



Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

Indicators from the Bureau of Labor Statistics'
Current Employment Statistics Survey
Series 2: Regional & Sectoral Employment

Series 2, Issue 109

April 2021

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Highlights

- ◆ Data in this series are not seasonally adjusted and exhibit short-term volatility from fluctuations in holidays, weekends, weather and other seasonal factors. Estimates for the most recent month are preliminary.
- ◆ Most of Virginia's HC&SA employment growth in March occurred outside of its major metropolitan areas. In March, the Rest of Virginia created 700 new HC&SA jobs, an increase that represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 6.4%. Meanwhile, Richmond and Hampton Roads each added 100 new HC&SA jobs during the month. On the other hand, employment in Northern Virginia's HC&SA sector fell by 500 in March.
- ◆ Ambulatory Health Care Services enjoyed their fourth consecutive month of positive employment growth after creating 1,000 new jobs in March. Social Assistance also experienced impressive employment growth thanks to the addition of 700 new jobs in March, while Hospitals made a more modest contribution with the creation of 100 new jobs during the month. Meanwhile, Nursing & Residential Care Facilities lost 1,400 jobs in March.

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

Data in Brief

Not Seasonally Adjusted*	Employment, in Thousands				Growth Rate, Annualized		
	Mar. 2020	Dec. 2020	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2021	12 Month	3 Month	1 Month
Virginia							
Total Nonfarm	4,046.2	3,894.2	3,843.2	3,864.4	-4.5%	-3.0%	6.8%
Health Care & Social Assistance	459.9	442.1	443.4	443.8	-3.5%	1.5%	1.1%
Hampton Roads							
Total Nonfarm	791.9	763.4	753.5	756.4	-4.5%	-3.6%	4.7%
Health Care & Social Assistance	96.5	92.1	91.2	91.3	-5.4%	-3.4%	1.3%
Northern Virginia							
Total Nonfarm	1,519.6	1,459.7	1,443.8	1,453.5	-4.3%	-1.7%	8.4%
Health Care & Social Assistance	140.2	133.7	135.5	135.0	-3.7%	3.9%	-4.3%
Richmond							
Total Nonfarm	684.0	654.3	641.9	643.7	-5.9%	-6.3%	3.4%
Health Care & Social Assistance	88.0	83.6	82.5	82.6	-6.1%	-4.7%	1.5%
Rest of Virginia							
Total Nonfarm	1,050.7	1,016.8	1,004.0	1,010.8	-3.8%	-2.3%	8.4%
Health Care & Social Assistance	135.2	132.7	134.2	134.9	-0.2%	6.8%	6.4%

Preliminary estimates are italicized

*Seasonally adjusted data are adjusted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics to account for weather and other seasonal changes. Since the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics does not provide seasonally adjusted data at this level, this series uses **non**-seasonally adjusted data exclusively. Seasonal variation may account for some of the variation in time series data. When comparing data in this series to other HWDC series or other publications it is important to note whether the data reported have been seasonally adjusted.

Regional HC&SA Employment Growth, Level

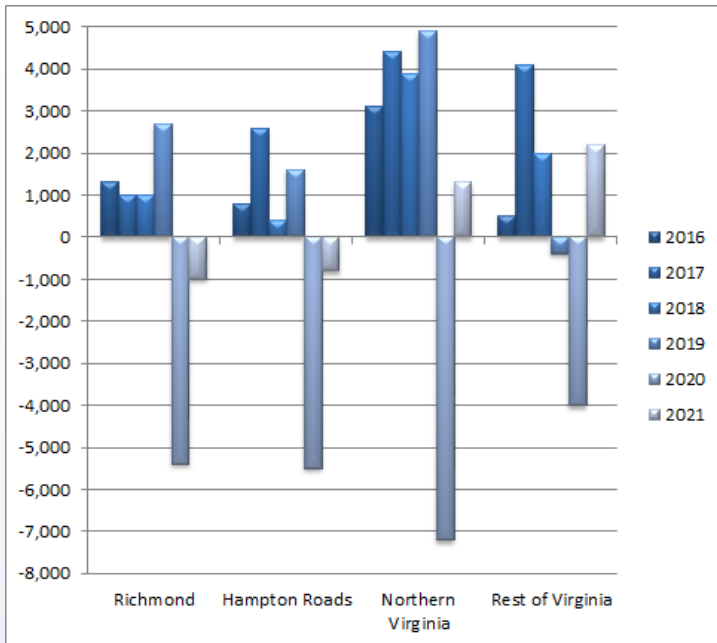


Figure 1: Annual & YTD Change in HC&SA Regional Employment (Not Seasonally Adjusted, Full-Year Change for 2016-2020, Year-to-Date Change for 2021).

