

COVID-19 in Hampton Roads — Data all in One Place

The Virginia Department of Health has been meticulously tracking data on the spread of the novel coronavirus since the first recorded case in the Commonwealth in early February. The state is tracking total cases, hospitalizations, deaths, daily new cases, demographic information, testing information and so much more, and providing the information for each individual locality in Virginia.

The Hampton Roads Planning District Commission Planning Department built an [online dashboard](#) to track data at the local and regional level: the regional 7-day moving average of daily new cases, confirmed total cases, hospitalizations and deaths as well as cases per 10,000 population per locality, as well as rate of cases by zip code, race, gender and age. In addition to health data, certain transportation and economic data are updated weekly as it pertains to traffic volumes, vehicle miles traveled, and unemployment claims, which are three of the most immediately available indicators of the impact COVID-19 may be having on the regional economy. [Click here to access the Hampton Roads COVID-19 Impact Planning Hub.](#)

As the 7-day moving average of confirmed cases in Virginia has been steadily decreasing, recently reaching a plateau, the data in Hampton Roads looks to be telling a different story (see figure below). While it's difficult to know if transmission of the coronavirus is increasing in the region or if the increased availability of testing is leading to the current surge of daily cases Hampton Roads is experiencing, the data is showing an uptick in the 7-day moving average. June 26 saw the highest recorded daily new cases in Hampton Roads since the state started tracking data. Regional data also reveals that the highest reported cases are among people aged 20-29, the highest number of hospitalizations are among people aged 70-79, and the highest number of deaths in Hampton Roads are among people over 80 years old.

It's important to keep an eye on this data, as many states are seeing record numbers of daily new cases after their economies reopened. On Friday, June 26, the Governor of Texas paused the states' reopening and ordered all bars to close, followed by similar closures in Florida. New York, New Jersey and Connecticut recently announced mandatory quarantines from visitors from new coronavirus hotspots, which is likely to affect the hospitality industry as it greatly reduces the incentive for tourists and business travelers alike. The E.U. has commented that travel may be banned from the U.S. to Europe, serving another potential blow to the air travel industry. If further closures in Hampton Roads are required, the economy is surely to be impacted once again, slowing the recovery we may be experiencing based on May's job increases.

