



# Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

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

Series 1, Issue 50

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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 enjoyed its strongest monthly employment gain since last July after creating 2,500 jobs in February. This represents a strong one-month annualized growth rate of 7.3%.
- ◆ Virginia's HC&SA employment gains help to fuel growth in the state's total nonfarm payroll. In February, 12,800 new jobs were created throughout the state. Over the past 12 months, Virginia's total nonfarm payroll has grown by 2.5%.
- ◆ The national HC&SA sector also enjoyed a strong month of employment gains in February after creating 58,400 jobs throughout the country. This represents the best one-month employment gain for the national HC&SA sector since last October. With this month's gain, the national HC&SA sector now has a 12-month employment growth rate of 3.5%.
- ◆ After adding 168,000 new jobs in January, the nation's total nonfarm payroll rebounded in February as employment grew by 245,000 during the month. Regardless, its 12-month employment growth rate moving average was at a two-year low of 1.66% during the month.

## Data in Brief

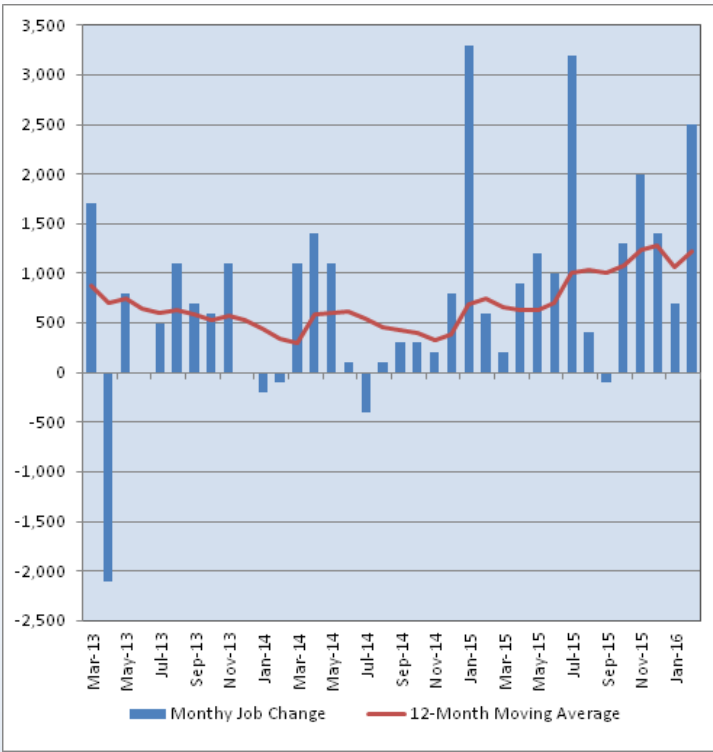
Seasonally Adjusted*	Employment, in Thousands				Growth Rate, Annualized		
	Feb. 2015	Nov. 2015	Jan. 2016	Feb. 2016	12 Month	3 Month	1 Month
<b>Nonfarm, Total</b>							
Virginia	3,817.8	3,896.2	3,901.5	<i>3,914.3</i>	2.5%	1.9%	4.0%
National	140,888.0	142,875.0	143,314.0	<i>143,559.0</i>	1.9%	1.9%	2.1%
<b>Health Care &amp; Social Assistance</b>							
Virginia	414.6	424.7	426.8	<i>429.3</i>	3.5%	4.4%	7.3%
National	18,342.7	18,829.3	18,919.4	<i>18,977.8</i>	3.5%	3.2%	3.8%
<b>All Other Nonfarm</b>							
Virginia	3,403.2	3,471.5	3,474.7	<i>3,485.0</i>	2.4%	1.6%	3.6%
National	122,545.3	124,045.7	124,394.6	<i>124,581.2</i>	1.7%	1.7%	1.8%

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 preliminary data released on Friday, March 25, 2016 by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Virginia’s Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector enjoyed a solid month of employment gains after creating 2,500 jobs during the month. Not only does this represent a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 7.3%, but it also represents the largest one-month employment gain in Virginia’s HC&SA sector since last July. In addition, Virginia’s HC&SA sector has now consistently increased employment in each of the past five months. During these five months, 7,900 HC&SA jobs have been created in the state. 3,200 of these jobs were created in just the first two months of 2016.

