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State Unemployment Rate Remains Steady at 4.0 Percent in October 2026

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 2025 nonfarm payroll estimates were unaffected.

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.0 percent in October 2026, the same as it was in September. The total number of employed state residents increased by 400 over the month – rising to 741,800 – while the number of unemployed state residents decreased by 200 to 30,500. Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 percentage point to 4.1 percent.

Total nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 1,700 from September to October. The goods-producing sector declined by 400 over the month while the service-providing sector dropped by 1,300. The goods-producing sector saw manufacturing scale back by 300 and mining and logging slide by 100; meanwhile, construction did not see any changes in October.

The service-providing sector saw its largest loss in professional and business services, down by 500 over the month. Leisure and hospitality (-300); total government (-300); trade, transportation, and utilities (-200), and information (-100) all saw decreases as well. Financial activities and private education and health services did not change over the month. Only other services gained any employment, gaining 100 in October.

Over the year, total nonfarm payroll employment lost 2,500. Construction saw the biggest decline, losing 1,600, followed by professional and business services, which lost 900, and financial activities, which lost 800. Mining and logging, as well as other services, each slid by 700. Manufacturing dropped by 500; information fell by 400; and trade, transportation, and utilities decreased by 300. The largest increase came from private education and health services at 1,900. Total government grew by 800, and leisure and hospitality gained 700.

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted labor force participation rate was unchanged at 53.8 percent in October.

The state's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained the same at 3.5 percent.

WEST VIRGINIA

(In Thousands - Seasonally Adjusted)

October 2026

	Prelim. Oct 2026	Revised Sep 2026	Revised Oct 2025	Change from: Sep 2026	Change from: Oct 2025
Civilian Labor Force	772.3	772.1	*	0.2	*
Total Employment	741.8	741.4	*	0.4	*
Total Unemployment	30.5	30.7	*	-0.2	*
Unemployment Rate	4.0	4.0	.	xx	xx
Labor Force Participation Rate	53.8	53.8	.	xx	xx
NONFARM PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY					
Total Nonfarm	714.6	716.3	717.1	-1.7	-2.5
Total Private	567.5	568.9	570.8	-1.4	-3.3
Goods Producing	97.8	98.2	100.6	-0.4	-2.8
Mining and Logging	19.4	19.5	20.1	-0.1	-0.7
Construction	33.9	33.9	35.5	0.0	-1.6
Manufacturing	44.5	44.8	45.0	-0.3	-0.5
Durable Goods	26.8	27.1	27.1	-0.3	-0.3
Non-Durable Goods	17.7	17.7	17.9	0.0	-0.2
Service-Providing	616.8	618.1	616.5	-1.3	0.3
Private Service-Providing	469.7	470.7	470.2	-1.0	-0.5
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	121.6	121.8	121.9	-0.2	-0.3
Wholesale Trade	20.2	20.1	19.8	0.1	0.4
Retail Trade	77.4	77.7	77.5	-0.3	-0.1
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	24.0	24.0	24.6	0.0	-0.6
Information	7.3	7.4	7.7	-0.1	-0.4
Financial Activities	25.6	25.6	26.4	0.0	-0.8
Finance and Insurance	18.7	18.7	19.3	0.0	-0.6
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	6.9	6.9	7.1	0.0	-0.2
Professional and Business Services	72.0	72.5	72.9	-0.5	-0.9
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	31.2	31.4	31.6	-0.2	-0.4
Administrative and Support and Waste Mgmt	33.7	33.9	34.0	-0.2	-0.3
Private Education and Health Services	147.9	147.9	146.0	0.0	1.9
Private Educational Services	8.1	8.0	7.5	0.1	0.6
Health Care and Social Assistance	139.8	139.9	138.5	-0.1	1.3
Leisure and Hospitality	72.3	72.6	71.6	-0.3	0.7
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	9.4	9.6	8.9	-0.2	0.5
Accommodation and Food Services	62.9	63.0	62.7	-0.1	0.2
Other Services	23.0	22.9	23.7	0.1	-0.7
Government	147.1	147.4	146.3	-0.3	0.8
Federal Government	23.8	23.9	24.5	-0.1	-0.7
State Government	47.9	48.2	46.7	-0.3	1.2
Local Government	75.4	75.3	75.1	0.1	0.3

