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MID-ATLANTIC INFORMATION OFFICE: Philadelphia, Pa.

Technical information: (215) 597-3282 BLSInfoPhiladelphia@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/mid-atlantic

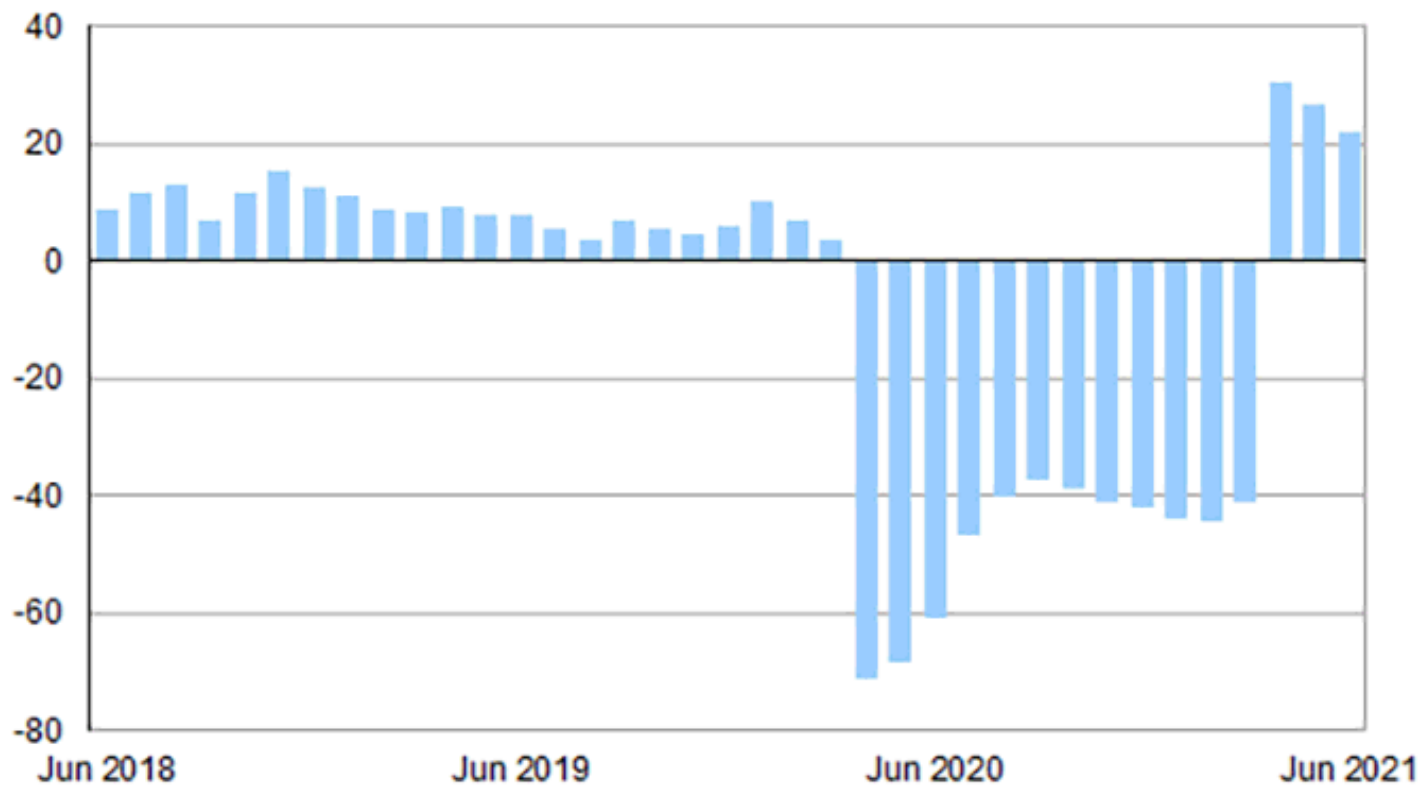
Media contact: (215) 861-5600 BLSMediaPhiladelphia@bls.gov

Richmond Area Employment — June 2021

Total nonfarm employment for the Richmond, VA Metropolitan Statistical Area increased by 22,000 over the year in June, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).) Regional Commissioner Alexandra Hall Bovee noted that the June increase marked three consecutive months of over-the-year job increases in the Richmond metropolitan area. The local rate of job growth, 3.5 percent, compared to the 5.8-percent national increase. (The Technical Note at the end of this release contains metropolitan area definitions. All data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year analysis is used throughout.)

