



The State of Rural Virginia

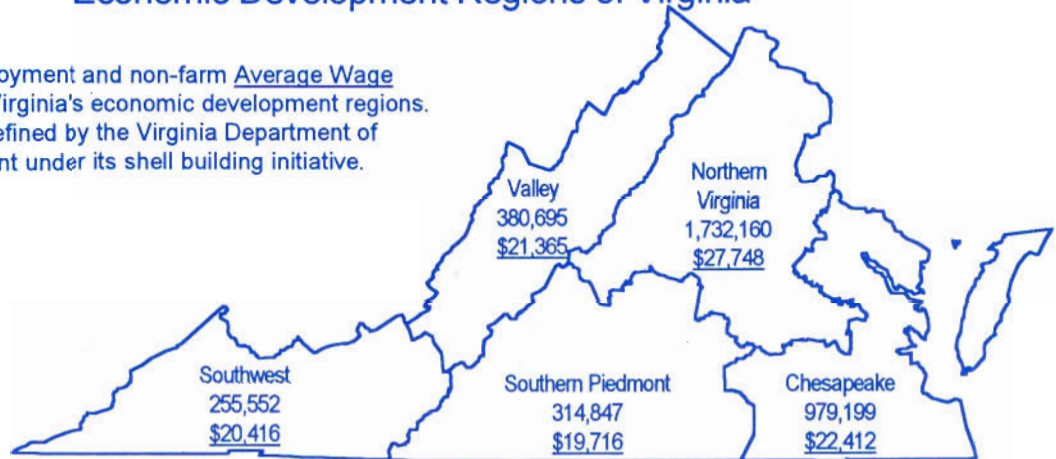
Volume 2 Number 3

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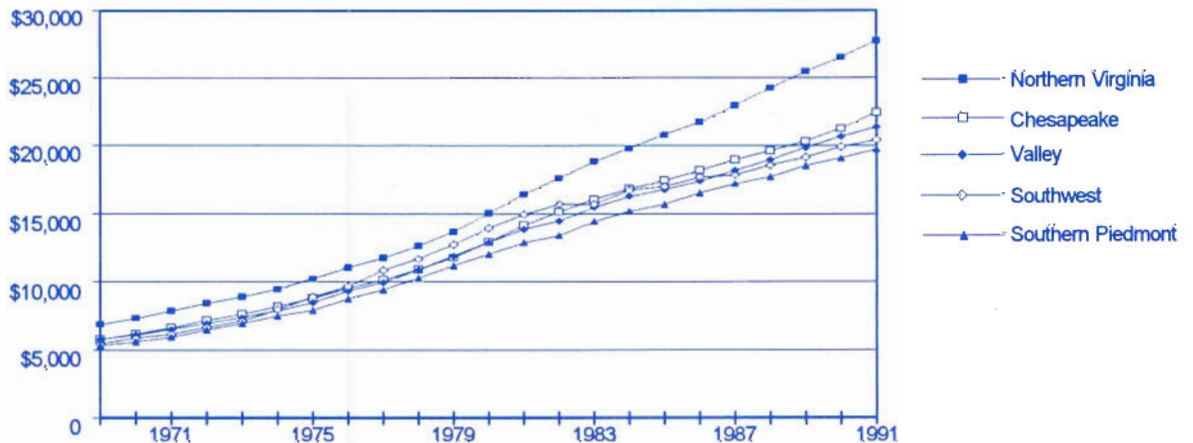
Earnings in Virginia: Changes over Time

Economic Development Regions of Virginia

The map shows Employment and non-farm Average Wage Earnings in 1991 for Virginia's economic development regions. These regions were defined by the Virginia Department of Economic Development under its shell building initiative.



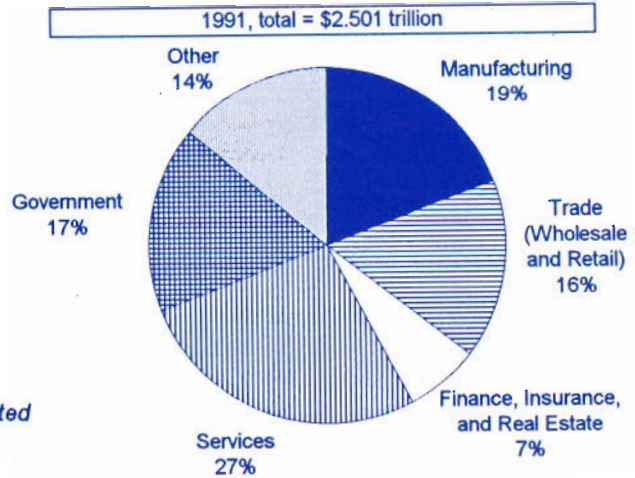
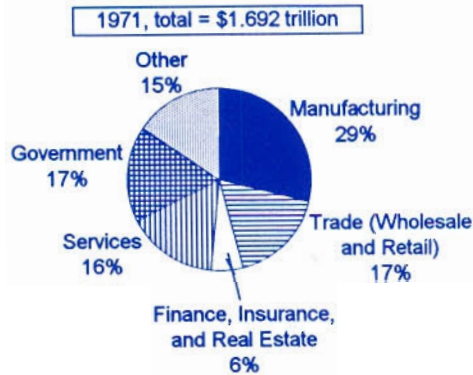
Average Earnings in Virginia by Region



Note: All data are from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System. In this data set, employment is defined by the number of jobs in each area; thus average wage earnings are per job rather than per full-time employee.

