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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 January 2018 and preliminary estimates for February 2018. These numbers are not seasonally adjusted. In brief, the estimates show:

- **Metropolitan Statistical Areas:** Preliminary February 2018 unemployment rates declined in all twelve of Wisconsin metro areas when compared over the year to February 2017. The rates range from 2.5 percent in Madison to 4 percent in Racine. Janesville-Beloit experienced the largest year over year drop of 1.3 percent, followed by Racine's drop of 1 percent when compared to the February 2017 rate. Eleven (11) of Wisconsin 12 metro areas experienced their lowest February unemployment rate on record (1990).
- **Municipalities:** Preliminary February 2018 rates decreased in the state's 32 largest municipalities when compared over the year to February 2017, with Beloit experiencing the largest over the year decline of 1.6 percent. The rates ranged from 2.1 percent in Fitchburg and Madison to 4.8 percent in Racine. Twenty-two (22) of Wisconsin's 32 largest cities experienced their lowest February unemployment rate on record (1990).
- **Counties:** Preliminary February 2018 rates declined in all of Wisconsin's 72 counties when compared over the year to February 2017. The largest over the year decline occurred in Florence County, 1.6 percent. The rates ranged from 2.3 percent in Dane County to 7.1 percent in Iron County. Fifty-eight (58) of Wisconsin's 72 counties experienced their lowest February unemployment rate on record (1990).

The release of the February 2018 local rates follows the release of BLS monthly estimates showing that Wisconsin's statewide seasonally adjusted unemployment rate reached an all-time low of 2.9 percent in February 2018. The data also showed that Wisconsin added 2,500 manufacturing jobs from January 2018 to February 2018, ranking 5th nationally amongst states and 11,800 manufacturing jobs added from February 2017 to February 2018, which ranked 4th nationally. Additional highlights of the statewide release include:

- Wisconsin ranked in the top 5 nationally in one-month manufacturing job gains, and 2nd in the Midwest.
- Wisconsin ranked 2nd nationally in manufacturing jobs gained over a 3-month period, from December 2017 through February 2018.
- Wisconsin ranked 4th nationally in year over year manufacturing job gains.
- Wisconsin's record-setting unemployment rate of 2.9 percent ranked 6th nationally, while the month over

month drop of 0.2 percent was tied for 1st nationally.

- Wisconsin's labor force participation rate of 68.6 percent ranked 5th nationally, while the month over month increase in Wisconsin's labor force participation rate was 4th best nationally.

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 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 found on DWD's WisConomy [website](#).

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Labor Force and Employment Estimates February 2018

STATEWIDE LABOR FORCE

	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM Feb-18	FINAL Jan-18	YEAR AGO Feb-17	NET CHANGE OVER		PRELIM Feb-18	FINAL Jan-18	YEAR AGO Feb-17	NET CHANGE OVER	
				1-Month	1-Year				1-Month	1-Year
Total labor force	3,161,000	3,157,500	3,139,300	3,500	21,700	3,165,900	3,125,700	3,128,800	40,200	37,100
Employment	3,068,200	3,060,800	3,032,600	7,400	35,600	3,060,200	3,029,200	2,998,200	31,000	62,000
Unemployment	92,800	96,700	106,800	-3,900	-14,000	105,700	96,500	130,600	9,200	-24,900
Unemployment Rate	2.9%	3.1%	3.4%	-0.2%	-0.5%	3.3%	3.1%	4.2%	0.2%	-0.9%
National Rate	4.1%	4.1%	4.7%	0.0%	-0.6%	4.4%	4.5%	4.9%	-0.1%	-0.5%

