



Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

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

Series 1, Issue 63

June 2017

Highlights

- ◆ According to preliminary estimates, Virginia's Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector created 1,500 jobs in May, which represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 4.2%. Over the past three months, employment in Virginia's HC&SA sector has increased by 5,200.
- ◆ While Virginia's HC&SA sector enjoyed yet another month of strong employment growth, these gains could not overcome job losses elsewhere in the state. In May, Virginia's total nonfarm payroll fell by 2,100. This represents the third consecutive month in which Virginia's total nonfarm payroll has declined.
- ◆ The national HC&SA sector created 32,300 jobs in May, which represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 2.0%. So far this year, employment in the national HC&SA sector has grown by 157,000. At the same point in 2016, the national HC&SA had already created 187,600 jobs.
- ◆ After increasing by 174,000 in April, employment growth in the nation's total nonfarm payroll cooled off somewhat in May with a gain of only 138,000 during the month. This gain represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 2.0%, which is below its 12-month average of 2.3%.

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Data in the report are seasonally adjusted. Self-employed persons, including health professionals in private practice, are not included.

Data in Brief

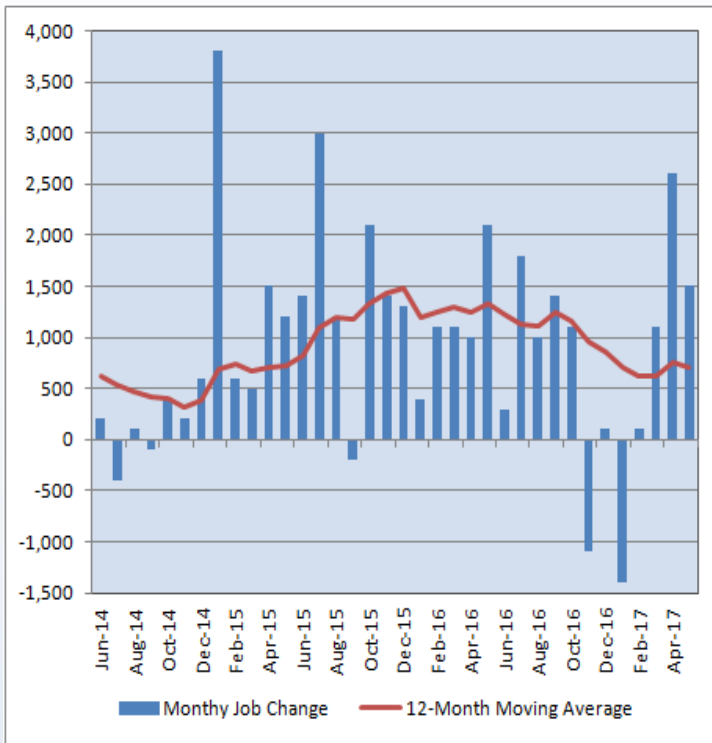
Seasonally Adjusted*	Employment, in Thousands				Growth Rate, Annualized		
	May 2016	Feb. 2017	Apr. 2017	May 2017	12 Month	3 Month	1 Month
Nonfarm, Total							
Virginia	3,907.1	3,960.3	3,953.6	3,951.5	1.1%	-0.9%	-0.6%
National	143,869.0	145,773.0	145,997.0	146,135.0	1.6%	1.0%	1.1%
Health Care & Social Assistance							
Virginia	433.8	437.1	440.8	442.3	2.0%	4.8%	4.2%
National	18,987.2	19,328.0	19,391.6	19,423.9	2.3%	2.0%	2.0%
All Other Nonfarm							
Virginia	3,473.3	3,523.2	3,512.8	3,509.2	1.0%	-1.6%	-1.2%
National	124,881.8	126,445.0	126,605.4	126,711.1	1.5%	0.8%	1.0%

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, June 16, 2017 by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment in Virginia’s HC&SA sector continued its impressive growth in May with an increase of 1,500 new jobs. This gain represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 4.2%, which is more than double its average growth rate over the past 12 months.

With May’s employment gain, Virginia’s HC&SA sector has now increased employment in each of the past four months. During this time, 5,300 HC&SA jobs have been created throughout the state. Despite these gains, year-to-date employment growth in Virginia’s HC&SA sector has still slowed down relative to 2016. So far in 2017, Virginia’s HC&SA sector has created 3,900 jobs. However, this sector had already created 5,700 jobs at the same point in 2016.

