



# Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

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

Series 1, Issue 51

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Data in the report are seasonally adjusted. 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 worst month of employment losses in nearly three years. In March, Virginia's HC&SA sector lost 1,300 jobs, stopping a five-month streak of positive employment growth.
- ◆ Despite the employment losses in Virginia's HC&SA sector, the state's overall economy still created 4,900 jobs in March, which represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 1.5%. During Q1 2016, the state's total nonfarm payroll increased by 19,100.
- ◆ The national HC&SA sector created 44,000 jobs in March. This represents a bit of a slowdown relative to the 58,400 HC&SA jobs that were created across the country in February. So far this year, the national HC&SA sector has created 145,800 new jobs. Virginia has been responsible for 1.58% of this overall employment growth.
- ◆ In March, the overall national economy created 215,000 new jobs, which represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 1.8%. During Q1 2016, the nation's total nonfarm payroll has increased by 628,000, which exceeds the 570,000 jobs that were created during the first three months of 2015.

## Data in Brief

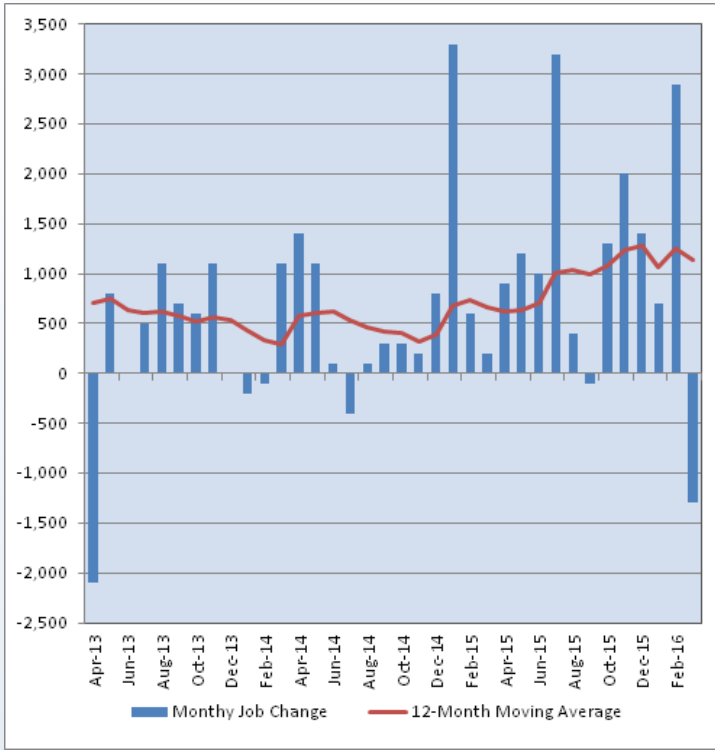
Seasonally Adjusted*	Employment, in Thousands				Growth Rate, Annualized		
	Feb. 2015	Nov. 2015	Jan. 2016	Feb. 2016	12 Month	3 Month	1 Month
<b>Nonfarm, Total</b>							
Virginia	3,813.2	3,902.1	3,916.3	3,921.2	2.8%	2.0%	1.5%
National	140,972.0	143,146.0	143,559.0	143,774.0	2.0%	1.8%	1.8%
<b>Health Care &amp; Social Assistance</b>							
Virginia	414.8	426.1	429.7	428.4	3.3%	2.2%	-3.6%
National	18,374.9	18,876.0	18,977.8	19,021.8	3.5%	3.1%	2.8%
<b>All Other Nonfarm</b>							
Virginia	3,398.4	3,476.0	3,486.6	3,492.8	2.8%	1.9%	2.2%
National	122,597.1	124,270.0	124,581.2	124,752.2	1.8%	1.6%	1.7%

Preliminary estimates are italicized

\*Seasonally adjusted data are 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 have 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 the preliminary data released on Friday, April 15, 2016 by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Virginia’s Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector lost 1,300 jobs in March, which represents its worst one-month employment loss since April 2013. March’s result also breaks a five-month streak of positive job growth.

With this decline, the 12-month moving average of the level change in Virginia’s HC&SA employment fell in March. Even with this decline, however, the state’s HC&SA sector has still created an average of 1,133 jobs per month over the past year. In addition, this 12-month moving average has not fallen below 1,000 jobs since June 2015, suggesting that HC&SA employment growth remains rather strong in the state. In fact, employment in Virginia’s HC&SA sector has grown by 3.3% over the past year.

