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

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Year Over Year Unemployment Rates Decline Or Hold Steady In All 12 Wisconsin Metro Areas For 58th Consecutive Month

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 July 2018 and preliminary estimates for August 2018. Unemployment rates are not seasonally adjusted. The estimates show:

- **Metropolitan Statistical Areas:** Preliminary August 2018 unemployment rates declined or remained unchanged in all 12 of Wisconsin's metro areas over the year from August 2017 to August 2018. The rates ranged from 2.3 percent in the Madison MSA to 4.0 percent in the Racine MSA. This marks the 58th consecutive month in which unemployment rates in the 12 Wisconsin MSAs have dropped or remained unchanged when compared to the same month in the prior year. The last month in which this trend did not occur was October 2013.
- **Municipalities:** Preliminary August 2018 unemployment rates declined or stayed the same in 31 of Wisconsin's 32 largest cities over the year from August 2017 to August 2018. Racine experienced the largest decline over the year, 1.2 percentage points, with Superior and West Allis having the next largest declines of 0.9 percentage points. The rates ranged from 2.2 percent in Fitchburg to 5.0 percent in the City of Racine.
- **Counties:** Preliminary August 2018 unemployment rates declined or stayed the same over the year from August 2017 to August 2018 in 67 of Wisconsin's 72 counties. Florence County had the largest unemployment rate decline over the year, dropping 1.2 percentage points to 3.2 percent. Douglas County had the next largest decline year over year, dropping 0.8 percentage points to 3.7 percent.

The release of August 2018 local rates follows last week's release of BLS monthly statewide estimates which showed that Wisconsin maintained a seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 3 percent or lower for the seventh consecutive month, setting another record. The data also showed that Wisconsin's addition of 22,500 manufacturing jobs from August 2017 to August 2018 ranked 2nd nationally and was tops in the Midwest.

When compared to other states, Wisconsin continues to rank in the top 10 nationally in numerous measurements:

- Wisconsin addition of 7,500 manufacturing jobs from June 2018 through August ranked 1st nationally.
- Wisconsin labor force participation rate of 68.8 percent was the 5th highest rate in the country.
- Wisconsin's historically low unemployment rate of 3 percent was the 10th lowest rate in the nation.

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 accessed on the Bureau of Labor Statistics website.

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Labor Force and Employment Estimates August 2018

STATEWIDE LABOR FORCE

	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER		PRELIM	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Aug-18	Jul-18	Aug-17	1-Month	1-Year	Aug-18	Jul-18	Aug-17	1-Month	1-Year
Total labor force	3,178,200	3,183,100	3,160,100	-4,900	18,100	3,175,100	3,216,800	3,176,700	-41,700	-1,600
Employment	3,083,200	3,090,000	3,055,100	-6,800	28,100	3,077,000	3,114,900	3,070,300	-37,900	6,700
Unemployment	95,000	93,100	105,000	1,900	-10,000	98,000	101,900	106,400	-3,900	-8,400
Unemployment Rate	3.0%	2.9%	3.3%	0.1%	-0.3%	3.1%	3.2%	3.3%	-0.1%	-0.2%
National Rate	3.9%	3.9%	4.4%	0.0%	-0.5%	3.9%	4.1%	4.5%	-0.2%	-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	
	Aug-18	Jul-18	Aug-17	1-Month	1-Year	Aug-18	Jul-18	Aug-17	1-Month	1-Year
Statewide	2,987,700	2,984,700	2,943,500	3,000	44,200	3,004,300	3,009,800	2,961,300	-5,500	43,000
Appleton	127,300	127,100	125,200	200	2,100	128,900	128,500	126,400	400	2,500
Eau Claire	87,800	88,200	86,400	-400	1,400	87,700	87,900	86,100	-200	1,600
Fond du Lac	48,600	48,800	47,900	-200	700	48,800	49,100	48,000	-300	800
Green Bay	179,600	180,500	178,600	-900	1,000	181,600	181,900	180,000	-300	1,600
Janesville	69,500	69,300	69,000	200	500	70,000	70,500	69,600	-500	400
La Crosse	80,300	80,600	78,600	-300	1,700	79,200	79,800	77,400	-600	1,800
Madison	406,600	407,300	401,200	-700	5,400	406,100	407,500	401,500	-1,400	4,600
Milwaukee-W.O.W.	873,200	874,100	866,400	-900	6,800	880,400	880,000	873,100	400	7,300
Oshkosh-Neenah	98,300	98,400	97,900	-100	400	98,100	98,300	97,800	-200	300
Racine	77,900	77,900	77,900	0	0	78,900	79,000	78,600	-100	300
Sheboygan	63,900	64,200	62,600	-300	1,300	65,300	65,600	63,900	-300	1,400
Wausau	74,600	74,200	72,100	400	2,500	74,900	74,300	72,300	600	2,600

