



Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

Indicators from the Bureau of Labor Statistics'
Current Employment Statistics Survey
Series 1: State & National Employment

Series 1, Issue 27

April 2014

Highlights

- ◆ According to preliminary estimates, Virginia's Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector added 100 jobs in March. This represents the fifth consecutive month of positive employment growth in Virginia's HC&SA sector.
- ◆ February's preliminary estimate for Virginia's HC&SA employment was revised upward by 900 jobs. With this revision, employment in Virginia's HC&SA sector increased by 1,200 jobs.
- ◆ Virginia's total nonfarm payroll fell by 5,100 jobs in March. This represents the third time in the past four months in which the state has experienced a decline in total nonfarm employment. During the first quarter of 2014, total nonfarm payroll in Virginia fell by 3,600 jobs.
- ◆ February's preliminary estimate for Virginia's total nonfarm payroll was revised upward by 2,600 jobs. With this revision, 7,500 jobs were created in the state of Virginia during the month of February.
- ◆ The national economy added 203,000 jobs in March. This is the second consecutive month in which the national economy has increased employment by more than 200,000 jobs. The HC&SA sector was responsible for 31,000 of those jobs added across the country in March.

Inside this Brief:

Virginia HC&SA Employment	2
National HC&SA Employment	2
Employment Growth	3
Sequester & Job Growth	3
About the Data	4

Data in the report is seasonally adjusted, and includes employees of private firms only. Self-employed persons, including health professionals in private practice, are not included.

Data in Brief

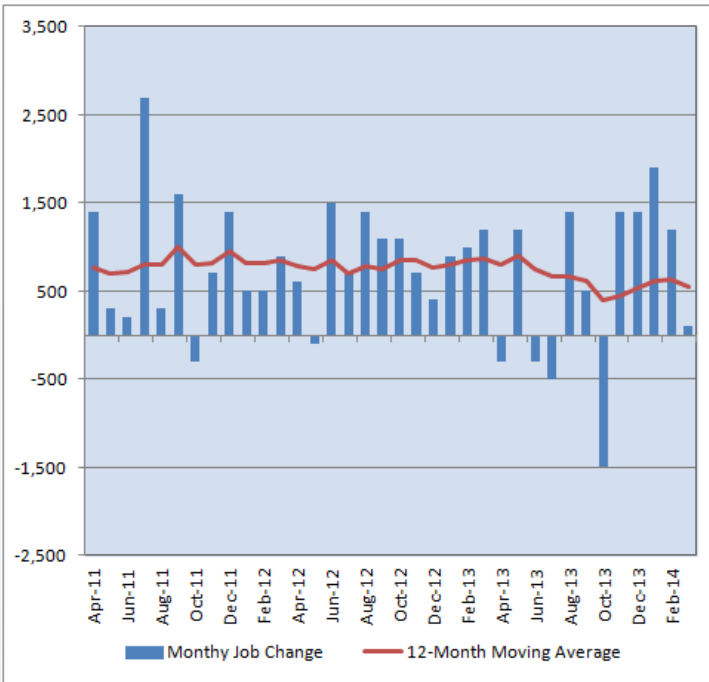
Seasonally Adjusted*	Employment, in Thousands				Growth Rate, Annualized		
	Mar. 2013	Dec. 2013	Feb. 2014	Mar. 2014	12 Month	3 Month	1 Month
Nonfarm, Total							
Virginia	3,765.4	3,768.4	3,769.9	3,764.8	0.0%	-0.4%	-1.6%
National	135,682.0	137,395.0	137,761.0	137,964.0	1.7%	1.7%	1.8%
Health & Social Assistance							
Virginia	408.2	411.5	414.6	414.7	1.6%	3.1%	0.3%
National	17,651.0	17,876.7	17,911.9	17,942.9	1.7%	1.5%	2.1%
All Other Nonfarm							
Virginia	3,357.2	3,356.9	3,355.3	3,350.1	-0.2%	-0.8%	-1.8%
National	118,031.0	119,518.3	119,849.1	120,021.1	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%

Preliminary estimates are italicized

*Seasonally adjusted data is adjusted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics to account for weather, holidays and other seasonal changes. Economists use seasonally adjusted data to reveal underlying trends over time. This series uses seasonally adjusted data exclusively. When comparing data in this series to other HWDC series, or publications from other sources, it is important to note whether the data reported has been seasonally adjusted.

