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## State Unemployment Rate Drops to 9.9 Percent in July

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped to 9.9 percent in July, down six-tenths of a percentage point from the previous month. The number of unemployed state residents decreased 4,600 to 75,400. Total unemployment was up 37,000 over the year. The national unemployment rate decreased to 10.2 percent in July.

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased 200 in July, with a gain of 1,000 in the service-providing sector narrowly offsetting a decrease of 800 in the goods-producing sector.

Within the goods-producing sector, employment increased 1,100 in construction. Employment declines included 1,200 in mining and logging and 700 in manufacturing. Within the service-providing sector, employment gains included 2,300 in education and health services, 1,800 in leisure and hospitality, 1,000 in financial activities, 600 in professional and business services, 600 in other services, 100 in trade, transportation, and utilities, and 100 in information. Employment declined 5,500 in government, due almost entirely to June poll workers in the primary election leaving the workforce.

Since July 2019, total nonfarm payroll employment has decreased 51,700. Employment declines included 16,600 in leisure and hospitality, 9,300 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 5,800 in government, 4,900 in professional and business services, 4,300 in education and health services, 3,600 in mining and logging, 2,700 in construction, 1,700 in financial activities, 1,100 in other services, 900 in manufacturing, and 800 in information.

West Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased eight-tenths of a percentage point to 9.7 percent in July 2020.