



Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

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

Series 1, Issue 111

June 2021

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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 experiencing two consecutive months of negative employment growth, Virginia's Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector rebounded strongly in May thanks to the creation of 1,300 new jobs across the state. This job gain represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 3.6%. So far this year, employment in Virginia's HC&SA sector has grown by 4,700.
- ◆ The job gain in Virginia's HC&SA sector did not lead to broader employment growth in the state's overall economy. In fact, Virginia's total nonfarm payroll employment fell by 3,500 in May, a loss that translates into a one-month annualized growth rate of -1.1%.
- ◆ The national HC&SA sector enjoyed its fourth consecutive month of positive employment growth. In May, national HC&SA employment increased by 45,800. This gain translates into a 2.8% annualized growth rate. With this gain, national HC&SA employment has increased by 185,300 since February.
- ◆ After growing by 278,000 in April, national total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 559,000 in May. This gain represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 4.7%. This also represents the fifth consecutive month in which the overall national economy has increased employment.

Data in Brief

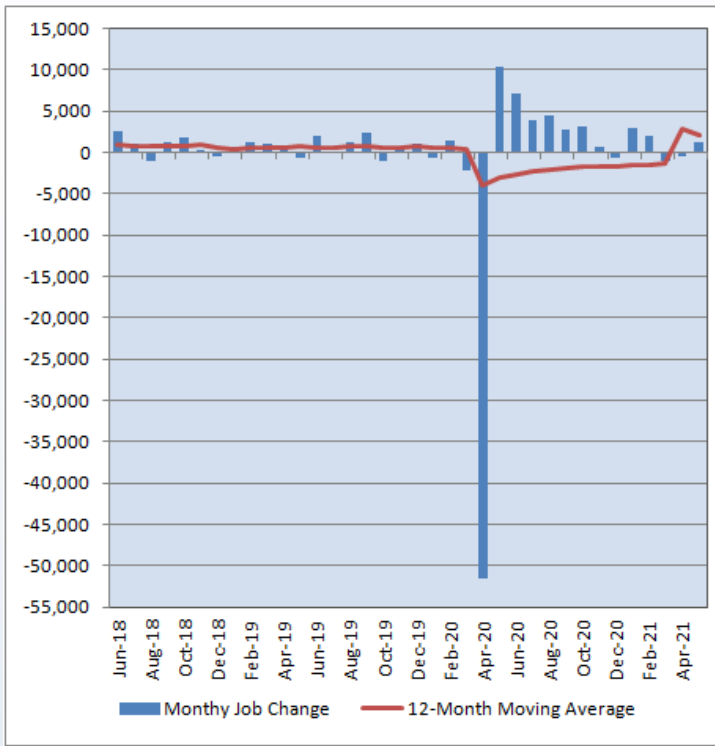
Seasonally Adjusted*	Employment, in Thousands				Growth Rate, Annualized		
	May 2020	Feb. 2021	Apr. 2021	May 2021	12 Month	3 Month	1 Month
Nonfarm, Total							
Virginia	3,633.2	3,886.8	3,892.0	3,888.5	7.0%	0.2%	-1.1%
National	132,994.0	143,272.0	144,335.0	144,894.0	8.9%	4.6%	4.7%
Health Care & Social Assistance							
Virginia	419.4	445.5	444.0	445.3	6.2%	-0.2%	3.6%
National	18,835.8	19,889.2	19,976.1	20,021.9	6.3%	2.7%	2.8%
All Other Nonfarm							
Virginia	3,213.8	3,441.3	3,448.0	3,443.2	7.1%	0.2%	-1.7%
National	114,158.2	123,382.8	124,358.9	124,872.1	9.4%	4.9%	5.1%

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 Wednesday, June 23, 2021, by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Virginia’s Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector rebounded strongly in May, thereby recovering most of its employment losses from the prior two months. In March and April, the employment recovery in Virginia’s HC&SA sector came to a halt as the state lost a total of 1,500 HC&SA jobs. However, Virginia’s HC&SA sector recovered 1,300 of these jobs in May, a gain that represents a one-month annualized growth rate of 3.6%.

