



Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

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

Series 1, Issue 105

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

Highlights

- ◆ Virginia's Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector enjoyed another strong month of employment growth in November thanks to the creation of 2,600 new jobs, a gain that translates into a 7.5% annualized growth rate. With this gain, Virginia's HC&SA sector has increased employment in each of the past seven months.
- ◆ Virginia's HC&SA sector was responsible for nearly one-third of all statewide employment growth during the month. In November, the state's total non-farm payroll employment increased by 8,100. This increase represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 2.5%.
- ◆ Employment growth in the national HC&SA sector continues to weaken. After adding 91,300 new jobs in October, the national HC&SA sector created an additional 59,600 new jobs in November. This gain translates into a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 3.7%.
- ◆ The overall national economy is also experiencing an ongoing slowdown with respect to employment growth. In November, national total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 245,000. This increase represents a 2.1% annualized employment growth rate.

Data in Brief

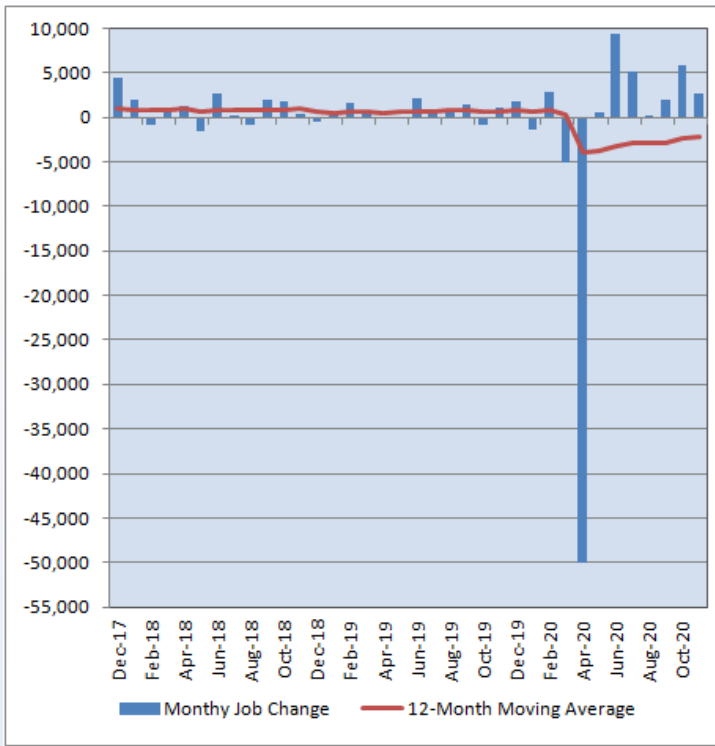
Seasonally Adjusted*	Employment, in Thousands				Growth Rate, Annualized		
	Nov. 2019	Aug. 2020	Oct. 2020	Nov. 2020	12 Month	3 Month	1 Month
Nonfarm, Total							
Virginia	4,087.6	3,847.9	3,900.5	3,908.6	-4.4%	6.5%	2.5%
National	151,814.0	141,063.0	142,384.0	142,629.0	-6.1%	4.5%	2.1%
Health Care & Social Assistance							
Virginia	461.7	425.0	432.7	435.3	-5.7%	10.1%	7.5%
National	20,628.9	19,610.5	19,833.8	19,893.4	-3.6%	5.9%	3.7%
All Other Nonfarm							
Virginia	3,625.9	3,422.9	3,467.8	3,473.3	-4.2%	6.0%	1.9%
National	131,185.1	121,452.5	122,550.2	122,735.6	-6.4%	4.3%	1.8%

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 Friday, December 18, 2020, by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Virginia’s Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector enjoyed its seventh consecutive month of positive employment growth after creating 2,600 new jobs in November. This gain represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 7.5%.

Employment growth in Virginia’s HC&SA sector has experienced two distinct peaks over the past seven months. The initial peak occurred in the immediate aftermath of the statewide coronavirus lockdown with the creation of 9,300 jobs in June, while the second peak reached its apex in October with an employment gain of 5,800.

