

VIRGINIA



EMPLOYMENT MONTHLY

June 2023



Virginia's May Unemployment Rate Decreased by 0.2% to 2.9%

Participation Rate Increased by 0.3% to 66.5% and Employment Increased by 29,462 to 4,440,015

- Virginia's seasonally adjusted **unemployment rate** in May decreased by 0.2 percentage points to **2.9 percent**, which is 0.4 percentage points above the rate from a year ago. According to household survey data in May, the **labor force** increased by 23,536 to **4,574,349** as the number of unemployed residents decreased by 5,926 to 134,334. The number of employed residents increased by 29,462 to 4,440,015. Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is 0.8 percentage points below the national rate, which increased by 0.3 percentage points to 3.7 percent.
- The **labor force participation rate** increased by 0.3 percentage points to **66.5 percent** in May—the highest rate since July 2013.
- Virginia's **nonagricultural employment**, from the monthly establishment survey, increased by 6,900 to **4,146,900**. April's preliminary estimate of employment, after revision, increased by 1,900 to 4,140,000. In May, private sector employment increased by 6,600 to 3,418,000, while government employment increased by 300 to 728,900.
- In May, six industries experienced over-the-month job gains, and five experienced a decline. The largest job gain occurred in Professional and Business Services (+3,900) to 815,200. The second largest job gain occurred in Construction (+2,600) to 215,100. The third largest job gain occurred in Education and Health Services (+1,700) to 577,700.
- The largest job loss occurred in Other Services (-1,700) to 193,900. The second largest job loss occurred in Manufacturing (-700) to 245,300. The third largest job loss occurred in Financial Activities (-200) to 216,200.
- From May 2022 to May 2023, the VEC estimates that total nonfarm employment in Virginia increased by 91,500 to 4,146,900, private sector employment increased by 76,300 to 3,418,000, and employment in the public sector increased by 15,200 to 728,900 jobs.
- For the eleven industry sectors in Virginia over the year, ten experienced over-the-year job gains, and one experienced a decline. The largest job gain occurred in Education and Health Services (+24,900) to 577,700. The second largest job gain occurred in Leisure and Hospitality (+23,300) to 409,700. The third largest job gain occurred in Government (+15,200) to 728,900.

Virginia Employment - May 2023

(seasonally adjusted)

United States Unemployment Rate (May 2022 - May 2023 percentage point)	3.7% (0.1)
Virginia Unemployment Rate (May 2022 - May 2023 percentage point)	2.9% (0.4)
Civilian Labor Force (May 2022 - May 2023 Change)	4,574,349 (3.3%)
Labor Force Participation Rate (May 2022 - May 2023 percentage point)	66.5% (1.7)
Total Nonfarm Employment (May 2022 - May 2023 Change)	4,146,900 (2.3%)
Number of Establishments, 4th Quarter 2022 (4th Quarter 2021 - 4th Quarter 2022 Change)	307,995 (5.6%)
Average Weekly Wage, 4th Quarter 2022 (4th Quarter 2021 - 4th Quarter 2022 Change)	\$1,416 (-0.6%)

April 2023 Unemployment Rates by MSA

(Percent - not seasonally adjusted)

(April 2022 - April 2023 percentage point)

Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford MSA	2.3 (0.1)
Bristol MSA (VA part)	2.7 (0.2)
Charlottesville MSA	2.2 (0.0)
Harrisonburg MSA	2.3 (0.1)
Lynchburg MSA	2.8 (0.2)
Northern VA MSA (VA part)	2.2 (0.1)
Richmond MSA	2.6 (0.1)
Roanoke MSA	2.4 (0.0)
Staunton-Waynesboro MSA	2.3 (0.1)
Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, Virginia/NC MSA (VA part)	2.7 (0.0)
Winchester, Virginia/WV MSA (VA part)	2.2 (0.2)

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Economic Information & Analytics Division
6606 West Broad St., Richmond, VA 23230

Trust Fund Data - May 2023

Financial Data

- Trust Fund Balance (millions) \$1,566.3
- Tax Revenue (Monthly) (millions) \$83.8

Benefits Data

- Benefits Paid (Monthly) (millions) \$17.5
- Average Weekly Benefit \$338.83
- Initial Claims (YTD) 65,458

Initial and Continued Claims

Initial Claims:

- There were 13,318 initial claims in May 2023.
- Initial claims increased by 9.0% over-the-month and decreased by 18.2% over-the-year.
- Year-to-date initial claims were 8.2% higher in May 2023 compared to the same period in 2022.

