



# Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

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

Series 1, Issue 15

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## Highlights

- ◆ In February, employment in Virginia's HC&SA sector rebounded strongly from the losses that were experienced in the prior month. According to preliminary estimates, Virginia's HC&SA sector created 3,000 jobs in February, which represents the strongest month for the sector in more than seven years.
- ◆ With February's preliminary results, employment in Virginia's HC&SA sector has once again exceeded 400,000, a milestone that was first reached in December of 2012. Barring any unforeseen declines like that experienced in January, Virginia's HC&SA sector is now likely to remain above this threshold.
- ◆ January's preliminary estimate was revised upward by 200 jobs. With this revision, Virginia's HC&SA sector lost 1,600 jobs last month. Even after the revision, January was the worst-performing month for Virginia's HC&SA sector since 2005.
- ◆ The National HC&SA sector also performed well, producing an estimated 39,100 jobs in February. Health care employment has remained strong despite a relatively weak job market. The nation's health care sector has not experienced a monthly net job loss since September of 2009, itself only the second in the past decade.

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Data in the report is seasonally adjusted, and includes employees of private firms only. Self-employed persons, including health professionals in private practice, are not included.

## Data in Brief

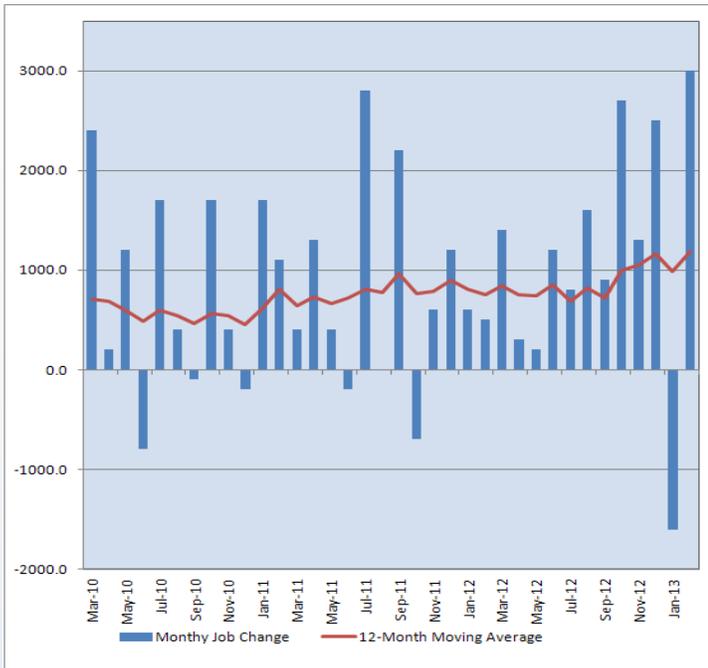
Seasonally Adjusted*	Employment, in Thousands				Growth Rate, Annualized		
	Feb. 2012	Nov. 2012	Jan. 2012	Feb. 2013	12 Month	3 Month	1 Month
<b>Nonfarm, Total</b>							
Virginia	3,721.9	3,746.1	3,745.0	3,761.9 <sup>P</sup>	1.1%	1.7%	5.6%
National	133,080.0	134,472.0	134,810.0	135,046.0 <sup>P</sup>	1.5%	1.7%	2.1%
<b>Health &amp; Social Assistance</b>							
Virginia	388.5	398.9	399.8	402.8 <sup>P</sup>	3.7%	4.0%	9.4%
National	16,850.1	17,108.0	17,170.2	17,209.3 <sup>P</sup>	2.1%	2.4%	2.8%
<b>All Other Nonfarm</b>							
Virginia	3,333.4	3,347.2	3,345.2	3,359.1 <sup>P</sup>	0.8%	1.4%	5.1%
National	116,229.9	117,364.0	117,639.8	117,836.7 <sup>P</sup>	1.4%	1.6%	2.0%

<sup>P</sup>: Preliminary Results

\*Seasonally adjusted data is 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 has been seasonally adjusted.

