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Wednesday, June 21, 2017

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Wisconsin Local Employment & Unemployment Estimates Released

MADISON – The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) today released the U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) estimates of unemployment and employment statistics for metro areas, major cities, and counties in Wisconsin. The estimates include updates for April 2017 and the preliminary estimates for May 2017. These numbers are not seasonally adjusted. In brief, the estimates showed:

- **Metropolitan Statistical Areas:** Preliminary May 2017 unemployment rates decreased in all areas when compared over the year to May 2016 and decreased or remained the same over the month in all areas apart from Madison which saw an increase. The largest 12-month decline was 1.3 percent in Racine. The rates ranged from 2.2 percent in Madison to 3.4 percent in Racine.
- **Municipalities:** Preliminary May 2017 rates decreased in the state's 32 largest municipalities when compared over the year to May 2016 and decreased or remained the same in 26 of the 32 over the month. The latest rates ranged from 2.1 percent in Sun Prairie to 4.7 percent in Beloit. Additionally:
 - Based on the preliminary May 2017 rates, 17 of the state's 32 largest municipalities reached a record low level of unemployment during any May, including the municipalities of Milwaukee, Racine and Beloit.
 - The May 2017 unemployment rates reached an all-time low in Green Bay and Racine and tied the all-time low in Fitchburg, Milwaukee, Sun Prairie and Waukesha.,
- **Counties:** Preliminary May 2017 rates decreased in all 72 counties when compared over the year to May 2016 rates and decreased or remained the same in 68 of the 72 over the month. The largest over the year decline was 2.3 percent in Menominee county. The latest rates ranged from 2.2 percent in Dane and Lafayette to 5.3 percent in Iron. Additional points include:
 - Compared year-over-year, preliminary unemployment rates for 43 of Wisconsin's 72 counties reached record low levels for the month of May.
 - The May 2017 unemployment rates reached an all-time low in Clark, Columbia, Juneau, Vernon, Washburn, and tied the all-time low in Lafayette, Langlade, Marquette, Monroe, Price, and Waupaca counties.

The release of the May 2017 local rates follows last week's release of BLS monthly estimates showing a preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 3.1 percent in May 2017, dropping to its lowest rate since October 1999. Data also showed both total labor force and employment in Wisconsin remained at all-time highs in May, while the number of unemployed individuals was its lowest since February 2000.

Other indicators of the state of Wisconsin's economy include:

- Wisconsin's 3.1 percent unemployment rate tied for the 7th lowest in the nation in May 2017 and was significantly lower than the national rate of 4.3 percent.
- Wisconsin added a statistically significant 40,400 total non-farm jobs from May 2016 to May 2017.
- Wisconsin's unemployment rate decline of 1.0 percent from 4.1% in May 2016 to 3.1% in May 2017 was

statistically significant.

- Wisconsin's labor force participation rate of 68.8% tied for 5th best in the nation in May 2017.
- The rate of 3.1 percent is the second-lowest rate on record for Wisconsin (the lowest rate was 3.0 percent in May-July 1999).
- Wisconsin's January (3.9 percent) to May (3.1 percent) unemployment rate decline of 0.8 percentage points in 2017 is the steepest January-May decline since 1983.
- Wisconsin's labor force participation rate increased by 0.2 percentage points to 68.8 percent, while the U.S. labor force participation rate decreased to 62.7 percent in May.
- Initial UI claims ended 2016 at their lowest level in their last 30 years. Year 2017 initial UI claims are running at their lowest levels since 1989.
- Continuing unemployment claims ended 2016 at their lowest level since 1973. Continuing unemployment claims in Wisconsin are running the lowest in at least the past 30 years.

