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Contact: Andy Malinoski
Andy.E.Malinoski@wv.gov
304-553-9305

State Unemployment Rate Remains at 3.8 Percent in May 2025

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained at 3.8 percent in May 2025. The number of unemployed state residents declined 200 to 29,300. Total employment fell 300 over the month. The national seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged as well at 4.2 percent in May 2025.

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased 700 in May, with gains of 600 in the service-providing sector and 100 in the goods-producing sector.

Within the goods-producing sector, gains of 400 in construction and 100 in mining and logging narrowly offset a decline of 400 in manufacturing.

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

Since May 2024, total nonfarm payroll employment has fallen 9,400. This decline was driven by temporary poll workers in the local government sector who were employed in May 2024 for federal and state elections. Over-the-year declines included 11,400 in government, 1,700 in leisure and hospitality, 1,400 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 700 in professional and business services, 500 in mining and logging, and 200 in financial activities. Employment gains included 3,600 in private education and health services, 2,400 in construction, 300 in other services, 100 in manufacturing, and 100 in information.

West Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained at 3.5 percent in May.

The state's seasonally adjusted labor force participation rate remained at 54.3 percent in May 2025.