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State Unemployment Rate Unchanged in December

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained at 4.1 in December 2022. The number of unemployed state residents fell 500 to 32,200. Total employment declined 900 over the month. The national seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined one-tenth of a percentage point to 3.5 percent in December 2022.

Total nonfarm payroll employment fell 9,700 in December, with a decline of 9,900 in the service-providing sector offsetting a slight gain of 200 in the goods-producing sector.

Within the goods-producing sector, an increase of 500 in construction offset a decline of 300 in manufacturing. Employment in mining and logging was unchanged over the month.

Within the service-providing sector, declines were led by a loss of 8,900 in government. This loss was entirely within local government and can be attributed to election workers who were employed in November but fell out of the workforce in December. Other employment declines included 900 in professional and business services, 400 in education and health services, 200 in leisure and hospitality, and 100 in information. Employment increases included 300 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 200 in other services, and 100 in financial activities.

Since December 2021, total nonfarm payroll employment has risen by 13,200. Employment gains included 3,600 in leisure and hospitality, 3,200 in education and health services, 3,100 in mining and logging, 1,700 in professional and business services, 1,300 in construction, 1,100 in financial activities, 700 in manufacturing, 400 in other services, and 100 in information. Employment in trade, transportation, and utilities declined 2,000, while employment in government was unchanged over the year.

West Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate inched downward one-tenth of a percentage point to 3.4 percent in December.

The state's seasonally adjusted labor force participation rate slipped slightly to 54.8 percent in December 2022.