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Wednesday, April 25, 2018

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

- **Metropolitan Statistical Areas:** Preliminary March 2018 unemployment rates declined in all twelve Wisconsin metro areas when compared over the year to March 2017. The rates ranged from 2.4 percent in Madison to 3.7 percent in Racine. Janesville-Beloit experienced the largest year over year decline of 1 percent, followed by Racine which dropped 0.7 percent, when compared to March 2017 rates. Ten (10) of Wisconsin's 12 metro areas experienced (or tied) their lowest March unemployment rate on record in 2018 (1990).
- **Municipalities:** Preliminary March 2018 rates decreased in all of state's 32 largest municipalities when compared over the year to March 2017, with Beloit experiencing the largest year over year decline of 1.5 percent, followed by Superior at 1.1 percent. The rates ranged from 2.0 percent in Fitchburg to 4.6 percent in Racine. Twenty-one (21) of the state's 32 largest cities experienced (or tied) their lowest March unemployment rate on record in 2018 (1990).
- **Counties:** Preliminary March 2018 rates declined in all of Wisconsin's 72 counties when compared over the year to March 2017. Menomonie County had the largest year over year decline, 2.4 percent. The rates ranged from 2.2 percent in Dane County to 6.8 percent in Iron County. Sixty-three (63) of Wisconsin's 72 counties experienced (or tied) their lowest March unemployment rate on record in 2018 (1990).

The release of March 2018 local rates follows last week's release of BLS monthly estimates showing that Wisconsin's statewide seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained at the historical low of 2.9 percent in March 2018. The data also showed the state gained 8,900 private sector jobs, which ranked 4th nationally. Additionally, the state gained 2,100 manufacturing jobs in March 2018, which ranked 3rd nationally and 1st in the Midwest and the state's labor force participation rate of 68.7 percent ranked tied for 4th nationally. Other highlights of the statewide release include"

- Wisconsin ranked 2nd in the nation in one-month construction job gains, and 1st in the Midwest
- Wisconsin ranked 1st in the nation in manufacturing job gains in 2018

- Wisconsin's addition of 6,800 total non-farm jobs over the month ranked 5th nationally
- Wisconsin's addition of 13,200 manufacturing jobs over the year ranked 3rd nationally, 2nd in the Midwest

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 March 2018

STATEWIDE LABOR FORCE

	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER		PRELIM	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Mar-18	Feb-18	Mar-17	1-Month	1-Year	Mar-18	Feb-18	Mar-17	1-Month	1-Year
Total labor force	3,168,500	3,161,200	3,142,700	7,300	25,800	3,177,900	3,167,100	3,125,800	10,800	52,100
Employment	3,078,100	3,068,400	3,038,400	9,700	39,700	3,076,800	3,061,100	3,011,400	15,700	65,400
Unemployment	90,400	92,800	104,300	-2,400	-13,900	101,100	106,000	114,400	-4,900	-13,300
Unemployment Rate	2.9%	2.9%	3.3%	0.0%	-0.4%	3.2%	3.3%	3.7%	-0.1%	-0.5%
National Rate	4.1%	4.1%	4.5%	0.0%	-0.4%	4.1%	4.4%	4.6%	-0.3%	-0.5%

