



Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

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

Series 1, Issue 106

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

Highlights

- ◆ For the first time since April, Virginia's Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector experienced a decline in employment. In December, HC&SA employment in Virginia fell by 1,900. This job loss translates into a one-month annualized employment growth rate of -5.1%. Despite this month's result, Virginia's HC&SA sector still created 4,700 jobs in Q4 2020.
- ◆ Although Virginia's HC&SA sector lost jobs in December, the state's overall economy managed to produce a small employment gain during the month. In December, the state's total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 800, a gain that represents a 0.2% annualized growth rate.
- ◆ Despite continuing to lose momentum, employment growth in the national HC&SA sector remained positive during the month. National HC&SA employment increased by 32,000 in December. This increase represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 1.9%.
- ◆ However, the growth in national HC&SA employment was not enough to counter the job losses experienced elsewhere across the country. In December, national total nonfarm payroll employment fell by 140,000. This loss translates into a -1.2% annualized employment growth rate.

Data in Brief

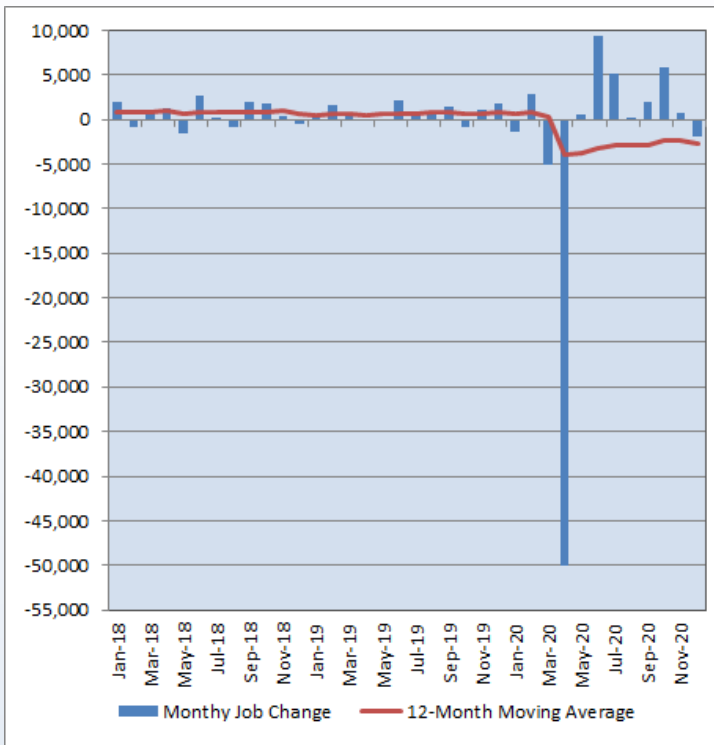
Seasonally Adjusted*	Employment, in Thousands				Growth Rate, Annualized		
	Dec. 2019	Sept. 2020	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2020	12 Month	3 Month	1 Month
Nonfarm, Total							
Virginia	4,087.9	3,864.8	3,909.2	3,910.0	-4.4%	4.8%	0.2%
National	151,998.0	141,774.0	142,764.0	142,624.0	-6.2%	2.4%	-1.2%
Health Care & Social Assistance							
Virginia	463.4	426.9	433.5	431.6	-6.9%	4.5%	-5.1%
National	20,654.2	19,742.5	19,881.8	19,913.8	-3.6%	3.5%	1.9%
All Other Nonfarm							
Virginia	3,624.5	3,437.9	3,475.7	3,478.4	-4.0%	4.8%	0.9%
National	131,343.8	122,031.5	122,882.2	122,710.2	-6.6%	2.2%	-1.7%

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, January 26, 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 since April. In December, Virginia’s HC&SA sector lost 1,900 jobs, a decline that represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of -5.1% . With this decline, the state’s HC&SA sector has seen its post-lockdown economic recovery period come to at least a temporary end. Regardless, statewide HC&SA employment still increased by a remarkable 23,600 during the seven-month period of positive job growth that constituted the post-lockdown economic recovery period.