Virginia HC&SA Employment

Figure 1: Monthly Change in Employment in Virginia's Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted.



According to preliminary data released on April 29, 2014 by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Virginia's HC&SA sector experienced its fifth consecutive month of employment gains by adding 100 jobs in March. In addition, the preliminary estimate for HC&SA employment in February was revised upward by 900 jobs. In the first quarter of 2014, Virginia's HC&SA sector has added 3,200 jobs, which represents its best performance through the first three months of a new year since 2008.

Despite the monthly gains, however, March's employment results represent a decided slowdown in job growth. In the four months previous to March, average monthly job gains totaled 1,500. This growth helped to increase the 12-month moving average of the level change in HC&SA employment from 392 in October 2013 to 633 in February 2014. With the relative weakness of March's employment numbers, the 12-month moving average in the level change in HC&SA employment dropped to 542, a decline of 14% relative to the previous month.

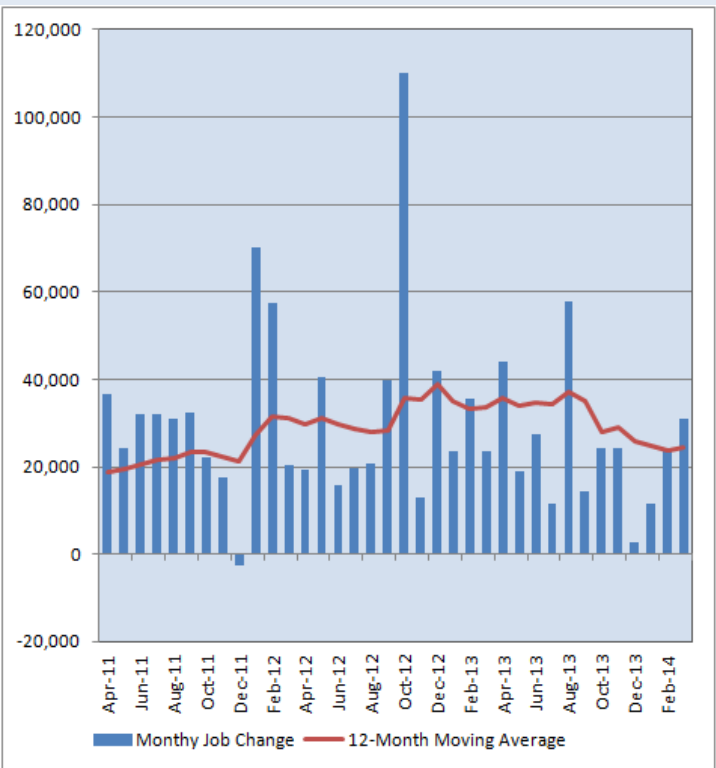
National HC&SA Employment

According to preliminary estimates, the national HC&SA sector added 31,000 jobs in March, its best monthly performance since August 2013. The national HC&SA sector has rebounded strongly from its weak performance last December, during which only 2,600 jobs were created. National HC&SA job gains have increased in all three months since reaching that two-year low at the end of 2013.

This strength has helped to arrest the fall in the 12-month moving average in the level change of national HC&SA employment, which now stands at 24,325 monthly jobs added. This represents the first time in four months in which the 12-month moving average in the level change of national HC&SA employment has increased, although it is still down significantly when compared to the 12-month average of 33,608 monthly jobs added one year ago.

March's HC&SA employment gains were aided by the strength of the national economy, which added more than 200,000 jobs for the second consecutive month. This is marked contrast to Virginia's HC&SA sector, which has continued to overcome the weakness in the state's overall economy, which has lost 3,600 jobs so far in 2014.

