



# Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

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

Series 1, Issue 96

March 2020

## Highlights

- ◆ According to preliminary estimates, Virginia's Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector enjoyed its largest seasonally adjusted employment gain in more than two years after creating 3,400 new jobs in February. This gain represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 9.2%.
- ◆ Virginia's HC&SA sector was responsible for nearly one-third of the total growth in the state's total nonfarm payroll employment, which increased by 11,100 in February. This one-month employment gain translates into a 3.3% annualized growth rate. With this gain, Virginia's total nonfarm payroll employment has increased in each of the past four months.
- ◆ The national HC&SA sector enjoyed a strong month of employment growth in February with the creation of 56,500 new jobs, a gain that represents a 3.3% annualized growth rate. So far this year, employment in the national HC&SA sector has increased by 99,100.
- ◆ For the second consecutive month, national total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 273,000. This increase represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 2.2%. Over the past year, national total nonfarm payroll employment has increased by 2.41 million.

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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

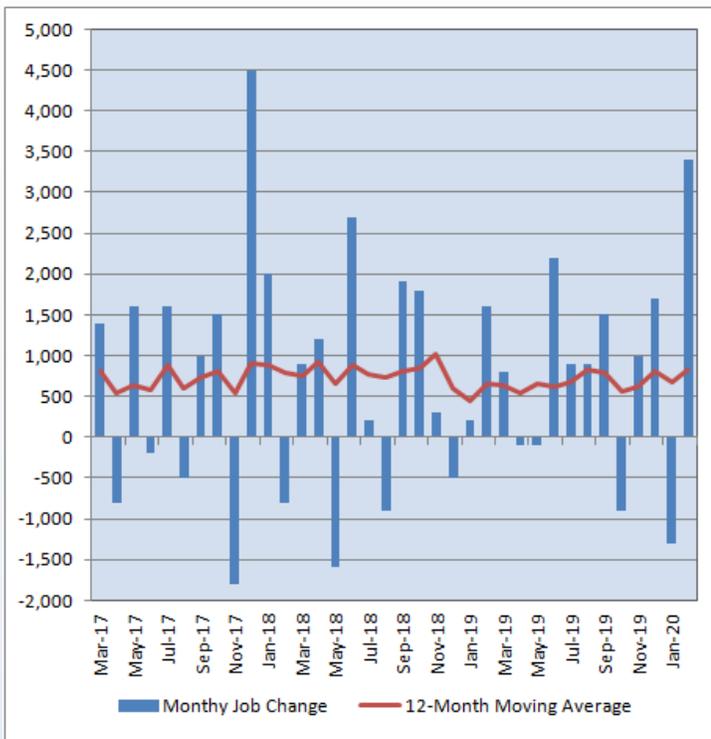
Seasonally Adjusted*	Employment, in Thousands				Growth Rate, Annualized		
	Feb. 2019	Nov. 2019	Jan. 2020	Feb. 2020	12 Month	3 Month	1 Month
<b>Nonfarm, Total</b>							
Virginia	4,043.4	4,087.6	4,095.7	<i>4,106.8</i>	1.6%	1.9%	3.3%
National	150,135.0	151,814.0	152,271.0	<i>152,544.0</i>	1.6%	1.9%	2.2%
<b>Health Care &amp; Social Assistance</b>							
Virginia	455.5	461.7	462.1	<i>465.5</i>	2.2%	3.3%	9.2%
National	20,194.6	20,628.9	20,696.8	<i>20,753.3</i>	2.8%	2.4%	3.3%
<b>All Other Nonfarm</b>							
Virginia	3,587.9	3,625.9	3,633.6	<i>3,641.3</i>	1.5%	1.7%	2.6%
National	129,940.4	131,185.1	131,574.2	<i>131,790.7</i>	1.4%	1.9%	2.0%

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 preliminary data released on Friday, March 27, 2020, by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Virginia’s Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector rebounded strongly from January’s employment decline by creating 3,400 new jobs in February, a gain that represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 9.2%. In addition, this month’s job gain represents the largest increase in Virginia’s HC&SA employment since December 2017. Even with January’s significant employment loss, Virginia’s HC&SA sector has still created 2,100 new jobs during the first two months of 2020. This represents the best start to a new year for employment in Virginia’s HC&SA sector since 2017.

