



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Employment Commission

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

— Seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment was up 2,200 jobs
between July 2017 and August 2017—

RICHMOND—Virginia's **seasonally adjusted** unemployment rate held steady in August at 3.8 percent, but was down 0.3 percentage point from a year ago. While the labor force continued to expand in August, the increase of 390 was quite small. Household employment and the number of unemployed also experienced only slight increases in August. Household employment increased by only 159, and the number of unemployed increased by 231. Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be below the national rate, which was up 0.1 percentage point in August to 4.4 percent.

Virginia's **seasonally adjusted** nonfarm employment increased by 2,200 jobs in August, the third consecutive monthly increase, and set a new record high of 3,981,200. In addition, July's over-the-month nonfarm employment increase was revised from an initially reported gain of 8,300 jobs to a gain of 11,400 jobs. Upward revisions totaling 6,600 jobs occurred in seven major industry divisions, while downward revisions totaling 3,500 jobs occurred in four major industry divisions. In August, private sector employment increased by 2,100 jobs to 3,266,500, while public sector payrolls increased by 100 jobs to 714,700.

From July 2017 to August 2017, **seasonally adjusted** employment increased in seven major industry divisions and decreased in the other four major industry divisions. The largest job gain during August occurred in the **private education and health services** sector, which was up 5,400 jobs to 554,000. The gains were about evenly split between private education (+2,900 jobs) and health care and social assistance (+2,500 jobs). **Leisure and hospitality** recorded the second largest over-the-month

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employment gain, posting an increase of 2,600 jobs to 409,100. Other job gains were: 1,100 jobs in **manufacturing** to 233,800; 1,000 jobs in **miscellaneous services** to 202,500; 800 jobs in **information** to 64,500; 500 jobs in **finance** to 206,100; and 100 jobs in **total government** to 714,700. For total government, the gain in local government employment (+1,200 jobs) outweighed the losses in federal (-900 jobs) and state (-200 jobs) government employment. The largest job decrease in August occurred in the **professional and business services** sector, with a loss of 6,200 jobs to 735,100. Employment in this sector increased the previous eight months for a total gain of 23,800 jobs. **Trade and transportation** posted the next largest over-the-month job loss, recording a decrease of 2,100 jobs to 662,800. Over the past three months, employment increases in this sector totaled 4,200 jobs. Other job losses were 800 jobs in **construction** to 191,000, and 200 jobs in **mining** to 7,600.

Nonfarm Employment in Virginia* Seasonally Adjusted

Industry	Employment			July 2017 to August 2017		August 2016 to August 2017	
	August 2017	July 2017	August 2016	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm	3,981,200	3,979,000	3,922,500	+2,200	+0.1%	+58,700	+1.5%
Total Private Sector	3,266,500	3,264,400	3,206,500	+2,100	+0.1%	+60,000	+1.9%
Goods-Producing	432,400	432,300	426,800	+100	+0.0%	+5,600	+1.3%
Mining	7,600	7,800	7,800	-200	-2.6%	-200	-2.6%
Construction	191,000	191,800	186,500	-800	-0.4%	+4,500	+2.4%
Manufacturing	233,800	232,700	232,500	+1,100	+0.5%	+1,300	+0.6%
Service-Providing	3,548,800	3,546,700	3,495,700	+2,100	+0.1%	+53,100	+1.5%
Private Service-Providing	2,834,100	2,832,100	2,779,700	+2,000	+0.1%	+54,400	+2.0%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	662,800	664,900	662,000	-2,100	-0.3%	+800	+0.1%
Information	64,500	63,700	68,500	+800	+1.3%	-4,000	-5.8%
Finance	206,100	205,600	200,900	+500	+0.2%	+5,200	+2.6%
Professional and Business Services	735,100	741,300	717,900	-6,200	-0.8%	+17,200	+2.4%
Education and Health Services	554,000	548,600	532,100	+5,400	+1.0%	+21,900	+4.1%
Leisure and Hospitality Services	409,100	406,500	398,600	+2,600	+0.6%	+10,500	+2.6%
Miscellaneous Services	202,500	201,500	199,700	+1,000	+0.5%	+2,800	+1.4%
Government	714,700	714,600	716,000	+100	+0.0%	-1,300	-0.2%
Federal Government	178,200	179,100	178,000	-900	-0.5%	+200	+0.1%
State Government	160,200	160,400	159,400	-200	-0.1%	+800	+0.5%
Local Government	376,300	375,100	378,600	+1,200	+0.3%	-2,300	-0.6%

*Current month's estimates are preliminary.

