

# CAREER QUARTERLY

Career Information, Job Seeking Advice, Labor Market Data, and More!



## In This Issue

**Virginia Economy at a Glance**

**2**

### Labor Market Research

**Industry and Occupational Employment Projections Overview and Highlights, 2022–32**

**3**

**Careers in Mental Health Services**

**5**

### Job Searching

**Spotlight: Hand Laborers and Material Movers**

**8**

### Career and Labor Market Information Publications

<https://viriniaworks.com/publications>

**10**



# Virginia's Economy at a Glance

Data Series	Apr 2023	May 2023	June 2023	July 2023	Aug 2023	Sept 2023
<b>Labor Force Data</b>						
Civilian Labor Force <sup>(1)</sup>	4,550.8	4,574.3	4,588.3	4,597.5	4,601.6	(P)4,610.7
Employment <sup>(1)</sup>	4,410.6	4,439.9	4,463.1	4,481.2	4,488.5	(P)4,494.4
Unemployment <sup>(1)</sup>	140.3	134.4	125.2	116.3	113.1	(P)116.3
Unemployment Rate <sup>(2)</sup>	3.1	2.9	2.7	2.5	2.5	(P)2.5
<b>Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment</b>						
Total Nonfarm <sup>(3)</sup>	4,140.0	4,143.5	4,145.7	4,150.1	4,157.8	(P)4,157.7
12-month % change	2.2	2.2	2.3	1.7	1.6	(P)1.2
Mining and Logging <sup>(3)</sup>	7.1	7.0	7.1	7.1	7.0	(P)7.0
12-month % change	0.0	-1.4	-1.4	0.0	-2.8	(P)-2.8
Construction <sup>(3)</sup>	212.5	215.1	212.2	213.5	214.0	(P)210.2
12-month % change	2.1	3.6	1.8	1.9	1.8	(P)-0.6
Manufacturing <sup>(3)</sup>	246.0	245.3	246.9	245.9	245.3	(P)244.8
12-month % change	0.6	0.2	0.7	0.1	0.0	(P)-0.5
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities <sup>(3)</sup>	665.5	665.9	666.8	666.0	667.7	(P)667.4
12-month % change	0.1	0.1	0.4	-0.3	-0.2	(P)-0.3
Information <sup>(3)</sup>	71.2	72.4	71.7	72.2	72.4	(P)71.6
12-month % change	2.9	4.3	3.5	2.8	2.3	(P)1.4
Financial Activities <sup>(3)</sup>	216.4	216.3	216.0	216.3	217.3	(P)217.7
12-month % change	0.4	0.2	-0.1	-0.4	-0.1	(P)-0.4
Professional & Business Services <sup>(3)</sup>	811.3	815.0	814.0	813.7	814.8	(P)818.2
12-month % change	1.2	1.6	1.4	0.5	0.5	(P)0.8
Education & Health Services <sup>(3)</sup>	576.0	574.9	575.6	577.4	579.7	(P)583.6
12-month % change	4.6	4.0	4.2	3.7	4.1	(P)4.0
Leisure & Hospitality <sup>(3)</sup>	409.8	408.8	406.5	406.3	406.5	(P)407.9
12-month % change	6.0	5.8	5.1	3.4	3.3	(P)2.6
Other Services <sup>(3)</sup>	195.6	194.9	195.2	194.5	193.9	(P)193.7
12-month % change	2.9	2.6	2.9	1.9	1.4	(P)1.1
Government <sup>(3)</sup>	728.6	727.9	733.7	737.2	739.2	(P)735.6
12-month % change	2.3	2.0	3.1	3.0	2.9	(P)2.1

## Footnotes

<sup>(1)</sup> Number of persons, in thousands, seasonally adjusted.

<sup>(2)</sup> In percent, seasonally adjusted.

<sup>(3)</sup> Number of jobs, in thousands, seasonally adjusted.

(P) Preliminary

Data extracted on: October 25, 2023

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics <https://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.va.htm>

Note: More data series, including additional geographic areas, are available through the "Databases & Tables" tab at the top of this page.

