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BLS Data: State Labor Force Participation Rate Holds Steady in October

MADISON – The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) today released the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data showing Wisconsin's unemployment rate was 3.2% last month, up slightly from 3.1% in September and 0.7% below the national rate of 3.9% in October. The state's total labor force participation rate held steady at 65.8%, 3.1% higher than the national labor force participation rate of 62.7%.

Wisconsin's total non-farm jobs remained at a near-record high at 3,013,900 in October, even with a decrease by 1,400 from September. This is 32,800 more jobs than October 2022.

- **Place of Residence Data:** Wisconsin's unemployment rate was 3.2% in October, up from 3.1% in September and mirroring the 0.1% increase in the national unemployment rate, which was 3.9% in October compared to 3.8% the previous month. The number of unemployed people increased 5,400 over the month and increased by 8,500 over the year to 102,000, still remaining around record lows. The labor force gained 3,600 workers over the month for a total of 3,142,100 workers. The number of people employed decreased by 1,800 over the month for a total of 3,040,100 employed.
- **Place of Work Data:** Total jobs increased by 32,800 over the year and decreased 1,400 over the month to 3,013,900 total jobs in October. Private sector jobs increased by 24,500 over the year and decreased by 2,800 over the month to 2,607,600. Health care and social assistance jobs grew by 13,600 over the year. Construction jobs decreased by 900 over the month and increased by 1,500 over the year.

"With the supply of Wisconsin workers increasing slightly over the month, the state's long-term economic picture remains one of expansion, with total jobs hovering around record highs and state unemployment still low compared to the national rate," DWD Secretary Amy Pechacek said. "Initial and weekly unemployment claims remain around record lows. Our state's labor force participation rate held steady even as the national rate decreased. On balance, Wisconsin's labor market economy is robust heading into the final months of 2023."

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](https://www.wisconsin.gov/economy) 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	
	Oct-23	Sep-23	Oct-22	1-Month	1-Year
Labor Force	3,142,100	3,138,500	3,068,500	3,600	73,600
Employment	3,040,100	3,041,900	2,975,100	-1,800	65,000
Unemployment	102,000	96,600	93,500	5,400	8,500
Unemployment Rate	3.2%	3.1%	3.0%	0.1%	0.2%
US Unemployment Rate	3.9%	3.8%	3.7%	0.1%	0.2%
Labor Force Participation Rate	65.8%	65.8%	64.6%	0.0%	1.2%
US Labor Force Participation Rate	62.7%	62.8%	62.2%	-0.1%	0.5%

PLACE OF WORK DATA

<i>NONFARM WAGE & SALARY</i>	3,013,900	3,015,300	2,981,100	-1,400	32,800
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,607,600	2,610,400	2,583,100	-2,800	24,500
GOODS PRODUCING	617,300	619,400	623,200	-2,100	-5,900
MINING & LOGGING	3,800	3,800	3,700	0	100
CONSTRUCTION	135,100	136,000	133,600	-900	1,500
MANUFACTURING	478,400	479,600	485,900	-1,200	-7,500
Durable Goods	280,500	281,000	285,900	-500	-5,400
Nondurable Goods	197,900	198,600	200,000	-700	-2,100
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,396,600	2,395,900	2,357,900	700	38,700
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,990,300	1,991,000	1,959,900	-700	30,400
TRADE	432,300	431,400	424,600	900	7,700
Wholesale Trade	135,500	135,200	128,700	300	6,800
Retail Trade	296,800	296,200	295,900	600	900
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	121,600	121,600	127,200	0	-5,600
INFORMATION	43,400	43,700	46,700	-300	-3,300
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	161,000	161,200	160,300	-200	700
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	28,400	28,900	28,300	-500	100
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	332,000	330,500	327,300	1,500	4,700
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	129,800	129,500	127,600	300	2,200
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	135,700	135,200	134,100	500	1,600
PRIVATE EDUCATION & HEALTH SERVICES	476,200	475,300	459,600	900	16,600
Private Educational Services	59,700	59,500	56,700	200	3,000
Health Care & Social Assistance	416,500	415,800	402,900	700	13,600
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	273,700	276,700	267,700	-3,000	6,000
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	41,800	42,800	42,200	-1,000	-400
Accommodation & Food Services	231,900	233,900	225,500	-2,000	6,400
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	150,100	150,600	146,500	-500	3,600
GOVERNMENT	406,300	404,900	398,000	1,400	8,300
Federal Government	31,000	30,900	29,400	100	1,600
State Government	96,100	95,800	93,000	300	3,100
Local Government	279,200	278,200	275,600	1,000	3,600

