
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 28, 2026

CONTACT: [DWD Communications](#)

CommunicationsOffice@dwd.wisconsin.gov

December Local Employment and Unemployment Data Released

MADISON – The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development today released U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates of employment and unemployment statistics for metropolitan areas, major cities, and counties in Wisconsin for December 2025.

In brief, the nonseasonally adjusted data for Wisconsin shows:

- **Metropolitan Statistical Areas:** Preliminary December 2025 unemployment rates increased in all 13 metropolitan areas over the month. Rates increased in all 13 metropolitan areas over the year.
- **Municipalities:** Preliminary December 2025 unemployment rates increased in 33 of Wisconsin's 35 largest cities over the month. Rates stayed the same in the two remaining cities. Unemployment rates decreased in three cities over the year. Rates increased in 25 cities over the year and stayed the same in the seven remaining cities.
- **Counties:** Preliminary December 2025 unemployment rates increased in all 72 counties over the month. Unemployment rates decreased in eight counties over the year. Rates increased in 58 counties over the year and stayed the same in the six remaining counties.

Additional information about the data included in the release is available at [Wisconomy.com](https://www.wisconsinconomy.com).

See following pages for informational tables.

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 [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), [X](#), and [YouTube](#).

Current Employment Statistics and Local Area Unemployment Statistics
December 2025

EMPLOYMENT

METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA	NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM Dec-25	FINAL Nov-25	YEAR AGO Dec-24	NET CHANGE OVER		PRELIM Dec-25	FINAL Nov-25	YEAR AGO Dec-24	NET CHANGE OVER	
				1-Month	1-Year				1-Month	1-Year
Appleton	129,800	130,300	130,100	-500	-300	129,400	129,800	129,600	-400	-200
Eau Claire	90,400	91,000	90,600	-600	-200	89,800	89,800	89,800	0	0
Fond du Lac	46,000	46,400	46,400	-400	-400	46,000	46,200	46,300	-200	-300
Green Bay	184,900	185,400	182,500	-500	2,400	184,100	184,000	181,800	100	2,300
Janesville-Beloit	72,500	72,700	72,700	-200	-200	72,300	72,300	72,400	0	-100
Kenosha	79,000	79,300	78,900	-300	100	78,100	78,400	77,900	-300	200
La Crosse-Onalaska	89,500	89,700	88,700	-200	800	88,500	88,600	87,700	-100	800
Madison	431,900	433,200	430,300	-1,300	1,600	429,500	429,300	427,600	200	1,900
Milwaukee-Waukesha	857,400	858,500	865,300	-1,100	-7,900	855,000	855,100	863,100	-100	-8,100
Oshkosh-Neenah	97,600	97,600	97,500	0	100	97,000	97,000	96,900	0	100
Racine	77,900	78,300	79,200	-400	-1,300	77,800	78,100	79,000	-300	-1,200
Sheboygan	64,300	64,000	63,400	300	900	64,400	64,000	63,500	400	900
Wausau	71,600	72,000	72,500	-400	-900	71,300	71,700	72,100	-400	-800

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA	NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM Dec-25	FINAL Nov-25	YEAR AGO Dec-24	NET CHANGE OVER	
				1-Month	1-Year
Appleton	2.6	2.3	2.4	0.3	0.2
Eau Claire	3.2	2.5	3.0	0.7	0.2
Fond du Lac	2.7	2.4	2.6	0.3	0.1
Green Bay	2.7	2.4	2.5	0.3	0.2
Janesville-Beloit	3.2	2.8	3.0	0.4	0.2
Kenosha	3.1	2.9	3.0	0.2	0.1
La Crosse-Onalaska	2.9	2.4	2.5	0.5	0.4
Madison	2.4	2.2	2.2	0.2	0.2
Milwaukee-Waukesha	3.1	3.0	3.0	0.1	0.1
Oshkosh-Neenah	2.7	2.5	2.5	0.2	0.2
Racine	3.6	3.2	3.2	0.4	0.4
Sheboygan	2.6	2.4	2.3	0.2	0.3
Wausau	2.7	2.3	2.4	0.4	0.3

