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BLS Data: Statewide Unemployment Rate Holds at Record-Low 2.4% in May

MADISON – The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) today released the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) preliminary employment estimates for the month of May 2023, which showed Wisconsin's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate stayed at the record-low rate of 2.4%.

The total labor force grew by 14,400 and employment increased by 14,100 over the month of May. Additionally, the state's total labor force participation rate grew to 65.1% during that time. Total seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs decreased by 6,400 over the month and increased by 41,200 year-over-year. Private-sector jobs decreased by 7,000 in May and increased by 29,900 over the year.

Nationwide for the month of May, the U.S. unemployment rate was 3.7%, 1.3 percentage points above Wisconsin's rate, and the national labor force participation rate of 62.6% was 2.5 percentage points below the state rate.

- **Place of Residence Data:** Wisconsin's unemployment rate stayed at 2.4% for May, and the number of unemployed people reflected an increase by 300 over the month and a decrease of 14,900 over the year to 73,300. The labor force gained 14,400 workers over the month for a total labor force of 3,099,500. The number of people employed grew by 14,100 over the month of May for a total of 3,026,200 people employed.
- **Place of Work Data:** Total jobs increased by 41,200 over the year and decreased by 6,400 over the month to 2,995,500 total jobs in May. Private sector jobs increased by 29,900 over the year and decreased by 7,000 over the month to 2,592,300. Construction jobs grew by 4,900 over the year and 300 over the month.

"Wisconsin's labor force grew by 14,400 workers over the month and helped our state's labor force participation rate grow, even as the national participation rate was unchanged in May," DWD Secretary-designee Amy Pechacek said. "In Wisconsin, workers are returning to the workforce encouraged by the opportunities that are available, and at the DWD we will continue doing everything we can to equip career seekers with in-demand skills and help remove employment barriers so our state's workforce and economy can thrive."

Today's full report can be viewed on DWD's premier source for labor market information, 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	
	May-23	Apr-23	May-22	1-Month	1-Year
Labor Force	3,099,500	3,085,100	3,091,600	14,400	7,900
Employment	3,026,200	3,012,100	3,003,300	14,100	22,900
Unemployment	73,300	73,000	88,200	300	-14,900
Unemployment Rate	2.4%	2.4%	2.9%	0.0%	-0.5%
US Unemployment Rate	3.7%	3.4%	3.6%	0.3%	0.1%
Labor Force Participation Rate	65.1%	64.8%	65.3%	0.3%	-0.2%
US Labor Force Participation Rate	62.6%	62.6%	62.3%	0.0%	0.3%

PLACE OF WORK DATA

<i>NONFARM WAGE & SALARY</i>	2,995,500	3,001,900	2,954,300	-6,400	41,200
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,592,300	2,599,300	2,562,400	-7,000	29,900
GOODS PRODUCING	620,100	623,100	614,200	-3,000	5,900
MINING & LOGGING	3,800	3,800	3,600	0	200
CONSTRUCTION	134,900	134,600	130,000	300	4,900
MANUFACTURING	481,400	484,700	480,600	-3,300	800
Durable Goods	282,000	282,600	282,700	-600	-700
Nondurable Goods	199,400	202,100	197,900	-2,700	1,500
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,375,400	2,378,800	2,340,100	-3,400	35,300
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,972,200	1,976,200	1,948,200	-4,000	24,000
TRADE	434,900	431,400	423,100	3,500	11,800
Wholesale Trade	135,600	132,200	127,100	3,400	8,500
Retail Trade	299,300	299,200	296,000	100	3,300
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	122,300	123,800	126,800	-1,500	-4,500
INFORMATION	45,100	45,300	46,100	-200	-1,000
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	160,100	161,300	158,700	-1,200	1,400
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	28,300	28,600	27,200	-300	1,100
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	326,200	326,100	328,200	100	-2,000
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	126,900	126,500	123,600	400	3,300
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	133,800	134,100	139,900	-300	-6,100
PRIVATE EDUCATION & HEALTH SERVICES	465,200	466,000	455,400	-800	9,800
Private Educational Services	58,000	57,600	56,200	400	1,800
Health Care & Social Assistance	407,200	408,400	399,200	-1,200	8,000
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	268,200	272,100	264,800	-3,900	3,400
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	41,200	40,000	41,900	1,200	-700
Accommodation & Food Services	227,000	232,100	222,900	-5,100	4,100
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	150,200	150,200	145,100	0	5,100
GOVERNMENT	403,200	402,600	391,900	600	11,300
Federal Government	30,500	30,300	29,400	200	1,100
State Government	95,100	94,900	92,700	200	2,400
Local Government	277,600	277,400	269,800	200	7,800

