



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## Virginia Employment Commission

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### Virginia's Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate Was Down 0.1 Percentage Point in January to 4.0 Percent

—Seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment was up 14,200 jobs  
between December 2016 and January 2017—

**RICHMOND**—Virginia's **seasonally adjusted** unemployment rate was down 0.1 percentage point in January to 4.0 percent, after holding steady at 4.1 percent the previous six months, and was the same rate as January 2016. Since August 2015, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has stayed in the 4.0-4.1 percent range, the lowest rates since the July 2008 rate of 4.1 percent. With the benchmark revisions, the labor force expanded for the 10th consecutive month to 4,274,272, setting a new record high, and household employment expanded for the 25th consecutive month to 4,102,702, also a record high. The labor force increased by 6,044 in January, as household employment rose by 8,747 and the number of unemployed fell by 2,703. Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues below the national rate, which was up 0.1 percentage point in January to 4.8 percent.

Virginia's **seasonally adjusted** nonfarm employment increased by 14,200 jobs in January to a total of 3,950,500—with the benchmark revision, this is the new record high. In addition, the preliminary December gain of 14,100 jobs was revised downward to a gain of 3,500 jobs, as a result of the benchmark realignment. For December, the over-the-month change was revised downward for seven industries by a total of 11,200 jobs, while the over-the-month change was revised upward for three industries by a total of 600 jobs. In January, private sector employment increased by 15,800 jobs to 3,237,000, while public sector payrolls decreased by 1,600 jobs to 713,500.

From December 2016 to January 2017, **seasonally adjusted** employment increased in six major industry divisions, decreased in four, and remained unchanged in the **construction** sector at 189,300 jobs.

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The largest increase during January occurred in the **professional and business services** sector, which posted a gain of 9,700 jobs to 728,300. The **leisure and hospitality** sector recorded the next largest over-the-month employment gain, with an increase of 4,700 jobs to 403,100. The third largest over-the-month increase occurred in **trade and transportation**, with a gain of 2,500 jobs to 669,000. Other job gains were: 2,100 jobs in **finance** to 204,200; 600 jobs in **information** to 66,300; and 100 jobs in **mining** to 7,800. The largest job loss during January occurred in **private education and health services**, which was down 2,200 jobs to 535,900. Employment losses were posted in both health care and social assistance (-1,800 jobs) and in private education (-400 jobs). The next largest over-the-month loss occurred in **total government**, which decreased by 1,600 jobs to 713,500. For total government, the loss in state government employment (-2,500 jobs) outweighed the gains in federal (+600 jobs) and local (+300 jobs) government employment. Other sector losses were 1,100 jobs in **miscellaneous services** to 200,600 and 600 jobs in **manufacturing** to 232,500.

### Nonfarm Employment in Virginia\* Seasonally Adjusted

Industry	Employment			December 2016 to January 2017		January 2016 to January 2017	
	January 2017	December 2016	January 2016	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>3,950,500</b>	<b>3,936,300</b>	<b>3,894,200</b>	<b>+14,200</b>	<b>+0.4%</b>	<b>+56,300</b>	<b>+1.4%</b>
<b>Total Private Sector</b>	<b>3,237,000</b>	<b>3,221,200</b>	<b>3,183,400</b>	<b>+15,800</b>	<b>+0.5%</b>	<b>+53,600</b>	<b>+1.7%</b>
<b>Goods-Producing</b>	<b>429,600</b>	<b>430,100</b>	<b>429,700</b>	<b>-500</b>	<b>-0.1%</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>-0.0%</b>
Mining	7,800	7,700	8,100	+100	+1.3%	-300	-3.7%
Construction	189,300	189,300	187,700	+0	+0.0%	+1,600	+0.9%
Manufacturing	232,500	233,100	233,900	-600	-0.3%	-1,400	-0.6%
<b>Service-Providing</b>	<b>3,520,900</b>	<b>3,506,200</b>	<b>3,464,500</b>	<b>+14,700</b>	<b>+0.4%</b>	<b>+56,400</b>	<b>+1.6%</b>
<b>Private Service-Providing</b>	<b>2,807,400</b>	<b>2,791,100</b>	<b>2,753,700</b>	<b>+16,300</b>	<b>+0.6%</b>	<b>+53,700</b>	<b>+2.0%</b>
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	669,000	666,500	659,000	+2,500	+0.4%	+10,000	+1.5%
Information	66,300	65,700	68,800	+600	+0.9%	-2,500	-3.6%
Finance	204,200	202,100	199,500	+2,100	+1.0%	+4,700	+2.4%
Professional and Business Services	728,300	718,600	708,500	+9,700	+1.3%	+19,800	+2.8%
Education and Health Services	535,900	538,100	523,700	-2,200	-0.4%	+12,200	+2.3%
Leisure and Hospitality Services	403,100	398,400	395,800	+4,700	+1.2%	+7,300	+1.8%
Miscellaneous Services	200,600	201,700	198,400	-1,100	-0.5%	+2,200	+1.1%
<b>Government</b>	<b>713,500</b>	<b>715,100</b>	<b>710,800</b>	<b>-1,600</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>	<b>+2,700</b>	<b>+0.4%</b>
Federal Government	179,100	178,500	177,400	+600	+0.3%	+1,700	+1.0%
State Government	158,700	161,200	158,800	-2,500	-1.6%	-100	-0.1%
Local Government	375,700	375,400	374,600	+300	+0.1%	+1,100	+0.3%

\*Current month's estimates are preliminary.

