



Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

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

Series 1, Issue 102

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

Highlights

- ◆ After three consecutive months of positive employment growth, Virginia's Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector experienced a minor setback in August with the loss of 1,300 jobs during the month. This loss represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of -3.6%. Despite this loss, Virginia's HC&SA sector has created 13,700 jobs over the past four months.
- ◆ Virginia's HC&SA employment loss had little effect on the overall statewide economy. In fact, Virginia's total nonfarm payroll increased by 68,000 in August, a gain that translates into an impressive 23.8% annualized growth rate. Virginia's total nonfarm payroll has increased by 188,400 since May.
- ◆ Employment growth in the national HC&SA sector slowed considerably in August. After creating 195,700 jobs in July, the national HC&SA sector increased employment by an additional 90,100 in August. This increase represents a 5.7% annualized employment growth rate.
- ◆ The national economy is continuing to produce significant job gains, although there was a relatively modest slowdown in overall employment growth during the month. In August, national total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 1.37 million, which translates into a 12.4% annualized growth rate.

Data in Brief

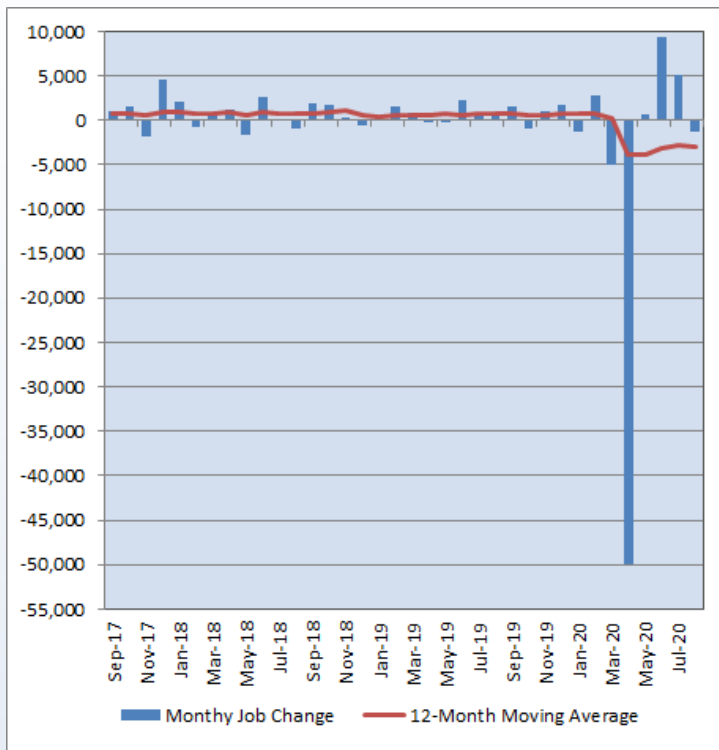
Seasonally Adjusted*	Employment, in Thousands				Growth Rate, Annualized		
	Aug. 2019	May 2020	July 2020	Aug. 2020	12 Month	3 Month	1 Month
Nonfarm, Total							
Virginia	4,062.8	3,687.0	3,782.2	3,850.2	-5.2%	18.9%	23.8%
National	151,160.0	133,028.0	139,543.0	140,914.0	-6.8%	25.9%	12.4%
Health Care & Social Assistance							
Virginia	460.1	410.5	424.9	423.6	-7.9%	13.4%	-3.6%
National	20,482.4	18,847.1	19,509.0	19,599.1	-4.3%	16.9%	5.7%
All Other Nonfarm							
Virginia	3,602.7	3,276.5	3,357.3	3,426.6	-4.9%	19.6%	27.8%
National	130,677.6	114,180.9	120,034.0	121,314.9	-7.2%	27.4%	13.6%

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, September 18, 2020, by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, the job recovery in Virginia’s Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector, which began to lose momentum in July after a dramatic employment surge in June, came to at least a temporary halt in August with the loss of 1,300 jobs during the month. This job loss represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of -3.6%. In addition, this result represents the first monthly employment decline in Virginia’s HC&SA sector since April.

