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[County Maps](#) | [Labor Force Summary by MSA](#) | [Labor Force Summary by County](#)

December 2007 Local Unemployment Rates Announced

METRO AREAS

MADISON – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today announced December 2007 unemployment rates for the state's metropolitan statistical areas (MSA).

"The state's labor market condition for county and metro areas showed mixed results in December as the majority of areas lowered their unemployment rate, but also lowered job counts when compared to November," Secretary Gassman said. "Labor market figures for December were likely influenced by seasonal factors including weather, education related employment, and seasonal retail employment."

Unemployment rates decreased in 9 of the state's 12 metropolitan statistical areas (MSA) on a monthly basis in December, two experienced small increases, and one was unchanged. The Madison MSA had the lowest rate in December at 3.3 percent, followed by Wausau at 3.9 percent. The Racine MSA recorded the highest rate at 5.7 percent. Compared to one year ago, four MSAs had lower rates this year, six are higher, and two were unchanged.

Preliminary nonfarm wage and salary jobs increased over-the-month in one metro area, decreased in eight, and remained the same in three. The over-the-year comparison of job estimates shows an increase in 10 of Wisconsin's 12 MSAs, a decrease in one, and no change for one.

COUNTIES

Unemployment rates decreased in 28 of Wisconsin's 72 counties in December, while 33 saw increases, and 11 were unchanged. The largest decrease was in Menominee County, which dropped 1.1 percentage points to 9.5 percent. Taylor County, rising 1.2 percentage points to 5.6 percent, had the largest increase in unemployment rate. Dane County had the state's lowest rate in December at 3.1 percent, with Ozaukee County coming in second at 3.3 percent. Menominee County recorded the highest rate with 9.5 percent, followed by Iron County at 8.4 percent. In all, there were 31 counties with rates of over 5.0 percent and 41 counties with rates of 5.0 percent or less.

Annually, 34 counties had lower rates compared to December 2006, while 12 were unchanged, and 26 had higher rates. The greatest increase, 1.9 percentage points, occurred in Menominee County, while Florence County, dropping 1.2 percent, had the greatest annual decrease.

Employment and Labor Force

Place of Residence Data

Unadjusted labor force estimates

	Current	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total labor force	3,088,400	3,093,900	3,080,400
Employed	2,946,700	2,946,700	2,940,400
Unemployed	141,700	147,300	140,100
Wis. Unemployment Rate	4.6%	4.8%	4.5%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	4.8%	4.5%	4.3%

Adjusted labor force estimates

	Current	Month Ago	Year Ago
<i>Total labor force</i>	3,100,500	3,097,400	3,077,700
<i>Employed</i>	2,946,300	2,938,000	2,926,800
<i>Unemployed</i>	154,200	159,400	150,900
<i>Wis. Unemployment Rate</i>	5.0%	5.1%	4.9%
<i>U.S. Unemployment Rate</i>	5.0%	4.7%	4.4%

Unadjusted Unemployment Rate, by WI Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)

MSA	Current	Month Ago	Year Ago
<i>Wisconsin</i>	4.6	4.8	4.5
<i>Appleton</i>	4.3	4.5	4.3
<i>Eau Claire</i>	4.3	4.2	4.5
<i>Fond du Lac</i>	4.4	4.4	4.6
<i>Green Bay</i>	4.5	4.8	4.5
<i>Janesville</i>	5.1	5.5	4.8
<i>La Crosse</i>	4.1	3.9	3.8
<i>Madison</i>	3.3	3.6	3.2
<i>Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis</i>	4.7	5.2	4.5
<i>Oshkosh-Neenah</i>	4.0	4.5	4.3
<i>Racine</i>	5.7	5.9	5.4
<i>Sheboygan</i>	4.0	4.5	3.7
<i>Wausau</i>	3.9	4.2	4.0

Place of Work Data

Nonfarm wage and salary estimates, by WI Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), in thousands