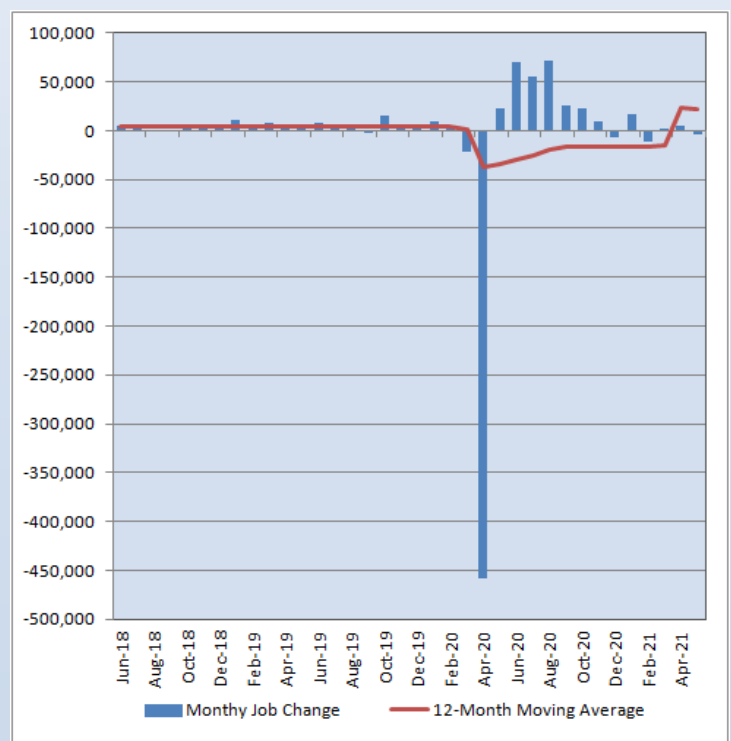
Although employment in Virginia’s HC&SA sector has fallen at a 0.2% annualized rate over the past three months, its long-term employment growth during the post-lockdown economic recovery period has been substantial. Thanks to the solid employment gains from the first two months of 2021, Virginia’s HC&SA sector has created 4,700 jobs so far this year. Although Virginia’s 12-month HC&SA employment growth rate moving average fell by one-quarter in May, this sector has still created an average of 2,158 jobs per month over the past year. In fact, this sector has recovered 70% of its employment loss from April 2020.

Virginia Employment

The stabilization of the overall statewide job market has been quite apparent given the relatively moderate employment changes in recent months. In March and April, Virginia’s overall economy enjoyed modest job growth as the state’s total nonfarm payroll employment increased by a total of 5,200. However, this growth came to an end in May with the loss of 3,500 jobs across the state during the month, a decline that represents a -1.1% annualized employment growth rate. In total, these changes over the past three months translate into a rather negligible 0.2% annualized employment growth rate.

As with the state’s HC&SA sector, Virginia’s overall economy has enjoyed very strong long-term employment growth even as the post-lockdown economic recovery period loses momentum. Even with May’s job loss, the state’s total nonfarm payroll employment has still increased by 7,400 during the first five months of 2021. When this year-to-date employment growth is combined with the massive job gains from the latter half of 2020, the result is the creation of 277,500 jobs across the state since last May, or fully three-fifths of the 458,600 jobs that were lost in April 2020.

