



Overview

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of economic indicators for the month of March that may impact Henrico County's ability to provide its services with data received between March 1st and March 31st, 2026. 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 (FY25) and compare it to the current year (FY26). Data for FY26 is updated monthly as it becomes available. Some data is collected more frequently throughout the month. **Due to the Federal Government Shutdown, Bureau of Labor Statistics data was not collected for October 2025. Some of the statistics were also not collected for November 2025. Consumer Price Index, Hourly Wage Changes against Changes in the Consumer Price Index, and Unemployment numbers are impacted by these omissions. There will be continued monitoring of the middle east conflict that commenced on February 28th and subsequent global market impacts, particularly crude oil prices which has been reintroduced as a metric observed in this report.**

OMB Summary

The month of March yielded largely negative economic results, in part propelled by ongoing conflict within the Middle East. The S&P 500 dropped by over 500 points while Crude Oil Prices grew 33.4% from the end of February. At the national level, unemployment rates grew by 0.1% while 30-year fixed mortgage rates grew by 0.4%. In Henrico County both Used and New Car Registrations lag the previous fiscal year. The Median Sales Price of Homes increased \$26,000 and the Average Days on Market increased sharply from 15 to 35. Despite challenges at the macroeconomic level, Henrico County remains well positioned to weather fiscal turmoil with year-to-date tax collections exceeding the previous fiscal year across all bases.

Metrics Considered

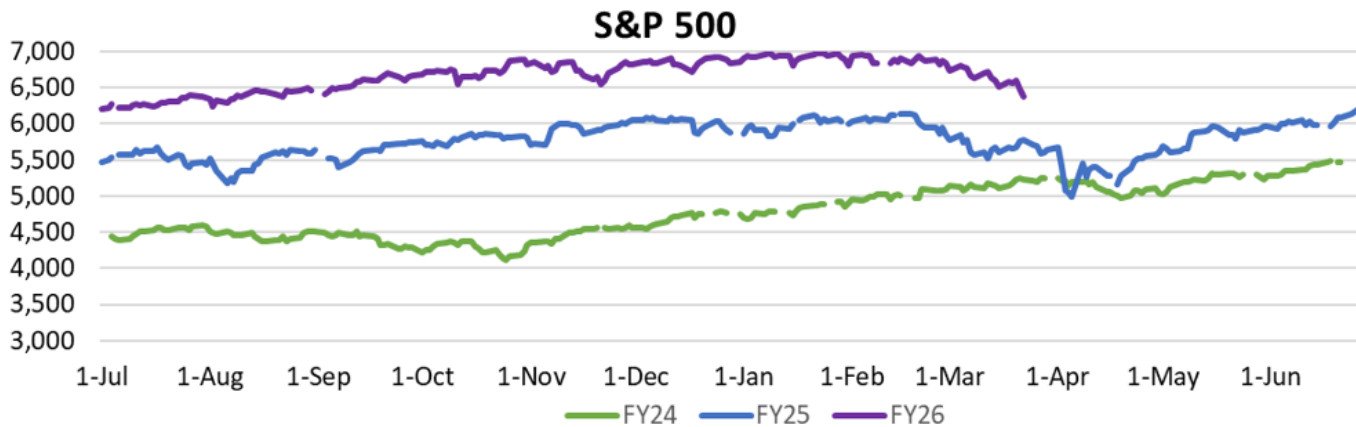
- **National:** S&P 500, Consumer Confidence Index, Real GDP, Wages, 30-Year Fixed Mortgage Rate, Crude Oil Prices
- **Virginia:** Unemployment Rate
- **Henrico:** Local Sales & Use Tax, Meals Tax, Real Property Tax, Personal Property Tax, Vehicle Registrations, Occupancy Tax, New Residential Construction,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

This report is not intended to provide investment advice.

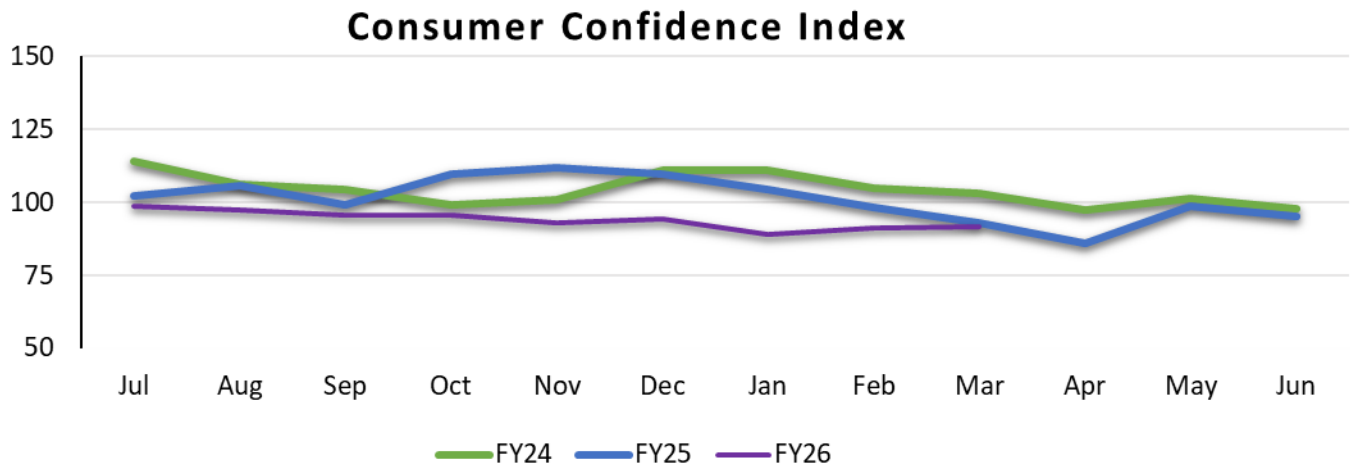


National Metrics

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.



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 decreased over 500 points during the month of March** as conflict in the Middle East continues to cast economic uncertainties.



