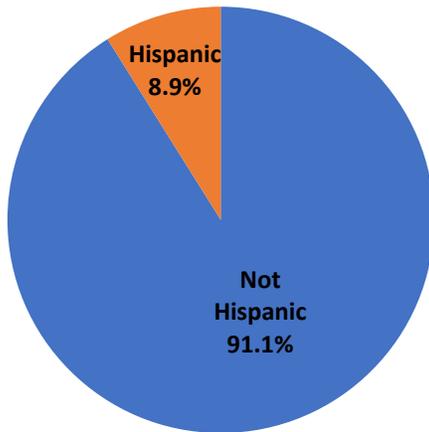


8/16 - 8/22 Claims by Race

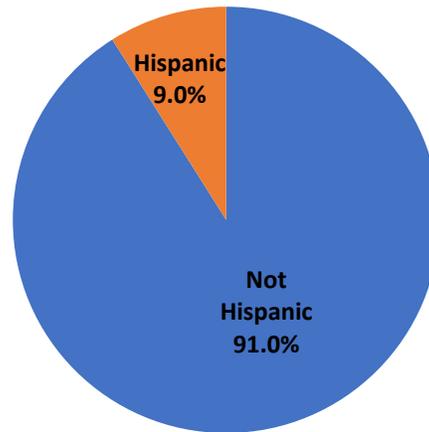


The ethnicity of initial claimants is yet another factor that is important to explore. According to the Census Bureau, approximately 9.6% of Virginians identify as either Hispanic or Latino. Since the beginning of the crisis, 9.6% of initial claimants have self-identified as either Hispanic or Latino. This week 8.9% of claimants identified as being Hispanic or Latino, a 0.1 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.

8/23 - 8/29 Claims by Ethnicity



8/16 - 8/22 Claims by Ethnicity



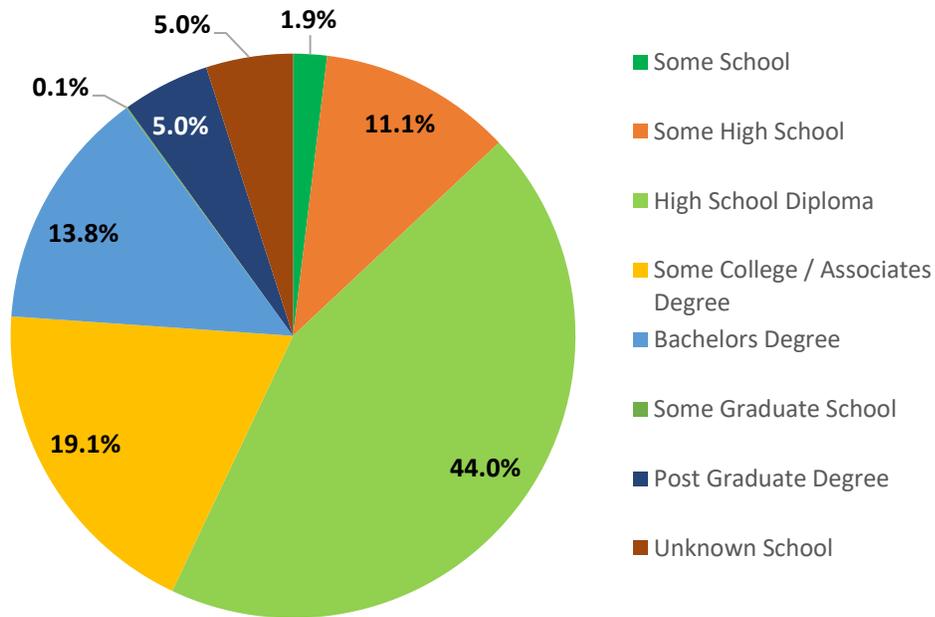
The citizenship status of initial claimants is also an important metric to look into. According to an American Community Survey report, approximately 94.2% of Virginians are citizens, either through naturalization or by birth, and 5.8% are non-citizens. Throughout the crisis, roughly 7.1% of initial claimants have identified as being non-citizens, including 4.6% this week. There was no change in the share of claimants who identified as non-citizens compared to the previous week.

Citizenship Status	Number of Claims	Change from the previous week	Percentage of Initial Claims	Percentage of Population (ACS)
Citizen	9,029	-1,018	95.43%	94.23%
Non-citizen	432	-48	4.57%	5.77%

