



Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

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

Series 1, Issue 104

November 2020

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

Highlights

- ◆ The employment recovery in Virginia's Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector is showing renewed signs of strength. After increasing employment by 1,900 in September, Virginia's HC&SA sector created an additional 6,200 jobs in October. This gain represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 18.9%.
- ◆ Virginia's overall economy also enjoyed strong employment growth during the month. In October, the state's total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 34,000. This increase translates into a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 11.1%.
- ◆ Meanwhile, employment growth in the national HC&SA sector slowed noticeably during the month. National HC&SA employment increased by 79,000 in October. This represents the first time in the past six months in which the national HC&SA sector has failed to create at least 100,000 jobs.
- ◆ The overall national economy experienced a slight slowdown in employment growth in October. National total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 638,000 during the month. This increase translates into a 5.5% annualized employment growth rate.

Data in Brief

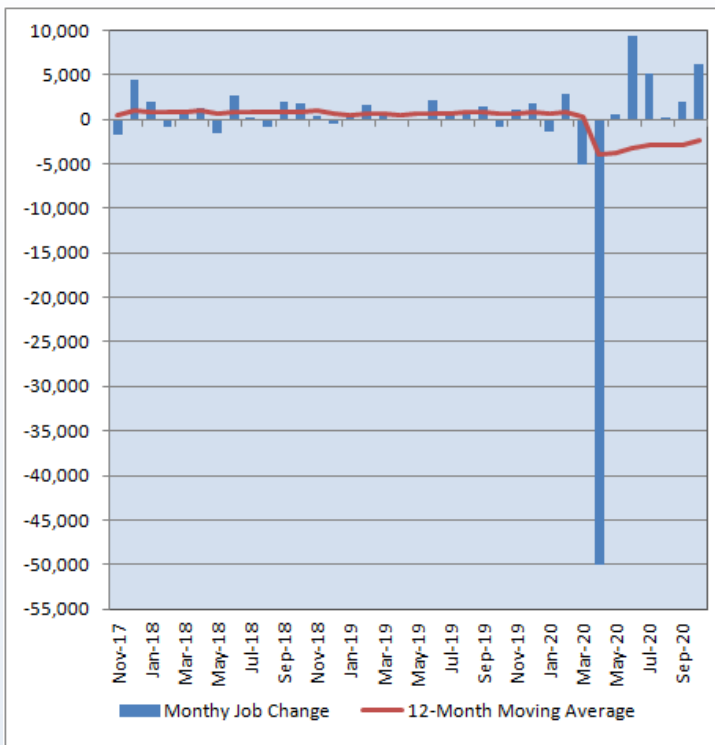
| Seasonally Adjusted* | Employment, in Thousands | | | | Growth Rate, Annualized | | |
|--|--------------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-------------------------|---------|---------|
| | Oct. 2019 | July 2020 | Sept. 2020 | Oct. 2020 | 12 Month | 3 Month | 1 Month |
| Nonfarm, Total | | | | | | | |
| Virginia | 4,063.6 | 3,782.2 | 3,864.8 | 3,898.8 | -4.1% | 12.9% | 11.1% |
| National | 151,553.0 | 139,570.0 | 141,735.0 | 142,373.0 | -6.1% | 8.3% | 5.5% |
| Health Care & Social Assistance | | | | | | | |
| Virginia | 460.7 | 424.9 | 426.9 | 433.1 | -6.0% | 7.9% | 18.9% |
| National | 20,572.2 | 19,507.2 | 19,728.5 | 19,807.5 | -3.7% | 6.3% | 4.9% |
| All Other Nonfarm | | | | | | | |
| Virginia | 3,602.9 | 3,357.3 | 3,437.9 | 3,465.7 | -3.8% | 13.6% | 10.1% |
| National | 130,980.8 | 120,062.8 | 122,006.5 | 122,565.5 | -6.4% | 8.6% | 5.6% |

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, November 20, 2020, by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, the resurgent employment growth in Virginia’s Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector continued with increased vitality in October thanks to the creation of 6,200 new jobs. This gain represents an impressive one-month annualized employment growth rate of 18.9%. At the same time, this also represents the second largest employment gain in Virginia’s HC&SA sector since the beginning of the post-lockdown economic recovery period that began six months ago. Only in June did Virginia’s HC&SA sector enjoy stronger employment growth.

