



Unemployed, Underutilized, Undone

The State of Working Virginia

Part Three: Employment and Labor Force

November 2011

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Unemployed, Underutilized, Undone

The Great Recession officially ended in June 2009. But by the measures that matter most for Virginia's working families, the economy continued to worsen in 2010. And for many regions in the state, the economic impacts were far worse than for Virginia as a whole. The recession also exacerbated long-standing trends and the depth of many of the impacts stand in marked contrast to prior recessions.

This report examines detailed 2010 employment data from the U.S. Census Bureau and Department of Labor, and looks back across the 1980s and 1990s, to assess key milestones for the first decade of the 2000s and take stock of the first full year of Virginia's slow economic recovery.

Key Findings Include:

- Unemployment rose 14 percent in 2010, the largest jump in the South Atlantic region, making Virginia's average 2010 unemployment rate the highest since the deep recession of the early 1980s.
- In 2010, the share of unemployed workers looking for a job for 27 weeks or longer soared to more than one in three unemployed workers, nearly double the highest recorded rate since before the Great Recession.
- In 2010, Virginia's underemployment rate was at its highest level in at least 15 years, rising at a rate faster than that of the United States as a whole.
- Between 1980 and 2010, the drop in the employment rates for Virginians with low levels of education was almost twice the drop for their peers in the United States as a whole. This points to a labor market that is splintering faster in Virginia than in the U.S.
- During the current recession and its immediate aftermath, 63 percent of Virginia's localities experienced the highest unemployment levels in a generation.
- In 54 of the 134 counties and independent cities in Virginia, the unemployment rate in 2010 was the highest since at least 1990, and for another 10 localities it was tied with the worst level on record.

Virginia's average 2010 unemployment rate was the highest since the deep recession of the early 1980s.



For Billy, a 64-year-old resident of Virginia Beach, his age and experience seem to be driving potential employers away rather than attracting them. He lost his job as a medical supply company manager in late 2009, and as of December 2010, he had yet to find a job. Weekly unemployment checks have been keeping him afloat, and even with the extension of benefits from Congress, life is difficult. He and his wife have already moved into a much smaller home, and they're hoping to make it until he qualifies for Social Security.

In the meantime, any job would be helpful. Billy has applied for positions ranging from store clerk to shelf-stocker without success.

Unfortunately, employers claim that, because of his past management job, Billy would be dissatisfied with something that paid less. The fact of the matter is that with more job seekers than jobs, employers can afford to be picky while employees cannot.

"I've been laid off so long I'd take just about anything," said Billy.

Source: *Virginian Pilot*; December 2010; *Region's jobless face grim prospect: final check.*

Part I: The Disappearance of Work

Across almost all of Virginia's industries, work continued to disappear in 2010. The job losses drove an increase in the share of Virginians who were looking for but unable to obtain a job. Furthermore, more unemployed workers were out of work longer. For most Virginians, these continued downward trends in the economy made the first year of "recovery" feel like another year of recession.

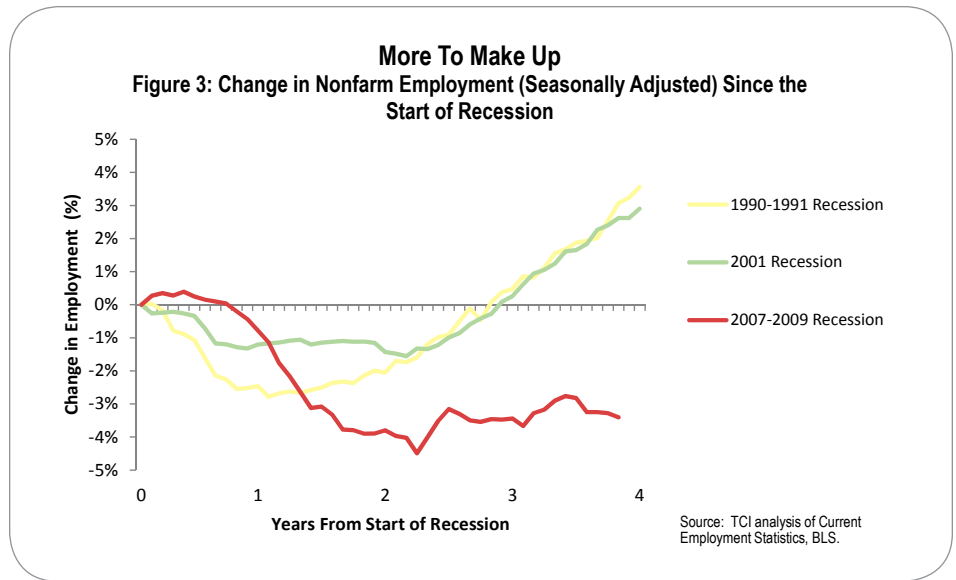
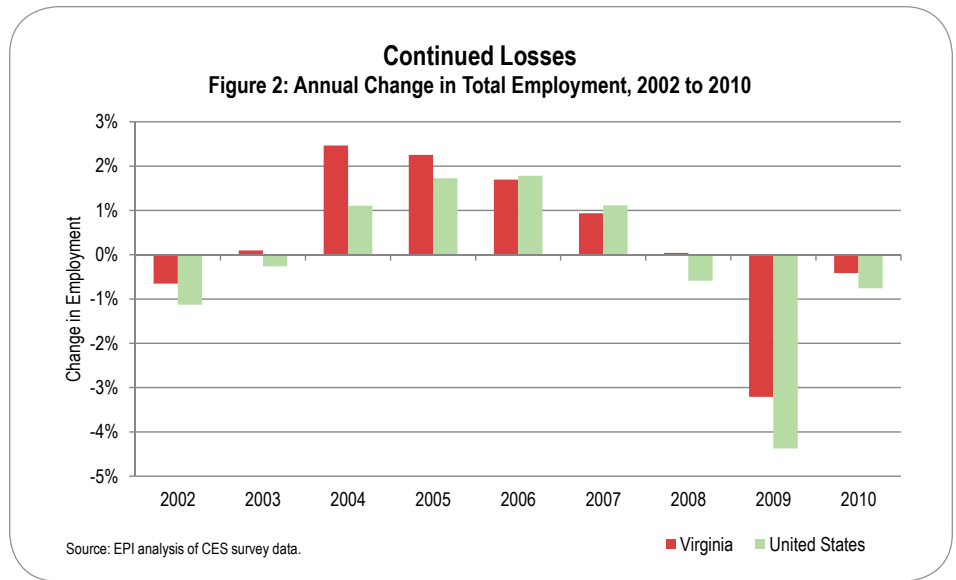
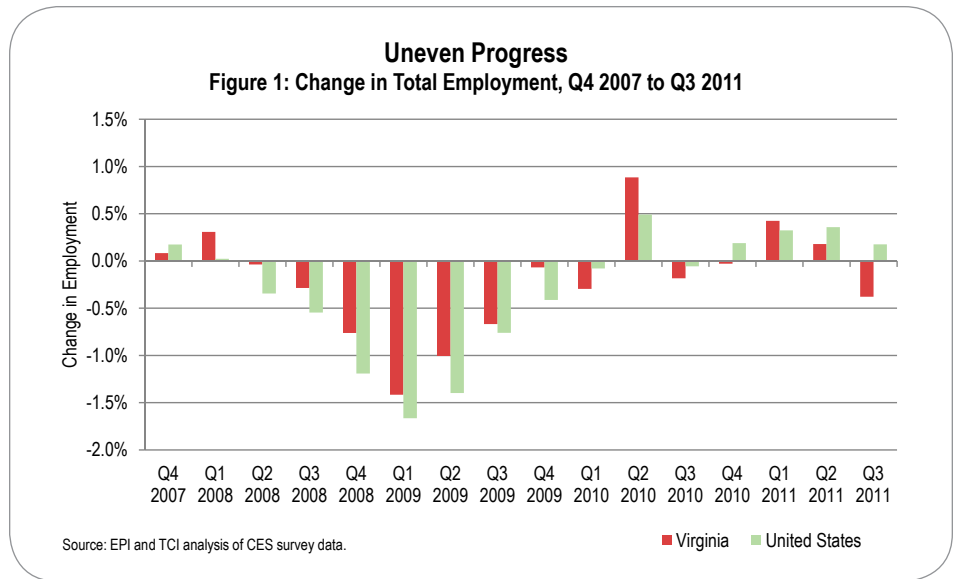
Employment

Despite the official end of the Great Recession at the end of June 2009, Virginia continued to lose jobs through February 2010 (Figure 1). Since then, Virginia has followed a path similar to the nation: slow job growth mixed with periods of job loss.