In addition, the 12-month HC&SA employment change moving average fell in May. Over the past 12 months, Virginia’s HC&SA sector has created an average of 708 jobs per month. At the same point in 2016, however, this sector had created an average of 1,325 HC&SA jobs per month.

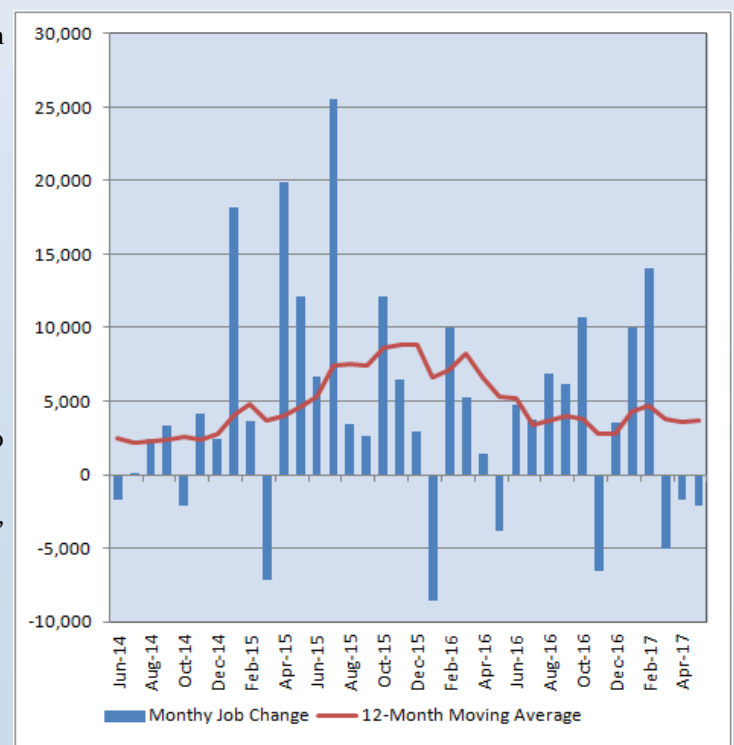
Virginia Employment

While Virginia’s HC&SA sector has experienced strong employment growth over the past several months, these gains have done little to improve the overall employment situation in Virginia. In fact, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll fell by 2,100 in May. Not only does this represent a one-month annualized employment growth rate of -0.6%, but it also represents the third consecutive month in which Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll has decreased.

Over these three months, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll has fallen by 8,800. Regardless, the state’s total nonfarm payroll has still increased by 15,200 so far in 2017 thanks to the employment gains during the first two months of the year. In fact, despite these recent employment losses, year-to-date growth in Virginia total nonfarm payroll has been quite impressive in 2017. During the first five months of 2016, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll only increased by 4,300.

As for long-term employment growth, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll has grown by an average of 3,700 jobs per month over the past year, which represents a 1.1% employment growth rate.

Figure 2: Monthly Change in Employment in Virginia’s Total Nonfarm Payroll, Seasonally Adjusted.

