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

Today is November 25th, 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.

The data from October 2026 shows a mixed but stable picture. Payroll employment dipped slightly, while unemployment and labor force participation held steady. Public sector hiring and gains in key industries like Professional and Business Services helped balance out private sector losses.

We're watching these trends closely so we can keep connecting Virginians to good jobs and the training and resources they need to succeed.

October brought a small step back in payroll employment, but with unemployment and labor force participation both holding firm, Virginia's labor market continues to show resilience.

In October 2026, Virginia had 4,243,300 jobs in nonagricultural employment across 318,253 establishments. This is a decrease of 4,000 jobs from September 2026 and a decrease of 9700 jobs since October 2025.

Over the month of October 2026, private sector employment decreased by 5200 jobs and government employment increased by 1200 jobs. Local government pushed the growth in the public sector, with an addition of 1300 jobs.

Most sectors experienced job gains in October, including Professional and Business Services, which grew by 3600 jobs and Other Services, which grew by 500 jobs.

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

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

Our labor force participation rate held steady at 62.7%, which 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.

And for anyone who wants to dig deeper, I encourage you to explore Virginia Works' new interactive Labor Market Information tool at VirginiaWorks.gov. You can see the latest data

for your community, compare wages by occupation and region, and find the information you need to make your next move.

Also, in honor of Veterans Day, this month's report highlights Virginia's veterans, whose leadership, technical training, and hands-on experience make them a strong fit for many of the Commonwealth's most in-demand jobs.

This concludes today's Virginia Jobs Day report.

Please make sure to check us out 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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