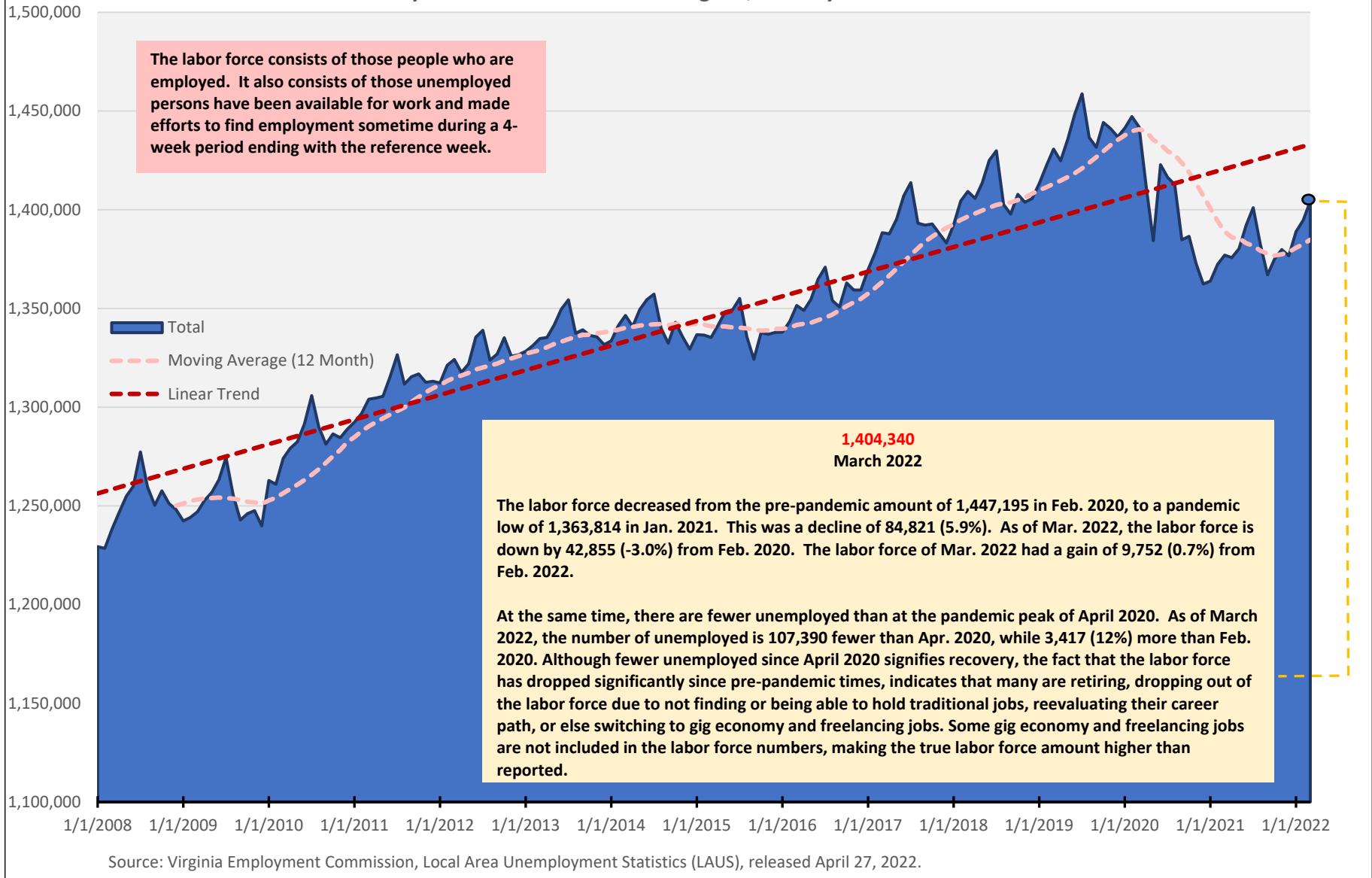
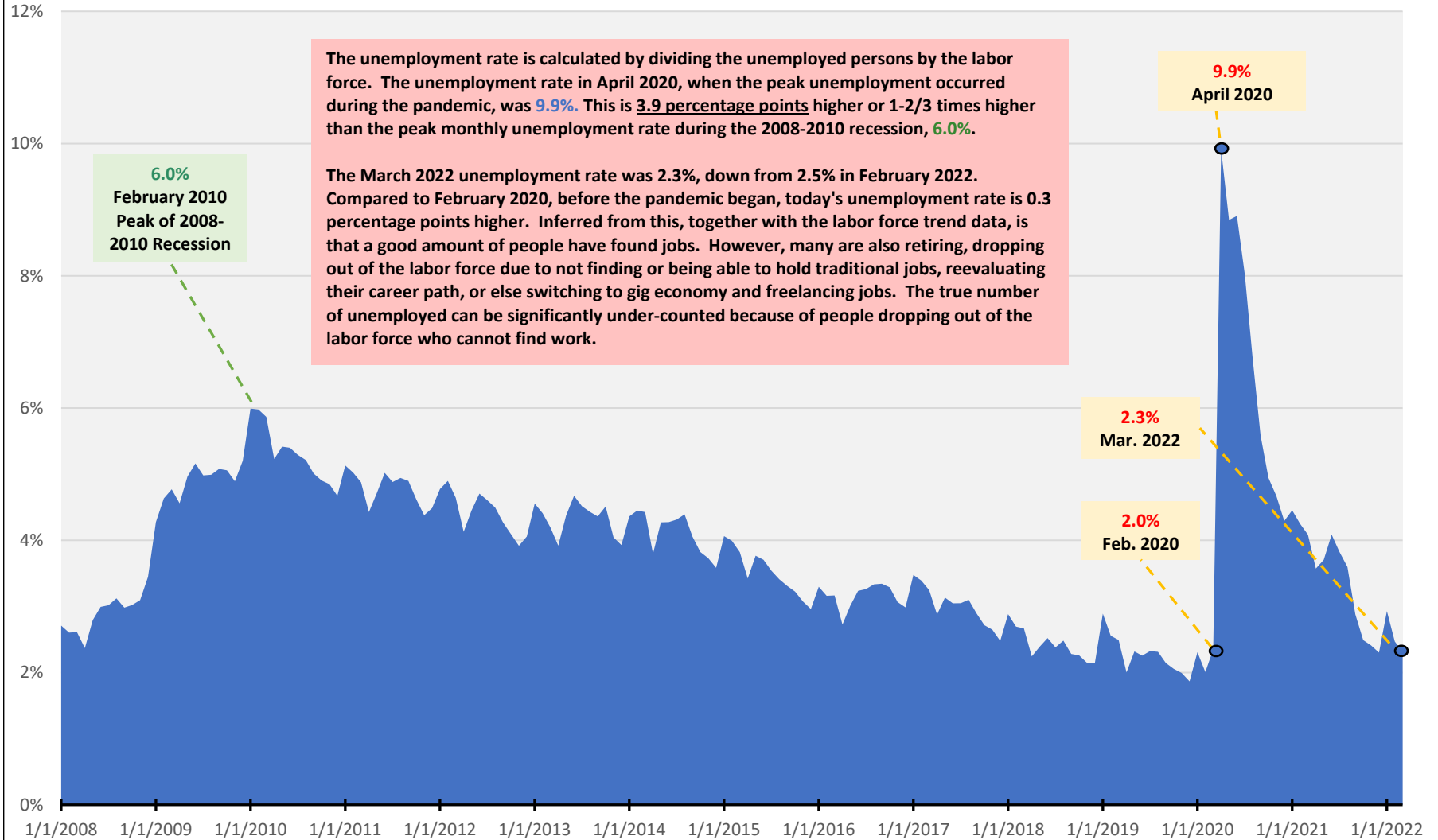


