



Overview

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of economic indicators that may impact Henrico County's ability to provide its services for the month of April with data received between April 1 and April 30, 2025.

This report compiles National, State, and Local data that measure current economic conditions from National Financial Markets to Local Car Registrations. Most data will provide complete information for at least the previous fiscal year (FY24) and compare it to the current year (FY25). Data for FY25 is updated monthly as it becomes available. Some data is collected more frequently throughout the month.

OMB Summary

The month of April yielded mixed results. The S&P 500 saw a slight drop of 42.79 points or 0.76% while Q1 real GDP decreased slightly for the first time in 3 years. These factors alongside concerns related to the economy resulted in the Consumer Confidence Index dropping 6.9 points this month, its lowest level since 2020. Consumers voiced concerns about tariffs, inflation, high living costs, stock market trends, and economic uncertainty. Employee wages when accounting for increases in CPI remained flat. At the local level, tax collections are steady year-to-date. Both used and new car registrations saw increases, with new car registrations significantly increasing compared to previous years. Average days on the housing market normalized after consecutive increases to start the year. New Residential Construction and the number of building permits issued increased significantly. Unemployment rose locally to a rate of 3.3%, a number in line with the state average and lower than the national average. Airport activity dropped slightly compared to 2024 but remains high. These trends will be monitored on a continual basis.

Metrics Considered

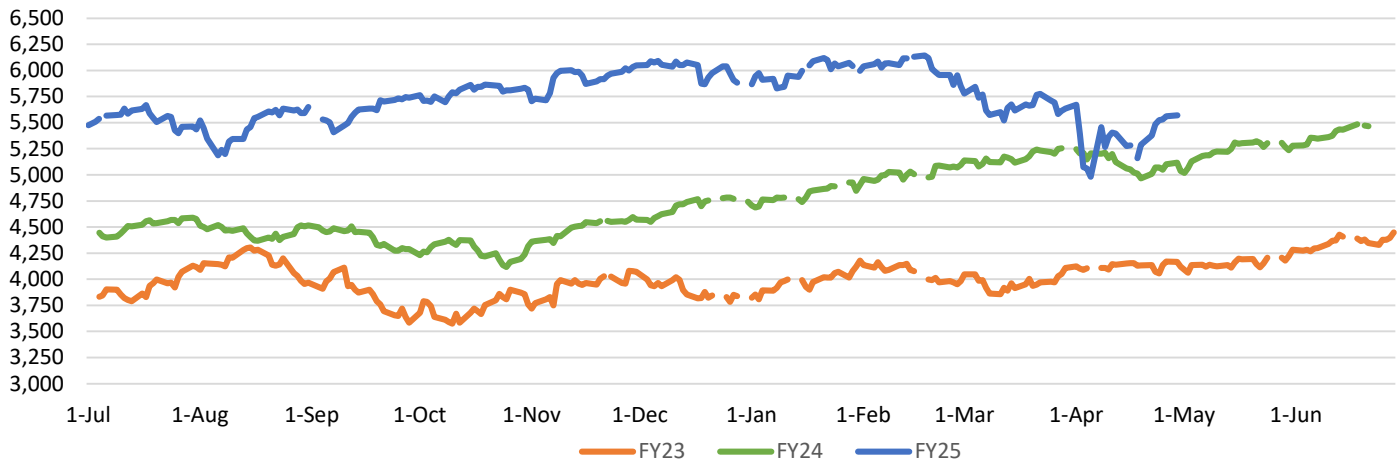
- **National:** S&P 500, Consumer Confidence Index, Real GDP, Wages, Consumer Price Index, Average Hourly Wage Changes against Changes in the Consumer Price Index, 30-Year Fixed Mortgage Rate
- **Virginia:** Unemployment Rate
- **Henrico:** Local Sales & Use Tax, Meals Tax, Real Property Tax, Personal Property Tax, Vehicle Registrations, Occupancy Tax, New Residential Construction, Average Days on the Housing Market & Median Sales Price, Residential Transactions & Foreclosures
- **Area:** Richmond Aviation Activity



National Metrics

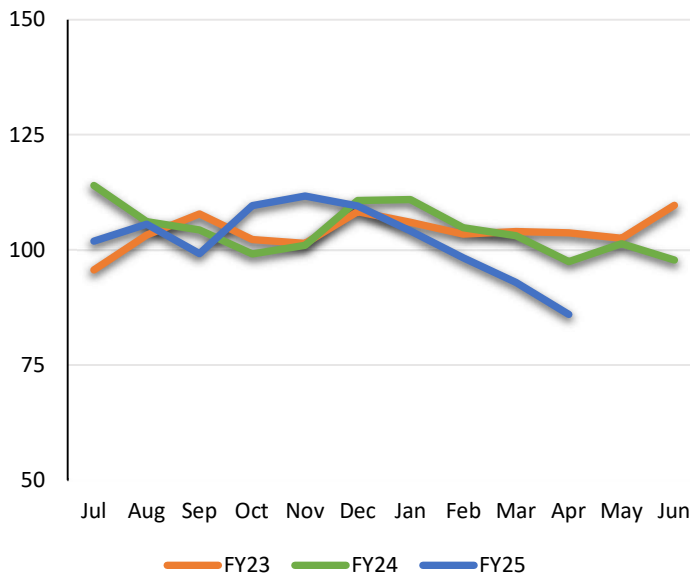
These indicators provide a mix of hard financial data as well as consumer consensus surveys to provide a macroeconomic and microeconomic view of the United States.

