



CENTRAL REGION

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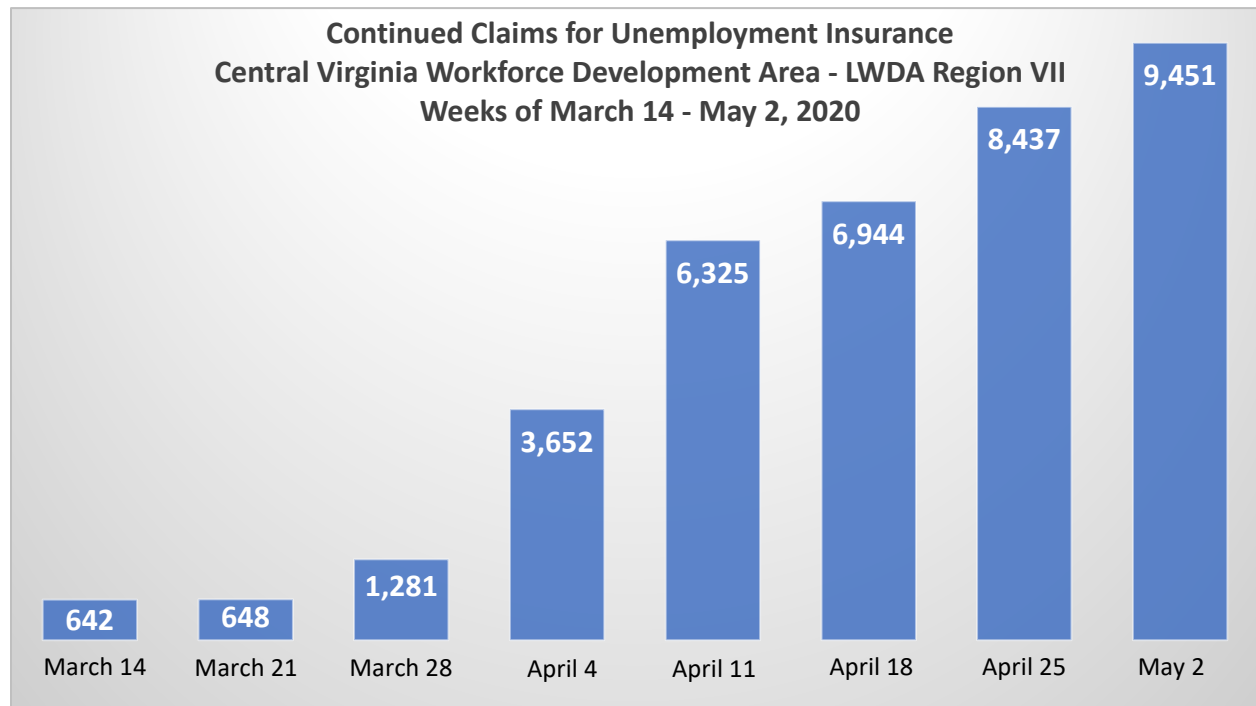
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**Continued Claims for Unemployment Insurance Continue to Rise in Central Virginia**

