

VIRGINIA



EMPLOYMENT MONTHLY

February/March 2023



Virginia's January's Unemployment Rate Increased to 3.2 Percent

Labor Force Participation Rate Rose to 65.4% with Employment Up by 12,127

- Virginia's seasonally adjusted **unemployment rate** increased in January to **3.2 percent**, which is 0.3 of a percentage point above the rate from a year ago. According to household survey data in January, the **labor force** increased by 17,303 to **4,487,575** as the number of unemployed residents increased by 5,176 to 144,917. The number of employed residents rose by 12,127 to 4,342,658. Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be below the national rate, which edged downward to 3.4 percent.
- The Commonwealth's **labor force participation rate** rose to **65.4 percent** in January.
- Virginia's **nonagricultural employment**, from the monthly establishment survey, rose by 16,100 jobs in January to **4,128,000**. In January, private sector employment increased by 16,900 jobs to 3,408,400 while public sector employment declined by 800 to 719,600.
- Employment rose in eight of eleven major industry sectors, was unchanged in one, and declined in two. **The largest job gains during January** occurred in **leisure and hospitality and professional and business services**, with increases of 6,500 jobs each to 407,900 and 814,300, respectively. The second largest increase occurred in education and health services with a gain of 2,600 jobs, rising to 570,400. The third largest increase occurred in construction with a gain of 1,100 jobs, rising to 215,800.
- The largest job loss during January occurred in information (-1,600 jobs) to 69,800. The second largest decrease occurred in government, with a decrease of 800 jobs to 719,600. Mining and logging was unchanged.
- From January 2022 to January 2023, the VEC estimates that establishments in Virginia gained 115,300 jobs, an increase of 2.9%. In January, the private sector recorded an over-the-year gain of 106,400 jobs, while employment in the public sector increased by 8,900 jobs.
- In January, six metropolitan areas experienced over-the-month job gains, one was unchanged, and three experienced declines. The largest absolute job increase occurred in Richmond (+6,300 jobs). The next largest absolute job gain occurred in Northern Virginia (+5,100 jobs). The third largest increase occurred in Roanoke (+1,100 jobs).
- The Largest decrease occurred in Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford (-300 jobs).

Virginia Employment - January 2023 (seasonally adjusted)

United States Unemployment Rate (January 2022 - January 2023 percentage point)	3.4% (-0.6)
Virginia Unemployment Rate (January 2022 - January 2023 percentage point)	3.2% (0.3)
Civilian Labor Force (January 2022 - January 2023 Change)	4,487,575 (2.2%)
Labor Force Participation Rate (January 2022 - January 2023 percentage point)	65.4% (1.0)
Total Nonfarm Employment (January 2022 - January 2023 Change)	4,128,000 (2.9%)
Number of Establishments, 3rd Quarter 2022 (3rd Quarter 2021 - 3rd Quarter 2022 Change)	330,128 (9.9%)
Average Weekly Wage, 3rd Quarter 2022 (3rd Quarter 2021 - 3rd Quarter 2022 Change)	\$1,380 (9.3%)

Unemployment Rates (percent) January 2023 (not seasonally adjusted) (January 2022 - January 2023 percentage point)

Virginia	3.2 (0.3)
Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford MSA	3.2 (0.1)
Bristol MSA (VA part)	3.7 (0.2)
Charlottesville MSA	3.1 (0.0)
Harrisonburg MSA	3.1 (0.1)
Lynchburg MSA	3.8 (0.1)
Northern VA MSA (VA part)	2.8 (-0.2)
Richmond MSA	3.4 (-0.3)
Roanoke MSA	3.3 (0.0)
Staunton-Waynesboro MSA	3.0 (-0.1)
Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, Virginia/NC MSA (VA part)	3.5 (-0.4)
Winchester, Virginia/WV MSA (VA part)	2.9 (0.1)

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Virginia's February's Unemployment Rate Held Steady at 3.2 Percent

