

Department of Workforce Development  
Secretary's Office  
201 East Washington Avenue  
P.O. Box 7946  
Madison, WI 53707-7946  
Telephone: (608) 266-3131  
Fax: (608) 266-1784  
Email: sec@dwd.wisconsin.gov



---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Wednesday, December 21, 2011

CONTACT: DWD Communications, 608-266-2722

On the Web: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/news.htm>

On Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/WIWorkforce>

On Twitter: @WIWorkforce

## **UNEMPLOYMENT RATES DECLINE IN ALL 12 METRO AREAS IN NOVEMBER**

### ***U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics also revises metro Milwaukee October jobs figures upward by 3,500***

MADISON – The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) today released the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) monthly report for local, county and metro areas, showing unemployment rates dropped in all 12 metro areas in November.

In addition, *seasonally adjusted* jobs numbers for October were revised upward or did not change in six of 12 metro areas. In metro Milwaukee, the jobs estimate was revised upward by 3,500, bringing the October jobs loss down to 5,100 from initial reports of 8,600, representing a change of almost 41 percent.

“Metro Milwaukee, which encompasses four counties and is our state’s largest metro area, experienced an upward revision in the estimates that significantly reduced the estimated job loss between September and October,” Secretary Newson said. “Like with the statewide estimates that were announced last week, the losses were overestimated for metro Milwaukee, meaning the area is on much steadier ground than the preliminary data suggested.”

Seasonally adjusted jobs numbers were also revised upward for metro Eau Claire and Fond du Lac, and were unchanged for Janesville, Racine and Wausau. The estimates were revised downward for metro Appleton, Green Bay, La Crosse, Madison, Oshkosh-Neenah and Sheboygan.

Preliminary November estimates indicate gains or no change in Fond du Lac, Sheboygan and Wausau, and decreases in the nine other metro areas in Wisconsin.

“We look forward to seeing the revised November data when it is released next month,” Secretary Newson said. “The significant revisions to the monthly BLS estimates demonstrate the problems of focusing on preliminary results alone.”

DWD is required to publish the preliminary job estimates for each month, along with the previous month’s revised figures, under an ongoing annual contract between the state and BLS. The monthly employment estimates are generated from a survey of 4 percent of Wisconsin employers. The survey data are transmitted to the BLS, which generates the preliminary and revised estimates and sends the numbers to Wisconsin to publish.

### **JOBS DATA (METRO AREAS ONLY)**

Compared to a year ago, four metro areas added jobs, including metro Milwaukee with 5,300; La Crosse, with 500; Oshkosh-Neenah, with 800; and Sheboygan, with 200, according to preliminary November data.

- more -

**UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)**

All 12 metro areas experienced decreases in their unemployment rates from October to November, according to preliminary figures. Forty-six counties either had lower rates or no change, as did 29 of Wisconsin's 31 largest municipalities. Unlike the metro jobs numbers, unemployment rates for cities, counties and metro areas are not adjusted for seasonal factors.

**METRO AREAS**

Of the 12 metro areas experiencing unemployment rate decreases from October to November, Madison had the lowest rate at 4.7 percent, followed by La Crosse at 5 percent. Janesville had the highest rate at 8.4 percent. Compared to a year ago, all 12 had lower rates.

**MUNICIPALITIES**

Of the 31 municipalities with at least 25,000 residents, 23 experienced declines in their unemployment rates from October to November. Six had no change. Green Bay's rate of 9.4 percent was up slightly from 9.2 percent in October, and Kenosha's rate of 9.8 was up slightly from 9.6. Caledonia had the lowest rate, 3.2 percent; and Racine, the highest rate, at 11.8 percent. Compared to a year ago, 30 cities had lower rates, while Caledonia had a slight increase.

**COUNTIES**

Of 72 counties, 69 had lower rates, one had no change and two had slight increases when compared to a year ago. Menominee County had the highest rate at 13.6 percent, and Dane County had the lowest rate, at 4.4 percent.