Hampton Roads COVID-19 Dashboard Updated daily around 10:00 am ET

Total Confirmed Cases

5,517

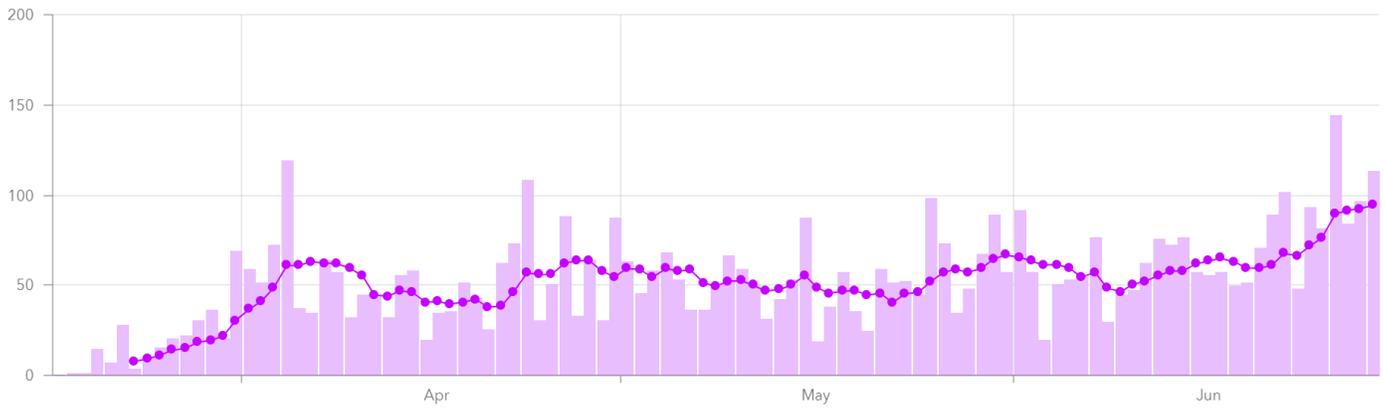
Total Hospitalizations

683

Total Deaths

161

Daily COVID-19 Cases with 7-Day Moving Average in Hampton Roads



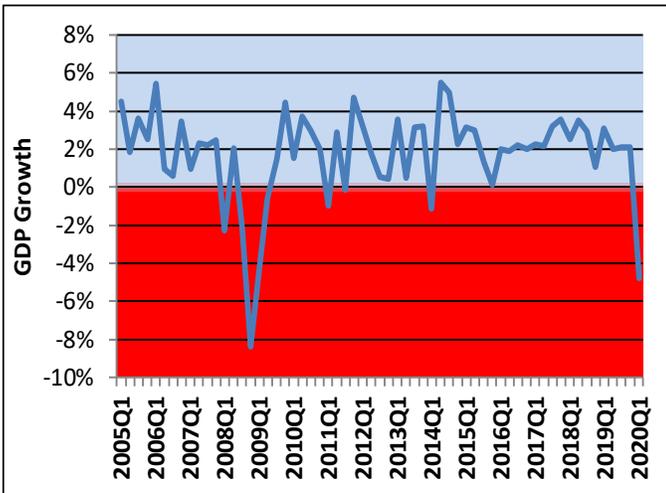
Daily Cases
 Daily Hospitalizations
 Daily Deaths

Source: Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, Virginia Department of Health

Please note: The indicators included in this monthly report are generally on a one- to three-month lag, which means the following graphs are only just beginning to reveal some of the economic impacts of COVID-19.

GDP, Annualized Growth Rate

United States, 2005Q1 – 2020Q1, Quarterly



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, HRPDC

GDP: Gross Domestic Product combines consumption, investment, net exports, and government spending to determine the size and general health of the economy. Real GDP decreased 4.8% in Q1 2020, reflecting the impact that COVID-19 had on the national economy during the beginning stages of the pandemic in the United States. It is expected that Q2 will show a further shrinking of the national economy, as many of the country’s businesses were shut down during April and May, while Q1 saw businesses closed for a shorter period of time.

New Car Sales, Seasonally Adjusted

Hampton Roads, Mar 2007 – May 2020, Monthly

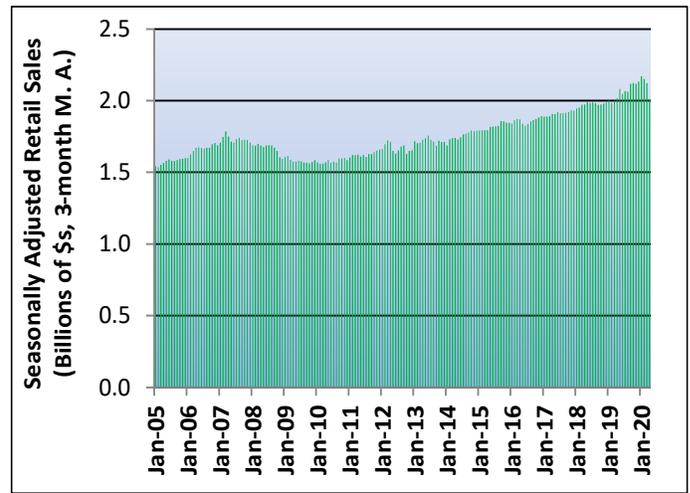


Source: Virginia Automobile Dealers Association, HRPDC

New Car Sales: Car sales, as a durable good, may be put off until an individual’s economic prospects improve; thus, the number of new car sales indicates the level of confidence that households in Hampton Roads have in their financial future. Car sales this May remained very low, 47% lower than May 2019, moving the 3-month average to levels that haven’t been seen since the Great Recession in 2008 and 2009. It is too soon to tell if this is due to economic hardship of consumers, or the social distancing requirements Virginians have been under.

Hampton Roads Retail Sales, Seasonally Adjusted

Hampton Roads, Jan 2005– Apr 2020, Monthly

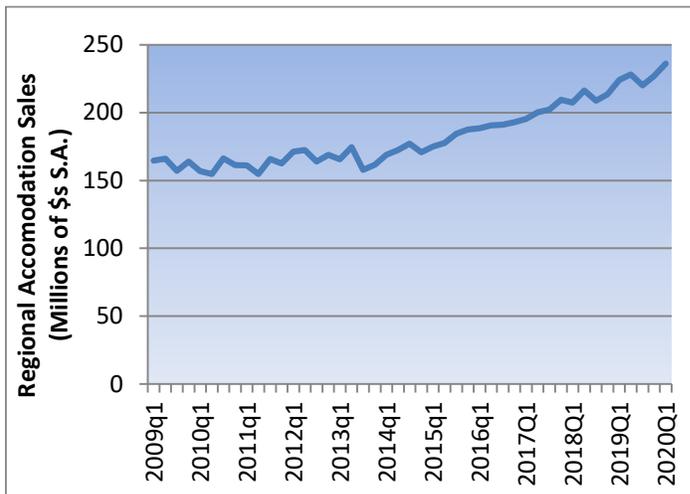


Source: Virginia Department of Taxation, HRPDC

Retail Sales: Retail sales in Hampton Roads, as measured by the 1% local option sales tax, serve as an indicator for consumption in the region. Retail sales in Hampton Roads decreased by nearly 7% in April 2020 from April 2019. Non-essential businesses closed on March 23, 2020, so this decrease is likely due to COVID-19. It is important to note that the large majority of online sales are included in the sales tax figures. It will also be important to watch as retail stores open—will the trend continue downward, signifying loss of consumer confidence, or will pent-up demand send retail sales upward?

