



Virginia’s February County and Area Employment Figures Released

RICHMOND— Virginia Works (the Department of Workforce Development and Advancement) announced today the release of preliminary February 2025 and revised January 2025 county and area employment figures. These figures are not seasonally adjusted. Among the counties and city equivalents¹, Highland County had the lowest unemployment rate in February at 2.5 percent, while Emporia city had the highest at 7.9 percent.

Among the metro areas, Charlottesville and Staunton-Stuarts Draft had the lowest unemployment rates in February at 2.9 percent, while Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford had the highest at 4.1 percent. The not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 3.3 percent, which is 1.2 points lower than the not seasonally adjusted national rate of 4.5 percent. The February 2025 local unemployment rates are online accompanying this release. You can also access the local unemployment rates by visiting VirginiaWorks.com.

The statistical reference week for the household survey this month was the week of February 9-15, 2025.

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

The March 2025 statewide unemployment rate and employment data for both the state and metropolitan areas are scheduled to be released on Friday, April 18, 2025. The data will be available at www.VirginiaWorks.com. The Virginia Department of Workforce Development and Advancement plans to release the March 2025 local area unemployment rates on Tuesday, April 29, 2025.

Please note that sub-state data for prior years is still under review by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, with final revisions scheduled for publication on April 18, 2025. As a result, year-over-year comparisons, the “Top 5 Counties and Cities by Employment Growth Rate” graph, and the “Employment Growth Rate” by Virginia counties map will not be available for the January and February 2025 data releases. These visuals will be provided with the March 2025 data release.

Virginia Employment - February 2025 *(seasonally adjusted)*

Virginia Unemployment Rate (February 2024 - February 2025 percentage point)	3.1% (0.3)
Civilian Labor Force (February 2024 - February 2025 percent change)	4,596,005 (0.4%)
Labor Force Participation Rate (February 2024 - February 2025 percentage point)	65.7% (-0.4)
Total Nonfarm Employment (February 2024 - February 2025 percent change)	4,266,100 (1.3%)
Employment (February 2024 - February 2025 percent change)	4,455,794 (0.2%)
Unemployment (February 2024 - February 2025 percent change)	140,211 (8.7%)
Number of Establishments, 3rd Quarter 2024 (3rd Quarter 2023 - 3rd Quarter 2024 percent change)	311,365 (1.6%)
Average Weekly Wage, 3rd Quarter 2024 (3rd Quarter 2023 - 3rd Quarter 2024 percent change)	\$1,439 (4.0%)

February 2025 Unemployment Rates by MSA *(Percent - not seasonally adjusted)*

Virginia	3.3
Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford MSA	4.1
Kingsport-Bristol, TN-VA MSA (VA part)	3.7
Charlottesville MSA	2.9
Harrisonburg MSA	3.4
Lynchburg MSA	3.7
Arlington-Alexandria-Reston, VA-WV, Metro Div. (VA part)	3.0
Richmond MSA	3.3
Roanoke MSA	3.3
Staunton-Stuarts Draft MSA	2.9
Virginia Beach-Chesapeake-Norfolk, VA-NC, MSA (VA part)	3.5
Winchester, VA/WV MSA (VA part)	3.0