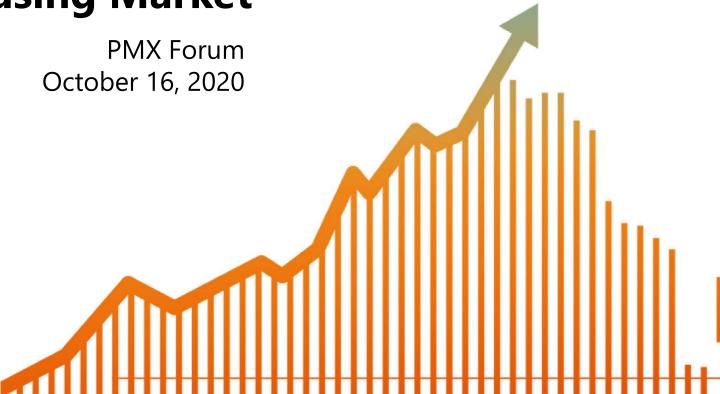




# The Impact of COVID-19 and the Recession on Virginia's Rental Housing Market



Lisa Sturtevant, PhD Chief Economist, Virginia REALTORS®



## Key Trends & Outlook Factors Affecting Virginia's Housing Market



"K-shaped" recovery is benefitting some over others; homeowners better positioned currently



Interest rates will stay low, making purchase and refinancing attractive



Renters have more challenges than homeowners meeting expenses



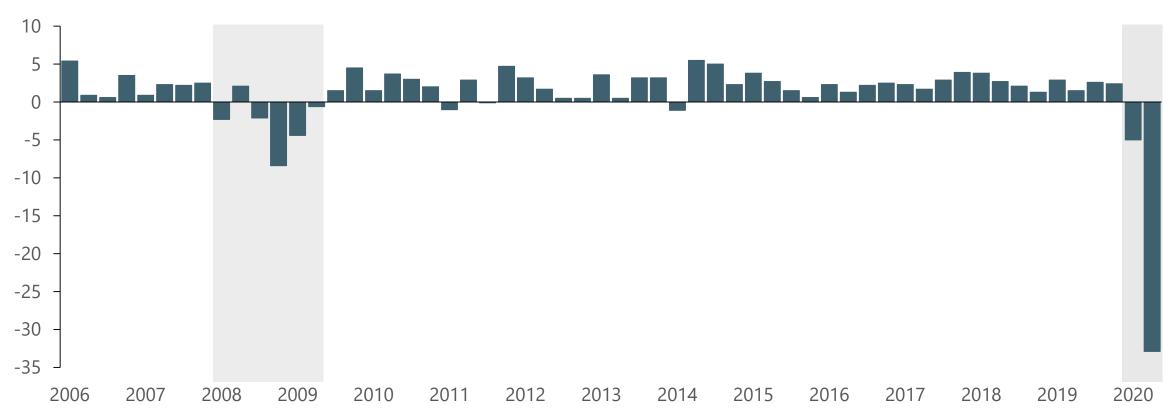
Longer-term shift in housing preferences expected at the margins

## **Economic Trends**



## U.S. Real GDP Growth – 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter GDP Down 32.9% *Q3/Q4 GDP expected to grow but uncertainty remains*

