

Economic Tracking Report of Northern Virginia

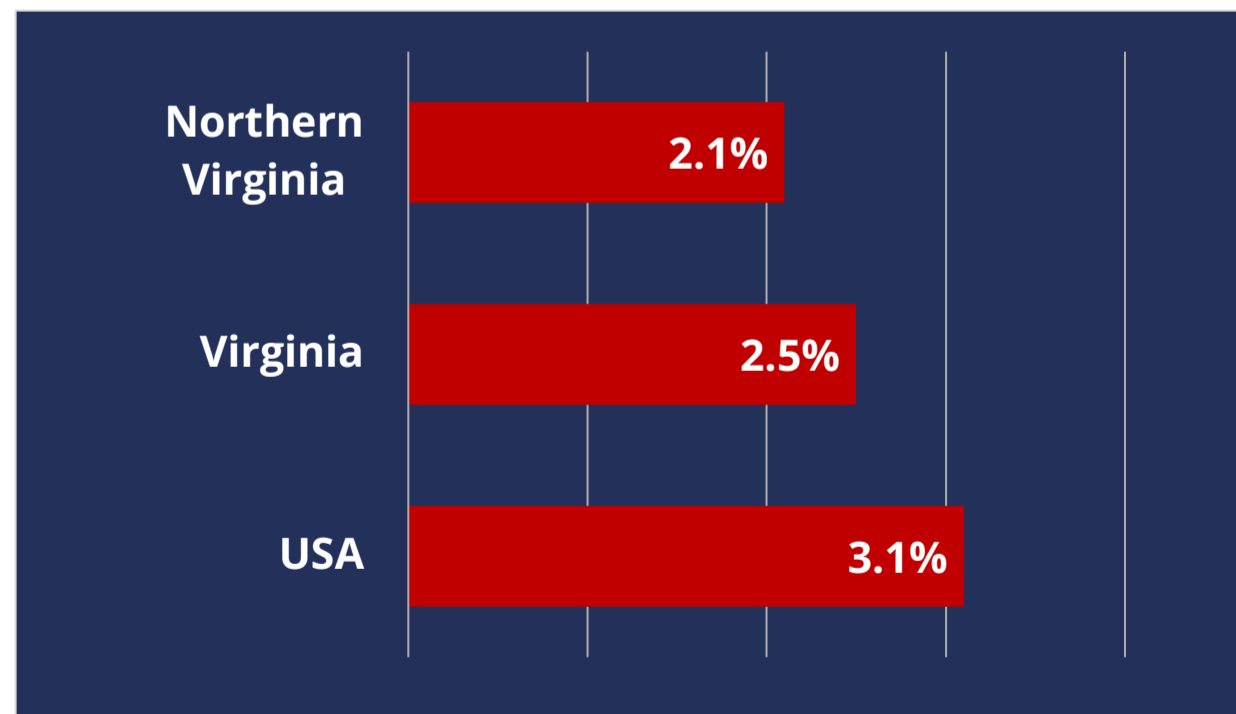
June 6, 2023 Version

Labor Force and Claims, Non-Seasonally Adjusted

Labor Force Statistics	Mar. 2023	Apr. 2023	Delta
Labor Force	1,482,964	1,477,581	-5,383
Employed	1,446,685	1,446,039	-646
Unemployed	36,279	31,542	-4,737
Unemployment Rate	2.4%	2.1%	-0.3
Claims Statistics	Mar. 2023	Apr. 2023	Delta
Unemployment Initial Claims	2,099	1,830	-269

Source: Virginia Employment Commission, *Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)*, released May 31, 2023; Virginia Employment Commission, *Monthly Unemployment Initial Claims*, retrieved June 5, 2023.

Unemployment Rate, Apr. 2023 (Non-Seasonally Adjusted)

