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5 Years and Counting: Unemployment Rates Decline Or Hold Steady In All 12 WI Metro Areas For 60th 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 September 2018 and preliminary estimates for October 2018. Unemployment rates are not seasonally adjusted. The estimates show:

- **Metropolitan Statistical Areas:** Preliminary October 2018 year-over-year unemployment rates declined in all 12 of Wisconsin's metro areas compared to October 2017. This marks the 60th 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 Janesville-Beloit MSA tied its record low unemployment rate for any month since 1990 at 2.8 percent.
- **Municipalities:** Preliminary October 2018 year-over-year unemployment rates declined or stayed the same in 31 of Wisconsin's 32 largest cities compared to October 2017. Fifteen of Wisconsin's 32 largest cities set or tied their lowest October unemployment rate on record.
- **Counties:** Compared to October 2017, preliminary October 2018 year-over-year unemployment rates declined or remained unchanged in 64 of Wisconsin's 72 counties, with 21 counties setting or tying their all-time record low unemployment rate for October.

The release of October 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 ninth consecutive month, setting another record. The data also showed that Wisconsin's addition of 20,000 manufacturing jobs from October 2017 to October 2018 ranked 2nd nationally and was No. 1 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 accessed on the [WisConomy](#) website.

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Labor Force and Employment Estimates October 2018

STATEWIDE LABOR FORCE

	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM Oct-18	FINAL Sep-18	YEAR AGO Oct-17	NET CHANGE OVER		PRELIM Oct-18	FINAL Sep-18	YEAR AGO Oct-17	NET CHANGE OVER	
				1-Month	1-Year				1-Month	1-Year
Total labor force	3,163,800	3,170,500	3,159,800	-6,700	4,000	3,148,800	3,147,200	3,159,100	1,600	-10,300
Employment	3,068,700	3,075,400	3,058,000	-6,700	10,700	3,067,200	3,066,500	3,072,800	700	-5,600
Unemployment	95,100	95,100	101,800	0	-6,700	81,700	80,700	86,300	1,000	-4,600
Unemployment Rate	3.0%	3.0%	3.2%	0.0%	-0.2%	2.6%	2.6%	2.7%	0.0%	-0.1%
National Rate	3.7%	3.7%	4.1%	0.0%	-0.4%	3.5%	3.6%	3.9%	-0.1%	-0.4%

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

MSA EMPLOYMENT

	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM Oct-18	FINAL Sep-18	YEAR AGO Oct-17	NET CHANGE OVER		PRELIM Oct-18	FINAL Sep-18	YEAR AGO Oct-17	NET CHANGE OVER	
				1-Month	1-Year				1-Month	1-Year
Statewide	2,978,700	2,982,200	2,947,200	-3,500	31,500	3,011,000	2,996,900	2,979,500	14,100	31,500
Appleton	127,500	127,800	125,100	-300	2,400	128,300	127,900	126,000	400	2,300
Eau Claire	87,400	87,800	86,100	-400	1,300	88,600	88,100	87,500	500	1,100
Fond du Lac	49,200	49,100	48,200	100	1,000	49,700	49,400	48,600	300	1,100
Green Bay	180,600	180,700	177,900	-100	2,700	182,700	181,600	179,900	1,100	2,800
Janesville	68,500	68,600	68,600	-100	-100	68,600	68,500	68,900	100	-300
La Crosse	80,200	80,500	79,200	-300	1,000	81,400	80,600	80,400	800	1,000
Madison	407,900	408,800	402,200	-900	5,700	412,400	410,600	406,900	1,800	5,500
Milwaukee-W.O.W.	874,000	873,100	865,600	900	8,400	879,800	875,800	872,400	4,000	7,400
Oshkosh-Neenah	98,800	98,700	98,100	100	700	99,800	98,800	99,100	1,000	700
Racine	78,000	77,900	77,500	100	500	78,500	78,300	78,000	200	500
Sheboygan	64,200	64,300	63,000	-100	1,200	64,300	64,600	63,100	-300	1,200
Wausau	74,300	74,300	72,400	0	1,900	74,600	74,100	72,800	500	1,800

Source: Current Employment Statistics (CES)

MSA UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

	NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM Oct-18	FINAL Sep-18	YEAR AGO Oct-17	NET CHANGE OVER	
				1-Month	1-Year
Wisconsin	2.6	2.6	2.7	0.0	-0.1
Appleton	2.3	2.3	2.7	0.0	-0.4
Eau Claire	2.4	2.3	2.5	0.1	-0.1
Fond du Lac	2.2	2.1	2.3	0.1	-0.1
Green Bay	2.4	2.4	2.5	0.0	-0.1
Janesville	2.8	2.9	3.0	-0.1	-0.2
La Crosse	2.2	2.1	2.4	0.1	-0.2
Madison	2.1	2.0	2.2	0.1	-0.1
Milwaukee-W.O.W.	3.0	3.0	3.1	0.0	-0.1
Oshkosh-Neenah	2.4	2.3	2.6	0.1	-0.2
Racine	3.2	3.3	3.4	-0.1	-0.2
Sheboygan	2.2	2.1	2.4	0.1	-0.2
Wausau	2.3	2.2	2.4	0.1	-0.1

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 October 2018

CITIES

CITY	Oct-18 RANK	Sep-18 RANK	Oct-18 RATE	Sep-18 RATE	Oct-17 RATE
Appleton	13	11	2.6	2.6	2.9
Beloit	29	28	3.3	3.2	3.6
Brookfield	18	16	2.7	2.7	2.7
Caledonia	21	22	2.8	2.9	3.0
Eau Claire	4	4	2.3	2.2	2.5
Fitchburg	1	1	2.0	1.9	2.1
Fond du Lac	9	6	2.5	2.3	2.6
Franklin	21	25	2.8	3.0	3.1
Green Bay	13	10	2.6	2.5	2.7
Greenfield	25	21	3.0	2.8	3.1
Janesville	24	26	2.9	3.1	3.1
Kenosha	30	30	3.4	3.6	3.6
La Crosse	5	4	2.4	2.2	2.6
Madison	2	2	2.1	2.0	2.1
Manitowoc	21	22	2.8	2.9	3.3
Menomonee Falls	9	6	2.5	2.3	2.5

