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## **UNEMPLOYMENT RATES DROP OR HOLD STEADY IN NINE METRO AREAS**

***December rates lower for all 12 metro areas, nearly all cities, counties, compared to December 2010***

MADISON – The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) today released the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) monthly report for metro areas, cities and counties, and the preliminary data shows unemployment rates either declined or held steady in nine metro areas in December 2011.

“The preliminary estimates show the majority of metro areas experienced a decline or no change in their unemployment rates over the month, and the rates are down in all 12 metro areas and nearly all cities and counties compared to December 2010,” Secretary Newson said. “Meanwhile, our online employment site, <https://JobCenterofWisconsin.com>, shows more than 30,000 job openings statewide. We look forward to an improving economy and job growth as the year progresses.”

In addition, seasonally adjusted jobs numbers for November did not change or were revised upward in 10 of 12 metro areas.

### **UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)**

Of the 12 metro areas, six experienced slight decreases in their unemployment rates from November to December, while three had no change and three had minor increases, according to preliminary figures. Of Wisconsin's 31 largest cities, 28 either had lower rates or no change. Twenty-eight of Wisconsin's 72 counties either had lower rates or no change. When the December 2011 rates were compared with those of December 2010, the latest rates were lower with few exceptions.

### **METRO AREAS**

From November to December, Green Bay, Janesville, Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis, Oshkosh-Neenah, Racine and Sheboygan had lower rates, while Fond du Lac, Madison and Wausau had no change in rates. Appleton, Eau Claire and La Crosse had slight increases. Madison had the lowest at 4.7 percent, followed by La Crosse at 5.1 percent. Janesville had the highest rate at 8.3 percent. Compared to a year ago, all 12 had lower rates. Janesville's rate dropped a full percentage point, while Appleton, Fond du Lac, La Crosse and Wausau rates dropped by 0.5 of a percentage point or more.

### **MUNICIPALITIES**

Of the 31 municipalities with at least 25,000 residents, 25 had declining rates, and three, no change in rates from November to December. Manitowoc's rate increased 0.2 of a percentage point to 8.4 percent. Menomonee Falls had a slight increase, 0.1 of a percentage point to 5.6 percent, as did West Allis, 0.1 of a percentage point to 7.2 percent. Caledonia had the lowest rate, 3.0 percent; and Racine, the highest rate, at 11.2 percent. Compared to a year ago, 30 cities had lower rates, while Oshkosh had a slight increase.

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**COUNTIES**

Of 72 counties, 68 had lower rates, two had no change and two had slight increases when compared to a year ago. Door County had the highest rate at 11.7 percent, and Dane County had the lowest rate, at 4.4 percent.

**JOBS DATA (METRO AREAS ONLY)**

Seasonally adjusted jobs numbers for November were revised upward for metro Appleton, Eau Claire, Madison and Wausau, and they were unchanged for Fond du Lac, Janesville, La Crosse, Oshkosh-Neenah, Racine and Sheboygan. The estimates were revised downward for metro Green Bay and the region including Milwaukee, Waukesha, Ozaukee and Washington counties.

From November to December, seven metro areas added jobs, including Fond du Lac and Green Bay with 700 each. Compared to a year ago, five metro areas added jobs, including metro Milwaukee with 6,200, and Oshkosh-Neenah, with 1,200.

# Labor Force and Employment Estimates December 2011

## STATEWIDE LABOR FORCE

	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM. Dec-11	FINAL Nov-11	YEAR AGO Dec-10	NET CHANGE OVER		PRELIM. Dec-11	FINAL Nov-11	YEAR AGO Dec-10	NET CHANGE OVER	
				1-Month	1-Year				1-Month	1-Year
Total labor force	3,054,200	3,055,500	3,044,700	-1,300	9,500	3,038,700	3,048,700	3,031,400	-10,000	7,300
Employment	2,838,400	2,831,500	2,817,000	6,900	21,400	2,838,600	2,846,700	2,817,000	-8,100	21,600
Unemployment	215,800	223,900	227,700	-8,100	-11,900	200,100	202,000	214,400	-1,900	-14,300
Unemployment Rate	7.1%	7.3%	7.5%	-0.2%	-0.4%	6.6%	6.6%	7.1%	0.0%	-0.5%
National Rate	8.5%	8.7%	9.4%	-0.2%	-0.9%	8.3%	8.2%	9.1%	0.1%	-0.8%