Continued Claims:

- There were 73,148 continued claims in May 2023.
- This was a 5.8% increase over-the-month and a 19.8% increase over-the-year.
- Year-to-date continued claims were 43.7% higher than during the same period in 2022.

Note: Claims counts include interstate and intrastate.

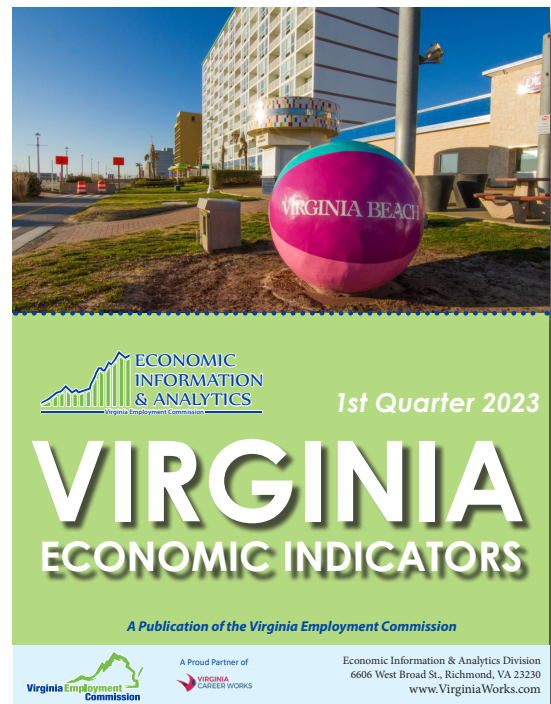
Monthly Claims Data			
	Initial Claims	Recipients	Final Payments
May 2023	13,318	14,473	1,492
April 2023	12,214	14,496	1,101
May 2022	16,273	9,191	1,750

The 1st Quarter Virginia Employment Indicators is available online at the VEC's Labor Market Information website:

https://viriniaworks.com/_docs/Publications/LMI-Publications/Employment-Indicators/PDF/2023-1stQuarterEmploymentIndicators.pdf

For those who are interested in studying the business cycle, the Virginia Economic Indicators quarterly publication is designed to depict the movement of the key economic indicator series readily available in Virginia. They are brought together in both graphic and tabular form, under one cover, and grouped so that they may be analyzed and interpreted easily.

All but one of the series currently used are produced in-house by EIA and are comparable to similar national series produced by the U.S. Department of Labor. All series published in the Indicators have been seasonally adjusted to minimize regular seasonal fluctuations in the data in order to show only activity related to the business cycle.



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Outdoor Recreation and the Virginia Economy



In May of this year, Governor Glenn Youngkin announced that ten Virginia communities will receive grants to launch new tourism programs to boost their outdoor recreation economy.¹ The purpose of the grants is to support the outdoor recreation industry in the Commonwealth. This could come at a good time. For many years, Virginia has hosted millions of visitors who flocked to its beaches, its mountains, amusement parks, and historic sites. But, given the Pandemic recession's impacts on the economy nationwide, how did Virginia's outdoor recreation economy fare over that period?

In 2021, outdoor recreation contributed \$9.4 billion to the Commonwealth's economy and supported 107,000 jobs and \$4.8 billion in wages and salaries in Virginia according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). Since 2018, the BEA has produced statistics measuring the outdoor recreation economy for the nation, all 50 states, and the District of Columbia.² The outdoor recreation by industry data show the contributions of industries to the outdoor recreation economy, including their impact on value added, gross output, employment, and compensation. The most recent published data describes conditions in 2021, which provides a useful look at the makeup of Virginia's outdoor recreation economy and how it was affected by the Pandemic years of 2020 and 2021.³

The BEA data for 2021 shows that the Virginia outdoor recreation economy accounted for 1.6 percent (\$9.4 billion) of current-dollar gross domestic product (GDP) for the Commonwealth in 2021.⁴ This was a little lower than the 1.9 percent nationwide. Among nearby states, value added for outdoor recreation as a share of state GDP ranged from 1.9 percent in West Virginia to 1.8 percent in North Carolina and 1.5 percent in Maryland. The share was 0.9 percent in the District of Columbia.

