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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# BLS Data: Wisconsin Statewide Unemployment Rate Hits New Record Low of 2.7% in February, State Adds 7,500 Jobs in February

MADISON – The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) today released the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) preliminary employment estimates for the month of February 2023, which showed Wisconsin's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped to a record low of 2.7%.

In addition, total seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs increased 7,500 over the month of February and 50,300 year-over-year to hit a new record high of 2,997,400. The total jobs number puts the state 3,400 jobs above pre-COVID-19 peaks.

Wisconsin's record low unemployment rate of 2.7% for February is down 0.2 percentage points from January's rate of 2.9% and beats the previous record low of 2.8% set in January through April of 2022. The state's labor force participation rate of 64.5% in February was unchanged from January. Nationwide for the month of February, the U.S. unemployment rate was 3.6% with a labor force participation rate of 62.5%.

- **Place of Residence Data:** As Wisconsin's unemployment rate fell to 2.7% for February, the number of unemployed people declined by 5,100 over the month to 82,900, also a record low. The labor force regained some 2,100 workers.
- **Place of Work Data:** Over the month, Wisconsin added 7,500 nonfarm jobs, with gains of 7,000 service providing jobs, including 1,400 in the leisure and hospitality industry. Manufacturing gained 500 jobs over the month. Job losses occurred in information, financial activities, and professional and business services.

"Wisconsin is hard at work and February's record low unemployment rate of 2.7% demonstrates the importance of workforce development efforts to equip job seekers with in-demand skills," said DWD Secretary-designee Amy Pechacek. "Gov. Tony Evers' 2023-25 proposed biennial budget aims to build on this momentum by removing employment barriers, advancing regional solutions, and encouraging career growth in health care and green careers. Through paid family and medical leave, the governor's budget also will make Wisconsin more competitive when it comes to attracting and retaining talent."

Today's full report can be viewed on DWD's premier source for labor market information, [WisConomy.com](http://WisConomy.com).

## ABOUT DWD

[Wisconsin's Department of Workforce Development](#) efficiently delivers effective and inclusive services to meet Wisconsin's diverse workforce needs now and for the future. The department advocates for and invests in the protection and economic advancement of all Wisconsin workers, employers and job seekers through six divisions – Employment and Training, Vocational Rehabilitation, Unemployment Insurance, Equal Rights, Worker's Compensation and Administrative Services. To keep up with DWD announcements and information, [sign up for news releases](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#).

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## WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

Seasonally Adjusted

| PLACE OF RESIDENCE DATA           | PRELIM.       | REVISED       | YEAR AGO  | NET CHANGE OVER |         |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|-----------------|---------|
|                                   | Feb-23        | Jan-23        | Feb-22    | 1-Month         | 1-Year  |
| Labor Force                       | 3,069,900     | 3,067,800     | 3,094,300 | 2,100           | -24,400 |
| Employment                        | 2,986,900     | 2,979,900     | 3,008,800 | 7,000           | -21,900 |
| Unemployment                      | <b>82,900</b> | <b>88,000</b> | 85,600    | <b>-5,100</b>   | -2,700  |
| Unemployment Rate                 | <b>2.7%</b>   | <b>2.9%</b>   | 2.8%      | <b>-0.2%</b>    | -0.1%   |
| US Unemployment Rate              | 3.6%          | 3.4%          | 3.8%      | 0.2%            | -0.2%   |
| Labor Force Participation Rate    | 64.5%         | 64.5%         | 65.4%     | 0.0%            | -0.9%   |
| US Labor Force Participation Rate | 62.5%         | 62.4%         | 62.2%     | 0.1%            | 0.3%    |

