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Wednesday, January 24, 2018

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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 November 2017 and preliminary estimates for December 2017. These numbers are not seasonally adjusted. In brief, the estimates showed:

- **Metropolitan Statistical Areas:** Preliminary December 2017 unemployment rates decreased in all areas when compared over the year to December 2016. Half of Wisconsin's 12 metro areas tied or reached their lowest December unemployment rates on current record (since 1990). Janesville-Beloit's unemployment rate of 2.8 percent was a record low for any month on current record. The rates ranged from 1.9 percent in Madison to 3.2 percent in Racine.
- **Municipalities:** Preliminary December 2017 rates decreased in the state's 32 largest municipalities when compared over the year to December 2016. Eighteen (18) of the 32 largest municipalities reached or tied their lowest December unemployment rates on current record, and 15 of the municipalities reached record lows for any month on current record. Local rates for Franklin and Oak Creek are not available before 1995; rates for Caledonia, Mount Pleasant, Neenah, Stevens Point and Sun Prairie are not available before 2000; and rates for Fitchburg are not available before 2010. December 2017 rates ranged from 1.8 percent in Fitchburg and Madison to 3.8 percent in Racine.
- **Counties:** Preliminary December 2017 rates decreased in all 72 counties when compared over the year to December 2016. The largest over-the-year decline was 2.5 percentage points in Menominee County. Forty-eight (48) of Wisconsin's 72 counties tied or reached their lowest December unemployment rates on current record. Seven counties reached record lows for any month on current record. The rates ranged from 1.9 percent in Dane and Lafayette Counties to 5.6 percent in Iron County.

The release of December 2017 local rates follows last week's release of BLS monthly estimates showing a preliminary seasonally adjusted statewide unemployment rate of 3 percent in December 2017, down from 3.2 percent in November 2017. The December 2017 rate matches the state's record low, and set a new record for lowest December rate. The data also showed the state added 43,500 private sector jobs from December 2016 to December 2017, including a significant 11,500 manufacturing jobs.

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

- Initial UI claims ended 2017 at their lowest level in the last 30 years.
- Continuing unemployment claims ended 2017 at their lowest level since 1973.
- Moody's Investors Service has upgraded the state's credit rating, noting that "(T)he stable outlook reflects the expectation that the state will experience moderate economic growth and will continue its prudent fiscal management practices."

Labor Force and Employment Estimates December 2017

STATEWIDE LABOR FORCE

	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER		PRELIM	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Dec-17	Nov-17	Dec-16	1-Month	1-Year	Dec-17	Nov-17	Dec-16	1-Month	1-Year
Total labor force	3,170,600	3,168,300	3,114,900	2,300	55,700	3,150,300	3,172,900	3,098,300	-22,600	52,000
Employment	3,075,000	3,065,800	2,988,100	9,200	86,900	3,066,200	3,087,100	2,983,500	-20,900	82,700
Unemployment	95,700	102,500	126,800	-6,800	-31,100	84,100	85,900	114,800	-1,800	-30,700
Unemployment Rate	3.0%	3.2%	4.1%	-0.2%	-1.1%	2.7%	2.7%	3.7%	0.0%	-1.0%
National Rate	4.1%	4.1%	4.7%	0.0%	-0.6%	3.9%	3.9%	4.5%	0.0%	-0.6%

