



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Employment Commission

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Virginia's Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate Held Steady in May at 3.8 Percent

— Seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment was down 2,100 jobs
between April 2017 and May 2017—

RICHMOND—Virginia's **seasonally adjusted** unemployment rate held steady in May at 3.8 percent—the third consecutive month the unemployment rate was 3.8 percent. Compared to a year ago, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was down 0.2 percentage point. The labor force expanded for the 14th consecutive month to 4,306,169, setting a new record high, and household employment expanded for the 29th consecutive month to 4,144,295, also a record high. The labor force increased by 4,758 in May, as household employment rose by 4,562 and the number of unemployed increased by 196. Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be below the national rate, which was down 0.1 percentage point in May to 4.3 percent.

Virginia's **seasonally adjusted** nonfarm employment decreased by 2,100 jobs in May to a total of 3,951,500. In addition, April's over-the-month nonfarm employment change was revised downward to a loss of 1,700 jobs from an initially reported no change in employment, and as a result, nonfarm employment has declined for three consecutive months. However, in 2017, the total gain of 24,000 jobs for January and February exceeded the total loss of 8,800 jobs these past three months (March through May). In May, private sector employment decreased by 2,200 jobs to 3,236,100, while public sector payrolls increased by 100 jobs to 715,400.

From April 2017 to May 2017, **seasonally adjusted** employment decreased in six major industry divisions and increased in the other five. The largest job decrease in May occurred in the **trade and transportation** sector, which posted a loss of 1,500 jobs to 659,200. The losses in retail (-1,300 jobs) and

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wholesale (-500 jobs) trade outweighed the gain in transportation and warehousing (+300 jobs). The next largest job decrease occurred in the **leisure and hospitality** and the **miscellaneous services** sectors. Employment in these sectors declined by 1,400 jobs each to 399,400 in leisure and hospitality and to 197,400 in miscellaneous services. Other job losses were: 1,000 jobs in **information** to 64,300; 900 jobs in **construction** to 188,200; and 100 jobs in **mining** to 7,900. The largest job gain during May occurred in **finance**, which was up 2,500 jobs to 206,500. **Manufacturing** recorded the second largest over-the-month employment gain. Employment in this sector increased by 900 jobs to 234,100, with the gain in durable goods manufacturing (+1,200 jobs) outweighing the loss in nondurable goods manufacturing (-300 jobs). Other job gains were: 500 jobs in **private education and health services** to 544,500; 200 jobs in **professional and business services** to 734,600; and 100 jobs in **total government** to 715,400. For total government, the gain in federal (+800 jobs) government employment outweighed the losses in state (-500 jobs) and local (-200 jobs) government employment.

Nonfarm Employment in Virginia* Seasonally Adjusted

Industry	Employment			April 2017 to May 2017		May 2016 to May 2017	
	May 2017	April 2017	May 2016	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm	3,951,500	3,953,600	3,907,100	-2,100	-0.1%	+44,400	+1.1%
Total Private Sector	3,236,100	3,238,300	3,193,200	-2,200	-0.1%	+42,900	+1.3%
Goods-Producing	430,200	430,300	427,100	-100	-0.0%	+3,100	+0.7%
Mining	7,900	8,000	7,800	-100	-1.3%	+100	+1.3%
Construction	188,200	189,100	187,300	-900	-0.5%	+900	+0.5%
Manufacturing	234,100	233,200	232,000	+900	+0.4%	+2,100	+0.9%
Service-Providing	3,521,300	3,523,300	3,480,000	-2,000	-0.1%	+41,300	+1.2%
Private Service-Providing	2,805,900	2,808,000	2,766,100	-2,100	-0.1%	+39,800	+1.4%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	659,200	660,700	662,000	-1,500	-0.2%	-2,800	-0.4%
Information	64,300	65,300	66,300	-1,000	-1.5%	-2,000	-3.0%
Finance	206,500	204,000	200,500	+2,500	+1.2%	+6,000	+3.0%
Professional and Business Services	734,600	734,400	714,100	+200	+0.0%	+20,500	+2.9%
Education and Health Services	544,500	544,000	528,200	+500	+0.1%	+16,300	+3.1%
Leisure and Hospitality Services	399,400	400,800	396,200	-1,400	-0.3%	+3,200	+0.8%
Miscellaneous Services	197,400	198,800	198,800	-1,400	-0.7%	-1,400	-0.7%
Government	715,400	715,300	713,900	+100	+0.0%	+1,500	+0.2%
Federal Government	179,800	179,000	177,600	+800	+0.4%	+2,200	+1.2%
State Government	160,600	161,100	160,800	-500	-0.3%	-200	-0.1%
Local Government	375,000	375,200	375,500	-200	-0.1%	-500	-0.1%

*Current month's estimates are preliminary.

