



Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

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

Series 1, Issue 70

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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 lost 600 jobs in December, which represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of -1.9%. Although Virginia's HC&SA sector has now lost jobs in each of the past two months, the state still increased HC&SA employment by 10,900 in 2017.
- Virginia's total nonfarm payroll declined for the third consecutive month in December. During the month, the state's total nonfarm payroll fell by 2,100, which translates into a -0.6% annualized growth rate. Regardless, Virginia's total nonfarm payroll grew by 30,200 during the year.
- The national HC&SA sector created 29,200 new jobs in December. With this monthly gain, national HC&SA employment has now increased by 373,600 in 2017. This full-year employment gain translates into a 12-month growth rate of 1.9%.
- Growth in the nation's total nonfarm payroll slowed down in December. After increasing by more than 200,000 in each of the past two months, the nation's total nonfarm payroll grew by only 148,000 in December. In 2017, the nation's total nonfarm payroll increased by a total of 2.06 million.

Data in Brief

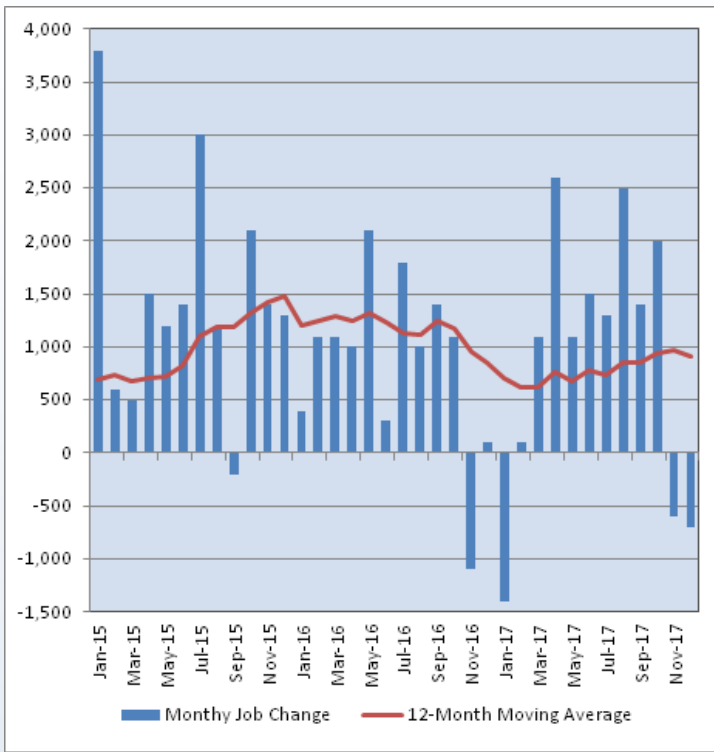
| Seasonally Adjusted* | Employment, in Thousands | | | | Growth Rate, Annualized | | |
|--|--------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------|---------|---------|
| | Dec. 2016 | Sept. 2017 | Nov. 2017 | Dec. 2017 | 12 Month | 3 Month | 1 Month |
| Nonfarm, Total | | | | | | | |
| Virginia | 3,936.3 | 3,978.9 | 3,968.6 | 3,966.5 | 0.8% | -1.2% | -0.6% |
| National | 145,325.0 | 146,769.0 | 147,232.0 | 147,380.0 | 1.4% | 1.7% | 1.2% |
| Health Care & Social Assistance | | | | | | | |
| Virginia | 438.4 | 448.6 | 450.0 | 449.3 | 2.5% | 0.6% | -1.9% |
| National | 19,266.9 | 19,540.9 | 19,611.3 | 19,640.5 | 1.9% | 2.1% | 1.8% |
| All Other Nonfarm | | | | | | | |
| Virginia | 3,497.9 | 3,530.3 | 3,518.6 | 3,517.2 | 0.6% | -1.5% | -0.5% |
| National | 126,058.1 | 127,228.1 | 127,620.7 | 127,739.5 | 1.3% | 1.6% | 1.1% |

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 the preliminary data released on Tuesday, January 23, 2017, by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Virginia’s HC&SA sector lost 700 jobs in December, which represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of -1.9% . In addition, this result represents the second consecutive month in which employment in Virginia’s HC&SA sector has fallen. Regardless, thanks to the increase of 2,000 new jobs in October, HC&SA employment in the state has still grown by 700 during the fourth quarter, which translates into a three-month annualized growth rate of 0.6% .

