



Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

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

Series 1, Issue 41

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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 on to April's massive employment gains with a modest increase of 300 new jobs in May, which represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 0.9%.
- ◆ April's preliminary estimate for Virginia's HC&SA employment was revised downward by 600 jobs. Even after this revision, however, Virginia's HC&SA sector still created 3,900 jobs in April.
- ◆ Virginia's overall economy also enjoyed another month of positive employment growth in May with the creation of 5,900 jobs across the state. Virginia's total nonfarm payroll has now increased by 11,200 so far in 2015.
- ◆ The national HC&SA sector created 57,700 jobs in May. Thanks to this gain, the national HC&SA sector has now added an average of 43,250 jobs per month over the past year. At the same time last year, the national HC&SA sector was only creating an average of 24,792 jobs per month.
- ◆ Meanwhile, the national economy created 280,000 jobs in May, which represents its best monthly employment gain so far this year. Over the past 12 months, the nation's total nonfarm payroll has grown by 2.2%.

Data in Brief

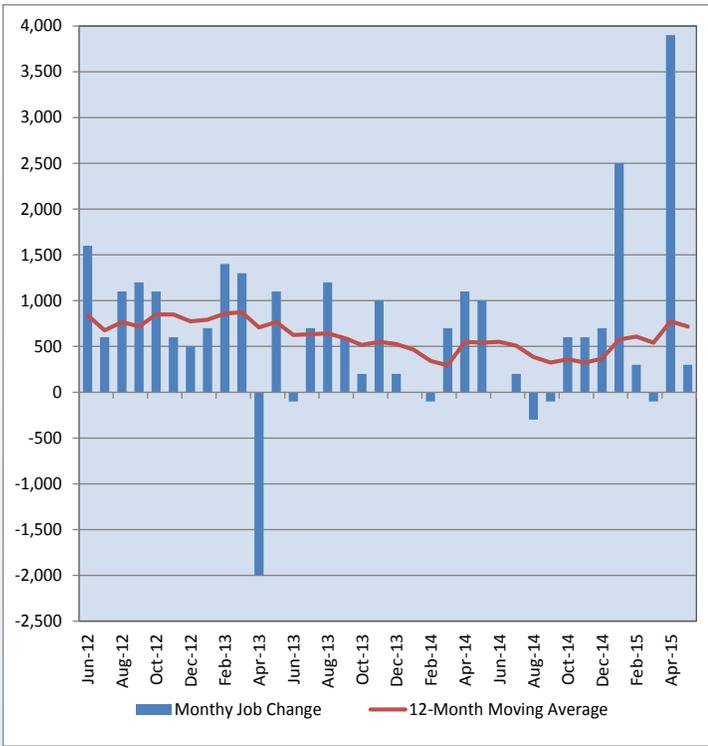
Seasonally Adjusted*	Employment, in Thousands				Growth Rate, Annualized		
	May 2014	Feb. 2015	Apr. 2015	May 2015	12 Month	3 Month	1 Month
Nonfarm, Total							
Virginia	3,778.7	3,794.6	3,802.7	3,808.6	0.8%	1.5%	1.9%
National	138,621.0	141,059.0	141,399.0	141,679.0	2.2%	1.8%	2.4%
Health & Social Assistance							
Virginia	408.6	413.1	416.9	417.2	2.1%	4.0%	0.9%
National	18,000.8	18,366.2	18,462.1	18,519.8	2.9%	3.4%	3.8%
All Other Nonfarm							
Virginia	3,370.1	3,381.5	3,385.8	3,391.4	0.6%	1.2%	2.0%
National	120,620.2	122,692.8	122,936.9	123,159.2	2.1%	1.5%	2.2%

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, June 19, 2015 by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Virginia’s Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector created 300 jobs in May. Meanwhile, April’s preliminary HC&SA employment estimate was revised downward by 600 jobs. After this revision, Virginia’s HC&SA sector still managed to create 3,900 jobs in April, which represents its largest one-month job gain since 1999.

With May’s relatively modest employment growth, the 12-month moving average of the level change in Virginia’s HC&SA employment declined during the month from a two-year high reached in April. Regardless, Virginia’s HC&SA sector has still created an average of 717 jobs per month over the past year.

