



Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

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

Series 1, Issue 107

February 2021

Highlights

- ◆ Virginia's Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector enjoyed a solid start to the new year with the creation of 900 new jobs in January, a gain that represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 2.5%. Thanks to this job growth, Virginia's HC&SA sector recovered all of its employment losses from the previous month.
- ◆ Virginia's overall economy experienced even stronger employment growth in January thanks to the addition of 14,100 new jobs across the state during the month. This increase translates into a 4.4% annualized employment growth rate.
- ◆ Virginia's HC&SA employment growth is all the more impressive given the weakness in this sector elsewhere across the country during the month. In January, the national HC&SA sector lost 96,200 jobs, which represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of -5.6%.
- ◆ The overall national economy was able to overcome the job losses in its HC&SA sector as total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 166,000 in January. This monthly employment gain translates into a 1.4% annualized 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

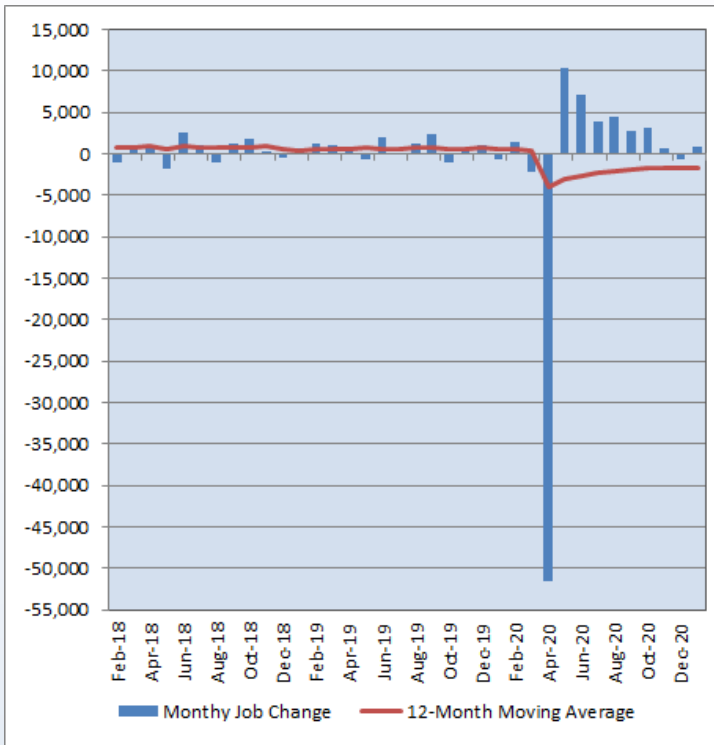
Seasonally Adjusted*	Employment, in Thousands				Growth Rate, Annualized		
	Jan. 2020	Oct. 2020	Dec. 2020	Jan. 2021	12 Month	3 Month	1 Month
Nonfarm, Total							
Virginia	4,089.1	3,878.2	3,881.1	3,895.2	-4.7%	1.8%	4.4%
National	152,234.0	142,545.0	142,503.0	142,669.0	-6.3%	0.3%	1.4%
Health Care & Social Assistance							
Virginia	461.5	440.7	440.6	441.5	-4.3%	0.7%	2.5%
National	20,726.9	19,841.0	19,928.3	19,832.1	-4.3%	-0.2%	-5.6%
All Other Nonfarm							
Virginia	3,627.6	3,437.5	3,440.5	3,453.7	-4.8%	1.9%	4.7%
National	131,507.1	122,704.0	122,574.7	122,836.9	-6.6%	0.4%	2.6%

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 Monday, March 15, 2021, by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment in Virginia’s Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector rebounded strongly in January after declining for the first time in eight months in December. In January, Virginia’s HC&SA sector created 900 new jobs, a gain that represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 2.5%.

