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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 February 2015 and the preliminary estimates for March 2015. In brief, the not-seasonally adjusted estimates showed:

- **Metropolitan Statistical Areas:** Preliminary March 2015 unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in all 12 metro areas compared to March 2014 with the largest decline of 1.5 percent in Wausau. The latest rates ranged from 3.9 percent in metro Madison to 6.6 percent in metro Racine. Rates also decreased or stayed the same in all 12 metro areas from February to March.
- **Municipalities:** The March 2015 preliminary rates decreased in all 32 largest municipalities compared to March 2014. The latest March rates ranged from 3.4 percent in Madison to 7.9 percent in Racine. Rates decreased or stayed the same in 27 of 32 municipalities from February to March.
- **Counties:** March 2015 rates decreased in all of Wisconsin 72 counties compared to rates in March 2014. The March rates ranged from 3.6 percent in Dane to 11.3 percent in Menominee. Rates were unchanged or declined in 70 of 72 counties from February to March.

The release of the March 2015 local rates follows last week's release of BLS monthly estimates showing that Wisconsin's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March 2015 dropped to 4.6%, its lowest point since June 2008 and lower than the national average of 5.5% in March.

Additionally, the state's labor force participation rate of 68.4 percent outpaced the national rate of 62.7 percent by 5.7 percentage points. This margin was 5.8 percentage points in February 2015. These recent margins are the strongest they have been when compared to the nation since 2004.

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

- Average Initial Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims for the first 15 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 three months of 2015 grew by 5.3 percent compared to same period in 2014. As of March 31, 2015, new business filings totaled 10,985, compared to 10,435 in same period in 2014.
- The [Manpower Employment Outlook Survey](#) gave Wisconsin the 3<sup>rd</sup> best outlook in the US for the second quarter.\*

\*Updated 5/15

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# Labor Force and Employment Estimates March 2015

## STATEWIDE LABOR FORCE

	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM.	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER		PRELIM.	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Mar-15	Feb-15	Mar-14	1-Month	1-Year	Mar-15	Feb-15	Mar-14	1-Month	1-Year
Total labor force	3,110,200	3,118,500	3,085,700	-8,300	24,500	3,074,400	3,088,200	3,073,000	-13,800	1,400
Employment	2,965,900	2,969,100	2,911,800	-3,200	54,100	2,907,400	2,916,500	2,868,900	-9,100	38,500
Unemployment	144,300	149,300	173,900	-5,000	-29,600	167,000	171,700	204,100	-4,700	-37,100
Unemployment Rate	4.6%	4.8%	5.6%	-0.2%	-1.0%	5.4%	5.6%	6.6%	-0.2%	-1.2%
National Rate	5.5%	5.5%	6.6%	0.0%	-1.1%	5.6%	5.8%	6.8%	-0.2%	-1.2%

## MSA EMPLOYMENT

	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM.	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER		PRELIM.	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Mar-15	Feb-15	Mar-14	1-Month	1-Year	Mar-15	Feb-15	Mar-14	1-Month	1-Year
Statewide	2,885,700	2,890,000	2,832,500	-4,300	53,200	2,832,400	2,829,300	2,788,700	3,100	43,700
Appleton	123,200	124,000	119,900	-800	3,300	120,600	120,900	117,700	-300	2,900
Eau Claire	85,700	85,500	83,700	200	2,000	84,500	84,200	82,800	300	1,700
Fond du Lac	49,200	49,000	47,500	200	1,700	48,400	48,000	46,700	400	1,700
Green Bay	174,400	175,000	170,300	-600	4,100	171,400	171,400	167,500	0	3,900
Janesville	67,600	67,300	64,300	300	3,300	66,500	65,800	63,200	700	3,300
La Crosse	77,400	77,500	76,800	-100	600	76,600	76,600	76,100	0	500
Madison						383,400	382,500	374,400	900	9,000
Milwaukee-W. O. W.	848,100	849,900	840,100	-1,800	8,000	834,600	834,900	830,700	-300	3,900
Oshkosh-Neenah	95,300	95,500	93,800	-200	1,500	94,100	94,300	92,700	-200	1,400
Racine	75,900	75,700	76,200	200	-300	74,600	74,300	74,600	300	0
Sheboygan	62,100	62,200	60,600	-100	1,500	60,600	60,300	59,200	300	1,400
Wausau	71,600	72,200	69,900	-600	1,700	70,900	71,100	69,300	-200	1,600

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	
	Mar-15	Feb-15	Mar-14	1-Month	1-Year
Wisconsin	5.4%	5.6%	6.6%	-0.2%	-1.2%
Appleton	4.6%	4.8%	5.7%	-0.2%	-1.1%
Eau Claire	5.0%	5.2%	6.0%	-0.2%	-1.0%
Fond du Lac	4.8%	5.0%	6.1%	-0.2%	-1.3%
Green Bay	5.0%	5.1%	6.2%	-0.1%	-1.2%
Janesville	6.2%	6.2%	7.5%	0.0%	-1.3%
La Crosse	4.5%	4.6%	5.5%	-0.1%	-1.0%
Madison	3.9%	3.9%	4.8%	0.0%	-0.9%
Milwaukee-W. O. W.	5.6%	5.6%	6.8%	0.0%	-1.2%
Oshkosh-Neenah	4.9%	5.0%	6.1%	-0.1%	-1.2%
Racine	6.6%	6.7%	8.0%	-0.1%	-1.4%
Sheboygan	4.5%	4.5%	5.7%	0.0%	-1.2%
Wausau	4.8%	4.9%	6.3%	-0.1%	-1.5%