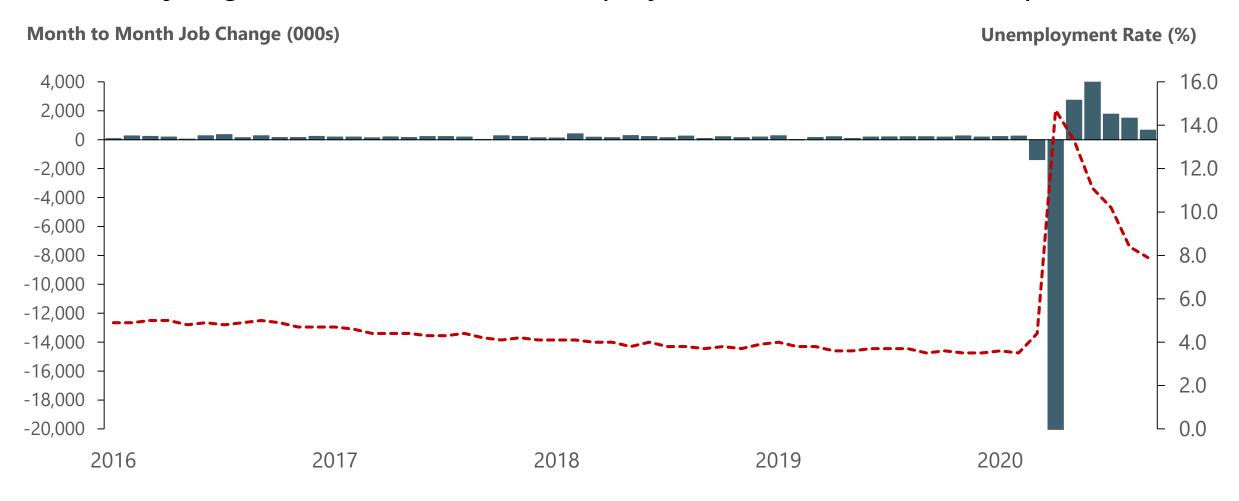
#### **Annualized Quarterly Change (%)**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

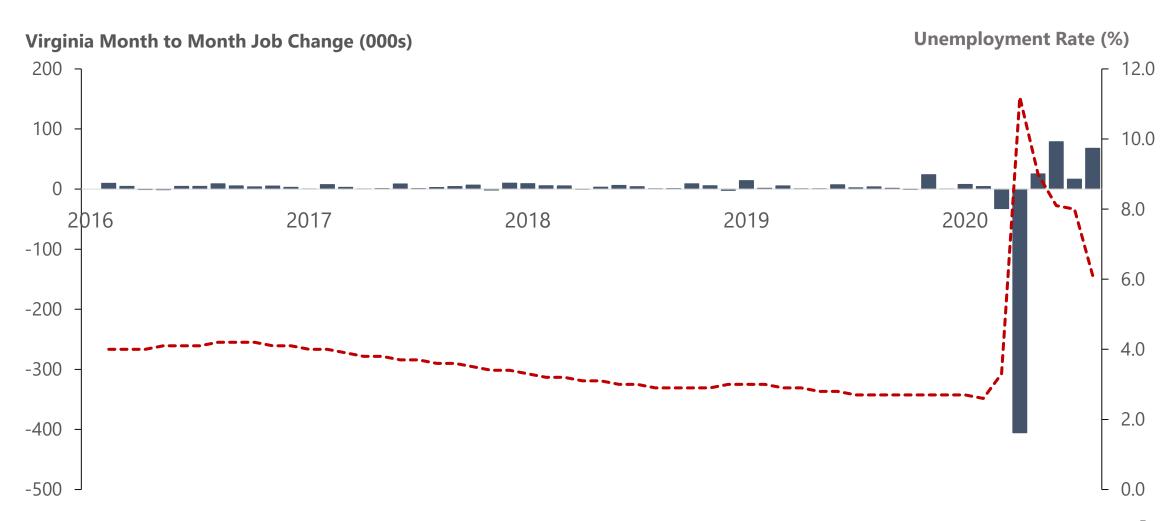


## U.S. Employment - Up for 5 Consecutive Months Pace of job growth has slowed; unemployment rate hit 7.9% in September





### Virginia Employment - Up for 4 Consecutive Months Unemployment rate hit 6.1% in August





## Virginia Unemployment Claims – Steady Declines About 158,000 Virginians were receiving unemployment benefits in early Oct