## Jobs Created

**Figure 1: Monthly Change in Employment in Virginia’s Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted.**



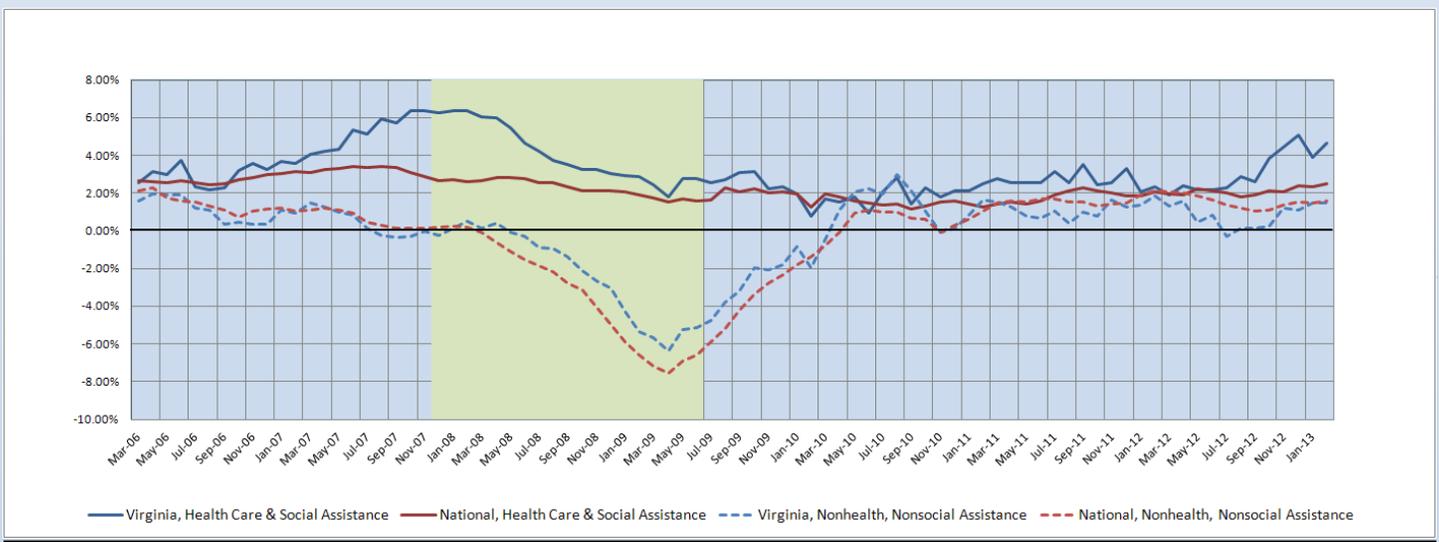
According to preliminary data released on March 29, 2013 by the US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Virginia’s HC&SA sector experienced its strongest month of employment growth since January of 2006 by adding 3,000 jobs in February. In addition, the preliminary estimate for January’s HC&SA employment, which originally indicated that the sector had lost 1,600 jobs, was revised upward by 200 jobs, helping to mitigate one of the worst months for the state’s health care industry in recent memory. Revisions generally occur due to delayed responses from smaller establishments.

Despite January’s poor results, Virginia’s HC&SA sector has seen significant employment gains in the past several months. In fact, more than 2,000 jobs have been produced in three of the past five months. Thanks to these gains, Virginia’s health care sector has again surpassed the 400,000 job threshold for total industry employment. These gains have also driven the 12-month moving average of HC&SA employment growth to its highest level in five years.

## Employment Growth

In line with the somewhat unusual volatility of employment growth in Virginia’s HC&SA sector over the past several months, the six-month moving average of the state’s HC&SA employment growth has seen concomitant fluctuations. After falling by more than 1% in January, the six-month moving average of HC&SA employment growth recovered more than half of its losses in February and is once again above 4%. Virginia’s HC&SA sector continues to outperform both the national HC&SA sector and the rest of Virginia’s economy, and this relative strength appears to be expanding over time. With respect to the six-month moving average, Virginia’s HC&SA sector is currently growing 2% faster than the national average and 3% faster than the non-health care sectors in both Virginia and the rest of the United States.

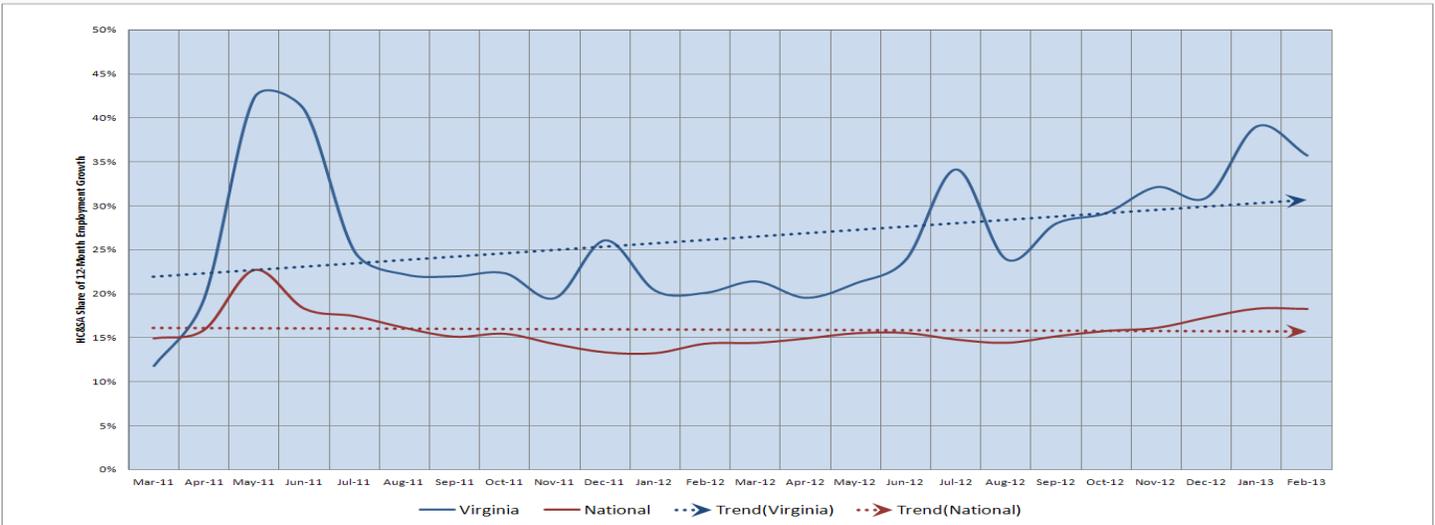
**Figure 2: Six-Month Moving Average, Employment Growth, Seasonally Adjusted.**



