



Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

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

Series 1, Issue 48

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Data in the report are seasonally adjusted, and include 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 after creating 1,400 jobs in December. This represents a robust one-month annualized employment growth rate of 4.1%
- ◆ November's preliminary employment estimate was revised downward by 100 jobs. Even after this revision, however, Virginia's HC&SA sector still managed to increase employment by 1,500 during the month.
- ◆ Virginia's total nonfarm payroll increased for the fourth consecutive month after adding 6,800 jobs in December. During this four-month run, Virginia's overall economy has created 41,700 new jobs.
- ◆ The national HC&SA sector rebounded strongly in December as employment grew by 52,600, which represents a one-month annualized growth rate of 3.4%. This one-month gain is above the 12-month moving average of 49,325 jobs created per month in the national HC&SA sector.
- ◆ The overall national economy continued to show marked improvement in December after the nation's total nonfarm payroll grew by 292,000 during the month, which represents a one-month annualized growth rate of 2.5%.

Data in Brief

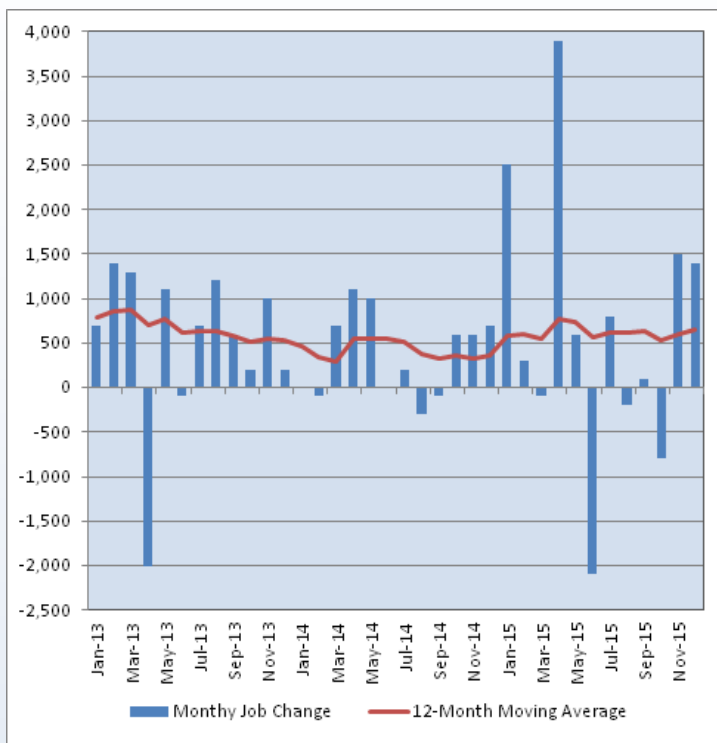
Seasonally Adjusted*	Employment, in Thousands				Growth Rate, Annualized		
	Dec. 2014	Sept. 2015	Nov. 2015	Dec. 2015	12 Month	3 Month	1 Month
Nonfarm, Total							
Virginia	3,797.4	3,815.5	3,849.3	3,856.1	1.5%	4.3%	2.1%
National	140,592.0	142,391.0	142,950.0	143,242.0	1.9%	2.4%	2.5%
Health Care & Social Assistance							
Virginia	410.3	416.1	416.8	418.2	1.9%	2.0%	4.1%
National	18,277.7	18,716.0	18,817.0	18,869.6	3.2%	3.3%	3.4%
All Other Nonfarm							
Virginia	3,387.1	3,399.4	3,432.5	3,437.9	1.5%	4.6%	1.9%
National	122,314.3	123,675.0	124,133.0	124,372.4	1.7%	2.3%	2.3%

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 Tuesday, January 26, 2016 by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Virginia's Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector experienced a second-consecutive month of solid employment growth after creating 1,400 jobs in December, which represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 4.1%. This follows a gain of 1,500 jobs in November after accounting for a downward revision of 100 jobs to the preliminary estimate that was released during the previous month.

The 12-month moving average of the level change in Virginia's HC&SA employment increased during the month. Virginia's HC&SA sector has created an average of 49,325 jobs per month over the past year.

