



Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

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

Series 1, Issue 97

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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 suffered severe employment losses in March due to the significant economic consequences of the coronavirus pandemic. Employment in Virginia's HC&SA sector fell by 4,000 in March, which represents a one-month annualized growth rate of -9.8%.
- The impact of the coronavirus was felt in the broader statewide economy as well. In March, Virginia's total nonfarm payroll employment fell by 28,600. This loss translates into a one-month annualized employment growth rate of -8.1%. This result also represents the largest decline in Virginia's total nonfarm payroll employment in more than 30 years.
- The national HC&SA sector also experienced a significant job loss during the month. In fact, employment in the national HC&SA sector declined for the first time in more than six years after falling by 61,200 in March. This job loss represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of -3.5%.
- The economic effects of the coronavirus impacted job growth across the entire country as national total nonfarm payroll employment fell by 701,000 in March, which translates into a -5.4% annualized growth rate.

Data in Brief

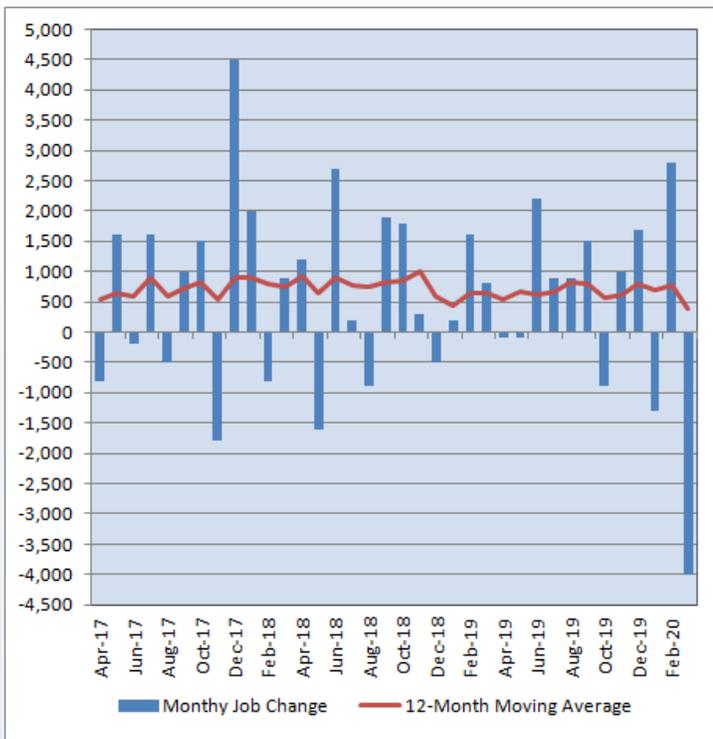
Seasonally Adjusted*	Employment, in Thousands				Growth Rate, Annualized		
	Mar. 2019	Dec. 2019	Feb. 2020	Mar. 2020	12 Month	3 Month	1 Month
Nonfarm, Total							
Virginia	4,048.6	4,087.9	4,099.9	<i>4,071.3</i>	0.6%	-1.6%	-8.1%
National	150,282.0	151,998.0	152,487.0	<i>151,786.0</i>	1.0%	-0.6%	-5.4%
Health Care & Social Assistance							
Virginia	456.3	463.4	464.9	<i>460.9</i>	1.0%	-2.1%	-9.8%
National	20,256.1	20,654.2	20,761.3	<i>20,700.1</i>	2.2%	0.9%	-3.5%
All Other Nonfarm							
Virginia	3,592.3	3,624.5	3,635.0	<i>3,610.4</i>	0.5%	-1.5%	-7.8%
National	130,025.9	131,343.8	131,725.7	<i>131,085.9</i>	0.8%	-0.8%	-5.7%

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 17, 2020, by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Virginia’s Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector was heavily affected by the economic dislocations caused by the spread of the coronavirus during the month. In March, employment in Virginia’s HC&SA sector fell by 4,000. This job loss represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of -9.8%. In addition, this result also represents the largest monthly job loss in the state’s HC&SA sector in more than two decades.

This month’s job loss had a significant impact on the long-term employment growth of Virginia’s HC&SA sector. In particular, the 12-month moving average of the monthly employment change for Virginia’s HC&SA sector fell by more than half in March, thereby reaching its lowest value in more than five years. With this decline, Virginia’s HC&SA sector has created an average of 383 jobs per month over the past year, which translates into a 1.0% growth rate. In addition, the continuing effects of the coronavirus over the coming months are likely to put further downward pressure on long-term HC&SA employment growth.

