



Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

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

Series 1, Issue 49

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Data in the report are seasonally adjusted. 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 experienced its first monthly employment decline in four months after losing 200 jobs in January. This represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of -0.6%.
- ◆ Although Virginia's HC&SA sector experienced a small decline in employment in January, the state's total nonfarm payroll increased by 1,900. With this month's employment gain, Virginia has consistently created jobs over each of the past ten months.
- ◆ The national HC&SA sector created 43,800 jobs in January, which represents a one-month annualized growth rate of 2.8%. During the past year, the national HC&SA sector has created an average of 51,308 jobs per month. However, over the past three months, this sector has only created an average of 44,300 jobs per month.
- ◆ For the first time since September, the overall national economy failed to produce more than 200,000 jobs in a month. In January, the nation's total nonfarm payroll increased by 172,000. Over the past 12 months, employment in the national economy has grown by 1.9%.

Data in Brief

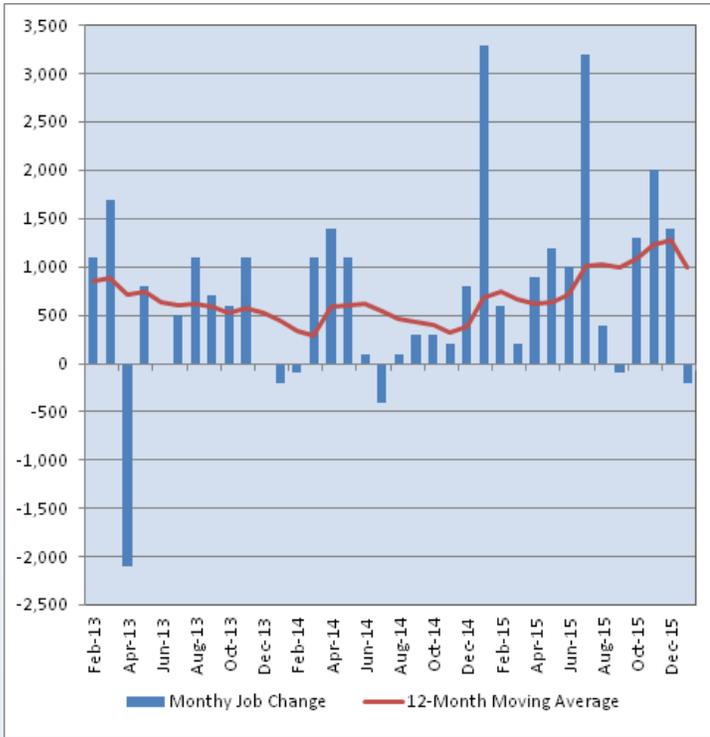
Seasonally Adjusted*	Employment, in Thousands				Growth Rate, Annualized		
	Jan. 2015	Oct. 2015	Dec. 2015	Jan. 2016	12 Month	3 Month	1 Month
Nonfarm, Total							
Virginia	3,815.4	3,881.4	3,902.1	3,904.0	2.3%	2.3%	0.6%
National	140,623.0	142,595.0	143,146.0	143,318.0	1.9%	2.0%	1.5%
Health Care & Social Assistance							
Virginia	414.0	422.7	426.1	425.9	2.9%	3.1%	-0.6%
National	18,304.1	18,786.9	18,876.0	18,919.8	3.4%	2.9%	2.8%
All Other Nonfarm							
Virginia	3,401.4	3,458.7	3,476.0	3,478.1	2.3%	2.3%	0.7%
National	122,318.9	123,808.1	124,270.0	124,398.2	1.7%	1.9%	1.2%

Preliminary estimates are italicized

*Seasonally adjusted data are 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 have 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 Monday, March 14, 2016 by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Virginia’s Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector broke a streak of three consecutive months of positive employment growth after losing 200 jobs in January, which represents a one-month annualized growth rate of -0.6% . This is only the second time in the past 12 months in which HC&SA employment in the state has declined. Over this 12-month period, employment in the sector has grown by 2.9% .