In addition, Virginia’s HC&SA sector has now created 6,900 jobs for the state’s economy so far in 2015. At the same point in 2014, this sector had only managed to create 2,700 jobs across the state. In fact, Virginia’s HC&SA sector is currently enjoying its most impressive year-to-date job gains since 2008.

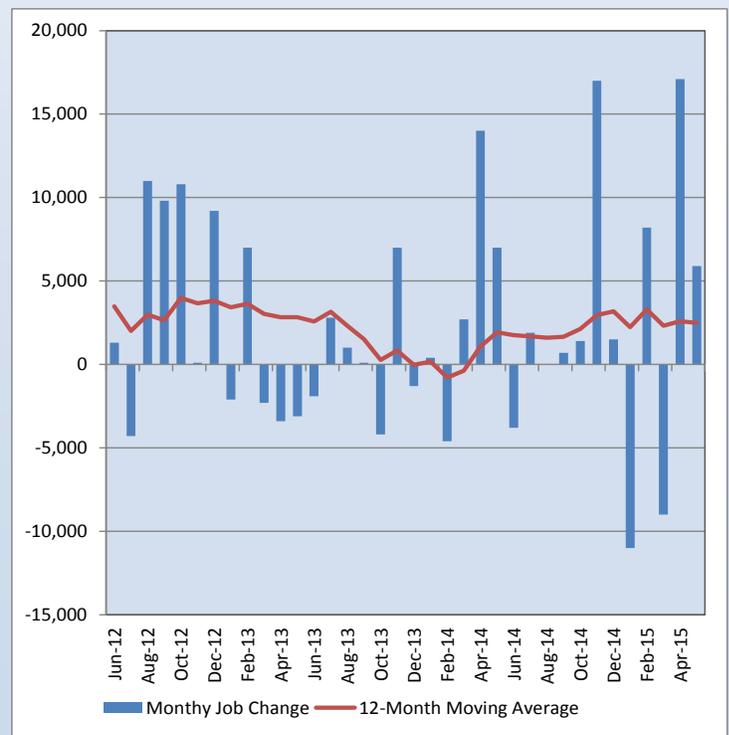
Virginia Employment

According to preliminary estimates, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll increased by 5,900 in May. Meanwhile, April’s preliminary employment estimate was revised downward by 200. Even with this revision, however, Virginia’s economy managed to create 17,100 jobs in April. This represents the best single month of overall statewide job creation in nearly five years.

Despite another positive month of employment growth, the 12-month moving average of the level change in Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll fell from 2,583 in April to 2,492 in May. Regardless, Virginia’s employment situation has generally been improving over the past year. For instance, one year ago, the 12-month moving average of the level change in Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll was only at 1,917, well below its current level.

In addition, although Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll has only increased by just 0.8% over the past year, its current three-month annualized employment growth rate is 1.5%. Although these numbers are both below the national average, they do suggest a slowly improving job market.

