



Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

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

Series 1, Issue 47

December 2015

Highlights

- ◆ According to preliminary estimates, Virginia's Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector rebounded strongly from October's employment losses after adding 1,600 jobs in November. This represents the largest monthly employment gain in Virginia's HC&SA sector since April.
- ◆ There was no change in the revised estimate for employment in Virginia's HC&SA sector in October. Therefore, Virginia's HC&SA sector still managed to lose 800 jobs throughout the state during the month of October.
- ◆ Virginia's overall economy followed up on its employment gains from October with another strong month in November as the state's total nonfarm payroll grew by 14,400. It has been more than five years since the last time Virginia's total nonfarm payroll grew in excess of 10,000 in consecutive months.
- ◆ The national HC&SA sector experienced a slowdown in November after adding just 32,200 jobs throughout the country during the month, which represents its lowest monthly gain in more than one year.
- ◆ Meanwhile, the national economy had a solid month in November with the creation of 211,000 new jobs. Over the past year, the nation's total nonfarm payroll has grown by more than 2.6 million.

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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

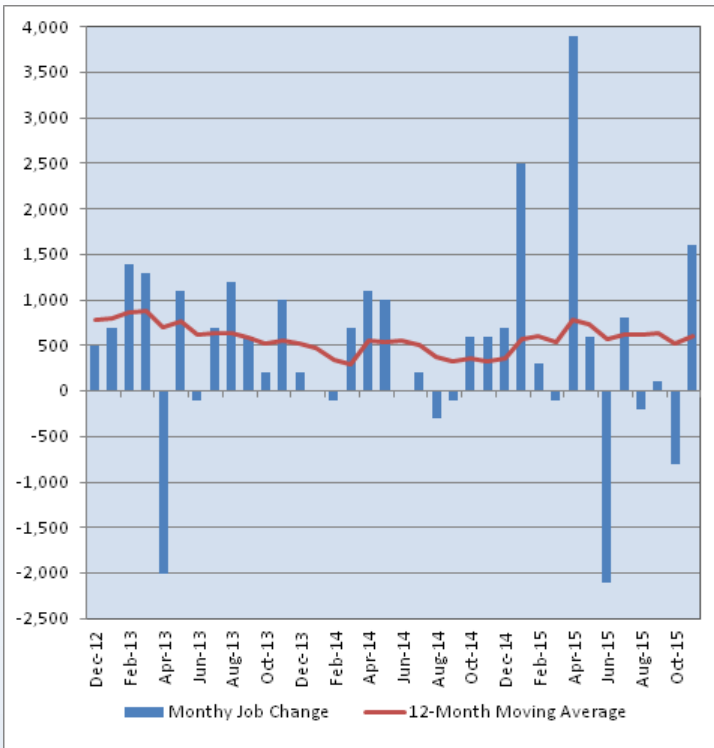
Seasonally Adjusted*	Employment, in Thousands				Growth Rate, Annualized		
	Nov. 2014	Aug. 2015	Oct. 2015	Nov. 2015	12 Month	3 Month	1 Month
Nonfarm, Total							
Virginia	3,795.9	3,814.4	3,833.6	3,848.0	1.4%	3.6%	4.6%
National	140,263.0	142,246.0	142,689.0	142,900.0	1.9%	1.9%	1.8%
Health Care & Social Assistance							
Virginia	409.6	416.0	415.3	416.9	1.8%	0.9%	4.7%
National	18,230.2	18,670.7	18,778.7	18,810.9	3.2%	3.0%	2.1%
All Other Nonfarm							
Virginia	3,386.3	3,398.4	3,418.3	3,431.1	1.3%	3.9%	4.6%
National	122,032.8	123,575.3	123,910.3	124,089.1	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%

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 Friday, December 18, 2015 by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Virginia's Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector had its strongest month of employment gains since April after creating 1,600 jobs during the month of November, which represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 4.7%.

With just one more month of employment data left in 2015, Virginia's HC&SA sector is on the verge of producing strong full-year employment gains. So far this year, Virginia's HC&SA sector has added 6,600 new jobs, which far exceeds the 3,700 jobs created through the first 11 months of the previous year.

Thanks in part to this month's gains, the 12-month moving average of the level change for employment in Virginia's HC&SA sector moved upward. Over the past year, Virginia's HC&SA sector has now created an average of 608 jobs per month. By way of comparison, between December 2013 and November 2014, the state's HC&SA sector was only creating an average of 325 jobs per month.

