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State Unemployment Rate drops to 6.5 Percent in January

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped two-tenths of a percentage point to 6.5 percent in January 2021. The number of unemployed state residents decreased by 2,200 to 51,500. Total employment was up 1,900 over the month. The national unemployment rate decreased four-tenths of a percentage point to 6.3 percent in January.

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased 2,900 in January, with gains of 2,000 in the service-providing sector and 900 in the goods-producing sector.

Within the goods-producing sector, employment increased 600 in mining and logging, 200 in manufacturing, and in 100 construction. Within the service-providing sector, employment gains included 900 in professional and business services, 900 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 300 in leisure and hospitality, 200 in education and health services, and 200 in government. Employment declined 500 in financial activities. Employment in both other services and in information was unchanged over the month.

Since January 2020, total nonfarm payroll employment has decreased 45,800. Employment declines included 12,300 in leisure and hospitality, 10,300 in government, 5,300 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 4,600 in education and health services, 2,500 in construction, 2,500 in other services, 2,300 in mining and logging, 2,100 in manufacturing, 2,100 in professional and business services, 1,000 in financial activities, and 800 in information.

West Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased one-tenth of a percentage point to 7.1 percent in January 2021.