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April 2008 Local Unemployment Rates Announced

MADISON – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today released the April local unemployment rates that show declines across all Wisconsin counties and metro areas.

"Wisconsin's labor market saw continued steady improvement last month as unemployment rates for all counties and major metropolitan areas declined from the March rates," Secretary Gassman said. "We are seeing the expected seasonal job increases that occur when the weather warms and spring hiring begins. Wisconsin's economy is holding up better than many areas of the country."

METRO AREAS

Unemployment rates decreased in all of the state's twelve Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) in April compared to March. The Madison MSA had the lowest rate in March at 3.2 percent, followed by La Crosse at 3.6 percent. The Racine MSA unemployment rate declined for the second straight month (down 1.3 percentage points), but remained the highest at 5.3 percent, followed by Janesville, which fell 1.2 percentage points to 5.0 percent. Rates also fell in every MSA when comparing year-ago figures.

For the second consecutive month, preliminary nonfarm wage and salary jobs increased in all 11 recorded metro areas. When April's preliminary job numbers are compared to the April 2007 totals, the results show four metro areas increasing jobs, six decreasing and one unchanged. (Wage and salary industry employment estimates are only reported for 11 of Wisconsin's 12 metro areas - (Fond du Lac MSA no longer reported per Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics policy changes.)

COUNTIES

Rates for all of Wisconsin's 72 counties decreased in April. Decreases ranged from 2.6 percentage points in Door County, to 0.2 percentage points in Menominee County.

On an annual basis, 69 counties recorded decreases, two had increases, and one had no change over the year. The greatest decrease occurred in Florence, down 2.0 percentage points, while Taylor County, which rose 1.0 percentage point, experienced the greatest increase.

Dane County, at 2.9 percent, recorded the lowest rate for counties in April. The highest rate for the month was 10.0 percent, recorded in Menominee County. Forty-two counties had rates less than five percent in April, while seven had rates above 7.0 percent.

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Employment and Labor Force

Place of Residence Data

Unadjusted labor force estimates

	Current	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total labor force	3,069,900	3,085,100	3,070,500
Employed	2,934,800	2,911,100	2,909,400
Unemployed	135,100	174,000	161,100
Wis. Unemployment Rate	4.4%	5.6%	5.3%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	4.8%	5.2%	4.3%

Adjusted labor force estimates

	Current	Month Ago	Year Ago
<i>Total labor force</i>	3,095,800	3,105,400	3,094,000
<i>Employed</i>	2,963,300	2,955,200	2,936,500
<i>Unemployed</i>	132,600	150,200	157,500
<i>Wis. Unemployment Rate</i>	4.3%	4.8%	5.1%
<i>U.S. Unemployment Rate</i>	5.0%	5.1%	4.5%

Unadjusted Unemployment Rate, by WI Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)

MSA	Current	Month Ago	Year Ago
<i>Wisconsin</i>	4.4	5.6	5.3
<i>Appleton</i>	4.3	5.5	5.0
<i>Eau Claire</i>	4.3	5.5	5.2
<i>Fond du Lac</i>	4.1	5.5	4.9
<i>Green Bay</i>	4.3	5.6	5.2
<i>Janesville</i>	5.0	6.2	5.4
<i>La Crosse</i>	3.6	4.7	4.1
<i>Madison</i>	3.2	4.2	3.7
<i>Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis</i>	4.3	5.4	5.3
<i>Oshkosh-Neenah</i>	4.0	5.1	4.9
<i>Racine</i>	5.3	6.6	6.7
<i>Sheboygan</i>	3.8	4.9	4.2
<i>Wausau</i>	4.3	5.5	4.6

Place of Work Data

Nonfarm wage and salary estimates, by WI Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), in thousands

