



Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

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

Series 1, Issue 78

September 2018

Highlights

- ◆ According to preliminary estimates, Virginia's Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector increased employment for the sixth consecutive month in August. Virginia's HC&SA sector created 900 new jobs across the state in August, which represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 2.5%.
- ◆ Virginia's total nonfarm payroll increased by 4,800 in August, a gain that translates into a 1.4% annualized growth rate. Virginia's total nonfarm payroll has increased in every month so far this year. Thanks to this consistent growth, the state's total nonfarm payroll has grown by 56,600 in 2018.
- ◆ The national HC&SA sector enjoyed stronger employment growth in August with the creation of 40,700 new jobs during the month. This increase represents the largest one-month employment gain in the national HC&SA sector since February.
- ◆ For the third time in the past four months, the nation's total nonfarm payroll increased by more than 200,000. In August, the nation's total nonfarm payroll grew by 201,000. This increase represents a one-month annualized growth rate of 1.6%, which is also equal to its current 12-month growth rate.

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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

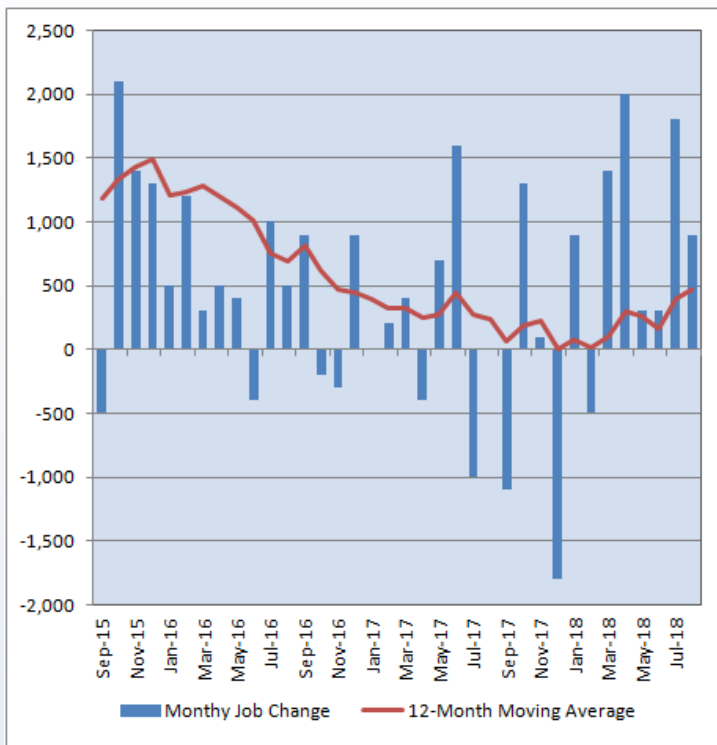
Seasonally Adjusted*	Employment, in Thousands				Growth Rate, Annualized		
	Aug. 2017	May 2018	July 2018	Aug. 2018	12 Month	3 Month	1 Month
Nonfarm, Total							
Virginia	3,955.9	4,000.6	4,005.9	<i>4,010.7</i>	1.4%	1.0%	1.4%
National	146,949.0	148,723.0	149,078.0	<i>149,279.0</i>	1.6%	1.5%	1.6%
Health Care & Social Assistance							
Virginia	435.1	437.7	439.8	<i>440.7</i>	1.3%	2.8%	2.5%
National	19,579.8	19,861.0	19,925.8	<i>19,966.5</i>	2.0%	2.1%	2.5%
All Other Nonfarm							
Virginia	3,520.8	3,562.9	3,566.1	<i>3,570.0</i>	1.4%	0.8%	1.3%
National	127,369.2	128,862.0	129,152.2	<i>129,312.5</i>	1.5%	1.4%	1.5%

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, September 21, 2018, by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment in Virginia’s HC&SA sector increased for the sixth consecutive month in August thanks to the creation of 900 new jobs during the month. This represents the longest period of consistent HC&SA employment growth in the state since 2016. During this six-month stretch of positive employment growth, Virginia’s HC&SA sector has created 6,700 new jobs, which represents 94% of all HC&SA employment growth in the state so far in 2018.