West Virginia Labor Force Statistics by Calendar Year
Seasonally Adjusted

2026	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	AVG
Labor Force	782,600	782,100	779,200	777,000	775,100	773,500	772,600	772,200	772,100	772,300			
Employment	746,400	745,500	744,000	742,500	741,700	740,700	740,600	741,000	741,400	741,800			
Unemployment	36,300	36,500	35,200	34,600	33,400	32,800	32,000	31,300	30,700	30,500			
Rate	4.6	4.7	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.0			
Participation Rate	54.5	54.5	54.3	54.1	54.0	53.9	53.8	53.8	53.8	53.8			

2025	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	AVG
Labor Force	782,500	781,600	780,800	780,300	780,000	780,200	780,900	781,900	783,000	*	783,900	783,700	*
Employment	752,500	751,500	750,700	749,900	749,200	748,700	748,300	748,000	747,800	*	747,500	747,500	*
Unemployment	30,000	30,100	30,100	30,400	30,800	31,500	32,500	33,900	35,200	*	36,400	36,200	*
Rate	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.2	4.3	4.5	*	4.6	4.6	*
Participation Rate	54.6	54.5	54.5	54.4	54.4	54.4	54.4	54.5	54.6	*	54.6	54.6	*

2024	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	AVG
Labor Force	792,500	792,500	792,500	792,300	792,000	791,400	790,400	789,200	787,900	786,400	784,900	783,600	789,600
Employment	759,400	759,500	759,700	759,700	759,600	759,200	758,400	757,400	756,400	755,300	754,300	753,400	757,600
Unemployment	33,100	32,900	32,800	32,600	32,400	32,200	32,000	31,800	31,500	31,000	30,500	30,200	32,000
Rate	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.9	4.1
Participation Rate	55.3	55.3	55.3	55.3	55.3	55.2	55.2	55.1	55.0	54.9	54.7	54.6	55.1

2023	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	AVG
Labor Force	783,700	784,900	786,000	787,000	788,000	789,000	789,900	790,600	791,300	791,800	792,200	792,400	788,800
Employment	755,700	756,800	757,500	758,100	758,400	758,600	758,900	759,200	759,300	759,400	759,300	759,300	758,300
Unemployment	28,100	28,100	28,400	28,900	29,600	30,300	31,000	31,500	31,900	32,400	32,900	33,100	30,500
Rate	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.2	3.9
Participation Rate	54.8	54.8	54.9	55.0	55.1	55.1	55.2	55.2	55.3	55.3	55.3	55.3	55.1

2022	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	AVG
Labor Force	779,900	781,600	782,700	782,900	782,500	781,600	780,800	780,300	780,200	780,500	781,400	782,500	781,500
Employment	748,300	750,300	751,400	751,700	751,400	750,800	750,100	749,900	750,200	751,100	752,600	754,200	750,900
Unemployment	31,500	31,300	31,200	31,200	31,100	30,900	30,600	30,400	30,000	29,400	28,800	28,300	30,600
Rate	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.9
Participation Rate	54.3	54.5	54.6	54.6	54.6	54.6	54.5	54.5	54.5	54.5	54.6	54.7	54.6

2021	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	AVG
Labor Force	773,600	772,800	772,800	773,300	773,900	774,400	774,200	774,100	774,100	774,900	776,200	777,800	773,900
Employment	724,200	725,400	727,200	729,400	731,800	733,800	735,500	737,200	739,000	741,200	743,500	746,000	734,200
Unemployment	49,400	47,400	45,600	43,900	42,100	40,600	38,700	36,900	35,100	33,700	32,600	31,900	39,700
Rate	6.4	6.1	5.9	5.7	5.4	5.2	5.0	4.8	4.5	4.3	4.2	4.1	5.1
Participation Rate	53.7	53.7	53.7	53.7	53.7	53.8	53.8	53.8	53.8	53.9	54.0	54.1	53.8

