



# Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

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

Series 1, Issue 109

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## Highlights

- ◆ After beginning the new year with two consecutive months of very strong job growth, Virginia's Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector experienced its first decline in employment in 2021 with the loss of 600 jobs in March. Despite this month's decline, employment in Virginia's HC&SA sector still grew at a 4.0% annualized rate in Q1 2021.
- ◆ Even with the decline in HC&SA employment in March, Virginia's overall economy still enjoyed modest job growth during the month. In March, Virginia's total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 800, a gain that represents a one-month annualized growth rate of 0.2%.
- ◆ The national HC&SA sector enjoyed its second consecutive month of positive employment growth thanks to the creation of 36,400 new jobs in March. This increase translates into a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 2.2%.
- ◆ The overall national economy experienced a surge of employment growth in March. After growing by 468,000 in February, national total nonfarm payroll employment increased by an additional 916,000 in March. This gain represents an impressive 8.0% annualized employment growth rate.

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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

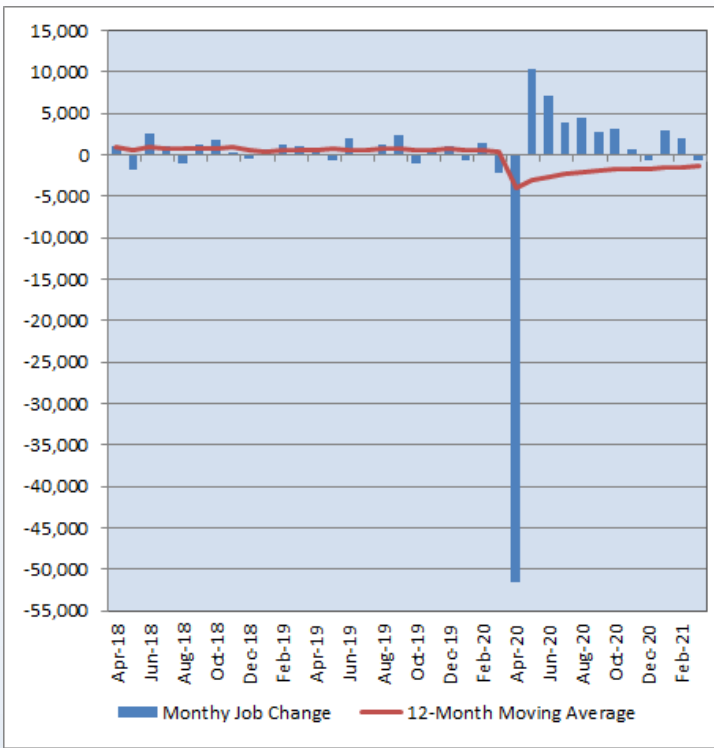
Seasonally Adjusted*	Employment, in Thousands				Growth Rate, Annualized		
	Mar. 2020	Dec. 2020	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2021	12 Month	3 Month	1 Month
<b>Nonfarm, Total</b>							
Virginia	4,069.6	3,881.1	3,886.8	3,887.6	-4.5%	0.7%	0.2%
National	150,840.0	142,503.0	143,204.0	144,120.0	-4.5%	4.6%	8.0%
<b>Health Care &amp; Social Assistance</b>							
Virginia	460.7	440.6	445.5	444.9	-3.4%	4.0%	-1.6%
National	20,650.4	19,928.3	19,887.4	19,923.8	-3.5%	-0.1%	2.2%
<b>All Other Nonfarm</b>							
Virginia	3,608.9	3,440.5	3,441.3	3,442.7	-4.6%	0.3%	0.5%
National	130,189.6	122,574.7	123,316.6	124,196.2	-4.6%	5.4%	8.9%

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, April 16, 2021, by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Virginia’s Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector experienced its first decline in employment in 2021. In March, Virginia’s HC&SA sector lost 600 jobs, a decline that represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of  $-1.6\%$ . Regardless, HC&SA employment in Virginia has enjoyed a very strong start to the new year. Thanks to the significant job gains during the first two months of 2021, Virginia’s HC&SA sector has increased employment by 4,300 in Q1 2021. This three-month job gain translates into a  $4.0\%$  annualized employment growth rate.

Even with March’s job loss, HC&SA employment in Virginia has still increased in nine out of the past 11 months. During this post-lockdown economic recovery period, Virginia’s HC&SA sector has created 35,800 jobs across the state. Thanks to this employment gain, Virginia has recovered nearly 70% of all the HC&SA jobs that were lost in April 2020. Although Virginia’s HC&SA sector has seen employment fall by  $3.4\%$  over the past year, this is still better than the  $3.5\%$  decline in the overall national HC&SA sector.

