



# Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

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

Series 1, Issue 108

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

## Highlights

- ◆ Virginia's Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector enjoyed its second consecutive month of strong employment growth, thereby continuing its impressive start to the new year. After creating 2,900 jobs in January, Virginia's HC&SA sector produced an additional 2,800 jobs in February. This gain represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 7.8%.
- ◆ While Virginia's HC&SA sector was able to maintain its momentum into February, this continued job growth did not carry over into the state's broader economy. In February, the state's total nonfarm payroll employment fell by 3,700. This loss translates into a -1.1% annualized employment growth rate.
- ◆ After experiencing a difficult start to the new year in January, employment in the national HC&SA sector rebounded solidly in February with an increase of 45,600 jobs during the month. This gain represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 2.8%.
- ◆ The overall national economy added to its solid job gain in January with an even more impressive increase in employment in February. National total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 379,000 in February, a gain that translates into a one-month annualized growth rate of 3.2%.

## Data in Brief

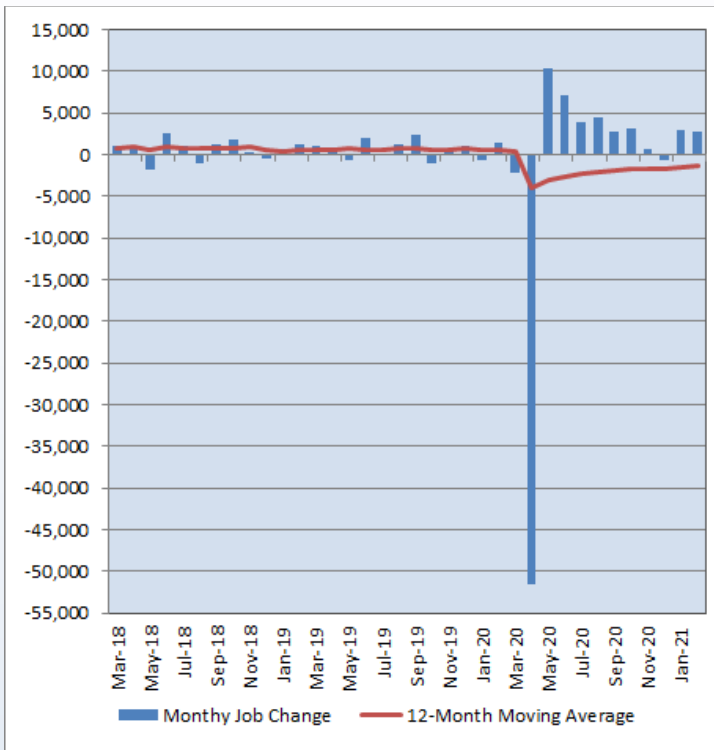
Seasonally Adjusted*	Employment, in Thousands				Growth Rate, Annualized		
	Feb. 2020	Nov. 2020	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2021	12 Month	3 Month	1 Month
<b>Nonfarm, Total</b>							
Virginia	4,091.0	3,888.1	3,897.4	3,893.7	-4.8%	0.6%	-1.1%
National	152,523.0	142,809.0	142,669.0	143,048.0	-6.2%	0.7%	3.2%
<b>Health Care &amp; Social Assistance</b>							
Virginia	462.9	441.3	443.5	446.3	-3.6%	4.6%	7.8%
National	20,786.5	19,889.4	19,832.1	19,877.7	-4.4%	-0.2%	2.8%
<b>All Other Nonfarm</b>							
Virginia	3,628.1	3,446.8	3,453.9	3,447.4	-5.0%	0.1%	-2.2%
National	131,736.5	122,919.6	122,836.9	123,170.3	-6.5%	0.8%	3.3%

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, March 26, 2021, by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Virginia’s Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector continued its strong start to the new year thanks to its second consecutive month of impressive employment growth. In February, employment in this sector increased by 2,800. This gain represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 7.8%. With this gain, Virginia’s HC&SA sector has created 5,700 jobs during the first two months of 2021. This represents the best start to a new year for employment in Virginia’s HC&SA sector in at least three decades.

