



# Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

Indicators from the Bureau of Labor Statistics'

Current Employment Statistics Survey

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

Series 1, Issue 61

April 2017

### Highlights

- ◆ According to preliminary estimates, Virginia's Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector created 900 jobs in March, which represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 2.5%. However, during Q1 2017, Virginia's HC&SA sector shed 400 jobs across the state.
- ◆ After creating 24,000 jobs over the previous two months, the state's total nonfarm payroll experienced a modest retrenchment in March. The state's total nonfarm payroll declined by 5,000 during the month, which represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of -1.5%.
- ◆ The national HC&SA sector experienced a relatively weak month of employment growth in March with the creation of just 16,700 new jobs during the month. This represents the smallest one-month increase in national HC&SA employment since April 2014.
- ◆ The nation's total nonfarm payroll also experienced a significant slowdown in March. After creating more than 200,000 jobs in each of the past two months, the nation's total nonfarm payroll increased by only 98,000 in March, which represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 0.8%. This result also represents the smallest monthly gain since May 2016.

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Data in the report are seasonally adjusted. Self-employed persons, including health professionals in private practice, are not included.

### Data in Brief

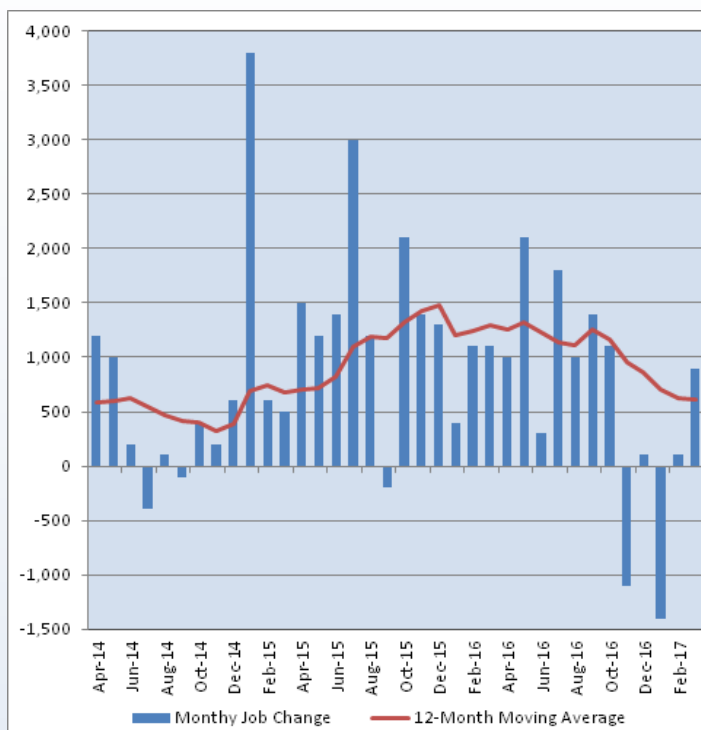
Seasonally Adjusted*	Employment, in Thousands				Growth Rate, Annualized		
	Mar. 2016	Dec. 2016	Feb. 2017	Mar. 2017	12 Month	3 Month	1 Month
<b>Nonfarm, Total</b>							
Virginia	3,909.5	3,936.3	3,960.3	3,955.3	1.2%	1.9%	-1.5%
National	143,673.0	145,325.0	145,760.0	145,858.0	1.5%	1.5%	0.8%
<b>Health Care &amp; Social Assistance</b>							
Virginia	430.7	438.4	437.1	438.0	1.7%	-0.4%	2.5%
National	18,908.8	19,266.9	19,329.1	19,345.8	2.3%	1.6%	1.0%
<b>All Other Nonfarm</b>							
Virginia	3,478.8	3,497.9	3,523.2	3,517.3	1.1%	2.2%	-2.0%
National	124,764.2	126,058.1	126,430.9	126,512.2	1.4%	1.4%	0.8%

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, April 21, 2017 by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Virginia's HC&SA sector enjoyed its strongest single month of employment growth since last October. In March, Virginia created 900 new HC&SA jobs, which represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 2.5%.

Although March's impressive result may indicate stronger HC&SA employment growth in the state later this year, this sector has not performed particularly well so far in 2017. In Q1 2017, Virginia's HC&SA sector actually lost 400 jobs, which represents a three-month annualized employment growth rate of -0.4%.

