





# VIRGINIA'S 2021-2022 HIGH DEMAND OCCUPATIONS LIST & UNVERLYING METHODOLOGY

November 2021

# **Executive Summary**

**CONTEXT.** Virginia State Code § 2.2-2472 (A.9), requires the Virginia Board of Workforce Development (VBWD) to publish a list of jobs, trades, and professions for which high demand for qualified workers exists or is projected. This report details the methodology, process, and the resulting Virginia 2021-22 High Demand Occupations List.

A COLLABORATIVE VIRGINIA EFFORT. The 2021-22 Virginia High Demand Occupations List and Methodology Report was developed in close collaboration with numerous stakeholders and rigorous analysis. The work was led jointly by the VBWD and the Virginia Office of Education Economics (VOEE). Stakeholders involved included to the Virginia Department of Education, Virginia Community College System, Virginia Employment Commission, Virginia Economic Development Partnership, the Virginia Board of Workforce Development members, and the Virginia Secretariat of Labor. The Virginia Board of Workforce Development also convened and coordinated an ongoing advisory body, called the High Demand Occupations List Workgroup, through which we are grateful for the ongoing feedback of its participants.

**INTENDED USES CASES.** In accordance with code, Virginia's High Demand Occupations List provides data on occupational demand in the state to an array of audiences including employers, education and training entities (including associate-degree-granting and baccalaureate public institutions of higher education), government agencies (including the Department of Education and public libraries), and other users in the public and private sectors. However, Virginia's High Demand Occupations List is not intended to be the sole source of information for any specific policy determination or grant program. Those implementing the list for a specific policy or educational program may need to take into account other considerations additional criteria depending on its target demographics, educational requirements, geographic focus, industry focus, and more.

**SUMMARY OF VIRGINIA'S 2021-22 HIGH DEMAND OCCUPATIONS METHODOLOGY.** The methodology design was based on the guiding principles of 1) employing a rigorous and transparent methodological approach, 2) relying exclusively on publicly available data sources, 3) ensuring regular input and engagement from key stakeholders, 4) leveraging insights from other states and national experts, and 5) ensuring process for ongoing refinements in future year refreshes. The visual below summarizes the two ways in which a Virginia occupation makes it onto the 2021-2022 High Demand Occupations List:

# **Top Jobs**

Virginia occupations with at least 100 annual state-wide openings that receive a weighted score of 2.6 or higher across the following four variables:

- Offers good earnings right off the bat (30%)
- Offers opportunities for advancement within the occupation (30%)
- Forecasted % growth in number of positions (30%)
- Is of strategic importance to Virginia's state-wide economic development strategy (10%)

# VA-Funded Short-Form Certification / Credential Jobs

Virginia occupations tied to an existing short-form credential or certification program that Virginia currently funds:

 Workforce Credential Grant Program (FastForward)'s existing crosswalk utilized to identify relevant SOCs for inclusion. As indicated in the visual above, there are two "paths" through which any given 6-digit Standard Occupational Code (SOC) can be put on Virginia's 2021-2022 High Demand Occupations List. The first is through rigorous methodological process that was developed in close consultation with stakeholders, which identified Virginia's "Top Jobs" (156 in total). The methodology section of the report outlines the specific variables and rationale for each step. The second way an occupation makes it onto the list is if it is a 6-digit SOC specifically mapped to an existing state-funded short-form credential or certification training program that Virginia funds. In consultation with stakeholders, it became clear that state-funded initiatives such as the Workforce Credential Grant (WCG) commonly known as FastForward and Get Skilled, Get a Job, Get Ahead (G3) are designed to provide on-ramps to careers and foster more career pathway mobility through stackable credentials. Thus, the decision was made to include these occupations (168 in total, 53 of which already make the list through the with Top Jobs scoring methodology).

