

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

Today is September 23, 2026, and today is Virginia Jobs Day.

This monthly snapshot of the Commonwealth's labor market offers insights into Virginia's economic landscape and workforce trends.

Virginia maintains a strong business climate and continues to see steady demand for skilled talent across the Commonwealth. We're monitoring labor market conditions closely, including labor participation trends.

And with that focus, Virginia's workforce continues to show real strength and resilience, and we remain optimistic about the momentum ahead.

In August 2026, Virginia had 4,240,300 jobs in nonagricultural employment across 325,002 establishments.

This is an increase of 5,600 jobs from July 2026.

However, total employment remains 37,700 jobs below its August 2025 level.

Over the month of August 2026, private sector employment increased by 7,700 jobs while government employment decreased by 2,100 jobs with local government reducing employment by 2,500 jobs.

Most sectors experienced job gains in August, including Professional and Business Services, which grew by 4,100 jobs and Construction, which grew by 2,400 jobs.

There were also smaller gains in employment in Manufacturing, Trade, Transportation, and Utilities; and Leisure and Hospitality Services.

Virginia's *un*employment rate edged down slightly to 3.6% and remains consistently below the national average.

However, our labor force participation rate reduced by 2 tenths of a percentage point and is currently 62.8%. Virginia remains slightly above the national average.

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 Skilled Trade occupations across the Commonwealth, such as electricians and construction laborers, which are in high demand and offer competitive wages.

We also want to bring your attention to a new dashboard resource at the Virginia Employment Commission where you can monitor weekly unemployment claims data in real time.

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 – and we’ll see you next month.