

Quarterly Employment Indicators for Virginia



Fourth Quarter Summary:

The Commonwealth's economy ended the year strong during fourth quarter 2022, with total non-farm employment increasing by 99,200 from January, the first month of the first quarter, to December 2022, the last month of the last quarter. During the same period, the labor force increased by 79,797 to 4,470,272, the largest labor force the Commonwealth has seen yet. The labor force participation rate also increased from 64.4% to 65.1%, continuing to close the gap between pre-pandemic and current labor force participation, but not yet reaching the February 2020 figure of 65.7%. At the same time, the number of unemployed persons increased by 10,822, and the unemployment rate edged up to 3.1%.

Over-the-quarter, employment increased in nine major industry sectors and decreased in four. The industries with the largest over-the-quarter job gains were Retail Trade, up 13,300 jobs; Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities, up 9,800 jobs; and Education and Health Services, up 7,900 jobs. The industries with the largest over-the-quarter decreases were Finance, down 3,300 jobs; Leisure and Hospitality, down 2,000 jobs; Professional and Business Services, down 300 jobs; and Mining and Logging, down 100 jobs. Despite having the largest over-the-quarter increase, Retail Trade was the only industry sector to experience a decrease in employment over-the-year, losing 6,900 jobs since December 2021. While hires increased over the quarter, Virginia's job market remained tight. BLS Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) data indicates that there were approximately 3 job openings per unemployed worker.

Despite a contraction in GDP over second quarter 2022 and forecasts of a recession heading into 2023, Virginia's real GDP grew 2.2% from second quarter 2022 to third quarter 2022, while U.S. GDP increased 3.2% over the same period. Inflation began to ease nationally, and in the South region, the over-the-year percentage change in CPI-U decreased from 7.4 in September 2022 to 6.5 in December 2022. Given the recent actions and statements from the Federal Reserve Bank, interest rates are expected to remain high or continue to be hiked with the aim of continuing the trend of easing inflation into 2023.

The economic indicators send mixed but largely positive signals about the condition of Virginia's labor market and economy. More people are returning to the labor force; both the number of employed and unemployed residents are on the rise. Inflation expectations, spending, and job market decisions will drive the future for Virginia's economy.

Economist: Erica Lashley erica.lashley@vec.virginia.gov



A Proud Partner of

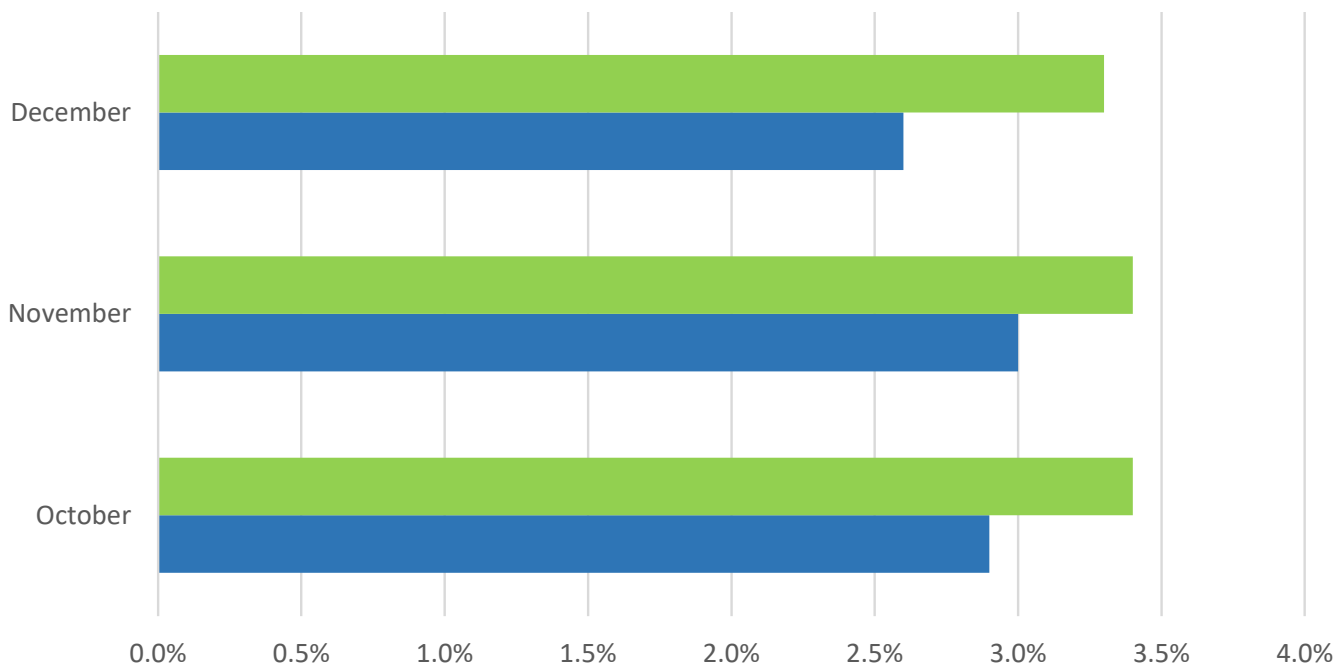


Economic Information & Analytics Division
6606 West Broad St., Richmond, VA 23230
www.VirginiaWorks.com



4th Quarter 2022 Unemployment Virginia vs. U.S. (Unadjusted)

Unemployment Rates



	October	November	December
■ U.S.	3.4%	3.4%	3.3%
■ Virginia	2.9%	3.0%	2.6%

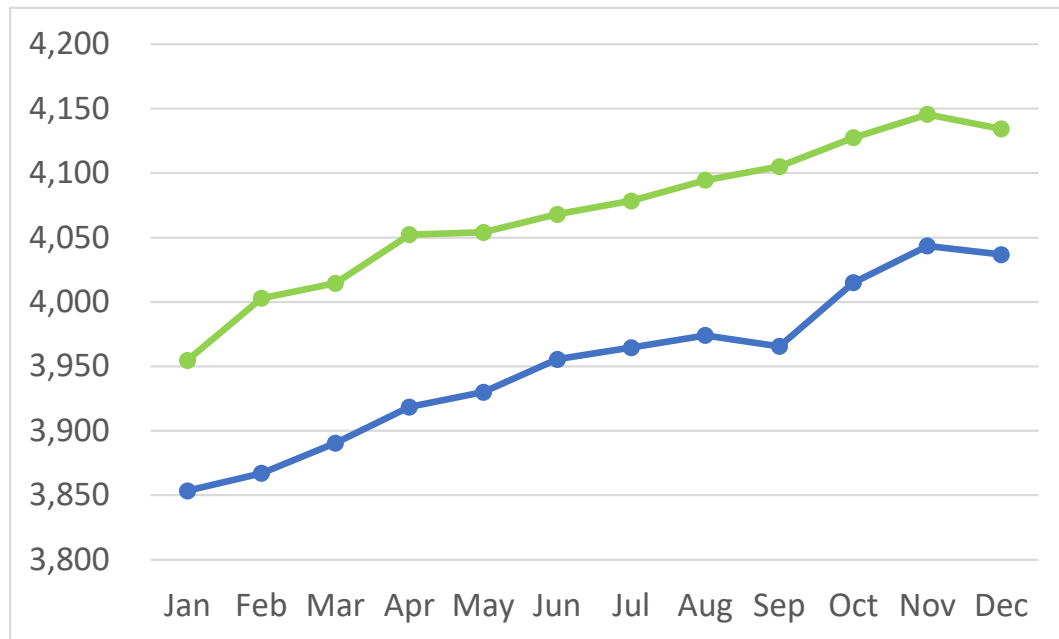
Employment/Unemployment

Virginia			U.S.	
Month	Employment	Unemployment	Employment	Unemployment
October	4,337,162	130,704	159,144,000	5,609,000
November	4,315,910	133,361	158,749,000	5,523,000
December	4,340,542	117,355	158,872,000	5,352,000

