

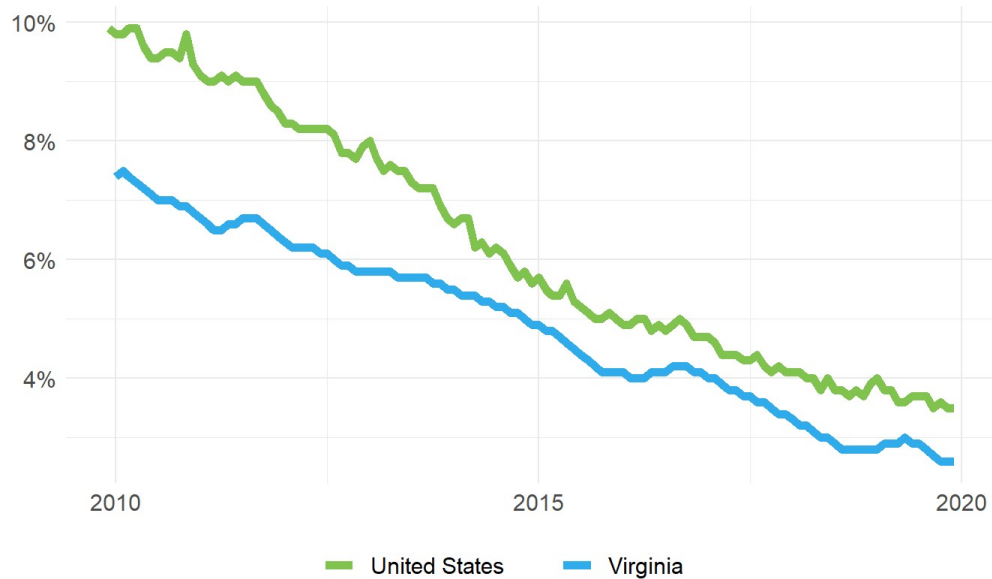


January 24, 2020

Summary

- **Virginia added 5,200 net payroll jobs and the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 2.6 percent in December**, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data released at 10:00am on January 24, 2020.
- **Over the past twelve months, Virginia added 45,200 payroll jobs** and the unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage point from 2.8 percent.
- **In December, Virginia's private sector added 6,100 net private payroll jobs** and over the past twelve months it added 50,600 private payroll jobs in the establishment survey.
- In the household survey, the number of **unemployed rose by 324 on net in December**, and over the past year employment rose by 121,017.
- Virginia's **labor force participation rate rose to 66.3 percent** in December from 66.1. Since last year, the labor force participation rate rose by 1.2 percentage points.
- The national unemployment rate **remained unchanged in December**. State employment and unemployment data for January is scheduled for release March 16, 2020. The national employment situation report for January will be released February 07, 2020.

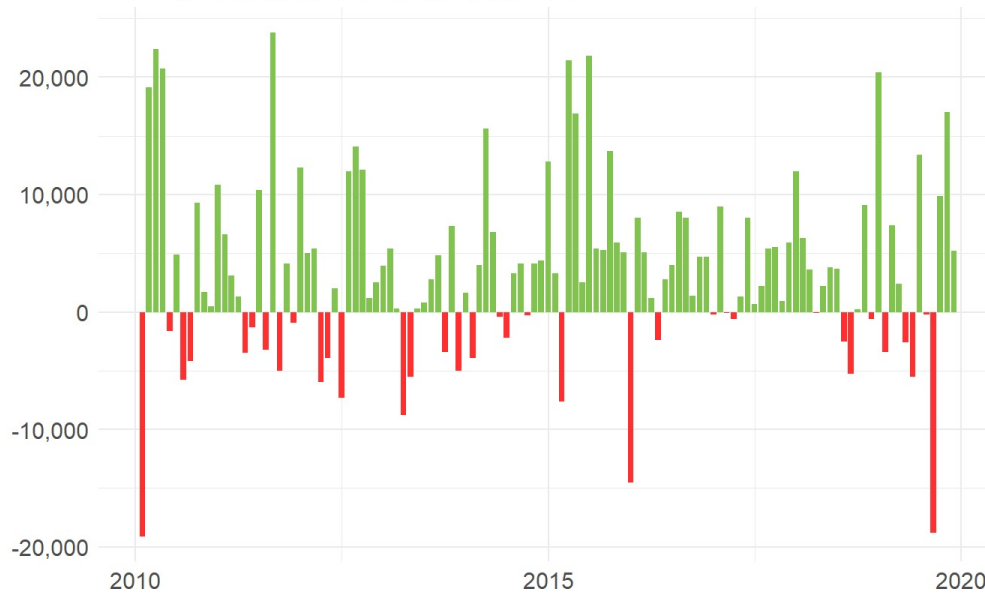
Virginia and U.S. Unemployment Rates
(Percent, Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Virginia Payroll Employment