Virginia's uneven job growth in 2010 was insufficient to raise average employment levels above 2009 levels. Instead, the total number of employed non-farm workers in Virginia fell to 3.63 million, 0.4 percent below 2009 levels and 3.6 percent below pre-recession (2007) levels (Figure 2).

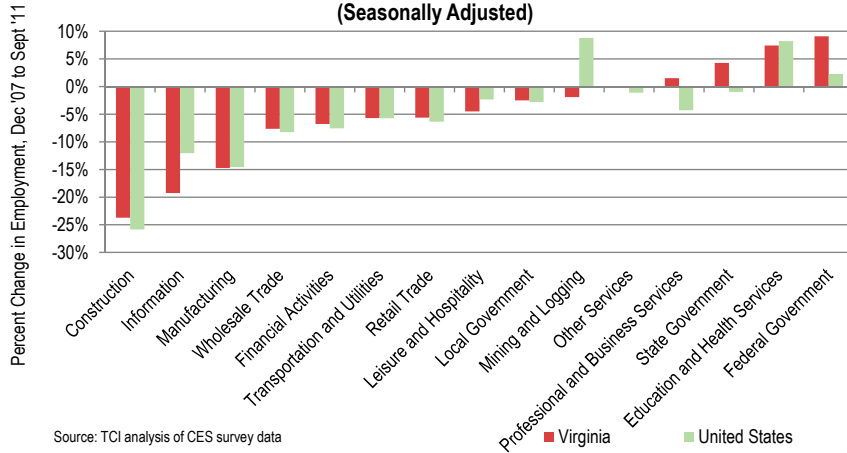
Total non-farm employment in 2010 in Virginia was only 3.1 percent above employment levels in 2000. This was well below the growth rate for the state's labor force and population as a whole and a marked slowdown from the robust 21.5 percent employment growth experienced during the 1990s.

The depth and length of the Great Recession and the slow pace of job growth put Virginia in a more challenging position than after prior recessions. In recent economic recoveries, employment returned to pre-recession levels in Virginia within three years after the start of recession. But, the economic recovery from this recession is different. As of September 2011, nearly four years since the start of the Great Recession, Virginia still had 128,200 fewer jobs than before the recession began (Figure 3).



Bright Spots

Figure 4: Change in Employment Dec 2007 to Sept 2011 (Seasonally Adjusted)



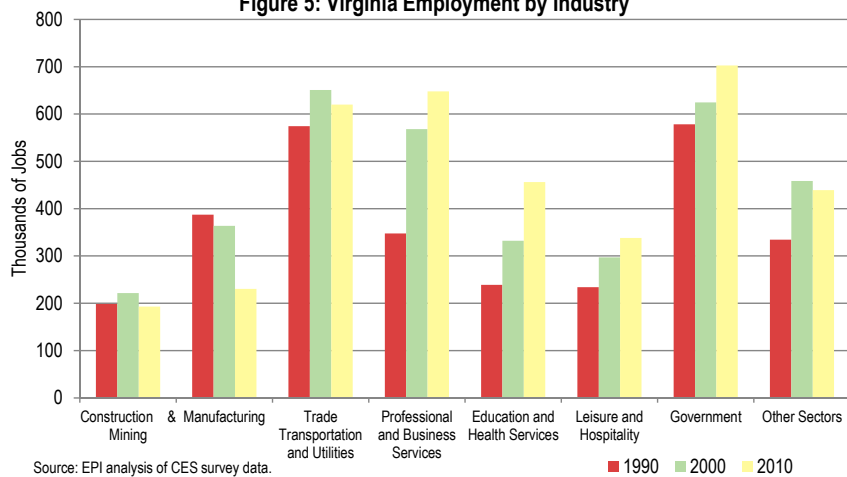
Source: TCI analysis of CES survey data

In most Virginia industries, the number of jobs remained well below pre-recession levels. Total private sector employment was 4.5 percent below pre-recession levels, a net loss of 139,600 jobs. Virginia's deepest "job holes" were in construction, information, and manufacturing, which were also the hardest-hit areas in the country as a whole (Figure 4).

Still, there were a few sectors that were bright spots within the Virginia economy. Federal employment, already a larger share of Virginia employment than in most other states, has grown by 9.1 percent since the recession began. State government employment and jobs in the education and health services sector also improved. And the professional and business services industry, one of Virginia's largest sectors, employed slightly more workers in 2010 than in December 2007, though nationally the number of workers employed in this sector has shrunk slightly.

However, in 2010, employment in 10 of the 15 Virginia industries shown in Figure 4 fell below 2009 levels, with only the Mining and Logging, Professional/Business Services, State Government, Education/Health Services, and Federal Government sectors adding jobs, despite the recession officially ending in June 2009.

Virginia's Changed Employment Landscape
Figure 5: Virginia Employment by Industry



Source: EPI analysis of CES survey data.

Looking back across the past two decades shows substantial shifts in employment opportunities in Virginia (Figure 5). Manufacturing employment has dropped by 40 percent since 1990, shedding 156,800 jobs. In addition, 2010 also marked the 12th straight year of losses in this sector, though the value of Virginia's manufacturing output grew by 15 percent over that same 12-year period.

Mining sector employment fell by 6,400 jobs between 1990 and 2010, losing more than one in three of the mining jobs that existed in 1990. Virginia industries that have seen the largest employment increases since 1990 are Professional and Business Services, up 86 percent, and education and health services, up 91 percent. Government employment is up 22 percent since 1990, driven in large part by a 43 percent increase in local government employment.

Manufacturing employment in Virginia has dropped by 40 percent since 1990.

More than one in six Virginians—and more than one in five private employees in Virginia—are currently employed in the Professional and Business Services industry, Virginia’s largest private employment sector (Figure 6). Employment in this industry as a share of total state employment is second only to the District of Columbia.

Direct federal employment in Virginia continues to have a major positive impact on total employment in Virginia. Federal jobs account for almost five percent of total Virginia employment, more than twice the national share. Virginia also is one of only two states where more people are employed by the federal government than by the state government.

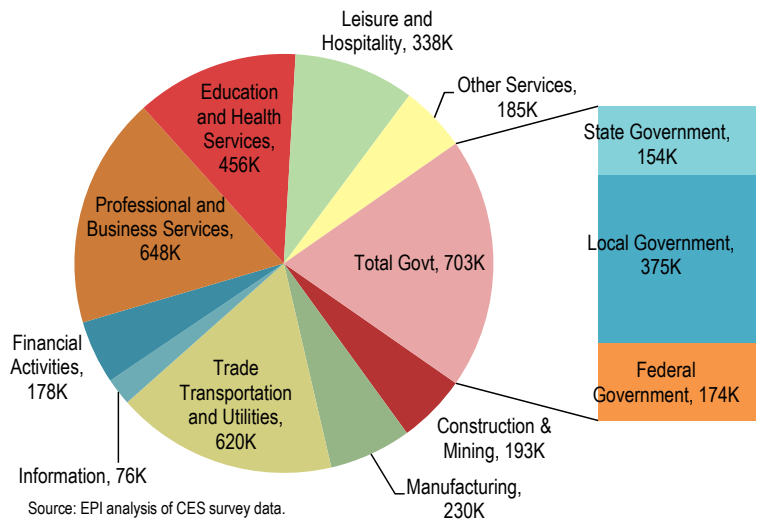
Unemployment

In recent years, actively looking for work has not led to actual employment for large numbers of Virginians. The official unemployment rate—the share of Virginians who are in the labor force and are actively looking for work but not finding it—rose in 2010 to 7.5 percent, up 14 percent from 6.6 percent in 2009. That jump was the largest in the South Atlantic division (which includes all Atlantic seaboard states from Delaware to Florida, plus West Virginia and the District of Columbia). Virginia’s average unemployment rate in 2010 was the highest in a generation.