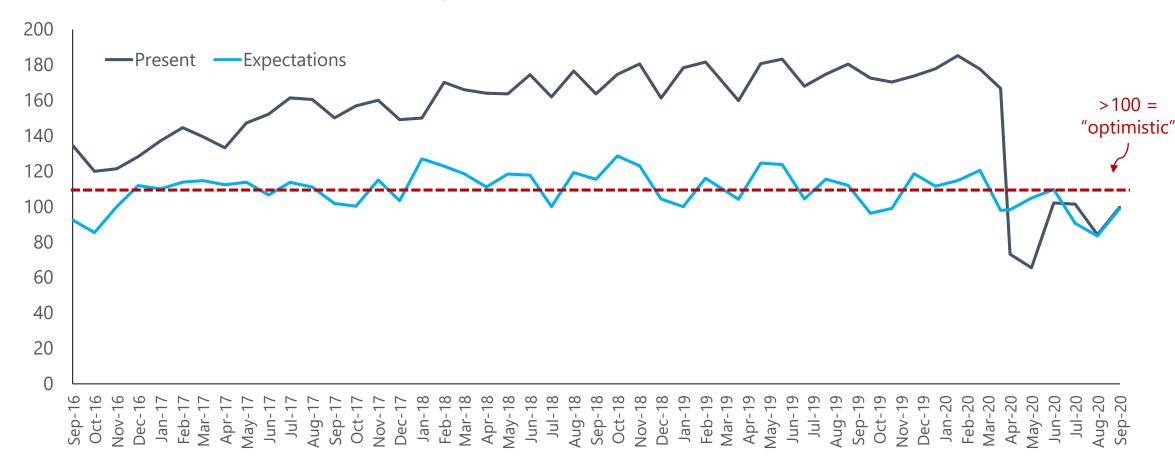




## Consumer Confidence Improved in September

The Present Index rose to 99.6; the Expectations Index rose to 98.8

#### **Consumer Confidence Index – South Atlantic Region**



Source: The Conference Board

## Housing Market Trends

## Virginia Renters



Renter population expanded following the last recession; slowdown recently