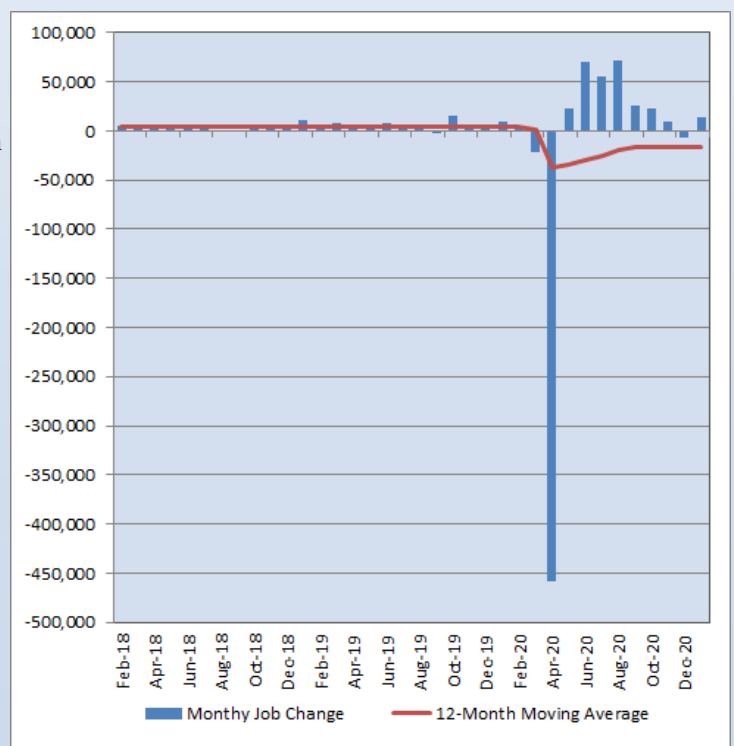
This month’s solid employment growth augurs well for the future of Virginia’s HC&SA sector as the state continues to recover from the effects of the coronavirus pandemic and its economic consequences. Despite December’s temporary setback, employment in Virginia’s HC&SA sector has still increased in eight of the past nine months. In fact, HC&SA employment in Virginia has increased by 32,400 since May. Thanks to this impressive growth, Virginia’s HC&SA sector has recovered nearly two-thirds of the jobs that it lost last April. As Virginia continues to expand distribution of the coronavirus vaccine over the coming months, further improvement to the state’s HC&SA employment prospects seems likely.

Virginia Employment

The improvement in the state’s employment situation was even more profound in its overall economy than in its HC&SA sector. Virginia’s overall economy enjoyed a very strong month of employment growth in January with the creation of 14,100 new jobs, a gain that translates into a 4.4% annualized growth rate. This increase was more than enough to recover all 7,000 jobs that were lost across the state in December.

As with employment in Virginia’s HC&SA sector, the state’s total nonfarm payroll employment has increased in eight of the past nine months. Although the speed of this economic recovery has slowed since the summer of 2020, the extent of the improvement is undeniable. In the past nine months, Virginia has created 284,200 jobs across the state. This nine-month employment gain represents more than 60% of the total job loss from last April. Over this same time period, Virginia’s seasonally adjusted monthly unemployment rate has been cut by more than half from 11.3% to 5.3%. Given that this unemployment rate was below 3% before the onset of the pandemic, there still appears to be a possibility of additional strong job gains in 2021.