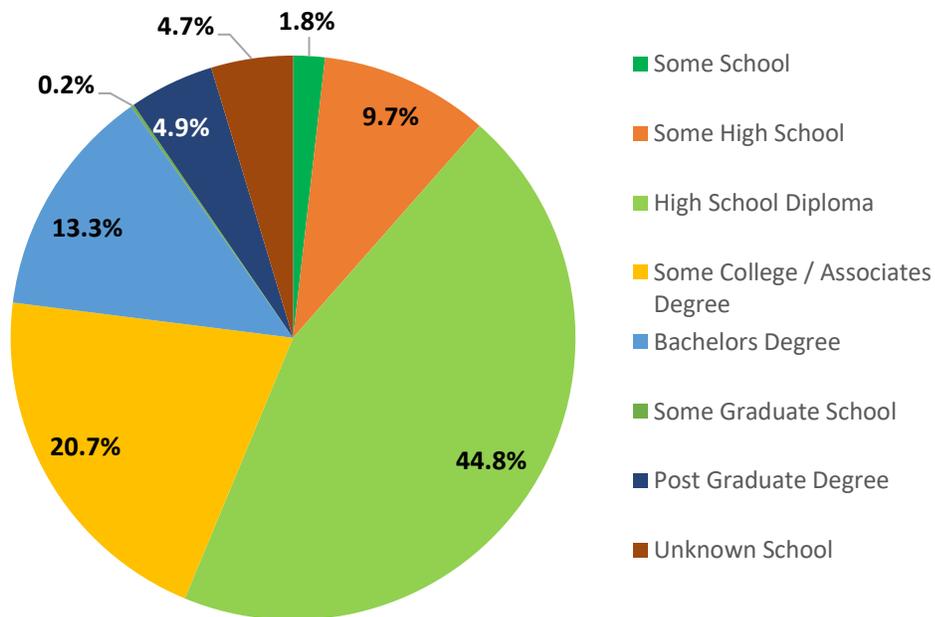
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The highest level of education attained by initial claimants is another useful data point to explore. This week 44.0% of initial claimants reported having a high school diploma, 0.8 percentage points lower than the previous week. Furthermore, the share of initial claimants who reported some college experience or an associate’s degree decreased by 1.6 percentage points from 20.7% to 19.1% this week. The share of claimants who had attained a bachelor’s degree rose slightly by 0.5 percentage points to 13.8%.

8/23 - 8/29 Claims by Education Level



8/16 - 8/22 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 has the most filings with 707 initial claims. Virginia Beach City and Richmond City followed with 550 and 438 initial claims respectively. For the second week in a row, Manassas Park City was the only locality to record zero initial benefit claims. Out of the 133 counties and independent cities in the Commonwealth, 95 localities saw either a decrease or no change in the number of claims filed compared to the previous week. Chesterfield County saw the largest decrease with 100 fewer initial claims than the week prior.

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 once again the locality most affected with 0.9% of its labor force filing a claim. Franklin City and Norton City followed with 0.7% and 0.6% of their respective labor forces filing initial claims this week.

County/City	Number of Claims	Change from the previous week	Percentage of Initial Claims	Claims as a percentage of labor force
Accomack County	20	-21	0.21%	0.12%
Albemarle County	56	6	0.59%	0.10%
Alexandria City	110	-33	1.16%	0.11%
Alleghany County	13	9	0.14%	0.19%
Amelia County	9	-2	0.10%	0.14%
Amherst County	19	-13	0.20%	0.13%
Appomattox County	14	-1	0.15%	0.19%
Arlington County	128	-23	1.35%	0.08%
Augusta County	31	6	0.33%	0.08%
Bath County	1	-2	0.01%	0.04%
Bedford County	55	-3	0.58%	0.14%
Bland County	4	-3	0.04%	0.14%
Botetourt County	14	1	0.15%	0.08%
Bristol City	12	-14	0.13%	0.16%
Brunswick County	27	3	0.29%	0.45%
Buchanan County	19	-11	0.20%	0.28%
Buckingham County	9	0	0.10%	0.14%
Buena Vista City	5	-5	0.05%	0.14%
Campbell County	34	2	0.36%	0.13%
Caroline County	33	4	0.35%	0.21%
Carroll County	36	-13	0.38%	0.27%
Charles City County	2	-1	0.02%	0.05%
Charlotte County	12	3	0.13%	0.23%

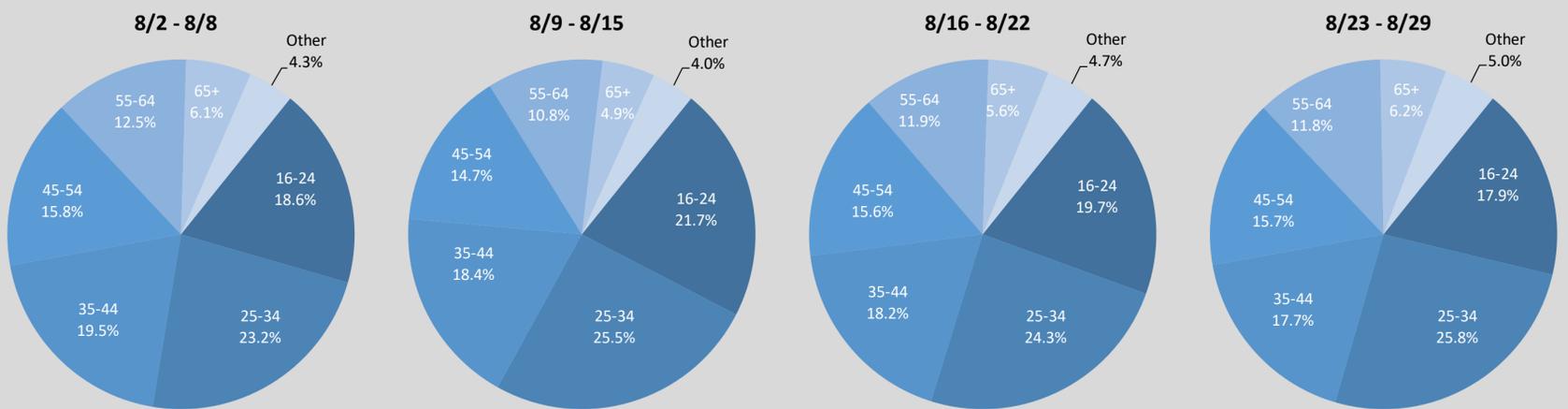
Charlottesville City	60	4	0.63%	0.22%
Chesapeake City	272	22	2.87%	0.22%
Chesterfield County	241	-100	2.55%	0.13%
Clarke County	5	-8	0.05%	0.06%
Colonial Heights City	27	-1	0.29%	0.30%
Covington City	9	-4	0.10%	0.37%
Craig County	4	3	0.04%	0.17%
Culpeper County	26	-21	0.27%	0.10%
Cumberland County	6	1	0.06%	0.13%
Danville City	91	-8	0.96%	0.47%
Dickenson County	15	1	0.16%	0.31%
Dinwiddie County	10	0	0.11%	0.07%
Emporia City	8	-8	0.08%	0.35%
Essex County	13	5	0.14%	0.23%
Fairfax City	9	1	0.10%	0.07%
Fairfax County	707	-68	7.47%	0.11%
Falls Church City	13	0	0.14%	0.15%
Fauquier County	34	-11	0.36%	0.09%
Floyd County	5	1	0.05%	0.06%
Fluvanna County	9	-13	0.10%	0.06%
Franklin City	26	6	0.27%	0.72%
Franklin County	42	-39	0.44%	0.16%
Frederick County	52	-4	0.55%	0.11%
Fredericksburg City	35	-17	0.37%	0.24%
Galax City	4	-1	0.04%	0.14%
Giles County	19	5	0.20%	0.24%
Gloucester County	18	-20	0.19%	0.09%
Goochland County	13	4	0.14%	0.11%
Grayson County	22	12	0.23%	0.27%
Greene County	11	0	0.12%	0.10%
Greensville County	21	-3	0.22%	0.49%
Halifax County	41	-2	0.43%	0.26%
Hampton City	194	-20	2.05%	0.30%
Hanover County	49	-4	0.52%	0.08%
Harrisonburg City	47	6	0.50%	0.18%
Henrico County	243	-38	2.57%	0.13%
Henry County	70	-25	0.74%	0.29%
Highland County	1	0	0.01%	0.08%
Hopewell City	47	-10	0.50%	0.47%
Isle of Wight County	27	-2	0.29%	0.14%
James City County	57	2	0.60%	0.15%
King and Queen County	3	-1	0.03%	0.08%
King George County	10	-9	0.11%	0.07%
King William County	12	1	0.13%	0.13%

