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State Unemployment Rate Inches Upward in July 2022

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate inched upward one-tenth of a percentage point to 3.7 percent in July 2022. The number of unemployed state residents climbed 900 to 29,600. Total employment declined 500 over the month. The national seasonally adjusted unemployment rate inched downward to 3.5 percent.

Total nonfarm payroll employment climbed 3,000 in July, with gains of 2,700 in the service-providing sector and 300 in the goods-producing sector. Within the goods-producing sector, a gain of 600 in mining and logging offset a decline of 300 in construction. Employment in manufacturing was unchanged over the month.

Within the service-providing sector, employment gains included 800 in government, 600 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 500 in professional and business services, 500 in leisure and hospitality, 200 in financial activities, and 100 in other services. Employment was unchanged in both information and education and health services.

Since July 2021, total nonfarm payroll employment has increased by 18,900. Employment gains included 5,200 in leisure and hospitality, 4,300 in professional and business services, 2,500 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 2,400 in mining and logging, 2,200 in construction, 900 in manufacturing, 700 in financial activities, 500 in other services, and 300 in information. Employment declined 100 in education and health services and was unchanged in government.

West Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.2 percent in July.

The state's seasonally adjusted labor force participation rate remained at 55.2 percent in July 2022.