

FOR RELEASE: March 3, 2020
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January Unemployment Rate Down Slightly to 5.0 Percent

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 5.0 percent, down one-tenth of a percentage point in January. The number of unemployed state residents decreased 200 to 40,500. Total unemployment was up 1,900 over the year. The national unemployment rate increased to 3.6 percent in January.

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased 3,700 in January, with gains of 900 in the goods-producing sector and 2,800 in the service-providing sector.

Within the goods-producing sector, construction increased 800, mining and logging increased 200, and manufacturing declined 100. Within the service-providing sector, employment gains included 1,700 in government, 700 in leisure and hospitality, 400 in professional and business services, 300 in education and health services, and 200 in financial activities. Employment declines included 400 in trade, transportation, and utilities and 100 information. Employment in other services remained unchanged over the month.

Since January 2019, total nonfarm payroll employment has decreased 8,500. Employment gains included 1,800 in government, 900 in professional and business services, 500 in education and health services, and 200 in leisure and hospitality. Employment declines included 5,100 in construction, 2,900 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 2,000 in mining and logging, 1,200 in manufacturing, 400 in other services, and 300 in information. Employment in financial activities was unchanged over the year.

West Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose four-tenths of a percentage point to 5.4 percent in January 2020.