



# Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

Indicators from the Bureau of Labor Statistics'  
Current Employment Statistics Survey

## **Series 1: State & National Employment**

Series 1, Issue 44

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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 enjoyed another strong month of employment growth in August with the creation of 1,600 new jobs. This represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 4.7%.
- ◆ However, July's preliminary employment estimate for the state's HC&SA sector was revised downward by 600 jobs. Regardless, Virginia's HC&SA sector still managed to produce 800 jobs during the month.
- ◆ After losing 3,000 jobs in July, Virginia's total nonfarm payroll experienced a modest rebound in August as statewide employment increased by 900 during the month. So far this year, Virginia's total nonfarm payroll has increased by 20,500.
- ◆ The national HC&SA sector created 56,400 jobs across the country in July. Over the past year, the national HC&SA sector has created an average of 47,008 per month, its highest average in more than 20 years.
- ◆ After adding more than 200,000 new jobs in each of the past three months, the overall national economy cooled off somewhat in August as total nonfarm payroll increased by just 173,000 during the month.

## Data in Brief

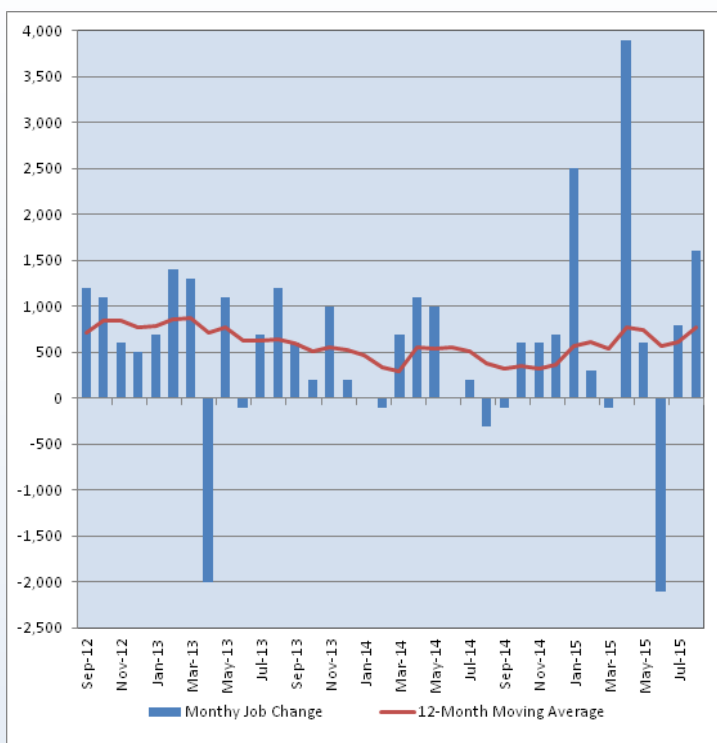
Seasonally Adjusted*	Employment, in Thousands				Growth Rate, Annualized		
	Aug. 2014	May 2015	July 2015	Aug. 2015	12 Month	3 Month	1 Month
<b>Nonfarm, Total</b>							
Virginia	3,776.8	3,811.1	3,817.0	3,817.9	1.1%	0.7%	0.3%
National	139,369.0	141,625.0	142,115.0	142,288.0	2.1%	1.9%	1.5%
<b>Health &amp; Social Assistance</b>							
Virginia	408.5	417.5	416.2	417.8	2.3%	0.3%	4.7%
National	18,115.1	18,520.5	18,622.8	18,679.2	3.1%	3.5%	3.7%
<b>All Other Nonfarm</b>							
Virginia	3,368.3	3,393.6	3,400.8	3,400.1	0.9%	0.8%	-0.2%
National	121,253.9	123,104.5	123,492.2	123,608.8	1.9%	1.6%	1.1%

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, September 18, 2015 by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Virginia's Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector enjoyed its second consecutive month of positive employment gains with the creation of 1,600 new jobs in August. Meanwhile, the preliminary estimate for HC&SA employment in July was revised downward by 600. After this revision, however, the state was still able to create 800 HC&SA jobs during the month.

With August's job gains, Virginia's HC&SA sector has now managed to regain all of its employment losses in June. In addition, this month's result helped to increase the 12-month moving average of the level change in Virginia's HC&SA employment to 775, matching its highest value in 2015.