### PLACE OF WORK DATA

|                                       |           |           |           |       |               |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|---------------|
| <i>NONFARM WAGE &amp; SALARY</i>      | 2,997,400 | 2,989,900 | 2,947,100 | 7,500 | <b>50,300</b> |
| TOTAL PRIVATE                         | 2,594,700 | 2,590,700 | 2,554,800 | 4,000 | <b>39,900</b> |
| GOODS PRODUCING                       | 623,400   | 622,900   | 611,800   | 500   | 11,600        |
| MINING & LOGGING                      | 3,800     | 3,800     | 3,600     | 0     | 200           |
| CONSTRUCTION                          | 134,200   | 134,200   | 130,100   | 0     | 4,100         |
| MANUFACTURING                         | 485,400   | 484,900   | 478,100   | 500   | 7,300         |
| Durable Goods                         | 285,400   | 286,100   | 281,800   | -700  | 3,600         |
| Nondurable Goods                      | 200,000   | 198,800   | 196,300   | 1,200 | 3,700         |
| SERVICE PROVIDING                     | 2,374,000 | 2,367,000 | 2,335,300 | 7,000 | 38,700        |
| PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING             | 1,971,300 | 1,967,800 | 1,943,000 | 3,500 | 28,300        |
| TRADE                                 | 429,500   | 427,100   | 421,800   | 2,400 | 7,700         |
| Wholesale Trade                       | 130,800   | 130,200   | 125,700   | 600   | 5,100         |
| Retail Trade                          | 298,700   | 296,900   | 296,100   | 1,800 | 2,600         |
| TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES      | 124,600   | 124,500   | 127,900   | 100   | -3,300        |
| INFORMATION                           | 45,600    | 45,800    | 45,600    | -200  | 0             |
| FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES                  | 159,900   | 160,400   | 158,000   | -500  | 1,900         |
| Real Estate, Rental, & Lease          | 28,100    | 28,300    | 27,200    | -200  | 900           |
| PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES      | 325,300   | 325,600   | 325,100   | -300  | 200           |
| Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services       | 127,100   | 127,200   | 122,100   | -100  | 5,000         |
| Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services | 132,700   | 132,700   | 139,100   | 0     | -6,400        |
| PRIVATE EDUCATION & HEALTH SERVICES   | 466,400   | 465,300   | 454,200   | 1,100 | 12,200        |
| Private Educational Services          | 58,600    | 58,000    | 56,100    | 600   | 2,500         |
| Health Care & Social Assistance       | 407,800   | 407,300   | 398,100   | 500   | 9,700         |
| LEISURE & HOSPITALITY                 | 272,200   | 270,800   | 265,100   | 1,400 | 7,100         |
| Arts, Entertain., & Recreation        | 39,400    | 39,400    | 40,600    | 0     | -1,200        |
| Accommodation & Food Services         | 232,800   | 231,400   | 224,500   | 1,400 | 8,300         |
| OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.  | 147,800   | 148,300   | 145,300   | -500  | 2,500         |
| GOVERNMENT                            | 402,700   | 399,200   | 392,300   | 3,500 | 10,400        |
| Federal Government                    | 30,000    | 29,700    | 29,600    | 300   | 400           |
| State Government                      | 95,300    | 93,100    | 91,500    | 2,200 | 3,800         |
| Local Government                      | 277,400   | 276,400   | 271,200   | 1,000 | 6,200         |

Note: Differences in totals may occur as a result of rounding.

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics and Current Employment Statistics programs, Bureau of Workforce Information and Technical Support.

Numbers in **blue** are statistically significant changes.

## WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

Not Seasonally Adjusted

| PLACE OF RESIDENCE DATA           | PRELIM.   | REVISED   | YEAR AGO  | NET CHANGE OVER |         |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|---------|
|                                   | Feb-23    | Jan-23    | Feb-22    | 1-Month         | 1-Year  |
| Labor Force                       | 3,068,200 | 3,039,200 | 3,081,800 | 29,000          | -13,600 |
| Employment                        | 2,983,700 | 2,958,100 | 2,980,100 | 25,600          | 3,600   |
| Unemployment                      | 84,500    | 81,100    | 101,700   | 3,400           | -17,200 |
| Unemployment Rate                 | 2.8%      | 2.7%      | 3.3%      | 0.1%            | -0.5%   |
| US Unemployment Rate              | 3.9%      | 3.9%      | 4.1%      | 0.0%            | -0.2%   |
| Labor Force Participation Rate    | 64.5%     | 63.9%     | 65.2%     | 0.6%            | -0.7%   |
| US Labor Force Participation Rate | 62.4%     | 62.1%     | 62.2%     | 0.3%            | 0.2%    |

