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State Unemployment Rate Drops to 8.6 Percent in September

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 8.6 percent in September, down three-tenths of a percentage point from the previous month. The number of unemployed state residents decreased 2,700 to 66,500. Total unemployment was up 26,500 over the year. The national unemployment rate decreased to 7.9 percent in September.

Total nonfarm payroll employment decreased 3,000 in September, with declines of 2,500 in the service-providing sector and 500 in the goods-producing sector.

Within the goods-producing sector, employment increased 300 in construction. Employment declined 700 in mining and logging and 100 in manufacturing. Within the service-providing sector, employment gains included 1,700 in leisure and hospitality, 400 in education and health services, 300 in other services, and 100 in information. Employment declines included 3,200 in government, 1,000 in professional and business services, 500 in trade, transportation, and utilities, and 300 in financial activities.

Since September 2019, total nonfarm payroll employment has decreased 45,600. Employment declines included 13,200 in leisure and hospitality, 7,200 in government, 6,700 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 6,300 in professional and business services, 4,000 in education and health services, 3,300 in mining and logging, 1,600 in construction, 1,600 in financial activities, 800 in other services, 600 in information, and 300 in manufacturing.

West Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased nine-tenths of a percentage point to 7.9 percent in September 2020.