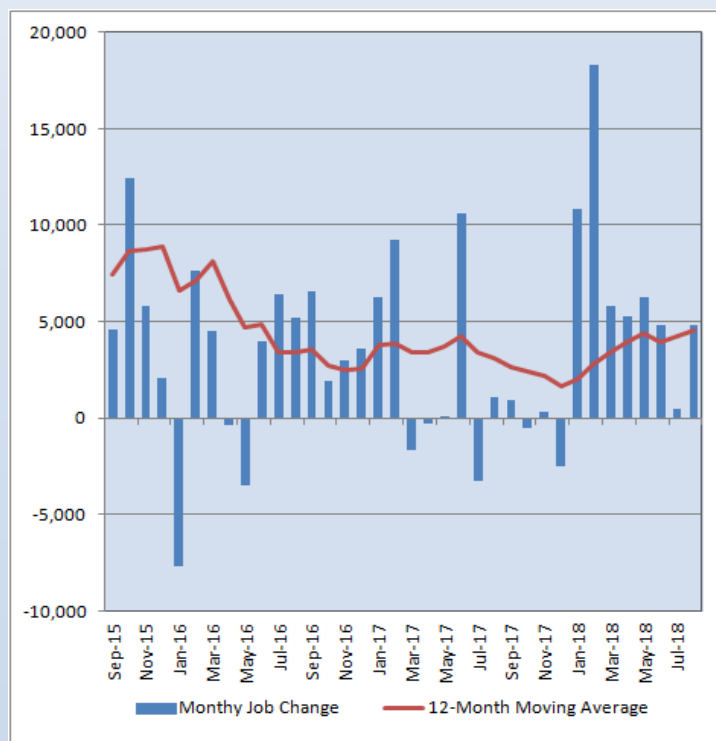
Employment in Virginia’s HC&SA sector continues to demonstrate stronger long-term growth. The 12-month moving average of the employment change in Virginia’s HC&SA sector increased to its highest value in nearly two years in August. Over the past year, Virginia’s HC&SA sector has created an average of 467 jobs per month. This average monthly gain translates into a 1.3% annual growth rate. However, long-term employment growth in Virginia’s HC&SA sector still lags behind the overall national average because of its large job losses in the latter half of 2017.

Virginia Employment

Virginia’s HC&SA sector made an important contribution to the state’s overall employment growth during the month. In August, nearly 20% of all statewide employment growth across the state came from its HC&SA sector. In total, the state’s total nonfarm payroll increased by 4,800 during the month. This gain represents a significant improvement relative to July when Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll only increased by 500. In addition, this monthly gain represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 1.4%. This result exceeds its current three-month annualized growth rate of 1.0%.

Employment growth in Virginia’s overall economy has been quite strong throughout all of 2018. In fact, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll has increased in every month so far this year. In total, the state’s total nonfarm payroll has increased by 56,600. This year-to-date gain already far exceeds the increase of 20,200 in Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll in 2017. Thanks to this growth, the 12-month moving average of the change in Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll continues to trend upward in 2018. Over the past year, the state’s total nonfarm payroll has increased by an average of 4,567 per month.

