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Wednesday, May 27, 2015

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WISCONSIN LOCAL EMPLOYMENT & UNEMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES RELEASED

MADISON – The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) today released the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) estimates of unemployment and employment statistics for metro areas, major cities and counties in Wisconsin. The estimates include revisions for March 2015 and the preliminary estimates for April 2015. In brief, the not-seasonally adjusted estimates showed:

- **Metropolitan Statistical Areas:** Preliminary April 2015 unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in all 12 metro areas compared to April 2014 with the largest decline of 1.6 percent in Wausau. The latest rates ranged from 3.1 percent in metro Madison to 5.5 percent in metro Racine. Rates also decreased in all 12 metro areas from March to April.
- **Municipalities:** The April 2015 preliminary rates decreased in the state's 32 largest municipalities compared to April 2014. The latest April rates ranged from 2.9 percent in Fitchburg, Madison, and Sun Prairie to 6.9 percent in Racine. Rates also decreased in all 32 municipalities from March to April.
- **Counties:** April 2015 rates decreased in all of Wisconsin's 72 counties compared to rates in March 2014. The April rates ranged from 2.9 percent in Dane to 11.3 percent in Menominee. Rates also declined in all 72 counties from March to April.

The release of the April 2015 local rates follows last week's release of BLS monthly estimates showing that Wisconsin's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April 2015 dropped to 4.4%, its lowest point since April 2008 and lower than the national average of 5.4% in April.

The BLS estimates also showed Wisconsin added 5,400 private-sector jobs over the month, and private-sector job totals remain above pre-recession levels. Additionally, the state's labor force participation rate of 68.0 percent outpaced the national rate of 62.8 percent.

Other indicators that help illustrate the state of Wisconsin's economy include:

- Average Initial Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims for the first 19 weeks of 2015 dropped to the lowest point since 1995, and the annual average weekly continued UI claims are at their lowest levels since 2000.
- [Department of Financial Institutions](#) new business formation: The number of new business entities formed in Wisconsin in the first four months of 2015 grew by 4.1 percent compared to same period in 2014. As of April 30, 2015, new business filings totaled 14,669, compared to 14,093 in the same period in 2014.
- [Chief Executive Magazine](#) recently ranked Wisconsin the "12th Best State for Business" in its annual survey of CEO's, an increase of two spots over the 2014 ranking, and a significant increase since 2010, when the state ranked 41st.

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Labor Force and Employment Estimates April 2015

STATEWIDE LABOR FORCE

	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM.	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER		PRELIM.	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Apr-15	Mar-15	Apr-14	1-Month	1-Year	Apr-15	Mar-15	Apr-14	1-Month	1-Year
Total labor force	3,096,000	3,110,000	3,085,300	-14,000	10,700	3,056,100	3,073,800	3,062,600	-17,700	-6,500
Employment	2,959,200	2,965,600	2,914,600	-6,400	44,600	2,923,000	2,906,700	2,890,200	16,300	32,800
Unemployment	136,800	144,400	170,700	-7,600	-33,900	133,100	167,100	172,500	-34,000	-39,400
Unemployment Rate	4.4%	4.6%	5.5%	-0.2%	-1.1%	4.4%	5.4%	5.6%	-1.0%	-1.2%
National Rate	5.4%	5.5%	6.2%	-0.1%	-0.8%	5.1%	5.6%	5.9%	-0.5%	-0.8%

