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Virginia's Latest Unemployment Insurance Weekly Initial Claims at 2,533; Continued Claims at 20,698

RICHMOND - Virginia Works' Economic Information and Analytics Division, which serves as the Commonwealth's official source for labor market and workforce data, reported that that 2,533 unemployment insurance weekly **initial claims** were filed during the week ending February 21, 2026. The claims were filed with the Virginia Employment Commission, which administers the Commonwealth's Unemployment Insurance program. This is 4.5 percent lower than last week's 2,653 claims and 2.4 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (2,473). Nearly 79 percent of claimants self-reported an employer which correlates to an associated industry.

Based on this reporting, the top five industries (57 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (307); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (222); Health Care and Social Assistance (205); Retail Trade (203); and Accommodation and Food Services (164).

Continued weeks' claims (20,698) were 5.2 percent lower than last week (21,841) and were 13.9 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (18,179). Nearly 92 percent of claimants self-reported an employer which correlates to an associated industry.

Based on this reporting, the top five industries (60 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (4,079); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (2,501); Construction (1,725); Health Care and Social Assistance (1,692); and Retail Trade (1,454).

Significant Layoffs and Announcements are available at the following websites:

[WARN Notices | Virginia Works](#)

[Announcements | Virginia Economic Development Partnership](#)

(more)

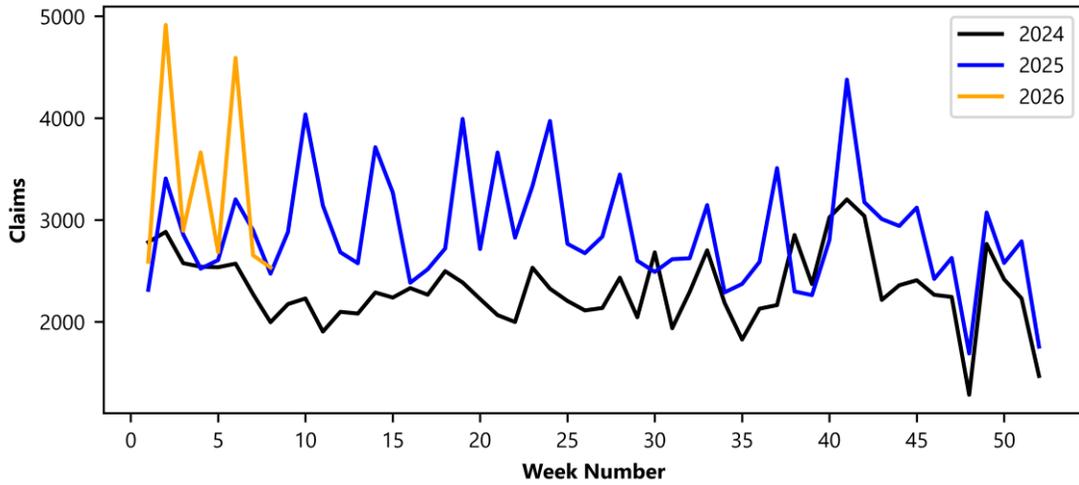
Richmond, VA

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Unemployment Claims Activity Comparison

	Week Ending 02/21/2026	Week Ending 02/14/2026	Week Ending 02/07/2026	Last Year 02/22/2025
Initial Claims	2,533	2,653	4,592	2,473
Initial Change (%)	-120 (-4.5%)	-1,939 (-42.2%)	+1,909 (+71.2%)	+60 (+2.4%)
Continued Claims	20,698	21,841	21,291	18,179
Continued Change (%)	-1,143 (-5.2%)	+550 (+2.6%)	-112 (-0.5%)	+2,519 (+13.9%)

Virginia Initial Claims by Week



Virginia Continued Claims by Week