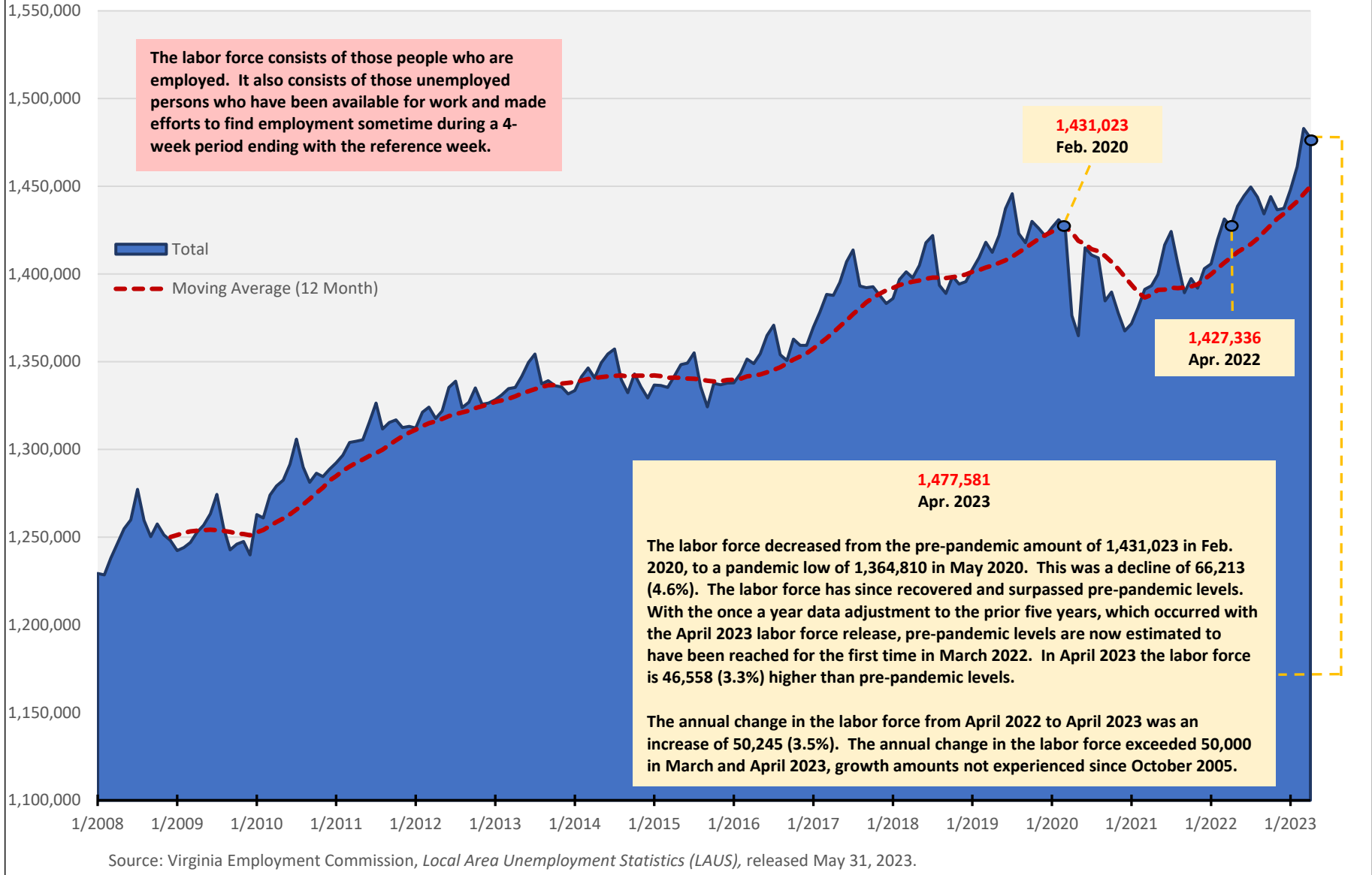


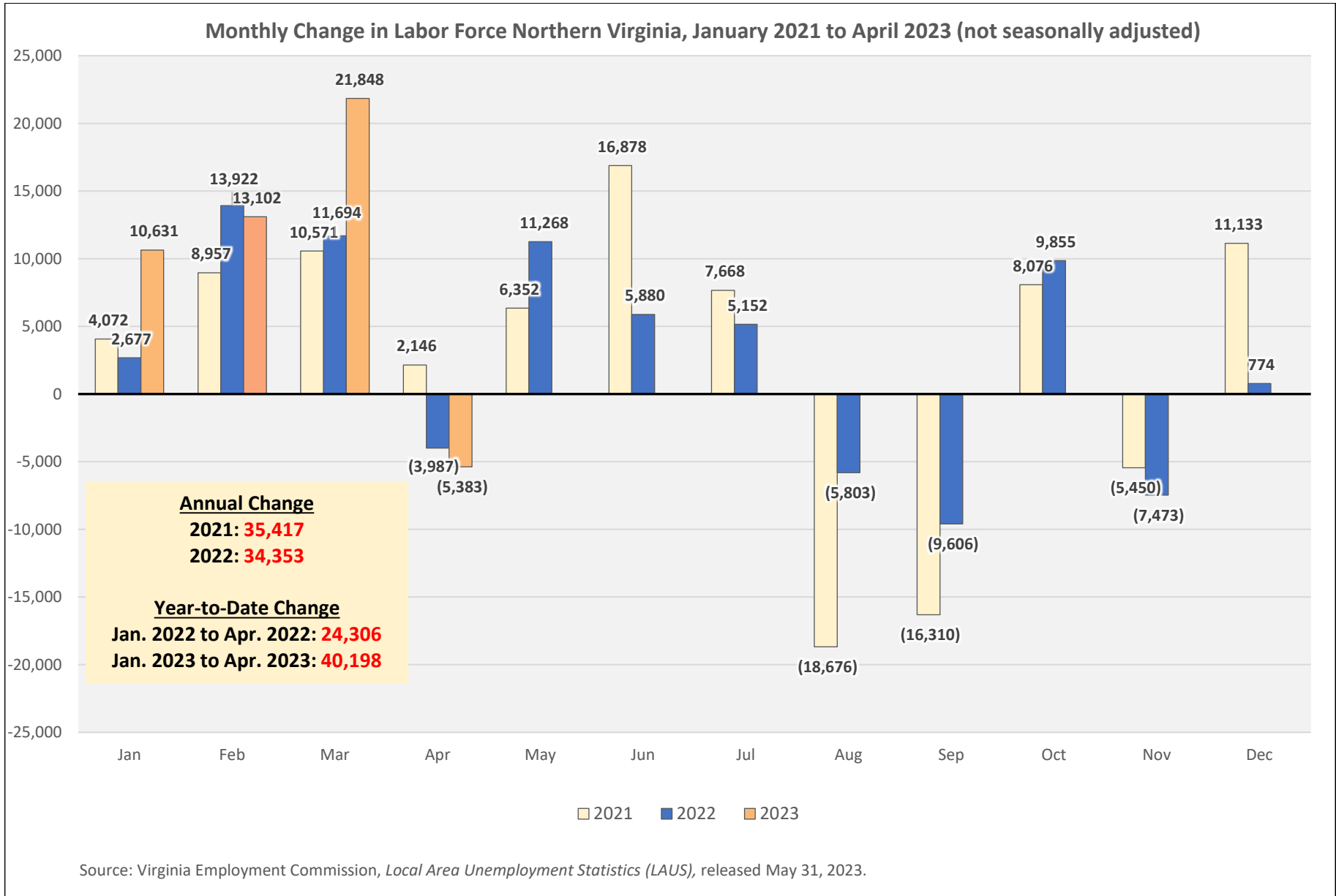
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)*, retrieved July 5, 2023.

