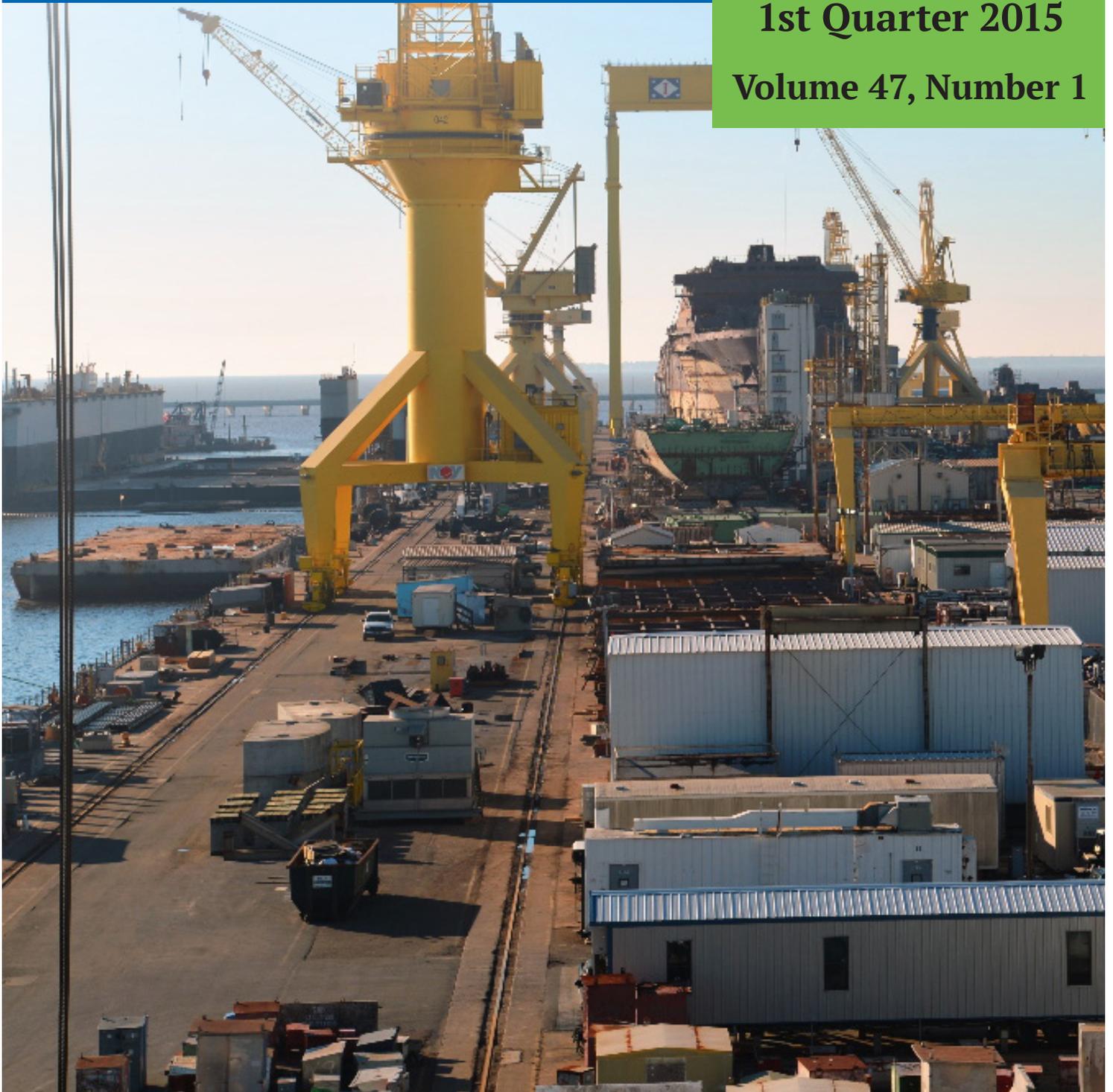


# Virginia Economic Indicators

1st Quarter 2015

Volume 47, Number 1



Please address your comments to:  
Don Lillywhite, Director  
Economic Information Services Division  
Virginia Employment Commission  
P.O. Box 1358  
Richmond, Virginia 23218-1358  
(804) 786-7496  
Donald.Lillywhite@vec.virginia.gov

For additional information or explanation  
of the contents of this document, you may  
contact the Economic/Operations Research  
section at  
(804) 786-7497 or  
James.Wilson@vec.virginia.gov.

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# Virginia Economic Indicators

1st Quarter 2015

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Publication Staff: Don Lillywhite, *Editor*; Joan McDorman, *Assistant Editor*; Linda Simmons, *Graphic Design/Layout*

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# Foreword

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For those who are interested in studying the business cycle, the *Virginia Economic Indicators* publication is designed to depict the movement of the key economic indicator series readily available in Virginia. Most of these series are published elsewhere; but here, they are brought together in both graphic and tabular form, under one cover, and grouped so that they may be analyzed and interpreted easily.

All but five of the series currently used are produced in-house by the Economic Information Services Division of the Virginia Employment Commission and are comparable to similar national series produced by the U.S. Department of Labor. The five business indicators are provided by sources outside of the agency (see the Historical Summary at the back of this publication for data sources) and should prove useful to the student of business cycle development in Virginia.

All series published in the *Indicators* have been seasonally adjusted to minimize regular seasonal fluctuations in the data in order to show only activity related to the business cycle. The *Virginia Economic Indicators* is the only seasonally adjusted publication of some of the Virginia series.

From time to time, new series will be added to this report as the data becomes available and is collected and tested. Also, series presently provided, if necessary, may be discontinued. Historical graphs are published in the back of the fourth quarter issue for each year.

This publication provides a narrative analysis update of the U.S. economy and narrative analysis of recent changes in Virginia. Occasionally, feature articles dealing with some currently important aspects of the Virginia economy are presented. Feature articles are written in-house or by guest authors knowledgeable on particular economics-related subjects.

This publication is normally produced quarterly by April, June, September, and January, but data in the series is provided on a monthly basis. There is a time lag of one quarter before all the data series are available for publication and analysis.

With the 2002 benchmarks in 2003, all states were required to switch to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes which replace the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes formerly used. The NAICS codes were updated in 2007. The NAICS conversion affects the factory employment series and the four hours-and-earnings series in that, where 2001 - 2010 data has been revised to NAICS, data prior to this time is still on the old SIC basis with more manufacturing industries. This means a slight break in these series when comparisons are made with periods prior to 2001.

The main change to manufacturing is that, under NAICS, newspapers and publishing houses are no longer included in manufacturing, and so their employment and earnings are no longer included in data after 2000.

The U.S. forecast analysis is based on the IHS Global Insight projections which the state purchases. Virginia estimates use the state model with enhancements from VEC data for the areas.



# United States Economic Outlook

## 1st Quarter

Timothy O. Kestner, Senior Economist ♦ [Tim.Kestner@vec.virginia.gov](mailto:Tim.Kestner@vec.virginia.gov)

The worth of the United States economy—as measured by the second estimate of real gross domestic product (GDP)—declined in the first quarter of 2015 by 0.7 percent. GDP had risen by 2.2 percent in the fourth quarter of 2014. This is the second time within the year that GDP has reversed itself; GDP had fallen by 2.1 percent in the first quarter of 2014.

The economy was battered in the first quarter of 2015 by the opposing forces of harsh winter weather, a strengthening dollar (widening the trade deficit as imports grew and exports contracted), less inventory produced for future sales, and West Coast port disruptions due to a breakdown in contract negotiations. Adding to the misery was the reticent consumer who was not so willing to spend savings from lower gasoline prices at retail cash registers and instead paid down debt or deposited those monies into a savings account. There was hardly any good news in the first quarter; but the good news is that all the above should turn around in the second quarter, pushing the economy to grow by more than 2.0 percent, with GDP in the third quarter of 2015 looking even better.

The realization of 280,000 jobs being created in May was blissful news and a

testament that the economy is in much better shape than GDP's measurement for the first quarter would indicate. Average monthly job gains are expected to be 200,000 for the rest of 2015.

Gross domestic product will have increased in the second quarter of 2015, but still may have lingering effects from the strong dollar and inventory adjustments. Going into the final half of 2015, GDP should hit the low 3.0 percent range, which will also correspond to the sustained levels of growth in the labor market.

### **First Quarter 2015 Gross Domestic Product Review; May 2015 Employment Levels and Labor Force Statistics; and the Outlook for 2015**

#### **First Quarter 2015 Gross Domestic Product—Second Estimate**

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) has estimated that real gross domestic product declined at an annual rate of 0.7 percent in the first quarter of 2015; GDP for the fourth quarter of 2014 had risen by 2.2 percent. (Fig. 1, pg. 2)

The decline of the economy is attributed to exports, non-residential fixed investments, and state and local government spending. The positive

factors were in personal consumption expenditures (PCE), private inventory investment, and residential investment. Imports—which are a subtraction from GDP—increased in the first quarter further weakening GDP.

Consumer spending decelerated to 1.8 percent in the first quarter from 4.4 percent growth in the fourth quarter of 2014. The consumption of goods grew by only 0.5 percent in the first quarter. Durable goods decelerated sharply by 5.1 percentage points, falling from 6.2 percent in the fourth quarter 2014 to 1.1 percent in the first quarter of 2015. Likewise, nondurable goods decelerated from 4.1 percent to 0.1 percent in the first quarter. The services sector also retracted—yet not as bad—by losing 1.8 percentage points over the quarter: from 4.3 percent in the fourth quarter of 2014 to 2.5 percent in the first quarter of 2015.

Nonresidential fixed investment decelerated into the negative in the first quarter of 2015 (the sector had been declining since early in 2014), falling from 4.7 percent in the fourth quarter of 2014 to -2.8 in the first quarter of 2015 with weather being a major culprit to an already weakened sector. New structures for businesses had grown slightly in the fourth quarter (a thunderous 12.6 percent acceleration

was recorded in the second quarter), yet dropped tremendously to -20.8 percent in the first quarter. Business spending for information processing equipment and software grew by 2.7 percent in the first quarter of 2015, after hardly growing at all (0.6 percent) in the prior quarter.

The intellectual property products category—comprised of software, research and development spending, entertainment, literary, and artistic originals, such as moviemaking on the investment side—grew by 3.6 percent in the first quarter of 2015 following a 10.3 percent increase in the fourth quarter. Real residential fixed investment (residential structures) accelerated by 1.2 percentage points to 5.0 percent in the first quarter of 2015.

Real exports contracted by 7.6 percent in the first quarter of 2015 in reaction to the strengthening dollar against currencies of the United States' trading partners, along with hampering impacts of the West Coast port's shipping delays. The export value of goods fell by 14.0 percent in the first quarter. The export of services grew 7.4 percent following 9.2 percent growth in the fourth quarter of 2014.

Total importation of goods and services from trading zones had soared in the fourth quarter of 2014 to 10.4 percent and grew once more—at a decelerated

rate—by 5.6 percent in the first quarter, which also was induced by the relative value of the dollar.

Total government spending continued to decline in the first quarter of 2015, falling by 1.1 percent (-1.9 percent for the fourth quarter of 2014). Total federal government spending was nearly flat at 0.1 percent. The nation's defense sector retracted slightly by 1.0 percent, after dropping by 12.2 percent in the last quarter of 2014, while the nondefense sector grew (and accelerated) for the third straight quarter, racking up 2.0 percent growth in the first quarter of 2015. State and local government spending retracted by 1.8 percent in the first quarter of 2015, contributing—as stated earlier—to the decline in GDP for the first quarter of 2015.

### 2015 Gross Domestic Product

For all of 2015, GDP is forecasted to increase 2.1 percent, slightly down from 2.4 percent in 2014. In fact, the value of goods and services produced and sold in the U.S. for 2015 will be lower than the prior three years, yet this downturn could be just a blip as the elements that drove-down GDP in the first quarter of 2015 will run their course this year—winter weather notwithstanding—and could release the economy to regain its true level of performance in the next three years.