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. Oct-23	REVISED Sep-23	YEAR AGO Oct-22	NET CHANGE OVER 1-Month	NET CHANGE OVER 1-Year
Labor Force	3,147,700	3,145,300	3,075,300	2,400	72,400
Employment	3,053,300	3,043,800	2,995,700	9,500	57,600
Unemployment	94,400	101,600	79,600	-7,200	14,800
Unemployment Rate	3.0%	3.2%	2.6%	-0.2%	0.4%
US Unemployment Rate	3.6%	3.6%	3.4%	0.0%	0.2%
Labor Force Participation Rate	65.9%	65.9%	64.8%	0.0%	1.1%
US Labor Force Participation Rate	62.7%	62.7%	62.3%	0.0%	0.4%

PLACE OF WORK DATA

<i>NONFARM WAGE & SALARY</i>	3,035,400	3,029,000	3,004,200	6,400	31,200
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,618,200	2,621,300	2,595,700	-3,100	22,500
<i>GOODS PRODUCING</i>	622,100	623,500	628,300	-1,400	-6,200
MINING & LOGGING	3,900	3,900	3,800	0	100
CONSTRUCTION	141,400	142,100	140,000	-700	1,400
MANUFACTURING	476,800	477,500	484,500	-700	-7,700
Durable Goods	279,500	280,100	284,500	-600	-5,000
Nondurable Goods	197,300	197,400	200,000	-100	-2,700
<i>SERVICE PROVIDING</i>	2,413,300	2,405,500	2,375,900	7,800	37,400
<i>PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING</i>	1,996,100	1,997,800	1,967,400	-1,700	28,700
TRADE	431,700	428,200	424,300	3,500	7,400
Wholesale Trade	135,100	135,100	128,300	0	6,800
Retail Trade	296,600	293,100	296,000	3,500	600
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	123,200	122,900	129,100	300	-5,900
Utilities	8,200	8,200	8,200	0	0
INFORMATION	43,400	43,700	46,700	-300	-3,300
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	160,200	160,600	159,700	-400	500
Finance and Insurance	132,000	131,500	131,500	500	500
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	28,200	29,100	28,200	-900	0
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	337,000	332,700	331,800	4,300	5,200
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	129,600	128,400	127,300	1,200	2,300
Mgmt. Of Companies and Enterprises	66,400	65,800	65,400	600	1,000
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	141,000	138,500	139,100	2,500	1,900
PRIVATE EDUCATION & HEALTH SERVICES	478,400	475,400	461,800	3,000	16,600
Private Educational Services	62,500	60,300	59,700	2,200	2,800
Health Care & Social Assistance	415,900	415,100	402,100	800	13,800
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	272,500	283,900	267,400	-11,400	5,100
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	42,500	46,800	42,600	-4,300	-100
Accommodation & Food Services	230,000	237,100	224,800	-7,100	5,200
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	149,700	150,400	146,600	-700	3,100
GOVERNMENT	417,200	407,700	408,500	9,500	8,700
Federal Government	31,100	31,000	29,500	100	1,600
State Government	103,200	100,700	99,700	2,500	3,500
Local Government	282,900	276,000	279,300	6,900	3,600

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.