Labor Force Participation Rate Rose to 65.6% with Employment Up by 16,905

- Virginia's seasonally adjusted **unemployment rate** held steady in February at **3.2 percent**, which is 0.3 of a percentage point above the rate from a year ago. According to household survey data in February, the labor force increased by 17,618 to 4,505,193 as the number of unemployed residents increased by 713 to 145,630. The number of employed residents rose by 16,905 to 4,359,563. Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be below the national rate, which edged upward to 3.6 percent.
- The Commonwealth's **labor force participation rate** rose to **65.6 percent** in February.
- Virginia's **nonagricultural employment**, from the monthly establishment survey, **rose by 3,200 jobs** in February to 4,131,200. January's preliminary estimate was revised down by 3,600, subtraction from that month's job gain. In February, private sector employment decreased by 2,900 jobs to 3,405,500 while public sector employment increased by 6,100 to 725,700. A decrease within that sector occurred in federal government (-600 jobs), while state government grew by 6,200 jobs and local government rose by 500 jobs over the month.
- Employment rose in four of eleven major industry sectors and declined in seven. The **largest job gain during February** occurred in **government, with an increase of 6,100 jobs to 725,700**. The second largest increase occurred in education and health services (+2,200 jobs) to 572,600. Trade, transportation, and utilities was third, with a gain of 1,100 jobs, rising to 669,000. Miscellaneous services was fourth, with a gain of 300 jobs, rising to 195,400.
- The largest job loss during February occurred in professional and business services (-2,600 jobs) to 811,700. The second largest decrease occurred in leisure and hospitality, with a decrease of 1,800 jobs to 406,100. The third largest loss occurred in construction with a decrease of 1,200 jobs to 214,600. Other decreases included finance (-300 jobs) to 214,100, manufacturing (-300 jobs) to 245,300, information (-200 jobs) to 69,600, and mining and logging (-100 jobs) to 7,100.
- Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment data is produced for ten metropolitan areas. In February, four metropolitan areas experienced over-the-month job gains, three were unchanged, and three experienced a decline. The largest absolute job increase occurred in Northern Virginia (+1,700 jobs). The next largest absolute job gain occurred in Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford (+600 jobs). The third largest increase occurred in Harrisonburg (+500 jobs). The fourth largest increase occurred in Roanoke (+200 jobs).
- The largest decrease occurred in Richmond (-2,900 jobs).
- Over-the-year, seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment increased in all ten metropolitan areas. The Northern Virginia metropolitan area experienced the largest absolute job gain, up 37,500 jobs. Richmond was next, with a gain of 19,800 jobs. Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News was third, with a gain of 11,000 jobs.

Virginia Employment - February 2023 (seasonally adjusted)

United States Unemployment Rate (February 2022 - February 2023 percentage point)	3.6% (-0.2)
Virginia Unemployment Rate (February 2022 - February 2023 percentage point)	3.2% (0.3)
Civilian Labor Force (February 2022 - February 2023 Change)	4,505,193 (2.2%)
Labor Force Participation Rate (February 2022 - February 2023 percentage point)	65.6% (1.0)
Total Nonfarm Employment (February 2022 - February 2023 Change)	4,131,200 (2.4%)
Number of Establishments, 3rd Quarter 2022 (3rd Quarter 2021 - 3rd Quarter 2022 Change)	330,128 (9.9%)
Average Weekly Wage, 3rd Quarter 2022 (3rd Quarter 2021 - 3rd Quarter 2022 Change)	\$1,380 (9.3%)

Bureau of Labor Statistics 2023 Benchmarking

Establishment survey benchmarking is done each year to align employment estimates from the survey with employment counts derived primarily from the administrative file of employees covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI). All employers covered by UI laws are required to report employment and wage information to the appropriate state UI agency four times per year. The UI data are obtained and edited by each state's Labor Market Information agency.

The total annual revision is the difference between the benchmark level for a given March and the published March sample-based employment estimate. The overall accuracy of the establishment survey is usually gauged by the size of the benchmark revision, which is often regarded as a proxy for total survey error. Typically, the total revision is equal to the benchmark revision. However, in years with historical reconstructions, affected CES series are re-estimated prior to benchmarking.

With the release of January 2023 data on February 3, 2023, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) introduced its annual revision to national estimates of employment, hours, and earnings from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) monthly survey of nonfarm establishments.

