



United States Congress

Joint Economic Committee

Est. 1946

Republicans

Representative David Schweikert, *Chairman*



West Virginia

Employment Update



April 2025 | Released May 21, 2025

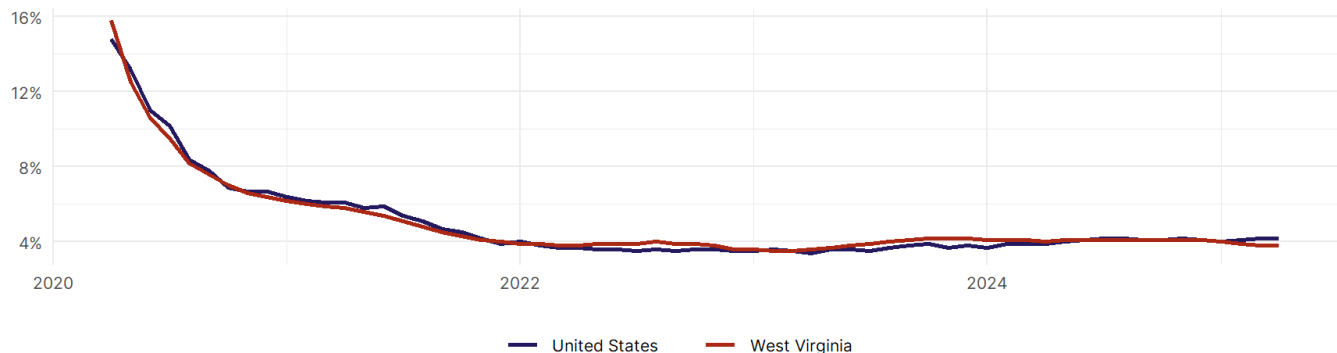
United States Employment Snapshot

- In April, among the 50 states and the District of Columbia **unemployment fell in 5, rose in 20, and remained unchanged in 26.**
- The highest unemployment rate was 5.8 percent in **District of Columbia**, and the lowest was 1.8 percent in **South Dakota**. Nationally, the unemployment rate remained unchanged in April.
- In April, **payroll jobs rose in 40 states and fell in 11.** The largest payroll job percent increase was 0.4 percent in **Mississippi**. The largest payroll job percent decline was 0.2 percent in **Vermont**.

West Virginia Employment Snapshot

- In April, **West Virginia added 100 net payroll jobs** and the **unemployment rate remained unchanged at 3.8 percent.** In the prior month, West Virginia lost 2,000 net payroll jobs.
- Over the past 12 months, **West Virginia lost 700 net payroll jobs** and the **unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage points from 4 percent.**
- Nationally, nonfarm payrolls **rose by 177,000 in April, or 0.1 percent.** West Virginia **is tied for 49th** in the nation for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.
- In April, **West Virginia's private sector lost 600 net private payroll jobs**, and over the past 12 months it added 600 private payroll jobs. In the prior month, West Virginia lost 1,800 net private payroll jobs.
- In April, employment in West Virginia **rose by 552**, and over the past 12 months it fell by 6,189.
- **West Virginia's labor force participation rate remained steady at 54.3 percent** in April and **ranks 51st** in the nation. In the past 12 months, the labor force participation rate has fallen by 0.7 percentage points.

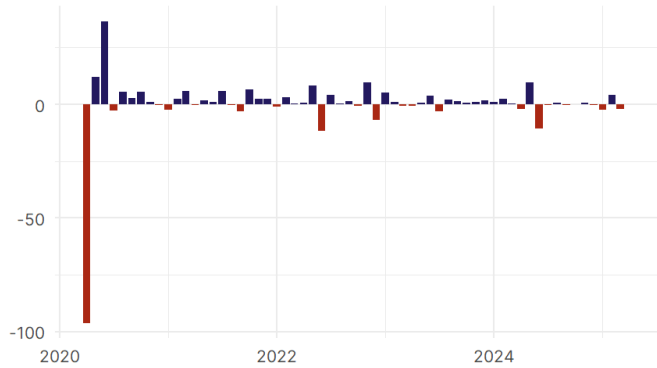
West Virginia
Unemployment Rate



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, data is seasonally adjusted

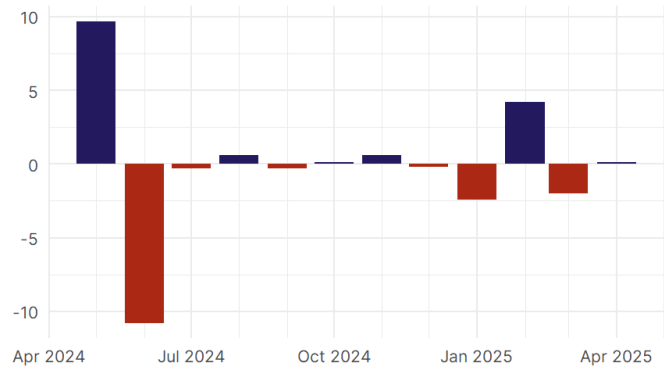
West Virginia Payroll Employment

West Virginia Nonfarm Payroll Jobs
Monthly change, past five years (thousands)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, data is seasonally adjusted