S&P 500



The **S&P 500** is a stock market index measuring the performance of 500 large U.S. companies on stock exchanges and is considered one of the best representations of the U.S. economy. **The S&P 500 experienced a turbulent month with a steep drop at the beginning of April and a subsequent rebound, with the month closing at \$5,569.06¹.**

Consumer Confidence Index

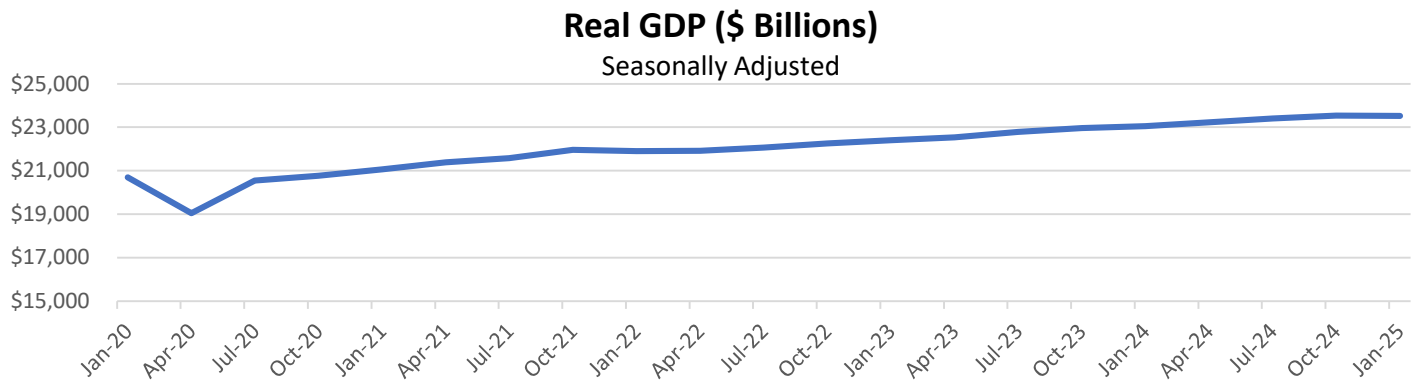


The **Consumer Confidence Index** is a monthly survey given to 5,000 randomly selected households gathering opinions on present situations and future expectations. It is benchmarked to 1985 (100) and best compared by reviewing month-over-month changes. **In April, the index dropped 6.9 points from March, the fifth consecutive month of decline. Consumers cited pessimistic outlooks on business conditions, future income, and employment opportunities. Factors such as market volatility, tariffs, and the high cost of living are likely contributing factors to the continued negative trend.**

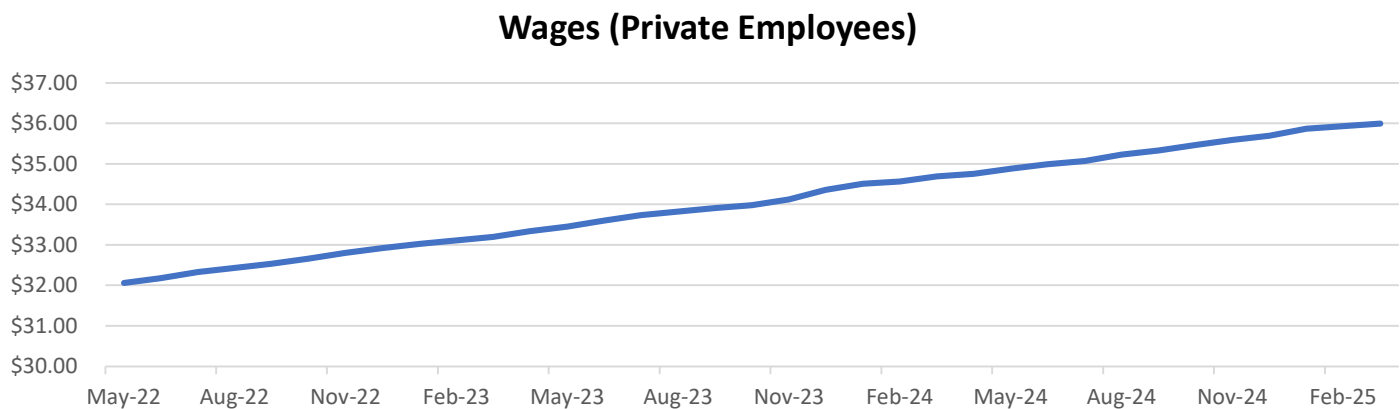
¹ Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis; <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/SP500>



National Metrics



The **Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** is an inflation adjusted standard measure of all goods and services produced by labor and property located in the United States in a given period. Gross domestic product can be calculated on a nominal or real (adjusted for inflation) basis. Since rising prices influence GDP, removing inflation related price changes isolates changes in production quantity. **In Q1 2025, real GDP decreased by 0.07%² over Q4 2024, leveling off after consistent increases over the past five years.**



