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State Unemployment Rate Unchanged in January 2024

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained at 4.3 percent in January 2024. The number of unemployed state residents inched upward 100 to 34,000. Total employment climbed 600 over the month. The national seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained at 3.7 percent in January.

Total nonfarm payroll employment climbed 1,200 in January, with gains of 700 in the service-providing sector and 500 in the goods-producing sector.

Within the goods-producing sector, gains of 400 in construction and 300 in manufacturing easily offset a decline of 200 in mining and logging.

Within the service-providing sector, employment gains included 800 in professional and business services, 600 in leisure and hospitality, and 100 in financial activities. Employment declines included 500 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 200 in private education and health services, and 100 in other services. Employment in both information and government was unchanged over the month.

Since January 2023, total nonfarm payroll employment has risen 15,500. Employment gains included 5,400 in private education and health services, 4,500 in government, 2,000 in construction, 1,800 in professional and business services, 1,200 in financial activities, 1,200 in leisure and hospitality, and 400 in manufacturing. Employment declines included 900 in trade, transportation, and utilities and 100 in information. Employment in both other services and in mining and logging was unchanged over the year.

West Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate jumped eight-tenths of a percentage point to 4.7 percent in January.

The state's seasonally adjusted labor force participation rate inched upward one-tenth of a percentage point to 55.3 percent in January 2024.

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