Lancaster County	5	-3	0.05%	0.09%
Lee County	27	-7	0.29%	0.32%
Lexington City	2	1	0.02%	0.09%
Loudoun County	210	-42	2.22%	0.09%
Louisa County	23	1	0.24%	0.11%
Lunenburg County	6	0	0.06%	0.11%
Lynchburg City	95	-17	1.00%	0.26%
Madison County	5	0	0.05%	0.07%
Manassas City	34	-6	0.36%	0.15%
Manassas Park City	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
Martinsville City	8	-2	0.08%	0.14%
Mathews County	6	-4	0.06%	0.14%
Mecklenburg County	53	26	0.56%	0.43%
Middlesex County	5	-2	0.05%	0.09%
Montgomery County	58	-18	0.61%	0.12%
Nelson County	15	-1	0.16%	0.20%
New Kent County	21	7	0.22%	0.17%
Newport News City	222	-35	2.35%	0.26%
Norfolk City	411	-56	4.34%	0.38%
Northampton County	11	-1	0.12%	0.22%
Northumberland County	12	-1	0.13%	0.22%
Norton City	9	2	0.10%	0.56%
Nottoway County	20	0	0.21%	0.28%
Orange County	14	-24	0.15%	0.08%
Page County	24	-6	0.25%	0.21%
Patrick County	15	-1	0.16%	0.22%
Petersburg City	117	-10	1.24%	0.93%
Pittsylvania County	33	-14	0.35%	0.11%
Poquoson City	4	-1	0.04%	0.06%
Portsmouth City	205	3	2.17%	0.48%
Powhatan County	14	-5	0.15%	0.10%
Prince Edward County	19	-3	0.20%	0.19%
Prince George County	16	-10	0.17%	0.11%
Prince William County	377	-61	3.98%	0.15%
Pulaski County	36	4	0.38%	0.24%
Radford City	22	2	0.23%	0.27%
Rappahannock County	2	-1	0.02%	0.05%
Richmond City	438	-13	4.63%	0.38%
Richmond County	9	-9	0.10%	0.23%
Roanoke City	147	-39	1.55%	0.31%
Roanoke County	71	-7	0.75%	0.15%
Rockbridge County	18	-1	0.19%	0.17%
Rockingham County	41	8	0.43%	0.10%
Russell County	22	2	0.23%	0.20%

Salem City	32	-9	0.34%	0.25%
Scott County	17	7	0.18%	0.19%
Shenandoah County	35	-19	0.37%	0.16%
Smyth County	30	-12	0.32%	0.23%
Southampton County	14	-1	0.15%	0.16%
Spotsylvania County	121	-10	1.28%	0.18%
Stafford County	112	-12	1.18%	0.16%
Staunton City	25	-6	0.26%	0.21%
Suffolk City	113	6	1.19%	0.26%
Surry County	4	-3	0.04%	0.11%
Sussex County	8	-10	0.08%	0.22%
Tazewell County	30	-17	0.32%	0.20%
Virginia Beach City	550	-12	5.81%	0.24%
Warren County	34	4	0.36%	0.17%
Washington County	45	-6	0.48%	0.17%
Waynesboro City	32	-4	0.34%	0.30%
Westmoreland County	15	-6	0.16%	0.16%
Williamsburg City	10	3	0.11%	0.15%
Winchester City	35	-8	0.37%	0.24%
Wise County	52	1	0.55%	0.41%
Wythe County	28	-5	0.30%	0.21%
York County	16	-11	0.17%	0.05%
Other	1910	-118	20.19%	N/A