### Monthly Labor Force in Northern Virginia, January 2008 to March 2022



### Monthly Unemployment Rate in Northern Virginia, January 2008 to March 2022

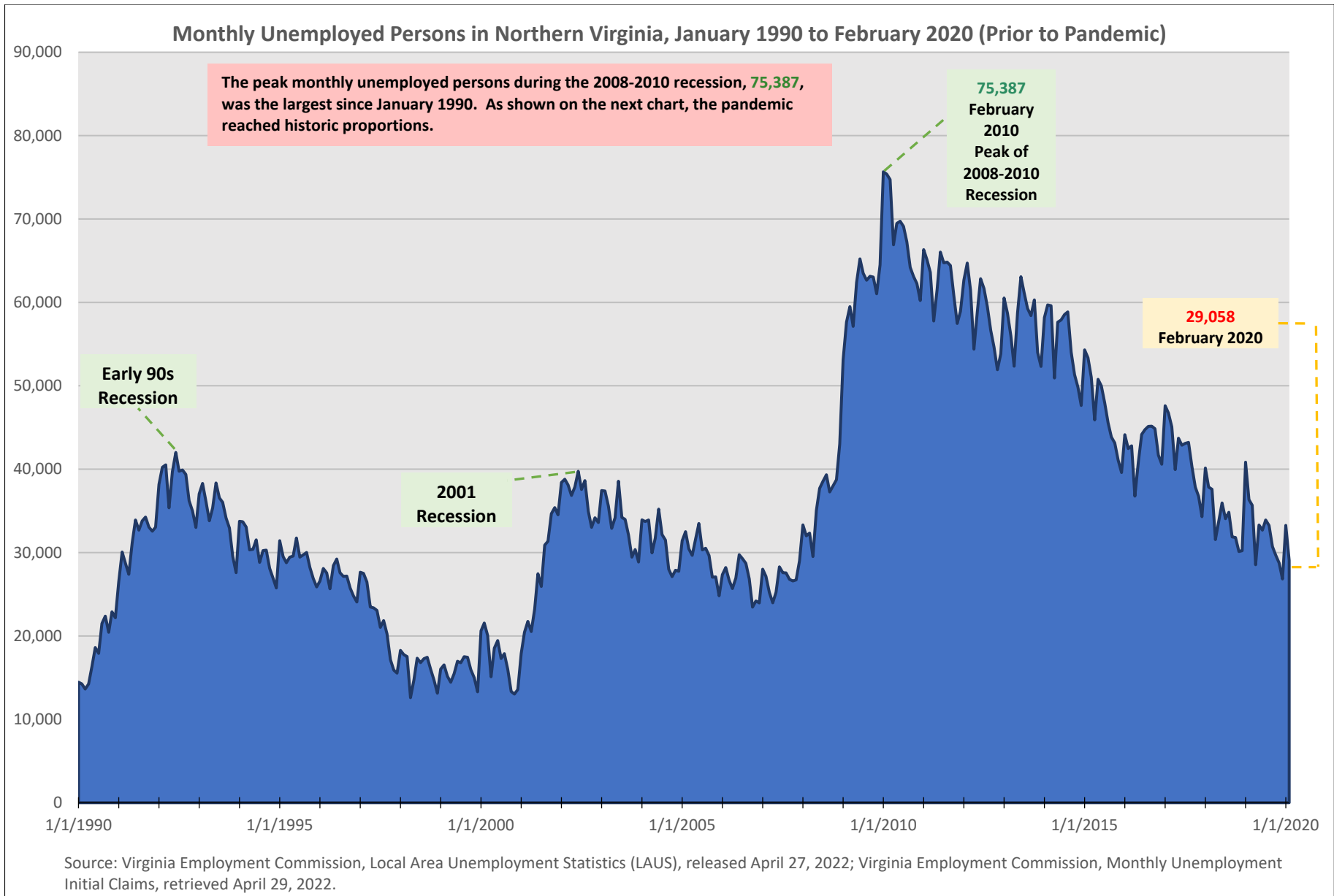


The unemployment rate is calculated by dividing the unemployed persons by the labor force. The unemployment rate in April 2020, when the peak unemployment occurred during the pandemic, was **9.9%**. This is **3.9 percentage points** higher or **1-2/3 times** higher than the peak monthly unemployment rate during the 2008-2010 recession, **6.0%**.

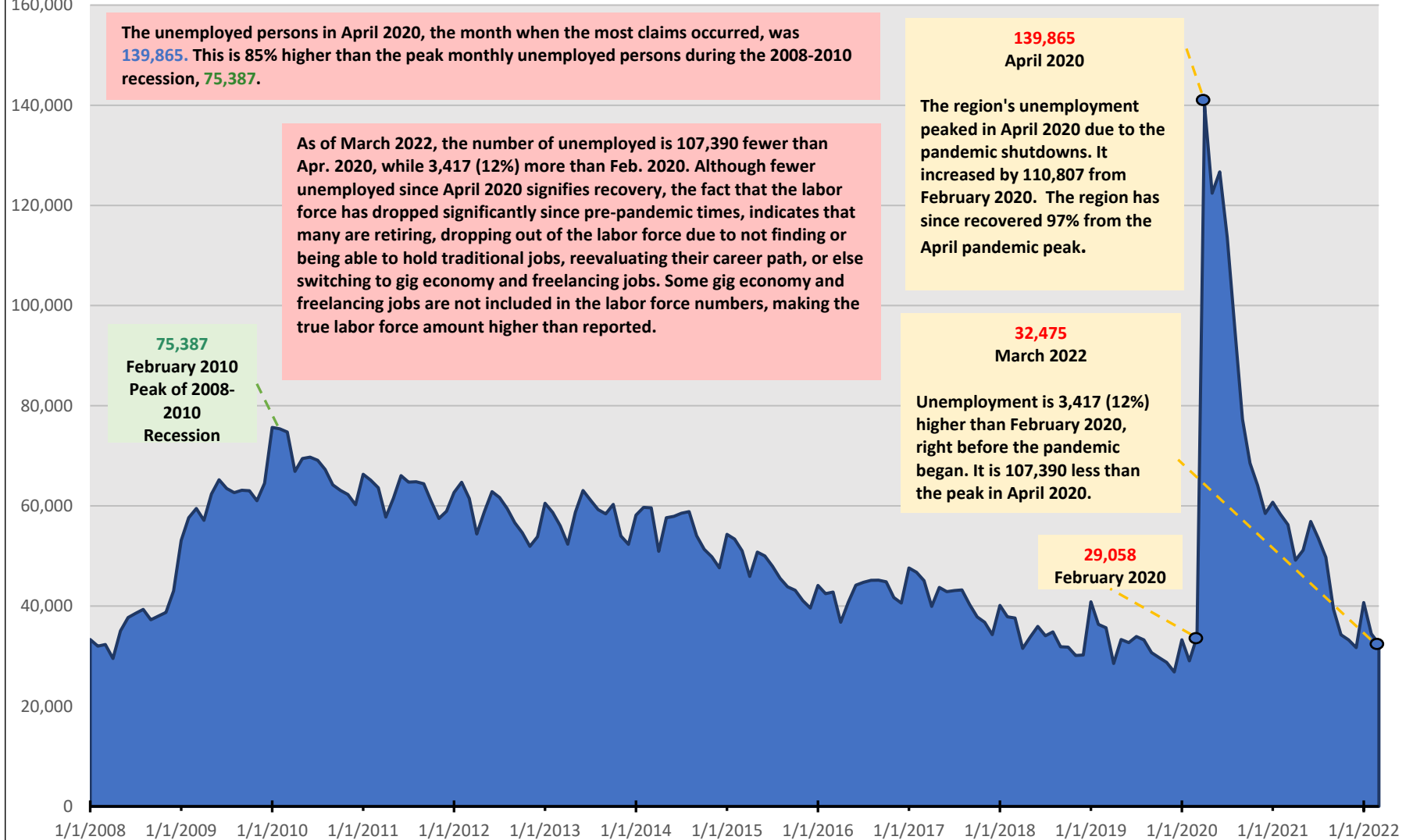
The March 2022 unemployment rate was **2.3%**, down from **2.5%** in February 2022. Compared to February 2020, before the pandemic began, today's unemployment rate is **0.3 percentage points** higher. Inferred from this, together with the labor force trend data, is that a good amount of people have found jobs. However, many are also retiring, dropping out of the labor force due to not finding or being able to hold traditional jobs, reevaluating their career path, or else switching to gig economy and freelancing jobs. The true number of unemployed can be significantly under-counted because of people dropping out of the labor force who cannot find work.

