



Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

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

Series 1, Issue 103

October 2020

Highlights

- ◆ One month after adding only 100 jobs, Virginia's Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector enjoyed a rebound in employment growth in September with the creation of 1,700 new jobs across the state. This job gain represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 4.9%. It also represents the fifth consecutive month of positive HC&SA job growth in Virginia.
- ◆ While job growth in Virginia's HC&SA sector rebounded in September, the growth of the state's total nonfarm payroll employment slowed considerably. Virginia's total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 9,200 in September, which translates into a 2.9% annualized employment growth rate.
- ◆ The national HC&SA sector maintained solid employment growth during the month. After increasing employment by 100,000 in August, the national HC&SA sector created an additional 107,700 jobs in September. This gain translates into a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 6.8%.
- ◆ As in Virginia, the overall national economy experienced a significant slowdown in job growth during the month. National total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 661,000 in September, which represents a one-month annualized growth rate of 5.8%.

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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

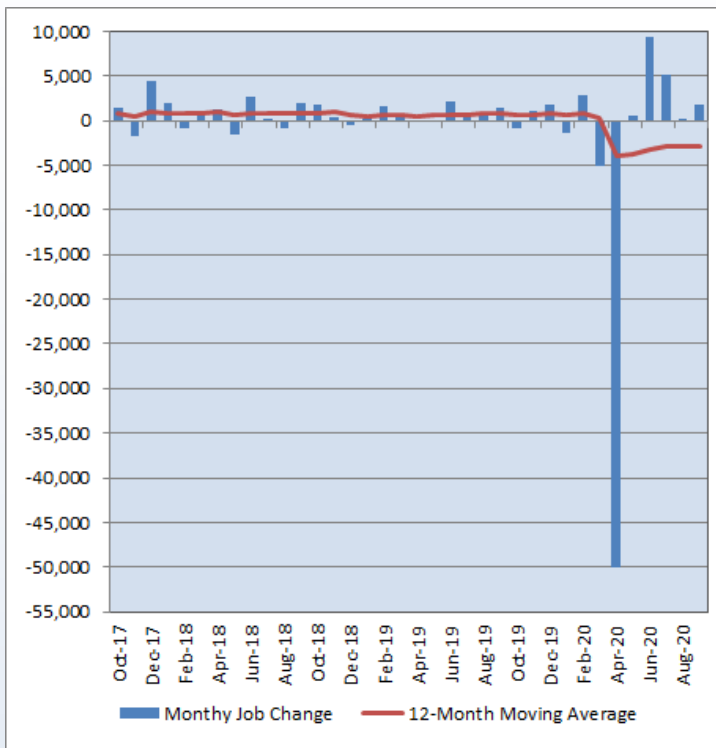
Seasonally Adjusted*	Employment, in Thousands				Growth Rate, Annualized		
	Sept. 2019	June 2020	Aug. 2020	Sept. 2020	12 Month	3 Month	1 Month
Nonfarm, Total							
Virginia	4,064.2	3,765.7	3,847.9	3,857.1	-5.1%	10.1%	2.9%
National	151,368.0	137,809.0	141,059.0	141,720.0	-6.4%	11.8%	5.8%
Health Care & Social Assistance							
Virginia	461.6	419.8	425.0	426.7	-7.6%	6.7%	4.9%
National	20,531.1	19,313.3	19,607.2	19,714.9	-4.0%	8.6%	6.8%
All Other Nonfarm							
Virginia	3,602.6	3,345.9	3,422.9	3,430.4	-4.8%	10.5%	2.7%
National	130,836.9	118,495.7	121,451.8	122,005.1	-6.8%	12.4%	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 Tuesday, October 20, 2020, by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment growth in Virginia’s Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector rebounded in September after nearly coming to a halt in August. Virginia’s HC&SA sector created 1,700 new jobs in September, a gain that represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 4.9%.

With this gain, employment in Virginia’s HC&SA sector has now increased in each of the past five months. During these five consecutive months of positive employment growth, Virginia’s HC&SA sector has recovered fully one-third of its job losses from April. Despite this continued economic recovery, employment growth in Virginia’s HC&SA sector has been losing momentum since peaking in June with a historic gain of 9,300 HC&SA jobs created across the state. In September, the 12-month moving average of the employment change in Virginia’s HC&SA sector hardly changed. Over the past year, Virginia’s HC&SA sector has lost an average of 2,908 jobs per month. This average monthly loss translates into a -7.6% annualized growth rate.

