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CONTACT: DWD Communications, 608-266-2722

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Wisconsin Local Employment and 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 to March 2018 and preliminary estimates for April 2018. These numbers are not seasonally adjusted. In brief, the estimates show:

- **Metropolitan Statistical Areas:** Preliminary April 2018 unemployment rates declined in all twelve Wisconsin metro areas when compared over the year to April 2017. The rates ranged from 1.9 percent in Madison to 3.2 percent in Racine. Janesville-Beloit experienced the largest year over year decline of 0.9 percent, followed by Racine's 0.7 percent drop. Nine (9) of Wisconsin's 12 metro areas experienced (or tied) their lowest April unemployment rate on record in 2018 (1990).
- **Municipalities:** Preliminary April 2018 rates decreased in all of the state's 32 largest cities when compared over the year to April 2017, with Beloit experiencing the largest year over year decline of 1.6 percent, followed by Milwaukee's decline of 0.9 percent since April 2017. The rates ranged from 1.7 percent in Fitchburg to 4.1 percent in Racine. Nineteen (19) of the state's 32 largest cities experienced their lowest April unemployment rate on record in 2018 (1990).
- **Counties:** Preliminary April 2018 rates declined or stayed the same in 63 of Wisconsin's 72 counties when compared over the year to April 2017. Florence County had the largest year over year decline of 1.1 percent since April 2017, followed by Rock County's 0.9 percent decline. The rate's ranged from 1.8 percent in Dane and Lafayette Counties to 7.9 percent in Iron County. Forty-five (45) of the state's 72 counties experienced or tied their lowest April unemployment rate on record in 2018 (1990).

The release of April 2018 local rates follows last week's release of BLS monthly estimates showing that Wisconsin's statewide seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined to a new all-time low of 2.8 percent in April 2018, which ranks 5th lowest nationally. The data also showed that Wisconsin ranked 2nd in the nation and 1st in the Midwest for adding 13,700 manufacturing jobs from April 2017 to April 2018. Wisconsin's labor force participation rate also increased by 0.2 percent to 68.9 percent. The 0.2 percent rank increase in Wisconsin labor force participation rate over the month tied for 2nd nationally. Other highlights of the statewide release include:

- Wisconsin ranked 3rd nationally in the number of manufacturing jobs added in 2018.
- Wisconsin's labor force participation rate of 68.9 percent in April ranked 5th nationally.
- Wisconsin's record-low unemployment rate of 2.8 percent in April ranks 5th nationally and tied for 1st in the Midwest.

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

- Initial UI claims ended 2017 at their lowest level in the last 30 years.

- Continuing unemployment claims ended 2017 at their lowest level since 1973.
- Moody's investor Service recently upgraded the state's credit rating, noting that "(T)he stable outlook reflects the expectation that the state will experience moderate economic growth and will continue its prudent fiscal management practices."

The data included in today's release can be found on DWD's WisConomy [website](#).

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Labor Force and Employment Estimates April 2018

