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State Unemployment Rate Drops to 4.6 Percent in September

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped two-tenths of a percentage point to 4.6 percent in September 2021, the lowest seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the state since August 2008. The number of unemployed state residents decreased by 2,100 to 36,000. Total employment grew 1,200 over the month. The national unemployment rate declined four-tenths of a percentage point to 4.8 percent in September.

Total nonfarm payroll employment declined 800 in September, where a loss of 1,700 in the service-providing sector offset a gain of 900 in the goods-producing sector.

Within the goods-producing sector, employment gains of 700 in mining and logging and 700 in construction easily offset a decline of 500 in manufacturing. Within the service-providing sector, employment declines included 1,100 in education and health services, 500 in leisure and hospitality, 300 in financial activities, 200 in information, 200 in other services, 100 in professional and business services, and 100 in government.

Since September 2020, total nonfarm payroll employment has increased 20,200. Employment gains included 5,900 in leisure and hospitality, 3,100 in government, 3,000 in construction, 2,900 in professional and business services, 1,600 in mining and logging, 1,500 in manufacturing, 1,300 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 800 in education and health services, 200 in financial activities, and 100 in other services. Information employment declined 200 over the year.

West Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined one percentage point to 3.2 percent, the lowest not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate on record for the state.