

FOR RELEASE: March 22, 2023  
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## State Unemployment Rate Declines in February

West Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined two-tenths of a percentage point to 3.7 percent in February 2023, the lowest seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the state since April 2022. The number of unemployed state residents fell 2,100 to 28,800. Total employment climbed 900 over the month. The national seasonally adjusted unemployment rate climbed two-tenths of a percentage point to 3.6 percent in February 2023.

Total nonfarm payroll employment rose 1,500 in February, with a gain of 2,100 in the service-providing sector offsetting a decline of 600 in the goods-producing sector.

Within the goods-producing sector, employment declines included 500 in manufacturing and 200 in construction. Mining and logging employment climbed 100 over the month.

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

Since February 2022, total nonfarm payroll employment has risen 2,500. Employment gains included 3,400 in private education and health services, 1,500 in mining and logging, 1,000 in other services, 900 in government, and 100 in information. Employment declines included 2,200 in construction, 1,100 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 500 in leisure and hospitality, 400 in professional and business services, 100 in manufacturing, and 100 in financial activities.

West Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell five-tenths of a percentage point to 3.7 percent in February.

The state's seasonally adjusted labor force participation rate declined one-tenth of a percentage point to 54.6 percent.