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## **February Unemployment Rate Down Slightly to 4.9 Percent**

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 4.9 percent, down one-tenth of a percentage point in February. The number of unemployed state residents decreased 800 to 39,700. Total unemployment was up 1,600 over the year. The national unemployment rate decreased to 3.5 percent in February.

Total nonfarm payroll employment decreased 2,500 in February, with declines of 700 in the goods-producing sector and 1,800 in the service-providing sector.

Within the goods-producing sector, employment decreased 700 in construction. Employment in mining and logging and manufacturing remained unchanged over the month. Within the service-providing sector, employment gains included 500 in education and health services and 100 in leisure and hospitality. Employment declines included 1,100 in government, 800 in professional and business services, 400 in trade, transportation, and utilities, and 100 in other services. Employment in both information and financial activities remained unchanged over the month.

Since February 2019, total nonfarm payroll employment has decreased 11,000. Employment gains included 800 in education and health services, 400 in government, and 100 in financial activities. Employment declines included 4,700 in construction, 2,000 in mining and logging, 2,800 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 1,200 in manufacturing, 600 in other services, 400 in leisure and hospitality, 400 in professional and business services, and 200 in information.

West Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased one-tenth of a percentage point to 5.4 percent in February 2020.