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	
	May-23	Apr-23	May-22	1-Month	1-Year
Labor Force	3,119,200	3,097,100	3,074,100	22,100	45,100
Employment	3,035,700	3,026,700	2,987,700	9,000	48,000
Unemployment	83,600	70,400	86,400	13,200	-2,800
Unemployment Rate	2.7%	2.3%	2.8%	0.4%	-0.1%
US Unemployment Rate	3.4%	3.1%	3.4%	0.3%	0.0%
Labor Force Participation Rate	65.5%	65.1%	64.9%	0.4%	0.6%
US Labor Force Participation Rate	62.5%	62.4%	62.3%	0.1%	0.2%

PLACE OF WORK DATA

<i>NONFARM WAGE & SALARY</i>	3,004,700	2,992,200	2,966,700	12,500	38,000
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,595,300	2,576,400	2,568,300	18,900	27,000
<i>GOODS PRODUCING</i>	620,700	617,200	614,400	3,500	6,300
MINING & LOGGING	3,800	3,700	3,700	100	100
CONSTRUCTION	138,100	131,300	133,100	6,800	5,000
MANUFACTURING	478,800	482,200	477,600	-3,400	1,200
Durable Goods	280,200	281,000	281,700	-800	-1,500
Nondurable Goods	198,600	201,200	195,900	-2,600	2,700
<i>SERVICE PROVIDING</i>	2,384,000	2,375,000	2,352,300	9,000	31,700
<i>PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING</i>	1,974,600	1,959,200	1,953,900	15,400	20,700
TRADE	432,200	426,700	421,800	5,500	10,400
Wholesale Trade	134,900	131,600	127,200	3,300	7,700
Retail Trade	297,300	295,100	294,600	2,200	2,700
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	121,300	121,700	126,100	-400	-4,800
Utilities	8,100	8,100	8,200	0	-100
INFORMATION	44,500	44,700	45,600	-200	-1,100
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	159,800	161,200	158,400	-1,400	1,400
Finance and Insurance	131,500	133,000	131,300	-1,500	200
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	28,300	28,200	27,100	100	1,200
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	326,300	324,700	328,100	1,600	-1,800
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	125,800	128,100	122,500	-2,300	3,300
Mgmt. Of Companies and Enterprises	65,400	65,300	64,400	100	1,000
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	135,100	131,300	141,200	3,800	-6,100
PRIVATE EDUCATION & HEALTH SERVICES	465,600	468,200	456,300	-2,600	9,300
Private Educational Services	58,900	59,600	57,300	-700	1,600
Health Care & Social Assistance	406,700	408,600	399,000	-1,900	7,700
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	273,700	262,600	272,600	11,100	1,100
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	43,500	36,400	44,500	7,100	-1,000
Accommodation & Food Services	230,200	226,200	228,100	4,000	2,100
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	151,200	149,400	145,000	1,800	6,200
GOVERNMENT	409,400	415,800	398,400	-6,400	11,000
Federal Government	30,400	30,200	29,400	200	1,000
State Government	97,700	101,200	94,200	-3,500	3,500
Local Government	281,300	284,400	274,800	-3,100	6,500

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.