

Top 5 Industries in Virginia by Employment



A Quick Guide to Career Pathways In The Top 5 Industries

Career Resources

Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook

<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

Virginia Employment Commission

Virginia Occupational Career Resource Guide

https://viriniaworks.com/_docs/Publications/Career-Information/Occupational-Career-Guide/PDF/Occupational-Career-Resource-2019.pdf

Job Searching Tips

https://viriniaworks.com/_docs/Publications/Career-Information/Job-Search-Tips/PDF/Job-Search-Tips-Flyer.pdf

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TOP 5 Industries

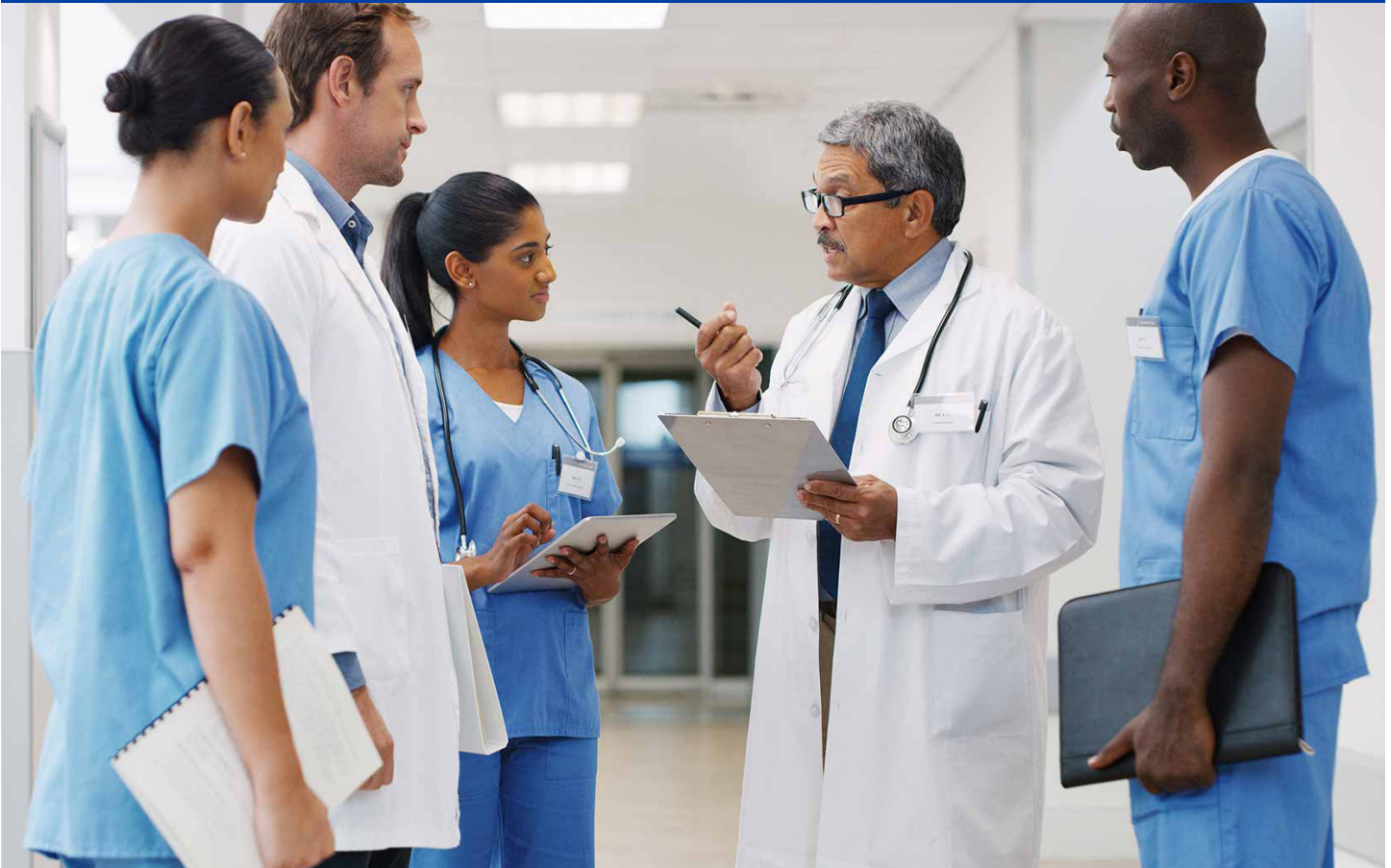
by Employment



Industry Code (2-digit NAICS)	Industry Code Title	Annual Establishment	Annual Avg Employment	Annual Avg Weekly Wage
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	46,181	488,927	\$1,064
54	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	43,115	446,738	\$2,184
44-45	Retail Trade	25,467	390,953	\$650
72	Accommodation and Food Services	17,635	279,213	\$404
31-33	Manufacturing	6,980	244,031	\$1,247



