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## State Unemployment Rate Declines in April

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate inched downward one-tenth of a percentage point to 3.3 percent in April 2023. The number of unemployed state residents declined 900 to 26,000. Total employment climbed 800 over the month. The national seasonally adjusted unemployment rate inched downward one-tenth of a percentage point to 3.4 percent in April 2023.

Total nonfarm payroll employment declined 500 in April, with a loss of 800 in the service-providing sector offsetting an increase of 300 in the goods-producing sector.

Within the goods-producing sector, employment gains of 300 occurred in both construction and in mining and logging. Manufacturing employment declined 300 over the month.

Within the service-providing sector, employment declines included 500 in leisure and hospitality, 500 in private education and health services, 100 in government, and 100 in trade, transportation and utilities. Employment gains included 200 in both information and in professional and business services. Employment in both other services and in financial activities was unchanged over the month.

Since April 2022, total nonfarm payroll employment has risen 1,800. Employment gains included 1,900 in mining and logging, 1,800 in private education and health services, 1,400 in government, 900 in other services, and 200 in information. Employment declines included 1,600 in manufacturing, 1,200 in construction, 600 in professional and business services, 500 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 400 in leisure and hospitality, and 100 in financial activities.

West Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined two-tenths of a percentage point to 3.4 percent in April.

The state's seasonally adjusted labor force participation rate remained at 54.6 percent in April 2023.