MSA	Current	Month Ago	Year Ago
<i>Wisconsin</i>	2901.3	2911.6	2879.6
<i>Appleton</i>	123.0	123.0	120.0
<i>Eau Claire</i>	84.8	85.3	83.4
<i>Fond du Lac</i>	48.9	49.1	48.6
<i>Green Bay</i>	171.6	172.2	170.8
<i>Janesville</i>	70.2	70.1	70.2
<i>La Crosse</i>	75.5	75.5	74.7
<i>Madison</i>	358.2	358.2	353.9
<i>Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis</i>	865.7	866.2	857.8
<i>Oshkosh-Neenah</i>	93.5	93.9	93.3
<i>Racine</i>	80.5	80.9	80.6
<i>Sheboygan</i>	64.5	64.8	63.6
<i>Wausau</i>	74.9	75	74.3

Source *Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development Office of Economic Advisors

WISCONSIN COUNTIES
Unemployment Rates
December 2007
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

RANK	COUNTY	RATE	LAST RATE	LAST RANK	YR AGO RATE	RANK	COUNTY	RATE	LAST RATE	LAST RANK	YR AGO RATE
8	ADAMS	6.8%	6.4%	7	7.3%	63	MARATHON	3.9%	4.2%	56	4.0%
33	ASHLAND	5.0%	4.9%	35	5.5%	14	MARINETTE	6.1%	6.3%	8	6.8%
19	BARRON	6.0%	5.2%	28	5.8%	17	MARQUETTE	6.1%	5.5%	22	6.4%
4	BAYFIELD	7.3%	6.3%	11	7.2%	1	MENOMINEE	9.5%	10.6%	1	7.6%
56	BROWN	4.3%	4.5%	47	4.2%	26	MILWAUKEE	5.3%	6.0%	14	5.1%
69	BUFFALO	3.6%	3.6%	70	3.9%	50	MONROE	4.4%	4.4%	52	4.3%
3	BURNETT	7.3%	6.7%	4	6.1%	13	OCONTO	6.3%	6.3%	9	6.4%
58	CALUMET	4.2%	4.7%	39	4.5%	12	ONEIDA	6.5%	5.7%	19	6.5%
28	CHIPPEWA	5.3%	4.7%	42	5.6%	57	OUTAGAMIE	4.3%	4.4%	51	4.3%
25	CLARK	5.4%	4.8%	38	5.8%	71	OZAUKEE	3.3%	3.7%	68	3.1%
38	COLUMBIA	4.8%	4.9%	33	4.8%	41	PEPIN	4.7%	4.2%	57	5.2%
39	CRAWFORD	4.8%	4.7%	41	4.8%	54	PIERCE	4.4%	3.9%	66	4.3%
72	DANE	3.1%	3.4%	72	3.0%	21	POLK	5.9%	5.5%	21	5.7%
37	DODGE	4.9%	4.9%	34	5.0%	65	PORTAGE	3.9%	3.9%	65	3.9%
11	DOOR	6.6%	5.8%	18	6.5%	43	PRICE	4.6%	4.8%	36	4.8%
34	DOUGLAS	5.0%	4.8%	37	4.9%	22	RACINE	5.7%	5.9%	16	5.4%
55	DUNN	4.4%	3.8%	67	4.4%	49	RICHLAND	4.4%	4.6%	43	4.7%
66	EAU CLAIRE	3.8%	3.9%	63	3.8%	30	ROCK	5.1%	5.5%	20	4.8%
18	FLORENCE	6.0%	6.5%	6	7.2%	10	RUSK	6.6%	6.2%	12	6.8%
52	FOND DU LAC	4.4%	4.4%	54	4.6%	44	SAUK	4.6%	4.6%	44	4.6%
6	FOREST	7.0%	6.3%	10	7.5%	5	SAWYER	7.0%	7.1%	3	7.2%
46	GRANT	4.5%	4.5%	48	4.4%	42	SHAWANO	4.6%	4.9%	32	5.0%
64	GREEN	3.9%	4.0%	60	3.9%	62	SHEBOYGAN	4.0%	4.5%	46	3.7%
24	GREEN LAKE	5.5%	5.2%	27	5.7%	47	ST. CROIX	4.5%	4.0%	62	4.8%
59	IOWA	4.2%	3.7%	69	4.2%	23	TAYLOR	5.6%	4.4%	55	5.7%
2	IRON	8.4%	8.0%	2	9.2%	53	TREMPEALEAU	4.4%	4.0%	61	4.5%
20	JACKSON	6.0%	5.1%	30	5.9%	40	VERNON	4.8%	4.5%	50	4.7%
51	JEFFERSON	4.4%	4.4%	53	4.5%	7	VILAS	7.0%	6.2%	13	7.1%
16	JUNEAU	6.1%	5.9%	17	6.0%	45	WALWORTH	4.6%	4.5%	49	4.4%
36	KENOSHA	4.9%	5.1%	29	4.9%	9	WASHBURN	6.7%	6.6%	5	7.0%
48	KEWAUNEE	4.4%	4.7%	40	4.1%	60	WASHINGTON	4.1%	4.1%	58	4.0%
67	LA CROSSE	3.8%	3.9%	64	3.7%	68	WAUKESHA	3.7%	4.0%	59	3.6%
70	LAFAYETTE	3.6%	3.5%	71	3.8%	31	WAUPACA	5.1%	5.3%	24	5.1%
15	LANGLADE	6.1%	6.0%	15	6.6%	29	WAUSHARA	5.2%	5.2%	26	5.5%
27	LINCOLN	5.3%	5.0%	31	5.4%	61	WINNEBAGO	4.0%	4.5%	45	4.3%
32	MANITOWOC	5.0%	5.3%	23	5.4%	35	WOOD	4.9%	5.2%	25	4.8%

