



Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

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

Series 1, Issue 17

May 2013

Inside this Brief:

Jobs Created	2
Employment Growth	2
Share of Employment Growth	3
Growth Trends	3
About the Data	4

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 had its strongest month so far in 2013, adding 2,700 jobs in April. April's results account for all the payroll job growth seen in Virginia's health care industry over the first four months of 2013.
- ◆ Preliminary estimates for HC&SA payroll jobs in March were revised downward by 300 jobs. With this revision, the HC&SA sector lost 900 jobs in March.
- ◆ The national HC&SA sector added 26,100 jobs in April, representing a one-month annualized growth rate of 1.8%. This is a minor slowdown in national HC&SA employment when compared to the 12-month payroll growth rate of 2.1%.
- ◆ Virginia's HC&SA sector was responsible for 10.3% of all payroll job growth in the health care industry nationwide in April. This represents Virginia's highest share of national HC&SA growth in more than two years.
- ◆ Virginia's overall economy also did very well in April, adding 12,100 jobs during the month. Although this was less than the 16,200 jobs added in February, it still represents a strong one-month annualized growth rate of 3.9%.

Data in Brief

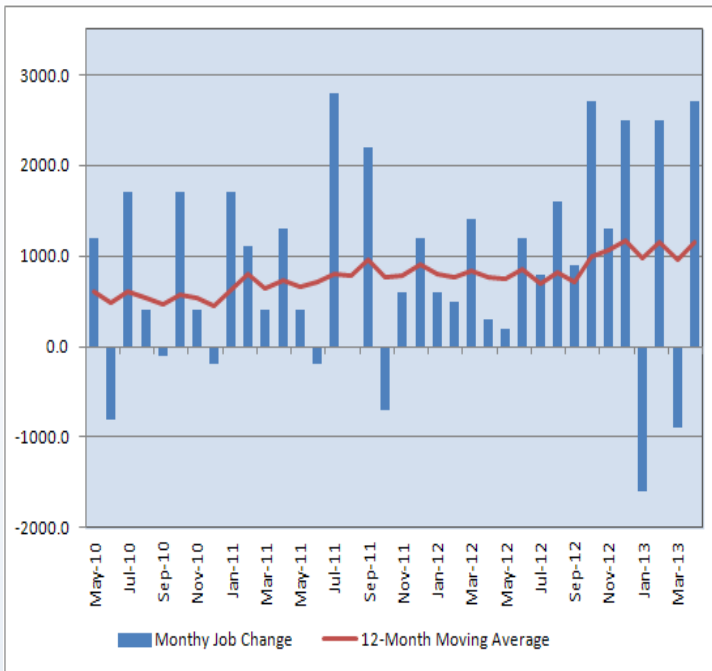
Seasonally Adjusted*	Employment, in Thousands				Growth Rate, Annualized		
	Apr. 2012	Jan. 2012	Mar. 2012	Apr. 2013	12 Month	3 Month	1 Month
Nonfarm, Total							
Virginia	3,729.2	3,745.0	3,753.8	3,765.9	1.0%	2.3%	3.9%
National	133,397.0	134,839.0	135,309.0	135,474.0	1.6%	1.9%	1.5%
Health & Social Assistance							
Virginia	390.2	399.8	401.4	404.1	3.6%	4.4%	8.4%
National	16,899.5	17,167.4	17,230.9	17,257.0	2.1%	2.1%	1.8%
All Other Nonfarm							
Virginia	3,339.0	3,345.2	3,352.4	3,361.8	0.7%	2.0%	3.4%
National	116,497.5	117,671.6	118,078.1	118,217.0	1.5%	1.9%	1.4%

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.

Jobs Created

Figure 1: Monthly Change in Employment in Virginia’s Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted.



