

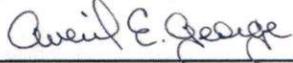
STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2150046
2. **Type of request:** Initial
3. **Statutory citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
4. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
5. **State:** Virgin Islands
6. **Region:** Northeast Region
7. **Regulatory requirements:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended, provides that no able-bodied adult without dependents (ABAWD) shall be eligible to participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) as a member of any household if the individual received program benefits for more than 3 months during any 3-year period in which the individual was subject to but did not comply with the ABAWD work requirement. Section 6(o) also provides that, upon the request of the State agency, the Secretary may waive the applicability of the 3-month ABAWD time limit for any group of individuals in the State if the Secretary makes a determination that the area in which the individuals reside has an unemployment rate of over 10 percent or does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals.
8. **Description of alternative procedures:** The U.S. Virgin Islands is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) on the entire U.S. territory from the SNAP time limit at 7 CFR 273.24.
9. **Justification for request:** Under SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(f)(2), areas may qualify for an ABAWD time limit waiver if they have insufficient jobs. To support this claim, states may submit evidence that an area has an average unemployment rate for a 24-month time period that is at least 20 percent above the national average for the same 24-month period. 7 CFR 273.24(f)(6) provides that States may define areas to be waived.

The U.S. Virgin Islands is eligible for a waiver based on the island's average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of January 2022 through December 2023. The national average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 3.6 percent; 20 percent above this was 4.4 percent. The territory's unemployment rate for this period was 4.8 percent. These unemployment rates are calculated from data obtained from the

Virgin Islands Department of Labor, since the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics does not collect data for this territory.¹

Virgin Islands Department of Labor Statistics Unemployment Data January 2022 through December 2023			
	Unemployed	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
Virgin Islands	49,021	1,012,318	4.8%
20% Above National Average Threshold	4.4%		

10. **Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:** This waiver will provide consistency for state operations.
11. **Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affection portion (if applicable):** This waiver affects the entire territory.
10,712
12. **Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:** The U.S. Virgin Islands is requesting a one-year waiver from January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025.
13. **Proposed quality control review procedures:** There are no quality control procedures involved.
14. **State agency submitting waiver request and State contact person:** Natalie Bailey
15. **Signature and title of requesting official:**

Averil E. George
Title: Commissioner
Email for transmission of response: averil.george@dhs.vi.gov
16. **Date of request:** August 22, 2024
17. **State agency staff contact (name/email/telephone):**
Natalie L. Bailey
Natalie.bailey@dhs.vi.gov
340-772-7101/ 340-642-8813
18. **Regional office contact person (to be completed by FNS regional office):**

¹ The data used to support this request were downloaded from the Virgin Islands Department of Labor website: <https://www.vidol.gov/labor-statistics/>

Databases, Tables & Calculators by Subject

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Data extracted on: June 14, 2024 (1:30:14 PM)

Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey

Series Id: LNU01000000
 Not Seasonally Adjusted
Series title: (Unadj) Civilian Labor Force Level
Labor force status: Civilian labor force
Type of data: Number in thousands
Age: 16 years and over

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Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2022	162825(1)	163725	164274	163449	164157	165012	165321	164971	164463	164753	164272	164224
2023	165070(1)	166178	166783	166221	166702	167910	168354	168049	167718	167774	167977	166661
2024	166428(1)	167285	167960	167484	167576							

1: Data affected by changes in population controls.

Series Id: LNU03000000
 Not Seasonally Adjusted
Series title: (Unadj) Unemployment Level
Labor force status: Unemployed
Type of data: Number in thousands
Age: 16 years and over

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Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2022	7207	6782	6168	5458	5548	6334	6255	6256	5460	5609	5523	5352
2023	6378	6465	6043	5146	5700	6351	6372	6623	6049	6098	5827	5907
2024	6778	6970	6604	5894	6235							

Series Id: LNU04000000
 Not Seasonally Adjusted
Series title: (Unadj) Unemployment Rate
Labor force status: Unemployment rate
Type of data: Percent or rate
Age: 16 years and over

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Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2022	4.4	4.1	3.8	3.3	3.4	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.3
2023	3.9	3.9	3.6	3.1	3.4	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.5
2024	4.1	4.2	3.9	3.5	3.7							

Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

Area	Time Period	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate	Civilian Labor Force Participation Rate	Employment to Population Ratio	Preliminary	Seasonally Adjusted
Virgin Islands	January 2022	42,842	39,259	3,583	8.4%	0.0%	0.0%	No	No
Virgin Islands	February 2022	43,149	39,784	3,365	7.8%	0.0%	0.0%	No	No
Virgin Islands	March 2022	43,312	40,122	3,190	7.4%	0.0%	0.0%	No	No
Virgin Islands	April 2022	43,028	40,122	2,906	6.8%	0.0%	0.0%	No	No
Virgin Islands	May 2022	42,955	40,134	2,821	6.6%	0.0%	0.0%	No	No
Virgin Islands	June 2022	43,153	40,284	2,869	6.6%	0.0%	0.0%	No	No
Virgin Islands	July 2022	43,587	40,909	2,678	6.1%	0.0%	0.0%	No	No
Virgin Islands	August 2022	42,465	40,047	2,418	5.7%	0.0%	0.0%	No	No
Virgin Islands	September 2022	42,370	40,072	2,298	5.4%	0.0%	0.0%	No	No
Virgin Islands	October 2022	42,697	40,609	2,088	4.9%	0.0%	0.0%	No	No
Virgin Islands	November 2022	42,346	40,372	1,974	4.7%	0.0%	0.0%	No	No
Virgin Islands	December 2022	42,485	40,709	1,776	4.2%	0.0%	0.0%	No	No
Virgin Islands	January 2023	40,877	39,397	1,480	3.6%	0.0%	0.0%	No	No
Virgin Islands	February 2023	41,342	39,909	1,433	3.5%	0.0%	0.0%	No	No
Virgin Islands	March 2023	41,538	40,134	1,404	3.4%	0.0%	0.0%	No	No
Virgin Islands	April 2023	41,102	39,797	1,305	3.2%	0.0%	0.0%	No	No
Virgin Islands	May 2023	41,308	39,909	1,399	3.4%	0.0%	0.0%	No	No
Virgin Islands	June 2023	41,905	40,272	1,633	3.9%	0.0%	0.0%	No	No
Virgin Islands	July 2023	42,220	40,659	1,561	3.7%	0.0%	0.0%	No	No
Virgin Islands	August 2023	41,602	40,172	1,430	3.4%	0.0%	0.0%	No	No
Virgin Islands	September 2023	41,617	40,172	1,445	3.5%	0.0%	0.0%	No	No
Virgin Islands	October 2023	41,557	40,159	1,398	3.4%	0.0%	0.0%	No	No
Virgin Islands	November 2023	41,500	40,147	1,353	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%	No	No
Virgin Islands	December 2023	41,361	40,147	1,214	2.9%	0.0%	0.0%	No	No
Virgin Islands	January 2024	41,387	40,059	1,328	3.2%	0.0%	0.0%	No	No
Virgin Islands	February 2024	41,681	40,359	1,322	3.2%	0.0%	0.0%	No	No
Virgin Islands	March 2024	41,617	40,247	1,370	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%	No	No
Virgin Islands	April 2024	41,419	40,147	1,272	3.1%	0.0%	0.0%	No	No

Source: US Virgin Islands Department of Labor

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