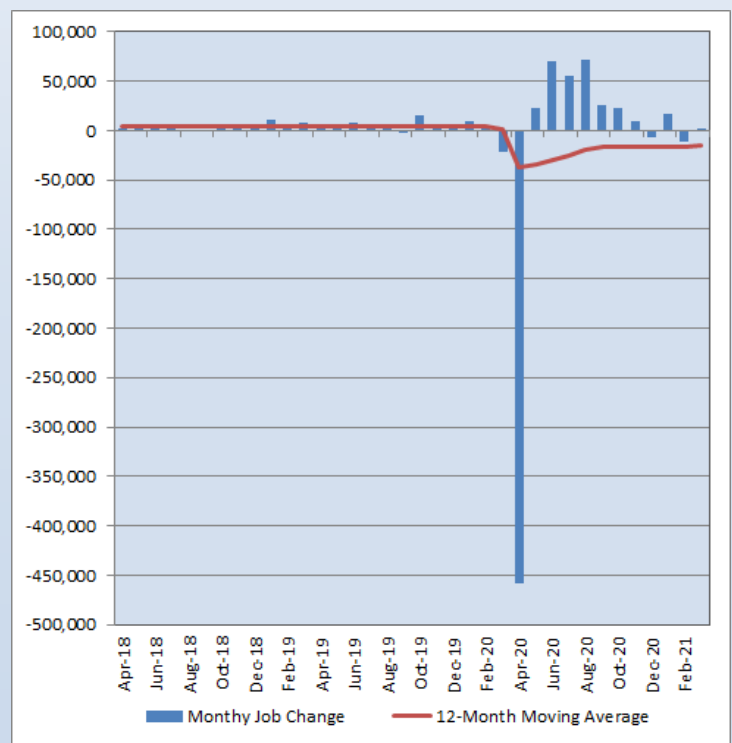
## Virginia Employment

Although Virginia’s HC&SA sector experienced a decline in employment in March, this did not lead to broader job losses in the state’s overall economy during the month. In fact, the overall statewide economy enjoyed modest job growth as Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 800 in March. This increase translates into a one-month annualized employment growth rate of  $0.2\%$ .

As with Virginia’s HC&SA sector, the state’s overall economy also enjoyed positive employment growth in Q1 2021. In fact, most of the job growth in Virginia’s overall economy over the past three months came from the employment gains in the state’s HC&SA sector. In Q1 2021, Virginia’s overall economy increased total nonfarm payroll employment by 6,500. Virginia’s HC&SA sector was responsible for fully two-thirds of this quarterly employment gain. This increase in the state’s total nonfarm payroll employment represents a three-month annualized growth rate of  $0.7\%$ .

Over the past 11 months, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll employment has increased by 276,600, thereby recovering 60% of the state’s total job loss from April 2020.