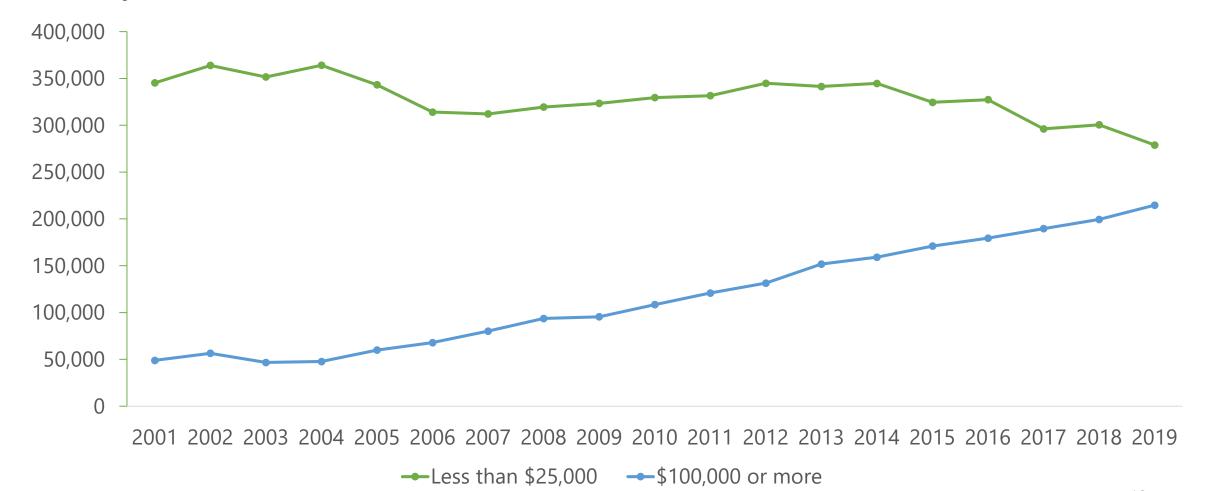


### Virginia Renters



### Higher-income households have fueled growth in renter population

#### Renters by Household Income, 2001 - 2019

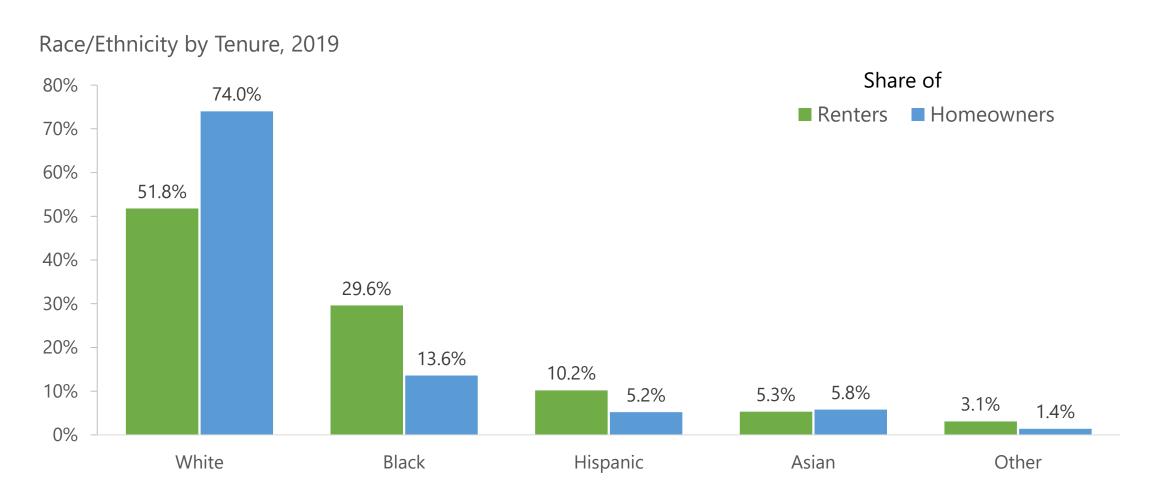


Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## Virginia Renters



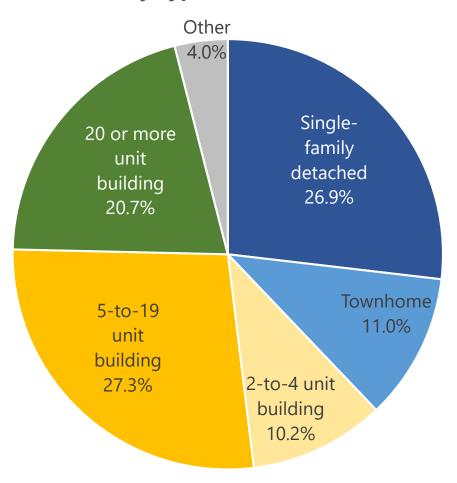
### Non-White Virginians are more likely to be renters