# Labor Force and Employment Estimates November 2011

## STATEWIDE LABOR FORCE

	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM. Nov-11	FINAL Oct-11	YEAR AGO Nov-10	NET CHANGE OVER		PRELIM. Nov-11	FINAL Oct-11	YEAR AGO Nov-10	NET CHANGE OVER	
				1-Month	1-Year				1-Month	1-Year
Total labor force	3,055,200	3,057,000	3,045,200	-1,800	10,000	3,048,100	3,054,000	3,040,900	-5,900	7,200
Employment	2,831,400	2,822,900	2,814,100	8,500	17,300	2,846,300	2,846,400	2,821,500	-100	24,800
Unemployment	223,800	234,100	231,200	-10,300	-7,400	201,800	207,600	219,300	-5,800	-17,500
Unemployment Rate	7.3%	7.7%	7.6%	-0.4%	-0.3%	6.6%	6.8%	7.2%	-0.2%	-0.6%
National Rate	8.6%	9.0%	9.8%	-0.4%	-1.2%	8.2%	8.5%	9.3%	-0.3%	-1.1%

## MSA EMPLOYMENT

	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM. Nov-11	FINAL Oct-11	YEAR AGO Nov-10	NET CHANGE OVER		PRELIM. Nov-11	FINAL Oct-11	YEAR AGO Nov-10	NET CHANGE OVER	
				1-Month	1-Year				1-Month	1-Year
Statewide	2,740,200	2,754,800	2,735,700	-14,600	4,500	2,770,800	2,786,800	2,767,600	-16,000	3,200
Appleton	115,600	115,900	116,400	-300	-800	116,700	116,800	117,500	-100	-800
Eau Claire	80,100	81,000	80,300	-900	-200	81,400	82,100	81,600	-700	-200
Fond du Lac	45,300	45,300	45,400	0	-100	45,400	45,800	45,500	-400	-100
Green Bay	163,900	164,100	166,100	-200	-2,200	165,700	166,200	167,900	-500	-2,200
Janesville	60,800	61,100	60,800	-300	0	61,400	61,700	61,400	-300	0
La Crosse	73,600	74,500	73,100	-900	500	74,500	75,500	74,000	-1,000	500
Madison	345,100	346,700	345,200	-1,600	-100	349,800	349,900	349,900	-100	-100
Milwaukee-W.O.W.	818,600	823,300	813,300	-4,700	5,300	828,200	831,400	822,700	-3,200	5,500
Oshkosh-Neenah	93,700	93,900	92,900	-200	800	94,600	94,800	93,800	-200	800
Racine	73,300	73,900	74,800	-600	-1,500	73,800	74,400	75,400	-600	-1,600
Sheboygan	58,900	58,800	58,700	100	200	59,100	59,100	58,900	0	200
Wausau	66,800	66,600	66,900	200	-100	67,600	67,100	67,700	500	-100

## MSA UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

	NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM. Nov-11	FINAL Oct-11	YEAR AGO Nov-10	NET CHANGE OVER	
				1-Month	1-Year
Wisconsin	6.6%	6.8%	7.2%	-0.2%	-0.6%
Appleton	5.8%	6.1%	6.4%	-0.3%	-0.6%
Eau Claire	5.8%	5.9%	5.9%	-0.1%	-0.1%
Fond du Lac	6.2%	6.4%	6.8%	-0.2%	-0.6%
Green Bay	6.4%	6.5%	6.8%	-0.1%	-0.4%
Janesville	8.4%	8.7%	9.7%	-0.3%	-1.3%
La Crosse	5.0%	5.2%	5.4%	-0.2%	-0.4%
Madison	4.7%	5.1%	5.0%	-0.4%	-0.3%
Milwaukee-W.O.W.	7.2%	7.4%	7.6%	-0.2%	-0.4%
Oshkosh-Neenah	5.8%	6.1%	6.2%	-0.3%	-0.4%
Racine	8.2%	8.5%	8.7%	-0.3%	-0.5%
Sheboygan	6.7%	6.8%	7.6%	-0.1%	-0.9%
Wausau	6.5%	6.8%	7.5%	-0.3%	-1.0%

Note: Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment estimates for MSAs are the only seasonally adjusted data below the statewide level. County and city unemployment rates are not seasonally adjusted.

# Local Unemployment Rates November 2011

## CITIES

CITY	Nov-11 RANK	Oct-11 RANK	Nov-11 RATE	Oct-11 RATE	Nov-10 RATE
Appleton	12	12	8.0	8.1	8.5
Beloit	2	2	11.2	11.4	13.7
Brookfield	29	27	5.2	5.8	5.7
Caledonia	31	31	3.2	3.6	3.1
Eau Claire	24	22	5.8	6.4	6.2
Fond du Lac	13	14	7.9	7.9	8.6
Franklin	26	26	5.4	5.9	6.0
Green Bay	5	8	9.4	9.2	10.1
Greenfield	20	20	6.5	6.7	7.1
Janesville	6	4	9.4	9.7	10.4
Kenosha	4	5	9.8	9.6	11.4
La Crosse	21	21	6.1	6.5	6.4
Madison	30	30	4.4	5.0	4.8
Manitowoc	11	11	8.2	8.8	9.6
Menomonee Falls	25	24	5.5	6.0	6.1
Milwaukee	3	3	10.0	10.3	10.5

