



ECONOMIC INFORMATION & ANALYTICS

Virginia Employment Commission





The Economic Information & Analytics (EIA) Division is one of the VEC's operating divisions. EIA is responsible for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of data relating to all aspects of the Commonwealth's labor market. Units within the division provide administrative reporting services, research and analysis services, and management services to the Field Operations Division. The EIA Division is the official source of labor market information, census data, and economic information in Virginia. By providing comprehensive information and related analysis, we serve as a unique and valuable resource to employers, economic developers, planners, consultants, economists, and government officials.

The EIA Division is organizationally structured into the following units:

- Current Employment Statistics (CES)
- Data Collections Unit (DCU)
- Labor Market and Demographic Analysis (LMDA)
- Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)
- Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)
- Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)
- Data Collection Unit (DCU)
- Research and Analysis (RA)
- Labor Market Information (LMI)

Timothy O. Kestner, EIA Director - (804) 786-7496



Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Programs



Current Employment Statistics

The Current Employment Statistics (CES) program surveys approximately 18,000 nonagricultural employers each month, collecting data on employment, hours, and earnings. Data is collected via the web, mail, telephone, fax, and the Touchtone Data Entry (TDE). This series offers a current estimate of employment, hours, and earnings by industry. The CES data series is widely used by businesses, government agencies, universities, trade associations, economists, and researchers to study economic conditions and to develop plans for the future. CES estimates are one of the earliest measures each month of the overall economic health of the state and local economies. Researchers use the trends in the CES statistics as economic indicators. Employment trends indicate changes in the structure and growth of individual industries and, in conjunction with trends in hours and other economic data, yield measures of productivity. Data is produced monthly on a statewide basis and for all ten of Virginia's Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs).

The CES program is operated under a cooperative agreement with the Bureau of Labor Statistics and dates from 1939. The CES program is voluntary under federal statute. Reporting to the state agency is voluntary in all but four states (Oregon, Washington, North Carolina, and South Carolina), Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands). The latest CES data can be found on the labor market information website at **www.Virginiaworks.com**.



For information on any of CES's services and/or data, contact:
Frank Johnson, Senior Labor Market Analysts - (804) 786-2379

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program produces estimates of labor force components for Virginia's cities and counties and combinations, such as labor market areas and metropolitan areas. These estimates are produced monthly and provide a snapshot of the total civilian labor force, the number employed, the number unemployed, and the unemployment rate. These estimates are a key indicator of local economic conditions and are used to determine the eligibility of an area for benefits in various federal programs.

The LAUS program is operated under a cooperative agreement with the Bureau of Labor Statistics and dates from the day of the War Manpower Commission in World War II.

In addition to the monthly estimates of labor force components, this unit produces, on an annual basis, an historical report of labor force estimates. The most recent estimated civilian labor force and unemployment rate can be found on the labor market information website at **www.Virginiaworks.com**.



For information on any of LAUS's services and/or data, contact:
Willard Mack, LAUS supervisor - (804) 786-3240

Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics

The Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) program collects staffing pattern data and wage information by occupation from private and public business establishments. The OEWS survey is conducted under a cooperative agreement with the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and is funded by BLS. The survey covers all industries except private households and agriculture. The main purpose of the OEWS program is to produce employment and wage data for over 800 occupations in each of eleven metropolitan statistical areas and four balance-of-state regions. Another important use of the staffing pattern data produced by the OEWS program is in the occupational employment projections. After estimates of industry employment have been developed for the projected year (2028 for the current set of projections), estimates of employment by occupation are generated for all industries. Both the wage information and the projections are in high demand, especially by employers, school counselors, and educators developing vocational education and other training curricula.

Products produced from the data collected by this unit include occupational employment projections and wage data by occupation - **www.Virginiaworks.com**.