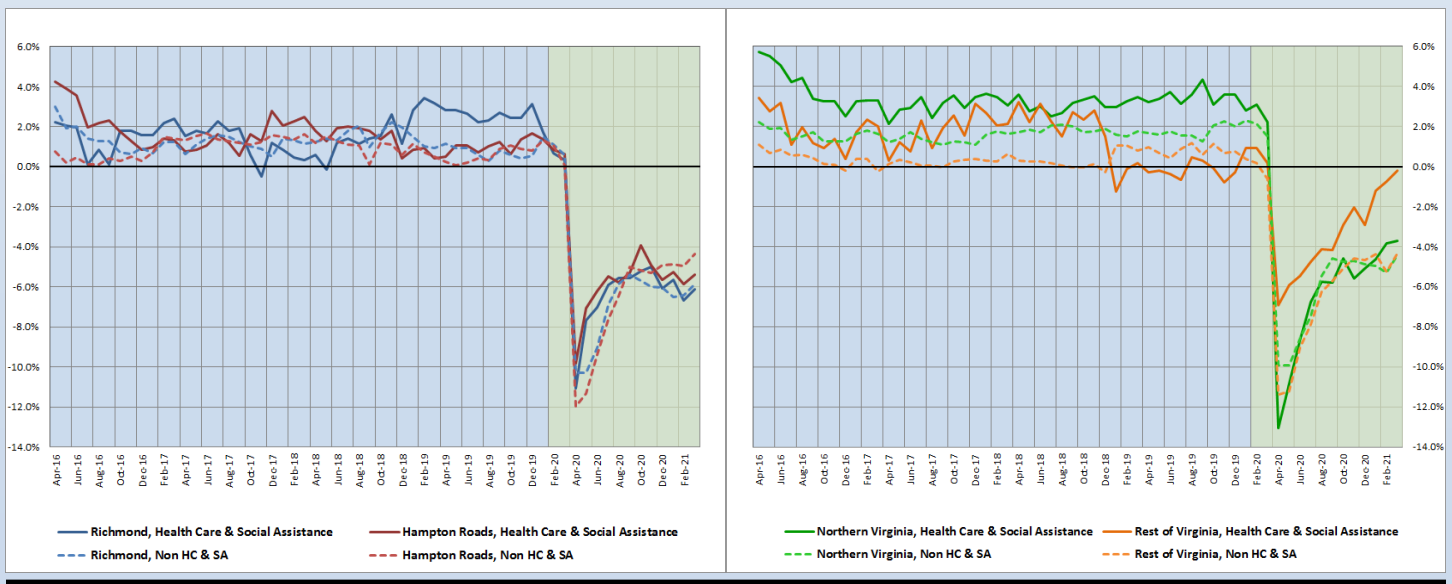
According to the preliminary data released on Friday, April 16, 2021, by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, most Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) employment growth in Virginia took place outside of the state’s three major metropolitan areas in March. In fact, the Rest of Virginia enjoyed its second consecutive month of strong employment growth in March. After increasing HC&SA employment by 1,900 in February, the Rest of Virginia created an additional 700 HC&SA jobs in March, which translates into a 6.4% annualized growth rate. In addition, HC&SA employment in the Rest of Virginia increased at an even more impressive 6.8% annualized rate in Q1 2021.

Meanwhile, both Richmond and Hampton Roads made modest contributions to this month’s statewide HC&SA employment growth. Both of these regions created 100 new HC&SA jobs during the month. As for Northern Virginia, this region lost 500 HC&SA jobs in March. Despite this month’s employment decline, Northern Virginia’s HC&SA sector still created 1,300 jobs in Q1 2021.