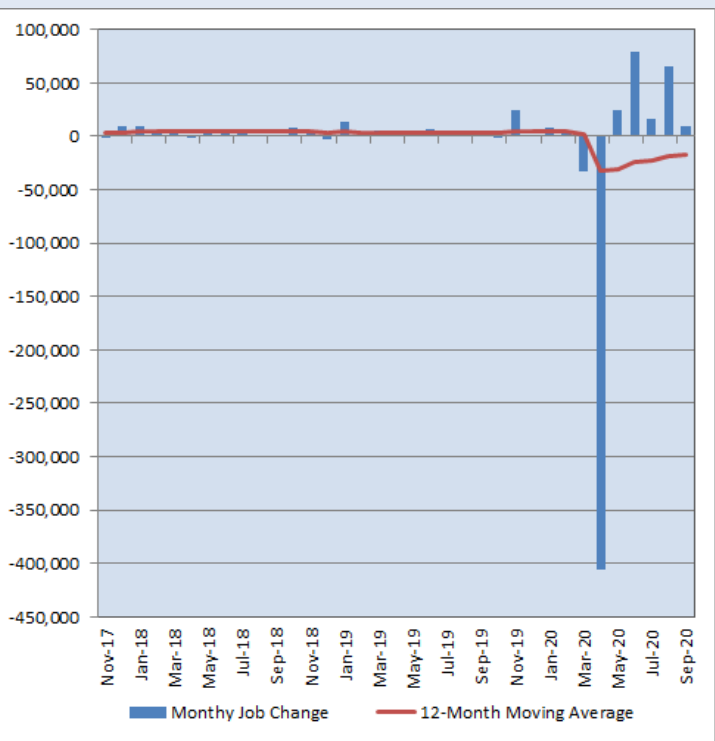
Virginia Employment

The rebound of employment growth in Virginia’s HC&SA sector failed to fuel a surge in overall statewide job growth in September. Instead, growth in the state’s total nonfarm payroll employment experienced a substantial slowdown during the month. After increasing by 65,700 in August, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 9,200 in September. This gain translates into a 2.9% annualized employment growth rate.

Although this month’s growth in the state’s total nonfarm payroll employment was rather weak when compared to the job gains of the previous four months, it is still rather strong relative to the long-term historical average. For instance, September’s overall statewide job gain was nearly double the average monthly employment gain from 2019. In that year, Virginia created an average of 5,000 jobs per month.

In fact, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll employment experienced a similar slowdown in July, only to recover significantly in August. Over these past three months, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll employment has increased by 91,400. This translates into a strong 10.1% annualized growth rate.