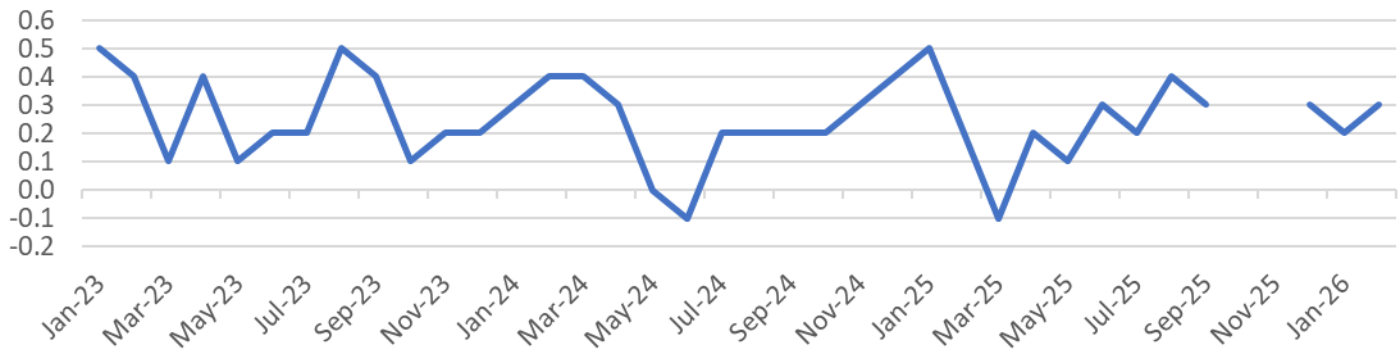
The **Consumer Confidence Index** is a monthly survey given to 5,000 randomly selected households gathering opinions on present situations and future expectations. It is benchmarked to 1985 (100) and best compared by reviewing month-over-month changes. **Over March the index rose 0.8 points from a revised 91.0 in February. Consumers cited positive expectations for business and employment conditions, marking the second month of improvement following a six-month downward trend.**¹

¹The Conference Board; [US Consumer Confidence \(conference-board.org\)](https://www.conference-board.org)



National Metrics

Consumer Price Index



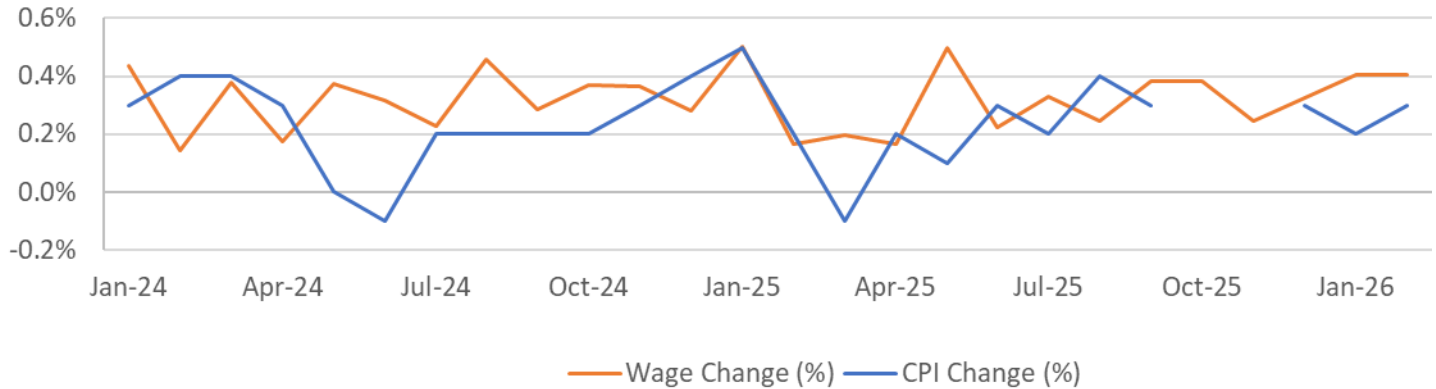
The **Consumer Price Index** (CPI) is a weighted average of the prices of an identified basket of consumer goods and services used to help monitor inflation. The index measures the average change in price that consumers pay over time. The data is presented as a 1-month percent change, which means that anything shown greater than zero is indicative of inflation (prices increasing) while anything below zero is indicative of deflation (prices decreasing). **Due to the 2025 Federal Government Shutdown, Consumer Price Index data is unavailable for October and November 2025. For the trailing 12-month inflation calculation October and November 2025 are treated as 0.0%. During the month of February, the Consumer Price Index rose by 0.3%³.** The current 12-month CPI growth is 2.12% (unadjusted) as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This is 1.33% less than the trailing 12-month average of 3.45%, indicating continued inflation less than that of last year.

³ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; [Bureau of Labor Statistics Data \(bls.gov\)](https://www.bls.gov)

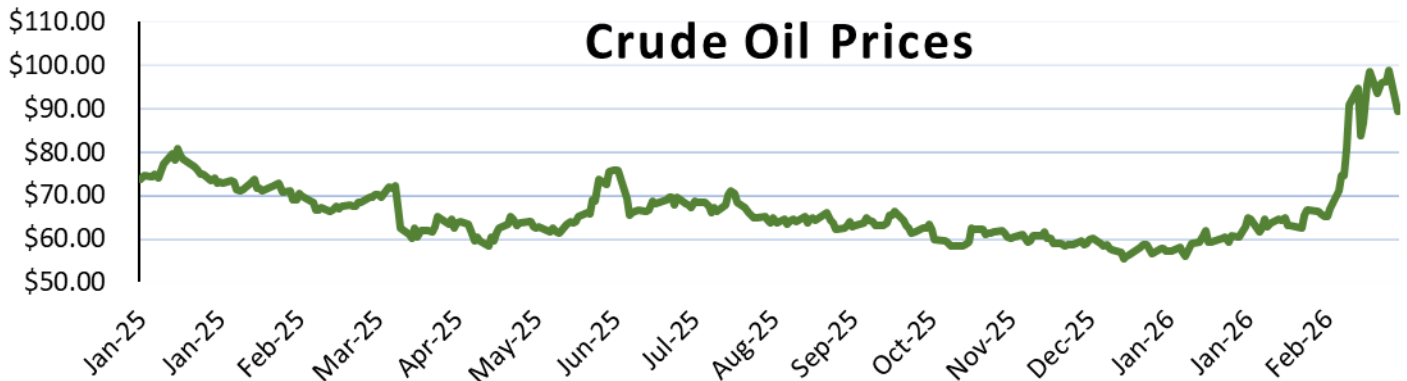


National Metrics

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. **Due to the 2025 Federal Government Shutdown, Consumer Price Index data is unavailable for October and November 2025.** February had a monthly wage growth of 0.4% while the CPI increased by 0.3%, a positive outcome for consumer buying power.



