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March Unemployment Rate Climbs to 6.1 Percent

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose to 6.1 percent, up over one percentage point in March. The number of unemployed state residents increased 9,800 to 49,500. Total unemployment was up 11,700 over the year. The national unemployment rate increased to 4.4 percent in March.

Total nonfarm payroll employment decreased 1,400 in March, with declines of 200 in the goods-producing sector and 1,200 in the service-providing sector.

Within the goods-producing sector, employment decreased 400 in manufacturing, increased 200 in construction, while mining and logging remained unchanged over the month. Within the service-providing sector, employment gains included 600 in government and 200 in other services. Employment declines included 600 in leisure and hospitality, 400 in education and health services, 400 in professional and business services, 300 in information, 200 in trade, transportation, and utilities, and 100 in financial activities.

Since March 2019, total nonfarm payroll employment has decreased 12,600. Employment gains included 800 in government, 100 in education and health services, and 100 in financial activities. Employment declines included 3,900 in construction, 3,100 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 2,000 in mining and logging, 1,400 in manufacturing, 1,200 in leisure and hospitality, 1,000 in professional and business services, 500 in information, and 500 in other services.

West Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased six-tenths of a percentage point to 6.1 percent in March 2020.