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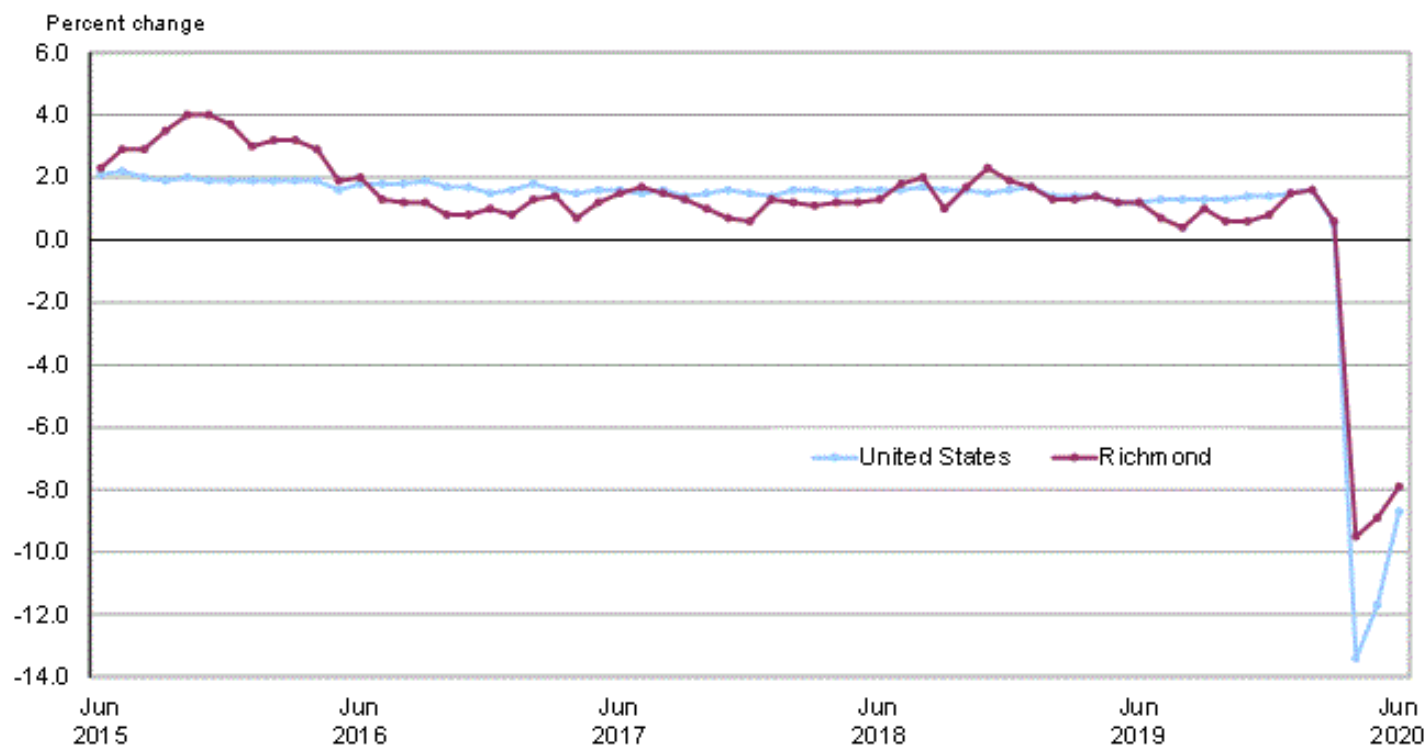
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Richmond Area Employment — June 2020

Local Rate of Employment Loss Slower Than National Average

Total nonfarm employment for the Richmond Metropolitan Statistical Area stood at 636,900 in June 2020, down 54,800, or 7.9 percent, over the year, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. During the same period, the national job count decreased 8.7 percent. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau’s regional commissioner, noted that the June decrease marked three consecutive months of over-the-year job losses in the Richmond metropolitan area. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#). The Technical Note at the end of this release contains the metropolitan area definition. All data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year analysis is used throughout.)