Source: Virginia Employment Commission, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), released April 27, 2022.

Note: Note, the number of unemployed in April 2020 and May 2020 was likely tens of thousands more than shown, due to a misclassification error reported by the federal government in their data collection process during the pandemic. After May 2020 there has been a much smaller amount of error in the data due to misclassification.

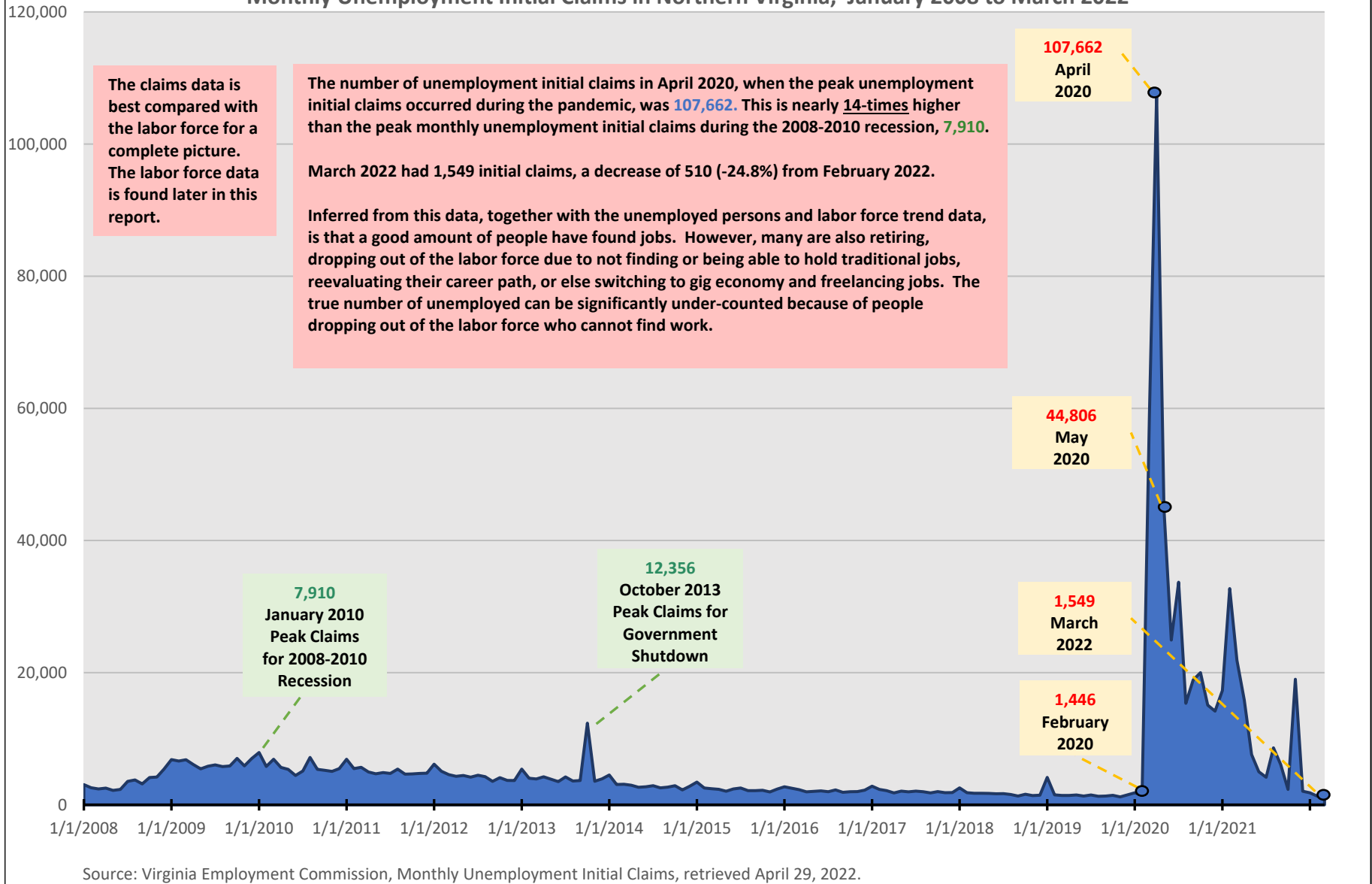


### Monthly Unemployed Persons in Northern Virginia, January 2008 to March 2022 (Pandemic)



Source: Virginia Employment Commission, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), released April 27, 2022; Virginia Employment Commission, Monthly Unemployment Initial Claims, retrieved April 29, 2022.