The **Average Hourly Earnings of All Private Employees** measures average hourly earnings employers pay that include overtime and shift differentials but excludes benefits, bonuses, retroactive pay, or employer payroll taxes. While earnings data changes capture wage rate adjustments, they can also include changes in the mix of employment. **In March, the average hourly wage increased to \$36.00. This rise of \$0.07 from February represents an increase of 0.2%³.**

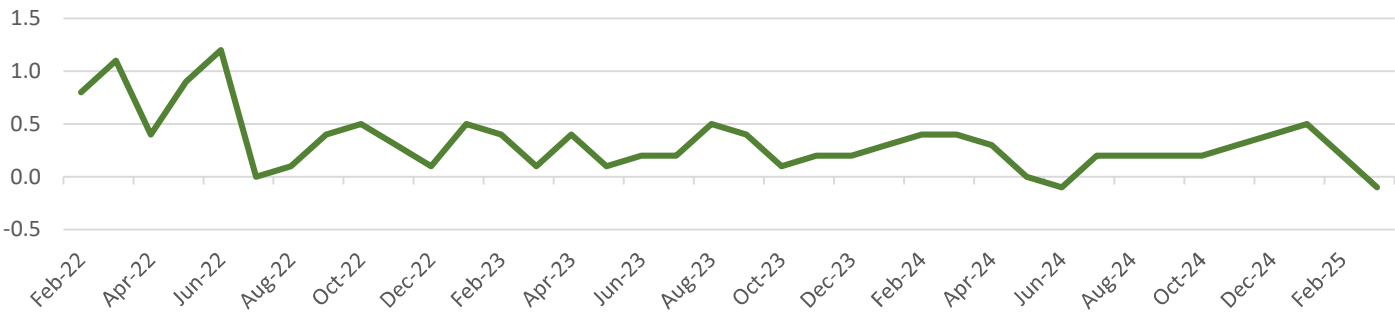
² Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis; <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/GDP>; GDP data is published quarterly.

³ Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis; <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/CES0500000003>



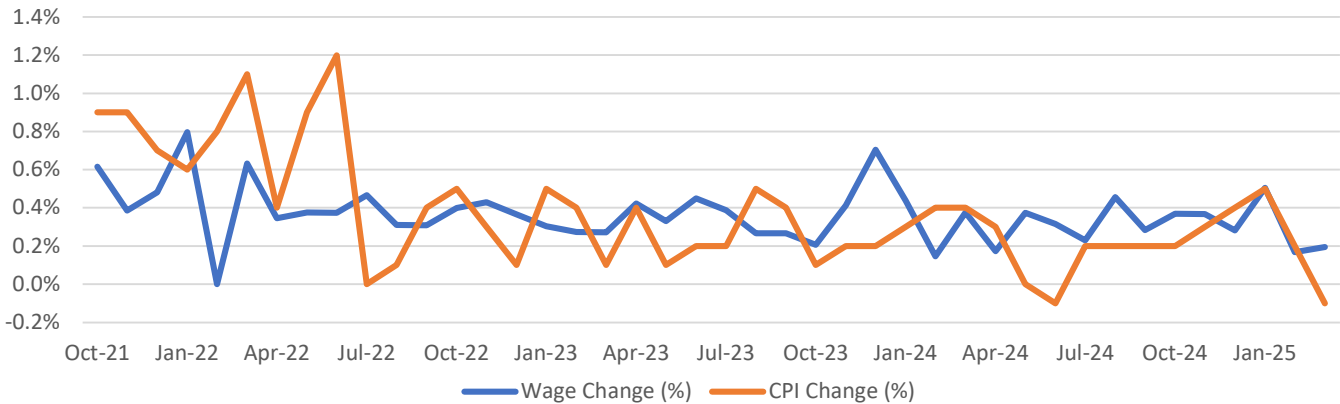
National Metrics

Consumer Price Index



The **Consumer Price Index** (CPI) is a weighted average of the prices of an identified basket of consumer goods and services used to help monitor inflation. The index measures the average change in price that consumers pay over time. The data is presented as a 1-month percent change, which means that anything shown greater than zero is indicative of inflation (prices increasing) while anything below zero is indicative of deflation (prices decreasing). **During the month of February, the consumer price index dropped by 0.1%⁴.** The current 12-month CPI growth is 3.14% (unadjusted) as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This is 0.4% less than the trailing 12-month average of 3.56%, indicating continued inflation less than that of last year.