The March 2022 benchmarked seasonally adjusted employment level for total nonfarm employment is 151,424,000. The not seasonally adjusted benchmarked employment level is 150,411,000.

Source: <https://www.bls.gov/web/empsit/cesbmart.htm#AvailRevData>

Trust Fund Data - January 2023

Financial Data

- Trust Fund Balance (millions) \$1,478.6
- Tax Revenue (Monthly) (millions) \$35.5

Benefits Data

- Benefits Paid (Monthly) (millions) \$18.6
- Average Weekly Benefit \$340.72
- Initial Claims (YTD) 15,345

Initial and Continued Claims

Initial Claims:

- There were 15,345 initial claims in January 2023.
- Initial claims increased by 19.7% over the month.
- Year-to-date initial claims were 18.3% Higher in January 2023 compared to the same period in 2022.

Continued Claims:

- There were 73,750 continued claims in January 2023.
- This was a 36.8% increase over-the-month and a 43.0% increase over-the-year.
- Year-to-date continued claims were 43.0% higher than during the same period in 2022.

*Claims counts include interstate and intrastate.

Claims Data			
	Initial Claims	Recipients	Final Payments
January 2023	15,345	12,513	1,222
December 2022	12,824	8,745	964
January 2022	12,973	5,330	981

Trust Fund Data - February 2023

Financial Data

- Trust Fund Balance (millions) \$1,465.4
- Tax Revenue (Monthly) (millions) \$3.8

Benefits Data

- Benefits Paid (Monthly) (millions) \$19.0
- Average Weekly Benefit \$339.36
- Initial Claims (YTD) 26,577

Initial and Continued Claims

Initial Claims:

- There were 11,232 initial claims in February 2023.
- Initial claims decreased by 26.8% over the month.
- Year-to-date initial claims were 15.4% higher in February 2023 compared to the same period in 2022.

Continued Claims:

- There were 65,315 continued claims in February 2023.
- This was a 11.4% decrease over-the-month and a 55.8% increase over-the-year.
- Year-to-date continued claims were 48.7% higher than during the same period in 2022.

*Claims counts include interstate and intrastate.

Claims Data			
	Initial Claims	Recipients	Final Payments
February 2023	11,232	14,107	1,098
January 2023	15,345	12,513	1,222
February 2022	10,051	5,465	875

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Analysis of Employment Trends for People with Disabilities

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It may surprise you to discover that an estimated 13.0% of the United States population and 12.4% of the Virginia population is affected by one or more disabilities, according to the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2021 1-year American Community Survey (ACS). While half of people in the United States with a disability lie in the 65 years and over age category, 8% are children and 42% lie in the population aged 18 to 64. Overall, 10.7% of the United States population aged 18 to 64 years are affected by one or more disabilities. People with disabilities make up a significant portion of the population and add key diversity to the workforce.



Because of this, particularly for policy purposes and assistance programs, it is important to keep a finger on the pulse of employment trends for people with disabilities. The U.S. Census Bureau collects data on people with disabilities through the annual and five-year American Community Surveys as well as the monthly Current Population Survey (CPS). Although the ACS contains limited questions on economic characteristics for people with disabilities, more data is available for smaller subgroups of the population. The CPS provides more timely and detailed data on labor force statistics. Both surveys consider six disability types and count a person as disabled if they meet any one or more of the following conditions: are deaf or have serious difficulty hearing (hearing difficulty); are blind or have serious difficulty seeing even when wearing glasses (vision difficulty); have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition (cognitive difficulty); have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs (ambulatory difficulty); have difficulty dressing or bathing (self-care difficulty); or have difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor’s office or shopping because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition (independent living difficulty). For both surveys, these conditions have been the same since 2008. More information on how disability data is collected can be found on the Census website [here](#).