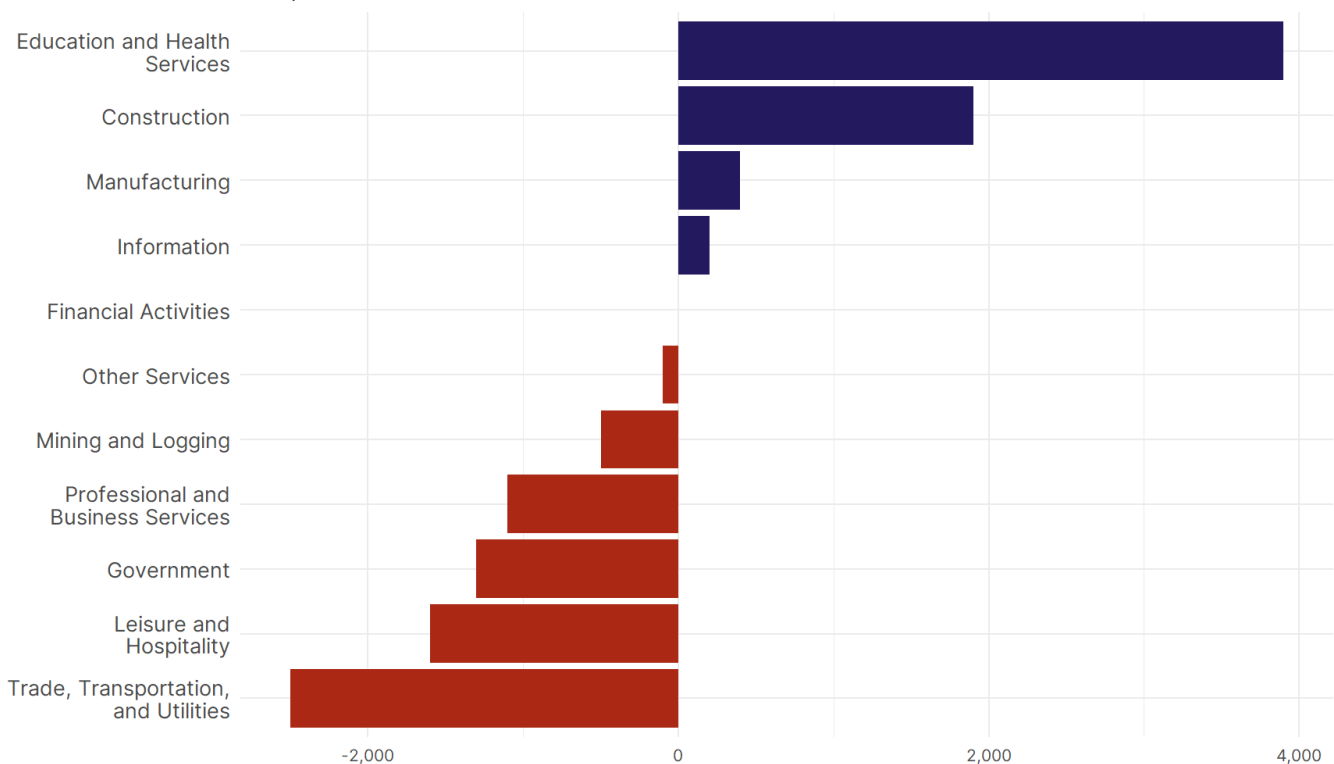
West Virginia Nonfarm Payroll Jobs
Monthly change, past 12 months (thousands)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, data is seasonally adjusted

- **West Virginia added 100 net payroll jobs, or 0 percent,** on a seasonally adjusted basis during April. In the prior month, West Virginia lost 2,000 jobs. West Virginia nonfarm payroll employment has increased in **6 of the past 12 months**.
- Nationally, nonfarm payrolls **rose by 177,000 in April, or 0.1 percent**. West Virginia is tied for 49th in the nation for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.
- **West Virginia lost 600 private sector jobs, or -0.1 percent,** on a seasonally adjusted basis during April. In the prior month, West Virginia lost 1,800 jobs. West Virginia private sector payroll employment has increased in **6 of the past 12 months**.
- Nationally, private sector payroll jobs **rose by 167,000 jobs in April, or 0.1 percent**. West Virginia is tied for 45th in the nation for percentage gain in private sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

