



# Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

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

Series 1, Issue 53

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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 recovered some of its losses from the previous two months by creating 900 jobs in May. This represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 2.6%.
- ◆ Although Virginia's HC&SA sector experienced positive economic growth in May, the same can not be said for the state's overall economy. During the month, Virginia's total nonfarm payroll fell by 6,100. So far this year, the Commonwealth of Virginia has only created 300 new jobs.
- ◆ The national HC&SA sector enjoyed its strongest month of HC&SA employment growth since February after creating 55,400 jobs in May, which represents a one-month annualized growth rate of 3.5%. Over the past year, the national HC&SA sector has created an average of 49,000 new jobs per month.
- ◆ The overall national economy experienced its weakest monthly employment gain in more than five years after adding just 38,000 jobs in May. After creating 233,000 jobs in February, employment growth in the nation's total nonfarm payroll has fallen in each of the past three months. During these three months, national employment has only grown at a 1.0% annualized rate.

## Data in Brief

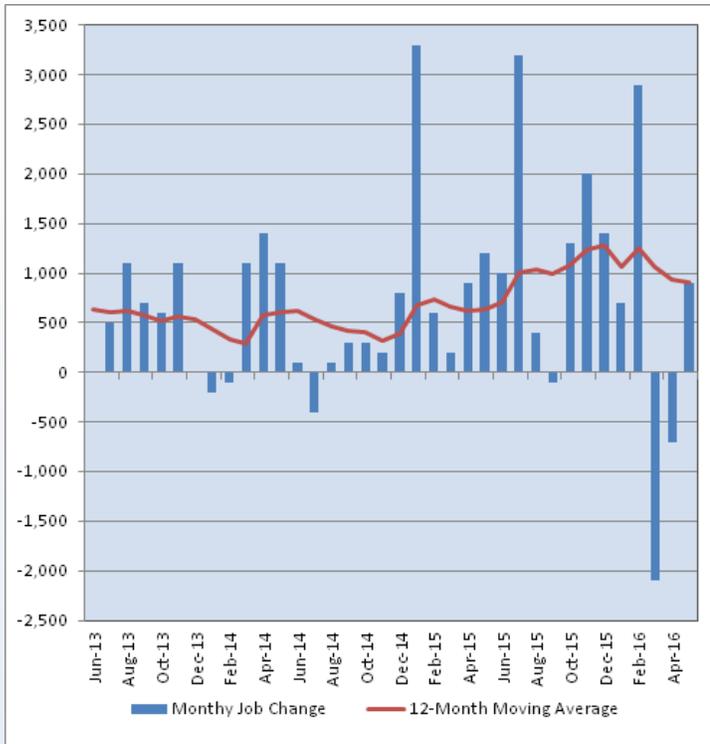
| Seasonally Adjusted*                       | Employment, in Thousands |           |           |           | Growth Rate, Annualized |         |         |
|--|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------|---------|---------|
|  | May, 2015                | Feb. 2016 | Apr. 2016 | May 2016  | 12 Month                | 3 Month | 1 Month |
| <b>Nonfarm, Total</b>                      |                          |           |           |           |                         |         |         |
| Virginia                                   | 3,834.5                  | 3,916.3   | 3,908.5   | 3,902.4   | 1.8%                    | -1.4%   | -1.9%   |
| National                                   | 141,496.0                | 143,547.0 | 143,856.0 | 143,894.0 | 1.7%                    | 1.0%    | 0.3%    |
| <b>Health Care &amp; Social Assistance</b> |                          |           |           |           |                         |         |         |
| Virginia                                   | 416.9                    | 429.7     | 426.9     | 427.8     | 2.6%                    | -1.8%   | 2.6%    |
| National                                   | 18,512.0                 | 18,976.1  | 19,044.6  | 19,100.0  | 3.2%                    | 2.6%    | 3.5%    |
| <b>All Other Nonfarm</b>                   |                          |           |           |           |                         |         |         |
| Virginia                                   | 3,417.6                  | 3,486.6   | 3,481.6   | 3,474.6   | 1.7%                    | -1.4%   | -2.4%   |
| National                                   | 122,984.0                | 124,570.9 | 124,811.4 | 124,794.0 | 1.5%                    | 0.7%    | -0.2%   |

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 the preliminary data released on Friday, June 17, 2016 by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Virginia’s HC&SA sector rebounded after suffering from two consecutive months of employment losses by creating 900 new jobs in May. This gain represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 2.6%.