Estimated Hotel Revenue, Seasonally Adjusted

Hampton Roads, 2009Q1 – 2020Q1, Quarterly



Source: Virginia Department of Taxation, HRPDC

Estimated Hotel Revenue: Hotel sales indicate the performance of the region’s tourism sector. When seasonally adjusted, Q1 2020 hotel revenue saw a nearly 4% increase from the previous quarter, and a 5.4% increase from Q1 of the previous year. As COVID-19 caused events to be canceled, and beaches and restaurants closed, data from Smith Travel Research reported revenue per available room (RevPAR) and occupancy rates in Hampton Roads at historic lows. Q1 data however, was strong. Most of the shutdown occurred in Q2, so it will be interesting to watch.

Civilian Employment, Seasonally Adjusted

Hampton Roads, Jan 2005 – May 2020, Monthly

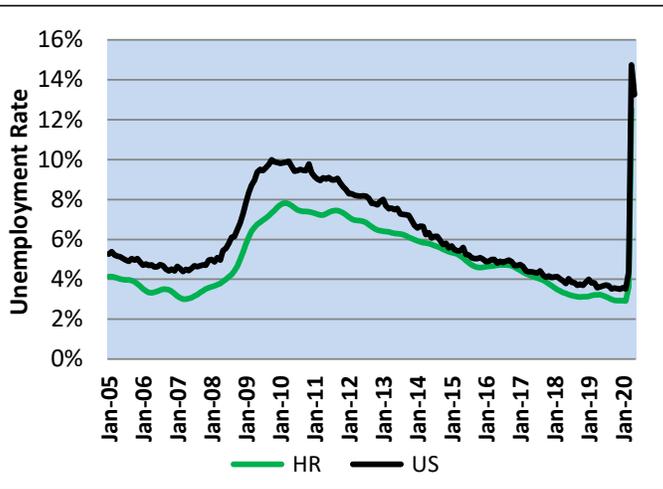


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, HRPDC

Employment: Non-agricultural civilian employment figures are considered the best estimate of labor market activity by the National Bureau of Economic Research. According to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Hampton Roads employment increased slightly from April to May 2020. This data represents a 1.45% increase from the previous month, but remains 8.8% below the previous year, still over twice the year-over-year decreases in the summer of 2009. Employment levels are still 12,000 jobs below the recent low during the Great Recession.

Unemployment Rate, Seasonally Adjusted

U.S. & Hampton Roads, Jan 2005 – May 2020, Monthly

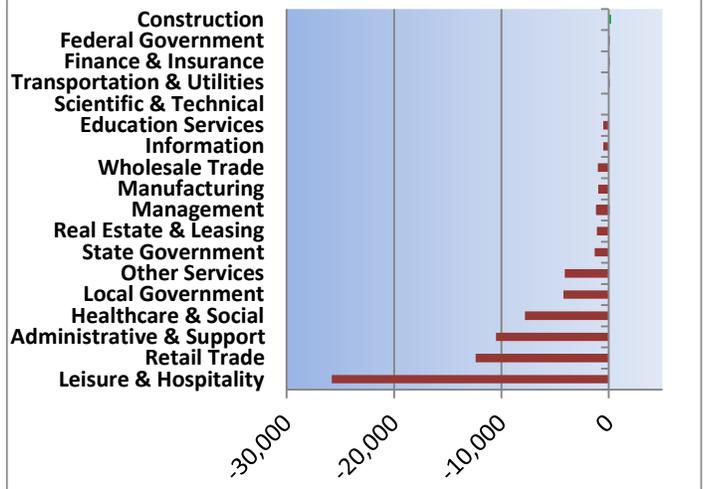


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, HRPDC

Unemployment Rate: The unemployment rate is the percentage of the population actively seeking work but unable to obtain a position. Hampton Roads' unemployment rate increased in April 2020 to 12.54%, an unprecedented increase of 244% in one month, while national unemployment rate dropped slightly from 14.75% to 13.26% in May as some parts of the country began reopening. As regional data continues to catch up, Hampton Roads unemployment rates will likely match the trends of the nation.