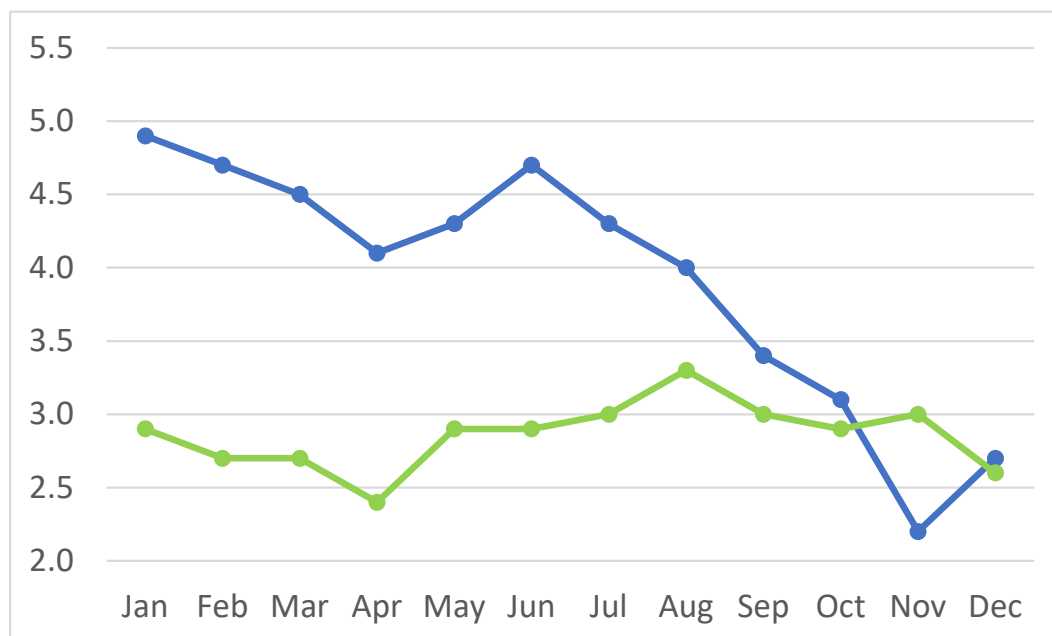
Sources: Virginia Employment Commission, Economic Information & Analytics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, and Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Total Nonfarm Employment and Unemployment

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(Thousands)



Total Unemployment Rate
(Percent)



2021 2022 4th Quarter (Unadjusted)

Data Scientist: Kyle Davis Kyle.Davis@vec.virginia.gov

Sources: Virginia Employment Commission, Economic Information & Analytics, Current Employment Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, and Bureau of Labor Statistics.

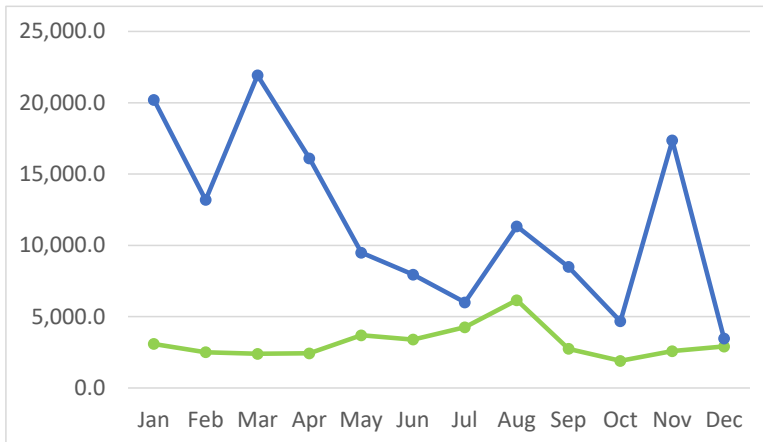


	Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment (Thousands)		Total Unemployment Rate (Percent)	
2022	Unadjusted	Adjusted	Unadjusted	Adjusted
January	3,954.7	4,012.7	2.9	2.9
February	4,002.9	4,035.1	2.7	2.9
March	4,014.5	4,038.5	2.7	2.8
April	4,052.3	4,051.1	2.4	2.6
May	4,054.1	4,055.4	2.9	2.5
June	4,068.1	4,053.9	2.9	2.5
July	4,078.5	4,082.7	3.0	2.6
August	4,094.5	4,091.1	3.3	2.8
September	4,105.1	4,106.7	3.0	3.0
October	4,127.5	4,106.1	2.9	3.1
November	4,145.6	4,108.3	3.0	3.2
December	4,134.3	4,111.9	2.6	3.1

2021	Unadjusted	Adjusted	Unadjusted	Adjusted
January	3,853.5	3,901.1	4.9	4.8
February	3,867.1	3,899.5	4.7	4.7
March	3,890.5	3,914.1	4.5	4.6
April	3,918.5	3,916.6	4.1	4.4
May	3,930.0	3,929.8	4.3	4.2
June	3,955.5	3,936.9	4.7	4.0
July	3,964.6	3,960.1	4.3	3.7
August	3,974.1	3,972.3	4.0	3.5
September	3,965.5	3,967.4	3.4	3.4
October	4,014.9	3,988.1	3.1	3.2
November	4,043.5	3,999.7	2.2	3.1
December	4,036.8	4,011.9	2.7	3.0