## MSA EMPLOYMENT

	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM. Dec-11	FINAL Nov-11	YEAR AGO Dec-10	NET CHANGE OVER		PRELIM. Dec-11	FINAL Nov-11	YEAR AGO Dec-10	NET CHANGE OVER	
				1-Month	1-Year				1-Month	1-Year
Statewide	2,739,500	2,741,200	2,736,300	-1,700	3,200	2,749,700	2,771,800	2,747,200	-22,100	2,500
Appleton	116,100	115,700	116,600	400	-500	116,100	116,800	116,600	-700	-500
Eau Claire	79,400	80,200	80,400	-800	-1,000	80,300	81,500	81,300	-1,200	-1,000
Fond du Lac	46,000	45,300	45,500	700	500	45,700	45,400	45,200	300	500
Green Bay	164,300	163,600	166,000	700	-1,700	164,900	165,400	166,700	-500	-1,800
Janesville	60,900	60,800	61,000	100	-100	61,100	61,400	61,300	-300	-200
La Crosse	73,400	73,600	73,300	-200	100	74,100	74,500	74,000	-400	100
Madison	345,600	345,700	345,600	-100	0	346,900	350,400	346,900	-3,500	0
Milwaukee-W.O.W.	816,800	817,500	810,600	-700	6,200	822,100	827,100	816,100	-5,000	6,000
Oshkosh-Neenah	93,900	93,700	92,700	200	1,200	94,300	94,600	93,100	-300	1,200
Racine	73,600	73,300	74,800	300	-1,200	73,900	73,800	75,100	100	-1,200
Sheboygan	58,100	58,900	58,600	-800	-500	58,000	59,100	58,500	-1,100	-500
Wausau	67,100	66,900	67,000	200	100	67,500	67,700	67,400	-200	100

## MSA UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

	NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM. Dec-11	FINAL Nov-11	YEAR AGO Dec-10	NET CHANGE OVER	
				1-Month	1-Year
Wisconsin	6.6%	6.6%	7.1%	0.0%	-0.5%
Appleton	5.9%	5.8%	6.4%	0.1%	-0.5%
Eau Claire	6.0%	5.8%	6.1%	0.2%	-0.1%
Fond du Lac	6.2%	6.2%	6.8%	0.0%	-0.6%
Green Bay	6.3%	6.4%	6.6%	-0.1%	-0.3%
Janesville	8.3%	8.4%	9.3%	-0.1%	-1.0%
La Crosse	5.1%	5.0%	5.6%	0.1%	-0.5%
Madison	4.7%	4.7%	4.9%	0.0%	-0.2%
Milwaukee-W.O.W.	6.9%	7.1%	7.3%	-0.2%	-0.4%
Oshkosh-Neenah	5.7%	5.8%	5.9%	-0.1%	-0.2%
Racine	8.1%	8.2%	8.5%	-0.1%	-0.4%
Sheboygan	6.4%	6.7%	7.4%	-0.3%	-1.0%
Wausau	6.5%	6.5%	7.1%	0.0%	-0.6%

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 December 2011

## CITIES

CITY	Dec-11 RANK	Nov-11 RANK	Dec-11 RATE	Nov-11 RATE	Dec-10 RATE
Appleton	12	12	7.8	8.0	8.2
Beloit	2	2	11.1	11.2	12.9
Brookfield	27	28	5.2	5.2	5.4
Caledonia	31	31	3.0	3.1	3.2
Eau Claire	23	24	5.7	5.8	5.9
Fond du Lac	15	13	7.5	7.9	8.0
Franklin	26	26	5.2	5.4	5.7
Green Bay	4	5	9.2	9.4	9.6
Greenfield	20	20	6.3	6.5	6.8
Janesville	5	6	8.8	9.4	9.6
Kenosha	6	4	8.8	9.8	10.2
La Crosse	22	22	5.9	6.1	6.1
Madison	30	30	4.2	4.4	4.4
Manitowoc	10	11	8.4	8.2	9.2
Menomonee Falls	24	25	5.6	5.5	6.0
Milwaukee	3	3	9.3	9.9	9.7