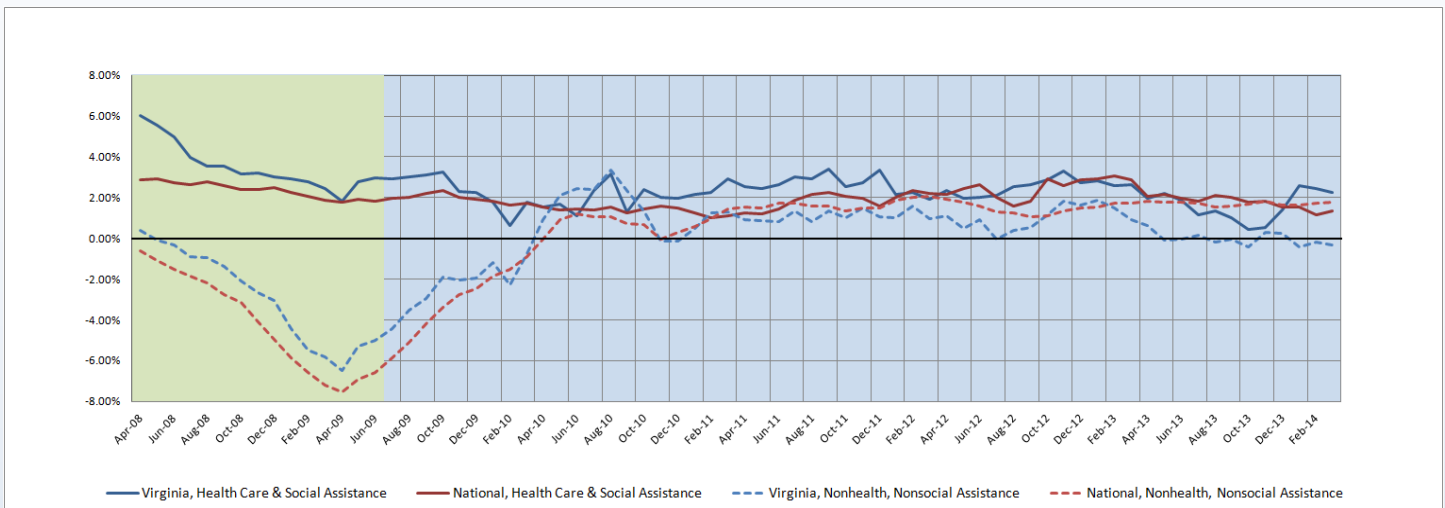
Figure 2: Monthly Change in Employment in National Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted.



Employment Growth

With March's relatively modest job gains in Virginia's HC&SA sector, the six-month average of Virginia HC&SA employment growth rate dropped during the month from 2.5% to 2.3%. Despite this fall, however, Virginia's HC&SA sector is doing considerably better than the state's overall economy. The six-month moving average of Virginia's non-HC&SA employment growth rate fell to -0.3% in March, which represents its third consecutive month in negative territory. With respect to the national economy, the HC&SA sector continues to slightly underperform the rest of the economy. In March, the six-month moving average of national HC&SA employment growth did increase from 1.1% to 1.3%, but this still remains below the corresponding 1.8% average growth rate for the nation's non-HC&SA sectors.

Figure 3: Six-Month Moving Average, Employment Growth, Seasonally Adjusted



Sequester and Job Growth

In this section we take a look at job growth in the Commonwealth following the March 2013 Federal budget cuts commonly referred to as the Sequester. The chart to the right shows the change in number of jobs for key sectors using Feb. 2013 as the baseline (Feb. 2013 = 100). Since the sequester job growth has been lackluster in Virginia, with overall non-farm payroll jobs actually declining slightly as of March 2014. Private sector jobs have increased, but only negligibly. The government sector had regained all of the jobs it lost as of July 2013, but as of March it has seen the number of jobs decline by 6 tenths of one percent (0.6%). The HC&SA sector, by contrast, has seen steady job growth in the year since the sequester.

It is impossible to pin these changes on any one cause, including the sequester, especially since job growth rebounded six-months in. Nevertheless, conventional wisdom surrounding the Sequester held that Virginia would be disproportionately affected. Virginia's job growth has remained muted even as the labor market has picked up steam nationally. Employment in Virginia's HC&SA sector has remained strong despite these headwinds. Major health programs such as Medicare and the ACA was not affected.