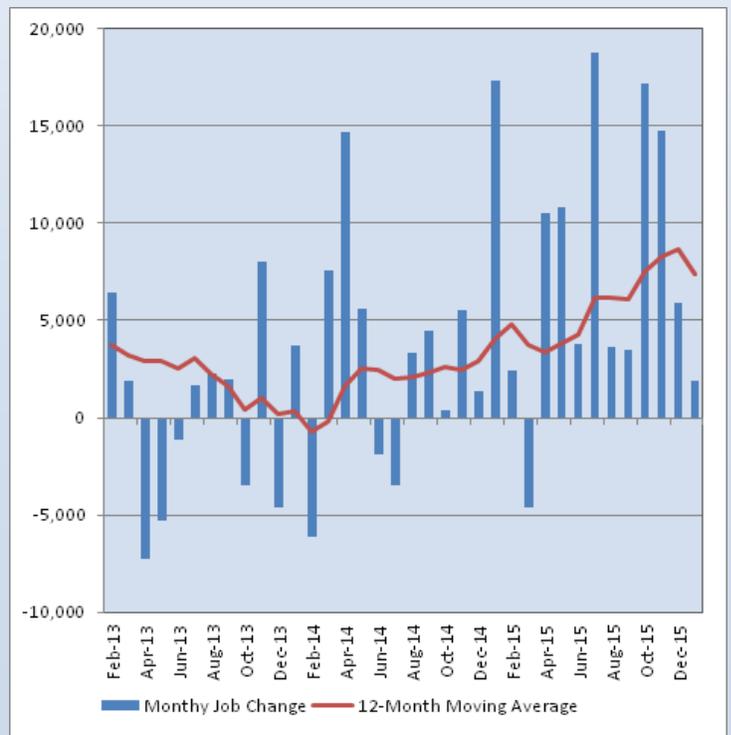
Virginia’s HC&SA sector has enjoyed particularly strong employment growth over the past several months. During the fourth quarter of 2015, the state’s HC&SA sector created 4,700 jobs. In addition, the 12-month moving average of the level change in Virginia’s HC&SA employment has been trending upward through most of the past year despite January’s decline. During the past year, the state’s HC&SA sector has created an average of 992 jobs per month. By way of comparison, at the same point in 2015, this figure was only at 683 jobs per month.

Virginia Employment

According to preliminary estimates, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll increased by 1,900 in January, thereby reversing the losses in the state’s HC&SA sector during the month. With January’s gain, Virginia’s overall economy has created jobs in each of the past 10 months. During this period, the state has created a total of 90,800 jobs. Over the past 12 months, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll has grown by 2.3% , which exceeds the nationwide average of 1.9% . Virginia’s HC&SA sector has been responsible for 13% of this employment growth over the past year. In January 2015, the comparable figure was 17% .

Despite yet another month of overall employment growth, the 12-month moving average of the level change in the state’s total nonfarm payroll actually fell in January. Over the past year, Virginia has now created an average of 7,383 jobs per month. However, just like in Virginia’s HC&SA sector, this average has been trending upward for some time. One year ago, the state was only creating an average of 4,067 jobs per month. In addition, this month’s decline occurred after a fifteen-year high in December 2015.