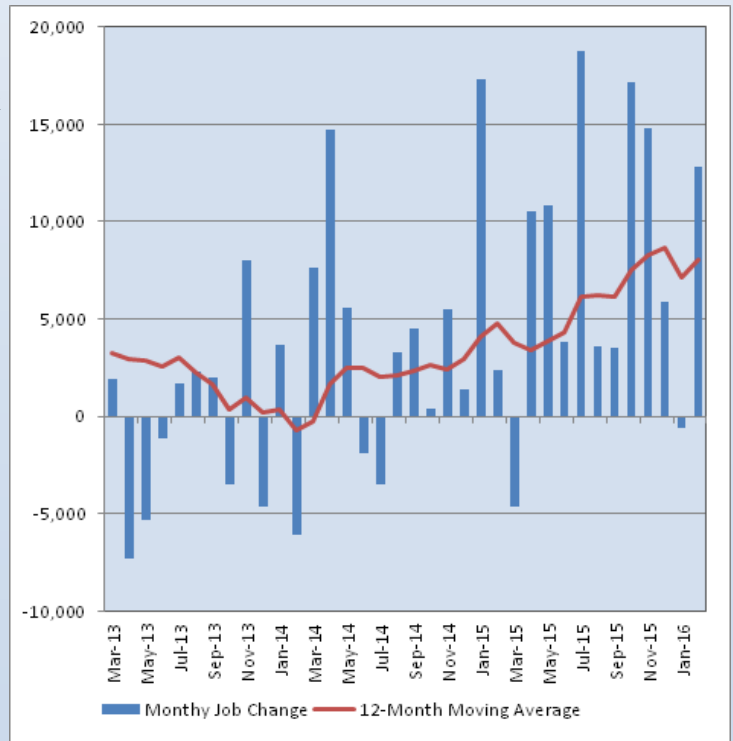
Thanks to this month’s strong employment growth, the 12-month moving average of the level change in Virginia’s HC&SA employment rebounded strongly in February. During the past year, Virginia’s HC&SA sector has created an average of 1,225 jobs per month. In total, these employment gains represent a 12-month growth rate of 3.5%, which matches the national average for the HC&SA sector.

## Virginia Employment

According to preliminary estimates, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll rebounded strongly from January’s employment losses by creating 12,800 jobs in February, which represents a one-month annualized growth rate of 4.0%. In January, Virginia’s HC&SA sector lost 600 jobs, thereby breaking a streak of nine consecutive months of positive HC&SA employment gains. However, this prior strong growth reestablished itself in February. Even with January’s decline, Virginia’s HC&SA sector currently has a three-month annualized employment growth rate of 1.9%, which is the same as the national average for the HC&SA sector.

February’s large employment gains helped to increase the 12-month moving average of the level change in Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll. Over the previous 12 months, Virginia’s overall economy has created an average of 8,042 jobs per month. Although this is still not as high as the values seen at the end of 2015, February’s result has reinforced a positive trend that began two years ago when the 12-month moving average of the level change in Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll reached a nearly four-year low.