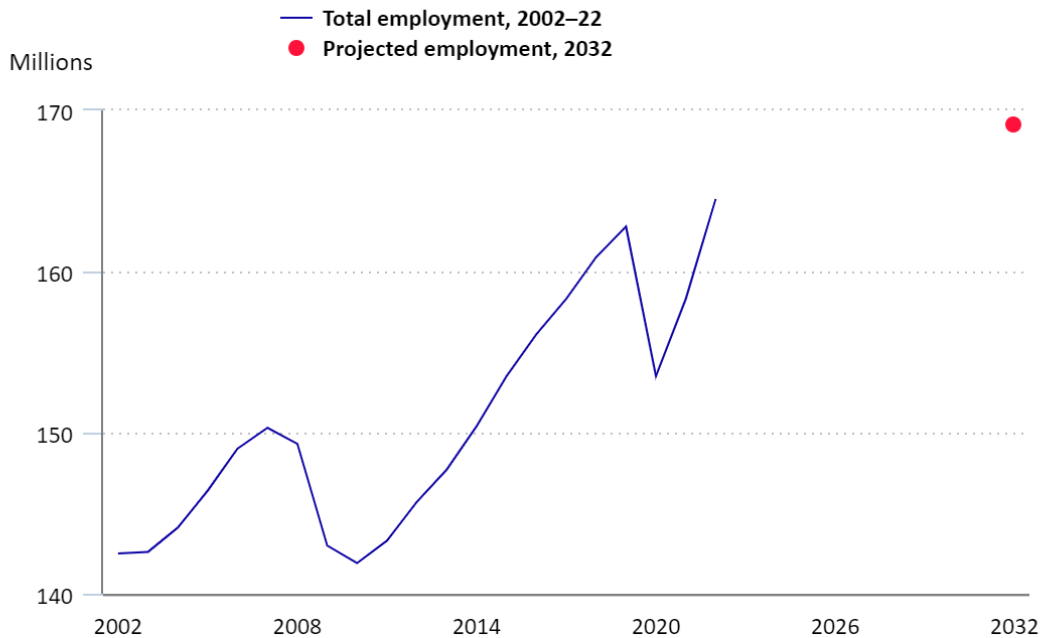
Labor Market Research

Industry and Occupational Employment Projections Overview and Highlights, 2022–32

Employment and real output are projected to grow from 2022 to 2032. The total economy is projected to add about 4.7 million jobs during this decade, with employment reaching a level of 169.1 million in 2032. Most of the projected employment gains are concentrated in the healthcare and social assistance sector and the professional, scientific, and technical services sector. The retail trade and manufacturing sectors account for the bulk of the projected job losses from 2022 to 2032.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) projects total employment to increase from 164.5 million in 2022 to 169.1 million in 2032, an increase of 2.8 percent. (See chart 1.) This projected growth is much slower than the 12.9-percent employment growth recorded over the 2012–22 decade, which was marked by strong recovery growth following the 2007–09 Great Recession and 2020 COVID-19 pandemic-induced recession. While wage and salary employment is projected to increase by 3.0 percent, the number of self-employed workers is projected to increase by 0.6 percent over the projections decade.

Chart 1. Total employment, 2002–22 and projected 2032



Note: Total employment refers to wage and salary employment and self-employment. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics does not project employment for interim years 2023–31. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The overall growth in employment is driven by demographic trends—such as the aging U.S. population and slower growth in the civilian noninstitutional population—that are expected to cause declining labor force participation rates and slower labor force growth over the projections period. For a more detailed discussion of the 2022–32 BLS labor force and macroeconomic projections and their underlying trends, see “Labor force and macroeconomic projections overview and highlights, 2022–32.”<sup>1</sup> These aggregate projections are used to develop output and employment projections at the industry level, which then feed into the projections for occupational employment.<sup>2</sup>

