



# Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

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

Series 1, Issue 12

December 2012

## Highlights

- ◆ According to preliminary estimates, Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) employment in Virginia grew by 900 jobs in November, which accounts for nearly 10% of Virginia's total employment growth during the month.
- ◆ Virginia's results contributed more than 4% percent to the nation's total HC&SA employment growth during the month, which is higher than its YTD share of 3.58%.
- ◆ The preliminary estimate for Virginia's HC&SA employment in October was revised upward by 1,900 jobs, suggesting that October's employment growth was much stronger than initially indicated.
- ◆ YTD, Virginia's HC&SA sector has added 11,700 jobs, which represents an annualized growth rate of 3.31%.
- ◆ Over the past 12 months, 27% of Virginia's employment growth has been attributable to the HC&SA sector, which is up 3% from October. This is higher than the national average; nationwide, only 19% of employment growth is currently attributable to the HC&SA sector.

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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.*

## Data in Brief

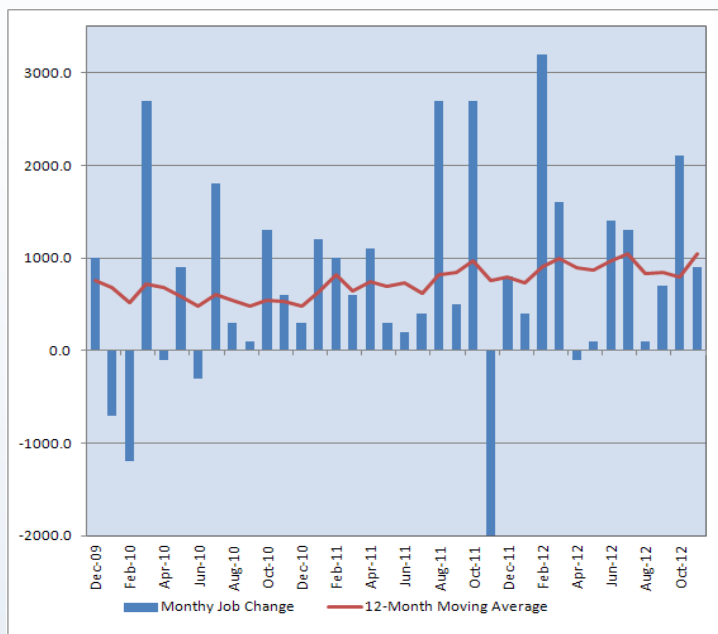
Seasonally Adjusted*	Employment, in Thousands				Growth Rate, Annualized		
	Nov. 2011	Aug. 2012	Oct. 2012	Nov. 2012	12 Month	3 Month	1 Month
<b>Nonfarm, Total</b>							
Virginia	3,696.7	3,711.0	3,734.3	3,743.6 <sup>P</sup>	1.3%	3.6%	3.0%
National	131,963.0	133,436.0	133,706.0 <sup>P</sup>	133,852.0 <sup>P</sup>	1.4%	1.3%	1.3%
<b>Health &amp; Social Assistance</b>							
Virginia	385.8	394.6	397.4	398.3 <sup>P</sup>	3.2%	3.8%	2.8%
National	16,770.8	17,029.7	17,105.2 <sup>P</sup>	17,127.2 <sup>P</sup>	2.1%	2.3%	1.6%
<b>All Other Nonfarm</b>							
Virginia	3,310.9	3,316.4	3,336.9	3,345.3 <sup>P</sup>	1.0%	3.5%	3.1%
National	115,192.2	116,406.3	116,600.8 <sup>P</sup>	116,724.8 <sup>P</sup>	1.3%	1.1%	1.3%

<sup>P</sup>: Preliminary Results

\*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.

## Jobs Created

**Figure 1: Monthly Change in Employment in Virginia's Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted.**



According to preliminary data released on December 21, 2012 by the US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment in Virginia's HC&SA sector increased by 900 jobs in November. This represents the seventh consecutive month of positive employment growth in the HC&SA sector. Meanwhile, preliminary employment numbers in October were revised upward by 1,900 jobs. Revisions generally occur due to delayed responses from smaller establishments.