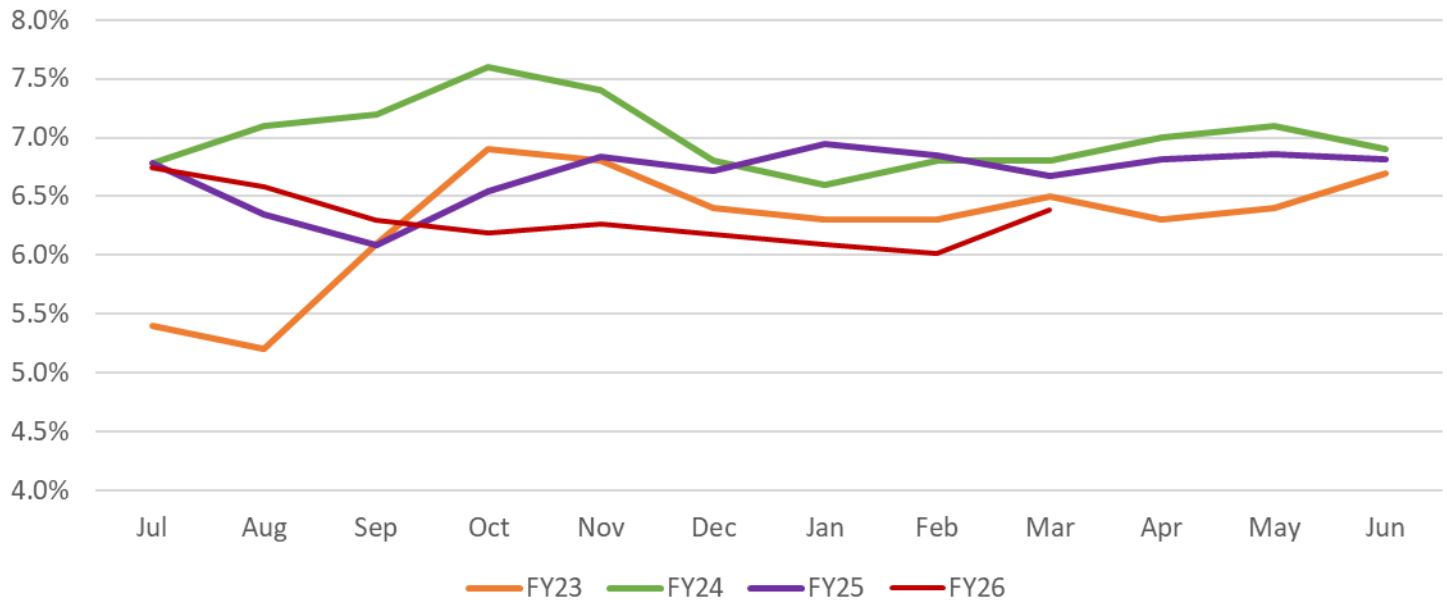
Crude Oil Prices are the daily rate received for a barrel of unrefined oil produced in Texas and Southern Oklahoma --- among the easiest to refine oils in the world and therefore a standard for oil prices worldwide. Directly influencing transportation costs, Crude Oil Prices not only influence price at the pump but are also a major factor in the prices of goods across the greater economy. **Crude Oil Prices increased to \$89.33 a barrel in the month of February, a \$22.37, or 33.4% increase.**⁴

⁴ Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/DCOILWTICO>



National Metrics

30-Year Fixed Mortgage Rates



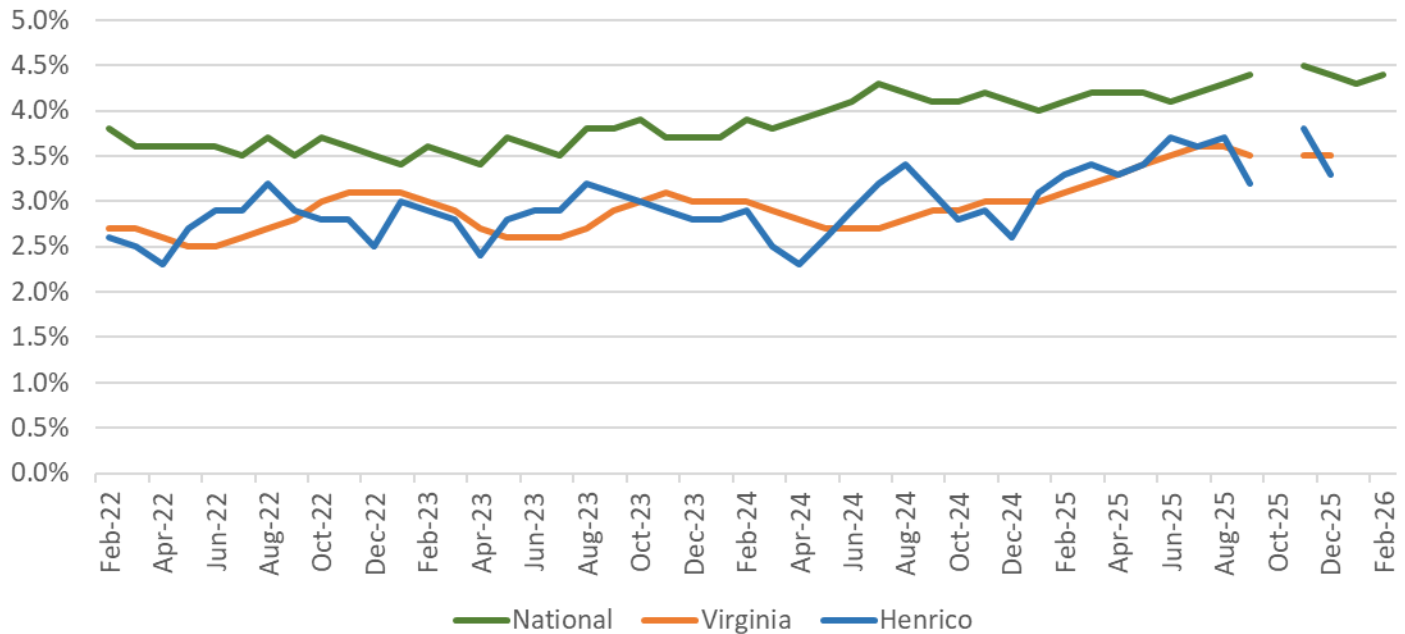
The **30-Year Fixed Mortgage Rate** is the most common financing mechanism used by residential home buyers. The interest rate represents the amount a qualified borrower will be charged by a lender over the loan term. **In March, the 30-year fixed mortgage interest rate increased from 6.0%⁵ to 6.4%, its highest point since August 2025.**

