



Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

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

Series 1, Issue 114

September 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

- ◆ For the second consecutive month, Virginia's Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector experienced a decline in employment. After losing 2,400 jobs in July, Virginia's HC&SA sector lost an additional 300 jobs in August. This loss translates into a -0.8% annualized employment growth rate. Regardless, Virginia's HC&SA sector has still created 2,100 new jobs so far this year.
- ◆ Despite the decline in employment in Virginia's HC&SA sector, the state's overall economy still created 10,500 new jobs in August. This increase in the state's total nonfarm payroll employment translates into a 3.3% annualized growth rate.
- ◆ As with Virginia's HC&SA sector, the national HC&SA sector also experienced a decline in employment during the month. In August, national HC&SA employment fell by 4,600. This loss represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of -0.3%.
- ◆ The overall national economy added 235,000 new jobs in August, a gain that translates into a 1.9% annualized employment growth rate. With this gain, national total nonfarm payroll employment has increased in each of the past eight months.

Data in Brief

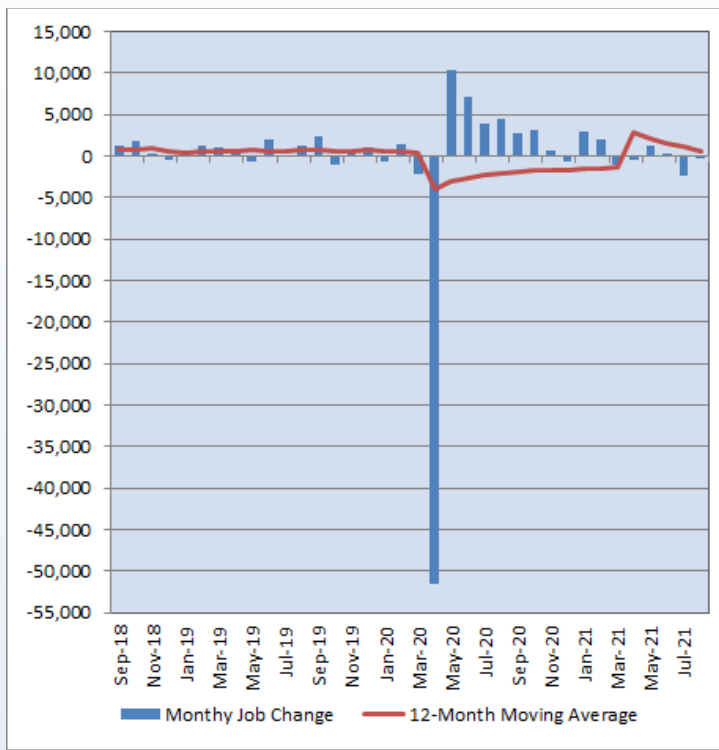
Seasonally Adjusted*	Employment, in Thousands				Growth Rate, Annualized		
	Aug. 2020	May 2021	July 2021	Aug. 2021	12 Month	3 Month	1 Month
Nonfarm, Total							
Virginia	3,830.7	3,891.0	3,902.7	3,913.2	2.2%	2.3%	3.3%
National	141,149.0	144,940.0	146,955.0	147,190.0	4.3%	6.4%	1.9%
Health Care & Social Assistance							
Virginia	434.9	445.3	443.0	442.7	1.8%	-2.3%	-0.8%
National	19,623.1	19,985.7	20,044.7	20,040.1	2.1%	1.1%	-0.3%
All Other Nonfarm							
Virginia	3,395.8	3,445.7	3,459.7	3,470.5	2.2%	2.9%	3.8%
National	121,525.9	124,954.3	126,910.3	127,149.9	4.6%	7.2%	2.3%

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.