Unemployment Insurance

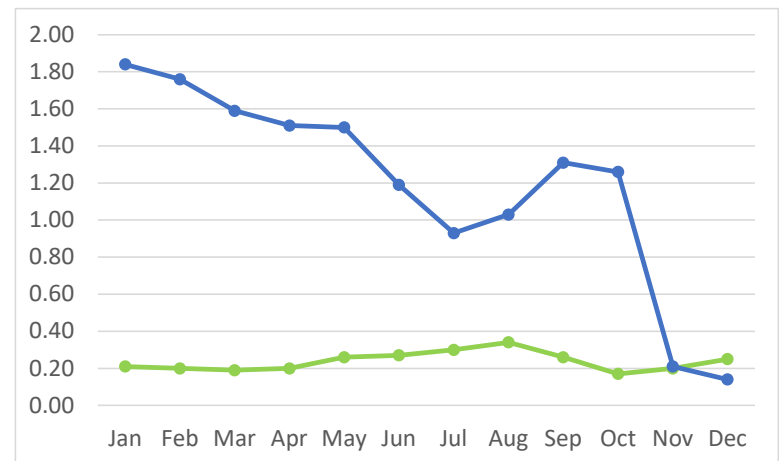
Average Weekly Initial Claims



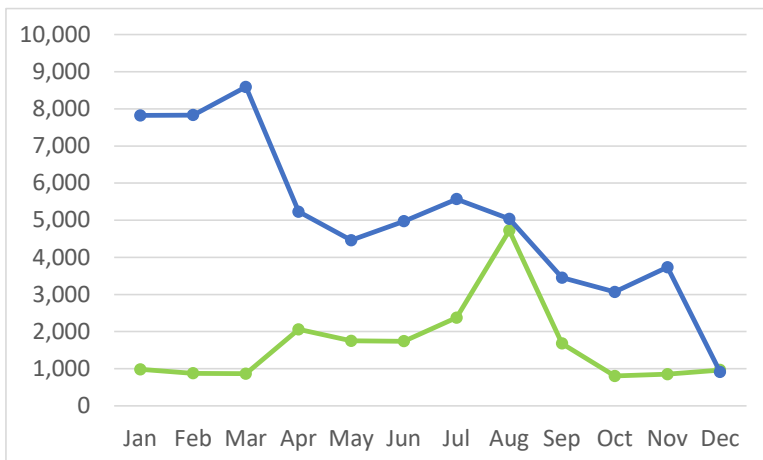
INSURED UNEMPLOYED : The average weekly number of weeks claimed for the three months of the quarter.

INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (IUR): The rate computed by dividing Insured Unemployed for the current quarter by Covered Employment for the first four of the last six completed quarters.

Insured Unemployment Rate



Unemployment Insurance Final Payments



2021 2022 4th Quarter (Unadjusted)

Sources: Virginia Employment Commission, Economic Information & Analytics, Unemployment Insurance, and Bureau of Labor Statistics.

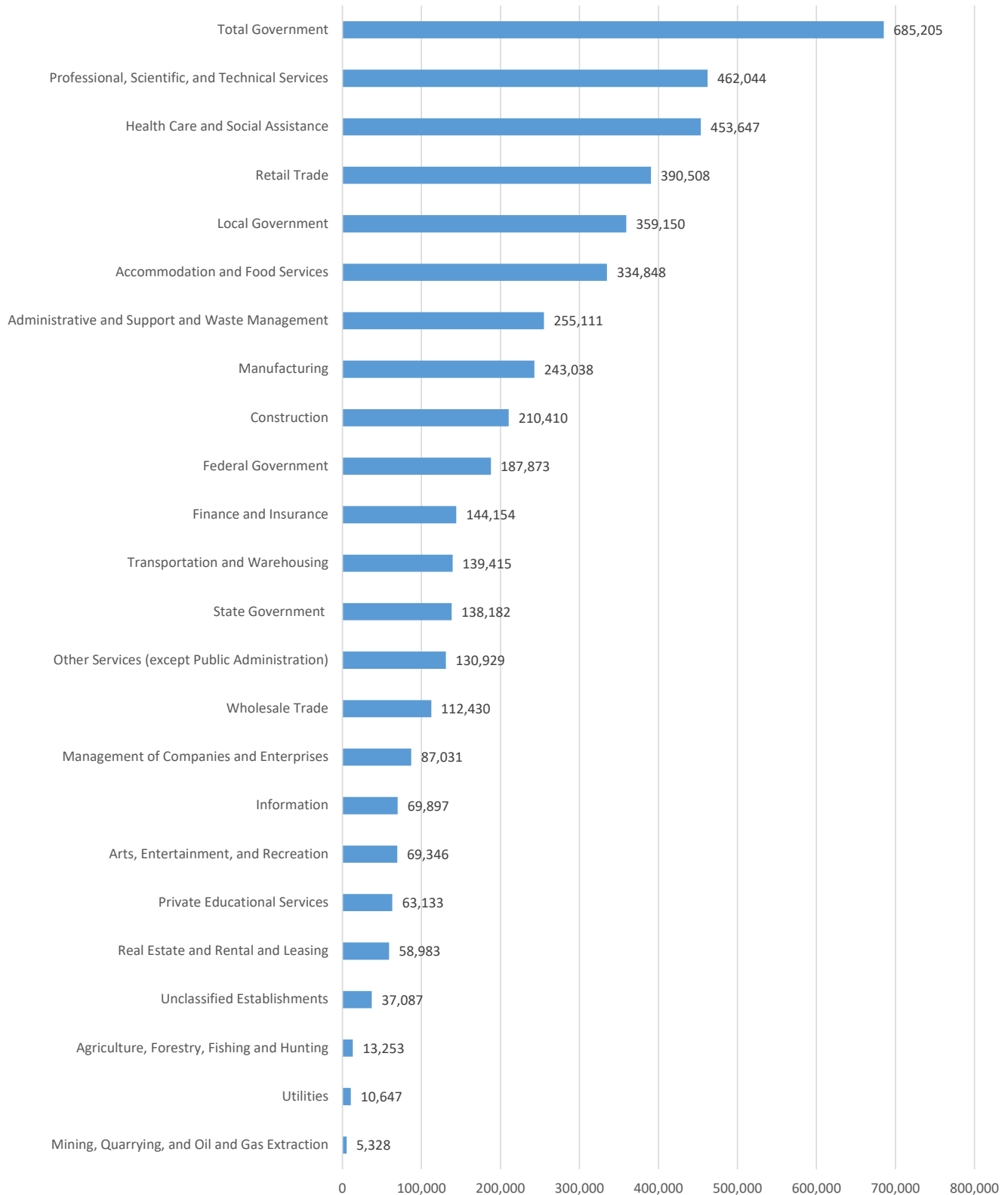


	Average Weekly Initial Claims	Insured Unemployment Rate (Percent)	Unemployment Insurance Final Payments
2022	Unadjusted	Unadjusted	Unadjusted
January	3,088.8	0.21	981
February	2,512.8	0.20	875
March	2,396.7	0.19	867
April	2,429.3	0.20	2,061
May	3,698.4	0.26	1,750
June	3,396.8	0.27	1,739
July	4,263.8	0.30	2,376
August	6,153.0	0.34	4,724
September	2,743.9	0.26	1,680
October	1,901.9	0.17	804
November	2,583.9	0.20	853
December	2,914.5	0.25	964

2021	Unadjusted	Unadjusted	Unadjusted
January	20,203.8	1.84	7,821
February	13,187.3	1.76	7,832
March	21,919.1	1.59	8,591
April	16,101.8	1.51	5,230
May	9,492.1	1.50	4,460
June	7,954.5	1.19	4,972
July	6,000.0	0.93	5,570
August	11,332.5	1.03	5,036
September	8,489.8	1.31	3,453
October	4,681.0	1.26	3,069
November	17,355.5	0.21	3,732
December	3,474.3	0.14	911

