

May Summary

Labor Force

Tennessee's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined slightly to 3.0% in May from 3.1% in April. The labor force participation rate remained steady at 59.6%. The number of people unemployed was down over 2,600 in May compared to April.

A year ago, the unemployment rate was 3.1% while the labor force participation rate was 60.1%, though the total number of people in the labor force is up over 18,000 from a year ago.

Over the year, the number of people unemployed in Tennessee is down over 1,100.

Tennessee's May 2024 unemployment rate of 3.0% sets an all-time low.

The U.S. unemployment rate increased slightly to 4.0% in May from 3.9% in April. The labor force participation rate decreased from 62.7% in April to 62.5% in May.

Nonfarm Employment

Total nonfarm employment in Tennessee rose 3,300 in May. The accommodation and food services sector added the most jobs (+2,600). Education and health services added 1,900 jobs. Of those jobs, health care and social assistance accounted for 1,300. Professional, scientific, and technical services added another 1,800 jobs. The largest declines were in state government at -1,800 jobs, followed by a decline of 1,700 jobs in construction. Retail trade and information both declined 300 jobs in May.

Over the year, Tennessee added 8,000 jobs. The largest increase was in education and health services (+26,100) with 22,100 of those in health care and social assistance and the remaining 4,000 in educational services. The leisure and hospitality sector added 8,200 jobs, 7,000 of which were in accommodation and food services. Trade, transportation, and utilities added another 3,600 jobs and federal government was up 3,100 jobs over the year. Administrative, support, and waste management services saw the largest decline at 19,500 jobs lost. Financial activities declined 5,700 jobs followed by a decline of 4,000 jobs in state government. Manufacturing jobs declined another 3,300 jobs with 2,700 of those lost jobs in nondurable goods manufacturing.