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Virginia's March Unemployment Rate at 3.2 Percent; Labor Force Participation Rate at 65.5 Percent

RICHMOND— Virginia Works – the Commonwealth's Department of Workforce Development and Advancement – announced today that Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in March increased by 0.1 percentage points to 3.2 percent, which is 0.4 percentage points above the rate from a year ago. According to household survey data in March, the labor force decreased by 9,752 to 4,586,386 as the number of unemployed residents increased by 5,029 to 145,441. The number of employed residents decreased by 14,781 to 4,440,945. Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is 1.0 percentage points below the national rate, which increased by 0.1 percentage points to 4.2 percent.

The Commonwealth's labor force participation rate decreased by 0.2 percentage points to 65.5 percent in March. The labor force participation rate measures the proportion of the civilian population age 16 and older that is employed or actively looking for work.

In March, Virginia's nonagricultural employment, from the monthly establishment survey increased by 5,900 to 4,271,400. February's preliminary estimate of employment, after revision, decreased by 600 to 4,265,500. In March, private sector employment increased by 8,300 to 3,508,700 while government employment decreased by 2,400 to 762,700. Within that sector, federal government jobs decreased by 4,100 to 192,000, state government employment increased by 1,000 to 161,800, and local government increased by 700 to 408,900 over the month.

(more)

Richmond, VA

VRC/TDD VA Relay 711 Equal Opportunity Employer/Program



Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment data is produced for eleven industry sectors. In March, six experienced over-the-month job gains, one remained unchanged, and four experienced a decline. The largest job gain occurred in Construction (+7,200) to 226,100. The second largest job gain occurred in Education and Health Services (+2,200) to 632,400. The third largest job gain occurred in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+1,600) to 680,400. The other gains were in Leisure and Hospitality (+1,500) to 418,400; Manufacturing (+600) to 243,500; and Financial Activities (+200) to 220,700.

The largest job loss occurred in Professional and Business Services (-4,400) to 805,300. The second largest job loss occurred in Government (-2,400) to 762,700. The third largest job loss occurred in Information (-300) to 70,200 and Miscellaneous Services (-300) to 204,500. Mining and Logging remained unchanged.

Nonfarm Employment in Virginia* Seasonally Adjusted							
Industry	Employment			February 2025 to March 2025		March 2024 to March 2025	
	March 2025	February 2025	March 2024	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm	4,271,400	4,265,500	4,223,100	5,900	0.1%	48,300	1.1%
Total Private	3,508,700	3,500,400	3,471,700	8,300	0.2%	37,000	1.1%
Goods Producing	476,800	469,000	469,000	7,800	1.7%	7,800	1.7%
Mining and Logging	7,200	7,200	7,200	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Construction	226,100	218,900	217,400	7,200	3.3%	8,700	4.0%
Manufacturing	243,500	242,900	244,400	600	0.2%	-900	-0.4%
Service-Providing	3,794,600	3,796,500	3,754,100	-1,900	-0.1%	40,500	1.1%
Private Service Providing	3,031,900	3,031,400	3,002,700	500	0.0%	29,200	1.0%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	680,400	678,800	676,100	1,600	0.2%	4,300	0.6%
Information	70,200	70,500	70,100	-300	-0.4%	100	0.1%
Financial Activities	220,700	220,500	220,900	200	0.1%	-200	-0.1%
Professional and Business Services	805,300	809,700	811,800	-4,400	-0.5%	-6,500	-0.8%
Education and Health Services	632,400	630,200	602,400	2,200	0.3%	30,000	5.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	418,400	416,900	416,700	1,500	0.4%	1,700	0.4%
Miscellaneous Services	204,500	204,800	204,700	-300	-0.1%	-200	-0.1%
Government	762,700	765,100	751,400	-2,400	-0.3%	11,300	1.5%
Federal Government	192,000	196,100	192,800	-4,100	-2.1%	-800	-0.4%
State Government	161,800	160,800	158,800	1,000	0.6%	3,000	1.9%
Local Government	408,900	408,200	399,800	700	0.2%	9,100	2.3%

*Current month's estimates are preliminary.

From March 2024 to March 2025, Virginia Works estimates that total nonfarm employment in Virginia increased by 48,300 to 4,271,400, private sector employment increased by 37,000 to 3,508,700, and government employment increased by 11,300 to 762,700 jobs. Within that sector, federal government jobs decreased by 800

to 192,000, state government employment increased by 3,000 to 161,800, and local government increased by 9,100 to 408,900 over the year.