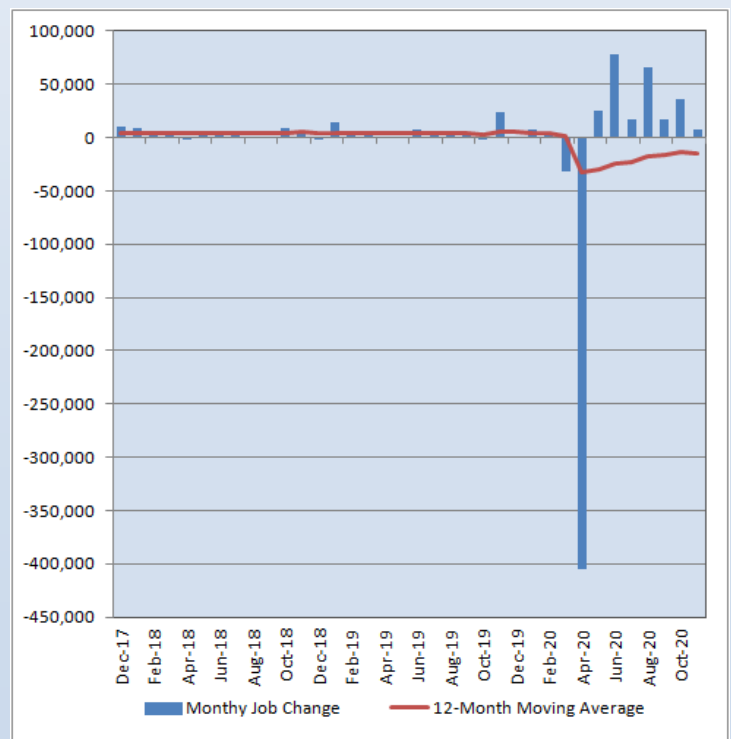
Statewide HC&SA employment growth appears to be slowly trending back toward its long-term historical average as the post-lockdown economic recovery period progresses. Regardless, the most recent resurgence in HC&SA job growth that peaked in October has demonstrated the resilience of this sector, which has grown employment at a 10.1% annualized rate over the past three months.

Virginia Employment

This trend of a slowly stabilizing job market is even more apparent with respect to Virginia’s overall economy. Although the increases in the state’s total nonfarm payroll employment have oscillated dramatically from month to month, the overall pattern has been for these monthly job gains to converge toward the same levels that had been observed before the onset of the coronavirus pandemic. This trend continued in November as Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 8,100 during the month, a gain that translates into a 2.5% annualized growth rate.

This increase represents the smallest monthly gain in Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll employment during the state’s post-lockdown economic recovery period. However, despite this downward trend, November’s smaller job gain still remains rather impressive relative to the historical norm given that Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll employment increased by an average of 4,700 per month in the one year prior to the beginning of the current public health crisis. Regardless, the stabilization of Virginia’s job market should be expected to continue as the state recovers an ever greater fraction of its earlier pandemic-related job losses.