Employment by Industry

Third Quarter 2022



Economist: Erica Lashley erica.lashley@vec.virginia.gov

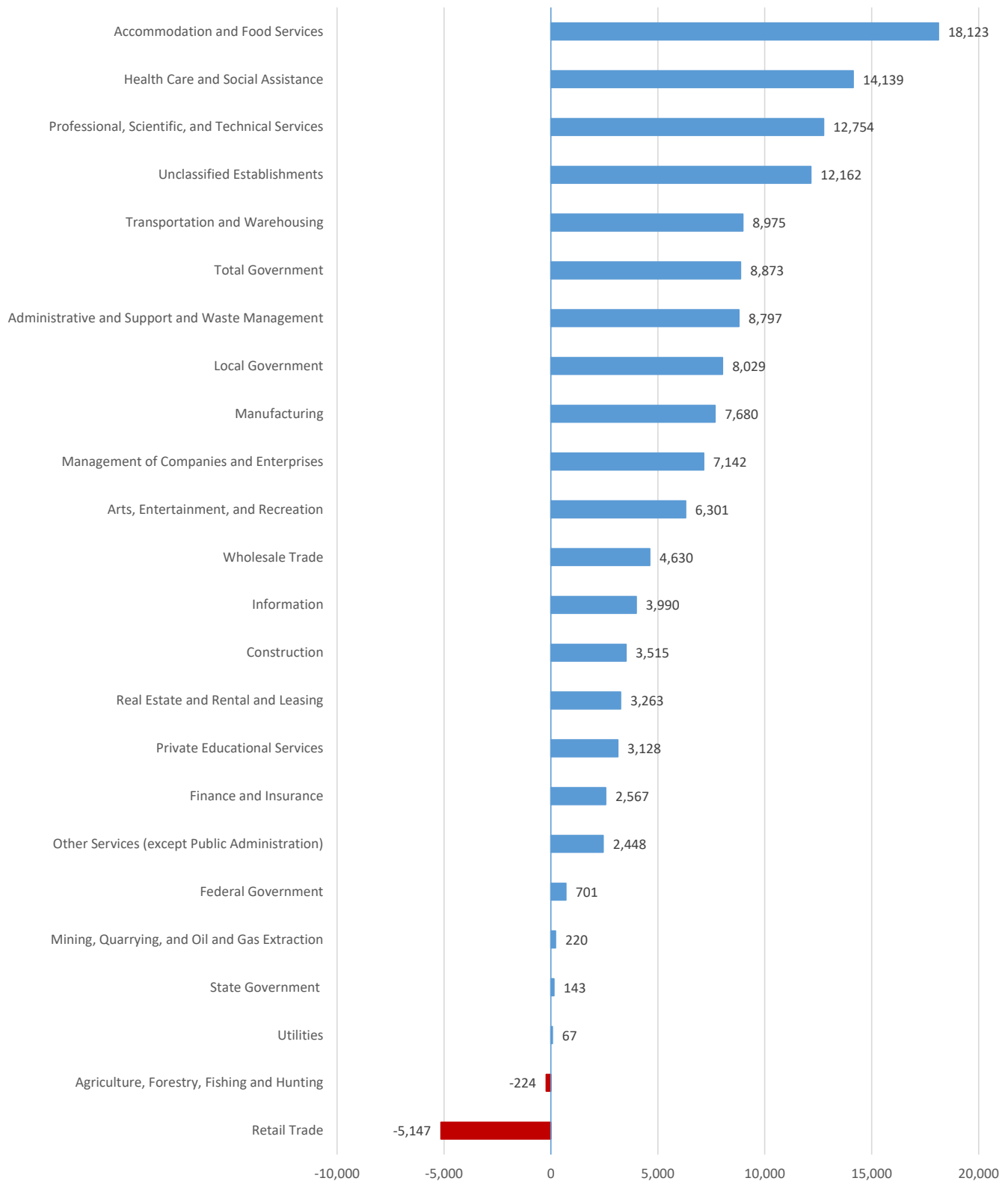
All Industry Total: 3,976,444
(Seasonally Unadjusted)

Note: Total Government includes: public education, federal, state, and local governments.

Source: Virginia Employment Commission, Economic Information & Analytics: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), 3rd Quarter 2022

Employment Change

Third Quarter 2021 - Third Quarter 2022



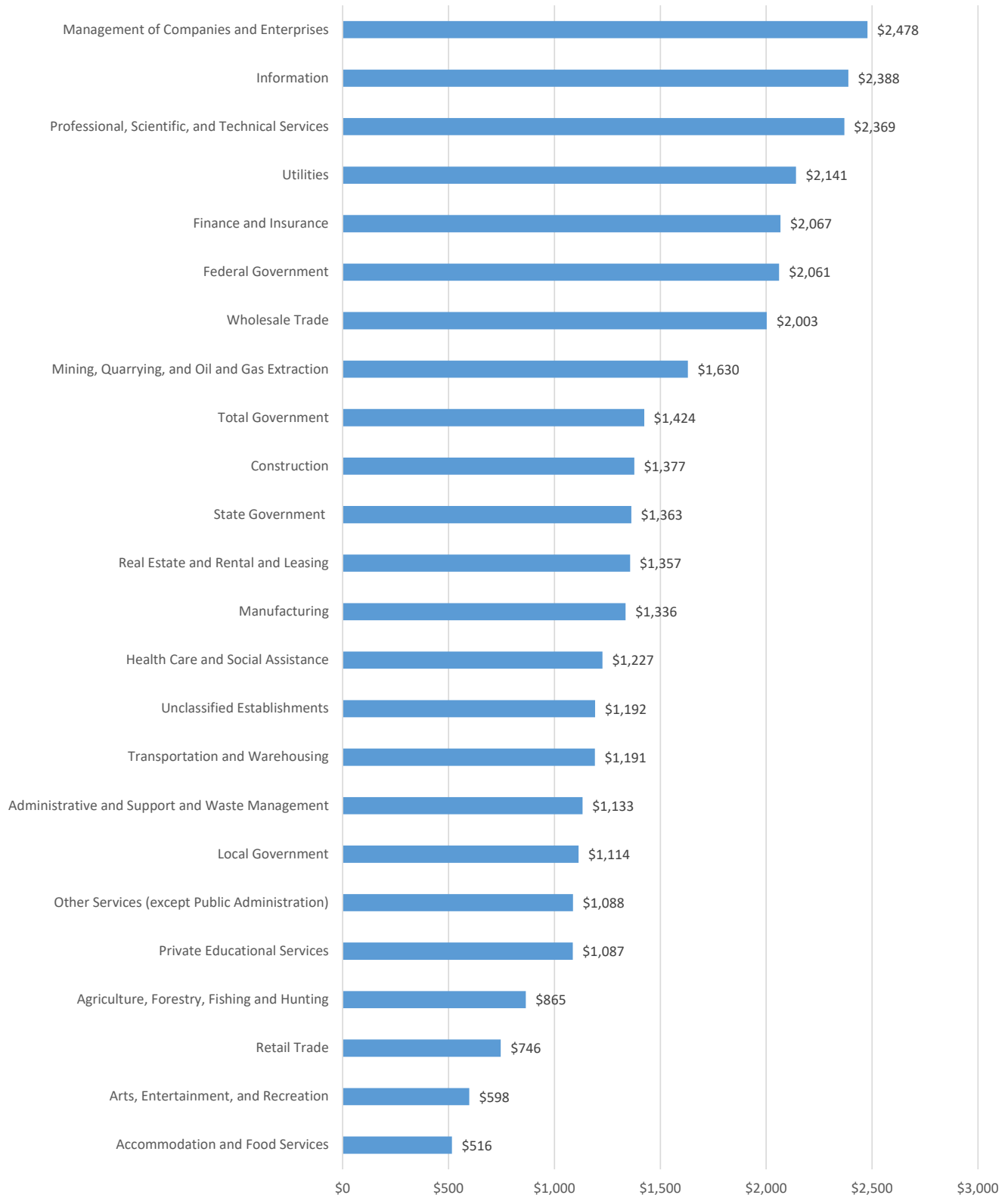
All Industry Total: 123,402
(Seasonally Unadjusted)

Note: Total Government includes: public education, federal, state, and local governments.