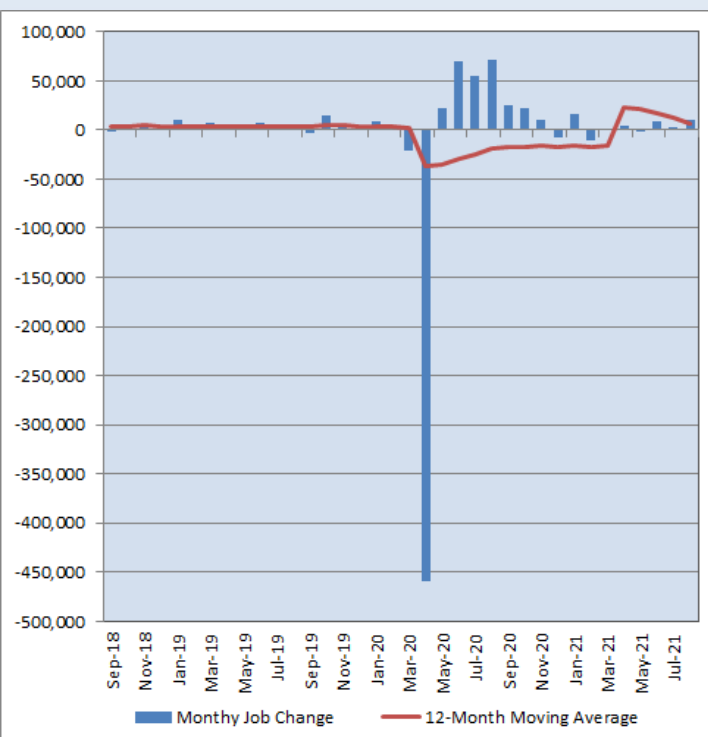
According to the preliminary data released on Friday, September 17, 2021, by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Virginia’s Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector experienced a decline in employment for the second consecutive month. In July, Virginia’s HC&SA sector lost 2,400 jobs, its largest monthly decline in employment in more than one year. This decline was followed by an additional loss of 300 HC&SA jobs in August, which translates into a -0.8% annualized employment growth rate.

After beginning the year with impressive job gains in January and February, Virginia’s HC&SA sector has seen its employment growth fade away in the subsequent six months. In fact, HC&SA employment has fallen in four out of the past six months. In total, Virginia’s HC&SA sector has lost 2,800 jobs since March. Despite this recent slowdown in employment growth, the long-term performance of Virginia’s HC&SA sector still remains positive. For example, HC&SA employment in the state has still increased by 2,100 so far this year. In addition, Virginia’s HC&SA sector has increased employment by 1.8% over the past 12 months.

Virginia Employment

For the second consecutive month, the employment decline in Virginia’s HC&SA sector did not prevent the state’s overall economy from enjoying positive job growth. In July, Virginia’s overall economy created 2,500 jobs during a month in which HC&SA employment fell by 2,400. In August, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll employment demonstrated even more impressive resilience in the face of HC&SA employment losses. While Virginia’s HC&SA sector experienced a modest decline in employment in August, the state’s total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 10,500. This job gain translates into a 3.3% annualized employment growth rate. In addition, this result also represents the second largest job gain in Virginia’s overall economy so far this year. Only in January did the state produce more jobs in a single month. In general, the state’s total nonfarm payroll employment has enjoyed consistently solid gains in 2021. So far this year, Virginia’s overall economy has only experienced two months of negative employment growth. In total, the state’s total nonfarm payroll employment has increased by 32,100 in 2021. With respect to the past 12 months, Virginia’s overall economy has grown employment by 2.2%.

