
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FEBRUARY LOCAL UNEMPLOYMENT, JOB NUMBERS ANNOUNCED

Unemployment rates drop over the year in 68 counties, 31 major cities, all 12 metro areas

MADISON – Sixty-eight Wisconsin counties, 31 large municipalities and all 12 metro areas experienced a drop in unemployment rates over the year as of February 2012, according to the latest U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) preliminary data that the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) released today.

“In nearly every county and community, unemployment rates are lower than a year ago,” DWD Secretary Reggie Newson said. “We expect further improvement as the hiring season progresses. We know from employer surveys and our online job site that employers have jobs available. We and our workforce partners are ready to help job seekers and employers connect.”

Secretary Newson said job openings on www.JobCenterofWisconsin.com, topped 36,000 statewide last week. A record 151,000 jobs were posted in 2011. Manufacturing, sales, healthcare and transportation are among the employment sectors with the most openings.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED) **METRO AREAS**

All 12 metro areas had lower rates in February than the same month a year ago and higher rates than January. Janesville had the highest rate at 9.7 percent and Madison had the lowest at 5.6 percent. The largest year-over-year decrease was in metro Sheboygan, which dropped by 1.4 percent to 7.6 percent from 9.0 percent in February 2011.

MUNICIPALITIES

Of 32 municipalities with at least 25,000 residents, 27 had rate increases over the month, while 31 had decreases when compared to February 2011. Only Stevens Point had an increase over the year. Caledonia had the lowest February 2012 rate, 3.7 percent, while Beloit had the highest at 12.5 percent.

COUNTIES

Sixty-eight counties had lower rates in February 2012 than February 2011. Bayfield and Iron counties experienced increases. Portage and Sawyer had no change. Sixty-six counties had higher rates in February than January. Florence, Iron and Oconto had slight decreases. Burnett, Columbia and Forest had no change. Dane County had the lowest rate, 5.2 percent; Door County, the highest rate, 13.8 percent.

JOBS DATA (METRO AREAS ONLY)

Seven metro areas added jobs over the month on a seasonally adjusted basis, including Appleton, Eau Claire, Green Bay, La Crosse, Madison, Racine and Milwaukee, which includes Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Washington and Waukesha counties.

The January numbers are preliminary and are subject to revision within the next several weeks

Labor Force and Employment Estimates February 2012

STATEWIDE LABOR FORCE

	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM. Feb-12	FINAL Jan-12	YEAR AGO Feb-11	NET CHANGE OVER		PRELIM. Feb-12	FINAL Jan-12	YEAR AGO Feb-11	NET CHANGE OVER	
				1-Month	1-Year				1-Month	1-Year
Total labor force	3,059,300	3,054,600	3,070,800	4,700	-11,500	3,050,500	3,026,700	3,055,100	23,800	-4,600
Employment	2,849,600	2,844,500	2,836,800	5,100	12,800	2,809,700	2,797,300	2,790,900	12,400	18,800
Unemployment	209,800	210,100	234,000	-300	-24,200	240,800	229,400	264,300	11,400	-23,500
Unemployment Rate	6.9%	6.9%	7.6%	0.0%	-0.7%	7.9%	7.6%	8.6%	0.3%	-0.7%
National Rate	8.3%	8.3%	9.0%	0.0%	-0.7%	8.7%	8.8%	9.5%	-0.1%	-0.8%