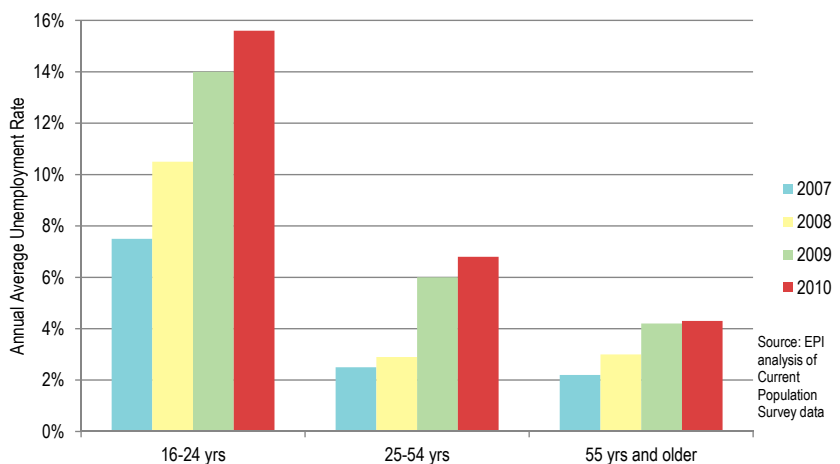
There also continued to be very few available jobs compared to the large number of job seekers in our economy. As of August 2011, there are 4.6 times as many job seekers as there are available jobs in the South (state-level data on job openings to job seekers is not available). That was more than three times the pre-recession ratio.

While Virginia unemployment rates rose 12 percent in 2010 for both men and women in Virginia, there was a larger increase in the number of unemployed men than women, mostly because the unemployment rate for men was already higher and labor force participation is higher among men than women. The

Where the Jobs Are
Figure 6: Total Employment by Sector, 2010



Searching for Work By Age
Figure 7: Virginia Unemployment Rates



share of Virginia’s male workers who were unemployed in 2010 was the highest in at least three decades.

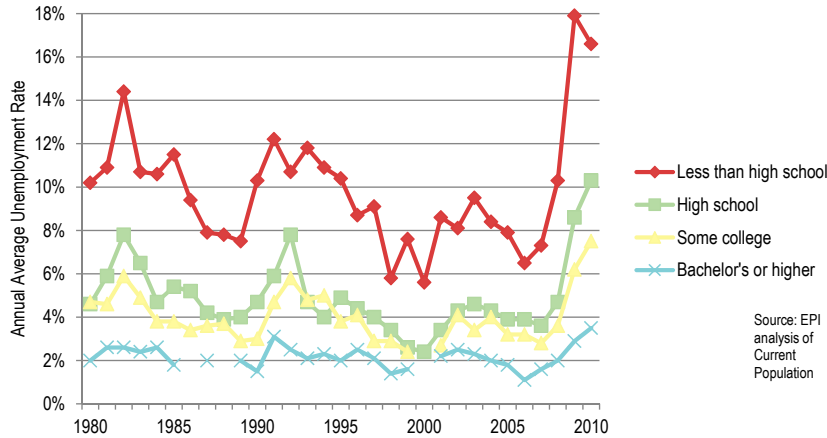
Young workers, who already had the highest unemployment rate of any age group in Virginia, also saw large increases in unemployment. Almost one in six Virginians between the ages of 16 and 24 was looking for but unable to obtain a job in 2010, up 11 percent from 2009 and more than double the 2007 unemployment rate among young Virginians (Figure 7).

Looking For but Not Finding Work
Table 1: Unemployment Rate

	2010 Rate	Percent Change from 2009	Percent Change from 2007
All Virginians	7.5%	+14%	+142%
Gender			
Male	8.2%	+12%	+148%
Female	6.7%	+12%	+131%
Age			
16-24 yrs	15.6%	+11%	+108%
25-54 yrs	6.8%	+13%	+172%
55 yrs and older	4.3%	+2%	+95%
Race / ethnicity			
White	6.5%	+25%	+132%
African-American	11.3%	+3%	+146%
Hispanic	6.9%	-15%	N/A
Asian/Pacific islander	6.9%	-16%	N/A
Education			
Less than high school	16.6%	-7%	+127%
High school	10.3%	+20%	+186%
Some college	7.5%	+21%	+168%
Bachelor’s or higher	3.5%	+21%	+119%

Source: EPI analysis of Current Population Survey data.

Searching for Work Over Time
Figure 8: Virginia Unemployment Rates

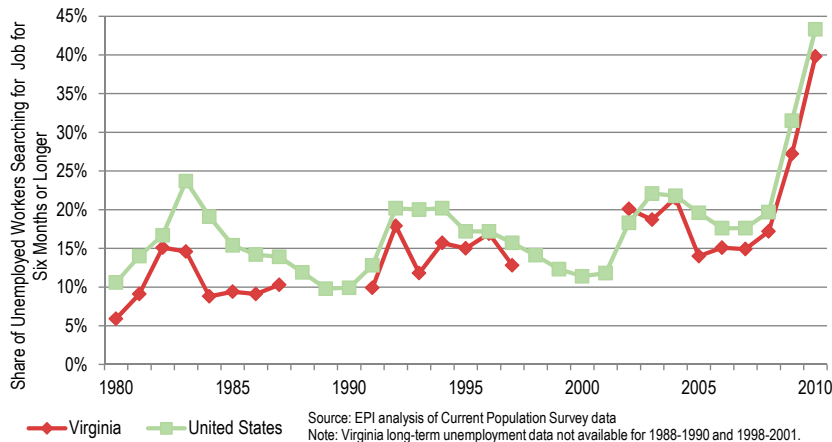


Virginians in the prime of their working years—25- to 54-year-olds—have also seen sharp increases in unemployment, with 6.8 percent of these workers unemployed in 2010, up 13 percent from 2009 and almost three times the rate in 2007.

Although Virginia's oldest workers have fared comparatively well during the Great Recession, the unemployment rate among Virginians age 55 and older was 4.3 percent in 2010—the highest rate in three decades—up slightly from 4.2 percent in 2009 and 2.2 percent in 2007.

Looking at unemployment by educational attainment, the unemployment rate in 2010 was the highest in three decades for most groups in the labor force (Figure 8).

Out for the Count
Figure 9: Long-Term Unemployment Rate



More than one in 10 Virginians with a high school degree, and almost one in 13 with some college coursework were unemployed in 2010. After seeing huge jumps in prior years, the unemployment rate for workers with less than a high school degree fell slightly in 2010. However, the unemployment rate for these workers remained extremely high at more than 16 percent.

Not only was Virginia's 2010 unemployment rate the highest in a generation, more unemployed workers looked for work for six months or longer before finding a job (Figure 9). In 2010, the share of unemployed workers who searched for a job for 27 weeks or longer soared to 39.8 percent of unemployed workers, up from 27.2 percent of unemployed workers in 2009 and 17.2 percent of unemployed workers in 2008.

