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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 updates for January 2016 and the preliminary estimates for February 2016. As these numbers are not seasonally adjusted, they are most appropriately compared year-over-year instead of month-over-month as rates often increase between January and February due to the seasonality of the state economy. In brief, the not-seasonally adjusted estimates showed:

- **Metropolitan Statistical Areas:** Preliminary February 2016 unemployment rates decreased or were unchanged in 9 of 12 metro areas compared to February 2015. The largest 12-month decline was 0.3 percent in Oshkosh-Neenah and Janesville-Beloit. The latest rates ranged from 3.9 percent in metro Madison to 6.6 percent in metro Racine.
- **Municipalities:** Preliminary February 2016 rates decreased or remained the same in 17 of the state's 32 largest municipalities compared to February 2015. The latest rates ranged from 3.4 percent in Madison and Fitchburg to 7.9 percent in Racine.
- **Counties:** Preliminary February 2016 rates decreased or remained the same in 38 of Wisconsin's 72 counties compared to rates in February 2015. The latest rates ranged from 3.6 percent in Dane to 10.8 percent in Bayfield.

The release of the February 2016 local rates follows last week's release of BLS monthly estimates showing that Wisconsin's gained 8,000 private sector jobs in February 2016 and January 2016 numbers were revised up from a decline of 1,400 to a gain of 5,800 private sector jobs. Wisconsin also added a significant 35,300 private sector and 37,700 total non-farm jobs over the year ending in February 2016.

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

- Wisconsin was one of only 10 states with an annual average unemployment rate in 2015 lower than 2007, the year that the Great Recession began. The state's average annual unemployment rate was 4.6 percent in 2015 (not seasonally adjusted).
- Wisconsin's average weekly private-sector wages increased by 3.6 percent in the third quarter of 2015 over the same quarter in 2014, representing the 5th highest rate of growth in the nation, tied with Tennessee.
- The average weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims for 2015 dropped to the lowest level since 1989.

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# Labor Force and Employment Estimates February 2016

## STATEWIDE LABOR FORCE

	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM.	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER		PRELIM.	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Feb-16	Jan-16	Feb-15	1-Month	1-Year	Feb-16	Jan-16	Feb-15	1-Month	1-Year
Total labor force	3,136,300	3,122,800	3,088,000	13,500	48,300	3,125,700	3,103,300	3,078,900	22,400	46,800
Employment	2,991,500	2,978,100	2,944,100	13,400	47,400	2,953,600	2,940,800	2,908,500	12,800	45,100
Unemployment	144,800	144,700	143,900	100	900	172,100	162,600	170,300	9,500	1,800
Unemployment Rate	4.6%	4.6%	4.7%	0.0%	-0.1%	5.5%	5.2%	5.5%	0.3%	0.0%
National Rate	4.9%	4.9%	5.5%	0.0%	-0.6%	5.2%	5.3%	5.8%	-0.1%	-0.6%

## MSA EMPLOYMENT

	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM.	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER		PRELIM.	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Feb-16	Jan-16	Feb-15	1-Month	1-Year	Feb-16	Jan-16	Feb-15	1-Month	1-Year
Statewide	2,918,500	2,911,300	2,880,800	7,200	37,700	2,864,000	2,847,100	2,824,400	16,900	39,600
Appleton	124,200	123,600	122,200	600	2,000	121,500	121,700	119,500	-200	2,000
Eau Claire	85,700	85,100	85,100	600	600	84,500	83,000	83,800	1,500	700
Fond du Lac	48,600	48,300	48,100	300	500	47,600	47,300	47,000	300	600
Green Bay	174,200	173,600	172,900	600	1,300	171,000	171,000	169,600	0	1,400
Janesville	69,100	68,600	66,600	500	2,500	67,600	67,000	65,100	600	2,500
La Crosse	77,700	77,400	77,400	300	300	77,100	75,600	76,700	1,500	400
Madison										
Milwaukee-W. O. W.	857,200	857,000	851,200	200	6,000	390,100	386,800	381,700	3,300	8,400
Oshkosh-Neenah	95,600	95,500	94,000	100	1,600	842,200	840,000	839,100	2,200	3,100
Racine	76,200	76,200	77,000	0	-800	94,500	94,300	92,600	200	1,900
Sheboygan	61,800	61,600	60,600	200	1,200	74,700	75,000	75,700	-300	-1,000
Wausau	72,300	72,400	71,800	-100	500	60,200	60,200	59,000	0	1,200
						71,400	71,900	70,700	-500	700

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	
	Feb-16	Jan-16	Feb-15	1-Month	1-Year
Wisconsin	5.5%	5.2%	5.5%	0.3%	0.0%
Appleton	4.6%	4.4%	4.8%	0.2%	-0.2%
Eau Claire	5.3%	5.2%	5.2%	0.1%	0.1%
Fond du Lac	4.9%	4.6%	5.1%	0.3%	-0.2%
Green Bay	5.2%	4.9%	5.2%	0.3%	0.0%
Janesville	5.9%	5.6%	6.2%	0.3%	-0.3%
La Crosse	5.0%	4.9%	4.6%	0.1%	0.4%
Madison	3.9%	3.8%	4.0%	0.1%	-0.1%
Milwaukee-W. O. W.	5.5%	5.3%	5.6%	0.2%	-0.1%
Oshkosh-Neenah	4.7%	4.5%	5.0%	0.2%	-0.3%
Racine	6.6%	6.2%	6.6%	0.4%	0.0%
Sheboygan	4.5%	4.2%	4.5%	0.3%	0.0%
Wausau	5.0%	4.6%	4.9%	0.4%	0.1%

