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## State Unemployment Rate Inches Downward in May 2024

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate inched downward one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.2 percent in May 2024. The number of unemployed state residents fell 600 to 33,000. Total employment inched upward by 100 over the month. The national seasonally adjusted unemployment rate climbed one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.0 percent in May 2024.

Total nonfarm payroll employment rose 3,200 in May, with gains of 3,100 in the service-providing sector and 100 in the goods-producing sector.

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

Within the service-providing sector, employment gains included 2,800 in government, due entirely to poll workers in the May primary election, and 700 in private education and health services. Employment declines included 200 in leisure and hospitality, 100 in other services, and 100 in financial activities. Employment was unchanged in trade, transportation, and utilities; information; and professional and business services.

Since May 2023, total nonfarm payroll employment has risen 13,200. Employment gains included 6,300 in government, due almost entirely to poll workers in the local sector, 6,300 in private education and health services, 1,800 in construction, 500 in financial activities, 200 in leisure and hospitality, and 200 in mining and logging. Employment declines included 1,600 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 400 in manufacturing, and 100 in information. Employment in both other services and in professional and business services was unchanged over the year.

West Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained at 3.8 percent in May.

The state's seasonally adjusted labor force participation rate slipped one-tenth of a percentage point to 55.1 percent in May 2024.