



# Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

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

Series 1, Issue 68

November 2017

## Highlights

- ◆ According to preliminary estimates, Virginia's Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector created 2,400 new jobs in October, which represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 6.6%. So far this year, employment in Virginia's HC&SA sector has increased by 12,600. This result already exceeds the 10,300 HC&SA jobs that were created in all of 2016.
- ◆ Even though Virginia's HC&SA sector enjoyed strong employment growth in October, the state's total nonfarm payroll fell by 5,800 during the month. However, Virginia's total nonfarm payroll has increased by 36,800 so far this year.
- ◆ After only creating 7,800 new jobs in September, the national HC&SA sector rebounded strongly in October with an employment gain of 33,500 during the month. This increase represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 2.1%.
- ◆ The nation's total nonfarm payroll also recovered in October after experiencing its weakest monthly gain in seven years in September. The nation's total nonfarm payroll increased by 261,000 in October, which represents a one-month annualized growth rate of 2.2%

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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

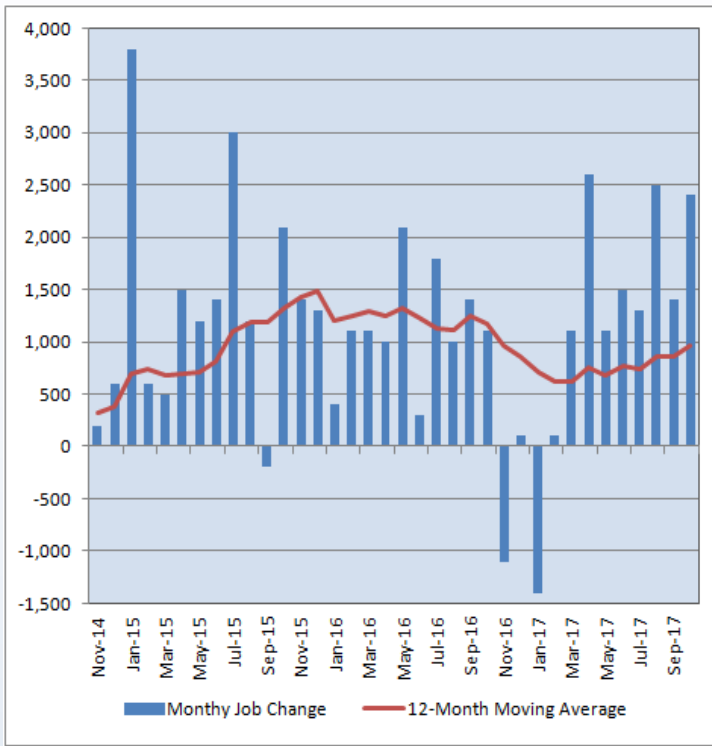
Seasonally Adjusted*	Employment, in Thousands				Growth Rate, Annualized		
	Oct. 2016	July 2017	Sept. 2017	Oct. 2017	12 Month	3 Month	1 Month
<b>Nonfarm, Total</b>							
Virginia	3,939.4	3,979.0	3,978.9	3,973.1	0.9%	-0.6%	-1.7%
National	145,006.0	146,523.0	146,749.0	147,010.0	1.4%	1.3%	2.2%
<b>Health Care &amp; Social Assistance</b>							
Virginia	439.4	444.7	448.6	451.0	2.6%	5.8%	6.6%
National	19,199.5	19,513.3	19,540.4	19,573.9	2.0%	1.2%	2.1%
<b>All Other Nonfarm</b>							
Virginia	3,500.0	3,534.3	3,530.3	3,522.1	0.6%	-1.4%	-2.8%
National	125,806.5	127,009.7	127,208.6	127,436.1	1.3%	1.3%	2.2%

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, November 17, 2017, by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Virginia’s HC&SA sector created 2,400 new jobs in October, which represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 6.6%. In addition, there was a significant upward revision in September’s preliminary employment estimate. After this revision, employment in Virginia’s HC&SA sector increased by 1,400 in September. Thus, Virginia’s HC&SA sector has now increased employment in each of the past nine months.

So far this year, Virginia’s HC&SA sector has created 12,600 jobs across the state. This growth suggests that long-term employment in Virginia’s HC&SA sector has improved in 2017. By way of comparison, this sector only created a total of 10,300 jobs throughout all of 2016. In addition, the 12-month moving average of the change in Virginia’s HC&SA employment is continuing to trend upward. Over the past year, the state’s HC&SA sector has created an average of 967 jobs per month. This moving average has now reached its highest value in one year.