CITY	Nov-11 RANK	Oct-11 RANK	Nov-11 RATE	Oct-11 RATE	Nov-10 RATE
Mount Pleasant	9	7	8.8	9.2	10.1
Neenah	14	13	7.9	7.9	9.1
New Berlin	27	29	5.3	5.5	6.1
Oak Creek	22	23	6.1	6.1	6.5
Oshkosh	19	18	6.7	6.9	6.9
Racine	1	1	11.8	11.9	13.7
Sheboygan	8	9	8.8	8.9	10.4
Stevens Point	17	17	6.7	6.9	7.5
Sun Prairie	23	25	5.9	5.9	6.2
Superior	18	19	6.7	6.9	6.9
Waukesha	15	15	7.6	7.6	8.2
Wausau	7	6	9.2	9.2	10.6
Wauwatosa	28	28	5.2	5.6	5.7
West Allis	16	16	7.1	7.3	7.8
West Bend	10	10	8.7	8.9	9.6

## COUNTIES

### Alphabetical Order

COUNTY	Nov-11 RANK	Oct-11 RANK	Nov-11 RATE	Oct-11 RATE	Nov-10 RATE
Adams	5	3	9.6	9.0	10.7
Ashland	25	12	7.7	8.4	8.0
Barron	35	38	6.9	6.9	7.2
Bayfield	3	27	10.3	7.6	10.8
Brown	48	50	6.2	6.3	6.5
Buffalo	67	64	5.0	5.3	5.4
Burnett	22	24	7.9	7.7	8.8
Calumet	64	65	5.1	5.2	5.6
Chippewa	45	53	6.4	6.2	6.5
Clark	40	43	6.7	6.8	7.9
Columbia	33	37	7.0	6.9	7.1
Crawford	36	36	6.9	7.0	8.0
Dane	72	69	4.4	4.9	4.8
Dodge	34	30	6.9	7.2	7.5
Door	2	4	10.9	8.9	10.8
Douglas	46	51	6.3	6.2	6.8
Dunn	61	61	5.2	5.4	5.4
Eau Claire	59	58	5.4	5.8	5.6
Florence	15	21	8.3	7.8	9.8
Fond du Lac	50	46	6.2	6.4	6.8
Forest	9	8	8.6	8.5	8.9
Grant	63	63	5.2	5.4	5.6
Green	54	47	5.9	6.4	6.6
Green Lake	32	33	7.0	7.0	8.1
Iowa	60	68	5.4	5.0	5.8
Iron	4	2	9.9	9.3	9.9
Jackson	29	31	7.2	7.1	7.8
Jefferson	30	29	7.0	7.2	7.7
Juneau	17	18	8.3	8.2	8.8
Kenosha	10	9	8.6	8.5	10.2
Kewaunee	49	39	6.2	6.9	6.6
La Crosse	66	66	5.0	5.2	5.3
Lafayette	68	62	5.0	5.4	5.6
Langlade	11	15	8.5	8.3	8.8
Lincoln	18	14	8.2	8.4	9.8
Manitowoc	37	28	6.8	7.4	8.2

