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State Unemployment Rate Inches Downward to 3.8 Percent in March 2025

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate inched downward one-tenth of one percentage point to 3.8 percent in March 2025, the lowest seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the state since June 2023. The number of unemployed state residents declined 800 to 29,900. Total employment declined 800 over the month as well. The national seasonally adjusted unemployment rate inched upward one-tenth of one percentage point to 4.2 percent in March 2025.

Total nonfarm payroll employment declined 1,100 in March, with losses of 800 in the service-providing sector and 300 in the goods-producing sector.

Within the goods-producing sector, declines of 400 in construction and 100 in mining and logging offset a gain of 200 in manufacturing.

Within the service-providing sector, employment gains included 1,100 in leisure and hospitality and 100 in other services. Employment declines included 900 in professional and business services, 500 in government, 300 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 200 in information, and 100 in private education and health services. Employment in financial activities was unchanged over the month.

Since March 2024, total nonfarm payroll employment has fallen 2,000. Employment declines included 2,500 in government, 1,700 in professional and business services, 1,500 in leisure and hospitality, 600 in mining and logging, 500 in trade, transportation, and utilities, and 400 in financial activities. Employment gains included 4,300 in private education and health services, 400 in construction, 300 in manufacturing, and 200 in other services. Employment in the information sector was unchanged over the year.

West Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined two-tenths of one percentage point to 4.0 percent in March.

The state's seasonally adjusted labor force participation rate inched downward one-tenth of one percentage point to 54.3 percent in March 2025.

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