
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

CONTACT: DWD Communications, 608-266-2722

On the Web: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/news.htm>

On Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/WIWorkforce>

On Twitter: @WIWorkforce

Wisconsin Local Employment and 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 December 2017 and preliminary estimates for January 2018. These numbers are not seasonally adjusted. In brief, the estimates show:

- **Metropolitan Statistical Areas:** Preliminary January 2018 unemployment rates decreased in all areas when compared over the year to January 2017. Eleven (11) of Wisconsin's 12 metro areas reached their lowest January unemployment rate on record (1990). The rates ranged from 2.3 percent in Madison to 3.7 percent in Racine.
- **Municipalities:** Preliminary January 2018 rates decreased in the state's 32 largest municipalities when compared over the year to January 2017. Twenty (20) of the 32 largest municipalities reached their lowest January unemployment rate on current record. January 2018 rates ranged from 2.1 percent in Fitchburg and Madison to 4.3 percent in Racine.
- **Counties:** Preliminary January 2018 rates decreased in all 72 counties when compared over the year to January 2017. The largest over the year decline was 2 percentage points in Bayfield County. Sixty-one (61) of Wisconsin's 72 counties reached their lowest January unemployment rate on current record. The rates ranged from 2.2 percent in Dane County to 6 percent in Iron County.

The release of January 2018 local rates follows the release of BLS monthly estimates showing a preliminary seasonally adjusted statewide unemployment rate of 3.1 percent, the lowest statewide January unemployment rate on current record. The data also showed that the state added 9,200 total non-farm jobs and 8,000 private sector jobs, including 2,000 manufacturing jobs from December 2017 to January 2018. Wisconsin ranked in the top ten among states in numerous measures, including:

- Wisconsin ranked 7th highest nationally in the one-month growth rate of total non-farm jobs, 10th highest for private-sector jobs and 8th highest in manufacturing jobs.
- Wisconsin's one-month net change ranked 7th highest for total nonfarm jobs, 8th highest in private sector jobs and 4th highest in manufacturing jobs.
- Wisconsin's unemployment rate of 3.1 percent ranked 10th lowest nationally and was 4th in month-over-month change.
- Wisconsin's labor force participation rate of 68.5 percent ranked 5th highest nationally

Other indicators of the strength 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 investor Service recently 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."

The data included in today's release can be accessed on the Bureau of Labor Statistics [website](#).

###

Labor Force and Employment Estimates January 2018

STATEWIDE LABOR FORCE

	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER		PRELIM	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Jan-18	Dec-17	Jan-17	1-Month	1-Year	Jan-18	Dec-17	Jan-17	1-Month	1-Year
Total labor force	3,157,600	3,158,300	3,136,900	-700	20,700	3,126,200	3,132,700	3,107,300	-6,500	18,900
Employment	3,060,900	3,057,400	3,026,500	3,500	34,400	3,029,700	3,048,600	2,982,300	-18,900	47,400
Unemployment	96,700	100,900	110,500	-4,200	-13,800	96,500	84,000	125,000	12,500	-28,500
Unemployment Rate	3.1%	3.2%	3.5%	-0.1%	-0.4%	3.1%	2.7%	4.0%	0.4%	-0.9%
National Rate	4.1%	4.1%	4.8%	0.0%	-0.7%	4.5%	3.9%	5.1%	0.6%	-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	
	Jan-18	Dec-17	Jan-17	1-Month	1-Year	Jan-18	Dec-17	Jan-17	1-Month	1-Year
Statewide	2,962,500	2,953,300	2,940,600	9,200	21,900	2,894,900	2,957,800	2,870,400	-62,900	24,500
Appleton	125,700	125,500	125,000	200	700	123,900	125,900	122,800	-2,000	1,100
Eau Claire	86,200	86,000	86,300	200	-100	83,500	86,900	83,200	-3,400	300
Fond du Lac	48,200	48,400	48,000	-200	200	47,000	48,500	46,700	-1,500	300
Green Bay	178,300	177,800	177,400	500	900	175,100	178,300	174,000	-3,200	1,100
Janesville	69,300	69,200	68,000	100	1,300	67,400	69,000	66,600	-1,600	800
La Crosse	79,700	79,200	79,300	500	400	77,600	80,300	76,700	-2,700	900
Madison	401,400	403,200	396,000	-1,800	5,400	394,400	406,000	387,600	-11,600	6,800
Milwaukee-W.O.W.	875,100	870,000	865,000	5,100	10,100	856,200	870,400	847,800	-14,200	8,400
Oshkosh-Neenah	98,200	98,300	97,700	-100	500	96,800	98,900	96,000	-2,100	800
Racine	77,700	77,000	77,800	700	-100	76,300	77,300	76,300	-1,000	0
Sheboygan	63,200	63,300	62,300	-100	900	61,900	63,200	60,600	-1,300	1,300
Wausau	73,200	72,800	72,200	400	1,000	72,400	73,700	71,000	-1,300	1,400