Virginia Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Monthly Change (Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Virginia added 5,200 net payroll jobs, or 0.1 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during December. In the prior month, Virginia added 17,000 jobs. Over the past twelve months, Virginia added 45,200 payroll jobs, or 1.1 percent. Virginia nonfarm payroll employment had increased in 7 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, nonfarm payrolls rose by 145,000 in December, or rose by 0.1 percent. Over the 12-month period ending with December, nonfarm payrolls rose by 2,108,000 jobs, or 1.4 percent. Virginia is tied for 25th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During December, Virginia's private-sector added 6,100 jobs, or approximately 0.2 percent. The private-sector in Virginia added 15,500 jobs in the prior month. Over the past twelve months, private-sector payrolls in Virginia added 50,600, or 1.5 percent. Virginia private-sector payroll employment has increased in 7 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs rose by 139,000 jobs in December, or 0.1 percent. Over the past 12 months, the national payroll rose by 1,947,000 jobs in the private sector, or rose by 1.5 percent. Virginia ranks 20th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for a percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

Change in Virginia Payroll Employment by Sector over Past 12 Months



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, seasonally adjusted

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during December were Education and Health Services (2,900) and Financial Activities tied with Professional and Business Services (1,500). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Government (-900) and Manufacturing (-1,100).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Leisure and Hospitality (17,400) and Education and Health Services (16,700). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-3,900) and Government (-5,400).

Virginia Labor Force Statistics

Labor Force Participation

The labor force participation rate in Virginia rose to 66.3 percent in December from 66.1 percent in the prior month. At a labor force participation rate of 66.3 percent, Virginia ranks 15th in the nation. The labor force participation rate in Virginia rose by 1.2 percentage points from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in Virginia was 68.3 percent in March 2010. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Virginia occurred in May 1992 when the labor force participation rate hit 71.5 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 64.6 percent, last occurring in November 2015. This also represents the series low for the labor force participation rate in Virginia.

The national labor force participation rate remained steady at 63.2 percent in December. That rate rose by 0.2 percentage point from a year earlier. The all-time high for the national labor force participation rate was 67.3 percent in April 2000. The 10-year high for the national labor force participation rate was 65.2 percent in April 2010. The recent 10-year low occurred in September

2015 at a level of 62.4 percent. The series low for the national labor force participation rate was 58.1 percent in December 1954.

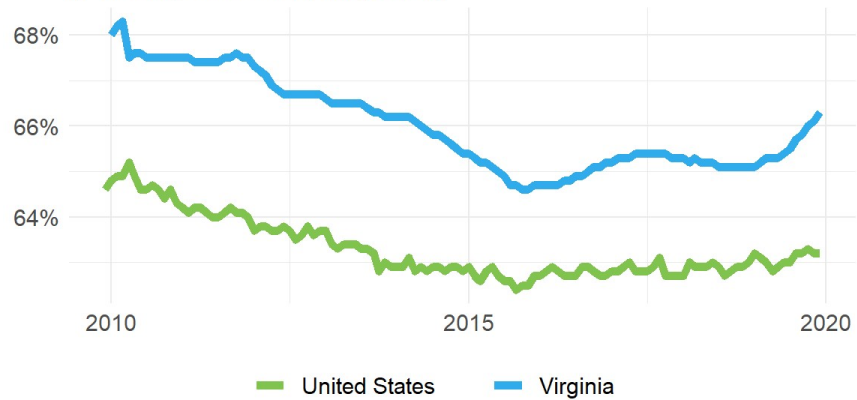
Employment-to-Population Ratio

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Virginia civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, in December rose to 64.5 from 64.4 percent in the prior month. At 64.5 percent, Virginia ranks 14th among state employment-to-population ratios in the nation. The employment-to-population ratio in Virginia rose by 1.3 percentage points from a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Virginia was 64.5 percent in December 2019. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Virginia last occurred in May 2008 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 67.3 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 61.9 percent last occurring in October 2015. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio in Virginia last occurred in October 1982 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 61 percent.

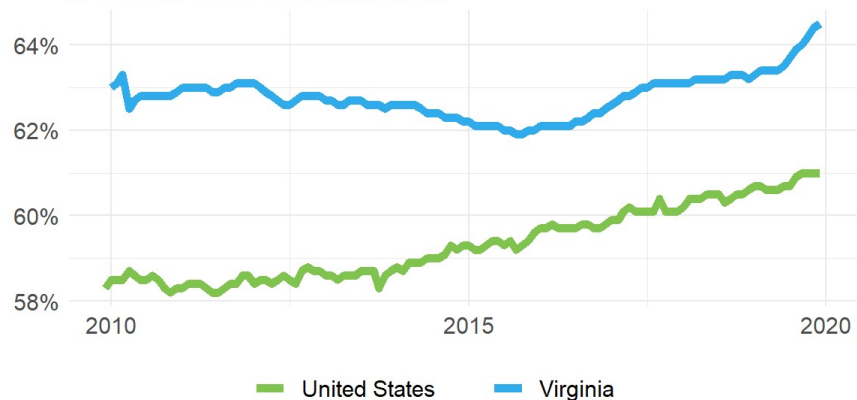
The national employment-to-population ratio remained steady at 61 percent in December. That rate rose by 0.4 percentage point from a year earlier. The all-time high for the national employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 percent in April 2000. The 10-year high for the national employment-to-population ratio was 61 percent in December 2019. The recent 10-year low occurred in July 2011 at a level of 58.2 percent. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio was 54.9 percent in October 1949.

Virginia and U.S. Labor Force Participation Rates (Percent, Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Virginia and U.S. Employment-to-Population Ratios (Percent, Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics