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State Unemployment Rate Remains at 4.2 Percent in October

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained at 4.2 percent in October 2024. The number of unemployed state residents inched upward 100 to 33,400. Total employment declined 600 over the month. The national seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.1 percent in October 2024.

Total nonfarm payroll employment declined 1,200 in October, with a decline of 1,400 in the service-providing sector easily overpowering a slight gain of 200 in the goods-producing sector.

Within the goods-producing sector, manufacturing added 300 jobs, while employment declined 100 in construction. Employment was unchanged in mining and logging.

Within the service-providing sector, government added 100 jobs, solely in the federal sector. Employment declines included 800 in professional and business services, 300 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 200 in leisure and hospitality, 100 in financial activities, and 100 in other services. Employment was unchanged in both information and in private education and health services.

Since October 2023, total nonfarm payroll employment has risen 3,600. Employment gains included 5,500 in private education and health services, 800 in mining and logging, and 800 in leisure and hospitality. Employment declines included 2,400 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 400 in manufacturing, 400 in professional and business services, 200 in financial activities, and 100 in construction. Employment was unchanged in information, other services, and government.

West Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined four-tenths of a percentage point to 3.6 percent in October.

The state's seasonally adjusted labor force participation rate declined one-tenth of a percentage point to 55.0 percent in October 2024.