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

MSA EMPLOYMENT

	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM Feb-18	FINAL Jan-18	YEAR AGO Feb-17	NET CHANGE OVER		PRELIM Feb-18	FINAL Jan-18	YEAR AGO Feb-17	NET CHANGE OVER	
				1-Month	1-Year				1-Month	1-Year
Statewide	2,963,000	2,961,500	2,943,800	1,500	19,200	2,912,300	2,892,900	2,890,400	19,400	21,900
Appleton	126,200	125,600	125,300	600	900	124,100	123,500	122,700	600	1,400
Eau Claire	86,100	86,400	86,300	-300	-200	85,100	83,700	85,600	1,400	-500
Fond du Lac	48,300	48,300	48,000	0	300	47,400	47,100	47,000	300	400
Green Bay	178,500	178,100	177,200	400	1,300	175,400	174,800	173,800	600	1,600
Janesville	69,200	69,200	68,300	0	900	67,800	67,400	66,900	400	900
La Crosse	79,600	79,700	79,300	-100	300	79,100	77,600	78,500	1,500	600
Madison	404,100	402,400	400,100	1,700	4,000	400,000	395,100	395,300	4,900	4,700
Milwaukee-W.O.W.	875,700	874,300	866,500	1,400	9,200	861,000	856,000	854,500	5,000	6,500
Oshkosh-Neenah	98,400	98,100	97,900	300	500	97,500	96,700	96,600	800	900
Racine	78,500	77,900	78,000	600	500	76,800	76,400	76,500	400	300
Sheboygan	63,400	63,200	62,300	200	1,100	61,800	61,900	60,500	-100	1,300
Wausau	73,800	73,100	72,300	700	1,500	72,900	72,100	71,200	800	1,700

Source: Current Employment Statistics (CES)

MSA UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

	NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM Feb-18	FINAL Jan-18	YEAR AGO Feb-17	NET CHANGE OVER	
				1-Month	1-Year
Wisconsin	3.3	3.1	4.2	0.2	-0.9
Appleton	2.9	2.8	3.6	0.1	-0.7
Eau Claire	3.3	3.2	4.0	0.1	-0.7
Fond du Lac	3.0	2.7	3.6	0.3	-0.6
Green Bay	3.2	3.0	3.9	0.2	-0.7
Janesville	3.6	3.3	4.9	0.3	-1.3
La Crosse	3.1	3.1	3.8	0.0	-0.7
Madison	2.5	2.3	3.1	0.2	-0.6
Milwaukee-W.O.W.	3.2	3.0	4.1	0.2	-0.9
Oshkosh-Neenah	2.8	2.7	3.5	0.1	-0.7
Racine	4.0	3.7	5.0	0.3	-1.0
Sheboygan	2.7	2.5	3.4	0.2	-0.7
Wausau	2.9	2.7	3.7	0.2	-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 February 2018

CITIES

CITY	Feb-18 RANK	Jan-18 RANK	Feb-18 RATE	Jan-18 RATE	Feb-17 RATE
Appleton	15	16	2.9	2.8	3.7
Beloit	31	28	4.2	3.6	5.8
Brookfield	7	4	2.7	2.5	3.3
Caledonia	22	23	3.3	3.2	4.4
Eau Claire	4	7	2.5	2.6	3.4
Fitchburg	1	1	2.1	2.1	2.8
Fond du Lac	19	16	3.1	2.8	3.6
Franklin	15	16	2.9	2.8	3.8
Green Bay	22	21	3.3	3.1	4.0
Greenfield	25	23	3.5	3.2	4.2
Janesville	24	21	3.4	3.1	4.6
Kenosha	30	30	4.1	3.7	5.0
La Crosse	10	16	2.8	2.8	3.6
Madison	1	1	2.1	2.1	2.7
Manitowoc	26	28	3.7	3.6	5.0
Menomonee Falls	4	4	2.5	2.5	3.5

CITY	Feb-18 RANK	Jan-18 RANK	Feb-18 RATE	Jan-18 RATE	Feb-17 RATE
Milwaukee	29	30	3.9	3.7	5.1
Mount Pleasant	21	23	3.2	3.2	4.1
Neenah	7	7	2.7	2.6	3.6
New Berlin	7	10	2.7	2.7	3.6
Oak Creek	10	7	2.8	2.6	3.7
Oshkosh	10	10	2.8	2.7	3.6
Racine	32	32	4.8	4.3	5.8
Sheboygan	15	10	2.9	2.7	3.7
Stevens Point	19	20	3.1	2.9	3.7
Sun Prairie	3	3	2.4	2.2	2.9
Superior	26	26	3.7	3.3	4.8
Waukesha	10	10	2.8	2.7	3.5
Wausau	18	10	3.0	2.7	3.8
Wauwatosa	4	4	2.5	2.5	3.4
West Allis	28	27	3.8	3.5	4.8
West Bend	10	10	2.8	2.7	3.7

