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Contact: Andy Malinoski
Andy.E.Malinoski@wv.gov
304-553-9305

State Unemployment Rate Climbs to 3.6 in August 2023

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate climbed two-tenths of a percentage point to 3.6 percent in August 2023. The number of unemployed state residents rose 1,800 to 28,300. Total employment climbed 600 over the month. The national seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose three-tenths of a percentage point to 3.8 percent in August 2023.

Total nonfarm payroll employment rose 1,000 in August, with gains of 500 in both the goods-producing sector and the service-providing sector.

Within the goods-producing sector, a gain of 700 in construction easily offset declines of 100 in both manufacturing and in mining and logging.

Within the service-providing sector, employment gains included 400 in government, completely in the local sector, 400 in financial activities, 300 in private education and health services, 200 in other services, 200 in professional and business services, and 100 in information. Employment declines included 700 in leisure and hospitality and 400 in trade, transportation, and utilities.

Since August 2022, total nonfarm payroll employment has risen 10,700. Employment gains included 3,200 in private education and health services, 2,600 in construction, 1,900 in mining and logging, 1,500 in other services, 1,200 in government, 500 in financial activities, 300 in leisure and hospitality, and 200 in information. Employment declines included 300 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 200 in manufacturing, and 200 in professional and business services.

West Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate climbed six-tenths of a percentage point to 4.4 percent in August.

The state's seasonally adjusted labor force participation rate rose two-tenths of a percentage point to 54.9 percent in August 2023.