## Highlights of the 2022–32 industry and occupational employment projections include the following:

- ▶ The healthcare and social assistance sector and the management of companies and enterprises sector are projected to experience the fastest employment growth between 2022 and 2032.<sup>3</sup> The aging population and growing prevalence of chronic conditions are the main drivers of the strong projected job growth for the healthcare and social assistance sector.
- ▶ The healthcare and social assistance sector is projected to account for the most new jobs, 2.1 million out of the 4.7 million total (or 45 percent) of all new jobs. The professional, scientific, and technical services sector will account for another 21 percent of all new jobs; the employment growth of this sector is largely driven by the growing demand for information technology (IT) products and services.
- ▶ The growth of the digital economy is expected to support solid job growth across the information and transportation and warehousing sectors, both of which rank among the top five fastest growing sectors. At the same time, the continued growth of e-commerce is expected to constrain retail trade employment, which is the sector projected to lose the most jobs over the 2022–32 decade.
- ▶ Employment in the manufacturing sector is likewise expected to decline, albeit slightly, because of the continued adoption of automation technologies. However, some industries, such as those engaged in battery and semiconductor production, are expected to add jobs between 2022 and 2032.<sup>4</sup>
- ▶ Although the utilities sector is projected to see employment decline overall, the four fastest growing industries are all utilities industries. This divergence reflects the energy transition, as employment in fossil-fuel-related utilities is expected to decline whereas green energy is projected to experience fast growth.
- ▶ The healthcare support occupational group is expected to see the fastest employment growth and to add the most jobs of any occupational group over the projections decade.<sup>5</sup> Together with the healthcare practitioners and technical occupational group, these 2 healthcare groups account for roughly 2 of every 5 new jobs projected to be added over 2022–32.
- ▶ The computer and mathematical occupational group is projected to experience the second-fastest job growth of all 22 groups. Of the 15 fastest growing occupations, 7 are computer and mathematical occupations.
- ▶ Employment in the production and sales and related occupational groups, which cover occupations largely employed by the manufacturing and retail trade sectors, respectively, is projected to decline between 2022 and 2032.

### Notes

1 Kevin S. Dubina, “Labor force and macroeconomic projections overview and highlights, 2022–32,” Monthly Labor Review, September 2023, <https://doi.org/10.21916/mlr.2023.21>.

2 For a more detailed discussion of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Employment Projections methodology, see “Employment projections: overview,” Handbook of Methods (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, last modified September 6, 2023), <https://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/emp/>.

3 Discussion of sectors in this article refers to North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) two-digit sectors. For a list of all two-digit NAICS sectors, see “Industries at a glance: industries by supersector and NAICS code” (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, August 23, 2023), [https://www.bls.gov/iag/tgs/iag\\_index\\_naics.htm](https://www.bls.gov/iag/tgs/iag_index_naics.htm).

4 Discussion of industries in this article refers to three-, four-, five-, or six-digit level NAICS industries. For a list of all NAICS industries that BLS projects employment for, see “Table 1.9 2022–32 Industry-occupation matrix data, by industry,” Employment Projections (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, last modified September 6, 2023), <https://www.bls.gov/emp/tables/industry-occupation-matrix-industry.htm>.

**For full article:** <https://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2023/article/industry-and-occupational-employment-projections-overview-and-highlights-2022-32.htm>

Source: Javier Colato and Lindsey Ice, “Industry and occupational employment projections overview and highlights, 2022–32,” Monthly Labor Review, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, October 2023, <https://doi.org/10.21916/mlr.2023.24>



## Careers in Mental Health Services

Each year, millions of Americans receive support for their mental health. Counselors, social workers, and psychologists are among the specialists who provide this care.

Employment in mental health-related occupations and industries has grown over the past decade, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). And BLS projects strong growth to continue through 2032.

### Occupational outlook and wages

There are many ways to make a career of helping others maintain or improve their mental health. Table 1 highlights some of these occupations. Employment in each is projected to grow faster or much faster than the 3-percent average for all occupations from 2022 to 2032.

**Table 1. Employment (2022 and projected 2022–32) and wages (2022) in selected occupations providing mental health services**

Occupations	Employment growth , projected 2022–32	Employment, 2022	Occupational openings, projected 2022–32 annual average	Median annual wage, 2022
Substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors	18% (Much faster than average)	388,200	42,000	\$49,710
Marriage and family therapists	15% (Much faster than average)	71,200	5,900	56,570
Community health workers	14% (Much faster than average)	67,200	8,000	46,190
Clinical and counseling psychologists	11% (Much faster than average)	67,500	4,100	90,130
Psychiatric technicians and aides	9% (Much faster than average)	139,600	15,200	37,330
Social and human service assistants	9% (Much faster than average)	415,100	47,400	38,520
Social workers	7% (Faster than average)	728,600	63,800	55,350
Psychiatrists	7% (Faster than average)	28,600	1,000	226,880
Educational, guidance, and career counselors and advisors	5% (Faster than average)	342,400	26,600	60,140

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Office of Occupational Statistics and Employment Projections.



