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

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained at 4.3 percent in March 2024, the seventh month in a row the state's unemployment rate has stood at 4.3 percent. The number of unemployed state residents rose 200 to 34,300. Total employment slipped 200 over the month. The national seasonally adjusted unemployment rate inched downward one-tenth of a percentage point to 3.8 percent in March 2024.

Total nonfarm payroll employment fell 2,000 in March, with losses of 1,600 in the service-providing sector and 400 in the goods-producing sector.

Within the goods-producing sector, a decline of 900 in manufacturing overpowered modest gains of 300 in construction and 200 in mining and logging.

Within the service-providing sector, employment gains included 400 in government, almost entirely within the local sector, and 200 in other services. Employment declines included 900 in leisure and hospitality, 700 in professional and business services, 200 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 200 in financial activities, 100 in private education and health services, and 100 in information.

Since March 2023, total nonfarm payroll employment has risen 11,700. Employment gains included 5,000 in private education and health services, 4,900 in government, 2,300 in construction, 700 in financial activities, 400 in other services, 200 in leisure and hospitality, 200 in professional and business services, and 100 in mining and logging. Employment declines included 1,100 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 800 in manufacturing, and 200 in information.

West Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate inched downward one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.9 percent in March.

The state's seasonally adjusted labor force participation rate remained at 55.2 percent in March 2024.