



# Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

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

Series 1, Issue 86

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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 1,400 jobs in April. This result represents the first time since October 2018 in which employment in Virginia's HC&SA sector has fallen. Regardless, Virginia's HC&SA sector has still created 4,600 new jobs so far in 2019.
- ◆ Despite the employment losses in Virginia's HC&SA sector, the state's total nonfarm payroll still increased by 8,100 in April. This gain in the state's total nonfarm payroll translates into a one-month annualized growth rate of 2.4%, which is more than double its current 12-month growth rate of 1.1%.
- ◆ The national HC&SA sector added 52,600 new jobs in April, a gain that represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 3.2%. This result led to an increase in the 12-month moving average of the employment change in the national HC&SA sector to a nearly three-year high of 43,658.
- ◆ Growth in the nation's total nonfarm payroll accelerated in April thanks to a gain of 263,000 during the month, an increase that represents a 2.1% annualized growth rate. So far this year, the nation's total nonfarm payroll has increased by 820,000.

## Data in Brief

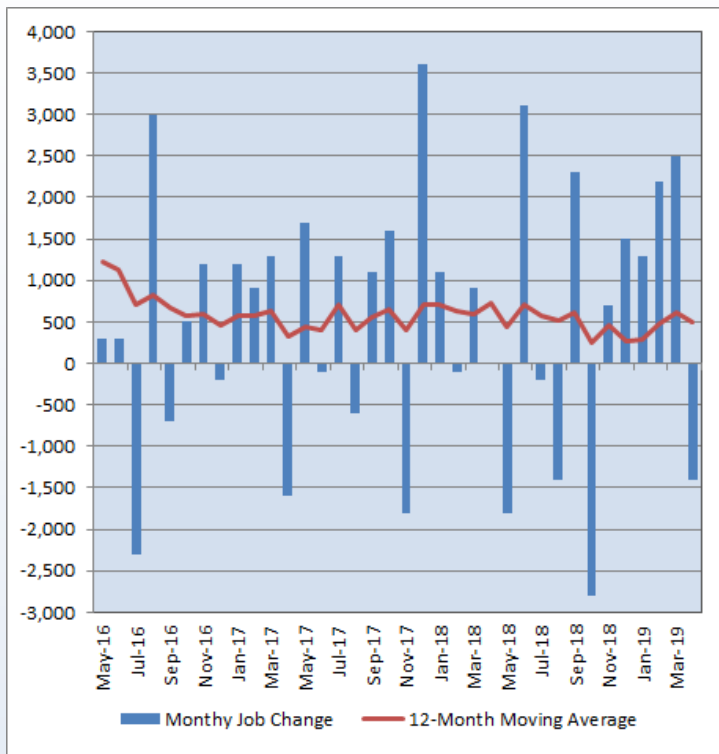
Seasonally Adjusted*	Employment, in Thousands				Growth Rate, Annualized		
	Apr. 2018	Jan. 2019	Mar. 2019	Apr. 2019	12 Month	3 Month	1 Month
<b>Nonfarm, Total</b>							
Virginia	3,998.0	4,029.0	4,033.0	4,041.1	1.1%	1.2%	2.4%
National	148,475.0	150,587.0	150,832.0	151,095.0	1.8%	1.4%	2.1%
<b>Health Care &amp; Social Assistance</b>							
Virginia	444.5	447.2	451.9	450.5	1.3%	3.0%	-3.7%
National	19,836.9	20,207.8	20,308.2	20,360.8	2.6%	3.1%	3.2%
<b>All Other Nonfarm</b>							
Virginia	3,553.5	3,581.8	3,581.1	3,590.6	1.0%	1.0%	3.2%
National	128,638.1	130,379.2	130,523.8	130,734.2	1.6%	1.1%	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, May 17, 2019, by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Virginia’s Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector experienced its first monthly employment decline since October 2018. Over the past five months, Virginia’s HC&SA sector has enjoyed consistently strong employment growth, but this trend ended in April with the loss of 1,400 HC&SA jobs across the state. This decline represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of -3.7%.