Top 5 Industries in Healthcare & Social Assistance



Industry Code Title	Annual Establishment	Annual Avg Employment	Annual Avg Weekly Wage
General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	245	119,542	\$1,269
Offices of Physicians	5,085	72,828	\$1,867
Individual and Family Services	25,654	59,423	\$578
Home Health Care Services	1,839	33,640	\$621
Continuing Care Retirement Communities and Assisted Living Facilities	542	30,916	\$653

Healthcare and social assistance continues to have the highest employment of any industry in the Commonwealth. Registered nurses and medical assistants continue to be among the most in demand occupations throughout Virginia. The industry is responsible for 13.1 percent of total employment in Virginia, with an annual average of 488,927 jobs in 2020.

Top 4 Occupational Projections in Healthcare & Social Assistance

The table below shows the long-term industry projections for Multiple Industries in Virginia for the 2018-2028 projection period.

Industry	2018 Estimated Employment	2028 Estimated Employment	Percent Change 2018-2028
Registered Nurses	53,901	61,041	13.2%
Medical Assistants	13,401	16,808	25.4%
Home Health Aides	9,618	12,710	32.1%
Physicians and Surgeons, All Other	8,478	9,492	12.0%

Source: Virginia Employment Commission, Industry and Occupational Projections

Sample of Career Paths in Healthcare & Social Assistance

Most jobs in the healthcare field require a bachelor or Medical Doctors degrees. Entry-levels jobs in nursing only require a certification, and Home Health Aides ONLY need a high school diploma. Social Assistance jobs need some higher education, such as an associate's degree.

Physicians and Surgeons



Degree



On-the-Job Training

Recommended

Physicians and surgeons typically need a bachelor's degree as well as a Medical Doctor (M.D.) or a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.) degree from a medical school, which takes an additional 4 years to complete. Depending on their specialty, they also need 3 to 9 years in internship and residency programs. Sub-specialization includes additional training in a fellowship of 1 to 3 years.

Registered Nurse



Degree



On-the-Job Training

Recommended

Bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) degree programs, like programs in some other healthcare and related fields, typically take 4 years to complete; associate's degree in nursing (ADN) and associate of science in nursing (ASN) degrees also typically take 4 years to complete. Diploma programs, usually offered by hospitals or medical centers, typically take 2 to 3 years to complete.

Medical Assistants



Certification



On-the-Job Training

Recommended

Programs for medical assisting are available from community colleges, vocational schools, technical schools, and universities and take about 1 year to complete. These programs usually lead to a certificate or diploma. Some community colleges offer 2-year programs that lead to an associate's degree.

Home Health Aides



Diploma/GED



Certification

Recommended

There is no formal education requirement for home health aides, but most aides have at least a high school diploma/ GED. Home health aides who work for certified home health or hospice agencies must complete formal training and pass a standardized test.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics: *Occupational Outlook Handbook*



Top 5 Industries in Professional & Tech Services



Industry Code Title	Annual Establishment	Annual Avg Employment	Annual Avg Weekly Wage
Computer Systems Design and Related Services	14,839	170,135	\$2,500
Management Consulting Services	7419	70,897	\$2,284
Engineering Services	2,818	53,057	\$2,140
Accounting, Tax Preparation, Bookkeeping, and Payroll Services	3,581	38,940	\$1,761
Research and Development in the Physical, Engineering, and Life Sciences	810	23,421	\$2,466

Professional, scientific and technical services has the second highest average annual employment in the Commonwealth. The Quarterly Census of Employment and Wage annual averages estimate that this industry accounted for 446,738 jobs in 2020, or 11.9 percent of total employment in Virginia. Employment within this industry has grown 10.0 percent since 2015.

Top 4 Occupational Projections in Professional & Tech Services

The table below shows the long-term industry projections for Multiple Industries in Virginia for the 2018-2028 projection period.

Industry	2018 Estimated Employment	2028 Estimated Employment	Percent Change 2018-2028
Business Operations Specialists	61,180	72,865	19.1%
Software Developers, Applications	24,464	33,647	37.5%
Engineers	22,198	24,754	11.5%
Accountants and Auditors	19,868	21,937	10.4%

Source: Virginia Employment Commission, Industry and Occupational Projections

Sample of Career Paths in Professional & Tech Services

Most jobs in the Professional and tech services require a Bachelor's degree in that field, but some positions, such as bookkeeping, may only require an associate's degree along with on-the-job training.

General and Operations Managers



Degree



On-the-Job Training

Recommended

Most of these occupations require a four-year bachelor's degree, usually in Business, but some do not. Also, employees in these occupations usually need several years of work-related experience, on-the-job training.