Note:

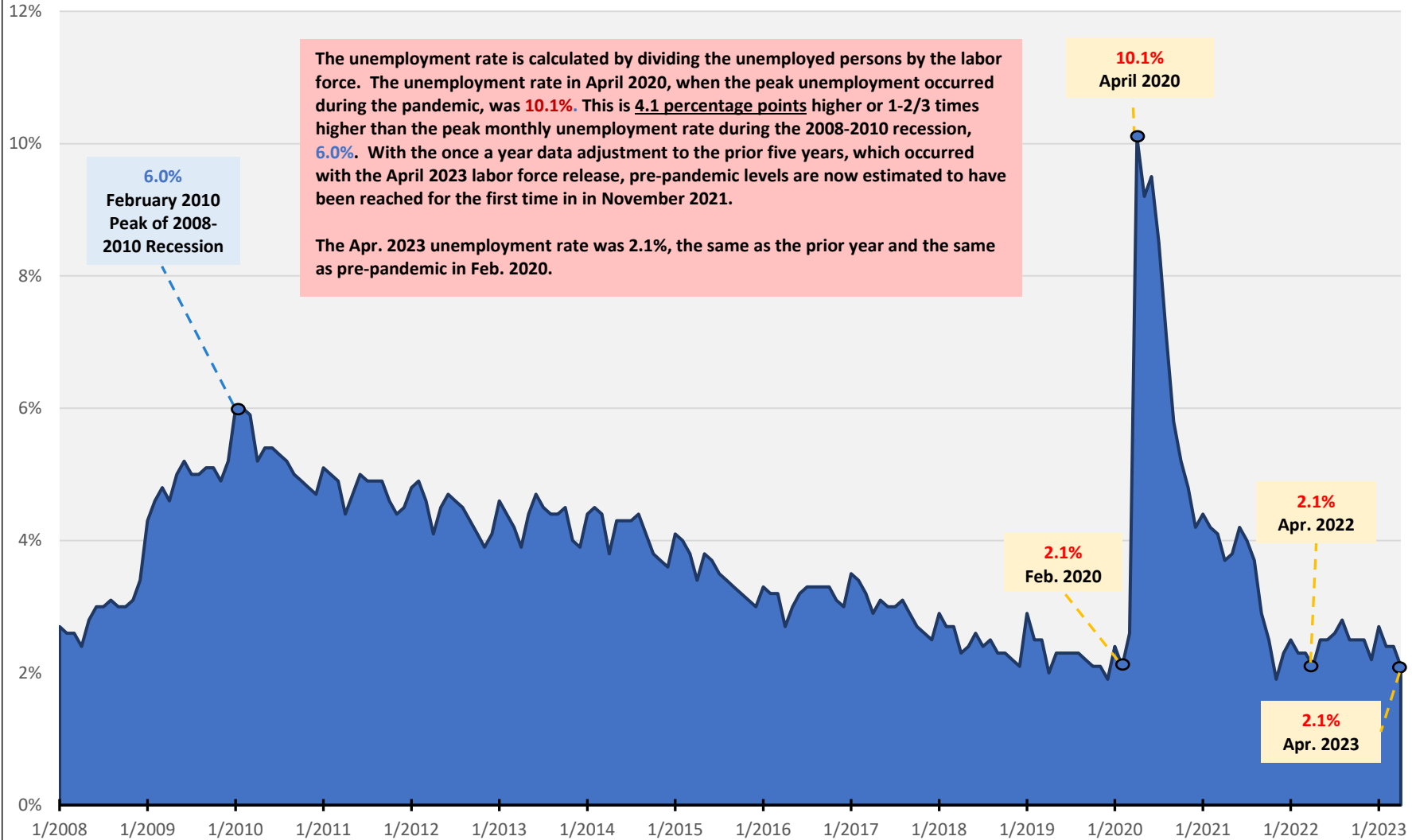
County level data are used to derive regional data. Once a year, with the April county level labor force, employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate data release, the previous five years of data are revised to incorporate new inputs and population data. Large adjustments were made during this latest April 2023 data release process to account for a significant change to the base population used to produce the estimates. The adjustments to the previous five years tell a different story than what was previously known from the data available at the time. For more information on the methodology, see the [BLS website](#).

Monthly Labor Force in Northern Virginia, January 2008 to April 2023 (not seasonally adjusted)





Monthly Unemployment Rate in Northern Virginia, January 2008 to April 2023 (not seasonally adjusted)