Despite this gain, Virginia’s HC&SA sector has lost 1,900 jobs over the past three months. In fact, HC&SA employment growth in the state has been rather anemic during the first half of 2016. So far this year, Virginia’s HC&SA sector has created just 1,700 new jobs throughout the state. At the same point in 2015, 6,200 jobs had already been created in this sector.

Because of this growth slowdown, the 12-month moving average of the change in Virginia’s HC&SA employment has reached lows that have not been seen in nearly one year. Over the past year, Virginia’s HC&SA sector has only created an average of 908 jobs per month. Regardless, these weaker results still represent a 12-month employment growth rate of 2.6%.

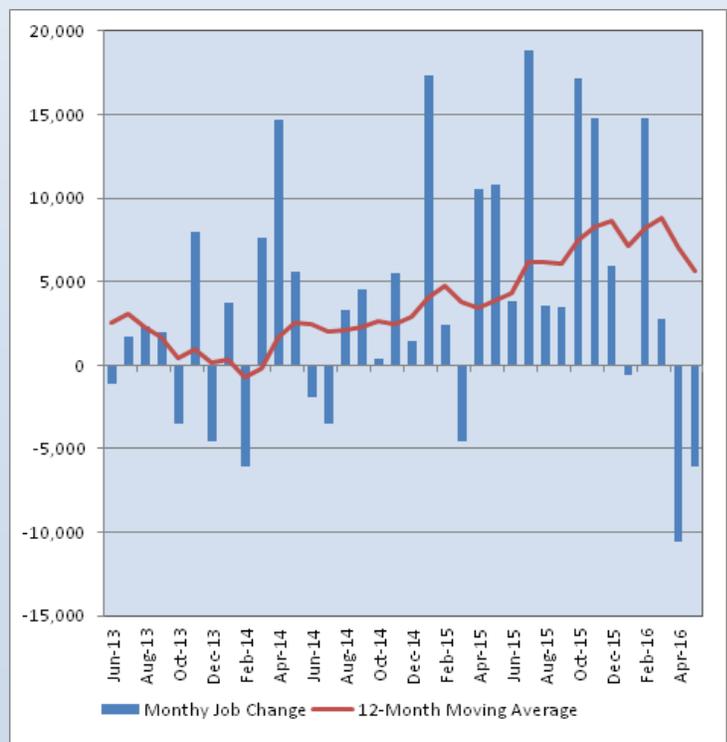
## Virginia Employment

According to preliminary estimates, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll did not benefit from the growth in its HC&SA sector as overall employment in the state fell by 6,100 jobs during the month. Not only does this represent a one-month annualized employment growth rate of -1.9%, but it also represents the first time since 2014 in which the state’s total nonfarm payroll has declined in consecutive months.

During the first five months of 2016, overall employment growth in the state has been nearly nonexistent. So far this year, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll has increased by only 300 jobs. By way of comparison, Virginia’s economy had already created 36,400 at the same point in 2015.

Essentially all of this year’s meager employment growth came from just one month of gains: In February, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll increased by 14,800 jobs. Other than this result, monthly employment growth has been rather disappointing. For instance, whereas Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll experienced only one monthly employment decline in all of 2015, the state has already experienced three such months of negative employment growth in 2016.

