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April Unemployment Rate Climbs to 15.2 Percent

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose to 15.2 percent, up over nine percentage points in April. The number of unemployed state residents increased 67,400 to 117,100. Total unemployment was up 79,600 over the year. The national unemployment rate increased to 14.7 percent in April. These changes reflect the effects of the coronavirus pandemic and effort to contain it.

Total nonfarm payroll employment decreased 90,100 in April, with declines of 5,400 in the goods-producing sector and 84,700 in the service-providing sector.

Within the goods-producing sector, employment declines included 2,700 in manufacturing, 2,600 in construction, and 100 in mining and logging. Within the service-providing sector, employment declines included 37,400 in leisure and hospitality, 14,200 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 11,800 in education and health services, 9,700 in government, 4,800 in professional and business services, 3,900 in other services, 2,600 in financial activities, and 300 in information.

Since April 2019, total nonfarm payroll employment has decreased 103,400. Employment declines included 39,200 in leisure and hospitality, 17,100 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 11,900 in education and health services, 9,200 in government, 6,600 in construction, 5,900 in professional and business services, 4,400 in other services, 3,700 in manufacturing, 2,500 in financial activities, 2,100 in mining and logging, and 800 in information.

West Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased over nine percentage points to 15.8 percent in April 2020.