



Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

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

Series 1, Issue 45

October 2015

Highlights

- ◆ According to preliminary estimates, Virginia's Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector lost 1,300 jobs in September. Employment in Virginia's HC&SA sector has cooled off over the past four months, but the state has still created 4,400 HC&SA jobs in 2015.
- ◆ August's preliminary HC&SA employment estimate was revised downward by 1,800 jobs. Before this revision, Virginia's HC&SA sector was estimated to have created 1,600 jobs in August. However, after this revision, the state actually lost 200 HC&SA jobs during the month.
- ◆ Virginia's total nonfarm payroll declined for the third consecutive month in September, although this month's decline was relatively modest at a statewide loss of just 200 jobs.
- ◆ The national HC&SA sector experienced its weakest monthly job gain since March after employment increased by only 36,400 in September, which represents a one-month annualized growth rate of 2.4%.
- ◆ For the second consecutive month, the national economy failed to produce at least 200,000 new jobs. In September, the nation's total nonfarm payroll grew by 142,000, which represents a one-month annualized growth rate of 1.0%.

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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

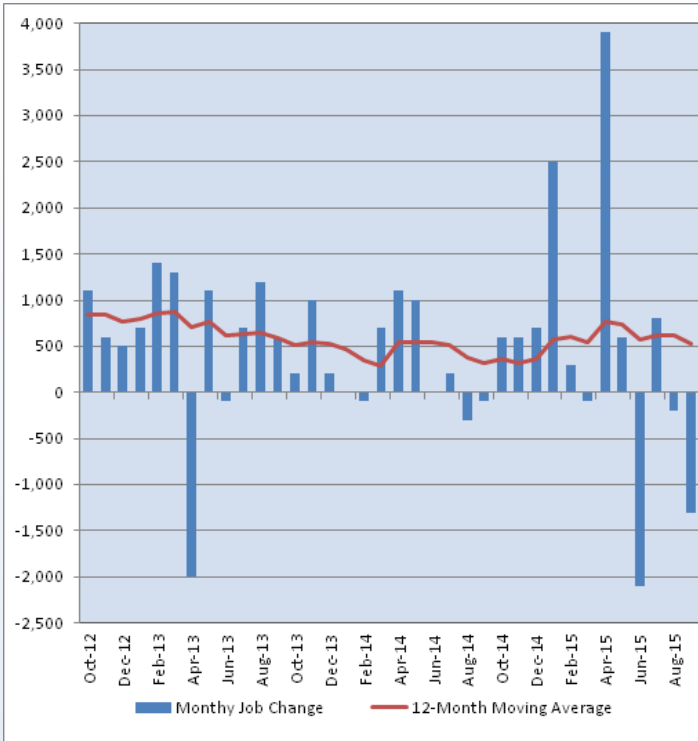
Seasonally Adjusted*	Employment, in Thousands				Growth Rate, Annualized		
	Sept. 2014	June 2015	Aug. 2015	Sept. 2015	12 Month	3 Month	1 Month
Nonfarm, Total							
Virginia	3,777.5	3,820.0	3,814.4	3,814.2	1.0%	-0.6%	-0.1%
National	139,619.0	141,870.0	142,229.0	142,371.0	2.0%	1.4%	1.2%
Health & Social Assistance							
Virginia	408.4	415.4	416.0	414.7	1.5%	-0.7%	-3.7%
National	18,142.3	18,577.4	18,665.2	18,701.6	3.1%	2.7%	2.4%
All Other Nonfarm							
Virginia	3,369.1	3,404.6	3,398.4	3,399.5	0.9%	-0.6%	0.4%
National	121,476.7	123,292.6	123,563.8	123,669.4	1.8%	1.2%	1.0%

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 Tuesday, October 20, 2015 by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Virginia's Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector lost 1,300 jobs in September. Virginia's HC&SA sector has now seen employment decline in three of the past four months. Despite this recent weakness, however, the state has still seen HC&SA employment increase by 4,400 so far this year. This still represents a significant improvement when compared to the previous year. During the first nine months of 2014, Virginia's HC&SA sector had only created 2,500 new jobs.

Over the past 12 months, Virginia's HC&SA sector has added an average of 525 jobs per month throughout the state. This represents the lowest 12-month moving average of the level change in Virginia's HC&SA employment since December 2014. Regardless, the state has seen HC&SA employment increase by 1.5% over the past year. Although this is less than half the nationwide HC&SA employment growth rate, Virginia's HC&SA sector is still growing at a faster rate than the state's total nonfarm payroll.

