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## **State Unemployment Rate Drops to 3.7 Percent in March 2022**

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased two-tenths of a percentage point to 3.7 percent in March 2022. The number of unemployed state residents declined 1,700 to 29,100. Total employment grew by 2,100 over the month. The national unemployment rate dropped two-tenths of a percentage point to 3.6 percent in March.

Total nonfarm payroll employment declined 500 in March, the decline solely in the service-providing sector. Employment in the goods-producing sector was unchanged over the month.

Within the goods-producing sector, employment gains of 300 in mining and logging and 300 in manufacturing offset a decline of 600 in construction.

Within the service-providing sector, employment gains included 600 in professional and business services, 400 in education and health services, 400 in leisure and hospitality, 200 in financial activities, and 100 in information. Employment declines included 1,100 in government, 800 in trade, transportation, and utilities, and 300 in other services.

Since March 2021, total nonfarm payroll employment has increased by 11,800.

Employment gains included 6,100 in leisure and hospitality, 2,500 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 2,000 in professional and business services, 1,100 in mining and logging, 800 in manufacturing, 800 in other services, 700 in financial activities, 500 in construction, and 400 in information. Employment declines included 1,900 in education and health services and 1,200 in government.

West Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined five-tenths of a percentage point to 4.0 percent in March.

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