### Seasonally Adjusted Payroll Employment for May 2015

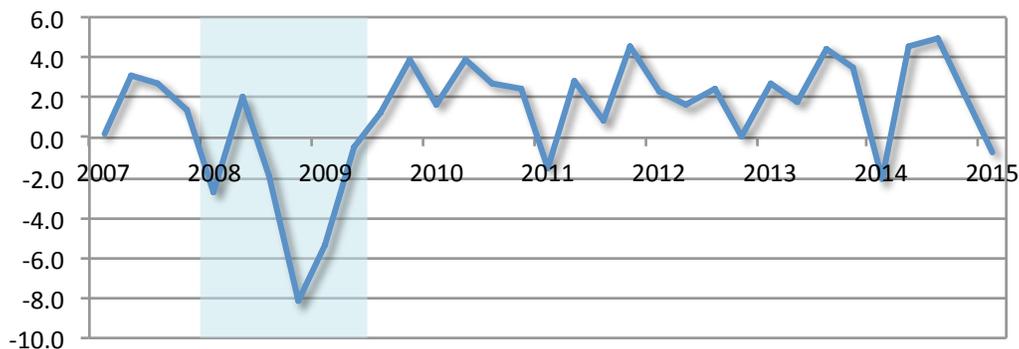
The Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) preliminary estimate for total nonfarm employment increased by 280,000 in May 2015—exceeding the monthly average for the past calendar year (255,000) and expectations of analysts. It was also the largest monthly employment growth since November 2014 (423,000). May's figure was a most welcomed indication that the economy is not as weak, as the dreary first quarter 2015 GDP figure -0.7 percent would suggest. If there is a downside to this goods news, it is that it may embolden the Federal Reserve Bank to raise interest rates from the near-zero level sooner than later, although the Bank would surely begin the process slowly.

Positive employment changes were seen in total government, construction, manufacturing, retail, professional and business services, both the education and health care sectors, and the leisure and hospitality industry. The mining sector of the economy continues to decline—this is mainly due to the current surplus of crude oil and the exodus from coal as a U.S. energy source. Payroll employment now stands at 141.7 million. (Figs. 2 and 3, pg. 5)

On a year-over-year basis, slightly less than 3.0 million private payroll jobs were added—roughly consistent for the

Fig. 1 — Real GDP Quarterly Percent Change

Q1 07 - Q1 15



Sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis      The shaded area on the graph represents the December 2007 - June 2009 recession.



past six months. Total government—federal, state, and local—added 18,000 jobs in the U.S. economy in May—the preliminary numbers for April suggest no change. Year over year, 100,000 jobs were added to the government sector.

Total construction was estimated to have nearly 6.4 million workers on the payrolls in May—an increase of 17,000 from April—which saw an additional 35,000 workers added. Year-over-year data suggest that all the construction sectors added 273,000 workers in May. The growth in construction covered the larger divisions, with specialty trade contractors (12,300) being the foremost growth sector.

Preliminary estimates show that manufacturing added 7,000 additional jobs in May—better than the 1,000 in April. On a calendar-year basis, manufacturing grew by 181,000 workers from May 2014 and now totals some 12.3 million workers. There was little change in employment for the durable goods sector in May (1,000) as the total remained 7.8 million. The nondurables sector grew by 6,000 workers in May

and stands at slightly more than 4.5 million workers.

The U.S. retail sector added 31,400 jobs in May, following tepid growth of 13,000 in April, which was the lowest monthly increase thus far in 2015. On a year-over-year basis retail employment grew by 314,000.

The all-important professional and business services sector of the U.S. economy added 63,000 jobs in May—following a gain of 66,000 in April. Employment increased by 671,000 on a year-to-year basis. The temporary employment services sector added 20,100 workers in May—the largest monthly increase in 2015—which is unusually high for that time of the year. From May 2014 to May 2015, the temporary employment services sector added 160,300 workers to its ranks—lower than the April year-over-year level (153,600).

Growth in the combined education and health care services sector soared in both April (64,000) and May (74,000) of this year. In its combined sense, the

sector, at 22.0 million, added 592,000 jobs year over year. The education sector increased by 16,700 in May, following the 4,100 added jobs in April. Health care and social services added 57,700 workers in May—following 59,600 jobs added in April. Health care employment—as a single component—increased by 46,800 jobs in May, following 48,000 jobs added in April; year-over-year employment growth was nearly 408,000. More than 15 million workers are employed in the health care industry in the United States.

The leisure and hospitality industry has recovered very well from the ill effect of winter weather, as it added 57,000 employees in May, following the 10,000 added in April (only 6,000 jobs were added in March, a month that typically has seen payrolls increase by more than 30,000 in the past several years). The year-to-year increase in jobs was 439,000.

Total government employment grew over the year by 100,000 employees, and payroll employment now exceeds slightly more than 21.9 million. In

May, total government employment increased by 18,000 according to initial data, coming off an increase of 15,000 in April. Federal government employment added 3,000 jobs in May and 12,000 over the year. The Department of Defense—at 500,000 strong—declined by 400 jobs in May and has declined by 4,700 in the last year. State government added no one to the payrolls in May—according to preliminary data—after adding 1,000 in April; the year-to-year level increased by 29,000. Local governments added 15,000 employees in May (9,900 in education and 5,200 in non-education). Over the year, local government had added 59,000 jobs in May.

**Note:** the monthly industry figures are preliminary and are subject to significant revisions.

### Household Survey Statistics for May 2015

The household survey revealed that seasonally adjusted U.S. unemployment was 5.5 percent in May 2015—April’s rate had been 5.0 percent. The rate for

May was 0.8 percentage points less than May 2014. (Fig. 4, pg. 6)

In May, the household survey showed the ranks of the labor force had swelled by some 400,000 as eager would-be workers entered the labor market seeking employment. The total civilian labor force now stands at 157.5 million. The labor-force participation rate increased as a result to 62.9 percent in May. (Fig. 5, pg. 6)

The monthly household survey showed that in May, 148.8 million people were employed in the U.S.—an increase of 272,000 workers over April and 2.9 million more workers than the survey showed in May 2014. (Fig. 6, pg. 7) The number of unemployed workers increased by 125,000 in May—an outcome of the increased civilian labor force—to 8.7 million after declining by 26,000 in April; the level of unemployed workers dropped by 1.8 million year over year. (Fig. 7, pg. 7)

In May, 2.5 million workers (28.6 percent of the total unemployed) were unemployed for 27 weeks and over. The level of those unemployed more

than 27 weeks continues to fall and is 850,000 million less than May 2015.

The remaining categories of the unemployed were: less than 5 weeks—2.4 million (27.6 percent); 5 to 14 weeks—2.5 million (29.0 percent); and 15 to 26 weeks—1.3 million (14.8 percent). The broader measure of unemployment (U6-seasonally adjusted) was 10.8 percent in May 2015—the same as April’s rate and down 0.4 percentage points from May 2014, which is a consistent downward trend. The U6 measure includes all persons that have dropped out of the labor force (due to disillusionment about their chances of finding work) but would like to work, and those working part time who would prefer to have a full-time job.

**Note:** A complete list of the GDP components can be found at:

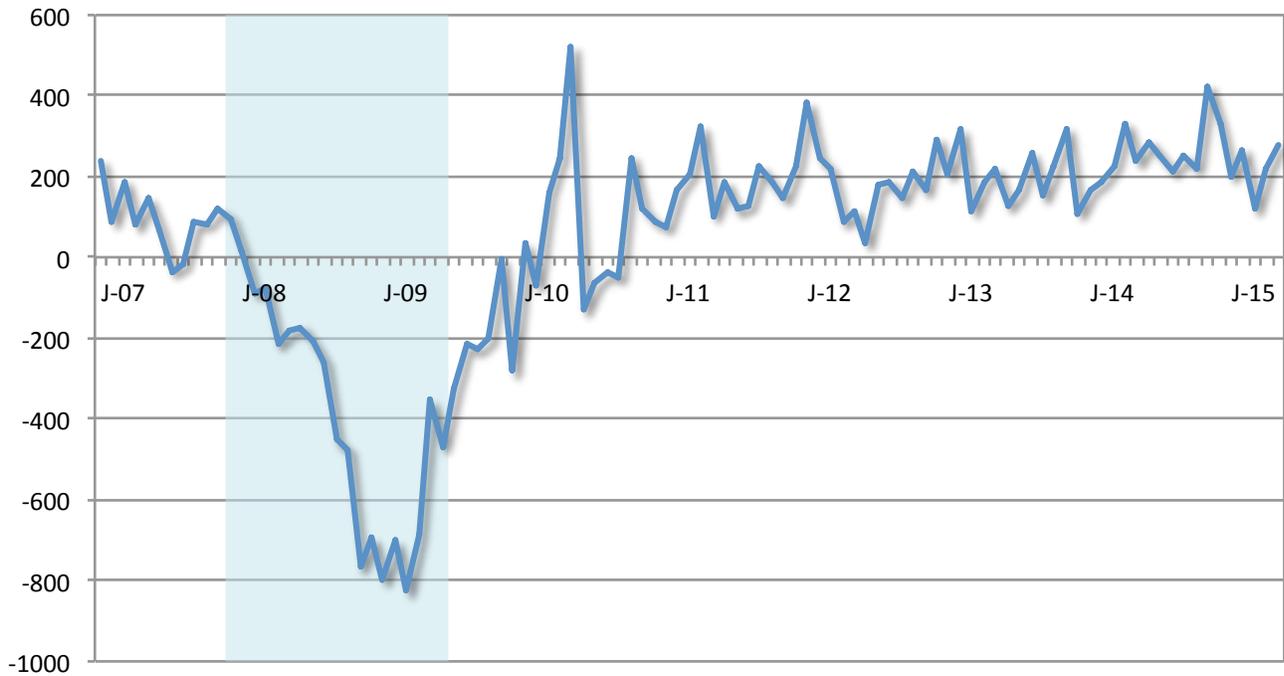
[http://www.bea.gov/newsreleases/national/gdp/2015/pdf/gdp1q15\\_2nd.pdf](http://www.bea.gov/newsreleases/national/gdp/2015/pdf/gdp1q15_2nd.pdf)

Bureau of Labor Statistics data can be accessed at: <http://www.bls.gov/>



Fig. 2 — Payroll Employment Monthly\*

(Thousands)

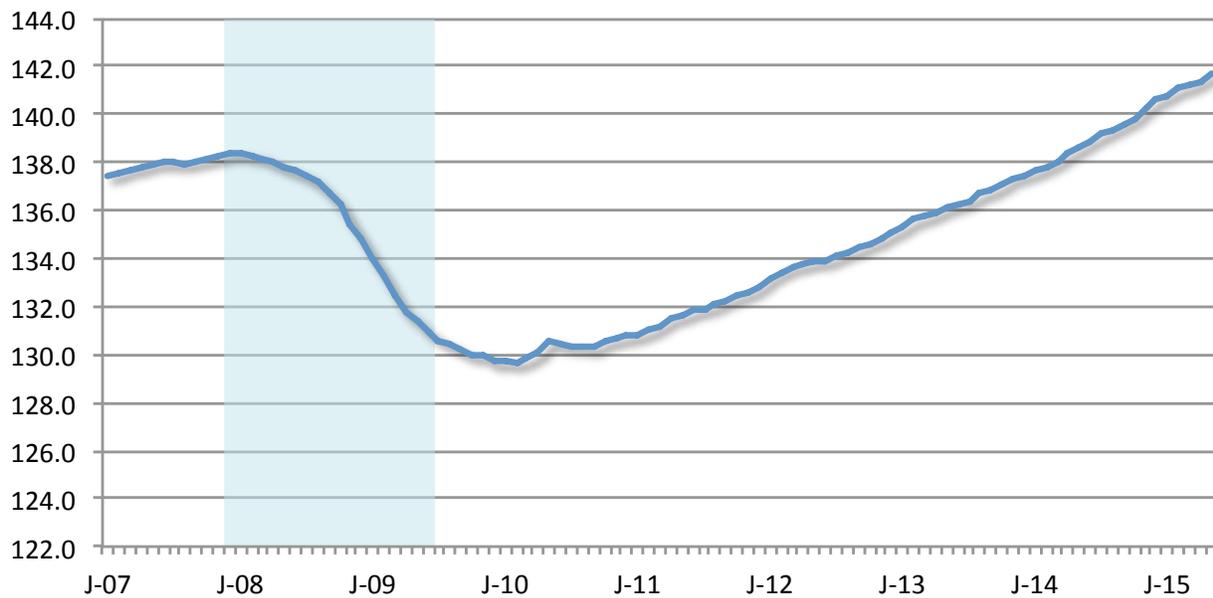


Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics/Haver Analytics The shaded area on the graph represents the December 2007 - June 2009 recession.