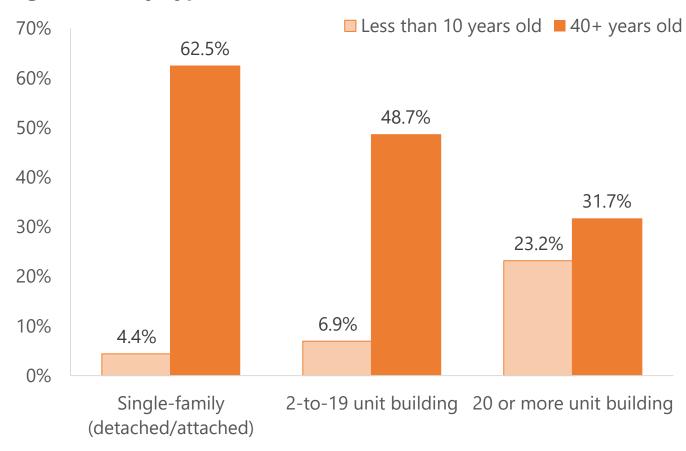


## Virginia's Rental Housing Stock

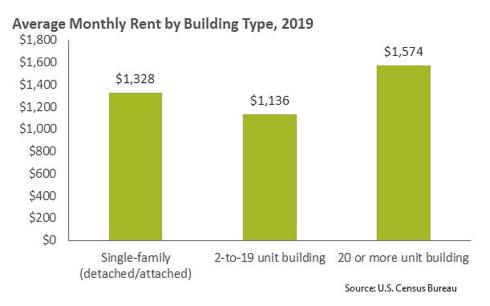
#### **Rental Units by Type, 2019**



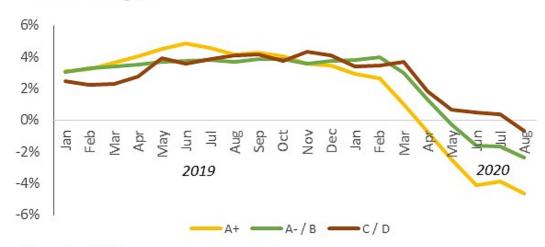
#### Age of Unit by Type, 2019



### Virginia's Rental Housing Stock



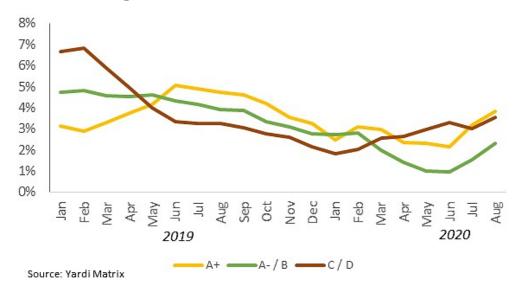
#### Percent Change in Monthly Rents by Property Class Northern Virginia



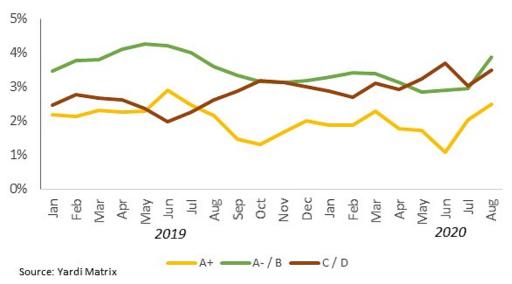
Source: Yardi Matrix

#### Percent Change in Monthly Rents by Property Class Richmond Region



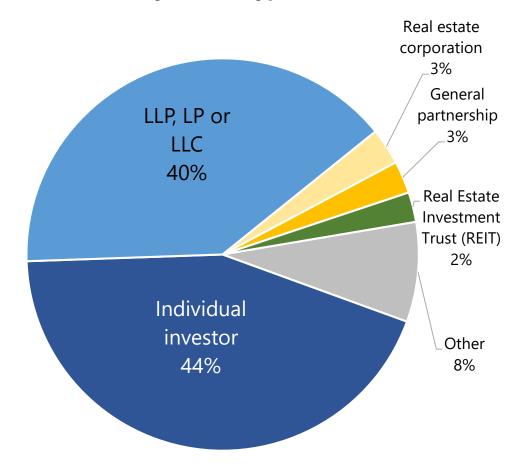


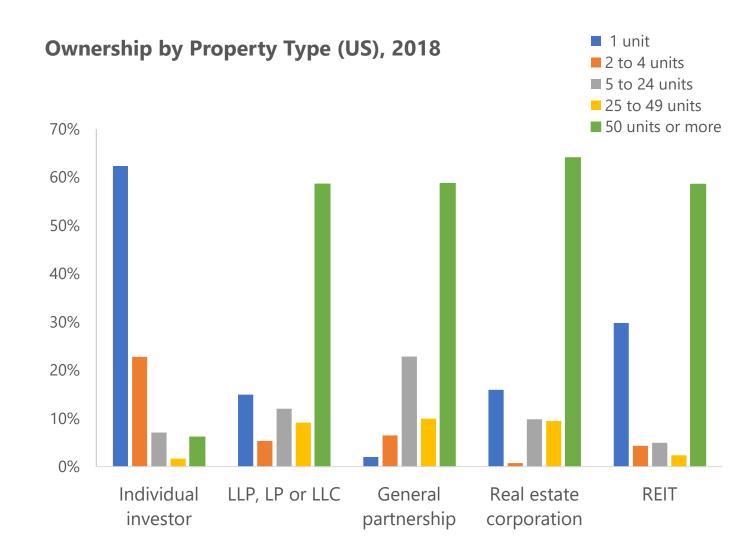
#### Percent Change in Monthly Rents by Property Class Hampton Roads Region



