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Year Over Year Unemployment Rates Decline Or Hold Steady In All 12 Wisconsin Metro Areas For 59th 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 August 2018 and preliminary estimates for September 2018. Unemployment rates are not seasonally adjusted. The estimates show:

- **Metropolitan Statistical Areas:** Preliminary September 2018 unemployment rates declined in all 12 of Wisconsin's metro areas over the year from September 2017 to September 2018. This marks the 59th 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. The La Crosse-Onalaska MSA registered its record low unemployment rate for any month at 2.0 percent. The Janesville-Beloit MSA tied its record low unemployment rate for any month at 2.8 percent. Two other Wisconsin metro areas set or tied their lowest September unemployment rate on record.
- **Municipalities:** Preliminary September 2018 unemployment rates declined or stayed the same in all 32 of Wisconsin's largest cities over the year from September 2017 to September 2018. The largest declines were registered in Greenfield and Manitowoc (0.7 percentage points) and Superior, Sheboygan, Beloit and Racine (0.6 percentage points). Five of Wisconsin's largest cities, Beloit (3.2 percent), Fond du Lac (2.3 percent), Green Bay (2.6 percent), La Crosse (2.2 percent) and Manitowoc (2.8 percent) registered or tied all-time low unemployment rates for any month. Seventeen of Wisconsin's 32 largest cities set or tied their lowest September unemployment rate on record.
- **Counties:** Preliminary September 2018 unemployment rates declined from September 2017 to September 2018 in 71 of Wisconsin's 72 counties, with 23 counties setting or tying their all-time record low unemployment rate for any month.

The release of September 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 eighth consecutive month, setting another record. The data also showed that Wisconsin's addition of 22,800 manufacturing jobs from September 2017 to September 2018 ranked 2nd nationally and was No. 1 in the Midwest.

Other highlights of those rankings included:

- Wisconsin's labor force participation rate of 68.6 percent was the seventh highest in the country.
- Wisconsin's historically low unemployment rate of 3 percent was tied for the 10th lowest in the nation.
- Wisconsin ranked 15th nationally and 2nd in the Midwest in number of construction jobs added in the past year.

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 September 2018

STATEWIDE LABOR FORCE

	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM Sep-18	FINAL Aug-18	YEAR AGO Sep-17	NET CHANGE OVER		PRELIM Sep-18	FINAL Aug-18	YEAR AGO Sep-17	NET CHANGE OVER	
				1-Month	1-Year				1-Month	1-Year
Total labor force	3,170,500	3,178,100	3,160,500	-7,600	10,000	3,147,400	3,174,700	3,166,600	-27,300	-19,200
Employment	3,075,500	3,083,000	3,056,900	-7,500	18,600	3,067,000	3,075,900	3,074,500	-8,900	-7,500
Unemployment	95,100	95,100	103,600	0	-8,500	80,400	98,800	92,100	-18,400	-11,700
Unemployment Rate	3.0%	3.0%	3.3%	0.0%	-0.3%	2.6%	3.1%	2.9%	-0.5%	-0.3%
National Rate	3.7%	3.9%	4.2%	-0.2%	-0.5%	3.6%	3.9%	4.1%	-0.3%	-0.5%