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

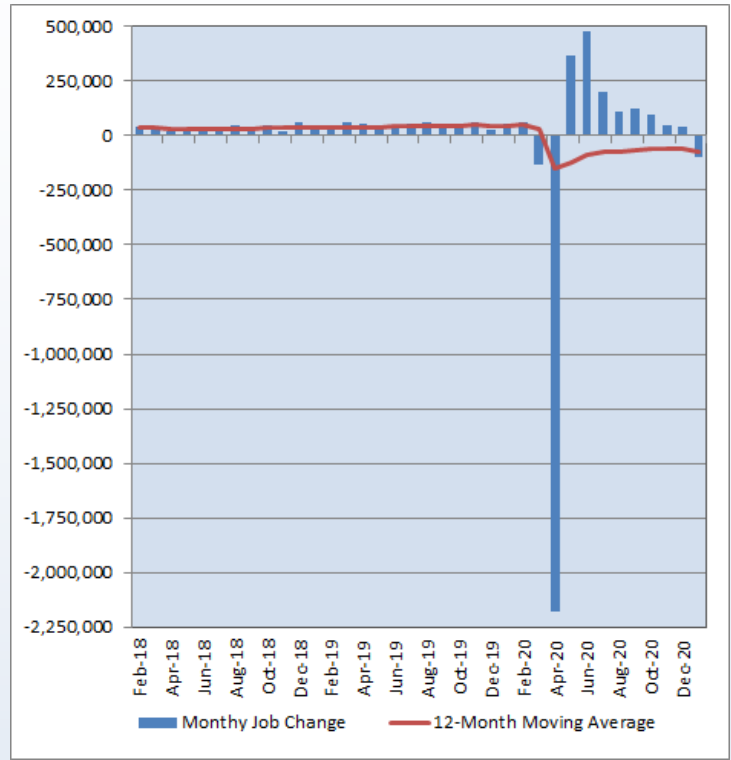


National Employment

The strength of Virginia’s employment rebound can be seen even more clearly when contrasted with the relative weakness observed elsewhere across the country during the month. In fact, the national HC&SA sector experienced a particularly difficult start to the new year. Employment in this sector had exhibited considerable resiliency in December. In a month in which the overall national economy lost 306,000 jobs, national HC&SA employment increased by 38,900. However, this strength came to an end in January as the national HC&SA sector lost 96,200 jobs during the month. This loss represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of -5.6%.

On the other hand, the overall national economy was able to bounce back from its job losses of the previous month. In January, national total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 166,000. This gain translates into a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 1.4%. Although this rebound was only enough to recover just over half of December’s employment losses, it still represents a good start to the new year for the overall national economy, which has created 12.5 million jobs over the past nine months.

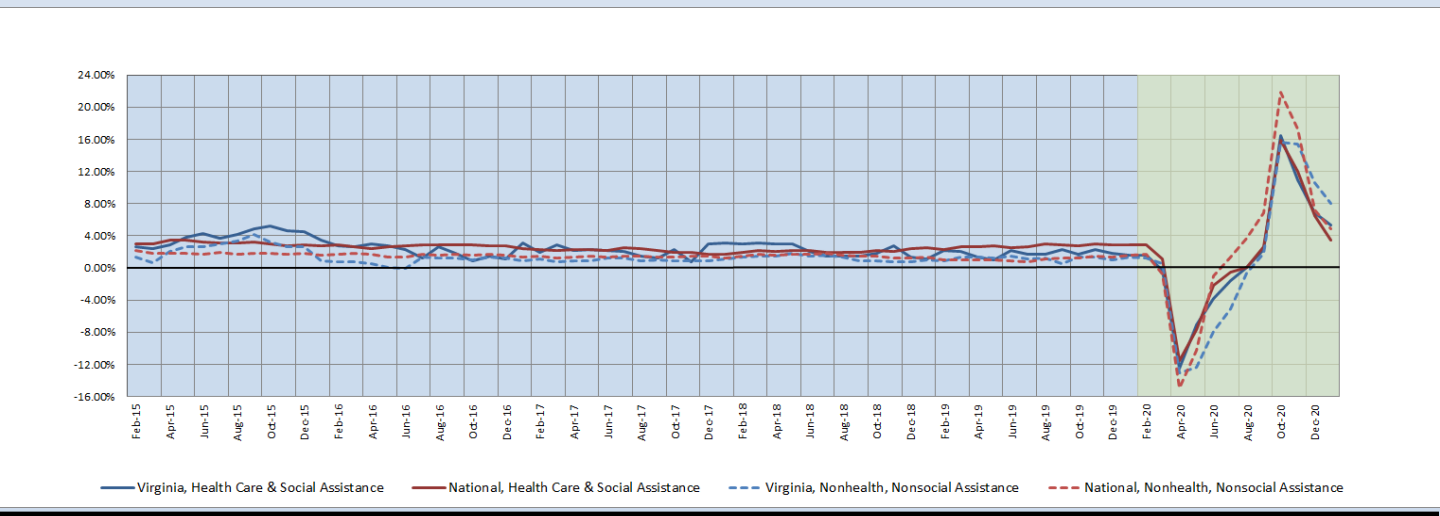
Figure 3: Monthly Change in Employment in National Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted



State Employment Growth

The stabilization of the state and national job markets continued in January as the six-month employment growth rate moving averages of their respective HC&SA sectors and overall economies receded back toward their prior long-term trend lines. Virginia’s HC&SA sector experienced a comparatively small decline in its six-month employment growth rate moving average, which fell from 6.86% to 5.35% in January. As for the state’s total nonfarm payroll employment, its six-month moving average declined from 10.65% to 8.04%. With respect to the national job market, the national HC&SA sector saw its six-month employment growth rate moving average fall from 6.55% to 3.40%, while the comparable moving average for national total nonfarm payroll employment fell from 7.18% to 4.85%.

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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