



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Employment Commission

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Virginia's Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate Was Unchanged in April at 3.8 Percent

—Seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment was unchanged in April—

RICHMOND—Virginia's **seasonally adjusted** unemployment rate was unchanged in April at 3.8 percent, after declining the previous three months. Compared to a year ago, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was down 0.2 percentage point. The labor force expanded for the 13th consecutive month to 4,301,554, setting a new record high, and household employment expanded for the 28th consecutive month to 4,139,699, also a record high. The labor force increased by 11,054 in April, as household employment rose by 10,270 and the number of unemployed increased by 784. Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be below the national rate, which was down 0.1 percentage point in April to 4.4 percent.

Virginia's **seasonally adjusted** nonfarm employment was unchanged in April from March's total of 3,955,300. While nonfarm employment decreased by 5,000 jobs in March and remained unchanged in April, employment gains over the four months since January 2017 averaged 4,750 jobs, surpassing average gains of 2,025 jobs for the comparable period in 2016. In April, private sector employment decreased by 1,400 jobs to 3,239,900, while public sector payrolls increased by 1,400 jobs to 715,400.

From March 2017 to April 2017, **seasonally adjusted** employment increased in six major industry divisions and decreased in the other five. The largest job gain during April occurred in **professional and business services**, which was up 4,100 jobs to 734,700. April's employment gain in professional and business services was the fifth consecutive monthly job gain. **Private education and health services** recorded the second largest over-the-month employment gain. Employment in this sector increased by 2,900 jobs to 544,500, the third consecutive monthly increase. The next largest over-the-month

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employment gain occurred in **total government**, which increased by 1,400 jobs to 715,400, followed by **construction**, which increased by 1,200 jobs to 189,300. For total government, the gains in federal (+1,100 jobs) and local (+700 jobs) government employment outweighed the loss in state government employment (-400 jobs). Other job gains were: 200 jobs in **information** to 66,100, and 100 jobs in **mining** to 8,000. The largest job decrease in April occurred in the **trade and transportation** and the **leisure and hospitality** sectors. Employment in these sectors declined by 3,000 jobs each to 663,100 in trade and transportation and to 400,200 in leisure and hospitality. **Manufacturing** recorded the next largest over-the-month employment loss, with a decrease of 2,200 jobs to 231,700. Other job losses were: 1,000 jobs in **miscellaneous services** to 198,500, and 700 jobs in **finance** to 203,800.

Nonfarm Employment in Virginia* Seasonally Adjusted

Industry	Employment			March 2017 to April 2017		April 2016 to April 2017	
	April 2017	March 2017	April 2016	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm	3,955,300	3,955,300	3,910,900	+0	+0.0%	+44,400	+1.1%
Total Private Sector	3,239,900	3,241,300	3,196,000	-1,400	-0.0%	+43,900	+1.4%
Goods-Producing	429,000	429,900	427,300	-900	-0.2%	+1,700	+0.4%
Mining	8,000	7,900	7,800	+100	+1.3%	+200	+2.6%
Construction	189,300	188,100	187,300	+1,200	+0.6%	+2,000	+1.1%
Manufacturing	231,700	233,900	232,200	-2,200	-0.9%	-500	-0.2%
Service-Providing	3,526,300	3,525,400	3,483,600	+900	+0.0%	+42,700	+1.2%
Private Service-Providing	2,810,900	2,811,400	2,768,700	-500	-0.0%	+42,200	+1.5%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	663,100	666,100	662,000	-3,000	-0.5%	+1,100	+0.2%
Information	66,100	65,900	69,000	+200	+0.3%	-2,900	-4.2%
Finance	203,800	204,500	200,100	-700	-0.3%	+3,700	+1.8%
Professional and Business Services	734,700	730,600	713,500	+4,100	+0.6%	+21,200	+3.0%
Education and Health Services	544,500	541,600	527,000	+2,900	+0.5%	+17,500	+3.3%
Leisure and Hospitality Services	400,200	403,200	398,300	-3,000	-0.7%	+1,900	+0.5%
Miscellaneous Services	198,500	199,500	198,800	-1,000	-0.5%	-300	-0.2%
Government	715,400	714,000	714,900	+1,400	+0.2%	+500	+0.1%
Federal Government	179,000	177,900	177,100	+1,100	+0.6%	+1,900	+1.1%
State Government	161,100	161,500	162,400	-400	-0.2%	-1,300	-0.8%
Local Government	375,300	374,600	375,400	+700	+0.2%	-100	-0.0%

*Current month's estimates are preliminary.

From April 2016 to April 2017, Virginia's **seasonally adjusted** total nonfarm employment was up 44,400 jobs, or 1.1 percent. Over-the-year employment growth in Virginia has been positive for 37 consecutive months. April was the fourth consecutive month with over-the-year growth exceeding 1.0 percent—over-the-year growth fell below 1.0 percent in November and December of 2016. In April, the

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private sector recorded an over-the-year gain of 43,900 jobs, while the public sector recorded an over-the-year gain of 500 jobs. Nationally, total nonfarm employment grew 1.6 percent in April from a year ago.