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

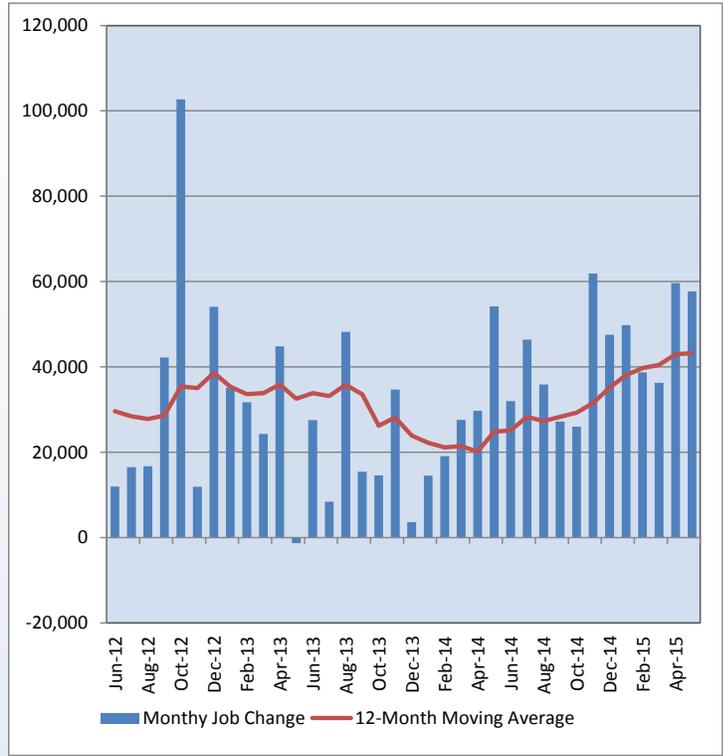


National Employment

Preliminary estimates indicate that the national HC&SA sector created 57,700 jobs in May, which represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 3.8%. Although May's employment gain represents a slight drop relative to the 59,600 HC&SA jobs created in April, the 12-month moving average of the level change in national HC&SA employment has continued its climb unabated. The national HC&SA sector has now created an average of 43,250 jobs per month over the past year, its highest such value in more than 20 years. In addition, including May's increase, the 12-month moving average of the level change in national HC&SA employment has now risen for nine consecutive months.

Meanwhile, the national economy enjoyed its strongest month of employment gains since last December after creating 280,000 jobs in May. Over the past three months, national total nonfarm payroll has increased by 620,000, which represents a three-month annualized employment growth rate of 1.8%. Long-term growth has been a bit better as the national economy has created 3,058,000 new jobs during the past year, which represents a growth rate of 2.2%.

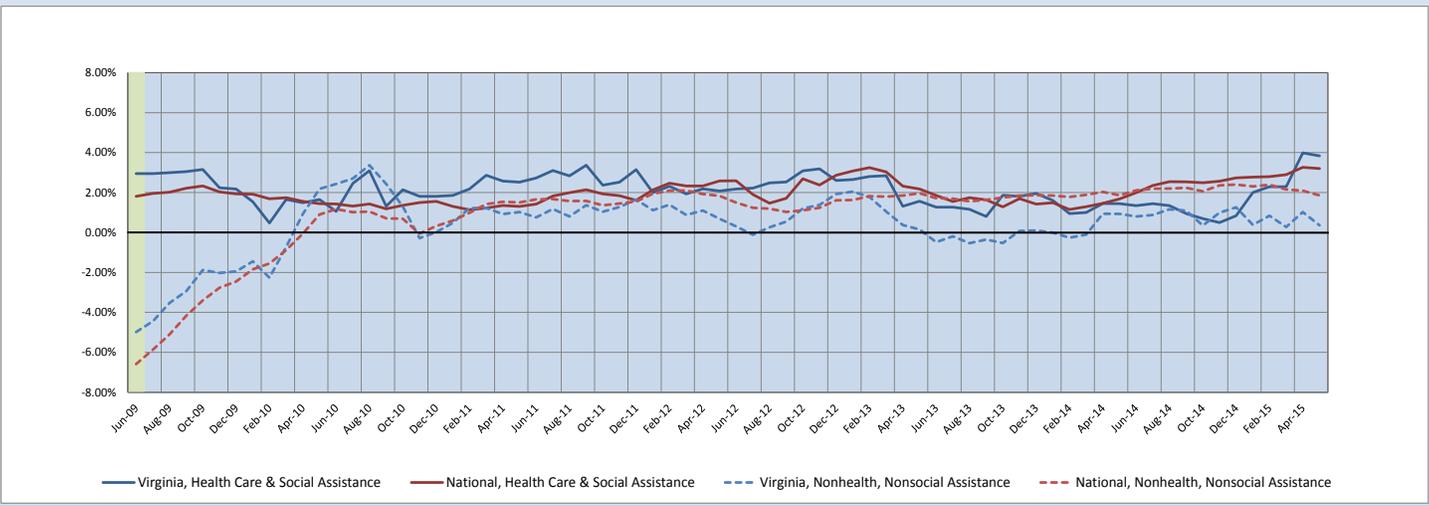
Figure 3: Monthly Change in Employment in National Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted



Employment Growth

Although the six-month moving average of Virginia's HC&SA employment growth rate fell slightly from 3.99% in April to 3.84% in May, it has still experienced a dramatic increase over the past six months after reaching a nearly five-year low of 0.50% in November 2014. A similar, although somewhat less dramatic, trend is occurring in the six-month moving average of the level change in the national HC&SA sector, which saw a modest decline from 3.26% in April to 3.20% in May. Regardless, its current level is nearly double the 1.68% six-month moving average from the year-ago period. Meanwhile, the six-month moving of the employment growth rate in Virginia's non-HC&SA sector fell from 1.02% in May to 0.36%, and the corresponding value for the national non-HC&SA sectors fell from 2.09% to 1.86%.

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).