



Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

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

Series 1, Issue 95

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Highlights

- ◆ According to preliminary estimates, Virginia's Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector experienced no employment change in January on a seasonally adjusted basis. However, Virginia's HC&SA sector has still created 2,700 jobs over the past three months. This three-month employment gain translates into a 2.4% annualized growth rate.
- ◆ Although Virginia's HC&SA sector failed to create jobs in January, the state's total nonfarm payroll employment still increased by 3,800 during the month. This gain represents the third consecutive month of positive growth for Virginia's total nonfarm payroll employment.
- ◆ The national HC&SA sector created 42,600 new jobs in January, a gain that represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 2.5%. This growth rate is slightly below the long-term average for this sector. Over the past year, employment in the national HC&SA sector has grown by 2.6%.
- ◆ The nation's total nonfarm payroll experienced its largest monthly employment gain in nearly two years after increasing by 273,000 in January, which translates into a 2.2% annualized growth rate. This exceeds the 1.4% growth rate of the nation's total nonfarm payroll employment over the past year.

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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

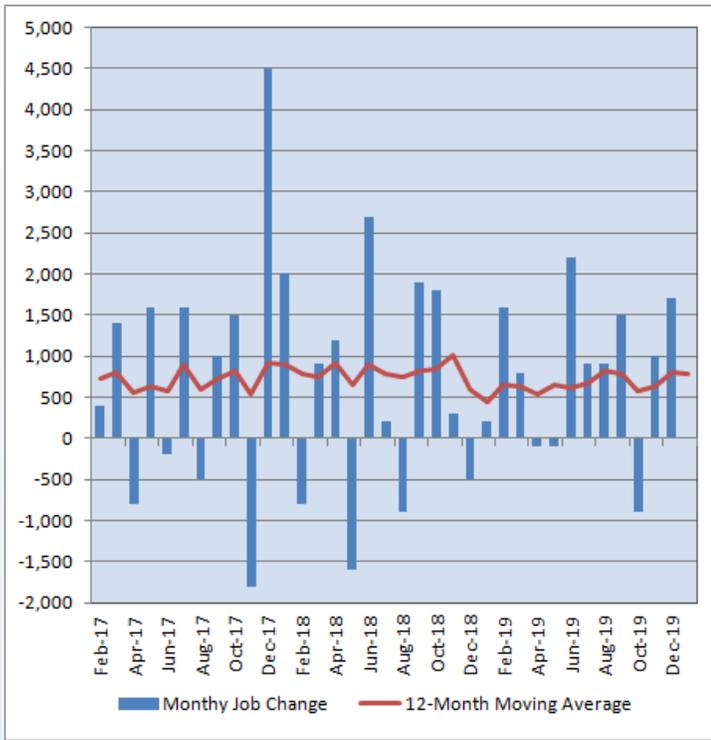
Seasonally Adjusted*	Employment, in Thousands				Growth Rate, Annualized		
	Jan. 2019	Oct. 2019	Dec. 2019	Jan. 2020	12 Month	3 Month	1 Month
Nonfarm, Total							
Virginia	4,042.0	4,063.6	4,087.9	4,091.7	1.2%	2.8%	1.1%
National	150,134.0	151,553.0	151,998.0	152,271.0	1.4%	1.9%	2.2%
Health Care & Social Assistance							
Virginia	453.9	460.7	463.4	463.4	2.1%	2.4%	0.0%
National	20,162.7	20,572.2	20,654.2	20,696.8	2.6%	2.4%	2.5%
All Other Nonfarm							
Virginia	3,588.1	3,602.9	3,624.5	3,628.3	1.1%	2.8%	1.3%
National	129,971.3	130,980.8	131,343.8	131,574.2	1.2%	1.8%	2.1%

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 Monday, March 16, 2020, by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Virginia’s Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector experienced no seasonally adjusted employment change in January. Despite this uneventful start to the new year, employment in this sector has still grown by 2,700 over the past three months, a gain that translates into a 2.4% annualized growth rate. This is equal to the comparable three-month average growth rate for the national HC&SA sector as a whole.