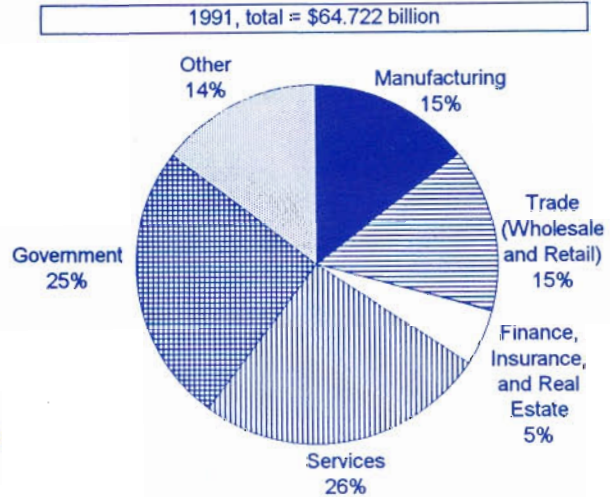
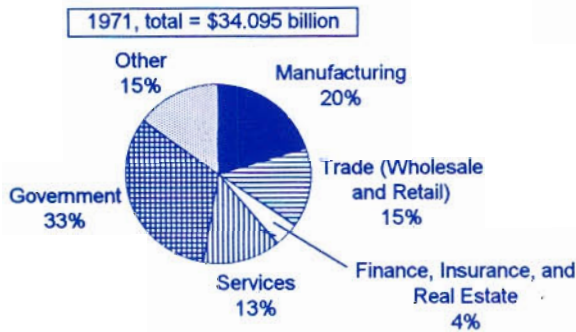
Percent of Total Earnings by Sector

United States



The service sector's share of total payrolls is growing in the United States, while manufacturing declines.

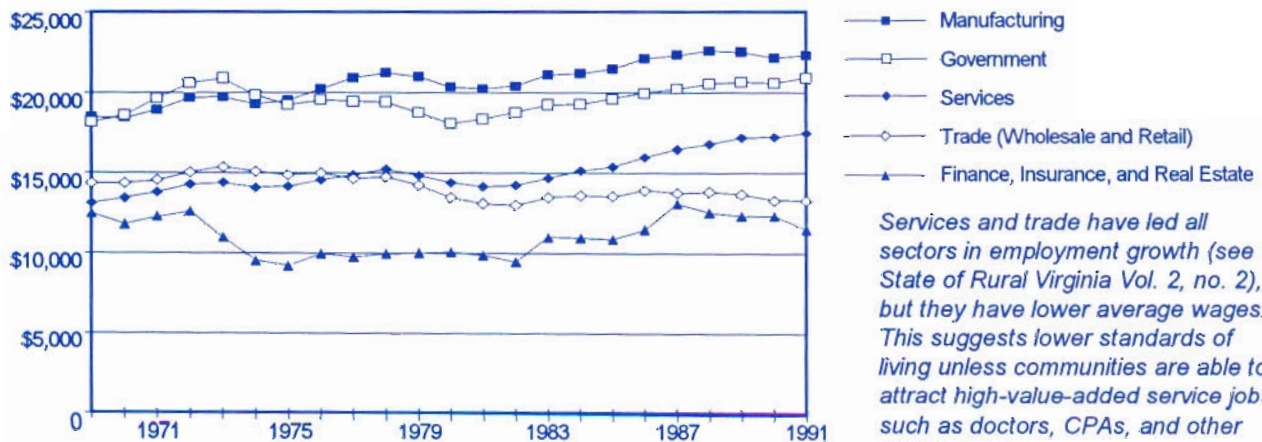
Virginia



The service sector's earnings share is growing in Virginia, while manufacturing and government decline. Economic development strategies should reflect these earnings shifts.