## Rental Property Owners

Rental Units by Owner Type (US), 2018





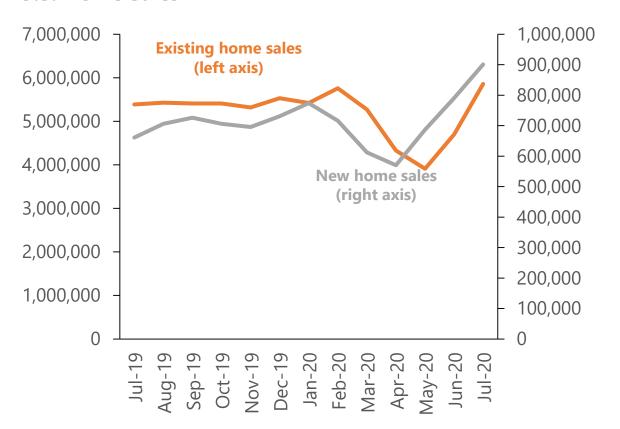
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, RHFS



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### Why Has the For-Sale Housing Market Been So Resilient? V-shaped recovery in the for-sale housing market

#### **U.S. Home Sales**



Job losses have been concentrated in a few sectors where workers are mostly renters.

Mortgage rates have been at historically low levels.

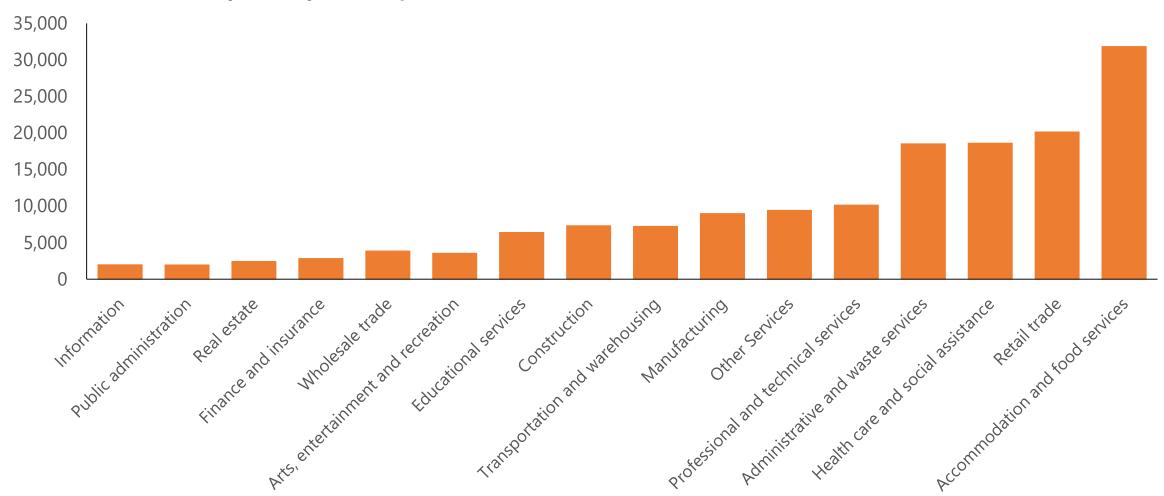
Pre-COVID housing demand was strong – and will continue to be.