2020	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	AVG
Labor Force	795,000	793,200	790,500	760,800	773,500	769,900	772,900	771,400	773,600	772,300	772,100	772,100	776,600
Employment	753,300	751,000	748,200	640,500	676,900	688,700	699,600	708,000	714,500	718,500	721,000	722,500	712,100
Unemployment	41,700	42,200	42,300	120,300	96,600	81,200	73,300	63,400	59,100	53,800	51,100	49,600	64,500
Rate	5.2	5.3	5.3	15.8	12.5	10.6	9.5	8.2	7.6	7.0	6.6	6.4	8.3
Participation Rate	55.0	54.9	54.8	52.7	53.6	53.4	53.6	53.5	53.7	53.6	53.6	53.6	53.9

2019	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	AVG
Labor Force	791,000	790,000	789,200	789,000	789,600	790,800	792,200	793,500	794,500	795,300	795,800	795,800	792,000
Employment	751,400	751,000	750,800	751,200	752,100	753,000	753,800	754,300	754,900	755,300	755,400	754,800	752,900
Unemployment	39,600	39,000	38,300	37,800	37,500	37,700	38,300	39,100	39,700	40,000	40,400	41,000	39,200
Rate	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.9	5.0	5.0	5.1	5.1	4.9
Participation Rate	54.5	54.5	54.5	54.5	54.5	54.6	54.8	54.9	54.9	55.0	55.1	55.1	54.7

2018	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	AVG
Labor Force	786,200	787,500	789,300	791,000	792,100	792,600	792,600	792,400	792,300	792,200	792,100	791,800	791,000
Employment	744,100	745,400	747,300	749,300	750,900	752,000	752,600	752,800	752,800	752,600	752,300	751,900	750,400
Unemployment	42,200	42,200	42,000	41,700	41,200	40,600	40,000	39,600	39,500	39,600	39,900	39,900	40,600
Rate	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.1
Participation Rate	53.9	54.1	54.2	54.4	54.5	54.5	54.5	54.5	54.5	54.6	54.6	54.6	54.4

2017	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	AVG
Labor Force	781,200	780,800	780,600	780,900	781,600	782,700	783,900	784,900	785,500	785,700	785,700	785,700	783,400
Employment	738,900	739,900	740,700	741,400	742,300	743,100	743,800	744,200	744,300	744,100	743,800	743,600	742,600
Unemployment	42,300	40,900	39,900	39,400	39,400	39,600	40,100	40,700	41,200	41,600	41,900	42,100	40,800
Rate	5.4	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.2
Participation Rate	53.2	53.2	53.3	53.3	53.4	53.5	53.6	53.7	53.8	53.8	53.8	53.9	53.5

2016	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	AVG
Labor Force	789,100	789,100	788,500	787,200	785,800	784,600	783,700	783,200	782,800	782,500	782,100	781,700	785,100
Employment	739,200	739,300	739,000	738,300	737,400	736,500	735,900	735,600	735,700	736,100	736,900	737,900	737,400
Unemployment	49,900	49,800	49,500	48,900	48,500	48,100	47,900	47,500	47,100	46,300	45,200	43,800	47,700
Rate	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.6	6.1
Participation Rate	53.5	53.5	53.5	53.4	53.3	53.3	53.2	53.2	53.2	53.2	53.2	53.2	53.3

2015	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	AVG
Labor Force	795,100	794,800	794,700	794,700	794,400	793,500	792,100	790,500	789,100	788,300	788,300	788,700	791,900
Employment	744,200	743,000	742,000	741,200	740,600	740,000	739,300	738,600	738,200	738,100	738,300	738,700	740,100
Unemployment	50,900	51,700	52,700	53,500	53,800	53,600	52,800	51,800	50,900	50,300	50,000	49,900	51,800
Rate	6.4	6.5	6.6	6.7	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.5
Participation Rate	53.7	53.7	53.7	53.7	53.7	53.6	53.6	53.5	53.4	53.4	53.4	53.4	53.5

Seasonally Adjusted - March 2025 Benchmark

West Virginia Labor Force Statistics by Calendar Year
Not Seasonally Adjusted

2026	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	AVG
Labor Force	767,400	775,800	762,900	772,500	772,000	782,600	779,800	776,100	775,800	776,100			
Employment	729,700	733,700	730,900	740,400	743,900	748,200	748,400	774,800	749,000	749,100			
Unemployment	37,700	42,100	32,100	32,100	28,100	34,400	31,400	31,400	26,900	27,100			
Rate	4.9	5.4	4.2	4.2	3.6	4.4	4.0	4.0	3.5	3.5			
Participation Rate	53.5	54.1	53.2	53.8	53.8	54.5	54.3	54.1	54.0	54.0			

