



# Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

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

Series 1, Issue 20

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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.

## Highlights

- ◆ According to preliminary estimates, Virginia's Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector added 1,400 jobs in July.
- ◆ June's preliminary estimate for employment in Virginia's HC&SA sector remained unchanged, at 200 jobs lost. Virginia's HC&SA sector lost 2,500 jobs in May.
- ◆ So far in 2013, Virginia's HC&SA sector has added just 1,900 jobs. 2013 has been a volatile year for the sector, with month-to-month swings averaging 3,500 jobs per month. Jobs were lost in four months and gained in three.
- ◆ Growth in the national HC&SA sector slowed in July, adding only 8,300 jobs. Year-to-date, employment in the national HC&SA sector has increased by 152,400 jobs, of which Virginia has been responsible for 1.94%.
- ◆ Virginia's total nonfarm payroll increased by 1,400 jobs in July, equivalent to the number of jobs in the HC&SA sector. Employment has increased by 1.4% over the past 12 months, which is below the national average. Virginia's HC&SA sector accounts for 21% of job growth in the state in the past 12 months.

## Data in Brief

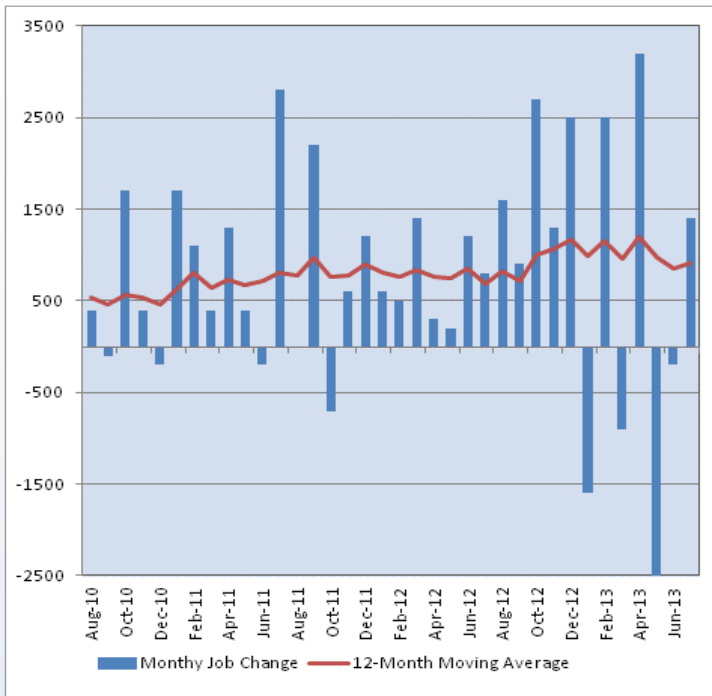
Seasonally Adjusted*	Employment, in Thousands				Growth Rate, Annualized		
	July 2012	Apr 2013	June 2013	July 2013	12 Month	3 Month	1 Month
<b>Nonfarm, Total</b>							
Virginia	3,713.5	3,767.6	3,763.7	3,765.1	1.4%	-0.3%	0.4%
National	133,762.0	135,512.0	135,876.0	136,038.0	1.7%	1.6%	1.4%
<b>Health &amp; Social Assistance</b>							
Virginia	392.4	404.6	401.9	403.3	2.8%	-1.3%	4.3%
National	16,973.3	17,266.9	17,295.0	17,303.3	1.9%	0.8%	0.6%
<b>All Other Nonfarm</b>							
Virginia	3,321.1	3,363.0	3,361.8	3,361.8	1.2%	-0.1%	0.0%
National	116,788.7	118,245.1	118,581.0	118,734.7	1.7%	1.7%	1.6%

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 &**



According to preliminary data released on July 19, 2013 by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Virginia's HC&SA sector gained 1,400 jobs in July, continuing the trend of high volatility in the sector this year. June's estimates were unchanged at 200 jobs lost on the month. There are currently 403,300 payroll jobs in Virginia's HC&SA sector.

While positive, the July estimate adds another large swing in the fortunes of Virginia's HC&SA Sector. Thus far, the sector has experienced four months of job losses to three months of gains. The average magnitude of each swing is 3,500 jobs. Nevertheless, with the latest swing to positive, the sector has added 1,900 jobs so far in 2013.