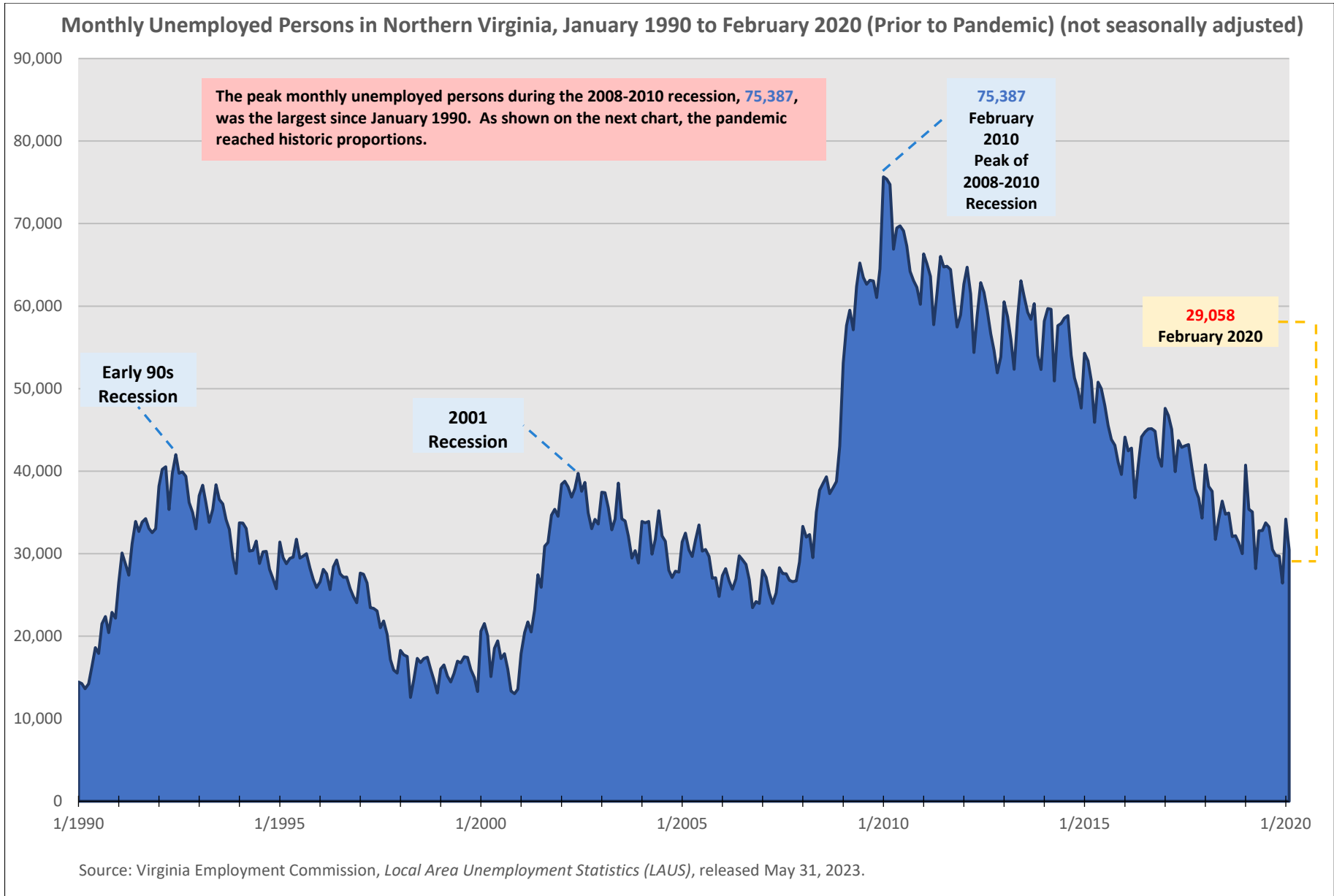


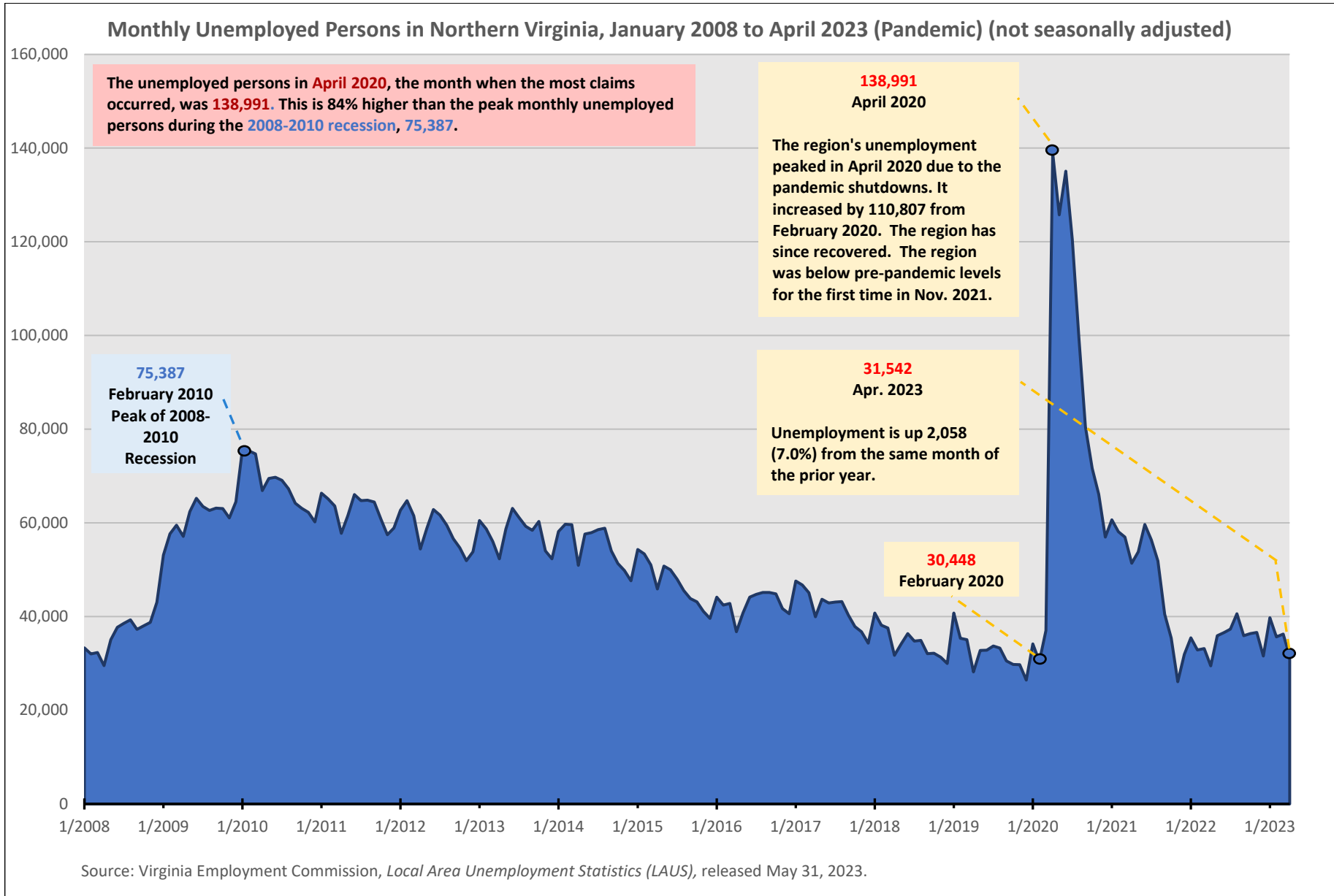
The unemployment rate is calculated by dividing the unemployed persons by the labor force. The unemployment rate in April 2020, when the peak unemployment occurred during the pandemic, was **10.1%**. This is **4.1 percentage points** higher or **1-2/3 times** higher than the peak monthly unemployment rate during the 2008-2010 recession, **6.0%**. With the once a year data adjustment to the prior five years, which occurred with the April 2023 labor force release, pre-pandemic levels are now estimated to have been reached for the first time in in November 2021.