CITY	Dec-11 RANK	Nov-11 RANK	Dec-11 RATE	Nov-11 RATE	Dec-10 RATE
Mount Pleasant	9	8	8.6	8.8	9.3
Neenah	13	14	7.6	7.8	8.7
New Berlin	28	27	5.2	5.3	5.9
Oak Creek	21	21	6.0	6.1	6.1
Oshkosh	18	18	6.5	6.7	6.4
Racine	1	1	11.2	11.8	12.8
Sheboygan	11	9	8.2	8.8	9.5
Stevens Point	17	17	6.7	6.7	7.1
Sun Prairie	25	23	5.5	5.9	6.0
Superior	19	19	6.3	6.7	6.4
Waukesha	14	15	7.5	7.6	7.9
Wausau	7	7	8.7	9.3	9.4
Wauwatosa	29	29	5.0	5.2	5.5
West Allis	16	16	7.2	7.1	7.6
West Bend	8	10	8.7	8.7	9.5

## COUNTIES

### Alphabetical Order

COUNTY	Dec-11 RANK	Nov-11 RANK	Dec-11 RATE	Nov-11 RATE	Dec-10 RATE
Adams	6	5	10.1	9.7	11.2
Ashland	24	25	8.0	7.7	8.4
Barron	30	34	7.5	6.9	7.7
Bayfield	2	3	11.3	10.5	11.0
Brown	49	50	6.1	6.2	6.3
Buffalo	63	67	5.4	5.0	5.8
Burnett	13	22	8.5	7.9	9.3
Calumet	70	66	5.0	5.1	5.5
Chippewa	37	43	7.0	6.5	7.3
Clark	33	40	7.2	6.7	8.5
Columbia	40	32	6.9	7.0	7.4
Crawford	34	35	7.1	6.9	8.2
Dane	72	72	4.4	4.4	4.6
Dodge	41	37	6.8	6.9	7.6
Door	1	2	11.7	11.1	10.9
Douglas	46	47	6.4	6.3	6.7
Dunn	64	61	5.3	5.2	5.6
Eau Claire	61	60	5.4	5.4	5.5
Florence	12	15	8.7	8.3	8.9
Fond du Lac	48	48	6.2	6.2	6.8
Forest	10	9	9.2	8.7	9.5
Grant	68	63	5.0	5.2	5.9
Green	54	54	5.8	5.9	6.6
Green Lake	31	30	7.4	7.1	8.3
Iowa	60	59	5.7	5.5	6.4
Iron	5	4	10.4	9.9	10.4
Jackson	28	29	7.7	7.1	8.5
Jefferson	39	33	6.9	7.0	7.8
Juneau	16	17	8.4	8.3	9.0
Kenosha	27	11	7.8	8.6	9.1
Kewaunee	50	49	6.1	6.2	6.5
La Crosse	71	68	4.9	5.0	5.2
Lafayette	69	65	5.0	5.1	5.8
Langlade	17	13	8.4	8.4	8.8
Lincoln	15	18	8.5	8.2	9.8
Manitowoc	32	38	7.2	6.8	8.0

COUNTY	Dec-11 RANK	Nov-11 RANK	Dec-11 RATE	Nov-11 RATE	Dec-10 RATE
Marathon	45	44	6.5	6.5	7.1
Marinette	14	16	8.5	8.3	9.5
Marquette	11	12	8.9	8.5	9.5
Menominee	3	1	11.1	13.5	11.2
Milwaukee	25	20	7.8	8.2	8.1
Monroe	44	46	6.5	6.3	6.6
Oconto	20	24	8.1	7.7	8.9
Oneida	9	10	9.3	8.6	9.8
Outagamie	52	51	6.1	6.0	6.6
Ozaukee	67	62	5.2	5.2	5.4
Pepin	56	71	5.7	4.6	6.2
Pierce	65	70	5.3	4.7	6.0
Polk	26	27	7.8	7.4	8.2
Portage	57	58	5.7	5.5	5.8
Price	38	42	6.9	6.6	8.1
Racine	21	19	8.1	8.2	8.5
Richland	55	53	5.8	6.0	6.7
Rock	18	14	8.3	8.4	9.3
Rusk	8	8	9.3	9.0	10.1
Sauk	42	39	6.7	6.8	7.2
Sawyer	7	7	9.8	9.3	9.8
Shawano	29	26	7.6	7.6	8.3
Sheboygan	47	41	6.4	6.7	7.4
St. Croix	66	69	5.2	4.9	6.3
Taylor	23	28	8.0	7.2	9.0
Trempealeau	62	64	5.4	5.1	6.3
Vernon	53	56	6.0	5.7	6.7
Vilas	4	6	10.6	9.6	11.2
Walworth	35	36	7.0	6.9	7.6
Washburn	19	21	8.2	8.0	8.7
Washington	51	52	6.1	6.0	6.6
Waukesha	59	57	5.7	5.7	6.2
Waupaca	36	31	7.0	7.0	7.7
Waushara	22	23	8.1	7.8	8.8
Winnebago	58	55	5.7	5.8	5.9
Wood	43	45	6.6	6.4	7.2

