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State Unemployment Rate Drops to 4.3 Percent in October

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped three-tenths of a percentage point to 4.3 percent in October 2021, the lowest seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the state on record. The number of unemployed state residents decreased by 2,400 to 34,300. Total employment grew 1,200 over the month. The national unemployment rate declined two-tenths of a percentage point to 4.6 percent, the lowest seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the nation since the onset of the pandemic.

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased 1,000 in October, with gains of 900 in the goods-producing sector and 100 in the service-providing sector.

Within the goods-producing sector, employment increases included 700 in construction and 200 in manufacturing. Mining and logging employment was unchanged over the month. Within the service-providing sector, employment gains included 1,400 in trade, transportation, and utilities and 1,400 in leisure and hospitality. Employment declines included 1,300 in government, 600 in financial activities, 600 in education and health services, 100 in information, and 100 in professional and business services. Employment in other services was unchanged over the month.

Since October 2020, total nonfarm payroll employment has increased by 18,300. Employment gains included 7,100 in leisure and hospitality, 3,100 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 2,200 in government, 1,700 in mining and logging, 1,500 in professional and business services, 1,300 in manufacturing, 1,200 in construction, 600 in education and health services, and 100 in other services. Employment declines included 300 in financial activities and 200 in information.

West Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined three-tenths of a percentage point to 2.9 percent, the lowest not seasonally adjusted unemployment on record for the state.