STATEWIDE LABOR FORCE

	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER		PRELIM	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Apr-18	Mar-18	Apr-17	1-Month	1-Year	Apr-18	Mar-18	Apr-17	1-Month	1-Year
Total labor force	3,175,600	3,168,600	3,146,700	7,000	28,900	3,171,200	3,178,100	3,129,800	-6,900	41,400
Employment	3,086,100	3,078,000	3,043,400	8,100	42,700	3,085,900	3,076,600	3,032,400	9,300	53,500
Unemployment	89,500	90,500	103,300	-1,000	-13,800	85,200	101,500	97,400	-16,300	-12,200
Unemployment Rate	2.8%	2.9%	3.3%	-0.1%	-0.5%	2.7%	3.2%	3.1%	-0.5%	-0.4%
National Rate	3.9%	4.1%	4.4%	-0.2%	-0.5%	3.7%	4.1%	4.1%	-0.4%	-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	
	Apr-18	Mar-18	Apr-17	1-Month	1-Year	Apr-18	Mar-18	Apr-17	1-Month	1-Year
Statewide	2,972,500	2,973,500	2,944,600	-1,000	27,900	2,958,700	2,930,400	2,934,800	28,300	23,900
Appleton	126,600	126,400	125,400	200	1,200	125,500	124,400	124,600	1,100	900
Eau Claire	86,700	87,000	86,700	-300	0	87,000	86,200	87,300	800	-300
Fond du Lac	48,400	48,500	47,900	-100	500	48,300	48,000	47,800	300	500
Green Bay	179,800	179,500	178,000	300	1,800	178,500	176,400	177,200	2,100	1,300
Janesville	69,200	69,100	68,300	100	900	69,300	68,200	68,300	1,100	1,000
La Crosse	79,700	79,400	78,900	300	800	80,600	78,500	79,600	2,100	1,000
Madison	405,900	405,900	400,400	0	5,500	405,500	402,500	400,100	3,000	5,400
Milwaukee-W.O.W.	878,300	877,700	866,700	600	11,600	873,600	867,100	863,400	6,500	10,200
Oshkosh-Neenah	98,500	98,500	98,000	0	500	98,400	97,600	98,400	800	0
Racine	77,900	78,300	77,700	-400	200	77,000	77,000	77,300	0	-300
Sheboygan	63,600	63,300	62,500	300	1,100	62,800	62,100	62,000	700	800
Wausau	73,800	73,600	72,000	200	1,800	73,300	72,800	71,500	500	1,800

Source: Current Employment Statistics (CES)

MSA UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

	NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Apr-18	Mar-18	Apr-17	1-Month	1-Year
Wisconsin	2.7	3.2	3.1	-0.5	-0.4
Appleton	2.5	2.9	2.8	-0.4	-0.3
Eau Claire	2.7	3.2	2.9	-0.5	-0.2
Fond du Lac	2.3	2.7	2.5	-0.4	-0.2
Green Bay	2.6	3.0	2.8	-0.4	-0.2
Janesville	2.8	3.5	3.7	-0.7	-0.9
La Crosse	2.3	3.0	2.7	-0.7	-0.4
Madison	1.9	2.4	2.3	-0.5	-0.4
Milwaukee-W.O.W.	2.7	3.1	3.3	-0.4	-0.6
Oshkosh-Neenah	2.4	2.7	2.7	-0.3	-0.3
Racine	3.2	3.8	3.9	-0.6	-0.7
Sheboygan	2.2	2.6	2.6	-0.4	-0.4
Wausau	2.5	2.9	2.7	-0.4	-0.2

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 April 2018

CITIES

CITY	Apr-18 RANK	Mar-18 RANK	Apr-18 RATE	Mar-18 RATE	Apr-17 RATE
Appleton	18	13	2.6	2.8	3.0
Beloit	31	31	3.5	4.2	5.1
Brookfield	11	8	2.4	2.7	2.8
Caledonia	22	25	2.8	3.4	3.4
Eau Claire	5	5	2.1	2.5	2.4
Fitchburg	1	1	1.7	2.0	2.3
Fond du Lac	11	13	2.4	2.8	2.7
Franklin	17	18	2.5	2.9	3.1
Green Bay	21	22	2.7	3.2	3.1
Greenfield	22	22	2.8	3.2	3.0
Janesville	22	24	2.8	3.3	3.6
Kenosha	28	29	3.4	3.9	4.1
La Crosse	9	13	2.3	2.8	2.9
Madison	2	2	1.8	2.1	2.1
Manitowoc	28	28	3.4	3.7	3.7
Menomonee Falls	4	4	2.0	2.4	2.6

