



# Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

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

Series 1, Issue 66

September 2017

## Highlights

- ◆ According to preliminary estimates, Virginia's Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector enjoyed its largest one-month job gain since April after creating 2,500 new jobs in August. Not only does this represent a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 7.0%, but it also represents the seventh consecutive month of positive HC&SA employment growth in the state.
- ◆ The growth in Virginia's total nonfarm payroll was entirely dependent upon the job growth in the state's HC&SA sector during the month. In August, Virginia's total nonfarm payroll grew by 2,200, which represents a one-month annualized growth rate of 0.7%.
- ◆ Job growth in the national HC&SA sector weakened considerably in August. Only 16,600 HC&SA jobs were created across the country in August, which represents the worst one-month job gain for this sector since April 2014. Regardless, national HC&SA employment has still grown at a 2.3% annualized rate over the past three months.
- ◆ Despite the weakness in the national HC&SA sector, the nation's total nonfarm payroll still increased by 156,000 in August. So far this year, the nation's total nonfarm payroll has increased by 1.41 million.

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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

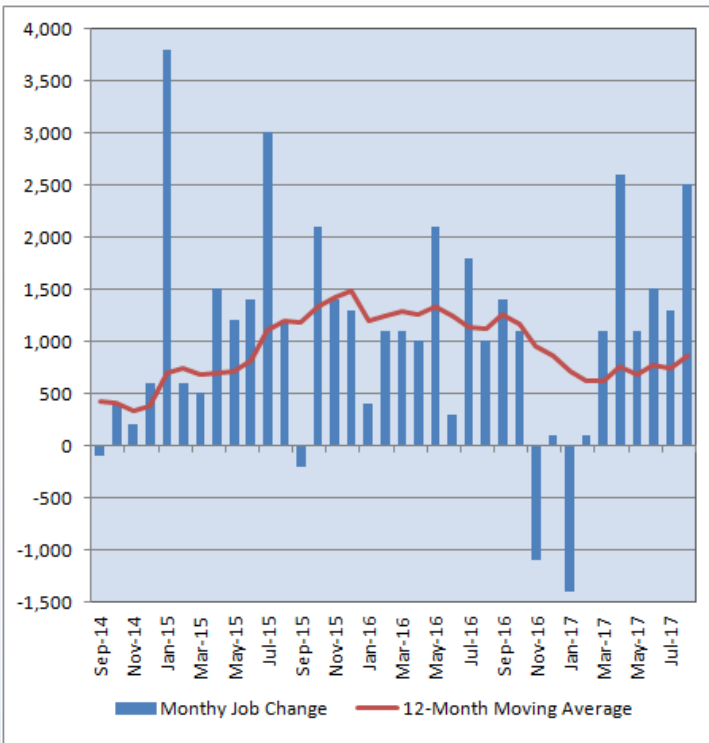
Seasonally Adjusted*	Employment, in Thousands				Growth Rate, Annualized		
	Aug. 2016	May 2017	July 2017	Aug. 2017	12 Month	3 Month	1 Month
<b>Nonfarm, Total</b>							
Virginia	3,922.5	3,952.5	3,979.0	3,981.2	1.5%	2.9%	0.7%
National	144,633.0	146,175.0	146,574.0	146,730.0	1.4%	1.5%	1.3%
<b>Health Care &amp; Social Assistance</b>							
Virginia	436.9	441.9	444.7	447.2	2.4%	4.9%	7.0%
National	19,134.3	19,424.5	19,518.6	19,535.2	2.1%	2.3%	1.0%
<b>All Other Nonfarm</b>							
Virginia	3,485.6	3,510.6	3,534.3	3,534.0	1.4%	2.7%	-0.1%
National	125,498.7	126,750.5	127,055.4	127,194.8	1.4%	1.4%	1.3%

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 the preliminary data released on Friday, September 16, 2017, by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Virginia's HC&SA sector enjoyed yet another strong month of employment growth in August with the creation of 2,500 new jobs across the state, which represents a one-month annualized growth rate of 7.0%.

In January, employment in Virginia's HC&SA sector fell by 1,400. Since then, however, HC&SA employment in the state has increased for seven consecutive months. In addition, Virginia's HC&SA sector has created more than 1,000 new jobs in each of the past six months. The 2,500 jobs that were created in August represent the largest one-month employment gain in Virginia's HC&SA sector since April.

