



Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

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

Series 1, Issue 98

May 2020

Inside this Brief:

Virginia HC&SA Employment	2
Virginia Employment	2
National Employment	3
State Employment Growth	3
About the Data	4

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

Highlights

- ◆ In April, the lockdown measures that were put into effect in order to combat the coronavirus pandemic led to unprecedented employment losses in both Virginia and the nation as a whole. According to preliminary estimates, Virginia's Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector lost 45,400 jobs in April, which represents a one-month annualized growth rate of -71.3%.
- ◆ The employment losses in the overall statewide economy were just as severe as in the state's HC&SA sector. Virginia's total nonfarm payroll employment fell by 383,400 in April. This one-month job loss translates into a -69.5% annualized employment growth rate.
- ◆ The job losses that occurred in Virginia's HC&SA sector were in line with the HC&SA employment losses experienced elsewhere across the country during the month. In April, the national HC&SA sector lost 2.09 million jobs, which translates into a one-month annualized employment growth rate of -72.1%.
- ◆ Despite the severe employment losses that took place in Virginia, the state's overall economy lost jobs at a slower rate than the overall national average. National total nonfarm payroll employment declined by 20.54 million in April, which represents a -82.6% annualized growth rate.

Data in Brief

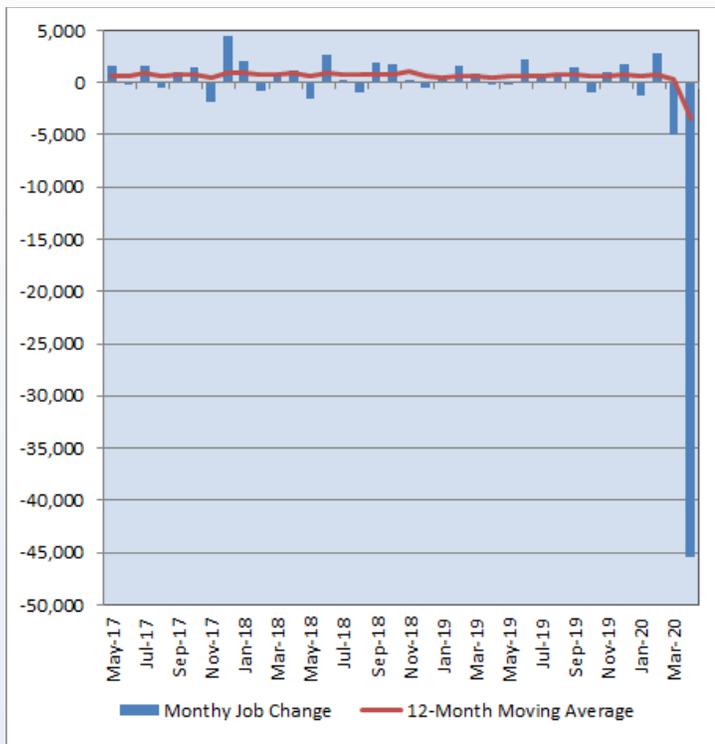
Seasonally Adjusted*	Employment, in Thousands				Growth Rate, Annualized		
	Apr. 2019	Jan. 2020	Mar. 2020	Apr. 2020	12 Month	3 Month	1 Month
Nonfarm, Total							
Virginia	4,049.2	4,095.7	4,067.4	3,684.0	-9.0%	-34.5%	-69.5%
National	150,492.0	152,212.0	151,582.0	131,045.0	-12.9%	-45.1%	-82.6%
Health Care & Social Assistance							
Virginia	456.2	462.1	459.9	414.5	-9.1%	-35.3%	-71.3%
National	20,306.0	20,695.2	20,693.6	18,606.7	-8.4%	-34.7%	-72.1%
All Other Nonfarm							
Virginia	3,593.0	3,633.6	3,607.5	3,269.5	-9.0%	-34.4%	-69.3%
National	130,186.0	131,516.8	130,888.4	112,438.3	-13.6%	-46.6%	-83.9%

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, May 22, 2020, by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Virginia’s Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector experienced the full economic impact from the various actions put in place by the government of Virginia to limit the spread of the coronavirus, which has infected more than 45,000 people in the state since its emergence nearly three months ago. These effects began to be felt in March when Virginia’s HC&SA sector lost 5,000 jobs across the state, but this employment decline paled in comparison to the 45,400 HC&SA jobs that were lost in April. This job loss represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of -71.3%.

