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Virginia's December Unemployment Rate remained unchanged at 3.0 percent while Employment increased by 2,749

RICHMOND— Virginia Works – the Commonwealth's Department of Workforce Development and Advancement – announced today that Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in December remained unchanged at 3.0 percent, which is the same as the rate from a year ago. According to household survey data in December, the labor force increased by 2,502 to 4,581,450 as the number of unemployed residents decreased by 247 to 136,810. The number of employed residents increased by 2,749 to 4,444,640. Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is 1.1 percentage points below the national rate, which decreased by 0.1 percentage points to 4.1 percent.

The Commonwealth's labor force participation rate remained unchanged at 66.0 percent in December, which is 3.5 points above the national rate of 62.5 percent. The labor force participation rate measures the proportion of the civilian population age 16 and older that is employed or actively looking for work.

In December, Virginia's nonagricultural employment, from the monthly establishment survey increased by 4,900 to 4,268,200. November's preliminary estimate of employment, after revision, increased by 3,200 to 4,263,300. In December, private sector employment increased by 3,400 to 3,513,400 while government employment increased by 1,500 to 754,800. Within that sector, federal government jobs increased by 1,100 to 192,200, state government employment remained unchanged at 167,700, and local government increased by 400 to 394,900 over the month.

(more)

Richmond, VA

VRC/TDD VA Relay 711 Equal Opportunity Employer/Program



Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment data is produced for eleven industry sectors. In December, four experienced over-the-month job gains, and seven experienced a decline. The largest job gain occurred in Education and Health Services (+5,300) to 614,500. The second largest job gain occurred in Leisure and Hospitality (+4,700) to 427,800. The third largest job gain occurred in Government (+1,500) to 754,800. The other gain was in Information (+1,200) to 71,700.

The largest job loss occurred in Financial Activities (-1,600) to 218,300. The second largest job loss occurred in Construction (-1,500) to 229,100. The third largest job loss occurred in Professional and Business Services (-1,300) to 816,800. The other losses were in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-1,300) to 678,100; Manufacturing (-1,200) to 246,700; Miscellaneous Services (-800) to 203,100; and Mining and Logging (-100) to 7,300.

Nonfarm Employment in Virginia* Seasonally Adjusted							
Industry	Employment			November 2024 to December 2024		December 2023 to December 2024	
	December 2024	November 2024	December 2023	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm	4,268,200	4,263,300	4,191,300	4,900	0.1%	76,900	1.8%
Total Private	3,513,400	3,510,000	3,454,300	3,400	0.1%	59,100	1.7%
Goods Producing	483,100	485,900	472,900	-2,800	-0.6%	10,200	2.2%
Mining and Logging	7,300	7,400	7,200	-100	-1.4%	100	1.4%
Construction	229,100	230,600	218,200	-1,500	-0.7%	10,900	5.0%
Manufacturing	246,700	247,900	247,500	-1,200	-0.5%	-800	-0.3%
Service-Providing	3,785,100	3,777,400	3,718,400	7,700	0.2%	66,700	1.8%
Private Service Providing	3,030,300	3,024,100	2,981,400	6,200	0.2%	48,900	1.6%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	678,100	679,400	672,200	-1,300	-0.2%	5,900	0.9%
Information	71,700	70,500	69,700	1,200	1.7%	2,000	2.9%
Financial Activities	218,300	219,900	222,600	-1,600	-0.7%	-4,300	-1.9%
Professional and Business Services	816,800	818,100	802,800	-1,300	-0.2%	14,000	1.7%
Education and Health Services	614,500	609,200	594,100	5,300	0.9%	20,400	3.4%
Leisure and Hospitality	427,800	423,100	418,800	4,700	1.1%	9,000	2.1%
Miscellaneous Services	203,100	203,900	201,200	-800	-0.4%	1,900	0.9%
Government	754,800	753,300	737,000	1,500	0.2%	17,800	2.4%
Federal Government	192,200	191,100	189,800	1,100	0.6%	2,400	1.3%
State Government	167,700	167,700	153,700	0	0.0%	14,000	9.1%
Local Government	394,900	394,500	393,500	400	0.1%	1,400	0.4%

*Current month's estimates are preliminary.

From December 2023 to December 2024, Virginia Works estimates that total nonfarm employment in Virginia increased by 76,900 to 4,268,200, private sector employment increased by 59,100 to 3,513,400, and government employment increased by 17,800 to 754,800 jobs. Within that sector, federal government jobs increased by 2,400 to 192,200, state government employment increased by 14,000 to 167,700, and local government increased by 1,400 to 394,900 over the year.