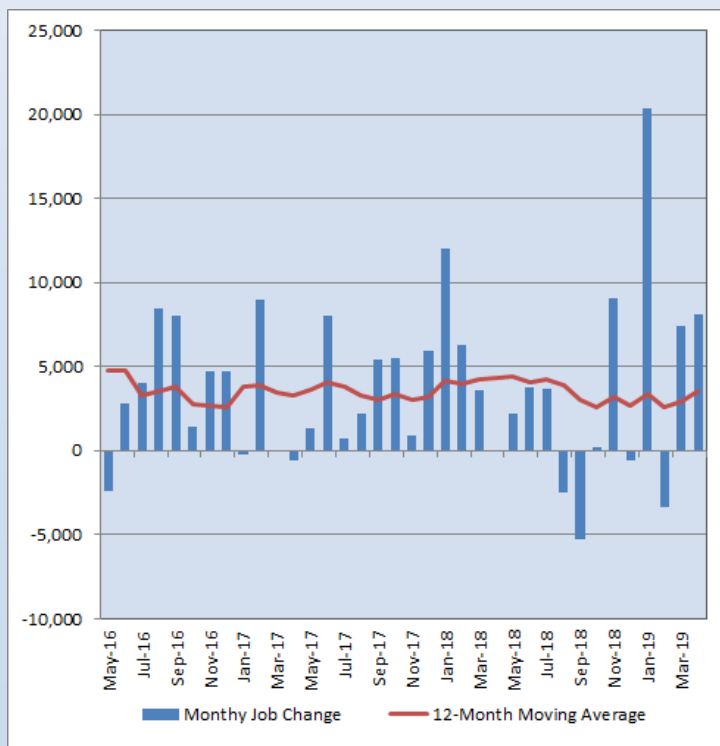
Despite this month’s job loss, employment growth in Virginia’s HC&SA sector still appears to be strong. So far in 2019, HC&SA employment in Virginia has increased by 4,600. In addition, Virginia’s HC&SA sector has a 12-month employment growth rate of 1.3%. Although this growth rate is below the national HC&SA average, employment in Virginia’s HC&SA sector is still growing faster than the state’s total nonfarm payroll, which currently has a 12-month growth rate of 1.1%. Over the past year, Virginia’s HC&SA sector has created an average of 500 jobs per month.

## Virginia Employment

While Virginia’s HC&SA sector failed to create jobs in April, this employment weakness did not prevent the state’s total nonfarm payroll from increasing during the month. In fact, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll grew by 8,100 in April. This gain represents a one-month annualized growth rate of 2.4%. Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll has seen its growth rebound strongly ever since falling by 3,400 in February. Over the past two months, the state’s total nonfarm payroll has grown by 15,500. Thanks to these recent gains, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll has grown at a 1.2% annualized rate since February.

This is in line with the long-term growth of Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll. Over the past year, the state’s total nonfarm payroll has increased by an average of 3,592 per month. This average monthly gain translates into a 1.1% growth rate. At its current level, this 12-month moving average of the change in Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll has reached its highest value since August 2018. During this 12-month period, Virginia’s HC&SA sector has been responsible for 14% of all growth in the state’s total nonfarm payroll.

