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State Unemployment Rate Drops to 6.4 Percent in October

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 6.4 percent in October, down over two percentage points from the previous month. The number of unemployed state residents decreased 18,100 to 48,800. Total employment was up 8,100 over the month. The national unemployment rate decreased to 6.9 percent in October.

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased 1,000 in October, with gains of 1,600 in the goods-producing sector offsetting a decline of 600 in the service-providing sector.

Within the goods-producing sector, employment increased 1,100 in construction, 500 in manufacturing, and remained unchanged in mining and logging. Within the service-providing sector, employment gains included 800 in professional and business services, 400 in leisure and hospitality, and 400 in other services. Employment declines included 1,000 in government, 800 in education and health services, and 400 in financial activities. Employment in trade, transportation, and utilities and information remained unchanged over the month.

Since October 2019, total nonfarm payroll employment has decreased 47,000. Employment declines included 12,800 in leisure and hospitality, 7,800 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 7,400 in government, 5,800 in education and health services, 5,700 in professional and business services, 3,200 in mining and logging, 1,800 in financial activities, 1,500 in construction, 700 in information, and 500 in other services. Employment increased 200 in manufacturing over the year.

West Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased over two percentage points to 5.7 percent in October 2020.