Figure 1:

Labor Force Statistic	February 2023	
	People with a Disability	People without a Disability
Labor Force Participation Rate ¹	23.9	67.8
Employment-Population Ratio ²	22.1	65.3
Unemployment Rate ³	7.3	3.7

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics, February 2023 Current Population Survey

Let’s begin by glancing at three key indicators from the most current unadjusted United States CPS labor force data, shown in **Figure 1**. Although **Figure 1** represents only the most current period, the gap in employment and labor force participation between people with disabilities and people without disabilities is consistent with historical data. The labor force participation rate and employment-population ratio for people with disabilities is generally less than half of that for people without a disability. The unemployment rate for people with disabilities is almost twice as high as that for people without disabilities. This indicates that people with disabilities are much less likely to participate in the labor force or be employed than those without disabilities. For a more detailed breakdown of these statistics, you can visit the Office of Disability Employment Policy’s (ODEP) website [here](#).

Figures 2a and **2b** show the last five years of labor force participation rates by month. The onset of COVID-19 during this time had a huge impact on the labor market for people with and without disabilities alike. While the impact on these groups was similar, their recoveries differed. At the onset of COVID-19, people without disabilities saw a major decline in labor force participation rate and a slow recovery, while people with disabilities saw a lesser decline in labor force participation rate and a faster recovery, with their labor force participation rate returning to the pre-pandemic level of 20.7% (February 2020) as of June 2021. In fact, the recovery period for people with disabilities may have seen the reversal of a historical downward trend. Since June 2008, when the CPS began including disability statistics, labor force participation has generally trended downward for both groups. Since its recovery, labor force participation rate for people with disabilities

¹ The labor force participation rate measures the proportion of the civilian population age 16 and older that is employed or actively looking for work (unemployed).

² The employment-population ratio measures the percent of the civilian population that is employed.

³ The unemployment rate represents the unemployed (those who do not have a job and are actively seeking work) as a percent of the labor force (employed plus unemployed).

continues to generally rise and reached a historical maximum of 24.1% in January 2023. People without disabilities, on the other hand, hover at a labor force participation rate of about 67-68%. While their rate has increased since its low of 65.2% in April 2020, people without disabilities have yet to recover to the pre-pandemic level of labor force participation of 69% (February 2020).

Figure 2a:

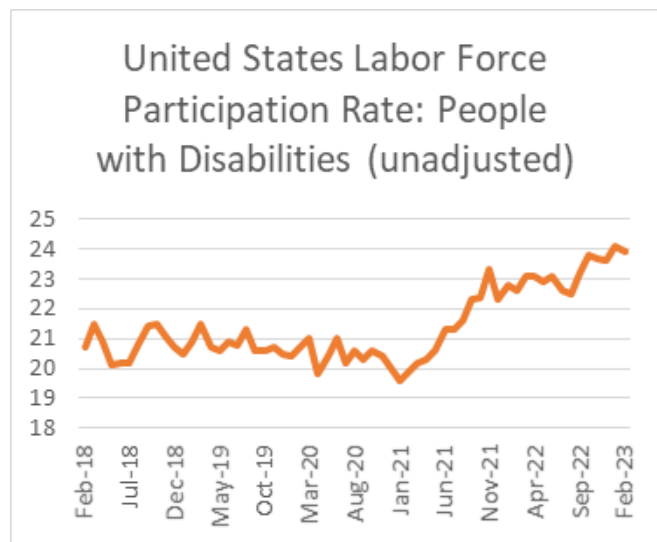
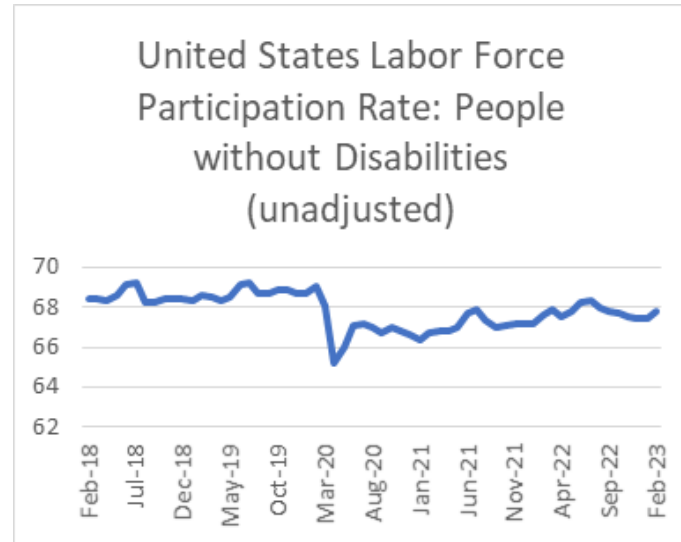