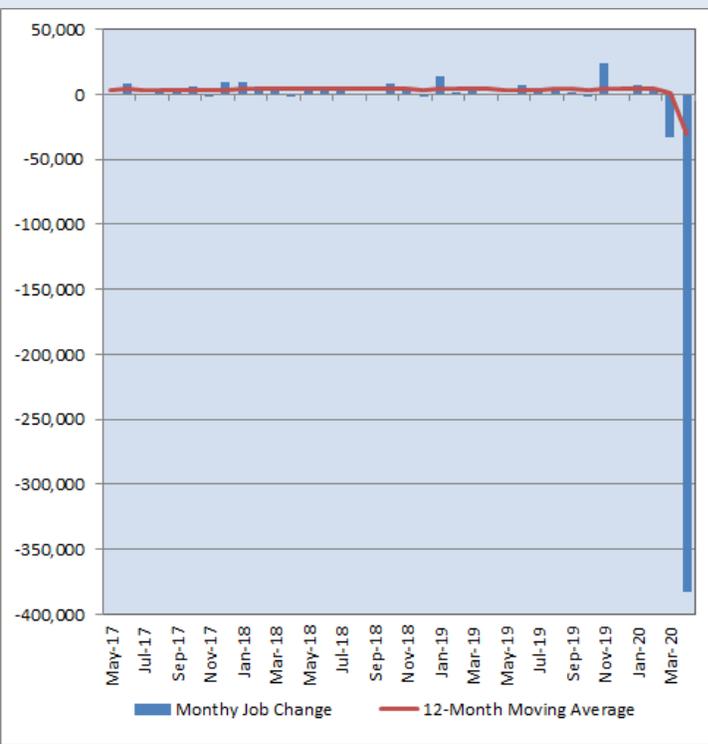
The scale of these HC&SA employment losses over the past two months is staggering. The job losses experienced in March and April represent the two worst months for employment in Virginia’s HC&SA sector in more than 30 years. In addition, April’s HC&SA employment decline alone erased fully half of all of the accumulated job gains in Virginia’s HC&SA sector since the end of the last recession in 2009.

Virginia Employment

The experience of Virginia’s overall economy mirrors that of the state’s HC&SA sector during the month. In March, as the government of Virginia began to implement quarantine measures that temporarily closed some businesses and restricted non-essential travel, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll employment fell by 32,500. This one-month employment decline was larger than any job loss experienced at any time in Virginia over the past 30 years. This time frame includes the monthly employment losses experienced by the state’s total nonfarm payroll during the recessions of 1990-91, 2001, and 2007-09.

Regardless, the decline experienced by the state’s total nonfarm payroll employment in April was more than ten times larger than that of March’s job loss. In April, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll employment fell by 383,400. This decline represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of -69.5%. This has led to a dramatic reversal in Virginia’s seasonally adjusted monthly unemployment rate. In February, this rate fell to its lowest value in nearly two decades at 2.6%. However, in the subsequent two months, this unemployment rate has more than quadrupled to 10.6%.