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

MSA EMPLOYMENT

	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM Sep-18	FINAL Aug-18	YEAR AGO Sep-17	NET CHANGE OVER		PRELIM Sep-18	FINAL Aug-18	YEAR AGO Sep-17	NET CHANGE OVER	
				1-Month	1-Year				1-Month	1-Year
Statewide	2,985,200	2,986,300	2,943,500	-1,100	41,700	2,999,100	3,004,200	2,957,000	-5,100	42,100
Appleton	127,900	127,500	125,200	400	2,700	127,800	129,000	125,100	-1,200	2,700
Eau Claire	87,800	88,000	86,200	-200	1,600	88,000	88,200	87,000	-200	1,000
Fond du Lac	48,900	48,700	48,000	200	900	49,100	48,900	48,600	200	500
Green Bay	181,100	180,200	178,700	900	2,400	182,200	182,100	179,200	100	3,000
Janesville	68,800	69,000	68,800	-200	0	68,700	69,600	69,000	-900	-300
La Crosse	80,400	80,300	78,500	100	1,900	80,400	79,200	78,800	1,200	1,600
Madison	408,600	406,700	401,100	1,900	7,500	410,000	406,100	401,900	3,900	8,100
Milwaukee-W.O.W.	871,600	872,100	865,700	-500	5,900	874,500	878,800	868,800	-4,300	5,700
Oshkosh-Neenah	98,300	98,200	97,600	100	700	98,400	97,800	97,600	600	800
Racine	77,800	78,000	77,800	-200	0	78,100	79,100	77,900	-1,000	200
Sheboygan	64,600	64,000	62,600	600	2,000	64,900	65,400	63,100	-500	1,800
Wausau	74,300	74,500	71,900	-200	2,400	74,000	74,900	72,100	-900	1,900

Source: Current Employment Statistics (CES)

MSA UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

	NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM Sep-18	FINAL Aug-18	YEAR AGO Sep-17	NET CHANGE OVER	
				1-Month	1-Year
Wisconsin	2.6	3.1	2.9	-0.5	-0.3
Appleton	2.3	2.8	2.6	-0.5	-0.3
Eau Claire	2.3	2.7	2.7	-0.4	-0.4
Fond du Lac	2.1	2.9	2.4	-0.8	-0.3
Green Bay	2.3	2.9	2.7	-0.6	-0.4
Janesville	2.8	3.4	3.2	-0.6	-0.4
La Crosse	2.0	2.6	2.6	-0.6	-0.6
Madison	2.0	2.3	2.3	-0.3	-0.3
Milwaukee-W.O.W.	3.0	3.6	3.3	-0.6	-0.3
Oshkosh-Neenah	2.3	3.0	2.7	-0.7	-0.4
Racine	3.3	4.0	3.7	-0.7	-0.4
Sheboygan	2.1	2.6	2.5	-0.5	-0.4
Wausau	2.2	2.7	2.7	-0.5	-0.5

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 September 2018

CITIES

CITY	Sep-18 RANK	Aug-18 RANK	Sep-18 RATE	Aug-18 RATE	Sep-17 RATE
Appleton	10	13	2.5	3.1	3.0
Beloit	29	29	3.2	4.5	3.8
Brookfield	11	7	2.6	2.9	2.9
Caledonia	24	25	3.0	3.5	3.3
Eau Claire	4	5	2.2	2.7	2.5
Fitchburg	1	1	1.9	2.2	2.1
Fond du Lac	6	18	2.3	3.3	2.7
Franklin	24	13	3.0	3.1	3.2
Green Bay	11	18	2.6	3.3	2.9
Greenfield	21	18	2.8	3.3	3.5
Janesville	26	18	3.1	3.3	3.3
Kenosha	30	29	3.6	4.5	3.9
La Crosse	4	7	2.2	2.9	2.7
Madison	2	2	2.0	2.3	2.2
Manitowoc	21	18	2.8	3.3	3.5
Menomonee Falls	6	4	2.3	2.6	2.7

CITY	Sep-18 RANK	Aug-18 RANK	Sep-18 RATE	Aug-18 RATE	Sep-17 RATE
Milwaukee	31	31	3.8	4.7	4.3
Mount Pleasant	26	27	3.1	3.7	3.1
Neenah	18	18	2.7	3.3	2.8
New Berlin	11	10	2.6	3.0	2.8
Oak Creek	18	17	2.7	3.2	3.0
Oshkosh	9	13	2.4	3.1	2.8
Racine	32	32	4.2	5.1	4.8
Sheboygan	6	6	2.3	2.8	2.9
Stevens Point	11	7	2.6	2.9	2.7
Sun Prairie	2	3	2.0	2.5	2.3
Superior	23	28	2.9	3.8	3.5
Waukesha	11	18	2.6	3.3	2.7
Wausau	11	10	2.6	3.0	3.0
Wauwatosa	18	13	2.7	3.1	2.8
West Allis	26	26	3.1	3.6	3.6
West Bend	11	10	2.6	3.0	2.9