Figure 2b:

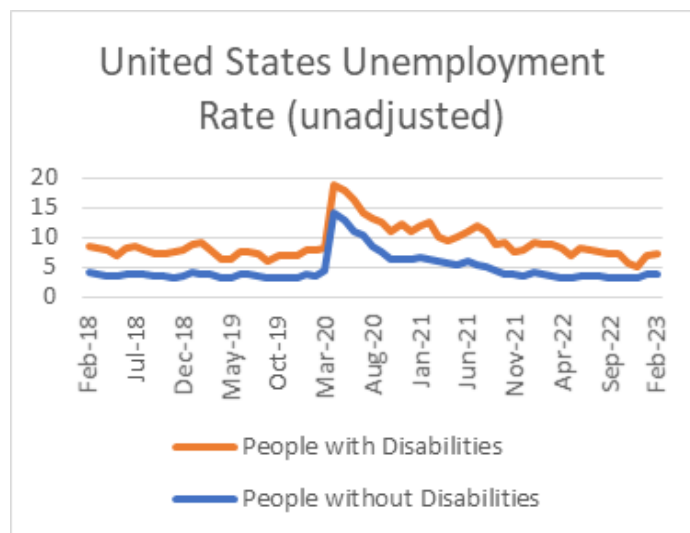


Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey

Similar trends can be seen with the historical employment-population ratio data. People with disabilities returned to their pre-pandemic employment-population ratio (19.1%, February 2020) by August 2021, reaching a maximum ratio of 22.4% in January 2023. People without disabilities have yet to return to their pre-pandemic employment-population ratio of 66.5% (February 2020).

In terms of the unemployment rate, shown in **Figure 3**, trends for people with disabilities have generally been the same as for those without disabilities. Both groups have returned and dropped below their pre-pandemic unemployment rates. Both people with disabilities and people without disabilities experienced historically low unemployment rates in the second half of 2022, with the unemployment rate for people with disabilities going down to 5.0% (December 2022), and the rate for people without disabilities reaching a low of 3.1% (September 2022), an indication of a very tight labor market.

Figure 3:



Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey



Employment-population ratio and median earnings statistics by disability status are also available for Virginia from the 1-year ACS survey. **Figure 4** presents an overview of these statistics. Generally, Virginia disability employment trends mirror those of the United States, in that people with disabilities experienced an increase in employment-population ratio between 2019 and 2021, while those without disabilities experienced a decrease. Median earnings for both groups increased, though people with disabilities saw a larger increase.

Figure 4:

	2019		2021		Change	
	With a Disability	No Disability	With a Disability	No Disability	With a Disability	No Disability
Employment Status						
Employment-Population Ratio	27.4%	69.6%	28.3%	68.0%	0.9%	-1.6%
Not in Labor Force	70.3%	27.7%	68.6%	28.9%	-1.7%	1.2%
Earnings In Past 12 Months (2019 Inflation Adjusted Dollars)						
Median Earnings	26,774	40,953	32,001	45,317	5,227	4,364

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 and 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

What are the causes of these trends in disability employment? Economists Ari Ne'eman and Nicole Maestas of the National Bureau of Economic Research speculate that greater flexibilities in work schedules and more opportunities to telework have provided new opportunities for workers with disabilities in their working paper entitled "[How Has COVID-19 Impacted Disability Employment?](#)". Department of Labor economists of the ODEP, in their November 2020 brief entitled "[Employment for Persons with a Disability: Analysis of Trends During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)," also support this hypothesis, adding that a disproportionate share of people with disabilities are employed in occupations that are less amenable to telework. Comparing 2019 and 2021 ACS 1-year estimates on commuting to work, the increased normalization of telework during this time both for people with disabilities and people without disabilities is evident. The percentage of people with disabilities and people without disabilities who worked from home increased from 6.0% and 5.9% to 19.5% and 23.0%, respectively.

