

FOR RELEASE: January 23, 2025
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State Unemployment Rate Unchanged at 4.2 Percent in December

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained at 4.2 percent in December 2024. The number of unemployed state residents declined 400 to 32,900. Total employment declined 1,000 over the month. The national seasonally adjusted unemployment rate inched downward one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.1 percent in December 2024.

Total nonfarm payroll employment slipped 100 in December, with a decline of 400 in the service-providing sector narrowly offsetting an increase of 300 in the goods-producing sector.

Within the goods-producing sector, employment gains included 100 in mining and logging, 100 in construction, and 100 in manufacturing.

Within the service-providing sector, employment gains included 200 in other services, 200 in leisure and hospitality, and 100 in private education and health services. Employment declines included 300 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 300 in professional and business services, 200 in government, and 100 in financial activities. Information employment was unchanged over the month.

Since December 2023, total nonfarm payroll employment has inched downward 100. Employment gains included 5,100 in private education and health services, 1,600 in mining and logging, 800 in leisure and hospitality, and 300 in other services. Employment declines included 2,800 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 1,400 in professional and business services, 1,200 in construction, 900 in manufacturing, 800 in government, 600 in financial activities, and 200 in information.

West Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained at 3.6 percent in December.

The state's seasonally adjusted labor force participation rate declined one-tenth of a percentage point to 54.8 percent in December 2024.