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State Unemployment Rate Remains at 6.3 Percent in December

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained at 6.3 percent in December. The number of unemployed state residents increased 100 to 48,600. Total employment was up 3,400 over the month. The national unemployment rate remained at 6.7 percent in December.

Total nonfarm payroll employment decreased 2,200 in December, with a decline of 2,400 in the service-providing sector easily offsetting an increase of 200 in the goods-producing sector.

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

Since December 2019, total nonfarm payroll employment has decreased 43,600. Employment declines included 13,000 in leisure and hospitality, 8,700 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 8,000 in government, 4,900 in professional and business services, 4,900 in education and health services, 2,800 in mining and logging, 1,100 in financial activities, 500 in information, and 300 in other services. Employment gains included 500 in manufacturing and 100 in construction.

West Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased three-tenths of a percentage point to 6.1 percent in December 2020.