Source: Virginia Employment Commission, Economic Information & Analytics: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), 3rd Quarter 2022

Average Weekly Wage by Industry

Third Quarter 2022



All Industry Total: \$1,380
(Seasonally Unadjusted)

Note: Total Government includes: public education, federal, state, and local governments.

Source: Virginia Employment Commission, Economic Information & Analytics: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) 3rd Quarter 2022

Total Nonfarm Employment by Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) (Seasonally Adjusted)



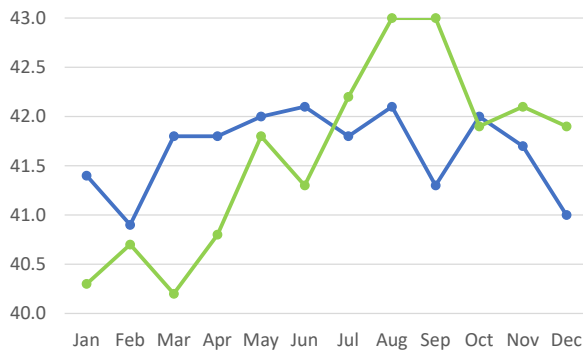
Area	Employment (end of quarter)	Previous Quarter (end of quarter)	Previous Year (end of quarter)	Over-the-Quarter Change	Over-the-Quarter (Percent)	Over-the-Year Change	Over-the-Year (Percent)
Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford	81,700	81,800	79,700	-100	-0.12%	2,000	2.51%
Charlottesville	121,900	120,600	118,400	1,300	1.08%	3,500	2.96%
Harrisonburg	70,700	69,800	69,000	900	1.29%	1,700	2.46%
Lynchburg	104,800	104,500	102,300	300	0.29%	2,500	2.44%
Richmond	702,600	704,300	682,000	-1,700	-0.24%	20,600	3.02%
Roanoke	164,000	162,900	159,500	1,100	0.68%	4,500	2.82%
Staunton	53,200	52,700	50,900	500	0.95%	2,300	4.52%
Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News	794,200	794,400	781,200	-200	-0.03%	13,000	1.66%
Winchester	70,700	70,500	68,100	200	0.28%	2,600	3.82%
Northern Virginia	1,549,900	1,548,700	1,511,400	1,200	0.08%	38,500	2.55%
Virginia	4,111,900	4,106,700	4,011,900	5,200	0.13%	100,000	2.49%

Senior Economist: Conrad Buckler: conrad.buckler@vec.virginia.gov

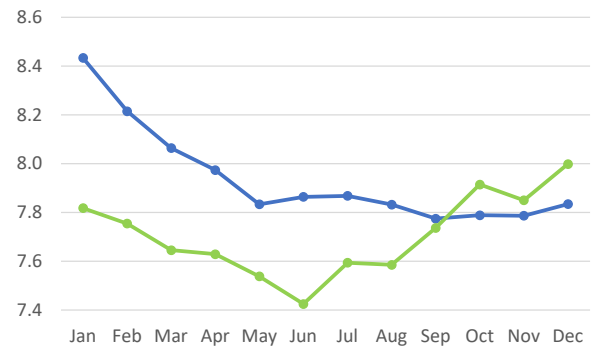
Source: Virginia Employment Commission, Economic Information & Analytics: Current Employment Statistics (CES) Seasonally Adjusted - (Not Preliminary)

Industry Focus: Manufacturing

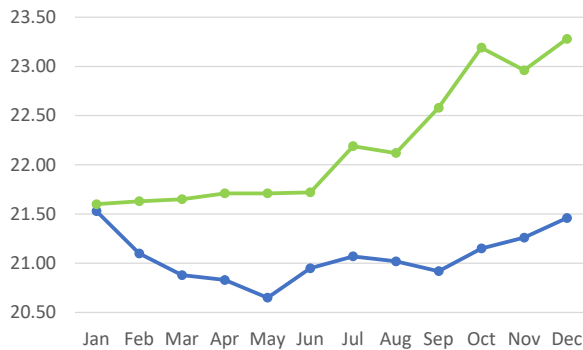
Average Weekly Hours



Inflation-adjusted Average Hourly Earnings
(1982-84 Dollars)



Average Hourly Earnings



2021 2022 4th Quarter (Unadjusted)

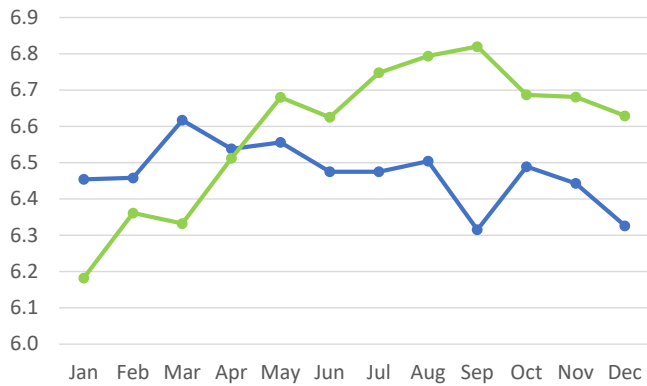
	Average Weekly Hours (Million)	Average Hourly Earnings (Dollars)	Inflated-Adjusted Average Hourly Earnings (1982-84 Dollars)
2022	Unadjusted	Unadjusted	Unadjusted
January	40.3	21.60	7.82
February	40.7	21.63	7.75
March	40.2	21.65	7.65
April	40.8	21.71	7.63
May	41.8	21.71	7.54
June	41.3	21.72	7.42
July	42.2	22.19	7.59
August	43.0	22.12	7.58
September	43.0	22.58	7.74
October	41.9	23.19	7.91
November	42.1	22.96	7.85
December	41.9	23.28	8.00
2021	Unadjusted	Unadjusted	Unadjusted
January	41.4	21.53	8.43
February	40.9	21.10	8.22
March	41.8	20.88	8.06
April	41.8	20.83	7.97
May	42.0	20.65	7.83
June	42.1	20.95	7.86
July	41.8	21.07	7.87
August	42.1	21.02	7.83
September	41.3	20.92	7.77
October	42.0	21.15	7.79
November	41.7	21.26	7.79
December	41.0	21.46	7.83

Sources: Virginia Employment Commission, Current Employment Statistics.

