

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

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

## 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 updates for February 2017 and the preliminary estimates for March 2017. These numbers are not seasonally adjusted. In brief, the estimates showed:

- **Metropolitan Statistical Areas:** Preliminary March 2017 unemployment rates decreased in all areas over the year when compared over the year to March 2016 and over the month to February 2017. The largest over the year decline was 1.2 percent in Racine. The latest rates ranged from 2.6 percent in Madison to 4.5 percent in Racine.
- **Municipalities:** Preliminary March 2017 rates decreased in all of the state's 32 largest municipalities when compared over the year to March 2016 and over the month to February 2017. The latest rates ranged from 2.3 percent in Madison to 5.7 percent in Beloit.
- **Counties:** Preliminary March 2017 rates decreased in all 72 counties when compared over the year to March 2016 rates and in 71 of 72 counties when compared over the month to February 2017. The largest over the year decline was 2.3 percent in Bayfield county. The latest rates ranged from 2.5 percent in Dane to 7.9 percent in Iron.

The release of the March 2017 local rates follows last week's release of BLS monthly estimates showing a preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 3.4 percent in March 2017, dropping to its lowest rate since April 2000. Data also showed both total labor force and employment in Wisconsin reached an all-time high in March, while the number of unemployed individuals was its lowest since June 2000.

Other indicators of the state of Wisconsin's economy include:

- Wisconsin's labor force participation rate increased to 68.4 percent and continues to outpace the U.S. rate of 63.0 percent in March.
- Wisconsin saw a preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 3.4 percent in March 2017, down 0.3 percent from February and at its lowest rate since April 2000.
- Initial UI claims ended 2016 at their lowest level in their last 30 years. Year 2017 initial UI claims are running at their lowest levels since 1989.
- Continuing unemployment claims ended 2016 at their lowest level since 1973. Continuing unemployment claims in Wisconsin are running the lowest in at least the past 30 years.

###

# Labor Force and Employment Estimates March 2017

## STATEWIDE LABOR FORCE

	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM.	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER		PRELIM.	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Mar-17	Feb-17	Mar-16	1-Month	1-Year	Mar-17	Feb-17	Mar-16	1-Month	1-Year
Total labor force	3,137,100	3,130,900	3,113,300	6,200	23,800	3,111,100	3,121,100	3,103,700	-10,000	7,400
Employment	3,029,900	3,013,500	2,984,900	16,400	45,000	2,995,800	2,979,900	2,956,800	15,900	39,000
Unemployment	107,100	117,400	128,400	-10,300	-21,300	115,300	141,200	146,800	-25,900	-31,500
Unemployment Rate	3.4%	3.7%	4.1%	-0.3%	-0.7%	3.7%	4.5%	4.7%	-0.8%	-1.0%
National Rate	4.5%	4.7%	5.0%	-0.2%	-0.5%	4.6%	4.9%	5.1%	-0.3%	-0.5%

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

## MSA EMPLOYMENT

	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM.	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER		PRELIM.	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Mar-17	Feb-17	Mar-16	1-Month	1-Year	Mar-17	Feb-17	Mar-16	1-Month	1-Year
Statewide	2,948,100	2,950,800	2,923,000	-2,700	25,100	2,902,900	2,897,600	2,878,500	5,300	24,400
Appleton	127,200	126,700	124,800	500	2,400	124,800	124,300	122,600	500	2,200
Eau Claire	85,100	85,100	85,900	0	-800	84,200	84,200	85,200	0	-1,000
Fond du Lac	48,500	48,600	47,700	-100	800	48,000	47,700	47,100	300	900
Green Bay	173,700	174,600	175,100	-900	-1,400	170,700	171,700	172,200	-1,000	-1,500
Janesville	69,000	68,900	67,600	100	1,400	68,000	67,400	66,700	600	1,300
La Crosse	78,300	79,500	78,000	-1,200	300	77,800	78,400	77,600	-600	200
Madison	402,100	404,700	395,300	-2,600	6,800	398,200	399,000	390,700	-800	7,500
Milwaukee-W.O.W.	865,900	861,900	863,800	4,000	2,100	851,700	846,600	854,000	5,100	-2,300
Oshkosh-Neenah	97,200	97,600	96,500	-400	700	96,200	96,400	95,600	-200	600
Racine	77,600	77,900	78,200	-300	-600	76,200	76,000	76,400	200	-200
Sheboygan	62,100	61,900	61,100	200	1,000	60,900	60,300	59,800	600	1,100
Wausau	72,900	73,100	71,700	-200	1,200	72,200	72,000	70,900	200	1,300