The 12-month moving average of HC&SA employment change also ticked up by 50 jobs, to 908 jobs added each month. It still remains below levels seen around the end of 2012, when the 12-month MA hovered around 1,000 jobs added each month.

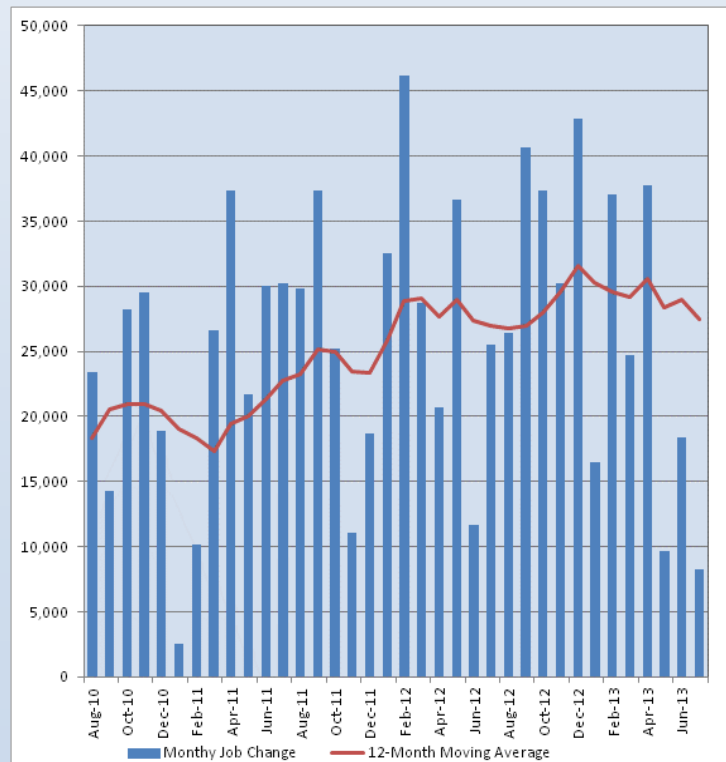
## National HC&SA Employment

The national HC&SA sector continued to add jobs in July, although less than it has in over two years. Preliminary estimates indicate that only 8,300 jobs were added during the month. Additionally, the BLS lowered its June estimate by 8,100 jobs, its lowest level since September, 2012.

Through July, the national HC&SA sector has added 152,400 jobs year-to-date, almost 50,000 fewer jobs than were added in the sector through July in 2012. Recent weakness in the national sector has allowed Virginia to become responsible for 1.25% of the year-to-date gains in the national HC&SA sector.

Over the past 12 months, the national HC&SA sector has seen employment grow by 1.9%. It has grown slightly faster than the national economy as a whole, which has grown at just 1.7% during the same time period. Virginia's HC&SA sector has grown by 2.8% over the same period, almost twice the rate of Virginia's economy as a whole, which grew at 1.4%.

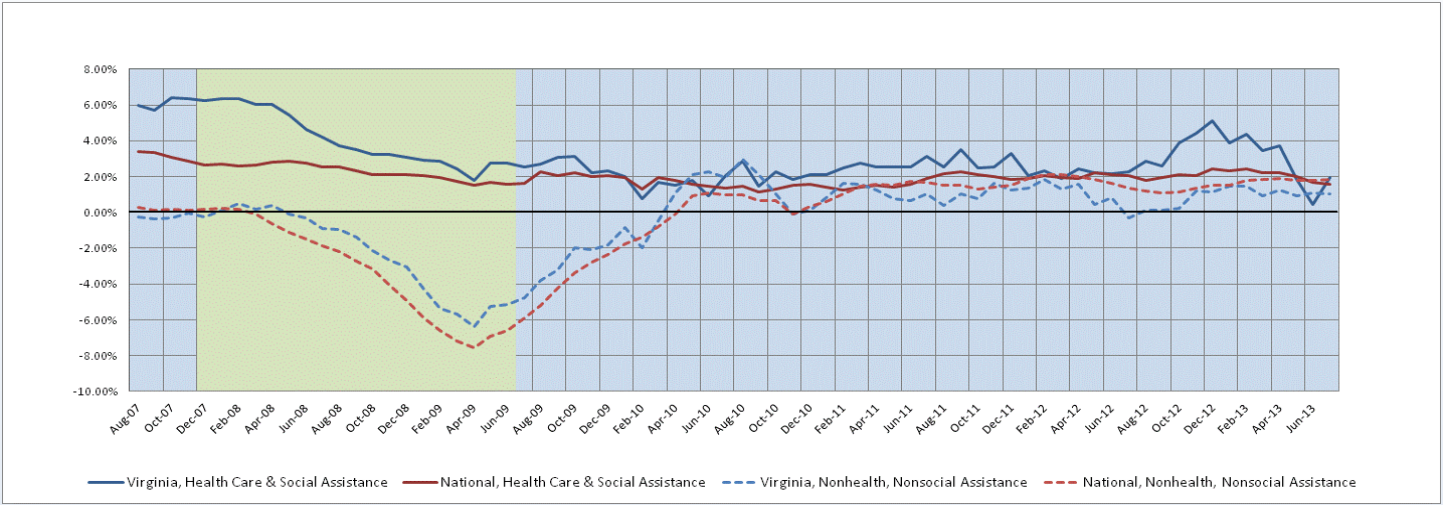
**Figure 2: Monthly Change in Employment in National Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted.**