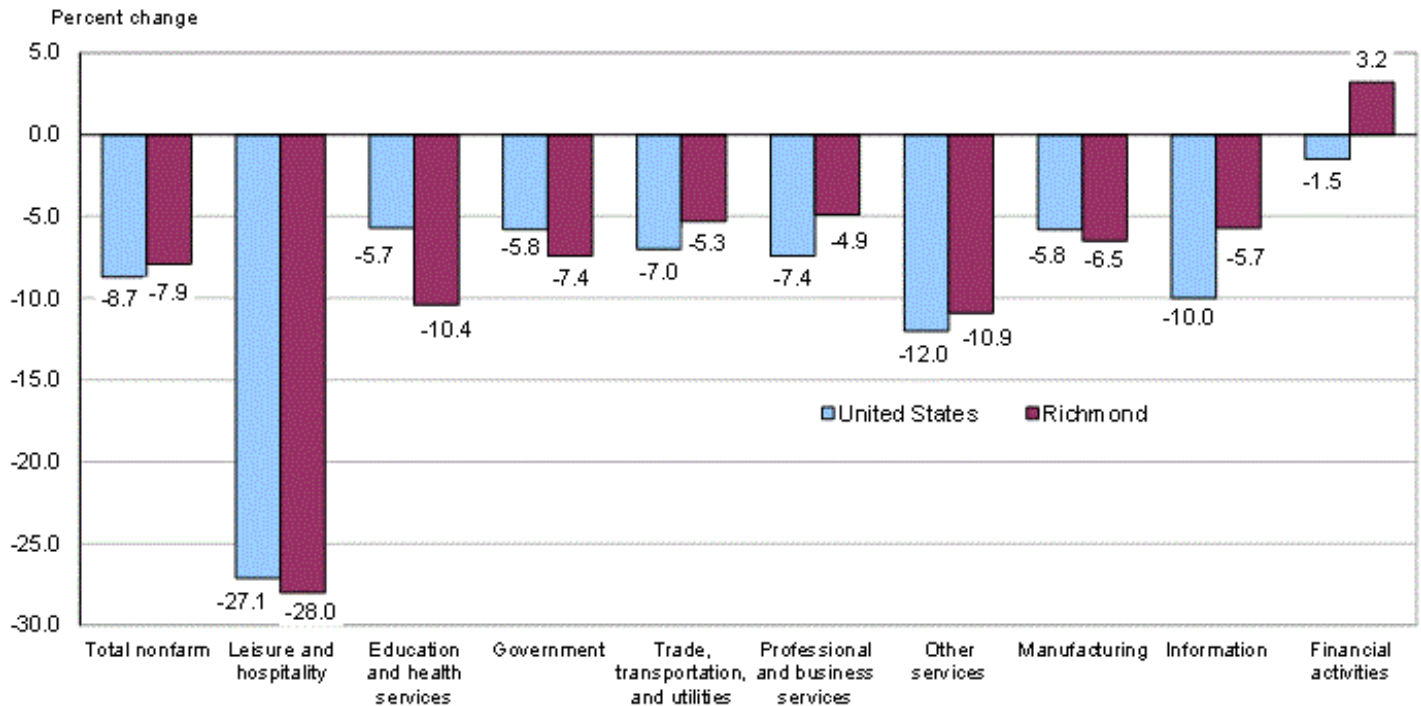
Chart 1. Total nonfarm employment, over-the-year percent change in the United States and Richmond metropolitan area, June 2015–June 2020



In the greater Richmond metropolitan area, leisure and hospitality had the largest employment decline from June 2019 to June 2020, losing 19,900 jobs. The recent decrease represented a 28.0-percent rate of job loss over the year in the local area, similar to the nationwide decline of 27.1 percent for this industry.

