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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 2017 and the preliminary estimates for February 2017. As these numbers are not seasonally adjusted, they are most appropriately compared year-over-year instead of month-over-month as rates often increase in the colder winter months due to the seasonality of the state economy. In brief, the not-seasonally adjusted estimates showed:

- **Metropolitan Statistical Areas:** Preliminary February 2017 unemployment rates decreased in all areas over the year when compared to February 2016. The largest over the year decline was 0.7 percent in Fond du Lac. The latest rates ranged from 3.3 percent in Madison to 5.4 percent in Racine.
- **Municipalities:** Preliminary February 2017 rates decreased or stayed the same in 30 of the state's 32 largest municipalities when compared to February 2016. The latest rates ranged from 2.9 percent in Madison to 6.3 percent in Racine.
- **Counties:** Preliminary February 2017 rates decreased or stayed the same in 71 of 72 counties when compared to February 2016 rates. The largest over the year decline was 1.5 percent in Sawyer county. The latest rates ranged from 3.1 percent in Dane to 8.6 percent in Iron.

The release of the February 2017 local rates follows last week's release of BLS monthly estimates showing a preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 3.7 percent in February 2017, dropping to its lowest rate since November 2000. Data also showed both total labor force and employment in Wisconsin reached an all-time high in February, while the number of unemployed individuals was its lowest since January 2001.

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

- Based on preliminary data, the state added 28,200 total non-farm jobs and 21,500 private-sector jobs from February 2016 to February 2017, with a statistically significant gain of 11,100 total non-farm jobs as well as 7,600 private-sector jobs over the month.
- Wisconsin's labor force participation rate increased to 68.3 percent and continues to outpace the U.S. rate of 63.0 percent in February.
- Wisconsin saw a preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 3.7 percent in February 2017, down 0.2 percent from January and at its lowest rate since November 2000.
- Initial UI claims ended 2016 at their lowest level since 1988. 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.

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Labor Force and Employment Estimates February 2017

STATEWIDE LABOR FORCE

	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM.	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER		PRELIM.	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Feb-17	Jan-17	Feb-16	1-Month	1-Year	Feb-17	Jan-17	Feb-16	1-Month	1-Year
Total labor force	3,130,700	3,120,400	3,112,100	10,300	18,600	3,120,600	3,095,600	3,106,500	25,000	14,100
Employment	3,013,500	2,998,800	2,982,100	14,700	31,400	2,979,700	2,965,000	2,954,300	14,700	25,400
Unemployment	117,200	121,600	130,000	-4,400	-12,800	140,900	130,500	152,300	10,400	-11,400
Unemployment Rate	3.7%	3.9%	4.2%	-0.2%	-0.5%	4.5%	4.2%	4.9%	0.3%	-0.4%
National Rate	4.7%	4.8%	4.9%	-0.1%	-0.2%	4.9%	5.1%	5.2%	-0.2%	-0.3%

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	
	Feb-17	Jan-17	Feb-16	1-Month	1-Year	Feb-17	Jan-17	Feb-16	1-Month	1-Year
Statewide	2,950,800	2,939,700	2,922,600	11,100	28,200	2,897,600	2,874,000	2,868,700	23,600	28,900
Appleton	126,600	126,700	124,900	-100	1,700	124,200	124,500	122,200	-300	2,000
Eau Claire	85,100	85,300	86,200	-200	-1,100	84,200	82,600	85,100	1,600	-900
Fond du Lac	48,600	48,400	47,900	200	700	47,700	47,500	46,800	200	900
Green Bay	174,600	174,400	175,200	200	-600	171,700	171,300	172,000	400	-300
Janesville	68,800	68,200	67,600	600	1,200	67,300	66,500	66,100	800	1,200
La Crosse	79,200	79,000	77,800	200	1,400	78,100	76,700	77,200	1,400	900
Madison	404,400	401,700	395,600	2,700	8,800	398,700	394,400	391,000	4,300	7,700
Milwaukee-W.O.W.	861,400	860,400	863,700	1,000	-2,300	846,200	842,200	852,400	4,000	-6,200
Oshkosh-Neenah	97,400	96,900	96,300	500	1,100	96,300	95,700	95,200	600	1,100
Racine	77,800	77,500	76,900	300	900	75,900	76,000	75,500	-100	400
Sheboygan	61,900	62,200	60,900	-300	1,000	60,300	60,900	59,200	-600	1,100
Wausau	73,100	72,800	71,500	300	1,600	72,000	71,900	70,400	100	1,600

Source: Current Employment Statistics (CES)