WISCONSIN CITIES
Unemployment Rates
December 2007
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

RANK	CITY	RATE	LAST RATE	LAST RANK	YR AGO RATE
11	APPLETON CITY	5.1%	5.6%	10	5.5%
2	BELOIT CITY	7.3%	7.7%	2	6.8%
29	BROOKFIELD CITY	3.0%	3.6%	29	3.1%
23	EAU CLAIRE CITY	4.0%	4.2%	24	4.1%
14	FOND DU LAC CITY	4.9%	5.1%	15	5.4%
25	FRANKLIN CITY	3.7%	4.3%	22	3.1%
4	GREEN BAY CITY	6.4%	6.6%	4	6.4%
20	GREENFIELD CITY	4.3%	4.8%	17	3.9%
8	JANESVILLE CITY	5.4%	5.9%	7	5.0%
9	KENOSHA CITY	5.4%	5.7%	9	5.5%
19	LA CROSSE CITY	4.4%	4.7%	18	4.4%
30	MADISON CITY	3.0%	3.5%	30	2.9%
6	MANITOWOC CITY	5.4%	5.9%	5	6.1%
26	MENOMONEE FALLS VILLAGE	3.7%	4.1%	25	3.4%
3	MILWAUKEE CITY	6.5%	7.3%	3	6.3%
7	MOUNT PLEASANT VILLAGE	5.4%	5.9%	6	
21	NEENAH CITY	4.0%	4.6%	19	4.5%
27	NEW BERLIN CITY	3.5%	4.0%	28	3.4%
22	OAK CREEK CITY	4.0%	4.2%	23	3.6%
16	OSHKOSH CITY	4.6%	5.0%	16	4.7%
1	RACINE CITY	8.9%	9.0%	1	8.3%
10	SHEBOYGAN CITY	5.2%	5.8%	8	4.4%
17	STEVENS POINT CITY	4.6%	4.6%	20	4.6%
24	SUN PRAIRIE CITY	4.0%	4.1%	26	3.8%
18	SUPERIOR CITY	4.6%	4.4%	21	4.6%
13	WAUKESHA CITY	4.9%	5.2%	14	4.6%
12	WAUSAU CITY	5.1%	5.6%	11	5.2%
28	WAUWATOSA CITY	3.4%	4.0%	27	3.2%
15	WEST ALLIS CITY	4.8%	5.3%	13	4.6%
5	WEST BEND CITY	5.8%	5.4%	12	5.8%
11	APPLETON CITY	5.1%	5.6%	10	5.5%

Source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, Bureau of Workforce Information