



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## Virginia Employment Commission

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### Virginia's Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate Was Down 0.1 Percentage Point in September to 3.7 Percent

— Seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment was down 6,900 jobs  
between August 2017 and September 2017—

**RICHMOND**—Virginia's **seasonally adjusted** unemployment rate was down 0.1 percentage point in September to 3.7 percent and was down 0.4 percentage point from a year ago. The labor force expanded for the 18th consecutive month to 4,340,369, setting a new record high, and household employment expanded for the 33rd consecutive month to 4,180,369, also a record high. The labor force increased by 19,756 in September, as household employment rose by 21,940 and the number of unemployed decreased by 2,184. Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be below the national rate, which was down 0.2 percentage point in September to 4.2 percent.

Virginia's **seasonally adjusted** nonfarm employment decreased by 6,900 jobs in September, the second consecutive monthly decrease—as the August over-the-month nonfarm employment increase of 2,200 jobs was revised downward to a loss of 1,000 jobs. Downward revisions totaling 4,800 jobs occurred in five major industry divisions, while upward revisions totaling 1,600 jobs occurred in four major industry divisions. In September, private sector employment decreased by 7,100 jobs to 3,256,200, while public sector payrolls increased by 200 jobs to 714,900.

From August 2017 to September 2017, **seasonally adjusted** employment decreased in four major industry divisions, increased in five major industry divisions, and remained unchanged in two major industry divisions. The largest job loss during September occurred in the **leisure and hospitality** sector, which was down 5,600 jobs to 403,300. So far in 2017 the over-the-month employment changes in this sector have varied more than usual, from a gain of 7,400 jobs one month to this month's loss of 5,600 jobs,

(more)

and year-to-date total employment is up 4,900 jobs. **Professional and business services** recorded the second largest over-the-month employment loss. Employment in this sector declined by 2,400 jobs to 733,500—the second consecutive monthly decrease following eight consecutive monthly increases. Other job losses were 400 jobs each in **private education and health services** and in **information** to 552,600 and 64,300, respectively. The largest job gain occurred in **trade and transportation**, which was up 1,100 jobs to 662,300. The gain in transportation and warehousing (+1,900 jobs) outweighed the losses in wholesale (-500 jobs) and retail (-300 jobs) trade. Other employment gains were: 400 jobs in **construction** to 191,600; 200 jobs in **total government** to 714,900; and 100 jobs each in **finance** and **mining** to 206,600 and 7,700, respectively. For total government, the gains in state (+1,300 jobs) and federal (+200 jobs) government employment outweighed the loss in local government employment (-1,300 jobs). Employment was unchanged in the **manufacturing** and **miscellaneous services** sectors at 233,600 and 200,700, respectively.

### Nonfarm Employment in Virginia\* Seasonally Adjusted

Industry	Employment			August 2017 to September 2017		September 2016 to September 2017	
	September 2017	August 2017	September 2016	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>3,971,100</b>	<b>3,978,000</b>	<b>3,928,700</b>	<b>-6,900</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>	<b>+42,400</b>	<b>+1.1%</b>
<b>Total Private Sector</b>	<b>3,256,200</b>	<b>3,263,300</b>	<b>3,214,800</b>	<b>-7,100</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>	<b>+41,400</b>	<b>+1.3%</b>
<b>Goods-Producing</b>	<b>432,900</b>	<b>432,400</b>	<b>428,200</b>	<b>+500</b>	<b>+0.1%</b>	<b>+4,700</b>	<b>+1.1%</b>
Mining	7,700	7,600	7,700	+100	+1.3%	+0	+0.0%
Construction	191,600	191,200	187,900	+400	+0.2%	+3,700	+2.0%
Manufacturing	233,600	233,600	232,600	+0	+0.0%	+1,000	+0.4%
<b>Service-Providing</b>	<b>3,538,200</b>	<b>3,545,600</b>	<b>3,500,500</b>	<b>-7,400</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>	<b>+37,700</b>	<b>+1.1%</b>
<b>Private Service-Providing</b>	<b>2,823,300</b>	<b>2,830,900</b>	<b>2,786,600</b>	<b>-7,600</b>	<b>-0.3%</b>	<b>+36,700</b>	<b>+1.3%</b>
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	662,300	661,200	662,900	+1,100	+0.2%	-600	-0.1%
Information	64,300	64,700	68,500	-400	-0.6%	-4,200	-6.1%
Finance	206,600	206,500	201,100	+100	+0.0%	+5,500	+2.7%
Professional and Business Services	733,500	735,900	719,800	-2,400	-0.3%	+13,700	+1.9%
Education and Health Services	552,600	553,000	535,000	-400	-0.1%	+17,600	+3.3%
Leisure and Hospitality Services	403,300	408,900	399,200	-5,600	-1.4%	+4,100	+1.0%
Miscellaneous Services	200,700	200,700	200,100	+0	+0.0%	+600	+0.3%
<b>Government</b>	<b>714,900</b>	<b>714,700</b>	<b>713,900</b>	<b>+200</b>	<b>+0.0%</b>	<b>+1,000</b>	<b>+0.1%</b>
Federal Government	178,400	178,200	177,400	+200	+0.1%	+1,000	+0.6%
State Government	161,500	160,200	159,500	+1,300	+0.8%	+2,000	+1.3%
Local Government	375,000	376,300	377,000	-1,300	-0.3%	-2,000	-0.5%

\*Current month's estimates are preliminary.