For the eleven industry sectors in Virginia over the year, six experienced over-the-year job gains, one remained unchanged, and four experienced a decline. The largest job gain occurred in Education and Health Services (+30,000) to 632,400. The second largest job gain occurred in Government (+11,300) to 762,700. The third largest job gain occurred in Construction (+8,700) to 226,100. The other gains were in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+4,300) to 680,400; Leisure and Hospitality (+1,700) to 418,400; and Information (+100) to 70,200.

The largest job loss occurred in Professional and Business Services (-6,500) to 805,300. The second largest job loss occurred in Manufacturing (-900) to 243,500. The third largest job loss occurred in Financial Activities (-200) to 220,700 and Miscellaneous Services (-200) to 204,500. Mining and Logging remained unchanged.

Nonfarm Employment in Virginia* Seasonally Adjusted							
Area	Employment			February 2025 to March 2025		March 2024 to March 2025	
	March 2025	February 2025	March 2024	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
Virginia	4,271,400	4,265,500	4,223,100	5,900	0.1%	48,300	1.1%
Arlington-Alexandria MSA	1,634,900	1,633,900	1,613,700	1,000	0.1%	21,200	1.3%
Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford MSA	82,000	82,000	83,600	0	0.0%	-1,600	-1.9%
Charlottesville MSA	126,000	125,800	124,500	200	0.2%	1,500	1.2%
Harrisonburg MSA	71,100	71,000	72,500	100	0.1%	-1,400	-1.9%
Lynchburg MSA	104,700	104,500	105,000	200	0.2%	-300	-0.3%
Richmond MSA	724,000	724,800	716,100	-800	-0.1%	7,900	1.1%
Roanoke MSA	168,500	168,100	167,300	400	0.2%	1,200	0.7%
Staunton MSA	54,100	54,200	54,100	-100	-0.2%	0	0.0%
Virginia Beach-Chesapeake-Norfolk MSA	824,000	823,200	821,200	800	0.1%	2,800	0.3%
Winchester MSA	73,800	73,900	73,300	-100	-0.1%	500	0.7%

*Current month's estimates are preliminary.

Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment data is produced for ten metropolitan areas. In March, six experienced over-the-month job gains, one remained unchanged, and three experienced a decline. The largest job gain occurred in Arlington-Alexandria (+1,000) to 1,634,900. The second largest job gain occurred in Virginia Beach-Chesapeake-Norfolk (+800) to 824,000. The third largest job gain occurred in Roanoke (+400) to 168,500. The other gains were in Charlottesville (+200) to 126,000; Lynchburg (+200) to 104,700; and Harrisonburg (+100) to 71,100.

The largest job loss occurred in Richmond (-800) to 724,000. The second largest job loss occurred in

both Staunton (-100) to 54,100 and in Winchester (-100) to 73,800. Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford remained unchanged.

Over the year, six metro areas experienced over-the-year job gains, one remained unchanged, and three experienced a decline. The largest job gain occurred in Arlington-Alexandria (+21,200) to 1,634,900. The second largest job gain occurred in Richmond (+7,900) to 724,000. The third largest job gain occurred in Virginia Beach-Chesapeake-Norfolk (+2,800) to 824,000. The other gains were in Charlottesville (+1,500) to 126,000; Roanoke (+1,200) to 168,500; and Winchester (+500) to 73,800.

The largest job loss occurred in Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford (-1,600) to 82,000. The second largest job loss occurred in Harrisonburg (-1,400) to 71,100. The third largest job loss occurred in Lynchburg (-300) to 104,700. Staunton remained unchanged.

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

Virginia's unadjusted unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage points to 3.4 percent in March. It has increased by 0.7 percentage points to 3.4 percent compared to last year. Compared to a year ago, the number of unemployed increased by 32,868 to 157,134, household employment decreased by 63,725 to 4,409,591, and the labor force decreased by 30,857 to 4,566,725. Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is 0.8 percentage points below the national unadjusted rate, which decreased by 0.3 percentage points to 4.2 percent.

Compared to last month, the March unadjusted workweek for Virginia's 157,000 manufacturing production workers increased by 1.3 to 39.7 hours. Average hourly earnings of private-sector production workers increased by \$0.11 to \$28.39, and average weekly earnings increased by \$41.13 to \$1,127.08.

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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 April 2020, refer to the BLS March [Employment Situation](#) press release for details.

The statistical reference week for the household survey this month was the week of March 9-15, 2025

Virginia Works plans to release the March local area unemployment rates on Tuesday April 29, 2025. The data will be available on our website www.VirginiaWorks.com. The April 2025 statewide unemployment rate and employment data for both the state and metropolitan areas are scheduled to be released on Wednesday May 21, 2025.