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## **State Unemployment Rate Drops to 8.9 Percent in August**

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped to 8.9 percent in August, down over one percentage point from the previous month. The number of unemployed state residents decreased 8,200 to 68,300. Total unemployment was up 29,100 over the year. The national unemployment rate decreased to 8.4 percent in August.

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased 5,500 in August, with a gain of 6,200 in the service-providing sector offsetting a decrease of 700 in the goods-producing sector.

Within the goods-producing sector, employment increased 200 in mining and logging and 200 in manufacturing. Employment declined 1,100 in construction. Within the service-providing sector, employment gains included 3,300 in government, 2,000 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 1,500 in leisure and hospitality, and 600 in financial activities. Employment declines included 600 in education and health services, 400 in professional and business services, and 200 in information. Employment in other services remained unchanged over the month.

Since August 2019, total nonfarm payroll employment has decreased 45,600. Employment declines included 14,500 in leisure and hospitality, 6,500 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 5,300 in professional and business services, 5,000 in education and health services, 4,900 in government, 2,900 in construction, 2,800 in mining and logging, 1,300 in other services, 1,200 in financial activities, 800 in information, and 400 in manufacturing.

West Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased over one percentage point to 8.7 percent in August 2020.