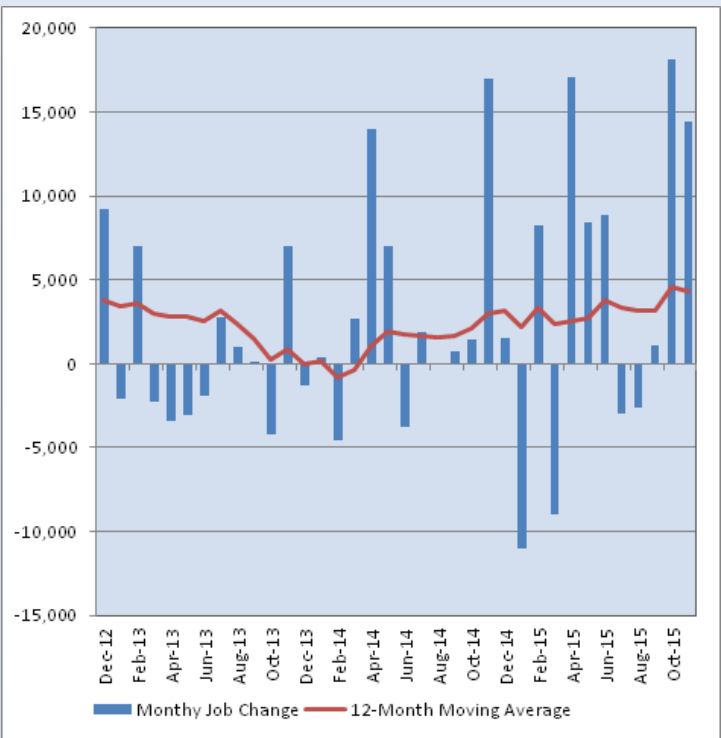
Virginia Employment

According to preliminary estimates, Virginia's total nonfarm payroll enjoyed its second consecutive month of strong employment gains. After Virginia's economy created 18,100 jobs in October, the state followed up on these gains with an additional 14,400 jobs in November. This represents the best two-month employment gain for Virginia's overall economy since March-April 2010, when the state managed to create 46,700 jobs.

This recent employment growth suggests that Virginia's economy is starting to show significant improvement. November's employment gain represents a one-month annualized growth rate of 4.6%, which even exceeds its impressive three-month annualized employment growth rate of 3.6%. Both of these growth rates also exceed the national average, although the state's 12-month employment growth rate still lags behind at just 1.4%.

Despite these recent gains, however, the 12-month moving average of the level change in Virginia's total nonfarm payroll still fell in November. The state economy has now created an average of 4,342 jobs per month over the past year.

