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### **Virginia's Latest Unemployment Insurance Weekly Initial Claims at 2,274; Continued Claims at 20,592**

**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 2,274 unemployment insurance weekly **initial claims** were filed during the week ending March 21, 2026. The claims were filed with the Virginia Employment Commission, which administers the Commonwealth's Unemployment Insurance program. This is 14.6 percent lower than last week's 2,662 claims and 15.2 percent lower than the comparable week of last year (2,683). Nearly 78 percent of claimants self-reported an employer which correlates to an associated industry. Based on this reporting, the top five industries (58 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (276); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (196); Health Care and Social Assistance (188); Retail Trade (167); and Manufacturing (153).

**Continued weeks' claims** (20,592) were 4.3 percent lower than last week (21,511) and were 14.3 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (18,013). Nearly 92 percent of claimants self-reported an employer which correlates to an associated industry. Based on this reporting, the top five industries (59 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (3,935); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (2,284); Manufacturing (1,852); Health Care and Social Assistance (1,739); and Retail Trade (1,468).

**Significant Layoffs and Announcements are available at the following websites:**

[WARN Notices | Virginia Works](#)

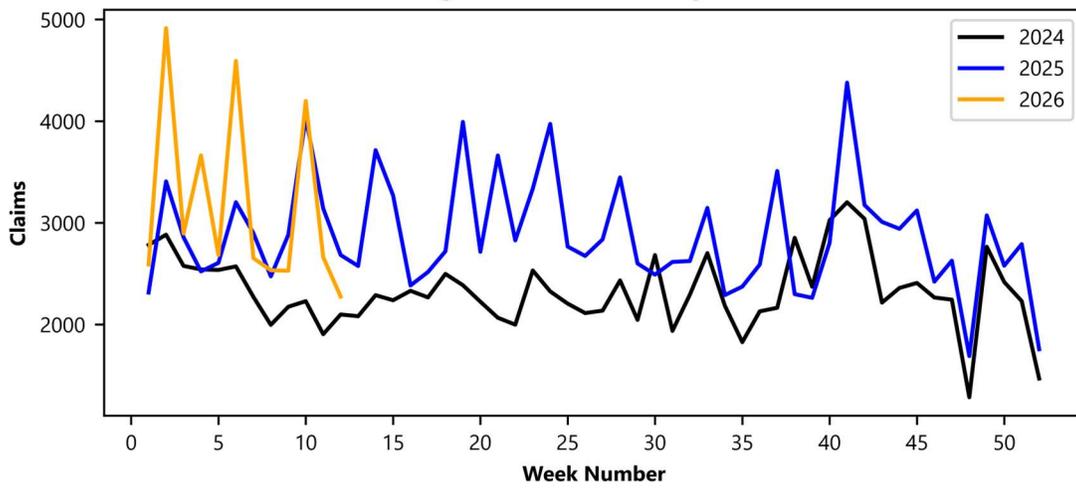
[Announcements | Virginia Economic Development Partnership](#)

(more)

**Richmond, VA**

Unemployment Claims Activity Comparison				
	Week Ending 03/21/2026	Week Ending 03/14/2026	Week Ending 03/07/2026	Last Year 03/22/2025
Initial Claims	2,274	2,662	4,198	2,683
Initial Change (%)	-388 (-14.6%)	-1,536 (-36.6%)	+1,670 (+66.1%)	-409 (-15.2%)
Continued Claims	20,592	21,511	20,437	18,013
Continued Change (%)	-919 (-4.3%)	+1,074 (+5.3%)	-123 (-0.6%)	+2,579 (+14.3%)

**Virginia Initial Claims by Week**



**Virginia Continued Claims by Week**