The unemployment rate among Virginians age 55 and older was the highest in three decades.

Full- and Part-Time Work

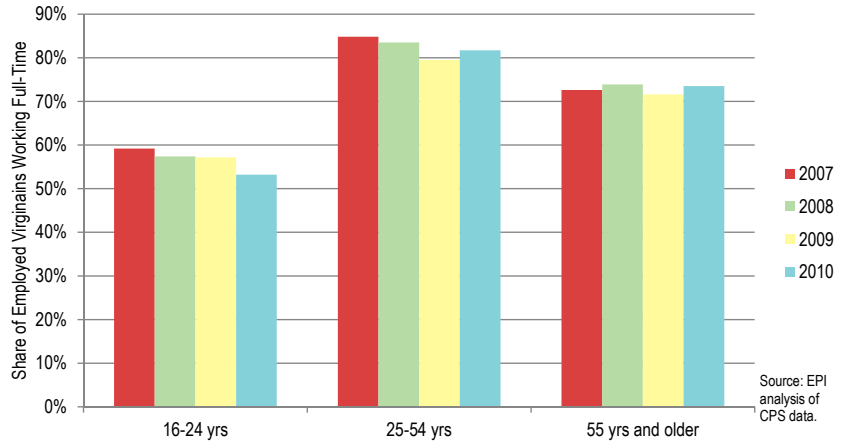
Of the Virginians who were employed in 2010, more were working full-time, a rare bright spot in the post-recession landscape.

The growth in full-time employment as a share of total employment was particularly strong among Virginians in their prime working years—between the ages of 25 and 54—and among racial minorities. The youngest Virginia workers—ages 16-24—was the only subgroup to substantially decrease its likelihood of working full-time rather than part-time (Figure 10).

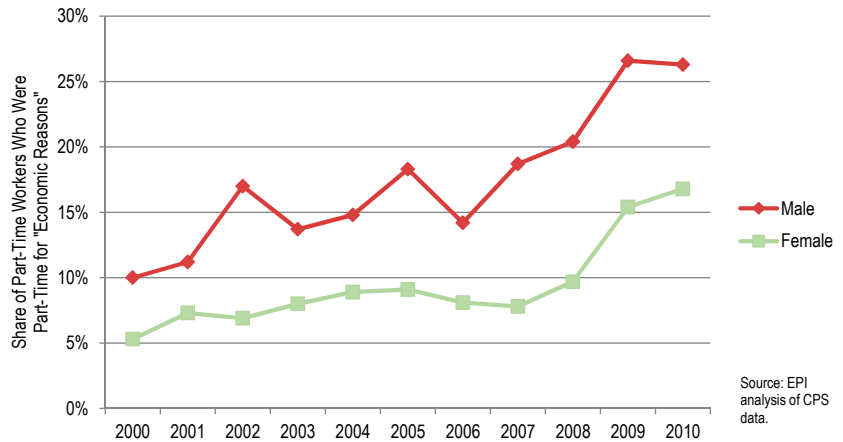
Even as a smaller share of employed Virginians worked part-time in 2010, the share of part-time workers who wanted a full-time job increased four percent in 2010, after soaring 42 percent the prior year. This increase in “involuntarily part-time” workers was driven by an increase in the share of women who wanted full-time work (Figure 11).

The share of part-time workers who wanted a full-time job increased four percent in 2010.

Working Slightly More
Figure 10: Share of Employed Virginians Working Full-Time



Wanting More
Figure 11: Share of Part-Time Workers Wanting Full-Time Work



Stuck Part Way
Table 2: Share of Part-Time Workers Wanting Full-Time Work

Work	2010 Rate	Percent Change from 2009	Percent Change from 2007
All Virginians	20.6%	+4%	+73%
Gender			
Male	26.3%	-1%	+41%
Female	16.8%	+9%	+115%
Age			
16-24 yrs	21.2%	+0%	+75%
25-54 yrs	24.2%	+8%	+67%
55 yrs and older	12.0%	-2%	+88%
Race / ethnicity			
White	15.6%	-4%	+93%
African-American	35.4%	+32%	+99%
Hispanic	39.8%	-7%	-2%
Education			
Less than high school	26.9%	-18%	+57%
High school	31.9%	+13%	+85%
Some college	16.3%	+8%	+99%
Bachelor's or higher	12.8%	+7%	+68%

Source: EPI analysis of Current Population Survey data.

Part II: The Disappearance of Workers

Underemployment

When work disappears, so do workers. In addition to those Virginians who are unemployed and those who are employed part-time but want to work full-time, many Virginians have become so discouraged by the historically tough job market they have stopped actively looking for work. Together, these three factors—unemployment, involuntary part-time status, and discouragement—form the total “underemployment” rate (Figure 12).

Underemployment rose 7 percent in Virginia in 2010, an increase that came on top of a 61 percent jump in 2009 and 23 percent increase in 2008. The increase in Virginia’s underemployment rate was higher than the United States as a whole, and the state 2010 underemployment level was the highest in at least 15 years.

Looking at underemployment since 1994, the first year for which data is available, underemployment is at record-high levels for almost all groups of Virginians. Men, prime-age workers, and Virginians with a high school degree but no college experience have seen particularly sharp increases.



In July 2009, Jay Crawford was laid off from his job as communications director for the Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce. Despite an intense search for work, he had yet to find a job 26 weeks later and his unemployment benefits ran out. The state denied him extended benefits, so he turned to part time work as a soccer coach and business consultant. “Being unemployed is a frustrating experience,” said Jay. “Until you find work, you do whatever you can to pay the bills.”

He continued searching for a full time job for another nine months. Then, in late September, he attended a Charlottesville-sponsored job fair where he and thousands of others were able to meet employers face-to-face. Jay was able to get two interviews, and, more importantly, a renewed sense of hope

Source: The Daily Progress; Sept. 30, 2010; *Thousands visit local job fair.*

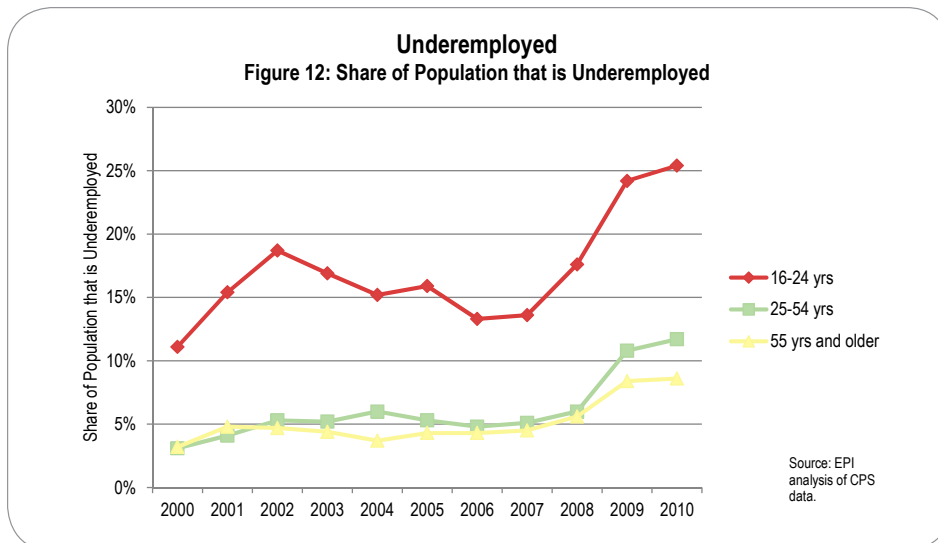


Table 3: Total Underemployment Rate

	2010 Rate	Percent Change from 2009	Percent Change from 2007
All Virginians	12.9%	+7%	+111%
Gender			
Male	13.7%	+6%	+108%
Female	12.2%	+10%	+118%
Age			
16-24 yrs	25.4%	+5%	+87%
25-54 yrs	11.7%	+8%	+129%
55 yrs and older	8.6%	+2%	+91%
Race / ethnicity			
White	10.9%	+12%	+118%
African-American	19.3%	+8%	+114%
Hispanic	16.2%	-21%	+40%
Asian/Pacific islander	12.3%	+3%	N/A
Education			
Less than high school	27.9%	-13%	+98%
High school	17.8%	+13%	+134%
Some college	12.6%	+19%	+142%
Bachelor's or higher	6.3%	+13%	+110%

Source: EPI analysis of Current Population Survey data.