MSA EMPLOYMENT

	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM.	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER		PRELIM.	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Apr-15	Mar-15	Apr-14	1-Month	1-Year	Apr-15	Mar-15	Apr-14	1-Month	1-Year
Statewide	2,889,500	2,885,800	2,838,600	3,700	50,900	2,869,500	2,832,400	2,822,900	37,100	46,600
Appleton	124,400	123,300	120,500	1,100	3,900	122,900	120,700	119,400	2,200	3,500
Eau Claire	86,200	86,000	84,200	200	2,000	85,400	84,800	84,400	600	1,000
Fond du Lac	49,100	49,200	47,700	-100	1,400	48,700	48,400	47,600	300	1,100
Green Bay	174,100	174,200	170,300	-100	3,800	172,600	171,200	169,200	1,400	3,400
Janesville	67,100	67,500	64,600	-400	2,500	67,000	66,400	64,500	600	2,500
La Crosse	77,500	77,500	76,900	0	600	77,700	76,700	77,300	1,000	400
Madison						387,300	383,100	378,500	4,200	8,800
Milwaukee-W. O.W.	851,800	847,900	841,200	3,900	10,600	848,900	834,400	837,300	14,500	11,600
Oshkosh-Neenah	95,800	95,300	93,700	500	2,100	95,100	94,100	93,600	1,000	1,500
Racine	76,000	75,900	76,600	100	-600	75,500	74,600	76,100	900	-600
Sheboygan	61,700	62,200	60,600	-500	1,100	60,900	60,700	59,900	200	1,000
Wausau	71,900	71,800	70,000	100	1,900	71,200	71,100	69,700	100	1,500

Note: The Seasonally Adjusted Madison MSA data is not available due to the restructuring of the MSA (addition of Green County).

MSA UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

	NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM.	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Apr-15	Mar-15	Apr-14	1-Month	1-Year
Wisconsin	4.4%	5.4%	5.6%	-1.0%	-1.2%
Appleton	3.7%	4.6%	4.9%	-0.9%	-1.2%
Eau Claire	3.9%	5.0%	5.1%	-1.1%	-1.2%
Fond du Lac	3.8%	4.8%	5.1%	-1.0%	-1.3%
Green Bay	4.0%	5.0%	5.3%	-1.0%	-1.3%
Janesville	5.0%	6.2%	6.4%	-1.2%	-1.4%
La Crosse	3.4%	4.5%	4.4%	-1.1%	-1.0%
Madison	3.1%	3.9%	4.0%	-0.8%	-0.9%
Milwaukee-W. O.W.	4.7%	5.6%	5.9%	-0.9%	-1.2%
Oshkosh-Neenah	4.0%	4.9%	5.3%	-0.9%	-1.3%
Racine	5.5%	6.6%	6.8%	-1.1%	-1.3%
Sheboygan	3.5%	4.4%	4.6%	-0.9%	-1.1%
Wausau	3.9%	4.8%	5.5%	-0.9%	-1.6%

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 April 2015

CITIES

CITY	Apr-15 RANK	Mar-15 RANK	Apr-15 RATE	Mar-15 RATE	Apr-14 RATE
Appleton	19	21	3.9	4.6	4.9
Beloit	2	2	6.4	7.6	8.2
Brookfield	29	29	3.3	3.9	4.1
Caledonia	11	10	4.4	5.4	5.7
Eau Claire	26	27	3.5	4.2	4.5
Fitchburg	32	31	2.9	3.5	3.6
Fond du Lac	15	15	4.2	5.0	5.1
Franklin	14	14	4.2	5.2	5.0
Green Bay	10	11	4.4	5.3	5.8
Greenfield	9	9	4.4	5.4	5.9
Janesville	8	7	4.9	5.9	6.3
Kenosha	5	4	5.4	6.5	6.6
La Crosse	25	25	3.5	4.4	4.7
Madison	31	32	2.9	3.4	3.5
Manitowoc	4	6	5.6	6.3	6.9
Menomonee Falls	27	28	3.4	4.0	4.3

CITY	Apr-15 RANK	Mar-15 RANK	Apr-15 RATE	Mar-15 RATE	Apr-14 RATE
Milwaukee	3	3	6.3	7.3	7.8
Mount Pleasant	7	8	4.9	5.7	5.3
Neenah	18	19	3.9	4.7	5.5
New Berlin	24	24	3.5	4.4	4.5
Oak Creek	16	16	4.1	4.9	4.7
Oshkosh	13	13	4.2	5.2	5.6
Racine	1	1	6.9	8.0	8.5
Sheboygan	22	17	3.8	4.8	5.4
Stevens Point	12	12	4.3	5.2	5.3
Sun Prairie	30	30	2.9	3.7	4.0
Superior	21	23	3.8	4.5	4.9
Waukesha	20	22	3.8	4.5	4.7
Wausau	17	18	4.0	4.7	5.8
Wauwatosa	28	26	3.3	4.3	4.3
West Allis	6	5	5.1	6.4	6.7
West Bend	23	20	3.6	4.7	4.8

