



# Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

Indicators from the Bureau of Labor Statistics'

Current Employment Statistics Survey

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

Series 1, Issue 62

May 2017

### Highlights

- ◆ According to preliminary estimates, Virginia's Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) enjoyed its third consecutive month of positive employment gains in April. After producing 1,100 jobs in March, Virginia's HC&SA sector created an additional 2,800 jobs in April, which represents its largest one-month employment gain since July 2015.
- ◆ Despite this significant job growth in Virginia's HC&SA sector, the state's total nonfarm payroll did not change at all in April. Despite the fact that Virginia's total nonfarm payroll has lost 5,000 jobs over the previous two months, the state has still created 19,000 jobs so far this year.
- ◆ The national HC&SA sector rebounded from a relatively weak month of employment growth in March with the creation of 36,800 new jobs in April, which represents a one-month annualized growth rate of 2.3%. This also represents this sector's strongest one-month employment gain so far this year.
- ◆ The nation's total nonfarm payroll also rebounded strongly in April. After creating only 79,000 jobs in March, the nation's total nonfarm payroll increased by 211,000 jobs in April. The nation's total nonfarm payroll has grown by more than 200,000 in three of the past four months.

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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

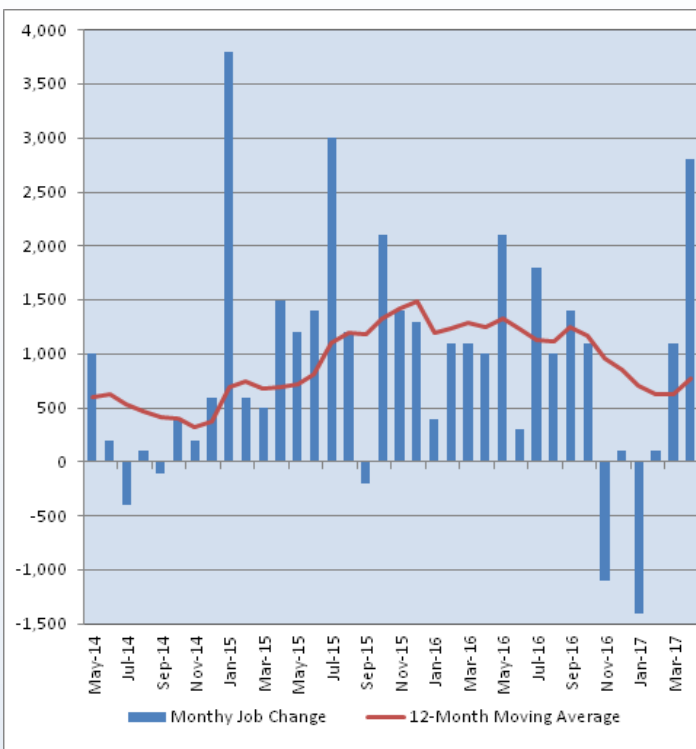
Seasonally Adjusted*	Employment, in Thousands				Growth Rate, Annualized		
	Apr. 2016	Jan. 2017	Mar. 2017	Apr. 2017	12 Month	3 Month	1 Month
<b>Nonfarm, Total</b>							
Virginia	3,910.9	3,946.3	3,955.3	3,955.3	1.1%	0.9%	0.0%
National	143,826.0	145,541.0	145,852.0	146,063.0	1.6%	1.4%	1.7%
<b>Health Care &amp; Social Assistance</b>							
Virginia	431.7	437.0	438.2	441.0	2.2%	3.7%	7.9%
National	18,945.7	19,292.2	19,344.4	19,381.2	2.3%	1.9%	2.3%
<b>All Other Nonfarm</b>							
Virginia	3,479.2	3,509.3	3,517.1	3,514.3	1.0%	0.6%	-1.0%
National	124,880.3	126,248.8	126,507.6	126,681.8	1.4%	1.4%	1.7%

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, May 19, 2017 by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Virginia's HC&SA sector enjoyed its strongest one-month employment gain since July 2015 with the creation of 2,800 new jobs during the month. This gain represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 7.9%, which is well above its 12-month growth rate of 2.2%.

After losing 1,400 jobs in January, employment in Virginia's HC&SA sector has strengthened considerably over the past three months. In fact, HC&SA employment gains have increased every month since February. During this time period, Virginia's HC&SA sector has created 4,000 jobs, which represents a three-month annualized employment growth rate of 3.7%.