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	
	Mar-18	Feb-18	Mar-17	1-Month	1-Year	Mar-18	Feb-18	Mar-17	1-Month	1-Year
Statewide	2,973,900	2,967,100	2,944,200	6,800	29,700	2,929,700	2,915,800	2,903,000	13,900	26,700
Appleton	126,400	126,100	125,300	300	1,100	124,400	123,900	123,200	500	1,200
Eau Claire	87,100	86,200	86,600	900	500	86,300	85,100	86,000	1,200	300
Fond du Lac	48,500	48,400	48,000	100	500	48,000	47,500	47,500	500	500
Green Bay	179,200	178,800	177,700	400	1,500	176,200	175,600	174,800	600	1,400
Janesville	69,300	69,300	68,300	0	1,000	68,300	68,000	67,400	300	900
La Crosse	80,400	80,100	79,000	300	1,400	79,900	79,400	78,700	500	1,200
Madison	405,600	404,500	401,600	1,100	4,000	402,200	399,900	397,100	2,300	5,100
Milwaukee-W. O.W.	877,800	876,400	869,700	1,400	8,100	866,800	861,800	860,100	5,000	6,700
Oshkosh-Neenah	98,400	98,400	97,400	0	1,000	97,500	97,500	96,600	0	900
Racine	78,200	78,500	78,100	-300	100	76,900	76,800	76,700	100	200
Sheboygan	63,600	63,500	62,300	100	1,300	62,400	61,900	61,000	500	1,400
Wausau	73,700	73,700	72,200	0	1,500	72,900	72,700	71,400	200	1,500

Source: Current Employment Statistics (CES)

MSA UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

	NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Mar-18	Feb-18	Mar-17	1-Month	1-Year
Wisconsin	3.2	3.3	3.7	-0.1	-0.5
Appleton	2.8	3.0	3.2	-0.2	-0.4
Eau Claire	3.2	3.3	3.6	-0.1	-0.4
Fond du Lac	2.7	3.0	3.0	-0.3	-0.3
Green Bay	3.0	3.3	3.4	-0.3	-0.4
Janesville	3.4	3.6	4.4	-0.2	-1.0
La Crosse	2.9	3.1	3.4	-0.2	-0.5
Madison	2.4	2.5	2.6	-0.1	-0.2
Milwaukee-W. O.W.	3.1	3.2	3.6	-0.1	-0.5
Oshkosh-Neenah	2.7	2.8	3.1	-0.1	-0.4
Racine	3.7	4.0	4.4	-0.3	-0.7
Sheboygan	2.6	2.7	2.9	-0.1	-0.3
Wausau	2.9	2.9	3.3	0.0	-0.4

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 March 2018

CITIES

CITY	Mar-18 RANK	Feb-18 RANK	Mar-18 RATE	Feb-18 RATE	Mar-17 RATE
Appleton	14	15	2.8	2.9	3.2
Beloit	31	31	4.2	4.2	5.7
Brookfield	9	7	2.7	2.7	2.9
Caledonia	25	22	3.4	3.3	3.7
Eau Claire	4	4	2.4	2.5	2.9
Fitchburg	1	1	2.0	2.1	2.4
Fond du Lac	14	19	2.8	3.1	3.0
Franklin	18	15	2.9	2.9	3.2
Green Bay	22	22	3.2	3.3	3.6
Greenfield	22	25	3.2	3.5	3.5
Janesville	24	24	3.3	3.4	4.1
Kenosha	29	30	3.9	4.1	4.5
La Crosse	9	10	2.7	2.8	3.3
Madison	2	1	2.1	2.1	2.3
Manitowoc	28	26	3.7	3.7	4.0
Menomonee Falls	4	4	2.4	2.5	2.8

CITY	Mar-18 RANK	Feb-18 RANK	Mar-18 RATE	Feb-18 RATE	Mar-17 RATE
Milwaukee	29	29	3.9	3.9	4.6
Mount Pleasant	20	21	3.1	3.2	3.7
Neenah	9	7	2.7	2.7	3.2
New Berlin	7	7	2.6	2.7	3.1
Oak Creek	7	10	2.6	2.8	3.1
Oshkosh	9	10	2.7	2.8	3.0
Racine	32	32	4.6	4.8	5.2
Sheboygan	14	15	2.8	2.9	3.2
Stevens Point	20	19	3.1	3.1	3.4
Sun Prairie	3	3	2.3	2.4	2.4
Superior	25	26	3.4	3.7	4.5
Waukesha	9	10	2.7	2.8	3.1
Wausau	18	18	2.9	3.0	3.3
Wauwatosa	6	6	2.5	2.6	2.9
West Allis	27	28	3.6	3.8	3.9
West Bend	14	10	2.8	2.8	3.2