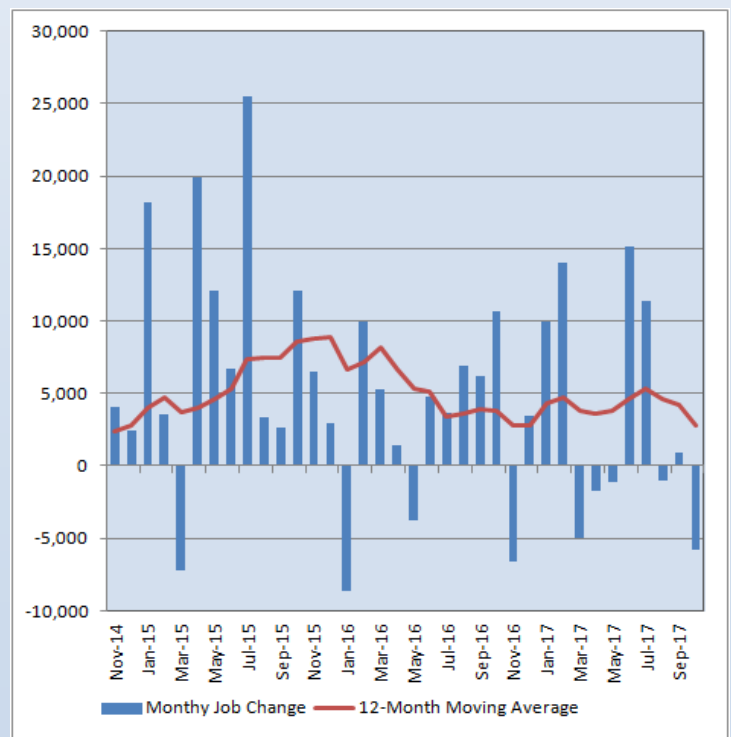
## Virginia Employment

While Virginia’s HC&SA sector enjoyed strong employment growth in October, the same can’t be said of the state’s total nonfarm payroll during the month. In fact, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll actually declined for the second time in the past three months after falling by 5,800 in October. This decline represents a one-month annualized growth rate of -1.7%. In addition, this result represents the worst one-month decline in the state’s total nonfarm payroll in nearly one year.

The weakness in Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll has now persisted for several months. Since August, Virginia’s HC&SA sector has created 6,300 jobs, which represents an impressive three-month annualized employment growth rate of 5.8%. However, these job gains have not translated into any overall growth in the state’s total nonfarm payroll, which has fallen by 5,900 over the past three months. This decline translates into an annualized growth rate of -0.6%.

Over the past year, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll has increased by an average of 2,808 per month. This represents a 12-month growth rate of 0.9%.