Source: Current Employment Statistics (CES)

MSA UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

	NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Jan-18	Dec-17	Jan-17	1-Month	1-Year
Wisconsin	3.1	2.7	4.0	0.4	-0.9
Appleton	2.8	2.5	3.5	0.3	-0.7
Eau Claire	3.2	2.8	4.2	0.4	-1.0
Fond du Lac	2.7	2.2	3.4	0.5	-0.7
Green Bay	3.0	2.5	3.7	0.5	-0.7
Janesville	3.3	2.8	4.7	0.5	-1.4
La Crosse	3.0	2.4	4.0	0.6	-1.0
Madison	2.3	2.0	3.0	0.3	-0.7
Milwaukee-W.O.W.	3.0	2.8	4.0	0.2	-1.0
Oshkosh-Neenah	2.7	2.4	3.4	0.3	-0.7
Racine	3.7	3.2	4.8	0.5	-1.1
Sheboygan	2.5	2.2	3.2	0.3	-0.7
Wausau	2.7	2.4	3.5	0.3	-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 January 2018

CITIES

CITY	Jan-18 RANK	Dec-17 RANK	Jan-18 RATE	Dec-17 RATE	Jan-17 RATE
Appleton	16	19	2.8	2.6	3.4
Beloit	28	29	3.6	3.3	5.4
Brookfield	4	13	2.5	2.4	3.2
Caledonia	23	21	3.2	2.8	4.2
Eau Claire	7	4	2.6	2.2	3.5
Fitchburg	1	1	2.1	1.8	2.6
Fond du Lac	16	13	2.8	2.4	3.5
Franklin	16	25	2.8	2.9	3.5
Green Bay	21	20	3.1	2.7	3.9
Greenfield	23	26	3.2	3.0	4.0
Janesville	21	21	3.1	2.8	4.4
Kenosha	30	29	3.7	3.3	4.8
La Crosse	16	13	2.8	2.4	3.7
Madison	1	2	2.1	1.9	2.6
Manitowoc	28	26	3.6	3.0	4.4
Menomonee Falls	4	5	2.5	2.3	3.4

CITY	Jan-18 RANK	Dec-17 RANK	Jan-18 RATE	Dec-17 RATE	Jan-17 RATE
Milwaukee	30	31	3.7	3.5	5.0
Mount Pleasant	23	21	3.2	2.8	3.9
Neenah	7	5	2.6	2.3	3.5
New Berlin	10	5	2.7	2.3	3.4
Oak Creek	7	5	2.6	2.3	3.4
Oshkosh	10	5	2.7	2.3	3.3
Racine	32	32	4.3	3.9	5.5
Sheboygan	10	17	2.7	2.5	3.5
Stevens Point	20	13	2.9	2.4	3.7
Sun Prairie	3	3	2.2	2.0	2.8
Superior	26	21	3.3	2.8	4.4
Waukesha	10	5	2.7	2.3	3.5
Wausau	10	17	2.7	2.5	3.5
Wauwatosa	4	5	2.5	2.3	3.2
West Allis	27	26	3.5	3.0	4.5
West Bend	10	5	2.7	2.3	3.4