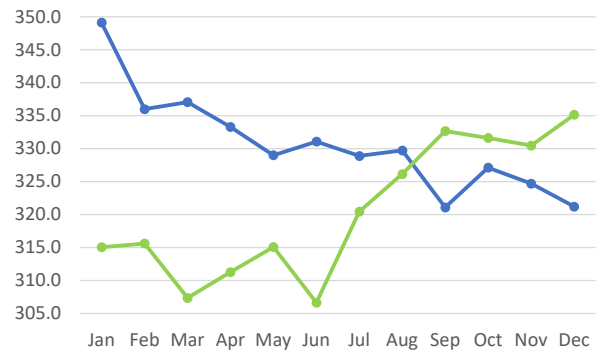
Data Scientist: Kyle Davis Kyle.Davis@vec.virginia.gov

Manufacturing Production Worker Indicators

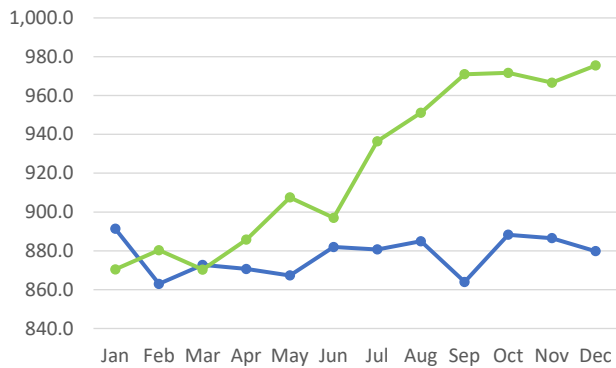
Total Production Hours
(Millions)



Inflation-adjusted Average Weekly Earnings
(1982-84 Dollars)



Average Weekly Earnings
(Dollars)



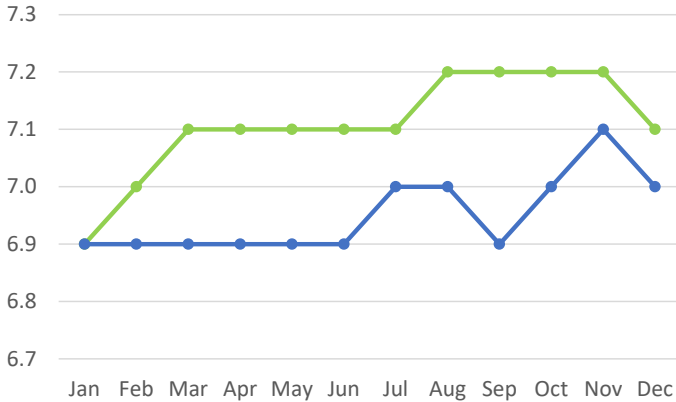
2021 2022 4th Quarter (Unadjusted)

	Total Production Hours (Millions)	Average Weekly Earnings (Dollars)	Inflated-Adjusted Average Weekly Earnings (1982-84 Dollars)
2022	Unadjusted	Unadjusted	Unadjusted
January	6.2	870.48	315.05
February	6.4	880.34	315.60
March	6.3	870.33	307.35
April	6.5	885.77	311.26
May	6.7	907.48	315.07
June	6.6	897.04	306.64
July	6.7	936.42	320.45
August	6.8	951.16	326.15
September	6.8	970.94	332.68
October	6.7	971.66	331.62
November	6.7	966.62	330.47
December	6.6	975.43	335.14
2021	Unadjusted	Unadjusted	Unadjusted
January	6.5	891.34	349.14
February	6.5	862.99	336.00
March	6.6	872.78	337.07
April	6.5	870.69	333.30
May	6.6	867.30	329.01
June	6.5	882.00	331.07
July	6.5	880.73	328.89
August	6.5	884.94	329.73
September	6.3	864.00	321.09
October	6.5	888.30	327.12
November	6.4	886.54	324.69
December	6.3	879.86	321.20

Sources: Virginia Employment Commission, Current Employment Statistics.

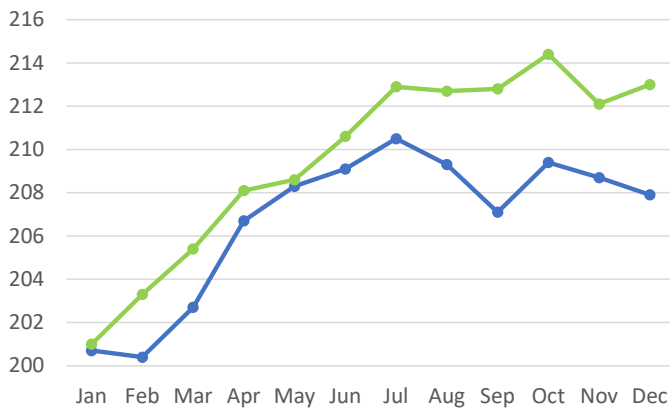
Quarterly Industry Report

Mining and Logging Employment
(Thousands)



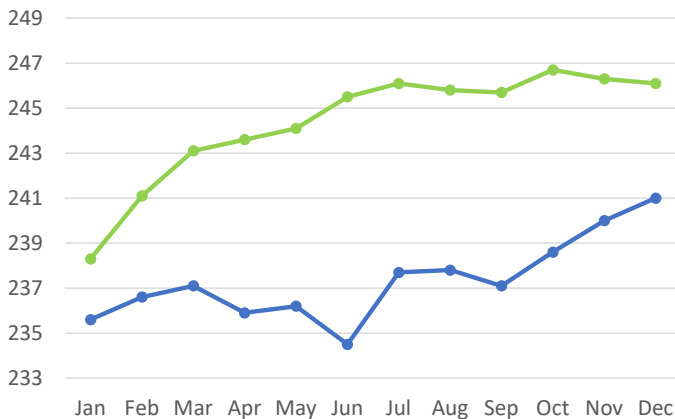
Mining and Logging decreased over-the-quarter, ending the month of December at 7,100. The fourth quarter employment averaged 7,200, which is 1.39 percent below the previous quarter, and an increase of 1.43 percent over-the-year.

Construction Employment
(Thousands)



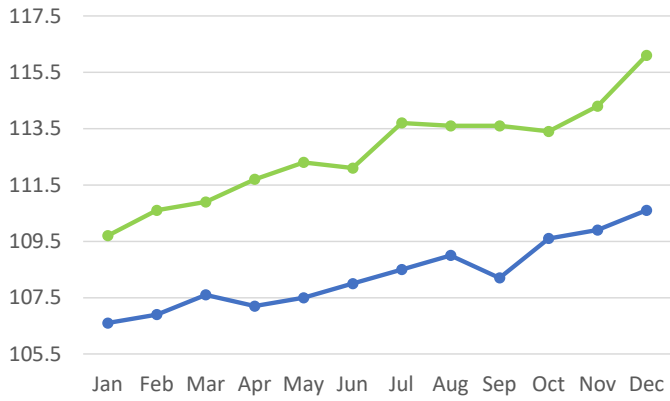
Construction employment increased 0.09 percent, or 200 jobs, from the third quarter, to end at 213,000. Employment levels are also 2.45 percent above where they were a year ago.