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

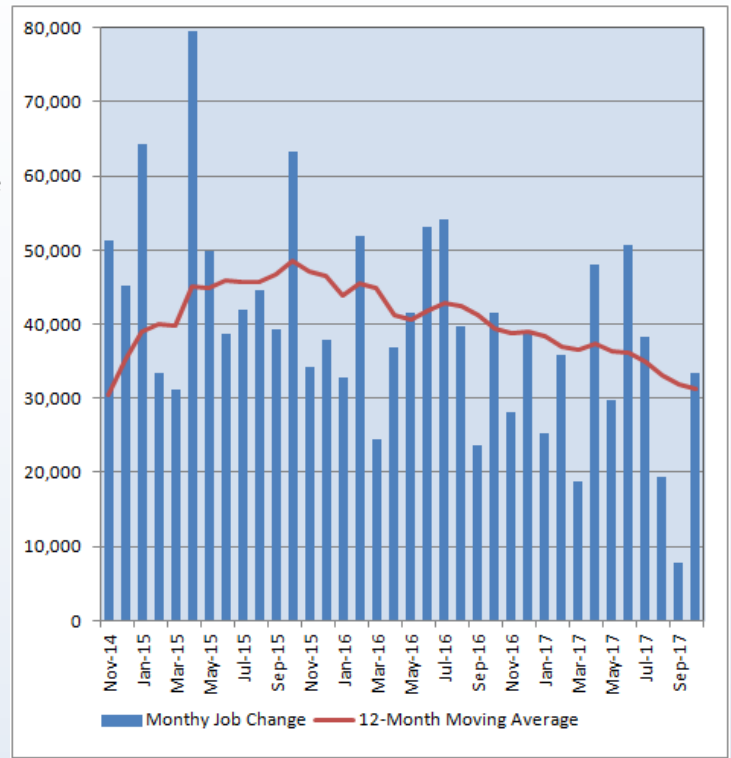


### National Employment

In September, the national HC&SA sector only created 7,800 new jobs. This result represented the weakest one-month employment gain in the national HC&SA sector in nearly four years. However, employment in the national HC&SA rebounded in October with the creation of 33,500 new jobs, which represents a one-month annualized growth rate of 2.1%. Regardless, the 12-month moving average of the change in national HC&SA employment declined for the sixth consecutive month in October. Despite this month's employment gains, the national HC&SA sector has now only created an average of 31,200 jobs per month over the past year.

The nation's total nonfarm payroll also experienced a resurgent growth in October after stagnating the previous month. In September, the nation's total nonfarm payroll experienced its weakest monthly gain in seven years after increasing by only 18,000 during the month. However, the nation's total nonfarm payroll grew by 261,000 in October, which translates into a one-month annualized growth rate of 2.2%. In addition, October's increase represents the largest one-month gain in the nation's total nonfarm payroll since July of 2016.

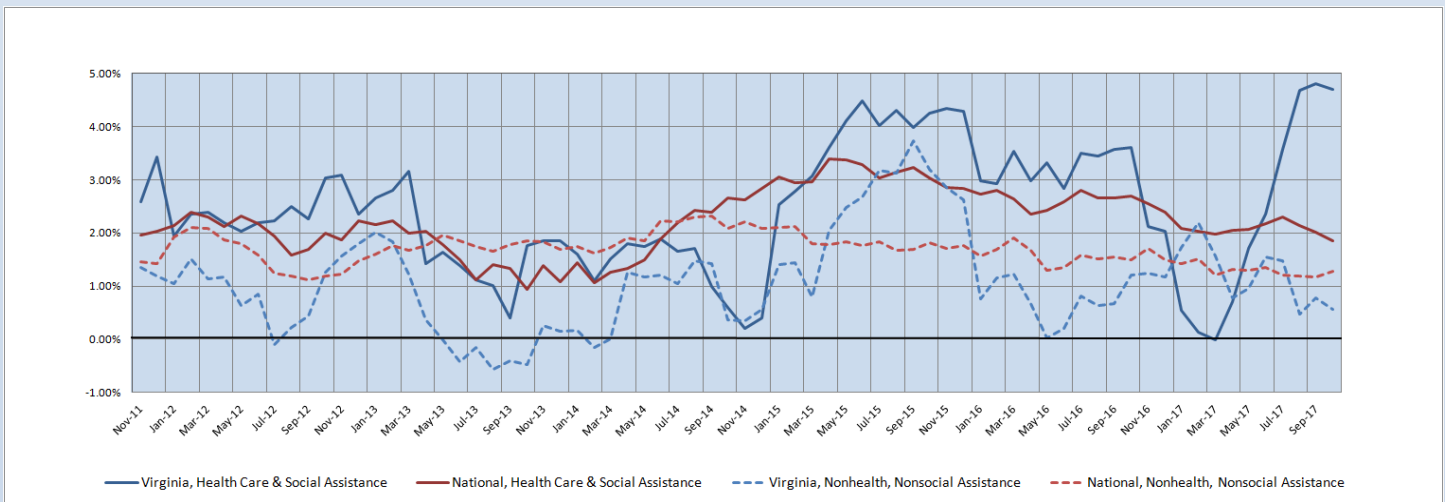
**Figure 3: Monthly Change in Employment in National Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted**



### State Employment Growth

Even though Virginia created 2,400 new HC&SA jobs in October, the six-month moving average of the employment growth rate in Virginia's HC&SA sector still experienced a slight decline during the month from 4.82% to 4.69%. Regardless, this moving average is still very close to a multi-year high, and it still far exceeds the corresponding growth rates in either Virginia's total nonfarm payroll or the national HC&SA sector. In fact, both of these moving averages fell in October. The six-month moving average of the growth rate in Virginia's total nonfarm payroll fell from 0.78% to 0.57%, while that of the national HC&SA sector declined from 2.02% to 1.86%. As for the nation's total nonfarm payroll, its six-month growth rate moving average increased from 1.16% to 1.27% in October, thereby reaching a four-month high.

**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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