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



Combined Metrics

Unemployment Rates



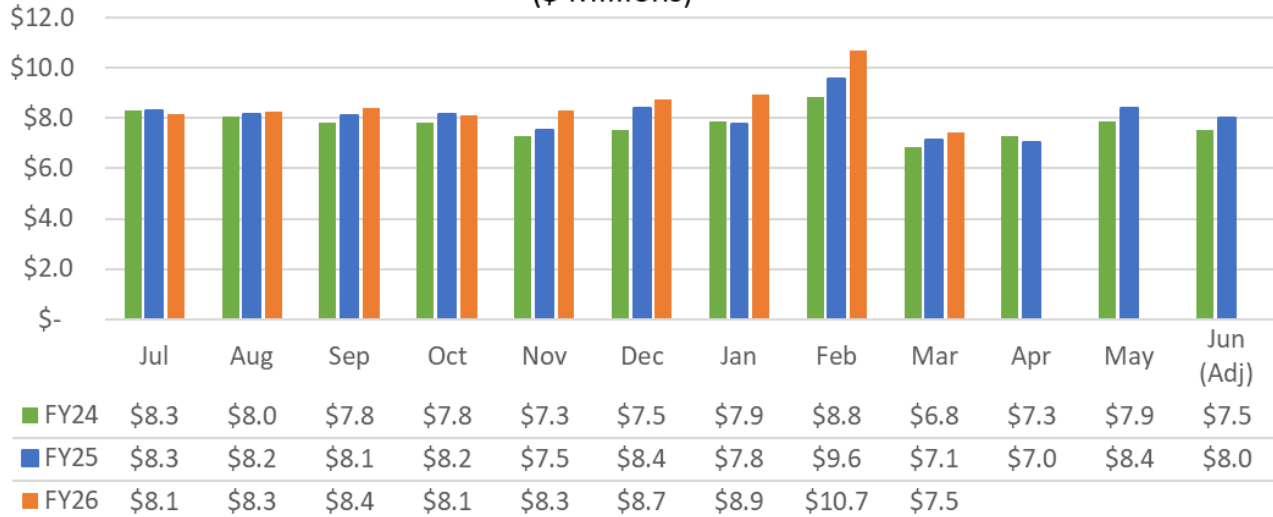
The **Unemployment Rate** shows the number of unemployed people as a percentage of the workforce. Known as the U-3 unemployment rate, an individual must be actively seeking work or laid off to be included. State unemployment data lags roughly six weeks while local unemployment data lags nine weeks. **Due to the 2025 Federal Government Shutdown, unemployment data is unavailable for October 2025. In the month of February, the unemployment rate increased by 0.1% at the National level from 4.3% to 4.4%. The County unemployment rate in December saw a 0.5% decrease from November⁶.** Historically, Henrico unemployment rates have trended closely with the National and State levels. **The Bureau of Labor Statistics have issued a delay notification on the publication of January unemployment data at State and Local levels.**

⁶ US Bureau of Labor Statistics; <https://data.bls.gov/lausmap/showMap.jsp>



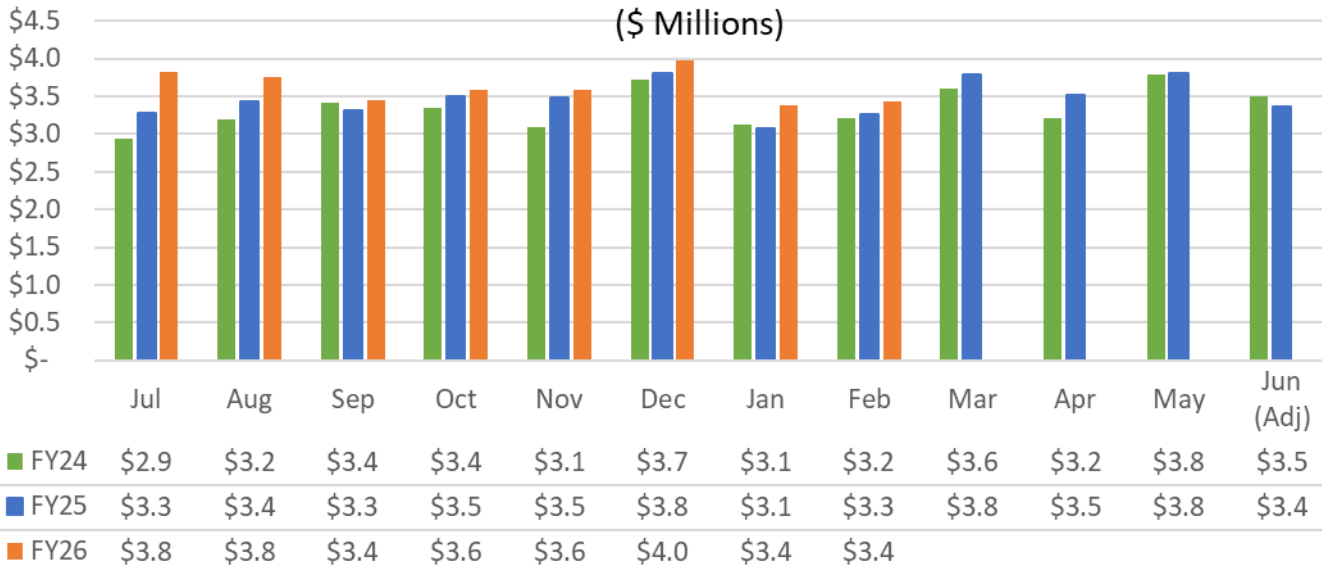
Henrico Metric

Local Sales & Use Tax
(\$ Millions)