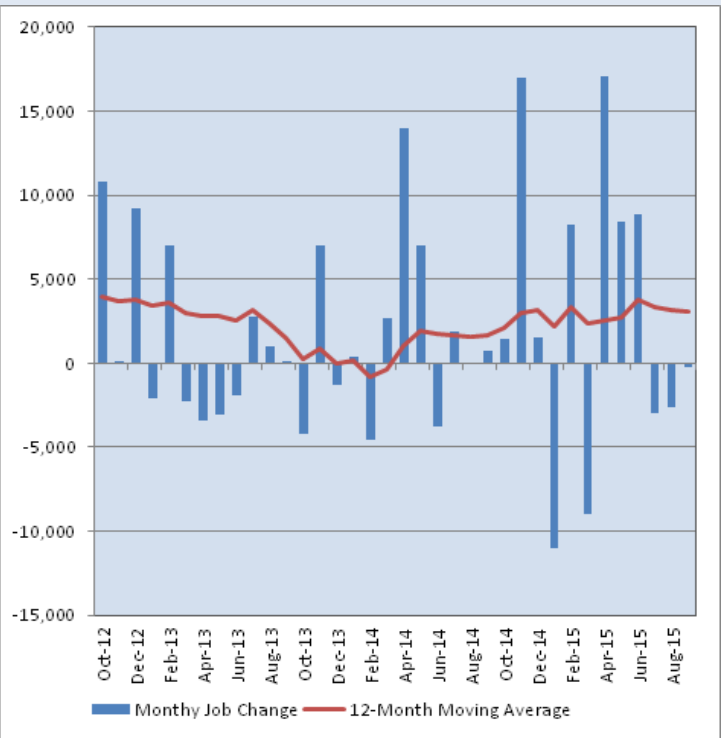
Virginia Employment

According to preliminary estimates, Virginia's total nonfarm payroll experienced a modest decline of 200 in September, which represents a one-month annualized growth rate of -0.1%. This also represents the third consecutive month in which Virginia's total nonfarm payroll has declined, an event that has not occurred in more than two years. Despite this weakness during the third quarter, in which Virginia's overall economy lost 5,800 jobs, the state's total nonfarm payroll has still grown by 16,800 so far this year.

After reaching a two-and-a-half year high of 3,758.3 in June, the 12-month moving average of the level change in Virginia's total nonfarm payroll has declined by 19% to 3,058.3. Although Virginia's overall economy has experienced significant employment weakness over the past three months, which has contributed to this fall, the state's total nonfarm payroll has still grown by a relatively modest 1.0% over the past year.

During the past 12 months, Virginia's HC&SA sector has been responsible for 17% of all statewide employment growth. This is below the national average of 20%.