Employment of substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors is projected to grow the fastest among the mental health occupations in the table, increasing 18 percent from 2022 to 2032. These counselors work with clients seeking help for addictions, anxiety, stress, and other problems.

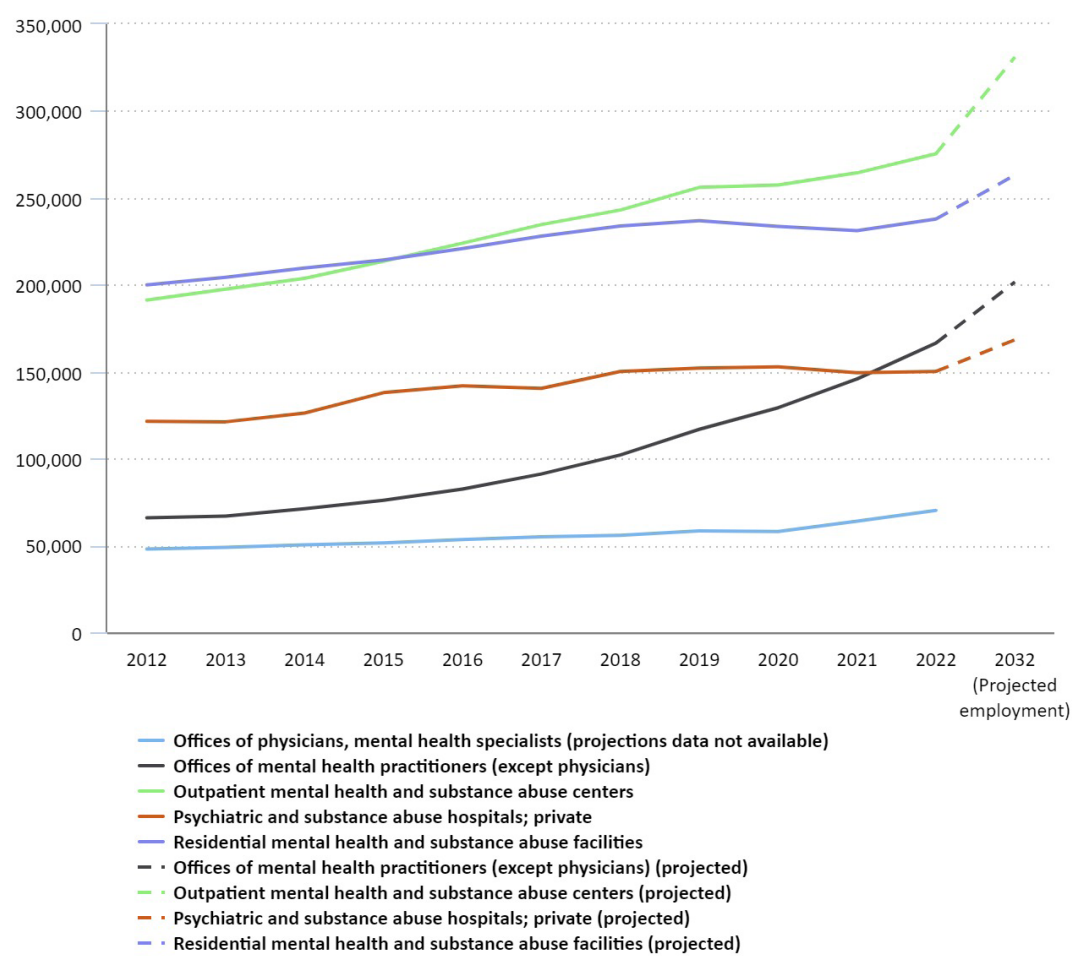
The occupations in the table accounted for about 2.2 million jobs in 2022. And they are projected to have more than 200,000 openings annually, on average, over the decade. Of the occupations shown, social workers had the most jobs in 2022 and is projected to have the most annual average openings from 2022 to 2032. Social workers help people to cope with a wide range of life challenges, and some specialize in an area such as mental health and substance abuse or children and families.

