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## State Unemployment Rate drops to 5.9 Percent in March

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped three-tenths of a percentage point to 5.9 percent in March 2021. The number of unemployed state residents decreased by 2,400 to 47,300. Total employment was up 2,000 over the month. The national unemployment rate decreased two-tenths of a percentage point to 6.0 percent in March.

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased 1,700 in March, with gains of 1,200 in the service-providing sector and 500 in the goods-producing sector.

Within the goods-producing sector, employment increased 200 in mining and logging, 200 in manufacturing, and 100 in construction. Within the service-providing sector, employment gains included 1,000 in leisure and hospitality, 800 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 500 in education and health services, 300 in financial activities, 300 in professional and business services, and 100 in information. Employment declines included 1,300 in government and 500 in other services.

Since March 2020, total nonfarm payroll employment has decreased 32,700. Employment declines included 7,900 in government, 7,600 in leisure and hospitality, 4,200 in educational and health services, 2,600 in other services, 2,400 in construction, 2,100 in manufacturing, 1,800 in professional and business services, 1,800 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 1,300 in financial activities, 600 in information, and 400 in mining and logging.

West Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased eight-tenths of a percentage point to 6.1 percent in March 2021.