Chart 1. Over-the-year net change for total nonfarm employment in the Richmond metropolitan area, June 2018–June 2021

Thousands

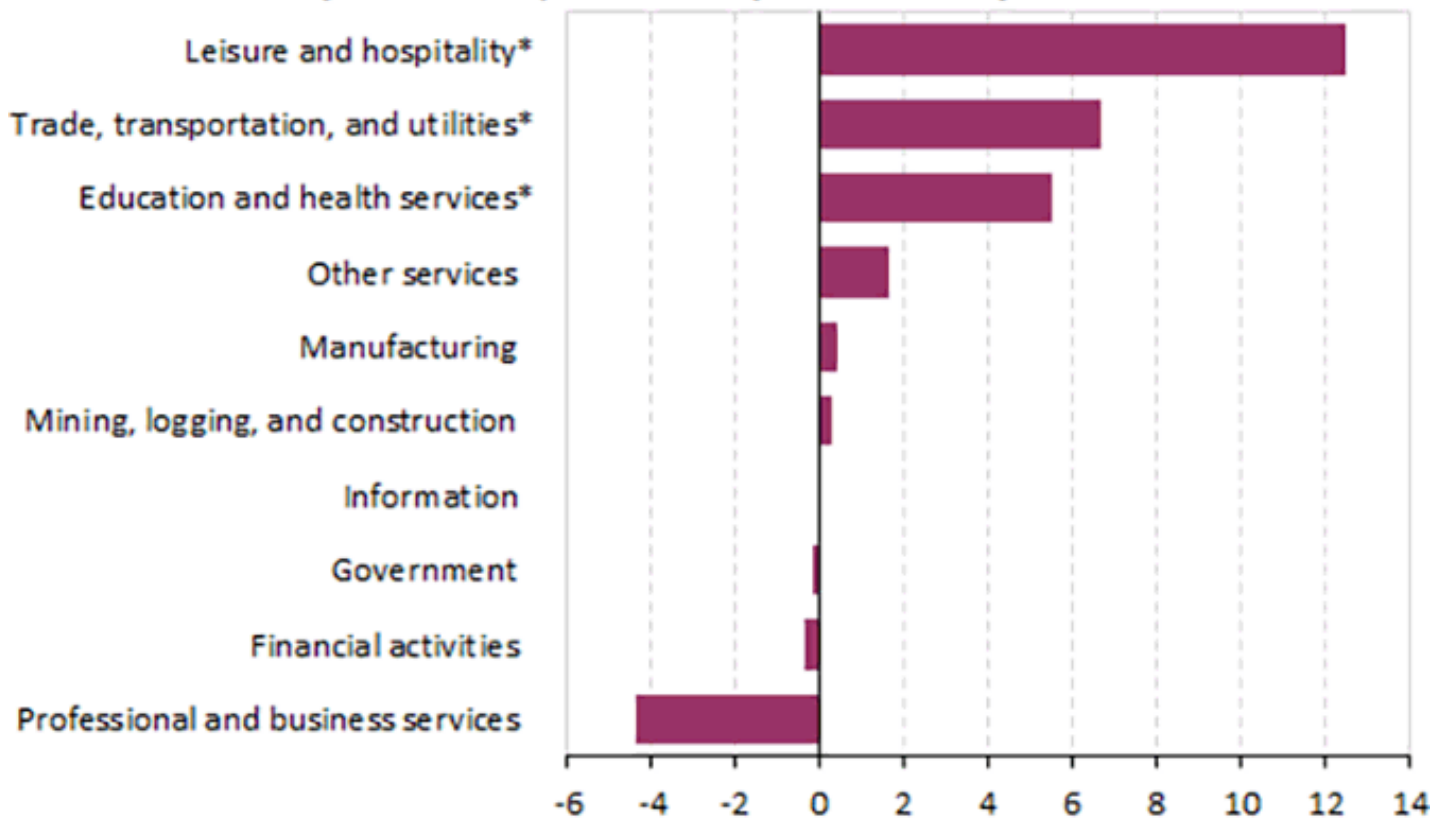


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Industry employment

In the greater Richmond area, leisure and hospitality had the largest gain (+12,500). (See [chart 2](#).) The 27.8-percent increase in Richmond's leisure and hospitality supersector compared to the 21.3-percent gain on a national level. Within the supersector, the accommodation and food services sector gained 6,700 jobs.