\* Seasonally Adjusted

Fig. 3 — Payroll Employment\*

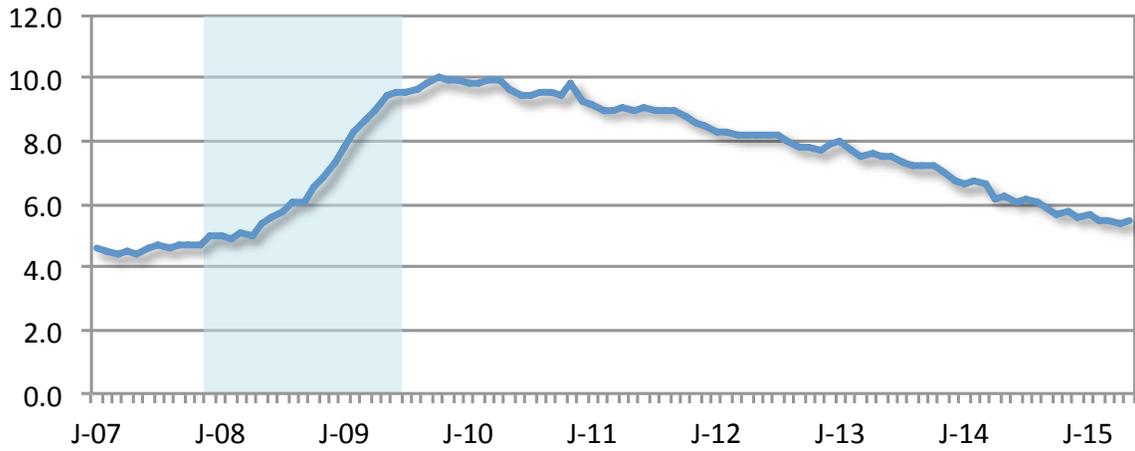
(Millions)



Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics/Haver Analytics The shaded area on the graph represents the December 2007 - June 2009 recession.

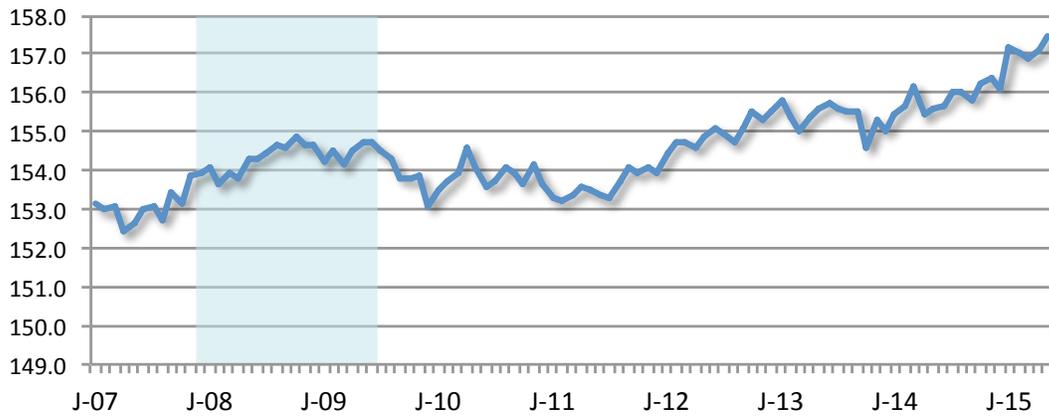
\* Seasonally Adjusted

Fig. 4 — Unemployment Rate\*  
(Percent)



Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics/Haver Analytics The shaded area on the graph represents the December 2007 - June 2009 recession.  
\* Seasonally Adjusted

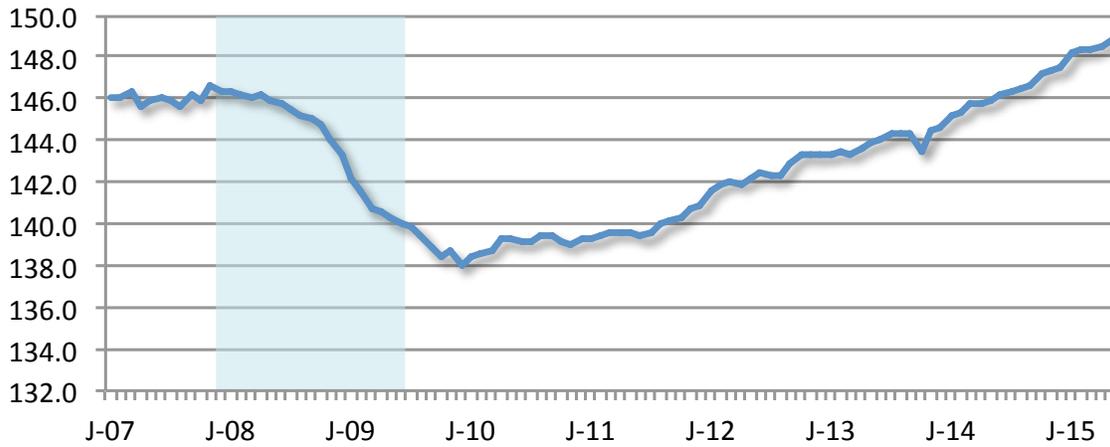
Fig. 5 — Civilian Labor Force\*  
(Millions)



Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics/Haver Analytics The shaded area on the graph represents the December 2007 - June 2009 recession.  
\* Seasonally Adjusted

Fig. 6 — Household Employment\*

(Millions)

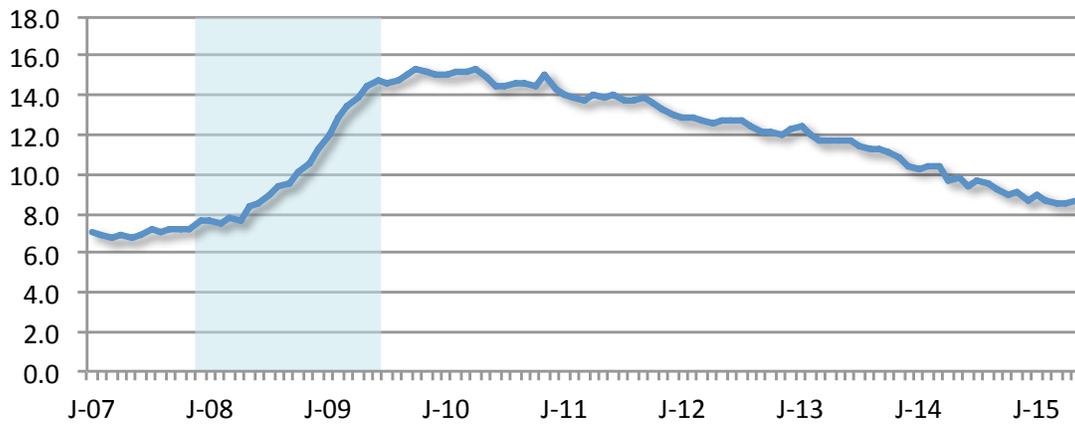


Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics/Haver Analytics The shaded area on the graph represents the December 2007 - June 2009 recession.

\* Seasonally Adjusted

Fig. 7 — Unemployment Level\*

(Millions)



Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics/Haver Analytics The shaded area on the graph represents the December 2007 - June 2009 recession.

\* Seasonally Adjusted



# Virginia Indicators

## 1st Quarter

James P. Wilson, Senior Economist ♦ James.Wilson@vec.virginia.gov

- ◆ Nonfarm employment had a net loss of 11,800 jobs, or 0.3 percent, ending the quarter below the pre-recession record set in April 2008.
- ◆ However, the total unemployment rate was unchanged at the end of the quarter and remains at its lowest level since late 2008.
- ◆ The average insured unemployment rate continued its slow decline and is about 65 percent below the peak level attained in Second Quarter 2009 as claimants have either found work or dropped out of the labor force.
- ◆ Average initial claims set a new record low in January, declining 9.4 percent from the fourth quarter, and are now over 65 percent below the recessionary highs reached in the first quarter of 2009. The average duration of unemployment for unemployment insurance claimants was about 16.0 weeks.
- ◆ Final payments for regular unemployment insurance fell about four percent for the quarter and are now about 69 percent below the recessionary highs reached in Third Quarter 2009. The percentage of claimants who exhausted their benefits improved to 42.2 percent.
- ◆ Mining and Logging employment had a net loss of 500 jobs, or 5.4 percent, setting new record lows in January and March. *Effective January 2015, the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration no longer provides state-level coal production data.*
- ◆ Construction employment posted a net gain of 1,900 jobs, but remains 72,200 jobs below its pre-recession peak.
- ◆ The ups and downs of Manufacturing employment left it with a net increase of 1,300 jobs.
- ◆ Total production hours in Manufacturing rose about 0.3 percent as the average number of production workers increased 0.7 percent, but the average weekly hours for production workers decreased 0.5 percent.
- ◆ Nominal and inflation-adjusted Average Hourly Earnings rose 0.8 percent and 1.9 percent, respectively. The nominal series set a new record high in March. Nominal and inflation-adjusted Average Weekly Earnings increased 0.2 percent and 1.4 percent, respectively. The nominal series set a new record high in January. The inflation-adjusted series rose faster than the nominal series because the Consumer Price Index fell in the first quarter.
- ◆ Wholesale Trade's employment posted a net gain of 900 jobs, and it is now 8,900 below its pre-recession peak. Retail Trade, experienced a net loss of 7,100 jobs, returning it to the level of July 2013, or 17,500 jobs below its pre-recession high. Total nominal and inflation-adjusted taxable retail sales decreased 1.6 percent and 0.5 percent, respectively, from last quarter.
- ◆ Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities employment recorded a net loss for the quarter of 2,700 jobs, or 2.2 percent, and is now 5,000 below its all-time high set in 2001.
- ◆ Information employment posted a net loss of 500 jobs, or 0.7 percent, and is only a few hundred above the record low set in 2011.

- ◆ Finance employment experienced a net gain of 700 jobs for the quarter and is now 1,500 below its pre-recession high.
- ◆ Professional and Business Services employment recorded a minimal net loss of 100 and is now 7,800 jobs lower than the record high set in early 2013.
- ◆ Private Education and Health Services set new record highs in January and March for a net gain of 4,400 jobs, or 0.9 percent.
- ◆ Leisure and Hospitality's employment decreased significantly from December's record high for a net loss of 7,900 jobs, or 2.1 percent.
- ◆ Employment in Miscellaneous Services rose to new record highs in all three months of the quarter, for a net gain of 1,800 jobs, or 0.9 percent.
- ◆ Federal Government employment was down every month of the quarter, for a total loss of 2,000 jobs, or 1.2 percent, so it is now only 4,800 above the average for 2008 and 2009.
- ◆ State Government employment had a net gain of 400 jobs and is now within 500 of the record high set in July 2014. Local Government employment experienced a net decrease of 2,400 jobs, or 0.6 percent, and is now 12,200 jobs below the pre-recession record set in August 2008.
- ◆ Single family building permits fell 10.5 percent from fourth quarter's total and were 65 percent below the average monthly pre-recession high of 4,300.
- ◆ New business incorporations set a new record low in February, totaling 5.7 percent less than last quarter, and were about 43 percent below the

1,730 peak monthly average attained in 2005.

- ◆ New vehicle registrations were 8.7 percent higher than last quarter's total, averaging about 5.7 percent below pre-recession highs of almost 45,000 per month. January's level was about three percent below the record high set in 2005.

### Around the State

Because the metropolitan data are not seasonally adjusted, over-the-year analysis (First Quarter 2015 versus First Quarter 2014) is used.

**Statewide** there were 33,200 jobs gained, or 0.9 percent of nonfarm employment. The Private sector grew by 30,600 jobs, or 1.0 percent. The biggest increases occurred in Private Education and Health Services (8,800 jobs or 1.8 percent), Construction (5,700 or 3.4 percent), and Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities (5,400 or 4.6 percent). Other industries with large gains were Leisure and Hospitality Services (4,400 or 1.3 percent), Miscellaneous Services (3,500 or 1.8 percent), State Government (2,500 or 1.6 percent), and Manufacturing (2,300 or 1.0 percent). Smaller gains were posted in Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate (1,700 or 0.9 percent), Wholesale Trade (1,400 or 1.3 percent), Local Government (1,000 or 0.3 percent), and Retail Trade (600 or 0.1 percent). Information (1,600 or 2.2 percent) registered the largest loss. Losses of 900 each occurred in Mining and Logging (9.3 percent), Federal Government (0.5 percent), and Professional and Business Services (0.1 percent). The state's unemployment rate fell from 5.6 percent to 5.0 percent, while the national rate fell from 6.9 percent to 5.8 percent. Single family building permits decreased 10.4 percent from 4,904 to 4,393. The state's decline was much higher than the national decline of 2.0 percent. Taxable retail sales increased 3.1 percent from \$25.53 billion to \$26.32 billion.