Source: Current Employment Statistics (CES)

## MSA UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

	NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM.	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Mar-17	Feb-17	Mar-16	1-Month	1-Year
Wisconsin	3.7%	4.5%	4.7%	-0.8%	-1.0%
Appleton	3.2%	3.9%	4.0%	-0.7%	-0.8%
Eau Claire	3.6%	4.4%	4.6%	-0.8%	-1.0%
Fond du Lac	3.0%	3.9%	4.1%	-0.9%	-1.1%
Green Bay	3.5%	4.2%	4.4%	-0.7%	-0.9%
Janesville	4.4%	5.2%	5.1%	-0.8%	-0.7%
La Crosse	3.5%	4.1%	4.4%	-0.6%	-0.9%
Madison	2.6%	3.3%	3.4%	-0.7%	-0.8%
Milwaukee-W.O.W.	3.7%	4.5%	4.7%	-0.8%	-1.0%
Oshkosh-Neenah	3.1%	3.8%	4.0%	-0.7%	-0.9%
Racine	4.5%	5.5%	5.7%	-1.0%	-1.2%
Sheboygan	3.0%	3.7%	3.9%	-0.7%	-0.9%
Wausau	3.3%	4.0%	4.3%	-0.7%	-1.0%

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

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 March 2017

## CITIES

CITY	Mar-17 RANK	Feb-17 RANK	Mar-17 RATE	Feb-17 RATE	Mar-16 RATE
Appleton	11	10	3.2	3.9	4.1
Beloit	32	31	5.7	6.2	6.3
Brookfield	5	4	3.0	3.6	3.6
Caledonia	23	24	3.8	4.8	4.7
Eau Claire	5	5	3.0	3.7	3.7
Fitchburg	2	2	2.4	3.0	3.1
Fond du Lac	5	7	3.0	3.8	4.2
Franklin	16	20	3.3	4.2	4.4
Green Bay	22	21	3.7	4.3	4.6
Greenfield	21	23	3.6	4.6	4.6
Janesville	26	25	4.1	4.9	4.8
Kenosha	29	28	4.5	5.4	5.6
La Crosse	19	10	3.4	3.9	4.3
Madison	1	1	2.3	2.9	3.0
Manitowoc	26	29	4.1	5.5	5.5
Menomonee Falls	4	7	2.9	3.8	3.9

CITY	Mar-17 RANK	Feb-17 RANK	Mar-17 RATE	Feb-17 RATE	Mar-16 RATE
Milwaukee	30	30	4.6	5.6	5.9
Mount Pleasant	23	22	3.8	4.5	4.6
Neenah	11	7	3.2	3.8	4.0
New Berlin	9	10	3.1	3.9	3.9
Oak Creek	11	15	3.2	4.0	4.1
Oshkosh	9	10	3.1	3.9	4.0
Racine	31	32	5.3	6.3	6.7
Sheboygan	16	15	3.3	4.0	4.3
Stevens Point	19	15	3.4	4.0	4.4
Sun Prairie	3	3	2.5	3.1	3.4
Superior	28	26	4.4	5.1	5.2
Waukesha	11	10	3.2	3.9	4.0
Wausau	16	19	3.3	4.1	4.4
Wauwatosa	5	5	3.0	3.7	3.7
West Allis	25	27	4.0	5.2	5.5
West Bend	11	15	3.2	4.0	4.0

