



Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

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

Series 1, Issue 43

August 2015

Highlights

- ◆ According to preliminary estimates, Virginia's Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector rebounded strongly in July with the creation of 1,400 new jobs throughout the state. This represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 4.1%.
- ◆ June's preliminary employment estimate for Virginia's HC&SA sector was revised downward by an additional 600 jobs. After this revision, Virginia's HC&SA sector experienced its worst monthly employment decline since 2005 as 2,100 jobs were shed in June.
- ◆ Despite the growth in Virginia's HC&SA sector, overall employment in the state fell for the first time since March as total nonfarm payroll declined by 2,500 during the month.
- ◆ Employment in the national HC&SA sector slowed down in June as just 30,100 new jobs were created during the month. This represents the lowest monthly employment gain for the national HC&SA sector since last October.
- ◆ The nation's total nonfarm payroll experienced a decent gain of 215,000 in June. Over the past 12 months, the national economy has seen employment grow by 2.1%, which is nearly twice the rate of Virginia's overall economy.

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Data in the report is seasonally adjusted, and includes employees of private firms only. Self-employed persons, including health professionals in private practice, are not included.

Data in Brief

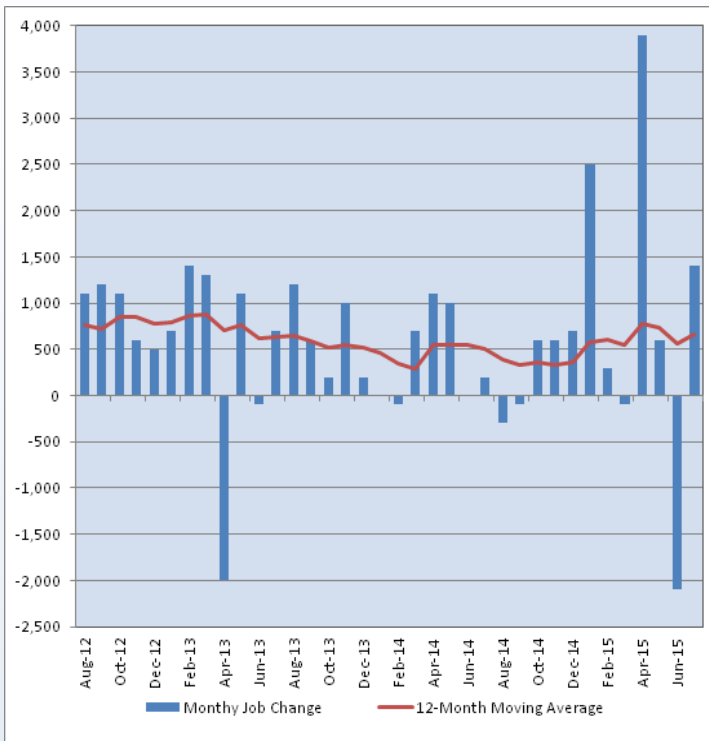
Seasonally Adjusted*	Employment, in Thousands				Growth Rate, Annualized		
	July 2014	Apr. 2015	June 2015	July 2015	12 Month	3 Month	1 Month
Nonfarm, Total							
Virginia	3,776.8	3,802.7	3,820.0	3,817.5	1.1%	1.6%	-0.8%
National	139,156.0	141,365.0	141,856.0	142,071.0	2.1%	2.0%	1.8%
Health & Social Assistance							
Virginia	408.8	416.9	415.4	416.8	2.0%	-0.1%	4.1%
National	18,079.2	18,461.9	18,575.7	18,605.8	2.9%	3.2%	2.0%
All Other Nonfarm							
Virginia	3,368.0	3,385.8	3,404.6	3,400.7	1.0%	1.8%	-1.4%
National	121,076.8	122,903.1	123,280.3	123,465.2	2.0%	1.8%	1.8%

Preliminary estimates are italicized

*Seasonally adjusted data is 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 has 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 Friday, August 21, 2015 by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Virginia's Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector had a very strong month in July as employment increased by 1,400 during the month. However, this gain was still not enough to overcome the losses of the previous month. June's preliminary estimate for HC&SA employment in the state was revised downward by an additional 600 jobs. With this revision, the sector lost 2,100 jobs, which represents its worst one-month employment decline since October 2005.

Although Virginia's HC&SA sector has experienced a small net decline in employment over the past three months, it has still been a very good year for the sector. So far in 2015, Virginia's HC&SA sector has created 6,500 jobs, which represents nearly one-third of all statewide employment growth. In addition, Virginia's HC&SA sector has already created more jobs than in all of 2014. In fact, for the full year of 2014, Virginia's HC&SA sector only managed to increase employment by 4,400.