Annualized monthly home sales



## Virginia Unemployment Claims by Industry 1 in 5 unemployed residents are in the Accommodation & Food Services sector

**Total Continued Claims by Industry (As of September 26)** 

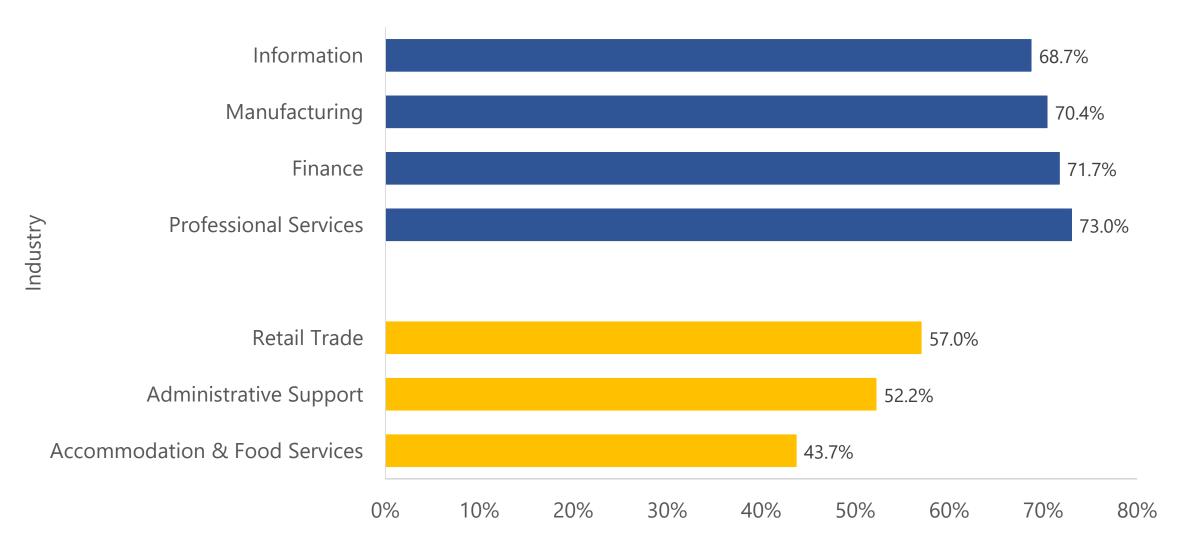


Source: Virginia Employment Commission

## Virginia Homeownership Rates by Industry



Workers in industries most impacted by the downturn are more likely to be renters