Chart 2. Over-the-year net change for industry supersector employment in the Richmond metropolitan area, June 2021 (in thousands)



Note: An asterisk indicates statistical significance at the 90-percent confidence level.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Trade, transportation, and utilities gained 6,700 jobs over the year in the local area. The local area had a 5.7-percent gain compared to the 5.1-percent increase for the nation. Within the supersector, the retail trade sector added 4,200 jobs and the transportation and utilities sector added 3,400 jobs.

Education and health services added 5,500 jobs locally, an increase of 5.9 percent since June 2020. Nationally, employment in this supersector increased 3.8 percent.

The Metropolitan Area Employment and Unemployment release for July 2021 is scheduled to be released on September 1, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. (ET).

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on June 2021 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 at www.bls.gov/pub/hom/pdf/ces-20110307.pdf.

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 also are 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 specific estimation processes used. The sums of individual items may not always equal the totals shown in the same tables because of rounding.

Employment estimates. Changes in metropolitan area nonfarm payroll employment are cited in the analysis of this release only if they have been determined to be statistically significant at the 90-percent confidence level. Measures of sampling error for the total nonfarm employment series are available for metropolitan areas and metropolitan divisions at www.bls.gov/web/laus/790stderr.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 <https://www.bls.gov/web/laus/790stderr.htm>. Information on recent benchmark revisions is available online at www.bls.gov/web/laus/bmrk_article.htm.

Area definitions. The substate area data published in this news release reflect the delineations issued by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget on April 10, 2018.























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

Employment data from the CES program are available on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/sae/.

Information in this release will be made available to individuals with sensory impairments 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 2020	Apr 2021	May 2021	Jun 2021(1)	Jun 2020 to Jun 2021(1)	
						Net change	Percent change
United States							
Total nonfarm.....		138,501	144,397	145,369	146,517	8,016	5.8
Mining and logging		600	612	618	633	33	5.5
Construction		7,359	7,365	7,477	7,592	233	3.2
Manufacturing.....		12,069	12,226	12,282	12,389	320	2.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities		25,930	26,845	27,019	27,263	1,333	5.1
Information		2,606	2,695	2,716	2,743	137	5.3
Financial activities		8,675	8,770	8,781	8,840	165	1.9
Professional and business services		19,683	20,710	20,765	20,946	1,263	6.4
Education and health services		22,491	23,597	23,538	23,355	864	3.8
Leisure and hospitality.....		12,637	14,020	14,611	15,329	2,692	21.3
Other services		5,217	5,567	5,604	5,710	493	9.4
Government.....		21,234	21,990	21,958	21,717	483	2.3
Richmond Metropolitan Statistical Area							
Total Nonfarm		630.7	644.1	644.2	652.7	22.0	3.5
Mining, logging, & construction		39.7	39.3	38.9	40.0	0.3	0.8
Manufacturing.....		30.3	30.8	30.7	30.7	0.4	1.3
Trade, transportation, & utilities.....		116.9	121.1	122.6	123.6	6.7	5.7
Information		6.2	6.0	6.0	6.2	0.0	0.0
Financial activities		53.1	52.6	52.5	52.7	-0.4	-0.8
Professional & business services.....		112.7	107.5	107.6	108.3	-4.4	-3.9
Educational & health services		93.5	95.7	95.3	99.0	5.5	5.9
Leisure & hospitality		44.9	53.8	56.0	57.4	12.5	27.8
Other services		27.2	28.3	28.4	28.8	1.6	5.9
Government.....		106.2	109.0	106.2	106.0	-0.2	-0.2

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 - National, State and Metropolitan Area