



Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

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

Series 1, Issue 26

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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.

Highlights

- ◆ According to preliminary estimates, Virginia's Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector added 300 jobs in February. This represents a one-month annualized growth rate of 0.9%.
- ◆ January's preliminary estimate for Virginia's HC&SA employment was revised upward by an additional 300 jobs. With this revision, Virginia's HC&SA sector added 1,900 jobs in January.
- ◆ After two consecutive months of employment losses, Virginia's total nonfarm payroll increased by 4,900 jobs in February. This represents the first time since last October that Virginia's total nonfarm payroll grew at a faster one-month annualized growth rate than the state's HC&SA sector.
- ◆ January's preliminary estimate for Virginia's total nonfarm payroll was revised upward by 3,500 jobs. Regardless, the state's economy lost 6,000 jobs during the month, its worst monthly performance since May 2012.
- ◆ The national economy added 175,000 jobs in February, while the national HC&SA sector saw employment increase by 14,700 jobs. Over the first two months of 2014, Virginia's HC&SA sector has been responsible for more than 8% of all national HC&SA employment growth.

Data in Brief

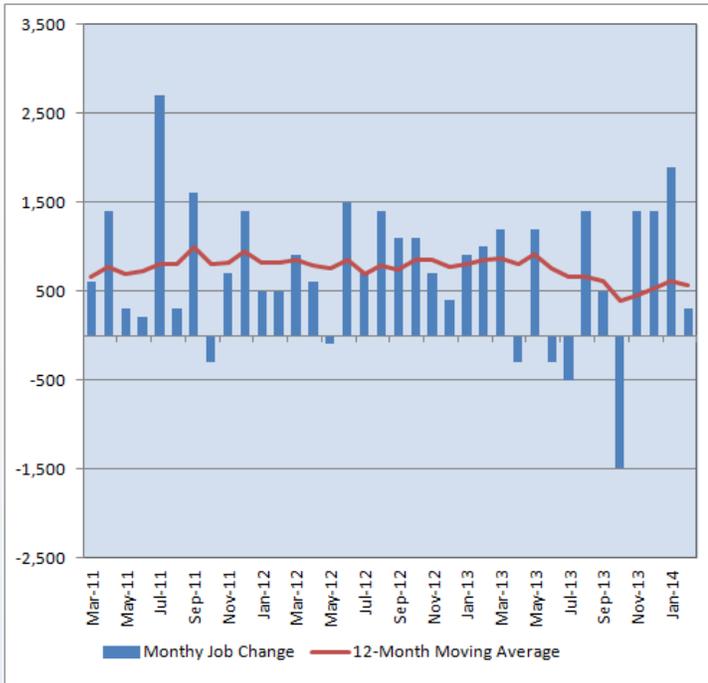
Seasonally Adjusted*	Employment, in Thousands				Growth Rate, Annualized		
	Feb. 2013	Nov. 2013	Jan. 2014	Feb. 2014	12 Month	3 Month	1 Month
Nonfarm, Total							
Virginia	3,769.1	3,769.2	3,762.4	3,767.3	0.0%	-0.2%	1.6%
National	135,541.0	137,311.0	137,524.0	137,699.0	1.6%	1.1%	1.5%
Health & Social Assistance							
Virginia	407.0	410.1	413.4	413.7	1.6%	3.6%	0.9%
National	17,627.6	17,874.1	17,888.1	17,902.8	1.6%	0.6%	1.0%
All Other Nonfarm							
Virginia	3,362.1	3,359.1	3,349.0	3,353.6	-0.3%	-0.7%	1.7%
National	117,913.4	119,436.9	119,635.9	119,796.2	1.6%	1.2%	1.6%

Preliminary estimates are italicized

*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.

Virginia HC&SA Employment

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



According to preliminary data released on March 28, 2014 by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Virginia's HC&SA sector saw its fourth consecutive month of employment gains in February with the addition of 300 jobs. In addition, January's preliminary estimate for HC&SA employment was revised upward by an addition 300 jobs. With this revision, Virginia's HC&SA sector added 1,900 jobs in January, its best monthly performance since July 2011.

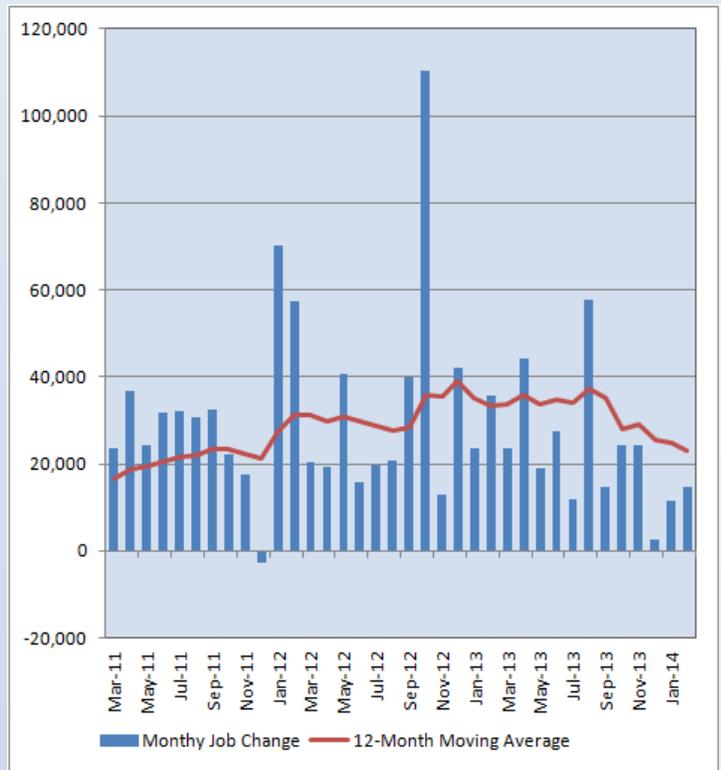
However, February's results do represent a slowdown in employment growth in the HC&SA sector. The one-month annualized growth for Virginia's HC&SA sector is currently just 0.9%, which is slower than the corresponding rates for both the past three months and the past year. In addition, the 12-month moving average of the level change in Virginia's HC&SA employment fell in February from 617 to 558 monthly jobs. The 12-month moving average is also down 34% from the year-ago period, when the HC&SA sector added an average of 850 jobs per month.

National HC&SA Employment

According to preliminary estimates, the national HC&SA sector improved on January's employment gains by adding another 14,700 jobs in February. Although February's results represent the best monthly employment gain since last November, the 12-month moving average in the level change of national HC&SA employment fell for the third consecutive month. The national HC&SA sector is currently adding an average of 22,933 jobs per month over the past year, which is the lowest value for the 12-month moving average in the level change of national HC&SA employment since December 2011.

February's improvement in national HC&SA employment corresponds to a comparable increase in total nonfarm payroll. For the month, the nation's total nonfarm payroll increased by 175,000 jobs, a marked increase from the 129,000 jobs added in January and the 84,000 jobs added last December. Although Virginia has seen its own total nonfarm payroll decrease by 1,100 jobs so far this year, the state's HC&SA sector has still managed to add 2,200 jobs, which makes it responsible for more than 8% of all HC&SA employment growth across the country in 2013.

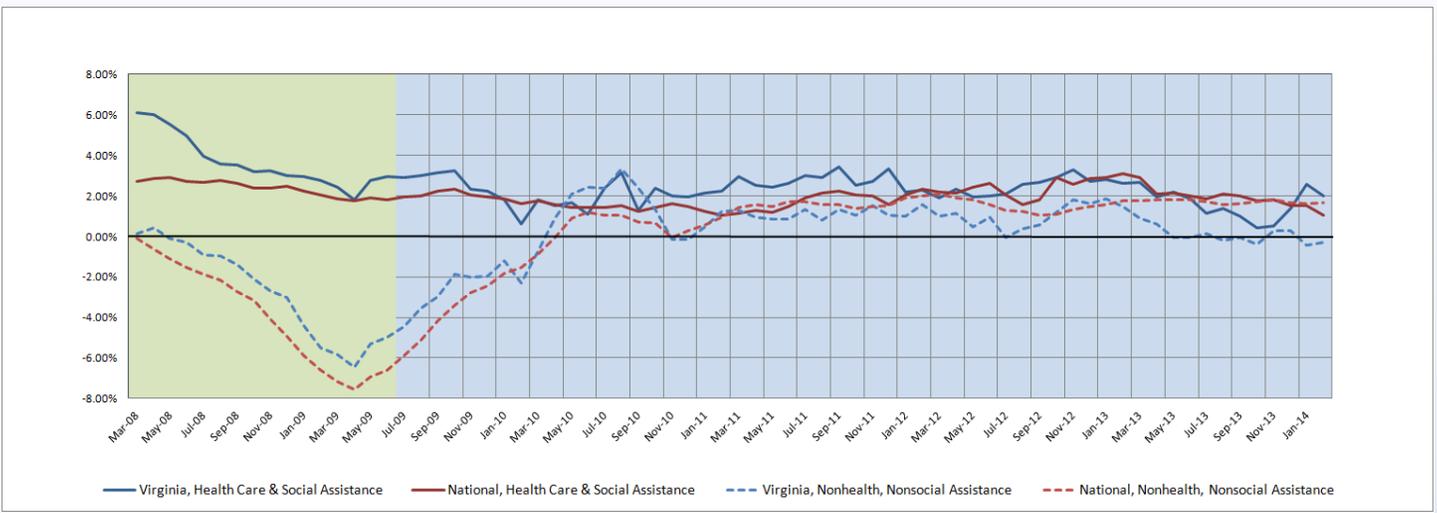
Figure 2: Monthly Change in Employment in National Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted.