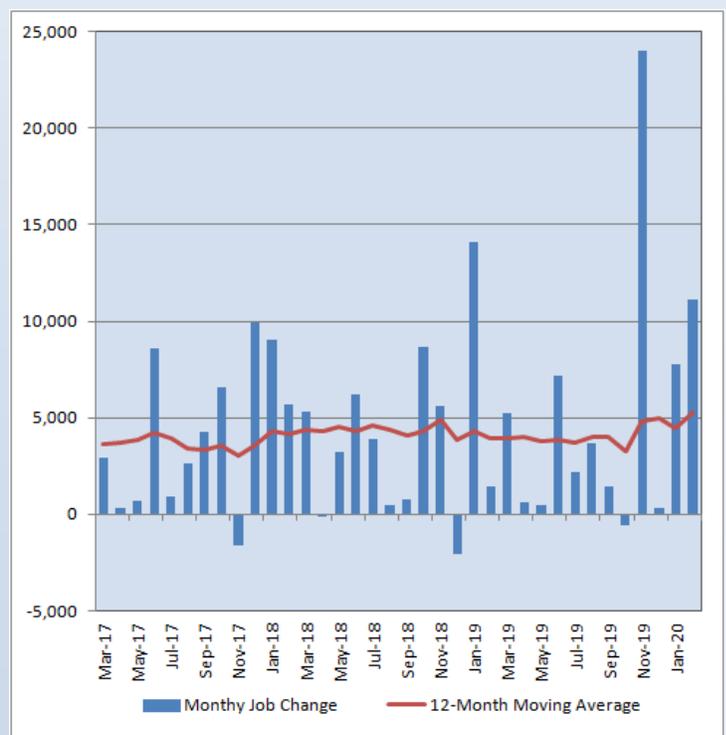
February’s strong job gain contributed to an improvement in the long-term employment growth of Virginia’s HC&SA sector. Over the past year, employment in Virginia’s HC&SA sector has increased by an average of 833 jobs per month. This average monthly gain translates into a 12-month growth rate of 2.2%. It also represents the highest value for the 12-month moving average of the employment change in Virginia’s HC&SA sector since November 2018.

## Virginia Employment

Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll employment has also enjoyed a strong start to the new year. After growing by 7,800 in January, employment in Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll experienced an even larger increase of 11,100 in February, which represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 3.3%. However, unlike January’s job gain, this month’s increase in Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll employment was fueled to a significant degree by job growth in the state’s HC&SA sector. In fact, Virginia’s HC&SA sector was responsible for 31% of all employment growth in the state’s total nonfarm payroll in February.

For the first time since 2018, the monthly employment change of Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll exceeded its 12-month moving average for two consecutive months. Thanks to this strong growth, the 12-month moving average of the employment change in Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll has risen to its highest value in nearly four years. At its current value, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll employment has increased by an average of 5,283 per month over the past year. This translates into a 1.6% employment growth rate, which is equivalent to the comparable overall national average.