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

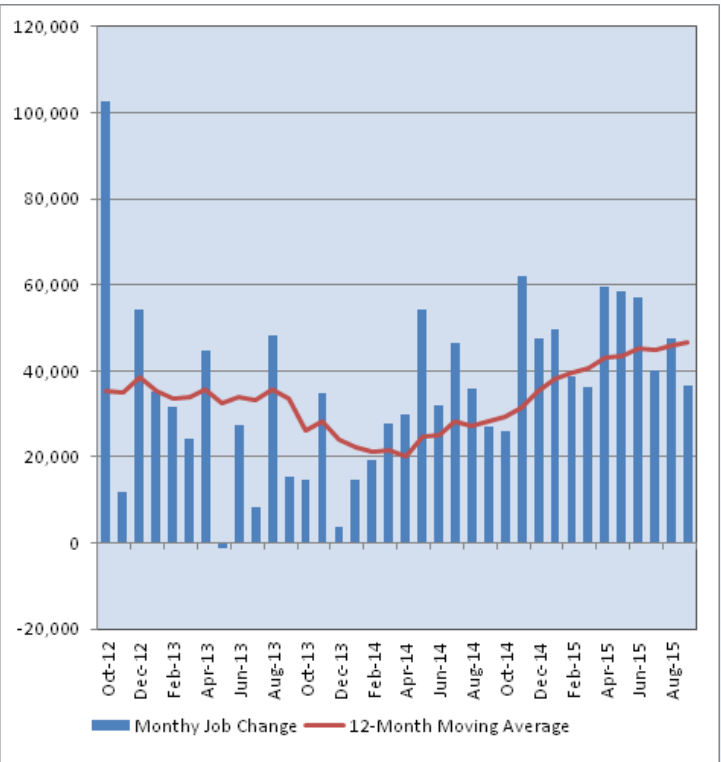


National Employment

The national economy mirrored Virginia's weakness in September. The national HC&SA sector created just 36,400 jobs during the month, which represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 2.4%. This also represents its weakest monthly employment gain in six months. Regardless, the 12-month moving average of the level change in national HC&SA employment actually increased during the month. Over the past 12 months, the national HC&SA sector has created an average of 46,608 jobs per month, its highest monthly average in more than a decade. This translates into a 12-month annualized employment growth rate of 3.1%.

Meanwhile, the nation's total nonfarm payroll grew by only 142,000 in September, a slight improvement relative to the 136,000 jobs added in August. The growth in total nonfarm payroll has declined considerably over these past two months. Between May and June, for instance, the overall national economy created an average of 243,000 jobs per month. In addition, between March 2014 and February 2015, the monthly gain in total nonfarm payroll never fell below 200,000, but this has already occurred four times in the past seven months.

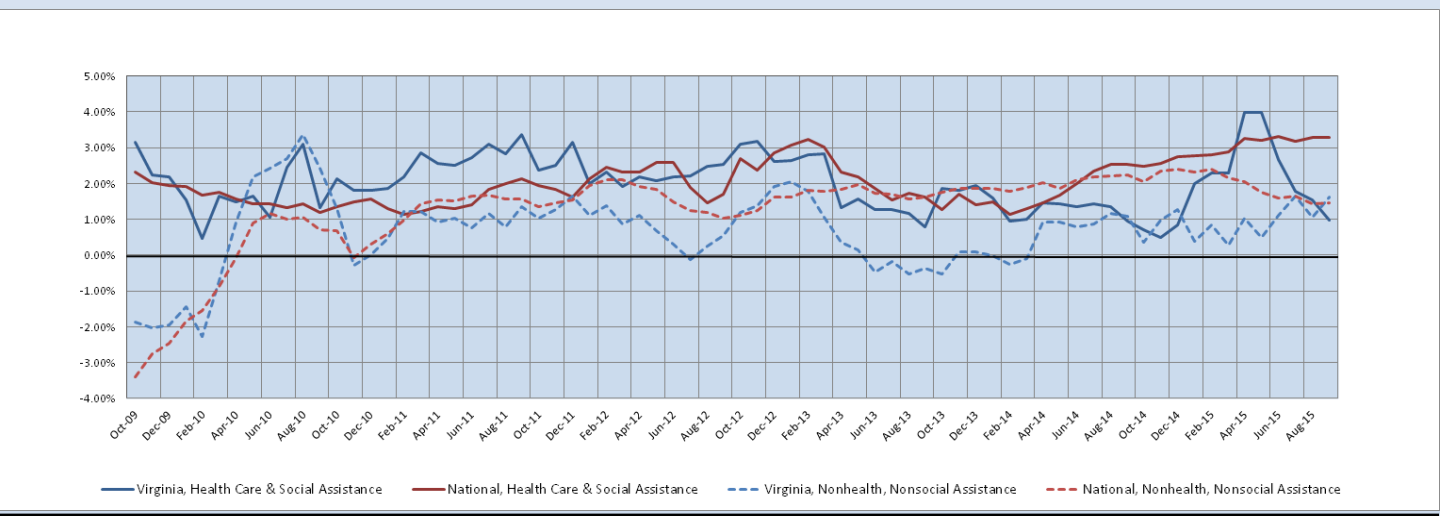
Figure 3: Monthly Change in Employment in National Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted



Employment Growth

In April 2015, the six-month moving average of the employment growth rate in Virginia's HC&SA sector reached a nearly seven-year high of 3.99%. Since then, however, this moving average has fallen by 75%, reaching a ten-month low of 0.98% in September. This significant decline comes at a time when the national HC&SA sector has seen its six-month employment growth rate moving average trend modestly upward. In September, the six-month moving average of the employment growth rate in the national HC&SA sector held steady at 3.28%, but this still represents an 18% increase relative to the beginning of the year. Meanwhile, the six-month moving average of the employment growth rate in Virginia's total nonfarm payroll increased to 1.63% in September, and the corresponding rate for the national economy rose to 1.46%.

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).