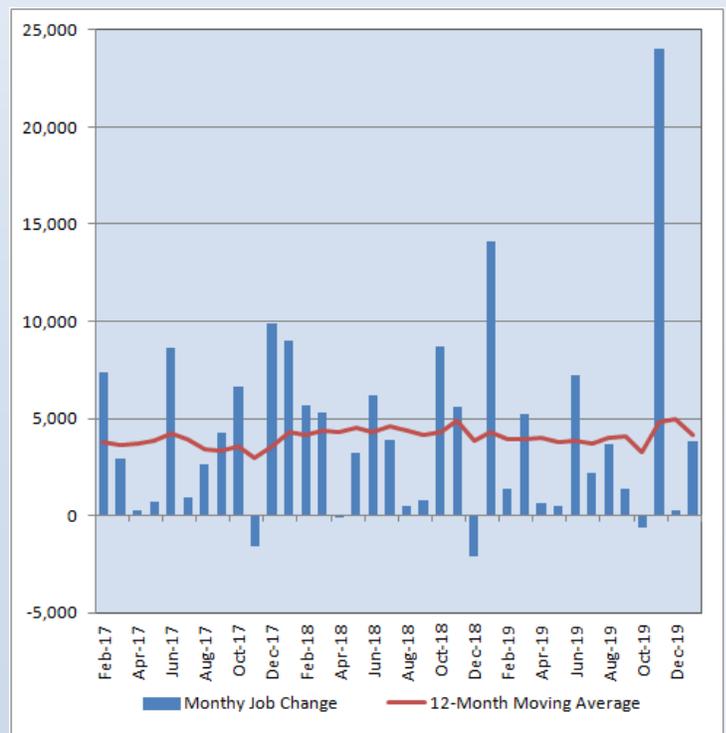
Long-term employment in this sector has been growing at a slightly slower rate. Over the past year, Virginia’s HC&SA sector has created 9,500 jobs, which represents a 12-month employment growth rate of 2.1%. Although this is below the 2.6% employment growth rate of the national HC&SA sector, it does exceed the comparable 1.2% growth rate for Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll employment. Although total employment in Virginia’s HC&SA sector held steady in January, its 12-month moving average fell slightly during the month. With this decline, Virginia’s HC&SA sector has created an average of 792 jobs per month over the past year.

Virginia Employment

The lack of employment growth in Virginia’s HC&SA sector did not prevent an increase in the state’s total nonfarm payroll employment during the month. In January, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 3,800. This gain represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 1.1%. In addition, this result represents the third consecutive month in which employment has increased. Over these past three months, total nonfarm payroll employment has grown by 28,100 across the state, a gain that translates into a 2.8% annualized growth rate. This growth rate is well above the comparable 1.9% average for the nation’s total nonfarm payroll employment.

The growth experienced by Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll employment in January is comparable to its long-term average. Over the past year, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll employment has increased by 49,700. This translates into a 1.2% annualized growth rate. Regardless, the 12-month moving average of the employment change for Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll fell by nearly one-fifth in January. With this decline, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll employment has grown by an average of 4,142 per month over the past year.