Year-Over-Year Regional Employment Growth

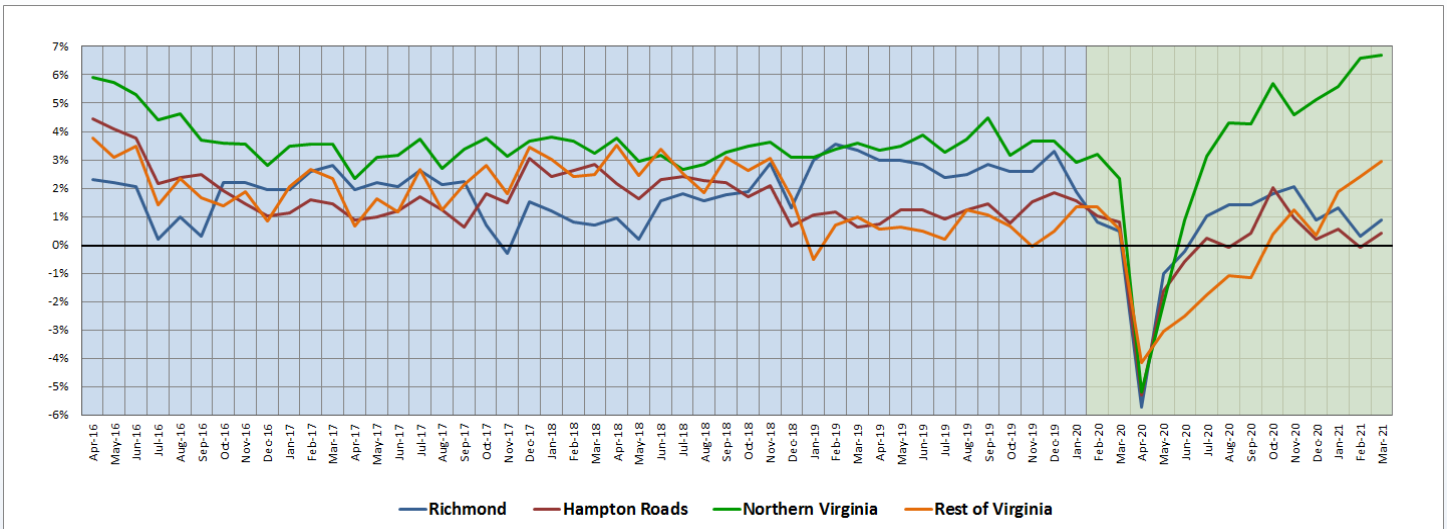
Although no region in Virginia is currently enjoying a positive year-over-year HC&SA employment growth rate, every region in the state did see their respective growth rate improve in March. The Rest of Virginia experienced a notable improvement during the month. Its year-over-year HC&SA employment growth rate nearly turned positive in March after increasing from -0.74% to -0.22%. Meanwhile, Northern Virginia’s HC&SA sector saw its year-over-year growth rate rise from -3.83% to -3.71%, and the comparable growth rate for Hampton Roads increased from -5.88% to -5.39%. Finally, Richmond’s HC&SA sector saw its own growth rate increase from -6.67% to -6.14% during the month.

Figure 2: Year-Over-Year Employment Growth (Not Seasonally Adjusted).



12-Month Average Employment Growth by Region

Figure 3: 12-Month Moving Average, HC&SA Regional Employment Growth Rate (Not Seasonally Adjusted).



Despite the loss of 500 jobs in March, Northern Virginia’s 12-month HC&SA employment growth rate moving average increased once again, rising from 6.58% to 6.70% during the month. Although Northern Virginia’s 12-month HC&SA employment growth rate moving average continues to far exceed the comparable moving averages for the state’s three other regions, these other moving averages also experienced increases of their own in March. The Rest of Virginia saw its 12-month HC&SA employment growth rate moving average increase from 2.41% to 2.95%, while the comparable moving average for Richmond’s HC&SA sector rose from 0.31% to 0.88%. As for Hampton Roads, its 12-month HC&SA employment growth rate moving average turned positive in March, rebounding from -0.09% to 0.42% during the month.