Six of the occupations in the table had a median annual wage above the \$46,310 median annual wage for all occupations in 2022. These wages ranged from \$226,880 for psychiatrists, the medical doctors who diagnose and treat mental disorders, to \$37,330 for psychiatric technicians and aides, who assist these doctors and other healthcare workers.

Industry employment trends

People receive mental health services in various settings, including doctors’ and counselors’ offices, outpatient centers, hospitals, and residential facilities. Chart 1 shows historical and projected employment in several industries related to mental health.

Chart 1. Employment in selected industries providing mental health services, 2012–22 and projected 2032



Note: BLS does not project specific data for each of the interim years to the 2032 projection point. These years are expressed as a dashed straight line.  
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey (2012–2022 private industry employment, annual averages) and Employment Projections program (2032 projected employment).



As the chart shows, employment increased in all of these industries from 2012 to 2022. Offices of mental health practitioners and outpatient mental health and substance abuse centers had especially strong growth over the decade.

The industry employment data in the chart include workers who are directly involved with providing mental health services and those, such as medical secretaries or janitors and cleaners, who perform other tasks that help to keep facilities operating smoothly.

BLS projects that employment will continue to rise rapidly in these industries through 2032. Projected growth rates range from 11 percent in residential mental health and substance abuse facilities to 21 percent in offices of mental health practitioners.

### For more information

The occupations featured in this article have varied entry requirements, ranging from a high school diploma to a doctoral or professional degree. Training and licensure also are common.

Learn more about these and hundreds of other occupations in the Occupational Outlook Handbook (OOH). In addition to entry requirements, the OOH describes what workers do, where they work, their wages, job outlook, and more.

For occupational and industry projections data, visit the BLS Employment Projections program online. Historical industry employment data are available from the BLS Current Employment Statistics program.

Source: <https://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2023/article/careers-in-mental-health-services.htm>



Job Searching



Hand Laborers and Material Movers

Quick Facts: Hand Laborers and Material Movers	
2022 Median Pay	\$34,960 per year \$16.81 per hour
Typical Entry-Level Education	No Education Required
Work Experience in a Related Occupation	None
On-the-job Training	Short-term on-the-job training
Number of Jobs, 2022	7,099,400
Job Outlook, 2022-32	5% (Faster than average)
Employment Change, 2022-32	353,400

Hand laborers and material movers manually move freight, stock, or other materials. Some of these workers feed or remove material to or from machines, clean vehicles, pick up unwanted household goods, and pack materials for moving.



## Duties

Hand laborers and material movers typically do the following:

- ▶ Manually move material from one place to another
- ▶ Pack or wrap products by hand
- ▶ Keep a record of the material they move
- ▶ Signal machine operators to help move material
- ▶ Clean cars, equipment, and workplaces

In warehouses and in wholesale and retail operations, hand laborers and material movers work closely with material moving machine operators and material recording clerks. Some workers are employed in manufacturing industries, loading material onto conveyor belts or other machines.

## Education

There are no formal educational requirements to become a hand laborer or material mover.

## Training

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 who decides when trainees are ready to work on their own.

Workers learn safety rules as part of their training. Many of these rules are standardized through the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

## Licenses, Certifications, and Registrations

Refuse and recyclable material collectors who drive trucks that exceed a certain capacity—such as vehicles with the combined weight of the vehicle, passengers, and cargo exceeding 26,000 pounds—must have a commercial driver's license (CDL). Obtaining a CDL requires passing written, skill, and vision tests.

## Pay

The median annual wage for hand laborers and material movers was \$34,960 in May 2022. The median wage is the wage at which half the workers in an occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$26,070, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$47,800.

In Virginia, the average entry level wage for a hand laborers and material movers was \$26,530, with a median wage of \$35,570 and experienced average at \$49,180.

## Job Outlook

Overall employment of hand laborers and material movers is projected to grow 5 percent from 2022 to 2032, faster than the average for all occupations.