Labor force participation

Virginia's labor force participation rate—the share of the population age 16+ who are working or actively looking for work—plunged for the second year in a row in 2010. Although before the recession, Virginia had the highest labor force participation rate in the South Atlantic region, Virginia's rank within the region slipped to third in 2009, behind the District of Columbia and Maryland, and remained in that position in 2010.

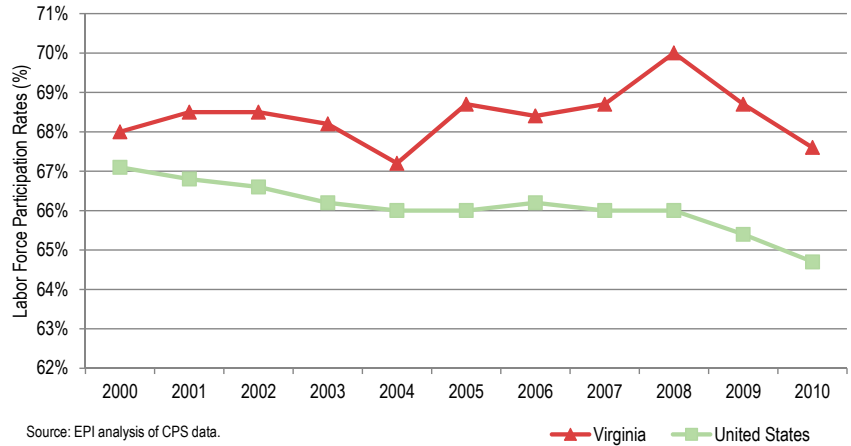
Virginia women were much more likely to drop out of the labor force in 2010 than their peers in the rest of the country.

Virginia's labor force participation rate also fell faster than the United States as a whole in 2010, with the difference between Virginia and the rest of the country narrowing to 2.9 percentage points (Figure 13).

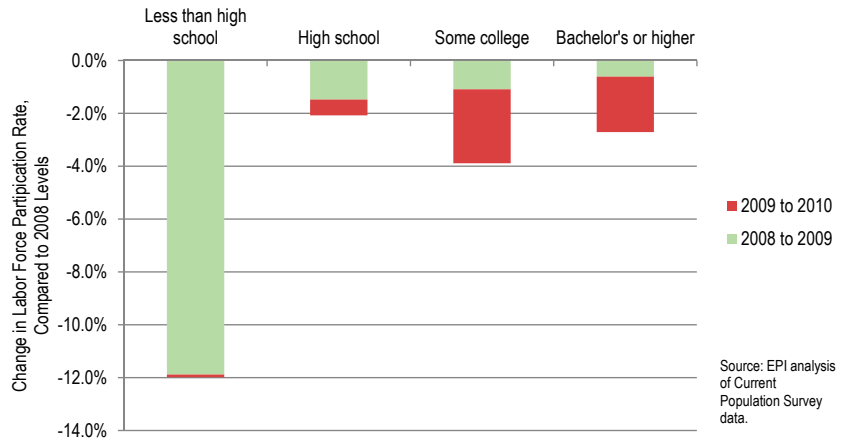
Both men and women in Virginia were less likely to be working or looking for work in 2010, with one percent fewer men and two percent fewer women in the labor force. The drop for men was only slightly larger than in the United States as a whole. But Virginia women were much more likely to drop out of the labor force in 2010 than their peers in the rest of the country.

All groups by educational attainment have seen marked declines in their labor force participation rates. The largest decrease over the past two years has been for those workers with less than a high school degree (Figure 14).

Pushed Out
Figure 13: Labor Force Participation Rates, 2000 to 2010



In 2010, Educated Virginians Less Likely to Be Working
Figure 14: Labor Force Participation by Education, Change from 2008



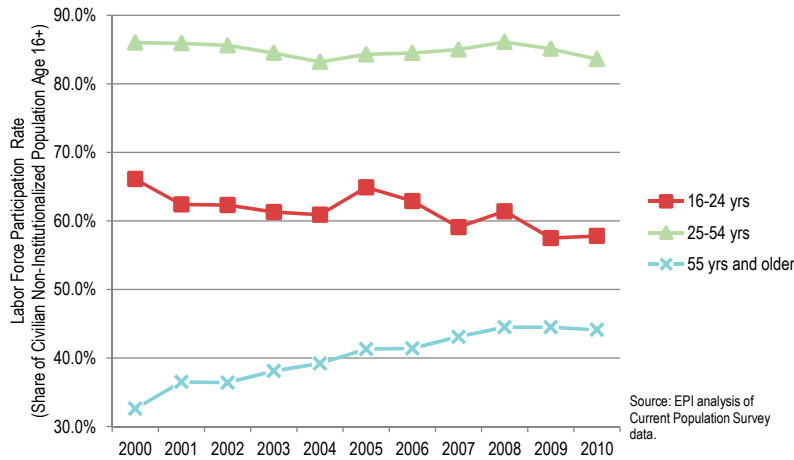
Who's Working or Looking for Work?

Table 4: Labor Force Participation

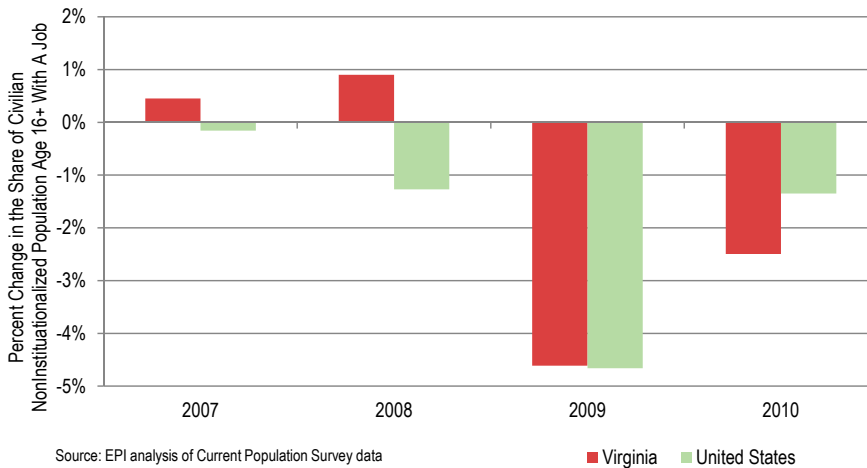
	2010 Rate	Percent Change from 2009	Percent Change from 2007
All Virginians	67.6%	-2%	-2%
Gender			
Male	73.6%	-1%	-3%
Female	62.1%	-2%	-0%
Age			
16-24 yrs	57.8%	+1%	-2%
25-54 yrs	83.6%	-2%	-2%
55 yrs and older	44.1%	-1%	+2%
Race / ethnicity			
White	66.9%	-2%	-2%
African-American	66.6%	+3%	-2%
Hispanic	72.9%	-7%	-7%
Asian/Pacific islander	70.7%	-2%	-3%
Education			
Less than high school	39.2%	-0%	-15%
High school	66.1%	-1%	-2%
Some college	69.9%	-4%	-2%
Bachelor's or higher	79.3%	-3%	-1%

Source: EPI analysis of Current Population Survey data.