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

CITY	NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	RATE Dec-25	RATE Nov-25	RATE Dec-24	RANK Dec-25	RANK Nov-25
Appleton	2.6	2.5	2.6	9	12
Beloit	3.5	3.0	3.6	32	30
Brookfield	2.8	2.7	2.5	17	23
Caledonia	3.2	2.9	3.0	28	28
De Pere	2.7	2.4	2.4	10	6
Eau Claire	2.7	2.4	2.6	10	6
Fitchburg	2.2	2.1	1.9	1	1
Fond du Lac	3.0	2.8	3.1	24	26
Franklin	3.0	2.7	2.9	24	23
Green Bay	2.9	2.5	2.7	21	12
Greenfield	3.0	2.7	2.8	24	23
Janesville	3.0	2.8	2.9	24	26
Kenosha	3.3	3.0	3.1	29	30
La Crosse	2.9	2.6	2.6	21	19
Madison	2.3	2.2	2.2	2	2
Manitowoc	2.8	2.5	2.8	17	12
Menomonee Falls	2.7	2.5	2.5	10	12
Mequon	2.8	2.6	2.7	17	19
Milwaukee	3.9	3.8	3.9	34	34
Mount Pleasant	3.3	2.9	3.3	29	28
Muskego	2.5	2.3	2.2	5	4
Neenah	2.4	2.4	2.4	3	6
New Berlin	2.5	2.4	2.4	5	6
Oak Creek	2.5	2.5	2.3	5	12
Oshkosh	2.7	2.5	2.7	10	12
Racine	4.3	3.8	3.8	35	34
Sheboygan	2.8	2.6	2.4	17	19
Stevens Point	2.9	2.4	2.6	21	6
Sun Prairie	2.4	2.2	2.3	3	2
Superior	3.4	3.0	3.5	31	30
Waukesha	2.5	2.3	2.5	5	4
Wausau	2.7	2.5	2.3	10	12
Wauwatosa	2.7	2.6	2.4	10	19
West Allis	3.5	3.2	3.2	32	33
West Bend	2.7	2.4	2.4	10	6

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>.
City and county unemployment rates are not seasonally adjusted.

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

December 2025

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES - NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

COUNTY	ALPHABETICAL ORDER				
	RATE	RATE	RATE	RANK	RANK
	Dec-25	Nov-25	Dec-24	Dec-25	Nov-25
Adams	4.5	4.0	4.9	66	71
Ashland	3.7	2.9	3.4	47	46
Barron	3.8	3.1	3.6	50	53
Bayfield	4.8	3.8	4.9	69	70
Brown	2.6	2.4	2.5	5	12
Buffalo	3.9	2.8	4.0	53	40
Burnett	5.1	3.6	4.6	71	68
Calumet	2.3	2.1	2.2	1	1
Chippewa	3.7	2.7	3.6	47	34
Clark	3.2	2.3	3.1	32	7
Columbia	2.7	2.4	2.5	12	12
Crawford	4.5	3.0	4.1	66	51
Dane	2.4	2.2	2.2	2	3
Dodge	2.6	2.2	2.4	5	3
Door	3.6	2.8	3.1	42	40
Douglas	4.2	3.4	4.0	62	62
Dunn	3.4	2.5	3.3	37	27
Eau Claire	2.8	2.4	2.6	19	12
Florence	3.9	3.2	4.0	53	56
Fond du Lac	2.7	2.4	2.6	12	12
Forest	4.2	3.1	3.9	62	53
Grant	3.1	2.7	3.1	29	34
Green	2.5	2.1	2.3	3	1
Green Lake	3.3	2.8	3.1	34	40
Iowa	2.7	2.2	2.5	12	3
Iron	5.2	4.0	4.9	72	71
Jackson	4.2	2.9	4.1	62	46
Jefferson	2.9	2.4	2.5	22	12
Juneau	3.5	3.0	3.5	39	51
Kenosha	3.1	2.9	3.0	29	46
Kewaunee	2.6	2.3	2.2	5	7
La Crosse	2.8	2.4	2.5	19	12
Lafayette	2.5	2.2	2.3	3	3
Langlade	3.8	3.2	3.5	50	56
Lincoln	3.3	2.7	3.1	34	34
Manitowoc	3.0	2.4	2.8	25	12
Marathon	2.7	2.3	2.4	12	7
Marinette	3.8	3.4	4.0	50	62
Marquette	4.1	3.2	3.8	59	56
Menominee	3.9	3.6	4.5	53	68
Milwaukee	3.5	3.4	3.4	39	62
Monroe	2.9	2.3	2.6	22	7
Oconto	3.0	2.5	3.0	25	27
Oneida	3.6	2.6	3.4	42	31
Outagamie	2.6	2.3	2.5	5	7
Ozaukee	2.6	2.4	2.3	5	12
Pepin	4.0	2.7	3.3	58	34
Pierce	3.7	2.8	3.6	47	40
Polk	4.8	3.4	4.5	69	62
Portage	3.1	2.6	2.9	29	31
Price	3.9	3.3	4.3	53	60
Racine	3.6	3.2	3.2	42	56
Richland	3.3	2.7	2.8	34	34
Rock	3.2	2.8	3.0	32	40
Rusk	4.5	3.5	4.5	66	66
Sauk	3.6	2.9	3.4	42	46
Sawyer	2.8	2.4	2.6	19	12
Shawano	4.1	3.5	3.7	59	66
Sheboygan	3.0	2.6	2.8	25	31
St. Croix	2.6	2.4	2.3	5	12
Taylor	4.2	2.7	4.2	62	34
Trempealeau	3.6	2.5	3.4	42	27
Vernon	3.0	2.4	2.8	25	12
Vilas	3.9	3.1	3.7	53	53
Walworth	2.7	2.4	2.6	12	12
Washburn	4.1	3.3	4.2	59	60
Washington	2.7	2.4	2.4	12	12
Waukesha	2.6	2.4	2.4	5	12
Waupaca	2.9	2.4	2.8	22	12
Waushara	3.5	2.9	3.5	39	46
Winnebago	2.7	2.5	2.5	12	27
Wood	3.4	2.8	3.1	37	40