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 February 2016

## CITIES

CITY	Feb-16 RANK	Jan-16 RANK	Feb-16 RATE	Jan-16 RATE	Feb-15 RATE
Appleton	24	24	4.7	4.4	4.8
Beloit	3	3	6.8	6.4	7.8
Brookfield	29	29	4.2	4.0	3.9
Caledonia	7	7	6.0	5.5	5.6
Eau Claire	28	27	4.3	4.3	4.3
Fitchburg	32	32	3.4	3.3	3.4
Fond du Lac	16	17	4.9	4.6	5.1
Franklin	20	14	4.8	4.8	4.9
Green Bay	11	11	5.4	5.1	5.5
Greenfield	8	8	5.7	5.5	5.4
Janesville	9	9	5.6	5.4	5.9
Kenosha	5	4	6.6	6.3	6.5
La Crosse	23	15	4.7	4.7	4.6
Madison	31	31	3.4	3.3	3.4
Manitowoc	4	5	6.7	6.1	6.4
Menomonee Falls	25	25	4.4	4.3	4.1

CITY	Feb-16 RANK	Jan-16 RANK	Feb-16 RATE	Jan-16 RATE	Feb-15 RATE
Milwaukee	2	2	6.8	6.6	7.3
Mount Pleasant	13	12	5.0	5.1	5.5
Neenah	27	26	4.3	4.3	4.8
New Berlin	22	22	4.7	4.5	4.6
Oak Creek	19	23	4.8	4.4	5.0
Oshkosh	15	16	4.9	4.6	5.3
Racine	1	1	7.9	7.2	7.8
Sheboygan	14	19	4.9	4.5	4.9
Stevens Point	18	13	4.8	4.8	5.2
Sun Prairie	30	30	3.9	3.8	3.7
Superior	10	10	5.5	5.1	4.7
Waukesha	21	21	4.7	4.5	4.6
Wausau	12	18	5.0	4.5	4.7
Wauwatosa	26	28	4.3	4.2	4.0
West Allis	6	6	6.5	6.1	6.6
West Bend	17	20	4.8	4.5	4.5

## COUNTIES Alphabetical Order

COUNTY	Feb-16 RANK	Jan-16 RANK	Feb-16 RATE	Jan-16 RATE	Feb-15 RATE
Adams	6	6	9.6	9.2	10.1
Ashland	17	14	7.8	7.5	8.1
Barron	21	22	7.4	6.9	6.7
Bayfield	1	1	10.8	10.6	11.2
Brown	63	63	4.9	4.6	4.9
Buffalo	25	25	7.0	6.6	6.3
Burnett	4	4	10.0	9.2	9.3
Calumet	71	71	4.2	4.0	4.6
Chippewa	29	29	6.7	6.5	6.3
Clark	41	39	6.0	5.7	5.9
Columbia	57	57	5.2	4.9	5.6
Crawford	14	18	8.0	7.1	8.3
Dane	72	72	3.6	3.5	3.6
Dodge	55	53	5.4	5.1	5.7
Door	5	5	9.6	9.2	10.8
Douglas	24	23	7.1	6.8	6.1
Dunn	38	38	6.1	5.7	6.0
Eau Claire	69	66	4.5	4.4	4.5
Florence	9	10	8.8	8.2	8.5
Fond du Lac	62	62	4.9	4.6	5.1
Forest	8	9	8.9	8.5	9.5
Grant	45	44	5.8	5.5	5.4
Green	60	61	5.0	4.6	4.8
Green Lake	13	20	8.0	6.9	7.5
Iowa	49	54	5.7	5.0	6.0
Iron	2	3	10.6	9.4	10.8
Jackson	27	24	6.9	6.7	6.5
Jefferson	53	52	5.5	5.1	5.4
Juneau	33	30	6.5	6.3	6.8
Kenosha	37	36	6.2	5.8	6.0
Kewaunee	48	50	5.7	5.3	5.4
La Crosse	61	58	4.9	4.8	4.5
Lafayette	58	59	5.1	4.6	4.8
Langlade	16	16	7.8	7.3	7.6
Lincoln	32	34	6.5	5.9	6.4
Manitowoc	36	35	6.2	5.8	6.3