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 21,200 jobs, or 3.0 percent. The next largest over-the-year job gain occurred in **private education and health services**, up 17,500 jobs, or 3.3 percent. Other gains were in **finance**, up 3,700 jobs, or 1.8 percent; **construction**, up 2,000 jobs, or 1.1 percent; **leisure and hospitality**, up 1,900 jobs, or 0.5 percent; **trade and transportation**, up 1,100 jobs, or 0.2 percent; **total government**, up 500 jobs, or 0.1 percent; and **mining**, up 200 jobs, or 2.6 percent. The gain in federal government employment (+1,900 jobs) outweighed the losses in state (-1,300 jobs) and local (-100 jobs) government employment. Compared to a-year-ago April, the largest job loss occurred in **information**, down 2,900 jobs, or 4.2 percent. The next largest loss occurred in **manufacturing**, down 500 jobs, or 0.2 percent. Lastly, **miscellaneous manufacturing** employment fell 300 jobs from a year ago, or 0.2 percent.

Total Nonfarm Employment in Virginia* Seasonally Adjusted

Area	Employment			March 2017 to April 2017		April 2016 to April 2017	
	April 2017	March 2017	April 2016	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
Virginia	3,955,300	3,955,300	3,910,900	+0	+0.0%	+44,400	+1.1%
Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford MSA	78,400	78,000	77,900	+400	+0.5%	+500	+0.6%
Charlottesville MSA	116,600	116,200	113,700	+400	+0.3%	+2,900	+2.6%
Harrisonburg MSA	68,000	68,000	66,600	+0	+0.0%	+1,400	+2.1%
Lynchburg MSA	104,400	104,900	103,900	-500	-0.5%	+500	+0.5%
Northern Virginia MSA	1,460,800	1,458,400	1,436,500	+2,400	+0.2%	+24,300	+1.7%
Richmond MSA	668,400	668,300	664,100	+100	+0.0%	+4,300	+0.6%
Roanoke MSA	163,000	164,100	162,300	-1,100	-0.7%	+700	+0.4%
Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, Virginia/North Carolina MSA	770,500	772,900	772,000	-2,400	-0.3%	-1,500	-0.2%
Winchester, Virginia/West Virginia MSA	62,800	63,000	62,000	-200	-0.3%	+800	+1.3%

*Current month's estimates are preliminary.

Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment data is being produced for nine metropolitan areas. In April, four metropolitan areas experienced over-the-month job gains, another four metropolitan areas experienced employment losses, and employment in Harrisonburg remained unchanged. The largest absolute job gain occurred in the Northern Virginia metropolitan area, with an increase of 2,400 jobs. The other metropolitan areas that experienced job gains were: Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford and Charlottesville (+400 jobs each), and Richmond (+100 jobs). The largest absolute job decrease occurred in the Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News metropolitan area, with a loss of 2,400 jobs. The Roanoke

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metropolitan area experienced the next largest job loss, with a decrease of 1,100 jobs. The other two metropolitan areas that experienced losses were Lynchburg (-500 jobs), and Winchester (-200 jobs).

Over the year, **seasonally adjusted** total nonfarm employment increased in all the metropolitan areas, with the exception of the Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News metropolitan area. The Northern Virginia metropolitan area experienced the largest absolute job gain, up 24,300 jobs, or 1.7 percent. Richmond was ranked second, with a gain of 4,300 jobs, or 0.6 percent. Charlottesville was ranked third, with a gain of 2,900 jobs, or 2.6 percent. The remaining metropolitan areas with over-the-year job gains were: Harrisonburg (+1,400 jobs), Winchester (+800 jobs), Roanoke (+700 jobs), and Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford and Lynchburg (+500 jobs each). Employment in the Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News metropolitan area declined by 1,500 jobs, or 0.2 percent.

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

Virginia's **unadjusted** unemployment rate was down 0.2 percentage point in April to 3.6 percent, but was unchanged from a year ago. Compared to a year ago, the number of unemployed increased by 1,771, household employment increased by 77,024, and as a result, the labor force rose by 78,795. Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues below the national unadjusted rate, which was down 0.5 percentage point in April to 4.1 percent.

Compared to last month, the April **unadjusted** workweek for Virginia's 168,400 manufacturing production workers decreased by 0.4 hour to 40.6 hours, average hourly earnings increased by \$0.17 to \$19.41, and average weekly earnings decreased by \$0.79 to \$788.05. Compared to last April, the unadjusted workweek decreased by 1.0 hour, average hourly earnings decreased by \$0.17, and average weekly earnings were lower by \$26.48.

The statistical reference week for the household survey this month was the week of April 9-15, 2017.

The Virginia Employment Commission plans to release the April local area unemployment rates on Wednesday, May 31, 2017. The data will be available on our website, www.VirginiaLMI.com.

The May statewide unemployment rate and employment data for both the state and metropolitan areas are scheduled to be released on Friday, June 16, 2017.

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