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Labor Force and Employment Estimates May 2017

STATEWIDE LABOR FORCE

	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER		PRELIM	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	May-17	Apr-17	May-16	1-Month	1-Year	May-17	Apr-17	May-16	1-Month	1-Year
Total labor force	3,155,300	3,147,100	3,115,600	8,200	39,700	3,136,700	3,121,300	3,106,700	15,400	30,000
Employment	3,059,000	3,046,600	2,987,000	12,400	72,000	3,049,000	3,027,800	2,987,300	21,200	61,700
Unemployment	96,300	100,500	128,600	-4,200	-32,300	87,700	93,500	119,400	-5,800	-31,700
Unemployment Rate	3.1%	3.2%	4.1%	-0.1%	-1.0%	2.8%	3.0%	3.8%	-0.2%	-1.0%
National Rate	4.3%	4.4%	4.7%	-0.1%	-0.4%	4.1%	4.1%	4.5%	0.0%	-0.4%

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

MSA EMPLOYMENT

	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER		PRELIM	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	May-17	Apr-17	May-16	1-Month	1-Year	May-17	Apr-17	May-16	1-Month	1-Year
Statewide	2,957,100	2,960,200	2,916,700	-3,100	40,400	2,969,500	2,939,800	2,933,200	29,700	36,300
Appleton	127,400	127,600	124,800	-200	2,600	127,800	126,300	125,300	1,500	2,500
Eau Claire	85,100	86,100	85,700	-1,000	-600	85,900	85,900	87,000	0	-1,100
Fond du Lac	49,100	48,700	47,900	400	1,200	49,300	48,500	48,200	800	1,100
Green Bay	176,200	175,800	175,400	400	800	176,100	174,300	176,100	1,800	0
Janesville	68,700	69,000	67,700	-300	1,000	69,400	69,100	68,000	300	1,400
La Crosse	79,600	79,400	78,200	200	1,400	80,300	80,100	79,000	200	1,300
Madison	401,900	402,600	395,500	-700	6,400	402,600	402,000	395,100	600	7,500
Milwaukee-W.O.W.	866,500	865,000	861,800	1,500	4,700	867,200	858,400	864,800	8,800	2,400
Oshkosh-Neenah	97,200	97,200	96,400	0	800	97,600	97,000	96,800	600	800
Racine	77,500	77,600	77,400	-100	100	77,600	76,800	77,900	800	-300
Sheboygan	61,900	61,800	61,400	100	500	62,200	61,100	61,600	1,100	600
Wausau	73,100	73,200	72,000	-100	1,100	73,100	72,600	72,100	500	1,000

Source: Current Employment Statistics (CES)

MSA UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

	NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	May-17	Apr-17	May-16	1-Month	1-Year
Wisconsin	2.8	3.0	3.8	-0.2	-1.0
Appleton	2.5	2.6	3.3	-0.1	-0.8
Eau Claire	2.6	2.8	3.4	-0.2	-0.8
Fond du Lac	2.3	2.4	3.4	-0.1	-1.1
Green Bay	2.6	2.8	3.6	-0.2	-1.0
Janesville	3.3	3.5	4.2	-0.2	-0.9
La Crosse	2.6	2.7	3.4	-0.1	-0.8
Madison	2.2	2.1	3.0	0.1	-0.8
Milwaukee-W.O.W.	3.1	3.2	4.2	-0.1	-1.1
Oshkosh-Neenah	2.6	2.6	3.6	0.0	-1.0
Racine	3.4	3.8	4.7	-0.4	-1.3
Sheboygan	2.5	2.6	3.4	-0.1	-0.9
Wausau	2.5	2.6	3.5	-0.1	-1.0

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>.
County and city unemployment rates are not seasonally adjusted.

Local Unemployment Rates May 2017

CITIES

CITY	May-17 RANK	Apr-17 RANK	May-17 RATE	Apr-17 RATE	May-16 RATE
Appleton	14	17	2.8	2.8	3.7
Beloit	32	32	4.7	4.8	5.6
Brookfield	7	11	2.6	2.7	3.7
Caledonia	23	24	3.0	3.3	4.0
Eau Claire	4	4	2.5	2.4	3.3
Fitchburg	2	3	2.2	2.2	2.8
Fond du Lac	4	5	2.5	2.6	3.6
Franklin	21	21	2.9	3.0	4.0
Green Bay	14	21	2.8	3.0	4.0
Greenfield	21	20	2.9	2.9	4.0
Janesville	26	25	3.2	3.4	4.2
Kenosha	28	29	3.6	4.0	4.9
La Crosse	14	17	2.8	2.8	4.0
Madison	2	1	2.2	2.0	2.9
Manitowoc	28	27	3.6	3.6	4.5
Menomonee Falls	7	5	2.6	2.6	3.3

CITY	May-17 RANK	Apr-17 RANK	May-17 RATE	Apr-17 RATE	May-16 RATE
Milwaukee	30	30	4.0	4.2	5.5
Mount Pleasant	24	23	3.1	3.2	4.1
Neenah	14	11	2.8	2.7	3.7
New Berlin	4	5	2.5	2.6	3.5
Oak Creek	13	11	2.7	2.7	3.4
Oshkosh	14	11	2.8	2.7	3.8
Racine	31	31	4.2	4.6	5.9
Sheboygan	7	17	2.6	2.8	3.8
Stevens Point	14	5	2.8	2.6	3.9
Sun Prairie	1	2	2.1	2.1	2.9
Superior	27	27	3.5	3.6	4.5
Waukesha	7	5	2.6	2.6	3.5
Wausau	14	11	2.8	2.7	3.8
Wauwatosa	7	11	2.6	2.7	3.4
West Allis	24	25	3.1	3.4	4.4
West Bend	7	5	2.6	2.6	3.4

COUNTIES

Alphabetical Order

COUNTY	May-17 RANK	Apr-17 RANK	May-17 RATE	Apr-17 RATE	May-16 RATE
Adams	63	60	3.7	4.3	5.1
Ashland	67	64	3.8	4.7	5.1
Barron	32	43	2.7	3.5	3.9
Bayfield	69	70	4.0	5.9	6.0
Brown	21	18	2.6	2.7	3.5
Buffalo	41	40	2.9	3.3	4.0
Burnett	68	66	3.9	5.0	5.2
Calumet	6	3	2.4	2.4	3.1
Chippewa	21	36	2.6	3.2	3.6
Clark	21	27	2.6	2.9	3.8
Columbia	6	18	2.4	2.7	3.4
Crawford	51	57	3.1	4.1	4.5
Dane	1	1	2.2	2.1	2.9
Dodge	10	18	2.5	2.7	3.5
Door	41	58	2.9	4.2	4.2
Douglas	63	62	3.7	4.4	5.0
Dunn	39	27	2.8	2.9	4.1
Eau Claire	21	7	2.6	2.5	3.3
Florence	63	65	3.7	4.9	5.8
Fond du Lac	3	3	2.3	2.4	3.4
Forest	69	68	4.0	5.4	5.4
Grant	32	10	2.7	2.6	3.9
Green	3	3	2.3	2.4	3.2
Green Lake	51	40	3.1	3.3	4.5
Iowa	3	10	2.3	2.6	3.3
Iron	72	72	5.3	7.6	7.1
Jackson	32	36	2.7	3.2	3.9
Jefferson	32	31	2.7	3.0	3.7
Juneau	21	31	2.6	3.0	4.0
Kenosha	54	46	3.3	3.6	4.5
Kewaunee	21	10	2.6	2.6	3.5
La Crosse	10	10	2.5	2.6	3.5
Lafayette	1	2	2.2	2.2	3.0
Langlade	57	62	3.4	4.4	4.7
Lincoln	41	46	2.9	3.6	4.0
Manitowoc	51	36	3.1	3.2	4.1

COUNTY	May-17 RANK	Apr-17 RANK	May-17 RATE	Apr-17 RATE	May-16 RATE
Marathon	10	10	2.5	2.6	3.5
Marinette	62	58	3.6	4.2	4.9
Marquette	41	43	2.9	3.5	4.6
Menominee	71	71	5.1	6.4	7.4
Milwaukee	61	52	3.5	3.7	4.8
Monroe	10	7	2.5	2.5	3.5
Oconto	41	46	2.9	3.6	4.2
Oneida	41	56	2.9	4.0	4.1
Outagamie	10	18	2.5	2.7	3.4
Ozaukee	21	7	2.6	2.5	3.4
Pepin	32	27	2.7	2.9	3.3
Pierce	41	31	2.9	3.0	3.8
Polk	39	46	2.8	3.6	3.9
Portage	21	18	2.6	2.7	3.7
Price	48	52	3.0	3.7	3.9
Racine	57	55	3.4	3.8	4.7
Richland	6	18	2.4	2.7	3.4
Rock	54	43	3.3	3.5	4.2
Rusk	57	60	3.4	4.3	4.7
Sauk	10	25	2.5	2.8	3.4
Sawyer	63	67	3.7	5.1	5.4
Shawano	32	36	2.7	3.2	4.1
Sheboygan	10	10	2.5	2.6	3.4
St. Croix	10	18	2.5	2.7	3.5
Taylor	21	46	2.6	3.6	3.6
Trempealeau	10	25	2.5	2.8	3.2
Vernon	10	27	2.5	2.9	3.2
Vilas	57	68	3.4	5.4	4.9
Walworth	32	31	2.7	3.0	3.8
Washburn	48	52	3.0	3.7	4.3
Washington	6	3	2.4	2.4	3.3
Waukesha	10	10	2.5	2.6	3.4
Waupaca	21	31	2.6	3.0	3.8
Waushara	54	46	3.3	3.6	4.7
Winnebago	21	10	2.6	2.6	3.6
Wood	48	40	3.0	3.3	4.4