Employment Growth by Industry

Hampton Roads, May-19 to May-20, Year-over-Year

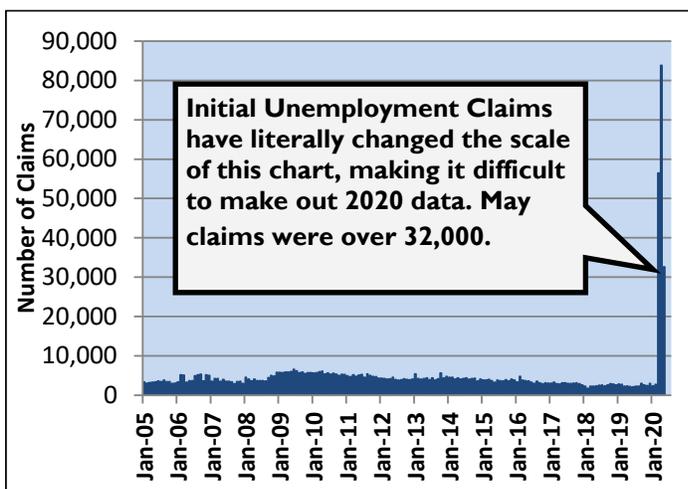


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, HRPDC

Employment Growth by Industry: As the job market grows or declines, there will be some industries whose experience does not resemble the regional trend. In May, almost every Hampton Roads industry experienced a decrease in year-over-year employment. Most significant was Leisure & Hospitality, which showed an especially large decrease of over 25,000 employees as hotels and restaurants around the region were closed, events canceled, beaches closed, and travel halted. Retail Trade reported over 12,000 jobs lost, Administrative lost over 10,000, and Healthcare lost nearly 8,000 jobs in May.

Initial Unemployment Claims, Seasonally Adjusted

Hampton Roads, Jan 2005 – May 2020, Monthly

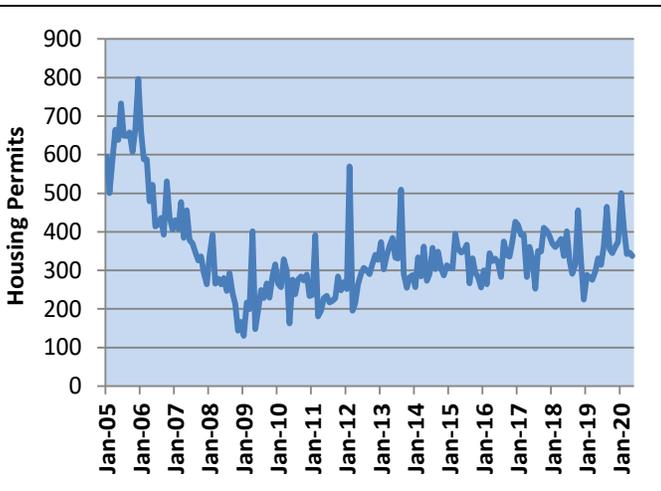


Source: Virginia Department of Labor, HRPDC

Initial Unemployment Claims: The number of initial unemployment claims is a leading economic indicator reflecting those who are forced to leave work unexpectedly, thus revealing the strength of the job market with little lag time. Seasonal adjusted unemployment claims increased in May 2020 to over 32,000, down significantly from the previous two months, but still an unprecedented number. This monthly increase represents an increase of over 1,300% from the previous year.

Single Family Housing Permits, Seasonally Adjusted

Hampton Roads, Jan 2005 – May 2020, Monthly

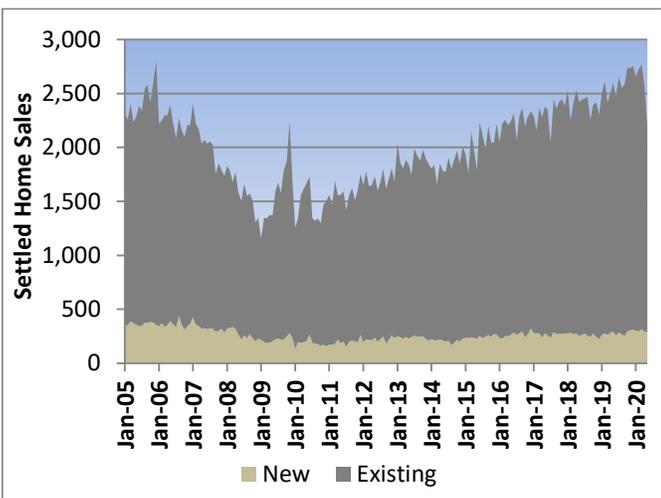


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, HRPDC

Single Family Housing Permits: Permit data signals the level of construction employment and confidence regarding the future trajectory of the local economy. The level of new construction permitting for single family homes in April 2020 decreased to 388 permits, and declined again to 382 in May 2020. When seasonally adjusted, the data continues to represent a decrease to the recent lows of the end of 2019. As the market continues to respond to both COVID-19, this indicator will be watched closely.

