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State Unemployment Rate Inches Downward to 3.9 Percent in February 2025

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate inched downward one-tenth of one percentage point to 3.9 percent in February 2025, the lowest seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the state since July 2023. The number of unemployed state residents declined 1,000 to 30,700. Total employment declined 800 over the month. The national seasonally adjusted unemployment rate inched upward one-tenth of one percentage point to 4.1 percent in February 2025.

Total nonfarm payroll employment added 3,300 jobs in February, with gains of 1,800 in the service-providing sector and 1,500 in the goods-producing sector.

Within the goods-producing sector, gains of 1,500 in construction and 200 in manufacturing easily offset a decline of 200 in mining and logging.

Within the service-providing sector, employment gains included 1,100 in other services, 600 in government, 400 in trade, transportation, and utilities, and 300 in professional and business services. Employment declines included 400 in private education and health services, 100 in leisure and hospitality, and 100 in financial activities. Employment in the information sector was unchanged over the month.

Since February 2024, total nonfarm payroll employment has fallen 1,300. Employment declines included 2,900 in leisure and hospitality, 1,300 in government, completely within the local sector, 800 in professional and business services, 500 in mining and logging, 500 in financial activities, 200 in manufacturing, 100 in trade, transportation, and utilities, and 100 in other services. Employment gains included 5,000 in private education and health services and 100 in information. Construction employment was unchanged over the year.

West Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined three-tenths of one percentage point to 4.2 percent in February.

The state's seasonally adjusted labor force participation rate inched downward one-tenth of one percentage point to 54.4 percent in February 2025.

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