Average Hourly Wage Changes against Changes in CPI



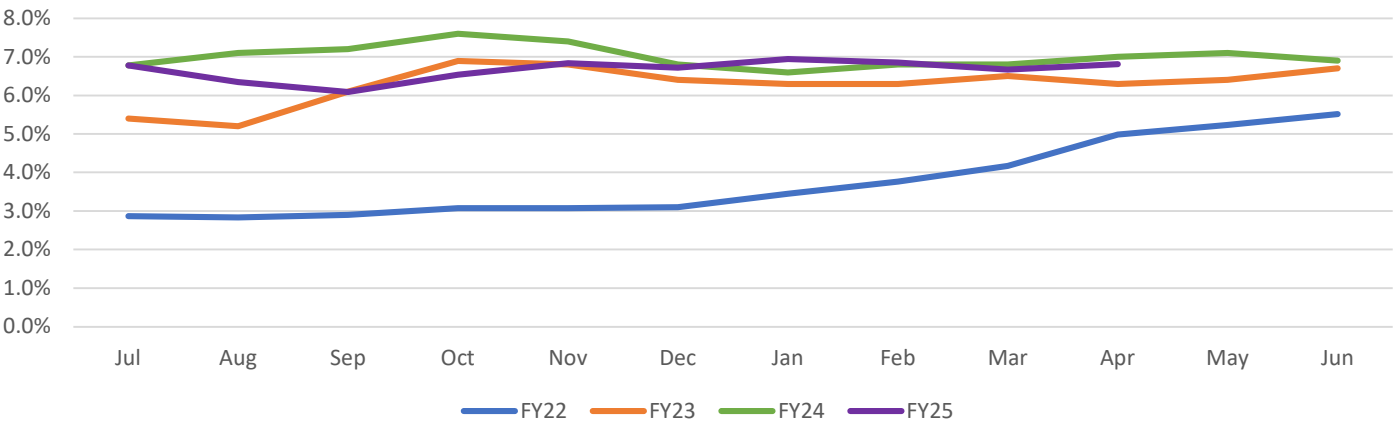
Average Hourly Wage Changes against Changes in the Consumer Price Index analyzes the relationship between national wages and consumer pricing, and more loosely, its affiliate inflation. It should be noted that this graph encompasses month over month changes, with both metrics demonstrating continuous upward growth over the past 2 years of recorded data. **March had a monthly wage growth of 0.2% while the CPI decreased 0.1%, a neutral outcome for consumer buying power.**

⁴ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; [Bureau of Labor Statistics Data \(bls.gov\)](https://www.bls.gov)



National Metrics

30-Year Fixed Mortgage Rates



The **30-Year Fixed Mortgage Rate** is the most common financing mechanism used by residential home buyers. The interest rate represents the amount a qualified borrower will be charged by a lender over the loan term. **In April, the 30-year fixed mortgage interest rate increased from 6.7% to 6.8%⁵. This slight increase follows three rate cuts from the Federal Reserve in 2024, an effort to ease pressure on the economy which has not significantly impacted rates.**

⁵ Freddie Mac; [30-Year Fixed-Rate Mortgages Since 1971 - Freddie Mac](#)





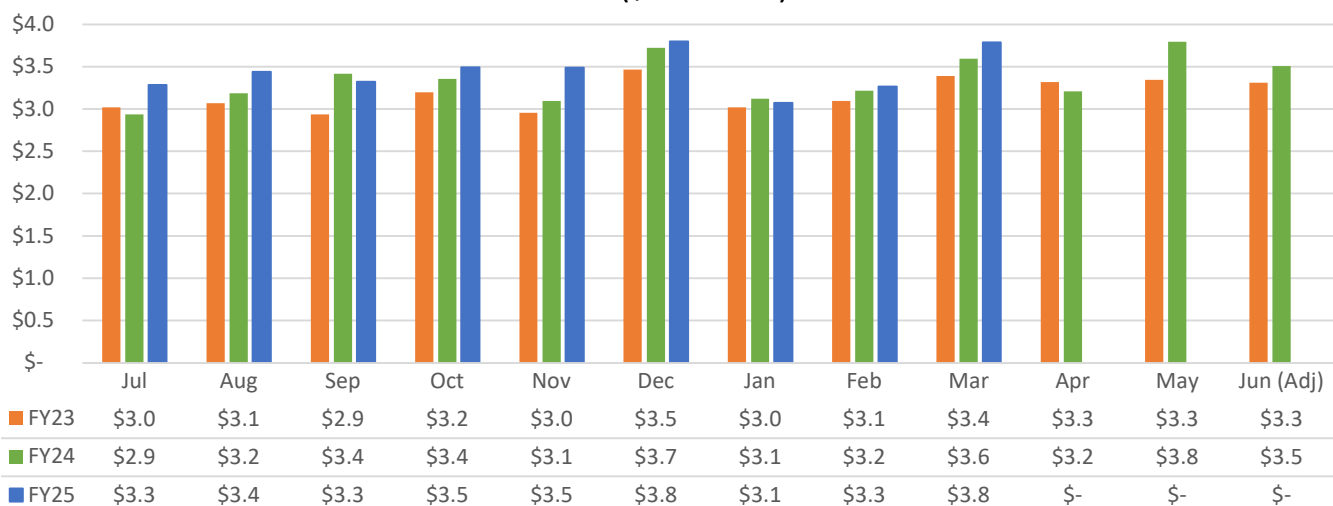
Henrico Metrics

Local Sales & Use Tax (\$ Millions)



Henrico County **Sales & Use Tax** amounts to 6% on each purchase collected by the Commonwealth. By law, 1% is then remitted back to the County from the State. **March FY25 recorded collections of \$7.0 million, \$0.3 million lower than March FY24 collections.**

Meals Tax (\$ Millions)