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

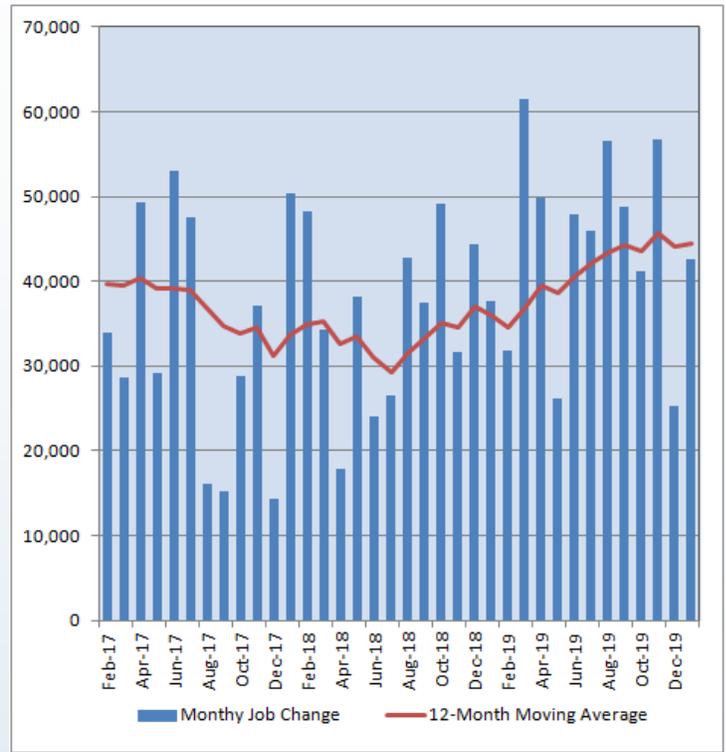


National Employment

The national HC&SA sector created 42,600 new jobs in January, a gain that represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 2.5%. January’s employment growth in the national HC&SA sector is in line with both its three-month and 12-month growth rates. Over the past three months, the national HC&SA sector has created 124,600 jobs, which translates into a 2.4% annualized employment growth rate. Meanwhile, employment in this sector has increased by 534,100 over the past year. This 12-month job gain represents a 2.6% annualized employment growth rate. With respect to both short-term and long-term employment growth, the national HC&SA sector is growing at a faster rate than the nation’s total nonfarm payroll.

Regardless, the nation’s total nonfarm payroll experienced very strong employment growth thanks to a gain of 273,000 in January. This employment gain represents the largest monthly increase in the nation’s total nonfarm payroll since May 2018. It also represents an improvement relative to its long-term average. In January, the nation’s total nonfarm payroll employment grew at a 2.2% annualized rate, which exceeds its current 12-month growth rate of 1.4%.

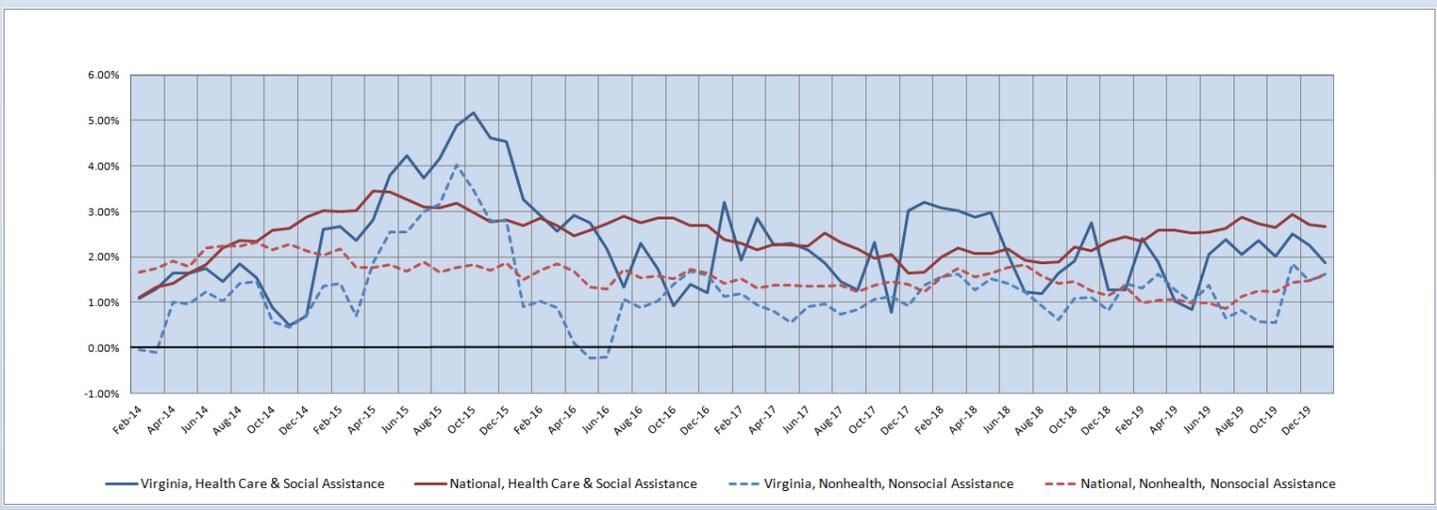
Figure 3: Monthly Change in Employment in National Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted



State Employment Growth

While there was no employment change in Virginia’s HC&SA sector in January, its six-month employment growth rate moving average fell from 2.26% to 1.87%, thereby reaching its lowest value since May 2019. Despite this fall, the current six-month moving average of the employment growth rate for Virginia’s HC&SA sector has still increased since last January. It is also greater than the comparable moving average for Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll employment, which increased from 1.49% to 1.62% in January. Meanwhile, the national HC&SA sector experienced a small decline in its six-month employment growth rate moving average from 2.71% to 2.67%. As for the nation’s total nonfarm payroll, its six-month employment growth rate moving average reached a one-and-a-half-year high of 1.61% in January.

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/PublicResources/HealthcareWorkforceDataCenter/.

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)

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About the Data

Data in this report are from the U.S. 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).