MSA	Current	Month Ago	Year Ago
<i>Wisconsin</i>	2843.2	2823.6	2862
<i>Appleton</i>	118.5	116.8	118.1
<i>Eau Claire</i>	83.6	82.6	83.5
<i>Green Bay</i>	168.8	167	168.8
<i>Janesville</i>	69.2	68.6	69.9
<i>La Crosse</i>	74.4	73.8	74.9
<i>Madison</i>	346.8	344.3	345.3
<i>Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis</i>	849.6	844.3	853.3
<i>Oshkosh-Neenah</i>	93	92.4	93.1
<i>Racine</i>	79.2	78.7	79.4
<i>Sheboygan</i>	63.7	63	63.6
<i>Wausau</i>	72.2	71.7	72.6

Source *LAUS/CES and DWD Bureau of Workforce Training - Labor Market Information, and DWD Office of Economic Advisors

**As of February 2008, Fond du Lac MSA wage and salary estimates no longer reported due to Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics policy changes.

WISCONSIN COUNTIES

Unemployment Rates

April 2008

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

RANK	COUNTY	RATE	LAST RATE	LAST RANK	YR AGO RATE	RANK	COUNTY	RATE	LAST RATE	LAST RANK	YR AGO RATE
15	ADAMS	5.9%	8.1%	13	6.7%	52	MARATHON	4.3%	5.5%	56	4.6%
14	ASHLAND	6.0%	7.2%	19	6.7%	24	MARINETTE	5.3%	6.7%	25	7.1%
17	BARRON	5.8%	7.3%	18	6.9%	21	MARQUETTE	5.4%	7.0%	21	6.7%
3	BAYFIELD	7.8%	9.4%	4	8.7%	1	MENOMINEE	10.0%	10.2%	1	9.7%
56	BROWN	4.1%	5.3%	59	5.0%	32	MILWAUKEE	4.9%	6.1%	39	6.1%
68	BUFFALO	3.5%	4.8%	67	4.6%	63	MONROE	3.8%	5.2%	60	4.7%
7	BURNETT	7.2%	9.2%	6	7.7%	16	OCONTO	5.9%	7.4%	17	7.0%
66	CALUMET	3.7%	4.9%	65	4.7%	10	ONEIDA	6.8%	8.2%	12	7.6%
25	CHIPPEWA	5.3%	6.6%	27	6.5%	49	OUTAGAMIE	4.4%	5.6%	53	5.0%
19	CLARK	5.6%	6.7%	26	6.4%	71	OZAUKEE	3.1%	4.2%	71	3.8%
42	COLUMBIA	4.6%	6.0%	40	5.5%	50	PEPIN	4.3%	6.2%	35	5.2%
40	CRAWFORD	4.7%	6.4%	32	5.1%	41	PIERCE	4.7%	5.5%	57	5.4%
72	DANE	2.9%	3.9%	72	3.5%	13	POLK	6.0%	7.5%	15	7.5%
45	DODGE	4.5%	5.8%	44	5.3%	53	PORTAGE	4.2%	5.6%	52	4.8%
18	DOOR	5.7%	8.3%	9	6.4%	33	PRICE	4.9%	5.8%	45	5.8%
28	DOUGLAS	5.2%	6.2%	37	5.8%	26	RACINE	5.3%	6.6%	28	6.7%
51	DUNN	4.3%	5.7%	47	5.5%	43	RICHLAND	4.6%	6.0%	41	5.8%
67	EAU CLAIRE	3.7%	4.8%	68	4.4%	30	ROCK	5.0%	6.2%	36	5.4%
39	FLORENCE	4.7%	6.7%	24	6.7%	4	RUSK	7.5%	9.5%	3	8.3%
55	FOND DU LAC	4.1%	5.5%	55	4.9%	48	SAUK	4.4%	5.7%	48	5.1%
9	FOREST	6.8%	8.3%	10	8.1%	8	SAWYER	6.9%	9.0%	7	8.4%
47	GRANT	4.4%	5.9%	43	5.1%	31	SHAWANO	4.9%	6.3%	34	5.8%
57	GREEN	4.1%	5.2%	61	5.0%	64	SHEBOYGAN	3.8%	4.9%	66	4.2%
23	GREEN LAKE	5.3%	7.4%	16	6.0%	38	ST. CROIX	4.8%	5.7%	50	6.2%
35	IOWA	4.8%	6.5%	29	4.8%	5	TAYLOR	7.4%	9.3%	5	6.4%
2	IRON	9.3%	10.0%	2	10.8%	61	TREMPEALEAU	3.9%	5.4%	58	4.5%
22	JACKSON	5.3%	7.7%	14	5.9%	44	VERNON	4.5%	6.1%	38	5.3%
58	JEFFERSON	4.0%	5.7%	46	5.1%	6	VILAS	7.4%	8.9%	8	8.5%
34	JUNEAU	4.8%	6.9%	22	5.9%	54	WALWORTH	4.1%	5.6%	51	4.9%
37	KENOSHA	4.8%	5.7%	49	5.7%	11	WASHBURN	6.4%	8.2%	11	8.0%
60	KEWAUNEE	3.9%	5.5%	54	4.7%	62	WASHINGTON	3.9%	5.1%	62	4.5%
70	LA CROSSE	3.3%	4.5%	69	3.9%	69	WAUKESHA	3.4%	4.5%	70	4.1%
65	LAFAYETTE	3.7%	5.0%	64	4.5%	29	WAUPACA	5.1%	6.5%	30	5.7%
12	LANGLADE	6.1%	7.1%	20	7.1%	36	WAUSHARA	4.8%	6.3%	33	5.5%
20	LINCOLN	5.5%	6.9%	23	6.2%	59	WINNEBAGO	4.0%	5.1%	63	4.9%
46	MANITOWOC	4.4%	5.9%	42	5.6%	27	WOOD	5.2%	6.5%	31	5.9%