The Apr. 2023 unemployment rate was **2.1%**, the same as the prior year and the same as pre-pandemic in Feb. 2020.

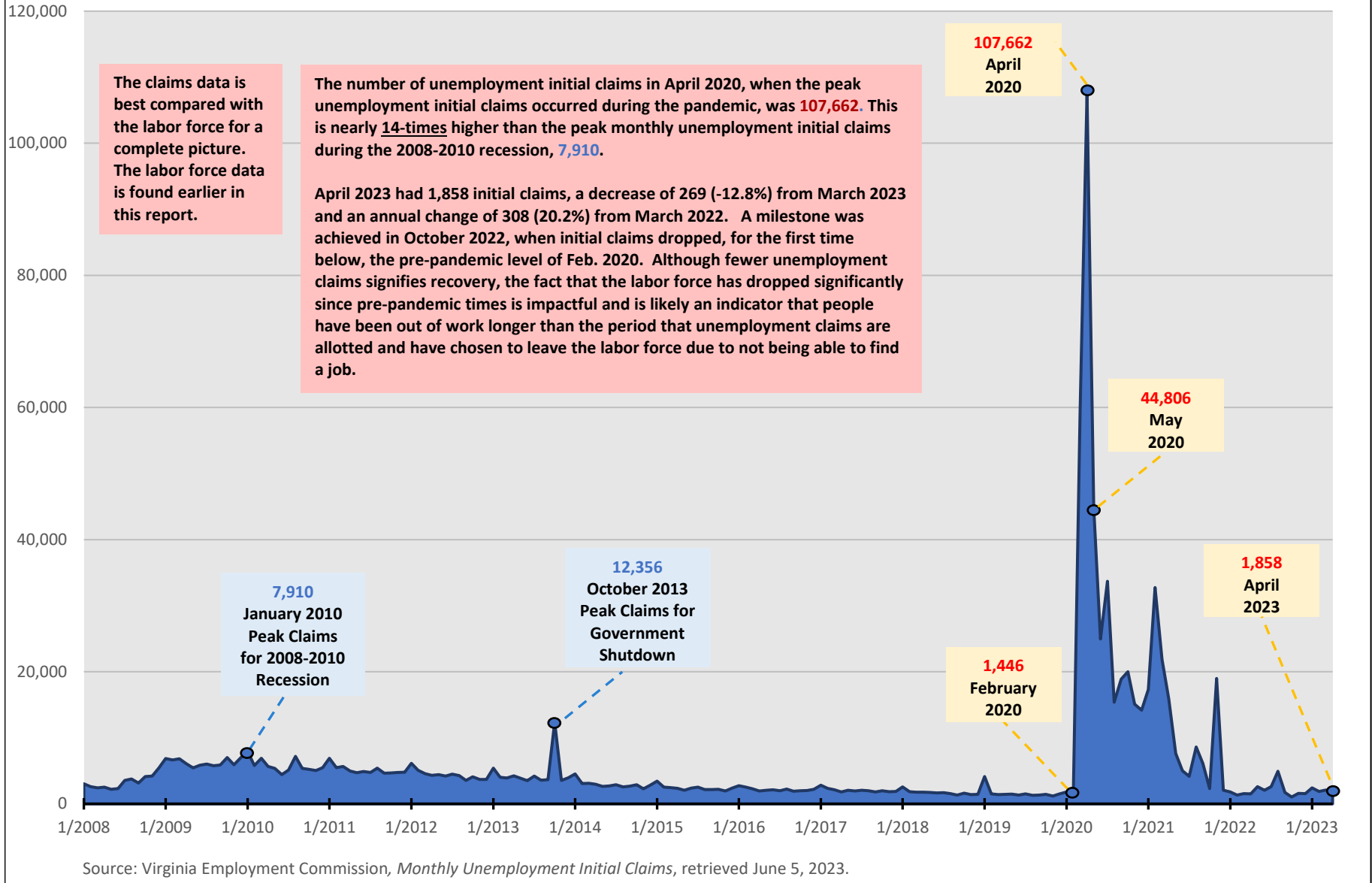
Source: Virginia Employment Commission, *Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)*, released May 31, 2023.

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 Unemployment Initial Claims in Northern Virginia, January 2008 to April 2023 (not seasonally adjusted)