### Monthly Unemployment Initial Claims in Northern Virginia, January 2008 to March 2022



The claims data is best compared with the labor force for a complete picture. The labor force data is found later in this report.

The number of unemployment initial claims in April 2020, when the peak unemployment initial claims occurred during the pandemic, was **107,662**. This is nearly 14-times higher than the peak monthly unemployment initial claims during the 2008-2010 recession, **7,910**.

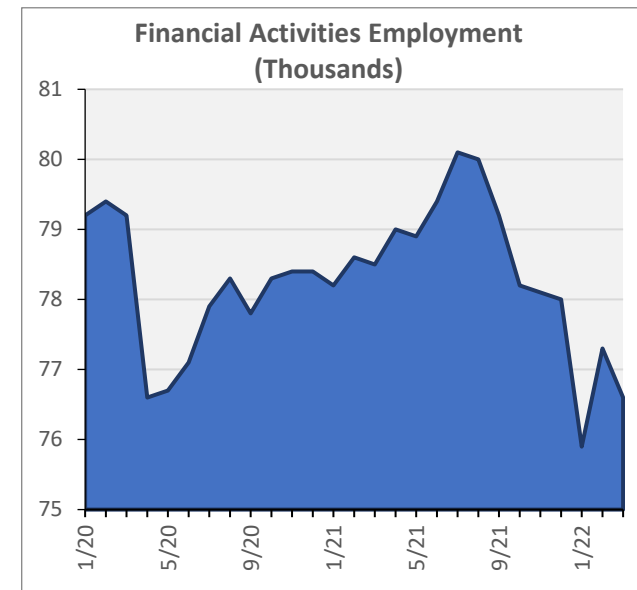
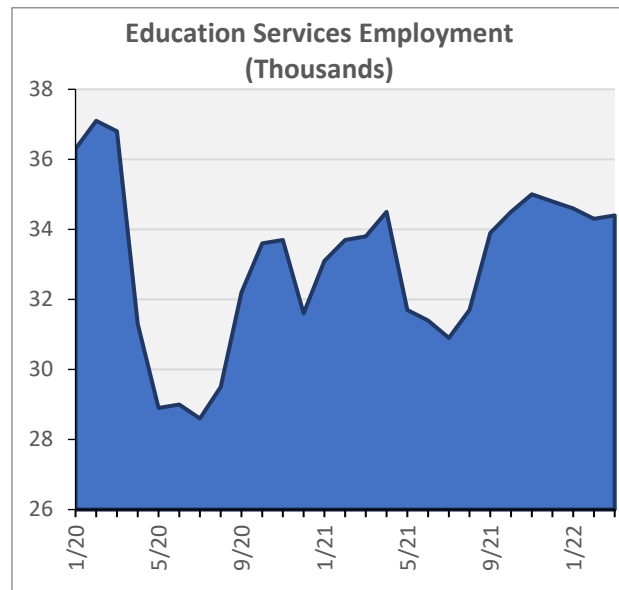
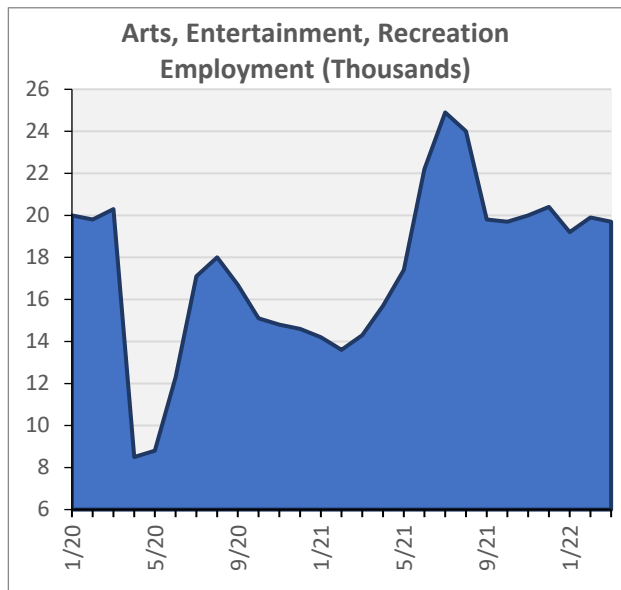
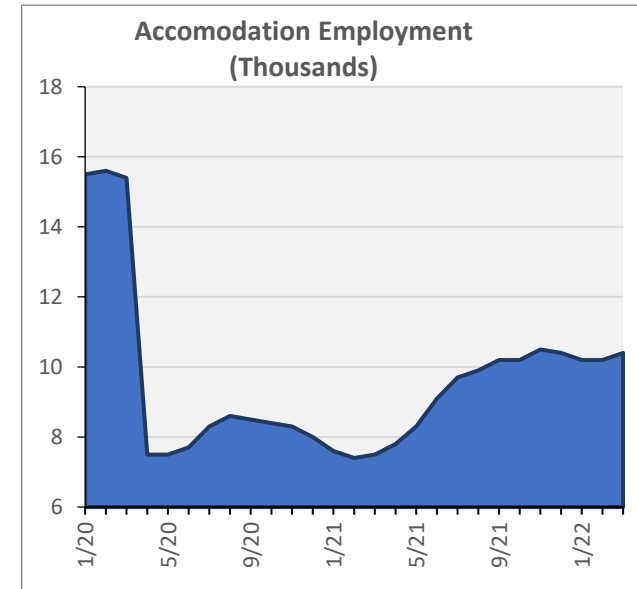
March 2022 had 1,549 initial claims, a decrease of 510 (-24.8%) from February 2022.