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

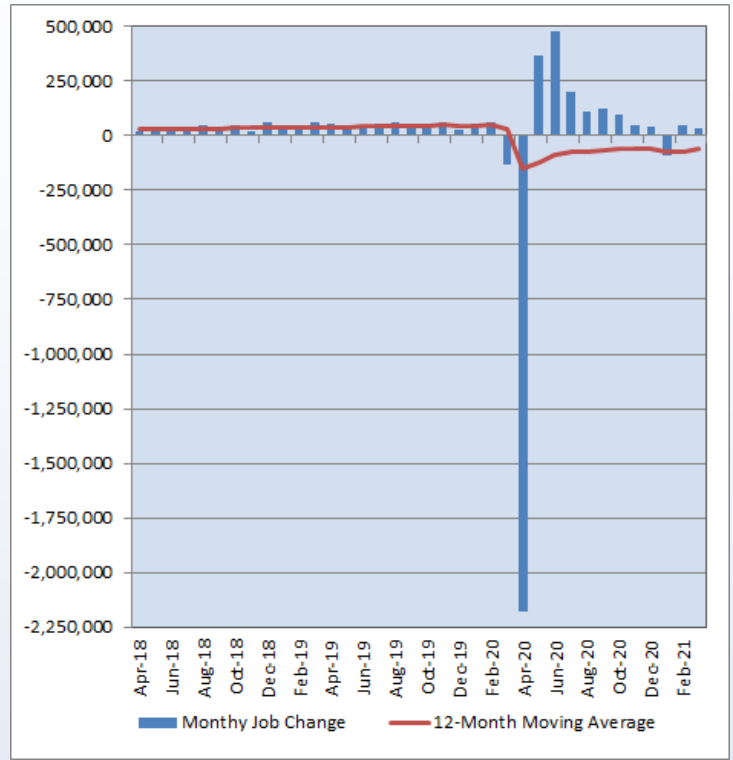


### National Employment

The national HC&SA sector experienced its second consecutive month of positive employment growth. In March, national HC&SA employment increased by 36,400. This gain represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 2.2%. Although the national HC&SA sector has created 87,200 jobs over the past two months, this increase was not enough to recover all of the employment losses from January. In Q1 2021, the national HC&SA sector experienced a modest loss of 4,500 jobs, which translates into a -0.1% annualized growth rate. Despite this lack of growth in Q1 2021, the national HC&SA sector has still recovered two-thirds of its total job loss from last April.

Employment growth in the overall national economy accelerated considerably during the month. Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 916,000 in March, a gain that represents a remarkable one-month annualized growth rate of 8.0%. March's strong job gain culminates an impressive quarter of job growth in the overall national economy. In Q1 2021, national total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 1.6 million, which translates into a 4.6% annualized growth rate.

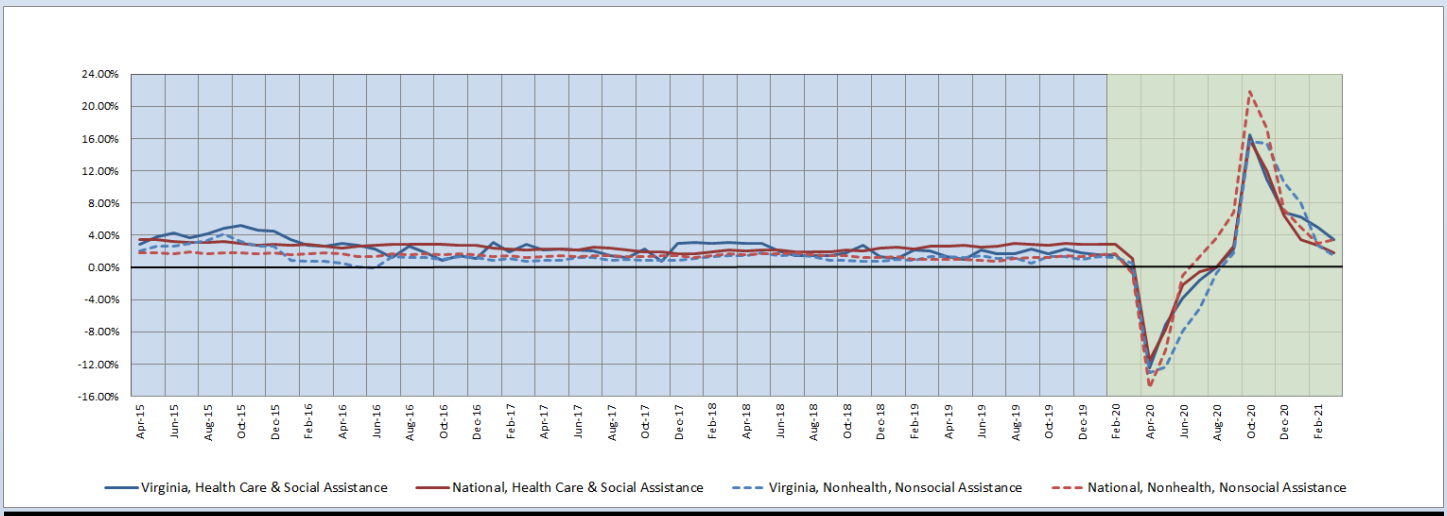
**Figure 3: Monthly Change in Employment in National Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted**



### State Employment Growth

Virginia's HC&SA sector saw its six-month employment growth rate moving average continue to fall in March. This moving average fell from 5.01% to 3.46% during the month. Although this moving average has fallen by nearly 80% since last October, it still remains quite high relative to its pre-pandemic levels. At no point in the year prior to the onset of the coronavirus pandemic did Virginia's six-month HC&SA employment growth rate moving average exceed 3%. Virginia's total nonfarm payroll also saw its six-month employment growth rate moving average fall in March from 2.80% to 1.50%. A similar decline occurred with the national HC&SA sector, which saw its moving average fall from 2.80% to 1.85%. On the other hand, the comparable moving average for national total nonfarm payroll employment increased from 3.02% to 3.50%.

**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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