Henrico County **Sales & Use Tax** amounts to 6% of each purchase collected by the Commonwealth. By law, 1% is then remitted back to the County from the State. **March FY26 recorded collections of \$7.5 million, \$0.4 million more than March FY25 collections.**

Meals Tax
(\$ Millions)

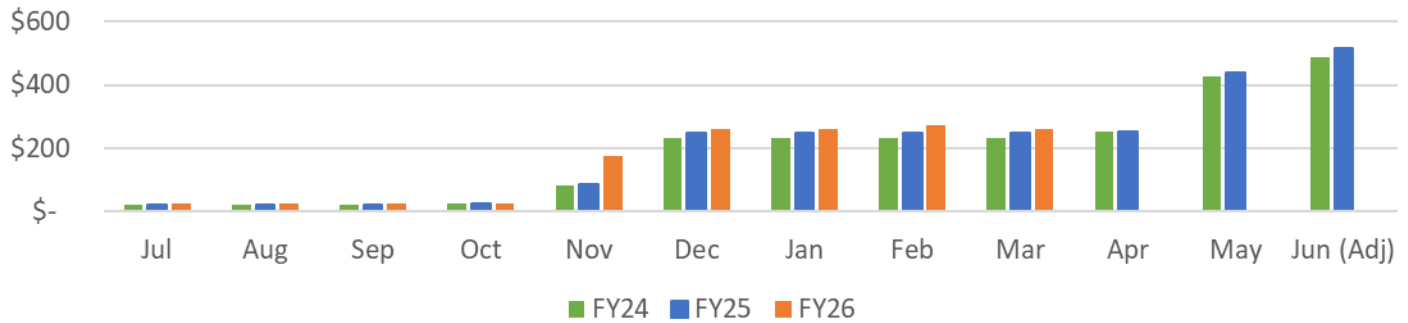


Henrico's **Meals Tax** establishes a 4% tax on prepared food and beverages. Revenue generated by the Meals Tax is dedicated to the operational and capital project needs of Henrico's Public Schools. Collections lag by two months and are compared as year-over-year monthly collections. **February FY26 collections totaled \$3.4 million, \$0.1 million more than February FY25.**



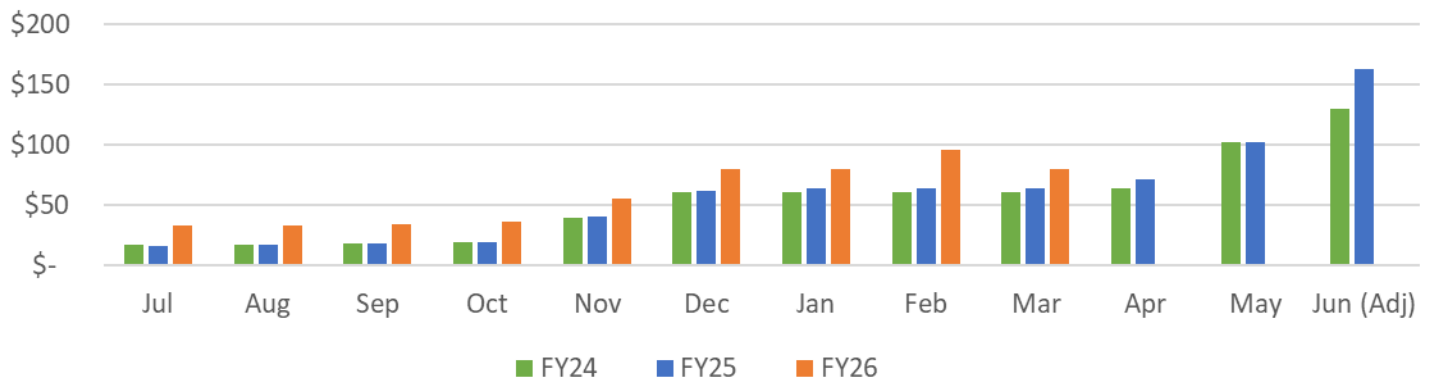
Henrico Metrics

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 March FY26 are \$261 million, \$14 million higher than March FY25.** The graph above represents cumulative collections throughout each fiscal year.

Personal Property Taxes
(\$ Millions, Cumulative)

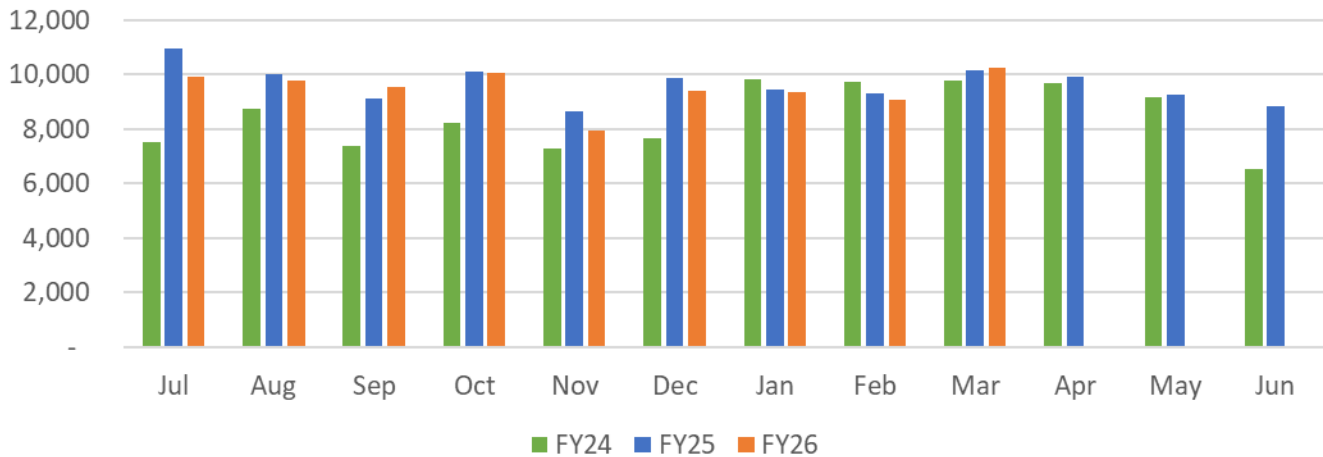


Personal Property Taxes are collected on all vehicles including cars, trucks, trailers, motorcycles, motor homes, aircraft, and watercraft. Personal property is collected in the locality where it is normally garaged, docked, or parked. Henrico County uses the J.D. Power Official Used Car Guide as of January 1st of each year to establish valuations. Collections are due twice a year in December and June. **Personal Property Tax Collections through March FY26 recorded \$80 million, which is \$16 million more than March FY25 due to several large new taxpayers.**