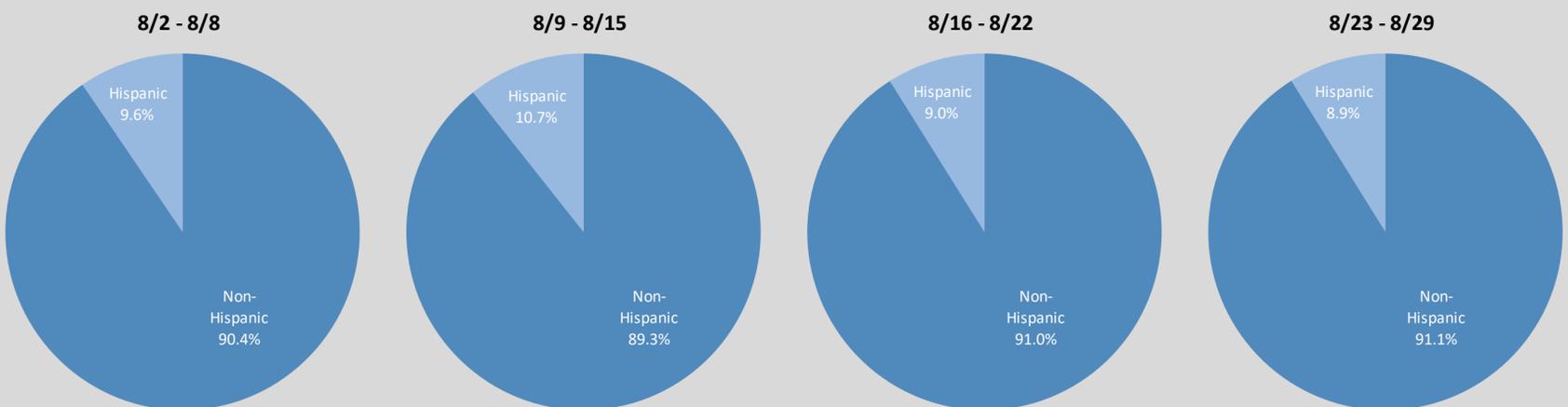
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Virginia Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance: Age



Source: Virginia Employment Commission - EIA

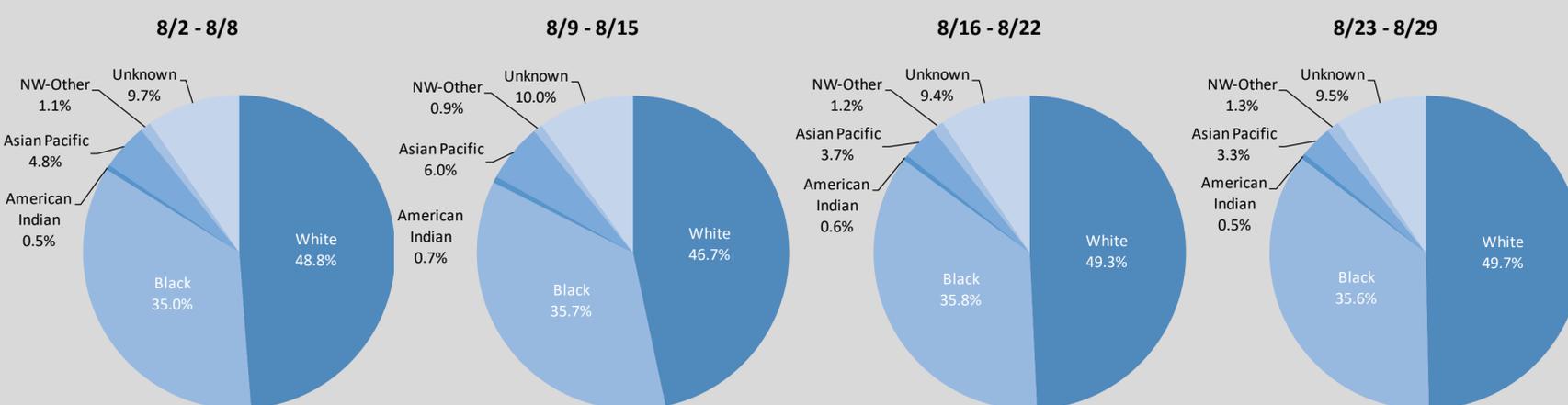
Virginia Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance: Ethnicity Composition