Subsector Employment Growth

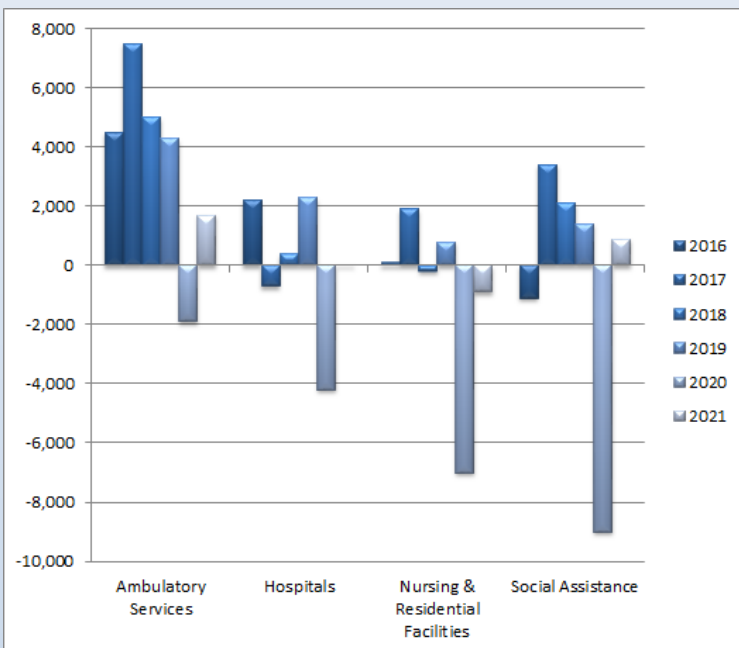


Figure 4: Annual & YTD Change in HC&SA Subsector Employment (Not Seasonally Adjusted, Full-Year Change for 2016-2020, Year-to-Date Change for 2021).

Ambulatory Health Care Services enjoyed their fourth consecutive month of positive employment growth in March. In fact, employment growth in this HC&SA subsector has been gaining momentum throughout Q1 2021. During the first two months of the new year, Ambulatory Health Care Services created a total of 700 jobs. In March, this subsector increased employment by an additional 1,000 jobs. Social Assistance also enjoyed a strong start to the new year in Q1 2021. In March, this HC&SA subsector created 700 new jobs. In total, Social Assistance increased employment by 900 over the past three months.

While Ambulatory Health Care Services and Social Assistance both enjoyed strong employment growth in Q1 2021, Virginia’s two other HC&SA subsectors continue to struggle during the post-lockdown economic recovery period. Although Hospitals created 100 new jobs in March, this subsector still experienced no change in employment in Q1 2021. Meanwhile, Nursing & Residential Care Facilities lost 1,400 jobs during the month.

Distribution of Growth by Subsector

Not Seasonally Adjusted	Employment, in Thousands				Growth Rate, Annualized		
	Mar. 2020	Dec. 2020	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2021	12 Month	3 Month	1 Month
Virginia							
Health Care & Social Assistance	459.9	442.1	443.4	443.8	-3.5%	1.5%	1.1%
<i>Ambulatory Health Care Services</i>	191.6	191.1	191.8	192.8	0.6%	3.6%	6.4%
<i>Hospitals</i>	108.4	104.2	104.1	104.2	-3.9%	0.0%	1.2%
<i>Nursing & Residential Care Facilities</i>	78.2	71.8	72.3	70.9	-9.3%	-4.9%	-20.9%
<i>Social Assistance</i>	81.7	75.0	75.2	75.9	-7.1%	4.9%	11.8%
Hampton Roads							
Health Care & Social Assistance	96.5	92.1	91.2	91.3	-5.4%	-3.4%	1.3%
<i>Hospitals</i>	22.3	21.3	21.1	21.2	-4.9%	-1.9%	5.8%
Northern Virginia							
Health Care & Social Assistance	140.2	133.7	135.5	135.0	-3.7%	3.9%	-4.3%
<i>Ambulatory Health Care Services</i>	68.4	67.8	69.2	68.1	-0.4%	1.8%	-17.5%
<i>Hospitals</i>	26.8	26.1	25.9	26.1	-2.6%	0.0%	9.7%