With December's estimate, Virginia's HC&SA sector created 7,900 jobs in 2015. This represents a marked improvement relative to 2014, during which HC&SA employment in the state rose by just 4,400. In fact, if these results hold, 2015 would record the highest HC&SA employment growth since 2012.

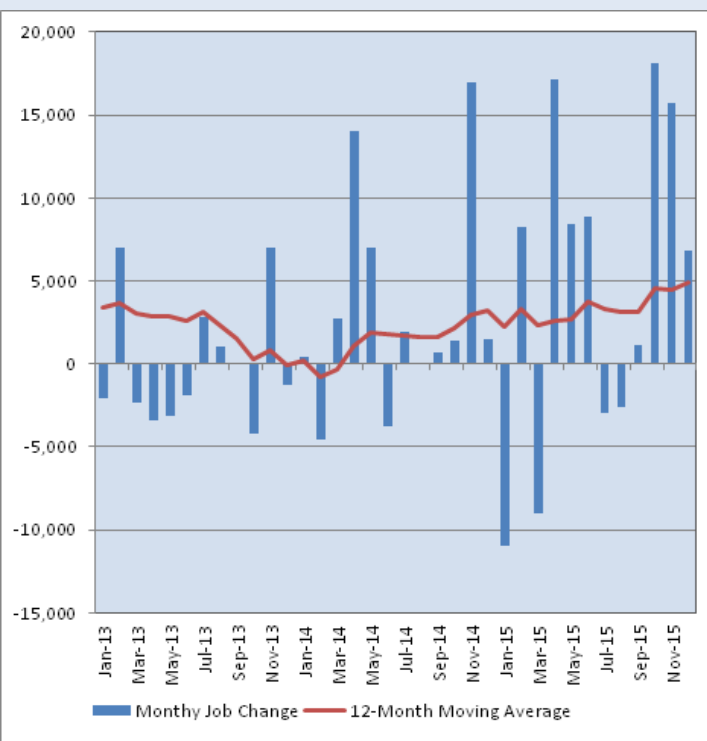
Virginia Employment

According to preliminary estimates, Virginia's total nonfarm payroll grew for the fourth-consecutive month as overall employment in the state rose by 6,800 in December. Thanks to yet another month of positive employment growth, the 12-month moving average of the level change in the state's total nonfarm payroll rose to a nearly five-year high of 4,892 jobs created per month. In fact, this 12-month moving average has now been trending steadily upwards for nearly two years without any significant disruption.

December's employment gains provide yet further proof of the strengthening of Virginia's overall economy. During the fourth quarter of 2015, the state's total nonfarm payroll grew by 40,600 jobs, which represents a three-month annualized employment growth rate of 4.3%. This quarterly growth rate nearly triples the current 12-month employment growth rate for Virginia's overall economy.

Throughout 2015, Virginia's total nonfarm payroll increased by 58,700 jobs. This represents a significant improvement when compared to the 38,200 jobs that were created in Virginia's overall economy in 2014.