For the eleven industry sectors in Virginia over the year, nine experienced over-the-year job gains, and two experienced a decline. The largest job gain occurred in Education and Health Services (+20,400) to 614,500. The second largest job gain occurred in Government (+17,800) to 754,800. The third largest job gain occurred in Professional and Business Services (+14,000) to 816,800. The other gains were in Construction (+10,900) to 229,100; Leisure and Hospitality (+9,000) to 427,800; Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+5,900) to 678,100; Information (+2,000) to 71,700; Miscellaneous Services (+1,900) to 203,100; and Mining and Logging (+100) to 7,300.

The largest job loss occurred in Financial Activities (-4,300) to 218,300. The second largest job loss occurred in Manufacturing (-800) to 246,700.

Nonfarm Employment in Virginia* Seasonally Adjusted							
Area	Employment			November 2024 to December 2024		December 2023 to December 2024	
	December 2024	November 2024	December 2023	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
Virginia	4,268,200	4,263,300	4,191,300	4,900	0.1%	76,900	1.8%
Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford MSA	85,600	85,300	85,200	300	0.4%	400	0.5%
Charlottesville MSA	129,700	129,000	125,300	700	0.5%	4,400	3.5%
Harrisonburg MSA	72,600	72,600	72,200	0	0.0%	400	0.6%
Lynchburg MSA	105,700	105,700	105,100	0	0.0%	600	0.6%
Northern Virginia MSA	1,605,600	1,602,900	1,579,700	2,700	0.2%	25,900	1.6%
Richmond MSA	738,100	737,200	715,100	900	0.1%	23,000	3.2%
Roanoke MSA	169,000	168,800	166,900	200	0.1%	2,100	1.3%
Staunton MSA	54,100	54,100	54,000	0	0.0%	100	0.2%
Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News MSA	828,200	827,600	814,400	600	0.1%	13,800	1.7%
Winchester MSA	73,500	73,000	72,400	500	0.7%	1,100	1.5%

*Current month's estimates are preliminary.

Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment data is produced for ten metropolitan areas. In December, seven experienced over-the-month job gains, three remained unchanged, and none experienced a decline. The largest job gain occurred in Northern Virginia (+2,700) to 1,605,600. The second largest job gain occurred in Richmond (+900) to 738,100. The third largest job gain occurred in Charlottesville (+700) to 129,700. The other gains were in Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News (+600) to 828,200; Winchester

(+500) to 73,500; Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford (+300) to 85,600; and Roanoke (+200) to 169,000.

Harrisonburg, Lynchburg, and Staunton remained unchanged.

Over the year, all metro areas experienced over-the-year job gains. The largest job gain occurred in Northern Virginia (+25,900) to 1,605,600. The second largest job gain occurred in Richmond (+23,000) to 738,100. The third largest job gain occurred in Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News (+13,800) to 828,200. The other gains were in Charlottesville (+4,400) to 129,700; Roanoke (+2,100) to 169,000; Winchester (+1,100) to 73,500; Lynchburg (+600) to 105,700; Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford (+400) to 85,600; Harrisonburg (+400) to 72,600; and Staunton (+100) to 54,100.

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

Virginia's unadjusted unemployment rate decreased by 0.5 percentage points to 2.5 percent in December. It has decreased by 0.2 percentage points to 2.5 percent compared to last year. Compared to a year ago, the number of unemployed decreased by 6,417 to 115,554, household employment increased by 10,156 to 4,422,766, and the labor force increased by 3,739 to 4,538,320. Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is 1.3 percentage points below the national unadjusted rate, which decreased by 0.2 percentage points to 3.8 percent.

Compared to last month, the December unadjusted workweek for Virginia's 158,400 manufacturing production workers remained unchanged at 39.6 hours. Average hourly earnings of private-sector production workers increased by \$0.30 to \$27.29, and average weekly earnings increased by \$11.88 to \$1,080.68.

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Technical note: Estimates of unemployment and industry employment levels are obtained from two separate monthly surveys. Resident employment and unemployment data are mainly derived from the Virginia portion of the national Current Population Survey (CPS), a household survey conducted each month by the U.S. Census Bureau under contract with BLS, which provides input to the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program (often referred to as the "household" survey). Industry employment data is mainly derived from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) survey, a monthly survey of approximately 18,000 Virginia businesses conducted by BLS, which provides estimates of employment, hours, and earnings data broken down by industry for the nation as a whole, all states and most major metropolitan areas (often referred to as the "establishment" survey). Both industry and household estimates are revised each month based on additional information from updated survey reports compiled by the BLS. For national figures and information on how COVID-19 affected collection of the BLS establishment and household surveys in April 2020, refer to the BLS December [Employment Situation](#) press release for details.

The statistical reference week for the household survey this month was the week of December 8-14, 2024

Virginia Works plans to release the December local area unemployment rates on Wednesday February 05, 2025. The data will be available on our website www.VirginiaWorks.com. The January 2025 statewide unemployment rate and employment data for both the state and metropolitan areas are scheduled to be released on Monday March 11, 2024.