Source: Current Employment Statistics (CES)

MSA UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

	NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Aug-18	Jul-18	Aug-17	1-Month	1-Year
Wisconsin	3.1	3.2	3.3	-0.1	-0.2
Appleton	2.8	2.9	2.9	-0.1	-0.1
Eau Claire	2.7	2.9	3.1	-0.2	-0.4
Fond du Lac	2.9	3.0	3.0	-0.1	-0.1
Green Bay	2.9	3.0	2.9	-0.1	0.0
Janesville	3.3	3.3	3.7	0.0	-0.4
La Crosse	2.6	2.8	2.9	-0.2	-0.3
Madison	2.3	2.4	2.4	-0.1	-0.1
Milwaukee-W.O.W.	3.6	3.6	3.9	0.0	-0.3
Oshkosh-Neenah	3.0	3.0	3.2	0.0	-0.2
Racine	4.0	4.0	4.6	0.0	-0.6
Sheboygan	2.5	2.6	2.7	-0.1	-0.2
Wausau	2.7	2.8	3.1	-0.1	-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 August 2018

CITIES

CITY	Aug-18 RANK	Jul-18 RANK	Aug-18 RATE	Jul-18 RATE	Aug-17 RATE
Appleton	15	14	3.1	3.2	3.4
Beloit	29	30	4.4	4.4	5.0
Brookfield	7	7	2.9	3.0	3.0
Caledonia	26	26	3.6	3.7	3.8
Eau Claire	5	5	2.7	2.9	3.1
Fitchburg	1	1	2.2	2.4	2.3
Fond du Lac	22	17	3.3	3.3	3.4
Franklin	11	14	3.0	3.2	3.2
Green Bay	17	17	3.2	3.3	3.2
Greenfield	22	17	3.3	3.3	3.8
Janesville	17	12	3.2	3.1	3.4
Kenosha	30	29	4.5	4.1	4.5
La Crosse	7	17	2.9	3.3	3.2
Madison	2	1	2.3	2.4	2.3
Manitowoc	22	23	3.3	3.4	4.0
Menomonee Falls	4	4	2.6	2.7	2.9

CITY	Aug-18 RANK	Jul-18 RANK	Aug-18 RATE	Jul-18 RATE	Aug-17 RATE
Milwaukee	31	31	4.7	4.8	5.2
Mount Pleasant	27	26	3.7	3.7	4.2
Neenah	17	7	3.2	3.0	3.4
New Berlin	11	7	3.0	3.0	2.9
Oak Creek	17	12	3.2	3.1	3.2
Oshkosh	11	14	3.0	3.2	3.2
Racine	32	32	5.0	5.1	6.2
Sheboygan	6	7	2.8	3.0	3.1
Stevens Point	7	24	2.9	3.5	3.0
Sun Prairie	3	3	2.5	2.5	2.6
Superior	27	28	3.7	3.9	4.6
Waukesha	17	17	3.2	3.3	3.4
Wausau	11	17	3.0	3.3	3.7
Wauwatosa	15	5	3.1	2.9	3.1
West Allis	25	25	3.5	3.6	4.4
West Bend	7	7	2.9	3.0	3.1

