

FOR RELEASE: June 15, 2022
Contact: Andy Malinoski
Andy.E.Malinoski@wv.gov
304-957-9318

State Unemployment Rate Drops to 3.5 Percent in May 2022

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate inched downward one -tenth of a percentage point to 3.5 percent in May 2022. The number of unemployed state residents declined 500 to 27,900. Total employment grew by 1,700 over the month. The national unemployment rate remained at 3.6 percent in May.

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased 8,800 in May, with gains of 8,400 in the service-providing sector and 400 in the goods-producing sector. Within the goods-producing sector, construction added 400 jobs, while a decline of 300 in manufacturing offset a gain of 300 in mining and logging.

Within the service-providing sector, employment gains included 8,500 in government, the gain solely in the local sector resulting from poll workers in the statewide primary election, 300 in education and health services, 200 in financial activities, 200 in other services, and 100 in leisure and hospitality. Employment declines included 800 in trade, transportation, and utilities and 100 in professional and business services. Employment in information was unchanged over the month.

Since May 2021, total nonfarm payroll employment has increased by 26,500. Employment gains included 6,400 in leisure and hospitality, 7,300 in government due to poll workers, 3,400 in professional and business services, 3,000 in construction, 2,700 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 1,700 in mining and logging, 1,100 in manufacturing, 1,000 in financial activities, 900 in other services, and 300 in information. Education and health services declined by 1,300 over the year.

West Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined two-tenths of a percentage point to 3.4 percent in May.

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted labor force participation rate was unchanged at 55.1 percent in May 2022.