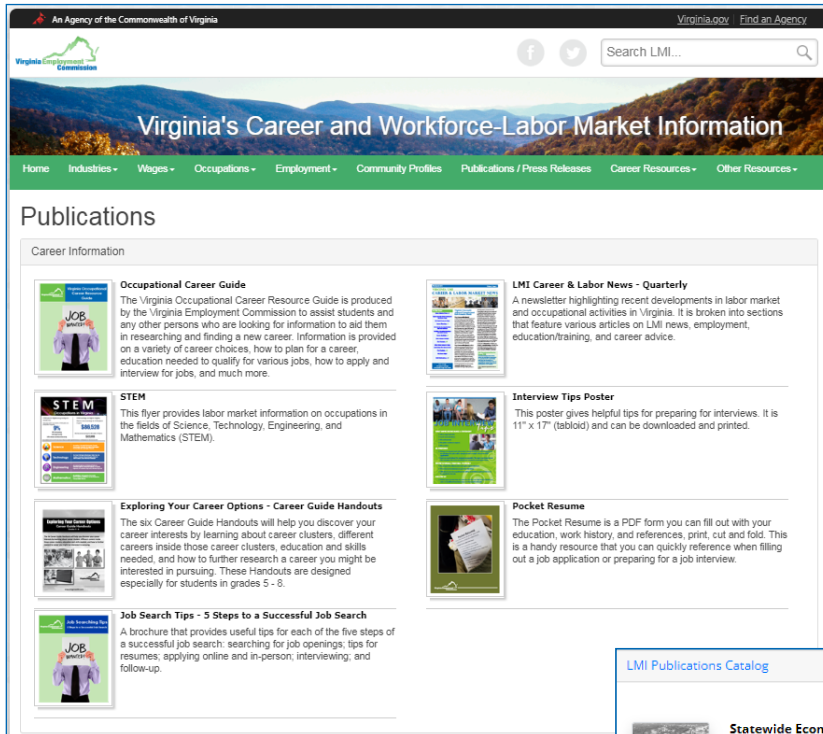
About 1,075,800 openings for hand laborers and material movers are projected each year, on average, over the decade. Many of those openings are expected to result from the need to replace workers who transfer to different occupations or exit the labor force, such as to retire.

Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/transportation-and-material-moving/hand-laborers-and-material-movers.htm#tab-1>

# Career and Labor Market Information Publications • • • • •

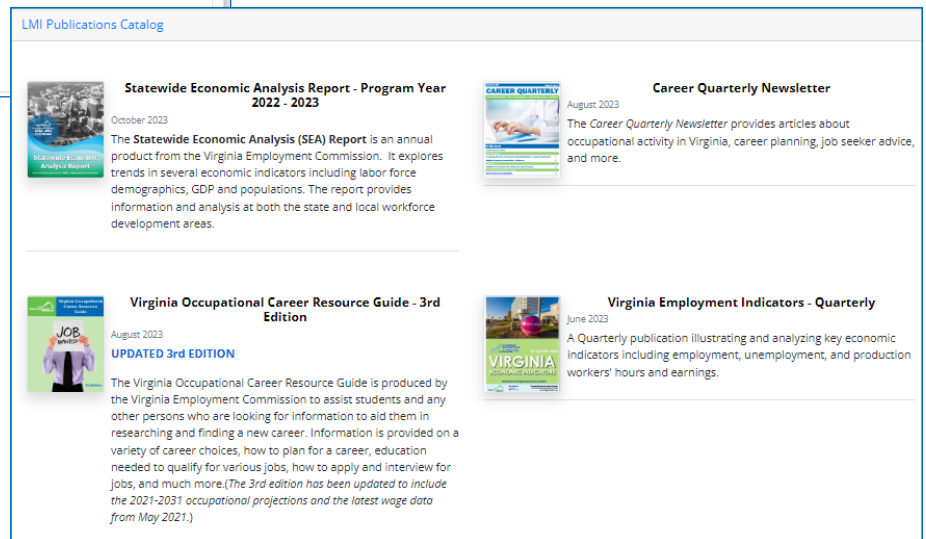
**Explore Career Possibilities on our Career and Labor Market Information Website at:**

**<https://virginiaworks.com/publications>**



The Virginia Employment Commission Labor Market Information division is proud to offer a number of quality publications available to view and download at on our website.

These products provide labor market information, job tips, career planning, and more.



This workforce product was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The product was created by the recipient and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership.

This product is copyrighted by the institution that created it. Internal use by an organization and/or personal use by an individual for non-commercial purposes is permissible. All other uses require the prior authorization of the copyright owner.