While HC&SA job growth in Virginia has been particularly impressive over the past six months, its long-term employment growth has also been quite strong. Over the past year, Virginia's HC&SA sector has created an average of 858 jobs per month. This average monthly job gain translates into a 12-month employment growth rate of 2.4%, which is above the national average for the HC&SA sector.

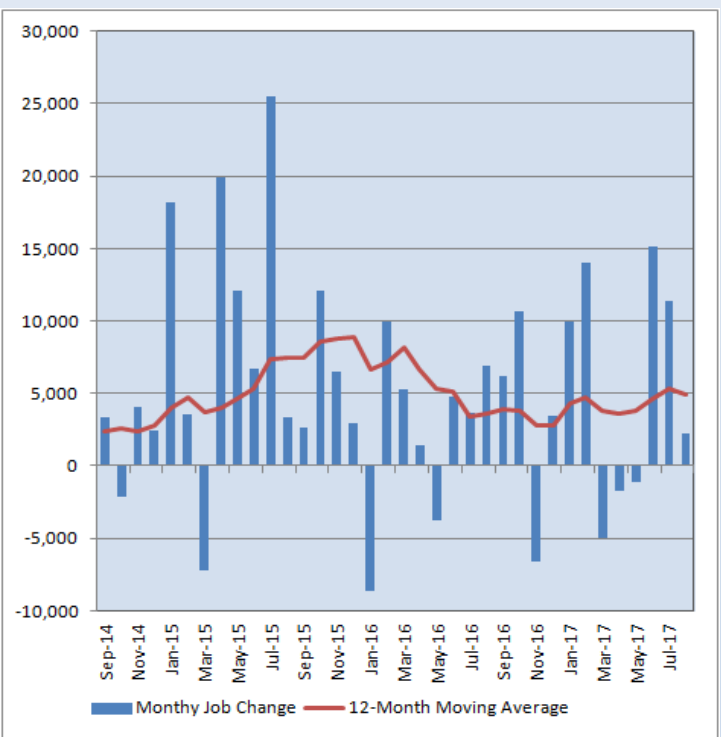
## Virginia Employment

After increasing by 26,500 over the previous two months, Virginia's total nonfarm payroll experienced a slight slowdown in August after growing by 2,200 during the month. Although this increase only represents a one-month annualized growth rate of 0.7%, it also represents the third consecutive month in which the state's total nonfarm payroll has increased. The last time in which Virginia's total nonfarm payroll increased for three consecutive months was between December 2016 and February 2017.

The growth in Virginia's total nonfarm payroll in August was entirely dependent upon the employment gains in the state's HC&SA sector. In fact, employment in Virginia's non-HC&SA sectors actually fell during the month by 300, which represents a one-month annualized growth rate of -0.1%. Regardless, Virginia's non-HC&SA sectors have still created 23,400 jobs over the past three months, which translates into a 2.7% annualized growth rate.

So far this year, Virginia's total nonfarm payroll has increased by 44,900. Over the first eight months of 2016, the state's total nonfarm payroll had only increased by 19,700.