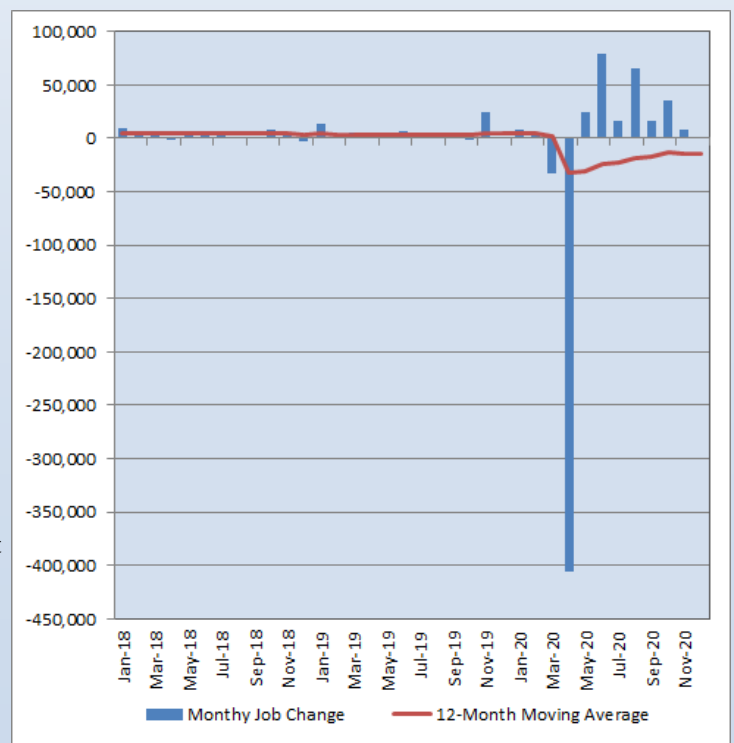
Although HC&SA employment in Virginia rebounded strongly during the summer and fall, this improvement was not enough to recover the unprecedented job losses that occurred in March and April during the initial wave of the coronavirus pandemic. Due to these historic job losses, HC&SA employment in Virginia fell by a total of 31,800 in 2020. This full-year decline in employment translates into a -6.9% growth rate.

Virginia Employment

Despite the decline in Virginia’s HC&SA employment in December, the rest of the state’s economy was able to overcome those job losses during the month. In December, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll employment experienced a modest increase of 800, a gain that represents a one-month annualized growth rate of 0.2% . With this increase, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll employment has now increased in each of the past eight months. At the same time, this month’s result also represents further confirmation of the fact that Virginia’s job market is continuing to stabilize as the dramatic employment gains of the post-lockdown economic recovery period come to an end not only in the HC&SA sector but in the broader statewide economy as well.

As in Virginia’s HC&SA sector, the state’s overall economy was never able to recover all of its employment losses from March and April. Despite increasing by 248,200 over the past eight months, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll employment still fell by 177,900 in 2020, which translates into a 12-month employment growth rate of -4.4% . It also represents the first full-year employment decline in Virginia’s overall economy since 2009.

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

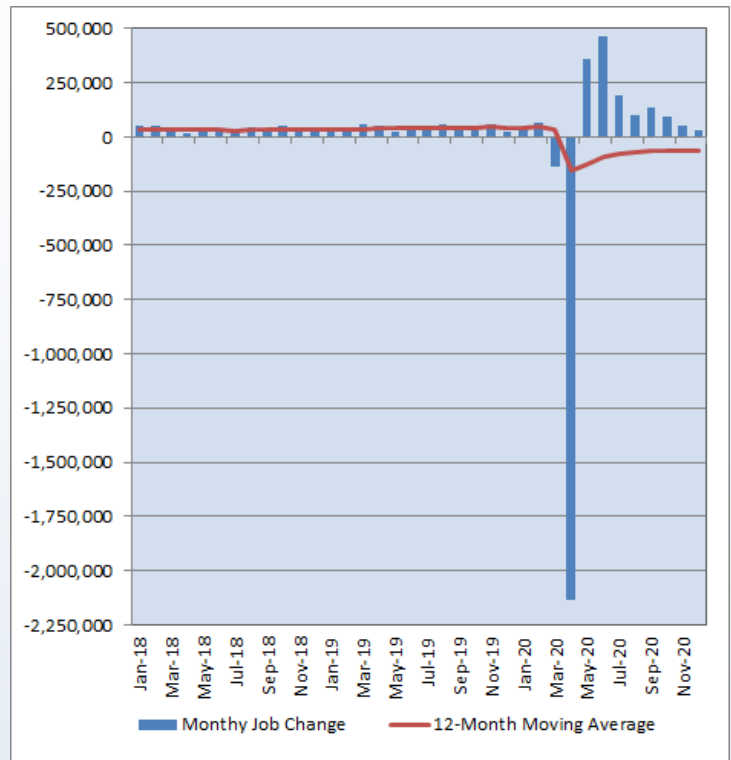


National Employment

The declining momentum of the post-lockdown economic recovery period can also be observed from the progressively smaller monthly employment gains in the national HC&SA sector. The downward trend continued in December as national HC&SA employment increased by 32,000 during the month. This gain represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 1.9%. Regardless, the national HC&SA sector has still enjoyed eight consecutive months of positive employment growth. Although this sector has still not recovered all of its pandemic-related job losses, its 12-month employment growth rate of -3.6% is well above the comparable growth rate for the overall national economy.

