

I'm Jessica Looman, the Secretary of Labor for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Today is October 21, 2026, and today is Virginia Jobs Day.

This monthly snapshot of the Commonwealth's labor market gives employers, job seekers, policymakers, and workforce partners the timely, data-driven insights they need to understand Virginia's economic momentum.

We're closely tracking every corner of our labor market, including labor participation trends, and remain fully committed to helping Virginians access quality employment opportunities and the training and resources they need to thrive.

In September 2026, Virginia had 4,250,600 jobs in nonagricultural employment across 318,253 establishments. This is an increase of 7,800 jobs from August. This represents an increase over the prior month of 0.2 percent.

However, comparing year over year, this is 25,600 fewer jobs than September 2025, which represents a decrease of 0.6 percent.

Over the month of September 2026, private sector employment increased by 7,000 jobs and government employment increased by 800 jobs. Local government led growth in that sector, with an addition of 600 jobs.

Most sectors experienced job gains in September, including Education and Health Services, which grew by 3,400 jobs and Construction, which grew by 1,200 jobs.

There were also smaller gains in employment in Manufacturing, Information, as well as Trade, Transportation, and Utilities.

Virginia's *unemployment* rate held steady at 3.6% and remains consistently below the national average.

Our labor force participation rate edged down to 62.7%, which remains slightly above the national average. This reflects approximately 4,100 Virginians that left the labor force in September.

We invite you to review our Virginia Jobs Day "At A Glance" report issued today by Virginia Works to learn more about this data.

In this month's report we are also providing an overview of jobs in energy and utilities sectors across the Commonwealth, such as solar photovoltaic installers and power plant operators, which are in high demand and offer competitive wages.

And **coming soon to VirginiaHasJobs.com, the NEW Energize Your Career page will help you explore careers and job resources in the energy sector.**

This concludes today's Virginia Jobs Day report.

Please make sure to join us each month as we continue to bring you insights into Virginia's workforce and labor market trends.

I'm Virginia Secretary of Labor, Jessica Looman - we'll see you next month.

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