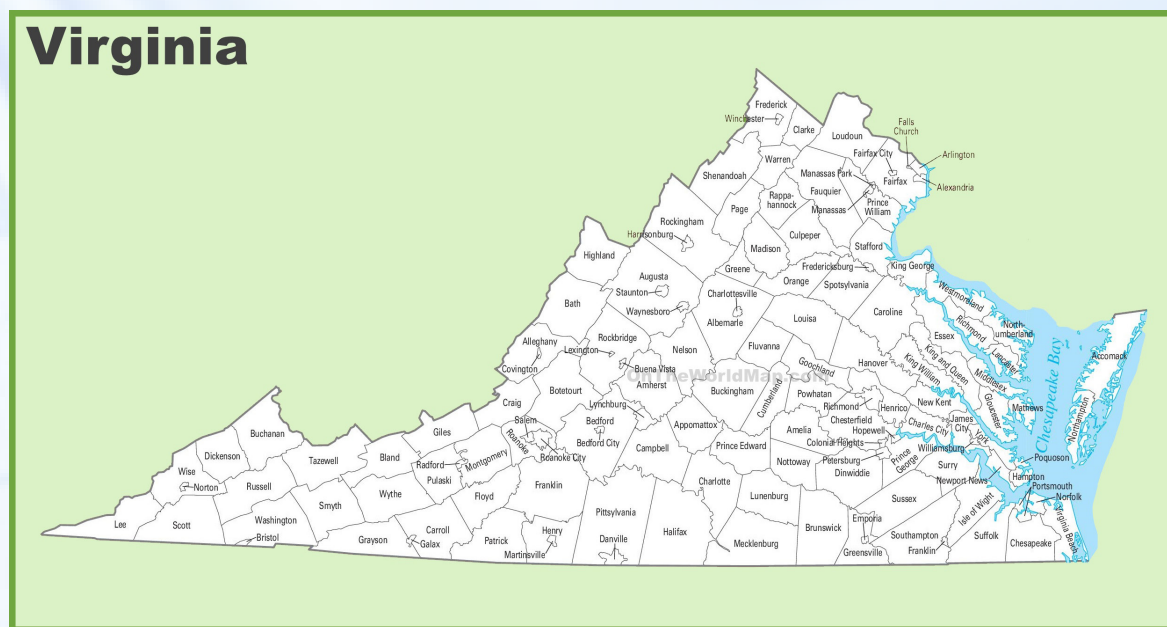
For information on OEWS services and/or forms, contact:
Lynn Bradford, OEWS supervisor - (804) 786-8218

Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

The Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program, formerly called the ES-202 program, is a comprehensive and accurate source of employment and wage data by industry at the state and city/county levels. It provides a virtual census of nonagricultural employees and their wages. In addition, about 20 percent of all workers in agriculture are covered. The data is taken directly from the quarterly unemployment tax reports filed by Virginia employers. The QCEW data series has broad economic significance in evaluating labor trends and major industry developments. It is widely used in updating economic assumptions and in forecasting trends in the taxable wage base. Business and public and private research organizations find the QCEW program one of the best sources of detailed employment and wage statistics.

The Virginia Employment Commission operates the QCEW program under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. The program dates from the inception of the Unemployment Insurance System in 1938.

The primary purpose of the QCEW unit is the production of quarterly statewide, city and county, metropolitan statistical areas, Local Workforce Development Areas (LWDA), and planning district data. This data consists of monthly employment, total quarterly wages, average weekly wages per employee, taxable wages, UI taxes paid, and the average tax rate, which can be found on the labor market information website at **www.Virginiaworks.com**.



For information on any of QCEW's services and/or data, contact:
Chris Loftus, QCEW supervisor - (804) 786-7740



Economic Analysis and Data



Data Collection Unit

The Data Collections Unit (DCU) collects and compiles employment and unemployment statistics and transmits mandated reports to the Department of Labor. DCU also provides support to VEC staff, the public and private sectors, economists, and national and regional officials.

The programs carried out by DCU operate under the authority of Section 60.2-113 of the *Code of Virginia* and certain mandated reporting requirements of the U.S. Department of Labor.

Specific DCU staff responsibilities, activities, and services include:

- Compilation of state and local employment statistics on Workforce Services Division activities.
- Collection, compilation, and transmission of federally mandated reports to the Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration.
- Staff support to the EIA Division and response to data requests for statewide statistics.



For information on any of DCU's services and/or data requests, contact:
Katrina Pettaway, DCU supervisor - (804) 786-8202

Research and Analysis

The Research and Analysis (RA) unit conducts economic research, performs analyses, and develops publications, special studies, and press releases, on a variety of economic issues and topics. The unit also provides staff support to executive and legislative commissions, task forces, and study groups.

The programs carried out by the RA unit operate under the authority of Section 60.2-113 of the *Code of Virginia*.