Despite this strong turnaround, year-to-date HC&SA job growth in Virginia so far in 2017 is still lagging behind the gains observed in 2016. During the first four months of 2016, Virginia's HC&SA sector created 3,600 jobs. However, only 2,600 HC&SA jobs have been created in Virginia so far in 2017.

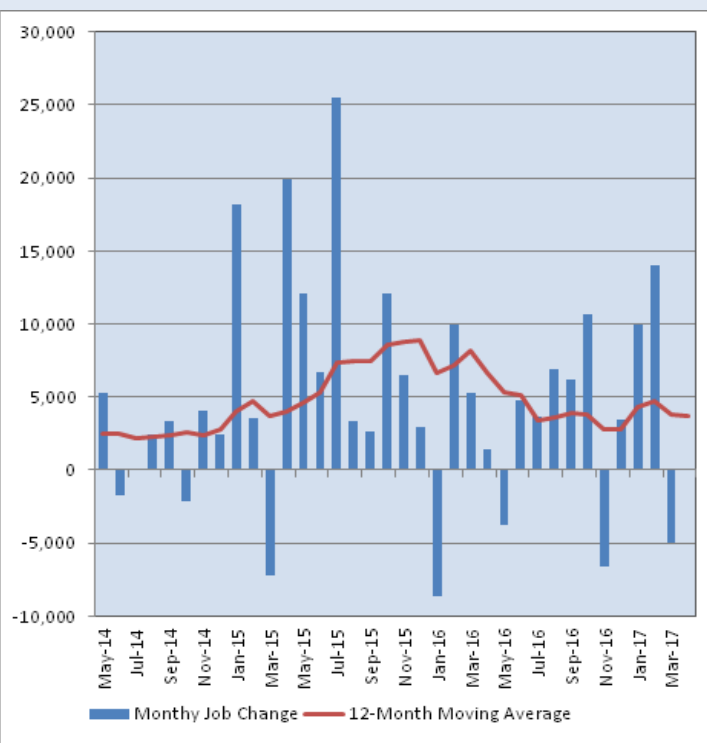
## Virginia Employment

Despite the strong employment growth in Virginia's HC&SA sector, these gains were only able to counteract losses from elsewhere across the state in April. After falling by 5,000 in March, Virginia's total nonfarm payroll experienced another disappointing result in April as there was no overall change in its level during the month.

While Virginia's HC&SA sector has shown real signs of strength in recent months, the opposite has been the case for the state's total nonfarm payroll. Virginia's total nonfarm payroll grew by 24,000 during the first two months in 2017, but this growth has stalled since March. Due in part to this slowdown, the 12-month moving average of the change in Virginia's total nonfarm payroll fell in April from 3,817 to 3,700.

Regardless, there is still some evidence suggesting that growth in Virginia's total nonfarm payroll is improving in 2017. So far this year, the state's total nonfarm payroll has increased by 19,000. By contrast, only 8,100 jobs had been created across the entire state during the first four months of 2016.