2025	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	AVG
Labor Force	775,300	776,700	775,300	781,700	779,700	791,900	788,100	785,600	786,900	*	780,700	775,800	*
Employment	740,900	741,500	742,200	752,700	750,900	758,700	755,200	750,000	754,300	*	745,400	741,000	*
Unemployment	34,400	35,200	33,200	29,100	28,900	33,300	33,000	35,700	32,600	*	35,300	34,900	*
Rate	4.4	4.5	4.3	3.7	3.7	4.2	4.2	4.5	4.1	*	4.5	4.5	*
Participation Rate	54.1	54.2	54.1	54.5	54.4	55.2	54.9	54.8	54.8	*	54.4	54.1	*

2024	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	AVG
Labor Force	784,400	789,200	787,500	790,800	793,000	803,200	799,900	792,700	791,500	788,500	779,000	775,600	789,600
Employment	747,200	749,500	750,900	761,100	763,600	768,800	765,300	758,900	763,400	762,200	752,000	748,700	757,600
Unemployment	37,200	39,700	36,600	29,700	29,400	34,500	34,600	33,900	28,100	26,300	27,000	26,900	32,000
Rate	4.7	5.0	4.6	3.8	3.7	4.3	4.3	4.3	3.5	3.3	3.5	3.5	4.1
Participation Rate	54.8	55.1	55.0	55.2	55.4	56.1	55.8	55.3	55.2	55.0	54.3	54.1	55.1

2023	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	AVG
Labor Force	775,500	780,400	780,900	786,800	788,200	801,000	797,000	796,000	794,800	793,400	788,400	783,100	788,800
Employment	743,400	747,700	749,100	758,700	759,600	768,800	766,400	761,600	765,900	765,100	760,400	753,200	758,300
Unemployment	32,200	32,700	31,800	28,100	28,600	32,200	30,600	34,400	28,900	28,300	28,000	30,000	30,500
Rate	4.1	4.2	4.1	3.6	3.6	4.0	3.8	4.3	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.8	3.9
Participation Rate	54.2	54.5	54.6	55.0	55.1	56.0	55.7	55.6	55.5	55.4	55.1	54.7	55.1

2022	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	AVG
Labor Force	774,000	778,600	776,700	779,900	784,400	793,900	788,400	784,800	781,500	783,200	777,800	775,100	781,500
Employment	736,400	740,600	742,500	750,100	756,000	760,200	756,600	752,000	756,600	758,200	752,000	750,100	750,900
Unemployment	37,600	38,100	34,200	29,900	28,500	33,700	31,800	32,900	25,000	25,000	25,800	25,000	30,600
Rate	4.9	4.9	4.4	3.8	3.6	4.2	4.0	4.2	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.9
Participation Rate	53.9	54.3	54.2	54.4	54.8	55.4	55.1	54.8	54.6	54.7	54.3	54.1	54.6

2021	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	AVG
Labor Force	763,800	768,400	766,000	772,900	772,100	786,100	785,300	778,500	776,600	776,200	771,800	769,400	773,900
Employment	709,000	714,800	717,000	729,100	733,500	742,700	745,100	740,300	745,500	747,600	743,800	741,900	734,200
Unemployment	54,800	53,600	48,900	43,800	38,600	43,400	40,300	38,300	31,100	28,600	28,000	27,500	39,700
Rate	7.2	7.0	6.4	5.7	5.0	5.5	5.1	4.9	4.0	3.7	3.6	3.6	5.1
Participation Rate	53.0	53.3	53.2	53.7	53.6	54.6	54.5	54.1	54.0	54.0	53.7	53.6	53.8