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	
	Dec-17	Nov-17	Dec-16	1-Month	1-Year	Dec-17	Nov-17	Dec-16	1-Month	1-Year
Statewide	2,974,500	2,976,200	2,934,300	-1,700	40,200	2,982,600	3,002,900	2,935,200	-20,300	47,400
Appleton	128,500	128,800	125,900	-300	2,600	129,200	129,900	126,300	-700	2,900
Eau Claire	84,300	84,100	85,200	200	-900	85,100	86,300	85,700	-1,200	-600
Fond du Lac	48,900	48,700	48,700	200	200	48,800	49,400	48,800	-600	0
Green Bay	176,000	175,400	174,200	600	1,800	176,800	177,800	174,500	-1,000	2,300
Janesville	69,900	69,400	67,700	500	2,200	70,000	70,100	67,800	-100	2,200
La Crosse	80,000	80,300	78,700	-300	1,300	81,300	81,800	79,600	-500	1,700
Madison	405,400	407,200	397,800	-1,800	7,600	408,100	411,700	400,800	-3,600	7,300
Milwaukee-W.O.W.	868,000	867,800	860,300	200	7,700	870,300	876,000	859,700	-5,700	10,600
Oshkosh-Neenah	97,000	96,300	96,500	700	500	97,500	97,600	97,000	-100	500
Racine	77,200	77,800	76,900	-600	300	77,500	78,300	77,200	-800	300
Sheboygan	61,900	62,100	62,800	-200	-900	61,800	62,100	62,100	-300	-300
Wausau	73,700	73,300	72,800	400	900	74,700	74,400	73,600	300	1,100

Source: Current Employment Statistics (CES)

MSA UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

	NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Dec-17	Nov-17	Dec-16	1-Month	1-Year
Wisconsin	2.7	2.7	3.7	0.0	-1.0
Appleton	2.4	2.5	3.2	-0.1	-0.8
Eau Claire	2.8	2.5	3.7	0.3	-0.9
Fond du Lac	2.2	2.3	3.0	-0.1	-0.8
Green Bay	2.5	2.6	3.5	-0.1	-1.0
Janesville	2.8	2.9	4.0	-0.1	-1.2
La Crosse	2.4	2.3	3.4	0.1	-1.0
Madison	1.9	2.1	2.6	-0.2	-0.7
Milwaukee-W.O.W.	2.7	3.0	3.9	-0.3	-1.2
Oshkosh-Neenah	2.4	2.5	3.2	-0.1	-0.8
Racine	3.2	3.3	4.4	-0.1	-1.2
Sheboygan	2.3	2.4	3.1	-0.1	-0.8
Wausau	2.4	2.4	3.2	0.0	-0.8

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 December 2017

CITIES

CITY	Dec-17 RANK	Nov-17 RANK	Dec-17 RATE	Nov-17 RATE	Dec-16 RATE
Appleton	17	14	2.5	2.6	3.3
Beloit	29	30	3.2	3.7	4.4
Brookfield	11	17	2.4	2.7	3.1
Caledonia	22	26	2.8	3.0	4.0
Eau Claire	4	4	2.2	2.3	3.2
Fitchburg	1	1	1.8	1.9	2.5
Fond du Lac	11	6	2.4	2.5	3.2
Franklin	25	27	3.0	3.2	3.4
Green Bay	20	20	2.7	2.8	3.7
Greenfield	25	21	3.0	2.9	3.8
Janesville	20	21	2.7	2.9	4.0
Kenosha	30	29	3.3	3.6	4.6
La Crosse	11	6	2.4	2.5	3.4
Madison	1	2	1.8	2.0	2.5
Manitowoc	25	21	3.0	2.9	4.5
Menomonee Falls	5	6	2.3	2.5	3.2

CITY	Dec-17 RANK	Nov-17 RANK	Dec-17 RATE	Nov-17 RATE	Dec-16 RATE
Milwaukee	31	31	3.4	3.8	4.9
Mount Pleasant	22	21	2.8	2.9	3.7
Neenah	11	5	2.4	2.4	3.3
New Berlin	5	6	2.3	2.5	3.3
Oak Creek	5	6	2.3	2.5	3.4
Oshkosh	11	17	2.4	2.7	3.2
Racine	32	32	3.8	4.1	5.4
Sheboygan	17	14	2.5	2.6	3.5
Stevens Point	11	14	2.4	2.6	3.2
Sun Prairie	3	3	2.0	2.1	2.5
Superior	22	21	2.8	2.9	4.1
Waukesha	5	6	2.3	2.5	3.3
Wausau	17	17	2.5	2.7	3.2
Wauwatosa	5	6	2.3	2.5	3.1
West Allis	25	27	3.0	3.2	4.5
West Bend	5	6	2.3	2.5	3.1