COUNTIES

Alphabetical Order

COUNTY	Apr-15 RANK	Mar-15 RANK	Apr-15 RATE	Mar-15 RATE	Apr-14 RATE
Adams	10	7	6.9	9.8	9.4
Ashland	11	12	6.5	7.9	8.7
Barron	26	22	5.1	6.7	6.9
Bayfield	3	3	9.1	10.8	11.1
Brown	59	60	3.8	4.8	5.1
Buffalo	34	29	4.7	6.3	6.2
Burnett	8	9	7.1	9.0	8.8
Calumet	71	71	3.3	4.2	4.3
Chippewa	38	35	4.5	6.1	5.9
Clark	41	41	4.4	5.8	6.1
Columbia	46	48	4.2	5.4	5.4
Crawford	16	15	5.8	7.7	7.7
Dane	72	72	2.9	3.6	3.7
Dodge	45	46	4.2	5.6	5.7
Door	7	2	7.8	11.0	10.0
Douglas	33	42	4.7	5.7	6.1
Dunn	44	45	4.2	5.6	5.5
Eau Claire	62	66	3.6	4.4	4.6
Florence	9	10	7.0	8.8	8.1
Fond du Lac	58	59	3.8	4.8	5.1
Forest	6	8	8.4	9.7	9.9
Grant	57	54	3.8	5.2	4.8
Green	60	61	3.7	4.8	4.9
Green Lake	23	17	5.3	7.2	6.7
Iowa	50	38	4.0	5.9	5.6
Iron	2	4	10.0	10.7	11.5
Jackson	36	31	4.6	6.2	6.7
Jefferson	54	52	3.9	5.2	5.3
Juneau	29	23	5.0	6.7	7.1
Kenosha	31	37	4.9	5.9	6.2
Kewaunee	56	53	3.8	5.2	5.4
La Crosse	69	69	3.4	4.4	4.4
Lafayette	70	64	3.3	4.6	4.6
Langlade	13	16	6.2	7.3	7.8
Lincoln	24	27	5.2	6.4	7.0
Manitowoc	28	33	5.0	6.1	6.3

COUNTY	Apr-15 RANK	Mar-15 RANK	Apr-15 RATE	Mar-15 RATE	Apr-14 RATE
Marathon	53	57	3.9	4.8	5.5
Marinette	17	18	5.7	7.0	7.2
Marquette	15	14	5.8	7.7	7.3
Menominee	1	1	11.3	11.5	14.5
Milwaukee	19	26	5.5	6.5	6.9
Monroe	43	47	4.2	5.5	5.5
Oconto	25	25	5.1	6.6	6.7
Oneida	12	11	6.4	8.3	8.3
Outagamie	55	58	3.8	4.8	5.0
Ozaukee	68	70	3.4	4.2	4.2
Pepin	52	36	3.9	6.0	5.5
Pierce	67	63	3.5	4.6	4.6
Polk	32	28	4.7	6.4	6.4
Portage	40	40	4.4	5.8	5.9
Price	37	43	4.5	5.7	5.8
Racine	18	24	5.5	6.6	6.8
Richland	49	49	4.0	5.4	5.7
Rock	27	30	5.0	6.2	6.4
Rusk	22	21	5.3	6.8	7.7
Sauk	47	50	4.1	5.3	5.5
Sawyer	4	5	8.6	10.7	10.8
Shawano	30	34	4.9	6.1	6.6
Sheboygan	65	68	3.5	4.4	4.6
St. Croix	66	62	3.5	4.6	4.7
Taylor	39	32	4.4	6.2	6.2
Trempealeau	61	55	3.6	5.0	5.0
Vernon	51	51	3.9	5.3	5.4
Vilas	5	6	8.4	10.1	11.0
Walworth	42	44	4.3	5.7	5.7
Washburn	21	19	5.3	7.0	7.3
Washington	64	65	3.5	4.5	4.6
Waukesha	63	67	3.5	4.4	4.5
Waupaca	35	39	4.6	5.8	6.1
Waushara	14	13	5.9	7.7	7.2
Winnebago	48	56	4.0	4.9	5.3
Wood	20	20	5.3	6.9	6.4