2020	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	AVG
Labor Force	788,500	792,300	784,300	756,300	773,100	781,000	779,200	776,600	776,900	778,300	768,000	765,000	776,600
Employment	743,200	746,100	731,600	638,100	674,500	702,200	703,800	714,400	720,500	730,900	722,600	717,700	712,100
Unemployment	45,300	46,200	52,800	118,200	98,600	78,700	75,500	62,200	56,400	47,400	45,400	47,300	64,500
Rate	5.7	5.8	6.7	15.6	12.8	10.1	9.7	8.0	7.3	6.1	5.9	6.2	8.3
Participation Rate	54.6	54.9	54.4	52.4	53.6	54.2	54.1	53.9	53.9	54.0	53.3	53.1	53.9

2019	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	AVG
Labor Force	784,700	787,100	781,300	783,800	788,400	803,800	802,000	796,900	797,100	799,300	790,900	789,100	792,000
Employment	737,600	740,500	738,500	748,300	753,100	763,500	762,400	758,000	763,200	763,800	754,500	751,100	752,900
Unemployment	47,100	46,600	42,900	35,500	35,300	40,400	39,500	38,900	33,900	35,600	36,400	38,000	39,200
Rate	6.0	5.9	5.5	4.5	4.5	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.3	4.5	4.6	4.8	4.9
Participation Rate	54.1	54.3	53.9	54.1	54.5	55.5	55.4	55.1	55.1	55.3	54.7	54.6	54.7

2018	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	AVG
Labor Force	776,900	785,600	781,900	787,700	792,500	806,200	803,100	792,400	794,100	797,000	788,200	786,700	791,000
Employment	730,200	735,600	734,500	746,100	754,800	762,800	761,900	753,800	760,000	762,500	754,100	749,000	750,400
Unemployment	46,700	50,000	47,400	41,600	37,700	43,400	41,200	38,600	34,100	34,500	34,100	37,700	40,600
Rate	6.0	6.4	6.1	5.3	4.8	5.4	5.1	4.9	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.8	5.1
Participation Rate	53.3	53.9	53.7	54.1	54.5	55.5	55.3	54.5	54.7	54.9	54.3	54.2	54.4

2017	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	AVG
Labor Force	774,200	777,500	774,300	779,500	779,100	794,700	792,200	788,500	791,500	787,700	782,100	779,100	783,400
Employment	725,400	729,200	730,200	740,600	743,500	753,000	751,100	746,200	755,800	752,600	743,800	739,300	742,600
Unemployment	48,800	48,300	44,200	38,900	35,600	41,600	41,100	42,300	35,700	35,100	38,300	39,800	40,800
Rate	6.3	6.2	5.7	5.0	4.6	5.2	5.2	5.4	4.5	4.5	4.9	5.1	5.2
Participation Rate	52.8	53.0	52.8	53.2	53.2	54.3	54.2	53.9	54.2	53.9	53.6	53.4	53.5

2016	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	AVG
Labor Force	782,200	786,200	782,100	784,500	787,400	796,800	790,800	785,700	785,800	786,700	778,800	774,000	785,100
Employment	726,600	728,800	727,900	736,100	742,000	746,600	743,100	737,900	742,100	744,500	739,500	733,300	737,400
Unemployment	55,600	57,400	54,200	48,300	45,400	50,200	47,700	47,800	43,600	42,200	39,200	40,700	47,700
Rate	7.1	7.3	6.9	6.2	5.8	6.3	6.0	6.1	5.6	5.4	5.0	5.3	6.1
Participation Rate	53.0	53.3	53.0	53.2	53.4	54.1	53.7	53.4	53.4	53.5	53.0	52.7	53.3

2015	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	AVG
Labor Force	788,300	790,000	786,300	792,900	797,500	806,600	801,400	793,600	789,000	790,200	784,200	783,200	791,900
Employment	731,900	731,600	729,200	740,400	745,000	751,500	746,100	741,700	743,500	745,900	738,600	736,000	740,100
Unemployment	56,400	58,400	57,100	52,500	52,500	55,000	55,300	51,800	45,500	44,400	45,500	47,200	51,800
Rate	7.2	7.4	7.3	6.6	6.6	6.8	6.9	6.5	5.8	5.6	5.8	6.0	6.5
Participation Rate	53.2	53.3	53.1	53.6	53.9	54.5	54.2	53.7	53.4	53.5	53.1	53.0	53.5

Not Seasonally Adjusted - March 2025 Benchmark