



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Employment Commission

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Virginia's Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate Was Up 0.1 Percentage Point in July to 3.8 Percent

— Seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment was up 8,300 jobs
between June 2017 and July 2017—

RICHMOND—Virginia's **seasonally adjusted** unemployment rate was up 0.1 percentage point in July to 3.8 percent, after declining 0.1 percentage point in June. Compared to a year ago, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was down 0.3 percentage point. The labor force expanded for the 16th consecutive month to 4,320,271, setting a new record high, and household employment expanded for the 31st consecutive month to 4,158,027, also a record high. The labor force increased by 6,087 in July, as household employment rose by 5,159 and the number of unemployed increased by 928. Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be below the national rate, which was down 0.1 percentage point in July to 4.3 percent.

Virginia's **seasonally adjusted** nonfarm employment increased by 8,300 jobs in July, the second consecutive monthly increase, and set a new record high of 3,975,900. In addition, June's over-the-month nonfarm employment increase was revised from an initially reported gain of 9,400 jobs to a gain of 15,100 jobs. Upward revisions totaling 7,000 jobs occurred in seven major industry divisions, while downward revisions totaling 1,300 jobs occurred in three major industry divisions. In July, private sector employment increased by 7,200 jobs to 3,260,100, while public sector payrolls increased by 1,100 jobs to 715,800.

From June 2017 to July 2017, **seasonally adjusted** employment increased in five major industry divisions, decreased in three major industry divisions, and remained unchanged in the other three major industry divisions. The largest job gain during July occurred in **professional and business services**, which was up 4,700 jobs to 740,300. The gains in professional, scientific, and technical services (+3,800

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jobs) and in administrative and support services (+1,000 jobs) outweighed the slight loss in management of companies (-100 jobs). **Private education and health services** recorded the second largest over-the-month employment gain, posting an increase of 2,400 jobs to 546,700. Other job gains were: 1,800 jobs in **manufacturing** to 233,900, and 1,100 jobs each in **construction** and **total government** to 191,100 and 715,800, respectively. For total government, the gains in local (+1,200 jobs) and state (+500 jobs) government employment outweighed the loss in federal government employment (-600 jobs). The largest job decrease in July occurred in the **finance** sector, with a loss of 1,800 jobs to 203,800. Other job losses were: 900 jobs in **information** to 63,900, and 100 jobs in **leisure and hospitality** to 407,400. Employment remained unchanged in: **trade and transportation** at 664,700; **miscellaneous services** at 200,600; and **mining** at 7,700.

Nonfarm Employment in Virginia* Seasonally Adjusted

Industry	Employment			June 2017 to July 2017		July 2016 to July 2017	
	July 2017	June 2017	July 2016	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm	3,975,900	3,967,600	3,915,600	+8,300	+0.2%	+60,300	+1.5%
Total Private Sector	3,260,100	3,252,900	3,201,200	+7,200	+0.2%	+58,900	+1.8%
Goods-Producing	432,700	429,800	427,100	+2,900	+0.7%	+5,600	+1.3%
Mining	7,700	7,700	7,900	+0	+0.0%	-200	-2.5%
Construction	191,100	190,000	186,700	+1,100	+0.6%	+4,400	+2.4%
Manufacturing	233,900	232,100	232,500	+1,800	+0.8%	+1,400	+0.6%
Service-Providing	3,543,200	3,537,800	3,488,500	+5,400	+0.2%	+54,700	+1.6%
Private Service-Providing	2,827,400	2,823,100	2,774,100	+4,300	+0.2%	+53,300	+1.9%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	664,700	664,700	661,800	+0	+0.0%	+2,900	+0.4%
Information	63,900	64,800	68,700	-900	-1.4%	-4,800	-7.0%
Finance	203,800	205,600	200,200	-1,800	-0.9%	+3,600	+1.8%
Professional and Business Services	740,300	735,600	716,300	+4,700	+0.6%	+24,000	+3.4%
Education and Health Services	546,700	544,300	530,300	+2,400	+0.4%	+16,400	+3.1%
Leisure and Hospitality Services	407,400	407,500	397,200	-100	-0.0%	+10,200	+2.6%
Miscellaneous Services	200,600	200,600	199,600	+0	+0.0%	+1,000	+0.5%
Government	715,800	714,700	714,400	+1,100	+0.2%	+1,400	+0.2%
Federal Government	179,100	179,700	177,900	-600	-0.3%	+1,200	+0.7%
State Government	160,400	159,900	159,800	+500	+0.3%	+600	+0.4%
Local Government	376,300	375,100	376,700	+1,200	+0.3%	-400	-0.1%

*Current month's estimates are preliminary.

From July 2016 to July 2017, Virginia's **seasonally adjusted** total nonfarm employment was up 60,300 jobs, or 1.5 percent. Over-the-year employment growth in Virginia has been positive for 40 consecutive months. In July, Virginia's over-the-year growth of 1.5 percent equaled the national growth rate and was the strongest since the June 2016 growth rate of 1.6 percent. In July, the private sector

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recorded an over-the-year gain of 58,900 jobs, while the public sector recorded an over-the-year gain of 1,400 jobs.