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

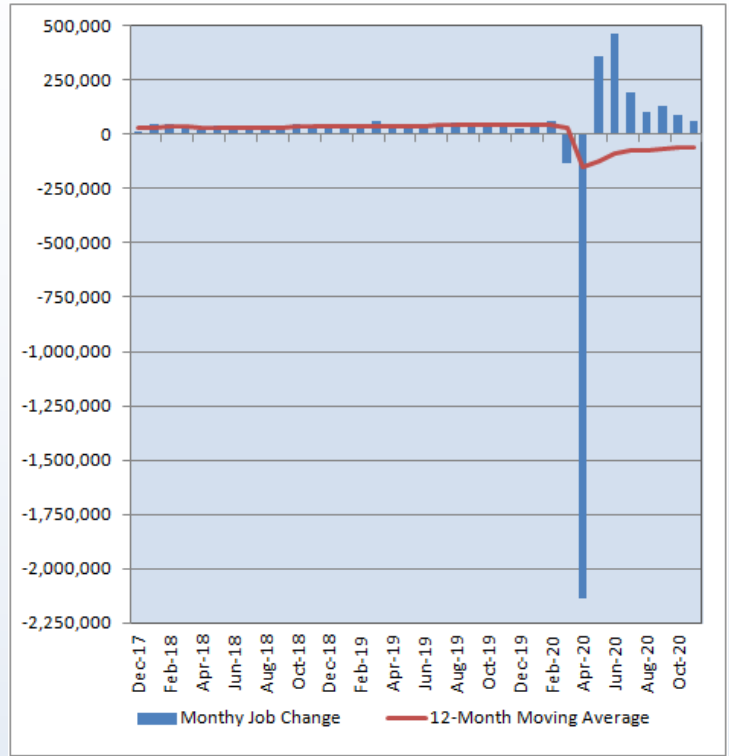


National Employment

Although employment growth in Virginia’s HC&SA sector may be beginning to lose momentum, it still remains far above the overall national average. In fact, the stabilization of the national HC&SA sector at a lower level of job growth has occurred at a much faster rate than in Virginia. In November, the national HC&SA sector created 59,600 new jobs, which translates into a 3.7% annualized growth rate. However, the national HC&SA sector has also recovered a greater overall fraction of its pandemic-related job losses. Buoyed by a surge of employment growth in May and June, the national HC&SA sector has recovered 62% of its job losses from March and April, while Virginia has regained 46% of its corresponding HC&SA employment losses.

Meanwhile, the slowdown of employment growth in the overall national economy continued in November with by far its smallest monthly gain during the current recovery period. National total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 245,000 in November, a gain that represents a one-month annualized growth rate of 2.1%. Over the past seven months, both Virginia and the nation as a whole have recovered 56% of their pandemic-related job losses.

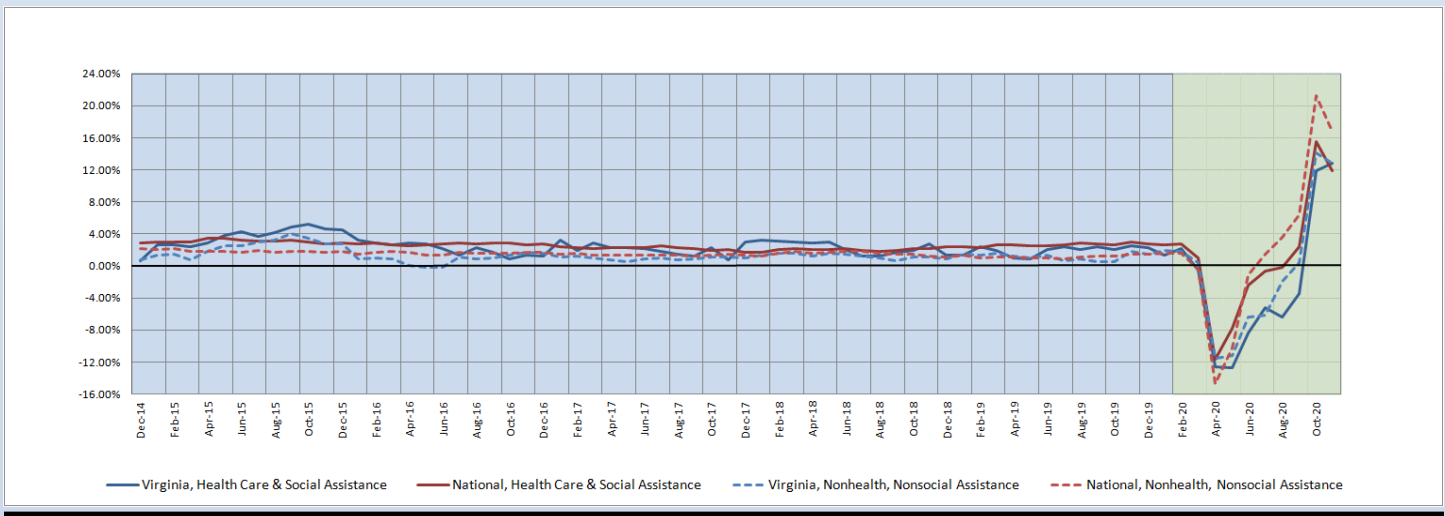
Figure 3: Monthly Change in Employment in National Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted



State Employment Growth

The overall picture depicted by this month’s employment figures is that of a job market that is beginning to calm down after a period of unprecedented volatility. This can be observed at least in part from the more moderate fluctuations in the six-month moving averages of the employment growth rates for the HC&SA sector and the overall national economy in both Virginia and the nation as a whole, all of which experienced dramatic surges to historic highs in October. Although Virginia’s HC&SA sector saw its moving average increase slightly in November from 11.93% to 12.88%, the comparable moving average for the state’s total nonfarm payroll fell back from its high of 14.12% to 12.86%. The national HC&SA sector and national total nonfarm payroll also saw their moving averages retreat to 11.85% and 16.81%, respectively, during the month.

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 U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics and the U.S. 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).
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