COUNTIES

Alphabetical Order

COUNTY	Mar-18 RANK	Feb-18 RANK	Mar-18 RATE	Feb-18 RATE	Mar-17 RATE
Adams	66	70	5.5	6.3	6.5
Ashland	64	61	5.0	5.0	5.7
Barron	52	51	4.3	4.6	4.7
Bayfield	71	71	6.5	6.4	7.3
Brown	13	14	2.9	3.1	3.3
Buffalo	43	48	3.8	4.4	4.5
Burnett	69	69	5.6	6.0	6.6
Calumet	4	6	2.6	2.8	2.9
Chippewa	48	45	4.2	4.3	4.4
Clark	33	27	3.5	3.6	4.0
Columbia	18	16	3.0	3.2	3.4
Crawford	56	64	4.5	5.2	5.7
Dane	1	1	2.2	2.3	2.5
Dodge	13	16	2.9	3.2	3.4
Door	65	66	5.4	5.5	5.9
Douglas	56	53	4.5	4.7	5.3
Dunn	35	33	3.6	3.7	4.1
Eau Claire	4	6	2.6	2.8	3.1
Florence	52	57	4.3	4.9	5.9
Fond du Lac	9	12	2.7	3.0	3.0
Forest	66	66	5.5	5.5	6.5
Grant	22	27	3.2	3.6	3.9
Green	13	14	2.9	3.1	3.3
Green Lake	48	48	4.2	4.4	4.5
Iowa	22	27	3.2	3.6	3.7
Iron	72	72	6.8	7.1	7.8
Jackson	41	42	3.7	4.1	4.2
Jefferson	20	22	3.1	3.5	3.7
Juneau	35	33	3.6	3.7	4.2
Kenosha	35	39	3.6	3.9	4.2
Kewaunee	25	33	3.3	3.7	3.6
La Crosse	9	9	2.7	2.9	3.2
Lafayette	2	9	2.4	2.9	3.0
Langlade	55	54	4.4	4.8	5.0
Lincoln	35	33	3.6	3.7	4.4
Manitowoc	35	33	3.6	3.7	3.9

COUNTY	Mar-18 RANK	Feb-18 RANK	Mar-18 RATE	Feb-18 RATE	Mar-17 RATE
Marathon	13	9	2.9	2.9	3.3
Marinette	58	54	4.6	4.8	5.3
Marquette	44	57	4.1	4.9	4.6
Menominee	61	51	4.8	4.6	7.2
Milwaukee	33	27	3.5	3.6	4.1
Monroe	12	16	2.8	3.2	3.4
Oconto	44	45	4.1	4.3	4.5
Oneida	59	57	4.7	4.9	5.3
Outagamie	13	12	2.9	3.0	3.2
Ozaukee	2	2	2.4	2.5	2.8
Pepin	52	57	4.3	4.9	4.5
Pierce	35	40	3.6	4.0	4.0
Polk	59	61	4.7	5.0	5.1
Portage	29	22	3.4	3.5	3.6
Price	44	44	4.1	4.2	4.4
Racine	41	40	3.7	4.0	4.4
Richland	20	20	3.1	3.3	3.6
Rock	29	27	3.4	3.6	4.4
Rusk	61	54	4.8	4.8	5.9
Sauk	18	16	3.0	3.2	3.5
Sawyer	66	68	5.5	5.6	6.5
Shawano	29	27	3.4	3.6	4.0
Sheboygan	4	3	2.6	2.7	2.9
St. Croix	25	33	3.3	3.7	3.7
Taylor	48	45	4.2	4.3	4.8
Trempealeau	25	22	3.3	3.5	3.7
Vernon	29	22	3.4	3.5	3.8
Vilas	69	65	5.6	5.3	6.2
Walworth	22	22	3.2	3.5	3.8
Washburn	61	61	4.8	5.0	5.2
Washington	4	3	2.6	2.7	3.0
Waukesha	4	3	2.6	2.7	3.0
Waupaca	25	21	3.3	3.4	3.7
Waushara	48	48	4.2	4.4	4.7
Winnebago	9	6	2.7	2.8	3.1
Wood	44	42	4.1	4.1	4.5