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

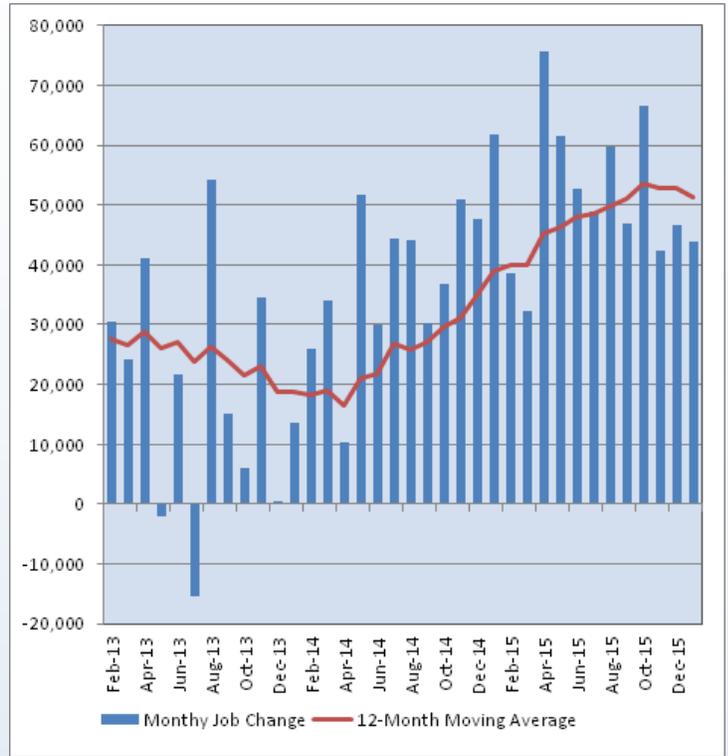


National Employment

In January, the national HC&SA sector created 43,800 jobs, which represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 2.8%. Employment in the national HC&SA sector has slowed down slightly over the past few months. Between August and October of 2015, the national HC&SA sector created an average of 57,733 jobs per month, but this average fell to just 44,300 for the three-month period ending in January. In addition, the 12-month moving average of the level change of employment in the national HC&SA sector has now fallen for the third consecutive month to 51,308. Regardless, the long-term picture still remains relatively bright as the 12-month employment growth rate in the national HC&SA sector is currently a strong 3.4%.

The overall national economy also slowed down in January after 172,000 jobs were created during the month. This represents the first time since last September in which the nation's total nonfarm payroll has not exceeded 200,000. Despite this slower growth pace, the nation's total nonfarm payroll has still grown by 1.9% over the past 12 months. During the time period, the national HC&SA sector has been responsible for 23% of this overall growth.

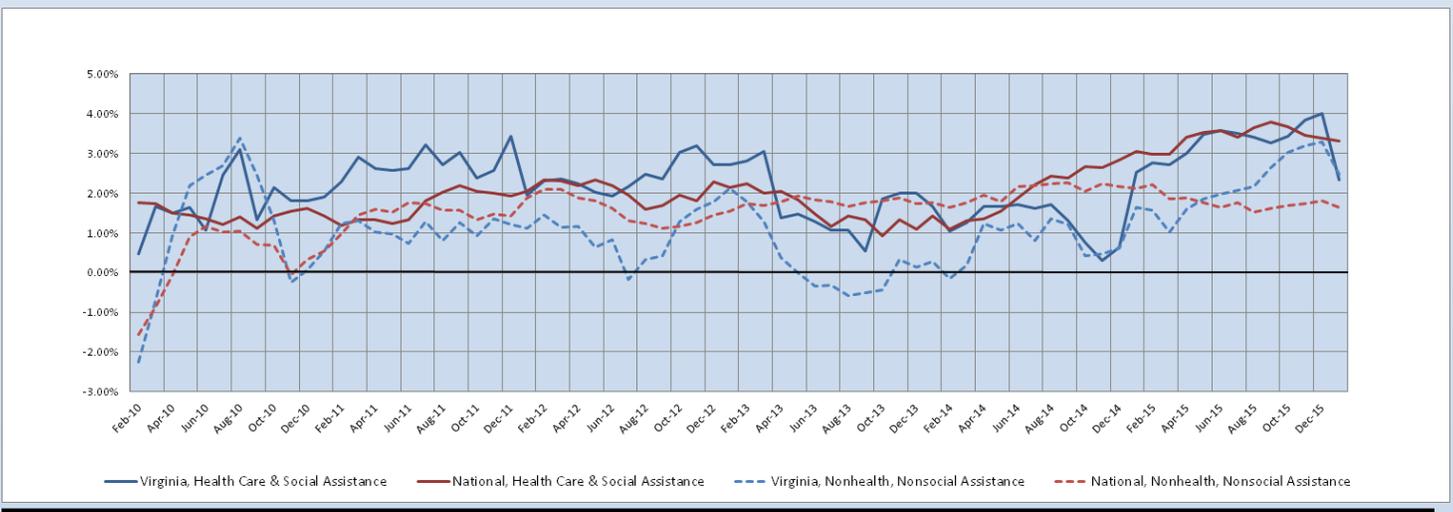
Figure 3: Monthly Change in Employment in National Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted



Employment Growth

With January's employment decline in the HC&SA sector, the sector experienced a dramatic decline in its 6-month employment growth rate moving average from 4.01% to 2.32%. This represents the lowest moving average for the state's HC&SA sector since December of 2014. The six-month moving average of the employment growth rate in Virginia's total nonfarm payroll also declined during the month, but this decline was somewhat more modest from 3.30% to 2.48%. The national HC&SA sector and the overall national economy also experienced declines in January. The six-month employment growth rate moving average for the national HC&SA sector declined from 3.38% to 3.32%, while the comparable moving average for the nation's total nonfarm payroll declined from 1.81% to 1.65% during the month.

Figure 4: Six-Month Moving Average, Employment Growth, Seasonally Adjusted



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About the Data

Data in this report are 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 are 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).
- ◆ 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).

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)