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State Unemployment Rate Rose to 4.4 Percent in November 2025

Note: October 2025 unemployment rate and related Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) are unavailable. The federal government shutdown prevented collection of Current Population Survey data required to produce these estimates. October nonfarm payroll estimates were unaffected.

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.4 percent in November 2025, an increase of three-tenths of one percentage point as compared with November 2024. The total number of employed state residents decreased by 2,100 over the year – sliding to 750,200 – while the number of unemployed state residents increased by 2,400, rising to 34,300. Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by four-tenths of one percentage point to 4.6 percent in November 2025.

Total nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 700 jobs from October to November as the goods-producing sector increased by 600 and the service-providing sector decreased by 1,300. The goods-producing sector saw construction tack on 500 jobs, while mining and logging added 100, and manufacturing went unchanged over the the month.

The service-providing sector's largest losses came in trade, transportation, and utilities (-1,000) and professional and business services (-500). Government employment (-300), information (-100), and financial activities (-100) each shed jobs as well. Gains came in leisure and hospitality (+500), and private education and health services (+200). Other services was unchanged over the month.

Over the year, total nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 1,400 jobs. The bulk of job loss since November 2024 came in four broad industries: government (-2,300), leisure and hospitality (-1,500), trade, transportation, and utilities (-1,300), and manufacturing (-1,200). Declines were also seen in mining and logging (-500) and information (-100). The largest over the year gains came in construction (+2,900) and private education and health services (+1,700). Gains were also seen in other services (+700), professional and business services (+100), and in financial activities (+100).

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted labor force participation rate remained unchanged over the year at 54.6 percent in November.

The state's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased by 1.0 percentage point over the year to 4.6 percent.

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