MSA UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

	NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM.	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Feb-17	Jan-17	Feb-16	1-Month	1-Year
Wisconsin	4.5%	4.2%	4.9%	0.3%	-0.4%
Appleton	3.9%	3.6%	4.1%	0.3%	-0.2%
Eau Claire	4.4%	4.4%	4.7%	0.0%	-0.3%
Fond du Lac	3.8%	3.6%	4.5%	0.2%	-0.7%
Green Bay	4.2%	3.9%	4.6%	0.3%	-0.4%
Janesville	5.2%	4.9%	5.4%	0.3%	-0.2%
La Crosse	4.2%	4.1%	4.6%	0.1%	-0.4%
Madison	3.3%	3.0%	3.5%	0.3%	-0.2%
Milwaukee-W.O.W.	4.5%	4.2%	4.8%	0.3%	-0.3%
Oshkosh-Neenah	3.8%	3.5%	4.1%	0.3%	-0.3%
Racine	5.4%	5.0%	5.9%	0.4%	-0.5%
Sheboygan	3.7%	3.4%	4.0%	0.3%	-0.3%
Wausau	4.0%	3.7%	4.5%	0.3%	-0.5%

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 February 2017

CITIES

CITY	Feb-17 RANK	Jan-17 RANK	Feb-17 RATE	Jan-17 RATE	Feb-16 RATE
Appleton	10	6	3.9	3.5	4.2
Beloit	31	31	6.2	5.6	6.1
Brookfield	4	4	3.6	3.4	3.7
Caledonia	24	24	4.8	4.5	5.1
Eau Claire	5	14	3.7	3.7	3.8
Fitchburg	2	1	3.0	2.7	3.0
Fond du Lac	7	8	3.8	3.6	4.5
Franklin	20	14	4.2	3.7	4.3
Green Bay	21	21	4.3	4.1	4.7
Greenfield	23	22	4.6	4.2	5.0
Janesville	25	25	4.9	4.6	5.1
Kenosha	28	29	5.4	5.1	5.8
La Crosse	10	20	3.9	3.9	4.3
Madison	1	1	2.9	2.7	3.0
Manitowoc	28	27	5.4	4.7	5.9
Menomonee Falls	7	8	3.8	3.6	3.9

CITY	Feb-17 RANK	Jan-17 RANK	Feb-17 RATE	Jan-17 RATE	Feb-16 RATE
Milwaukee	30	30	5.5	5.2	6.0
Mount Pleasant	22	22	4.5	4.2	4.5
Neenah	7	8	3.8	3.6	3.8
New Berlin	10	8	3.9	3.6	4.2
Oak Creek	15	8	4.0	3.6	4.2
Oshkosh	10	6	3.9	3.5	4.3
Racine	32	32	6.3	5.7	7.0
Sheboygan	15	14	4.0	3.7	4.4
Stevens Point	15	18	4.0	3.8	4.4
Sun Prairie	3	3	3.1	2.8	3.5
Superior	26	25	5.1	4.6	4.9
Waukesha	10	18	3.9	3.8	4.1
Wausau	19	14	4.1	3.7	4.5
Wauwatosa	5	4	3.7	3.4	3.8
West Allis	27	28	5.2	4.8	5.7
West Bend	15	8	4.0	3.6	4.3

COUNTIES

Alphabetical Order

COUNTY	Feb-17 RANK	Jan-17 RANK	Feb-17 RATE	Jan-17 RATE	Feb-16 RATE
Adams	70	70	8.0	7.2	8.4
Ashland	61	60	6.4	6.1	6.8
Barron	48	46	5.9	5.4	6.7
Bayfield	71	72	8.3	8.0	9.7
Brown	12	10	4.0	3.7	4.3
Buffalo	50	48	6.0	5.6	6.3
Burnett	69	69	7.8	7.1	9.0
Calumet	3	3	3.6	3.4	3.8
Chippewa	41	47	5.3	5.5	6.0
Clark	30	31	4.8	4.6	5.4
Columbia	15	13	4.2	3.8	4.7
Crawford	63	60	6.9	6.1	7.0
Dane	1	1	3.1	2.8	3.3
Dodge	17	17	4.3	3.9	4.7
Door	66	66	7.2	6.7	8.5
Douglas	57	55	6.3	5.8	6.3
Dunn	33	31	4.9	4.6	5.3
Eau Claire	9	13	3.9	3.8	4.0
Florence	66	66	7.2	6.7	7.7
Fond du Lac	5	7	3.8	3.6	4.5
Forest	63	64	6.9	6.5	8.0
Grant	23	35	4.6	4.7	5.3
Green	15	13	4.2	3.8	4.5
Green Lake	52	48	6.1	5.6	7.5
Iowa	30	24	4.8	4.3	5.1
Iron	72	71	8.6	7.7	9.3
Jackson	43	45	5.4	5.3	6.3
Jefferson	23	24	4.6	4.3	4.9
Juneau	38	31	5.2	4.6	5.8
Kenosha	34	35	5.1	4.7	5.5
Kewaunee	20	18	4.5	4.0	5.1
La Crosse	9	13	3.9	3.8	4.4
Lafayette	9	7	3.9	3.6	4.6
Langlade	50	48	6.0	5.6	6.7
Lincoln	43	42	5.4	5.1	5.8
Manitowoc	38	31	5.2	4.6	5.5