COUNTY	Nov-11 RANK	Oct-11 RANK	Nov-11 RATE	Oct-11 RATE	Nov-10 RATE
Marathon	43	41	6.5	6.8	7.5
Marinette	16	13	8.3	8.4	9.9
Marquette	13	19	8.4	8.1	9.5
Menominee	1	1	13.6	13.0	13.4
Milwaukee	19	11	8.2	8.5	8.7
Monroe	47	54	6.3	6.2	6.4
Oconto	24	17	7.7	8.2	8.5
Oneida	12	20	8.5	7.9	9.1
Outagamie	51	48	6.1	6.3	6.6
Ozaukee	62	59	5.2	5.6	5.6
Pepin	71	71	4.6	4.8	5.8
Pierce	70	72	4.7	4.7	5.7
Polk	27	26	7.4	7.6	8.0
Portage	58	60	5.5	5.6	5.7
Price	42	32	6.6	7.1	8.1
Racine	20	10	8.2	8.5	8.7
Richland	52	49	6.0	6.3	6.7
Rock	14	6	8.4	8.7	9.7
Rusk	8	5	9.1	8.8	9.8
Sauk	38	44	6.8	6.5	7.2
Sawyer	7	16	9.3	8.2	9.4
Shawano	26	25	7.6	7.6	8.4
Sheboygan	41	42	6.7	6.8	7.6
St. Croix	69	70	4.9	4.9	6.3
Taylor	28	35	7.3	7.0	8.5
Trempealeau	65	67	5.1	5.2	5.8
Vernon	57	57	5.7	5.8	6.3
Vilas	6	7	9.4	8.6	10.2
Walworth	39	40	6.8	6.9	7.6
Washburn	21	22	7.9	7.7	8.4
Washington	53	52	6.0	6.2	6.5
Waukesha	56	56	5.7	5.9	6.2
Waupaca	31	34	7.0	7.0	7.8
Waushara	23	23	7.8	7.7	8.9
Winnebago	55	55	5.8	6.1	6.2
Wood	44	45	6.4	6.5	7.3

# Local Unemployment Rates November 2011

## COUNTIES

Ascending Order

COUNTY	Nov-11 RATE	Oct-11 RATE	Nov-10 RATE	COUNTY	Nov-11 RATE	Oct-11 RATE	Nov-10 RATE
Dane	4.4	4.9	4.8	Crawford	6.9	7.0	8.0
Pepin	4.6	4.8	5.8	Barron	6.9	6.9	7.2
Pierce	4.7	4.7	5.7	Dodge	6.9	7.2	7.5
St. Croix	4.9	4.9	6.3	Columbia	7.0	6.9	7.1
Lafayette	5.0	5.4	5.6	Green Lake	7.0	7.0	8.1
Buffalo	5.0	5.3	5.4	Waupaca	7.0	7.0	7.8
La Crosse	5.0	5.2	5.3	Jefferson	7.0	7.2	7.7
Trempealeau	5.1	5.2	5.8	Jackson	7.2	7.1	7.8
Calumet	5.1	5.2	5.6	Taylor	7.3	7.0	8.5
Grant	5.2	5.4	5.6	Polk	7.4	7.6	8.0
Ozaukee	5.2	5.6	5.6	Shawano	7.6	7.6	8.4
Dunn	5.2	5.4	5.4	Ashland	7.7	8.4	8.0
Iowa	5.4	5.0	5.8	Oconto	7.7	8.2	8.5
Eau Claire	5.4	5.8	5.6	Waushara	7.8	7.7	8.9
Portage	5.5	5.6	5.7	Burnett	7.9	7.7	8.8
Vernon	5.7	5.8	6.3	Washburn	7.9	7.7	8.4
Waukesha	5.7	5.9	6.2	Racine	8.2	8.5	8.7
Winnebago	5.8	6.1	6.2	Milwaukee	8.2	8.5	8.7
Green	5.9	6.4	6.6	Lincoln	8.2	8.4	9.8
Washington	6.0	6.2	6.5	Juneau	8.3	8.2	8.8
Richland	6.0	6.3	6.7	Marinette	8.3	8.4	9.9
Outagamie	6.1	6.3	6.6	Florence	8.3	7.8	9.8
Fond du Lac	6.2	6.4	6.8	Rock	8.4	8.7	9.7
Kewaunee	6.2	6.9	6.6	Marquette	8.4	8.1	9.5
Brown	6.2	6.3	6.5	Oneida	8.5	7.9	9.1
Monroe	6.3	6.2	6.4	Langlade	8.5	8.3	8.8
Douglas	6.3	6.2	6.8	Kenosha	8.6	8.5	10.2
Chippewa	6.4	6.2	6.5	Forest	8.6	8.5	8.9
Wood	6.4	6.5	7.3	Rusk	9.1	8.8	9.8
Marathon	6.5	6.8	7.5	Sawyer	9.3	8.2	9.4
Price	6.6	7.1	8.1	Vilas	9.4	8.6	10.2
Sheboygan	6.7	6.8	7.6	Adams	9.6	9.0	10.7
Clark	6.7	6.8	7.9	Iron	9.9	9.3	9.9
Walworth	6.8	6.9	7.6	Bayfield	10.3	7.6	10.8
Sauk	6.8	6.5	7.2	Door	10.9	8.9	10.8
Manitowoc	6.8	7.4	8.2	Menominee	13.6	13.0	13.4