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State Unemployment Rate Drops to 12.9 Percent in May

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped to 12.9 percent, down three percentage points in May. The number of unemployed state residents decreased 23,400 to 100,400. Total unemployment was up 62,900 over the year. The national unemployment rate decreased to 13.3 percent in May.

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased 13,300 in May, with gains of 9,700 in the service-providing sector and 3,600 in the goods-producing sector.

Within the goods-producing sector, employment increases included 2,400 in construction and 1,700 in manufacturing. Mining and logging decreased 500 over the month. Within the service-providing sector, employment gains included 8,800 in leisure and hospitality, 1,900 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 1,700 in education and health services, 500 in other services, and 200 in financial activities. Employment declines included 2,900 in government, 300 in professional and business services, and 200 in information.

Since May 2019, total nonfarm payroll employment has decreased 91,400. Employment declines included 30,900 leisure and hospitality, 14,800 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 12,100 in government, 10,400 in education and health services, 6,300 in professional and business services, 5,600 in construction, 3,800 in other services, 2,700 in mining and logging, 2,100 in financial activities, 1,700 in manufacturing, and 1,000 in information.

West Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased over three percentage points to 12.5 percent in May 2020.