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## **State Unemployment Rate Remains at 4.3 Percent in February 2024**

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained at 4.3 percent in February 2024. The number of unemployed state residents climbed 800 to 33,700. Total employment declined 300 over the month. The national seasonally adjusted unemployment rate climbed two-tenths of a percentage point to 3.9 percent in February.

Total nonfarm payroll employment climbed 1,600 in February, with gains of 1,000 in the service-providing sector and 600 in the goods-producing sector.

Within the goods-producing sector, both construction and mining and logging added 300 jobs. Manufacturing employment was unchanged over the month.

Within the service-providing sector, employment gains included 800 in private education and health services, 400 in leisure and hospitality, 300 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 100 in other services, and 100 in government. Employment declines included 500 in professional and business services, 100 in financial activities, and 100 in information.

Since February 2023, total nonfarm payroll employment has risen 13,700. Employment gains included 5,900 in private education and health services, 4,600 in government, 1,400 in leisure and hospitality, 1,200 in professional and business services, 900 in financial activities, 500 in construction, 200 in manufacturing, and 200 in other services. Employment declines included 1,000 in trade, transportation, and utilities and 200 in information. Employment in mining and logging was unchanged over the year.

West Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate climbed two-tenths of a percentage point to 5.0 percent in February,

The state's seasonally adjusted labor force participation rate slipped one-tenth of a percentage point to 55.2 percent in February 2024.