



**DRAGAS CENTER FOR
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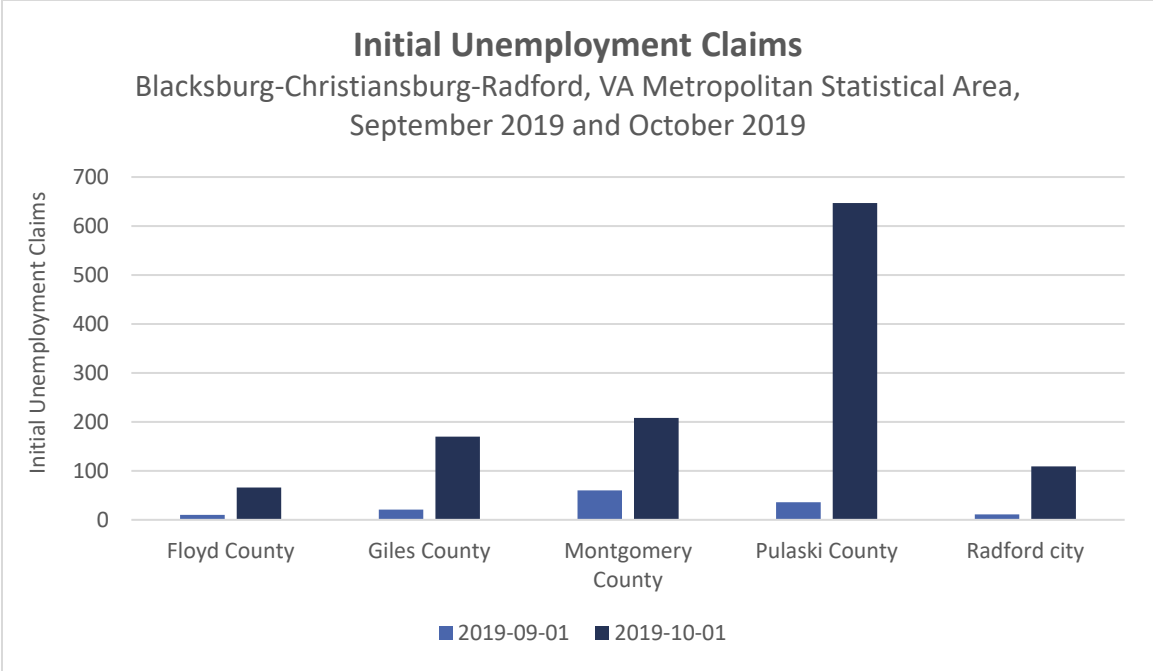
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INITIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS SPIKE IN BLACKSBURG- CHRISTIANSBURG-RADFORD, VA

Initial unemployment claims in the Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) jumped from 138 in September 2019 to 1200 in October 2019, an increase of nearly 770%. On a year-over-year basis, initial unemployment claims jumped by 1086 claims, an increase of 953%.

The Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford MSA is comprised of the city of Radford and the counties of Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, and Pulaski. Initial unemployment claims increased throughout the MSA, but the increase was highest in Pulaski County. On a month-to-month basis, claims in Pulaski County increased from 36 in September 2018 to 647 in October 2019, an increase of 1697%. On a year-over-year basis, claims in Pulaski County increased from 26 initial claims in October 2018 to 647 initial claims in October 2019, an increase of 2388%.

This spike in initial unemployment claims could be attributed to a number of closures and/or layoffs affecting the area.



Source: Virginia Employment Commission and Dragas Center for Economic Analysis and Policy