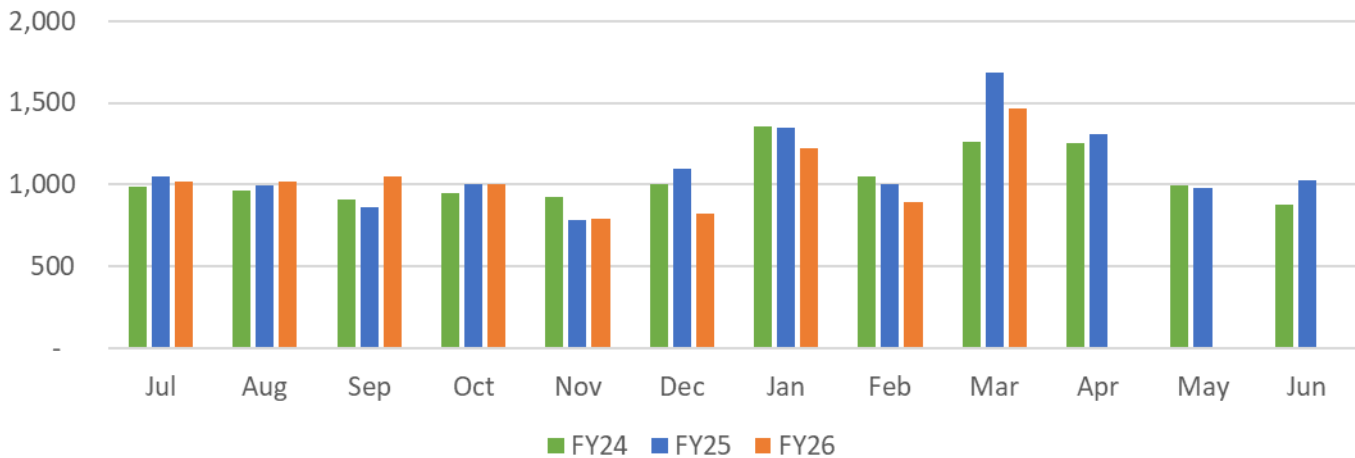


Henrico Metrics

Used Car Registration



New Car Registration

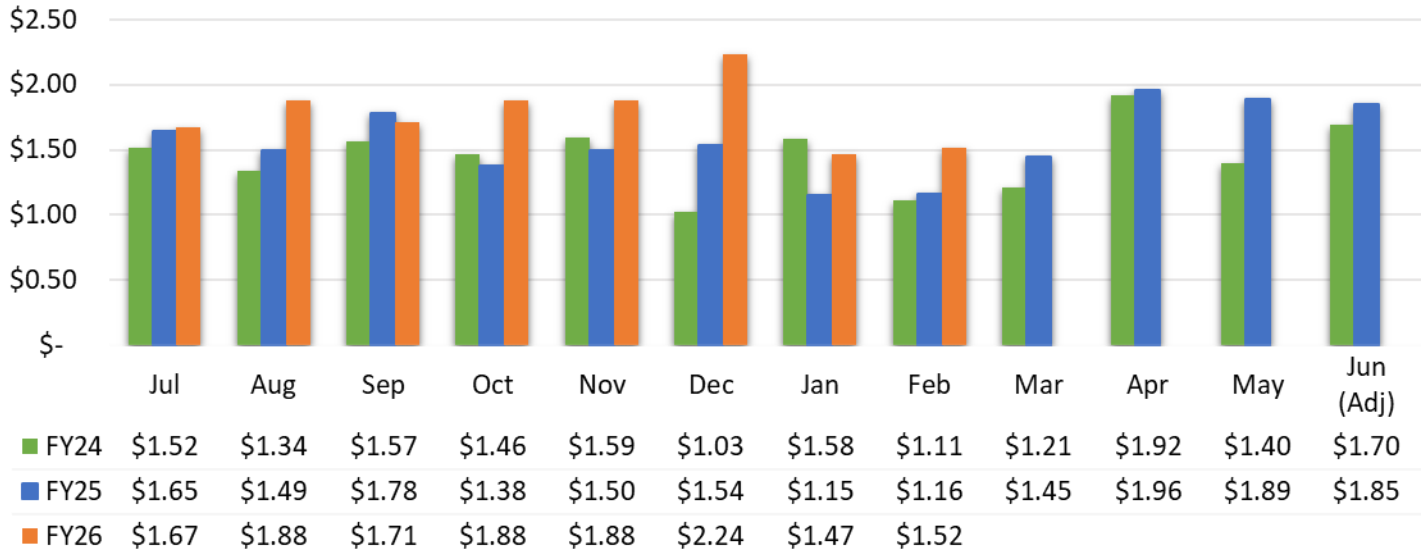


Vehicle Registration data is acquired from the Virginia Department of Transportation and is comprised of both new and used vehicles; the metric strongly correlates to vehicle sales. **Used Car Registrations in March FY26** recorded 10,248, or 0.9% higher than March FY25. **New Car Registrations** recorded 1,462, or 13.1% lower than March FY25. 2025 marked the end of an electric vehicle tax credit offered by the federal government; this credit may have influenced the increased activity observed in FY25.