**Northern Virginia MSA** gained 15,100 jobs, or 1.1 percent of nonfarm employment, and provided 45 percent of statewide total job growth. The Private sector grew by 13,300 jobs, or 1.2 percent. Nine of the 14 sectors grew, with four of them increasing by at least 2,000 jobs. Four sectors declined and one was unchanged. Those sectors with the largest increases were Private Education and Health Services (5,100 or 3.4 percent), Local Government (3,200 jobs or 2.5 percent), Professional and Business Services (2,100 or 0.6 percent), and Leisure and Hospitality Services (2,000 or 1.6 percent). Losses in Private Education Services partly offset gains in Health Care and Social Assistance. A permanent layoff in custom computer programming services reduced growth in the Professional and Business Services sector. Accommodation and food services provided all of Leisure and Hospitality's growth. Smaller gains were registered in Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities (1,800 or 5.1 percent), Retail Trade (1,300 or 1.0 percent), and Mining, Logging, and Construction (1,200 or 1.8 percent). Retail's growth was reduced by a permanent layoff in the General Merchandise Stores subsector. The other increases occurred in Wholesale Trade (700 or 2.1 percent) and Manufacturing (200 or 0.8 percent). State Government was neutral despite a permanent layoff in residential mental health services. There were substantial losses in Federal Government (1,300 or 1.5 percent) and Information (900 or 2.2 percent). There were smaller losses in Miscellaneous Services (200 or 0.3 percent) and Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate (100 or 0.1 percent). Growth in the Finance and Insurance subsector (200 or 0.4 percent) partly offset losses in the Real Estate and Rental and Leasing subsector (300 or 1.5 percent). The area's unemployment rate declined from 4.6 percent to 4.1 percent, but its percentage point advantage over the state decreased from 1.0 to 0.9. Single family building permits for the entire Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV MSA decreased 29.2 percent



from 3,802 to 2,692. Taxable retail sales rose 3.5 percent from \$9.99 billion to \$10.34 billion.

**Richmond MSA** gained 8,900 jobs, or 1.4 percent of nonfarm employment, and provided 27 percent of statewide total job growth. The Private sector grew by 7,000 jobs, or 1.4 percent. Nine sectors gained employment, while three lost employment and two were unchanged. The largest increase occurred in Leisure and Hospitality Services (2,800 or 5.2 percent). Over one-third of the sector's increase was in the Accommodation and Food Services subsector. Other large gains were recorded in the Local Government (1,400 or 2.6 percent), Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities (1,200 or 6.3 percent), and Mining, Logging, and Construction (1,200 or 3.8 percent) sectors. The remaining positive sectors increased by less than 1,000 each: Retail Trade (900 or 1.3 percent), Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate (800 or 1.7 percent), State Government (500 or 1.3 percent), Miscellaneous Services (400 or 1.3 percent), and Wholesale Trade (200 or 0.7 percent). The Federal Government and Private Education and Health Services sectors were neutral. However, in the latter, there was growth in the Health Care and Social Assistance subsector (700 or 0.9 percent). The Information sector's decline (300 or 3.8 percent) included a permanent layoff

in telecommunications. Professional and Business Services also declined (300 or 0.3 percent), although growth in professional, scientific, and technical services (400 or 1.0 percent) and management of companies (300 or 1.4 percent) partly reduced the loss in administrative and support services (900 or 2.4 percent). Manufacturing's loss (100 or 0.3 percent) included a permanent layoff in pharmaceuticals. The area's unemployment rate fell from 5.9 percent to 5.2 percent, and the spread with the state decreased from 0.3 to 0.2 percentage point. Single family building permits increased 8.5 percent from 753 to 817. Taxable retail sales rose 1.9 percent from \$4.27 billion to \$4.35 billion.

**Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, Virginia/North Carolina MSA** gained 5,000 jobs, or 0.7 percent of nonfarm employment, and provided 15 percent of statewide total job growth. The Private sector grew by 5,800 jobs, or 1.0 percent. Nine sectors grew and five declined. The largest gain was in Miscellaneous Services (1,800 jobs or 5.1 percent). Other large contributors to the area's growth were Leisure and Hospitality Services (1,600 or 2.0 percent) and Professional and Business Services (1,500 or 1.5 percent). In the former, accommodation and food services (1,500 or 2.2 percent) provided almost all of its sector's growth;

however, there was a permanent layoff in the Accommodation industry. Two of the three components in the latter sector grew, led by Administrative and Support Services (1,300 or 3.0 percent) with Management of Companies (200 or 2.0 percent) contributing the rest. Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services was unchanged. Smaller gains were recorded in Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate (600 or 1.6 percent) and Retail Trade (600 or 0.7 percent). Two-thirds of the gains in the latter sector were in Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (400 or 3.1 percent) and the remainder in Finance and Insurance (200 or 0.8 percent). The smallest gains were registered in the following sectors: Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities (400 or 1.8 percent), Mining, Logging, and Construction (300 or 0.9 percent), State Government (200 or 0.9 percent), and Federal Government (200 or 0.4 percent). The largest losses occurred in the Local Government (1,200 or 1.4 percent) and Private Education and Health Services (500 or 0.5 percent) sectors. Growth in Private Education Services (300 or 1.6 percent) partially offset the loss in Health Care and Social Assistance (900 or 1.0 percent). Smaller losses were posted in Information (200 or 1.8 percent) and Manufacturing (200 or 0.4 percent). In the latter sector, the gain in Durable Goods (300 or 0.7 percent) partly offset the loss in Non-durable Goods (500 or 4.3 percent). Declines were also experienced in both the Transportation Equipment industry group (100 or 0.3 percent) and the Ship and Boat Building industry (800 or 2.9 percent). The smallest loss was recorded in the Wholesale Trade sector (100 or 0.5 percent). The area's unemployment rate fell from 6.1 percent to 5.5 percent, and the spread with the state remained 0.5 percentage point. Single family building permits for the whole MSA (which includes two counties in North Carolina) increased 5.0 percent from 955 to 1,003. Taxable retail sales increased 3.2 percent from \$4.69 billion to \$4.84 billion.

**Charlottesville MSA** gained 4,600 jobs, or 4.3 percent of nonfarm employment. The Private sector increased by 1,800, or 2.5 percent. Eleven sectors gained employment, while two lost employment and Wholesale Trade was unchanged. The largest increase occurred in State Government (2,700 jobs or 12.3 percent). Smaller gains were posted in Professional and Business Services (600 or 4.4 percent), Mining, Logging, and Construction (300 or 6.1 percent), Leisure and Hospitality Services (300 or 2.5 percent), Private Education and Health Services (300 or 2.3 percent), and Miscellaneous Services (200 or 3.6 percent). Gains of 100 each were recorded in Federal Government (7.7 percent), Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities (6.7 percent), Manufacturing (2.8 percent), Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate (2.3 percent), and Local Government (1.0 percent). Losses occurred in the Retail Trade (200 or 1.9 percent) and Information (100 or 4.5 percent) sectors. The area's unemployment rate fell from 4.8 percent to 4.3 percent, but its percentage point advantage over the state decreased from 0.8 to 0.7. Single family building permits decreased 21.9 percent from 151 to 118. Taxable retail sales increased 1.5 percent from \$679.2 million to \$689.5 million.

**Winchester Virginia/West Virginia MSA** gained 2,100 jobs, or 3.6 percent of nonfarm employment. The Private sector grew by 2,000 jobs, or 4.1 percent. The Private Service-Providing sector rose by 1,600, or 4.0 percent, with the Trade, Transportation, and Utilities subsector contributing 300 jobs (2.5 percent) to the growth. The Goods-Producing sector, which consists of Mining, Construction, and Manufacturing, rose by 400, or 4.3 percent. State Government and Local Government grew by 100 each, or 7.1 percent and 1.7 percent, respectively, while Federal Government fell by 100, or 4.8 percent. The area's unemployment rate dropped from 5.6 percent to 4.9 percent, and its percentage point advantage over the state increased from zero to 0.1. Single family building permits for the whole MSA (which includes a county in West Virginia) increased 19.1 percent from 94 to 112. Taxable retail sales rose 2.6 percent from \$459.0 million to \$471.1 million.

**Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford MSA** gained 2,000 jobs, or 2.7 percent of nonfarm employment. The Private sector grew by 1,100 jobs, or 2.2 percent. The largest gains occurred in the State Government (1,100 or 6.3 percent) and Private Service-Providing

(700 or 1.9 percent) sectors. The latter's gain was diminished by a permanent layoff in the Accommodations industry. The smallest gain was posted in the Goods-Producing sector (300 or 2.2 percent), which is composed of Mining, Construction, and Manufacturing. Local Government fell by 200, or 2.6 percent, and Federal Government dropped 100, or 20.0 percent. The area's unemployment rate fell from 5.8 percent to 5.0 percent, but the gap with the state average improved from 0.2 percentage point worse to no difference. Single family building permits totaled 9. (Building permit data was not available for this MSA until 2015.) Taxable retail sales fell 0.9 percent from \$426.8 million to \$423.1 million.

**Lynchburg MSA** gained 1,600 jobs, or 1.6 percent of nonfarm employment. The Private sector rose by 1,600 jobs, or 1.8 percent. Eight sectors gained employment, while five lost employment, and Federal Government was unchanged. The largest gain was in Leisure and Hospitality Services (900 or 10.3 percent). Smaller gains were recorded in the Mining, Logging, and Construction (300 or 5.6 percent), Private Education and Health Services (300 or 1.8 percent),





and Miscellaneous Services (200 or 4.4 percent) sectors. Four sectors grew by 100 each: Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities (3.8 percent), Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate (2.1 percent), Local Government (1.0 percent), and Manufacturing (0.7 percent). Permanent layoffs in food manufacturing reduced its sector's gain. The declining sectors lost 100 jobs each: Information (10.0 percent), State Government (3.0 percent), Wholesale Trade (2.6 percent), Professional and Business Services (0.8 percent), and Retail Trade (0.8 percent). The area's unemployment rate fell from 6.0 percent to 5.4 percent, and the percentage point spread with the state was unchanged at 0.4. Single family building permits fell 35.2 percent from 128 to 83. Taxable retail sales fell 0.2 percent from \$664.3 million to \$662.9 million.

**Roanoke MSA** gained 1,300 jobs, or 0.8 percent of nonfarm employment. The Private sector rose by 1,600 jobs, or 1.2 percent. Eight sectors gained employment, while three lost employment, and three were unchanged. The largest gains were in Mining, Logging, and Construction (600 jobs or 8.2 percent) and Manufacturing (500 or 3.1 percent). Smaller increases were posted in Private Education and Health Services (400 or 1.5 percent), Miscellaneous Services (300 or 4.1 percent), Wholesale Trade (200 or 2.8 percent), and Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities (200 or 2.3 percent). Gains of 100 each occurred in the State Government (2.9 percent) and Leisure and Hospitality Services (0.8 percent) sectors. The three neutral sectors were: Information; Finance,

Insurance, and Real Estate; and Federal Government. The declining sectors registered losses of less than 500 each: Retail Trade (400 or 2.2 percent), Local Government (300 or 2.0 percent), and Professional and Business Services (300 or 1.4 percent). The area's unemployment rate fell from 5.6 percent to 5.0 percent, and it remained tied with the state average. *Effective January 2015, monthly building permit data is no longer available for this area.* Taxable retail sales fell 1.0 percent from \$1.05 billion to \$1.04 billion.

**Harrisonburg MSA** gained 900 jobs, or 1.4 percent of nonfarm employment. The Private sector grew by 1,000 jobs, or 1.9 percent. The Private Service-Providing sector had an increase of 900, or 2.3 percent, despite a permanent layoff in marketing research services and temporary layoffs in food services. Trade, Transportation, and Utilities increased by 100, or 0.8 percent, with all of the growth provided by Retail Trade. The Goods-Producing sector, which is composed of Mining, Construction, and Manufacturing, rose by 100, or 0.8 percent. Local Government rose by 200, or 3.8 percent, while Federal Government was unchanged. State Government fell by 100, or 1.5 percent. The area's unemployment rate fell from 5.4 percent to 5.0 percent, but its advantage over the state decreased from 0.2 percentage point to zero. Single family building permits increased 3.4 percent from 89 to 92. Taxable retail sales decreased 0.4 percent from \$416.3 million to \$414.8 million.

**Staunton-Waynesboro MSA** nonfarm employment was unchanged. The Private sector was also unchanged.

Gains occurred in the Government (100 or 1.2 percent) and Private Service-Providing (100 or 0.3 percent) sectors. The gain in the latter sector occurred despite a permanent layoff in the Telecommunications industry. (A breakout of Government employment into Federal, State, and Local is not available at this time.) A loss was posted in the Goods-Producing sector (200 or 2.1 percent), which is composed of Mining, Construction, and Manufacturing. The area's unemployment rate fell from 5.3 percent to 4.9 percent, but its advantage over the state decreased from 0.3 to 0.1 percentage point. Single family building permits increased 154.5 percent from 22 to 56. Taxable retail sales rose 6.0 percent from \$307.1 million to \$325.5 million; it had the largest percentage increase among the MSAs.





