

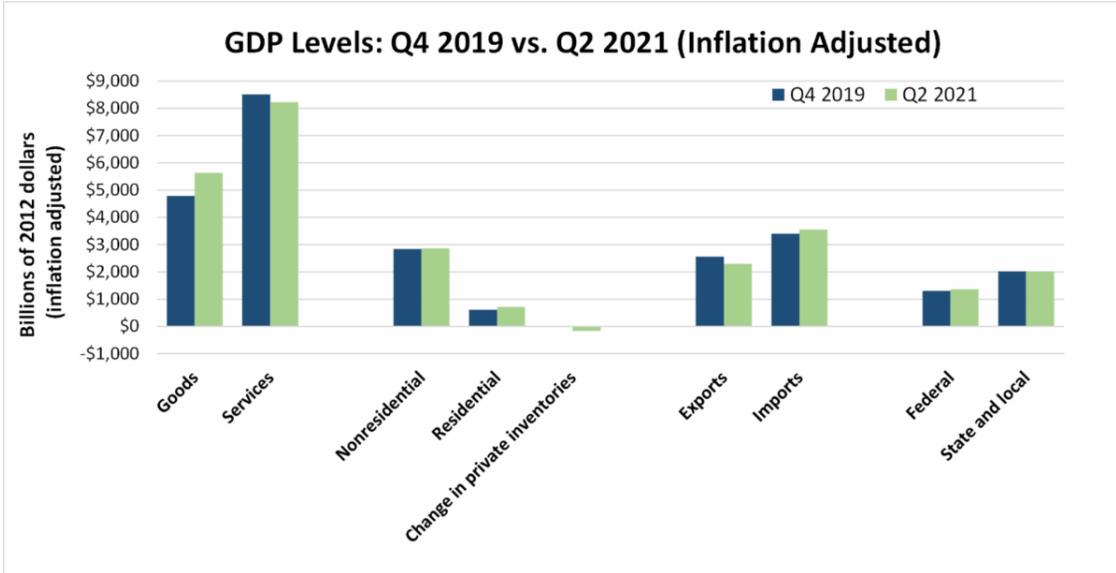


Hampton Roads Economic Monthly: **GDP Breaks Through: A Breakdown**

Gross Domestic Product, or GDP, is a representation of the total dollar value of all finished goods and services produced by an economy over a specific time period. Economists watch GDP closely, as it is a relatively straightforward way of measuring economic growth. But it doesn't tell the entire story of how an economy is performing, which is why we also look at other indicators like employment, housing prices, tourism activity, retail sales, and more.

GDP recently made headlines when in the second quarter of 2021, national GDP levels finally rose above pre-pandemic levels measured at the end of 2019. This achievement was particularly notable given the rebound took approximately one year after the economy's worst quarterly contraction on record. After the Great Recession officially ended in 2009, GDP took two years to fully rebound.

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Hampton Roads Continues to Surpass Most Regional Transportation Targets

The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) and current Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act surface transportation legislation require that States and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) prepare and use a set of federally-established performance measures.



SMART SCALE Round 4 – Project Selection and Funding Allocations

Virginia’s SMART SCALE is about investing limited tax dollars in the right projects that meet the most critical transportation needs in Virginia. In the SMART SCALE prioritization process, transportation projects are scored based on an objective, outcome-based process that is transparent to the public and allows decision-makers to be held accountable to taxpayers. The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) uses the project score information resulting from SMART SCALE to help select the right projects for funding.



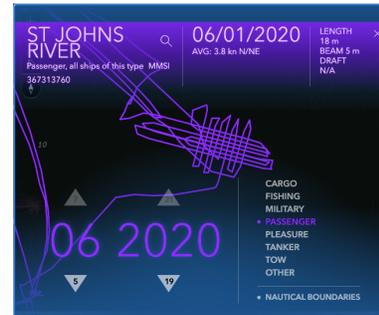
HRPDC Receives \$3 Million from Housing Virginia

Housing Virginia recently announced that it was awarding the HRPDC \$3 million for new regional housing initiatives. The award is part of Housing Virginia’s \$40 million in grants to Virginia’s PDCs for the creation of new housing initiatives across the state. This new source of funding will help the HRPDC and Virginia’s Planning District Commissions provide more affordable housing.



Map of the Month: August– U.S. Vessel Traffic

Residents of Hampton Roads know that our natural harbor is a very busy place with cargo ships coming in and out of the Port of Virginia, Navy ships training or deploying, and thousands of private and commercial boats navigating the waters. This month, we are sharing a new web application created by Esri called **U.S. Vessel Traffic**, which visualizes the maritime activity in Hampton Roads and across the country from January 2017 through June 2020.



HRPDC/HRTPO In the News

Interstate expansion, highway upgrades and bike trails: Here's the future of transportation in Hampton Roads (Virginian-Pilot)

Coastal landfills are no match for rising seas (The Nation)

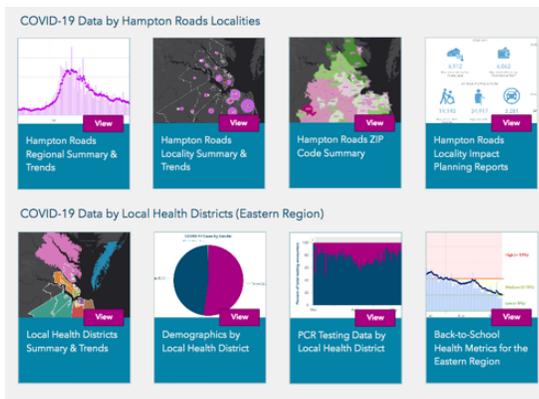
Hampton Roads residents invited to public meeting discussing flood safety and prevention (WAVY)

Know Your Flood Risk (Hampton Roads Show)

\$47 billion for coastal resilience included in Senate infrastructure bill (WVEC)

Hampton Roads COVID-19 Impact Planning Hub

Visit the COVID-19 Impact Planning Hub to get the latest information on COVID-19 in Hampton Roads.



Upcoming Meetings

No HRPDC or HRTPO Board Meetings in August. Click on the calendars for other meeting information.



RFP/RFQ Opportunities

On Behalf of the Southside Network Authority

Request for Proposal #SNA-RFP-2021-02: The Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, on behalf of the Southside Network Authority (the Authority), is soliciting for Qualifications and Conceptual Proposals for the Southside Hampton Roads Regional Fiber Connectivity Ring. Interested parties should refer to the full request for proposal (RFP) posted below. Submit by 2:00 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time on **Tuesday, August 24, 2021**.



Hampton Roads COVID Utility Relief

www.HRUtilityRelief.com

KENDALL L. MILLER
Administrator, Office of Community
Affairs and Civil Rights

Phone: 757.420.8300
Fax: 757.523.4881
TTY: 757.390.2578

JOE TURNER
Communications and Web Manager

[HRPDC Website](#)

ROBERT COFIELD
Graphic and Web Designer

[HRTPO Website](#)

[Join Mailing List](#)

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