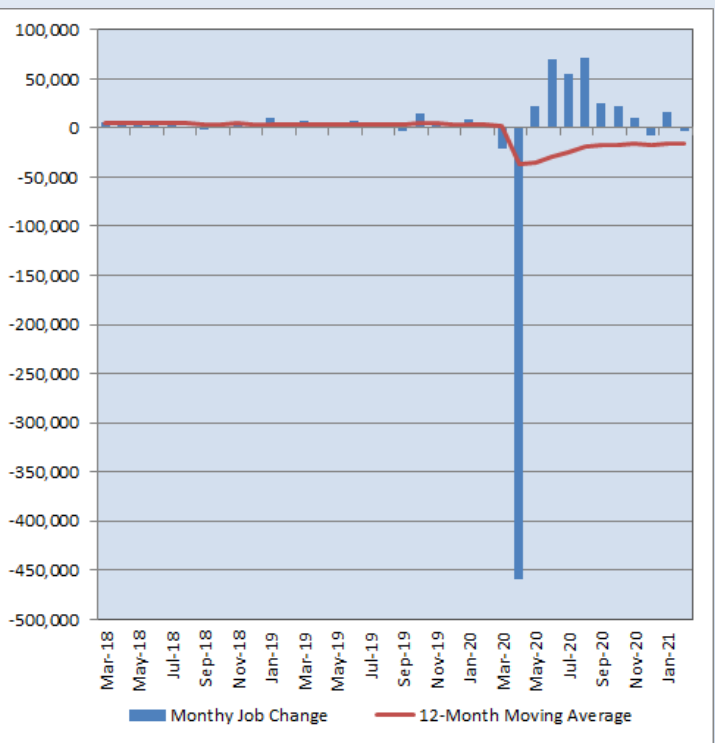
This resurgent employment growth in 2021 is particularly impressive given this sector’s loss of momentum toward the end of the previous year. Whereas Virginia’s HC&SA sector created an average of 3,700 jobs per month in Q3 2020, this average fell to 1,000 jobs created per month in Q4 2020. This loss of momentum culminated in the state’s first decline in HC&SA employment in eight months in December. Even with that decline, HC&SA employment has still grown at a 4.6% annualized rate over the past three months.

## Virginia Employment

Although Virginia’s HC&SA sector enjoyed another very strong month of employment growth in February, this contribution did not translate into broader job gains in the overall statewide economy. In fact, Virginia’s overall economy lost jobs for the second time in the past three months after the state’s total nonfarm payroll employment fell by 3,700 in February. This loss represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of -1.1%. Despite this volatility over the past three months, the short-term growth of the state’s total nonfarm payroll employment is still buoyed by January’s solid job gain. Thanks to January’s increase, employment in Virginia’s overall economy has still grown at a 0.6% annualized rate since December.

Although Virginia’s overall economy is still recovering from the effects of the coronavirus pandemic, its long-term results have been rather impressive when compared to the job losses observed elsewhere across the country. Despite its strong recovery since last April, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll employment has still fallen by 4.8% over the past 12 months. Regardless, this is still relatively better than the comparable 6.2% loss in the overall national economy.