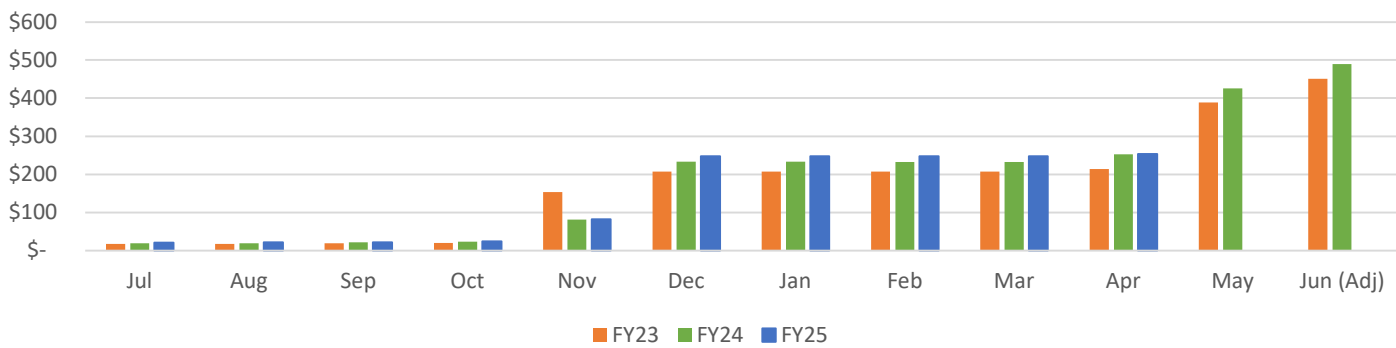


Henrico's **Meals Tax** establishes a 4% tax on prepared food and beverages. Revenue generated by the Meals Tax is dedicated to the operational and capital project needs of Henrico's Public Schools. Collections lag by two months and are compared as year-over-year monthly collections. **March FY25 collections totaled \$3.8 million, with year-to-date collections 4.7% more than FY24.**



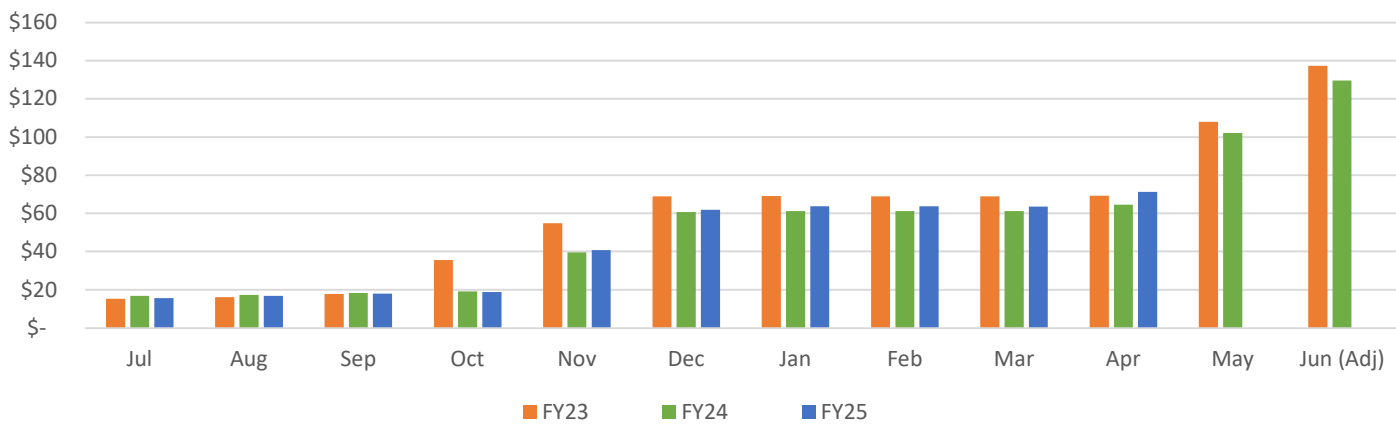
Henrico Metrics

Real Property Taxes
(\$ Millions, Cumulative)



Real Property Taxes are collected on property used for residential and nonresidential purposes. The Code of Virginia provides for assessment of real property at 100% of fair market value, which is the probable amount a property would sell for today if exposed to the market for a reasonable period. Collections are due twice a year in December and June. At the time of publication, **Real Property Tax Collections through April FY25 are \$253.7 million.** The graph above represents cumulative collections throughout each fiscal year.