COUNTIES

Alphabetical Order

COUNTY	Sep-18 RANK	Aug-18 RANK	Sep-18 RATE	Aug-18 RATE	Sep-17 RATE
Adams	60	67	3.1	4.3	4.1
Ashland	60	63	3.1	4.0	3.6
Barron	39	45	2.5	3.1	2.7
Bayfield	60	69	3.1	4.4	3.6
Brown	21	28	2.3	2.9	2.6
Buffalo	46	55	2.6	3.6	3.0
Burnett	67	59	3.4	3.8	3.8
Calumet	15	7	2.2	2.5	2.5
Chippewa	29	28	2.4	2.9	2.9
Clark	5	7	2.0	2.5	2.4
Columbia	9	20	2.1	2.7	2.5
Crawford	46	54	2.6	3.5	3.2
Dane	3	2	1.9	2.3	2.3
Dodge	9	12	2.1	2.6	2.4
Door	21	12	2.3	2.6	2.6
Douglas	56	56	2.9	3.7	3.6
Dunn	15	28	2.2	2.9	2.6
Eau Claire	15	12	2.2	2.6	2.5
Florence	67	48	3.4	3.2	3.7
Fond du Lac	9	28	2.1	2.9	2.4
Forest	70	70	3.6	4.5	4.2
Grant	15	24	2.2	2.8	2.6
Green	5	7	2.0	2.5	2.2
Green Lake	29	48	2.4	3.2	3.0
Iowa	1	1	1.8	2.1	2.3
Iron	71	71	4.6	5.4	5.0
Jackson	39	20	2.5	2.7	2.7
Jefferson	21	24	2.3	2.8	2.7
Juneau	46	20	2.6	2.7	2.7
Kenosha	64	62	3.2	3.9	3.5
Kewaunee	15	12	2.2	2.6	2.9
La Crosse	9	12	2.1	2.6	2.6
Lafayette	1	4	1.8	2.4	2.2
Langlade	58	65	3.0	4.1	3.4
Lincoln	29	51	2.4	3.3	2.9
Manitowoc	39	37	2.5	3.0	3.1

COUNTY	Sep-18 RANK	Aug-18 RANK	Sep-18 RATE	Aug-18 RATE	Sep-17 RATE
Marathon	15	20	2.2	2.7	2.7
Marinette	65	67	3.3	4.3	3.8
Marquette	39	48	2.5	3.2	3.0
Menominee	72	72	5.5	8.4	5.0
Milwaukee	69	66	3.5	4.2	3.8
Monroe	29	12	2.4	2.6	2.6
Oconto	39	45	2.5	3.1	2.9
Oneida	46	28	2.6	2.9	2.9
Outagamie	21	28	2.3	2.9	2.6
Ozaukee	29	24	2.4	2.8	2.6
Pepin	21	7	2.3	2.5	2.6
Pierce	39	28	2.5	2.9	2.7
Polk	46	37	2.6	3.0	2.8
Portage	29	37	2.4	3.0	2.5
Price	60	56	3.1	3.7	3.3
Racine	65	63	3.3	4.0	3.7
Richland	21	12	2.3	2.6	2.6
Rock	54	52	2.8	3.4	3.2
Rusk	58	59	3.0	3.8	3.6
Sauk	5	2	2.0	2.3	2.5
Sawyer	56	59	2.9	3.8	3.4
Shawano	29	37	2.4	3.0	2.7
Sheboygan	9	12	2.1	2.6	2.5
St. Croix	29	28	2.4	2.9	2.6
Taylor	3	4	1.9	2.4	2.5
Trempealeau	9	7	2.1	2.5	2.6
Vernon	5	4	2.0	2.4	2.6
Vilas	51	45	2.7	3.1	3.3
Walworth	29	37	2.4	3.0	2.8
Washburn	54	56	2.8	3.7	2.9
Washington	21	24	2.3	2.8	2.6
Waukesha	29	28	2.4	2.9	2.7
Waupaca	39	37	2.5	3.0	2.8
Waushara	51	37	2.7	3.0	3.1
Winnebago	21	37	2.3	3.0	2.7
Wood	51	52	2.7	3.4	3.1