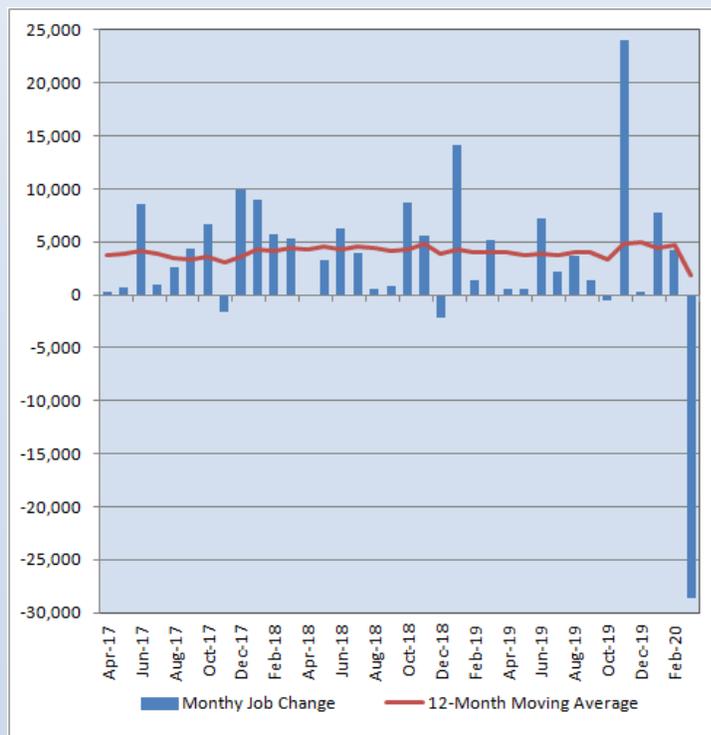
Virginia Employment

The employment impact of the coronavirus was not limited to only the state’s HC&SA sector. In fact, the job loss in Virginia’s HC&SA sector represents only 14% of the total decline in the state’s total nonfarm payroll employment, which fell by 28,600 in March. This decline translates into a one-month annualized employment growth rate of -8.1%.

March’s employment decline represents a unique shock to Virginia’s overall economy. In fact, the state’s total nonfarm payroll has not experienced such a dramatic employment decline in more than 30 years. This even includes the worst moments of the Great Recession that impacted Virginia in the aftermath of the global financial crisis between 2007 and 2009. At one point during that crisis, the state’s total nonfarm payroll employment had fallen for 12 consecutive months, including the loss of 26,200 jobs in January 2009.

With this job loss, the 12-month moving average of the monthly employment change in Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll fell by 60% in March to its lowest value in nearly six years. Over the past year, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll employment has increased by an average of 1,892 per month.

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

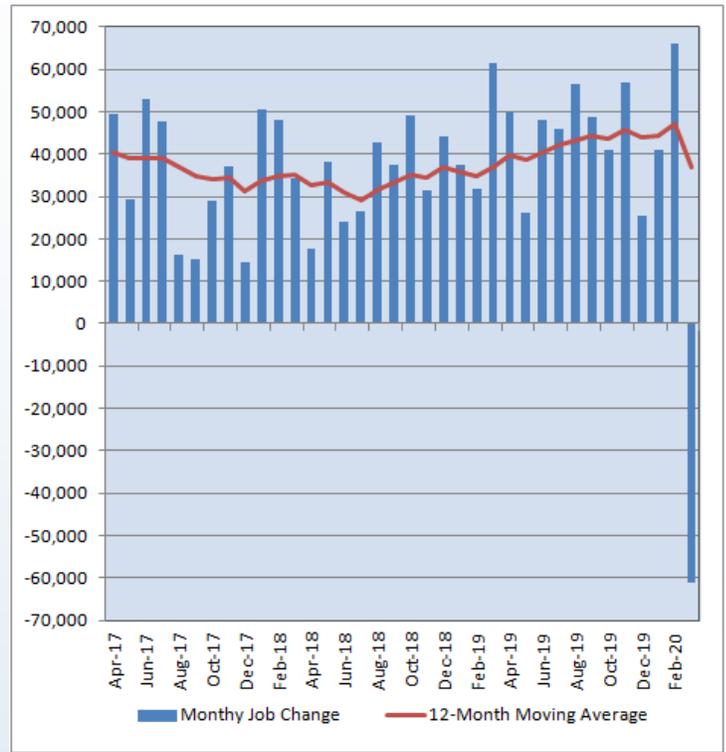


National Employment

The emergence of the coronavirus also had profound employment consequences for the national economy. Prior to March, the national HC&SA sector had not experienced a month of negative employment growth in more than six years. However, these consistent employment gains came to an end in March as the national HC&SA sector lost 61,200 jobs during the month, which translates into -3.5% annualized growth rate. In fact, this month's result represents only the fourth time since 1998 in which national HC&SA employment has experienced a monthly employment decline. However, March's job loss was by far the most significant.

