



# Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

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

Series 1, Issue 85

April 2019

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## Highlights

- ◆ According to preliminary estimates, Virginia's Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector created 2,700 new jobs in March, a gain that translates into a 7.5% annualized employment growth rate. This month's gain continues a recent trend of strong employment growth in Virginia's HC&SA sector. During Q1 2019, employment in Virginia's HC&SA sector increased by 6,200.
- ◆ Virginia's HC&SA sector was responsible for one-third of all statewide employment growth during the month. Virginia's total nonfarm payroll increased by 8,000 in March, which represents a one-month annualized growth rate of 2.4%.
- ◆ With the creation of 61,200 new jobs, the national HC&SA sector enjoyed a significant uptick in employment growth in March. This monthly employment gain translates into a 3.7% annualized growth rate. In addition, this result represents its largest one-month employment gain in nearly four years.
- ◆ Growth in the nation's total nonfarm payroll rebounded strongly in March. One month after experiencing its weakest employment gain in nearly one-and-a-half years, the nation's total nonfarm payroll increased by 196,000 in March. This one-month gain represents a 1.6% annualized growth rate.

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

## Data in Brief

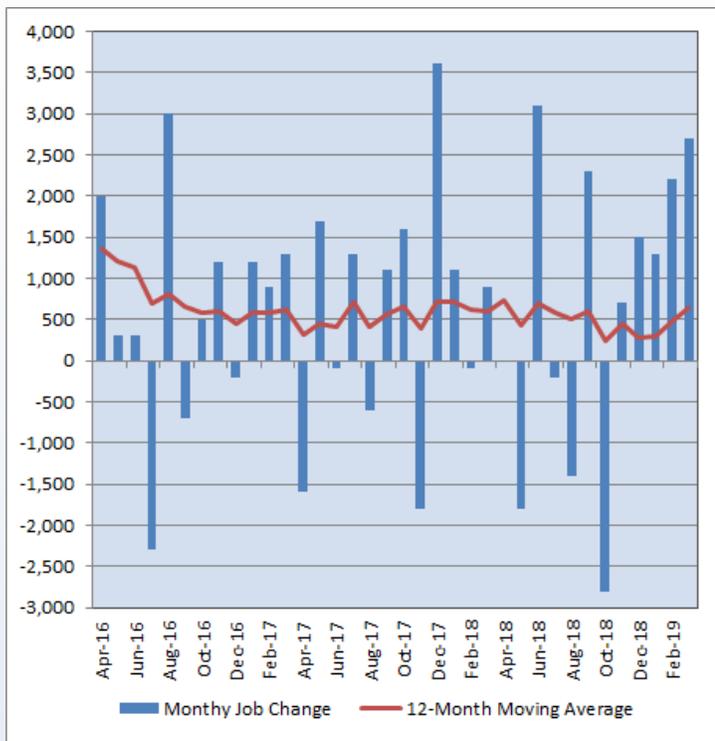
Seasonally Adjusted*	Employment, in Thousands				Growth Rate, Annualized		
	Mar. 2018	Dec. 2018	Feb. 2019	Mar. 2019	12 Month	3 Month	1 Month
<b>Nonfarm, Total</b>							
Virginia	3,998.1	4,008.6	4,025.6	<i>4,033.6</i>	0.9%	2.5%	2.4%
National	148,279.0	150,275.0	150,620.0	150,816.0	1.7%	1.4%	1.6%
<b>Health Care &amp; Social Assistance</b>							
Virginia	444.5	445.9	449.4	<i>452.1</i>	1.7%	5.7%	7.5%
National	19,816.3	20,166.1	20,239.0	20,300.2	2.4%	2.7%	3.7%
<b>All Other Nonfarm</b>							
Virginia	3,553.6	3,562.7	3,576.2	<i>3,581.5</i>	0.8%	2.1%	1.8%
National	128,462.7	130,108.9	130,381.0	130,515.8	1.6%	1.3%	1.2%

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 preliminary data released on Friday, April 19, 2019, by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Virginia’s Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector created 2,700 new jobs in March. This gain represents a one-month annualized growth rate of 7.5%. This result also represents the largest monthly employment gain in Virginia’s HC&SA sector since June 2018.

With this gain, Virginia’s HC&SA sector has increased employment for five consecutive months. In addition, this employment growth has been accelerating in recent months. In Q1 2019, Virginia’s HC&SA sector created 6,200 new jobs, which translates into a three-month annualized employment growth rate of 5.7%. This three-month gain represents one-quarter of all employment growth in the state so far in 2019.