AREAS FOR FUTURE METHODOLOGICAL REFINEMENT. This is a living document where we as a Commonwealth seek to continually improve upon our methodology, underlying data sources, and approach over time. As per the Virginia Code, Virginia's High Demand Occupations Methodology and List will be refreshed annually. The Virginia Office of Education Economics will provide analytical and methodological support towards this endeavor in future years. The biggest opportunity for further methodological refinement is incorporating supply-side inputs into our approach, getting closer to the ideal state of assessing supply-demand gaps in the labor market. The Virginia Code § 23.1-627.1 has a definition of what a "high demand field" means, which is "a discipline or field in which there is a shortage of skilled workers to fill current job vacancies or anticipated additional job openings." In Virginia's 2021-2022 methodology, apart from the filter employed for annual openings greater than or equal to 100, the data utilized is largely demand-side indicators. Getting closer to the concept of shortage (demand – supply) will require a more robust incorporation of supply-side inputs, including but not limited to developing a Virginia-specific CIP-SOC crosswalk methodology, incorporating VEC's unemployment insurance claimant data, and potentially taking into account worker in-migration and out-migration. See the full report for additional areas for methodological refinement identified in future year iterations.

Please see the subsequent page for Virginia's 2021-2022 High Demand Occupations List in its entirety. This report also details the complete methodology, process, benchmarking analyses undertaken, and areas for further refinement in the years to come.

# 2021-2022 High Demand Occupations List

## **Business/Finance**

Justiness/i mance		
-Digit SOC	Virginia Occupation	
131041	Compliance Officers	
131051	Cost Estimators	
131071	Human Resources Specialists	
131081	Logisticians	
131082	Project Management Specialists (No On-the-Job Training)	
131082	Project Management Specialists (Long-term On-the-Job Training)	
131111	Management Analysts	
131131	Fundraisers	
131141	Compensation, Benefits, and Job Analysis Specialists	
131151	Training and Development Specialists	
131161	Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists	
131199	Business Operations Specialists, All Other	
132011	Accountants and Auditors	
132022	Appraisers of Personal and Business Property	
132023	Appraisers and Assessors of Real Estate	
132031	Budget Analysts	
132041	Credit Analysts	
132051	Financial and Investment Analysts	
132052	Personal Financial Advisors	
132054	Financial Risk Specialists	
132061	Financial Examiners	
132072	Loan Officers	
132082	Tax Preparers	
132099	Financial Specialists, All Other	

## Computers/Math/Engineering/Architecture

	Virginia Occupation
	Architects, Except Landscape and Naval
	Aerospace Engineers
	Civil Engineers
	Computer Hardware Engineers
	Electrical Engineers
	Electronics Engineers, Except Computer
	Environmental Engineers
	Industrial Engineers
	Marine Engineers and Naval Architects
	Mechanical Engineers
	Nuclear Engineers
	Engineers, All Other
	Civil Engineering Technologists and Technicians
	Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technologists and Technicians
	Calibration Technologists and Technicians
	Engineering Technologists and Technicians, Except Drafters, All Other
	Surveying and Mapping Technicians
	Computer Systems Analysts
	Information Security Analysts
	Computer and Information Research Scientists
	Computer Network Support Specialists
	Computer User Support Specialists
	Computer Network Architects
	Database Administrators
	Database Architects
	Network and Computer Systems Administrators
	Computer Programmers
	Software Developers
	Software Quality Assurance Analysts and Testers
	Web Developers
	Web and Digital Interface Designers
	Computer Occupations, All Other (BS/BA)
	Computer Occupations, All Other (HS)
	Operations Research Analysts Statisticians
132041	Statisticians

# /Design/Entertainment/Sports/Media

Art/Desig	n/Entertainment/Sp
	Virginia Occupation
271011	Art Directors
271024	Graphic Designers
272012	Producers and Directors
272022	Coaches and Scouts
273031	Public Relations Specialists
273042	Technical Writers
273091	Interpreters and Translators

## Education/Training/Library

ducation/ framing/Library		
-Digit SOC	Virginia Occupation	
211012	Educational, Guidance, and Career Counselors and Advisors	
211091	Health Education Specialists	
251021	Computer Science Teachers, Postsecondary	
251042	Biological Science Teachers, Postsecondary	
251066	Psychology Teachers, Postsecondary	
251072	Nursing Instructors and Teachers, Postsecondary	
252011	Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education	
252012	Kindergarten Teachers, Except Special Education	
252021	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	
252022	Middle School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education	
252031	Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education	
252032	Career/Technical Education Teachers, Secondary School	
252055	Special Education Teachers, Kindergarten	
252056	Special Education Teachers, Elementary School	
252057	Special Education Teachers, Middle School	
252058	Special Education Teachers, Secondary School	
252059	Special Education Teachers, All Other	
253011	Adult Basic Education, Adult Secondary Education, and ESL Instructors	
253021	Self-Enrichment Teachers	
254031	Library Technicians	
259031	Instructional Coordinators	
259044	Teaching Assistants, Postsecondary	
259049	Teaching Assistants, All Other	