COUNTIES Alphabetical Order

COUNTY	Aug-18 RANK	Jul-18 RANK	Aug-18 RATE	Jul-18 RATE	Aug-17 RATE
Adams	68	69	4.3	4.6	5.0
Ashland	63	67	4.0	4.4	4.6
Barron	46	29	3.1	3.0	3.0
Bayfield	69	64	4.4	4.2	4.6
Brown	29	29	2.9	3.0	2.9
Buffalo	55	49	3.5	3.3	3.5
Burnett	61	58	3.8	3.7	4.3
Calumet	7	17	2.5	2.8	2.7
Chippewa	29	17	2.9	2.8	3.2
Clark	7	10	2.5	2.7	2.6
Columbia	14	17	2.6	2.8	2.8
Crawford	53	54	3.4	3.4	3.8
Dane	2	3	2.3	2.4	2.4
Dodge	14	10	2.6	2.7	2.8
Door	14	8	2.6	2.6	2.6
Douglas	57	61	3.7	3.8	4.5
Dunn	29	46	2.9	3.2	3.1
Eau Claire	14	25	2.6	2.9	3.0
Florence	49	41	3.2	3.1	4.4
Fond du Lac	29	29	2.9	3.0	3.0
Forest	70	70	4.5	4.8	5.1
Grant	26	41	2.8	3.1	3.1
Green	7	5	2.5	2.5	2.5
Green Lake	49	46	3.2	3.2	3.5
Iowa	1	3	2.1	2.4	2.6
Iron	71	71	5.4	5.2	5.9
Jackson	20	25	2.7	2.9	2.9
Jefferson	26	29	2.8	3.0	3.0
Juneau	20	17	2.7	2.8	3.2
Kenosha	62	61	3.9	3.8	4.2
Kewaunee	20	10	2.7	2.7	3.0
La Crosse	14	17	2.6	2.8	2.9
Lafayette	4	1	2.4	2.3	2.3
Langlade	63	68	4.0	4.5	4.4
Lincoln	51	49	3.3	3.3	3.7
Manitowoc	38	29	3.0	3.0	3.5

COUNTY	Aug-18 RANK	Jul-18 RANK	Aug-18 RATE	Jul-18 RATE	Aug-17 RATE
Marathon	20	17	2.7	2.8	3.1
Marinette	67	66	4.2	4.3	4.5
Marquette	46	41	3.1	3.1	3.5
Menominee	72	72	8.1	7.9	7.4
Milwaukee	66	64	4.1	4.2	4.6
Monroe	7	10	2.5	2.7	2.8
Oconto	46	41	3.1	3.1	3.2
Oneida	26	25	2.8	2.9	3.4
Outagamie	29	29	2.9	3.0	3.0
Ozaukee	20	17	2.7	2.8	2.9
Pepin	7	10	2.5	2.7	3.1
Pierce	29	29	2.9	3.0	3.1
Polk	38	25	3.0	2.9	3.1
Portage	29	49	2.9	3.3	2.9
Price	57	58	3.7	3.7	3.6
Racine	63	63	4.0	4.0	4.6
Richland	14	10	2.6	2.7	2.6
Rock	51	49	3.3	3.3	3.7
Rusk	56	55	3.6	3.6	3.9
Sauk	2	1	2.3	2.3	2.5
Sawyer	57	55	3.7	3.6	4.1
Shawano	38	29	3.0	3.0	3.0
Sheboygan	7	8	2.5	2.6	2.7
St. Croix	29	29	2.9	3.0	2.9
Taylor	4	5	2.4	2.5	2.7
Trempealeau	7	17	2.5	2.8	2.8
Vernon	4	5	2.4	2.5	2.7
Vilas	38	46	3.0	3.2	3.5
Walworth	38	41	3.0	3.1	3.3
Washburn	57	55	3.7	3.6	3.6
Washington	20	10	2.7	2.7	2.9
Waukesha	29	29	2.9	3.0	3.1
Waupaca	38	29	3.0	3.0	3.1
Waushara	38	49	3.0	3.3	3.6
Winnebago	38	29	3.0	3.0	3.2
Wood	53	58	3.4	3.7	3.9