Where Are the Workers?
Figure 15: Labor Force Participation by Age



Recovery?: Fewer Virginians Are Working
Figure 16: Employment-to-Population Rate



What Share of Virginians are Working?
Table 5: Employment to Population Ratio

	2010 Rate	Percent Change from 2009	Percent Change from 2007
All Virginians	62.5%	-2%	-6%
Gender			
Male	67.6%	-2%	-8%
Female	57.9%	-3%	-4%
Age			
16-24 yrs	48.8%	-1%	-11%
25-54 yrs	77.9%	-3%	-6%
55 yrs and older	42.2%	-1%	+0%
Race / ethnicity			
White	62.5%	-4%	-5%
African-American	59.1%	+3%	-9%
Hispanic	67.8%	-6%	-11%
Asian/Pacific islander	65.9%	-1%	-8%
Education			
Less than high school	32.7%	+2%	-23%
High school	59.3%	-3%	-9%
Some college	64.7%	-5%	-7%
Bachelor's or higher	76.6%	-3%	-3%

Source: EPI analysis of Current Population Survey data.

Almost four percent fewer Virginians with some college education were working or looking for work in 2010 than the prior year. This drop is three-times greater than in the nation as a whole and the second highest decrease in the Middle Atlantic region.

There was also a three percent decline in the share of Virginians with a bachelor's degree or higher who were in the labor force. This decrease is the third largest decrease in the region and three times the national decline.

Most of the decline in Virginia's labor force participation rate was driven by a drop in the share of 25- to 54-year old Virginians who were working or looking for work (Figure 15). The participation of Virginians in these prime working years fell two percent in 2010 and is at the second lowest level since 1985. Virginians age 55 and older also decreased their labor force participation in 2010.

Employment to Population Rate

The unemployment rate provides information on what share of Virginians who are in the labor force—that is, working or actively looking for work—are unable to obtain employment. The employment-to-population ratio provides information on what portion of all civilian, non-institutionalized Virginians age 16 and older are working. As workers give up on looking for work and drop out of the labor force, the share of all adult Virginians who have a job falls.

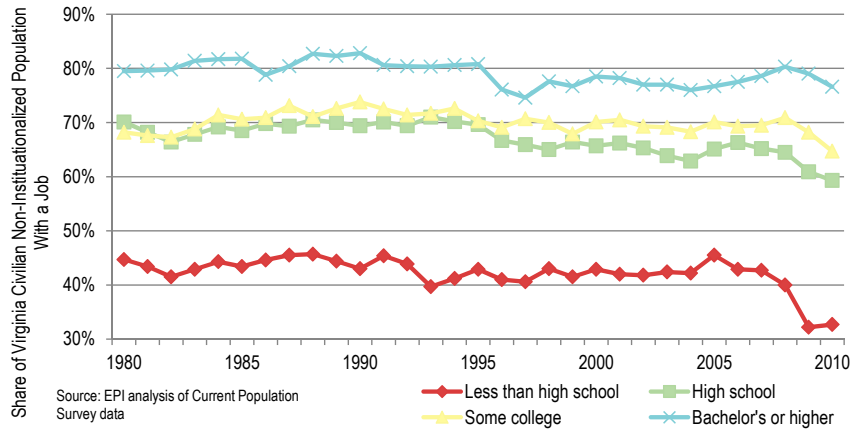
During the early part of the recession, the share of Virginians who were working actually increased slightly, as employment remained relatively strong in the Commonwealth. However, in 2009 Virginia's employment to population ratio plummeted five percent along with that of the rest of the country. In 2010, Virginia experienced another two percent decline in the share of the population that is employed (Figure 16).

The drop in 2010 was almost twice as deep as it was nationally and was driven by drops in employment among Virginians with at least some college education (Figure 17).

The recession's toll on less educated Virginians exacerbates a longer-term trend of falling employment levels for this group. In the past three decades, the share of Virginians who have a job has remained virtually unchanged due to a rising rate of employment among women and Virginians' growing educational levels generally. However, employment among those with a high school diploma fell from 70 percent to 59 percent, while the share for those with less than a high school education plunged from 45 percent to 33 percent. This 12 percentage point drop in the employment rates for Virginians with low levels of education was almost twice the drop for their peers in the United States as a whole and points to a labor market that is splintering faster in Virginia (Figure 18).

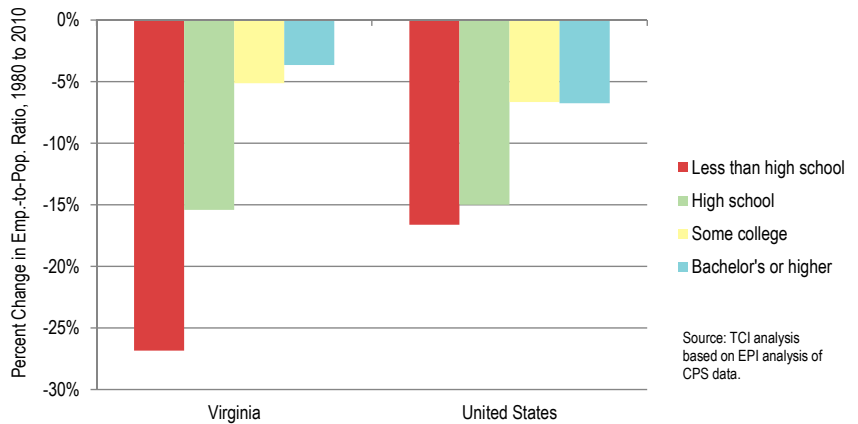
Falling Further Behind

Figure 17: Share of Civilian Non-Institutionalized Virginian Population Age 16+ With a Job



Pulling Apart, Especially in Virginia

Figure 18: Percent Change in Employment-to-Population Ratio, 1980 to 2010



Part III: Virginia's Regions

The Great Recession and its aftermath continue to wreak havoc on families across Virginia, but some parts of the state—particularly those far from the federal government-driven employment growth in Northern Virginia—are faring far worse than the Virginia average. In fact, looking at the number of employed workers in all of Virginia except Northern Virginia, total employment has fallen by 57,818 jobs, or 4.2 percent, since 2007, despite the labor force in these areas of the state having grown 2.4 percent. In 2010, 35 percent of all Virginia employment was located in Northern Virginia, with another 36 percent of jobs located in either the Hampton Roads or Richmond areas (Figure 19). Altogether, in 2010 more than seven in every 10 Virginia jobs was located in the “golden crescent” that stretches south on I-95 from Washington, DC then east on I-64 to Hampton Roads.

In 2010, total employment remained below pre-recession (2007) levels in every one of Virginia's Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) (Table 6), and in nine of Virginia's 11 MSAs employment fell in 2010 compared to 2009, the year the recession officially ended. Only Northern Virginia and Winchester—which is adjacent to the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria MSA—saw any growth in employment in 2010, and the number of jobs in those regions grew by less than one percent.



The economically depressed region of Danville is soon to have a new supercomputer, the only one in the United States outside of an academic or government setting. It will provide unprecedented access to supercomputing in the private sector, not to mention bringing much-needed jobs to Danville.

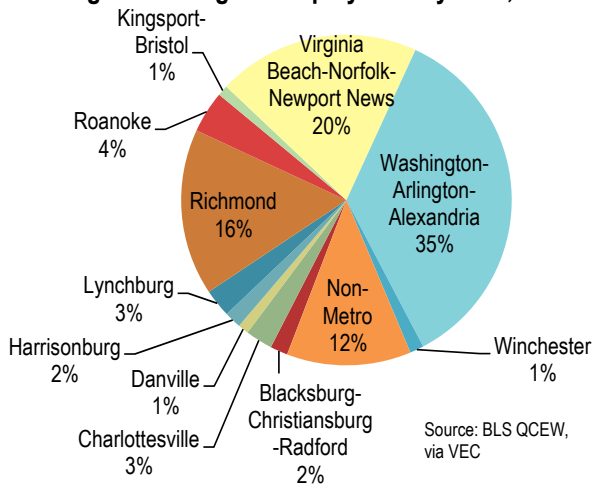
Although the Center for Applied High Performance Computing, where the supercomputer will be housed, will only create about 15 positions, the average salary will be \$125,000. State and local officials hope that the Center's presence will attract more high-tech companies that, according to Danville Mayor Sherman Saunders, “will further transform our region.”