While national HC&SA employment increased once again in December, this growth did not translate into a comparable gain in the broader national economy. In fact, employment in the overall national economy declined for the first time since April. In December, national total nonfarm payroll employment fell by 140,000. This loss translates into a one-month annualized employment growth rate of -1.2%. As for 2020 as a whole, national total nonfarm payroll employment has fallen by 6.2% over the past 12 months.

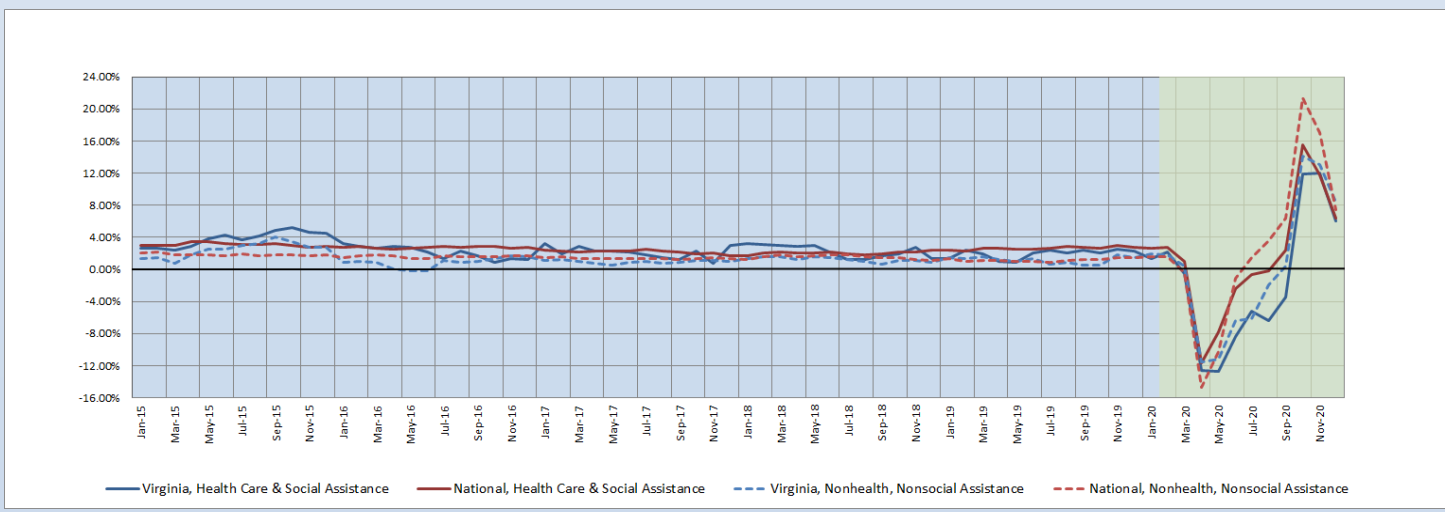
Figure 3: Monthly Change in Employment in National Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted



State Employment Growth

In December, the six-month employment growth rate moving averages for both Virginia’s HC&SA sector and the overall statewide economy experienced dramatic declines. This decline was particularly acute for Virginia’s HC&SA sector, which saw its moving average cut in half in December from 12.01% to 6.01%. As for the state’s total nonfarm payroll employment, its six-month moving average fell from 13.00% to 8.39%. At the same time, the national HC&SA sector and the overall national economy endured similar declines during the month. The national HC&SA sector saw its six-month employment growth rate moving average fall from 11.73% to 6.37%, while the comparable moving average for national total nonfarm payroll employment declined from 17.06% to 7.44%.

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



**Healthcare Workforce
Data Center**

Perimeter Center
9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300
Henrico, VA 23233-1463

Phone: (804) 597-4213
Fax: (804) 527-4434
E-mail: hwdc@dhp.virginia.gov
Website: [www.dhp.virginia.gov/PublicResources/
HealthcareWorkforceDataCenter/](http://www.dhp.virginia.gov/PublicResources/HealthcareWorkforceDataCenter/)

HWDC Staff:

Elizabeth Carter, PhD <i>Executive Director</i>	Yetty Shobo, PhD <i>Deputy Director</i>
Laura Jackson, MSHSA <i>Operations Manager</i>	Rajana Siva, MBA <i>Data Analyst</i>
Christopher Coyle <i>Research Assistant</i>	

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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