From January 2016 to January 2017, Virginia's **seasonally adjusted** total nonfarm employment was up 56,300 jobs, or 1.4 percent. Over-the-year employment growth in Virginia has been positive for 34

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consecutive months, and January's over-the-year growth of 1.4 percent was stronger than December's revised over-the-year growth of 0.9 percent. Nationally, total nonfarm employment grew 1.6 percent in January compared to a year ago. In January, over-the-year gains were recorded in both the private sector (+53,600 jobs) and in the public sector (+2,700 jobs).

Compared to a year ago, on a **seasonally adjusted** basis, eight of the eleven major industry divisions experienced employment gains, while the other three experienced employment losses. The largest over-the-year job gain occurred in **professional and business services**, up 19,800 jobs, or 2.8 percent. The next largest over-the-year job gain occurred in **private education and health services**, up 12,200 jobs, or 2.3 percent. **Trade and transportation** posted the third largest over-the-year job gain, up 10,000 jobs, or 1.5 percent. Other gains were in **leisure and hospitality**, up 7,300 jobs, or 1.8 percent; **finance**, up 4,700 jobs, or 2.4 percent; **total government**, up 2,700 jobs, or 0.4 percent; **miscellaneous services**, up 2,200 jobs, or 1.1 percent; and **construction**, up 1,600 jobs, or 0.9 percent. For total government, the gains in federal (+1,700 jobs) and local (+1,100 jobs) government employment outweighed the loss in state government employment (-100 jobs). Compared to a-year-ago January, the largest job loss occurred in **information**, down 2,500 jobs, or 3.6 percent. The other job losses occurred in **manufacturing**, which was down 1,400 jobs, or 0.6 percent, and **mining**, which was down 300 jobs, or 3.7 percent. In manufacturing, the over-the-year loss in durable goods manufacturing (-2,400 jobs) outweighed the gain in non-durable goods manufacturing (+1,000 jobs).

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

Area	Employment			December 2016 to January 2017		January 2016 to January 2017	
	January 2017	December 2016	January 2016	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
<b>Virginia</b>	3,950,500	3,936,300	3,894,200	+14,200	+0.4%	+56,300	+1.4%
<b>Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford MSA</b>	77,400	77,600	76,500	-200	-0.3%	+900	+1.2%
<b>Charlottesville MSA</b>	116,000	115,700	112,500	+300	+0.3%	+3,500	+3.1%
<b>Harrisonburg MSA</b>	67,700	67,700	65,800	+0	+0.0%	+1,900	+2.9%
<b>Lynchburg MSA</b>	104,300	104,800	104,100	-500	-0.5%	+200	+0.2%
<b>Northern Virginia MSA</b>	1,454,600	1,450,200	1,425,400	+4,400	+0.3%	+29,200	+2.0%
<b>Richmond MSA</b>	665,100	667,100	661,400	-2,000	-0.3%	+3,700	+0.6%
<b>Roanoke MSA</b>	163,900	162,400	161,400	+1,500	+0.9%	+2,500	+1.5%
<b>Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, Virginia/North Carolina MSA</b>	777,000	771,700	769,800	+5,300	+0.7%	+7,200	+0.9%
<b>Winchester, Virginia/West Virginia MSA</b>	62,800	62,500	61,800	+300	+0.5%	+1,000	+1.6%

\*Current month's estimates are preliminary.

**Seasonally adjusted** total nonfarm employment data is being produced for nine metropolitan areas. In January, five metropolitan areas experienced over-the-month job gains, three metropolitan areas experienced employment losses, and employment in the Harrisonburg metropolitan area was unchanged.

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The largest absolute job gain occurred in the Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News metropolitan area, with an increase of 5,300 jobs. The Northern Virginia metropolitan area experienced the next largest increase, with a gain of 4,400 jobs. The other metropolitan areas that experienced job gains were: Roanoke (+1,500 jobs) and Charlottesville and Winchester (+300 jobs each). The largest absolute job decrease occurred in the Richmond metropolitan area, with a loss of 2,000 jobs. The other metropolitan areas that experienced job losses were: Lynchburg (-500 jobs) and Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford (-200 jobs).

Over the year, **seasonally adjusted** total nonfarm employment increased in all the metropolitan areas. The Northern Virginia metropolitan area experienced the largest absolute job gain, up 29,200 jobs, or 2.0 percent. Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News was ranked second, with a gain of 7,200 jobs, or 0.9 percent. Richmond was ranked third, with a gain of 3,700 jobs, or 0.6 percent. The remaining metropolitan areas with over-the-year job gains were: Charlottesville (+3,500 jobs), Roanoke (+2,500 jobs), Harrisonburg (+1,900 jobs), Winchester (+1,000 jobs), Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford (+900 jobs), and Lynchburg (+200 jobs).

## **NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA**

Virginia's **unadjusted** unemployment rate was up 0.4 percentage point in January to 4.2 percent but was unchanged from a year-ago January. Compared to a year ago, the number of unemployed increased by 2,111, household employment increased by 62,502, and as a result, the labor force rose by 64,613. Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues below the national unadjusted rate, which was up 0.6 percentage point in January to 5.1 percent.

Compared to last month, the January **unadjusted** workweek for Virginia's 169,500 manufacturing production workers increased by 0.3 hour to 40.9 hours, average hourly earnings increased by \$0.13 to \$19.48, and average weekly earnings increased by \$11.12 to \$796.73. Compared to last January, the unadjusted workweek decreased by 2.2 hours, average hourly earnings decreased by \$0.33, and average weekly earnings were lower by \$57.08.

*The statistical reference week for the household survey this month was the week of January 8-14, 2017.*

The Virginia Employment Commission plans to release the January local area unemployment rates on Friday, March 17, 2017. The data will be available on our website, [www.VirginiaLMI.com](http://www.VirginiaLMI.com).

The February statewide unemployment rate and employment data for both the state and metropolitan areas are scheduled to be released on Friday, March 24, 2017.