Number of Homes Sold, Seasonally Adjusted

Hampton Roads, Jan 2005 – May 2020, Monthly

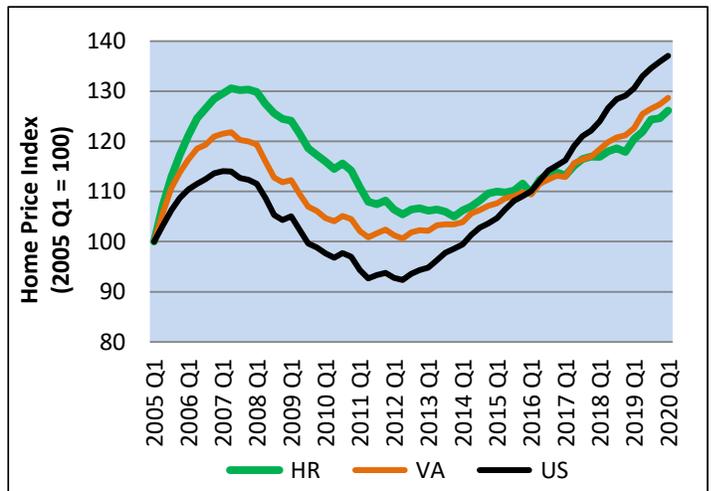


Source: REIN, HRPDC

Home Sales: Settled home sales measure the level of transactions on the real estate market over time, and a healthy real estate market should have a consistent level of activity. The levels of existing home sales in May were stronger than April, but are significantly lower than the previous year, and total settled sales were down to the lowest number since February 2018. New construction sales in May were down from the March's ten-year high, and now represent roughly 13% of all sales, elevated from 11%.

Home Price Index, All Transactions

Hampton Roads, 2005Q1 – 2020Q1 Quarterly

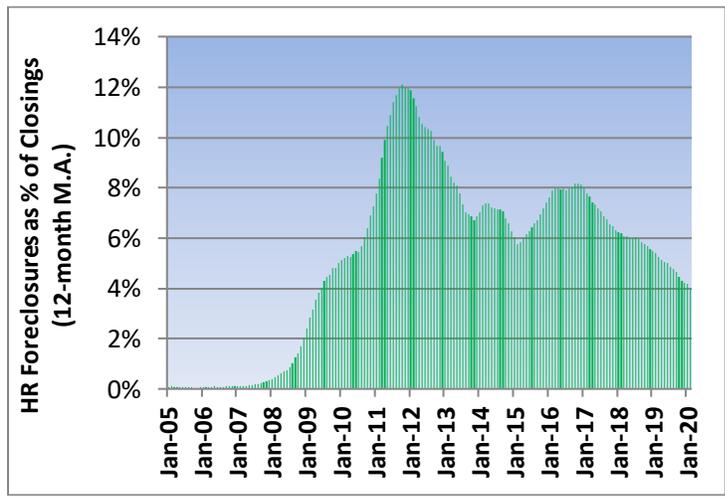


Source: Federal Housing Finance Agency, HRPDC

Home Price Index: The home price index measures the value of homes by evaluating changing price levels through repeated sales of properties. The index provides the highest quality data available on the trends in the real estate market. Hampton Roads' home prices increased, yet again, by 4.7% over the previous year in Q1 2020, but at a slower pace than both the state and the nation. Regional housing values remain 3.3% below those seen during the peak of the housing boom.

Foreclosures and Distressed Sales

Hampton Roads, Jan 2005 – Jan 2020 Monthly



Source: Zillow, HRPDC

Foreclosures: Foreclosures have a significant impact on the real estate market and community, depressing home values on a neighborhood and regional level. Distressed homes' share of total sales has particularly been shown to impact the sale price of existing homes. The foreclosure level is still elevated from the housing boom, but has been steadily declining, showing some of the lowest rates since 2009. Foreclosures constituted 4% of all home resales in January of 2020, down from a recent high of 8.1% in April of 2016 (12-month average).