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

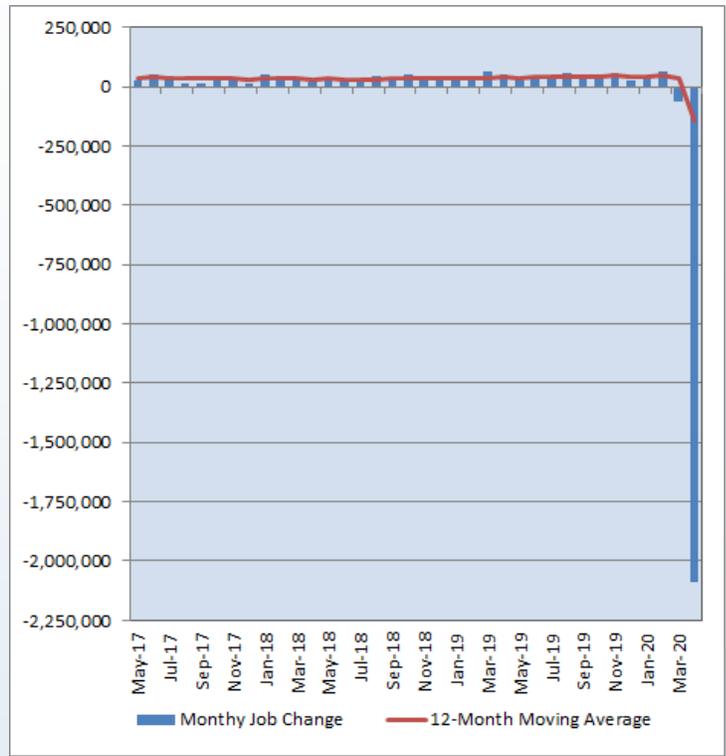


National Employment

The profoundly negative economic consequences from the spread of the coronavirus were not limited to Virginia. In fact, the employment impact in the rest of the country was just as bad, if not worse, than in Virginia. In March, the national HC&SA sector experienced its worst employment decline in more than 30 years after losing 64,100 jobs during the month. However, this decline was overshadowed by the loss of more than 2 million HC&SA jobs in April, a dramatic collapse in employment that translates into a -72.1% growth rate. As with Virginia’s HC&SA sector, this month’s job loss erased half of all of the employment gains experienced by the national HC&SA sector since July 2009 when the last recession came to an end.

The decline in national total nonfarm payroll employment was even more staggering. After falling by 881,000 in March, national total nonfarm payroll employment declined by 20.5 million in April. This decline represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of -82.6%. With this decline, all of the gains in national total nonfarm payroll employment that have accumulated over the past nine years have been lost.

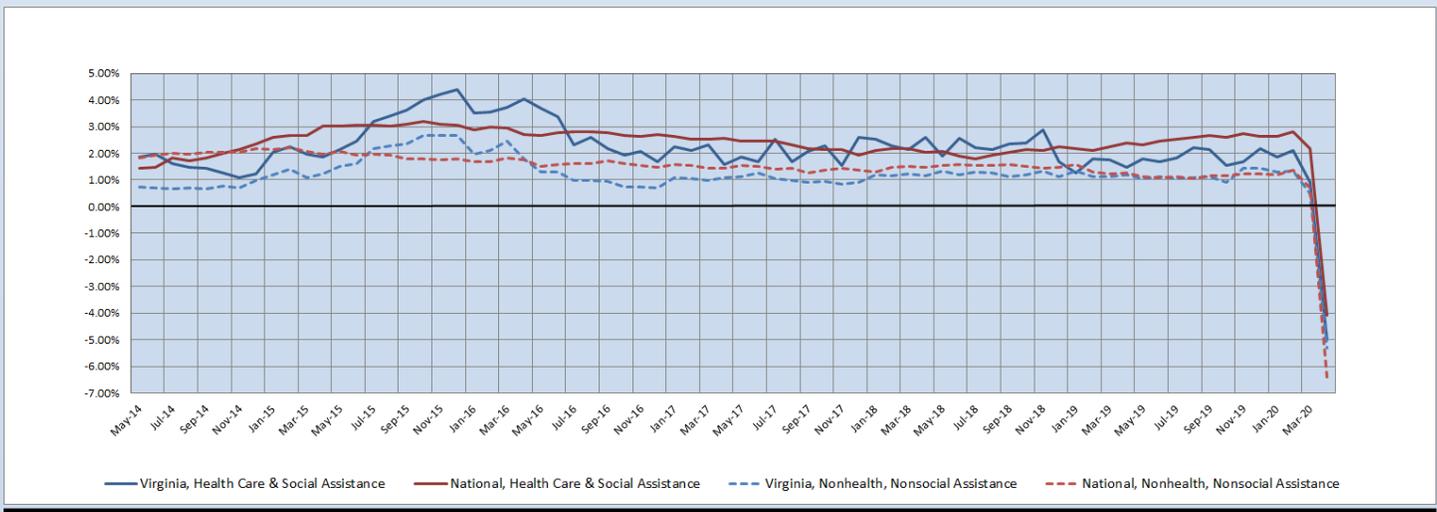
Figure 3: Monthly Change in Employment in National Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted



State Employment Growth

The unprecedented job losses in Virginia and the nation as a whole led to dramatic declines in long-term employment growth during the month. In April, the 12-month moving average of the employment growth rate in Virginia’s HC&SA sector fell from 0.92% to -5.00%. The decline in the long-term growth of Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll employment was just as severe as its own 12-month moving average fell from 0.49% to -5.31%. The national HC&SA sector also experienced a striking decline in its 12-month employment growth rate moving average, falling from 2.18% to -4.08% in April. As for national total nonfarm payroll employment, its 12-month growth rate moving average plummeted from 0.69% to -6.42%. At their current levels, all of these moving averages have reached their lowest value in more than 30 years.

Figure 4: 12-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/](http://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/](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)

Follow us on. . .

Tumblr: <http://vahwdc.tumblr.com/>

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).
-