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State Unemployment Rate Climbs to 3.8 Percent in September 2023

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate climbed two-tenths of a percentage point to 3.8 percent in September 2023. The number of unemployed state residents rose 2,000 to 30,300. Total employment rose 600 over the month. The national seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained at 3.8 percent in September.

Total nonfarm payroll employment rose 1,200 in September, with a gain of 1,500 in the service-providing sector easily offsetting a decline of 300 in the goods-producing sector.

The decline of 300 in the goods-producing sector occurred entirely within construction. Employment was unchanged over the month in both manufacturing and in mining and logging.

Within the service-providing sector, employment gains included 1,100 in government, almost entirely within the local sector as schools returned to full staffing, 1,100 in professional and business services, 300 in private education and health services, 200 in other services, and 100 in trade, transportation, and utilities. Employment declines included 600 in leisure and hospitality, 400 in financial activities, and 300 in information.

Since September 2022, total nonfarm payroll employment has risen 11,900. Employment gains included 2,800 in construction, 2,700 in private education and health services, 2,500 in government, 2,300 in other services, 1,800 in mining and logging, 900 in professional and business services, and 200 in financial activities. Employment declines included 700 in manufacturing, 500 in leisure and hospitality, and 100 in trade, transportation, and utilities. Employment in the information sector was unchanged over the year.

West Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined six-tenths of a percentage point to 3.8 percent in September.

The state's seasonally adjusted labor force participation rate rose two-tenths of a percentage point to 55.1 percent in September 2023.

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