Personal Property Taxes
(\$ Millions, Cumulative)

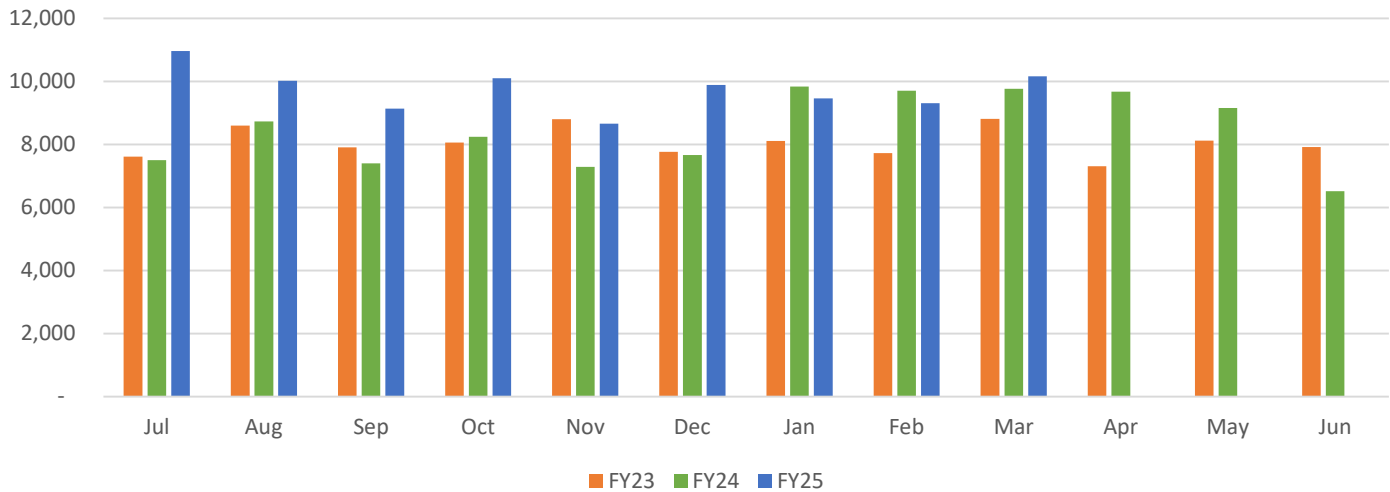


Personal Property Taxes are collected on all vehicles including cars, trucks, trailers, motorcycles, motor homes, aircraft, and watercraft. Personal property is collected in the locality where it is normally garaged, docked, or parked. Henrico County uses the J.D. Power Official Used Car Guide as of January 1st of each year to establish valuations. Collections are due twice a year in December and June. **Personal Property Tax Collections through April FY25 recorded \$71.2 million. The Personal Property Tax rate was lowered to \$3.40 in FY24, impacting collection totals compared to FY23.**