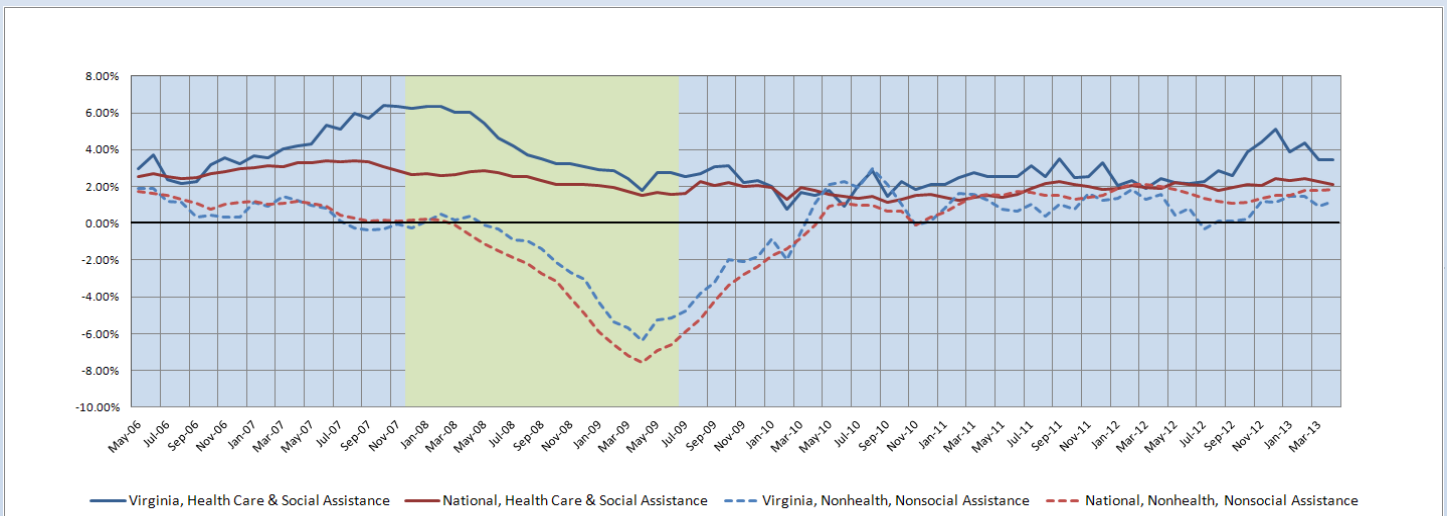
According to preliminary data released on May 17, 2013 by the US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Virginia’s HC&SA sector added 2,700 jobs in April. This was the strongest month for the HC&SA sector since October 2012 and represents a strong beginning to Q2 2013 after a weak Q1 2013. In fact, after March’s preliminary estimate for HC&SA job growth was revised downward by an additional 300 jobs, there was no net job growth in the health care sector during the first three months of the year. Therefore, April’s job growth represents all the gains seen so far in 2013.

With April’s result, the 12-month moving average for HC&SA employment once again rebounded above the 1,000 monthly job threshold to 1,158 jobs per month and is quickly approaching the four-year high that occurred in December 2012. The 12-month moving average, which has been above 1,000 monthly jobs for five of the past seven months, has not consistently remained above that threshold value since 2008, indicating a strengthening job market.

Employment Growth

Despite the strong employment numbers produced in April, the six-month moving average of Virginia’s HC&SA employment growth rate actually fell slightly from 3.5% to 3.4%, continuing a short-term downward trend that began at the end of 2012. Regardless, Virginia’s HC&SA sector is still growing faster than the national average, which currently sports a six-month moving average of 2.1%. Meanwhile, the rest of Virginia’s economy benefited from the 9,400 non-HC&SA jobs added during the month, boosting its six-month employment growth moving average to 1.2% after dipping below 1% in March. However, Virginia’s employment growth is still being disproportionately driven by gains in the health care sector; its six-month employment growth moving average for the non-HC&SA sector continues to lag Virginia’s HC&SA sector by a considerable margin. In addition, it continues to lag the national average for both HC&SA and non-HC&SA sectors.

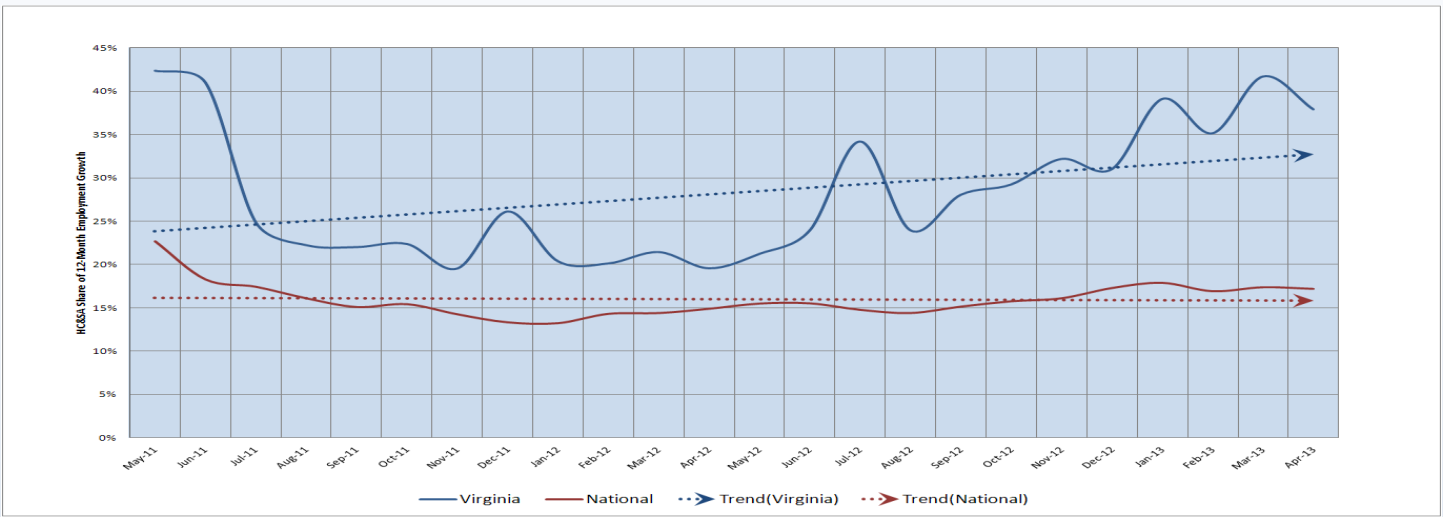
Figure 2: Six-Month Moving Average, Employment Growth, Seasonally Adjusted.