MSA EMPLOYMENT

	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM. Feb-12	FINAL Jan-12	YEAR AGO Feb-11	NET CHANGE OVER		PRELIM. Feb-12	FINAL Jan-12	YEAR AGO Feb-11	NET CHANGE OVER	
				1-Month	1-Year				1-Month	1-Year
Statewide	2,733,300	2,725,000	2,750,200	8,300	-16,900	2,666,600	2,654,900	2,688,900	11,700	-22,300
Appleton	117,800	117,700	116,700	100	1,100	115,000	115,300	113,700	-300	1,300
Eau Claire	79,900	79,100	80,000	800	-100	78,500	77,100	78,300	1,400	200
Fond du Lac	45,700	45,900	45,300	-200	400	44,900	44,900	44,200	0	700
Green Bay	169,000	168,500	166,600	500	2,400	165,700	164,700	162,900	1,000	2,800
Janesville	60,000	60,100	61,100	-100	-1,100	58,700	58,700	59,700	0	-1,000
La Crosse	73,700	73,400	74,200	300	-500	72,800	72,000	73,000	800	-200
Madison	340,800	339,500	345,600	1,300	-4,800	336,200	335,100	340,200	1,100	-4,000
Milwaukee-W.O.W.	814,600	811,600	812,400	3,000	2,200	799,200	796,200	799,400	3,000	-200
Oshkosh-Neenah	94,800	94,800	94,000	0	800	92,700	92,800	92,200	-100	500
Racine	75,200	74,900	75,200	300	0	73,500	73,500	73,900	0	-400
Sheboygan	57,700	57,900	57,600	-200	100	56,400	56,500	55,900	-100	500
Wausau	66,700	66,800	67,000	-100	-300	65,600	65,600	65,800	0	-200

MSA UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

	NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM. Feb-12	FINAL Jan-12	YEAR AGO Feb-11	NET CHANGE OVER	
				1-Month	1-Year
Wisconsin	7.9%	7.6%	8.6%	0.3%	-0.7%
Appleton	7.0%	6.7%	8.0%	0.3%	-1.0%
Eau Claire	7.2%	7.0%	7.9%	0.2%	-0.7%
Fond du Lac	7.4%	7.2%	8.5%	0.2%	-1.1%
Green Bay	7.3%	7.1%	8.1%	0.2%	-0.8%
Janesville	9.7%	9.4%	10.9%	0.3%	-1.2%
La Crosse	6.4%	6.2%	7.0%	0.2%	-0.6%
Madison	5.6%	5.3%	6.0%	0.3%	-0.4%
Milwaukee-W.O.W.	8.0%	7.7%	8.7%	0.3%	-0.7%
Oshkosh-Neenah	6.8%	6.5%	7.4%	0.3%	-0.6%
Racine	9.3%	9.0%	10.1%	0.3%	-0.8%
Sheboygan	7.6%	7.2%	9.0%	0.4%	-1.4%
Wausau	8.2%	7.6%	8.8%	0.6%	-0.6%

Note: Seasonally adjusted unemployment estimates for MSAs are available from the Bureau of Labor Statistics website: <http://www.bls.gov/lau/metrossa.htm>.
County and city unemployment rates are not seasonally adjusted.

Local Unemployment Rates February 2012

CITIES

CITY	Feb-12 RANK	Jan-12 RANK	Feb-12 RATE	Jan-12 RATE	Feb-11 RATE	CITY	Feb-12 RANK	Jan-12 RANK	Feb-12 RATE	Jan-12 RATE	Feb-11 RATE
Appleton	14	13	8.9	8.6	9.8	Milwaukee	5	3	10.5	10.2	11.3
Beloit	1	1	12.5	12.2	14.3	Mount Pleasant	10	10	9.4	9.2	10.5
Brookfield	28	28	5.9	5.8	6.6	Neenah	12	12	9.2	8.7	10.0
Caledonia	32	32	3.7	3.5	3.9	New Berlin	26	26	6.2	6.1	7.0
Eau Claire	22	22	6.9	6.8	7.6	Oak Creek	23	23	6.6	6.7	6.9
Fitchburg	30	30	5.7	5.5	6.4	Oshkosh	18	18	7.6	7.3	8.2
Fond du Lac	17	16	8.3	8.4	9.7	Racine	2	2	12.3	12.1	14.6
Franklin	27	27	6.1	5.9	6.7	Sheboygan	11	11	9.3	9.0	11.1
Green Bay	8	7	10.1	9.8	11.2	Stevens Point	13	14	9.1	8.5	8.8
Greenfield	19	20	7.4	7.1	7.9	Sun Prairie	24	25	6.3	6.1	6.9
Janesville	6	5	10.3	9.9	11.3	Superior	20	21	7.1	6.8	7.5
Kenosha	9	6	9.9	9.9	11.1	Waukesha	15	15	8.5	8.5	9.5
La Crosse	21	19	7.1	7.2	7.8	Wausau	3	8	10.7	9.7	11.2
Madison	31	31	4.8	4.6	5.1	Wauwatosa	29	29	5.8	5.6	6.3
Manitowoc	7	9	10.1	9.7	11.4	West Allis	16	17	8.3	7.9	9.5
Menomonee Falls	25	24	6.3	6.2	7.2	West Bend	4	4	10.6	10.0	11.8

