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State Unemployment Rate drops to 6.2 Percent in February

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped three-tenths of a percentage point to 6.2 percent in February 2021. The number of unemployed state residents decreased by 1,900 to 49,700. Total employment was up 1,500 over the month. The national unemployment rate decreased one-tenth of a percentage point to 6.2 percent in February.

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased 3,000 in February, with gains of 2,800 in the service-providing sector and 200 in the goods-producing sector.

Within the goods-producing sector, employment increased 400 in mining and logging. Employment declines included 100 in manufacturing and in 100 construction. Within the service-providing sector, employment gains included 2,100 in government, 800 in leisure and hospitality, 200 in education and health services, and 100 in professional and business services. Employment declines included 200 in financial activities, 100 in trade, transportation, and utilities, and 100 in other services. Employment in information was unchanged over the month.

Since February 2020, total nonfarm payroll employment has decreased 39,400. Employment declines included 11,500 in leisure and hospitality, 6,200 in government, 4,500 in education and health services, 3,600 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 3,100 in construction, 2,600 in manufacturing, 2,300 in professional and business services, 2,300 in other services, 1,400 in financial activities, 1,200 in mining and logging, and 700 in information.

West Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased two-tenths of a percentage point to 6.9 percent in February 2021.