COUNTIES Alphabetical Order

COUNTY	Feb-18 RANK	Jan-18 RANK	Feb-18 RATE	Jan-18 RATE	Feb-17 RATE
Adams	70	70	6.3	5.6	7.4
Ashland	61	55	5.0	4.2	5.9
Barron	51	48	4.6	4.0	5.4
Bayfield	70	70	6.3	5.6	7.7
Brown	12	12	3.0	2.8	3.7
Buffalo	45	48	4.3	4.0	5.6
Burnett	69	69	6.0	5.2	7.0
Calumet	6	7	2.8	2.7	3.4
Chippewa	45	48	4.3	4.0	4.9
Clark	27	24	3.6	3.2	4.5
Columbia	16	18	3.2	2.9	3.9
Crawford	64	61	5.2	4.4	6.3
Dane	1	1	2.3	2.2	2.9
Dodge	16	12	3.2	2.8	3.9
Door	67	66	5.5	4.7	6.6
Douglas	53	53	4.7	4.1	5.9
Dunn	33	28	3.7	3.3	4.5
Eau Claire	6	12	2.8	2.8	3.5
Florence	55	57	4.8	4.3	6.4
Fond du Lac	12	7	3.0	2.7	3.6
Forest	66	68	5.4	4.8	6.3
Grant	27	28	3.6	3.3	4.2
Green	15	7	3.1	2.7	3.9
Green Lake	49	45	4.4	3.8	5.5
Iowa	27	21	3.6	3.1	4.6
Iron	72	72	7.1	6.0	8.0
Jackson	42	37	4.1	3.4	4.9
Jefferson	22	24	3.5	3.2	4.2
Juneau	33	28	3.7	3.3	4.8
Kenosha	39	39	3.9	3.5	4.7
Kewaunee	33	24	3.7	3.2	4.1
La Crosse	9	12	2.9	2.8	3.6
Lafayette	9	3	2.9	2.5	3.6
Langlade	53	48	4.7	4.0	5.4
Lincoln	33	28	3.7	3.3	5.0
Manitowoc	33	39	3.7	3.5	4.8

COUNTY	Feb-18 RANK	Jan-18 RANK	Feb-18 RATE	Jan-18 RATE	Feb-17 RATE
Marathon	9	7	2.9	2.7	3.7
Marinette	55	57	4.8	4.3	5.8
Marquette	58	53	4.9	4.1	5.9
Menominee	51	64	4.6	4.5	5.9
Milwaukee	27	37	3.6	3.4	4.7
Monroe	16	19	3.2	3.0	4.0
Oconto	45	43	4.3	3.7	4.9
Oneida	58	55	4.9	4.2	5.7
Outagamie	12	12	3.0	2.8	3.7
Ozaukee	2	2	2.5	2.4	3.2
Pepin	58	61	4.9	4.4	5.4
Pierce	40	39	4.0	3.5	4.7
Polk	61	57	5.0	4.3	5.8
Portage	22	19	3.5	3.0	4.1
Price	43	42	4.2	3.6	4.8
Racine	40	43	4.0	3.7	5.0
Richland	20	21	3.3	3.1	4.3
Rock	27	28	3.6	3.3	4.9
Rusk	55	64	4.8	4.5	6.2
Sauk	16	12	3.2	2.8	4.1
Sawyer	68	66	5.6	4.7	6.6
Shawano	33	28	3.7	3.3	4.4
Sheboygan	3	3	2.7	2.5	3.4
St. Croix	27	28	3.6	3.3	4.3
Taylor	45	47	4.3	3.9	5.3
Trempealeau	22	21	3.5	3.1	4.4
Vernon	22	28	3.5	3.3	4.4
Vilas	65	61	5.3	4.4	6.5
Walworth	22	28	3.5	3.3	4.4
Washburn	61	57	5.0	4.3	5.8
Washington	3	5	2.7	2.6	3.5
Waukesha	3	5	2.7	2.6	3.5
Waupaca	21	24	3.4	3.2	4.2
Waushara	49	48	4.4	4.0	5.6
Winnebago	6	7	2.8	2.7	3.5
Wood	43	45	4.2	3.8	5.0

