



# Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

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

Series 1, Issue 40

May 2015

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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.

## Highlights

- ◆ According to preliminary estimates, Virginia's Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector experienced its strongest one-month employment gain since 1999 after creating 4,500 jobs in April, which represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 13.9%.
- ◆ March's preliminary estimate for HC&SA employment was revised upward by 100 jobs. However, even after this revision, Virginia's HC&SA sector still experienced a small loss of 100 jobs in March.
- ◆ HC&SA employment growth helped to fuel a surge in statewide employment growth as Virginia's total nonfarm payroll increased by 17,300 in April. This represents the best single month for job creation in Virginia since May 2010.
- ◆ The national HC&SA sector added 55,600 jobs across the country in April, its best month of employment growth since last November. So far this year, the national HC&SA sector has created 174,700 jobs, which is nearly double 90,900 jobs that had been created during the first four months of 2014.
- ◆ One month after a very disappointing month of overall job creation, national total nonfarm payroll bounced back strongly in April with the creation of 223,000 jobs across the country.

## Data in Brief

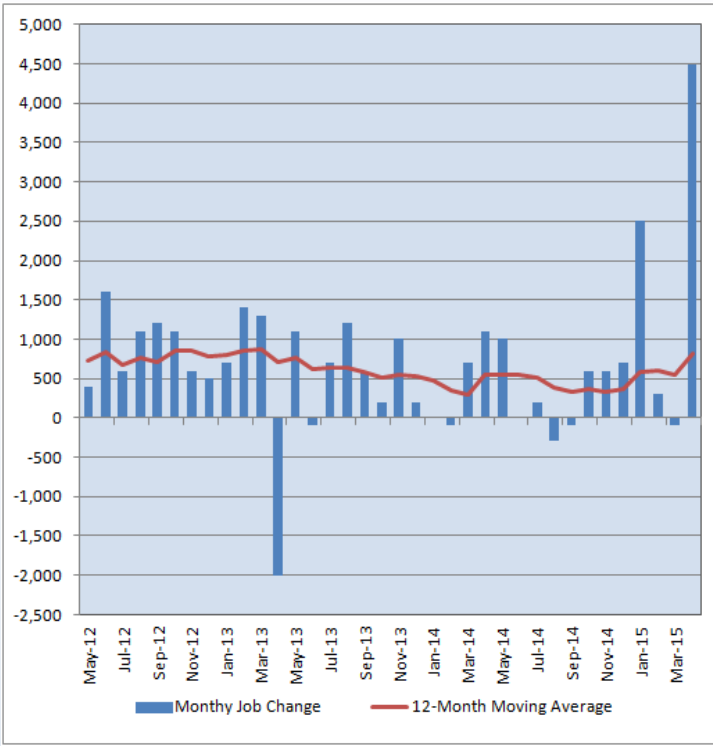
Seasonally Adjusted*	Employment, in Thousands				Growth Rate, Annualized		
	Apr. 2014	Jan. 2015	Mar. 2015	Apr. 2015	12 Month	3 Month	1 Month
<b>Nonfarm, Total</b>							
Virginia	3,771.7	3,786.4	3,785.6	3,802.9	0.8%	1.8%	5.6%
National	138,385.0	140,793.0	141,144.0	141,367.0	2.2%	1.6%	1.9%
<b>Health &amp; Social Assistance</b>							
Virginia	407.6	412.8	413.0	417.5	2.4%	4.6%	13.9%
National	17,946.6	18,327.5	18,396.8	18,452.4	2.8%	2.8%	3.7%
<b>All Other Nonfarm</b>							
Virginia	3,364.1	3,373.6	3,372.6	3,385.4	0.6%	1.4%	4.7%
National	120,438.4	122,465.5	122,747.2	122,914.6	2.1%	1.5%	1.6%

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 Wednesday, May 27, 2015 by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Virginia’s Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector enjoyed its strongest month of employment gains in more than fifteen years. In April, Virginia’s HC&SA sector created 4,500 jobs, which represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 13.9%.

Virginia’s HC&SA sector has experienced very strong employment growth through the first four months of 2015. So far this year, this sector has added 7,200 jobs to Virginia’s economy, which represents more than 100% of all year-to-date job growth in the state. In addition, these year-to-date job gains represent the best start to a new year for Virginia’s HC&SA sector in more than twenty years.

Over the past 12 months, Virginia’s HC&SA sector has created an average of 825 new jobs per month. This represents the highest monthly average for the sector since March 2013. Virginia’s HC&SA sector has seen employment grow by 2.4% over the past year, which is three times the employment growth rate of the statewide economy.