From June 2019 to June 2020, one other local supersector lost more than 10,000 jobs: education and health services (-10,500). Locally, the rate of job loss, at 10.4 percent, was nearly double that of the nation, down 5.7 percent over the year. (See [chart 2.](#))

Chart 2. Over-the-year percent change in employment by selected industry supersector, United States and the Richmond metropolitan area, June 2020



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

One supersector in the Richmond area had an employment increase over 1,000 since June 2019: financial activities (+1,700). The local area supersector had a 3.2-percent increase in jobs from June 2019 to June 2020, while nationwide, the supersector declined 1.5 percent.

Metropolitan area employment data for July 2020 are scheduled to be released on Friday, August 21, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. (EDT).

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on June 2020 Establishment Survey Data

BLS has continued to review all estimation and methodological procedures for the establishment survey, which included the review of data, estimation processes, the application of the birth-death model, and seasonal adjustment. Business births and deaths cannot be adequately captured by the establishment survey as they occur. Therefore, the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program uses a model to account for the relatively stable net employment change generated by business births and deaths. Due to the impact of COVID-19, the relationship between business births and deaths is no longer stable. Typically, reports with zero employment are not included in estimation. For the May final and June preliminary estimates, CES included a portion of these reports in the estimates and made modifications to the birth-death model. In addition for both months, the establishment survey included a portion of the reports that returned to reporting positive employment from reporting zero employment. For more information, see www.bls.gov/web/empsit/cesbd.htm.

In the establishment survey, workers who are paid by their employer for all or any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month are counted as employed, even if they were not actually at their jobs. Workers who are temporarily or permanently absent from their jobs and are not being paid are not counted as employed, even if they are continuing to receive benefits. The length of the reference period does vary across the respondents in the establishment survey; one-third of businesses have a weekly pay period, slightly over 40 percent a bi-weekly, about 20 percent semi-monthly, and a small amount monthly.

Technical Note

This release presents nonfarm payroll employment estimates from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program. The CES survey is a Federal-State cooperative endeavor between State employment security agencies and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Definitions. Employment data refer to persons on establishment payrolls who receive pay for any part of the pay period which includes the 12th of the month. Persons are counted at their place of work rather than at their place of residence; those appearing on more than one payroll are counted on each payroll. Industries are classified on the basis of their principal activity in accordance with the 2017 version of the North American Industry Classification System.

Method of estimation. CES State and Area employment data are produced using several estimation procedures. Where possible these data are produced using a "weighted link relative" estimation technique in which a ratio of current-month weighted employment to that of the previous-month weighted employment is computed from a sample of establishments reporting for both months. The estimates of employment for the current month are then obtained by multiplying these ratios by the previous month's employment estimates. The weighted link relative technique is utilized for data series where the sample size meets certain statistical criteria.

For some employment series, the sample of establishments is very small or highly variable. In these cases, a model-based approach is used in estimation. These models use the direct sample estimates (described above), combined with forecasts of historical (benchmarked) data to decrease volatility in estimation. Two different models (Fay-Herriot Model and Small Domain Model) are used depending on the industry level being estimated. For more detailed information about each model, refer to the BLS Handbook of Methods..

Annual revisions. Employment estimates are adjusted annually to a complete count of jobs, called benchmarks, derived principally from tax reports which are submitted by employers who are covered under state unemployment insurance (UI) laws. The benchmark information is used to adjust the monthly estimates between the new benchmark and the preceding one and also to establish the level of employment for the new benchmark month. Thus, the benchmarking process establishes the level of employment, and the sample is used to measure the month-to-month changes in the level for the subsequent months.

Reliability of the estimates. The estimates presented in this release are based on sample surveys, administrative data, and modeling and, thus, are subject to sampling and other types of errors. Sampling error is a measure of sampling variability—that is, variation that occurs by chance because a sample rather than the entire population is surveyed. Survey data are also subject to nonsampling errors, such as those which can be introduced into the data collection and processing operations. Estimates not directly derived from sample surveys are subject to additional errors resulting from the special estimation processes used. The sums of individual items may not always equal the totals shown in the same tables because of rounding.