Specific RA staff responsibilities, activities, and services include:

- Monthly press release covering unemployment rates and nonagricultural wage and salary employment.
- Monitoring, analyzing, and making forecasts regarding the long-term solvency of the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund.
- Economic impact analyses on a wide range of defense- and nondefense-related issues as well as staff support for various executive and legislative commissions.
- Impact Analysis for the Commonwealth (IMPAC), which provides economic impact analysis on a variety of public and private facilities and proposals.
- Short- and long-term industry and occupational employment projections on state and Local Workforce Development Area (LWDA) level.
- Provide support and analysis to the Division of Workforce Services, Virginia Board of Workforce Development, and other related workforce entities.

Publications include:

Virginia Employment Indicators, quarterly

Weekly UI Claims Report

Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS), monthly

Alternative Measures of Unemployment, quarterly

These publications are also available at www.Virginiaworks.com.

Research and Analysis

Another function of the RA unit is to assimilate geographical and census data that pertain to employment, unemployment, and other labor market subjects using state and regional maps and census tracts.

One of the primary uses of Census Tract data is working with requests for Targeted Employment Area (TEA) information.

A Targeted Employment Area (TEA) is defined by Title 8, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Section 204.6(e) as an area which, at the time of investment, is a rural area or an area which has experienced unemployment of at least 150 percent of the national average rate. A rural area is further defined as any area not within a metropolitan statistical area (MSA). Areas which have experienced unemployment of at least 150 percent of the national average rate are called high unemployment areas and are designated by states.

Therefore, all counties and cities (census county equivalents) in Virginia not included in an MSA qualify as TEAs.

In accordance with 8 CFR 204.6(i), the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) is the designated authority within the state of Virginia to certify geographic areas or political subdivisions located within MSAs as high unemployment areas. EIA certifies geographic areas or political subdivisions, such as counties, cities, Census Tracts in MSA counties and cities, as areas of high unemployment if they have unemployment rates of at least 150 percent of the national average unemployment rate.

The most current average annual unemployment rates (by fiscal year) published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) are used by the VEC to determine high unemployment areas.

The VEC also may certify a high unemployment area, as requested, for a combination of the aforementioned geographic and political subdivisions within an MSA, so long as the area is contiguous and has an unemployment rate of at least 150 percent of the national unemployment rate. These certifications will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

For information on any of RA's services and/or reports and press releases, contact:

Timothy Aylor (804) 786-3177 or Conrad Buckler (804) 786-8264, Senior Economists

For information on TEA, please contact:

Larry Robinson, Senior Economist/GIS (804) 786-8624

Labor Market Information

The Labor Market Information (LMI) unit provides comprehensive labor market, demographic, and economic information, preparing official short-and long-range population projections, and preparing publications, special analysis, and reports.

The programs carried out by the LMI unit operate under the authority of Section 60.2-113 of the *Code of Virginia* and Memorandum of Agreement No. 6-08-51-01 with the Bureau of the Census.

Labor Market Information

Labor Market Information (LMI) staff serve as the focal point within the VEC and the Commonwealth of Virginia for the dissemination and analysis of labor market information.

Publications and LMI data are available on our online resource: **www.Virginiaworks.com**. In addition to our publications and online data, special computer-run micro level LMI data is available to governmental agencies, governmental economic developers, and local city/county governments, using the Data Share Agreement (DSA) procedures.

Additionally, several career publications are available to assist job seekers, students, veterans, educators, and vocational advocates.

Publications include:

Virginia Occupational Career Resource Guide

Community Profiles - updated monthly

Exploring Your Career Options - Middle School Career Guide

What Do I Want to Do When I Grow Up? - Elementary School Career Activity Guide

LMI Career Quarterly - LMI newsletter published quarterly

Job Search Tips - 5 Steps to a Successful Job Search

STEM Occupations in Virginia - brochure

Virginia Employment Indicators - published quarterly

Virginia Job Outlook Projected to 2028 - brochure

Labor Market Information

Information and data includes:

LMI Information

Consumer Price Index (CPI)

Current Employment Statistics (CES)

Education Data

Income Data

Industry and Occupational Employment Projections

Labor Force Metrics at a Glance

Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

Nonfarm Employment Data for Virginia/Metropolitan Areas

Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)

Occupational Profile

Occupational Wage Sources

Population Data

Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)

50 Largest Employers by state, city/county, LWDA, and MSA

Press Releases

Monthly State Analysis

Labor Market information and publications are also made available to the public via EIA's Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/VEC-Economic-Information-Analytics-1520236831615398/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel

and Twitter account: <https://twitter.com/VirginiaLMI>

For information on any of LMI's services and/or publications, contact:

Stacy Maher, LMI/BLS Manager - (804) 786-8824



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