From May 2016 to May 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 38

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consecutive months. May was the fifth 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 May, the private sector recorded an over-the-year gain of 42,900 jobs, while the public sector recorded an over-the-year gain of 1,500 jobs. Nationally, total nonfarm employment grew 1.6 percent in May 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 20,500 jobs, or 2.9 percent. The next largest over-the-year job gain occurred in **private education and health services**, up 16,300 jobs, or 3.1 percent. Other gains were in **finance**, up 6,000 jobs, or 3.0 percent; **leisure and hospitality**, up 3,200 jobs, or 0.8 percent; **manufacturing**, up 2,100 jobs, or 0.9 percent; **total government**, up 1,500 jobs, or 0.2 percent; **construction**, up 900 jobs, or 0.5 percent; and **mining**, up 100 jobs, or 1.3 percent. The gain in federal government employment (+2,200 jobs) outweighed the losses in local (-500 jobs) and state (-200 jobs) government employment. Compared to a-year-ago May, the largest job loss occurred in **trade and transportation**, down 2,800 jobs, or 0.4 percent. The next largest loss occurred in **information**, down 2,000 jobs, or 3.0 percent. Lastly, **miscellaneous services** employment fell 1,400 jobs from a year ago, or 0.7 percent.

Total Nonfarm Employment in Virginia* Seasonally Adjusted

Area	Employment			April 2017 to May 2017		May 2016 to May 2017	
	May 2017	April 2017	May 2016	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
Virginia	3,951,500	3,953,600	3,907,100	-2,100	-0.1%	+44,400	+1.1%
Blacksburg-Christiansburg- Radford MSA	79,100	78,300	77,700	+800	+1.0%	+1,400	+1.8%
Charlottesville MSA	116,500	116,000	113,500	+500	+0.4%	+3,000	+2.6%
Harrisonburg MSA	68,100	68,100	66,700	+0	+0.0%	+1,400	+2.1%
Lynchburg MSA	103,900	104,700	103,800	-800	-0.8%	+100	+0.1%
Northern Virginia MSA	1,458,900	1,461,300	1,438,500	-2,400	-0.2%	+20,400	+1.4%
Richmond MSA	672,800	670,200	662,600	+2,600	+0.4%	+10,200	+1.5%
Roanoke MSA	163,100	163,100	162,200	+0	+0.0%	+900	+0.6%
Virginia Beach-Norfolk- Newport News, Virginia/North Carolina MSA	769,100	770,400	771,000	-1,300	-0.2%	-1,900	-0.2%
Winchester, Virginia/West Virginia MSA	62,700	62,900	61,900	-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 May, four metropolitan areas experienced over-the-month job losses, three metropolitan areas experienced employment gains, and employment in Harrisonburg and Roanoke remained unchanged. The largest absolute job decrease occurred in the Northern Virginia metropolitan area, with a loss of 2,400 jobs. The Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News metropolitan area experienced the next largest job loss, with a

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decrease of 1,300 jobs. The other two metropolitan areas that experienced losses were Lynchburg (-800 jobs), and Winchester (-200 jobs). The largest absolute job gain occurred in the Richmond metropolitan area, with an increase of 2,600 jobs. The other metropolitan areas that experienced job gains were Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford (+800 jobs), and Charlottesville (+500 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 20,400 jobs, or 1.4 percent. Richmond was ranked second, with a gain of 10,200 jobs, or 1.5 percent. Charlottesville was ranked third, with a gain of 3,000 jobs, or 2.6 percent. The remaining metropolitan areas with over-the-year job gains were: Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford and Harrisonburg (+1,400 jobs each); Roanoke (+900 jobs); Winchester (+800 jobs); and Lynchburg (+100 jobs). Employment in the Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News metropolitan area declined by 1,900 jobs, or 0.2 percent.

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

Virginia's **unadjusted** unemployment rate was up 0.2 percentage point in May to 3.8 percent and was up 0.1 percentage point from a year ago. Compared to a year ago, the number of unemployed increased by 5,399, household employment increased by 75,390, and as a result, the labor force rose by 80,789. Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues below the national unadjusted rate, which was unchanged in May at 4.1 percent.

Compared to last month, the May **unadjusted** workweek for Virginia's 170,700 manufacturing production workers increased by 0.9 hour to 41.2 hours, average hourly earnings decreased by \$0.33 to \$19.19, and average weekly earnings increased by \$3.97 to \$790.63. Compared to last May, the unadjusted workweek increased by 0.4 hour, average hourly earnings decreased by \$0.50, and average weekly earnings were lower by \$12.72.

The statistical reference week for the household survey this month was the week of May 7-13, 2017.

The Virginia Employment Commission plans to release the May local area unemployment rates on Wednesday, June 28, 2017. The data will be available on our website, www.VirginiaLMI.com.

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