Employment Growth

With the addition of just 300 new jobs in February, the six-month moving average of Virginia’s HC&SA employment growth fell from 2.6% to 2.0%. Regardless, the six-month employment growth moving average demonstrates the strength of Virginia’s HC&SA sector relative to the rest of the state’s economy. For the second consecutive month, the six-month moving average of Virginia’s non-HC&SA employment growth was negative, although it did improve slightly from -0.4% to -0.3% in February. Meanwhile, the national HC&SA sector is slightly underperforming the rest of the economy. For the third consecutive month, the six-month moving average of national non-HC&SA employment growth exceeded the corresponding rate for the HC&SA sector, which has not happened since 2011.

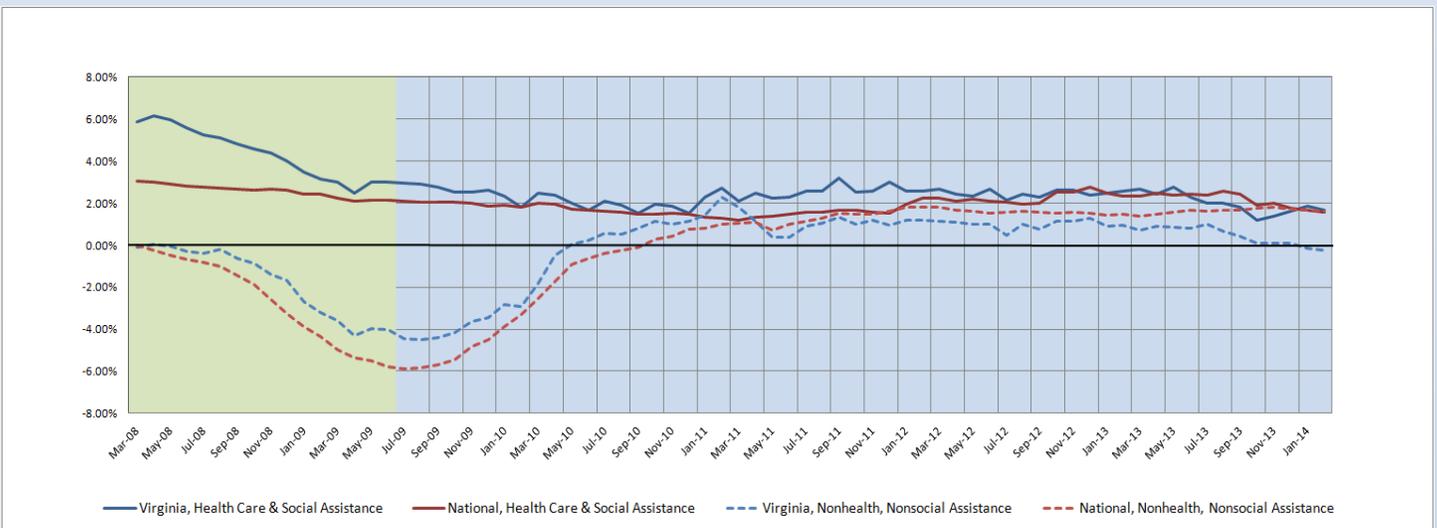
Figure 3: Six-Month Moving Average, Employment Growth, Seasonally Adjusted



Long-Term Employment Growth

Even when considering a longer-term moving average, the decline in employment growth in Virginia’s non-HC&SA sectors is particularly acute. In February, the 12-month moving average of Virginia’s non-HC&SA employment growth fell to -0.2%, which represents its lowest value since April 2010. Meanwhile, the 12-month moving average of Virginia’s HC&SA employment growth decline slightly from 1.9% to 1.7%. Whereas the respective 12-month moving averages for Virginia’s HC&SA and non-HC&SA sectors have diverged significantly in recent times, the same can not be said for the national economy, where the 12-month moving averages for employment growth in the HC&SA and non-HC&SA sectors are both 1.6%.

Figure 4: 12-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/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)

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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