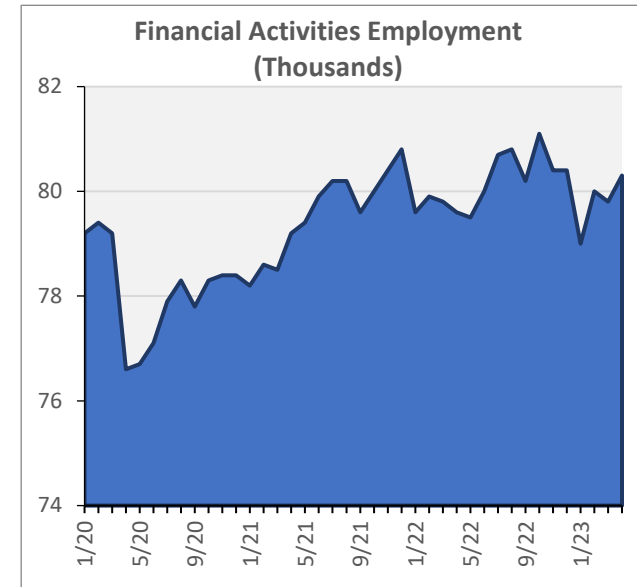
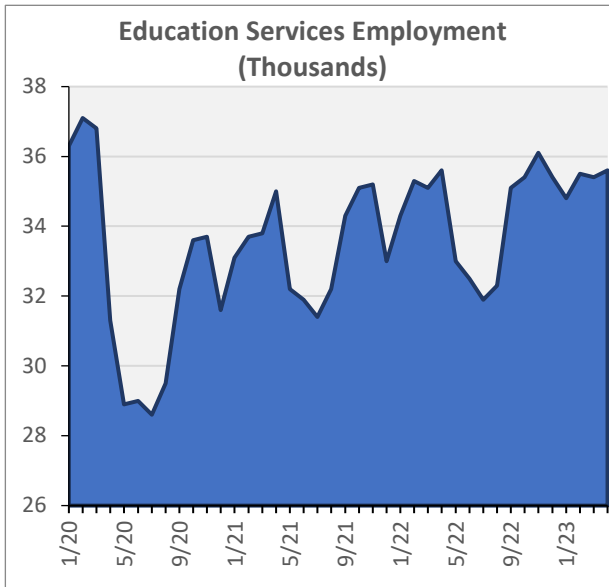
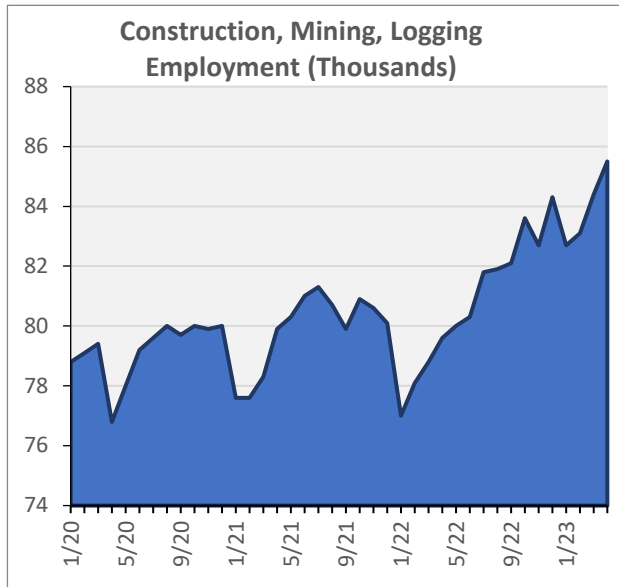
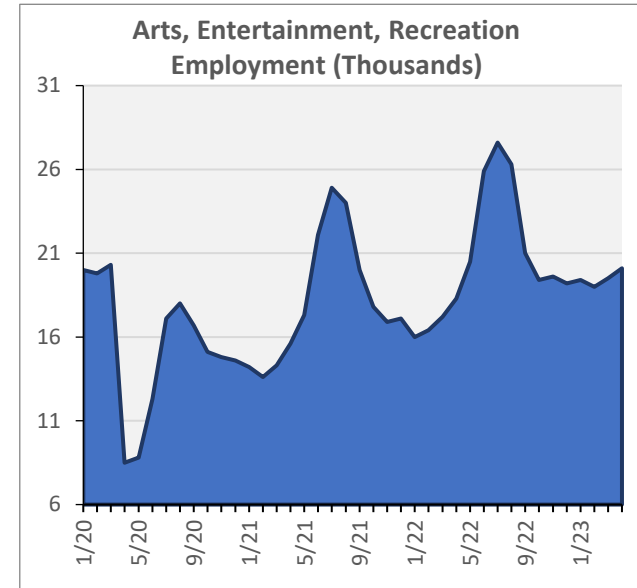
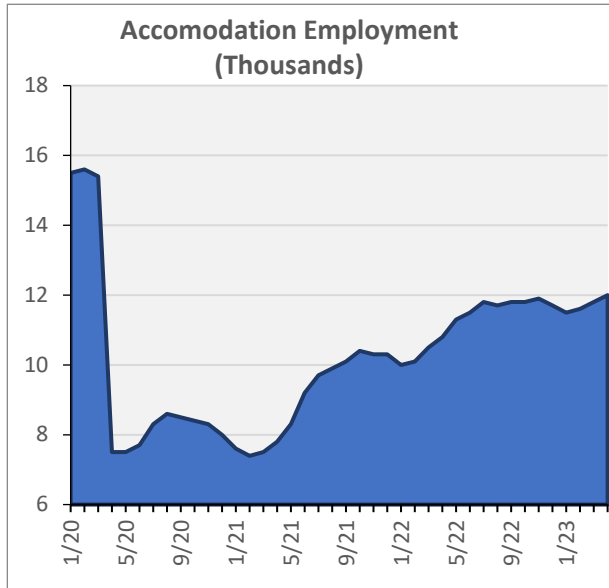
Employment by Industry in Northern Virginia (Washington, D.C. MSA Portion), January 2020 to February 2023