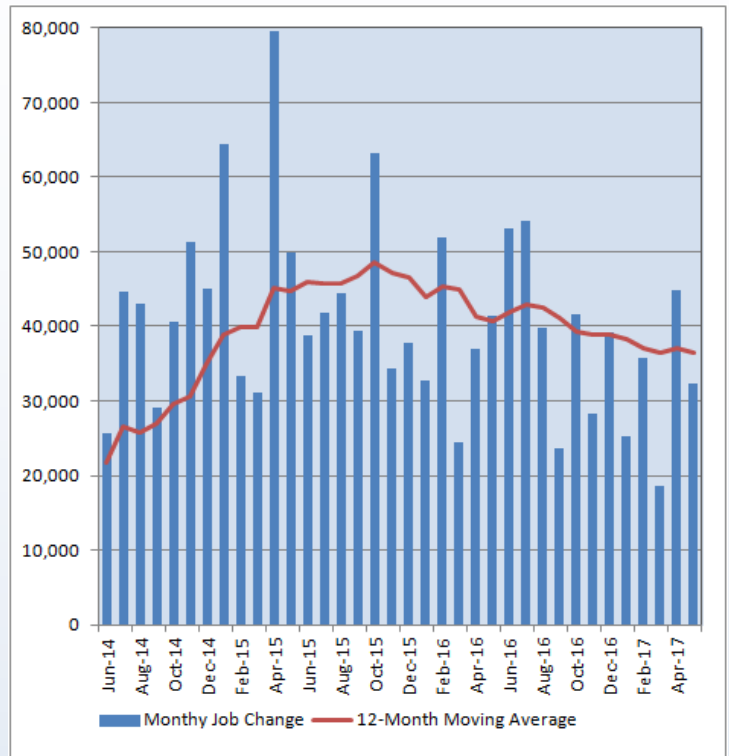


National Employment

After creating 44,900 jobs in April, employment growth in the national HC&SA sector slowed down a bit in May with the creation of just 32,300 new jobs, which represents a one-month annualized growth rate of 2.0%. So far in 2017, the national HC&SA sector has created a total of 157,000 jobs, which is down relative to the 187,600 HC&SA jobs that were created in the first five months of 2016. In addition, the 12-month national HC&SA employment change moving average fell during the month to 36,392, which represents its lowest value since December 2014.

As for the national economy, the nation's total nonfarm payroll increased by 138,000 in May, which represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 1.1%. After increasing by an average of 224,000 during the first two months of 2017, growth in the nation's total nonfarm payroll has cooled down over the past three months. In fact, the current three-month annualized growth rate in the nation's total nonfarm payroll is only 1.0%. Not only is this below the current one-month annualized growth rate in the nation's total nonfarm payroll, but it is also well below its 1.6% growth rate over the past 12 months.

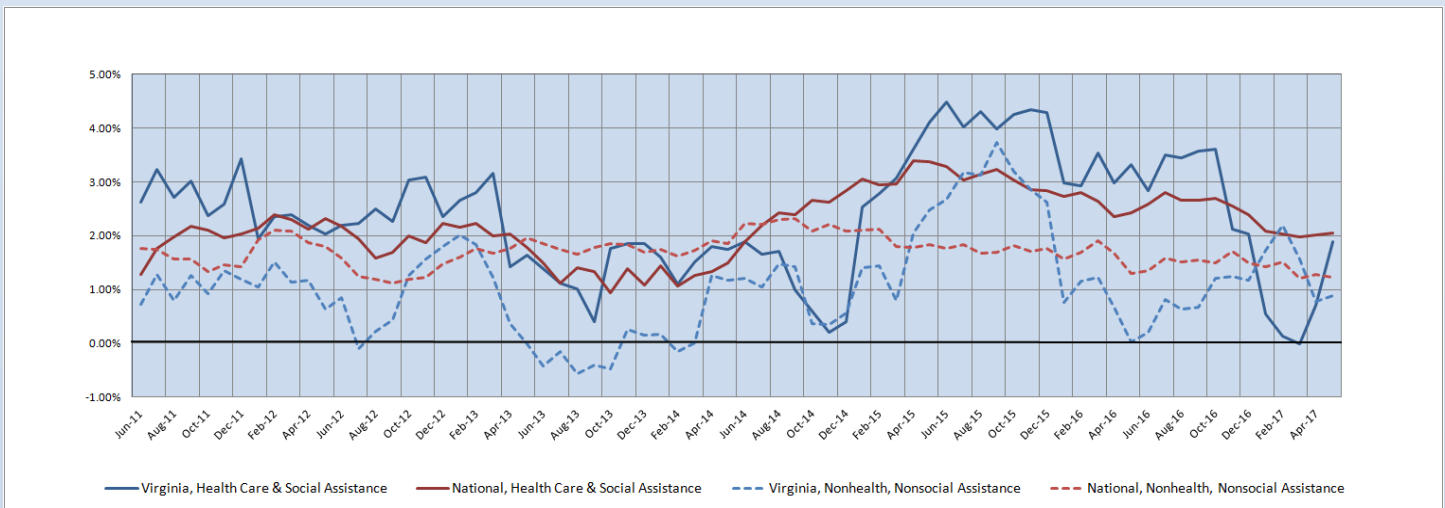
Figure 3: Monthly Change in Employment in National Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted



State Employment Growth

In March, Virginia's six-month HC&SA employment growth rate moving average turned negative for the first time since June 2000. However, resurgent employment growth in this sector over the past several months has helped to boost its six-month employment growth rate moving average all the way to 1.89% in May, which represents a five-month high. Meanwhile, Virginia's total nonfarm payroll experienced a small increase in its six-month employment growth rate moving average from 0.77% to 0.88% in May despite this month's employment decline. The six-month moving average of the national HC&SA sector also saw a small increase in May from 2.01% to 2.05%, while the comparable moving average for the nation's total nonfarm payroll experienced a slight decline from 1.28% to 1.23% during the month.

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/.

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).
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