

FOR RELEASE: August 16, 2023
Contact: Andy Malinoski
Andy.E.Malinoski@wv.gov
304-553-9305

State Unemployment Rate Up Slightly in July 2023

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate inched upward one-tenth of a percentage point to 3.4 percent in July 2023. The number of unemployed state residents rose 700 to 26,500. Total employment climbed 200 over the month. The national seasonally adjusted unemployment rate inched downward one-tenth of a percentage point to 3.5 percent in July 2023.

Total nonfarm payroll employment declined 100 in July, where a loss of 500 in the service-providing sector offset a gain of 400 in the goods-producing sector.

Within the goods-producing sector, employment gains included 200 in manufacturing, 100 in construction, and 100 in mining and logging.

Within the service-providing sector, employment gains of 300 in information, 300 in private education and health services, 200 in financial activities, 100 in leisure and hospitality, and 100 in other services were offset by losses of 1,300 in government, almost entirely within the local government sector, and 200 in trade, transportation, and utilities. Employment in professional and business services was unchanged over the month.

Since July 2022, total nonfarm payroll employment has risen 6,800. Employment gains included 2,700 in private education and health services, 2,300 in mining and logging, 1,500 in construction, 1,300 in other services, 1,100 in leisure and hospitality, 200 in information, and 200 in financial activities. Employment declines included 1,600 in government, 500 in manufacturing, and 400 in professional and business services. Employment in trade, transportation, and utilities was unchanged over the year.

West Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate inched downward one-tenth of a percentage point to 3.8 percent in July.

The state's seasonally adjusted labor force participation rate ticked up one-tenth of a percentage point to 54.7 percent in July 2023.