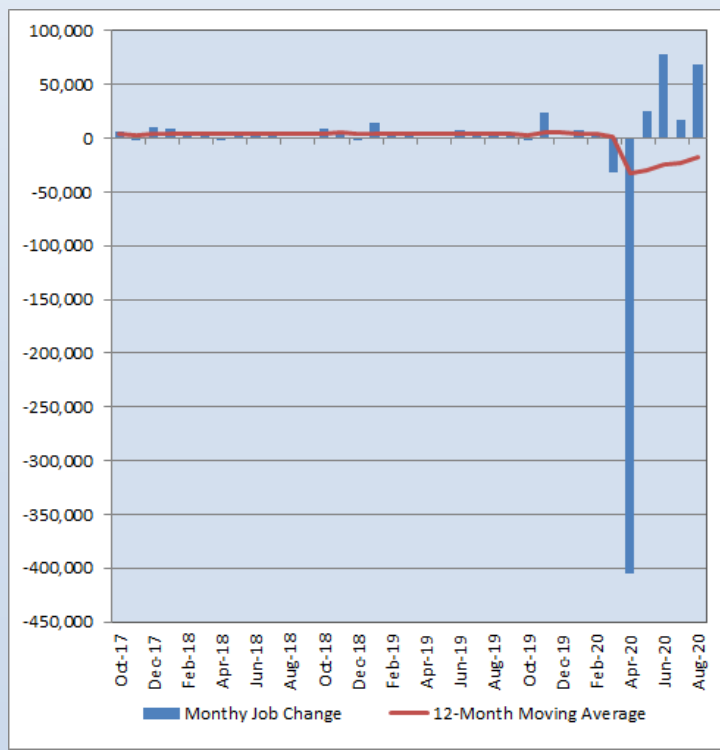
Despite this momentary setback in HC&SA job growth in Virginia, employment in the HC&SA sector has rebounded nicely as the state gradually eased restrictions after the lockdown due to the coronavirus pandemic. Thanks to the strong employment gains in both June and July, Virginia’s HC&SA sector has created 13,100 jobs over the past three months. This gain translates into a three-month annualized employment growth rate of 13.4%. Regardless, long-term employment growth in this sector remains elusive. Over the past year, employment in Virginia’s HC&SA sector has fallen by 7.9%.

Virginia Employment

Although Virginia’s HC&SA sector experienced a decline in employment in August, this loss had no bearing on the overall job growth of the broader statewide economy during the month. Prior to August, employment in Virginia’s HC&SA sector and the state’s total nonfarm payroll followed a similar pattern. After experiencing unprecedented job growth in June, there was a significant slowdown in this growth in July in both the HC&SA sector and the statewide economy. However, whereas HC&SA job growth evaporated entirely in August, Virginia’s overall economy rebounded strongly as the state’s total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 68,000 during the month. This gain translates into a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 23.8%.

With this gain, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll employment has increased in each of the past four months. During these four consecutive months of positive employment growth, Virginia’s economy has produced 188,400 jobs across the state. Thanks to this growth, Virginia’s economy has recovered nearly half of the decline in its total nonfarm payroll employment from April. In that month, the state’s total nonfarm payroll employment fell by 405,600.