The activities that people do for fun varies by state. In 2021, RVing was relatively more important to South Carolina's economy than it was in other South Atlantic states. Festivals, sporting events, and concerts were more important in North Carolina. Government spending to support outdoor recreation activities was more important in the District of Columbia. Maryland benefited from Snow Activities relatively more than nearby, warmer states. What is Virginia's outdoor recreation economy like and what are some of its strengths and what are some recreation industries with possible room to grow?

Outdoor recreation activities fall into three general categories: conventional activities (such as bicycling, boating, hiking, and hunting), other activities (such as gardening and outdoor concerts), and supporting activities (such as construction, travel and tourism, local trips, and government expenditures).

¹ "Governor Youngkin Announces 10 Virginia Communities to Launch New Tourism Programs and Boost Outdoor Recreation" Office of the Governor. March 23, 2023. <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/news-releases/2023/may/name-1003593-en.html>

² U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis. Survey of Current Business. "Introducing the Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account." "[Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account: Prototype Statistics for 2012–2016.](#)"

³ U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, "SAOVA Outdoor recreation satellite account value added 1/" (accessed Friday, June 9, 2023). [SAOVA Outdoor recreation satellite account value added 1/](#)

⁴ Total outdoor recreation activities include core activities, supporting activities, and activities with secondary production that are designated as outdoor recreation.

Conventional Outdoor Recreation Activities

In 2021, U.S. conventional outdoor recreation accounted for 35.1 percent of U.S. outdoor recreation value added, compared with 40.1 percent in 2020. The composition of Virginia's conventional outdoor recreation activities economy is like nationwide, but with some unique strengths. One is the category called Game Areas (including golf and tennis) that directly contributed nearly a half of a billion dollars in 2021 and comprised a larger share of Virginia's outdoor recreation economy than was the case nationwide. Amusement Parks and Water Parks directly contributed around \$170 million to Virginia's economy and was more important than in any other South Atlantic state, aside from Florida.

Boating and Fishing is Virginia's largest conventional outdoor recreation activity. Hunting and RVing are also large contributors. Perhaps because they are relatively inexpensive activities, Bicycling, Hiking/Climbing/Camping, and Motorcycling/ATVing added less to GDP. Snow Activities contributed little more, despite Virginia boasting multiple ski resorts. Equestrian Activities have long been an important part of Virginia's heritage and, in what may be surprising to some, contributed more than any of those activities in 2021. Sales from the category Associated Apparel and Accessories were nearly as large as the output of the activities themselves.

This part of the Virginia outdoor recreation economy weathered the Pandemic fairly well, as people increasingly partook in things like Bicycling, Boating/Fishing, and RVing that didn't involve mass gatherings and could be enjoyed alone or in small groups. Ten-year growth trends were also positive, led by Bicycling and Climbing/Hiking/Tent Camping. However, Snow Activities showed flat current-dollar growth over that period. Weather conditions—warm weather and skiing, for example—and other factors like higher gas prices can also influence what people choose to do for recreation.



positive long-term growth. Another exception was Productive Activities (includes Gardening) which grew 17 percent in 2020 compared to 2019 and was up nearly 75 percent (in current dollars) over ten years.

Outdoor recreation activity is supported by numerous industries, from the manufacture and sales of camping equipment to selling fuel for recreation vehicles, to apres-ski dining in a lodge. States that manufacture the goods that are used in outdoor recreational activities can boost this output as well. Pleasure boat manufacturing in North Carolina would be an example. The Retail Trade industry group was the largest contributor to Virginia outdoor recreation GDP in 2021, accounting for \$2.7 billion (35,722 in employment). Accommodation and Food Services was second, accounting for \$1.6 billion (22,053 in employment). Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation was third, accounting for \$0.8 billion (19,038 in employment).

Boating/Fishing

Boating/Fishing in general benefited from the Pandemic limitations on mass-gatherings. Canoeing/Kayaking is a small part of this sector, but Virginia output expanded by over forty percent from 2019 to 2020. Other Boating (yachting and pleasure boating, presumably) grew by over fifty percent over that period! Long term growth trends were led by Canoeing/Kayaking and Boating/Fishing, while Sailing exhibited flat current-dollar growth.

Boating/Fishing added over a half of a billion dollars to the Commonwealth's economy in 2021. This was nearly six percent of the outdoor recreation GDP total, slightly less than nationwide. The South Atlantic coast is renowned for its boating and fishing and this is evident in their contribution to those states' economies. For example, Boating/Fishing made up 9.5 percent of Florida's outdoor recreation economy. Not only Florida, but Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, and South Carolina relied more on Boating/Fishing to drive their outdoor recreation economies than was the case nationwide.