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 2015

## CITIES

CITY	Mar-15 RANK	Feb-15 RANK	Mar-15 RATE	Feb-15 RATE	Mar-14 RATE
Appleton	22	21	4.6	4.7	5.8
Beloit	2	2	7.6	7.8	9.2
Brookfield	29	29	3.9	4.0	4.6
Caledonia	10	8	5.4	5.8	6.6
Eau Claire	27	26	4.2	4.3	5.2
Fitchburg	31	31	3.5	3.4	4.3
Fond du Lac	15	14	5.0	5.0	6.2
Franklin	14	16	5.1	4.9	5.9
Green Bay	13	10	5.2	5.5	6.7
Greenfield	9	11	5.4	5.4	7.1
Janesville	7	7	5.9	5.9	7.4
Kenosha	4	5	6.5	6.5	7.6
La Crosse	25	25	4.4	4.6	5.5
Madison	32	32	3.4	3.4	4.1
Manitowoc	6	6	6.4	6.4	7.7
Menomonee Falls	28	27	4.0	4.2	5.2

CITY	Mar-15 RANK	Feb-15 RANK	Mar-15 RATE	Feb-15 RATE	Mar-14 RATE
Milwaukee	3	3	7.3	7.4	8.8
Mount Pleasant	8	9	5.7	5.6	6.3
Neenah	21	18	4.6	4.8	6.1
New Berlin	24	24	4.5	4.6	5.4
Oak Creek	16	15	4.9	5.0	5.8
Oshkosh	12	13	5.2	5.2	6.3
Racine	1	1	7.9	7.9	9.6
Sheboygan	17	17	4.8	4.8	6.4
Stevens Point	11	12	5.3	5.3	6.0
Sun Prairie	30	30	3.7	3.7	4.8
Superior	20	20	4.6	4.7	5.6
Waukesha	23	22	4.5	4.7	5.5
Wausau	19	19	4.7	4.7	6.6
Wauwatosa	26	28	4.3	4.1	5.1
West Allis	5	4	6.4	6.6	7.9
West Bend	18	23	4.7	4.6	5.9

## COUNTIES

Alphabetical Order

COUNTY	Mar-15 RANK	Feb-15 RANK	Mar-15 RATE	Feb-15 RATE	Mar-14 RATE
Adams	7	7	9.8	10.3	11.6
Ashland	11	14	7.9	8.2	9.6
Barron	22	23	6.7	6.8	8.2
Bayfield	3	3	10.8	11.1	12.3
Brown	61	60	4.8	4.9	6.0
Buffalo	32	31	6.2	6.4	7.2
Burnett	9	9	8.8	9.2	9.8
Calumet	71	69	4.2	4.5	5.1
Chippewa	35	34	6.1	6.3	7.1
Clark	40	37	5.8	6.1	7.2
Columbia	49	49	5.4	5.5	6.5
Crawford	12	12	7.8	8.4	10.2
Dane	72	72	3.6	3.6	4.4
Dodge	47	46	5.5	5.7	6.9
Door	2	2	11.0	11.1	12.4
Douglas	45	38	5.7	6.1	7.0
Dunn	44	44	5.7	5.9	6.7
Eau Claire	69	68	4.4	4.5	5.4
Florence	17	10	7.3	8.5	9.4
Fond du Lac	60	57	4.8	5.0	6.1
Forest	8	8	9.6	9.4	11.3
Grant	54	54	5.2	5.4	6.2
Green	59	62	4.8	4.8	5.9
Green Lake	16	17	7.3	7.6	8.4
Iowa	38	42	5.9	5.9	7.1
Iron	6	5	10.1	10.7	11.6
Jackson	29	28	6.3	6.7	7.8
Jefferson	53	51	5.2	5.5	6.5
Juneau	25	22	6.6	7.0	8.6
Kenosha	37	39	5.9	6.0	7.3
Kewaunee	52	53	5.2	5.4	6.8
La Crosse	68	67	4.4	4.5	5.4
Lafayette	64	64	4.6	4.8	5.7
Langlade	15	16	7.4	7.7	9.0
Lincoln	28	30	6.4	6.5	8.2
Manitowoc	34	32	6.1	6.4	7.5