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

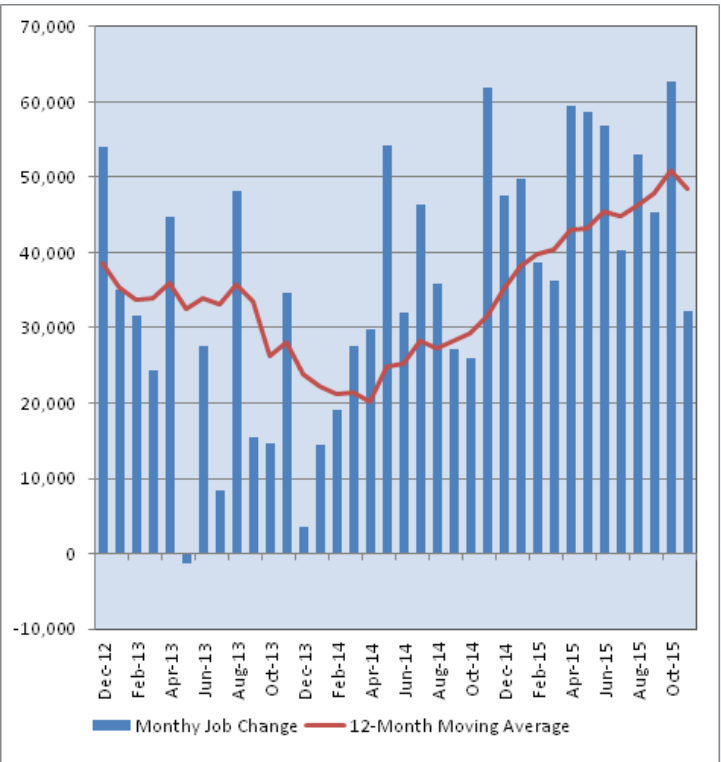


National Employment

The national HC&SA sector took a bit of a breather in November after employment grew by only 32,200, its weakest monthly jobs gain since October 2014. November's employment gain represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of just 2.1%, which is well below its 12-month average of 3.2%. In addition, the 12-month moving average of the level change in the nation's HC&SA sector declined for the first time since July. After this decline, the national HC&SA sector has now created an average of 48,392 jobs per month over the past year. Regardless, this one-month decline did little to break the long-term upward trend in this moving average over the past two years.

As for the overall national economy, employment growth was solid during the month of November after 211,000 new jobs were created throughout the country, which represents a one-month annualized growth rate of 1.8%. Over the past 12 months, the nation's total nonfarm payroll has grown by 2.64 million, and the HC&SA sector has been responsible for 22% of this growth. The national HC&SA sector has not played so important a role in overall economic growth since May of 2011.

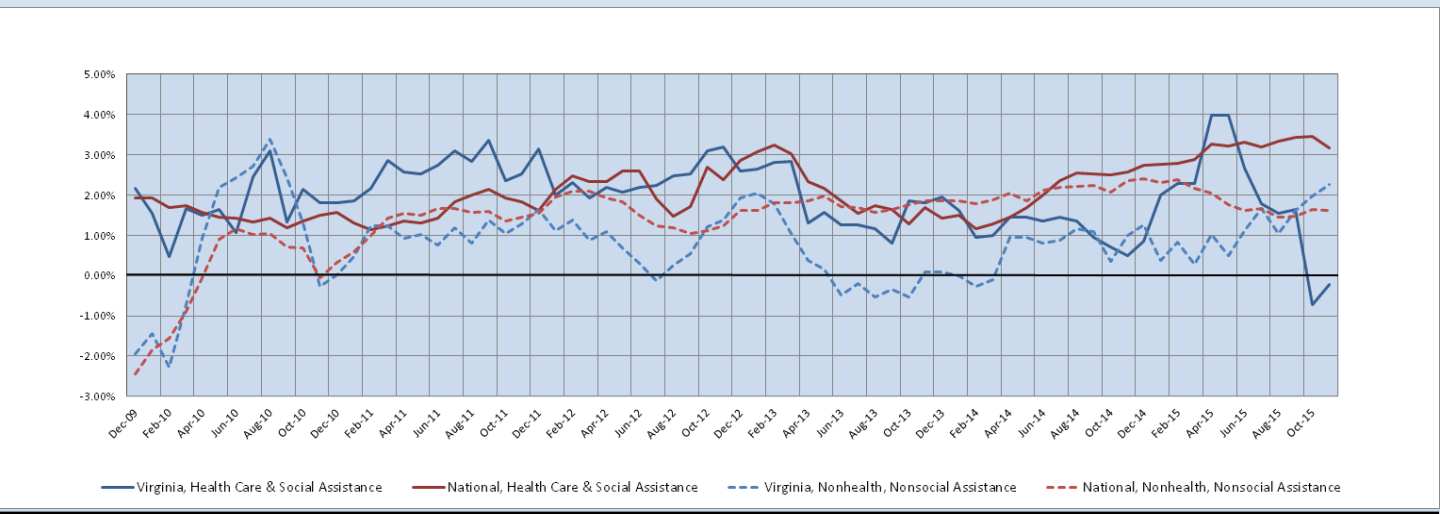
Figure 3: Monthly Change in Employment in National Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted



Employment Growth

Despite November's job growth, the six-month moving average of the employment growth rate in Virginia's HC&SA sector remained in negative territory, although it did improve during the month from -0.73% to just -0.23%. On the other hand, the six-month moving average of the employment growth rate in Virginia's total nonfarm payroll improved from 1.97% in October to 2.27% in November. Among other things, this represents the first time since January 2013 in which this moving average for the state's total nonfarm payroll has exceeded 2%. As for the national economy, the six-month employment growth rate moving average for the national HC&SA sector declined from 3.46% to 3.16%, while the comparable moving average for the nation's total nonfarm payroll dropped modestly from 1.65% to 1.61%.

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/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 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 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).