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

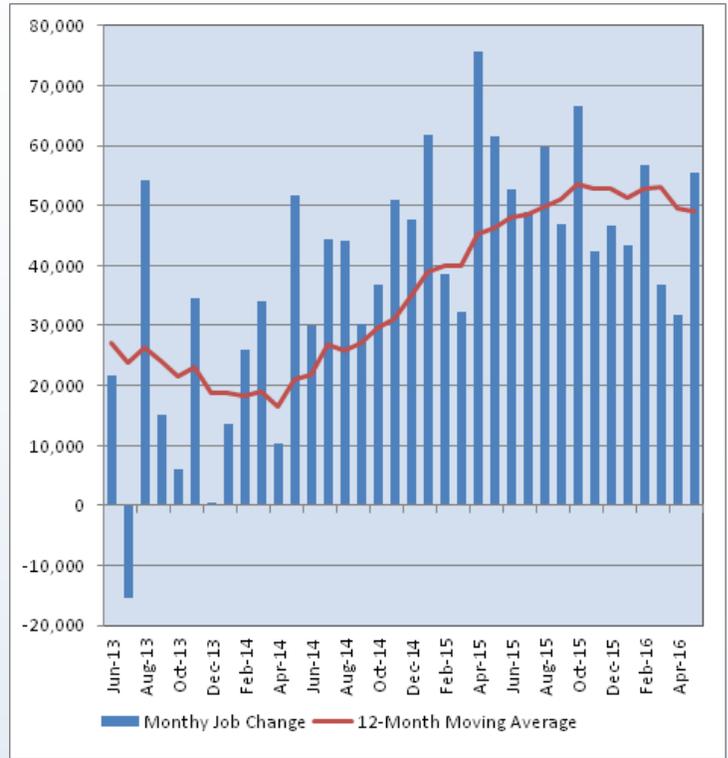


### National Employment

After two months of relatively weak employment growth, the national HC&SA sector rebounded strongly in May with the creation of 55,400 new jobs. This represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 3.5%, which exceeds the comparable 12-month growth rate of 3.2%. Even with this job growth, the 12-month national HC&SA employment moving average actually fell slightly during the month. Over the past year, the national HC&SA sector has produced an average of 49,000 jobs per month. Despite the decline, this month's moving average is still higher than the comparable average from May of 2015. At that time, this sector created an average 46,150 per month over the past year.

While the national HC&SA sector rebounded in May, the same could not be said for the overall national economy. During the month, the nation's total nonfarm payroll grew by only 38,000 jobs, which represents its worst one-month performance in more than five years. In fact, overall national employment growth has now declined for three consecutive months. In addition, during the past three months, the nation's total nonfarm payroll has only grown at a 1.0% annualized rate.

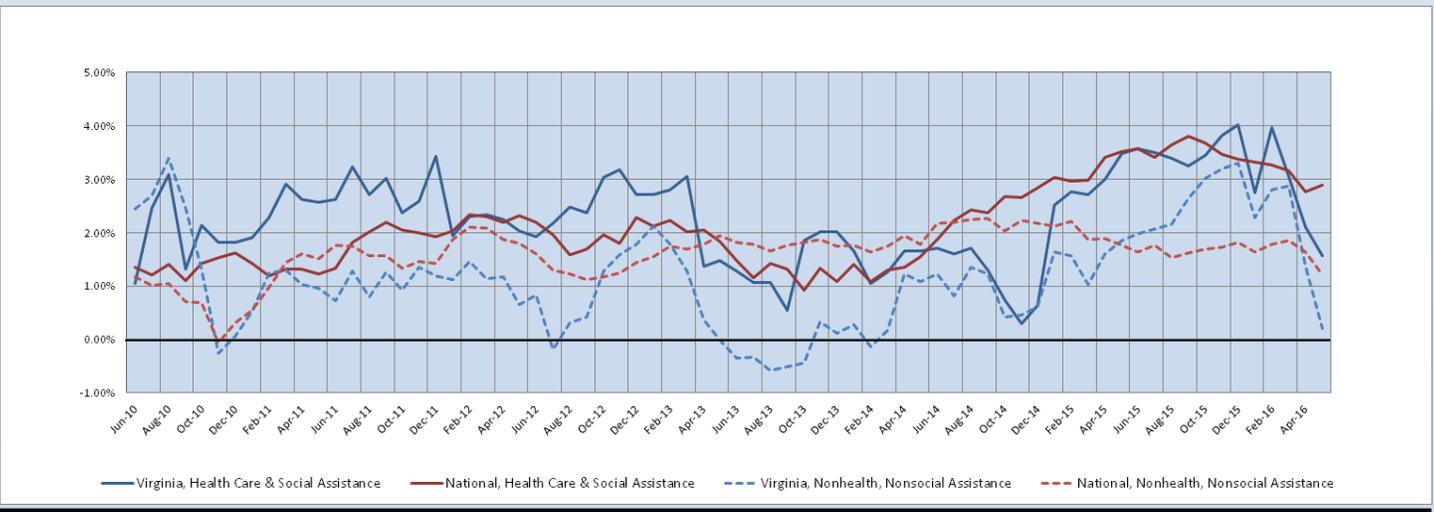
**Figure 3: Monthly Change in Employment in National Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted**



### State Employment Growth

Despite the employment gains in Virginia's HC&SA sector in May, its six-month employment growth rate moving average declined yet again during the month to 1.56%, reaching its lowest value since December 2014. A similar trend occurred in Virginia's total nonfarm payroll as its six-month employment growth rate moving average dropped to a two-year low of 0.21%. As for the national HC&SA sector, its six-month employment growth rate moving average actually experienced a slight rebound in May from 2.76% to 2.90%. However, this monthly uptick has not yet stemmed the long-term downward trend that began last summer. The six-month moving average of the nation's total nonfarm payroll has also been trending downward. In May, this moving average reached a three-and-a-year half low of 1.21%.

**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/](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)