During the first quarter of 2016, Virginia’s HC&SA sector created 2,300 jobs, which represents a three-month annualized employment growth rate of 2.2%. At the same point in 2015, however, the state’s HC&SA sector had already creat-

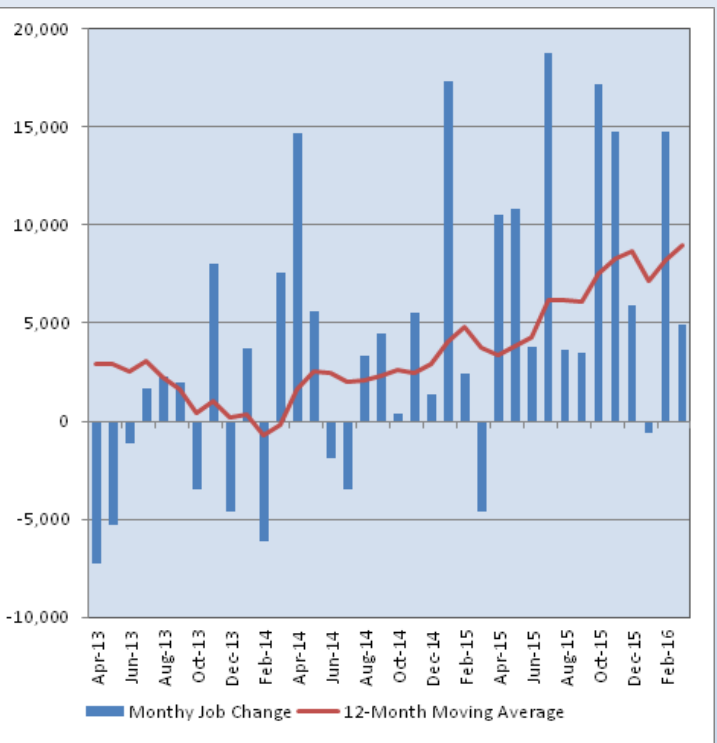
## Virginia Employment

According to preliminary estimates, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll overcame the losses from the state’s HC&SA sector as overall employment increased by 4,900 in March. Although this gain represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of just 1.5%, the state’s total nonfarm payroll has still grown by 2.8% over the past year. This growth rate exceeds the overall national average of 2.0%. Virginia’s HC&SA sector has been responsible for 13% of this growth, its lowest growth share since December 2014.

With March’s employment gain, the 12-month moving average of the level change in Virginia’ total nonfarm payroll continued its upward trend during the month. Over the past 12 months, the state has created an average of 9,000 jobs per month, its highest average in more than a decade.

In the first quarter of 2016, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll increased by 19,100. This represents a three-month annualized growth rate 2.0%, which is slightly above the national average of 1.8%. This growth also represents an improvement relative to the previous year. In the first three months of 2015, the state only created 15,100 new jobs.

