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## **State Unemployment Rate Drops to 3.7 Percent in December**

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped three-tenths of a percentage point to 3.7 percent in December 2021, becoming the lowest seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the state on record. The number of unemployed state residents decreased by 2,700 to 28,900. Total employment grew by 1,600 over the month. The national unemployment rate declined three-tenths of a percentage point to 3.9 percent in December 2021, continuing the trend of the lowest seasonally adjusted unemployment rates for the nation since the onset of the pandemic.

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased 5,600 in December, with gains of 1,800 in the goods-producing sector and 3,800 in the service-providing sector.

Within the goods producing sector, increases of 1,500 in construction and 400 in manufacturing easily offset a decline of 100 in mining and logging.

Within the service-providing sector, employment gains included 1,100 in education and health services; 900 in government, entirely within the local sector; 800 in trade, transportation and utilities; 700 in professional and business services; and 700 in leisure and hospitality. Employment declines included 200 in other services, 100 in financial activities, and 100 in information.

Since December 2020, total nonfarm payroll employment has increased by 28,300. Employment gains included 8,200 in leisure and hospitality, 6,200 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 4,000 in government, 3,600 in construction, 2,200 in mining and logging, 2,200 in professional and business services, 1,700 in manufacturing, 600 in education and health services, and 200 in other services. Employment declines included 300 in both information and in financial activities.

West Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose three-tenths of a percentage point to 2.9 percent.