COUNTIES Alphabetical Order

COUNTY	Jan-18 RANK	Dec-17 RANK	Jan-18 RATE	Dec-17 RATE	Jan-17 RATE
Adams	70	70	5.6	5.1	6.9
Ashland	54	60	4.2	3.9	5.8
Barron	48	47	4.0	3.3	5.2
Bayfield	70	71	5.6	5.3	7.6
Brown	11	13	2.8	2.4	3.5
Buffalo	48	45	4.0	3.2	5.4
Burnett	69	68	5.3	4.6	6.7
Calumet	7	8	2.7	2.3	3.3
Chippewa	48	48	4.0	3.4	5.2
Clark	24	27	3.2	2.7	4.4
Columbia	18	13	2.9	2.4	3.8
Crawford	60	55	4.4	3.6	5.8
Dane	1	2	2.2	1.9	2.8
Dodge	11	8	2.8	2.3	3.7
Door	67	61	4.7	4.0	6.3
Douglas	54	56	4.2	3.7	5.6
Dunn	28	27	3.3	2.7	4.4
Eau Claire	11	13	2.8	2.4	3.6
Florence	57	68	4.3	4.6	6.1
Fond du Lac	7	5	2.7	2.2	3.4
Forest	68	66	4.8	4.5	6.0
Grant	28	13	3.3	2.4	4.4
Green	11	3	2.8	2.1	3.7
Green Lake	45	40	3.8	3.1	5.3
Iowa	21	8	3.1	2.3	4.3
Iron	72	72	6.0	5.7	7.4
Jackson	37	37	3.4	2.9	5.1
Jefferson	24	20	3.2	2.5	4.1
Juneau	28	38	3.3	3.0	4.4
Kenosha	39	40	3.5	3.1	4.5
Kewaunee	24	27	3.2	2.7	3.8
La Crosse	11	8	2.8	2.3	3.6
Lafayette	2	1	2.4	1.8	3.5
Langlade	48	58	4.0	3.8	5.3
Lincoln	28	33	3.3	2.8	4.9
Manitowoc	39	38	3.5	3.0	4.4

COUNTY	Jan-18 RANK	Dec-17 RANK	Jan-18 RATE	Dec-17 RATE	Jan-17 RATE
Marathon	7	13	2.7	2.4	3.5
Marinette	57	58	4.3	3.8	5.4
Marquette	53	52	4.1	3.5	5.7
Menominee	64	64	4.5	4.4	6.2
Milwaukee	37	40	3.4	3.1	4.5
Monroe	19	20	3.0	2.5	4.0
Oconto	43	40	3.7	3.1	4.8
Oneida	54	61	4.2	4.0	5.3
Outagamie	11	20	2.8	2.5	3.6
Ozaukee	2	3	2.4	2.1	3.1
Pepin	60	48	4.4	3.4	5.5
Pierce	39	33	3.5	2.8	4.7
Polk	60	56	4.4	3.7	5.5
Portage	19	20	3.0	2.5	4.0
Price	42	52	3.6	3.5	4.6
Racine	43	45	3.7	3.2	4.8
Richland	21	13	3.1	2.4	3.9
Rock	28	33	3.3	2.8	4.7
Rusk	64	63	4.5	4.1	5.9
Sauk	11	25	2.8	2.6	3.8
Sawyer	66	66	4.6	4.5	6.4
Shawano	28	27	3.3	2.7	4.1
Sheboygan	4	5	2.5	2.2	3.2
St. Croix	28	33	3.3	2.8	4.0
Taylor	47	48	3.9	3.4	5.6
Trempealeau	21	25	3.1	2.6	4.4
Vernon	28	20	3.3	2.5	4.3
Vilas	60	64	4.4	4.4	5.9
Walworth	28	27	3.3	2.7	4.3
Washburn	57	48	4.3	3.4	5.8
Washington	5	5	2.6	2.2	3.3
Waukesha	5	8	2.6	2.3	3.4
Waupaca	24	27	3.2	2.7	4.2
Waushara	48	52	4.0	3.5	5.5
Winnebago	7	13	2.7	2.4	3.4
Wood	45	40	3.8	3.1	4.9