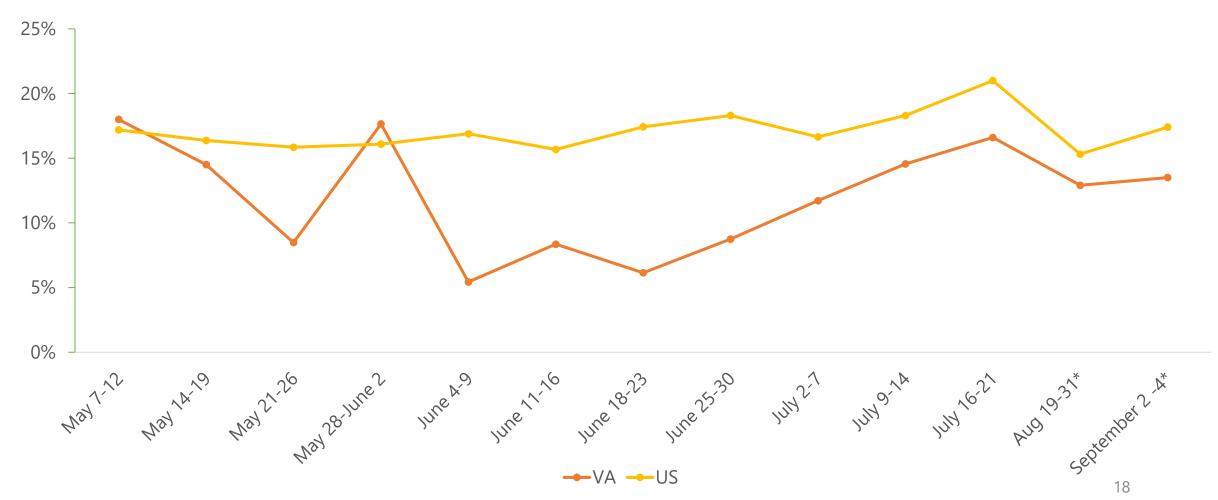




## Virginia Renters-13.5% of renters did not pay rent last month

About a quarter are worried about paying next month's rent

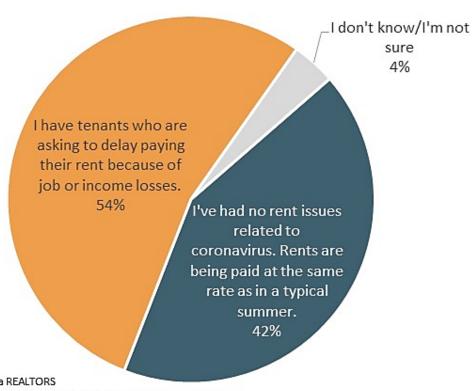




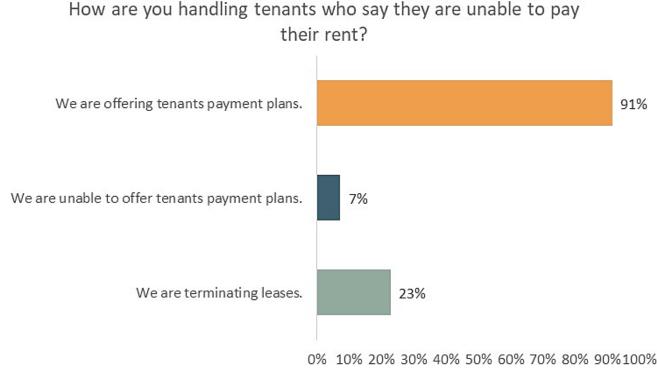
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey

## Rental Property Owners & Managers

Thinking about how coronavirus (COVID-19) has impacted your rental properties, have you seen any tenants who have been unable to pay their rent?



Source: Virginia REALTORS
Survey of landlords and property managers, July 23-26, 2020
n=134



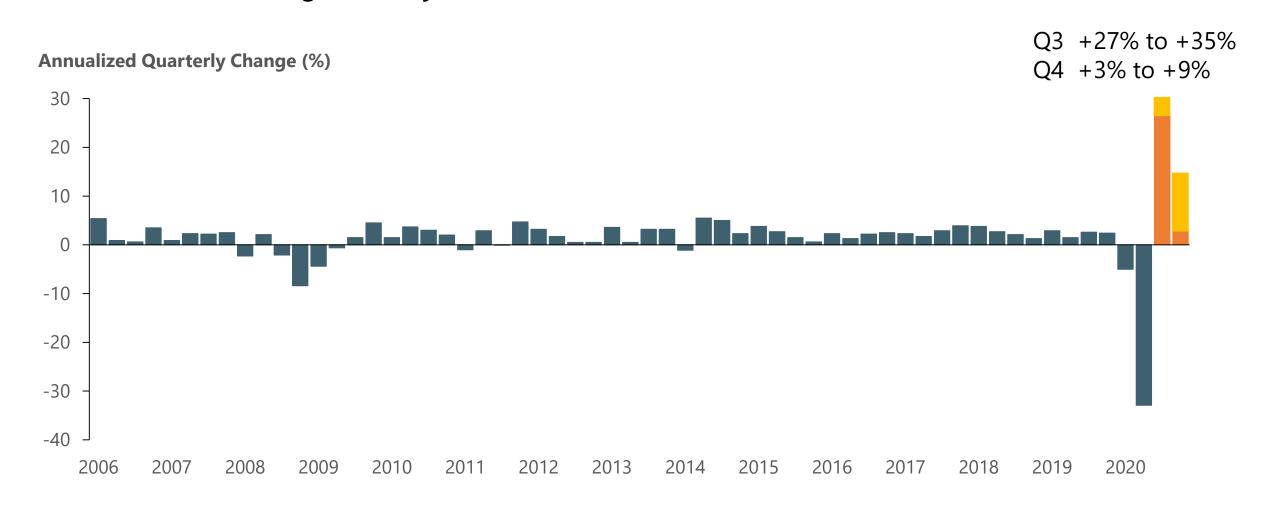
Respondents could select more than one answer.

## Outlook



### Forecasts of U.S. Real GDP Growth

Q4 outlook downgraded by some economists due to lack of federal stimulus





## What's ahead for 2020 and 2021?

- "K-Shaped" economic recovery
  - Some benefitting, others falling behind
  - Widening inequalities
- Interest rates will remain low into 2021
  - ~3% mortgage rates expected
  - Not all will be able to take advantage

- Prolonged recovery will continue to hurt renters and landlords
- Some rental property owners will transition units to for-sale units
- Rents generally flat into 2021;
   falling slightly in higher-cost submarkets
- Growing demand for rental housing in suburban and rural rental housing





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