

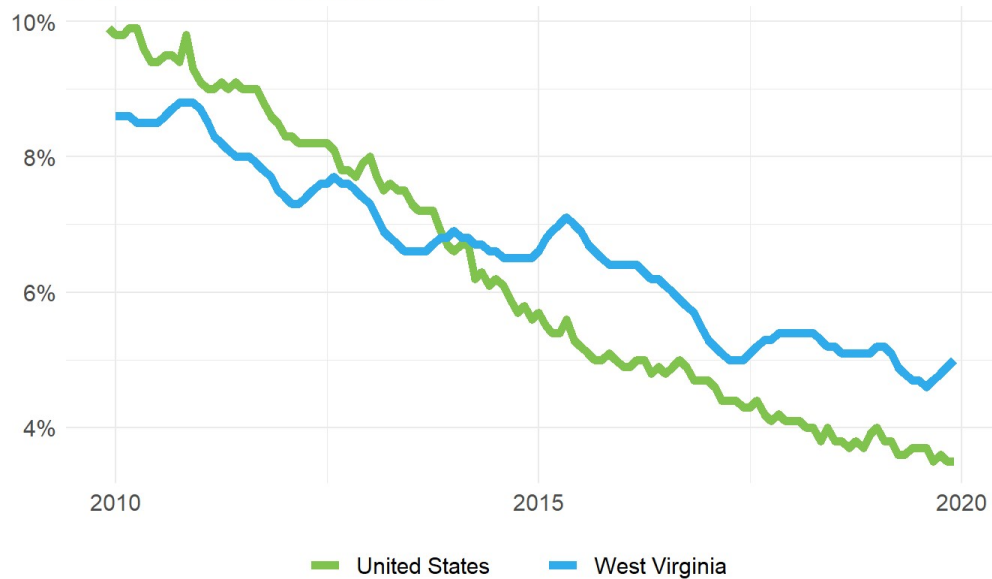


January 24, 2020

Summary

- **West Virginia lost 2,700 net payroll jobs and the unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 5 percent in December**, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data released at 10:00am on January 24, 2020.
- **Over the past twelve months, West Virginia lost 2,900 payroll jobs** and the unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point from 5.1 percent.
- **In December, West Virginia's private sector lost 2,600 net private payroll jobs** and over the past twelve months it lost 3,700 private payroll jobs in the establishment survey.
- In the household survey, the number of **unemployed rose by 905 on net in December**, and over the past year employment rose by 21,338.
- West Virginia's **labor force participation rate rose to 55.7 percent** in December from 55.5. Since last year, the labor force participation rate rose by 1.7 percentage points.
- The national unemployment rate **remained unchanged in December**. State employment and unemployment data for January is scheduled for release March 16, 2020. The national employment situation report for January will be released February 07, 2020.

West Virginia and U.S. Unemployment Rates
(Percent, Seasonally Adjusted)

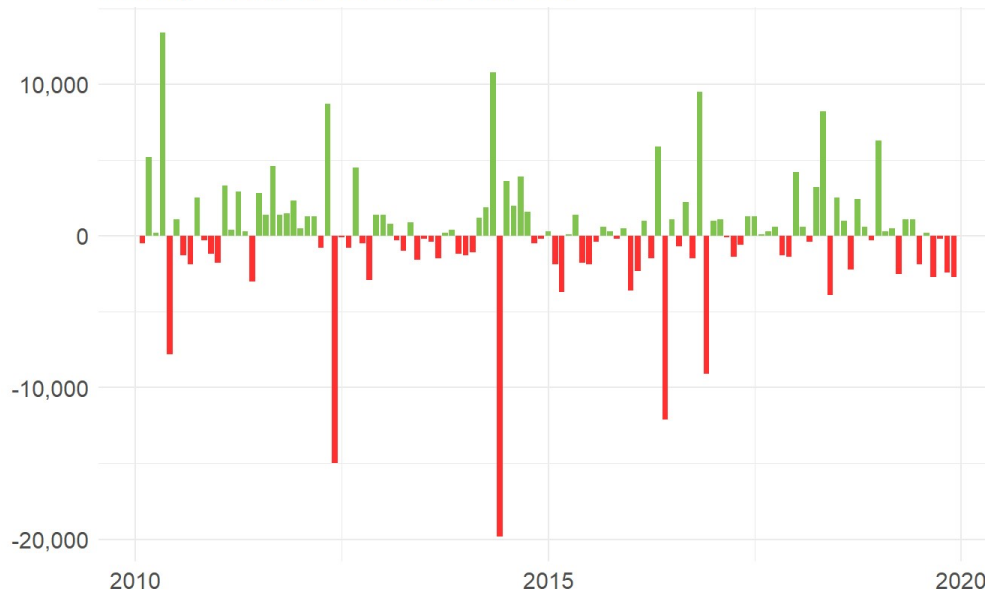


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

West Virginia Payroll Employment

West Virginia Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

Monthly Change (Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

West Virginia lost 2,700 net payroll jobs, or -0.4 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during December. In the prior month, West Virginia lost 2,400 jobs. Over the past twelve months, West Virginia lost 2,900 payroll jobs, or -0.4 percent. West Virginia nonfarm payroll employment had increased in 6 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, nonfarm payrolls rose by 145,000 in December, or rose by 0.1 percent. Over the 12-month period ending with December, nonfarm payrolls rose by 2,108,000 jobs, or 1.4 percent. West Virginia ranks 50th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During December, West Virginia's private-sector lost 2,600 jobs, or approximately -0.4 percent. The private-sector in West Virginia lost 2,100 jobs in the prior month. Over the past twelve months, private-sector payrolls in West Virginia lost 3,700, or -0.6 percent. West Virginia private-sector payroll employment has increased in 4 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs rose by 139,000 jobs in December, or 0.1 percent. Over the past 12 months, the national payroll rose by 1,947,000 jobs in the private sector, or rose by 1.5 percent. West Virginia ranks 50th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for a percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

