



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Workforce Development and Advancement

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Virginia's September County and Area Employment Figures Released

**—Over-the-Year Employment Increases in Fifty of Virginia's Counties¹ as Unemployment Drops
in Fifty-one Counties—**

RICHMOND— Compared to a year earlier, September 2023 unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 50 of Virginia's 133 counties and cities, remained unchanged in 32, and increased in 51. In September, Petersburg City had the highest unemployment rate at 5.7 percent, while Bath County had the lowest rate at 2.1 percent. The employment estimates in this release are subject to large seasonal patterns; therefore, it is advisable to focus on over-the-year changes in the not seasonally adjusted estimates.

Among the metro areas, Northern Virginia² had the lowest unemployment rate at 2.6 percent, while Lynchburg had the highest at 3.5 percent. The not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 3.0 percent, unchanged from a year earlier.

The September 2023 local unemployment rates are online:

<https://www.vec.virginia.gov/node/17652>. You can also access the local unemployment rates by clicking the Area Rates link under the unemployment graph located on www.VirginiaWorks.com.

The statistical reference week for the household survey this month was the week of September 10-16, 2023.

The October 2023 statewide unemployment rate and employment data for both the state and metropolitan areas are scheduled to be released on Friday, November 17, 2023. The data will be available on our website www.VirginiaWorks.com. The Virginia Department of Workforce Development and Advancement plans to release the October local area unemployment rates on Thursday, November 30, 2023.

¹ The Commonwealth of Virginia is divided into 95 counties, along with 38 independent cities that are considered county-equivalents for census purposes.

² Northern Virginia is defined as the Virginia portion of the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).