Local Unemployment Rates April 2015

COUNTIES

Ascending Order

COUNTY	Apr-15 RATE	Mar-15 RATE	Apr-14 RATE	COUNTY	Apr-15 RATE	Mar-15 RATE	Apr-14 RATE
Dane	2.9	3.6	3.7	Jackson	4.6	6.2	6.7
Calumet	3.3	4.2	4.3	Waupaca	4.6	5.8	6.1
Lafayette	3.3	4.6	4.6	Buffalo	4.7	6.3	6.2
La Crosse	3.4	4.4	4.4	Douglas	4.7	5.7	6.1
Ozaukee	3.4	4.2	4.2	Polk	4.7	6.4	6.4
Pierce	3.5	4.6	4.6	Kenosha	4.9	5.9	6.2
Sheboygan	3.5	4.4	4.6	Shawano	4.9	6.1	6.6
St. Croix	3.5	4.6	4.7	Juneau	5.0	6.7	7.1
Washington	3.5	4.5	4.6	Manitowoc	5.0	6.1	6.3
Waukesha	3.5	4.4	4.5	Rock	5.0	6.2	6.4
Eau Claire	3.6	4.4	4.6	Barron	5.1	6.7	6.9
Trempealeau	3.6	5.0	5.0	Oconto	5.1	6.6	6.7
Green	3.7	4.8	4.9	Lincoln	5.2	6.4	7.0
Brown	3.8	4.8	5.1	Green Lake	5.3	7.2	6.7
Fond du Lac	3.8	4.8	5.1	Rusk	5.3	6.8	7.7
Grant	3.8	5.2	4.8	Washburn	5.3	7.0	7.3
Kewaunee	3.8	5.2	5.4	Wood	5.3	6.9	6.4
Outagamie	3.8	4.8	5.0	Milwaukee	5.5	6.5	6.9
Jefferson	3.9	5.2	5.3	Racine	5.5	6.6	6.8
Marathon	3.9	4.8	5.5	Marinette	5.7	7.0	7.2
Pepin	3.9	6.0	5.5	Crawford	5.8	7.7	7.7
Vernon	3.9	5.3	5.4	Marquette	5.8	7.7	7.3
Iowa	4.0	5.9	5.6	Waushara	5.9	7.7	7.2
Richland	4.0	5.4	5.7	Langlade	6.2	7.3	7.8
Winnebago	4.0	4.9	5.3	Oneida	6.4	8.3	8.3
Sauk	4.1	5.3	5.5	Ashland	6.5	7.9	8.7
Columbia	4.2	5.4	5.4	Adams	6.9	9.8	9.4
Dodge	4.2	5.6	5.7	Florence	7.0	8.8	8.1
Dunn	4.2	5.6	5.5	Burnett	7.1	9.0	8.8
Monroe	4.2	5.5	5.5	Door	7.8	11.0	10.0
Walworth	4.3	5.7	5.7	Forest	8.4	9.7	9.9
Clark	4.4	5.8	6.1	Vilas	8.4	10.1	11.0
Portage	4.4	5.8	5.9	Sawyer	8.6	10.7	10.8
Taylor	4.4	6.2	6.2	Bayfield	9.1	10.8	11.1
Chippewa	4.5	6.1	5.9	Iron	10.0	10.7	11.5
Price	4.5	5.7	5.8	Menominee	11.3	11.5	14.5