COUNTIES

Alphabetical Order

COUNTY	Feb-12 RANK	Jan-12 RANK	Feb-12 RATE	Jan-12 RATE	Feb-11 RATE	COUNTY	Feb-12 RANK	Jan-12 RANK	Feb-12 RATE	Jan-12 RATE	Feb-11 RATE
Adams	7	7	12.4	11.9	13.0	Marathon	41	45	8.2	7.6	8.8
Ashland	17	15	10.1	9.8	11.2	Marinette	23	23	9.6	9.4	11.2
Barron	30	29	9.3	8.9	9.9	Marquette	12	10	10.8	10.6	11.6
Bayfield	2	2	13.6	13.4	13.5	Menominee	3	3	13.0	12.7	14.8
Brown	62	61	7.0	6.7	7.7	Milwaukee	34	32	8.8	8.6	9.5
Buffalo	61	60	7.1	6.7	7.6	Monroe	45	46	7.9	7.6	8.0
Burnett	16	13	10.1	10.1	11.3	Oconto	28	20	9.3	9.5	11.0
Calumet	71	71	6.0	5.7	7.1	Oneida	10	9	11.4	11.0	12.1
Chippewa	43	38	8.2	8.1	9.3	Outagamie	57	56	7.3	7.0	8.3
Clark	29	28	9.3	8.9	10.7	Ozaukee	68	69	6.5	6.0	6.9
Columbia	47	43	7.9	7.9	8.9	Pepin	49	55	7.8	7.1	8.7
Crawford	18	25	10.0	9.0	10.9	Pierce	67	68	6.7	6.1	7.3
Dane	72	72	5.2	4.9	5.6	Polk	20	18	9.9	9.5	10.4
Dodge	42	42	8.2	7.9	9.2	Portage	54	53	7.6	7.2	7.6
Door	1	1	13.8	13.5	14.2	Price	44	44	8.1	7.8	9.7
Douglas	55	50	7.5	7.3	8.0	Racine	27	27	9.3	9.0	10.1
Dunn	58	59	7.3	6.7	7.9	Richland	48	57	7.8	6.9	8.6
Eau Claire	69	66	6.5	6.4	7.1	Rock	22	22	9.7	9.4	10.9
Florence	40	33	8.3	8.6	9.6	Rusk	9	11	11.4	10.5	14.0
Fond du Lac	56	54	7.4	7.2	8.5	Sauk	36	39	8.6	8.0	9.6
Forest	11	8	11.2	11.2	12.0	Sawyer	5	6	12.6	12.1	12.6
Grant	60	58	7.2	6.8	7.8	Shawano	26	30	9.3	8.8	10.1
Green	46	48	7.9	7.4	8.6	Sheboygan	53	52	7.6	7.2	9.0
Green Lake	25	26	9.5	9.0	10.4	St. Croix	65	67	6.8	6.1	7.6
Iowa	37	40	8.6	8.0	9.2	Taylor	13	24	10.2	9.2	11.7
Iron	6	4	12.6	12.7	12.3	Trempealeau	64	62	6.8	6.6	7.8
Jackson	24	19	9.6	9.5	10.7	Vernon	52	49	7.6	7.4	8.6
Jefferson	38	36	8.5	8.3	9.8	Vilas	4	5	12.6	12.2	13.3
Juneau	15	16	10.1	9.7	11.6	Walworth	33	35	8.8	8.4	9.5
Kenosha	32	31	8.9	8.8	10.1	Washburn	19	17	9.9	9.6	10.7
Kewaunee	51	47	7.7	7.5	8.3	Washington	50	51	7.7	7.2	8.3
La Crosse	70	70	6.0	5.8	6.6	Waukesha	66	65	6.7	6.5	7.5
Lafayette	59	63	7.2	6.5	7.9	Waupaca	39	41	8.4	8.0	9.5
Langlade	14	14	10.2	10.0	11.0	Waushara	21	21	9.7	9.4	10.9
Lincoln	8	12	11.7	10.1	11.8	Winnebago	63	64	6.8	6.5	7.4
Manitowoc	31	34	9.0	8.5	9.9	Wood	35	37	8.6	8.1	9.2