### PLACE OF WORK DATA

|                                       |           |           |           |        |         |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------|---------|
| <i>NONFARM WAGE &amp; SALARY</i>      | 2,951,900 | 2,927,000 | 2,905,300 | 24,900 | 46,600  |
| TOTAL PRIVATE                         | 2,541,300 | 2,534,900 | 2,506,900 | 6,400  | 34,400  |
| <i>GOODS PRODUCING</i>                | 607,500   | 607,600   | 596,000   | -100   | 11,500  |
| MINING & LOGGING                      | 3,600     | 3,500     | 3,400     | 100    | 200     |
| CONSTRUCTION                          | 121,400   | 121,200   | 117,800   | 200    | 3,600   |
| MANUFACTURING                         | 482,500   | 482,900   | 474,800   | -400   | 7,700   |
| Durable Goods                         | 282,800   | 284,800   | 280,300   | -2,000 | 2,500   |
| Nondurable Goods                      | 199,700   | 198,100   | 194,500   | 1,600  | 5,200   |
| <i>SERVICE PROVIDING</i>              | 2,344,400 | 2,319,400 | 2,309,300 | 25,000 | 35,100  |
| <i>PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING</i>      | 1,933,800 | 1,927,300 | 1,910,900 | 6,500  | 22,900  |
| TRADE                                 | 424,300   | 425,200   | 414,900   | -900   | 9,400   |
| Wholesale Trade                       | 130,100   | 129,600   | 124,200   | 500    | 5,900   |
| Retail Trade                          | 294,200   | 295,600   | 290,700   | -1,400 | 3,500   |
| TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES      | 121,200   | 122,800   | 126,600   | -1,600 | -5,400  |
| Utilities                             | 7,900     | 8,100     | 8,100     | -200   | -200    |
| INFORMATION                           | 45,100    | 45,500    | 45,300    | -400   | -200    |
| FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES                  | 159,300   | 159,800   | 156,800   | -500   | 2,500   |
| Finance and Insurance                 | 132,000   | 132,100   | 130,600   | -100   | 1,400   |
| Real Estate, Rental, & Lease          | 27,300    | 27,700    | 26,200    | -400   | 1,100   |
| PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES      | 318,200   | 315,600   | 323,400   | 2,600  | -5,200  |
| Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services       | 127,500   | 126,000   | 123,300   | 1,500  | 4,200   |
| Mgmt. Of Companies and Enterprises    | 65,000    | 65,000    | 63,700    | 0      | 1,300   |
| Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services | 125,700   | 124,600   | 136,400   | 1,100  | -10,700 |
| PRIVATE EDUCATION & HEALTH SERVICES   | 465,000   | 460,600   | 453,700   | 4,400  | 11,300  |
| Private Educational Services          | 60,100    | 55,900    | 57,400    | 4,200  | 2,700   |
| Health Care & Social Assistance       | 404,900   | 404,700   | 396,300   | 200    | 8,600   |
| LEISURE & HOSPITALITY                 | 254,100   | 250,400   | 246,700   | 3,700  | 7,400   |
| Arts, Entertain., & Recreation        | 33,400    | 32,800    | 34,100    | 600    | -700    |
| Accommodation & Food Services         | 220,700   | 217,600   | 212,600   | 3,100  | 8,100   |
| OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.  | 146,600   | 147,400   | 143,500   | -800   | 3,100   |
| GOVERNMENT                            | 410,600   | 392,100   | 398,400   | 18,500 | 12,200  |
| Federal Government                    | 29,900    | 29,700    | 29,400    | 200    | 500     |
| State Government                      | 100,100   | 87,300    | 95,700    | 12,800 | 4,400   |
| Local Government                      | 280,600   | 275,100   | 273,300   | 5,500  | 7,300   |

Note: Differences in totals may occur as a result of rounding.

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics and Current Employment Statistics programs, Bureau of Workforce Information and Technical Support.

Numbers in blue are statistically significant changes.