Manufacturing Employment
(Thousands)



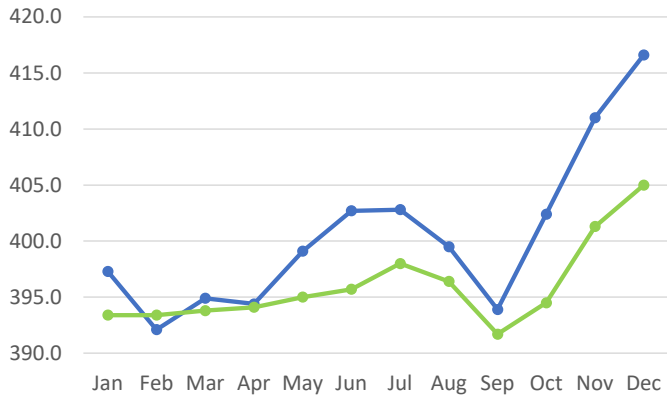
Manufacturing employment increased by 400 over-the-quarter and finished December at 246,100. In addition, over-the-quarter, Manufacturing experienced a 0.16 percent increase over the third quarter of 2022 and a 2.12 percent increase over-the-year.

Wholesale Trade Employment
(Thousands)



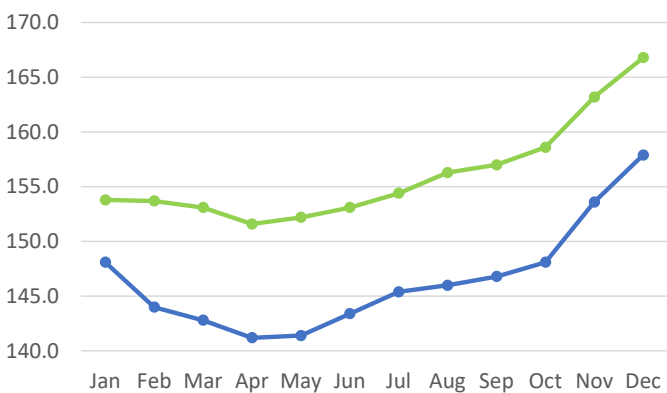
Wholesale Trade employment was up 2,500 over-the-quarter, at the end of December, to end the quarter at 116,100. There was an increase of 5,500 jobs over-the-year.

Retail Trade Employment
(Thousands)



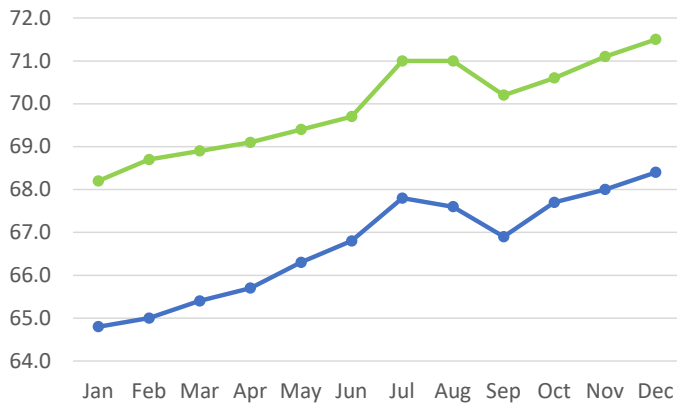
Retail Trade employment increased, in the fourth quarter of 2022, 13,300 to end December at 405,000. This is a 3.40 percent increase over-the-quarter, but a 1.68 percent decrease over-the-year.

Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities Employment
(Thousands)



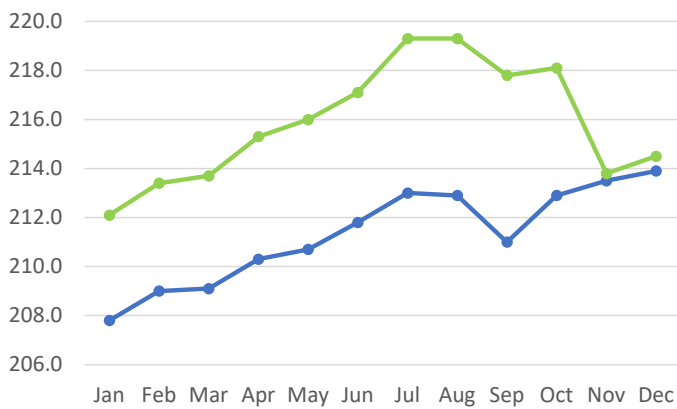
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities employment increased by 9,800, and ended the fourth quarter at 166,800, a 6.24 percent increase from the end of the previous quarter, and a large 2.71 percent increase over-the-year.

Information Employment
(Thousands)



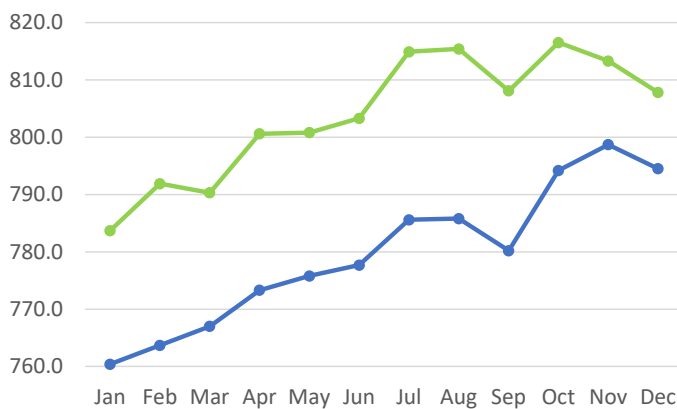
Information employment increased 1,300 in the fourth quarter, ending at 71,500, which is an increase of 1.85 percent over-the-quarter and a 4.53 percent increase over-the-year.

Finance Employment
(Thousands)



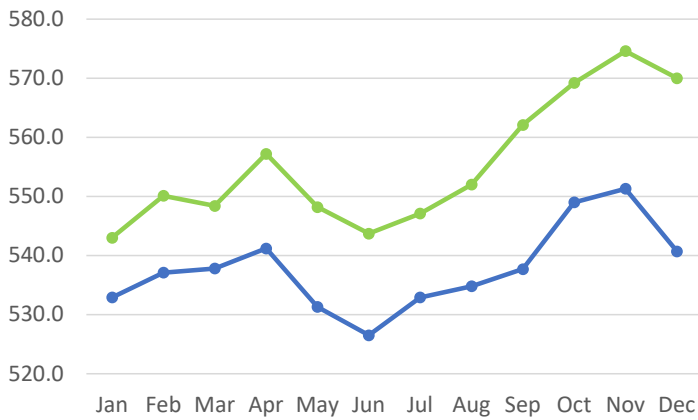
Finance employment saw a decrease of 3,300 over the fourth quarter, ending with employment at the level of 214,500. This is a 1.52 percent decrease over the first quarter, but is a 0.28 percent increase over-the-year.

Professional and Business Services Employment
(Thousands)



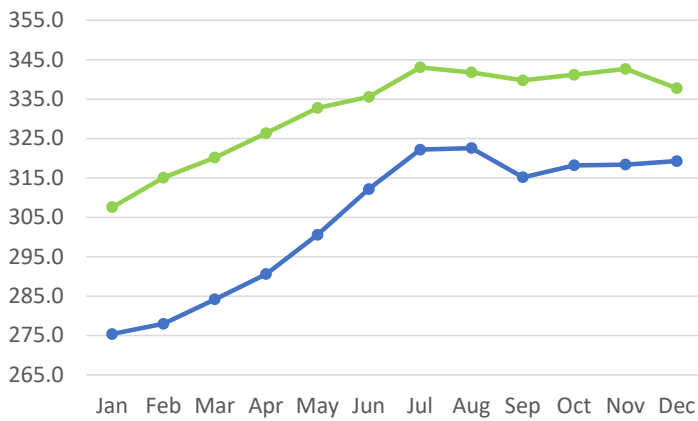
Professional and Business Services rose to the employment level of 807,800 in the month of December and gave a fourth quarter average of 812,500. This gives us an over-the-quarter decrease of 300, or 0.04 percent, and an over-the-year increase of 1.67 percent.