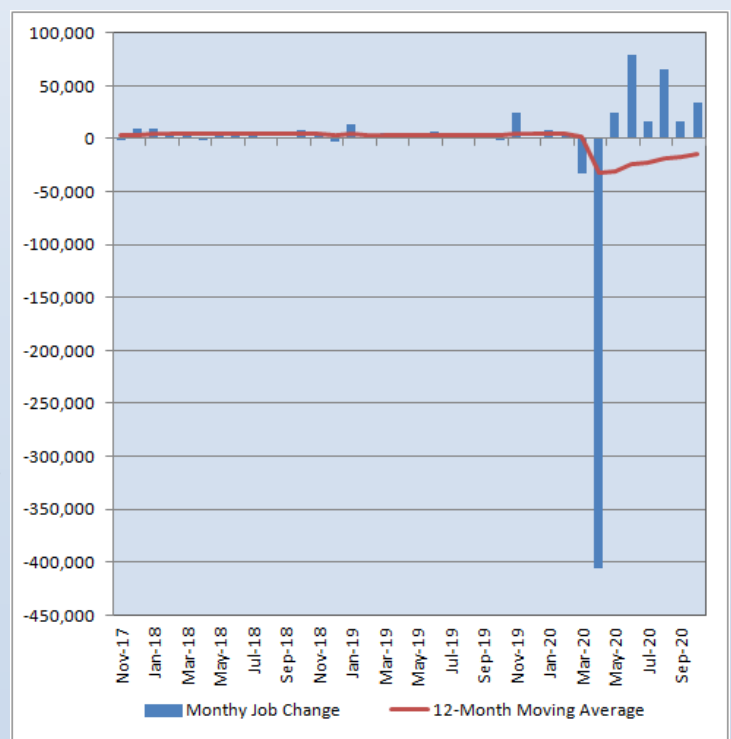
This rebound in Virginia’s HC&SA employment growth, which nearly vanished entirely back in August, has helped to recover an even greater fraction of the jobs that were lost back in March and April during the initial wave of the coronavirus pandemic. In fact, HC&SA employment in Virginia has increased by 23,200 over the past six months. With this gain, Virginia’s HC&SA sector has recovered more than 40% of all the jobs that were lost during the initial state-wide lockdown.

Virginia Employment

Ever since the beginning of the post-lockdown economic recovery period, the overall monthly employment gains across the state of Virginia have fluctuated widely as relatively weak months of job creation have been followed by much stronger increases in the subsequent month. This trend continued to a lesser extent in October. In September, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 16,900. Although this gain is quite strong from a historical perspective, it also represents the second smallest increase in the state’s total nonfarm payroll employment since the beginning of the post-lockdown economic recovery period.

However, October’s increase in Virginia’s overall statewide employment was considerably more impressive. In fact, the magnitude of this month’s increase was double the comparable gain from September as Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll employment grew by 34,000 in October. This gain translates into a strong one-month annualized employment growth rate of 11.1%. With this gain, Virginia’s overall economy has now recovered more than half of its total employment losses from March and April.