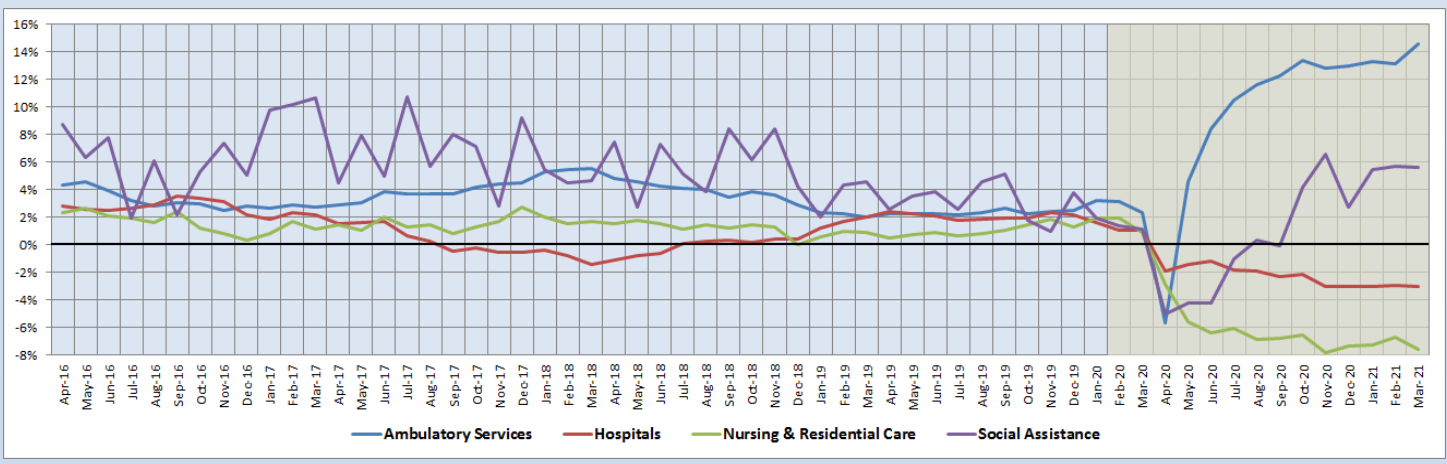
Preliminary estimates are italicized

Both Social Assistance and Ambulatory Health Care Services are enjoying strong short-term employment growth. In March, Social Assistance increased employment at a 11.8% annualized rate, while Ambulatory Health Care Services saw employment grow by 6.4% on an annualized basis. The three-month annualized employment growth rates of these two HC&SA subsectors have also been quite impressive. In Q1 2021, Social Assistance and Ambulatory Health Care Service experienced three-month annualized employment growth rates of 4.9% and 3.6%, respectively. As for long-term employment growth, Ambulatory Health Care Services is the only HC&SA subsector that has increased employment over the past year.

