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State Unemployment Rate drops to 5.0 Percent in July

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped three-tenths of a percentage point to 5.0 percent in July 2021, the lowest seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the state since January 2020. The number of unemployed state residents decreased by 2,100 to 39,900. Total employment grew 1,700 over the month. The national unemployment rate declined five-tenths of a percentage point to 5.4 percent in July.

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased 3,600 in July, with gains of 3,000 in the service-providing sector and 600 in the goods-producing sector.

Within the goods-producing sector, employment increased 600 in mining and logging and 200 in manufacturing. Construction employment declined 200 over the month. Within the service-providing sector, employment gains included 2,200 in government, 500 in financial activities, 300 in professional and business services, 300 in education and health services, 100 in leisure and hospitality, and 100 in other services. Employment declines included 300 in trade, transportation, and utilities and 200 in information.

Since July 2020, total nonfarm payroll employment has increased 27,100. Employment gains included 5,700 in government, 5,700 in leisure and hospitality, 4,000 in mining and logging, 3,000 in professional and business services, 2,400 in manufacturing, 2,000 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 1,700 in construction, 1,200 in education and health services, 1,000 in financial activities, and 400 in other services. Information employment was unchanged over the year.

West Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell six-tenths of a percentage point to 4.5 percent in July 2021, the lowest not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the state since November 2019.