COUNTY	Mar-15 RANK	Feb-15 RANK	Mar-15 RATE	Feb-15 RATE	Mar-14 RATE
Marathon	58	59	4.8	4.9	6.3
Marinette	21	21	6.8	7.1	8.4
Marquette	14	13	7.7	8.4	8.9
Menominee	1	4	11.3	11.0	14.1
Milwaukee	27	29	6.5	6.5	7.8
Monroe	46	47	5.5	5.6	6.7
Oconto	24	24	6.6	6.8	7.7
Oneida	10	11	8.3	8.4	9.5
Outagamie	57	58	4.8	4.9	5.9
Ozaukee	70	71	4.2	4.2	5.0
Pepin	36	33	6.0	6.4	6.5
Pierce	63	63	4.6	4.8	5.6
Polk	26	27	6.5	6.7	7.8
Portage	39	40	5.8	6.0	7.1
Price	43	45	5.7	5.8	6.7
Racine	23	26	6.6	6.7	8.0
Richland	48	52	5.4	5.4	6.8
Rock	31	35	6.2	6.2	7.5
Rusk	20	19	6.9	7.3	9.3
Sauk	51	48	5.3	5.6	6.6
Sawyer	4	1	10.7	11.2	11.9
Shawano	33	36	6.1	6.2	7.6
Sheboygan	65	65	4.5	4.5	5.7
St. Croix	62	61	4.6	4.9	5.8
Taylor	30	25	6.2	6.8	7.2
Trempealeau	55	55	5.0	5.2	6.2
Vernon	50	50	5.3	5.5	6.4
Vilas	5	6	10.2	10.3	11.8
Walworth	42	41	5.7	6.0	7.0
Washburn	18	18	7.0	7.3	8.4
Washington	67	66	4.4	4.5	5.5
Waukesha	66	70	4.4	4.4	5.3
Waupaca	41	43	5.7	5.9	7.2
Waushara	13	15	7.7	8.2	8.9
Winnebago	56	56	4.9	5.0	6.1
Wood	19	20	6.9	7.2	7.5

# Local Unemployment Rates March 2015

## COUNTIES

Ascending Order

COUNTY	Mar-15 RATE	Feb-15 RATE	Mar-14 RATE	COUNTY	Mar-15 RATE	Feb-15 RATE	Mar-14 RATE
Dane	3.6	3.6	4.4	Pepin	6.0	6.4	6.5
Calumet	4.2	4.5	5.1	Chippewa	6.1	6.3	7.1
Ozaukee	4.2	4.2	5.0	Manitowoc	6.1	6.4	7.5
Eau Claire	4.4	4.5	5.4	Shawano	6.1	6.2	7.6
La Crosse	4.4	4.5	5.4	Buffalo	6.2	6.4	7.2
Washington	4.4	4.5	5.5	Rock	6.2	6.2	7.5
Waukesha	4.4	4.4	5.3	Taylor	6.2	6.8	7.2
Sheboygan	4.5	4.5	5.7	Jackson	6.3	6.7	7.8
Lafayette	4.6	4.8	5.7	Lincoln	6.4	6.5	8.2
Pierce	4.6	4.8	5.6	Milwaukee	6.5	6.5	7.8
St. Croix	4.6	4.9	5.8	Polk	6.5	6.7	7.8
Brown	4.8	4.9	6.0	Juneau	6.6	7.0	8.6
Fond du Lac	4.8	5.0	6.1	Oconto	6.6	6.8	7.7
Green	4.8	4.8	5.9	Racine	6.6	6.7	8.0
Marathon	4.8	4.9	6.3	Barron	6.7	6.8	8.2
Outagamie	4.8	4.9	5.9	Marinette	6.8	7.1	8.4
Winnebago	4.9	5.0	6.1	Rusk	6.9	7.3	9.3
Trempealeau	5.0	5.2	6.2	Wood	6.9	7.2	7.5
Grant	5.2	5.4	6.2	Washburn	7.0	7.3	8.4
Jefferson	5.2	5.5	6.5	Florence	7.3	8.5	9.4
Kewaunee	5.2	5.4	6.8	Green Lake	7.3	7.6	8.4
Sauk	5.3	5.6	6.6	Langlade	7.4	7.7	9.0
Vernon	5.3	5.5	6.4	Marquette	7.7	8.4	8.9
Columbia	5.4	5.5	6.5	Waushara	7.7	8.2	8.9
Richland	5.4	5.4	6.8	Crawford	7.8	8.4	10.2
Dodge	5.5	5.7	6.9	Ashland	7.9	8.2	9.6
Monroe	5.5	5.6	6.7	Oneida	8.3	8.4	9.5
Douglas	5.7	6.1	7.0	Burnett	8.8	9.2	9.8
Dunn	5.7	5.9	6.7	Forest	9.6	9.4	11.3
Price	5.7	5.8	6.7	Adams	9.8	10.3	11.6
Walworth	5.7	6.0	7.0	Iron	10.1	10.7	11.6
Waupaca	5.7	5.9	7.2	Vilas	10.2	10.3	11.8
Clark	5.8	6.1	7.2	Sawyer	10.7	11.2	11.9
Portage	5.8	6.0	7.1	Bayfield	10.8	11.1	12.3
Iowa	5.9	5.9	7.1	Door	11.0	11.1	12.4
Kenosha	5.9	6.0	7.3	Menominee	11.3	11.0	14.1