



# Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

Indicators from the Bureau of Labor Statistics'

Current Employment Statistics Survey

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

Series 1, Issue 46

November 2015

### Highlights

- ◆ According to preliminary estimates, Virginia's Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector lost 800 jobs in October, which represents a one-month annualized growth rate of -2.3%. Despite this month's loss, however, Virginia's HC&SA sector has still created 5,000 jobs so far this year.
- ◆ September's preliminary estimate for HC&SA employment in the state was revised upward by 1,400 jobs. After this large, upward revision, Virginia's HC&SA sector managed to eek out a small gain for the month as employment increased by 100 in September.
- ◆ Virginia's overall economy enjoyed its best monthly employment gain since April after the state's total nonfarm payroll increased by 11,900 during the month. So far this year, Virginia has created a total of 30,000 new jobs.
- ◆ The national HC&SA sector added 56,700 jobs, which represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 3.7%. So far this year, Virginia has been responsible for just over 1% of all nationwide HC&SA job growth.
- ◆ The national economy had its best month of employment gains in 2015 after creating 271,000 jobs in October. Over the past 12 months, the HC&SA sector has been responsible for 22% of all nationwide employment growth.

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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

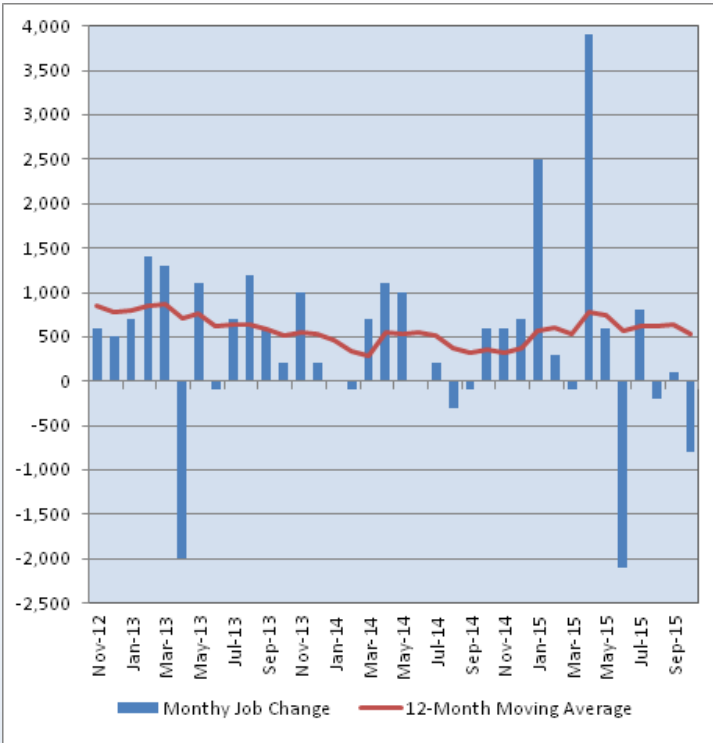
| Seasonally Adjusted*                  | Employment, in Thousands |           |            |           | Growth Rate, Annualized |         |         |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-------------------------|---------|---------|
|                                       | Oct. 2014                | July 2015 | Sept. 2015 | Oct. 2015 | 12 Month                | 3 Month | 1 Month |
| <b>Nonfarm, Total</b>                 |                          |           |            |           |                         |         |         |
| Virginia                              | 3,778.9                  | 3,817.0   | 3,815.5    | 3,927.4   | 1.3%                    | 1.1%    | 3.8%    |
| National                              | 139,840.0                | 142,093.0 | 142,383.0  | 142,654.0 | 2.0%                    | 1.6%    | 2.3%    |
| <b>Health &amp; Social Assistance</b> |                          |           |            |           |                         |         |         |
| Virginia                              | 409.0                    | 416.2     | 416.1      | 415.3     | 1.5%                    | -0.9%   | -2.3%   |
| National                              | 18,168.3                 | 18,617.6  | 18,717.8   | 18,774.5  | 3.3%                    | 3.4%    | 3.7%    |
| <b>All Other Nonfarm</b>              |                          |           |            |           |                         |         |         |
| Virginia                              | 3,369.9                  | 3,400.8   | 3,399.4    | 3,412.1   | 1.3%                    | 1.3%    | 4.6%    |
| National                              | 121,671.7                | 123,475.4 | 123,665.2  | 123,879.5 | 1.8%                    | 1.3%    | 2.1%    |

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, November 20, 2015 by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Virginia's Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector saw employment decline by 800 in October. However, at the same time, September's employment estimate was revised upward by 1,400, turning what had originally been estimated to be a loss of 1,300 jobs into a small gain of 100 jobs during the month.