Source: Virginia Employment Commission - EIA

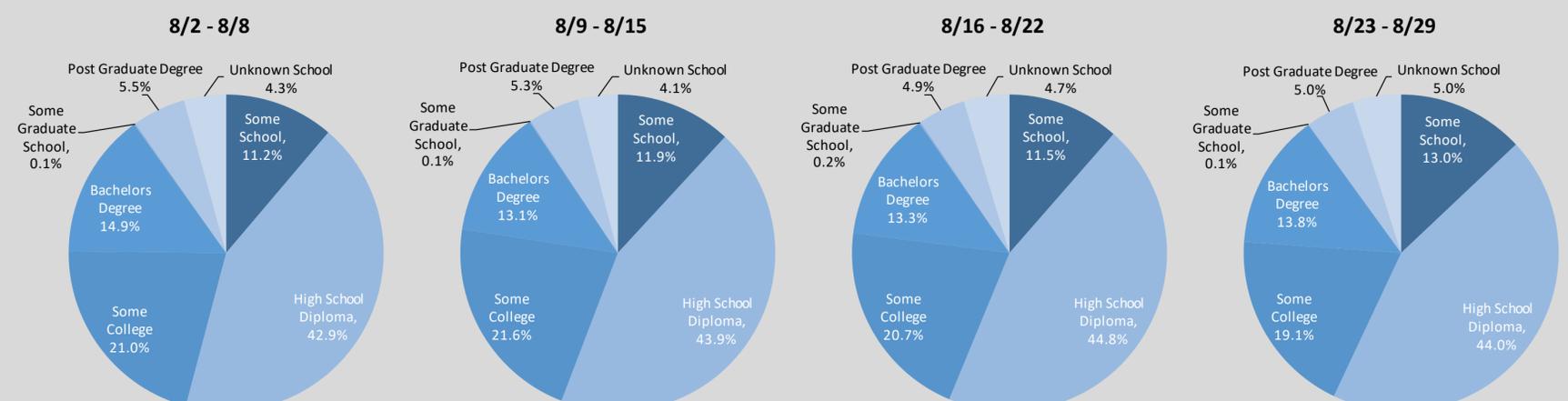
*Data self reported and subject to revision

Virginia Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance: Race Composition



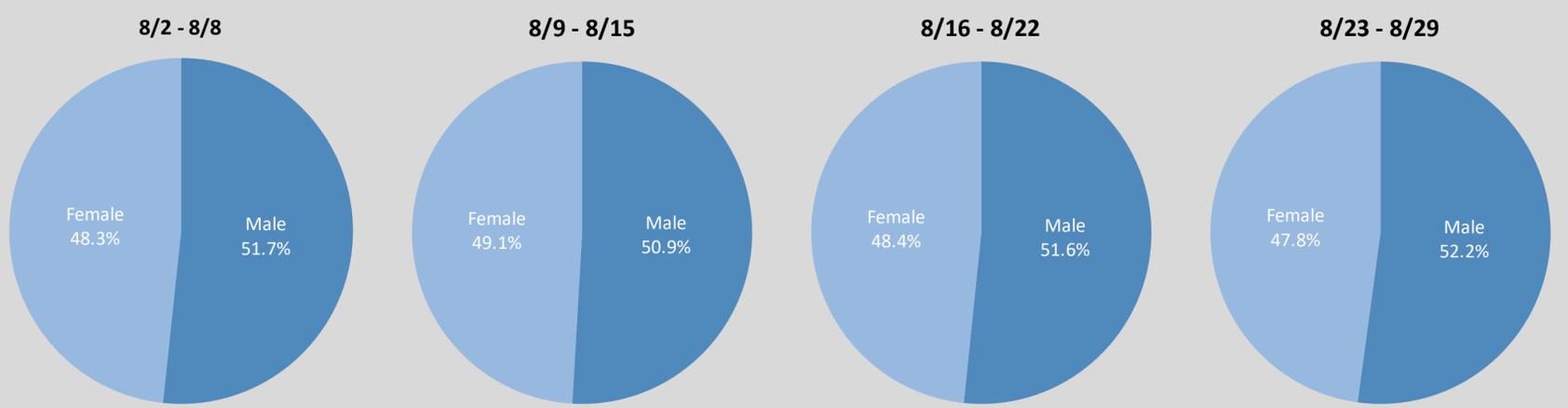
Source: Virginia Employment Commission - EIA

Virginia Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance: Education Level



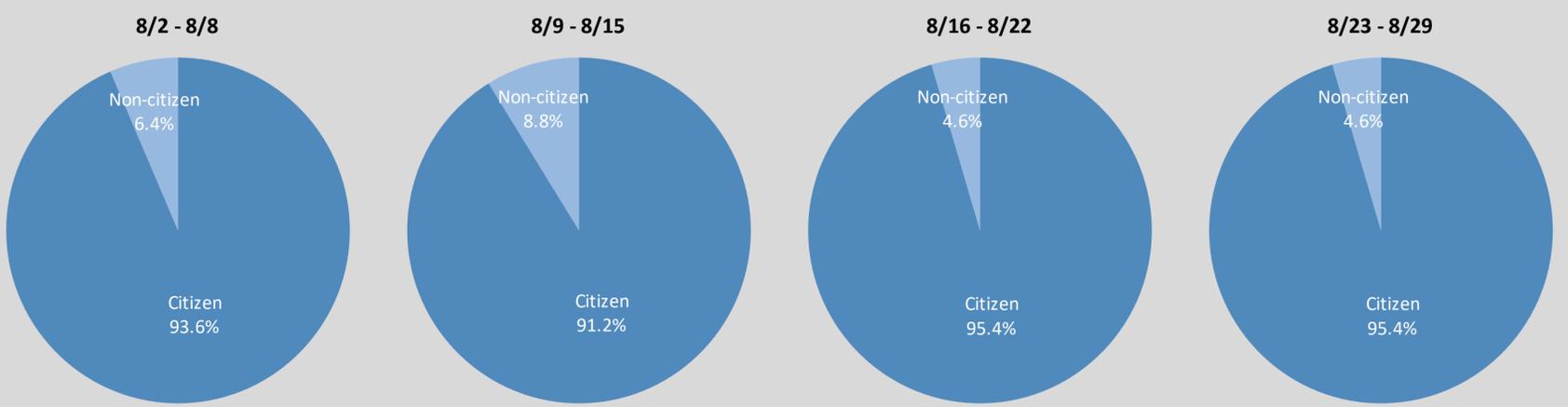
Source: Virginia Employment Commission - EIA