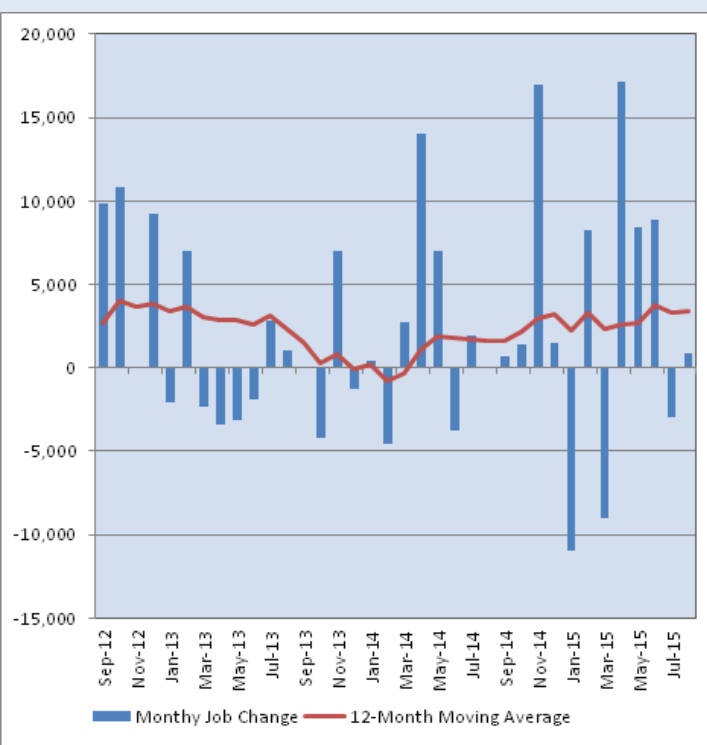
So far this year, Virginia's HC&SA sector has increased employment by 7,500. This represents a marked improvement relative to 2014 when only 2,600 HC&SA jobs had been created throughout the state during the first eight months of the year.

## Virginia Employment

According to preliminary estimates, Virginia's total nonfarm payroll recovered some of its losses from July with a small gain of 900 jobs in August, which represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 0.3%. July's employment losses turned out to be somewhat worse than originally thought as its preliminary estimate was revised downward by an additional 500 jobs. With this downward revision, Virginia's total nonfarm payroll declined by 3,000 in July, its worst monthly loss since January.

Despite August's relatively modest employment gains, Virginia's overall economy is still showing some signs of improvement. Over the past year, Virginia's economy has created an average of 3,425 jobs per month. At the same point in 2014, the state was creating less than half as many jobs per month. In addition, Virginia's total nonfarm payroll has increased by 20,500 so far in 2015, which represents a 16% increase relative to the 17,600 jobs created during the first eight months of 2014. Despite these positive signs, however, overall statewide employment growth has still been rather weak given its current 12-month employment growth rate of just 1.1%.