Despite October's employment decline, Virginia's HC&SA sector is still doing very well in 2015. So far this year, this sector has created 5,000 jobs across the state, which is considerably greater than the 3,100 jobs that were created though the first ten months of 2014. However, most of this growth was created in the first four months of the year. Since May, Virginia's HC&SA sector has actually lost 1,600 jobs.

Over the past 12 months, Virginia's HC&SA sector has created an average of 525 jobs per month. This represents the lowest average monthly gain for the sector since December 2014.

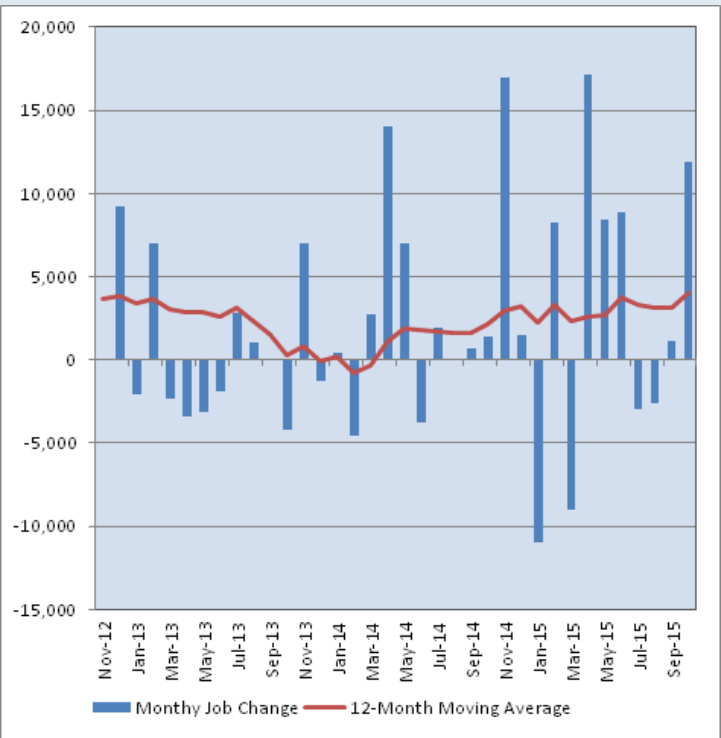
## Virginia Employment

According to preliminary estimates, Virginia's total nonfarm payroll grew by 11,900 in October. Not only does this represent a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 3.8%, but it also represents its best monthly gain since April. Meanwhile, September's preliminary estimate for Virginia's total nonfarm payroll was revised upward by 1,300. After this revision, Virginia's economy managed to produce 1,100 jobs in September.

So far this year, Virginia's total nonfarm payroll has grown by 30,000, which suggests a significant improvement in the overall state of Virginia's economy relative to the previous year. By way of comparison, at the same point in 2014, the state's total nonfarm payroll had only managed to grow by 19,700 jobs.

This improvement can also be seen in the growth of the 12-month moving average of the level change in Virginia's total nonfarm payroll. Over the past 12 months, Virginia's overall economy has created an average of 4,042 jobs per month. This represents the highest such average for the state's overall economy in nearly four years.

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

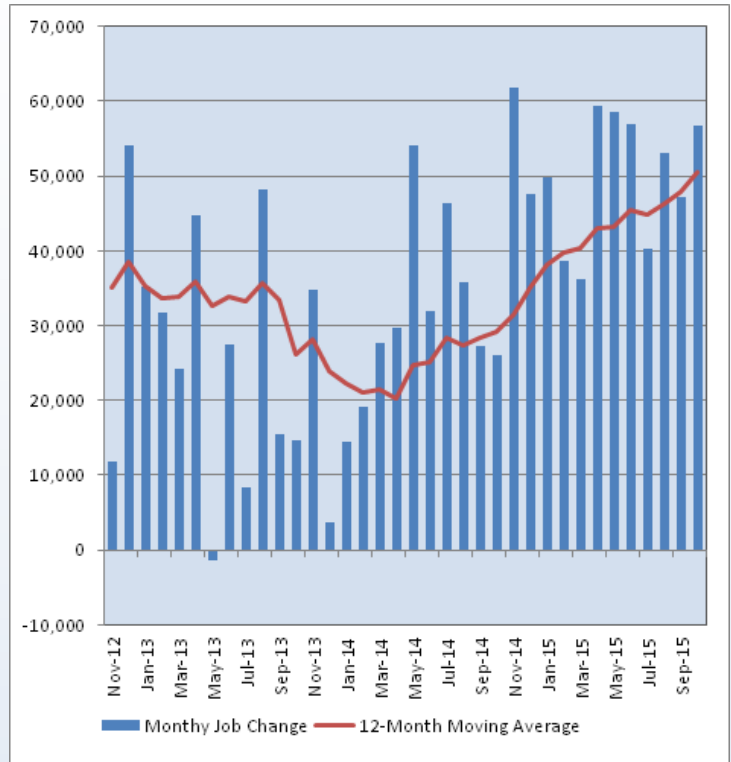


## National Employment

While Virginia's economic results were somewhat mixed in October, the national economy enjoyed more unambiguously positive news during the month. The national HC&SA sector enjoyed its best monthly job gain since June after created 56,700 jobs in October, which represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 3.7%. Thanks in part to this growth, the 12-month moving average of the level change in the national HC&SA sector increased for the third consecutive month to 50,517. This represents the highest level for this moving average in more than a decade.