COUNTIES

Alphabetical Order

COUNTY	Dec-17 RANK	Nov-17 RANK	Dec-17 RATE	Nov-17 RATE	Dec-16 RATE
Adams	70	68	5.1	4.2	6.3
Ashland	59	63	3.9	3.8	5.5
Barron	47	41	3.3	2.8	4.5
Bayfield	71	70	5.2	4.4	7.5
Brown	14	25	2.4	2.5	3.4
Buffalo	45	38	3.2	2.7	4.4
Burnett	66	67	4.5	4.1	6.3
Calumet	5	13	2.2	2.4	2.8
Chippewa	48	38	3.4	2.7	4.5
Clark	28	5	2.7	2.3	3.9
Columbia	8	13	2.3	2.4	3.2
Crawford	52	53	3.5	3.2	4.7
Dane	1	2	1.9	2.0	2.6
Dodge	8	13	2.3	2.4	3.3
Door	61	58	4.0	3.4	5.7
Douglas	56	61	3.6	3.6	5.1
Dunn	28	13	2.7	2.4	3.7
Eau Claire	14	13	2.4	2.4	3.3
Florence	68	66	4.6	4.0	6.5
Fond du Lac	5	5	2.2	2.3	3.0
Forest	68	65	4.6	3.9	6.1
Grant	14	13	2.4	2.4	3.4
Green	3	2	2.1	2.0	2.9
Green Lake	40	47	3.1	3.0	4.6
Iowa	8	5	2.3	2.3	3.2
Iron	72	72	5.6	5.3	7.6
Jackson	37	5	2.9	2.3	4.4
Jefferson	21	25	2.5	2.5	3.5
Juneau	38	38	3.0	2.7	4.3
Kenosha	40	56	3.1	3.3	4.2
Kewaunee	28	25	2.7	2.5	3.5
La Crosse	8	5	2.3	2.3	3.3
Lafayette	1	1	1.9	1.9	2.8
Langlade	58	53	3.8	3.2	4.9
Lincoln	35	31	2.8	2.6	4.3
Manitowoc	38	43	3.0	2.9	4.3

COUNTY	Dec-17 RANK	Nov-17 RANK	Dec-17 RATE	Nov-17 RATE	Dec-16 RATE
Marathon	14	13	2.4	2.4	3.2
Marinette	59	61	3.9	3.6	5.3
Marquette	52	47	3.5	3.0	4.8
Menominee	64	71	4.3	4.5	6.8
Milwaukee	40	58	3.1	3.4	4.4
Monroe	14	13	2.4	2.4	3.6
Oconto	40	41	3.1	2.8	4.3
Oneida	61	53	4.0	3.2	5.2
Outagamie	21	31	2.5	2.6	3.4
Ozaukee	3	5	2.1	2.3	3.0
Pepin	48	43	3.4	2.9	4.6
Pierce	28	31	2.7	2.6	4.2
Polk	56	47	3.6	3.0	5.0
Portage	21	13	2.5	2.4	3.4
Price	52	51	3.5	3.1	4.5
Racine	45	56	3.2	3.3	4.4
Richland	14	13	2.4	2.4	3.3
Rock	35	43	2.8	2.9	4.0
Rusk	61	58	4.0	3.4	5.3
Sauk	21	25	2.5	2.5	3.5
Sawyer	66	68	4.5	4.2	6.4
Shawano	28	31	2.7	2.6	3.7
Sheboygan	8	13	2.3	2.4	3.1
St. Croix	28	31	2.7	2.6	3.7
Taylor	48	13	3.4	2.4	4.7
Trempealeau	26	4	2.6	2.1	3.8
Vernon	21	5	2.5	2.3	3.6
Vilas	65	63	4.4	3.8	6.1
Walworth	28	31	2.7	2.6	3.6
Washburn	48	47	3.4	3.0	5.2
Washington	5	5	2.2	2.3	3.0
Waukesha	8	25	2.3	2.5	3.2
Waupaca	26	31	2.6	2.6	3.7
Waushara	52	51	3.5	3.1	4.7
Winnebago	14	25	2.4	2.5	3.2
Wood	40	43	3.1	2.9	4.4