CITY	Apr-18 RANK	Mar-18 RANK	Apr-18 RATE	Mar-18 RATE	Apr-17 RATE
Milwaukee	28	29	3.4	3.9	4.3
Mount Pleasant	22	20	2.8	3.0	3.3
Neenah	11	8	2.4	2.7	2.8
New Berlin	6	7	2.2	2.6	2.7
Oak Creek	11	8	2.4	2.7	2.8
Oshkosh	11	8	2.4	2.7	2.8
Racine	32	32	4.1	4.6	4.7
Sheboygan	11	13	2.4	2.8	2.9
Stevens Point	18	20	2.6	3.0	2.7
Sun Prairie	2	3	1.8	2.3	2.2
Superior	27	25	3.1	3.4	3.8
Waukesha	6	8	2.2	2.7	2.7
Wausau	18	18	2.6	2.9	2.8
Wauwatosa	6	5	2.2	2.5	2.8
West Allis	26	27	3.0	3.6	3.5
West Bend	9	13	2.3	2.8	2.7

COUNTIES Alphabetical Order

COUNTY	Apr-18 RANK	Mar-18 RANK	Apr-18 RATE	Mar-18 RATE	Apr-17 RATE
Adams	62	65	4.2	5.5	4.5
Ashland	65	64	5.0	5.0	4.9
Barron	52	52	3.6	4.3	3.6
Bayfield	70	71	5.9	6.5	6.1
Brown	20	12	2.5	2.9	2.7
Buffalo	42	42	3.2	3.8	3.5
Burnett	66	68	5.1	5.6	5.1
Calumet	5	4	2.2	2.6	2.5
Chippewa	49	49	3.4	4.2	3.3
Clark	37	31	3.0	3.5	3.0
Columbia	11	19	2.3	3.0	2.8
Crawford	59	57	4.1	4.6	4.2
Dane	1	1	1.8	2.2	2.2
Dodge	11	12	2.3	2.9	2.8
Door	56	65	4.0	5.5	4.4
Douglas	59	55	4.1	4.5	4.6
Dunn	33	35	2.9	3.6	3.1
Eau Claire	5	8	2.2	2.7	2.6
Florence	56	55	4.0	4.5	5.1
Fond du Lac	11	8	2.3	2.7	2.5
Forest	69	65	5.7	5.5	5.6
Grant	17	22	2.4	3.2	2.7
Green	5	12	2.2	2.9	2.5
Green Lake	33	49	2.9	4.2	3.4
Iowa	11	22	2.3	3.2	2.8
Iron	72	72	7.9	6.8	7.8
Jackson	42	40	3.2	3.7	3.4
Jefferson	20	20	2.5	3.1	3.1
Juneau	28	35	2.8	3.6	3.1
Kenosha	37	35	3.0	3.6	3.8
Kewaunee	25	28	2.6	3.4	2.7
La Crosse	5	11	2.2	2.8	2.7
Lafayette	1	2	1.8	2.4	2.3
Langlade	56	54	4.0	4.4	4.5
Lincoln	49	40	3.4	3.7	3.7
Manitowoc	33	35	2.9	3.6	3.3

COUNTY	Apr-18 RANK	Mar-18 RANK	Apr-18 RATE	Mar-18 RATE	Apr-17 RATE
Marathon	20	12	2.5	2.9	2.7
Marinette	53	57	3.9	4.6	4.4
Marquette	42	45	3.2	4.1	3.6
Menominee	71	61	6.8	4.8	6.7
Milwaukee	39	31	3.1	3.5	3.8
Monroe	11	12	2.3	2.9	2.6
Oconto	49	44	3.4	4.0	3.7
Oneida	62	61	4.2	4.8	4.2
Outagamie	20	12	2.5	2.9	2.8
Ozaukee	3	3	2.1	2.5	2.5
Pepin	39	52	3.1	4.3	3.0
Pierce	33	35	2.9	3.6	3.2
Polk	59	57	4.1	4.6	3.9
Portage	26	28	2.7	3.4	2.9
Price	53	45	3.9	4.1	3.9
Racine	42	42	3.2	3.8	3.9
Richland	11	20	2.3	3.1	2.8
Rock	28	31	2.8	3.5	3.7
Rusk	53	60	3.9	4.7	4.5
Sauk	28	25	2.8	3.3	2.9
Sawyer	17	12	2.4	2.9	2.8
Shawano	68	68	5.4	5.6	5.2
Sheboygan	39	31	3.1	3.5	3.3
St. Croix	5	4	2.2	2.6	2.6
Taylor	46	49	3.3	4.2	3.7
Trempealeau	28	25	2.8	3.3	3.0
Vernon	26	28	2.7	3.4	3.1
Vilas	67	68	5.2	5.6	5.4
Walworth	20	22	2.5	3.2	3.1
Washburn	62	61	4.2	4.8	3.9
Washington	3	4	2.1	2.6	2.5
Waukesha	5	4	2.2	2.6	2.6
Waupaca	28	25	2.8	3.3	3.2
Waushara	46	45	3.3	4.1	3.7
Winnebago	17	8	2.4	2.7	2.7
Wood	46	45	3.3	4.1	3.4