Meanwhile, the overall national economy also enjoyed a strong month in October as the nation's total nonfarm payroll increased by 271,000, which represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 2.3%. The national economy has not produced this many jobs in a single month since last December when 329,000 jobs were created. The national HC&SA sector continued to be a significant driver of this nationwide employment growth. Over the past 12 months, the national HC&SA sector has been responsible for 22% of the increase in the nation's total nonfarm payroll, a level last reached in May 2011.

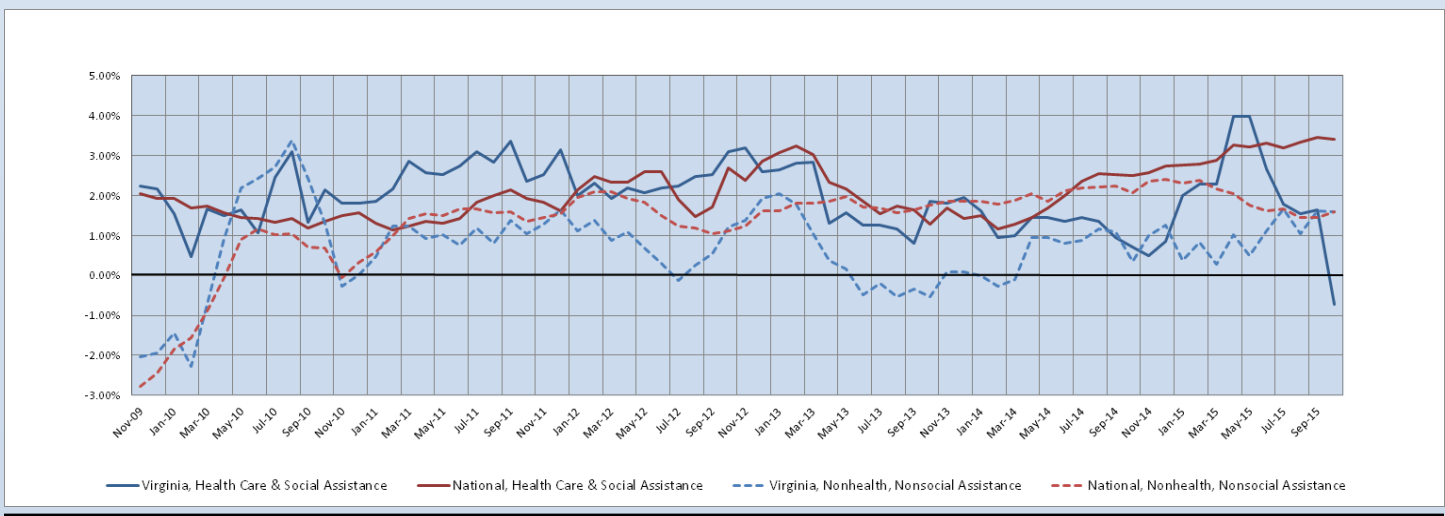
**Figure 3: Monthly Change in Employment in National Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted**



## Employment Growth

With October's job losses, the six-month moving average of the employment growth rate in Virginia's HC&SA sector dropped from 1.64% to -0.73%. This represents the first time that this moving average has fallen into negative territory since 2000. In addition, despite the strong month of employment growth in Virginia's overall economy, the six-month moving average of the employment growth rate in Virginia's total nonfarm payroll also fell during the month, although this decline was very modest, falling from 1.62% to 1.59%. As for the national economy, the six-month national HC&SA employment growth rate moving average also fell modestly from 3.46% to 3.42% in October, while the comparable moving average for the nation's total nonfarm payroll actually increased slightly from 1.46% to 1.60% during the month.

**Figure 4: Six-Month Moving Average, Employment Growth, Seasonally Adjusted**



## Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Perimeter Center  
9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300  
Henrico, VA 23233-1463

Phone: (804) 367-2115  
Fax: (804) 527-4434  
E-mail: [hwdc@dhp.virginia.gov](mailto:hwdc@dhp.virginia.gov)

[www.dhp.virginia.gov/hwdc/](http://www.dhp.virginia.gov/hwdc/)

### *HWDC Staff:*

|                                                             |                                            |                                                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Dr. Elizabeth Carter,<br>Ph.D.<br><i>Executive Director</i> | Laura Jackson<br><i>Operations Manager</i> | Christopher Coyle<br><i>Research Assistant</i> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|

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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 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).