



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## Virginia Employment Commission

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### Virginia's Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate Held Steady in October at 2.9 Percent

— Seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment was up 2,700 jobs  
between September 2018 and October 2018—

**RICHMOND**—Virginia's **seasonally adjusted** unemployment rate held steady in October at 2.9 percent. The October 2018 seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for Virginia was down 0.7 percentage point from a year ago and continued to be the lowest rate since the June 2007 rate of 2.9 percent. In October, the labor force expanded by 494, as the number of unemployed dropped by 1,679 and household employment increased by 2,173. Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be below the national rate, which was unchanged at 3.7 percent.

Virginia's **seasonally adjusted** nonfarm employment increased by 2,700 jobs in October to 4,027,700, which was the tenth consecutive monthly increase and a new record high. Local Government's initially reported loss of 1,500 jobs in September was revised downward by 1,100 jobs to an over-the-month loss of 2,600 jobs. The employment losses in local government continued in October for a loss of 2,700 jobs from the revised September total. In October, private sector employment increased by 5,600 jobs to 3,330,700, while public sector payrolls decreased by 2,900 jobs to 697,000.

From September 2018 to October 2018, **seasonally adjusted** employment increased in six major industry divisions, held steady in **mining**, and decreased in the other four. The largest job gain during October occurred in **professional and business services** which increased by 3,200 jobs to 754,000. In October, gains were experienced in all subsectors: professional, scientific, and technical services (+2,000 jobs); administrative and support services (+1,000 jobs); and management of companies (+200 jobs). The second largest over-the-month gain occurred in the **leisure and hospitality** sector, with a gain of 1,400 jobs to 415,600. Other employment gains were: 900 jobs in **private education and health services** to

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546,800; 700 jobs in **construction** to 203,600; 600 jobs in **miscellaneous services** to 207,400; and 200 jobs in **finance** to 211,100. The largest loss during October occurred in **total government**, which declined by 2,900 jobs to 697,000. For total government, losses occurred at: local government (-2,700 jobs) and state government (-200 jobs), with federal government holding steady. The next largest over-the-month loss occurred in **trade and transportation** (-900 jobs) to 674,500. Other employment losses were: 400 jobs in **information** to 66,300; and 100 jobs in **manufacturing** to 243,000.

### Nonfarm Employment in Virginia\* Seasonally Adjusted

Industry	Employment			September 2018 to October 2018		October 2017 to October 2018	
	October 2018	September 2018	October 2017	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>4,027,700</b>	<b>4,025,000</b>	<b>3,956,300</b>	<b>+2,700</b>	<b>+0.1%</b>	<b>+71,400</b>	<b>+1.8%</b>
<b>Total Private Sector</b>	<b>3,330,700</b>	<b>3,325,100</b>	<b>3,240,500</b>	<b>+5,600</b>	<b>+0.2%</b>	<b>+90,200</b>	<b>+2.8%</b>
<b>Goods-Producing</b>	<b>455,000</b>	<b>454,400</b>	<b>436,600</b>	<b>+600</b>	<b>+0.1%</b>	<b>+18,400</b>	<b>+4.2%</b>
Mining	8,400	8,400	8,100	0	0.0%	+300	+3.7%
Construction	203,600	202,900	194,900	+700	+0.3%	+8,700	+4.5%
Manufacturing	243,000	243,100	233,600	-100	-0.0%	+9,400	+4.0%
<b>Service-Providing</b>	<b>3,572,700</b>	<b>3,570,600</b>	<b>3,519,700</b>	<b>+2,100</b>	<b>+0.1%</b>	<b>+53,000</b>	<b>+1.5%</b>
<b>Private Service-Providing</b>	<b>2,875,700</b>	<b>2,870,700</b>	<b>2,803,900</b>	<b>+5,000</b>	<b>+0.2%</b>	<b>+71,800</b>	<b>+2.6%</b>
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	674,500	675,400	662,200	-900	-0.1%	+12,300	+1.9%
Information	66,300	66,700	66,400	-400	-0.6%	-100	-0.2%
Finance	211,100	210,900	205,600	+200	+0.1%	+5,500	+2.7%
Professional and Business Services	754,000	750,800	733,800	+3,200	+0.4%	+20,200	+2.8%
Education and Health Services	546,800	545,900	531,500	+900	+0.2%	+15,300	+2.9%
Leisure and Hospitality Services	415,600	414,200	400,800	+1,400	+0.3%	+14,800	+3.7%
Miscellaneous Services	207,400	206,800	203,600	+600	+0.3%	+3,800	+1.9%
<b>Government</b>	<b>697,000</b>	<b>699,900</b>	<b>715,800</b>	<b>-2,900</b>	<b>-0.4%</b>	<b>-18,800</b>	<b>-2.6%</b>
Federal Government	176,400	176,400	177,600	0	0.0%	-1,200	-0.7%
State Government	159,500	159,700	159,300	-200	-0.1%	+200	+0.1%
Local Government	361,100	363,800	378,900	-2,700	-0.7%	-17,800	-4.7%

\*Current month's estimates are preliminary.

From October 2017 to October 2018, Virginia's **seasonally adjusted** total nonfarm employment was up 71,400 jobs, or 1.8 percent. Over-the-year employment growth in Virginia has been positive for 55 consecutive months and has continued to strengthen over the last several months. For August, September, and October, Virginia's over-the-year growth was the same or better than the national rate where in previous months it had not been as strong as the national rate. In October, the private sector recorded an over-the-year gain of 90,200 jobs, while employment in the public sector declined by 18,800 jobs.