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

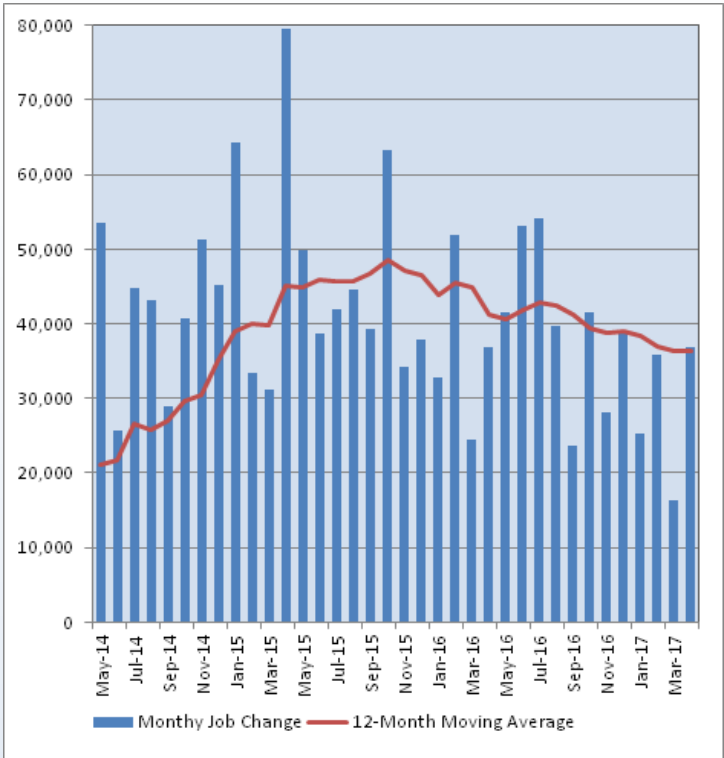


## National Employment

In March, the national HC&SA sector only created 16,400 new jobs, which represented its weakest one-month employment gain since December 2013. The national HC&SA sector managed to rebound relatively strongly from March's weak employment gains with an increase of 36,800 new jobs in April, which represents a one-month annualized growth rate of 2.3%. In addition, April's job growth represents the largest one-month employment gain in the nation's total nonfarm payroll so far in 2017. Regardless, long-term employment growth in this sector has still not broken its downward trend. In March, the 12-month moving average of the change in national HC&SA employment fell for the fourth consecutive month from 36,300 to 36,292.

The nation's total nonfarm payroll also rebounded strongly in April. After creating only 79,000 jobs in March, the nation's total nonfarm payroll increased by 211,000 in April, which represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 1.7%. With this gain, the nation's total nonfarm payroll has increased by 738,000 so far in 2017. This year-to-date gain is just slightly below the 741,000 jobs that were created during the first four months of 2016.

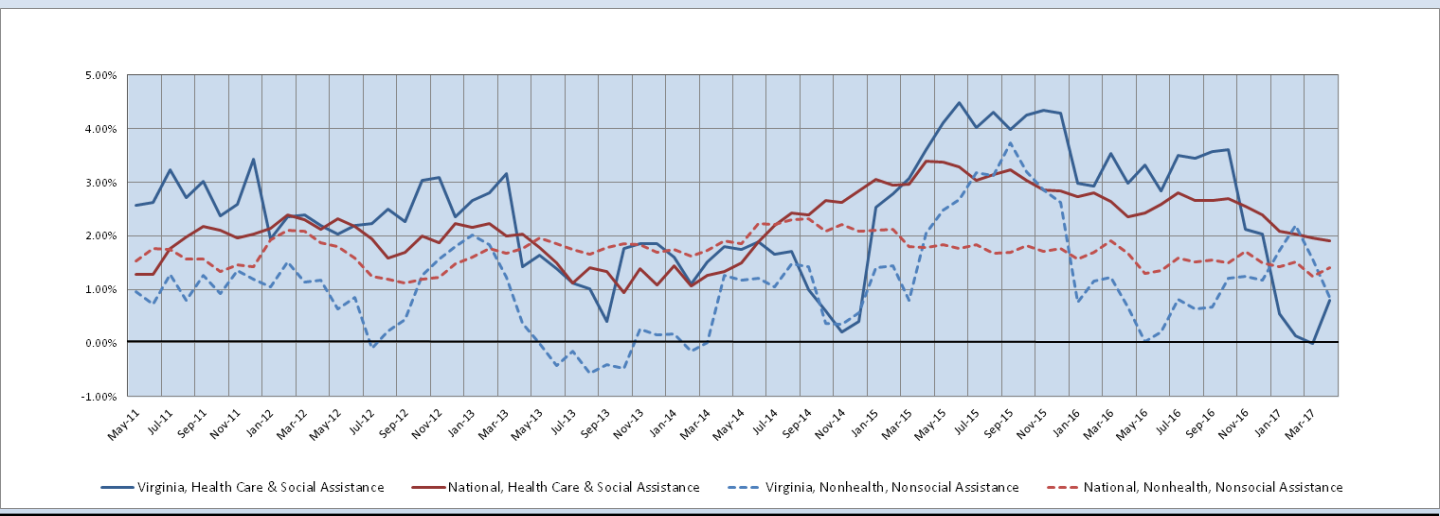
**Figure 3: Monthly Change in Employment in National Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted**



## State Employment Growth

Virginia's six-month HC&SA employment growth rate moving average dropped to -0.01% in March, which represented the first time since June of 2000 in which this moving average fell below 0%. However, the six-month moving average of the employment growth rate in Virginia's HC&SA sector rebounded strongly in April to a four-month high of 0.80%. At the same time, however, the six-month moving average of the growth rate in Virginia's total nonfarm payroll fell to a seven-month low of 0.86%. As for the national HC&SA sector, its six-month employment growth rate moving average fell slightly in April from 1.96% to 1.90%, thereby reaching its lowest level in nearly three years. Meanwhile, the nation's total nonfarm payroll saw its six-month employment growth rate moving average increase slightly during the month from 1.25% to 1.40%.

**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).