Employment by Industry

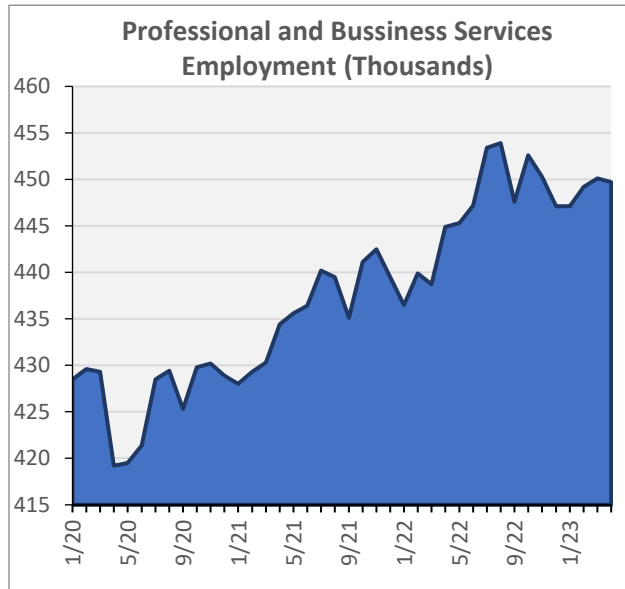
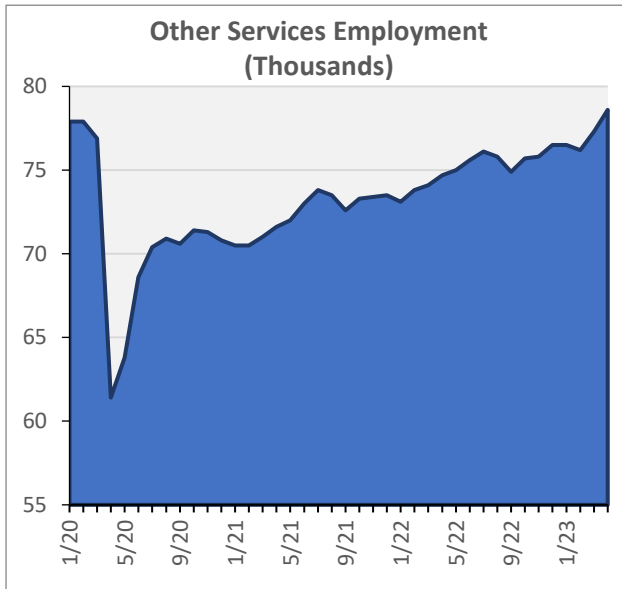
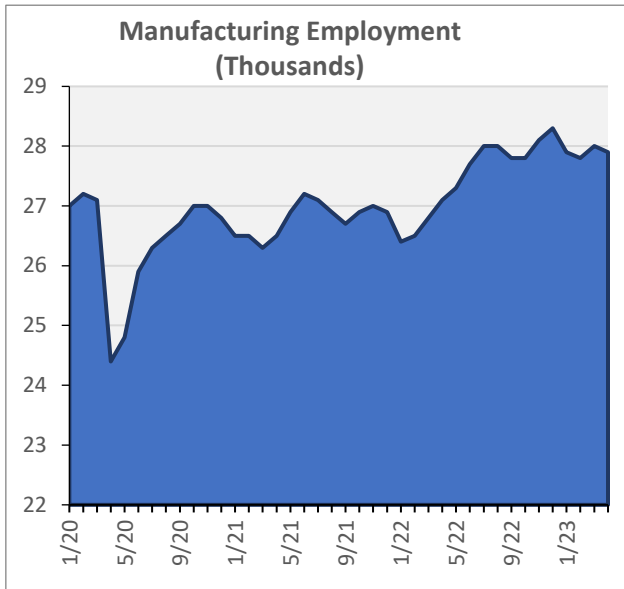
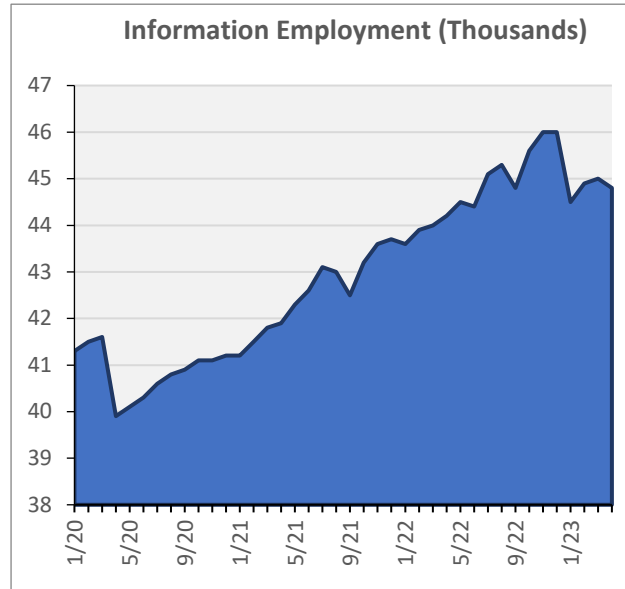
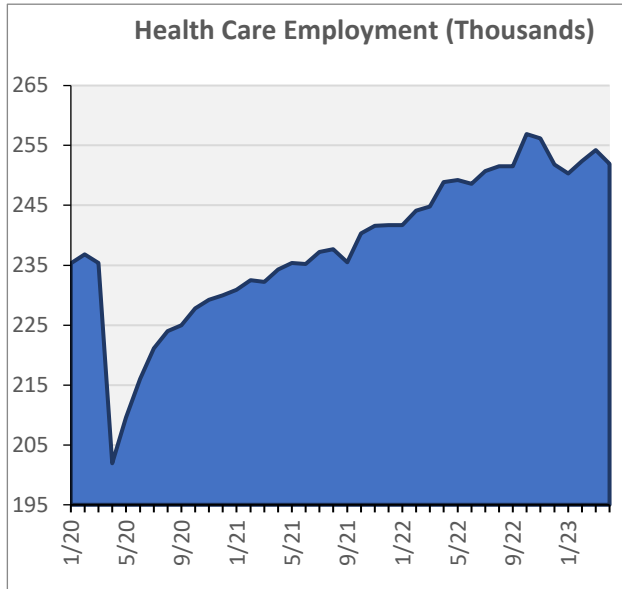
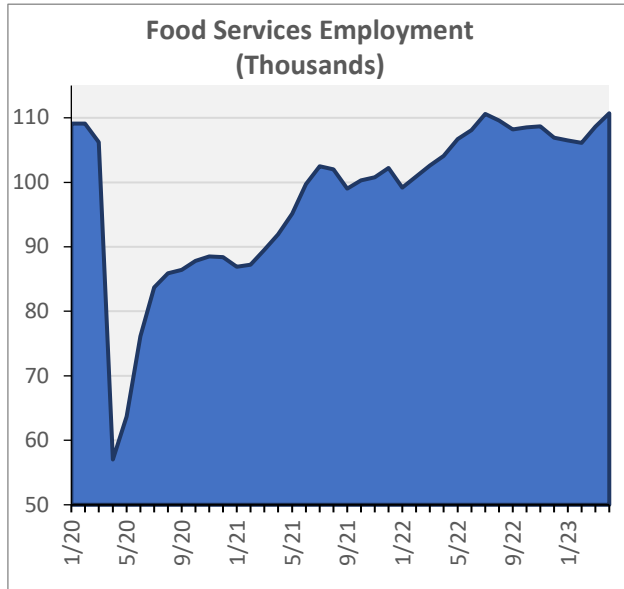
The following charts display non-seasonally adjusted employment by industry. In the Northern Virginia portion of the Washington D.C. MSA, two industries have not reached pre-pandemic employment levels at any time since Feb. 2020, discussed below.