Other Outdoor Recreation

Other outdoor recreation nationwide accounted for 17.6 percent of value added in 2021, compared with 17.5 percent in 2020. The Other Outdoor Recreation category is mainly comprised of activities commonly done in groups. For this reason, this part of the outdoor recreation economy was hit hardest by the Pandemic recession period of 2020. For example, Amusement Parks/Water Parks and Festivals/Sporting Events/Concerts saw economic output drop by nearly half compared to pre-Pandemic levels in 2019. By 2021, they remained significantly below levels from five years earlier. Game Areas (including golf and tennis) was hurt less and experienced

Supporting Industries of the Outdoor Recreation Economy

Supporting activities nationwide accounted for 47.3 percent of outdoor recreation GDP in 2021, compared with 42.4 percent in 2020. Supporting industries may have little to do with recreation directly, but indirectly, are necessary for Virginians and visitors to enjoy the many recreational pursuits available across the Commonwealth. Output was nearly \$4.4 billion in 2021. Local Trips were affected much less than Travel and Tourism by the Pandemic in 2020 and it fully recovered in 2021. State and Local Government outdoor recreation spending increased during 2020 and 2021. Longer term trends indicate that the supporting part of the outdoor recreation economy grew modestly in current dollar terms.

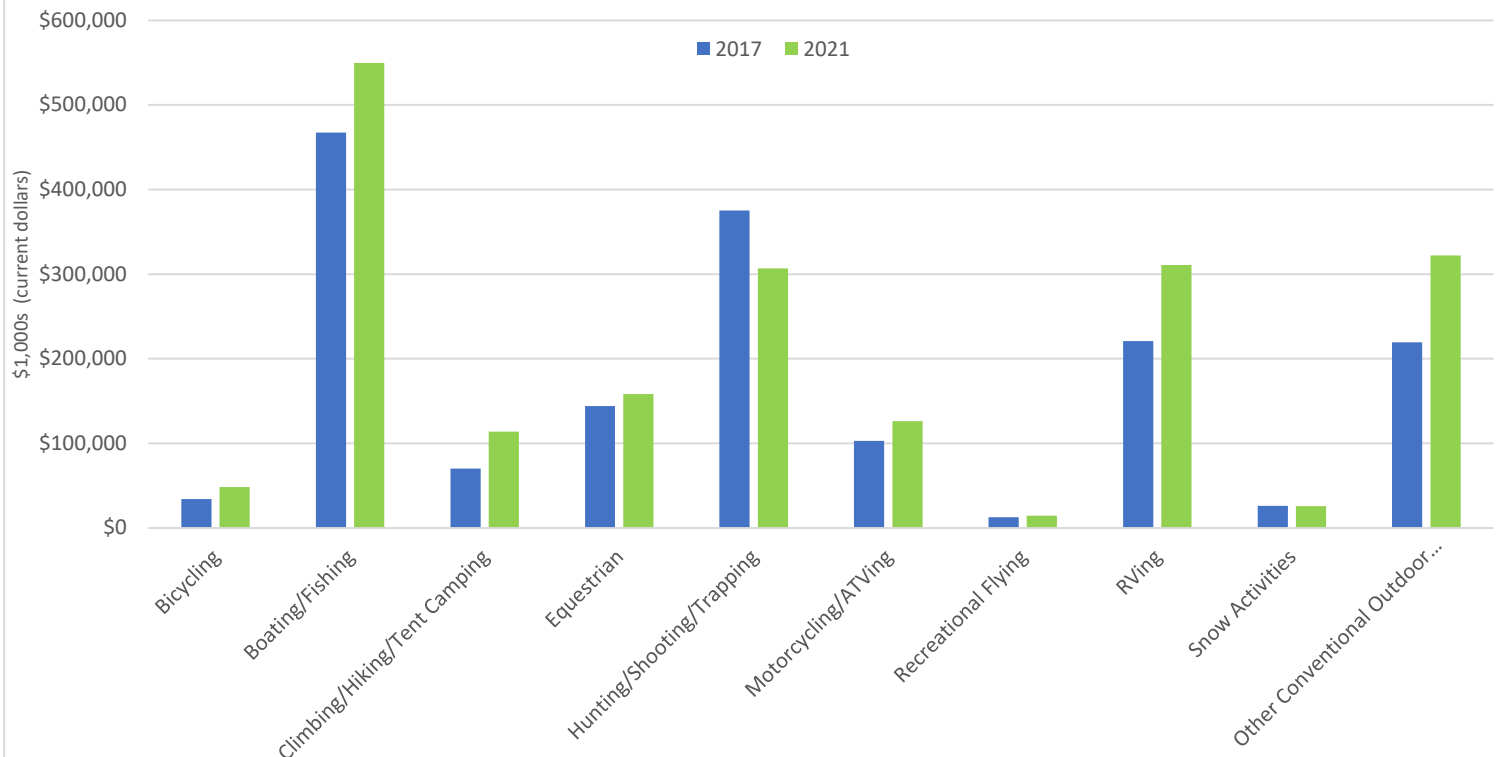
Travel and Tourism

Indirect economic activity from Travel and Tourism spending is an important contributor to Virginia's outdoor recreation economy and provides a different perspective regarding the important drivers of spending. In 2021, Travel and Tourism output totaled nearly three billion dollars. Its components (Food and Beverages, Lodging, Shopping and Souvenirs, and Transportation) typically contribute comparable amounts but that changed severely during the Pandemic. From 2019 to 2020, Virginia Travel and Tourism output dropped by 45 percent overall, but Transportation spending fell over 70 percent. Food and beverage spending declined by over half, but fully returned to 2019 levels in 2021. However, in 2021, Lodging and Transportation remained significantly lower than before the Pandemic. In fact, Transportation spending was 20 percent lower than ten years before in 2012, in current dollar terms.

The trends shown in BEA's outdoor recreation data indicate that some activities that don't require large groups to enjoy them grew in popularity, with the Pandemic a driver of that growth in popularity as recreation shifted from group activities like amusement parks to solitary activities like hiking, biking, and gardening. However, supporting activities, particularly travel and tourism-related activities, rebounded in 2021 as COVID-19 restrictions eased and consumers traveled more and increased spending on transportation, hotels, and restaurants.