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

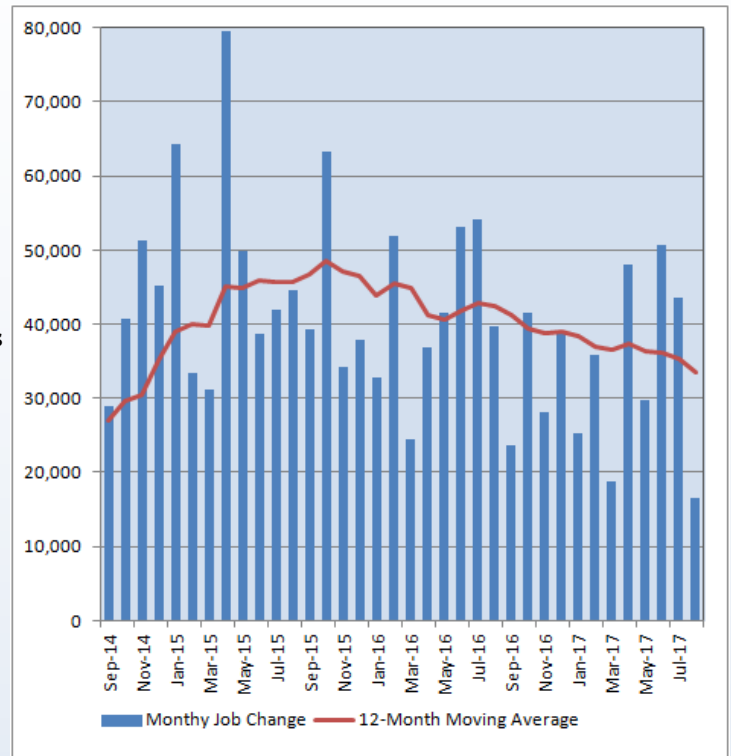


## National Employment

Although the national HC&SA sector created jobs yet again in August, employment growth in this sector cooled down considerably during the month. The national HC&SA sector created a total of 16,600 jobs in August. This gain represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 1.0%, which is less than half of the 2.1% employment growth rate in the national HC&SA sector over the past 12 months. In addition, this month's result represents the weakest one-month employment gain in the national HC&SA sector since April 2014. Meanwhile, the 12-month moving average of the employment change in the national HC&SA sector continues to trend downward. Over the past 12 months, the national economy has created an average of 33,408 HC&SA jobs per month.

Even with the weak employment results in the national HC&SA sector, the nation's total nonfarm payroll still increased by 156,000 in August, which represents a one-month annualized growth rate of 1.3%. Long-term growth has been slightly more impressive. Over the past year, the nation's total nonfarm payroll has increased by 2.1 million. This gain represents a 12-month growth rate of 1.4%.

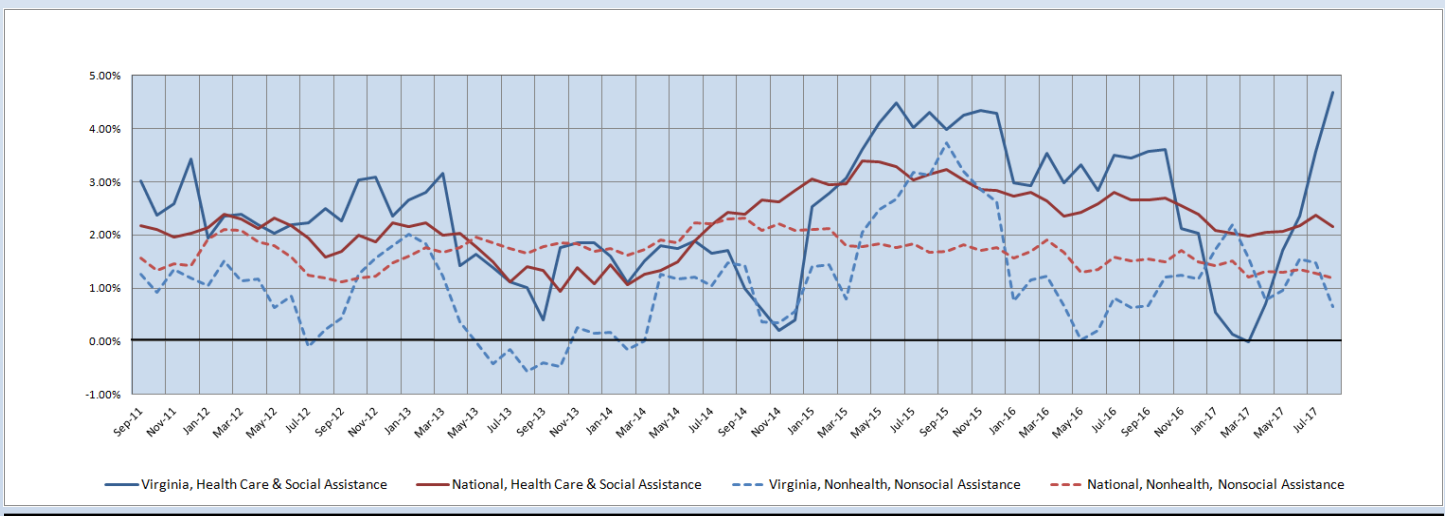
**Figure 3: Monthly Change in Employment in National Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted**



## State Employment Growth

The six-month moving average of the employment growth rate in Virginia's HC&SA sector increased yet again in August from 3.58% to 4.69%, thereby reaching a high not seen since 2008. On the other hand, the six-month moving average of the growth rate in Virginia's total nonfarm payroll fell by more than half in August from 1.47% to a one-year low of 0.65%. As for the national HC&SA sector, its six-month employment growth rate moving average fell slightly in August from 2.36% to 2.16%. The nation's total nonfarm payroll experienced a similar decline in its six-month growth rate moving average from 1.28% to 1.19%. This month's decline continues a long-term downward drift in the six-month moving average of the growth rate in the nation's total nonfarm payroll, which reached its lowest level since 2012 in August.

**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).