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

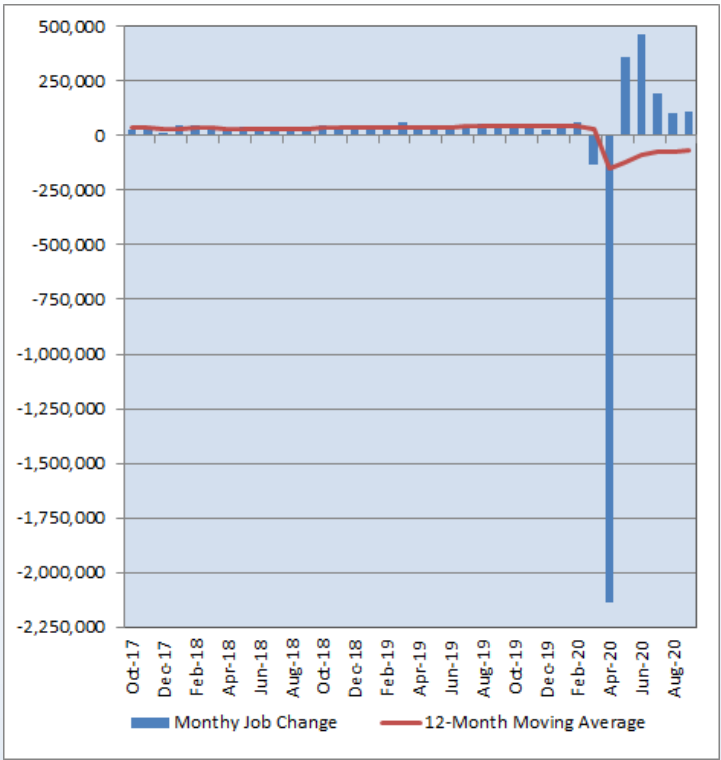


National Employment

The national HC&SA sector has followed a roughly similar pattern as Virginia’s HC&SA sector with respect to employment growth during the post-lockdown economic recovery period. After peaking in June, HC&SA job growth in both the state of Virginia and the nation as a whole has cooled considerably. However, this employment growth recovered somewhat in September. After creating 100,000 jobs in August, the national HC&SA sector increased employment by an additional 107,700 in September. This gain represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 6.8%. With this gain, the national HC&SA sector has now recovered more than half of its total employment losses from earlier this year.

National total nonfarm payroll employment saw its own growth rate cut in half during the month. In September, the overall national economy created 661,000 jobs. This represents the first month since the beginning of the post-lockdown economic recovery period in which total nonfarm payroll employment has failed to increase by at least 1 million. Nevertheless, overall national employment has still grown at a 11.8% annualized rate over the past three months.

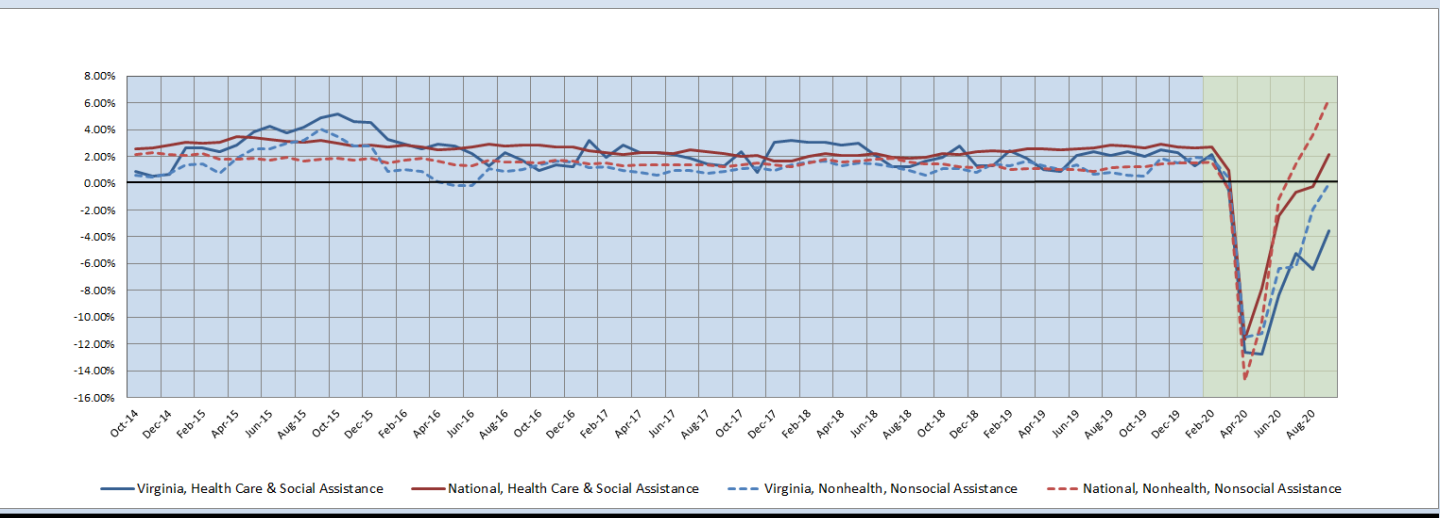
Figure 3: Monthly Change in Employment in National Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted



State Employment Growth

In September, Virginia’s HC&SA sector saw its six-month employment growth rate moving average increase from -6.43% to -3.58%, thereby reaching its highest value since March. This is also true of the six-month employment growth rate moving average for the state’s total nonfarm payroll, which rose from -1.93% to -0.03%. Regardless, both of these moving averages remained negative in September. This was not the case for the comparable moving averages for the national HC&SA sector and the overall national economy, both of which have recovered more rapidly in recent months. The national HC&SA sector experienced an increase in its six-month employment growth rate moving average from -0.24% to 2.14%, while the comparable moving average for national total nonfarm payroll employment increased from 3.58% to 6.30%.

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/.

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).