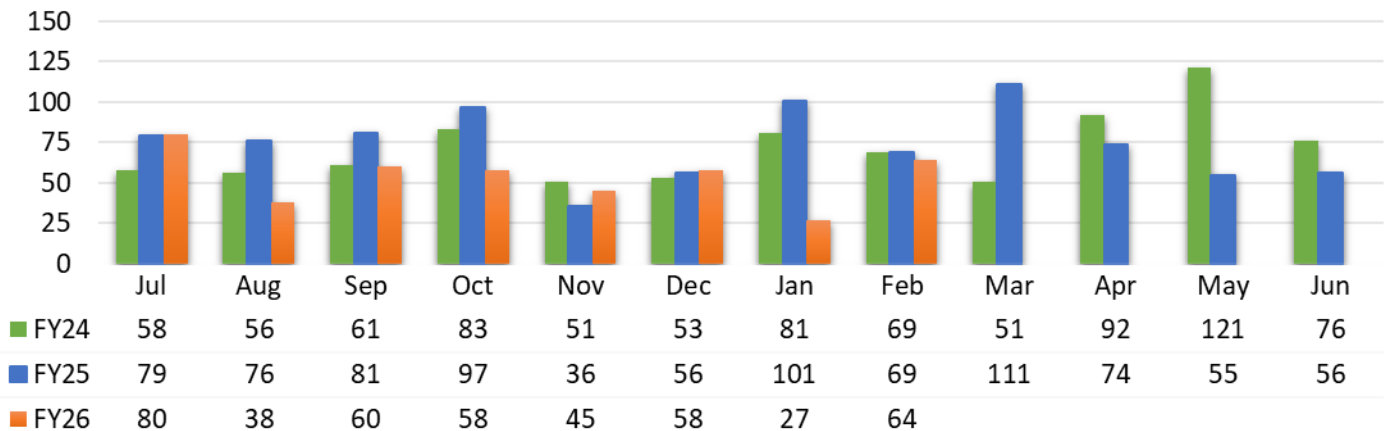
Henrico Metrics

Occupancy Tax (\$ Millions)



Henrico's **Occupancy Tax** is collected at an 8% rate on lodging for overnight stays. **Occupancy Tax collections in February FY26 totaled \$1.52 million, \$0.36 million greater than February FY25. Year-to-date collections total \$14.24 million, which is \$2.6 million higher than year-to-date FY25.**

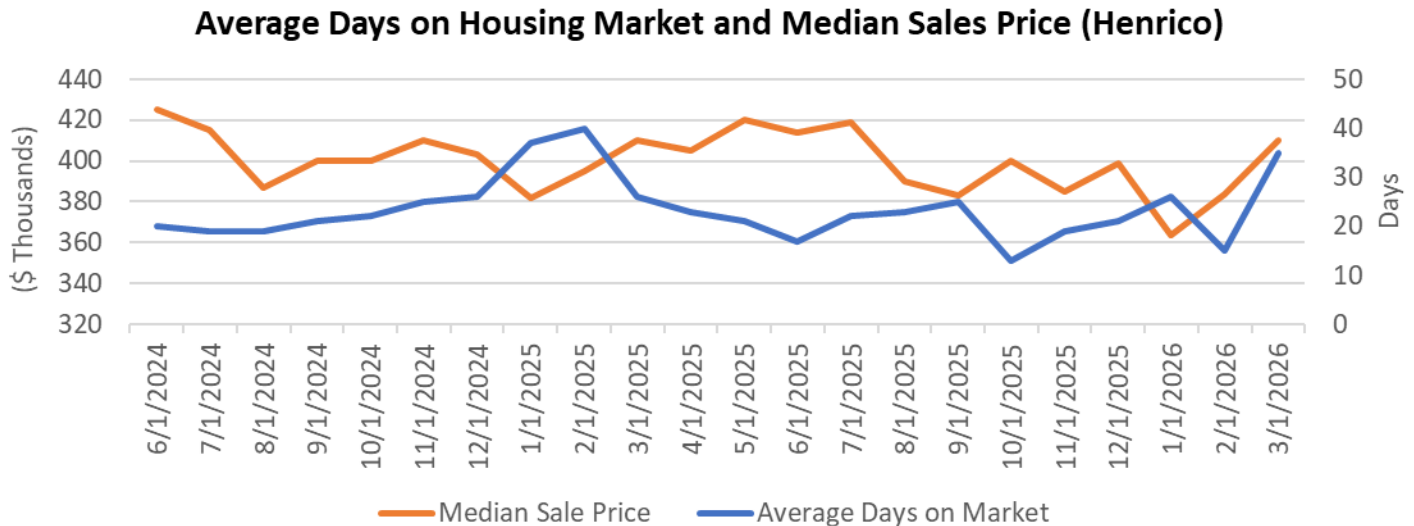
New Residential Construction



New Residential Construction is comprised of new single-family houses that were issued building permits. A slowdown may indicate worsening economic conditions, increased competition from neighboring localities, or a lack of expansion capabilities. **February FY26 construction totaled 64 permits, 5 less than February FY25.**