### Employment Indicators\*

**Nonagricultural  
Wage and Salary Employment  
(Thousands)**

**Total Unemployment Rate  
(Percent)**

2014	Unadjusted	Adjusted	Unadjusted	Adjusted
January	3,706.0	3,759.6	5.6	5.3
February	3,706.0	3,755.0	5.6	5.3
March	3,732.1	3,757.7	5.5	5.3
April	3,772.8	3,771.7	4.8	5.3
May	3,789.4	3,778.7	5.2	5.2
June	3,801.8	3,774.9	5.4	5.2
July	3,776.4	3,776.8	5.5	5.1
August	3,780.3	3,776.8	5.5	5.0
September	3,785.8	3,777.5	5.0	5.0
October	3,797.5	3,778.9	4.7	4.9
November	3,823.1	3,795.9	4.6	4.8
December	3,817.3	3,797.4	4.5	4.8
2015				
January	3,739.3	3,786.2	4.9	4.7
February	3,745.1	3,794.6	5.0	4.7
March	3,759.2	3,785.6	4.9	4.8

\*These series have been adjusted to First Quarter 2014 benchmarks.

### Unemployment Insurance Indicators

**Average Weekly Initial  
Claims**

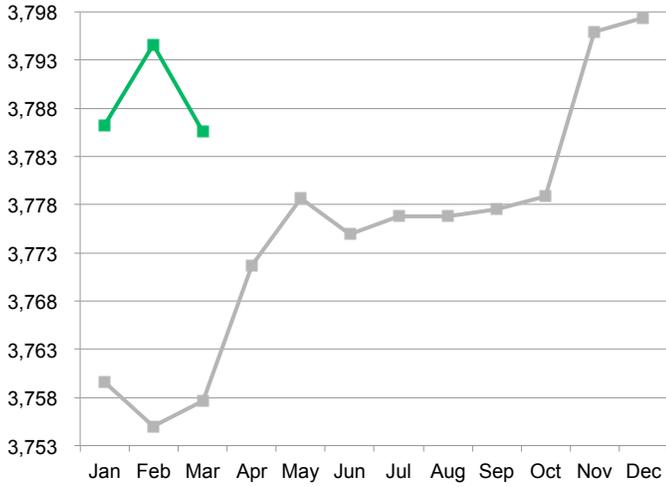
**Insured Unemployment Rate  
(Percent)**

**Unemployment Insurance  
Final Payments**

2014	Unadjusted	Adjusted	Unadjusted	Adjusted	Unadjusted	Adjusted
January	6,605	4,457	1.37	1.17	4,808	4,380
February	4,443	4,550	1.36	1.18	4,534	4,607
March	4,084	4,526	1.24	1.15	5,342	4,899
April	3,767	4,348	1.09	1.12	4,729	4,117
May	3,963	4,464	1.04	1.09	4,050	4,181
June	4,324	4,411	1.03	1.06	4,374	4,808
July	4,112	4,174	1.05	1.05	3,898	3,581
August	3,678	4,447	1.00	1.03	3,607	3,698
September	3,361	3,975	0.90	1.00	3,950	4,045
October	3,536	3,815	0.89	0.98	3,341	3,496
November	3,797	3,746	0.90	0.98	3,146	3,730
December	5,825	4,455	0.96	0.97	3,977	4,129
2015						
January	5,181	3,496	1.09	0.93	3,580	3,262
February	3,758	3,848	1.03	0.89	3,717	3,777
March	3,191	3,537	1.00	0.93	4,201	3,852

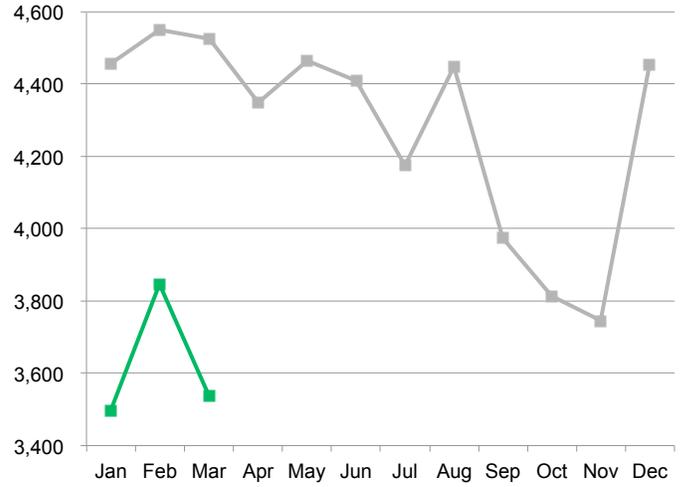
## Employment Indicators

### Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment (Thousands)

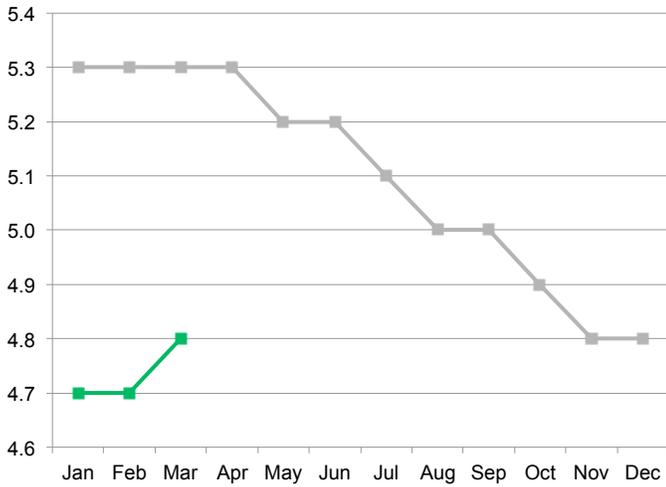


## Unemployment Insurance Indicators

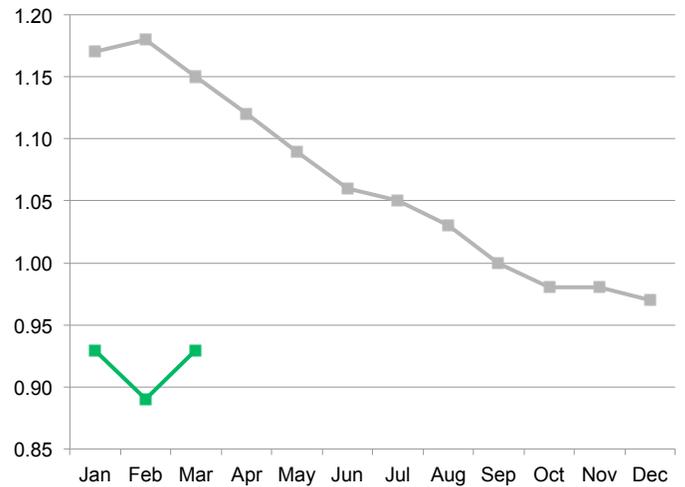
### Average Weekly Initial Claims



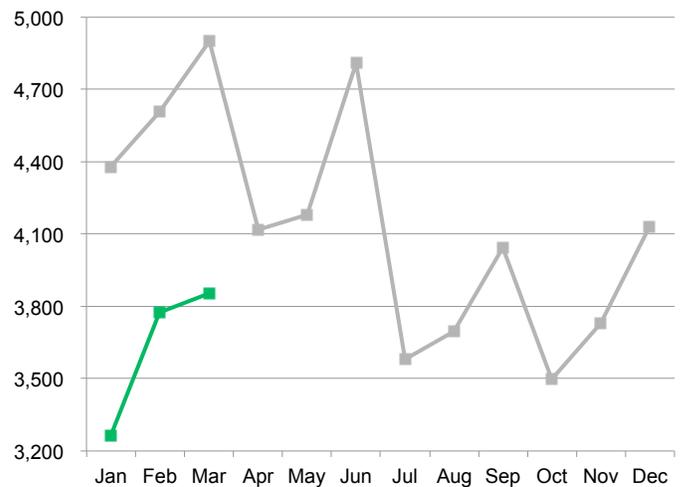
### Total Unemployment Rate (Percent)



### Insured Unemployment Rate (Percent)



### Unemployment Insurance Final Payments



## Goods Producing Employment\*

2014	Mining and Logging Employment (Thousands)		Construction Employment (Thousands)		Manufacturing Employment (Thousands)	
	Unadjusted	Adjusted	Unadjusted	Adjusted	Unadjusted	Adjusted
January	9.7	9.7	169.4	175.6	229.6	231.8
February	9.7	9.8	168.5	176.7	229.3	231.0
March	9.8	9.8	171.7	176.9	230.1	231.1
April	9.7	9.8	177.2	178.5	230.8	231.5
May	9.6	9.7	179.6	179.2	231.7	231.8
June	9.7	9.7	182.0	178.4	233.0	232.0
July	9.4	9.4	182.4	177.2	232.5	231.9
August	9.4	9.4	183.0	177.6	232.3	231.7
September	9.4	9.5	181.9	178.1	232.2	231.9
October	9.3	9.3	181.8	180.0	232.2	231.3
November	9.3	9.3	180.4	179.9	232.1	232.0
December	9.2	9.2	176.8	178.4	233.5	232.9
<b>2015</b>						
January	8.8	8.9	175.0	179.7	232.0	233.7
February	8.9	9.0	175.1	181.2	230.8	232.7
March	8.7	8.7	176.8	180.3	233.3	234.2

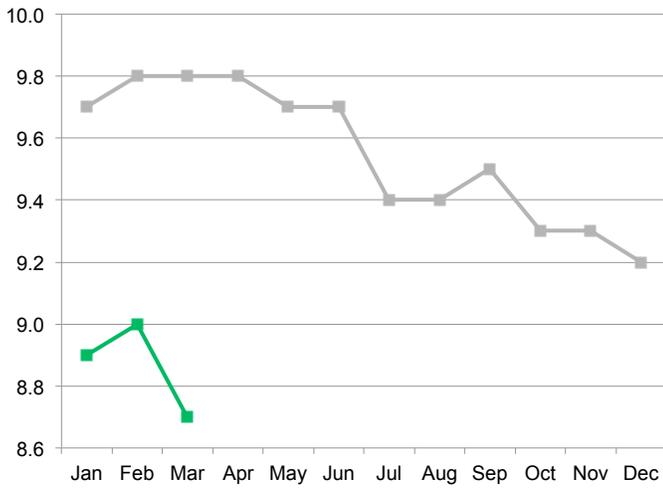
## Trade Employment\*

2014	Wholesale Trade Employment (Thousands)		Retail Trade Employment (Thousands)	
	Unadjusted	Adjusted	Unadjusted	Adjusted
January	109.7	110.7	409.0	412.1
February	109.7	110.6	401.5	411.3
March	110.2	110.6	403.6	412.6
April	110.5	110.7	407.1	413.3
May	111.2	111.0	410.8	413.7
June	111.4	110.9	412.9	413.6
July	111.5	111.0	412.3	413.9
August	111.5	110.9	412.7	414.0
September	111.0	110.9	409.6	413.4
October	111.2	111.0	412.6	412.5
November	111.2	111.3	429.7	420.3
December	111.3	112.0	432.7	417.8
<b>2015</b>				
January	110.5	111.3	409.8	408.8
February	111.0	111.4	403.0	410.2
March	112.4	112.9	403.2	410.7

\*These series have been adjusted to First Quarter 2014 benchmarks.