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

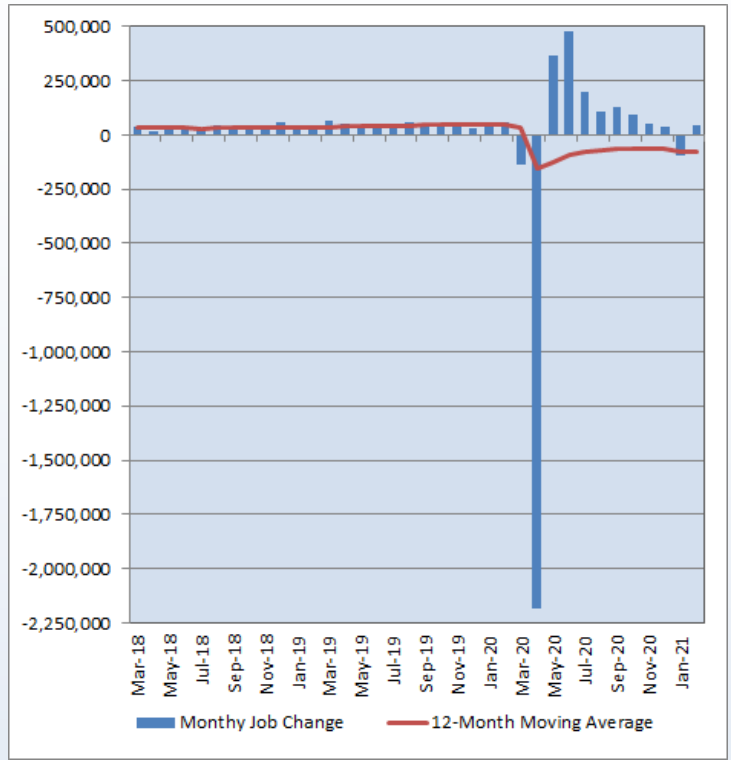


### National Employment

One month after experiencing its first decline in employment since last April, the national HC&SA sector rebounded in February thanks to the creation of 45,600 new jobs. This gain represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 2.8%. Although February’s HC&SA employment gain is an encouraging sign for future job growth, this increase was not enough to recover all of the losses from January. In fact, employment in the national HC&SA sector has fallen by 11,700 over the past three months, a decline due entirely to the 96,200 jobs that were lost in January. This three-month decline in national HC&SA employment translates into a -0.2% annualized growth rate.

The overall national job market enjoyed even faster growth during the month. In February, national total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 379,000, a gain that represents a one-month annualized growth rate of 3.2%. This gain also represents an acceleration of job growth in the national economy given that total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 166,000 in January. Even with December’s job losses, national total nonfarm payroll employment has still grown at a 0.7% annualized rate over the past three months.

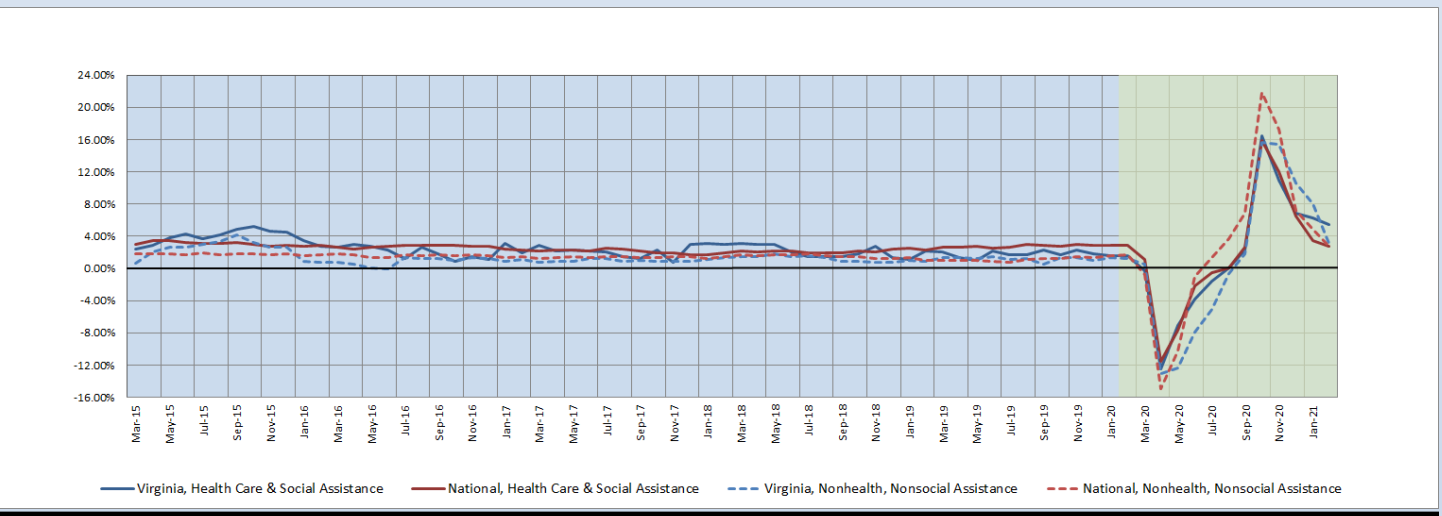
**Figure 3: Monthly Change in Employment in National Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted**



### State Employment Growth

As measured by their respective six-month employment growth rate moving averages, Virginia’s HC&SA sector and the state’s overall economy are continuing to stabilize, a process that has persisted over the past several months as Virginia’s job market returns to more normal levels of growth. In February, the six-month employment growth rate moving average for Virginia’s HC&SA sector fell from 6.30% to 5.39%, while the comparable moving average for the state’s total nonfarm payroll employment experienced a larger decline from 8.06% to 3.14%. A similar process of stabilization, albeit more quickly, is also taking place in the national job market. In February, the six-month employment growth rate moving averages of the national HC&SA sector and national total nonfarm payroll employment fell to 2.70% and 2.77%, respectively.

**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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