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State Unemployment Rate Declines in January

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined two-tenths of a percentage point to 3.9 percent in January 2023, the lowest seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the state since June 2022. The number of unemployed state residents fell 1,000 to 30,900. Total employment climbed 600 over the month. The national seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined one-tenth of a percentage point to 3.4 percent in January 2023.

Total nonfarm payroll employment rose 2,800 in January, with a gain of 3,500 in the service-providing sector offsetting a decline of 700 in the goods-producing sector.

Within the goods-producing sector, employment declines included 600 in construction and 400 in mining and logging. Manufacturing employment rose 300 in January.

Within the service-providing sector, employment gains included 1,600 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 1,000 in leisure and hospitality, 800 in private education and health services, 400 in professional and business services, and 100 in government. Employment declines included 200 in both financial activities and other services. Information employment was unchanged over the month.

Since January 2022, total nonfarm payroll employment has risen 3,400. Employment gains included 2,700 in private education and health services, 1,700 in mining and logging, 600 in other services, 500 in government, 500 in leisure and hospitality, 400 in manufacturing, and 300 in information. Employment declines included 1,600 in construction, 1,600 in trade, transportation, and utilities, and 100 in professional and business services. Employment in financial activities was unchanged over the year.

West Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate climbed eight-tenths of a percentage point to 4.2 percent in January.

The state's seasonally adjusted labor force participation rate was unchanged at 54.7 percent in January 2023.