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

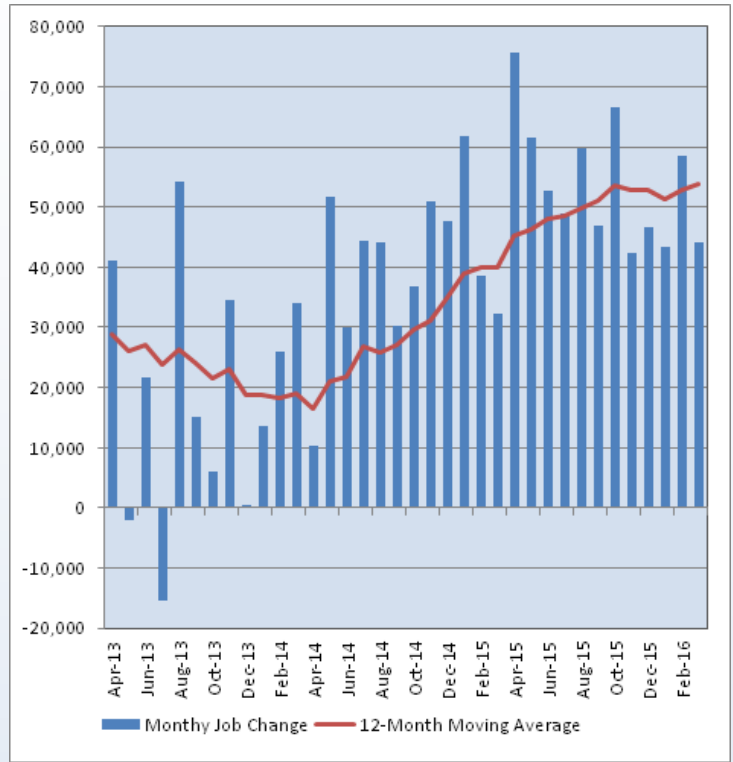


### National Employment

After creating 58,400 jobs in February, employment in the national HC&SA sector slowed down a bit in March as just 44,000 new jobs were created during the month. Regardless, the 12-month moving average of the level change in national HC&SA employment increased in March. With this gain, the national HC&SA sector is now creating an average of 53,908 jobs per month over the past year. This represents the highest value for the 12-month moving average of the level change in national HC&SA employment in more than a decade. Thanks to this employment strength, the national HC&SA sector has grown by 3.5% over the past 12 months, which far exceeds the 2.0% employment growth rate for the overall economy.

However, the nation’s total nonfarm payroll still experienced strong growth in March as 215,000 new jobs were added throughout the country during the month. So far this year, the nation’s total nonfarm payroll has increased by 628,000, which represents a three-month annualized employment growth rate of 1.8%. By way of comparison, during the first quarter of 2015, the overall national economy only created 570,000 new jobs.

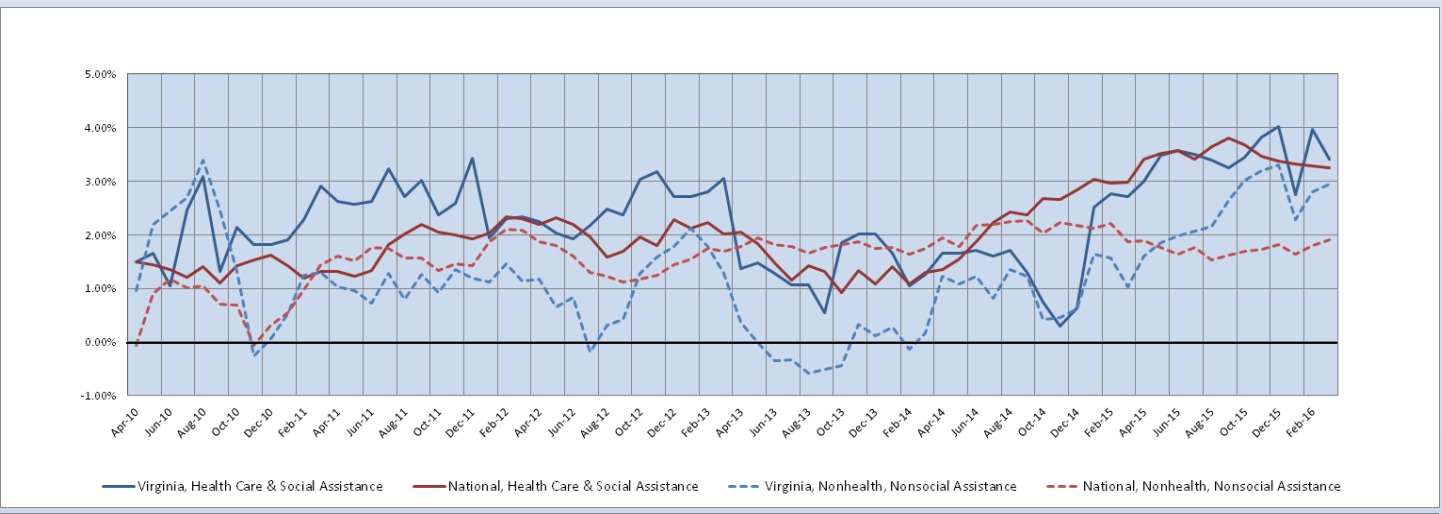
**Figure 3: Monthly Change in Employment in National Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted**



### State Employment Growth

After losing 1,300 jobs in March, the six-month moving average of the employment growth rate in Virginia’s HC&SA sector fell from 3.97% to 3.42%. Despite this drop, however, this growth rate still exceeds the comparable average for the state’s non-HC&SA sectors. In March, the six-month employment growth rate moving average for the state’s non-HC&SA sectors increased from 2.80% to 2.95%. Meanwhile, the six-month moving average of the employment growth rate in the national HC&SA sector dipped slightly during the month to 3.25%. With this decline, the national moving average has now fallen for six-consecutive months after reaching a fourteen-year high of 3.80% in September 2015. As for the national non-HC&SA sectors, its six-month employment growth rate moving average increased to a one-year high of 1.9% in March.

**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)

About the Data

Data in this report are 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 are 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).
- ◆ 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).