Virginia Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance: Gender Composition



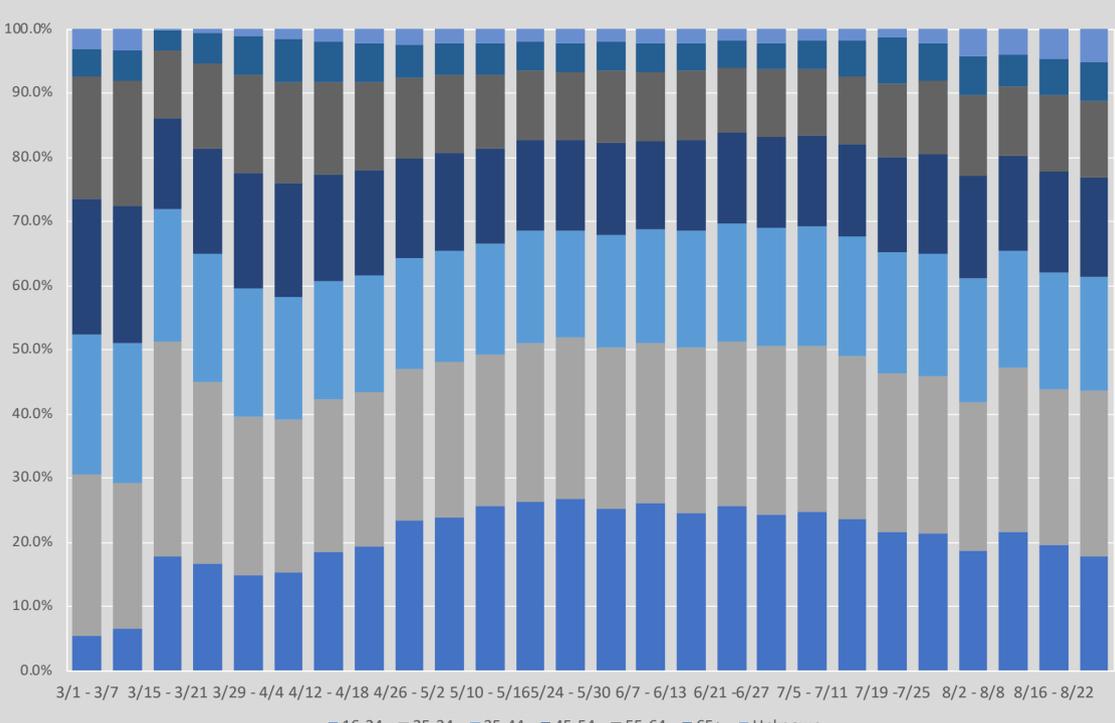
Source: Virginia Employment Commission - EIA

Virginia Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance: Citizenship Status



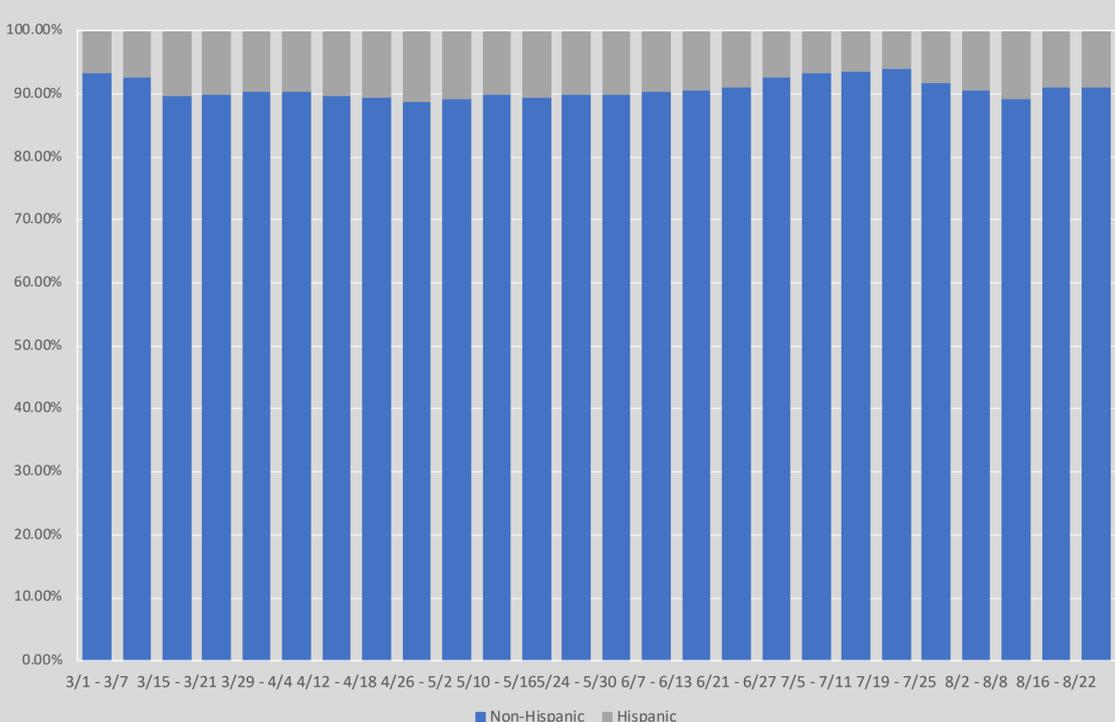
Source: Virginia Employment Commission - EIA