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

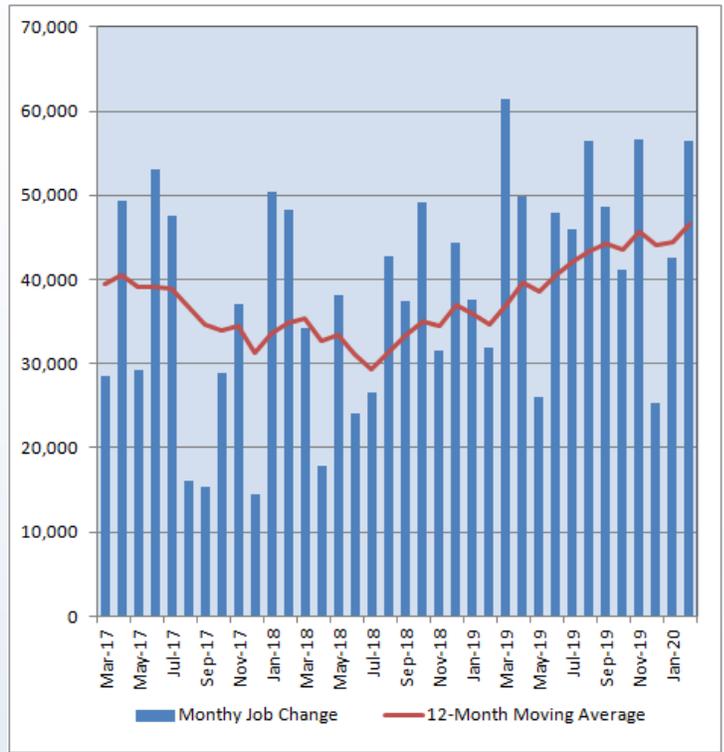


### National Employment

Virginia’s HC&SA sector was responsible for 6% of all nationwide HC&SA employment growth during the month. In February, the national HC&SA sector enjoyed its largest employment gain in three months after creating 56,500 new jobs, a gain that translates into a 3.3% annualized growth rate. With this gain, the national HC&SA sector has increased employment by 99,100 so far this year. The national HC&SA sector has not created this many jobs during the first two months of a new year in more than one decade. This strong growth has led to an increase in the 12-month moving average of the employment change in the national HC&SA sector to its highest value in more than four years.

National total nonfarm payroll employment also enjoyed strong growth in February. For the second consecutive month, employment in the nation’s total nonfarm payroll increased by 273,000. This gain represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 2.2%. This growth rate exceeds the long-term average for national total nonfarm payroll employment, which has increased by 2.41 million over the past year. This 12-month employment gain translates into a 1.6% growth rate.

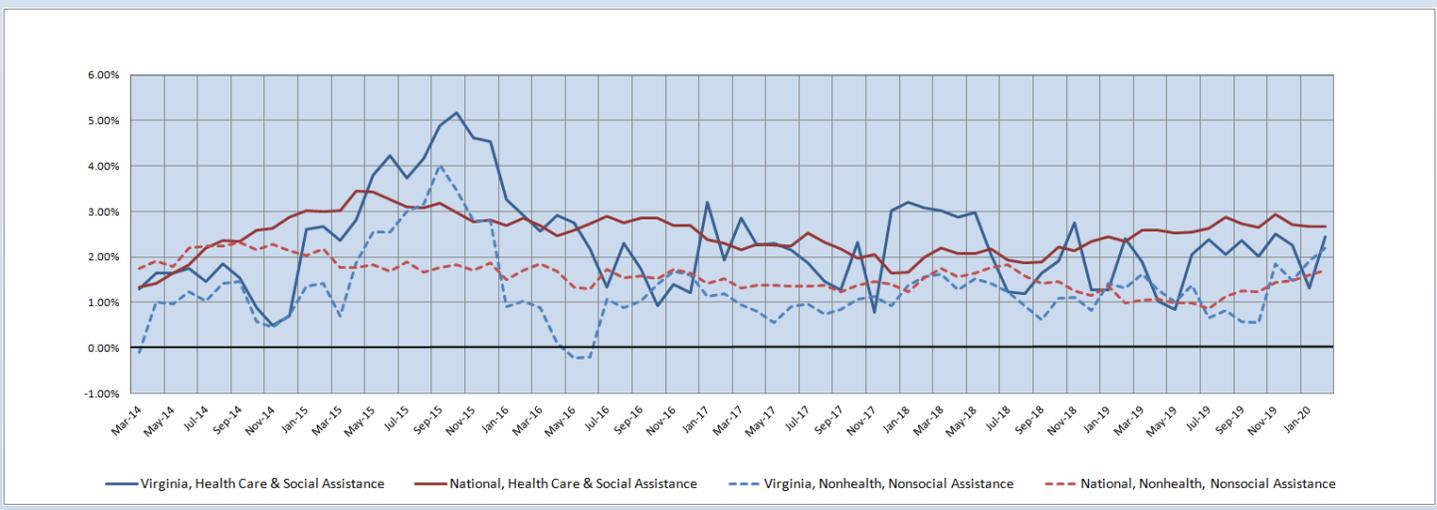
**Figure 3: Monthly Change in Employment in National Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted**



### State Employment Growth

In February, the six-month moving average of the employment growth rate for Virginia’s HC&SA sector nearly doubled from 1.31% to 2.45%. With this increase, the six-month employment growth rate moving average of Virginia’s HC&SA sector once again exceeds the comparable moving average for the state’s total nonfarm payroll. Regardless, the six-month moving average of the growth rate in Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll employment increased in February from 1.92% to a four-year high of 2.19%. The national HC&SA sector and national total nonfarm payroll experienced less dramatic changes. The six-month moving average of the employment growth rate for the national HC&SA sector fell slightly from 2.67% to 2.66%, while the comparable moving average for the nation’s total nonfarm payroll increased from 1.61% to 1.71%.

**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/PublicResources/HealthcareWorkforceDataCenter/](http://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).