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

Local Unemployment Rates August 2018

COUNTIES

Ascending Order

COUNTY	Aug-18 RATE	Jul-18 RATE	Aug-17 RATE	COUNTY	Aug-18 RATE	Jul-18 RATE	Aug-17 RATE
Iowa	2.1	2.4	2.6	Waukesha	2.9	3.0	3.1
Dane	2.3	2.4	2.4	Manitowoc	3.0	3.0	3.5
Sauk	2.3	2.3	2.5	Polk	3.0	2.9	3.1
Lafayette	2.4	2.3	2.3	Shawano	3.0	3.0	3.0
Taylor	2.4	2.5	2.7	Vilas	3.0	3.2	3.5
Vernon	2.4	2.5	2.7	Walworth	3.0	3.1	3.3
Calumet	2.5	2.8	2.7	Waupaca	3.0	3.0	3.1
Clark	2.5	2.7	2.6	Waushara	3.0	3.3	3.6
Green	2.5	2.5	2.5	Winnebago	3.0	3.0	3.2
Monroe	2.5	2.7	2.8	Barron	3.1	3.0	3.0
Pepin	2.5	2.7	3.1	Marquette	3.1	3.1	3.5
Sheboygan	2.5	2.6	2.7	Oconto	3.1	3.1	3.2
Trempealeau	2.5	2.8	2.8	Florence	3.2	3.1	4.4
Columbia	2.6	2.8	2.8	Green Lake	3.2	3.2	3.5
Dodge	2.6	2.7	2.8	Lincoln	3.3	3.3	3.7
Door	2.6	2.6	2.6	Rock	3.3	3.3	3.7
Eau Claire	2.6	2.9	3.0	Crawford	3.4	3.4	3.8
La Crosse	2.6	2.8	2.9	Wood	3.4	3.7	3.9
Richland	2.6	2.7	2.6	Buffalo	3.5	3.3	3.5
Jackson	2.7	2.9	2.9	Rusk	3.6	3.6	3.9
Juneau	2.7	2.8	3.2	Douglas	3.7	3.8	4.5
Kewaunee	2.7	2.7	3.0	Price	3.7	3.7	3.6
Marathon	2.7	2.8	3.1	Sawyer	3.7	3.6	4.1
Ozaukee	2.7	2.8	2.9	Washburn	3.7	3.6	3.6
Washington	2.7	2.7	2.9	Burnett	3.8	3.7	4.3
Grant	2.8	3.1	3.1	Kenosha	3.9	3.8	4.2
Jefferson	2.8	3.0	3.0	Ashland	4.0	4.4	4.6
Oneida	2.8	2.9	3.4	Langlade	4.0	4.5	4.4
Brown	2.9	3.0	2.9	Racine	4.0	4.0	4.6
Chippewa	2.9	2.8	3.2	Milwaukee	4.1	4.2	4.6
Dunn	2.9	3.2	3.1	Marinette	4.2	4.3	4.5
Fond du Lac	2.9	3.0	3.0	Adams	4.3	4.6	5.0
Outagamie	2.9	3.0	3.0	Bayfield	4.4	4.2	4.6
Pierce	2.9	3.0	3.1	Forest	4.5	4.8	5.1
Portage	2.9	3.3	2.9	Iron	5.4	5.2	5.9
St. Croix	2.9	3.0	2.9	Menominee	8.1	7.9	7.4