COUNTY	Feb-17 RANK	Jan-17 RANK	Feb-17 RATE	Jan-17 RATE	Feb-16 RATE
Marathon	12	10	4.0	3.7	4.5
Marinette	54	53	6.2	5.7	6.8
Marquette	57	57	6.3	5.9	7.1
Menominee	57	65	6.3	6.6	7.6
Milwaukee	34	35	5.1	4.7	5.5
Monroe	17	21	4.3	4.2	5.0
Oconto	41	42	5.3	5.1	6.2
Oneida	54	48	6.2	5.6	6.7
Outagamie	12	10	4.0	3.7	4.2
Ozaukee	2	2	3.5	3.3	3.8
Pepin	47	48	5.7	5.6	5.7
Pierce	34	39	5.1	4.9	5.2
Polk	54	53	6.2	5.7	6.8
Portage	19	21	4.4	4.2	4.9
Price	34	35	5.1	4.7	5.3
Racine	43	41	5.4	5.0	5.9
Richland	26	19	4.7	4.1	5.1
Rock	38	39	5.2	4.9	5.4
Rusk	62	62	6.6	6.2	6.5
Sauk	20	19	4.5	4.1	4.7
Sawyer	68	68	7.4	6.9	8.9
Shawano	30	24	4.8	4.3	5.6
Sheboygan	4	3	3.7	3.4	4.0
St. Croix	23	21	4.6	4.2	4.9
Taylor	48	57	5.9	5.9	6.0
Trempealeau	26	28	4.7	4.5	5.1
Vernon	26	28	4.7	4.5	5.2
Vilas	65	62	7.1	6.2	8.1
Walworth	26	28	4.7	4.5	5.2
Washburn	57	59	6.3	6.0	7.1
Washington	5	5	3.8	3.5	4.0
Waukesha	5	7	3.8	3.6	4.0
Waupaca	20	24	4.5	4.3	5.0
Waushara	52	55	6.1	5.8	7.2
Winnebago	5	5	3.8	3.5	4.1
Wood	43	44	5.4	5.2	6.3

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

Local Unemployment Rates February 2017

COUNTIES

Ascending Order

COUNTY	Feb-17 RATE	Jan-17 RATE	Feb-16 RATE	COUNTY	Feb-17 RATE	Jan-17 RATE	Feb-16 RATE
Dane	3.1	2.8	3.3	Price	5.1	4.7	5.3
Ozaukee	3.5	3.3	3.8	Juneau	5.2	4.6	5.8
Calumet	3.6	3.4	3.8	Manitowoc	5.2	4.6	5.5
Sheboygan	3.7	3.4	4.0	Rock	5.2	4.9	5.4
Fond du Lac	3.8	3.6	4.5	Chippewa	5.3	5.5	6.0
Washington	3.8	3.5	4.0	Oconto	5.3	5.1	6.2
Waukesha	3.8	3.6	4.0	Jackson	5.4	5.3	6.3
Winnebago	3.8	3.5	4.1	Lincoln	5.4	5.1	5.8
Eau Claire	3.9	3.8	4.0	Racine	5.4	5.0	5.9
La Crosse	3.9	3.8	4.4	Wood	5.4	5.2	6.3
Lafayette	3.9	3.6	4.6	Pepin	5.7	5.6	5.7
Brown	4.0	3.7	4.3	Barron	5.9	5.4	6.7
Marathon	4.0	3.7	4.5	Taylor	5.9	5.9	6.0
Outagamie	4.0	3.7	4.2	Buffalo	6.0	5.6	6.3
Columbia	4.2	3.8	4.7	Langlade	6.0	5.6	6.7
Green	4.2	3.8	4.5	Green Lake	6.1	5.6	7.5
Dodge	4.3	3.9	4.7	Waushara	6.1	5.8	7.2
Monroe	4.3	4.2	5.0	Marinette	6.2	5.7	6.8
Portage	4.4	4.2	4.9	Oneida	6.2	5.6	6.7
Kewaunee	4.5	4.0	5.1	Polk	6.2	5.7	6.8
Sauk	4.5	4.1	4.7	Douglas	6.3	5.8	6.3
Waupaca	4.5	4.3	5.0	Marquette	6.3	5.9	7.1
Grant	4.6	4.7	5.3	Menominee	6.3	6.6	7.6
Jefferson	4.6	4.3	4.9	Washburn	6.3	6.0	7.1
St. Croix	4.6	4.2	4.9	Ashland	6.4	6.1	6.8
Richland	4.7	4.1	5.1	Rusk	6.6	6.2	6.5
Trempealeau	4.7	4.5	5.1	Crawford	6.9	6.1	7.0
Vernon	4.7	4.5	5.2	Forest	6.9	6.5	8.0
Walworth	4.7	4.5	5.2	Vilas	7.1	6.2	8.1
Clark	4.8	4.6	5.4	Door	7.2	6.7	8.5
Iowa	4.8	4.3	5.1	Florence	7.2	6.7	7.7
Shawano	4.8	4.3	5.6	Sawyer	7.4	6.9	8.9
Dunn	4.9	4.6	5.3	Burnett	7.8	7.1	9.0
Kenosha	5.1	4.7	5.5	Adams	8.0	7.2	8.4
Milwaukee	5.1	4.7	5.5	Bayfield	8.3	8.0	9.7
Pierce	5.1	4.9	5.2	Iron	8.6	7.7	9.3