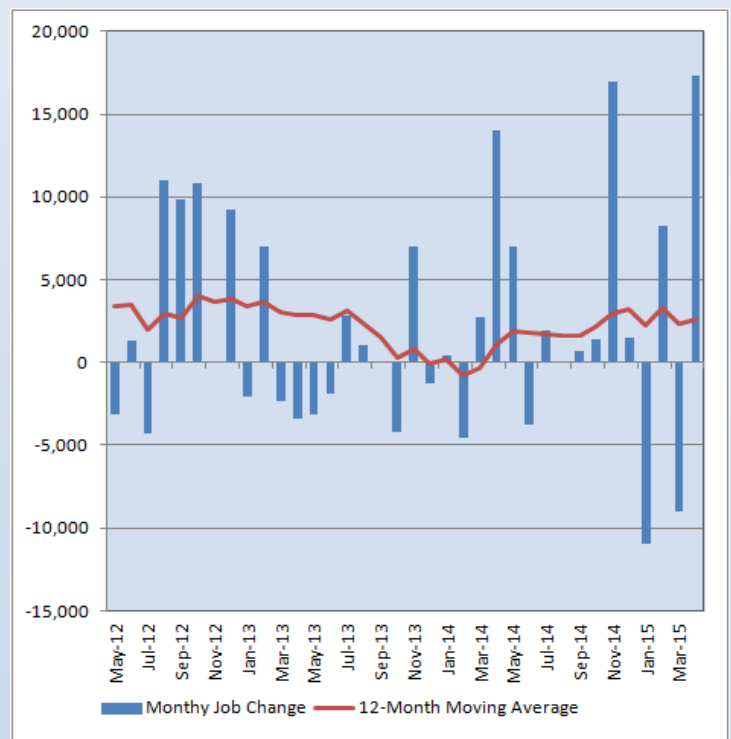
## Virginia Employment

According to preliminary estimates, Virginia’s overall economy experienced strong employment growth in April as total nonfarm payroll increased by 17,300 during the month. Not only does this job gain represent a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 5.6%, but it also represents the single largest one-month employment job gain for Virginia’s economy in nearly five years.

Thanks to April’s resurgent employment growth, Virginia’s economy has now become a positive contributor to year-to-date job growth. Through the first four months of 2015, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll has increased by 5,500. However, at the same point last year, Virginia’s economy had managed to create more than twice that many year-to-date jobs.

Regardless, there was still a modest increase in the average number of new jobs created over the past year throughout Virginia’s economy. Over the past 12 months, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll has increased by an average of 2,600 per month; at the same point in April 2014, Virginia’s economy was only creating an average of 1,075 jobs per month.