Virginia Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance: Age



Source: Virginia Employment Commission - EIA

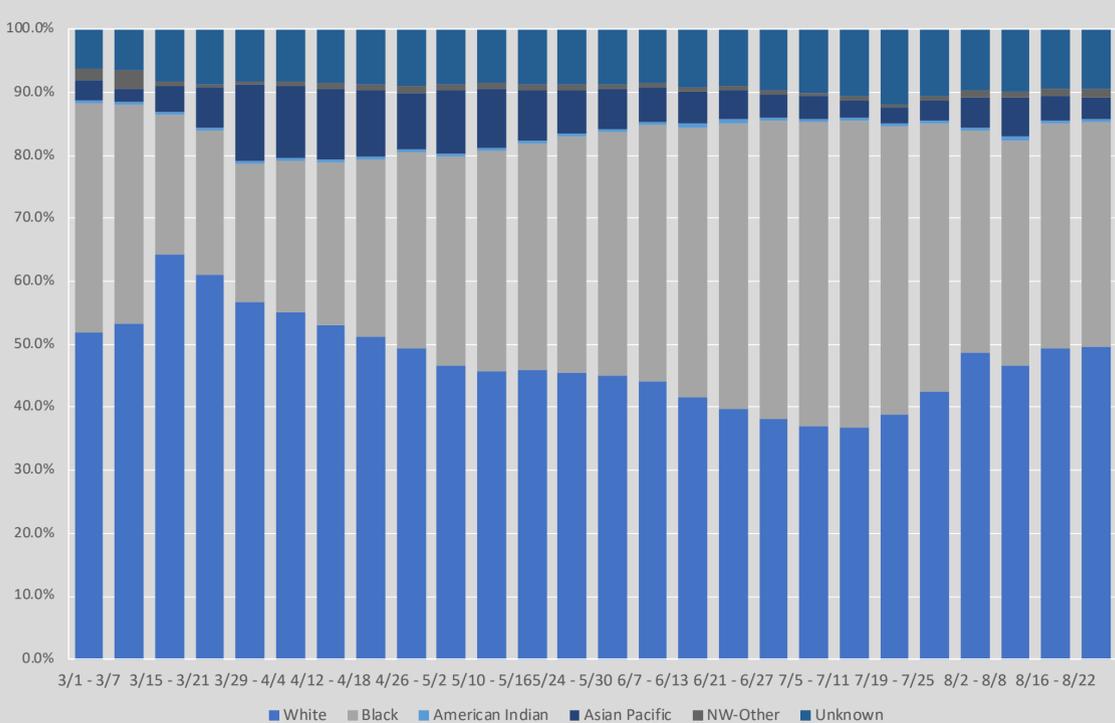
Virginia Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance: Ethnicity Composition



Source: Virginia Employment Commission - EIA

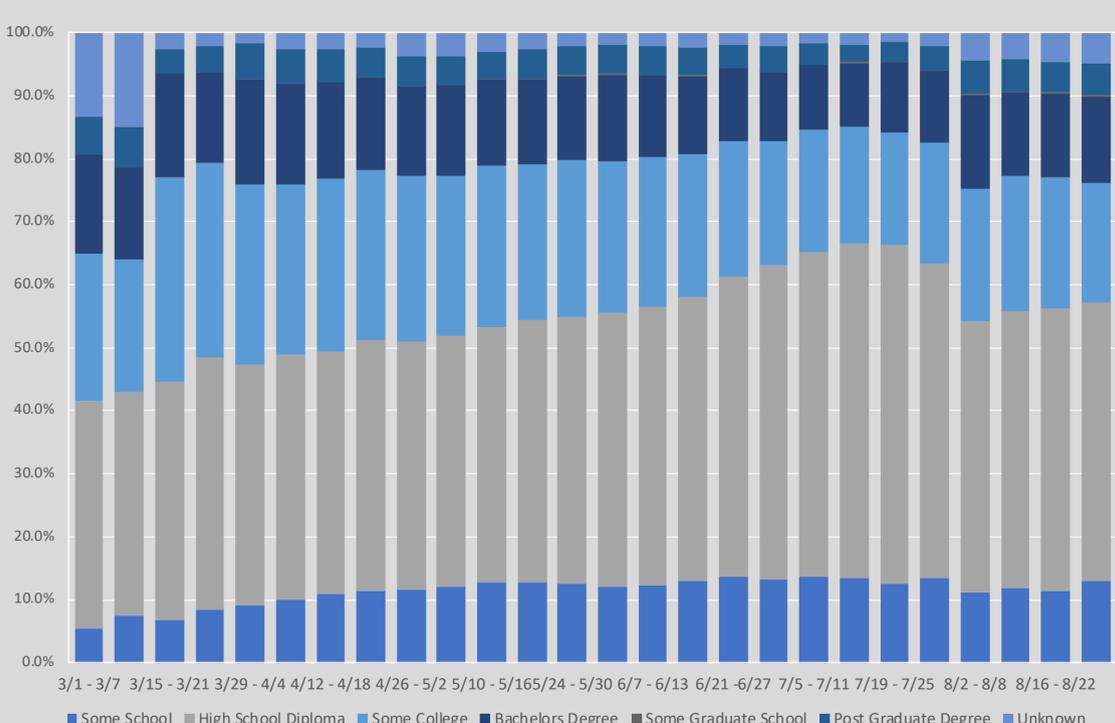
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Virginia Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance: Race Composition