Regardless, the 12-month moving average of the change in Virginia’s HC&SA employment fell for the first time since July. Over the past 12 months, employment in Virginia’s HC&SA sector has grown by an average of 908 jobs per month. Thus, Virginia has created 10,900 HC&SA in 2017. This represents a modest improvement relative to the previous year. In 2016, Virginia’s HC&SA sector created a total of 10,300 jobs. On the other hand, 17,800 HC&SA jobs were created in the state in 2015.

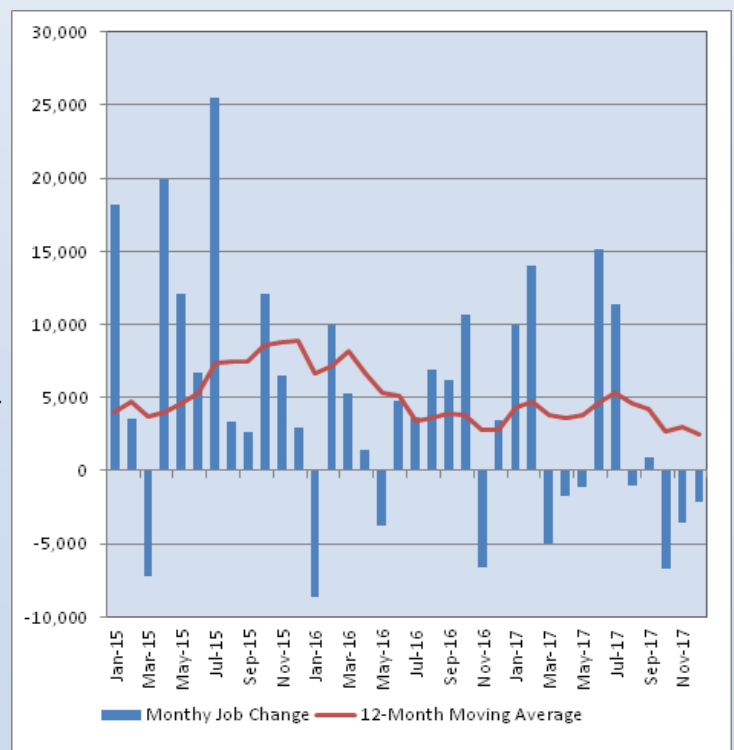
Virginia Employment

Employment in Virginia’s overall economy continued to demonstrate considerable weakness in December. During the month, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll declined by 2,100. This represents a one-month annualized growth rate of -0.6% . In addition, this also represents the third consecutive month in which the state’s total nonfarm payroll has declined. Thus, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll has fallen by 12,400 in the fourth quarter, which translates into a -1.2% annualized growth rate.

Due to this continuing weakness in statewide employment growth, the 12-month moving average of the change in Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll fell to its lowest level since 2014. In particular, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll has increased by an average of 2,517 per month over the past year. At its current level, the 12-month moving average of the change in Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll has fallen by more than 50% in just the past six months.

In total, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll grew by 30,200 in 2017. By way of comparison, the state’s total nonfarm payroll increased by 33,500 during the previous year.