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

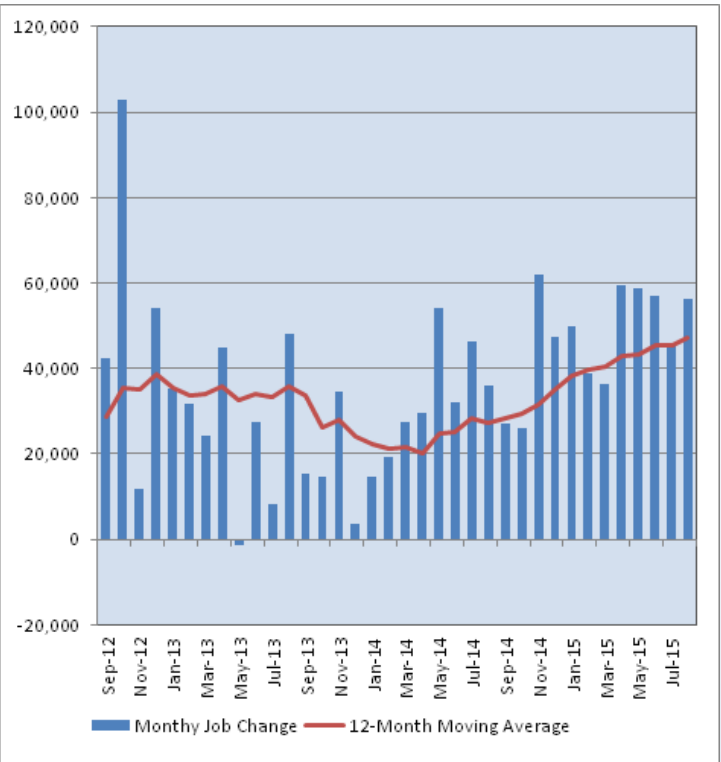


## National Employment

After producing in excess of 50,000 jobs in each of the past three months, the national HC&SA sector took a bit of a breather in July as only 45,400 jobs were created during the month, its worst monthly performance since March. However, July appears to have been an aberration as preliminary estimates indicate that 56,400 HC&SA jobs were created across the country in August, which represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 3.7%. National HC&SA employment has been very strong over much of the past year. In fact, the 12-month moving average of the level change in national HC&SA employment increased in August to 47,008, its highest value in more than 20 years.

At the same time, however, overall national employment cooled off in August as just 173,000 jobs were created during the month. This represents the first time since April that the gain in the nation's total nonfarm payroll failed to exceed 200,000. Regardless, the nation's overall economy has still been able to produce decent job growth with a current 12-month employment growth rate of 2.1%. So far this year, the nation's total nonfarm payroll has grown by nearly 1.7 million jobs.

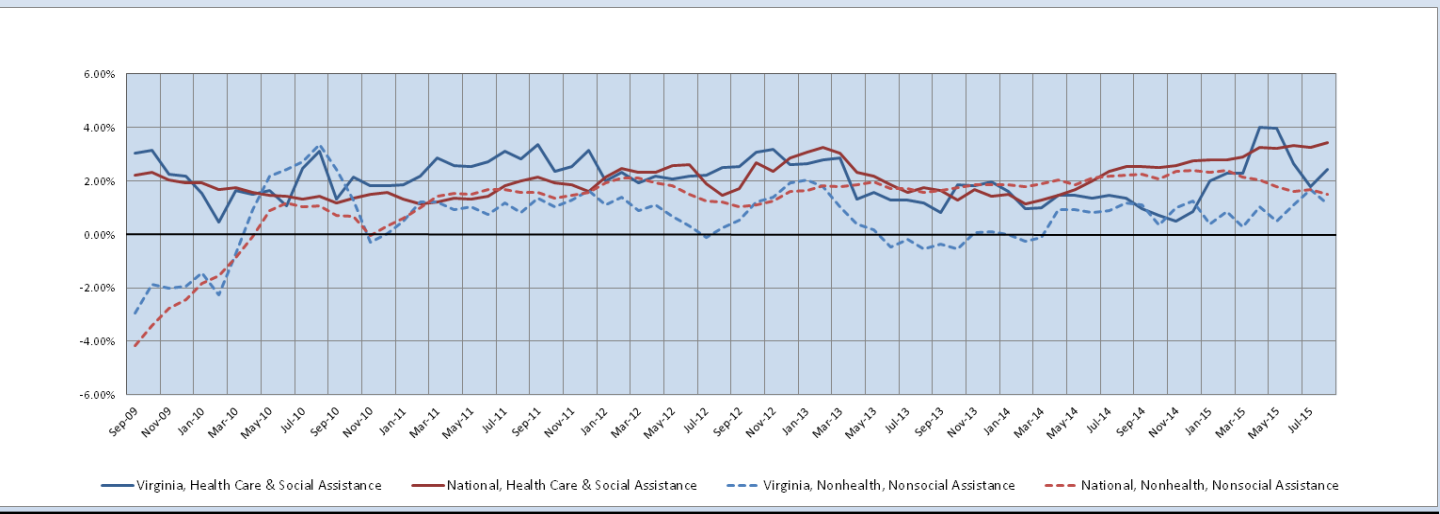
**Figure 3: Monthly Change in Employment in National Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted**



## Employment Growth

After dipping below 2.0% in July for the first time since last December, the six-month moving average of Virginia's HC&SA employment growth rate rebounded strongly in August to 2.43%. However, this still remains well below the nearly 4.0% growth that Virginia's HC&SA sector experienced back in April and May. As for the national HC&SA sector, its six-month employment growth rate moving average increased in August to 3.4%, its highest value in nearly eight years. At the same time, the six-month employment growth rate moving average for the nation's total nonfarm payroll fell in August to 1.5%, its lowest level since November 2012. The six-month employment growth rate moving average for Virginia's total nonfarm payroll also fell in August, but its current value of 1.1% is still quite strong relative to levels seen over the past two years.

**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/](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 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).
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