This accelerating growth has led to an increase in the 12-month moving average of the employment change in Virginia’s HC&SA sector, which reached a nine-month high in March. Over the past year, Virginia’s HC&SA sector has created an average of 633 jobs per month.

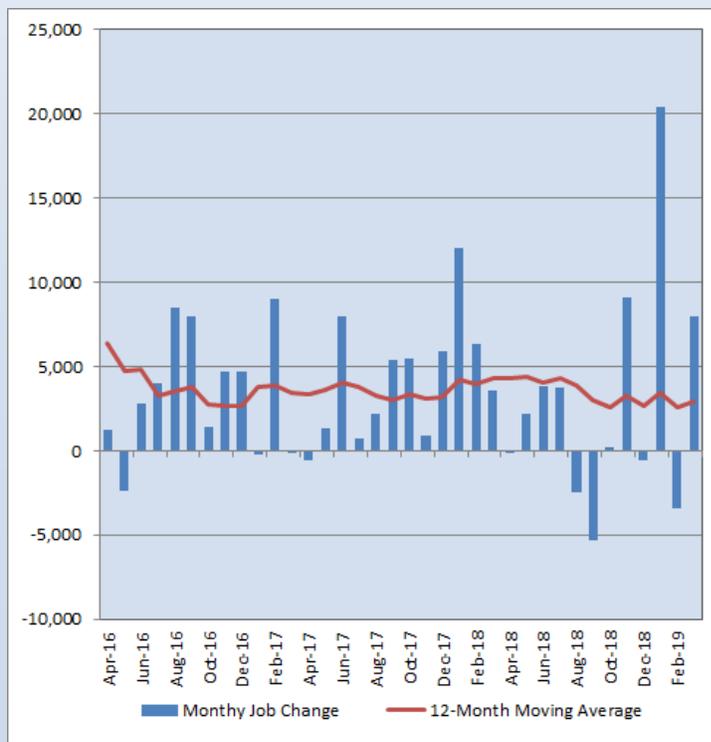
## Virginia Employment

Virginia’s HC&SA sector was responsible for one-third of all statewide employment growth during the month. In March, the state’s total nonfarm payroll increased by 8,000. This gain represents a one-month annualized growth rate of 2.4%. With this gain, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll was able to recover all of its losses from February when employment fell by 3,400 across the state.

In Q1 2019, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll increased by 25,000, which represents a three-month annualized growth rate of 2.5%. This gain represents the best start to a new year since 2006. However, much of this quarter’s growth in the state’s total nonfarm payroll was thanks to January’s exceptionally large gain of 20,400. This increase was six times larger than the 12-month moving average of the change in Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll.

Despite recent gains, long-term growth in Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll remains weak. Over the past year, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll has increased by an average of 2,958 per month. At its current level, this 12-month moving average has fallen by 30% since last March.