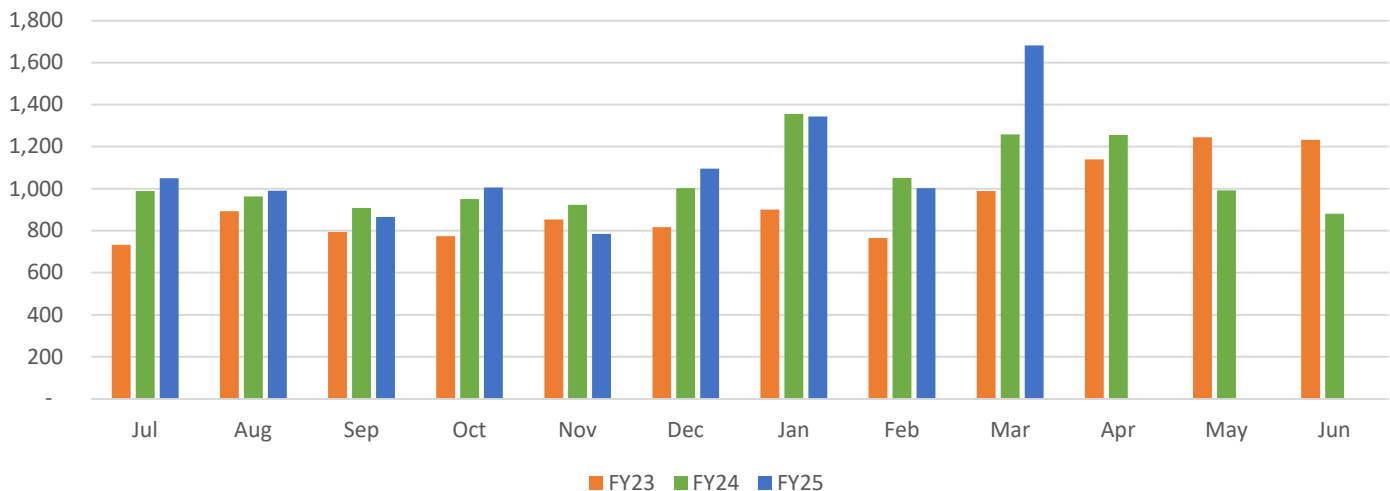


Henrico Metrics

Used Car Registration



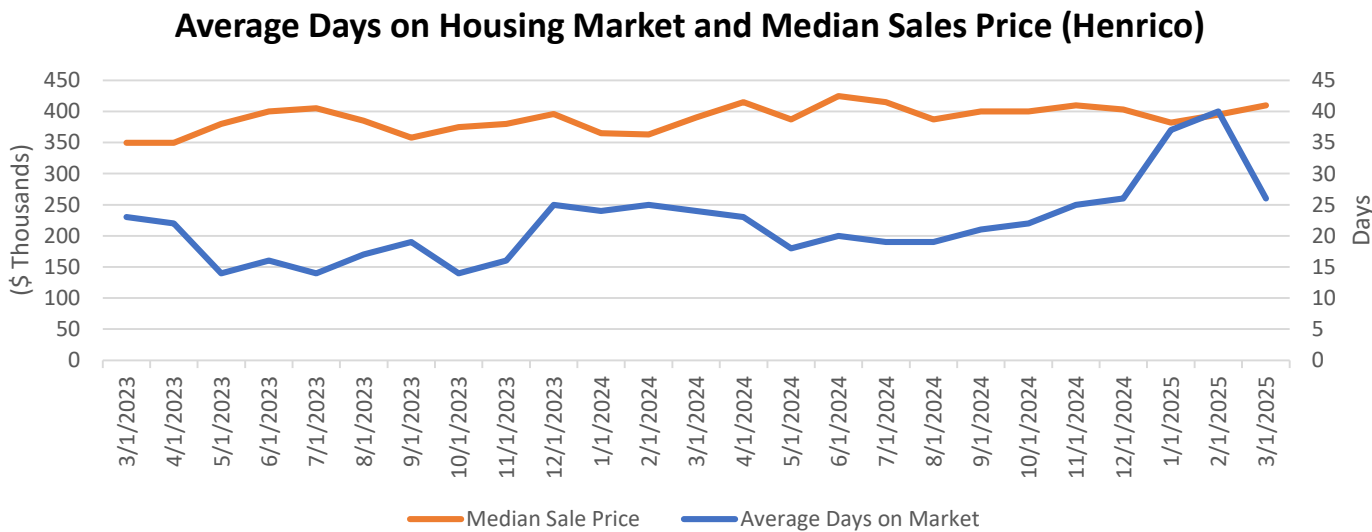
New Car Registration



Vehicle Registration data is acquired from the Virginia Department of Transportation and is comprised of both new and used vehicles; the metric strongly correlates to vehicle sales. **Used Car Registrations in March FY25 recorded 10,157. New Car Registrations recorded 1,682. Both Used and New Car Registrations in March increased substantially compared to February FY25 registrations.**



Henrico Metrics

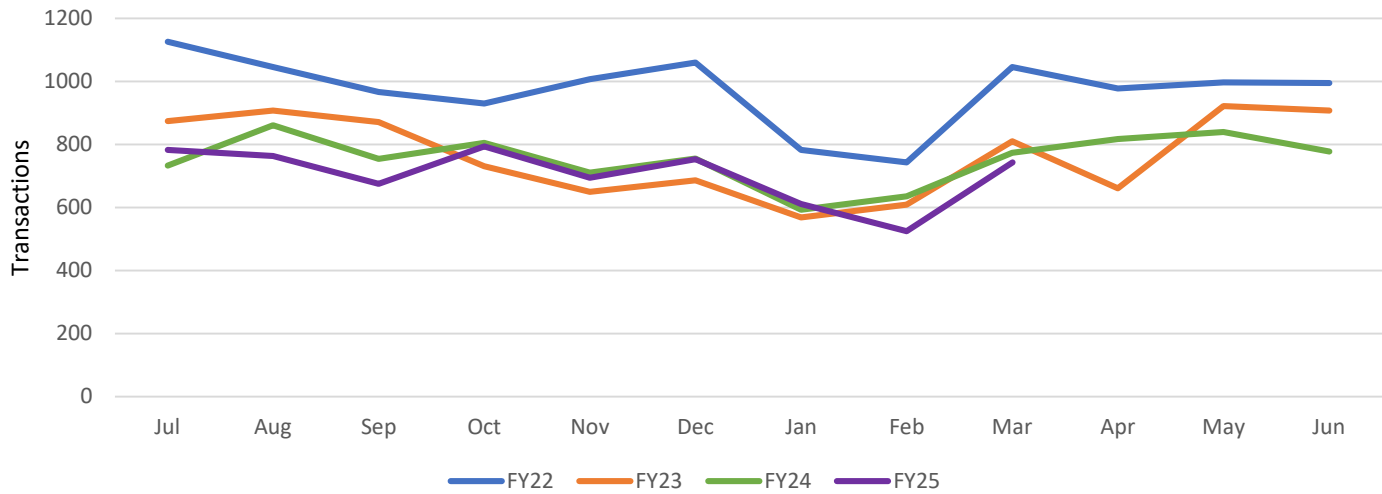


Average Days on the Housing Market and Median Sale Price provides a benchmark of the state of the housing market in Henrico. An increase in the time spent on market may indicate a slowing of the housing market, while a decrease may indicate acceleration. Median Sales Price tracks the middle value of homes sold in the County that month and can provide insight into the general direction of the market. **The Median Sales Price for the month of March totaled \$410,000, a \$15,000 increase from February. Average Days on the Housing Market decreased from 40 in February to 26 in March. This reverses the trend seen in the past few months and restores customary levels in Average Days on the Housing Market.**



