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State Unemployment Rate Drops to 4.8 percent in August

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped two-tenths of a percentage point to 4.8 percent in August 2021, the lowest seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the state since June 2019. The number of unemployed state residents decreased by 1,700 to 38,200. Total employment grew 1,500 over the month. The national unemployment rate declined two-tenths of a percentage point to 5.2 percent in August.

Total nonfarm payroll employment declined 200 in August, where a loss of 1,800 in the goods-producing sector offset a gain of 1,600 in the service-providing sector.

Within the goods-producing sector, employment declines included 1,000 in mining and logging, 600 in manufacturing, and 200 in construction. Within the service-providing sector, employment increased 1,500 in government due to restaffing at state and local schools, 1,000 in leisure and hospitality, 200 in professional and business services, and 100 in information. Employment declines included 1,100 in trade, transportation, and utilities and 100 in financial activities. Employment in both other services and education and health services was unchanged over the month.

Since August 2020 total nonfarm payroll employment has increased 24,100. Employment gains included 7,200 in leisure and hospitality, 3,800 in government, 3,000 in professional and business services, 2,700 in mining and logging, 2,200 in construction, 1,800 in manufacturing, 1,600 in education and health services, 600 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 600 in financial activities, 300 in information, and 300 in other services.

West Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined two-tenths of a percentage point to 4.3 percent in August 2021, the lowest not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the state since September 2019.