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BLS Data: State Labor Force Participation Up, Jobs Increase

Both private and nonfarm jobs are at record highs

MADISON – The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) today released the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) job totals for the month of July 2023, which showed Wisconsin's total nonfarm jobs hit a new high of 3,007,200. This is 39,500 more jobs than a year ago and an increase of 4,700 over the previous month.

Preliminary employment estimates for July 2023 showed Wisconsin's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 2.6%. The labor force grew by 11,200 and employment increased 6,800 over the month of July. The state's total labor force participation rate increased to 65.5%.

Nationwide for the month of July, the U.S. unemployment rate was 3.5%, 0.9 percentage points above Wisconsin's rate, and the national labor force participation rate of 62.6% was 2.9 percentage points below the state rate.

- **Place of Residence Data:** Wisconsin's unemployment rate edged up to 2.6% in July after hitting a record low of 2.4% in April and May. The number of unemployed people increased 4,300 over the month and decreased 12,500 over the year to 81,000. The labor force gained 11,200 workers over the month for a total labor force of 3,124,700. The number of Wisconsinites employed increased 6,800 in July for a total of 3,043,600 employed.
- **Place of Work Data:** Total nonfarm jobs increased 4,700 in July to a new high of 3,007,200, an annual increase of 39,500. Private sector jobs increased by 6,400 over the month and 34,700 over the year. Healthcare and social assistance jobs grew 7,500 over the month and 12,500 over the year.

"Wisconsin's labor force increased by 11,200 workers over the month, as more people entered or returned to the workforce. That's one reason why our labor force participation is higher than the nation's rate," DWD Secretary Amy Pechacek said. "Wisconsin workers are motivated and encouraged by the opportunities that are available, and the Department of Workforce Development remains committed to help all workers gain the skills and supports necessary to thrive in the modern economy."

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

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](#).

WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

Seasonally Adjusted

PLACE OF RESIDENCE DATA	PRELIM.	REVISED	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Jul-23	Jun-23	Jul-22	1-Month	1-Year
Labor Force	3,124,700	3,113,500	3,082,000	11,200	42,700
Employment	3,043,600	3,036,800	2,988,400	6,800	55,200
Unemployment	81,000	76,700	93,500	4,300	-12,500
Unemployment Rate	2.6%	2.5%	3.0%	0.1%	-0.4%
US Unemployment Rate	3.5%	3.6%	3.5%	-0.1%	0.0%
Labor Force Participation Rate	65.5%	65.3%	65.0%	0.2%	0.5%
US Labor Force Participation Rate	62.6%	62.6%	62.1%	0.0%	0.5%

PLACE OF WORK DATA

NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	3,007,200	3,002,500	2,967,700	4,700	39,500
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,606,700	2,600,300	2,572,000	6,400	34,700
GOODS PRODUCING	619,000	620,100	617,000	-1,100	2,000
MINING & LOGGING	3,800	3,800	3,700	0	100
CONSTRUCTION	134,400	134,700	131,300	-300	3,100
MANUFACTURING	480,800	481,600	482,000	-800	-1,200
Durable Goods	282,400	281,900	283,600	500	-1,200
Nondurable Goods	198,400	199,700	198,400	-1,300	0
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,388,200	2,382,400	2,350,700	5,800	37,500
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,987,700	1,980,200	1,955,000	7,500	32,700
TRADE	432,100	433,000	424,000	-900	8,100
Wholesale Trade	134,800	134,800	127,600	0	7,200
Retail Trade	297,300	298,200	296,400	-900	900
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	122,200	123,000	126,100	-800	-3,900
INFORMATION	43,300	43,900	46,400	-600	-3,100
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	161,700	161,100	158,900	600	2,800
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	28,500	28,300	27,200	200	1,300
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	327,000	327,600	329,600	-600	-2,600
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	128,500	128,400	124,700	100	3,800
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	132,300	133,400	140,000	-1,100	-7,700
PRIVATE EDUCATION & HEALTH SERVICES	473,900	466,200	458,600	7,700	15,300
Private Educational Services	58,600	58,400	55,800	200	2,800
Health Care & Social Assistance	415,300	407,800	402,800	7,500	12,500
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	277,100	275,300	265,300	1,800	11,800
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	43,000	42,900	42,300	100	700
Accommodation & Food Services	234,100	232,400	223,000	1,700	11,100
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	150,400	150,100	146,100	300	4,300
GOVERNMENT	400,500	402,200	395,700	-1,700	4,800
Federal Government	30,500	30,400	29,400	100	1,100
State Government	94,300	94,300	92,600	0	1,700
Local Government	275,700	277,500	273,700	-1,800	2,000

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	
	Jul-23	Jun-23	Jul-22	1-Month	1-Year
Labor Force	3,179,600	3,181,100	3,117,900	-1,500	61,700
Employment	3,079,300	3,072,300	3,020,000	7,000	59,300
Unemployment	100,300	108,900	97,800	-8,600	2,500
Unemployment Rate	3.2%	3.4%	3.1%	-0.2%	0.1%
US Unemployment Rate	3.8%	3.8%	3.8%	0.0%	0.0%
Labor Force Participation Rate	66.7%	66.8%	65.8%	-0.1%	0.9%
US Labor Force Participation Rate	63.1%	62.9%	62.6%	0.2%	0.5%

PLACE OF WORK DATA

NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	3,038,300	3,039,900	2,993,300	-1,600	45,000
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,662,400	2,644,000	2,620,000	18,400	42,400
<i>GOODS PRODUCING</i>	633,600	631,400	632,900	2,200	700
MINING & LOGGING	3,900	3,900	3,800	0	100
CONSTRUCTION	144,100	142,500	140,300	1,600	3,800
MANUFACTURING	485,600	485,000	488,800	600	-3,200
Durable Goods	285,700	285,200	287,100	500	-1,400
Nondurable Goods	199,900	199,800	201,700	100	-1,800
<i>SERVICE PROVIDING</i>	2,404,700	2,408,500	2,360,400	-3,800	44,300
<i>PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING</i>	2,028,800	2,012,600	1,987,100	16,200	41,700
TRADE	436,800	436,000	428,000	800	8,800
Wholesale Trade	136,900	136,800	129,400	100	7,500
Retail Trade	299,900	299,200	298,600	700	1,300
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	121,600	123,100	122,400	-1,500	-800
Utilities	8,300	8,300	8,300	0	0
INFORMATION	43,900	44,200	46,800	-300	-2,900
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	163,600	162,500	161,000	1,100	2,600
Finance and Insurance	133,800	133,400	132,500	400	1,300
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	29,800	29,100	28,500	700	1,300
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	331,000	331,600	332,800	-600	-1,800
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	129,900	129,100	125,200	800	4,700
Mgmt. Of Companies and Enterprises	66,900	66,300	65,500	600	1,400
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	134,200	136,200	142,100	-2,000	-7,900
PRIVATE EDUCATION & HEALTH SERVICES	473,200	467,200	456,000	6,000	17,200
Private Educational Services	53,600	55,400	50,900	-1,800	2,700
Health Care & Social Assistance	419,600	411,800	405,100	7,800	14,500
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	306,800	296,900	291,900	9,900	14,900
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	52,400	50,800	52,700	1,600	-300
Accommodation & Food Services	254,400	246,100	239,200	8,300	15,200
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	151,900	151,100	148,200	800	3,700
GOVERNMENT	375,900	395,900	373,300	-20,000	2,600
Federal Government	30,600	30,500	29,600	100	1,000
State Government	84,300	83,700	83,400	600	900
Local Government	261,000	281,700	260,300	-20,700	700

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.