

Jim Doyle
Governor

Roberta Gassman
Secretary



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
201 East Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 7946
Madison, WI 53707-7946
Telephone: (608) 266-3131
Fax: (608) 266-1784
<http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/>
e-mail: dwdsec@dwd.state.wi.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, March 20, 2008
CONTACT: Dick Jones, Agency Liaison, 608-267-4780

FEBRUARY UNEMPLOYMENT RATES ANNOUNCED

Unadjusted Data

MADISON – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman announced today that Wisconsin's unemployment rate for February was 5.8 percent. The rate last month was three-tenths of a percentage point higher than the January rate of 5.5 percent and it matches the February 2007 rate of 5.8 percent. The national rate was 5.2 percent in February compared to 5.4 percent in January and 4.9 percent in February 2007.

"Seasonal factors again played a role in Wisconsin's labor market during February, as many industries felt the continued effects of an especially difficult winter," Secretary Gassman said. "Despite the record setting snowfall for much of the state, Wisconsin's February unemployment rate was equal to the rate for February 2007."

Total Wisconsin non-farm jobs increased 4,100 from January 2008 to February 2008, to 2,813,100. Private sector jobs fell over-the-month by 6,100, led by a drop of 1,900 in construction jobs and 1,800 in manufacturing jobs. Government jobs were up 10,200, led by local government, which added 6,100, and state government, which added 4,200, as public schools and universities resumed classes after winter break.

Over the year, February 2008 had an increase of 3,100 jobs over February 2007, which recorded 2,810,000 jobs. Private sector jobs decreased 4,600 over that time period, while government jobs were up 7,700, led by local government, which added 10,300, again as most educational institutions returned from winter breaks. Federal and state government jobs decreased 300 and 2,300 respectively. Goods producers lost 11,300 jobs, led by a decrease in manufacturing of 9,100 for the year, while service producers added a total of 14,400 over the year, led by the educational and health services sector, which added 9,100.

Adjusted Data

The seasonally adjusted Wisconsin unemployment rate for February 2008 was 4.9 percent, unchanged from last month's final rate, and down two-tenths of a percentage point from February 2007.

Total state employment was up 16,100 from last month, and up 13,600 compared to one year ago.

WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY
In Thousands

ITEM	PRELIM. FEB 08	FINAL JAN 08	YEAR AGO FEB 07	NET CHANGE FROM	
				MONTH AGO	YEAR AGO
PLACE OF RESIDENCE DATA					
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES					
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3078.5	3056.5	3077.1	22.0	1.4
UNEMPLOYMENT	178.2	167.2	179.2	11.0	-1.0
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	5.8	5.5	5.8	0.3	0.0
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2900.3	2889.3	2898.0	11.0	2.3
PLACE OF WORK DATA					
<i>NONFARM WAGE & SALARY</i>					
TOTAL PRIVATE	2813.1	2809	2810	4.1	3.1
<i>GOODS PRODUCING</i>	2388.6	2394.7	2393.2	-6.1	-4.6
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	596.1	599.8	607.4	-3.7	-11.3
CONSTRUCTION	3	3	3.2	0.0	-0.2
MANUFACTURING	105.9	107.8	107.9	-1.9	-2.0
Durable Goods	487.2	489	496.3	-1.8	-9.1
Nondurable Goods	308.9	309.2	314.1	-0.3	-5.2
<i>SERVICE PRODUCING</i>	178.3	179.8	182.2	-1.5	-3.9
TRADE	2217	2209.2	2202.6	7.8	14.4
Wholesale Trade	423.2	429.2	425.3	-6.0	-2.1
Retail Trade	120.8	120.8	119.7	0.0	1.1
TRANS., WAREHOUSE, & UTILITIES	302.4	308.4	305.6	-6.0	-3.2
Utilities	108.6	108.7	108.2	-0.1	0.4
INFORMATION	10.8	10.8	11.1	0.0	-0.3
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	49.7	50	49.5	-0.3	0.2
Finance and Insurance	161.7	161.8	161.9	-0.1	-0.2
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	134.9	135	134.7	-0.1	0.2
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	26.8	26.8	27.2	0.0	-0.4
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	269.6	268.9	267.2	0.7	2.4
Mgmt. Of Companies and Enterprises	98.8	97.8	98.2	1.0	0.6
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	43.2	43.2	43	0.0	0.2
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	127.6	127.9	126	-0.3	1.6
Educational Services	404.5	400.6	395.4	3.9	9.1
Health Care & Social Assistance	51.3	48.3	49.9	3.0	1.4
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	353.2	352.3	345.5	0.9	7.7
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	239.7	240.8	242.8	-1.1	-3.1
Accommodation & Food Services	26.7	26.8	29.2	-0.1	-2.5
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin	213	214	213.6	-1.0	-0.6
GOVERNMENT	135.5	134.9	135.5	0.6	0.0
Federal Government	424.5	414.3	416.8	10.2	7.7
State Government	28.6	28.7	28.9	-0.1	-0.3
Local Government	103.6	99.4	105.9	4.2	-2.3
PERSONS INVOLVED IN L-M DISPUTES	292.3	286.2	282	6.1	10.3
(1) Includes L-M Disputes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES					
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3100.8	3083.5	3093.1	17.3	7.7
UNEMPLOYMENT	152.1	150.9	158.0	1.2	-5.9
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	4.9	4.9	5.1	0.0	-0.2
EMPLOYMENT	2948.7	2932.6	2935.1	16.1	13.6

*Differences in totals may occur as a result of rounding.

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics and Current Employment Statistics programs, Labor Market Information Section.