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

Local Unemployment Rates February 2018

COUNTIES

Ascending Order

COUNTY	Feb-18 RATE	Jan-18 RATE	Feb-17 RATE	COUNTY	Feb-18 RATE	Jan-18 RATE	Feb-17 RATE
Dane	2.3	2.2	2.9	Manitowoc	3.7	3.5	4.8
Ozaukee	2.5	2.4	3.2	Shawano	3.7	3.3	4.4
Sheboygan	2.7	2.5	3.4	Kenosha	3.9	3.5	4.7
Washington	2.7	2.6	3.5	Pierce	4.0	3.5	4.7
Waukesha	2.7	2.6	3.5	Racine	4.0	3.7	5.0
Calumet	2.8	2.7	3.4	Jackson	4.1	3.4	4.9
Eau Claire	2.8	2.8	3.5	Price	4.2	3.6	4.8
Winnebago	2.8	2.7	3.5	Wood	4.2	3.8	5.0
La Crosse	2.9	2.8	3.6	Buffalo	4.3	4.0	5.6
Lafayette	2.9	2.5	3.6	Chippewa	4.3	4.0	4.9
Marathon	2.9	2.7	3.7	Oconto	4.3	3.7	4.9
Brown	3.0	2.8	3.7	Taylor	4.3	3.9	5.3
Fond du Lac	3.0	2.7	3.6	Green Lake	4.4	3.8	5.5
Outagamie	3.0	2.8	3.7	Waushara	4.4	4.0	5.6
Green	3.1	2.7	3.9	Barron	4.6	4.0	5.4
Columbia	3.2	2.9	3.9	Menominee	4.6	4.5	5.9
Dodge	3.2	2.8	3.9	Douglas	4.7	4.1	5.9
Monroe	3.2	3.0	4.0	Langlade	4.7	4.0	5.4
Sauk	3.2	2.8	4.1	Florence	4.8	4.3	6.4
Richland	3.3	3.1	4.3	Marinette	4.8	4.3	5.8
Waupaca	3.4	3.2	4.2	Rusk	4.8	4.5	6.2
Jefferson	3.5	3.2	4.2	Marquette	4.9	4.1	5.9
Portage	3.5	3.0	4.1	Oneida	4.9	4.2	5.7
Trempealeau	3.5	3.1	4.4	Pepin	4.9	4.4	5.4
Vernon	3.5	3.3	4.4	Ashland	5.0	4.2	5.9
Walworth	3.5	3.3	4.4	Polk	5.0	4.3	5.8
Clark	3.6	3.2	4.5	Washburn	5.0	4.3	5.8
Grant	3.6	3.3	4.2	Crawford	5.2	4.4	6.3
Iowa	3.6	3.1	4.6	Vilas	5.3	4.4	6.5
Milwaukee	3.6	3.4	4.7	Forest	5.4	4.8	6.3
Rock	3.6	3.3	4.9	Door	5.5	4.7	6.6
St. Croix	3.6	3.3	4.3	Sawyer	5.6	4.7	6.6
Dunn	3.7	3.3	4.5	Burnett	6.0	5.2	7.0
Juneau	3.7	3.3	4.8	Adams	6.3	5.6	7.4
Kewaunee	3.7	3.2	4.1	Bayfield	6.3	5.6	7.7
Lincoln	3.7	3.3	5.0	Iron	7.1	6.0	8.0