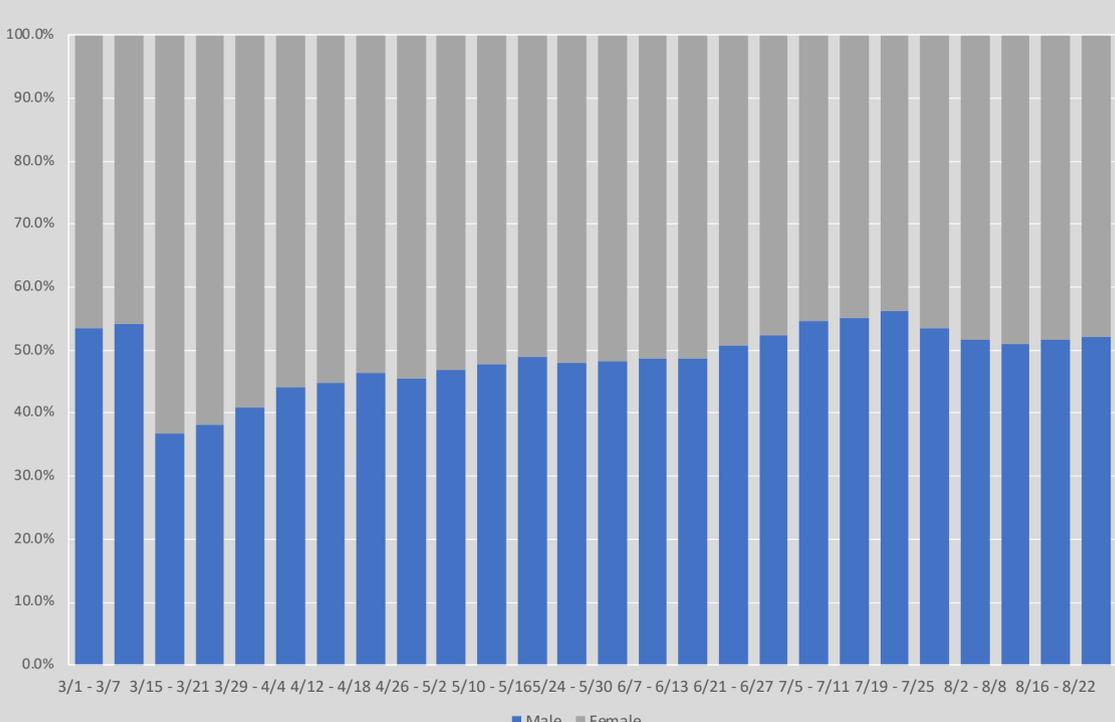
Source: Virginia Employment Commission - EIA

Virginia Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance: Education Level



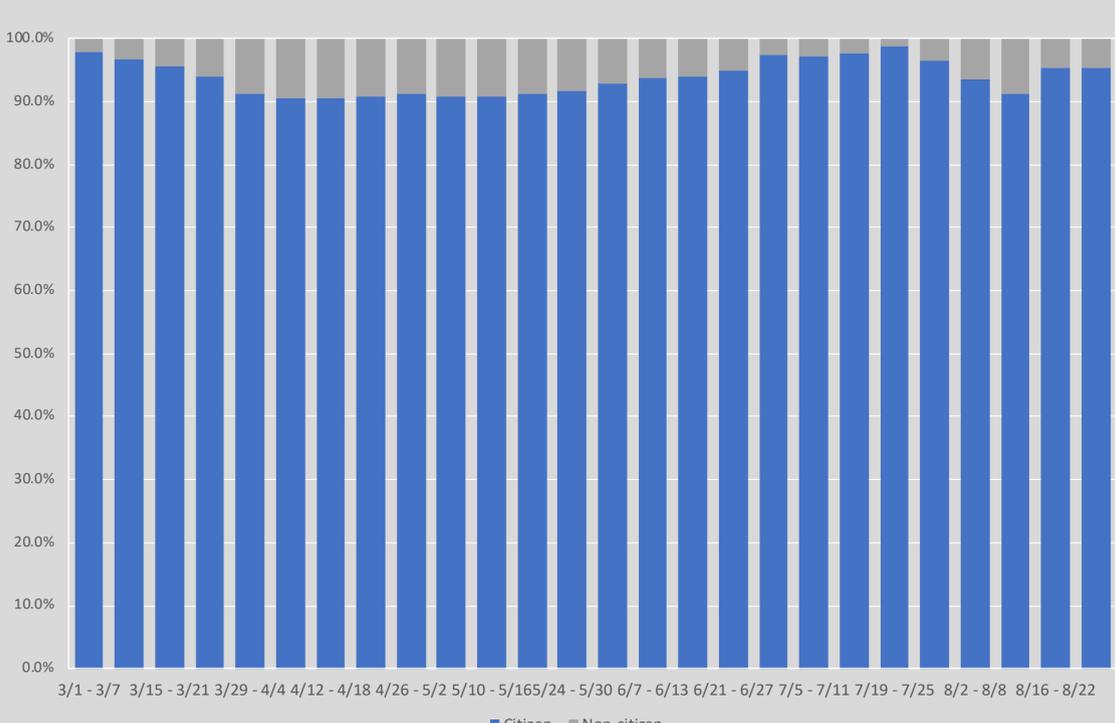
Source: Virginia Employment Commission - EIA

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