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

Local Unemployment Rates March 2018

COUNTIES

Ascending Order

COUNTY	Mar-18 RATE	Feb-18 RATE	Mar-17 RATE	COUNTY	Mar-18 RATE	Feb-18 RATE	Mar-17 RATE
Dane	2.2	2.3	2.5	Manitowoc	3.6	3.9	4.2
Ozaukee	2.4	2.9	3.0	Shawano	3.6	3.7	4.4
Sheboygan	2.4	2.5	2.8	Kenosha	3.6	3.7	3.9
Washington	2.6	2.8	2.9	Pierce	3.6	4.0	4.0
Waukesha	2.6	2.8	3.1	Racine	3.7	4.1	4.2
Calumet	2.6	2.7	2.9	Jackson	3.7	4.0	4.4
Eau Claire	2.6	2.7	3.0	Price	3.8	4.4	4.5
Winnebago	2.6	2.7	3.0	Wood	4.1	4.9	4.6
La Crosse	2.7	3.0	3.0	Buffalo	4.1	4.3	4.5
Lafayette	2.7	2.9	3.2	Chippewa	4.1	4.2	4.4
Marathon	2.7	2.8	3.1	Oconto	4.1	4.1	4.5
Brown	2.8	3.2	3.4	Taylor	4.2	4.3	4.4
Fond du Lac	2.9	3.1	3.3	Green Lake	4.2	4.4	4.5
Outagamie	2.9	3.2	3.4	Waushara	4.2	4.3	4.8
Green	2.9	3.1	3.3	Barron	4.2	4.4	4.7
Columbia	2.9	2.9	3.3	Menominee	4.3	4.6	4.7
Dodge	2.9	3.0	3.2	Douglas	4.3	4.9	5.9
Monroe	3.0	3.2	3.4	Langlade	4.3	4.9	4.5
Sauk	3.0	3.2	3.5	Florence	4.4	4.8	5.0
Richland	3.1	3.5	3.7	Marinette	4.5	5.2	5.7
Waupaca	3.1	3.3	3.6	Rusk	4.5	4.7	5.3
Jefferson	3.2	3.6	3.9	Marquette	4.6	4.8	5.3
Portage	3.2	3.6	3.7	Oneida	4.7	4.9	5.3
Trempealeau	3.2	3.5	3.8	Pepin	4.7	5.0	5.1
Vernon	3.3	3.7	3.6	Ashland	4.8	4.6	7.2
Walworth	3.3	3.7	3.7	Polk	4.8	4.8	5.9
Clark	3.3	3.5	3.7	Washburn	4.8	5.0	5.2
Grant	3.3	3.4	3.7	Crawford	5.0	5.0	5.7
Iowa	3.4	3.5	3.6	Vilas	5.4	5.5	5.9
Milwaukee	3.4	3.6	4.4	Forest	5.5	6.3	6.5
Rock	3.4	3.6	4.0	Door	5.5	5.5	6.5
St. Croix	3.4	3.5	3.8	Sawyer	5.5	5.6	6.5
Dunn	3.5	3.6	4.0	Burnett	5.6	6.0	6.6
Juneau	3.5	3.6	4.1	Adams	5.6	5.3	6.2
Kewaunee	3.6	3.7	4.1	Bayfield	6.5	6.4	7.3
Lincoln	3.6	3.7	4.2	Iron	6.8	7.1	7.8