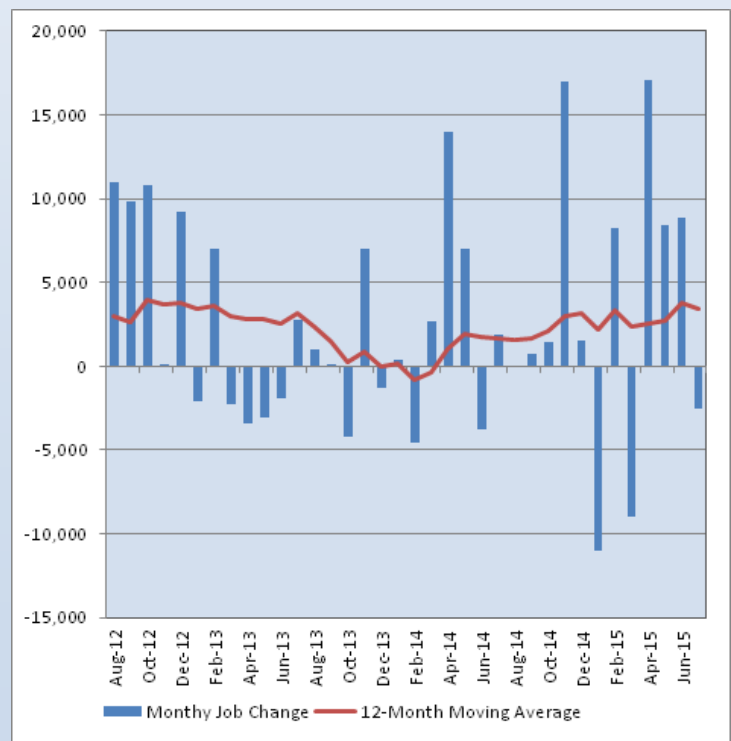
Virginia Employment

According to preliminary estimates, Virginia's total nonfarm payroll fell in July by 2,500, which represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of -0.8% . Meanwhile, June's preliminary employment estimate was revised downward by 4,500; even with this decline, however, Virginia's economy still created 8,900 jobs during the month.

With July's result, Virginia's total nonfarm payroll broke a three-month streak of positive employment growth. This decline also reduced the 12-month moving average of the level change in Virginia's total nonfarm payroll; currently, Virginia's economy has created an average of 3,392 jobs per month over the past year. At its current level, the 12-month moving average of the level change in Virginia's total nonfarm payroll has doubled since July 2014.

Over the past year, Virginia's HC&SA sector has been responsible for 20% of the 40,700 jobs that have been created throughout the state. However, this sector's importance to the state's economy has been increasing. For instance, so far this year, Virginia's HC&SA sector has been responsible for nearly one-third all of all statewide employment growth.

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

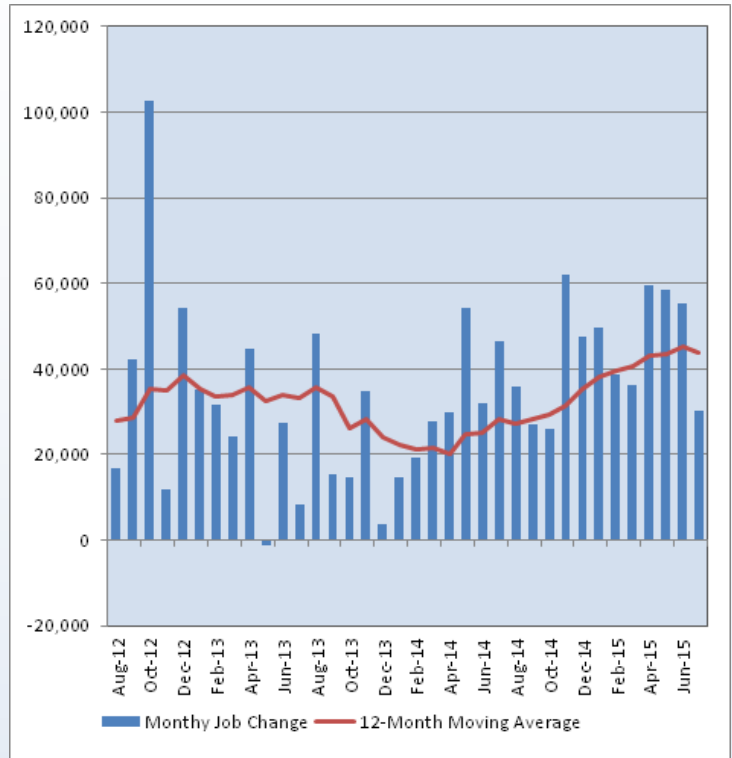


National Employment

Preliminary estimates indicate that the national HC&SA sector experienced its weakest monthly employment gain since last October. In July, the overall national economy created 30,100 jobs, which represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 2.0%. Meanwhile, the nation's total nonfarm payroll experienced a gain that exceeded 200,000 for the third-consecutive month in July. According to preliminary estimates, the overall national economy created 215,000 jobs during the month. This represents a 1.8% annualized employment growth rate.