Share of Employment Growth

Although Virginia’s HC&SA sector experienced one of its strongest months in recent memory in terms of employment growth in April, its share of 12-month employment growth actually fell modestly from 42% to 38%. Despite this monthly blip, however, the long-term trend continues to indicate that Virginia’s HC&SA sector has been an increasingly important contributor to employment growth in the state over the past two years. Alternatively, the trend for the national HC&SA sector has remained very stable over the same time period. In April, the national HC&SA share of 12-month employment growth remained at 17% for the third consecutive month. This national HC&SA share has not exceeded 20% of total employment growth since June 2011, although its share has grown slowly from a low of 13% seen in early 2012.

Figure 3: HC&SA Share of 12-Month Employment Growth , Seasonally Adjusted



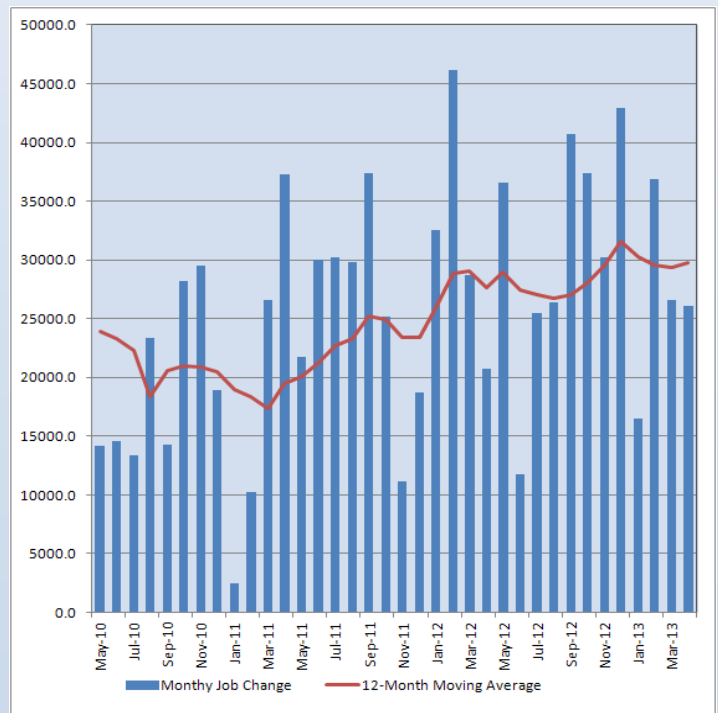
National HC&SA Employment

The 12-month moving average of national HC&SA employment increased slightly in April to 29,792 monthly jobs. Although HC&SA employment growth as a share of the economy has stalled in the 15-20% range, the 12-month moving average has shown a definite upward trend over the past three years. After reaching a post-recession low of just 17,300 jobs per month in March 2011, the 12-month moving average has increased by more than 70%.

More recent growth has been solid, if not spectacular. April’s job gains of 26,100 represented the third month in the last four in which growth was below the 12-month moving average. After reaching a high of 31,625 jobs per month in December 2012, the 12-month moving average has fallen by approximately 6%. In addition, April’s one-month annualized growth rate was just 1.8%; this rate is below both the 3-month and 12-month growth rate of 2.1%.

Despite this somewhat weaker recent growth, the national HC&SA sector has still added 106,100 jobs so far in 2013. This is above the average increase of 101,280 jobs that has occurred between January and April over the past five years.

Figure 4: Monthly Change in Employment in National Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, 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 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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