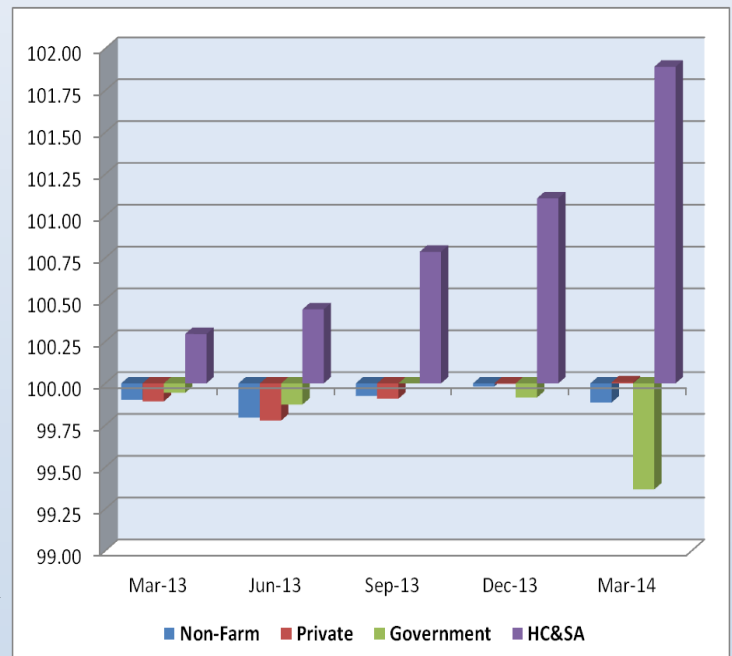


Figure 34: Job gains & losses since the sequester (Feb 2013 = 100)

Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Perimeter Center
9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300
Henrico, VA 23233-1463

Phone: (804) 367-2115
Fax: (804) 527-4434
E-mail: hwdc@dhp.virginia.gov

www.dhp.virginia.gov/hwdc/

Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs are produced by
Justin Crow, MPA
HWDC Research Analyst
&
Christopher Coyle
HWDC Research Assistant

Follow us on. . .

Tumblr: <http://vahwdc.tumblr.com/>

The Department of Health Professions Healthcare Workforce Data Center works to improve the data collection and measurement of Virginia's healthcare workforce through regular assessment of workforce supply and demand issues among the 80 professions and 350,000 practitioners licensed in Virginia by DHP.

The HWDC collects data on Virginia's licensed health professionals through surveys completed during the online license renewal and application process. Survey results and data may be accessed on our website: www.dhp.virginia.gov/hwdc/.

The HWDC also provides a series of Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs based on data collected by the US Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics and the US Department of Commerce' Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs:

Series 1: State & National Employment (Monthly)

Series 2: Virginia Regional Employment (Monthly)

Series 3: Income & Compensation (Quarterly)

About the Data

Data in this report is from the US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics' Current Employment Statistics program. The CES program surveys about 140,000 businesses and government agencies monthly. Unless otherwise noted, this series uses seasonally-adjusted data that removes seasonal variations related to weather, holidays, weekends, seasons and other predictable variations. This allows us to better examine underlying trends in the labor market. Data from recent months is preliminary and subject to revision in future releases from the CES. Revisions will be reported in future editions of this series. Unless otherwise noted, the CES data presented in this series:

Includes:

- ◆ Data on employed individuals drawing a paycheck (payroll employees).
- ◆ All employees, regardless of role, occupation or hours worked.
- ◆ HC&SA employees in the private sector only.
- ◆ Persons employed by health professionals in private practice.
- ◆ Both government and private sector workers in nonfarm employment data.

Does not include:

- ◆ Self-employed workers or volunteers, including health professionals in private practice.
 - ◆ HC&SA employees in the public sector. (These are counted as government workers in monthly reports. Approximately 54,500 of Virginia's public sector workers worked in the HC&SA sector in 2010 at the federal, state and local levels).
 - ◆ Information on hours worked or the quality of employment.
 - ◆ Government workers in HC&SA level data. (Government workers, regardless of occupation and role, are classified as public sector employees).
-