

FOR RELEASE: April 19, 2023  
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## **State Unemployment Rate Declines in March**

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined three-tenths of a percentage point to 3.4 percent in March 2023. The number of unemployed state residents fell 1,900 to 26,900. Total employment climbed 1,600 over the month. The national seasonally adjusted unemployment rate inched downward one-tenth of a percentage point to 3.5 percent in March 2023.

Total nonfarm payroll employment rose 800 in March, the gain entirely within the service-providing sector.

Within the goods-producing sector, a decline of 200 in construction offset a gain of 200 in mining and logging. Manufacturing employment was unchanged over the month.

Within the service-providing sector, employment gains included 400 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 400 in financial activities, 300 in professional and business services, and 100 in government. Employment declines included 300 in private education and health services and 100 in information. Employment in both other services and in leisure and hospitality was unchanged over the month.

Since March 2022, total nonfarm payroll employment has risen 2,000. Employment gains included 2,900 in private education and health services, 1,700 in mining and logging, 900 in other services, 300 in government, and 200 in financial activities. Employment declines included 2,500 in construction, 500 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 400 in professional and business services, 300 in leisure and hospitality, 200 in manufacturing, and 100 in information.

West Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined one-tenth of a percentage point to 3.6 percent in March.

The state's seasonally adjusted labor force participation rate was unchanged at 54.6 percent in March 2023.