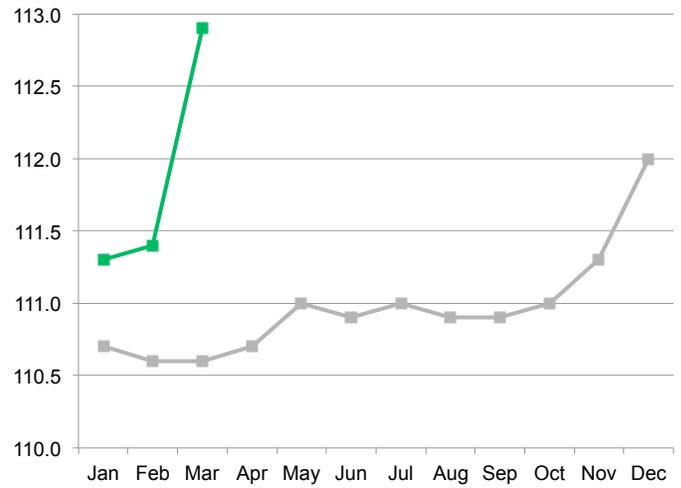
## Goods Producing Employment

### Mining and Logging Employment (Thousands)

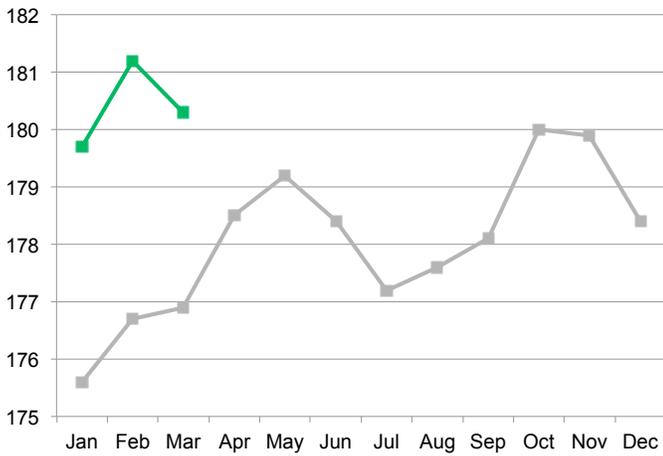


## Trade Employment

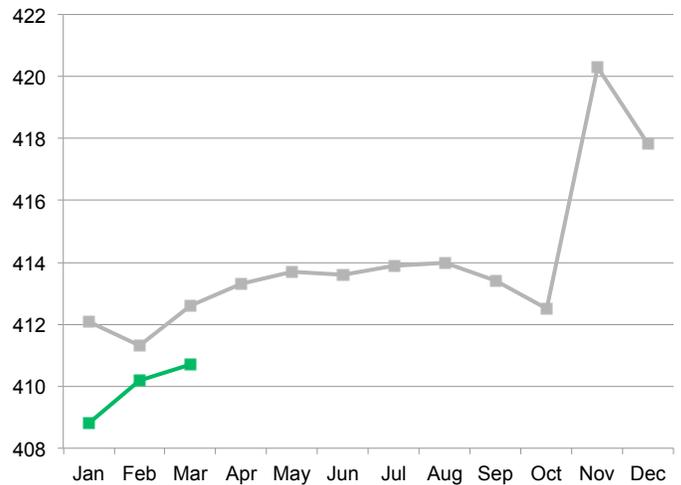
### Wholesale Trade Employment (Thousands)



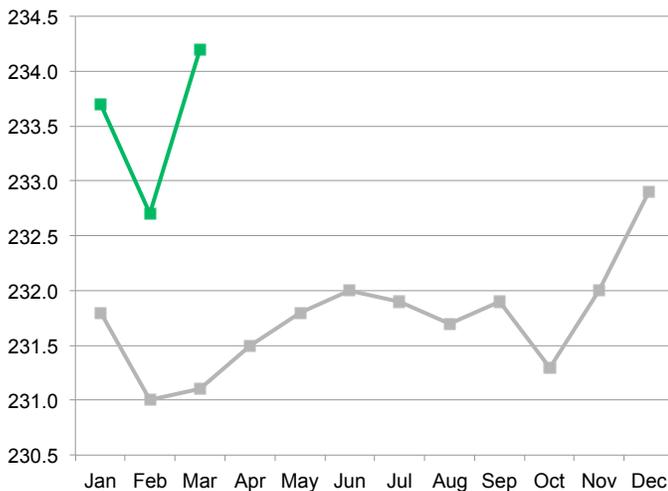
### Construction Employment (Thousands)



### Retail Trade Employment (Thousands)



### Manufacturing Employment (Thousands)



2014
  2015
 January 2014 - March 2015

## Transportation, Information, and Finance Employment\*

2014	Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities Employment (Thousands)		Information Employment (Thousands)		Finance Employment (Thousands)	
	Unadjusted	Adjusted	Unadjusted	Adjusted	Unadjusted	Adjusted
January	117.3	118.6	72.2	72.2	190.8	192.7
February	115.6	117.9	70.8	71.3	191.1	193.1
March	116.4	118.3	71.0	70.7	191.7	193.2
April	116.7	118.1	70.8	71.4	192.0	193.2
May	117.8	118.4	72.4	72.4	193.1	193.3
June	118.7	118.6	71.4	71.3	195.2	193.7
July	119.1	118.6	71.5	71.3	195.4	193.3
August	119.8	119.1	72.6	71.3	195.2	193.5
September	119.9	119.4	70.7	71.4	193.7	193.7
October	120.9	121.3	70.2	70.2	193.6	193.2
November	124.6	122.4	70.9	70.6	193.1	193.5
December	127.6	124.8	70.9	70.5	193.4	193.6
<b>2015</b>						
January	123.6	123.7	69.9	70.1	192.4	192.6
February	121.7	123.9	69.5	69.8	193.2	194.6
March	120.0	122.1	69.8	70.0	193.2	194.3

## Service Employment\*

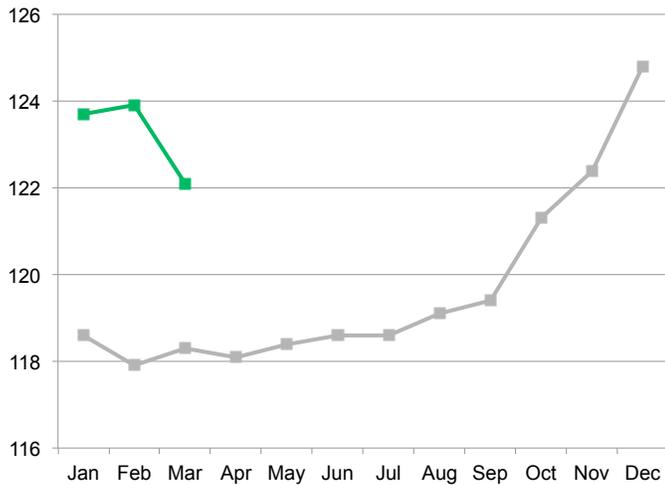
2014	Professional and Business Services Employment (Thousands)		Private Education and Health Services Employment (Thousands)	
	Unadjusted	Adjusted	Unadjusted	Adjusted
January	665.4	673.9	494.1	493.3
February	667.0	674.0	495.2	493.4
March	669.7	673.9	497.0	493.9
April	679.1	679.5	499.8	494.9
May	680.1	680.9	491.3	495.6
June	681.8	679.9	488.1	494.8
July	684.4	680.7	488.0	495.9
August	685.3	679.7	491.8	495.3
September	679.1	678.9	498.6	495.2
October	678.2	674.1	504.3	499.3
November	682.7	677.4	504.3	498.6
December	678.3	676.5	503.8	499.3
<b>2015</b>				
January	665.1	674.3	501.4	503.6
February	665.1	676.6	505.3	503.2
March	669.3	676.4	505.9	503.7

\*These series have been adjusted to First Quarter 2014 benchmarks.

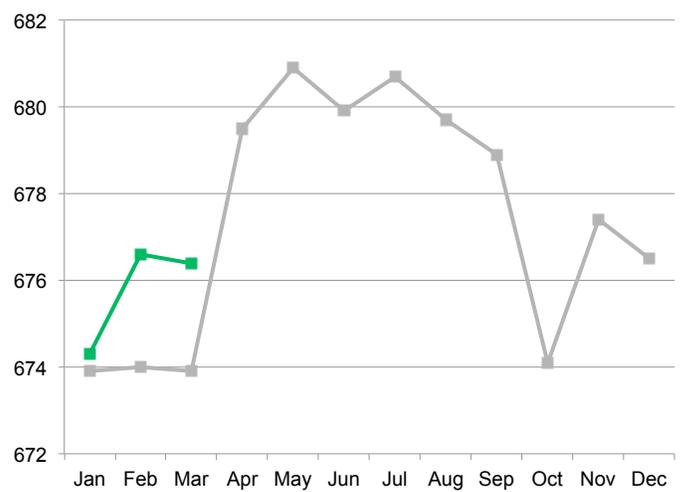
## Transportation, Information, and Finance Employment

## Service Employment

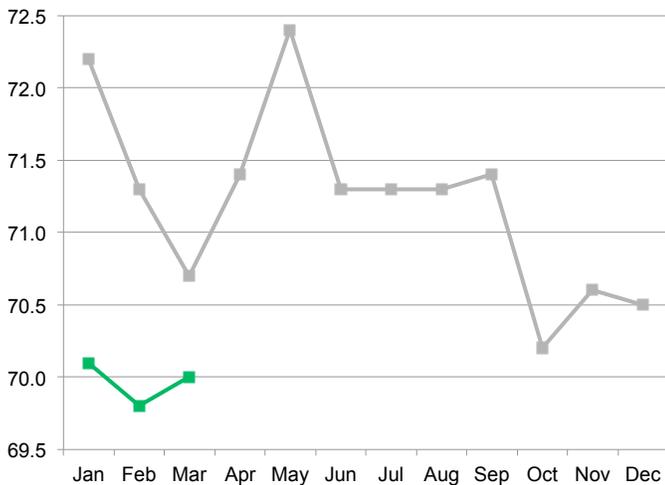
**Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities Employment (Thousands)**



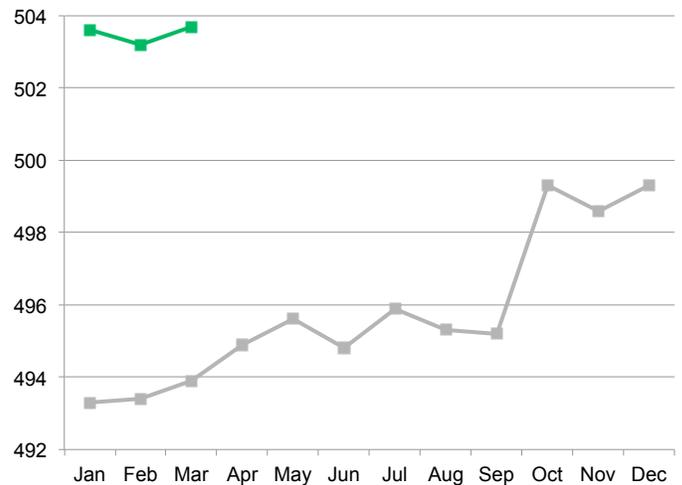
**Professional and Business Services Employment (Thousands)**



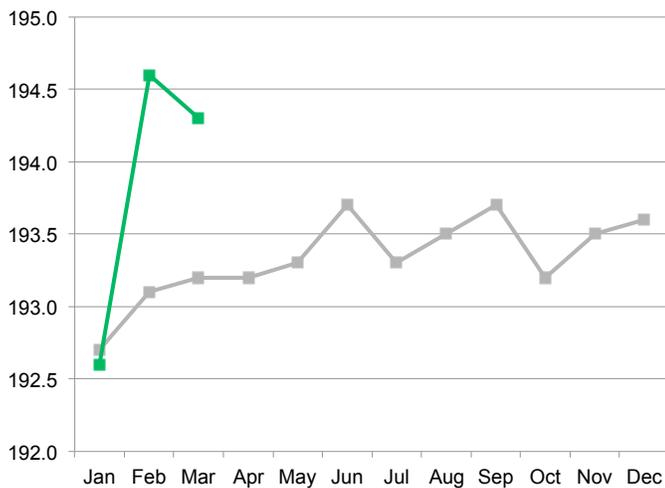
**Information Employment (Thousands)**



**Private Education and Health Services Employment (Thousands)**



**Finance Employment (Thousands)**



## Service Employment\* (Continued)

2014	Leisure and Hospitality Services Employment (Thousands)		Miscellaneous Services Employment (Thousands)	
	Unadjusted	Adjusted	Unadjusted	Adjusted
January	345.1	369.8	191.8	194.5
February	345.4	367.8	192.0	194.1
March	354.7	368.3	193.6	194.7
April	368.6	370.2	194.6	194.9
May	383.6	371.4	196.1	195.4
June	393.4	371.3	198.3	196.0
July	392.4	370.9	197.8	195.2
August	391.6	371.1	197.8	196.1
September	377.9	371.5	196.0	196.2
October	371.7	372.8	196.5	196.4
November	367.1	376.1	197.2	197.1
December	364.9	377.3	195.9	196.9
<b>2015</b>				
January	351.4	375.4	195.0	197.7
February	351.2	376.6	195.9	198.1
March	355.9	369.4	197.2	198.7