### Share of Employment Growth

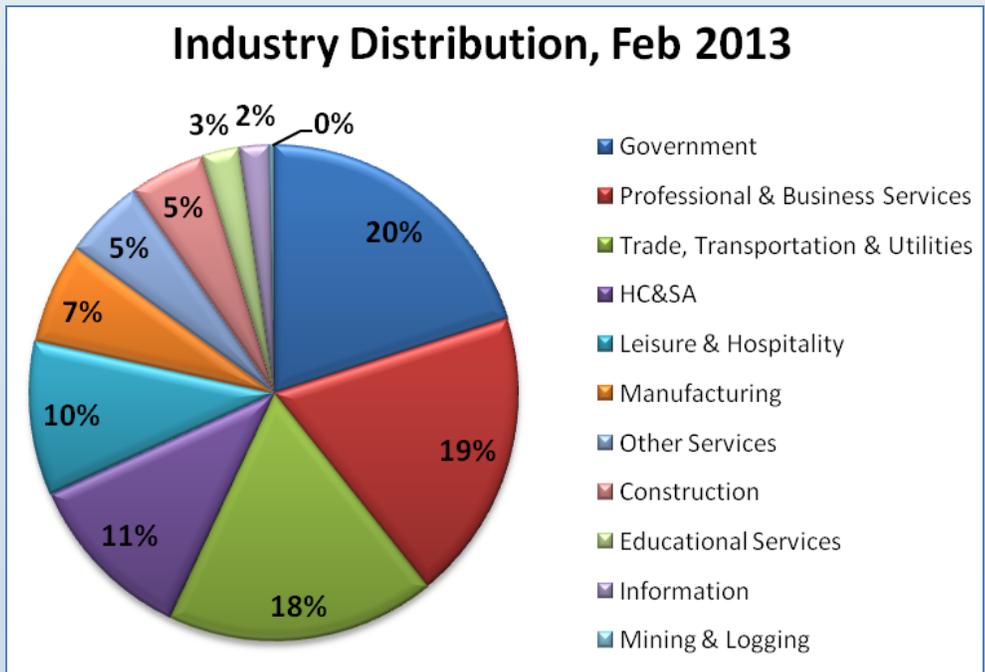
Over the past two years, the health care sector has become an increasingly important contributor to Virginia’s overall employment growth. Currently, Virginia’s HC&SA sector is responsible for more than one-third of all employment growth in the state, which is nearly double its share from one year ago and triple its share from two years ago. Meanwhile, the trend is decidedly different elsewhere. Nationwide, the share of total employment growth that is attributable to the HC&SA sector over the past two years has actually declined slightly. However, more recent numbers indicated a more positive trend: Since the beginning of 2012, the national HC&SA sector has increased its share of employment growth from 13% to 18%.

**Figure 3: HC&SA Share of 12-Month Employment Growth , Seasonally Adjusted**



### Industry Distribution

The importance of the HC&SA industry to Virginia’s economy is demonstrated in Figure 4. The pie chart compares major industries in Virginia by number of payroll jobs supported as of February, 2013. As with all data in this brief, we break out HC&SA from the larger Education & Health Services industry with which it is normally grouped. The HC&SA industry is more than twice the size of the Construction industry and more than 5 times the size of Virginia’s Information industry as measured by number of payroll jobs. It supports a 4% larger share of Virginia’s jobs than the Manufacturing industry. If the trend noted in Figure 3 continues, the HC&SA industry should continue to be an important driver of employment in Virginia.



**Figure 4: Industry Distribution of Payroll Jobs, Virginia (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/hwdc/](http://www.dhp.virginia.gov/hwdc/).

The HWDC also provides a series of Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs based on data collected by the US Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics and the US 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 is from the US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics' Current Employment Statistics program. The CES program surveys about 140,000 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 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. Approximately 54,500 of Virginia's public sector workers worked in the HC&SA sector in 2010 at the federal, state and local levels).
  - ◆ 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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