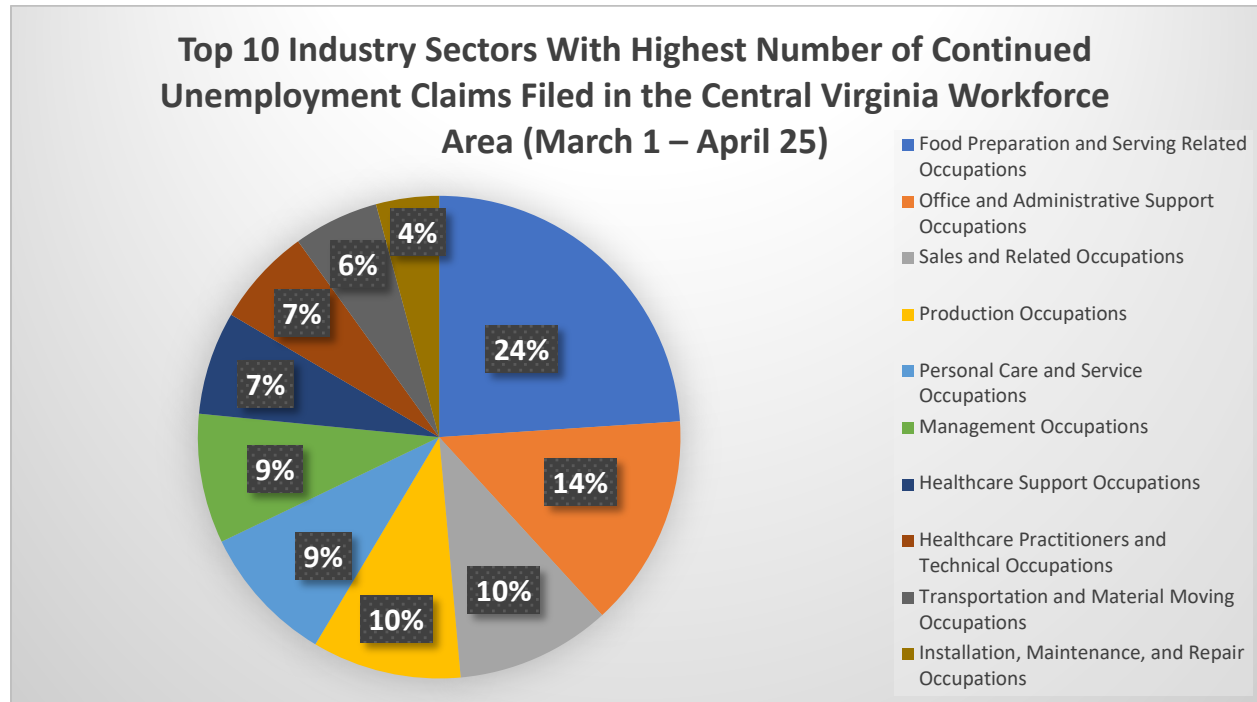
The latest data released by the Virginia Employment Commission illustrates a continued upward trend in the number of people filing weekly claims for unemployment in the greater Lynchburg area.

According to VEC numbers released Thursday, May 7, 9,451 continued claims for unemployment insurance were filed in the Central Virginia Workforce Development Area during the week of May 2, 2020. Continued claims are made by individuals who have filed an initial claim for unemployment and are now making weekly claims to continue receiving benefits. The Central Virginia Workforce Development area includes the city of Lynchburg, along with the counties of Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, and Campbell. Total employment for the Central Virginia Workforce Development Area was 108,959 in the fourth quarter of 2019.

The graphic below illustrates the rise in continued unemployment insurance claims filed since the week of March 14, when many employers began implementing layoffs and staff reductions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Of the people filing continued unemployment insurance claims, the largest number is coming from people who work in food preparation and serving-related occupations. Workers in that industry sector account for nearly a quarter of all weekly claims filed since March 1. The image below illustrates the top ten sectors with the highest number of continued unemployment claims in the Central Virginia Workforce Development Area.



As the number of continued claims for unemployment insurance increased, the figure of those making an initial unemployment insurance claim in the Central Virginia Workforce Development Area is headed down; mirroring a statewide trend. Initial claims are made by those seeking unemployment insurance for the first time. An initial claim must be made before a worker can make weekly (continued) claims to continue receiving benefits. 1,355 initial unemployment insurance claims were filed in the Central Virginia Workforce Development Area during the week of May 2; down from a high number of 3,357 initial claims filed during the week of April 4, but still far above the 84 initial unemployment insurance claims filed during the week of March 14.

Available data from the VEC does not include claims filed by self-employed workers, who are now eligible to receive unemployment benefits under the CARES Act. Therefore, data included in this statement does not reflect the total number of people filing claims for unemployment insurance in the Central Virginia Workforce Development Area.

### **ABOUT THE CENTRAL VIRGINIA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

*The Central Virginia Workforce Development Board (WDB) is the designated regional convener and administrative entity that coordinates workforce training and career services through federal funding from the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). We are charged with overseeing and implementing workforce development initiatives and activities throughout the Virginia Career Works – Central Region. Activities of Virginia Career Works - Central Region are supported in part with funds from the U. S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) award (#: AA-32183-18-55-A-51) awarded to the City of Lynchburg on behalf of the Central Virginia Workforce Development Board. The Central Virginia Workforce Development Board is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. TDD-VA Relay 711.*