



*VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE AND
CONSUMER SERVICES*

**Annual Report on the Testing and Inspection Activities of the
Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Weights
and Measures Program**

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Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services

October 1, 2026

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PUBLICATION YEAR 2026

Document Title

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Legislative Mandate

Section 3.2-5609(B) of the Code of Virginia

Executive Summary

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the Weights and Measures Program of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) inspected 75,375 weighing and measuring devices used in commercial transactions in the Commonwealth, which is a 16 percent decrease from the previous fiscal year. This decrease is due to staffing issues explained below. The frequency with which VDACS inspects each device that is subject to inspection is approximately once every 21 months. Staff also collected 3,911 motor fuel samples, which is a decrease of 21 percent from the 4,948 collected in fiscal year 2025, and investigated 472 consumer complaints, which is up from 364 in 2025.

Overview

The Weights and Measures Program promotes equity in the marketplace through the uniform administration of weights and measures laws and regulations. For fiscal year (FY) 2026, the program received a general fund appropriation of \$4,409,582, of which \$781,711 was a one-time carryover to purchase equipment, and was staffed with 42 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions. In addition to the central office in Richmond, the program has regional offices located in Harrisonburg and Wytheville.

Program staff tests retail devices that are used to dispense gasoline, diesel fuel, fuel oils, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), and kerosene. Staff also test devices used to weigh retail purchases, road and other construction materials, agricultural products, and household goods. These devices include retail scales; medium-capacity bench, counter, and floor scales; moisture machines; and large capacity devices, such as bulk plant meters, vehicle tank meters, warehouse scales, farm scales, vehicle on-board weighing systems, vehicle scales, hopper scales, livestock scales, and railroad scales. In addition to inspecting devices, staff collects samples to verify the quality of motor fuels sold in Virginia, provides calibration tests at the Weights and Measures Program's Metrology Laboratory, determines the accuracy of point-of-sale systems (scanners), verifies the accuracy of packaged commodities, enforces advertising and method-of-sale requirements, and investigates related complaints.

Inspection And Complaint Investigation Activities

The estimated number of weighing and measuring devices that are used commercially in Virginia and that are subject to inspection is 149,564.

Device	Est. Number
Petroleum Product Dispensers	109,923
Computing/Hanging/Counter/Platform Scales	33,495
Counterweights	671
Vehicle Tank Meters	1,226
Vehicle Scales	1,248
Medium Capacity Scales	1,256
Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) Meters	1,340
Farm Scales	210
Livestock Scales	76
Bulk Rack Meters	36
Railroad Scales	35
Monorail Scales	31
Belt Conveyor Scales	10
Vehicle On-Board Weighing Systems	7
Total	149,564

During the reporting period, staff inspected 75,375 weighing and measuring devices, including 57,654 petroleum product dispensers, 654 metering devices, 315 counterweights, 44 peanut moisture machines, and 16,708 scales. The total devices inspected decreased from the previous year by approximately 16 percent. The primary reason for this decrease is staff vacancies. Six Office of Weights and Measures (OWM) inspection staff retired in FY 2026, and three other vacancies resulted from promotions, resulting in a total of approximately 42 months of lost work time. OWM has filled all of the vacant positions. However, new inspectors undergo training for several months, during which time device inspections are limited. Of the 75,375 weighing and measuring devices inspected, 15,955 were rejected for inaccuracies. Staff also collected 3,911 motor fuel samples, which is a decrease of 21 percent from the 4,948 collected in FY 2025. Laboratory analysis revealed that of the 3,911 motor fuel samples collected, 235 were in violation. Staff spent approximately 1,841 hours investigating 472 consumer complaints submitted to OWM, which is up from 364 in FY 2025. Of the 472 complaints submitted, 304 pertained to weighing and measuring devices, 50 pertained to price advertising, 96 pertained to motor fuel quality, and 22 were classified as “other.” The table below contains select performance data dating back to FY 2016.

Year	Estimated Number of Devices	Devices Inspected	Motor Fuel Samples	Complaints Investigated
FY 2026	149,564	75,375	3,911	472
FY 2025	147,803	89,316	4,948	364
FY 2024	144,662	91,518	3,345	460
FY 2023	142,006	83,432	4,731	433
FY 2022	139,728	80,864	5,011	491
FY 2021	138,144	89,837	4,629	375
FY 2020	137,389	92,684	4,491	355
FY 2019	138,564	90,641	4,825	503
FY 2018	135,805	87,409	5,269	520
FY 2017	134,532	74,026	4,839	427

Along with devices, OWM staff verify the weight of commodities sold in package form and conduct audits of point-of-sale systems. Staff sampled 16,058 packaged commodities to check for accurate weight and conducted 57,965 price verifications on point-of-sale systems. Staff in the Metrology Laboratory performed 12,297 calibration tests and tested 2,597 radar tuning forks.

Compliance staff assessed approximately \$44,055 in civil penalties for violations of the Weights and Measures Law, the Motor Fuels and Lubricating Oils Law, and the Service Agencies and Technicians Law. Additionally, staff issued 87 Notices of Violation and 131 Letters of Warning for infractions of these laws.

Through these efforts, OWM provides assurance to both consumers and businesses that critical weighing and measuring devices used in the Commonwealth meet the required specifications.