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

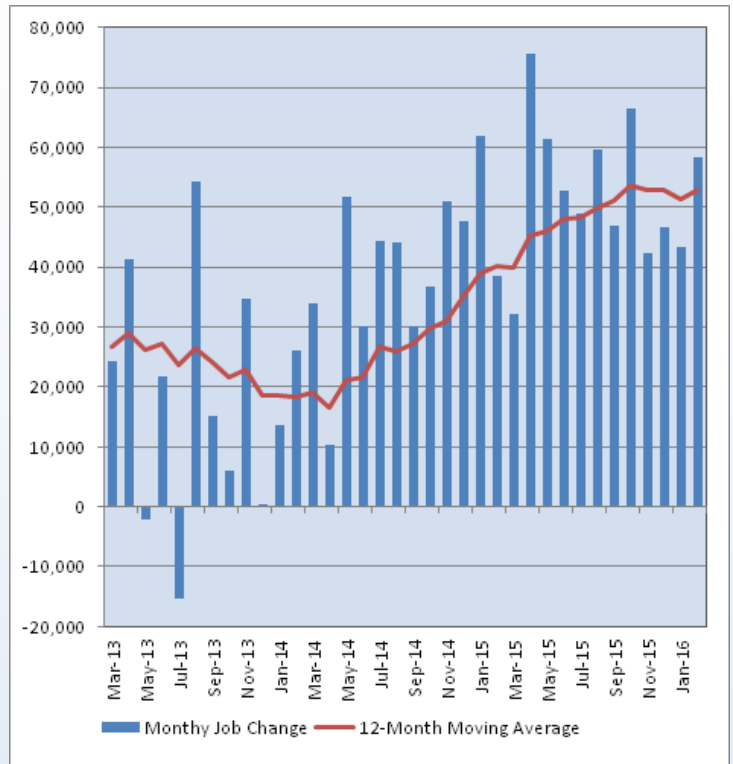


### National Employment

The weak employment gain that the national HC&SA sector experienced in the past three months reversed itself in February. The national HC&SA sector created 58,400 jobs during the month. Not only does this represent a strong one-month annualized employment growth rate of 3.8%, but it also represents its best monthly gain since last October. This gain helped to increase the 12-month moving average of the level change in national HC&SA employment to 52,925. At the same time, however, this moving average has remained relatively flat over the past six months.

As for the overall national economy, the nation’s total nonfarm payroll increased by 245,000 in February, rebounding strongly from January’s relatively weak gain of just 168,000 new jobs created. February’s employment gain represents a one-month annualized growth rate of 2.1%, while its three-month annualized growth rate is 1.9%. During the first two months of 2016, the nation’s total nonfarm payroll has increased by 413,000. At the same point in 2015, however, 486,000 jobs had been created. The national HC&SA sector has been responsible for 24% of this overall employment growth, its highest value since 2010.

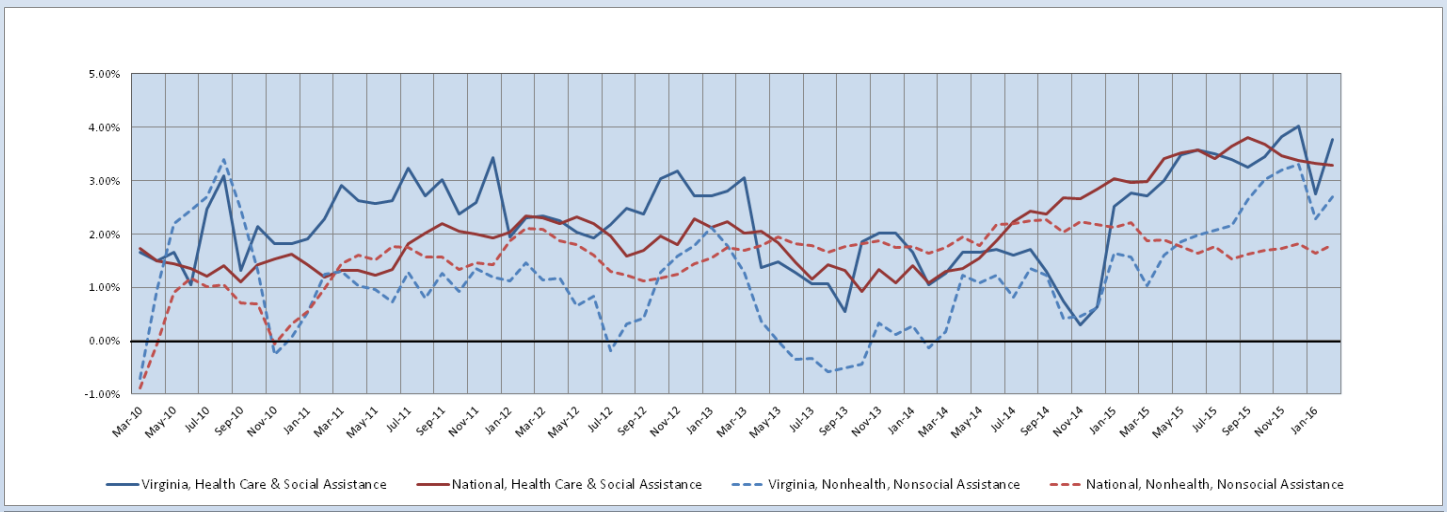
**Figure 3: Monthly Change in Employment in National Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted**



### Employment Growth

After creating 2,500 jobs in February, the six-month moving average of the employment growth rate in Virginia’s HC&SA sector rebounded strongly from 2.75% to 3.76%. Although this is still below the 4.01% growth rate from December, it still represents a marked increase relative to the values observed over the past several years. A similar trend could be observed in Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll. Its six-month employment growth rate moving average increased from 2.29% to 2.70% during the month, thereby making up for some but not all of the decline experienced in January. Meanwhile, the national HC&SA sector saw practically no change in January as its six-month employment growth rate moving average fell from 3.31% to 3.29%. As for the nation’s total nonfarm payroll, its corresponding moving average increased from 1.64% to 1.80%.

**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 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).
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