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

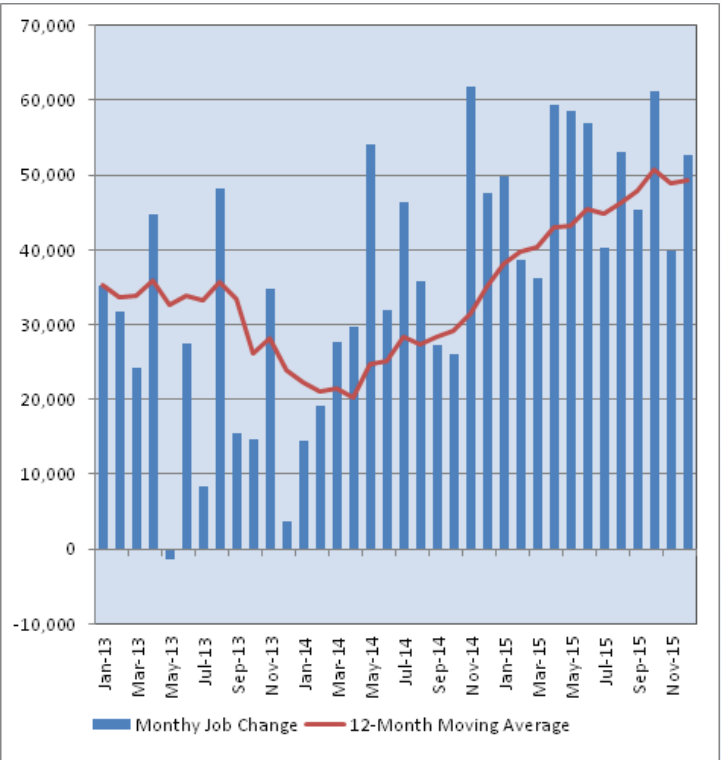


National Employment

After experiencing its lowest monthly employment gain since March, the national HC&SA sector rebounded nicely in December, creating 52,600 new jobs during the month. This represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 3.4%. With this gain, the 12-month moving average of the level change in the national HC&SA sector experienced a slight uptick in December to 49,325 jobs created per month. Although this is down slightly from the high reached in October of 50,742, the overall long-term trend remains unbroken. December's average looks particularly impressive when compared to the 35,167 jobs that were created per month in 2014.

The overall national economy also had a very strong month in December as total nonfarm payroll grew by 292,000. Other than October's gain of 307,000 jobs, December's result represents the best one-month performance for the overall national economy in 2015. Including December's preliminary estimate, the nation's total nonfarm payroll rose by 2.65 million in 2015. However, the full-year gains from 2015 actually fell by 15% relative to the 3.17 million jobs that were created across the country in 2014.

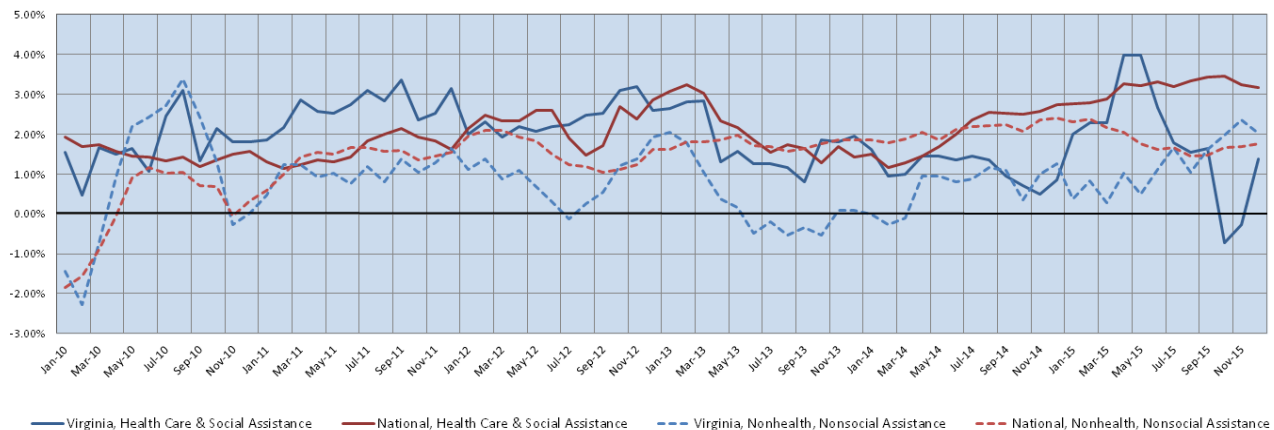
Figure 3: Monthly Change in Employment in National Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted



Employment Growth

During the previous two months, the six-month employment growth rate moving average for Virginia's HC&SA sector was negative, but this trend saw a significant reversal in December after increasing from -0.28% to 1.38%. Meanwhile, the corresponding growth rate moving average for Virginia's total nonfarm payroll experienced a slight decline to 2.01% during the month. Despite this fall, however, the trend line over the past year has been unmistakably positive as statewide employment growth continues to gain strength. As for the national economy, the six-month employment growth rate moving average for the national HC&SA sector dipped slightly to 3.17%, while the corresponding moving average for the nation's total nonfarm payroll experienced a slight uptick to 1.76%, its highest level since May.

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)

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).