Given July's relatively modest job growth, the 12-month moving average of the level change in national HC&SA employment fell during the month to 43,883. Regardless, this level still represents a marked improvement for the national HC&SA sector, which has been enjoying stronger employment growth over the past year. In fact, despite July's decline, this 12-month moving average has more than doubled since reaching a low of 20,167 in April 2014. So far this year, the overall national economy has created 1.48 million jobs; the national HC&SA sector has been responsible for 22% of these gains.

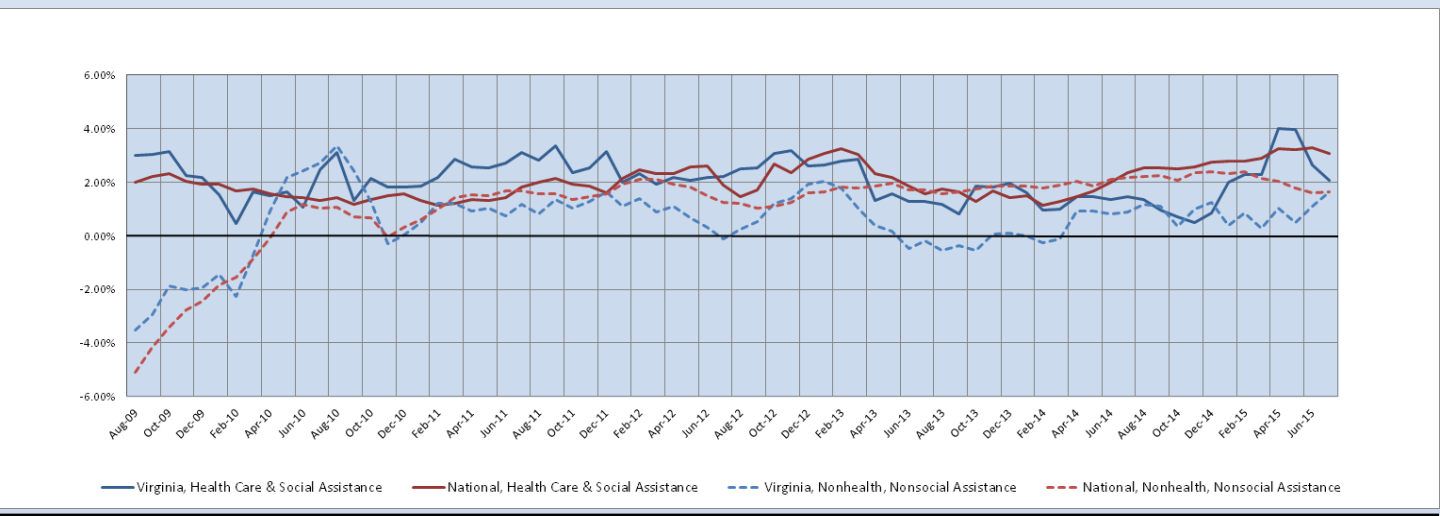
Figure 3: Monthly Change in Employment in National Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted



Employment Growth

After reaching nearly 4.0% in April, the six-month moving average of the employment growth rate in Virginia's HC&SA sector has declined by nearly half to 2.09% in July. Despite this fall, however, Virginia's HC&SA sector is still growing faster than the state's overall economy, although the gap between the two respective growth rates has been narrowing considerably over the past three months. Since May, the six-month moving average of the employment growth rate of Virginia's total nonfarm payroll has increased from 0.49% to 1.65%, its highest value since February 2013. Meanwhile, the six-month moving average of the employment growth rate in the national HC&SA sector dipped to 3.06% in July, while the nation's total nonfarm payroll saw its respective six-month moving average increase slightly to 1.64% during the month.

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/.

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 is 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 is 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. Approximately 54,500 of Virginia's public sector workers worked in the HC&SA sector in 2010 at the federal, state and local levels).
- ◆ 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).