It is worth noting that Virginia reached an important milestone in disability employment policy on July 1, 2021, adding discrimination based on disability as an unlawful practice under the [Virginia Human Rights Act](#). The legislation also requires employers to make reasonable accommodations for an otherwise qualified person with a disability unless it would cause undue hardship on the employer.

The trends seen in these economic indicators are encouraging for people with disabilities, but there is still work to be done. Listed below is further reading and information for employers, employees, and other interested parties to educate themselves about disability employment and ways to improve the economic condition of people with disabilities.

Additional Resources and Reading:

- [Persons with a Disability: Labor Force Characteristics - 2022](#)
- [Employment of Persons with a Disability: Analysis of Trends during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [Disability and Current Population Survey \(CPS\): COVID-19 Supplemental Data](#)
- [2021 Labor Market Characteristics of People with a Disability](#)
- [COVID-19 and Employment Trends for People with Disabilities](#)
- [Persons with a Disability: Barriers to Employment, Types of Assistance, and Other Labor-Related Issues](#)
- [EARN: Employer Assistance and Resource Network on Disability Inclusion](#)
- [DARS: Department for Aging and Rehabilitation Services FAQs](#)
- [DOL Office of Disability Employment Policy \(ODEP\)](#)
- [Competitive Integrated Employment](#)

Upcoming Events

Navy MWR Civilian Hiring Event at NAS Oceana in Virginia Beach OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

April 1, 2023 - Hampton Roads

Navy Morale, Welfare & Recreation (MWR) on board NAS Oceana will be hosting a hiring event on Saturday, April 1, 2023 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Outdoor Equipment Rentals, Bldg. 299, located at 1425 Tomcat Boulevard in Virginia Beach.

[Learn more about this event](#)

Hyatt Place/Innsbrook Job Fair!!

April 3, 2023 - Statewide

We are looking for Brand Ambassadors that are looking for a career in hospitality!

- Front Desk Agents
- Housekeepers
- Housemen

Latiesa Clemmons
4100 Cox Road
Glen Allen, VA 23060

[Learn more about this event](#)

Eastern Shore Community College Job & Internship Fair

April 3, 2023, from 1PM to 4PM - Hampton Roads

Over 40 Employers on-site with opening.

ESCC Workforce Building
29300 Lankford Hwy, Melfa VA 23410.

[Learn more about this event](#)

Tidewater Job Fair

April 4, 2023 - Chesapeake, VA

Looking for a new job or want to advance your career? The Tidewater Job Fair is back Tuesday, April 4 at the Chesapeake Conference Center!

[Learn more about this event](#)

Delaware North / Peaks of Otter Hiring Event

April 5, 2023 - South Central

10AM-2PM at the Bedford Central Library (Peaks Room)
321 North Bridge Street, Bedford, VA

[Learn more about this event](#)

All Clearances Cleared Job Fair

April 13, 2023 - Statewide

Security cleared professionals please join us for the in-person All Clearances Cleared Job Fair, Thursday, April 13, from 2pm – 6pm at the Westin Tysons Corner. Come early and learn from our pre-event Recruiter Roundtable discussion, which kicks off at 1pm.

[Learn more about this event](#)

Career Cafe Job Fair in Louisa County

April 13, 2023 - Valley / Roanoke

All levels of work experience are encouraged to attend this dynamic career cafe job fair. Employers across numerous sectors and industries looking to hire all levels of experience, from entry-level part-time to supervisory/management, will be on site.

[Learn more about this event](#)

The Dulles Airport Job & Career Fair

April 20, 2023 - Northern Virginia / Northern Valley

The Dulles Airport Job & Career Fair will be held on April 20 at 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Parking is available, but we encourage jobseekers to use the Metro Silver Line to the Airport Station.

[Learn more about this event](#)

**For more Info on Upcoming Job Fairs,
Visit the Job fair page at**

<https://www.vec.virginia.gov/job-fairs>