These are the sorts of jobs that Virginia needs to be creating: positions in growth industries that will give workers future opportunities.

Source: Danville Register & Bee; June 16, 2011; *Officials hope Danville supercomputer will attract more high-tech companies.*

Where the Jobs Are:

Figure 19: Virginia Employment by MSA, 2010



Employment by MSA

Table 6: Characteristics of Virginia's MSAs

Metropolitan Statistical Area	Total	Change in	Unemployment
	Employment,	Employment,	
	2010	2007 to 2010	Rate, 2010
Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford	60,907	-4,006	8.2%
Charlottesville	93,945	-3,283	5.9%
Danville	37,051	-2,581	11.5%
Harrisonburg	57,951	-2,556	6.6%
Kingsport-Bristol	36,341	-1,686	9.1%
Lynchburg	97,116	-5,359	7.8%
Richmond	575,554	-31,408	7.7%
Roanoke	144,755	-10,962	7.4%
Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News (VA Part)	700,626	-37,858	7.4%
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria (VA Part)	1,253,169	-9,621	5.2%
Winchester (VA Part)	48,407	-3,708	7.1%
Virginia	3,535,673	-135,739	6.9%

Source: BLS QCEW and LAUS data, via the Virginia Employment Commission.

Employment by Industry

Looking at employment by industry in Virginia's metropolitan areas, we see that it is more concentrated in particular regions than in Virginia's statewide economy (Table 7). The manufacturing industry remains the leading employer in Virginia's Southside and southwest regions, providing 17 percent of the Danville MSA jobs and 16 percent of the jobs in the Virginia part of the Kingsport-Bristol-Bristol MSA.

Educational services was the largest industry in the university cities of Charlottesville and Blacksburg, providing 20 and 23 percent of employment in those MSAs respectively. In the Harrisonburg MSA, however, manufacturing was the leading employer despite the presence of a major university, providing 18 percent of all jobs, with educational services providing another 14 percent of jobs.

The well-paid professional, scientific, and technical services industry provided 20 percent of jobs in the Northern Virginia area, reflecting the high skill level and impact of federal contracting on the Northern Virginia job market.

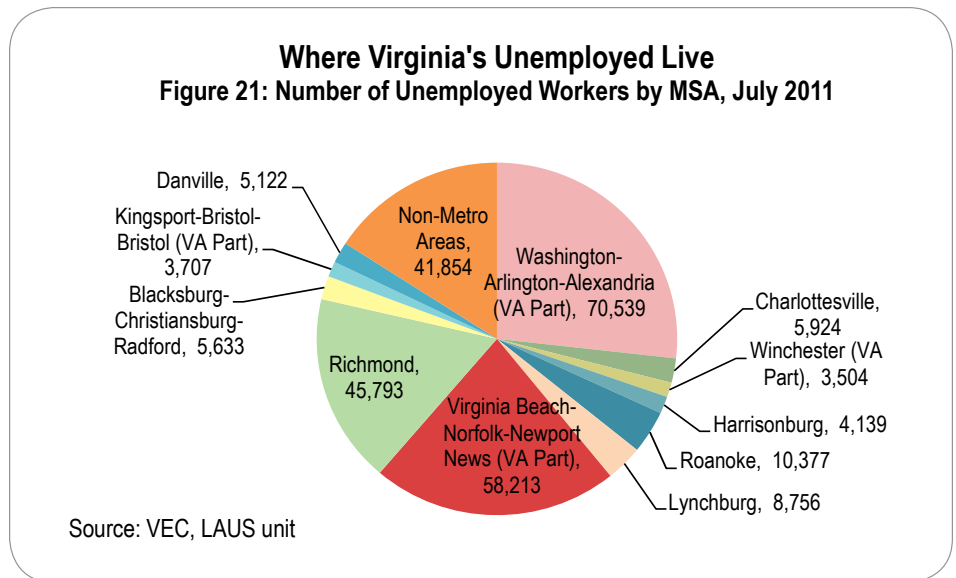
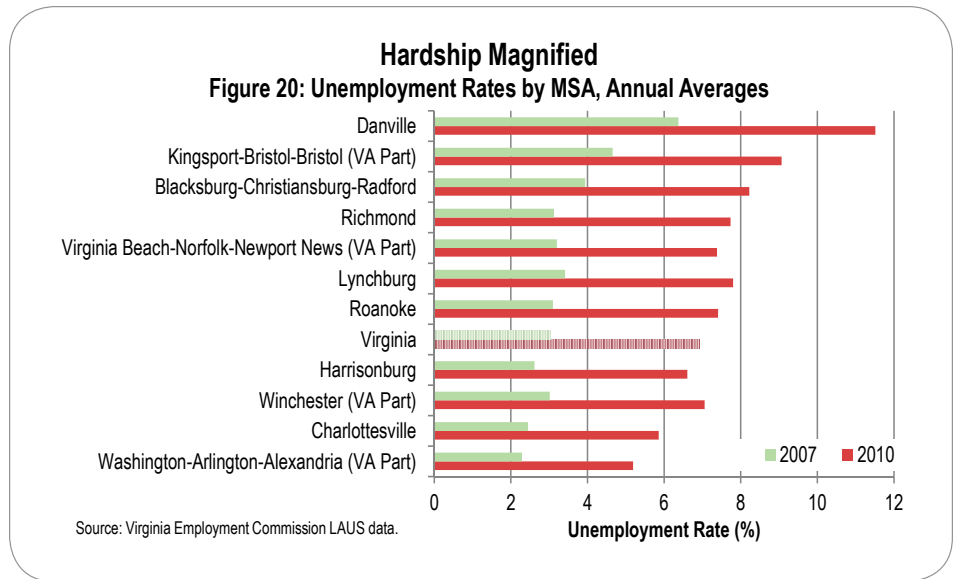
In Virginia's remaining metropolitan areas—Lynchburg, Richmond, Roanoke, Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, and Winchester—as well as in the state as a whole, health care and social assistance was the leading employer.

Unemployment

The continuing low employment levels across Virginia means large numbers of workers remain unemployed in all areas of the state. Unemployment by MSA shows a pattern of acute hardship in the Southside and southwestern parts of Virginia, with the Danville MSA and Kingsport-Bristol MSA having the highest unemployment rates, while Northern Virginia and Charlottesville have the lowest rates (Figure 20). However, some of the low-unemployment metro areas have seen the largest percent increases in unemployment since the start of the recession. The Harrisonburg area, for example, has seen

What Jobs Are Where?			
Table 7: Industries with Highest Employment by Region, 2010			
Region	Top Industry	Employment	Share of Total Regional Employment
Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford	Educational Services	13,858	23%
Charlottesville	Educational Services	18,349	20%
Danville	Manufacturing	6,371	17%
Harrisonburg	Manufacturing	10,567	18%
Kingsport-Bristol-Bristol (VA Part)	Manufacturing	5,958	16%
Lynchburg	Health Care and Social Assistance	14,957	15%
Richmond	Health Care and Social Assistance	83,369	14%
Roanoke	Health Care and Social Assistance	24,591	17%
Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News (VA Part)	Health Care and Social Assistance	89,673	13%
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria (VA Part)	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	251,313	20%
Winchester (VA Part)	Health Care and Social Assistance	7,774	16%
Statewide	Health Care and Social Assistance	427,868	12%

Source: Virginia Employment Commission, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, 2010.



a 153 percent increase in unemployment since 2007, compared to an 81 percent increase in Danville.