National total nonfarm employment experienced an even more dramatic decline during the month. After increasing by 489,000 during the first two months of 2020, the nation's total nonfarm payroll lost all of these gains in March with an employment decline of 701,000 during the month. This represents the first monthly loss in national total nonfarm payroll employment since 2010. It also represents the largest monthly decline in national total nonfarm payroll employment since March 2009 during the height of the Great Recession when 800,000 jobs were lost in a single month.

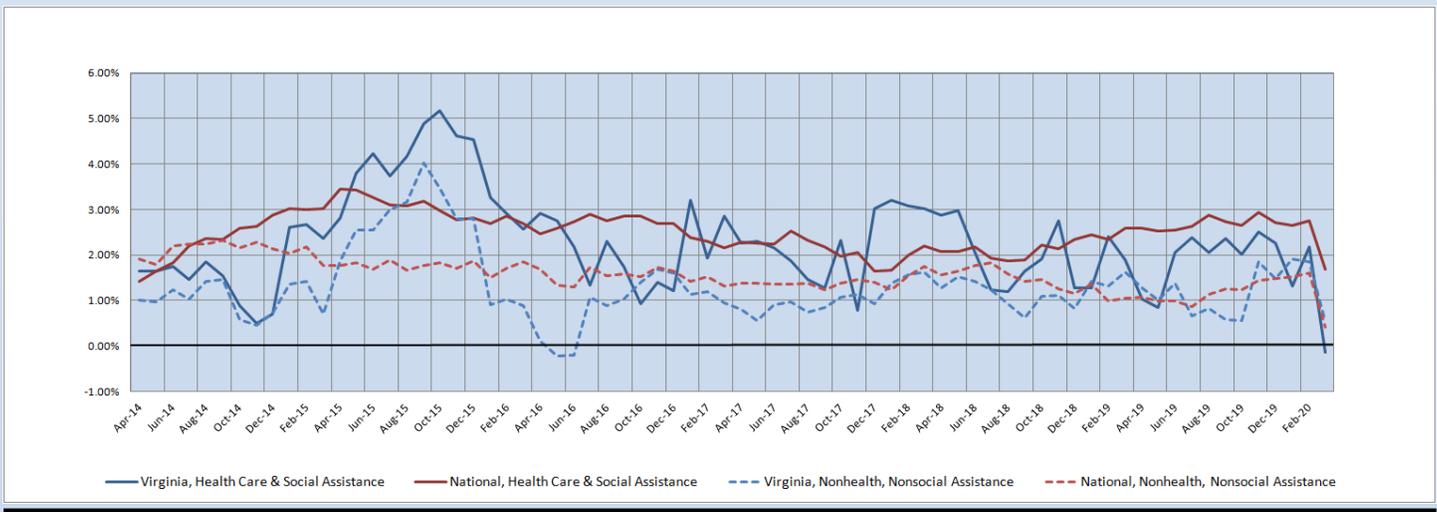
Figure 3: Monthly Change in Employment in National Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted



State Employment Growth

Virginia's HC&SA sector experienced a dramatic decline in its six-month employment growth rate moving average in March from 2.17% to -0.14%. This represents the first time since 2000 during the collapse of the Internet bubble that Virginia's HC&SA sector has seen its six-month employment growth rate moving average turn negative. Virginia's total nonfarm payroll employment also experienced a significant decrease in its own moving average during the month from 1.84% to 0.54%, thereby reaching its lowest value since 2016. As for the national HC&SA sector, its six-month employment growth rate moving average dropped below 2% for the first time since 2018 after falling from 2.74% to 1.68% in March. Finally, national total nonfarm payroll employment saw its own moving average fall from 1.61% to 0.42% during the month.

Figure 4: Six-Month Moving Average, Employment Growth, Seasonally Adjusted



Healthcare Workforce
Data Center

Perimeter Center
9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300
Henrico, VA 23233-1463

Phone: (804) 367-2115
Fax: (804) 527-4434
E-mail: hwdc@dhp.virginia.gov
Website: www.dhp.virginia.gov/PublicResources/HealthcareWorkforceDataCenter/

HWDC Staff:

Elizabeth Carter, PhD <i>Executive Director</i>	Yetty Shobo, PhD <i>Deputy Director</i>
Laura Jackson, MSHSA <i>Operations Manager</i>	Rajana Siva, MBA <i>Research Analyst</i>
Christopher Coyle <i>Research Assistant</i>	

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/PublicResources/HealthcareWorkforceDataCenter/.

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 U.S. 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).