Some trends in recreation activities are long-term and may reflect changes in consumer tastes. Some lower cost forms of recreation like hiking and gardening grew in popularity while more costly, physically demanding past times like skiing and sailing experienced flat growth in the Commonwealth. But such activities can be helped in other ways since over forty percent of the contribution to outdoor recreation GDP came from supporting activities, like fueling up on the way to the marina, or shopping for souvenirs on a snowboarding trip. Growing this supporting commerce could help to lift the size of the outdoor recreation economy in the Commonwealth as it continues to recover from the effects of the Pandemic recession.

Conventional Outdoor Recreation Categories and Their Contribution to Virginia's Outdoor Recreation Economy



U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)



Upcoming Events

The Dulles International Airport Job & Career Fair

July 18, 2023 - Northern Virginia / Northern Valley

11:00am to 5:00pm

Join us at Dulles International Airport for our July 18, 2023, Job & Career fair.

[Learn more about this event](#)

Explore new career opportunities at our upcoming hiring event, exclusively for Cyber Security Professionals.

July 20, 2023 - Northern Virginia / Northern Valley

Noon to 4pm

TECHEXPO Cyber Security Hiring Event

The Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner Hotel

1700 Tysons Blvd, Old Dominion Ballroom, McLean, VA 22102

Register with code EC23: <https://techexpousa.com/event/techexpo-cyber-security-hiring-event/>

[Learn more about this event](#)

United Health Care Sales Jobs Open House - Roanoke, VA

First Wednesday of each month, 12pm to 2pm - Valley / Roanoke

UnitedHealthcare is a company that's on the rise. We're expanding in multiple directions, across borders and, most of all, in the way we think. Here, innovation isn't about another gadget, it's about transforming the health care industry. Ready to make a difference?

[Learn more about this event](#)

Super Tuesday "Hybrid" Hiring Event

Second Tuesday of each month, 9am to Noon - Hampton Roads

You are invited to participate in our 2023 Super Tuesday Hybrid Hiring Events, scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month. These hybrid events consist of two components. The In-person component will run from 9am to Noon, every second Tuesday of the month. The Virtual component will run from 10am to Noon, every second Tuesday of each month.

[Learn more about this event](#)

Virginia Workforce Connection Winchester Job Fair

Third Thursday of each month, 1 to 4pm - Northern Virginia / Northern Valley

Virginia Workforce Connections will be hosting a Job Fair for the following employers:

Seniors First - VICAP Program Coordinator, Finance Director

Hilltop - CNA's, Med Techs, Resident Care Assistants

Performance Food Services - CDL Drivers

[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>