

An Analysis of Unemployment Insurance/Compensation Related to Military Spouses in Virginia

Number of people in the VA civilian labor force: ¹	3,900,000
Approximate total number of Military spouses in VA labor force: ²	37,786
Number of VA Military spouses employed by DoD: ³ (payments reimbursed by federal government)	3,684
Effective net number of employed Military spouses in VA labor force:	34,102
Employed Military spouses as a percentage of the VA labor force:	.874 percent (8 tenths of One Percent)

Cost Estimates:

The state of **Washington** provides unemployment benefits to "Trailing Military Spouses," and has *actual cost figures* specifically related to this benefit provision. ⁴

Number of Unemployment Beneficiaries:

Washington:
Percentage (of 15,775) working Mil Spouses receiving benefits: 215
1.36%

Virginia:
Anticipated working Mil Spouses to receive benefits: 463
(1.36 % of 34,102 working Mil Spouses)

Associated Costs:

Washington payments in 2004: \$ 581,836
Average payments per Mil Spouse receiving benefits: \$ 2,706

Virginia estimated payments: ⁵ \$ 1,252,878
(\$2,706 x 463 VA Mil Spouses receiving benefits)

Virginia costs for Mil Spouses as a percentage of total payments made to unemployed VA recipients in 2003 (\$606,000,000) ¹: .2067 percent
(2 Tenths of One Percent)

Notes:

¹ VA Employment Commission

² There are 69,975 Military spouses in Virginia. 2004 Defense Manpower Data Center Status of Forces Survey indicates a national average 54% of Military spouses are in the workforce, excluding 13% of dual-military (uniformed) spouses.

³ Total spouses employed by the Department of Defense in Virginia, to include civil servants (GS) or non-appropriated fund (NAF) employees. Benefits for those employed by the government, or a non-profit, are reimbursed directly by those entities. Virginia undoubtedly has additional Military spouses employed by other federal agencies, thus reducing potential unemployment claimants further, but data was only readily available for those employed by the Department of Defense.

⁴ Actual expenditure amounts provided by the state of Washington were through 10/22/04, with estimates to year's end based on those actual numbers relative to applicants, recipients, and dollar costs. WA only provides these benefits to Military spouses.

⁵ The Average Weekly Benefit Amount (AWBA) in Washington is actually higher than Virginia. Thus, the actual payment expenditure for Virginia could be less. Using the WA cost figure provides consideration for actual duration of payments among Mil spouses.