Accommodations (Hotels): This is the slowest industry to recover. In Apr. 2023, there were 12,000 employees, which is 3,600 (-23.1%) fewer employees than Feb. 2020. Accommodations may take a few years to reach pandemic levels because the business world has evolved to using virtual meetings as an alternative to travel and there is a shortage of workers.

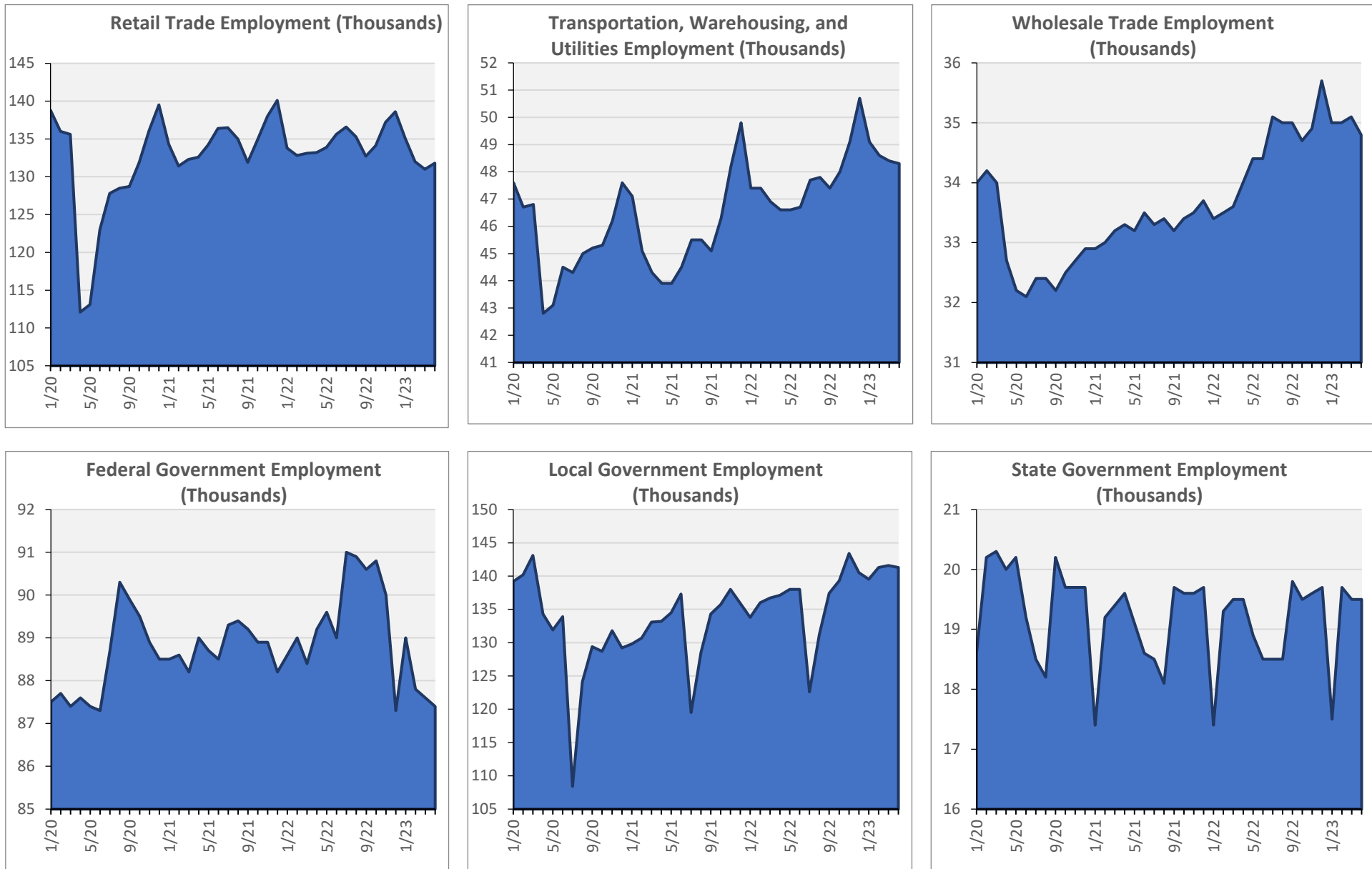
Education Services: In Apr. 2023, 35,600 employees, compared to 37,100 in Feb. 2020, which is 1,500 (-4.0%) fewer. This industry is struggling to recover because a large numbers of teachers and childcare workers left due to burnout, pay, respect, and political conflicts.



Employment by Industry in Northern Virginia (Washington, D.C. MSA Portion), January 2020 to February 2023



Employment by Industry in Northern Virginia (Washington, D.C. MSA Portion), January 2020 to February 2023



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Current Employment Statistics* (non-seasonally adjusted), retrieved June 5, 2023.

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.