Employment estimates. Measures of sampling error for the total nonfarm employment series are available for metropolitan areas and metropolitan divisions at www.bls.gov/sae/additional-resources/reliability-of-state-and-area-estimates.htm. Measures of sampling error for more detailed series at the area and division level are available upon request. Measures of sampling error for states at the supersector level and for the private service-providing, goods-producing, total private and total nonfarm levels are available on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/sae/additional-resources/reliability-of-state-and-area-estimates.htm. Information on recent benchmark revisions is available online at www.bls.gov/sae/publications/benchmark-article/annual-benchmark-article.pdf.

Area definitions. The substate area data published in this release reflect the delineations issued by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget on dated April 10, 2018. A detailed list of the geographic definitions is available at www.bls.gov/lau/lausmsa.htm.
























The **Richmond, VA Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Amelia, Caroline, Charles City, Chesterfield, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, King and Queen, King William, Louisa, New Kent, Powhatan, Prince George, and Sussex Counties and Colonial Heights, Hopewell, Petersburg, and Richmond cities in Virginia.

Additional information

More complete information on the technical procedures used to develop these estimates and additional data appear in *Employment and Earnings*, which is available online at www.bls.gov/opub/ee/home.htm. Detailed industry employment data for metropolitan areas from the CES program are available from the State and Area Employment databases at www.bls.gov/sae/data/home.htm.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry supersector, United States and the Richmond Metropolitan Statistical Area, not seasonally adjusted (in thousands)

Area	Back data	Jun 2019	Apr 2020	May 2020	Jun 2020(1)	Jun 2019 to Jun 2020(1)	
						Net change	Percent change
United States							
Total nonfarm.....		151,739	130,317	133,410	138,513	-13,226	-8.7
Mining and logging		746	643	632	628	-118	-15.8
Construction		7,699	6,465	7,073	7,359	-340	-4.4
Manufacturing.....		12,922	11,432	11,708	12,169	-753	-5.8
Trade, transportation, and utilities		27,698	24,253	24,740	25,753	-1,945	-7.0
Information		2,874	2,607	2,561	2,586	-288	-10.0
Financial activities		8,783	8,523	8,552	8,650	-133	-1.5
Professional and business services		21,428	19,215	19,398	19,836	-1,592	-7.4
Education and health services		23,939	21,972	22,243	22,569	-1,370	-5.7
Leisure and hospitality.....		17,219	8,485	10,107	12,556	-4,663	-27.1
Other services		5,970	4,564	4,852	5,254	-716	-12.0
Government.....		22,461	22,158	21,544	21,153	-1,308	-5.8
Richmond Metropolitan Statistical Area							
Total Nonfarm		691.7	620.1	625.1	636.9	-54.8	-7.9
Mining, logging, & construction		40.3	40.2	39.7	41.0	0.7	1.7
Manufacturing.....		32.2	29.8	29.8	30.1	-2.1	-6.5
Trade, transportation, & utilities.....		122.0	110.0	111.3	115.5	-6.5	-5.3
Information		7.0	6.7	6.6	6.6	-0.4	-5.7
Financial activities		53.6	54.4	54.9	55.3	1.7	3.2
Professional & business services.....		119.6	110.2	113.8	113.7	-5.9	-4.9
Educational & health services		100.7	88.8	91.0	90.2	-10.5	-10.4
Leisure & hospitality		71.1	39.1	45.1	51.2	-19.9	-28.0
Other services		32.9	28.8	29.0	29.3	-3.6	-10.9
Government.....		112.3	112.1	103.9	104.0	-8.3	-7.4

Footnotes

(1) State and regional data for the most recent month are preliminary; U.S. data are preliminary for two months.

SOURCE: Current Employment Statistics - NationalState and Metropolitan Area