# Local Unemployment Rates December 2011

## COUNTIES

Ascending Order

COUNTY	Dec-11 RATE	Nov-11 RATE	Dec-10 RATE	COUNTY	Dec-11 RATE	Nov-11 RATE	Dec-10 RATE
Dane	4.4	4.4	4.6	Waupaca	7.0	7.0	7.7
La Crosse	4.9	5.0	5.2	Walworth	7.0	6.9	7.6
Calumet	5.0	5.1	5.5	Crawford	7.1	6.9	8.2
Lafayette	5.0	5.1	5.8	Clark	7.2	6.7	8.5
Grant	5.0	5.2	5.9	Manitowoc	7.2	6.8	8.0
Ozaukee	5.2	5.2	5.4	Green Lake	7.4	7.1	8.3
St. Croix	5.2	4.9	6.3	Barron	7.5	6.9	7.7
Pierce	5.3	4.7	6.0	Shawano	7.6	7.6	8.3
Dunn	5.3	5.2	5.6	Jackson	7.7	7.1	8.5
Buffalo	5.4	5.0	5.8	Kenosha	7.8	8.6	9.1
Trempealeau	5.4	5.1	6.3	Polk	7.8	7.4	8.2
Eau Claire	5.4	5.4	5.5	Milwaukee	7.8	8.2	8.1
Iowa	5.7	5.5	6.4	Ashland	8.0	7.7	8.4
Waukesha	5.7	5.7	6.2	Taylor	8.0	7.2	9.0
Winnebago	5.7	5.8	5.9	Wausara	8.1	7.8	8.8
Portage	5.7	5.5	5.8	Racine	8.1	8.2	8.5
Pepin	5.7	4.6	6.2	Oconto	8.1	7.7	8.9
Richland	5.8	6.0	6.7	Washburn	8.2	8.0	8.7
Green	5.8	5.9	6.6	Rock	8.3	8.4	9.3
Vernon	6.0	5.7	6.7	Langlade	8.4	8.4	8.8
Outagamie	6.1	6.0	6.6	Juneau	8.4	8.3	9.0
Washington	6.1	6.0	6.6	Lincoln	8.5	8.2	9.8
Kewaunee	6.1	6.2	6.5	Marinette	8.5	8.3	9.5
Brown	6.1	6.2	6.3	Burnett	8.5	7.9	9.3
Fond du Lac	6.2	6.2	6.8	Florence	8.7	8.3	8.9
Sheboygan	6.4	6.7	7.4	Marquette	8.9	8.5	9.5
Douglas	6.4	6.3	6.7	Forest	9.2	8.7	9.5
Marathon	6.5	6.5	7.1	Oneida	9.3	8.6	9.8
Monroe	6.5	6.3	6.6	Rusk	9.3	9.0	10.1
Wood	6.6	6.4	7.2	Sawyer	9.8	9.3	9.8
Sauk	6.7	6.8	7.2	Adams	10.1	9.7	11.2
Dodge	6.8	6.9	7.6	Iron	10.4	9.9	10.4
Columbia	6.9	7.0	7.4	Vilas	10.6	9.6	11.2
Jefferson	6.9	7.0	7.8	Menominee	11.1	13.5	11.2
Price	6.9	6.6	8.1	Bayfield	11.3	10.5	11.0
Chippewa	7.0	6.5	7.3	Door	11.7	11.1	10.9