Long-term HC&SA employment growth in the state has been only slightly more promising. Over the past 12 months, Virginia's HC&SA sector has created an average of 608 jobs per month, which represents a 12-month growth rate of 1.7%. Not only has this 12-month moving average declined for six consecutive months, but it has also reached its lowest level since December 2014.

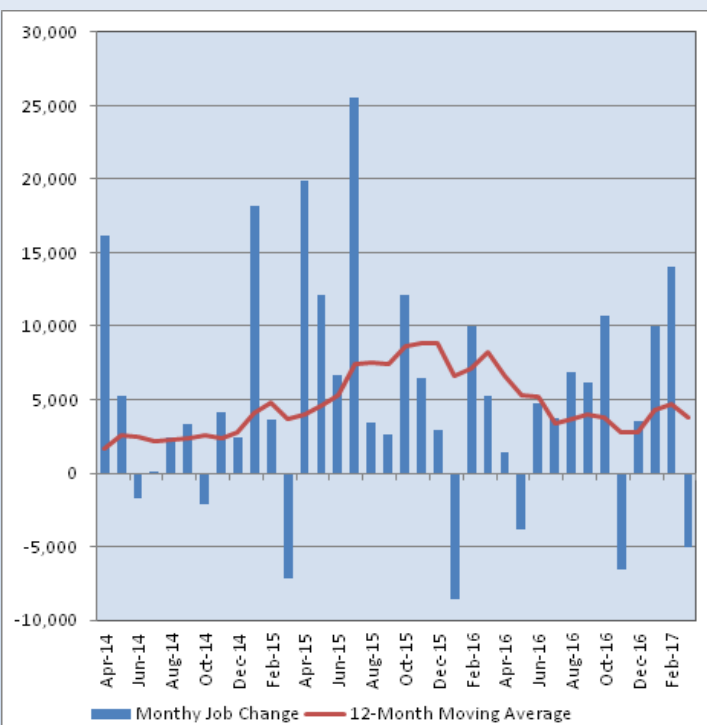
## Virginia Employment

Virginia's total nonfarm payroll has grown considerably so far in 2017. During the first two months of the year, Virginia's total nonfarm payroll increased by 24,000, which far exceeds the 1,400 jobs that were created across the state during the first two months of 2016. However, employment growth receded slightly in March as the state's total nonfarm payroll fell by 5,000, which represents a one-month annualized growth rate of -1.5%.

Regardless, Virginia's total nonfarm payroll has increased by 19,000 in Q1 2017, which represents a three-month annualized employment growth rate of 1.9%. In addition, this three-month employment gain represents the strongest start to a new year since 2012. In 2012, the state's total nonfarm payroll increased by 23,000 during the first three months of the year.

With respect to the state's long-term employment growth, Virginia's total nonfarm payroll has increased by an average of 3,817 jobs per month over the past year. Although this does represent a 12-month growth rate of 1.2%, this moving average has also declined by more than half since March 2016.