Inferred from this data, together with the unemployed persons and labor force trend data, is that a good amount of people have found jobs. However, many are also retiring, dropping out of the labor force due to not finding or being able to hold traditional jobs, reevaluating their career path, or else switching to gig economy and freelancing jobs. The true number of unemployed can be significantly under-counted because of people dropping out of the labor force who cannot find work.

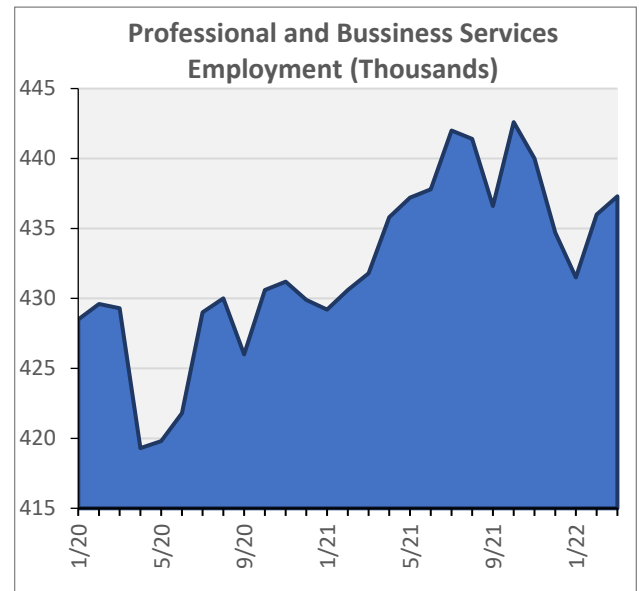
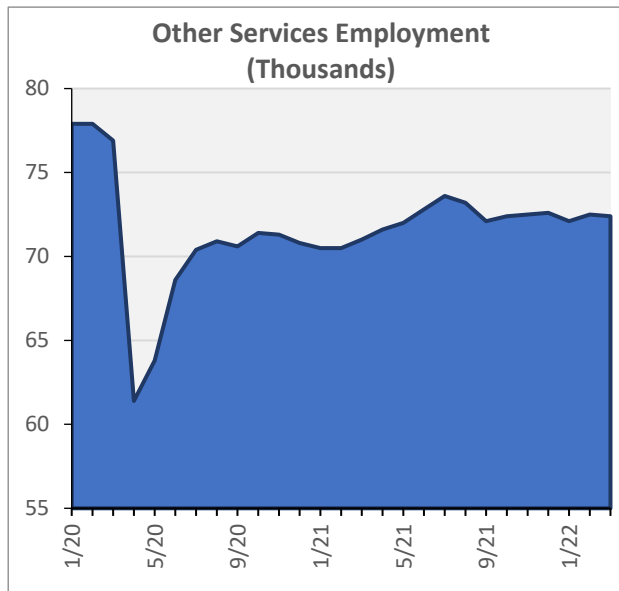
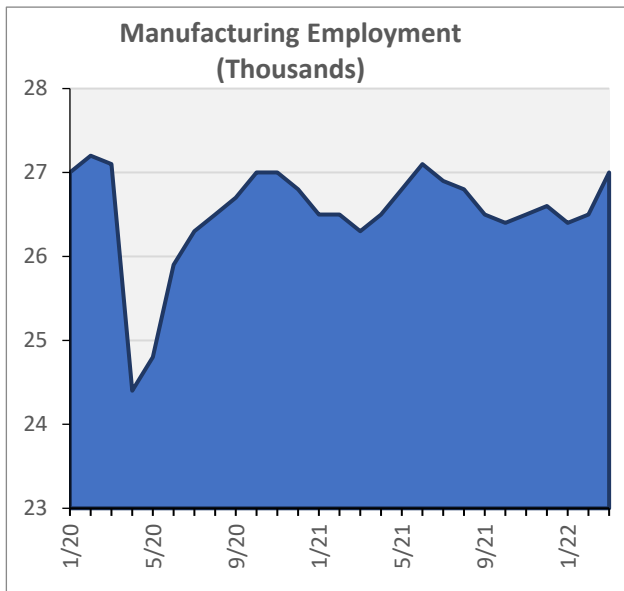
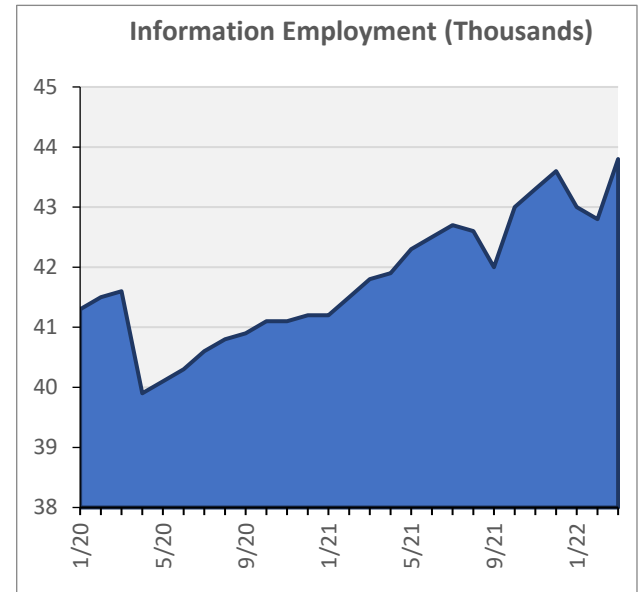
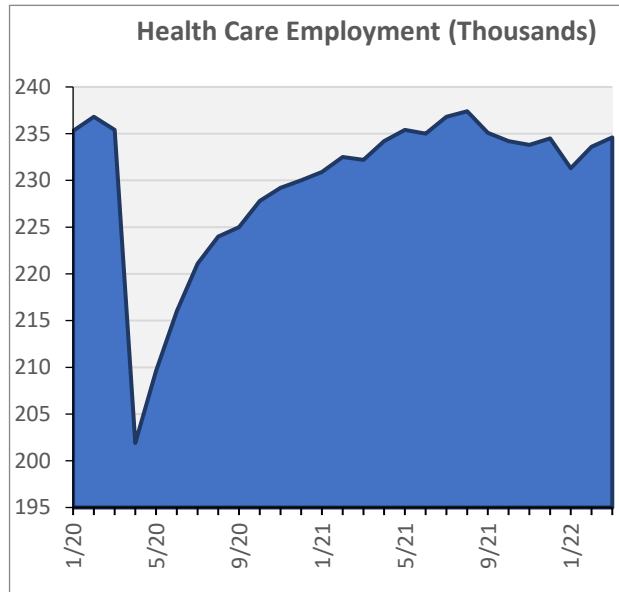
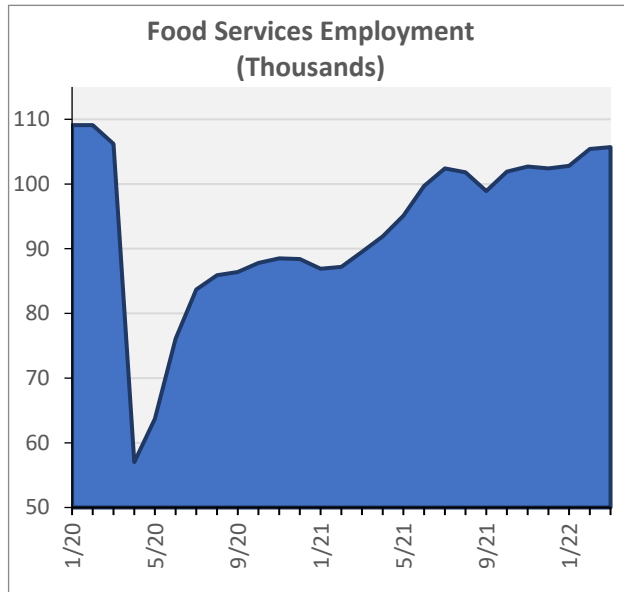
## Employment by Industry in Northern Virginia (Washington, D.C. MSA Portion)