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

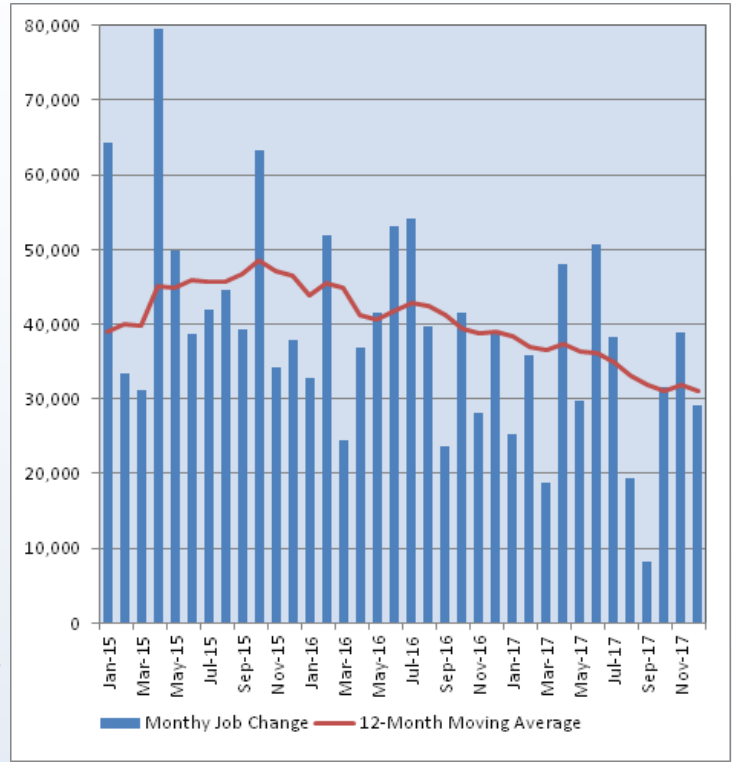


National Employment

The national HC&SA sector created 29,200 new jobs in December. This gain translates into a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 1.8%. Thanks in part to this monthly gain, overall employment growth in the national HC&SA sector improved considerably in the fourth quarter. During the third quarter, a total of 65,800 HC&SA jobs were created across the country. However, HC&SA employment increased by 99,600 between October and December. This represents a three-month annualized employment growth rate of 2.1%. Regardless, this quarterly improvement was not enough to increase the full-year employment gain in the national HC&SA sector relative to 2016. In 2017, 373,600 HC&SA jobs were created across the country. However, national HC&SA employment increased by 467,300 in 2016.

As for the overall national economy, growth in the nation’s total nonfarm payroll also slowed down somewhat in December. After two consecutive months of gains in excess of more than 200,000, the nation’s total nonfarm payroll increased by only 148,000 in December. Over the past year, the nation’s total nonfarm payroll increased by 2.06 million, which represents a 1.4% growth rate.

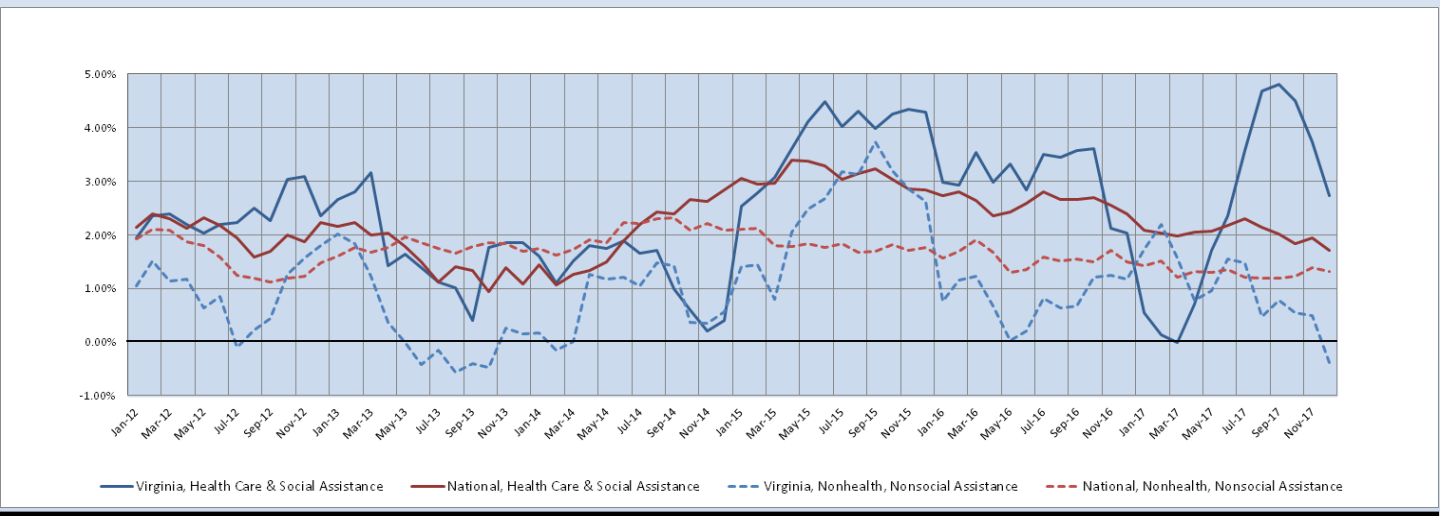
Figure 3: Monthly Change in Employment in National Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted



State Employment Growth

In the fourth quarter of 2017, the six-month moving average of the employment growth rate in Virginia’s HC&SA sector fell by nearly half. Since September, this moving average has declined from 4.82% to 2.73%. At its current level, the six-month moving average of the employment growth rate in Virginia’s HC&SA sector reached its lowest value since June. Meanwhile, the six-month moving average of the growth rate in Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll turned negative for the first time since February of 2014. In December, this moving average fell from 0.49% to -0.38%. At the same time, the six-month moving average of the employment growth rate in the national HC&SA sector fell from 1.94% to 1.71%, while the comparable moving average for the nation’s total nonfarm payroll declined from 1.38% to 1.31%.

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/.

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)

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).