

Jim Doyle
Governor

Roberta Gassman
Secretary



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
201 East Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 7946
Madison, WI 53707-7946
Telephone: (608) 266-3131
Fax: (608) 266-1784
<http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/>
e-mail: dwdsec@dwd.state.wi.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, April 17, 2008
CONTACT: Dick Jones, Agency Liaison, 608-267-4780

MARCH UNEMPLOYMENT RATES ANNOUNCED

Unadjusted Data

MADISON – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman announced today that Wisconsin's unemployment rate for March was 5.6 percent, down two-tenths of a percentage point from February's 5.8 percent and equal to the rate one year ago. The national rate for March was 5.2 percent, same as the February rate, but seven-tenths of a percentage point higher than the March 2007 rate of 4.5 percent.

"Wisconsin's labor market showed improvement from February with a drop of two-tenths of a percentage point in unemployment rate and an increase of nearly 13,000 in jobs over the month," Secretary Gassman said. "We are encouraged by these figures as we work to address the challenges and opportunities of today's economy in a number of areas, including manufacturing."

From February to March, total Wisconsin non-farm jobs increased by 12,900 to 2,825,100. Private sector jobs grew by 10,000, led by the leisure and hospitality sector with an increase of 2,900, and educational and health services with 1,600 jobs. Goods producers added 2,600 jobs with 2,300 in construction and the remaining 300 in manufacturing. Government jobs were up 2,900, led by local government, which added 2,500.

Over the year, March 2008 showed a decline of 4,900 Wisconsin non-farm jobs. Goods producers were down 14,100, led by a decline in manufacturing of 8,600. Service providers gained 9,200 over the year, led by an increase of 9,600 in educational and health services. Government jobs rose 4,700 over the year. Local government added 7,700 jobs, while state and federal government decreased their employment by 2,600 and 400 jobs respectively.

Adjusted Data

The seasonally adjusted Wisconsin unemployment rate for March 2008 was 4.8 percent, down one-tenth of a percentage point from February and down two-tenths of a percentage point from March 2007.

Total state employment was up 7,400 from last month, and up 19,900 compared to one year ago.

WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY
In Thousands

ITEM	PRELIM. MAR 08	FINAL FEB 08	YEAR AGO MAR 07	NET CHANGE FROM	
				MONTH AGO	YEAR AGO
PLACE OF RESIDENCE DATA					
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES					
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3085.7	3078.2	3075.9	7.5	9.8
UNEMPLOYMENT	174.1	178.3	170.9	-4.2	3.2
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	5.6	5.8	5.6	-0.2	0.0
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2911.6	2900.0	2905.0	11.6	6.6
PLACE OF WORK DATA					
<i>NONFARM WAGE & SALARY</i>					
TOTAL PRIVATE	2825.1	2812.2	2830	12.9	-4.9
<i>GOODS PRODUCING</i>	2397.9	2387.9	2407.5	10.0	-9.6
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	598.1	595.5	612.2	2.6	-14.1
CONSTRUCTION	3	3	3.3	0.0	-0.3
MANUFACTURING	107.8	105.5	113	2.3	-5.2
Durable Goods	487.3	487	495.9	0.3	-8.6
Nondurable Goods	308.3	308.7	313.5	-0.4	-5.2
<i>SERVICE PRODUCING</i>	179	178.3	182.4	0.7	-3.4
TRADE	2227	2216.7	2217.8	10.3	9.2
Wholesale Trade	423.9	423.3	427.6	0.6	-3.7
Retail Trade	120.9	120.8	120	0.1	0.9
TRANS., WAREHOUSE, & UTILITIES	303	302.5	307.6	0.5	-4.6
Utilities	109.3	108.5	108.7	0.8	0.6
INFORMATION	10.8	10.8	11	0.0	-0.2
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	49.6	49.6	49.4	0.0	0.2
Finance and Insurance	161.9	161.8	161.5	0.1	0.4
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	135.1	135	134.2	0.1	0.9
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	26.8	26.8	27.3	0.0	-0.5
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	271	270	269.2	1.0	1.8
Mgmt. Of Companies and Enterprises	99.1	98.8	98.3	0.3	0.8
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	43.1	43.1	43.2	0.0	-0.1
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	128.8	128.1	127.7	0.7	1.1
Educational Services	406	404.4	396.4	1.6	9.6
Health Care & Social Assistance	51.5	51.2	50.3	0.3	1.2
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	354.5	353.2	346.1	1.3	8.4
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	242.2	239.3	246	2.9	-3.8
Accommodation & Food Services	26.7	26.5	29.5	0.2	-2.8
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin	215.5	212.8	216.5	2.7	-1.0
GOVERNMENT	135.9	135.5	136.5	0.4	-0.6
Federal Government	427.2	424.3	422.5	2.9	4.7
State Government	28.5	28.5	28.9	0.0	-0.4
Local Government	104	103.6	106.6	0.4	-2.6
PERSONS INVOLVED IN L-M DISPUTES	294.7	292.2	287	2.5	7.7
(1) Includes L-M Disputes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES					
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3106.0	3100.5	3089.3	5.5	16.7
UNEMPLOYMENT	150.3	152.2	153.6	-1.9	-3.3
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	4.8	4.9	5.0	-0.1	-0.2
EMPLOYMENT	2955.7	2948.3	2935.8	7.4	19.9

*Differences in totals may occur as a result of rounding.

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics and Current Employment Statistics programs, Labor Market Information Section.