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State Unemployment Rate Drops to 3.9 Percent in February 2022

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased two-tenths of a percentage point to 3.9 percent in February 2022. The number of unemployed state residents declined 1,400 to 30,800. Total employment grew by 2,000 over the month. The national unemployment rate dropped two-tenths of a percentage point to 3.8 percent in February.

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased 5,300 in February, with gains of 700 in the goods-producing sector and 4,600 in the service-providing sector.

Employment gains within the goods-producing sector included 300 in construction, 200 in mining and logging, and 200 in manufacturing.

Within the service-providing sector, employment gains included 2,500 in trade, transportation, and utilities; 600 in leisure and hospitality; 400 in professional and business services; 400 in other services; 300 in education and health services; 200 in financial activities; 100 information; and 100 in government.

Since February 2021, total nonfarm payroll employment has increased by 19,500.

Employment gains included 6,200 in leisure and hospitality; 3,700 in trade, transportation, and utilities; 3,300 in government (almost entirely in the local sector); 2,100 in construction; 2,000 in professional and business services; 1,600 in other services; 800 in financial activities; 700 in mining and logging; 500 in manufacturing; and 300 in information. A decline of 1,700 occurred in the education and health services sector.

West Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate inched upward one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.5 percent in February.

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted labor force participation rate remained at 55.0 percent in February 2022.