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

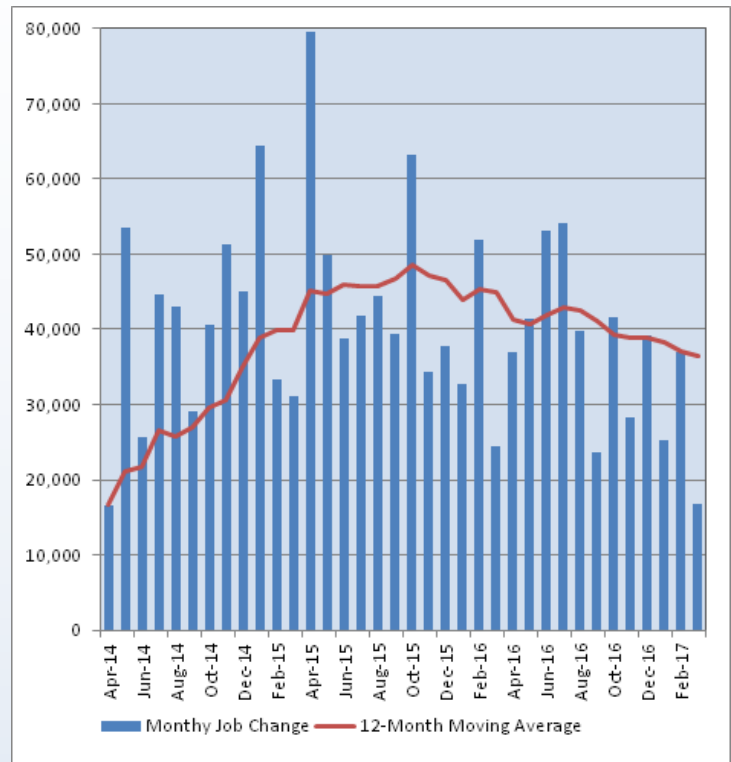


## National Employment

Over the past several months, national HC&SA employment growth has been steadily weakening, and this trend continued unabated in March. This sector created just 16,700 new HC&SA jobs across the country during the month, which represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 1.0%. In addition, this result represents the weakest monthly employment gain in the national HC&SA sector since April 2014. So far in 2017, the national HC&SA sector has created a total of 78,900 new jobs, which is well below the 109,200 HC&SA jobs that were created in Q1 2016.

The overall national economy also experienced considerable employment weakness during the month. In March, the nation's total nonfarm payroll increased by only 98,000. Not only does this represent a one-month annualized growth rate of 0.8%, but it also represents its weakest monthly employment gain since May 2016. March's relatively small employment gain was a significant reversal from the previous two months during which the nation's total nonfarm payroll increased by a total of 435,000. In Q1 2017, the nation's total nonfarm payroll increased by 533,000, which represents a three-month annualized employment growth rate of 1.5%.

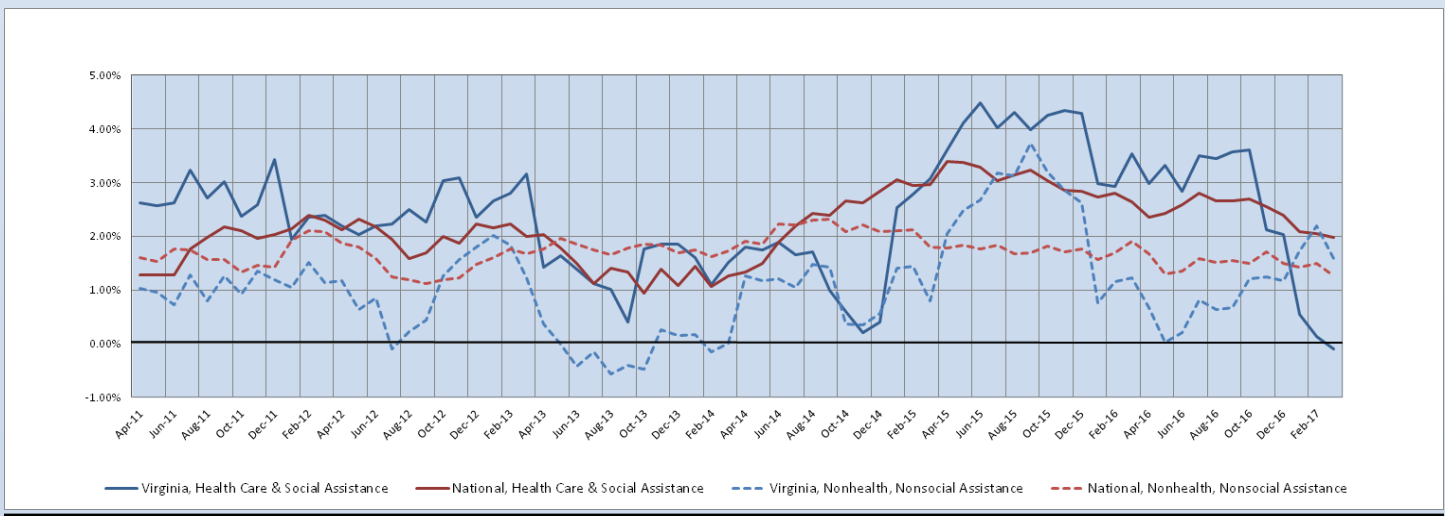
**Figure 3: Monthly Change in Employment in National Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted**



## State Employment Growth

Despite March's job gains in Virginia's HC&SA sector, its six-month employment growth rate moving average fell for the fifth consecutive month to -0.10%. This represents the first time in more than one decade in which Virginia's six-month HC&SA employment growth rate moving average is negative. Employment growth in Virginia's HC&SA sector has declined considerably over the past year. In particular, this same six-month moving average was 3.54% in March 2016. The six-month national HC&SA employment growth rate moving average also fell for the fifth consecutive month in March to 1.97%. As for Virginia's total nonfarm payroll, its six-month employment growth rate moving average fell from 2.19% to 1.58% in March, while the corresponding average for the nation's total nonfarm payroll dropped from 1.49% to 1.26%.

**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)

## 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).