Local Unemployment Rates February 2012

COUNTIES

Ascending Order

COUNTY	Feb-12 RATE	Jan-12 RATE	Feb-11 RATE	COUNTY	Feb-12 RATE	Jan-12 RATE	Feb-11 RATE
Dane	5.2	4.9	5.6	Sauk	8.6	8.0	9.6
Calumet	6.0	5.7	7.1	Wood	8.6	8.1	9.2
La Crosse	6.0	5.8	6.6	Milwaukee	8.8	8.6	9.5
Eau Claire	6.5	6.4	7.1	Walworth	8.8	8.4	9.5
Ozaukee	6.5	6.0	6.9	Kenosha	8.9	8.8	10.1
Pierce	6.7	6.1	7.3	Manitowoc	9.0	8.5	9.9
Waukesha	6.7	6.5	7.5	Barron	9.3	8.9	9.9
St. Croix	6.8	6.1	7.6	Clark	9.3	8.9	10.7
Trempealeau	6.8	6.6	7.8	Oconto	9.3	9.5	11.0
Winnebago	6.8	6.5	7.4	Racine	9.3	9.0	10.1
Brown	7.0	6.7	7.7	Shawano	9.3	8.8	10.1
Buffalo	7.1	6.7	7.6	Green Lake	9.5	9.0	10.4
Grant	7.2	6.8	7.8	Jackson	9.6	9.5	10.7
Lafayette	7.2	6.5	7.9	Marinette	9.6	9.4	11.2
Dunn	7.3	6.7	7.9	Rock	9.7	9.4	10.9
Outagamie	7.3	7.0	8.3	Wausara	9.7	9.4	10.9
Fond du Lac	7.4	7.2	8.5	Polk	9.9	9.5	10.4
Douglas	7.5	7.3	8.0	Washburn	9.9	9.6	10.7
Portage	7.6	7.2	7.6	Crawford	10.0	9.0	10.9
Sheboygan	7.6	7.2	9.0	Ashland	10.1	9.8	11.2
Vernon	7.6	7.4	8.6	Burnett	10.1	10.1	11.3
Kewaunee	7.7	7.5	8.3	Juneau	10.1	9.7	11.6
Washington	7.7	7.2	8.3	Langlade	10.2	10.0	11.0
Pepin	7.8	7.1	8.7	Taylor	10.2	9.2	11.7
Richland	7.8	6.9	8.6	Marquette	10.8	10.6	11.6
Columbia	7.9	7.9	8.9	Forest	11.2	11.2	12.0
Green	7.9	7.4	8.6	Oneida	11.4	11.0	12.1
Monroe	7.9	7.6	8.0	Rusk	11.4	10.5	14.0
Price	8.1	7.8	9.7	Lincoln	11.7	10.1	11.8
Chippewa	8.2	8.1	9.3	Adams	12.4	11.9	13.0
Dodge	8.2	7.9	9.2	Iron	12.6	12.7	12.3
Marathon	8.2	7.6	8.8	Sawyer	12.6	12.1	12.6
Florence	8.3	8.6	9.6	Vilas	12.6	12.2	13.3
Waupaca	8.4	8.0	9.5	Menominee	13.0	12.7	14.8
Jefferson	8.5	8.3	9.8	Bayfield	13.6	13.4	13.5
Iowa	8.6	8.0	9.2	Door	13.8	13.5	14.2