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

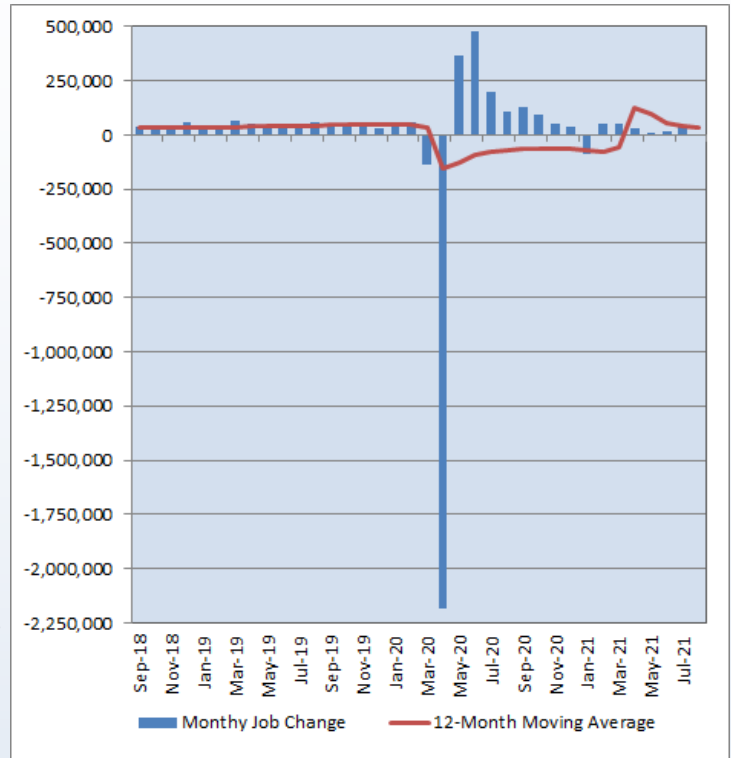


National Employment

For the second time this year, the national HC&SA sector experienced a decline in employment. In August, the national HC&SA sector lost 4,600 jobs, a decline that represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of -0.3% . This loss continues a recent trend in which the national HC&SA job market has experienced greater instability with respect to the consistency of its month employment gains. Prior to the coronavirus pandemic in March 2020, the national HC&SA sector had not experienced a single monthly job loss in nearly seven years. However, this has now occurred four times in just the past 18 months.

Meanwhile, the overall national economy experienced a significant slowdown in its employment growth rate in August. In June and July, total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 962,000 and 1.1 million, respectively. These results represent the two largest monthly gains in national total nonfarm payroll employment in 2021. However, the job market in the overall national economy cooled off considerably in August as total nonfarm payroll employment increased by only 235,000. This gain translates into a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 1.9% .

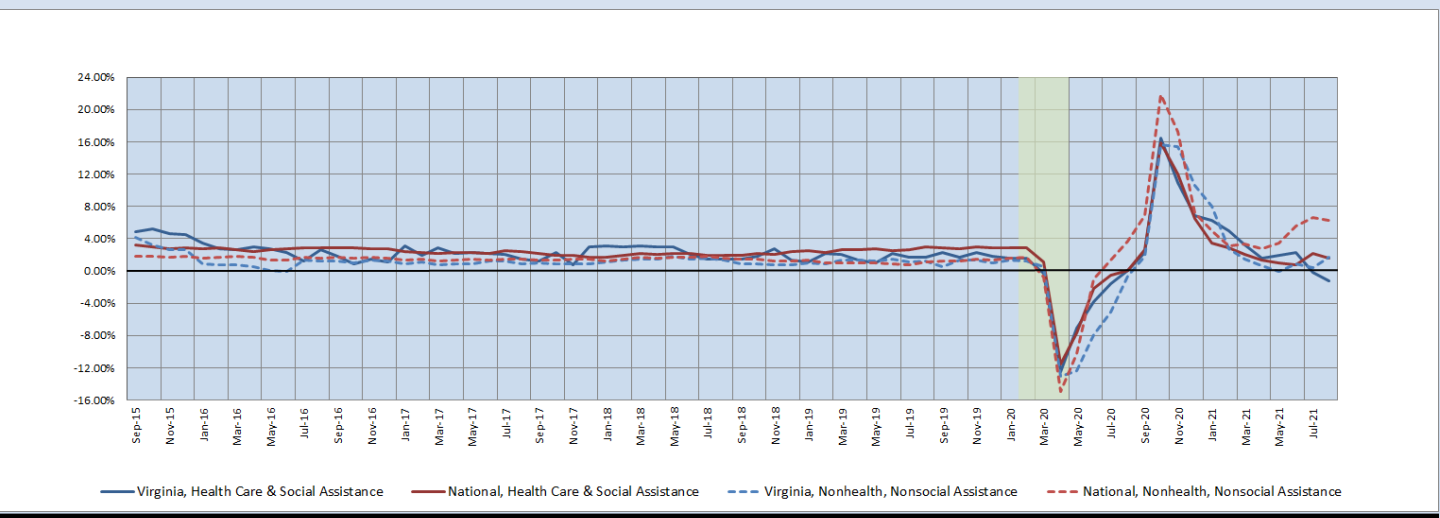
Figure 3: Monthly Change in Employment in National Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted



State Employment Growth

Virginia’s HC&SA sector saw its six-month employment growth rate moving average decline from -0.15% to -1.21% in August. At this value, the six-month employment growth rate moving average of Virginia’s HC&SA sector has fallen to its lowest level since July 2020. On the other hand, Virginia’s overall economy enjoyed a dramatic increase in its six-month employment growth rate moving average, which rose from 0.37% to 1.72% . With this increase, this moving average has reached its highest value since February. As for the national HC&SA sector, its six-month employment growth rate moving average fell from 2.11% to 1.53% . There was a similar decline for the overall national economy as the six-month employment growth rate moving average of national total nonfarm payroll fell from 6.67% to 6.24% .

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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