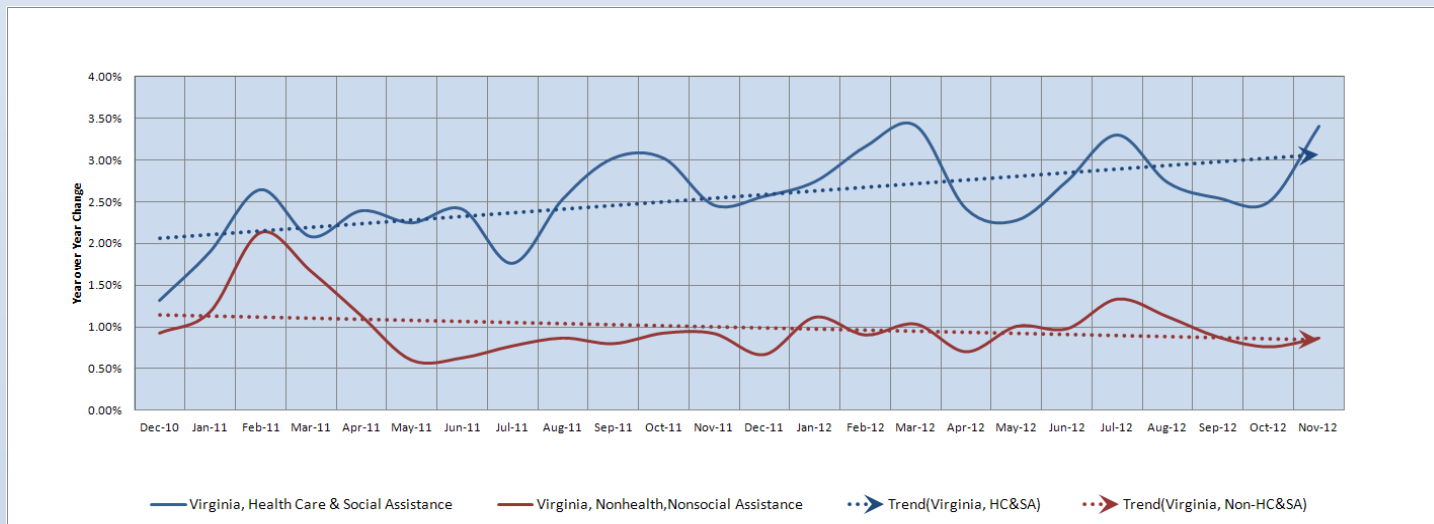
After losing 2,000 jobs in November of 2011, which was the worst performing month for Virginia's HC&SA sector since October of 2005, employment growth has been robust through most of 2012. Now that last November's result has been removed from the calculation, the 12-month moving average of Virginia's HC&SA employment growth jumped to 1,042 jobs per month, close to its three-year high of 1,050 jobs per month, which was reached in July. YTD, Virginia's HC&SA sector has added 11,700 jobs.

## HC&SA vs. Non-HC&SA Employment Growth

Over the past three years, year-over-year employment growth in Virginia's HC&SA sector has been quite strong relative to the rest of the state's economy. There has not been a single month in which the state's non-HC&SA YOY employment growth has exceeded the rate achieved in the HC&SA sector. In addition, as demonstrated by the trend lines in the graph below, this disparity appears to be growing over time. For the month of November, YOY employment growth in Virginia's HC&SA sector increased to 3.4%, while employment growth outside of this sector grew by only 0.9%.

Regardless, Virginia's employment growth has been relatively strong over the past year. Despite a slightly declining trend line, which is mainly attributable to a temporary spike in employment growth in early 2011, Virginia's overall unemployment rate fell to 5.6% in November, which remains significantly below the national average of 7.7%.