WISCONSIN CITIES

Unemployment Rates

April 2008

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

RANK	CITY	RATE	LAST RATE	LAST RANK	YR AGO RATE
6	APPLETON CITY	5.6%	6.8%	6	6.2%
2	BELOIT CITY	7.6%	9.1%	2	7.5%
29	BROOKFIELD CITY	2.8%	3.8%	29	3.7%
31	CALEDONIA VILLAGE	1.9%	2.6%	31	2.3%
20	EAU CLAIRE CITY	4.0%	5.3%	19	4.8%
14	FOND DU LAC CITY	4.9%	6.4%	10	5.9%
25	FRANKLIN CITY	3.4%	4.6%	25	3.7%
3	GREEN BAY CITY	6.2%	7.9%	3	7.7%
21	GREENFIELD CITY	3.9%	5.0%	21	4.6%
10	JANESVILLE CITY	5.2%	6.3%	11	5.7%
11	KENOSHA CITY	5.2%	6.2%	13	6.4%
22	LA CROSSE CITY	3.9%	5.0%	22	4.5%
30	MADISON CITY	2.7%	3.6%	30	3.4%
7	MANITOWOC CITY	5.3%	6.7%	7	6.5%
26	MENOMONEE FALLS VILLAGE	3.3%	4.4%	26	3.9%
4	MILWAUKEE CITY	6.0%	7.3%	5	7.5%
13	MOUNT PLEASANT VILLAGE	5.0%	6.2%	12	6.0%
19	NEENAH CITY	4.1%	5.1%	20	5.1%
28	NEW BERLIN CITY	3.2%	4.1%	27	4.0%
23	OAK CREEK CITY	3.7%	4.8%	24	4.1%
18	OSHKOSH CITY	4.3%	5.6%	18	5.5%
1	RACINE CITY	8.2%	9.8%	1	10.9%
15	SHEBOYGAN CITY	4.9%	6.1%	14	5.2%
8	STEVENS POINT CITY	5.3%	6.7%	8	5.9%
24	SUN PRAIRIE CITY	3.6%	4.8%	23	4.4%
12	SUPERIOR CITY	5.1%	5.9%	15	5.1%
17	WAUKESHA CITY	4.4%	5.7%	16	5.4%
9	WAUSAU CITY	5.3%	6.6%	9	5.8%
27	WAUWATOSA CITY	3.3%	4.1%	28	3.8%
16	WEST ALLIS CITY	4.6%	5.7%	17	5.2%
5	WEST BEND CITY	5.7%	7.4%	4	6.4%

Source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, Bureau of Workforce Training - Labor Market Information Section