

FOR RELEASE: September 17, 2025  
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## State Unemployment Rate Ticked Up to 3.8 Percent in August 2025

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.8 percent in August, an increase of one-tenth of one percentage point from July. The total number of employed state residents increased by 400 over the month – bumping up to 751,300 – while the number of unemployed state residents increased by 400, rising to 29,400. Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ticked up one-tenth of one percentage point to 4.3 percent in August 2025.

Total nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 1,100 jobs in August as the goods-producing sector decreased by 700 and the service-providing sector decreased by 400. The goods-producing sector saw construction scale back by 700 jobs while manufacturing dipped by 100 jobs, meanwhile mining and logging added 100.

The service-providing sector saw a small decrease over the month as losses outpaced gains. Losses came in trade, transportation, and utilities (-700), leisure and hospitality (-600), and in government employment (-200). Gains came in professional and business services (+800), other services (+200), and in private education and health services (+100). Employment in information and in financial activities was unchanged over the month.

Over the year, total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 3,100 jobs. The bulk of job gains since August 2024 came in four broad industries: construction (+3,100), private education and health services (+1,700), government (+1,400), and professional and business services (+1,300). Over-the-year gains also came in other services (+500) and in information (+100). Over-the-year declines came in leisure and hospitality (-2,900), trade, transportation, and utilities (-800), manufacturing (-700), mining and logging (-300), and in financial activities, also down 300.

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted labor force participation rate remained unchanged over the month at 54.3 percent in August.

The state's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased by four-tenths of one percentage point to 4.3 percent.