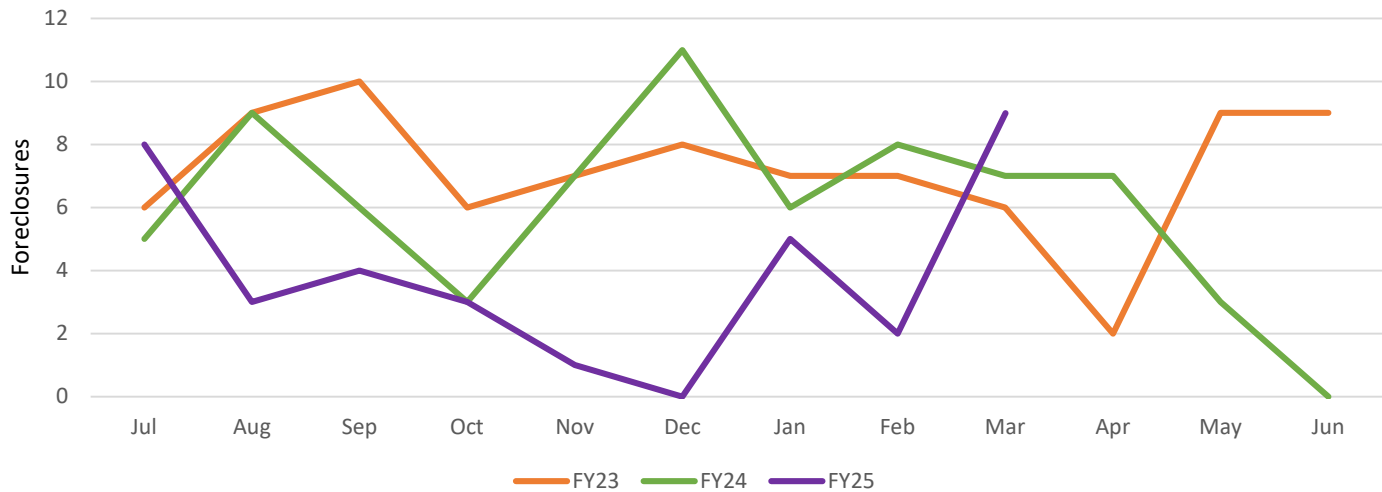
Henrico Metrics

Residential Transactions



Foreclosures & Transactions data represents Henrico’s completed residential sales and reports residential foreclosures. These provide a snapshot of Henrico’s housing market. Consistence in transactions represents a healthy and growing market. **A total of 743 residential transactions were recorded in March FY25, 30 less than the previous fiscal year.**

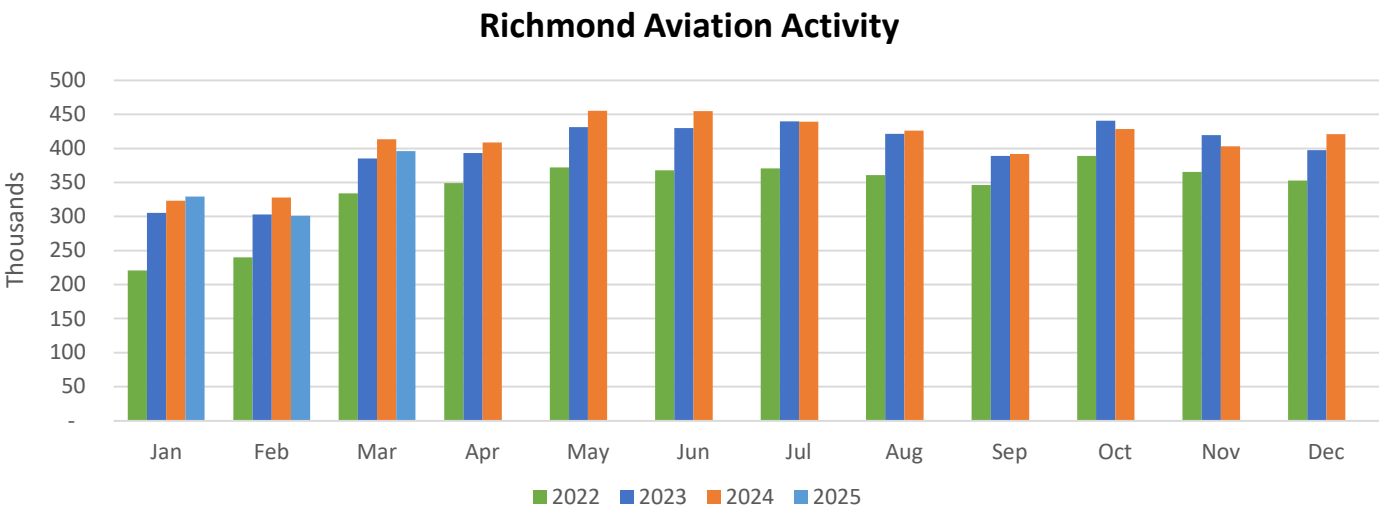
Residential Foreclosures



There were 9 foreclosures reported in March FY25.



Area Metric



Richmond Aviation Activity represents passenger activity in and out of Richmond International Airport. The value is the combination of enplaned (departing) and deplaned (arriving) passengers. This provides traffic activity as it relates to flights around Henrico. Air travel can provide a benchmark for imported economic activity and is correlated with Occupancy and Meals Tax collections. **March 2025 saw a total passenger count of 395,919, a 4.2% decrease compared March 2024⁷.**

⁷ Richmond International Airport; <https://flyrichmond.com/airport-information/>