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

Local Unemployment Rates April 2018

COUNTIES

Ascending Order

COUNTY	Apr-18 RATE	Mar-18 RATE	Apr-17 RATE	COUNTY	Apr-18 RATE	Mar-18 RATE	Apr-17 RATE
Dane	1.8	2.2	2.2	Clark	3.0	3.5	3.0
Lafayette	1.8	2.4	2.3	Kenosha	3.0	3.6	3.8
Ozaukee	2.1	2.5	2.5	Milwaukee	3.1	3.5	3.8
Washington	2.1	2.6	2.5	Pepin	3.1	4.3	3.0
Calumet	2.2	2.6	2.5	Shawano	3.1	3.5	3.3
Eau Claire	2.2	2.7	2.6	Buffalo	3.2	3.8	3.5
Green	2.2	2.9	2.5	Jackson	3.2	3.7	3.4
La Crosse	2.2	2.8	2.7	Marquette	3.2	4.1	3.6
Sheboygan	2.2	2.6	2.6	Racine	3.2	3.8	3.9
Waukesha	2.2	2.6	2.6	Taylor	3.3	4.2	3.7
Columbia	2.3	3.0	2.8	Wausara	3.3	4.1	3.7
Dodge	2.3	2.9	2.8	Wood	3.3	4.1	3.4
Fond du Lac	2.3	2.7	2.5	Chippewa	3.4	4.2	3.3
Iowa	2.3	3.2	2.8	Lincoln	3.4	3.7	3.7
Monroe	2.3	2.9	2.6	Oconto	3.4	4.0	3.7
Richland	2.3	3.1	2.8	Barron	3.6	4.3	3.6
Grant	2.4	3.2	2.7	Marinette	3.9	4.6	4.4
Sauk	2.4	2.9	2.8	Price	3.9	4.1	3.9
Winnebago	2.4	2.7	2.7	Rusk	3.9	4.7	4.5
Brown	2.5	2.9	2.7	Door	4.0	5.5	4.4
Jefferson	2.5	3.1	3.1	Florence	4.0	4.5	5.1
Marathon	2.5	2.9	2.7	Langlade	4.0	4.4	4.5
Outagamie	2.5	2.9	2.8	Crawford	4.1	4.6	4.2
Walworth	2.5	3.2	3.1	Douglas	4.1	4.5	4.6
Kewaunee	2.6	3.4	2.7	Polk	4.1	4.6	3.9
Portage	2.7	3.4	2.9	Adams	4.2	5.5	4.5
Vernon	2.7	3.4	3.1	Oneida	4.2	4.8	4.2
Juneau	2.8	3.6	3.1	Washburn	4.2	4.8	3.9
Rock	2.8	3.5	3.7	Ashland	5.0	5.0	4.9
St. Croix	2.8	3.3	2.9	Burnett	5.1	5.6	5.1
Trempealeau	2.8	3.3	3.0	Vilas	5.2	5.6	5.4
Waupaca	2.8	3.3	3.2	Sawyer	5.4	5.6	5.2
Dunn	2.9	3.6	3.1	Forest	5.7	5.5	5.6
Green Lake	2.9	4.2	3.4	Bayfield	5.9	6.5	6.1
Manitowoc	2.9	3.6	3.3	Menominee	6.8	4.8	6.7
Pierce	2.9	3.6	3.2	Iron	7.9	6.8	7.8