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State Unemployment Rate drops to 5.8 Percent in April

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped one-tenth of a percentage point to 5.8 percent in April 2021. The number of unemployed state residents decreased by 1,500 to 45,800. Total employment was up 1,700 over the month. The national unemployment rate increased one-tenth of a percentage point to 6.1 percent in April.

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased 3,200 in April, with gains of 1,700 in the service-providing sector and 1,500 in the goods-producing sector.

Within the goods-producing sector, employment increased 1,100 in mining and logging and 600 in manufacturing. Employment decreased 200 in construction. Within the service-providing sector, employment gains included 1,400 in leisure and hospitality, 400 in other services, 300 in financial activities, and 100 in professional and business services. Employment declines included 400 in trade, transportation, and utilities and 100 in education and health services. Employment remained unchanged in both government and information.

Since April 2020, total nonfarm payroll employment has increased 67,600. Employment increases included 27,500 in leisure and hospitality, 11,700 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 7,800 in education and health services, 4,100 in professional and business services, 4,000 in construction, 3,600 in government, 3,200 in other services, 3,100 in mining and logging, 2,000 in manufacturing, 500 in financial activities, and 100 in information.

West Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased four-tenths of a percentage point to 5.7 percent in April 2021.