The large number of Virginians living and working in Northern Virginia, Hampton Roads, and the Richmond area means that although these areas have lower unemployment rates, very high numbers of unemployed workers reside in these very populous regions (Figure 21). As of July 2011, there were 70,539 unemployed workers living in Northern Virginia, more than in the Charlottesville, Winchester, Harrisonburg, Roanoke, Lynchburg, Blacksburg, and Kingsport areas combined.

Non-Metropolitan Virginia

Important trends are also seen in the non-metropolitan portions of the state, communities not located within one of the 11 Census-defined MSAs in Virginia. As of 2010, 12 percent of Virginia's employed workers and 17 percent of Virginia's unemployed workers were living in non-metro areas.

The number of unemployed workers living in these non-metro areas rose 125 percent during the recession, while the number of employed workers remained steady. If we look at the number of jobs in the non-metropolitan localities of Virginia, as opposed to the number of employed workers living in the non-metro localities, we see a similar picture—12

percent of jobs are in non-metropolitan Virginia, unchanged from 2007, and employment in those areas has dropped five percent since the start of the recession.

Virginia's Localities

In 2010 the number of unemployed workers grew in 60 percent of Virginia's localities; the unemployment rate got worse in 58 percent of the localities; and it remained unchanged in another 10 percent.

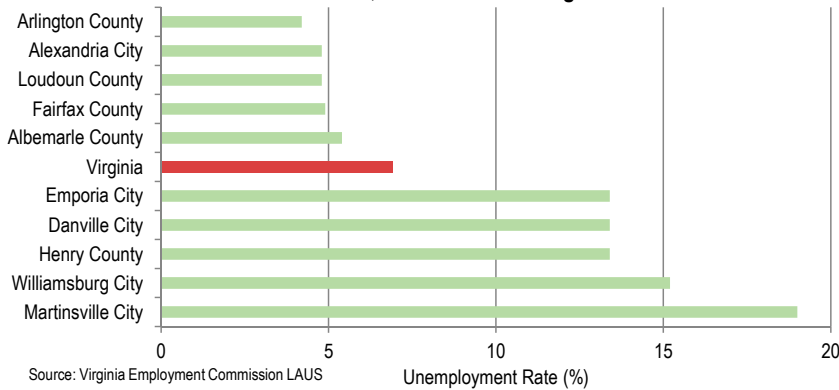
Looking more closely, 93 of Virginia's 134 localities had more unemployed workers living in the jurisdiction in 2009 than at any point since at least 1990 (the earliest year with available data). In 2010, 60 of those hard-hit localities saw the number of unemployed workers grow even higher.

For 54 of the 134 counties and independent cities in Virginia, the 2010 unemployment rate was the highest since at least 1990, and for another 10 localities it was tied with the worst level on record. In all, 63 percent of Virginia's localities experienced the highest unemployment rates levels in a generation during the current recession or its immediate aftermath.

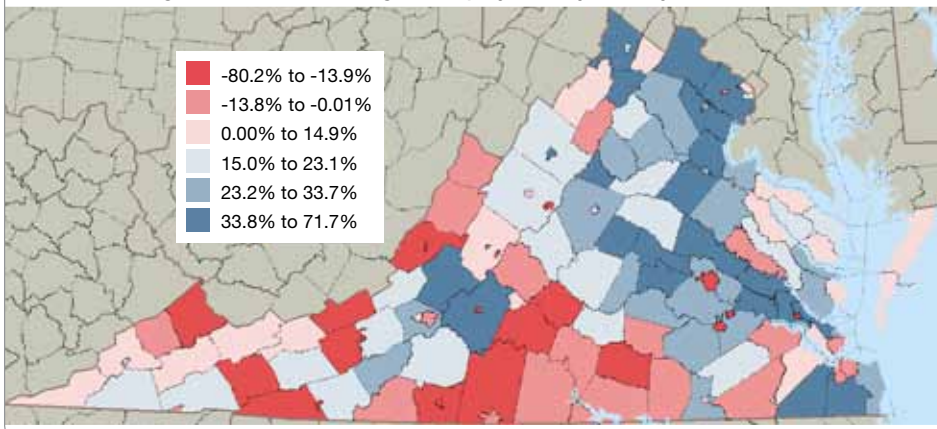
Looking over the longer term, since 1990, 44 of Virginia's 134 localities—almost all located in the struggling southwestern and Southside areas of the state—have seen drops in the level of employment (Figure 23), and 24 localities have seen decreases in the size of their labor forces. Thirty-one localities have fewer employed workers living in the area than in 1990, again almost all located in the southwest and Southside.

By contrast, the 10 localities with the largest increases in their labor forces, number of employed workers, and local jobs are all in the Northern Virginia, Hampton Roads, and Richmond regions. In addition, the fastest-growing locality in terms of both size of the labor force and number of employed workers, is Loudoun County, where the labor force has grown from 52,058 workers in 1990 to 178,615 workers in 2010, while the locality with the largest growth in employment is Fairfax County, which has grown from 378,865 jobs in 1990 to 573,654 jobs in 2010.

The Best and The Worst
Figure 22: Unemployment Rates for the Highest and Lowest Rate Localities, 2010 Annual Average



A Shifting Virginia
Figure 23: Percent Change in Employment by Locality, 1990 to 2010



Source: TCI analysis of BLS CES survey data, retrieved via VEC

Conclusion

The damage caused by the Great Recession is widespread, deep and long-lasting, and has left unprecedented numbers of Virginians unemployed, underutilized and giving up altogether.

Although the Great Recession struck some regions, industries, and groups of Virginians harder than others, the continued job losses during the first year of the official recovery worsened the situation for almost all Virginians. For men, older workers, and better educated workers, the unemployment rate hit levels in 2010 that are unprecedented in recent Virginia history. In addition, total underemployment—a broader measure that includes both those workers who are counted in the official unemployment rate and those who would like full-time work but are stuck in part-time jobs and those who have become discouraged and given up looking for work—is at the highest level in at least 15 years. And for too many workers, the duration of unemployment was severely long—the share of unemployed workers who searched for a job for 27 weeks or longer soared to 39.8 percent in 2010, almost twice the highest recorded rate before the Great Recession.

How Virginia responds to this ongoing crisis and invests in the economic future of the state – by building the labor force, creating an environment that encourages lasting employment, and supporting the needs of struggling families – should inform the discussion around the policies we implement to restore prosperity to Virginia.

For any veteran, the transition back into civilian life and the workforce is not an easy one. Nationally, the unemployment rate for Gulf War II-era veterans is 11.5 percent. For Chad, a Staunton resident and a veteran, these difficulties were compounded by the fact that he was injured in Iraq. It took him two years to learn to walk again.

Chad attributes part of his recovery to the Virginia Department of Transportation's program that provides internships for wounded soldiers. "It was a place to get back on my feet," he said, "and it offered a career." Chad is now a VDOT fleet operations manager and a college graduate.

Approximately a quarter of those who served in Iraq or Afghanistan suffered service-related disabilities. In Richmond, the McGuire Veterans Affairs Medical Center is set to begin a vocational rehabilitation and job placement program. "Work is great rehab," said Dr. Shane McNamee of the hospital.

In return for a path back into the workforce, veterans such as Chad work hard at their jobs and seek to advance their skills. "If taxpayers were going to support this program, then I, as a vet who is taking advantage of this program, should give them their money's worth... I'd give them 110 percent," said Chad.

Source: Richmond Times-Dispatch; May 29, 2011; *Veterans bring value to the workplace.*





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