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

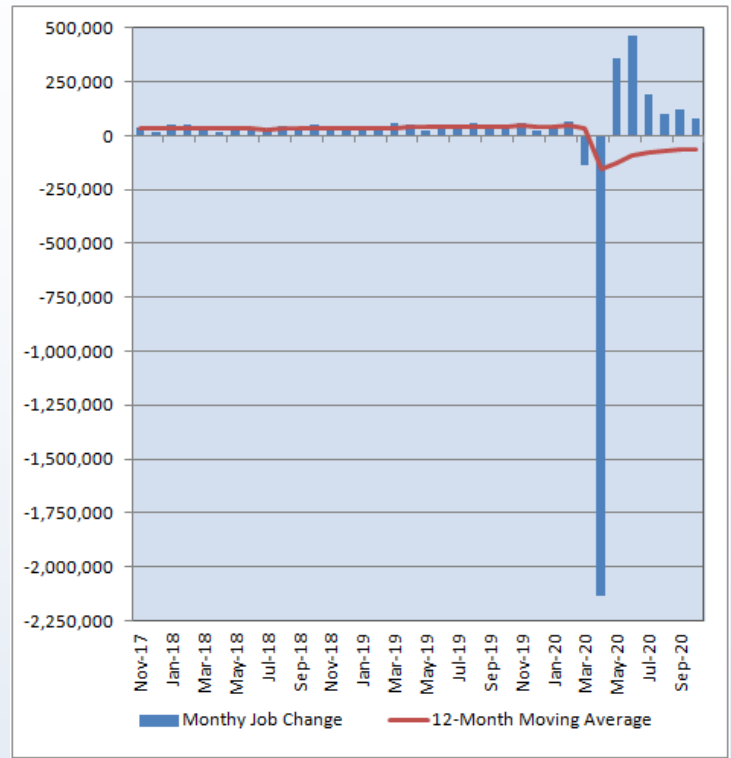


National Employment

In October, employment growth in Virginia far exceeded the overall national average. This was particularly true with respect to HC&SA employment. While Virginia’s HC&SA sector has enjoyed a resurgence of employment growth, the broad trend for the national HC&SA sector as a whole has been in the opposite direction. In Q3 2020, the national HC&SA sector created an average of 138,400 jobs per month, which translates into a 6.3% annualized employment growth rate. However, national HC&SA employment increased by only 79,000 in October, a gain that represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 4.9%. In fact, this result also represents by far the lowest monthly job gain in the national HC&SA sector since the beginning of the current employment recovery period that began back in May.

The overall national economy is experiencing the same trend of weakening job growth, although October’s slowdown was relatively modest when compared to the HC&SA sector. After growing by 672,000 in September, national total nonfarm payroll employment increased by an additional 638,000 in October. This gain translates into a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 5.5%.

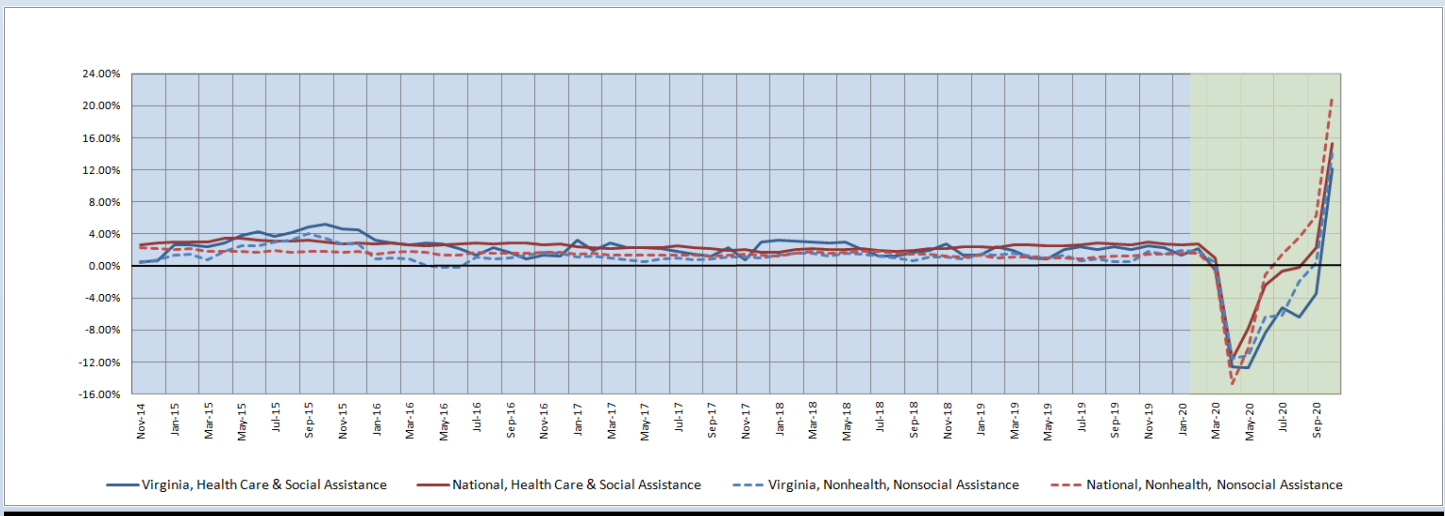
Figure 3: Monthly Change in Employment in National Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted



State Employment Growth

The unusual nature of this year’s employment situation, brought about by the emergence of the coronavirus as a serious public health issue, can be seen clearly in the volatility of the six-month employment growth rate moving averages for the HC&SA sector and the overall economy in both Virginia and the country as a whole. After falling to historic lows in April and May, all of these averages have subsequently surged upward to unprecedented highs, thereby demonstrating the strength of the recovery. In October, the six-month employment growth rate moving averages for Virginia’s HC&SA sector and its total nonfarm payroll increased to 12.15% and 13.98%, respectively. At the same time, the comparable averages for the national HC&SA sector and national total nonfarm payroll rose to 15.29% and 21.29%, respectively, during the month.

Figure 4: Six-Month Moving Average, Employment Growth, Seasonally Adjusted



Healthcare Workforce
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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/.

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 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).