COUNTY	ASCENDING ORDER		
	RATE	RATE	RATE
	Dec-25	Nov-25	Dec-24
Calumet	2.3	2.1	2.2
Dane	2.4	2.2	2.2
Green	2.5	2.1	2.3
Lafayette	2.5	2.2	2.3
Brown	2.6	2.4	2.5
Dodge	2.6	2.2	2.4
Kewaunee	2.6	2.3	2.2
Outagamie	2.6	2.3	2.5
Ozaukee	2.6	2.4	2.3
St. Croix	2.6	2.4	2.3
Waukesha	2.6	2.4	2.4
Columbia	2.7	2.4	2.5
Fond du Lac	2.7	2.4	2.6
Iowa	2.7	2.2	2.5
Marathon	2.7	2.3	2.4
Walworth	2.7	2.4	2.6
Washington	2.7	2.4	2.4
Winnebago	2.7	2.5	2.5
Eau Claire	2.8	2.4	2.6
La Crosse	2.8	2.4	2.5
Sawyer	2.8	2.4	2.6
Jefferson	2.9	2.4	2.5
Monroe	2.9	2.3	2.6
Waupaca	2.9	2.4	2.8
Manitowoc	3.0	2.4	2.8
Oconto	3.0	2.5	3.0
Sheboygan	3.0	2.6	2.8
Vernon	3.0	2.4	2.8
Grant	3.1	2.7	3.1
Kenosha	3.1	2.9	3.0
Portage	3.1	2.6	2.9
Clark	3.2	2.3	3.1
Rock	3.2	2.8	3.0
Green Lake	3.3	2.8	3.1
Lincoln	3.3	2.7	3.1
Richland	3.3	2.7	2.8
Dunn	3.4	2.5	3.3
Wood	3.4	2.8	3.1
Juneau	3.5	3.0	3.5
Milwaukee	3.5	3.4	3.4
Waushara	3.5	2.9	3.5
Door	3.6	2.8	3.1
Oneida	3.6	2.6	3.4
Racine	3.6	3.2	3.2
Sauk	3.6	2.9	3.4
Trempealeau	3.6	2.5	3.4
Ashland	3.7	2.9	3.4
Chippewa	3.7	2.7	3.6
Pierce	3.7	2.8	3.6
Barron	3.8	3.1	3.6
Langlade	3.8	3.2	3.5
Marinette	3.8	3.4	4.0
Buffalo	3.9	2.8	4.0
Florence	3.9	3.2	4.0
Menominee	3.9	3.6	4.5
Price	3.9	3.3	4.3
Vilas	3.9	3.1	3.7
Pepin	4.0	2.7	3.3
Marquette	4.1	3.2	3.8
Shawano	4.1	3.5	3.7
Washburn	4.1	3.3	4.2
Douglas	4.2	3.4	4.0
Forest	4.2	3.1	3.9
Jackson	4.2	2.9	4.1
Taylor	4.2	2.7	4.2
Adams	4.5	4.0	4.9
Crawford	4.5	3.0	4.1
Rusk	4.5	3.5	4.5
Bayfield	4.8	3.8	4.9
Polk	4.8	3.4	4.5
Burnett	5.1	3.6	4.6
Iron	5.2	4.0	4.9

Note: Ranking is ascending from lowest (best) unemployment rate to highest.

Ranking ties exist in the results.