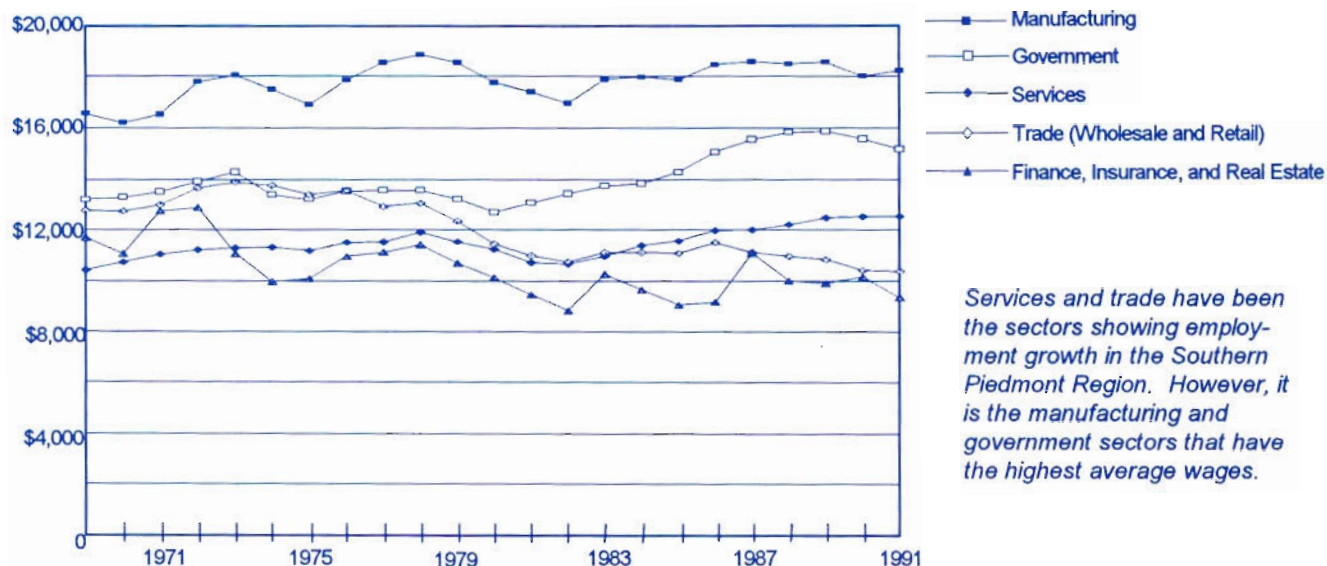
Note: Totals above are in constant (1982-84) dollars to facilitate comparison across time. The average earnings numbers plotted in the graphs below and on the facing page were also converted to 1982-84 dollars.

Average Earnings in Virginia by Sector



Services and trade have led all sectors in employment growth (see *State of Rural Virginia* Vol. 2, no. 2), but they have lower average wages. This suggests lower standards of living unless communities are able to attract high-value-added service jobs such as doctors, CPAs, and other professionals.

Spotlight on Southern Piedmont Region: Average Earnings by Sector



Average Earnings in the United States, Virginia, and Development Regions

The table includes additional detail on average earnings for those readers interested in looking at some of the actual numbers. All dollar figures have been converted to a 1982-84 base to allow comparison of real earnings across time. The numbers correspond to the information in the graph above and on the facing page.

	1969	1980	1991		1969	1980	1991
Services				Manufacturing			
United States	15,874	15,651	17,765	United States	23,051	24,438	25,385
Virginia	13,135	14,411	17,516	Virginia	18,518	20,381	22,334
Southwest	11,581	12,002	12,611	Southwest	16,179	16,349	17,054
Valley	12,541	12,361	14,243	Valley	18,448	19,885	21,303
Southern Piedmont	10,430	11,246	12,543	Southern Piedmont	16,563	17,756	18,228
NOVA	15,282	16,509	20,408	NOVA	20,504	24,539	28,460
Chesapeake	11,562	12,814	14,840	Chesapeake	20,096	21,452	22,684
Government				Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate			
United States	17,051	17,113	19,855	United States	15,678	13,866	15,606
Virginia	18,197	18,107	20,964	Virginia	12,490	10,071	11,477
Southwest	13,154	13,161	16,014	Southwest	10,241	9,291	9,525
Valley	14,214	14,571	16,955	Valley	10,855	9,601	9,948
Southern Piedmont	13,205	12,697	15,169	Southern Piedmont	11,700	10,128	9,348
NOVA	22,082	21,036	23,768	NOVA	13,573	10,730	12,740
Chesapeake	16,354	16,963	19,761	Chesapeake	11,387	8,762	9,119
Trade (Wholesale and Retail)							
United States	16,195	14,538	13,942				
Virginia	14,349	13,492	13,302				
Southwest	12,284	11,872	10,418				
Valley	13,892	13,009	11,770				
Southern Piedmont	12,768	11,458	10,376				
NOVA	15,996	15,028	15,801				
Chesapeake	13,313	12,131	11,098				

The purpose of the Rural Economic Analysis Program (REAP) at Virginia Tech is to provide research, analysis, and economic intelligence to the policy-making process and to long-run strategic planning being conducted in Virginia's agricultural and rural sectors.

The State of Rural Virginia contributes to this overall objective by providing basic, primarily visual information on rural issues useful to the decision-making process of public institutions, those considering business investments in the State, and the citizens of Virginia.

REAP and the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at Virginia Tech provide in-depth analyses and research on the types of issues discussed in *The State of Rural Virginia*. For information about available publications please contact REAP at the address or phone number in the box to the right.

Information

The State of Rural Virginia is a publication of REAP and the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at Virginia Tech. It is published approximately four times per year and is available free of charge. This issue was prepared by S. Murthy Kambhampaty. To subscribe, please contact Alan Raflo, REAP, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, Room 216 Hutcheson Hall, Blacksburg, VA 24061-0401; telephone: (703) 231-9443.

The charts, graphs, and maps displayed in this publication are available on 8.5 by 11 inch transparencies and 35mm slides for a nominal fee to cover processing. Requests may be placed with REAP at the address and telephone number above.

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