COUNTY	Feb-16 RANK	Jan-16 RANK	Feb-16 RATE	Jan-16 RATE	Feb-15 RATE
Marathon	59	60	5.0	4.6	4.9
Marinette	19	19	7.7	7.1	7.1
Marquette	15	11	7.9	7.8	8.3
Menominee	10	7	8.7	8.7	10.7
Milwaukee	35	33	6.2	6.0	6.5
Monroe	52	49	5.5	5.4	5.5
Oconto	26	28	6.9	6.5	6.8
Oneida	18	15	7.7	7.5	8.2
Outagamie	65	65	4.7	4.5	4.9
Ozaukee	70	70	4.4	4.1	4.1
Pepin	31	32	6.5	6.1	6.3
Pierce	47	47	5.7	5.4	4.8
Polk	20	21	7.5	6.9	6.6
Portage	51	48	5.5	5.4	5.9
Price	40	42	6.0	5.6	5.7
Racine	30	31	6.6	6.2	6.6
Richland	44	45	5.8	5.4	5.4
Rock	43	43	5.9	5.6	6.2
Rusk	23	17	7.1	7.3	7.1
Sauk	56	56	5.3	4.9	5.5
Sawyer	3	2	10.2	9.6	11.3
Shawano	34	37	6.2	5.7	6.2
Sheboygan	68	69	4.5	4.2	4.5
St. Croix	54	55	5.4	5.0	4.9
Taylor	28	26	6.7	6.6	6.5
Trempealeau	46	46	5.7	5.4	5.2
Vernon	39	41	6.0	5.6	5.4
Vilas	7	8	9.3	8.5	10.1
Walworth	42	40	5.9	5.7	6.0
Washburn	12	13	8.1	7.5	7.1
Washington	67	68	4.5	4.2	4.5
Waukesha	66	67	4.5	4.3	4.4
Waupaca	50	51	5.6	5.3	5.9
Waushara	11	12	8.1	7.5	8.3
Winnebago	64	64	4.7	4.5	5.0
Wood	22	27	7.1	6.5	7.2

# Local Unemployment Rates February 2016

## COUNTIES

Ascending Order

COUNTY	Feb-16 RATE	Jan-16 RATE	Feb-15 RATE	COUNTY	Feb-16 RATE	Jan-16 RATE	Feb-15 RATE
Dane	3.6	3.5	3.6	Manitowoc	6.2	5.8	6.3
Calumet	4.2	4.0	4.6	Milwaukee	6.2	6.0	6.5
Ozaukee	4.4	4.1	4.1	Shawano	6.2	5.7	6.2
Eau Claire	4.5	4.4	4.5	Juneau	6.5	6.3	6.8
Sheboygan	4.5	4.2	4.5	Lincoln	6.5	5.9	6.4
Washington	4.5	4.2	4.5	Pepin	6.5	6.1	6.3
Waukesha	4.5	4.3	4.4	Racine	6.6	6.2	6.6
Outagamie	4.7	4.5	4.9	Chippewa	6.7	6.5	6.3
Winnebago	4.7	4.5	5.0	Taylor	6.7	6.6	6.5
Brown	4.9	4.6	4.9	Jackson	6.9	6.7	6.5
Fond du Lac	4.9	4.6	5.1	Oconto	6.9	6.5	6.8
La Crosse	4.9	4.8	4.5	Buffalo	7.0	6.6	6.3
Green	5.0	4.6	4.8	Douglas	7.1	6.8	6.1
Marathon	5.0	4.6	4.9	Rusk	7.1	7.3	7.1
Lafayette	5.1	4.6	4.8	Wood	7.1	6.5	7.2
Columbia	5.2	4.9	5.6	Barron	7.4	6.9	6.7
Sauk	5.3	4.9	5.5	Polk	7.5	6.9	6.6
Dodge	5.4	5.1	5.7	Marinette	7.7	7.1	7.1
St. Croix	5.4	5.0	4.9	Oneida	7.7	7.5	8.2
Jefferson	5.5	5.1	5.4	Ashland	7.8	7.5	8.1
Monroe	5.5	5.4	5.5	Langlade	7.8	7.3	7.6
Portage	5.5	5.4	5.9	Marquette	7.9	7.8	8.3
Waupaca	5.6	5.3	5.9	Crawford	8.0	7.1	8.3
Iowa	5.7	5.0	6.0	Green Lake	8.0	6.9	7.5
Kewaunee	5.7	5.3	5.4	Washburn	8.1	7.5	7.1
Pierce	5.7	5.4	4.8	Waushara	8.1	7.5	8.3
Trempealeau	5.7	5.4	5.2	Menominee	8.7	8.7	10.7
Grant	5.8	5.5	5.4	Florence	8.8	8.2	8.5
Richland	5.8	5.4	5.4	Forest	8.9	8.5	9.5
Rock	5.9	5.6	6.2	Vilas	9.3	8.5	10.1
Walworth	5.9	5.7	6.0	Adams	9.6	9.2	10.1
Clark	6.0	5.7	5.9	Door	9.6	9.2	10.8
Price	6.0	5.6	5.7	Burnett	10.0	9.2	9.3
Vernon	6.0	5.6	5.4	Sawyer	10.2	9.6	11.3
Dunn	6.1	5.7	6.0	Iron	10.6	9.4	10.8
Kenosha	6.2	5.8	6.0	Bayfield	10.8	10.6	11.2