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

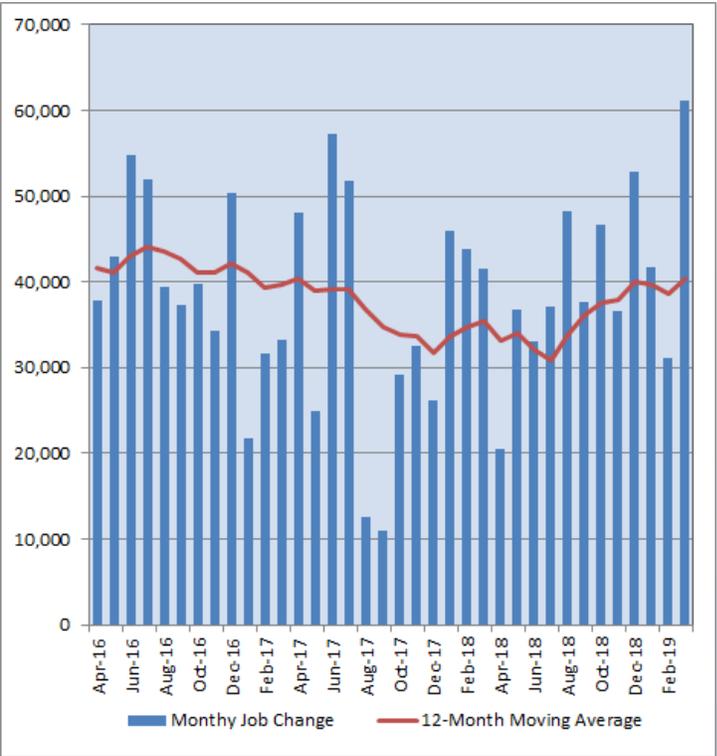


### National Employment

With the addition of 61,200 jobs in March, employment growth in the national HC&SA sector nearly doubled relative to the previous month. In fact, March's result represents the largest one-month employment gain in the national HC&SA sector in nearly four years. This increase translates into a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 3.7%. This strong employment gain in March helped contribute to the creation of 134,100 HC&SA jobs in Q1 2019. This gain represents a three-month annualized employment growth rate of 2.7%. Virginia's HC&SA sector has been responsible for 4.6% of this year-to-date employment growth.

The employment growth in the national HC&SA sector led to a strong rebound in the growth rate of the nation's total nonfarm payroll. After growing by only 33,000 in February, the nation's total nonfarm payroll increased by 196,000 in March. This gain translates into a 1.6% annualized employment growth rate. So far in 2019, the nation's total nonfarm payroll has increased by 541,000. This year-to-date employment gain represents a slowdown when compared to the increase of 683,000 in the nation's total nonfarm payroll in Q1 2018.

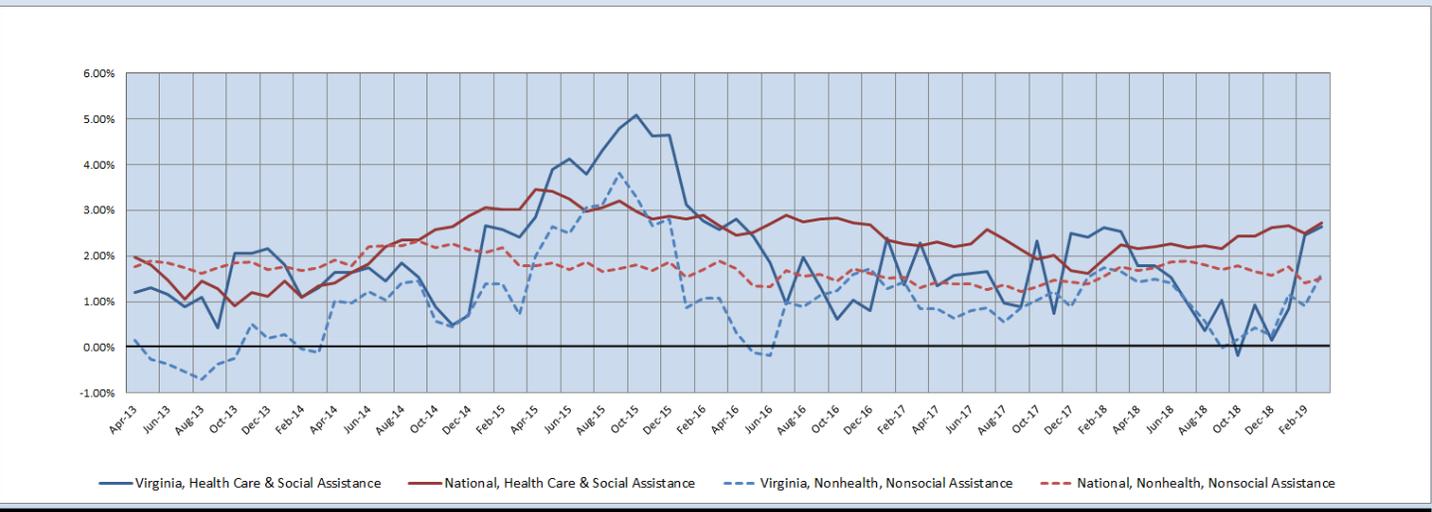
**Figure 3: Monthly Change in Employment in National Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted**



### State Employment Growth

The six-month moving average of the employment growth rate in Virginia's HC&SA sector continued its ascent in March, increasing from 2.46% to 2.64% during the month. With this increase, the six-month moving average of the employment growth rate in Virginia's HC&SA sector has reached its highest value in nearly three years. Regardless, it still remains below the comparable moving average of the national HC&SA sector. In March, the six-month moving average of the employment growth rate in the national HC&SA sector increased from 2.49% to 2.72%. At the same time, the six-month moving average of the growth rate in Virginia's total nonfarm payroll increased from 0.90% to 1.62%, while the comparable moving average for the nation's total nonfarm payroll increased from 1.41% to 1.51%.

**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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