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State Unemployment Rate Up Slightly in November

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate inched upward one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.1 percent in November 2022. The number of unemployed state residents climbed 500 to 32,700. Total employment declined 1,500 over the month. The national seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.7 percent in November 2022.

Total nonfarm payroll employment rose 6,900 in November, with gains of 6,600 in the service-providing sector and 300 in the goods-producing sector.

Within the goods-producing sector, construction added 300 jobs and manufacturing added 100 jobs, while employment in mining and logging slipped 100 over the month.

Within the service-providing sector, employment gains included 8,100 in government due to poll workers in November's general election, 400 in education and health services, and 100 in other services. Employment declines included 700 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 600 in professional and business services, 400 in leisure and hospitality, and 300 in financial activities. Information employment was unchanged over the month.

Since November 2021, total nonfarm payroll employment has increased by 26,000. Employment gains included 8,500 in government due to election workers, 4,600 in leisure and hospitality, 4,400 in education and health services, 3,200 in professional and business services, 2,800 in mining and logging, 1,700 in manufacturing, 1,600 in construction, 1,100 in financial activities, and 200 in other services. Information employment was unchanged, while employment in trade, transportation, and utilities declined 2,100 over the year.

West Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate climbed two-tenths of a percentage point to 3.5 percent in November.

The state's seasonally adjusted labor force participation rate slipped slightly to 54.9 percent in November 2022.