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

Local Unemployment Rates January 2018

COUNTIES

Ascending Order

COUNTY	Jan-18 RATE	Dec-17 RATE	Jan-17 RATE	COUNTY	Jan-18 RATE	Dec-17 RATE	Jan-17 RATE
Dane	2.2	1.9	2.8	Jackson	3.4	2.9	5.1
Lafayette	2.4	1.8	3.5	Milwaukee	3.4	3.1	4.5
Ozaukee	2.4	2.1	3.1	Kenosha	3.5	3.1	4.5
Sheboygan	2.5	2.2	3.2	Manitowoc	3.5	3.0	4.4
Washington	2.6	2.2	3.3	Pierce	3.5	2.8	4.7
Waukesha	2.6	2.3	3.4	Price	3.6	3.5	4.6
Calumet	2.7	2.3	3.3	Oconto	3.7	3.1	4.8
Fond du Lac	2.7	2.2	3.4	Racine	3.7	3.2	4.8
Marathon	2.7	2.4	3.5	Green Lake	3.8	3.1	5.3
Winnebago	2.7	2.4	3.4	Wood	3.8	3.1	4.9
Brown	2.8	2.4	3.5	Taylor	3.9	3.4	5.6
Dodge	2.8	2.3	3.7	Barron	4.0	3.3	5.2
Eau Claire	2.8	2.4	3.6	Buffalo	4.0	3.2	5.4
Green	2.8	2.1	3.7	Chippewa	4.0	3.4	5.2
La Crosse	2.8	2.3	3.6	Langlade	4.0	3.8	5.3
Outagamie	2.8	2.5	3.6	Waushara	4.0	3.5	5.5
Sauk	2.8	2.6	3.8	Marquette	4.1	3.5	5.7
Columbia	2.9	2.4	3.8	Ashland	4.2	3.9	5.8
Monroe	3.0	2.5	4.0	Douglas	4.2	3.7	5.6
Portage	3.0	2.5	4.0	Oneida	4.2	4.0	5.3
Iowa	3.1	2.3	4.3	Florence	4.3	4.6	6.1
Richland	3.1	2.4	3.9	Marinette	4.3	3.8	5.4
Trempealeau	3.1	2.6	4.4	Washburn	4.3	3.4	5.8
Clark	3.2	2.7	4.4	Crawford	4.4	3.6	5.8
Jefferson	3.2	2.5	4.1	Pepin	4.4	3.4	5.5
Kewaunee	3.2	2.7	3.8	Polk	4.4	3.7	5.5
Waupaca	3.2	2.7	4.2	Vilas	4.4	4.4	5.9
Dunn	3.3	2.7	4.4	Menominee	4.5	4.4	6.2
Grant	3.3	2.4	4.4	Rusk	4.5	4.1	5.9
Juneau	3.3	3.0	4.4	Sawyer	4.6	4.5	6.4
Lincoln	3.3	2.8	4.9	Door	4.7	4.0	6.3
Rock	3.3	2.8	4.7	Forest	4.8	4.5	6.0
Shawano	3.3	2.7	4.1	Burnett	5.3	4.6	6.7
St. Croix	3.3	2.8	4.0	Adams	5.6	5.1	6.9
Vernon	3.3	2.5	4.3	Bayfield	5.6	5.3	7.6
Walworth	3.3	2.7	4.3	Iron	6.0	5.7	7.4