**Figure 2: Monthly Change in Employment in Virginia’s Total Non-farm Payroll, Seasonally Adjusted.**

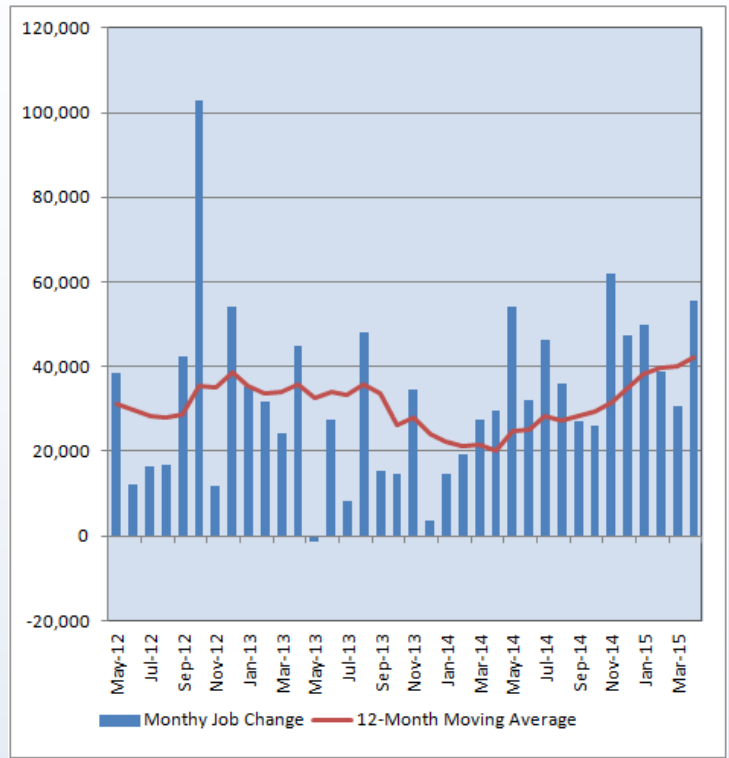


### National Employment

Preliminary data indicates that the national HC&SA sector produced 55,600 jobs in April, which represents its best one-month employment gain since last November. This monthly gain helped to increase the 12-month moving average of the level change in national HC&SA employment for the eighth consecutive month. Over the past year, the national HC&SA sector has created an average of 42,150 jobs per month, its highest average since 2007. In addition, the national HC&SA sector has had a very strong start to the new year with the addition of 174,700 new jobs so far in 2015. At the same point in 2014, the national HC&SA sector had only managed to create 90,900 jobs.

The strong growth in the national HC&SA sector helped to boost overall employment growth in April. After posting its weakest job gain in nearly three years in March, the nation's total nonfarm payroll rebounded nicely in April as 223,000 jobs were created throughout the country during the month. Over the past 12 months, the national economy has created nearly 3 million jobs; the HC&SA sector has been responsible for 17% of these gains. At the same time, Virginia's HC&SA sector has been responsible for 32% of statewide job gains.

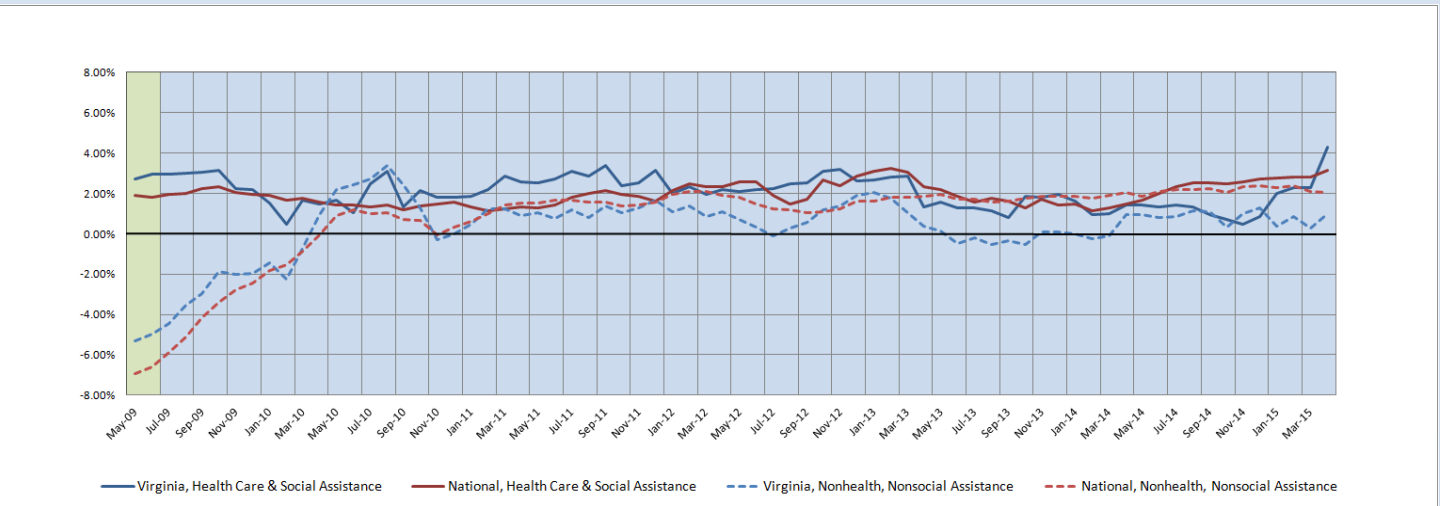
**Figure 3: Monthly Change in Employment in National Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted**



### Employment Growth

With April's strong employment growth in Virginia's HC&SA sector, the six-month moving average of the employment growth rate in Virginia's HC&SA sector nearly doubled during the month from 2.29% to 4.31%. This represents the highest value for Virginia's HC&SA sector since June 2008. At the same time, the six-month moving average of the employment growth rate in Virginia's non-HC&SA sectors nearly quadrupled to 1.00% in April, but it still remains significantly below the average growth rate in Virginia's HC&SA sector. The national HC&SA sector also saw its six-month employment growth rate moving average increase during the month from 2.83% to 3.15%, which represents its highest value in more than two years.

**Figure 4: Six-Month Moving Average, Employment Growth, Seasonally Adjusted**



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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/](http://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)

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## 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 143,000 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).
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