From August 2016 to August 2017, Virginia's **seasonally adjusted** total nonfarm employment was up 58,700 jobs, or 1.5 percent. Over-the-year employment growth in Virginia has been positive for 41 consecutive months. In August, for the second consecutive month, Virginia's over-the-year growth of 1.5 percent exceeded the national growth rate of 1.4 percent. With the upward revision to Virginia's July

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employment, Virginia’s over-the-year growth for July was revised to 1.6 percent from 1.5 percent, and as a result, exceeded the July national growth rate of 1.5 percent. In August, the private sector recorded an over-the-year gain of 60,000 jobs, while the public sector recorded an over-the-year loss of 1,300 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 **private education and health services**, up 21,900 jobs (+4.1 percent). The next largest over-the-year job gain occurred in **professional and business services**, up 17,200 jobs (+2.4 percent). **Leisure and hospitality** experienced the third largest over-the-year job gain, up 10,500 jobs (+2.6 percent). Other gains were in **finance**, up 5,200 jobs (+2.6 percent); **construction**, up 4,500 jobs (+2.4 percent); **miscellaneous services**, up 2,800 jobs (+1.4 percent); **manufacturing**, up 1,300 jobs (+0.6 percent); and **trade and transportation**, up 800 jobs (+0.1 percent). Compared to a-year-ago August, the largest job loss occurred in **information**, down 4,000 jobs (-5.8 percent). Other losses occurred in total government, down 1,300 jobs (-0.2 percent), and in mining, down 200 jobs (-2.6 percent). For total government, the loss in local government employment (-2,300 jobs) outweighed the gains in state (+800 jobs) and federal (+200 jobs) government employment.

Total Nonfarm Employment in Virginia*
Seasonally Adjusted

Area	Employment			July 2017 to August 2017		August 2016 to August 2017	
	August 2017	July 2017	July 2016	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
Virginia	3,981,200	3,979,000	3,922,500	+2,200	+0.1%	+58,700	+1.5%
Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford MSA	79,400	79,400	77,300	+0	+0.0%	+2,100	+2.7%
Charlottesville MSA	117,300	116,800	114,600	+500	+0.4%	+2,700	+2.4%
Harrisonburg MSA	68,900	68,700	67,200	+200	+0.3%	+1,700	+2.5%
Lynchburg MSA	102,700	104,100	103,600	-1,400	-1.3%	-900	-0.9%
Northern Virginia MSA	1,462,200	1,462,600	1,444,000	-400	-0.0%	+18,200	+1.3%
Richmond MSA	682,400	681,400	665,400	+1,000	+0.1%	+17,000	+2.6%
Roanoke MSA	165,000	164,600	162,200	+400	+0.2%	+2,800	+1.7%
Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, Virginia/North Carolina MSA	768,400	766,700	772,100	+1,700	+0.2%	-3,700	-0.5%
Winchester, Virginia/West Virginia MSA	63,500	63,000	62,400	+500	+0.8%	+1,100	+1.8%

*Current month's estimates are preliminary.

Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment data is being produced for nine metropolitan areas. In August, six metropolitan areas experienced over-the-month job gains, two metropolitan areas experienced employment losses, and employment in the Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford metropolitan area remained unchanged. The largest absolute job increase occurred in the Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News metropolitan area, with a gain of 1,700 jobs. The Richmond metropolitan area experienced the next largest job gain, with an increase of 1,000 jobs. The other metropolitan areas that experienced

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gains were: Charlottesville and Winchester (+500 jobs each); Roanoke (+400 jobs); and Harrisonburg (+200 jobs). The largest absolute job loss occurred in the Lynchburg metropolitan area, with a decrease of 1,400 jobs. The other metropolitan area that experienced a job loss was Northern Virginia (-400 jobs).

Over the year, **seasonally adjusted** total nonfarm employment increased in seven metropolitan areas and decreased in two. The Northern Virginia metropolitan area experienced the largest absolute job gain, up 18,200 jobs (+1.3 percent). Richmond was ranked second, with a gain of 17,000 jobs (+2.6 percent). The remaining metropolitan areas with over-the-year job gains were: Roanoke (+2,800 jobs); Charlottesville (+2,700 jobs); Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford (+2,100 jobs); Harrisonburg (+1,700 jobs); and Winchester (+1,100 jobs). Over-the-year losses occurred in Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News (-3,700 jobs) and Lynchburg (-900 jobs).

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

Virginia's **unadjusted** unemployment rate was also unchanged in August at 3.8 percent, but was down 0.5 percentage point from a year ago. Compared to a year ago, the number of unemployed decreased by 17,867, household employment increased by 98,982, and as a result, the labor force rose by 81,115. Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be below the national unadjusted rate, which was down 0.1 percentage point in August to 4.5 percent.

Compared to last month, the August **unadjusted** workweek for Virginia's 171,600 manufacturing production workers decreased by 0.1 hour to 41.1 hours, average hourly earnings decreased by \$0.13 to \$19.42, and average weekly earnings decreased by \$7.30 to \$798.16. Compared to last August, the unadjusted workweek increased by 0.3 hour, average hourly earnings decreased by \$0.10, and average weekly earnings were higher by \$1.74.

The statistical reference week for the household survey this month was the week of August 6-12, 2017.

The Virginia Employment Commission plans to release the August local area unemployment rates on Wednesday, September 27, 2017. The data will be available on our website, www.VirginiaLMI.com.

The September statewide unemployment rate and employment data for both the state and metropolitan areas are scheduled to be released on Friday, October 20, 2017.

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