## COUNTIES Alphabetical Order

COUNTY	Mar-17 RANK	Feb-17 RANK	Mar-17 RATE	Feb-17 RATE	Mar-16 RATE
Adams	66	70	6.5	8.0	8.0
Ashland	60	59	5.7	6.4	7.1
Barron	51	48	4.8	5.9	6.4
Bayfield	71	71	7.4	8.3	9.7
Brown	15	12	3.4	4.0	4.2
Buffalo	47	50	4.6	6.0	5.9
Burnett	68	69	6.8	7.8	8.2
Calumet	3	3	2.9	3.6	3.6
Chippewa	43	41	4.5	5.3	5.8
Clark	30	32	4.0	4.9	5.1
Columbia	15	15	3.4	4.2	4.5
Crawford	61	63	5.8	6.9	6.7
Dane	1	1	2.5	3.1	3.2
Dodge	17	17	3.5	4.3	4.5
Door	63	66	6.1	7.2	8.1
Douglas	56	57	5.3	6.3	6.5
Dunn	34	32	4.1	4.9	5.0
Eau Claire	7	8	3.1	3.9	4.0
Florence	63	66	6.1	7.2	7.6
Fond du Lac	4	8	3.0	3.9	4.1
Forest	67	63	6.6	6.9	7.7
Grant	30	23	4.0	4.6	4.8
Green	13	15	3.3	4.2	4.3
Green Lake	47	52	4.6	6.1	6.6
Iowa	21	30	3.7	4.8	4.9
Iron	72	72	7.9	8.6	9.0
Jackson	37	41	4.3	5.3	5.7
Jefferson	27	23	3.8	4.6	4.7
Juneau	37	38	4.3	5.2	5.7
Kenosha	37	34	4.3	5.1	5.3
Kewaunee	20	20	3.6	4.5	4.6
La Crosse	11	8	3.2	3.9	4.2
Lafayette	7	8	3.1	3.9	4.3
Langlade	54	50	5.1	6.0	6.3
Lincoln	43	44	4.5	5.5	5.5
Manitowoc	30	38	4.0	5.2	5.1

COUNTY	Mar-17 RANK	Feb-17 RANK	Mar-17 RATE	Feb-17 RATE	Mar-16 RATE
Marathon	13	12	3.3	4.0	4.3
Marinette	56	55	5.3	6.2	6.6
Marquette	47	57	4.6	6.3	6.7
Menominee	70	59	7.1	6.4	8.4
Milwaukee	36	34	4.2	5.1	5.4
Monroe	17	17	3.5	4.3	4.7
Oconto	47	41	4.6	5.3	5.7
Oneida	59	52	5.4	6.1	6.7
Outagamie	11	12	3.2	4.0	4.2
Ozaukee	2	2	2.8	3.5	3.8
Pepin	41	47	4.4	5.7	5.1
Pierce	30	34	4.0	5.1	4.9
Polk	54	55	5.1	6.2	6.3
Portage	21	19	3.7	4.4	4.8
Price	37	34	4.3	5.1	5.4
Racine	43	44	4.5	5.5	5.7
Richland	21	26	3.7	4.7	5.1
Rock	41	38	4.4	5.2	5.1
Rusk	62	62	5.9	6.7	6.4
Sauk	17	20	3.5	4.5	4.6
Sawyer	68	68	6.8	7.4	8.9
Shawano	34	30	4.1	4.8	5.3
Sheboygan	4	4	3.0	3.7	3.9
St. Croix	21	23	3.7	4.6	4.7
Taylor	53	48	4.9	5.9	5.7
Trempealeau	21	26	3.7	4.7	4.9
Vernon	27	26	3.8	4.7	4.8
Vilas	65	65	6.4	7.1	7.9
Walworth	27	26	3.8	4.7	4.9
Washburn	56	59	5.3	6.4	6.7
Washington	4	5	3.0	3.8	3.8
Waukesha	7	5	3.1	3.8	3.9
Waupaca	21	20	3.7	4.5	5.0
Waushara	51	52	4.8	6.1	6.4
Winnebago	7	5	3.1	3.8	4.0
Wood	43	44	4.5	5.5	6.0

Note: Ranking is ascending from lowest (best) unemployment rate to highest.  
Ranking ties exist in the results.