**Figure 2: Year-Over-Year Employment Growth, Not Seasonally Adjusted.**

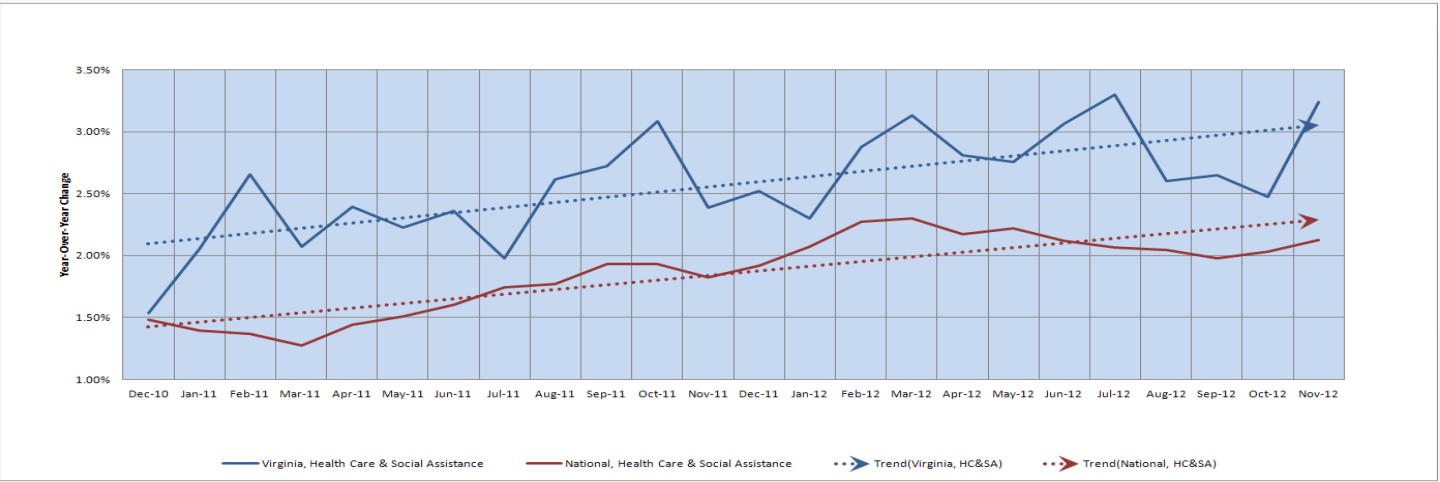


### Virginia vs. National Employment Growth

Thanks to last November's subpar results, Virginia experience strong YOY HC&SA employment growth this month, increasing 0.7% from October. National HC&SA employment growth also increased by a relatively modest 0.1%

Over the past two years, YOY HC&SA employment growth has accelerated both in Virginia and in the country as a whole, but growth in Virginia's health care sector has been stronger. Starting in December of 2010 when employment growth rates were nearly identical both locally and nationally, Virginia's YOY HC&SA employment growth rate has more than doubled from 1.5% to 3.2%, while the national HC&SA sector has only seen its YOY employment growth rate increase to 2.1%.

**Figure 3: Year-Over-Year Employment Growth, Seasonally Adjusted**

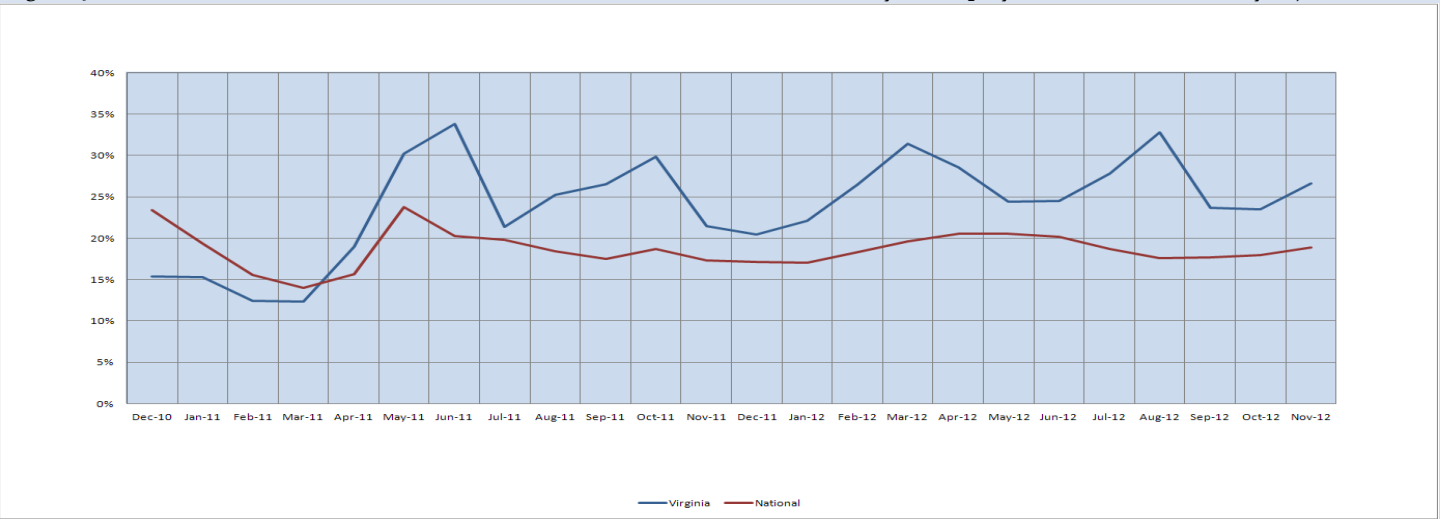


### Share of Employment Growth

As expected, the share of Virginia's 12-month nonfarm payroll employment growth that is attributable to the HC&SA sector grew to 27% in November, an increase of 3% from the previous month. Meanwhile, the national HC&SA sector also boosted its share of total 12-month employment growth to 19%, which represented a 1% increase from October.

As discussed in last month's brief, some of the growth in Virginia's HC&SA employment share is due to the loss of last November's results (a loss of 2,000 jobs) from the calculation. Regardless, Virginia's HC&SA sector has continued to play a significant role in total nonfarm payroll employment growth in recent years. In addition, the sector has only increased in relative importance for most of the past two years after eclipsing the national average in April of 2011.

**Figure 4: The Health Care and Social Assistance Sector's Share of 12-Month Nonfarm Payroll 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 140,000 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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