Henrico Metrics

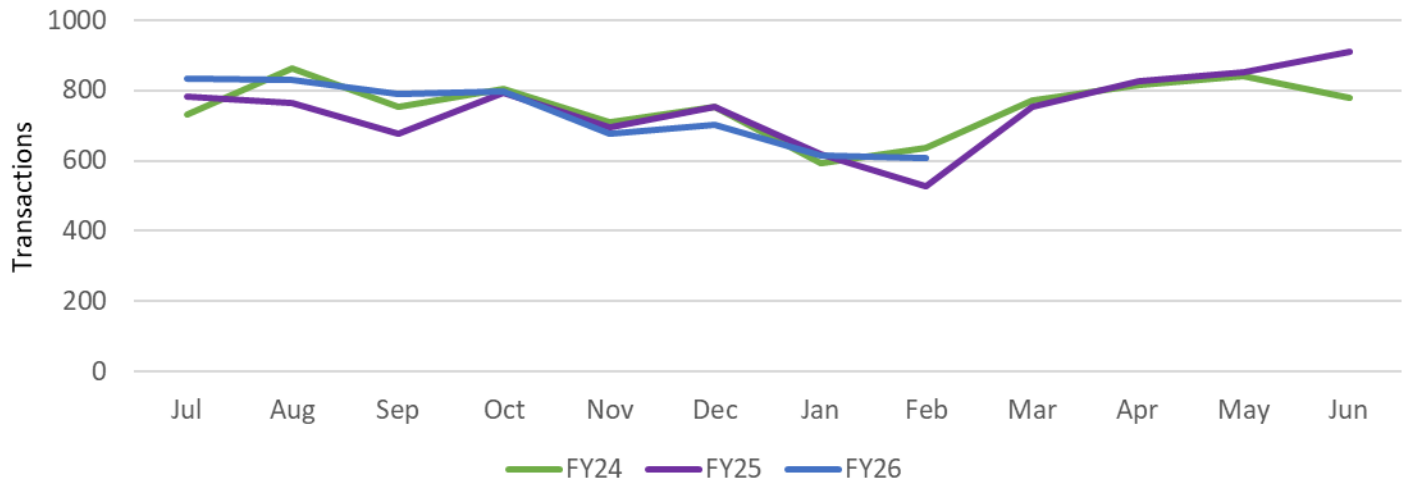


Average Days on the Housing Market and Median Sale Price provides a benchmark of the state of the housing market in Henrico. An increase in the time spent on market may indicate a slowing of the housing market, while a decrease may indicate acceleration. Median Sales Price tracks the middle value of 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 \$26,000 increase from February. Average Days on the Housing Market increased sharply from 15 in February to 35 in March.**



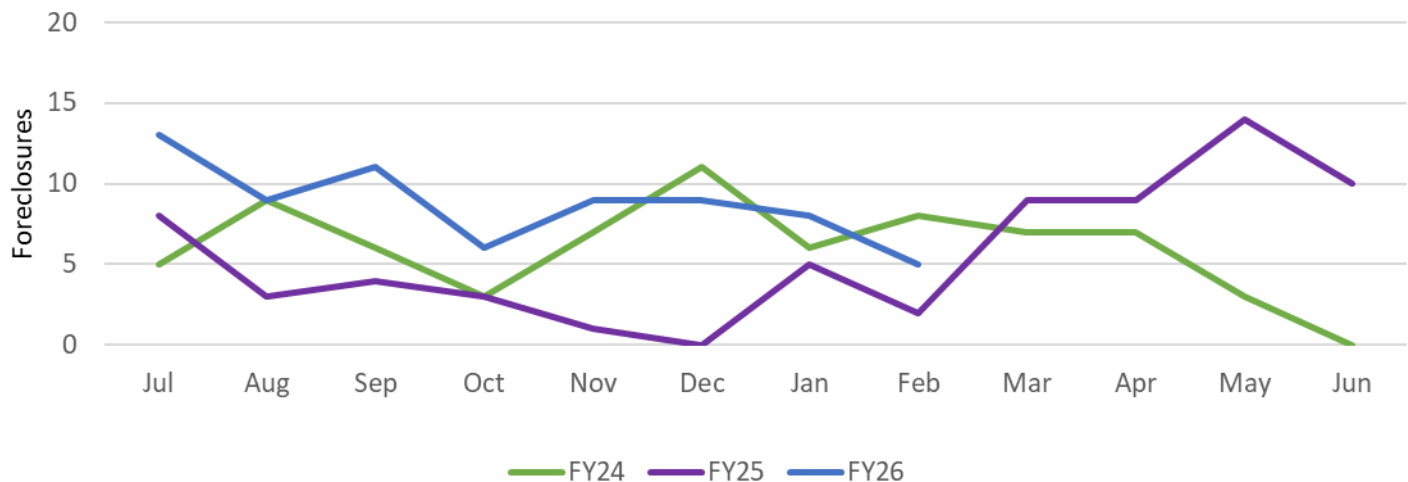
Henrico Metrics

Residential Transactions



Transactions & Foreclosures data represents Henrico’s completed residential sales and reports residential foreclosures. These provide a snapshot of Henrico’s housing market. Consistency in transactions represents a healthy and growing market. **A total of 606 residential transactions were recorded in February FY26, 77 More than February FY25.**

Residential Foreclosures

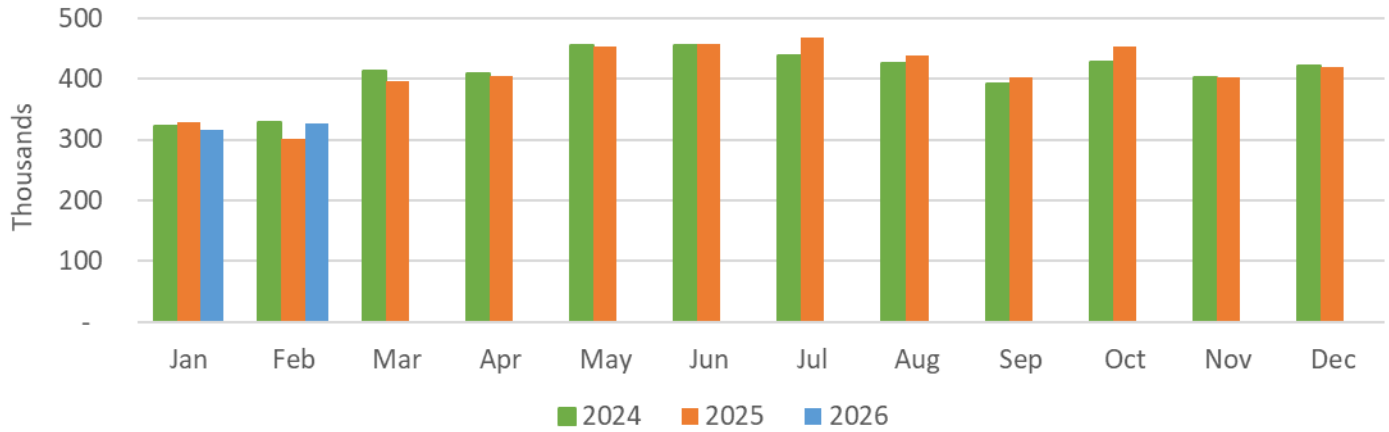


Five foreclosures were reported in February FY26.



Area Metric

Richmond Aviation Activity



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. **February 2026 recorded a total passenger count of 326,087, a 2.9% increase compared to February 2025.**