



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Employment Commission

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For Release: March 24, 2017

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Virginia's Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate Was Down 0.1 Percentage Point in February to 3.9 Percent

—Seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment was up 11,400 jobs
between January 2017 and February 2017—

RICHMOND—Virginia's **seasonally adjusted** unemployment rate was down 0.1 percentage point in February to 3.9 percent, the second consecutive monthly decline, and was also down 0.1 percentage point from last February. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 3.9 percent is the lowest rate since the June 2008 rate of 3.9 percent. The labor force expanded for the 11th consecutive month to 4,281,022, setting a new record high, and household employment expanded for the 26th consecutive month to 4,115,642, also a record high. The labor force increased by 7,333 in February, as household employment rose by 13,407 and the number of unemployed fell by 6,074. Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues below the national rate, which was down 0.1 percentage point in February to 4.7 percent.

Virginia's **seasonally adjusted** nonfarm employment increased by 11,400 jobs in February to a total of 3,957,700, the third consecutive monthly increase. The preliminary January gain of 14,200 jobs was revised downward to a gain of 10,000 jobs. Most of the industry divisions experienced downward revisions, with the largest downward revisions occurring in private education and health services, professional and business services, and finance. In February, private sector employment increased by 7,000 jobs to 3,239,900, while public sector payrolls increased by 4,400 jobs to 717,800.

From January 2017 to February 2017, **seasonally adjusted** employment increased in eight major industry divisions and decreased in the other three. The largest increase during February occurred in the **private education and health services** sector, which posted a gain of 5,400 jobs to 539,600. Private education and health services lost a total of 6,500 jobs during the previous three months. **Total**

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government recorded the next largest over-the-month employment gain, with an increase of 4,400 jobs to 717,800. For total government, the gains in state (+2,500 jobs) and local (+2,500 jobs) government employment outweighed the loss in federal government employment (-600 jobs). The third largest over-the-month increase occurred in **leisure and hospitality**, with a gain of 2,700 jobs to 405,500. Other job gains were: 1,200 jobs in **finance** to 204,700; 500 jobs in **trade and transportation** to 669,100; 300 jobs each in **manufacturing** and **information** to 232,400 and 66,400, respectively; and 100 jobs in **mining** to 7,900. The largest job loss during February occurred in **construction**, which was down 3,200 jobs to 186,100. Other sector losses were 200 jobs in **miscellaneous services** to 200,800 and 100 jobs in **professional and business services** to 727,400. The loss in professional and business services employment followed a gain totaling 10,000 jobs during the previous two months.

Nonfarm Employment in Virginia* Seasonally Adjusted

Industry	Employment			January 2017 to February 2017		February 2016 to February 2017	
	February 2017	January 2017	February 2016	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm	3,957,700	3,946,300	3,904,200	+11,400	+0.3%	+53,500	+1.4%
Total Private Sector	3,239,900	3,232,900	3,191,100	+7,000	+0.2%	+48,800	+1.5%
Goods-Producing	426,400	429,200	429,000	-2,800	-0.7%	-2,600	-0.6%
Mining	7,900	7,800	8,100	+100	+1.3%	-200	-2.5%
Construction	186,100	189,300	187,500	-3,200	-1.7%	-1,400	-0.7%
Manufacturing	232,400	232,100	233,400	+300	+0.1%	-1,000	-0.4%
Service-Providing	3,531,300	3,517,100	3,475,200	+14,200	+0.4%	+56,100	+1.6%
Private Service-Providing	2,813,500	2,803,700	2,762,100	+9,800	+0.3%	+51,400	+1.9%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	669,100	668,600	661,000	+500	+0.1%	+8,100	+1.2%
Information	66,400	66,100	69,200	+300	+0.5%	-2,800	-4.0%
Finance	204,700	203,500	199,600	+1,200	+0.6%	+5,100	+2.6%
Professional and Business Services	727,400	727,500	711,300	-100	-0.0%	+16,100	+2.3%
Education and Health Services	539,600	534,200	525,000	+5,400	+1.0%	+14,600	+2.8%
Leisure and Hospitality Services	405,500	402,800	397,400	+2,700	+0.7%	+8,100	+2.0%
Miscellaneous Services	200,800	201,000	198,600	-200	-0.1%	+2,200	+1.1%
Government	717,800	713,400	713,100	+4,400	+0.6%	+4,700	+0.7%
Federal Government	178,400	179,000	177,600	-600	-0.3%	+800	+0.5%
State Government	161,200	158,700	161,100	+2,500	+1.6%	+100	+0.1%
Local Government	378,200	375,700	374,400	+2,500	+0.7%	+3,800	+1.0%

*Current month's estimates are preliminary.

From February 2016 to February 2017, Virginia's **seasonally adjusted** total nonfarm employment was up 53,500 jobs, or 1.4 percent. Over-the-year employment growth in Virginia has been positive for 35 consecutive months. With February's over-the-year growth of 1.4 percent and January's revised over-the-year growth of 1.3 percent, growth was once again above 1.0 percent after falling below 1.0 percent in

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November and December. Nationally, total nonfarm employment grew 1.6 percent in February compared to a year ago. In February, over-the-year gains were recorded in both the private sector (+48,800 jobs) and in the public sector (+4,700 jobs).