### Employment Growth

The six-month moving average of employment growth in Virginia’s HC&SA sector increased for the first time since February in July, to 1.94%, annualized. It is above the same figure for Virginia’s non-HC&SA economy and both the national HC&SA sector and non-HC&SA sector after dipping below all three for one month in June. Virginia’s HC&SA sector has consistently outperformed both Virginia’s non-HC&SA sector and the national HC&SA sector for well over a decade, dipping lower only occasionally. Similarly, the national HC&SA sector has consistently outperformed the rest of the national economy, despite the 6-month moving average dipping slightly lower recently.

**Figure 3: Six-Month Moving Average, Employment Growth, Seasonally Adjusted**

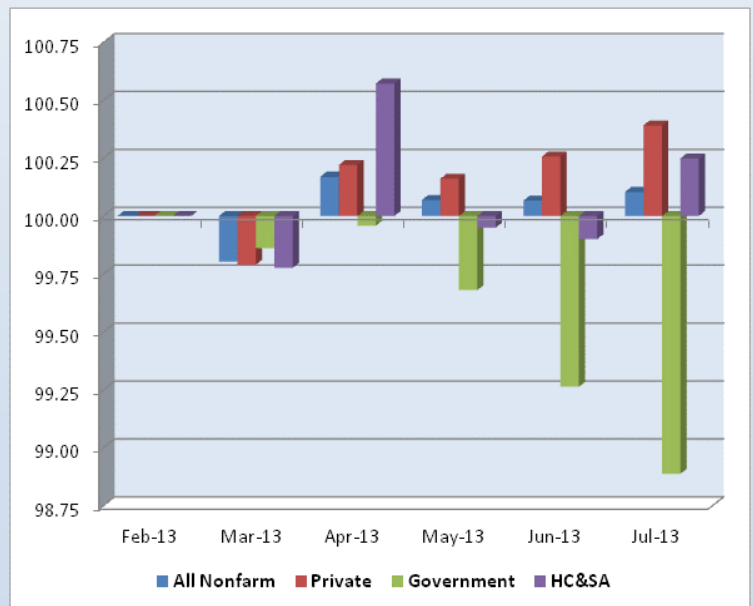


### Post-Sequester Employment Change

The conventional wisdom surrounding the sequester is that Virginia will be disproportionately impacted due to the importance of direct Federal and Military spending to the state economy. Using employment levels in February 2013 as a baseline (100 in the accompanying chart), we see that direct government employment has declined since the sequester, while private employment has grown. The sequester also included some cuts to national health & social programs, while leaving major programs such as Medicare, Medicaid and the ACA intact. HC&SA employment has been volatile this year, and that is reflected in this chart as well.

How much of the decrease in government employment is due to sequester is still open to debate. Level changes are small: the largest change through July is the 1.1% drop in government jobs. Virginia experienced a similarly sized decrease in government jobs over the same period in 2012, although such a drop is unusual. Government employment peaked in Virginia in February after rising rapidly to 718,700 payroll jobs from a trough of 704,000 in July 2012, which may be exaggerating the drop-off. Additionally, the private sector has added jobs despite the potential for a trickle-down effect on private business servicing government contracts. Nevertheless, the government sector has acted as a drag on job growth in Virginia since the sequester took affect.

**Figure 4: Virginia Employment Change since Sequester, SA**



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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)

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## 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 140,000 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).
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