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

Local Unemployment Rates December 2017

COUNTIES

Ascending Order

COUNTY	Dec-17 RATE	Nov-17 RATE	Dec-16 RATE	COUNTY	Dec-17 RATE	Nov-17 RATE	Dec-16 RATE
Dane	1.9	2.0	2.6	Jackson	2.9	2.3	4.4
Lafayette	1.9	1.9	2.8	Juneau	3.0	2.7	4.3
Green	2.1	2.0	2.9	Manitowoc	3.0	2.9	4.3
Ozaukee	2.1	2.3	3.0	Green Lake	3.1	3.0	4.6
Calumet	2.2	2.4	2.8	Kenosha	3.1	3.3	4.2
Fond du Lac	2.2	2.3	3.0	Milwaukee	3.1	3.4	4.4
Washington	2.2	2.3	3.0	Oconto	3.1	2.8	4.3
Columbia	2.3	2.4	3.2	Wood	3.1	2.9	4.4
Dodge	2.3	2.4	3.3	Buffalo	3.2	2.7	4.4
Iowa	2.3	2.3	3.2	Racine	3.2	3.3	4.4
La Crosse	2.3	2.3	3.3	Barron	3.3	2.8	4.5
Sheboygan	2.3	2.4	3.1	Chippewa	3.4	2.7	4.5
Waukesha	2.3	2.5	3.2	Pepin	3.4	2.9	4.6
Brown	2.4	2.5	3.4	Taylor	3.4	2.4	4.7
Eau Claire	2.4	2.4	3.3	Washburn	3.4	3.0	5.2
Grant	2.4	2.4	3.4	Crawford	3.5	3.2	4.7
Marathon	2.4	2.4	3.2	Marquette	3.5	3.0	4.8
Monroe	2.4	2.4	3.6	Price	3.5	3.1	4.5
Richland	2.4	2.4	3.3	Waushara	3.5	3.1	4.7
Winnebago	2.4	2.5	3.2	Douglas	3.6	3.6	5.1
Jefferson	2.5	2.5	3.5	Polk	3.6	3.0	5.0
Outagamie	2.5	2.6	3.4	Langlade	3.8	3.2	4.9
Portage	2.5	2.4	3.4	Ashland	3.9	3.8	5.5
Sauk	2.5	2.5	3.5	Marinette	3.9	3.6	5.3
Vernon	2.5	2.3	3.6	Door	4.0	3.4	5.7
Trempealeau	2.6	2.1	3.8	Oneida	4.0	3.2	5.2
Waupaca	2.6	2.6	3.7	Rusk	4.0	3.4	5.3
Clark	2.7	2.3	3.9	Menominee	4.3	4.5	6.8
Dunn	2.7	2.4	3.7	Vilas	4.4	3.8	6.1
Kewaunee	2.7	2.5	3.5	Burnett	4.5	4.1	6.3
Pierce	2.7	2.6	4.2	Sawyer	4.5	4.2	6.4
Shawano	2.7	2.6	3.7	Florence	4.6	4.0	6.5
St. Croix	2.7	2.6	3.7	Forest	4.6	3.9	6.1
Walworth	2.7	2.6	3.6	Adams	5.1	4.2	6.3
Lincoln	2.8	2.6	4.3	Bayfield	5.2	4.4	7.5
Rock	2.8	2.9	4.0	Iron	5.6	5.3	7.6