Compared to a year ago, on a **seasonally adjusted** basis, nine of the eleven major industry divisions experienced employment gains, while the other two experienced employment losses. The largest over-the-year job gain occurred in **professional and business services**, up 24,000 jobs, or 3.4 percent. The next largest over-the-year job gain occurred in **private education and health services**, up 16,400 jobs, or 3.1 percent. **Leisure and hospitality** experienced the third largest over-the-year job gain, up 10,200 jobs or 2.6 percent. Other gains were in **construction**, up 4,400 jobs, or 2.4 percent; **finance**, up 3,600 jobs, or 1.8 percent; **trade and transportation**, up 2,900 jobs, or 0.4 percent; **manufacturing** and **total government**, up 1,400 jobs each, or 0.6 percent and 0.2 percent, respectively; and **miscellaneous services**, up 1,000 jobs, or 0.5 percent. For total government, the gains in federal (+1,200 jobs) and state (+600 jobs) government employment outweighed the loss in local government employment (-400 jobs). Compared to a-year-ago July, the largest job loss occurred in **information**, down 4,800 jobs, or 7.0 percent. The other loss occurred in **mining**, down 200 jobs, or 2.5 percent.

Total Nonfarm Employment in Virginia* Seasonally Adjusted

Area	Employment			June 2017 to July 2017		July 2016 to July 2017	
	July 2017	June 2017	July 2016	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
Virginia	3,975,900	3,967,600	3,915,600	+8,300	+0.2%	+60,300	+1.5%
Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford MSA	79,400	79,300	77,500	+100	+0.1%	+1,900	+2.5%
Charlottesville MSA	117,000	117,000	114,200	+0	+0.0%	+2,800	+2.5%
Harrisonburg MSA	68,700	68,200	67,000	+500	+0.7%	+1,700	+2.5%
Lynchburg MSA	104,200	103,600	103,200	+600	+0.6%	+1,000	+1.0%
Northern Virginia MSA	1,466,300	1,459,800	1,440,900	+6,500	+0.4%	+25,400	+1.8%
Richmond MSA	680,600	677,100	664,500	+3,500	+0.5%	+16,100	+2.4%
Roanoke MSA	164,400	164,700	161,800	-300	-0.2%	+2,600	+1.6%
Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, Virginia/North Carolina MSA	765,000	770,200	771,800	-5,200	-0.7%	-6,800	-0.9%
Winchester, Virginia/West Virginia MSA	62,900	62,600	61,800	+300	+0.5%	+1,100	+1.8%

*Current month's estimates are preliminary.

Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment data is being produced for nine metropolitan areas. In July, six metropolitan areas experienced over-the-month job gains, two metropolitan areas experienced employment losses, and employment in the Charlottesville metropolitan area remained unchanged. The largest absolute job increase occurred in the Northern Virginia metropolitan area, with a gain of 6,500 jobs. The Richmond metropolitan area experienced the next largest job gain, with an increase of 3,500 jobs. The other metropolitan areas that experienced gains were: Lynchburg (+600 jobs); Harrisonburg (+500 jobs); Winchester (+300 jobs); and Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford (+100 jobs). The

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largest absolute job loss occurred in the Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News metropolitan area, with a decrease of 5,200 jobs. The other metropolitan area that experienced a job loss was Roanoke (-300 jobs).

Over the year, **seasonally adjusted** total nonfarm employment increased in eight metropolitan areas and decreased by 6,800 jobs in the Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News metropolitan area. The Northern Virginia metropolitan area experienced the largest absolute job gain, up 25,400 jobs, or 1.8 percent. Richmond was ranked second, with a gain of 16,100 jobs, or 2.4 percent. Charlottesville was ranked third, with a gain of 2,800 jobs, or 2.5 percent. The remaining metropolitan areas with over-the-year job gains were: Roanoke (+2,600 jobs); Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford (+1,900 jobs); Harrisonburg (+1,700 jobs); Winchester (+1,100 jobs); and Lynchburg (+1,000 jobs).

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

Virginia's **unadjusted** unemployment rate was unchanged in July at 3.9 percent, but was down 0.3 percentage point from a year ago. Compared to a year ago, the number of unemployed decreased by 10,962, household employment increased by 118,628, and as a result, the labor force rose by 107,666. Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be below the national unadjusted rate, which was up 0.1 percentage point in July to 4.6 percent.

Compared to last month, the July **unadjusted** workweek for Virginia's 172,400 manufacturing production workers increased by 0.3 hour to 41.0 hours, average hourly earnings increased by \$0.05 to \$19.42, and average weekly earnings increased by \$7.86 to \$796.22. Compared to last July, the unadjusted workweek decreased by 0.1 hour, average hourly earnings decreased by \$0.36, and average weekly earnings were lower by \$16.74.

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

The Virginia Employment Commission plans to release the July local area unemployment rates on Wednesday, August 30 2017. The data will be available on our website, www.VirginiaLMI.com.

The August statewide unemployment rate and employment data for both the state and metropolitan areas are scheduled to be released on Friday, September 15, 2017.

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