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Contact: Andy Malinoski

[Andy.E.Malinoski@wv.gov](mailto:Andy.E.Malinoski@wv.gov)

304-553-9305

## State Unemployment Rate Climbs to 4.0 Percent in October

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate climbed two-tenths of a percentage point to 4.0 percent in October 2023. The number of unemployed state residents rose 1,700 to 32,000. Total employment slipped 300 over the month. The national seasonally adjusted unemployment rate inched upward one-tenth of a percentage point to 3.9 percent in October.

Total nonfarm payroll employment declined 300 in October, where a loss of 600 in the goods-producing sector offset an increase of 300 in the service-providing sector.

Declines in the goods-producing sector included 400 in manufacturing, 100 in construction, and 100 in mining and logging.

Within the service-providing sector, employment gains included 500 in private education and health services, 400 in government, entirely within the local sector, 300 in professional and business services, and 100 in financial activities. Employment declines included 400 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 400 in leisure and hospitality, 100 in information, and 100 in other services.

Since October 2022, total nonfarm payroll employment has risen 10,100. Employment gains included 3,500 in government, almost entirely within the local sector, 2,900 in private education and health services, 1,800 in other services, 1,700 in mining and logging, 1,100 in professional and business services, 1,000 in construction, 100 in information, and 100 in financial services. Employment declines included 1,100 in manufacturing, 800 in trade, transportation, and utilities, and 200 in leisure and hospitality.

West Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate inched downward one-tenth of a percentage point to 3.7 percent in October.

The state's seasonally adjusted labor force participation rate inched upward one-tenth of a percentage point to 55.2 percent in October 2023.