12-Month Average Employment Growth by Subsector

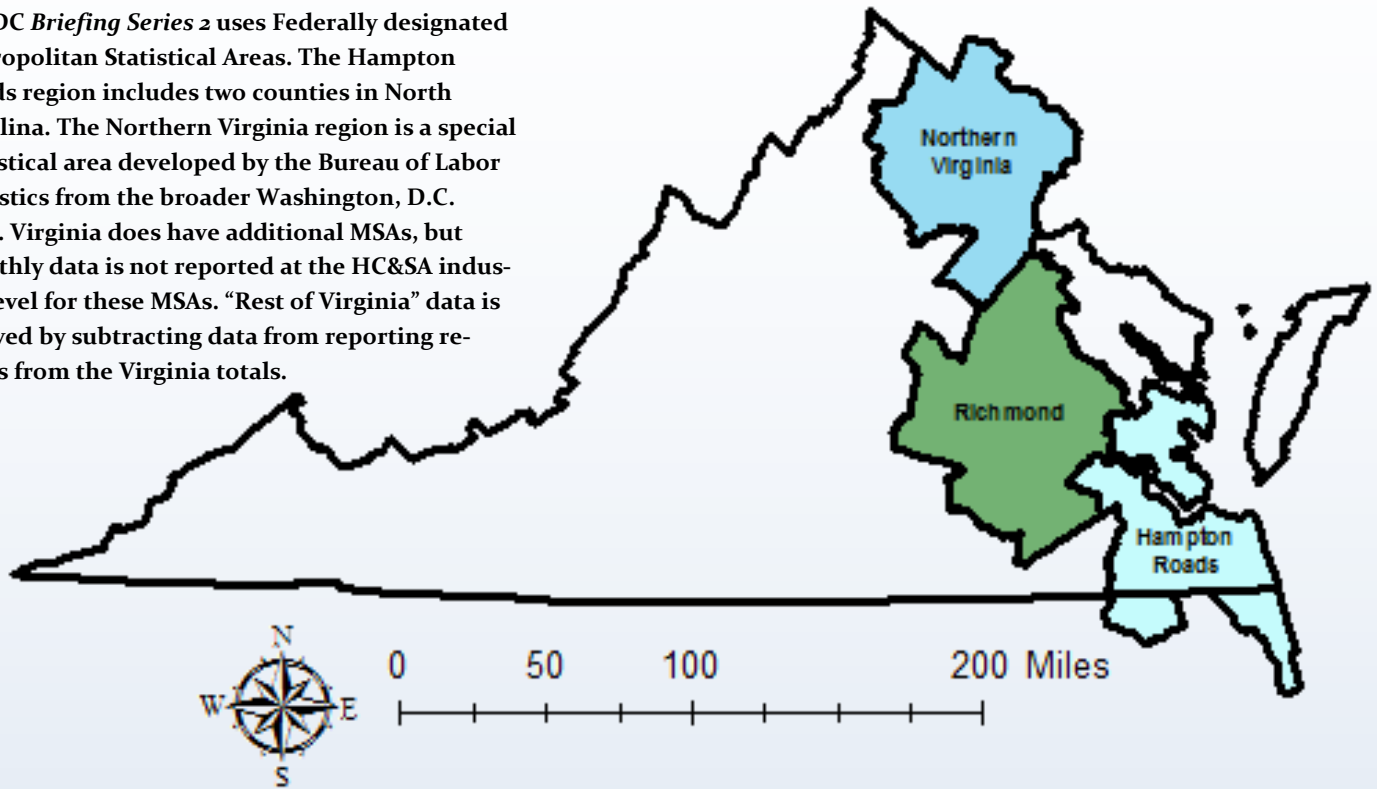
Despite already reaching historic highs in recent months, the 12-month employment growth rate moving average for Ambulatory Health Care Services continues to increase. In March, this moving average increased from 13.16% to a brand new high of 14.58%. Social Assistance remains the only other HC&SA subsector with a positive 12-month employment growth rate moving average. However, this moving average declined slightly in March from 5.69% to 5.62%. At the same time, Hospitals saw their 12-month employment growth rate moving average fall from -2.95% to -3.04%, while the comparable moving average for Nursing & Residential Care Facilities declined from -6.71% to -7.61%.

Figure 5: 12-Month Moving Average, HC&SA Subsector Employment Growth Rate (Not Seasonally Adjusted).



Region Map

HWDC *Briefing Series 2* uses Federally designated Metropolitan Statistical Areas. The Hampton Roads region includes two counties in North Carolina. The Northern Virginia region is a special statistical area developed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics from the broader Washington, D.C. MSA. Virginia does have additional MSAs, but monthly data is not reported at the HC&SA industry level for these MSAs. “Rest of Virginia” data is derived by subtracting data from reporting regions from the Virginia totals.



Region Detail

Northern Virginia		Richmond		Hampton Roads	
<i>Northern VA, (Non-standard CES Area 94783)</i>		<i>Richmond, VA (MSA 40060)</i>		<i>Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, VA-NC (MSA 47260)</i>	
Counties:	Cities:	Counties:	Cities:	Counties:	Cities:
Arlington	Alexandria	Amelia	Colonial Heights	Gloucester	Chesapeake
Clarke	Fairfax	Caroline	Hopewell	Isle of Wight	Hampton
Culpeper	Falls Church	Charles City	Petersburg	James City	Newport News
Fairfax	Fredericksburg	Chesterfield	Richmond	Mathews	Norfolk
Fauquier	Manassas	Dinwiddie		Surry	Poquoson
Loudoun	Manassas Park	Goochland		York	Portsmouth
Prince William		Hanover			Suffolk
Rappahannock		Henrico		<i>Currituck, NC</i>	Virginia Beach
Spotsylvania		King William		<i>Gates, NC</i>	Williamsburg
Stafford		New Kent			
Warren		Powhatan			
		Prince George			
		Sussex			

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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/.

The HWDC also provides a series of Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs based 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 data that are not seasonally adjusted. Seasonal variations related to weather, holidays, weekends, seasons and other predictable variations are apparent in the data. Short-term changes may be related to seasonal changes rather than underlying trends. Data from recent months is 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).