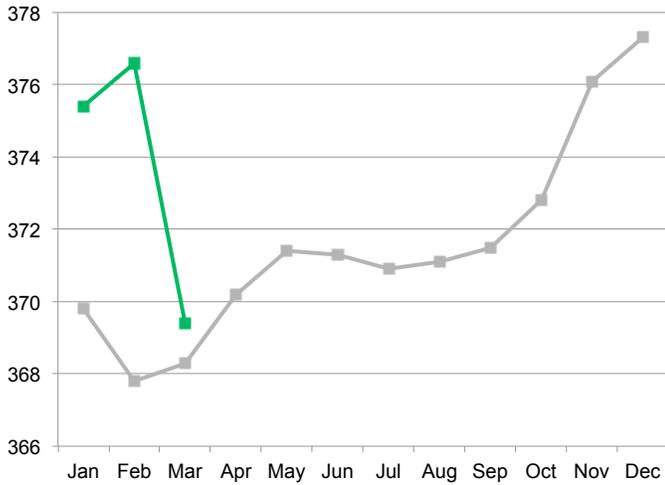
## Government Employment\*

2014	Federal Government Employment (Thousands)		State Government Employment (Thousands)		Local Government Employment (Thousands)	
	Unadjusted	Adjusted	Unadjusted	Adjusted	Unadjusted	Adjusted
January	170.3	170.4	153.6	159.3	378.0	375.0
February	169.3	170.0	162.9	160.1	378.0	373.9
March	168.8	169.6	163.3	160.4	380.5	373.7
April	169.2	169.7	165.5	160.4	381.2	375.6
May	169.3	169.7	158.2	160.7	384.6	375.5
June	169.3	169.5	152.5	159.8	384.1	375.4
July	170.0	169.0	154.6	163.1	355.1	375.4
August	170.7	169.9	157.6	162.5	349.0	374.7
September	169.9	169.9	167.0	162.1	368.9	375.4
October	169.8	170.1	166.4	161.5	378.8	375.9
November	170.2	170.1	166.3	161.5	384.0	375.8
December	171.0	169.9	166.0	162.2	382.0	376.1
<b>2015</b>						
January	169.5	169.4	156.0	161.5	378.9	375.5
February	168.7	168.7	165.4	162.5	380.3	376.1
March	167.6	167.9	165.7	162.6	380.2	373.7

\*These series have been adjusted to First Quarter 2014 benchmarks.

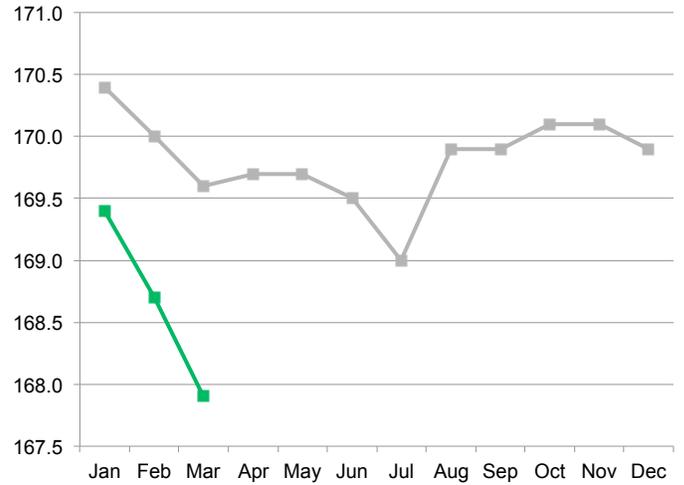
## Service Employment (Continued)

### Leisure and Hospitality Services Employment (Thousands)

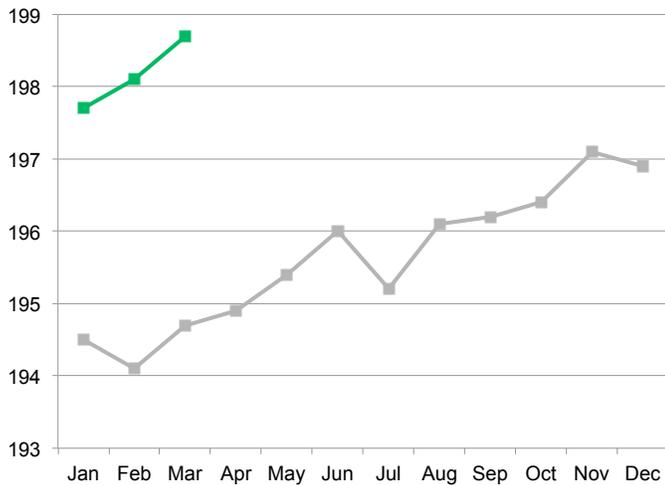


## Government Employment

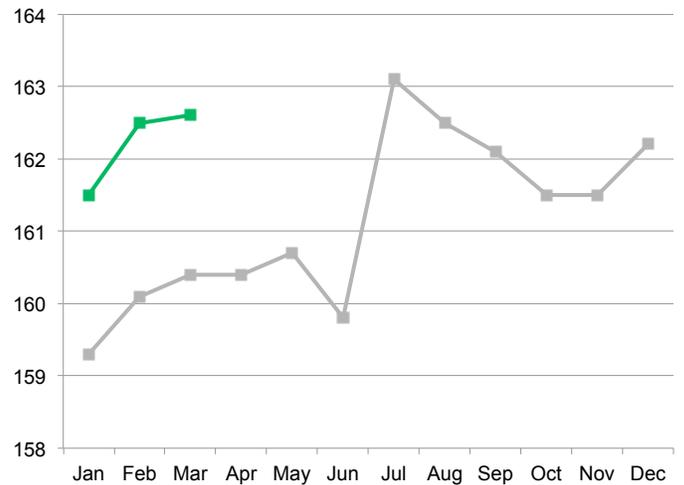
### Federal Government Employment (Thousands)



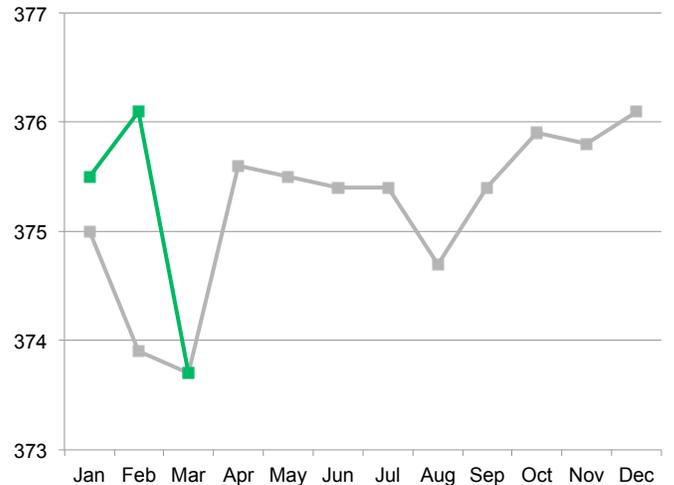
### Miscellaneous Services Employment (Thousands)



### State Government Employment (Thousands)



### Local Government Employment (Thousands)



## Manufacturing Production Worker Indicators\*

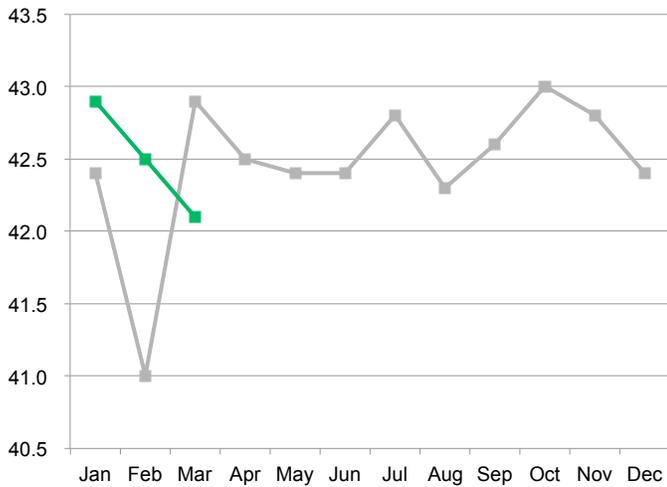
2014	Average Weekly Hours		Average Hourly Earnings (Dollars)		Deflated Average Hourly Earnings (1982-84 Dollars)	
	Unadjusted	Adjusted	Unadjusted	Adjusted	Unadjusted	Adjusted
January	41.9	42.4	19.26	19.20	8.37	8.29
February	40.1	41.0	19.23	19.27	8.33	8.31
March	42.6	42.9	19.03	19.18	8.18	8.27
April	42.5	42.5	19.25	19.29	8.25	8.29
May	42.6	42.4	19.40	19.39	8.28	8.31
June	42.6	42.4	19.32	19.35	8.23	8.27
July	42.7	42.8	19.63	19.41	8.37	8.33
August	42.6	42.3	19.52	19.52	8.34	8.36
September	43.4	42.6	19.56	19.69	8.35	8.44
October	42.9	43.0	19.57	19.58	8.39	8.40
November	43.1	42.8	19.80	19.82	8.55	8.52
December	42.6	42.4	19.92	19.79	8.66	8.53
<b>2015</b>						
January	42.4	42.9	19.89	19.83	8.71	8.63
February	41.6	42.5	19.78	19.82	8.62	8.61
March	41.8	42.1	19.85	20.01	8.59	8.68

2014	Total Production Hours (Thousands)		Average Weekly Earnings (Dollars)		Deflated Average Weekly Earnings (1982-84 Dollars)	
	Unadjusted	Adjusted	Unadjusted	Adjusted	Unadjusted	Adjusted
January	7,282	7,420	806.99	811.04	350.80	350.43
February	6,949	7,156	771.12	789.40	334.00	341.47
March	7,366	7,455	810.68	822.09	348.59	354.69
April	7,421	7,477	818.13	822.03	350.46	353.13
May	7,506	7,490	826.44	820.76	352.85	352.06
June	7,536	7,477	823.03	823.51	350.67	351.98
July	7,541	7,529	838.20	831.83	357.40	355.12
August	7,532	7,440	831.55	829.84	355.32	355.37
September	7,647	7,483	848.90	838.40	362.51	359.28
October	7,538	7,523	839.55	840.26	359.97	360.29
November	7,568	7,498	853.38	843.59	368.55	362.45
December	7,544	7,478	848.59	841.95	369.10	363.19
<b>2015</b>						
January	7,454	7,595	843.54	847.78	369.50	369.09
February	7,272	7,488	822.85	842.31	358.66	366.69
March	7,386	7,475	829.73	841.43	359.10	365.39

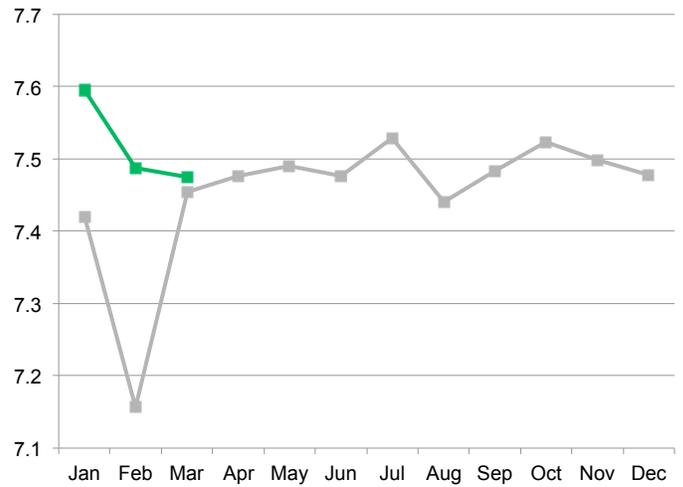
\*These series have been adjusted to First Quarter 2014 benchmarks.