Compared to a year ago, on a **seasonally adjusted** basis, seven of the eleven major industry divisions experienced employment gains, while the other four experienced employment losses. The largest over-the-year job gain occurred in **professional and business services**, up 16,100 jobs, or 2.3 percent. The next largest over-the-year job gain occurred in **private education and health services**, up 14,600 jobs, or 2.8 percent. Other gains were in **trade and transportation** and **leisure and hospitality**, up 8,100 jobs each, or 1.2 percent and 2.0 percent, respectively; **finance**, up 5,100 jobs, or 2.6 percent; **total government**, up 4,700 jobs, or 0.7 percent; and **miscellaneous services**, up 2,200 jobs, or 1.1 percent. The gains in total government occurred at all levels: local (+3,800 jobs), federal (+800 jobs), and state (+100 jobs). Compared to a-year-ago February, the largest job loss occurred in **information**, down 2,800 jobs, or 4.0 percent. **Construction** fell below a year ago, with a loss of 1,400 jobs, or 0.7 percent. The other job losses occurred in **manufacturing**, which was down 1,000 jobs, or 0.4 percent, and **mining**, which was down 200 jobs, or 2.5 percent. In manufacturing, the over-the-year loss in durable goods manufacturing (-1,900 jobs) outweighed the gain in non-durable goods manufacturing (+900 jobs).

Total Nonfarm Employment in Virginia*
Seasonally Adjusted

Area	Employment			January 2017 to February 2017		February 2016 to February 2017	
	February 2017	January 2017	February 2016	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
Virginia	3,957,700	3,946,300	3,904,200	+11,400	+0.3%	+53,500	+1.4%
Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford MSA	78,300	77,400	77,300	+900	+1.2%	+1,000	+1.3%
Charlottesville MSA	116,600	115,900	113,300	+700	+0.6%	+3,300	+2.9%
Harrisonburg MSA	68,000	67,700	66,200	+300	+0.4%	+1,800	+2.7%
Lynchburg MSA	104,800	104,300	103,900	+500	+0.5%	+900	+0.9%
Northern Virginia MSA	1,461,000	1,454,500	1,429,600	+6,500	+0.4%	+31,400	+2.2%
Richmond MSA	668,600	665,000	662,900	+3,600	+0.5%	+5,700	+0.9%
Roanoke MSA	163,300	164,200	161,300	-900	-0.5%	+2,000	+1.2%
Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, Virginia/North Carolina MSA	775,900	776,600	771,300	-700	-0.1%	+4,600	+0.6%
Winchester, Virginia/West Virginia MSA	63,100	62,800	61,900	+300	+0.5%	+1,200	+1.9%

*Current month's estimates are preliminary.

Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment data is being produced for nine metropolitan areas. In February, seven metropolitan areas experienced over-the-month job gains, while the other two metropolitan areas experienced employment losses. The largest absolute job gain occurred in the Northern Virginia metropolitan area, with an increase of 6,500 jobs. The Richmond metropolitan area experienced the next largest increase, with a gain of 3,600 jobs. The other metropolitan areas that experienced job gains

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were: Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford (+900 jobs), Charlottesville (+700 jobs), Lynchburg (+500 jobs), and Harrisonburg and Winchester (+300 jobs each). The largest absolute job decrease occurred in the Roanoke metropolitan area, with a loss of 900 jobs. The other metropolitan area that experienced a loss was Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, down 700 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 31,400 jobs, or 2.2 percent. Richmond was ranked second, with a gain of 5,700 jobs, or 0.9 percent. Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News was ranked third, with a gain of 4,600 jobs, or 0.6 percent. The remaining metropolitan areas with over-the-year job gains were: Charlottesville (+3,300 jobs), Roanoke (+2,000 jobs), Harrisonburg (+1,800 jobs), Winchester (+1,200 jobs), Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford (+1,000 jobs), and Lynchburg (+900 jobs).

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

Virginia's **unadjusted** unemployment rate was down 0.2 percentage point in February to 4.0 percent and was down 0.1 percentage point from a year-ago February. Compared to a year ago, the number of unemployed fell by 5,903, household employment increased by 62,382, and as a result, the labor force rose by 56,479. Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues below the national unadjusted rate, which was down 0.2 percentage point in February to 4.9 percent.

Compared to last month, the February **unadjusted** workweek for Virginia's 170,200 manufacturing production workers increased by 1.5 hours to 42.1 hours, average hourly earnings increased by \$0.02 to \$19.58, and average weekly earnings increased by \$30.18 to \$824.32. Compared to last February, the unadjusted workweek increased by 0.2 hour, average hourly earnings decreased by \$0.23, and average weekly earnings were lower by \$5.72.

The statistical reference week for the household survey this month was the week of February 12-18, 2017.

The Virginia Employment Commission plans to release the February local area unemployment rates on Wednesday, April 5, 2017. The data will be available on our website, www.VirginiaLMI.com.

The March statewide unemployment rate and employment data for both the state and metropolitan areas are scheduled to be released on Friday, April 21, 2017.