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State Unemployment Rate Climbs to 4.2 Percent in November

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate climbed two-tenths of a percentage point to 4.2 percent in November 2023. The number of unemployed state residents rose 900 to 32,900. Total employment slipped 300 over the month. The national seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined two-tenths of a percentage point to 3.7 percent in November.

Total nonfarm payroll employment climbed 3,500 in November, with a gain of 3,600 in the service-providing sector easily offsetting a decline of 100 in the goods-producing sector.

Within the goods-producing sector, a decline of 400 in construction offset gains of 200 in manufacturing and 100 in mining and logging.

Within the service-providing sector, employment gains included 1,400 in private education and health services, 900 in government, largely in the local sector, 600 in leisure and hospitality, 300 in professional and business services, 200 in other services, 200 in financial activities, and 200 in information. Employment in trade, transportation, and utilities declined by 200 over the month.

Since November 2022, total nonfarm payroll employment has risen 7,200. Employment gains included 4,200 in private education and health services, 2,000 in professional and business services, 2,000 in other services, 1,600 in mining and logging, 800 in leisure and hospitality, 500 in financial activities, 400 in trade, transportation, and utilities, and 100 in information. Employment declines included 3,900 in government, almost entirely due to poll workers who were employed in November 2022, and 500 in manufacturing. Employment in construction was unchanged over the year.

West Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate inched downward one-tenth of a percentage point to 3.6 percent in November.

The state's seasonally adjusted labor force participation rate remained at 55.2 in November 2023.

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