Software Developers



Degree



On-the-Job Training

Recommended

Software developers, quality assurance analysts, and testers typically need a bachelor's degree in computer and information technology or a related field, such as engineering or mathematics. Students may gain experience in software development by completing an internship, such as at a software company, while in college. For some software developer positions, employers may prefer that applicants have a master's degree.

Mechanical Engineers



Degree

Recommended

Mechanical engineers typically need a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering or mechanical engineering technologies. Mechanical engineering programs usually include courses in mathematics and life and physical sciences, as well as engineering and design. Some colleges and universities offer 5-year programs that allow students to obtain both a bachelor's and a master's degree.

Accountants and Auditors



Degree



On-the-Job Training

Recommended

Accountants and auditors typically need a bachelor's degree in accounting or a related field, such as business. Some employers prefer applicants who have a master's degree, either in accounting or in business administration with a concentration in accounting. In some cases, those with an associate's degree, with bookkeepers, accounting, and/or auditing clerks work experience, may get junior accounting positions and advance by showing their accounting skills on the job.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics: *Occupational Outlook Handbook*



Top 5 Industries in Retail Trade



Industry Code Title	Annual Establishment	Annual Avg Employment	Annual Avg Weekly Wage
Grocery Stores	2,385	78,140	\$547
General Merchandise Stores	1,544	59,156	\$538
Automobile Dealers	1,349	35,709	\$1,213
Building Material and Supplies Dealers	1,072	29,136	\$682
Gasoline Stations	2,978	27,494	\$483

Despite large employment losses over the last five years in sub-sectors like department stores and clothing stores, the retail trade industry has remained the third largest in terms of annual employment. Retail trade accounted for 10.4 percent of statewide employment in 2020 or 390,953 jobs. Grocery stores are one sub-sector that has seen impressive growth in employment. Since 2015, grocery stores have added over 6,000 jobs, an increase of 8.4 percent.

Top 4 Occupational Projections in Retail Trade

The table below shows the long-term industry projections for Multiple Industries in Virginia for the 2018-2028 projection period.

Industry	2018 Estimated Employment	2028 Estimated Employment	Percent Change 2018-2028
Material Recording, Scheduling, Dispatching, and Distributing	43,301	45,724	5.6%
Stock Clerks and Order Fillers	39,182	40,994	4.6%
Supervisors of Sales Workers	28,343	28,642	1.1%
Material Moving Workers	13,834	14,686	6.2%

Source: Virginia Employment Commission, Industry and Occupational Projections

Sample of Career Paths in Retail Trade

Most jobs in Retail Trade only require on-the-job training. Some positions, such as managers, require at least a high school diploma or GED equivalent.

Material Recording Clerk



Diploma/GED



On-the-Job Training

Recommended

Material recording clerks typically need a high school diploma or equivalent and are trained on the job. Material recording clerks usually learn on the job. Training for most material recording clerks lasts up to 1 month. Production, planning, and expediting clerks may train for up to 6 months.

Hand Laborers and Material Movers



On-the-Job Training

Recommended

There are usually no formal educational requirements to become a hand laborer or material mover. Employers typically require only that applicants be physically able to perform the work. Most positions for hand laborers and material movers require less than 1 month of on-the-job training. Some workers need only a few days of training, and most training is done by a supervisor or a more experienced worker.

Sales Managers



Degree



Diploma/GED

Recommended

Sales managers are typically required to have a bachelor's degree, although some positions may only require a high school diploma. Courses in business law, management, economics, accounting, finance, mathematics, marketing, and statistics are advantageous. Work experience is typically required for someone to become a sales manager. The preferred duration varies, but employers usually seek candidates who have at least 1 to 5 years of experience in sales.

Retail Sales Workers



On-the-Job Training

Recommended

Typically, there are no formal education requirements for retail sales workers. Most receive on-the-job training, which usually lasts a few days to a few months. During training sessions, topics often include customer service, security, the store's policies and procedures, and how to operate the cash register.



Top 5 Industries

in Accommodation and Food Services



Industry Code Title	Annual Establishment	Annual Avg Employment	Annual Avg Weekly Wage
Limited-Service Restaurants	6,721	109,730	\$333
Full-Service Restaurants	6,705	108,099	\$421
Hotels (except Casino Hotels) and Motels	1,567	29,559	\$548
Snack and Nonalcoholic Beverage Bars	1,076	13,240	\$340
Food Service Contractors	660	11,531	\$595

Accommodation and food services remains fourth in average employment at 279,213 jobs. This is despite a 16.2 percent decrease in employment over the last five years. The full service and limited service restaurants sub-sectors alone are responsible for 78.0 percent of the total industry employment. Wage growth, coupled with an increase in the number of establishments indicates that accommodation and food services is likely to continue to be one of the largest employing industries in Virginia.