Change in West Virginia
Payroll Employment by Sector
over past 12 months



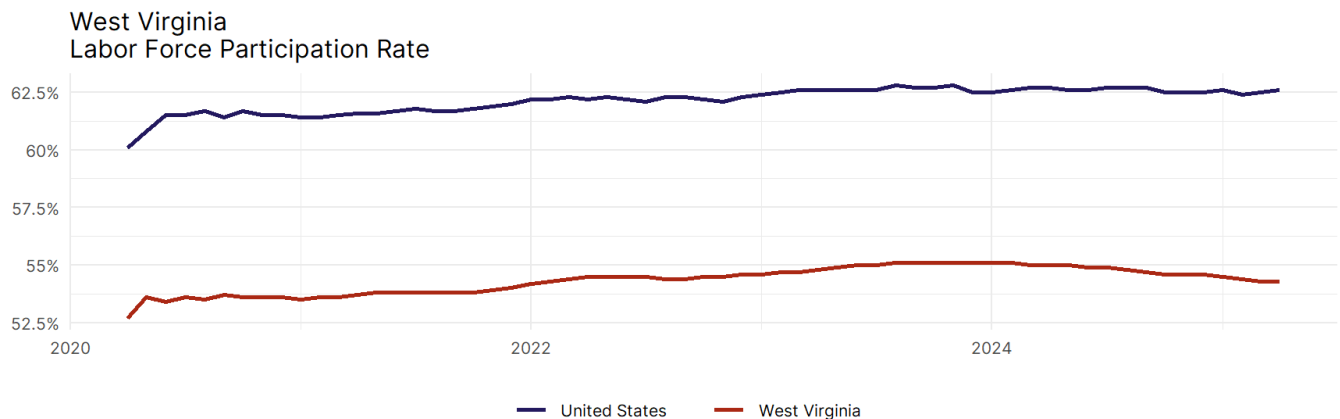
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, data is seasonally adjusted

- The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during April were **Government (700)** and **Construction (600)**.
- The poorest performing sectors during the month were **Leisure and Hospitality (-200)** and **Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-1,600)**.
- The best performing sectors during the last 12 months were **Education and Health Services (3,900)** and **Construction (1,900)**.
- The poorest performing sectors during the last 12 months were **Leisure and Hospitality (-1,600)** and **Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-2,500)**.

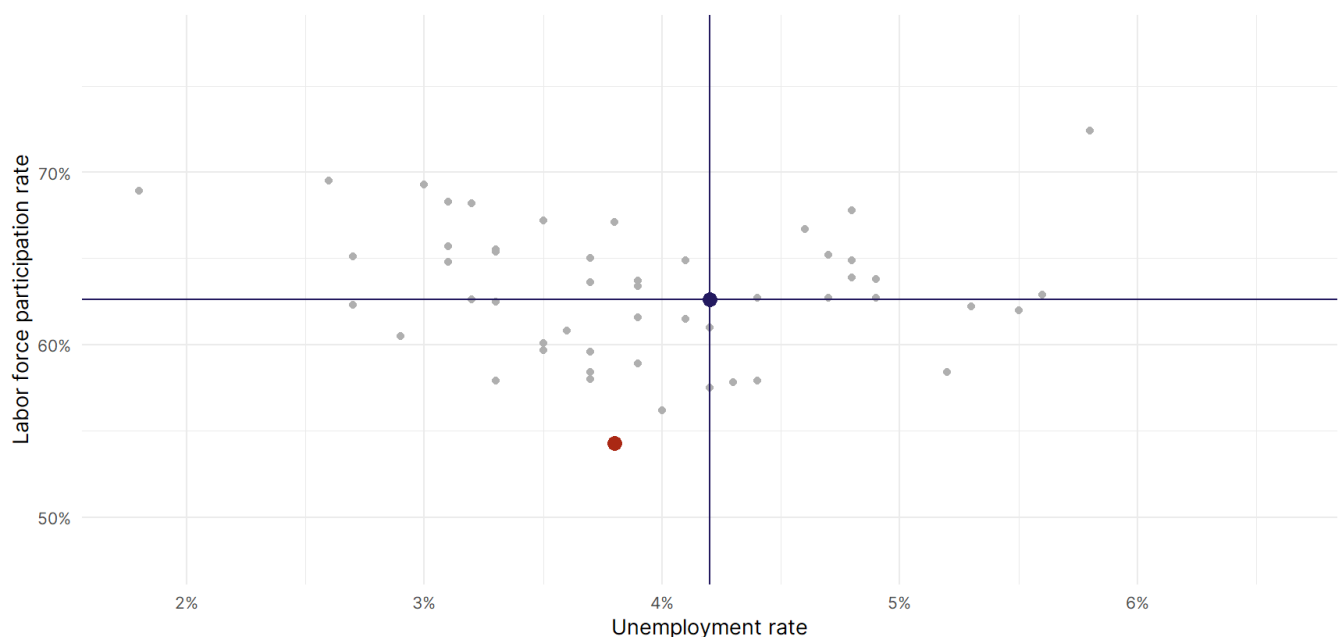
West Virginia Labor Force

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 labor force participation rate in **West Virginia remained unchanged at 54.3 percent in April**.
- **West Virginia ranks 51st** in the nation.
- The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in West Virginia was **55.1 percent** occurring in February 2024, and the 10-year low was **52.7 percent** in April 2020.
- The national labor force participation rate **rose by 0.1 percentage points to 62.6 percent** in April.



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, data is seasonally adjusted



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, data is seasonally adjusted