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

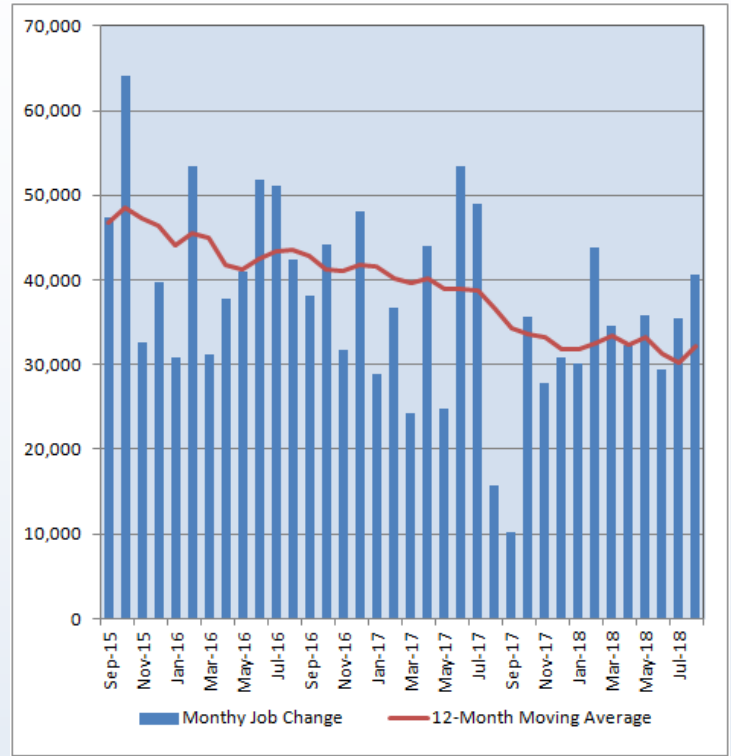


National Employment

The national HC&SA sector experienced a small uptick in employment growth in August after creating 40,700 new jobs during the month. This gain represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 2.5%. In addition, this result represents the largest one-month employment gain in the national HC&SA sector in six months. This month's gain helped to increase the 12-month moving average of the employment change in the national HC&SA sector. After falling to a four-year low in July, this moving average rebounded strongly in August. Over the past year, the national HC&SA sector has created an average of 32,225 jobs per month, which translates into a 2.0% growth rate.

The overall national economy also enjoyed an uptick in employment growth in August. The nation's total nonfarm payroll increased by 201,000 in August, a gain that represents a 1.6% annualized growth rate. This gain also represents the third time in the past four months in which the nation's total nonfarm payroll has increased by more than 200,000. So far this year, the nation's total nonfarm payroll has increased by 1.65 million. At the same point in 2017, the nation's total nonfarm payroll had increased by only 1.51 million.

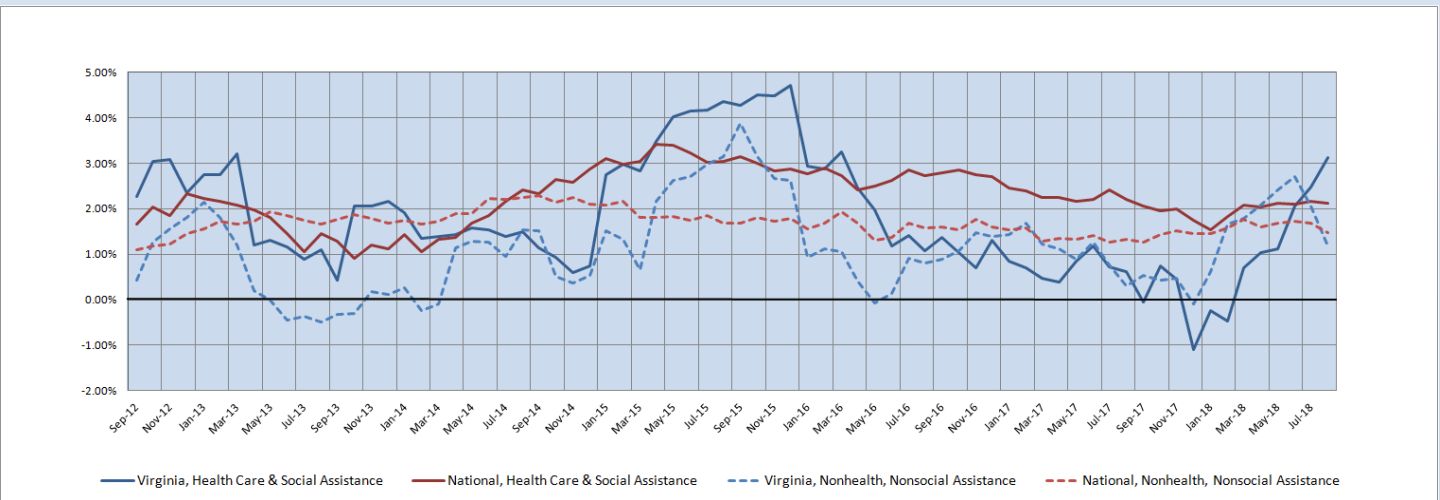
Figure 3: Monthly Change in Employment in National Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted



State Employment Growth

Thanks to yet another month of strong job growth, the six-month moving average of the employment growth rate in Virginia's HC&SA sector continued its upward ascent in August from 2.49% to 3.13%. 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 more than two years. On the other hand, the six-month moving average of the growth rate in Virginia's total nonfarm payroll fell to its lowest level in seven months after experiencing a significant decline from 2.06% to 1.18%. As for the national HC&SA sector, its six-month employment growth rate moving average dropped slightly in August from 2.16% to 2.12%. The same was also true for the nation's total nonfarm payroll, which saw its own moving average fall from 1.67% to 1.48% in August.

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).
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