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

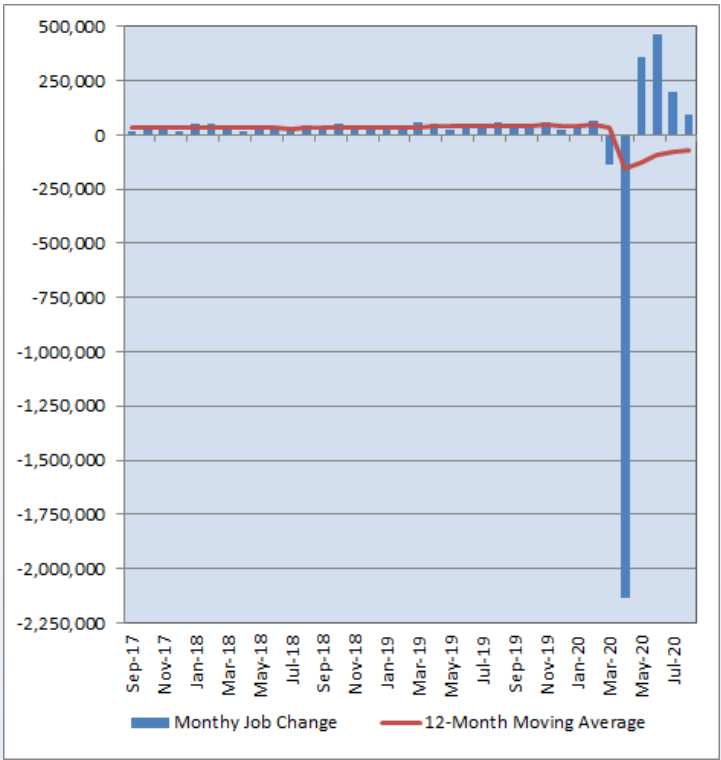


National Employment

The resurgent employment growth in Virginia’s total non-farm payroll in August appears to have been an outlier as the rest of the country experienced a continued slowdown in both HC&SA employment growth and total nonfarm payroll employment growth. Although the national HC&SA sector enjoyed its fourth consecutive month of positive employment growth in August, the magnitude of these gains have been diminishing rapidly since reaching a peak in June. In August, the national HC&SA sector created 90,100 new jobs across the country, which translates into a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 5.7%. Despite this slower growth in August, national HC&SA employment has still increased by 1.1 million over the past four months.

While this same trend of slowing growth also occurred with respect to national total nonfarm payroll employment, the slowdown in the overall national economy was more modest than in the HC&SA sector. National total nonfarm payroll employment experienced its smallest monthly gain since the beginning of the economic recovery with an increase of 1.37 million in August. Regardless, this gain still translates into a strong 12.4% annualized growth rate.

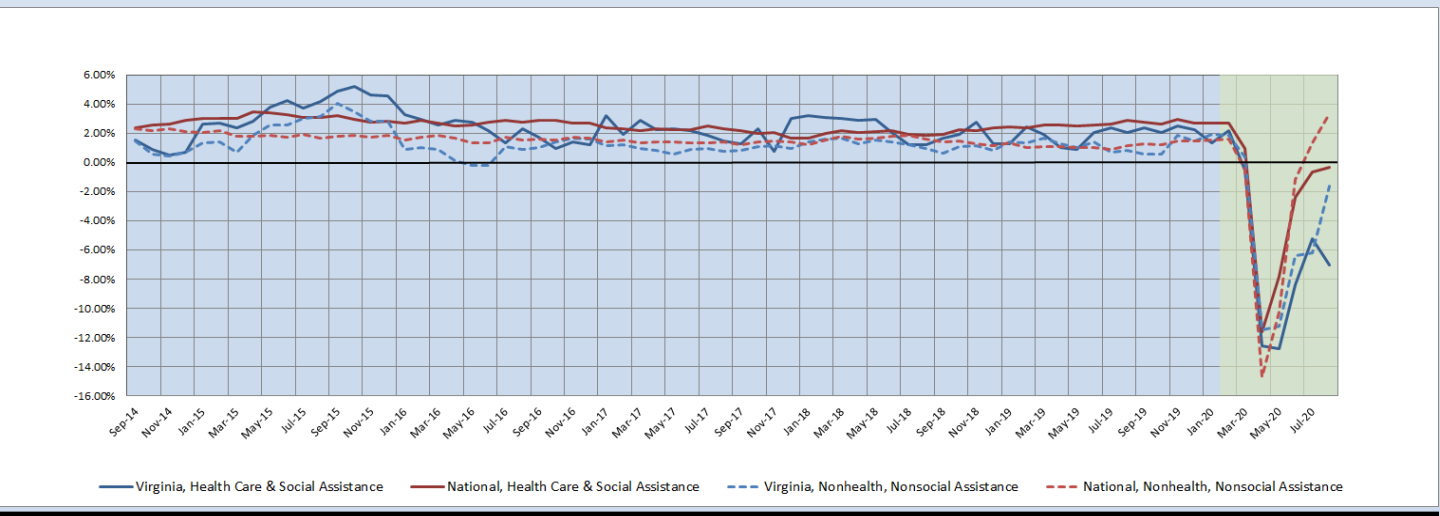
Figure 3: Monthly Change in Employment in National Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted



State Employment Growth

After two months of improvement, Virginia’s HC&SA sector experienced a reversal in its six-month employment growth rate moving average, which fell in August from -5.22% to -7.07%. On the other hand, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll saw its six-month employment growth rate moving average increase for the fourth consecutive month in August, advancing from -6.21% to -1.65% during the month. This same upward trend can also be observed in the national HC&SA sector and the overall national economy. The six-month moving average of the employment growth rate for the national HC&SA sector nearly turned positive in August, increasing from -0.66% to -0.33%. As for national total nonfarm payroll employment, its own moving average more than doubled from 1.35% to 3.32%, thereby reaching its highest value in 25 years.

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 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).
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