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State Unemployment Rate Climbs to 3.9 Percent in August

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose two-tenths of a percentage point to 3.9 percent in August 2022. The number of unemployed state residents climbed 1,400 to 31,000. Total employment declined 1,900 over the month. The national seasonally adjusted unemployment rate climbed two-tenths of a percentage point to 3.7 percent.

Total nonfarm payroll employment rose 900 in August, where a gain of 1,300 in the goods-producing sector easily offset a decline of 400 in the service-providing sector. Within the goods-producing sector, employment gains included 600 in manufacturing, 400 in construction, and 300 in mining and logging.

Within the service-providing sector, employment gains included 1,400 in leisure and hospitality, 100 in education and health services, and 100 in financial activities. Employment declines included 800 in government, solely in the local sector, 800 in professional and business services, 200 in trade, transportation, and utilities, and 200 in other services. Information employment was unchanged over the month.

Since August 2021, total nonfarm payroll employment has increased by 20,000. Employment gains included 6,500 in leisure and hospitality, 3,500 in construction, 3,200 in professional and business services, 2,500 in mining and logging, 1,400 in manufacturing, 1,400 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 1,000 in financial activities, 300 in information, 300 in education and health services, and 300 in other services. Employment in government declined 400 over the year.

West Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate inched upward one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.3 percent in August.

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