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

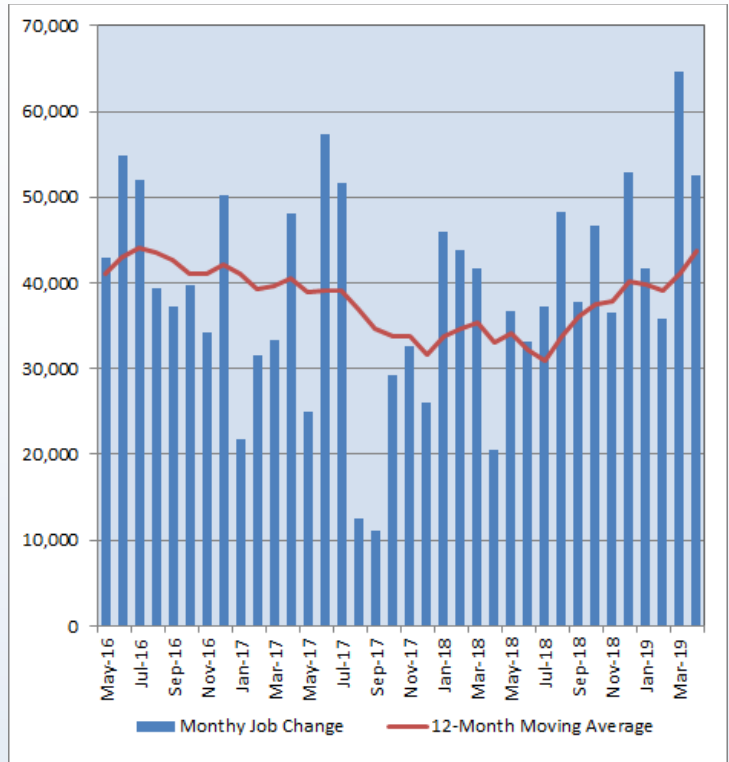


### National Employment

One month after enjoying its largest employment gain in nearly four years, the national HC&SA sector experienced another solid month of employment growth with the creation of 52,600 new HC&SA jobs in April. This gain represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 3.2%. Long-term employment growth in the national HC&SA sector has also been quite impressive. The 12-month moving average of the change in national HC&SA employment has been trending upward almost continuously since last summer. Over the past year, the national HC&SA sector has created an average of 43,658 jobs per month. This average monthly gain translates into a 12-month employment growth rate of 2.6%.

This HC&SA employment growth led to a strong gain in the nation’s total nonfarm payroll. As with Virginia, the nation’s total nonfarm payroll has rebounded strongly since February. In April, the nation’s total nonfarm payroll increased by 263,000. This gain represents a one-month annualized growth rate of 2.1%. At the same time, this result represents its largest monthly gain since January. So far this year, the nation’s total nonfarm payroll has increased by 820,000.

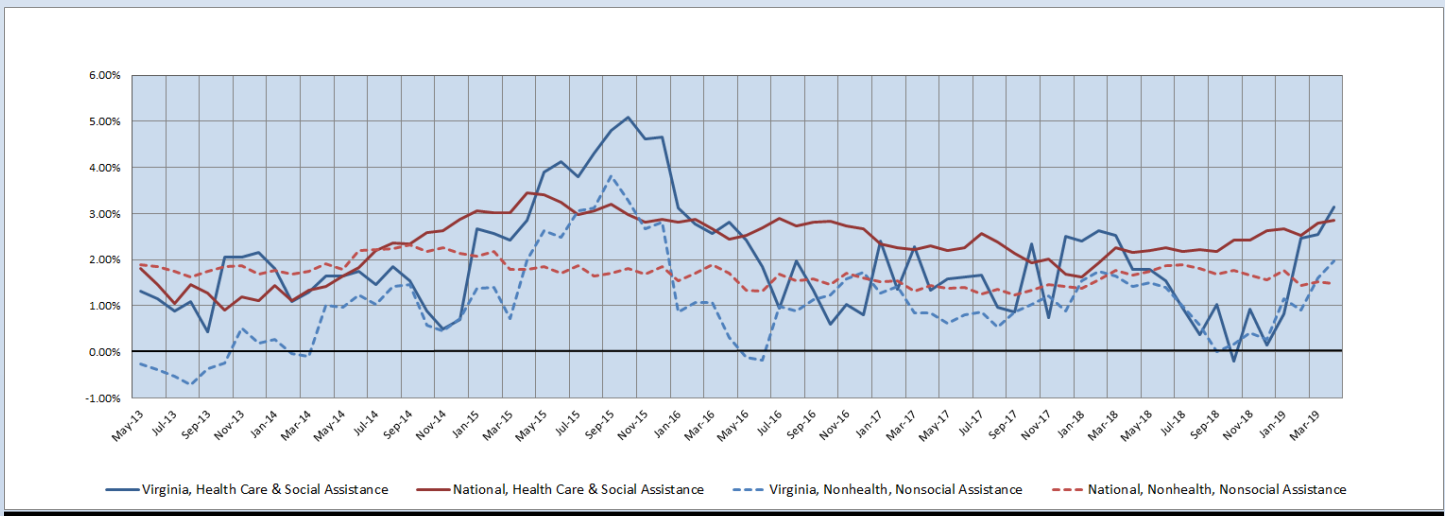
**Figure 3: Monthly Change in Employment in National Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted**



### State Employment Growth

Virginia’s HC&SA sector saw its six-month employment growth rate moving average increase yet again in April from 2.54% to 3.15%, thereby reaching its highest value since December 2015. With this increase, Virginia’s six-month HC&SA employment growth rate moving average now exceeds the comparable national average for the first time in more than one year. Regardless, the six-month moving average of the employment growth rate of the national HC&SA sector did increase in April by a small amount from 2.80% to 2.85%. As for Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll, its six-month employment growth rate moving average increased from 1.60% to 1.97%. On the other hand, the six-month moving average of the growth rate in the nation’s total nonfarm payroll experienced a slight decline from 1.52% to 1.49% in April.

**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/](http://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)

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**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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