In the Northern Virginia portion of the Washington D.C. MSA, out of all the industry sectors, four industries have not reached pre-pandemic employment levels at any time over the past two years, and those include accommodations, education services, food services, and other services.

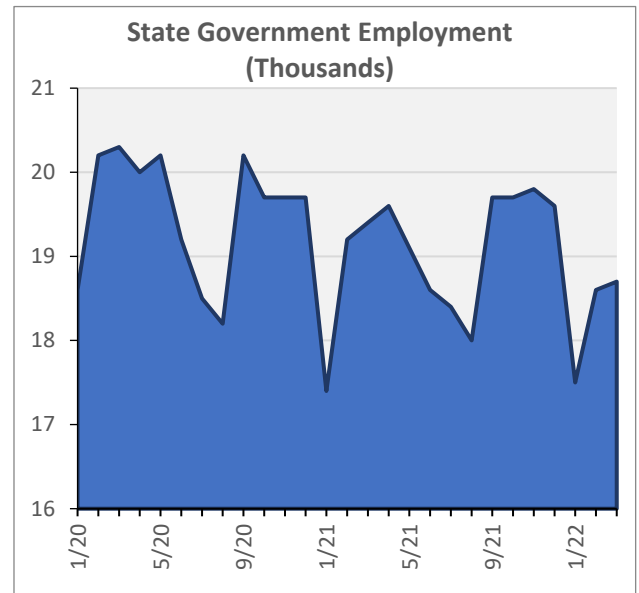
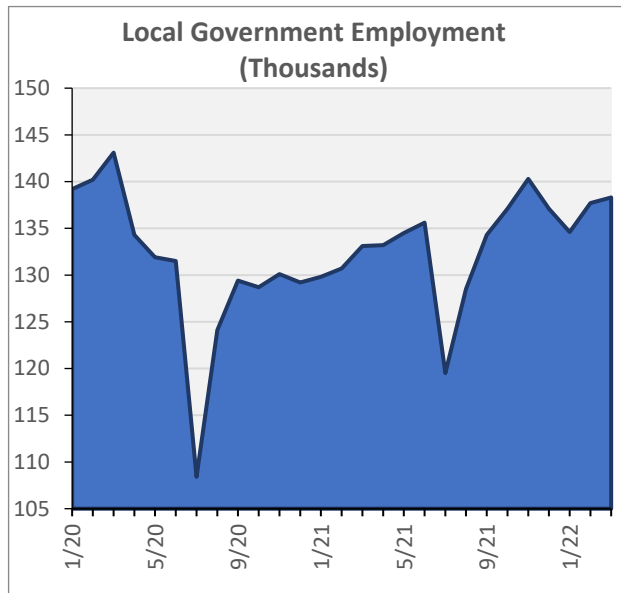
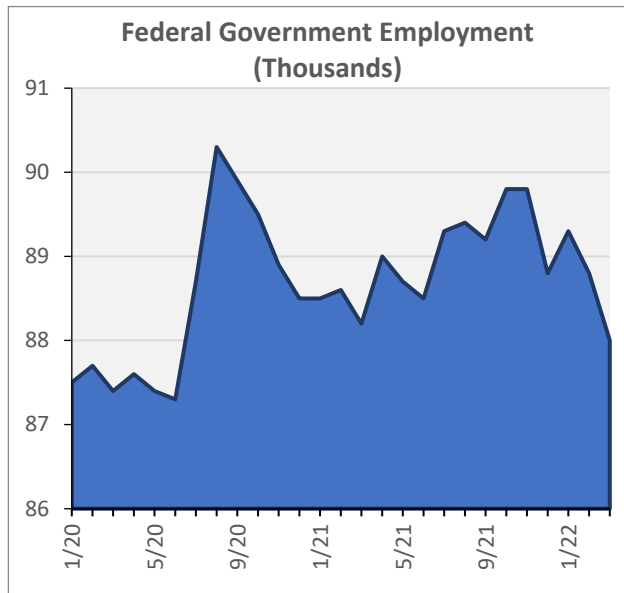
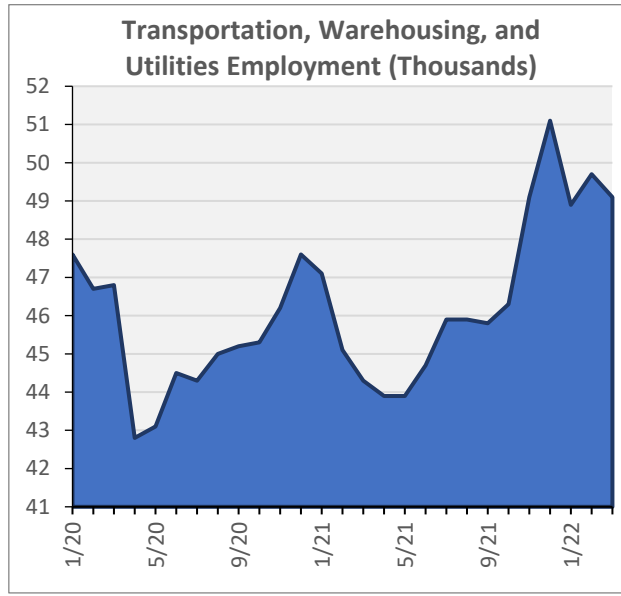
- **Accommodations (Hotels):** Employment has recovered from the pandemic at the slowest rate out of all industries. This industry has a significant ways to go to reach pre-pandemic levels. Accommodations, in March 2022, had 10,400 employees, which is 5,200 (33.3%) fewer employees than Feb. 2020. Accommodations will take many years to reach pandemic levels because the business world has evolved. Business travel will be much less moving forward given the rise in popularity of virtual online meetings.
- **Education Services:** Had 34,400 employees in March 2022, compared to 37,100 in February 2020, which is 2,700 (-7.3%) fewer. Education services has struggled to recover because large numbers of teachers and day care workers have left due to fears of catching COVID-19 and from burnout.
- **Food Services:** Has had a steady upward trend since bottoming out in March 2020. In March 2022, food services had 3,400 (-3.1%) fewer employees than in February 2020, and had increased by 300 from the prior month of February 2022.
- **Other Services:** Employment has been flat since August 2021. In March 2022, other services had 5,500 (-7.1%) fewer employees.



### Employment by Industry in Northern Virginia (Washington, D.C. MSA Portion)



### Employment by Industry in Northern Virginia (Washington, D.C. MSA Portion)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, retrieved April 29, 2022.

Note: This data is not available at the county level on a monthly basis. Due to this limitation, the Northern Virginia portion of the Washington D.C. MSA was used to define Northern Virginia rather than the Northern Virginia Regional Commission Planning District.