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## State Unemployment Rate Rose to 4.6 Percent in December 2025

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose to 4.6 percent in December 2025, an increase of two-tenths of one percentage point from November. The total number of employed state residents decreased by 400 over the month – inching down to 749,900 – while the number of unemployed state residents increased by 1,400, rising to 35,800. Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate inched down by one-tenth of one percentage point to 4.4 percent in December.

Total nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 1,100 jobs from November to December as the goods-producing sector decreased by 200 and the service-providing sector decreased by 900. The goods-producing sector saw light seasonal shedding in construction as the industry scaled back by 200; manufacturing dipped by 100. Mining and logging carved out a small gain adding 100 jobs over the month.

The service-providing sector's largest loss came in trade, transportation, and utilities as the industry slid by 700 jobs over the month. Private education and health services, along with leisure and hospitality, each slipped by 400 jobs while financial activities dipped by 100. On the upswing, other services added 300 jobs, professional and business services added 200 jobs, and total government employment added 200 jobs as well. The information industry was unchanged over the month.

Over the year, total nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 2,300 jobs. The bulk of job loss since December 2024 came in four broad industries: leisure and hospitality (-1,900), entirely in accommodation and food services; total government (-1,600), entirely in federal employment; trade, transportation, and utilities (-1,500); and manufacturing (-1,400). Declines were also seen in mining and logging (-400) and information (-100). The largest over the year increase came in construction, which added 2,500 jobs. Gains were also seen in other services (+800), professional and business services (+600), private education and health services (+500), and in financial activities (+200).

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

The state's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased by two-tenths of one percentage point to 4.4 percent.

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