# Manufacturing Production Worker Indicators

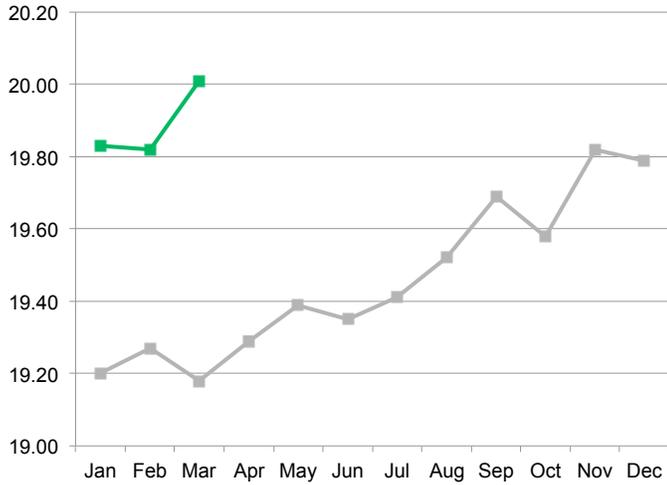
### Average Weekly Hours



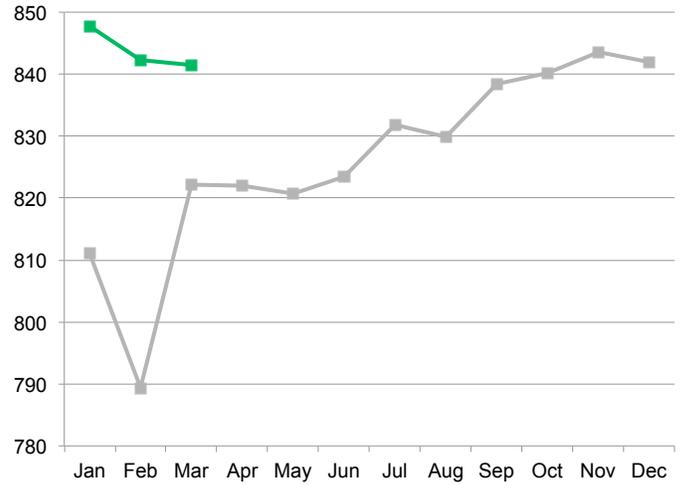
### Total Production Hours (Millions)



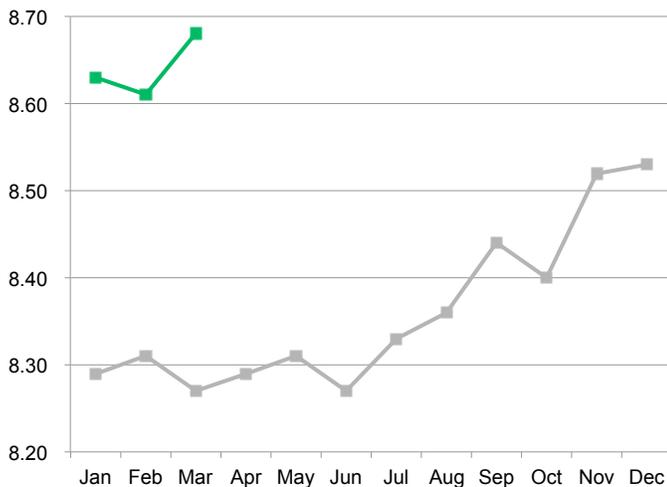
### Average Hourly Earnings (Dollars)



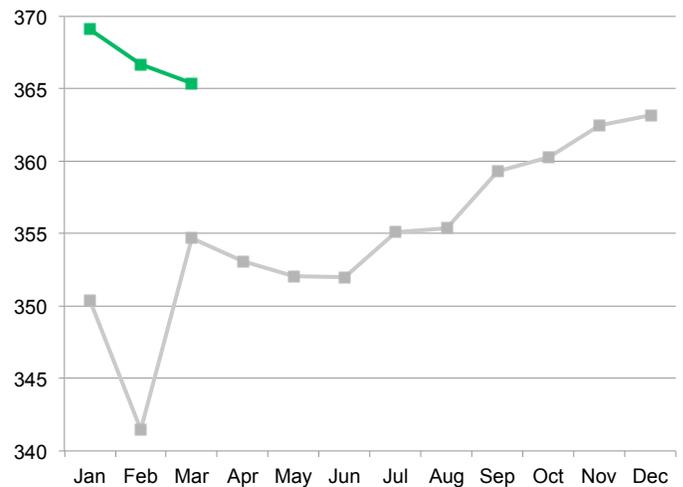
### Average Weekly Earnings (Dollars)



### Deflated Average Hourly Earnings (1982-84 Dollars)



### Deflated Average Weekly Earnings (1982-84 Dollars)



■ 2014 
 ■ 2015 
 ■ January 2014 - March 2015

## Business Indicators

### Single Family Housing Permits

### New Business Incorporations

### New Vehicle Registrations

2014	Unadjusted	Adjusted	Unadjusted	Adjusted	Unadjusted	Adjusted
January	1,413	1,612	1,070	1,006	36,995	36,991
February	1,538	1,604	1,038	1,025	28,614	35,412
March	1,729	1,604	1,108	969	37,221	33,749
April	1,861	1,610	1,078	983	41,620	36,360
May	1,759	1,527	1,130	1,074	42,495	37,107
June	1,800	1,649	1,031	1,015	44,997	39,850
July	1,850	1,690	1,007	1,005	42,218	39,840
August	1,706	1,556	935	979	37,826	36,464
September	1,676	1,730	971	1,001	40,055	40,355
October	1,713	1,794	1,011	1,057	38,734	40,227
November	1,185	1,501	867	1,050	29,158	36,859
December	1,370	1,741	947	1,050	32,915	40,022
<b>2015</b>						
January	1,404	1,601	1,120	1,053	53,230	53,225
February	1,173	1,223	881	870	29,717	36,778
March	1,816	1,684	1,204	1,053	41,117	37,281

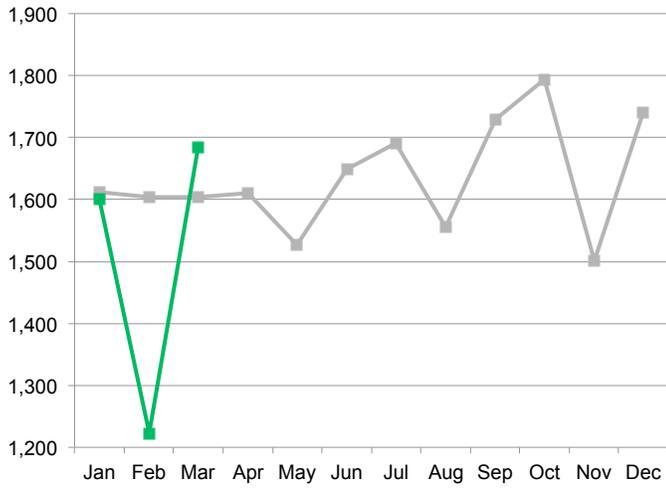
### Taxable Retail Sales (Millions of Dollars)

### Deflated Taxable Retail Sales (Millions of 1982-84 Dollars)

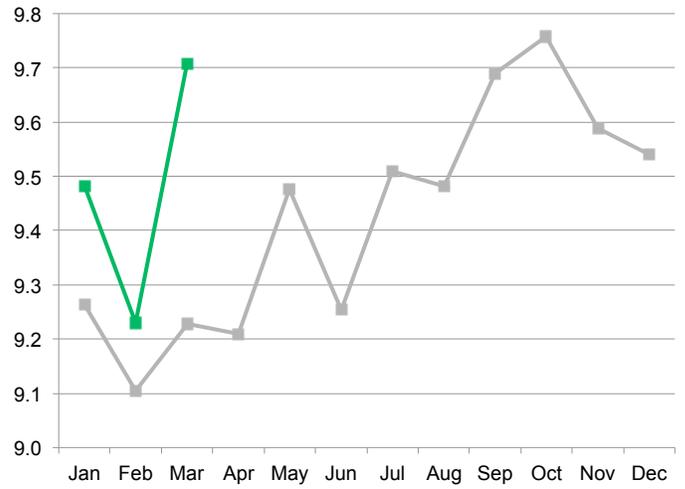
2014	Unadjusted	Adjusted	Unadjusted	Adjusted
January	8,120	9,262	3,530	4,004
February	8,092	9,104	3,505	3,937
March	9,321	9,228	4,008	3,972
April	9,286	9,210	3,978	3,959
May	9,634	9,476	4,113	4,067
June	9,762	9,253	4,159	3,959
July	9,391	9,510	4,004	4,065
August	9,488	9,482	4,054	4,065
September	9,625	9,689	4,110	4,155
October	9,766	9,758	4,187	4,183
November	9,464	9,588	4,087	4,119
December	11,171	9,541	4,859	4,107
<b>2015</b>				
January	8,312	9,481	3,641	4,129
February	8,204	9,230	3,576	4,017
March	9,806	9,708	4,244	4,206

## Business Indicators

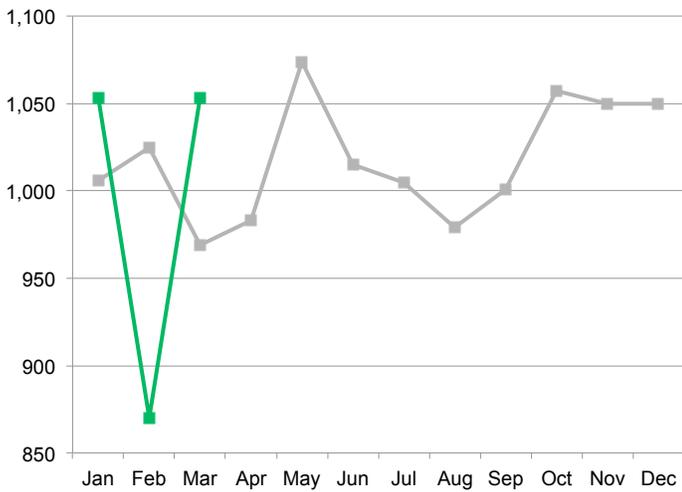
### Single Family Housing Permits



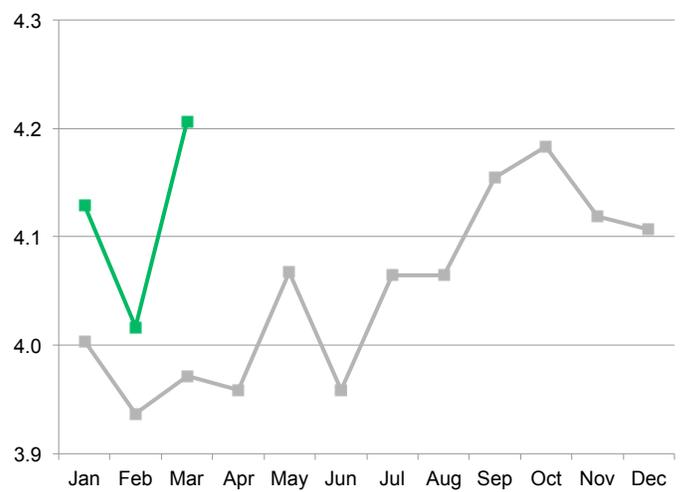
### Taxable Retail Sales (Billions of Dollars)



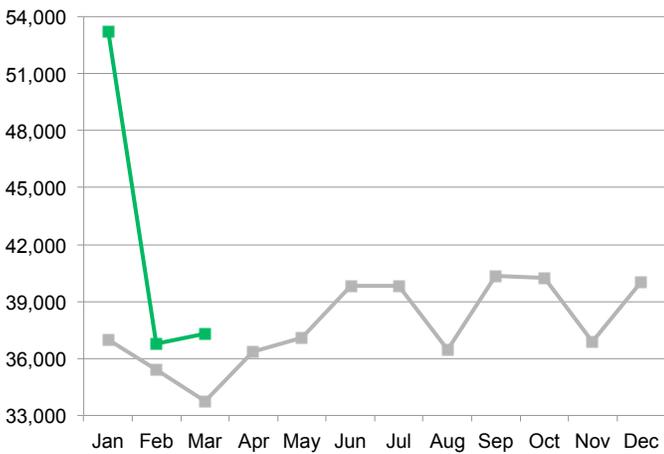
### New Business Incorporations



### Deflated Taxable Retail Sales (Billions of 1982-84 Dollars)



### New Vehicle Registrations



2014
  2015
 January 2014 - March 2015

# Historical Summary

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## 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.

## Business Cycle Turning Points

The beginning of a recession is defined as the month when aggregate economic activity in the U.S. reaches a cyclical high, from which it begins to turn down, and the end as the month when it reaches a cyclical low, from which it begins to turn up. On November 26, 2001, the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) announced a recession had begun in March 2001. On July 17, 2003, NBER announced the recession ended in November 2001. The NBER announced on December 1, 2008, that a recession had begun in December 2007. On September 20, 2010, the NBER announced the recession had ended in June 2009.

## 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. All series currently published in the *Virginia Economic Indicators* have been adjusted to minimize regular seasonal fluctuations in the data in order to show only activity related to the business cycle.

## Historical Graphs

Historical graphs are published in the back of the fourth quarter issue for each year.

## Data Sources

The data source for all series in this publication is the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC), except the following:

**U.S. Census Bureau:**

Single Family Housing Permits

**Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles:**

New Vehicle Registrations

**Virginia Department of Taxation:**

Deflated Taxable Retail Sales

Taxable Retail Sales

**Virginia State Corporation Commission:**

New Business Incorporations