## Construction/Installation/Maintenance/Repair

-Digit SOC	Virginia Occupation
	First-Line Supervisors of Landscaping, Lawn Service, and Groundskeeping Workers
	First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers
472021	Brickmasons and Blockmasons
472031	Carpenters
472044	Tile and Stone Setters
472071	Paving, Surfacing, and Tamping Equipment Operators
472073	Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators
472111	Electricians
472132	Insulation Workers, Mechanical
472152	Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters
472211	Sheet Metal Workers
472221	Structural Iron and Steel Workers
473013	HelpersElectricians
473015	HelpersPipelayers, Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters
474011	Construction and Building Inspectors
474051	Highway Maintenance Workers
474071	Septic Tank Servicers and Sewer Pipe Cleaners
491011	First-Line Supervisors of Mechanics, Installers, and Repairers
492011	Computer, Automated Teller, and Office Machine Repairers
492022	Telecommunications Equipment Installers and Repairers, Except Line Installers
492098	Security and Fire Alarm Systems Installers
493011	Aircraft Mechanics and Service Technicians
493021	Automotive Body and Related Repairers
493023	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics
493031	Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists
493042	Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics, Except Engines
493093	Tire Repairers and Changers
	Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers
499041	Industrial Machinery Mechanics
499043	Maintenance Workers, Machinery
	Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers
499052	Telecommunications Line Installers and Repairers
499071	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General

	Helpers–Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Workers Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Workers, All Other
ales	
-Digit SOC	Virginia Occupation
411012	First-Line Supervisors of Non-Retail Sales Workers
413021	Insurance Sales Agents
413031	Securities, Commodities, and Financial Services Sales Agents
413091	Sales Representatives of Services, Except Advertising, Insurance, Financial Services
414011	Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Tech and Scientific
414012	Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Tech and Scientific
419021	Real Estate Brokers
419031	Sales Engineers

## Art/Design/Entertainment/Sports/Media

Digit SOC	Virginia Occupation
271011	Art Directors
271024	Graphic Designers
272012	Producers and Directors
272022	Coaches and Scouts
273031	Public Relations Specialists
273042	Technical Writers
273091	Interpreters and Translators

## Healthcare

	Virginia Occupation
	Healthcare Social Workers
	Marriage and Family Therapists
291021	Dentists, General
291031	Dietitians and Nutritionists
291071	Physician Assistants
291122	Occupational Therapists
291123	Physical Therapists
291126	Respiratory Therapists
291127	Speech-Language Pathologists
291131	Veterinarians
291141	Registered Nurses
291171	Nurse Practitioners
	Family Medicine Physicians
	Dental Hygienists
292010	Clinical Laboratory Technologists and Technicians
292031	Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians
	Diagnostic Medical Sonographers
292034	Radiologic Technologists and Technicians
	Emergency Medical Technicians
292043	Paramedics
	Pharmacy Technicians
	Surgical Technologists
	Veterinary Technologists and Technicians
	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
	Medical Records Specialists
	Opticians, Dispensing
	Health Information Technologists and Medical Registrars
	Nursing Assistants
	Occupational Therapy Assistants
	Physical Therapist Assistants
	Physical Therapist Aides
	Massage Therapists
	Dental Assistants
	Medical Assistants
319094	Medical Transcriptionists
319096	Veterinary Assistants and Laboratory Animal Caretakers
319097	Phlebotomists
319099	Healthcare Support Workers, All Other
	Morticians, Undertakers, and Funeral Arrangers
	Hairdressers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists
395094	Skincare Specialists
399031	Exercise Trainers and Group Fitness Instructors

# Production and Transportation/Material Moving 6-Digit SOC Virginia Occupation

U-Digit GGC	Virginia Occupation
511011	First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers

512041	Structural Metal Fabricators and Fitters
513092	Food Batchmakers
514121	Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers
515112	Printing Press Operators
517041	Sawing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Wood
518031	Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant and System Operators
519041	Extruding, Forming, Pressing, and Compacting Machine Setters, Operators, and
519061	Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers
519081	Dental Laboratory Technicians
519083	Ophthalmic Laboratory Technicians
519161	Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Operators (NA)
519161	Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Operators (HS)
519162	Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Programmers (NA)
519162	Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Programmers (HS)
519199	Production Workers, All Other

519199 Production Workers, All Other
531044 First-line Supervisors of Passenger Attendants
532021 Air Traffic Controllers
533031 Driver/Sales Workers
533032 Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers
533032 Light Truck Drivers
533052 Bus Drivers, Transit and Intercity
535021 Captains, Mates, and Pilots of Water Vessels
537021 Crane and Tower Operators
537081 Refuse and Recyclable Material Collectors

# Miscellaneous

# 6-Digit SOC Virginia Occupation 351011 Chefs and Head Cooks

231011 Lawyers 333021 Detectives and Criminal Investigators

### Sales

6-Digit SOC	Virginia Occupation
411012	First-Line Supervisors of Non-Retail Sales Workers
413021	Insurance Sales Agents
413031	Securities, Commodities, and Financial Services Sales Agents
413091	Sales Representatives of Services, Except Advertising, Insurance, Financial Services
414011	Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Tech and Scientific
414012	Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Tech and Scientific
419021	Real Estate Brokers
419031	Sales Engineers

## Office and Admin Support

Digit SOC	Virginia Occupation
	First-Line Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers
	Bill and Account Collectors
	Billing and Posting Clerks
	Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks
	Payroll and Timekeeping Clerks
	Procurement Clerks
433071	
	Brokerage Clerks
	Court, Municipal, and License Clerks
	Customer Service Representatives
	File Clerks
	Hotel, Motel, and Resort Desk Clerks
	Interviewers, Except Eligibility and Loan
	Library Assistants, Clerical
	Loan Interviewers and Clerks
	Order Clerks
	Human Resources Assistants, Except Payroll and Timekeeping
	Receptionists and Information Clerks
	Reservation and Transportation Ticket Agents and Travel Clerks
	Information and Record Clerks, All Other
	Cargo and Freight Agents
	Public Safety Telecommunicators
	Dispatchers, Except Police, Fire, and Ambulance
	Postal Service Mail Carriers
	Production, Planning, and Expediting Clerks
	Shipping, Receiving, and Inventory Clerks
	Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants
	Medical Secretaries and Administrative Assistants
	Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive
	Data Entry Keyers
	Insurance Claims and Policy Processing Clerks
	Mail Clerks and Mail Machine Operators, Except Postal Service
	Office Clerks, General
439199	Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other
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# 6-Digit SOC Virginia Occupation

111021	General and Operations Managers
112021	Marketing Managers
112022	Sales Managers
113012	Administrative Services Managers
113013	Facilities Managers
113021	Computer and Information Systems Managers
113031	Financial Managers
113051	Industrial Production Managers
113061	Purchasing Managers
113071	Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers
113121	Human Resources Managers
119021	Construction Managers
119033	Education Administrators, Postsecondary
119041	Architectural and Engineering Managers
119051	Food Service Managers
119072	Entertainment and Recreation Managers, Except Gambling
119111	Medical and Health Services Managers
119121	Natural Sciences Managers
119141	Property, Real Estate, and Community Association Managers
119151	Social and Community Service Managers
119179	Personal Service Managers, All Other
119199	Managers, All Other

Life/Physical/Social Science			
	6-Digit SOC	Virginia Occupation	
	191042	Medical Scientists, Except Epidemiologists	
	192031	Chemists	
	192041	Environmental Scientists and Specialists, Including Health	
		Economists	
	193033	Clinical and Counseling Psychologists	
		School Psychologists	
	193051	Urban and Regional Planners	
		Political Scientists	
	193099	Social Scientists and Related Workers, All Other	
	194042	Environmental Science and Protection Technicians, Including Health	
	194044	Hydrologic Technicians	
	194099	Life, Physical, and Social Science Technicians, All Other	
	195011	Occupational Health and Safety Specialists	