Top 4 Occupational Projections in Accommodation and Food Services

The table below shows the long-term industry projections for Multiple Industries in Virginia for the 2018-2028 projection period.

Industry	2018 Estimated Employment	2028 Estimated Employment	Percent Change 2018-2028
Waiters and Waitresses	67,884	72,674	7.1%
Cooks, Restaurant	31,890	39,291	23.2%
Hosts and Hostesses, Restaurant, Lounge, and Coffee Shop	11,528	12,910	12.0%
Food Preparation Workers	11,628	12,877	10.7%

Source: Virginia Employment Commission, Industry and Occupational Projections

Sample of Career Paths in Accommodation and Food Services

Most jobs in the Professional and tech services require a Bachelor's degree in that field, but some positions, such as bookkeeping, may only require an associate's degree along with on-the-job training.

Waiters and Waitresses



Recommended

Most waiters and waitresses learn through short-term on-the-job training. No formal education or previous work experience is required to enter the occupation. Most states require workers who serve alcoholic beverages to be at least 18 years of age, but some states require servers to be older. Waiters and waitresses who serve alcohol must be familiar with state and local laws concerning the sale of alcoholic beverages.

Cooks, Restaurant



Recommended

Most cooks learn their skills through on-the-job training and work-related experience. Although no formal education is typically required, some cooks attend culinary schools. Others attend vocational or apprenticeship programs. Vocational cooking schools, professional culinary institutes, and some colleges offer programs and courses on topics such as cooking techniques and international cuisines. Programs generally last from a few months to 2 years, and applicants may be required to have a high school diploma or equivalent.

Food Preparation Workers



Recommended

Most food preparation workers learn through short-term on-the-job training, usually lasting several weeks. Trainees typically start by working under the supervision of an experienced worker, who teaches them basic kitchen duties. Training also may include basic sanitation and workplace safety regulations, as well as instructions on how to handle and prepare food.

Lodging Managers



Recommended

Lodging managers usually take one of three education paths: a bachelor's degree in hospitality or hotel management, an associate's degree or a certificate in hotel management, or a high school diploma combined with several years of experience working in a hotel. Most full-service hotel chains hire candidates with a bachelor's degree in hospitality or hotel management. At hotels that provide fewer services, candidates with an associate's degree or a certificate in hotel, restaurant, or hospitality management may qualify for a job as a lodging manager.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics: *Occupational Outlook Handbook*



Top 5 Industries in Manufacturing



Industry Code Title	Annual Establishment	Annual Avg Employment	Annual Avg Weekly Wage
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	290	55,233	\$1,390
Food Manufacturing	583	30,347	\$957
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	806	17,557	\$1,234
Plastics and Rubber Products Manufacturing	209	15,030	\$1,200
Chemical Manufacturing	405	15,000	\$1,609

Despite slow growth of only 0.4 percent in the past five years, manufacturing employment in 2020 was 244,031, roughly 6.5 percent of total statewide employment. In spite of the small gains in employment, wages have seen steady growth since 2015. Leather and allied product manufacturing and food manufacturing were the sub-sectors with the highest wage growth, up 27.8 percent and 19.9 percent respectively since 2015.

Top 4 Occupational Projections in Educational Services

The table below shows the long-term industry projections for Multiple Industries in Virginia for the 2018-2028 projection period.

Industry	2018 Estimated Employment	2028 Estimated Employment	Percent Change 2018-2028
Construction Trades Workers	8,829	9,262	4.9%
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	5,258	5,505	4.7%
Industrial Engineers	2,929	3,142	7.3%
Paper Goods Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	2,815	2,924	3.9%

Source: Virginia Employment Commission, Industry and Occupational Projections

Sample of Career Paths in Educational Services

Most jobs in Manufacturing only require on-the-job training. Depending on the industry, some jobs will require a high school diploma or equivalent (GED), and/or require certification from a trade school or apprenticeship program.

Construction Laborers and Helpers



Recommended

Construction laborers and helpers learn their trade through on-the-job training (OJT). Although formal education is not typically required for most positions, helpers of electricians and helpers of pipelayers, plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters typically need a high school diploma.

Industrial Engineers



Recommended

Industrial engineers typically need a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering or industrial engineering technologies. However, many industrial engineers have degrees in mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, manufacturing engineering, or general engineering.

Food and Tobacco Processing Workers



Recommended

There are no formal education requirements for some food and tobacco processing workers. However, food batchmakers and food cooking machine operators typically need a high school diploma or equivalent. Food and tobacco processing workers learn their skills through on-the-job training.

Assemblers and Fabricators



Recommended

The education and qualifications typically needed to enter these occupations vary by industry and employer. Although a high school diploma is enough for most jobs, experience and training are needed for advanced assembly work. Workers typically receive several months of on-the-job training, sometimes including employer-sponsored technical instruction.