# Local Unemployment Rates March 2017

## COUNTIES

Ascending Order

COUNTY	Mar-17 RATE	Feb-17 RATE	Mar-16 RATE	COUNTY	Mar-17 RATE	Feb-17 RATE	Mar-16 RATE
Dane	2.5	3.1	3.2	Jackson	4.3	5.3	5.7
Ozaukee	2.8	3.5	3.8	Juneau	4.3	5.2	5.7
Calumet	2.9	3.6	3.6	Kenosha	4.3	5.1	5.3
Fond du Lac	3.0	3.9	4.1	Price	4.3	5.1	5.4
Sheboygan	3.0	3.7	3.9	Pepin	4.4	5.7	5.1
Washington	3.0	3.8	3.8	Rock	4.4	5.2	5.1
Eau Claire	3.1	3.9	4.0	Chippewa	4.5	5.3	5.8
Lafayette	3.1	3.9	4.3	Lincoln	4.5	5.5	5.5
Waukesha	3.1	3.8	3.9	Racine	4.5	5.5	5.7
Winnebago	3.1	3.8	4.0	Wood	4.5	5.5	6.0
La Crosse	3.2	3.9	4.2	Buffalo	4.6	6.0	5.9
Outagamie	3.2	4.0	4.2	Green Lake	4.6	6.1	6.6
Green	3.3	4.2	4.3	Marquette	4.6	6.3	6.7
Marathon	3.3	4.0	4.3	Oconto	4.6	5.3	5.7
Brown	3.4	4.0	4.2	Barron	4.8	5.9	6.4
Columbia	3.4	4.2	4.5	Waushara	4.8	6.1	6.4
Dodge	3.5	4.3	4.5	Taylor	4.9	5.9	5.7
Monroe	3.5	4.3	4.7	Langlade	5.1	6.0	6.3
Sauk	3.5	4.5	4.6	Polk	5.1	6.2	6.3
Kewaunee	3.6	4.5	4.6	Douglas	5.3	6.3	6.5
Iowa	3.7	4.8	4.9	Marinette	5.3	6.2	6.6
Portage	3.7	4.4	4.8	Washburn	5.3	6.4	6.7
Richland	3.7	4.7	5.1	Oneida	5.4	6.1	6.7
St. Croix	3.7	4.6	4.7	Ashland	5.7	6.4	7.1
Trempealeau	3.7	4.7	4.9	Crawford	5.8	6.9	6.7
Waupaca	3.7	4.5	5.0	Rusk	5.9	6.7	6.4
Jefferson	3.8	4.6	4.7	Door	6.1	7.2	8.1
Vernon	3.8	4.7	4.8	Florence	6.1	7.2	7.6
Walworth	3.8	4.7	4.9	Vilas	6.4	7.1	7.9
Clark	4.0	4.9	5.1	Adams	6.5	8.0	8.0
Grant	4.0	4.6	4.8	Forest	6.6	6.9	7.7
Manitowoc	4.0	5.2	5.1	Burnett	6.8	7.8	8.2
Pierce	4.0	5.1	4.9	Sawyer	6.8	7.4	8.9
Dunn	4.1	4.9	5.0	Menominee	7.1	6.4	8.4
Shawano	4.1	4.8	5.3	Bayfield	7.4	8.3	9.7
Milwaukee	4.2	5.1	5.4	Iron	7.9	8.6	9.0