Change in West Virginia Payroll Employment by Sector over Past 12 Months



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, seasonally adjusted

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during December were Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (300) and Leisure and Hospitality (200). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Mining and Logging (-500) and Construction (-1,600).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (2,200) and Leisure and Hospitality (1,100). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Mining and Logging (-1,600) and Construction (-3,400).

West Virginia Labor Force Statistics

Labor Force Participation

The labor force participation rate in West Virginia rose to 55.7 percent in December from 55.5 percent in the prior month. At a labor force participation rate of 55.7 percent, West Virginia ranks 51st in the nation. The labor force participation rate in West Virginia rose by 1.7 percentage points from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in West Virginia was 55.7 percent last occurring in December 2019. The series high for the labor force participation rate in West Virginia occurred in April 2001 when the labor force participation rate hit 56.9 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 52.7 percent, last occurring in February 2015. The series low for the labor force participation rate in West Virginia last occurred in October 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 50.3 percent.

The national labor force participation rate remained steady at 63.2 percent in December. That rate rose by 0.2 percentage point from a year earlier. The all-time high for the national labor force participation rate was 67.3 percent in April 2000. The 10-year

high for the national labor force participation rate was 65.2 percent in April 2010. The recent 10-year low occurred in September 2015 at a level of 62.4 percent. The series low for the national labor force participation rate was 58.1 percent in December 1954.

Employment-to-Population Ratio

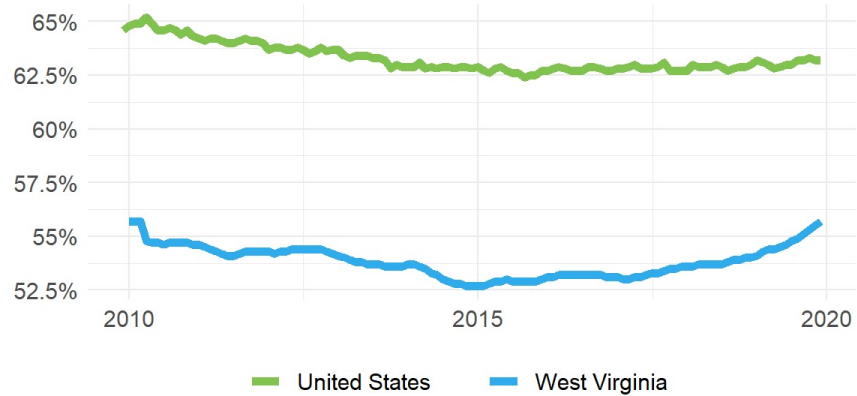
The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the West Virginia civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, in December rose to 52.9 from 52.8 percent in the prior month. At 52.9 percent, West Virginia is tied for 50th among state employment-to-population ratios in the nation. The employment-to-population ratio in West Virginia rose by 1.7 percentage points from a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in West Virginia was 52.9 percent in December 2019. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in West Virginia last occurred in April 2001 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 54.1 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 49.1 percent last occurring in March 2015. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio in West Virginia last occurred in March 1983 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 42.2 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio remained steady at 61 percent in December. That rate rose by 0.4 percentage point from a year earlier.

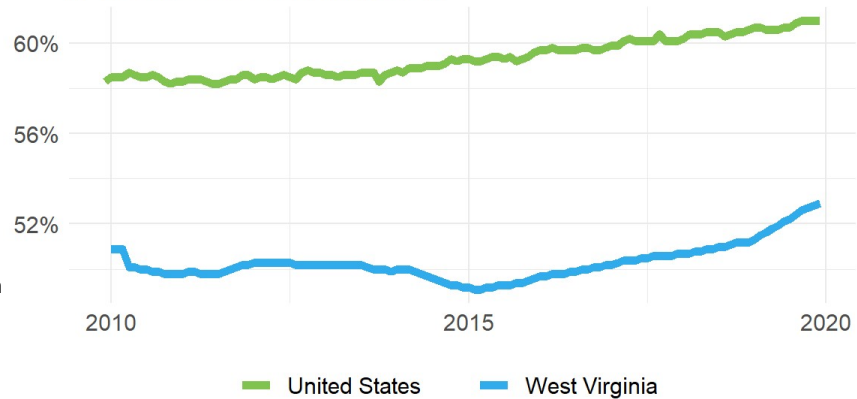
The all-time high for the national employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 percent in April 2000. The 10-year high for the national employment-to-population ratio was 61 percent in December 2019. The recent 10-year low occurred in July 2011 at a level of 58.2 percent. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio was 54.9 percent in October 1949.

West Virginia and U.S. Labor Force Participation Rates (Percent, Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

West Virginia and U.S. Employment-to-Population Ratios (Percent, Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics