

BLS Data: Wisconsin January Employment Numbers Released; Unemployment Ticks Up to 3.3%

MADISON – The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) today announced the following information for Wisconsin’s labor market, reflecting January 2026 preliminary estimates from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics:

- **Employment** – There were 3,017,400 people employed in Wisconsin, up 800 over the month and down 18,600 over the year.
- **Labor Force** – The state’s labor force participation rate increased to 64.3%, which is 1.8 percentage points above the national rate of 62.5.
- **Nonfarm Jobs** – The total nonfarm jobs in the state were 3,032,500 an increase of 8,000 over December.
- **Unemployment** – The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ticked up over December to 3.3% which is 1.0 percentage points below the national unemployment rate of 4.3%.

This Month's Labor Market in Brief:

	January Preliminary	December Revised	Net Change Over One Year
People employed	3,017,400 (+800)	3,016,600	-18,600
Labor force participation rate	64.3% (+0.1%)	64.2%	-0.7%
Nonfarm jobs	3,032,500 (+8,000)	3,024,500	-15,400
Unemployment rate	3.3% (+0.1%)	3.2%	0.0%

One-Year Overview

Month	Total Employment	Unemployment Rate
January 2026	3,017,400 (+800)*	3.3%*
December 2025	3,016,600 (+600)	3.2%
November 2025	3,016,000	3.2%
October 2025	NA	NA
September 2025	3,010,700 (+1,400)	3.1%
August 2025	3,009,300 (-1,000)	3.1%
July 2025	3,010,300 (-3,200)	3.0%
June 2025	3,013,500 (-4,800)	3.1%
May 2025	3,018,300 (-4,700)	3.1%
April 2025	3,023,000 (-4,000)	3.2%
March 2025	3,027,000 (-4,200)	3.2%
February 2025	3,031,200 (-4,800)	3.3%

*Based on preliminary estimate from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

See following pages for informational tables.

WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

Seasonally Adjusted

PLACE OF RESIDENCE DATA	PRELIM. Jan-26	REVISED Dec-25	YEAR AGO Jan-25	NET CHANGE OVER 1-Month	1-Year
-------------------------	-------------------	-------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------

Labor Force	3,120,800	3,116,200	3,138,000	4,600	-17,200
Employment	3,017,400	3,016,600	3,036,000	800	-18,600
Unemployment	103,400	99,600	102,000	3,800	1,400
Unemployment Rate	3.3%	3.2%	3.3%	0.1%	0.0%
US Unemployment Rate	4.3%	4.4%	4.0%	-0.1%	0.3%
Labor Force Participation Rate	64.3%	64.2%	65.0%	0.1%	-0.7%
US Labor Force Participation Rate	62.5%	62.4%	62.6%	0.1%	-0.1%

PLACE OF WORK DATA

<i>NONFARM WAGE & SALARY</i>	3,032,500	3,024,500	3,047,900	8,000	-15,400
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,619,500	2,612,800	2,627,700	6,700	-8,200
GOODS PRODUCING	609,400	609,100	609,000	300	400
MINING & LOGGING	4,100	4,100	4,100	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	152,800	150,400	143,800	2,400	9,000
MANUFACTURING	452,500	454,600	461,100	-2,100	-8,600
Durable Goods	259,600	260,300	265,400	-700	-5,800
Nondurable Goods	192,900	194,300	195,700	-1,400	-2,800
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,423,100	2,415,400	2,438,900	7,700	-15,800
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	2,010,100	2,003,700	2,018,700	6,400	-8,600
TRADE	417,600	417,200	427,700	400	-10,100
Wholesale Trade	127,600	127,600	131,500	0	-3,900
Retail Trade	290,000	289,600	296,200	400	-6,200
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	124,500	125,600	125,000	-1,100	-500
INFORMATION	45,900	46,100	46,700	-200	-800
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	158,300	158,500	159,500	-200	-1,200
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	29,500	29,600	29,100	-100	400
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	325,200	321,000	329,000	4,200	-3,800
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	131,000	131,000	131,200	0	-200
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	129,700	125,800	132,100	3,900	-2,400
PRIVATE EDUCATION & HEALTH SERVICES	502,600	500,000	494,400	2,600	8,200
Private Educational Services	63,800	63,500	62,300	300	1,500
Health Care & Social Assistance	438,800	436,500	432,100	2,300	6,700
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	290,200	289,300	290,100	900	100
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	46,500	47,000	48,000	-500	-1,500
Accommodation & Food Services	243,700	242,300	242,100	1,400	1,600
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	145,800	146,000	146,300	-200	-500
GOVERNMENT	413,000	411,700	420,200	1,300	-7,200
Federal Government	28,800	29,000	31,300	-200	-2,500
State Government	102,000	100,500	104,000	1,500	-2,000
Local Government	282,200	282,200	284,900	0	-2,700

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.

WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

Not Seasonally Adjusted

PLACE OF RESIDENCE DATA	PRELIM.	REVISED	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Jan-26	Dec-25	Jan-25	1-Month	1-Year
Labor Force	3,092,000	3,122,700	3,113,700	-30,700	-21,700
Employment	2,972,700	3,027,900	3,004,300	-55,200	-31,600
Unemployment	119,200	94,800	109,400	24,400	9,800
Unemployment Rate	3.9%	3.0%	3.5%	0.9%	0.4%
US Unemployment Rate	4.6%	4.1%	4.4%	0.5%	0.2%
Labor Force Participation Rate	63.7%	64.3%	64.5%	-0.6%	-0.8%
US Labor Force Participation Rate	62.2%	62.1%	62.3%	0.1%	-0.1%

PLACE OF WORK DATA

<i>NONFARM WAGE & SALARY</i>	2,972,000	3,024,600	2,989,200	-52,600	-17,200
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,566,800	2,606,500	2,577,200	-39,700	-10,400
<i>GOODS PRODUCING</i>	595,800	604,800	593,800	-9,000	2,000
MINING & LOGGING	4,000	4,000	3,800	0	200
CONSTRUCTION	142,100	145,800	132,000	-3,700	10,100
MANUFACTURING	449,700	455,000	458,000	-5,300	-8,300
Durable Goods	257,600	260,000	264,400	-2,400	-6,800
Nondurable Goods	192,100	195,000	193,600	-2,900	-1,500
<i>SERVICE PROVIDING</i>	2,376,200	2,419,800	2,395,400	-43,600	-19,200
<i>PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING</i>	1,971,000	2,001,700	1,983,400	-30,700	-12,400
TRADE	414,700	424,000	424,800	-9,300	-10,100
Wholesale Trade	126,000	127,300	130,700	-1,300	-4,700
Retail Trade	288,700	296,700	294,100	-8,000	-5,400
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	123,500	129,100	125,200	-5,600	-1,700
Utilities	8,500	8,600	8,400	-100	100
INFORMATION	46,300	46,700	46,700	-400	-400
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	157,300	158,100	158,200	-800	-900
Finance and Insurance	128,400	128,700	130,000	-300	-1,600
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	28,900	29,400	28,200	-500	700
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	316,500	320,000	321,400	-3,500	-4,900
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	130,200	130,700	130,700	-500	-500
Mgmt. Of Companies and Enterprises	64,100	64,200	65,500	-100	-1,400
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	122,200	125,100	125,200	-2,900	-3,000
PRIVATE EDUCATION & HEALTH SERVICES	499,900	501,700	493,000	-1,800	6,900
Private Educational Services	64,000	65,500	62,500	-1,500	1,500
Health Care & Social Assistance	435,900	436,200	430,500	-300	5,400
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	268,500	276,500	269,700	-8,000	-1,200
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	36,200	40,300	40,500	-4,100	-4,300
Accommodation & Food Services	232,300	236,200	229,200	-3,900	3,100
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	144,300	145,600	144,400	-1,300	-100
GOVERNMENT	405,200	418,100	412,000	-12,900	-6,800
Federal Government	28,800	29,200	31,200	-400	-2,400
State Government	96,600	105,300	98,300	-8,700	-1,700
Local Government	279,800	283,600	282,500	-3,800	-2,700

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.

Glossary of terms

Employed: Definition differs by BLS program:

- **(Place of residence/LAUS)** Individuals 16 years of age or older who worked at least one hour for pay or who worked unpaid for at least 15 hours in a family business during the reference week which includes the 12th of the month. Individuals are also counted if they had a job but were temporarily absent from their jobs due to illness, bad weather, vacation, a labor dispute, or for personal reasons.
- **(Place of work/CES)** Includes all paid employees, regardless of age, who worked during or received pay for any part of the pay period that includes the 12th day of the month.

Labor force: The sum of all employed and unemployed people excluding people less than 16 years of age, institutional population, and those in the military.

Labor force participation rate: The proportion of the civilian non-institutional population aged 16 years or older that is in the labor force.

Nonfarm jobs: Includes all full-time and part-time employees of all classes (including employees on paid sick leave, paid holiday, or paid vacation) who work in or receive compensation from nonagricultural establishments for any part of the pay period that includes the 12th of the month. It is a count of jobs by place of work.

It does not include pensioners, members of the armed forces, self-employed or unpaid volunteer or family workers, domestic workers in households, or people who are laid off, on leave of absence without pay, or on strike for the entire reference period. These statistics are collected in coordination with the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program.

Unemployed: Individuals 16 years of age or older who do not have a job but are available for work, are actively seeking work, and had made specific efforts to find employment sometime during the 4-week period ending with the reference week (the week including the 12th of the month). People who were waiting to be recalled to a job from which they had been laid off within the past 6 months, or those waiting to report to a new job within 30 days are also counted as unemployed.

Unemployment rate: The number of people unemployed, expressed as a percentage of the labor force.