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

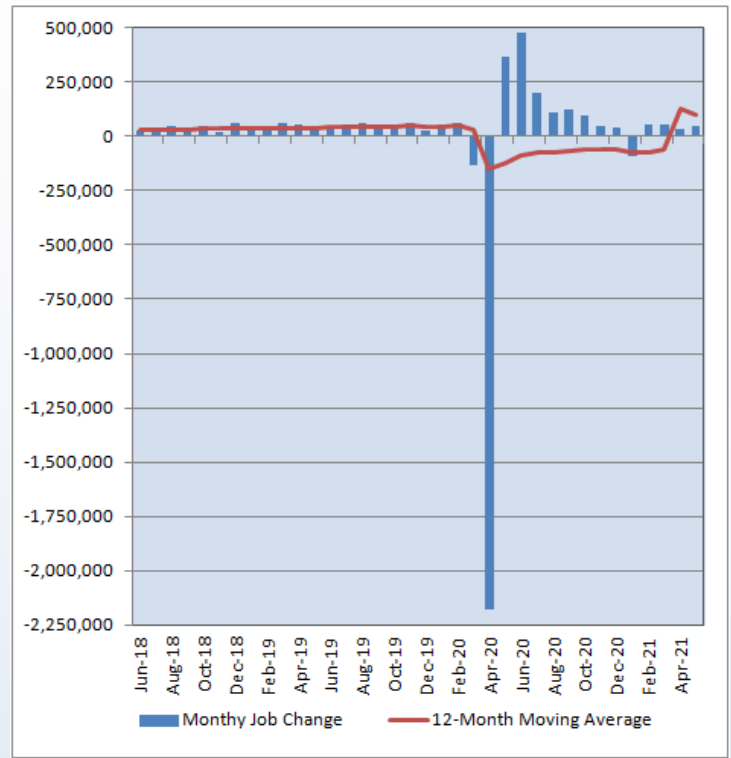


National Employment

After experiencing a rather dramatic loss of jobs in January, the national HC&SA sector has enjoyed four consecutive months of consistently solid employment growth. This growth continued in May with the creation of 45,800 new HC&SA jobs across the country, a gain that represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 2.8%. With this gain, employment in the national HC&SA sector has increased by 185,300 over the past four months. Even with January’s significant job loss, the national HC&SA sector has still increased employment by 93,600 since the beginning of the year.

As for the overall national economy, total nonfarm payroll employment has increased in each of the past five months. In fact, this employment growth accelerated strongly in May after a comparatively mild job gain in April. In May, national total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 559,000. This gain translates into a solid 4.7% annualized employment growth rate. This increase also represents the second largest job gain so far in 2021, a year in which national total nonfarm payroll employment has already grown by a total of 2.4 million.

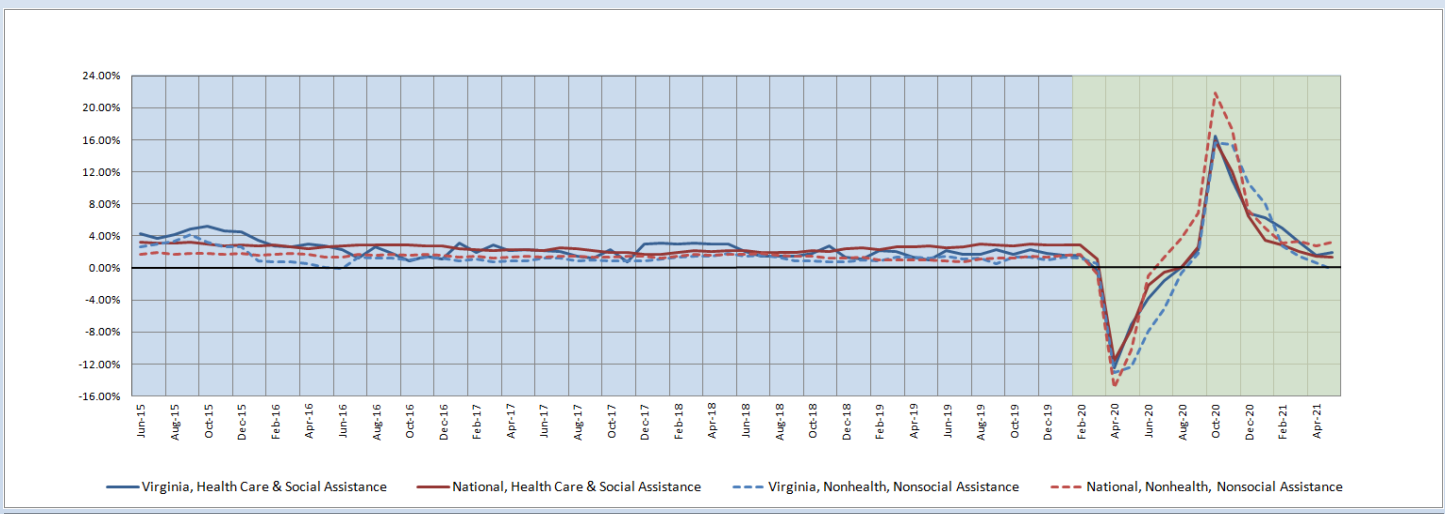
Figure 3: Monthly Change in Employment in National Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted



State Employment Growth

For the first time since last October, Virginia’s HC&SA sector experienced an increase in its six-month employment growth rate moving average. In May, this moving average rose from 1.58% to 1.90%. On the other hand, the six-month employment growth rate moving average for the state’s overall economy declined again in May. In fact, this moving average turned negative for the first time since last August, falling from 0.66% to -0.17% during the month. The six-month employment growth rate moving average for the national HC&SA sector also fell in May, but this decline was quite modest with a slight drop from 1.41% to 1.38%. Meanwhile, national total nonfarm payroll experienced an increase in its six-month employment growth rate moving average from 2.77% to 3.26%.

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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