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

Local Unemployment Rates September 2018

COUNTIES

Ascending Order

COUNTY	Sep-18 RATE	Aug-18 RATE	Sep-17 RATE	COUNTY	Sep-18 RATE	Aug-18 RATE	Sep-17 RATE
Iowa	1.8	2.1	2.3	Walworth	2.4	3.0	2.8
Lafayette	1.8	2.4	2.2	Waukesha	2.4	2.9	2.7
Dane	1.9	2.3	2.3	Barron	2.5	3.1	2.7
Taylor	1.9	2.4	2.5	Jackson	2.5	2.7	2.7
Clark	2.0	2.5	2.4	Manitowoc	2.5	3.0	3.1
Green	2.0	2.5	2.2	Marquette	2.5	3.2	3.0
Sauk	2.0	2.3	2.5	Oconto	2.5	3.1	2.9
Vernon	2.0	2.4	2.6	Pierce	2.5	2.9	2.7
Columbia	2.1	2.7	2.5	Waupaca	2.5	3.0	2.8
Dodge	2.1	2.6	2.4	Buffalo	2.6	3.6	3.0
Fond du Lac	2.1	2.9	2.4	Crawford	2.6	3.5	3.2
La Crosse	2.1	2.6	2.6	Juneau	2.6	2.7	2.7
Sheboygan	2.1	2.6	2.5	Oneida	2.6	2.9	2.9
Trempealeau	2.1	2.5	2.6	Polk	2.6	3.0	2.8
Calumet	2.2	2.5	2.5	Vilas	2.7	3.1	3.3
Dunn	2.2	2.9	2.6	Waushara	2.7	3.0	3.1
Eau Claire	2.2	2.6	2.5	Wood	2.7	3.4	3.1
Grant	2.2	2.8	2.6	Rock	2.8	3.4	3.2
Kewaunee	2.2	2.6	2.9	Washburn	2.8	3.7	2.9
Marathon	2.2	2.7	2.7	Douglas	2.9	3.7	3.6
Brown	2.3	2.9	2.6	Sawyer	2.9	3.8	3.4
Door	2.3	2.6	2.6	Langlade	3.0	4.1	3.4
Jefferson	2.3	2.8	2.7	Rusk	3.0	3.8	3.6
Outagamie	2.3	2.9	2.6	Adams	3.1	4.3	4.1
Pepin	2.3	2.5	2.6	Ashland	3.1	4.0	3.6
Richland	2.3	2.6	2.6	Bayfield	3.1	4.4	3.6
Washington	2.3	2.8	2.6	Price	3.1	3.7	3.3
Winnebago	2.3	3.0	2.7	Kenosha	3.2	3.9	3.5
Chippewa	2.4	2.9	2.9	Marinette	3.3	4.3	3.8
Green Lake	2.4	3.2	3.0	Racine	3.3	4.0	3.7
Lincoln	2.4	3.3	2.9	Burnett	3.4	3.8	3.8
Monroe	2.4	2.6	2.6	Florence	3.4	3.2	3.7
Ozaukee	2.4	2.8	2.6	Milwaukee	3.5	4.2	3.8
Portage	2.4	3.0	2.5	Forest	3.6	4.5	4.2
Shawano	2.4	3.0	2.7	Iron	4.6	5.4	5.0
St. Croix	2.4	2.9	2.6	Menominee	5.5	8.4	5.0