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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 20,200 jobs (+2.8 percent). The next largest over-the-year job gain occurred in **private education and health services**, up 15,300 jobs (+2.9 percent). **Leisure and hospitality** experienced the third largest over-the-year job gain, up 14,800 jobs (+3.7 percent). Other gains were in **trade and transportation**, up 12,300 jobs (+1.9 percent); **manufacturing**, up 9,400 jobs (+4.0 percent); **construction**, up 8,700 jobs (+4.5 percent); **finance**, up 5,500 jobs (+2.7 percent); **miscellaneous services**, up 3,800 jobs (+1.9 percent); and **mining**, up 300 jobs (+3.7 percent). Compared to a-year-ago October, **total government** fell by 18,800 jobs (-2.6 percent), with the losses in local (-17,800 jobs) and federal (-1,200 jobs) government employment outweighing the gain in state government employment (+200 jobs). In addition, employment in **information** was down 100 jobs (-0.2 percent).

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

Area	Employment			September 2018 to October 2018		October 2017 to October 2018	
	October 2018	September 2018	October 2017	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
<b>Virginia</b>	<b>4,027,700</b>	<b>4,025,000</b>	<b>3,956,300</b>	<b>+2,700</b>	<b>+0.1%</b>	<b>+71,400</b>	<b>+1.8%</b>
<b>Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford MSA</b>	77,500	76,800	75,500	+700	+0.9%	+2,000	+2.6%
<b>Charlottesville MSA</b>	121,700	122,300	117,900	-600	-0.5%	+3,800	+3.2%
<b>Harrisonburg MSA</b>	68,200	68,100	67,500	+100	+0.1%	+700	+1.0%
<b>Lynchburg MSA</b>	106,000	106,000	104,000	0	0.0%	+2,000	+1.9%
<b>Northern Virginia MSA</b>	1,486,300	1,486,000	1,467,000	+300	0.0%	+19,300	+1.3%
<b>Richmond MSA</b>	682,200	681,400	673,000	+800	+0.1%	+9,200	+1.4%
<b>Roanoke MSA</b>	163,400	163,200	159,800	+200	+0.1%	+3,600	+2.3%
<b>Staunton-Waynesboro MSA</b>	51,300	51,000	50,100	+300	+0.6%	+1,200	+2.4%
<b>Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, Virginia/North Carolina MSA</b>	789,500	787,700	780,000	+1,800	+0.2%	+9,500	+1.2%
<b>Winchester, Virginia/West Virginia MSA</b>	66,100	65,900	64,100	+200	+0.3%	+2,000	+3.1%

\*Current month's estimates are preliminary.

**Seasonally adjusted** total nonfarm employment data is produced for ten metropolitan areas. In October, eight metropolitan areas experienced over-the-month job gains, Lynchburg held flat, while one experienced a loss. The largest absolute job gain occurred in Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News (+1,800 jobs). Richmond, with a gain of 800 jobs, had the second largest job gain. The other metropolitan areas that experienced gains were: Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford, with a gain of 700 jobs; Northern Virginia and Staunton-Waynesboro (+300 jobs each); Roanoke and Winchester (+200 jobs each); and Harrisonburg (+100 jobs). The only absolute job loss occurred in Charlottesville (-600 jobs).

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Over the year, **seasonally adjusted** total nonfarm employment increased in all metropolitan areas. The Northern Virginia metropolitan area experienced the largest absolute job gain, up 19,300 jobs (+1.3 percent). Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News was ranked second, with a gain of 9,500 jobs (+1.2 percent), and Richmond was ranked third, with a gain of 9,200 jobs (+1.4 percent). The other over-the-year job gains occurred in: Charlottesville (+3,800 jobs); Roanoke (+3,600 jobs); Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford, Lynchburg, and Winchester (+2,000 jobs each); Staunton-Waynesboro (+1,200 jobs); and Harrisonburg (+700 jobs).

## **NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA**

Virginia's **unadjusted** unemployment rate was up 0.1 percentage point in October to 2.8 percent, after being revised downwards to 2.7 percent for September, but was down 0.6 percentage point from a year ago. Compared to a year ago, the number of unemployed decreased by 26,292, household employment increased by 69,098, and the labor force increased by 42,806. Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be below the national unadjusted rate, which was down 0.1 percentage point in October to 3.5 percent.

Compared to last month, the October **unadjusted** workweek for Virginia's 172,900 manufacturing production workers increased by 0.2 hour to 41.0 hours, average hourly earnings decreased by \$0.14 to \$19.37, and average weekly earnings decreased by \$1.84 to \$794.17. Compared to last October, the unadjusted workweek decreased by 0.3 hour, average hourly earnings increased by \$0.02, and average weekly earnings were lower by \$4.99.

*The statistical reference week for the household survey this month was the week of October 7-13, 2018.*

The Virginia Employment Commission plans to release the October local area unemployment rates on Thursday, November 29, 2018. The data will be available on our website, [www.VirginiaLMI.com](http://www.VirginiaLMI.com).

The November statewide unemployment rate and employment data for both the state and metropolitan areas are scheduled to be released on Friday, December 21, 2018.

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