Note: Ranking is ascending from lowest (best) unemployment rate to highest.
Ranking ties exist in the results.

Local Unemployment Rates May 2017

COUNTIES

Ascending Order

COUNTY	May-17 RATE	Apr-17 RATE	May-16 RATE	COUNTY	May-17 RATE	Apr-17 RATE	May-16 RATE
Dane	2.2	2.1	2.9	Shawano	2.7	3.2	4.1
Lafayette	2.2	2.2	3.0	Walworth	2.7	3.0	3.8
Fond du Lac	2.3	2.4	3.4	Dunn	2.8	2.9	4.1
Green	2.3	2.4	3.2	Polk	2.8	3.6	3.9
Iowa	2.3	2.6	3.3	Buffalo	2.9	3.3	4.0
Calumet	2.4	2.4	3.1	Door	2.9	4.2	4.2
Columbia	2.4	2.7	3.4	Lincoln	2.9	3.6	4.0
Richland	2.4	2.7	3.4	Marquette	2.9	3.5	4.6
Washington	2.4	2.4	3.3	Oconto	2.9	3.6	4.2
Dodge	2.5	2.7	3.5	Oneida	2.9	4.0	4.1
La Crosse	2.5	2.6	3.5	Pierce	2.9	3.0	3.8
Marathon	2.5	2.6	3.5	Price	3.0	3.7	3.9
Monroe	2.5	2.5	3.5	Washburn	3.0	3.7	4.3
Outagamie	2.5	2.7	3.4	Wood	3.0	3.3	4.4
Sauk	2.5	2.8	3.4	Crawford	3.1	4.1	4.5
Sheboygan	2.5	2.6	3.4	Green Lake	3.1	3.3	4.5
St. Croix	2.5	2.7	3.5	Manitowoc	3.1	3.2	4.1
Trempealeau	2.5	2.8	3.2	Kenosha	3.3	3.6	4.5
Vernon	2.5	2.9	3.2	Rock	3.3	3.5	4.2
Waukesha	2.5	2.6	3.4	Waushara	3.3	3.6	4.7
Brown	2.6	2.7	3.5	Langlade	3.4	4.4	4.7
Chippewa	2.6	3.2	3.6	Racine	3.4	3.8	4.7
Clark	2.6	2.9	3.8	Rusk	3.4	4.3	4.7
Eau Claire	2.6	2.5	3.3	Vilas	3.4	5.4	4.9
Juneau	2.6	3.0	4.0	Milwaukee	3.5	3.7	4.8
Kewaunee	2.6	2.6	3.5	Marinette	3.6	4.2	4.9
Ozaukee	2.6	2.5	3.4	Adams	3.7	4.3	5.1
Portage	2.6	2.7	3.7	Douglas	3.7	4.4	5.0
Taylor	2.6	3.6	3.6	Florence	3.7	4.9	5.8
Waupaca	2.6	3.0	3.8	Sawyer	3.7	5.1	5.4
Winnebago	2.6	2.6	3.6	Ashland	3.8	4.7	5.1
Barron	2.7	3.5	3.9	Burnett	3.9	5.0	5.2
Grant	2.7	2.6	3.9	Bayfield	4.0	5.9	6.0
Jackson	2.7	3.2	3.9	Forest	4.0	5.4	5.4
Jefferson	2.7	3.0	3.7	Menominee	5.1	6.4	7.4
Pepin	2.7	2.9	3.3	Iron	5.3	7.6	7.1