From September 2016 to September 2017, Virginia's **seasonally adjusted** total nonfarm employment was up 42,400 jobs, or 1.1 percent. Over-the-year employment growth in Virginia has been

(more)

positive for 42 consecutive months and has exceeded 1.0 percent for the past nine months. In September, the private sector recorded an over-the-year gain of 41,400 jobs, while the public sector recorded an over-the-year gain of 1,000 jobs. Nationally, total nonfarm employment was up 1.2 percent from a year ago.

Compared to a year ago, on a **seasonally adjusted** basis, eight of the eleven major industry divisions experienced employment gains, two experienced employment losses, and mining employment remained unchanged. The largest over-the-year job gain occurred in **private education and health services**, up 17,600 jobs (+3.3 percent). The next largest over-the-year job gain occurred in **professional and business services**, up 13,700 jobs (+1.9 percent). **Finance** experienced the third largest over-the-year job gain, up 5,500 jobs (+2.7 percent). Other gains were in **leisure and hospitality**, up 4,100 jobs (+1.0 percent); **construction**, up 3,700 jobs (+2.0 percent); **total government and manufacturing**, up 1,000 jobs each (+0.1 percent and +0.4 percent, respectively); and **miscellaneous services**, up 600 jobs (+0.3 percent). For total government, the gains in state (+2,000 jobs) and federal (+1,000 jobs) government employment outweighed the loss in local government employment (-2,000 jobs). Compared to a-year-ago September, the largest job loss occurred in **information**, down 4,200 jobs (-6.1 percent). The other loss occurred in **trade and transportation**, down 600 jobs (-0.1 percent).

### Total Nonfarm Employment in Virginia\* Seasonally Adjusted

Area	Employment			August 2017 to September 2017		September 2016 to September 2017	
	September 2017	August 2017	September 2016	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
<b>Virginia</b>	3,971,100	3,978,000	3,928,700	-6,900	-0.2%	+42,400	+1.1%
<b>Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford MSA</b>	78,600	79,400	77,600	-800	-1.0%	+1,000	+1.3%
<b>Charlottesville MSA</b>	117,400	117,100	114,600	+300	+0.3%	+2,800	+2.4%
<b>Harrisonburg MSA</b>	68,500	68,900	67,200	-400	-0.6%	+1,300	+1.9%
<b>Lynchburg MSA</b>	104,600	103,400	104,300	+1,200	+1.2%	+300	+0.3%
<b>Northern Virginia MSA</b>	1,459,300	1,463,400	1,446,500	-4,100	-0.3%	+12,800	+0.9%
<b>Richmond MSA</b>	678,800	681,800	668,000	-3,000	-0.4%	+10,800	+1.6%
<b>Roanoke MSA</b>	164,900	164,900	162,400	+0	+0.0%	+2,500	+1.5%
<b>Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, Virginia/North Carolina MSA</b>	765,600	768,800	773,200	-3,200	-0.4%	-7,600	-1.0%
<b>Winchester, Virginia/West Virginia MSA</b>	63,200	63,500	62,100	-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 September, six metropolitan areas experienced over-the-month job losses, two metropolitan areas experienced employment gains, and employment in the Roanoke metropolitan area remained unchanged. The largest absolute job decline occurred in the Northern Virginia metropolitan area, with a loss of 4,100 jobs. The Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News metropolitan area experienced the next largest job loss, with a decrease of 3,200 jobs. The third largest job loss occurred in the Richmond metropolitan area, with a

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decrease of 3,000 jobs. The other metropolitan areas that experienced losses were: Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford (-800 jobs); Harrisonburg (-400 jobs); and Winchester (-300 jobs). The largest absolute job gain occurred in the Lynchburg metropolitan area, with an increase of 1,200 jobs. The other metropolitan area that experienced a job gain was Charlottesville (+300 jobs).

Over the year, **seasonally adjusted** total nonfarm employment increased in eight metropolitan areas. The Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News metropolitan area was the only metropolitan area with an over-the-year employment loss, decreasing by 7,600 jobs (-1.0 percent). The Northern Virginia metropolitan area experienced the largest absolute job gain, up 12,800 jobs (+0.9 percent). Richmond was ranked second, with a gain of 10,800 jobs (+1.6 percent), and Charlottesville was ranked third, with a gain of 2,800 jobs (+2.4 percent). The remaining metropolitan areas with over-the-year job gains were: Roanoke (+2,500 jobs); Harrisonburg (+1,300 jobs); Winchester (+1,100 jobs); Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford (+1,000 jobs); and Lynchburg (+300 jobs).

### **NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA**

Virginia's **unadjusted** unemployment rate was down 0.2 percentage point in September to 3.6 percent and was down 0.6 percentage point from a year ago. Compared to a year ago, the number of unemployed decreased by 20,560, household employment increased by 105,787, and as a result, the labor force rose by 85,227. Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be below the national unadjusted rate, which was down 0.4 percentage point in September to 4.1 percent.

Compared to last month, the September **unadjusted** workweek for Virginia's 170,700 manufacturing production workers increased by 0.5 hour to 41.5 hours, average hourly earnings decreased by \$0.08 to \$19.32, and average weekly earnings increased by \$6.38 to \$801.78. Compared to last September, the unadjusted workweek increased by 0.4 hour, average hourly earnings decreased by \$0.07, and average weekly earnings were higher by \$4.85.

*The statistical reference week for the household survey this month was the week of September 10-16, 2017.*

The Virginia Employment Commission plans to release the September local area unemployment rates on Wednesday, November 1, 2017. The data will be available on our website, [www.VirginiaLMI.com](http://www.VirginiaLMI.com).

The October statewide unemployment rate and employment data for both the state and metropolitan areas are scheduled to be released on Friday, November 17, 2017.