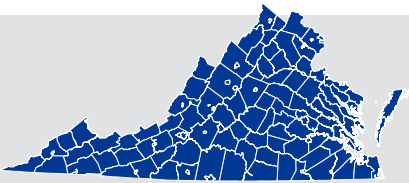


VIRGINIA JOBS DAY LABOR MARKET AT A GLANCE



Virginia Labor Force

Employed

62.8%

Labor Force
Participation Rate

4,240,300

Total Nonfarm Employment

Unemployed

3.6%

Unemployment
Rate

160,408

Unemployment

August 2026 (Seasonally Adjusted)

Top 5 Industries by Employment



789,700

Professional and Business Services



755,600

Total Government



694,000

Trade, Transportation, and Utilities



628,000

Education and Health Services



424,200

Leisure and Hospitality

MSA Area

Employment

Arlington-Alexandria-Reston VA-WV Metro Division	1,617,100
Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford MSA	79,800
Charlottesville MSA	127,300
Harrisonburg MSA	72,700
Lynchburg MSA	105,100
Richmond MSA	725,500
Roanoke MSA	169,500
Staunton-Stuarts Draft, VA MSA	57,200
Virginia Beach-Chesapeake-Norfolk, VA-NC MSA	827,200
Winchester, VA-WV MSA	70,900

Top 10 Certification & Skills Postings

(As of September 15, 2026)

Top Certifications

Postings Count

Valid Drivers Licenses	153,902
Registered Nurses	68,179
Basic Life Support	66,812
Top Secret-Sensitive Information Clearance	63,702
Security Clearance	49,624
CPR Certification	43,257
Secret Clearance	40,625
Advance Cardiovascular Life Support	22,354
First Aid	21,226
Licensed Practical Nurse	19,108

Top Specialized Skills

Postings Count

Lifting Ability	109,016
Project Management	103,020
Workflow Management	89,330
Auditing	76,737
Nursing	69,464
Computer Science	66,364
Merchandising	63,435
Marketing	63,420
Automation	57,100
Finance	53,309

INDUSTRY FOCUS

SKILLED TRADES

Skilled trades are growing rapidly across Virginia, creating strong opportunities for people interested in hands-on, reliable careers. Many trades offer clear career pathways, competitive pay, and **training options like registered apprenticeship that let you earn while you learn.** With demand rising statewide, now is an excellent time to explore what a career in the skilled trades can offer.

Virginia Private Sector
Construction Employment by Type of Contracting Business, 1Q26



OCCUPATION SPOTLIGHT: ELECTRICIANS

Duties: Install, maintain, and repair electrical wiring, equipment, and fixtures. Ensure that work is in accordance with relevant codes. May install or service street lights, intercom systems, or electrical control systems.

Sample of reported job titles: Control Electrician, Electrical Journey Person, Electrical Troubleshooter, Electrician, Housing Maintenance Electrician, Industrial Electrician, Inside Wireman, Maintenance Electrician, Wireman

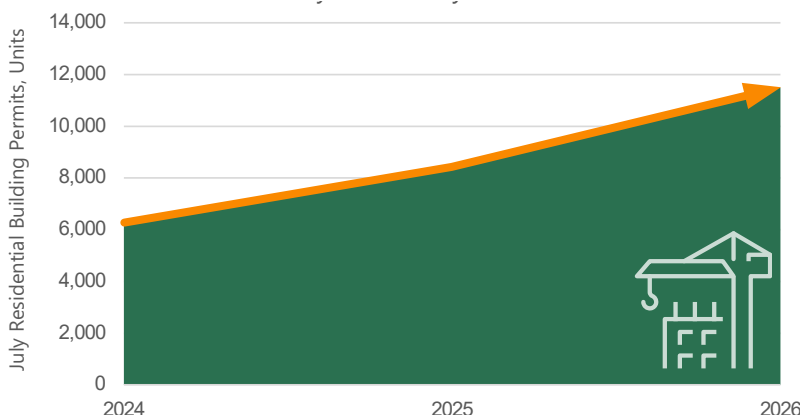
Education/Training: Most occupations in this zone require training in vocational schools or related on-the-job experience.

Annual Average Wage: Virginia - \$67,850
U.S. - \$63,190

Virginia multi-family residential permit growth has outperformed single-family permits in 2026.

In July, the value of Virginia multi-family permits totaled \$190 million, bringing the year-to-date total to \$615 million. This is **an increase of 56%** over the same period in 2025, compared to a six percent increase nationwide. This increase in permits is an indicator of increasing demand for skilled trade occupations.

Virginia Multi-Family Residential Building Permits, Units
Year-to-Date, July 2024 - July 2026



Virginia Average Hourly Wage, May 2025



Look for apprenticeship opportunities in skilled trades: <https://virginiaworks.gov/explore-registered-apprenticeship/become-a-registered-apprentice/>

