

FOR RELEASE: October 19, 2022  
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## State Unemployment rate Climbs to 4.0 Percent in September

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate inched upward one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.0 percent in September 2022. The number of unemployed state residents rose 500 to 31,500. Total employment declined 1,600 over the month. The national seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined two-tenths of a percentage point to 3.5 percent.

Total nonfarm payroll employment rose 3,800 in September, with gains of 3,200 in the service-providing sector and 600 in the goods-producing sector. Within the goods-producing sector, gains of 500 in construction and 200 in mining and logging easily offset a decline of 100 in manufacturing.

Within the service-providing sector, employment gains included 1,800 in education and health services, 800 in government, almost entirely at the local level, 500 in professional and business services, 200 in trade, transportation, and utilities, and 100 in financial activities. Employment declines included 100 in both information and in leisure and hospitality, while employment was unchanged in other services over the month.

Since September 2021, total nonfarm payroll employment has increased by 26,000. Employment gains included 6,200 in leisure and hospitality, 4,400 in construction, 4,100 in professional and business services, 2,900 in education and health services, 2,800 in mining and logging, 2,600 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 1,300 in manufacturing, 1,200 in financial activities, 200 in other services, 200 in government, and 100 in information.

West Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 3.2 percent in September.

The state's seasonally adjusted labor force participation rate inched downward to 55.1 percent in September 2022.