

FOR RELEASE: March 1, 2022
Contact: Andy Malinoski
Andy.E.Malinoski@wv.gov
304-957-9318

State Unemployment Drops to 4.1 Percent in January 2022

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased two-tenths of a percentage point to 4.1 percent in January 2022. (Please note that prior estimates have been revised as part of the Bureau of Labor Statistics annual benchmarking process.) The number of unemployed state residents declined 1,700 to 32,200. Total employment grew by 2,700 over the month. The national unemployment rate rose one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.0 percent in January.

Total nonfarm payroll employment decreased 2,100 in January, where a loss of 2,300 in the service-providing sector easily offset a gain of 200 in the goods-producing sector.

Within the goods producing sector, an increase of 400 in construction and 100 in mining and logging offset a decline of 300 in manufacturing.

Within the service-providing sector, employment gains included 300 in financial activities, 100 in professional and business services, and 100 in other services. Employment declines included 2,000 in trade, transportation, and utilities; 400 in government; 300 in leisure and hospitality; and 100 in education and health services. Employment in the information sector was unchanged over the month.

Since January 2021, total nonfarm payroll employment has increased by 16,200.

Employment gains included 5,200 in leisure and hospitality; 4,300 in government; 2,000 in construction; 1,700 in professional and business services; 1,500 in trade, transportation, and utilities; 1,100 in other services; 900 in manufacturing; 800 in financial activities; 600 in mining and logging; and 400 in information. A decline of 2,300 occurred in the education and health services sector.

West Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose nine-tenths of a percentage point to 4.4 percent in January.

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted labor force participation rate inched upward to 55.0 percent in January 2022 and climbed nine-tenths of a percentage point from January 2021.