Private Education and Health Services Employment
(Thousands)



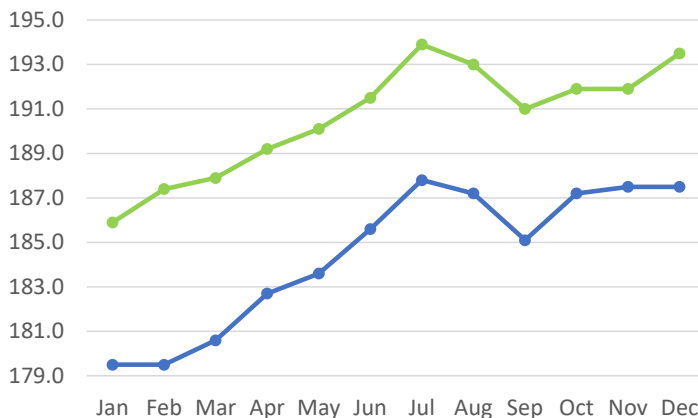
Private Education and Health Services employment increased 7,900, ending Fourth Quarter 2022 at 570,000. This is a 1.41 percent increase over-the-quarter from Q3, and a 5.42 percent increase over-the-year.

Leisure and Hospitality Services Employment
(Thousands)



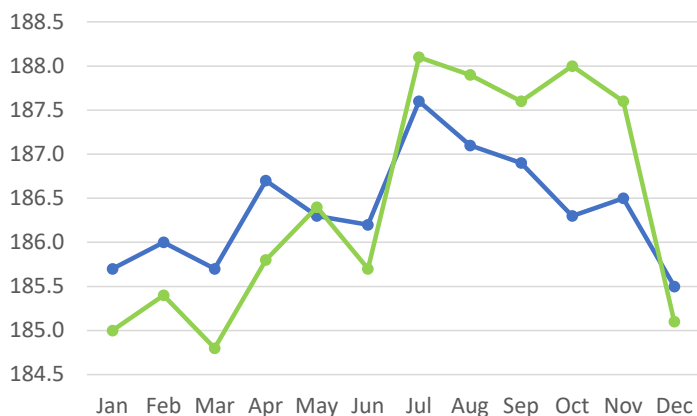
Leisure and Hospitality Services ended Fourth Quarter 2022 with employment at a level of 337,800, which is a decrease of 2,000 jobs over-the-quarter. That was also a decrease over-the-quarter of 0.59 percent, but with an increase over-the-year of 5.79 percent.

Miscellaneous Services Employment
(Thousands)



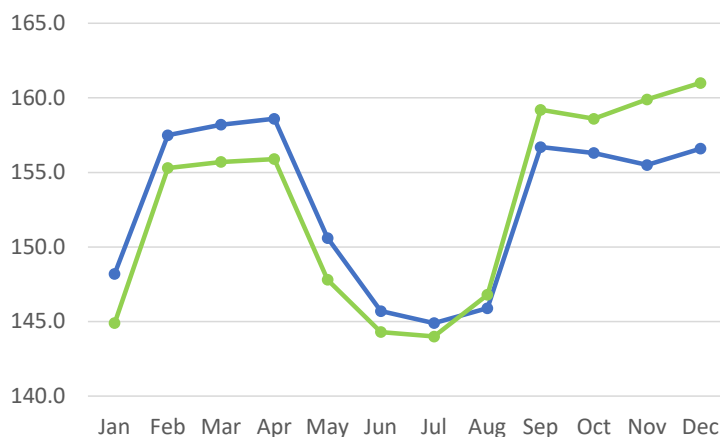
Miscellaneous Services ended December with an employment level of 193,500. There was an increase over-the-quarter of 1.31 percent, or 2,500 jobs, and an increase of 3.20 percent over-the-year.

Federal Government Employment
(Thousands)



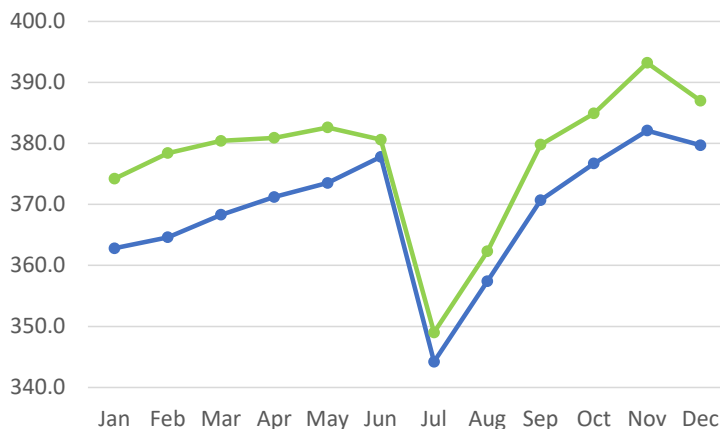
Federal Government employment experienced a decrease of 2,500, ending at 185,100 for an over-the-quarter loss of 1.33 percent and an over-the-year decrease of 0.22 percent.

State Government Employment
(Thousands)



Employment in State Government had an increase of 1,800 over-the-quarter or 1.13 percent, ending the quarter at 161,000, and an over-the-year increase of 2.81 percent.

Local Government Employment
(Thousands)



Local Government showed a gain over-the-quarter of 1.90 percent and an increase over-the-year of 1.90 percent in the fourth quarter to end December at 387,000. That is an increase of 7,100 over-the-quarter.

2021 2022 4th Quarter (Unadjusted)

Data Summary and Sources



Performance of Indicators Over the Business Cycle

For those interested in studying the business cycle in Virginia, this publication includes several of the economic time series for which data is readily available on a monthly basis. From time to time, new series will be added and, if necessary, others presently included will be discontinued.

Seasonal Adjustment

To correlate changes in a time series and changes in the business cycle, it is desirable to eliminate, insofar as possible, the effect of irrelevant factors from the data comprising the series. Series labeled “adjusted” that are published in the Virginia Employment Indicators have been adjusted to minimize regular seasonal fluctuations in the data in order to show only activity related to the business cycle.

Data Sources

Except for the following, the data source for all series in this publication is the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC)/ Economic Information & Analytics (EIA) Current Employment Statistics (CES) program.

U.S. Department of Labor:

Insured Unemployed Rate

VEC/EIA Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS):

Total Unemployment Rate

VEC/EIA Data Collections Unit (DCU):

Average Weekly Initial Claims

Unemployment Insurance Final Payments

Bureau of Labor Statistics’ Local Area Unemployment Statistics program, <https://www.bls.gov/lau/stalt.htm>:

Alternative Measures

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.

Contributing Staff



Timothy Kestner
Director, Economic Information & Analytics



Timothy Aylor
Senior Economist



Conrad Buckler
Senior Economist



Kyle Davis
Data Scientist



Erica Lashley
Economist



Linda Simmons
Graphic Design