CITY	Oct-18 RANK	Sep-18 RANK	Oct-18 RATE	Sep-18 RATE	Oct-17 RATE
Milwaukee	31	31	3.7	3.8	3.9
Mount Pleasant	26	28	3.1	3.2	3.1
Neenah	5	16	2.4	2.7	2.7
New Berlin	18	16	2.7	2.7	2.7
Oak Creek	5	16	2.4	2.7	2.6
Oshkosh	9	9	2.5	2.4	2.7
Racine	32	32	3.9	4.3	4.2
Sheboygan	5	6	2.4	2.3	2.7
Stevens Point	13	11	2.6	2.6	2.6
Sun Prairie	2	2	2.1	2.0	2.2
Superior	28	22	3.2	2.9	3.1
Waukesha	9	11	2.5	2.6	2.6
Wausau	13	11	2.6	2.6	2.7
Wauwatosa	18	16	2.7	2.7	2.7
West Allis	26	26	3.1	3.1	3.3
West Bend	13	11	2.6	2.6	2.7

COUNTIES

Alphabetical Order

COUNTY	Oct-18 RANK	Sep-18 RANK	Oct-18 RATE	Sep-18 RATE	Oct-17 RATE
Adams	69	63	3.5	3.2	3.8
Ashland	50	60	2.8	3.1	3.4
Barron	33	45	2.5	2.6	2.6
Bayfield	67	60	3.4	3.1	3.4
Brown	24	21	2.4	2.3	2.5
Buffalo	45	45	2.7	2.6	2.7
Burnett	67	68	3.4	3.4	3.6
Calumet	4	15	2.2	2.2	2.5
Chippewa	33	28	2.5	2.4	2.6
Clark	4	5	2.2	2.0	2.3
Columbia	4	8	2.2	2.1	2.4
Crawford	45	45	2.7	2.6	2.8
Dane	2	2	2.1	1.9	2.1
Dodge	14	8	2.3	2.1	2.3
Door	33	21	2.5	2.3	2.5
Douglas	60	55	3.1	2.9	3.3
Dunn	14	15	2.3	2.2	2.4
Eau Claire	14	15	2.3	2.2	2.4
Florence	55	63	2.9	3.2	3.5
Fond du Lac	4	8	2.2	2.1	2.3
Forest	70	70	3.6	3.6	3.9
Grant	14	15	2.3	2.2	2.4
Green	4	5	2.2	2.0	2.1
Green Lake	45	38	2.7	2.5	3.1
Iowa	2	2	2.1	1.9	2.2
Iron	71	71	4.2	4.6	4.2
Jackson	40	38	2.6	2.5	2.4
Jefferson	33	21	2.5	2.3	2.6
Juneau	33	45	2.5	2.6	2.6
Kenosha	60	63	3.1	3.2	3.3
Kewaunee	14	15	2.3	2.2	2.7
La Crosse	4	8	2.2	2.1	2.4
Lafayette	1	1	1.9	1.8	2.0
Langlade	60	57	3.1	3.0	3.1
Lincoln	33	28	2.5	2.4	2.7
Manitowoc	40	38	2.6	2.5	3.0

COUNTY	Oct-18 RANK	Sep-18 RANK	Oct-18 RATE	Sep-18 RATE	Oct-17 RATE
Marathon	14	15	2.3	2.2	2.4
Marinette	60	66	3.1	3.3	3.5
Marquette	50	38	2.8	2.5	2.7
Menominee	72	72	4.4	5.5	4.6
Milwaukee	66	69	3.3	3.5	3.5
Monroe	14	28	2.3	2.4	2.3
Oconto	40	38	2.6	2.5	2.7
Oneida	45	45	2.7	2.6	2.8
Outagamie	24	28	2.4	2.4	2.7
Ozaukee	24	28	2.4	2.4	2.4
Pepin	14	21	2.3	2.3	2.6
Pierce	40	38	2.6	2.5	2.5
Polk	45	45	2.7	2.6	2.6
Portage	24	28	2.4	2.4	2.4
Price	57	60	3.0	3.1	2.9
Racine	65	66	3.2	3.3	3.4
Richland	4	21	2.2	2.3	2.5
Rock	50	55	2.8	2.9	3.0
Rusk	57	57	3.0	3.0	3.3
Sauk	4	5	2.2	2.0	2.4
Sawyer	60	57	3.1	3.0	3.3
Shawano	24	28	2.4	2.4	2.5
Sheboygan	4	8	2.2	2.1	2.4
St. Croix	24	28	2.4	2.4	2.5
Taylor	4	2	2.2	1.9	2.3
Trempealeau	14	8	2.3	2.1	2.2
Vernon	24	8	2.4	2.1	2.5
Vilas	55	51	2.9	2.7	3.1
Walworth	24	28	2.4	2.4	2.6
Washburn	57	53	3.0	2.8	2.8
Washington	14	21	2.3	2.3	2.4
Waukesha	33	28	2.5	2.4	2.5
Waupaca	40	38	2.6	2.5	2.7
Waushara	50	51	2.8	2.7	2.9
Winnebago	24	21	2.4	2.3	2.6
Wood	50	53	2.8	2.8	2.9

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

Local Unemployment Rates October 2018

COUNTIES

Ascending Order

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