



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

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May Jobless Rates Decline Over Year in All Wisconsin Metro Areas, Largest Cities

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 April 2018 and preliminary estimates for May 2018. These numbers are not seasonally adjusted. The estimates show:

- **Metropolitan Statistical Areas:** Preliminary May 2018 unemployment rates declined in all 12 Wisconsin metro areas when compared to May 2017. The rates ranged from 2.1 percent in Madison to 3.1 percent in Racine. Janesville-Beloit experienced the largest year-over-year decline of 0.8 percent. Six of Wisconsin's 12 metro areas experienced or tied their lowest May unemployment rate on record in 2018 (1990). The Janesville-Beloit and Racine metro areas experienced or tied their lowest unemployment rate on record for any month (1990).
- **Municipalities:** Preliminary May 2018 rates decreased in all of the state's 32 largest cities when compared to May 2017, with Beloit experiencing the largest year-over-year decline of 1.5 percent, followed by Superior's decline of 0.8 percent since May 2017. The rates ranged from 1.9 percent in Fitchburg to 4.0 percent in Racine. Twenty of the state's 32 largest cities experienced or tied their lowest May unemployment rate on record in 2018 (1990). The cities of Fond du Lac, Green Bay and Janesville experienced or tied their lowest unemployment rate on record for any month (1990).
- **Counties:** Preliminary May 2018 rates declined or stayed the same in 70 of Wisconsin's 72 counties when compared to May 2017. Rock and Florence Counties had the largest year-over-year decline of 0.8 percent since May 2017. The rates ranged from 1.8 percent in Lafayette County to 6.1 percent in Menominee County. Fifty of the state's 72 counties experienced or tied their lowest May unemployment rate on record in 2018 (1990). Twelve Wisconsin counties experienced their lowest unemployment rate on record (1990) for any month. Those counties were: Columbia; Grant; Juneau; Lafayette; Marinette; Monroe; Oconto; Pepin; Racine; Rock; Vernon; and, Waupaca.

The release of May 2018 local rates follows last week's release of BLS monthly statewide estimates which showed the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained at a record low of 2.8 percent while the labor force participation rate increased by 0.1 percent to 68.9 percent from the

state's revised April 2018 rate of 68.8 percent. The data also showed the state added over 45,000 manufacturing jobs since Governor Walker took office.

When compared to other states, the seasonally adjusted data showed:

- Wisconsin's addition of 9,200 manufacturing jobs in 2018 ranks 2nd nationally.
- Wisconsin's addition of 45,600 manufacturing jobs since December 2010 ranks in the top 10 compared to other states.
- Wisconsin's addition of 1,200 manufacturing jobs from April 2018 to May 2018 ranked 7th nationally.
- Wisconsin's unemployment rate of 2.8 percent ranks 5th lowest nationally, and 2nd lowest among Midwestern states.
- Wisconsin's labor force participation rate of 68.9 percent ranks 5th highest nationally.
- Wisconsin's unemployment rate of 2.8 percent is significantly lower than the national rate of 3.8 percent as defined by BLS.

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

- Initial Unemployment Insurance 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."

Data cited in today's release can be accessed on DWD's WisConomy [website](#) and found below.

Labor Force and Employment Estimates May 2018

STATEWIDE LABOR FORCE

	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM May-18	FINAL Apr-18	YEAR AGO May-17	NET CHANGE OVER		PRELIM May-18	FINAL Apr-18	YEAR AGO May-17	NET CHANGE OVER	
				1-Month	1-Year				1-Month	1-Year
Total labor force	3,179,400	3,175,400	3,151,000	4,000	28,400	3,167,300	3,170,200	3,139,800	-2,900	27,500
Employment	3,090,200	3,085,900	3,047,400	4,300	42,800	3,085,100	3,084,900	3,044,000	200	41,100
Unemployment	89,200	89,500	103,600	-300	-14,400	82,200	85,300	95,800	-3,100	-13,600
Unemployment Rate	2.8%	2.8%	3.3%	0.0%	-0.5%	2.6%	2.7%	3.1%	-0.1%	-0.5%
National Rate	3.8%	3.9%	4.3%	-0.1%	-0.5%	3.6%	3.7%	4.1%	-0.1%	-0.5%

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

MSA EMPLOYMENT

	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM May-18	FINAL Apr-18	YEAR AGO May-17	NET CHANGE OVER		PRELIM May-18	FINAL Apr-18	YEAR AGO May-17	NET CHANGE OVER	
				1-Month	1-Year				1-Month	1-Year
Statewide	2,963,900	2,968,600	2,943,700	-4,700	20,200	2,977,700	2,954,900	2,959,400	22,800	18,300
Appleton	127,100	126,700	125,300	400	1,800	127,400	125,400	125,800	2,000	1,600
Eau Claire	87,600	87,200	86,100	400	1,500	88,700	87,400	87,100	1,300	1,600
Fond du Lac	48,500	48,400	47,700	100	800	48,800	48,300	48,000	500	800
Green Bay	179,300	179,700	177,800	-400	1,500	179,500	178,500	178,500	1,000	1,000
Janesville	69,500	69,100	68,600	400	900	70,100	69,200	69,000	900	1,100
La Crosse	80,000	79,700	78,700	300	1,300	80,900	80,500	79,500	400	1,400
Madison	404,700	405,400	400,800	-700	3,900	405,000	405,100	400,500	-100	4,500
Milwaukee-W.O.W.	874,600	878,300	866,500	-3,700	8,100	876,100	874,500	869,400	1,600	6,700
Oshkosh-Neenah	98,500	98,500	97,800	0	700	98,900	98,400	98,000	500	900
Racine	77,600	77,900	77,700	-300	-100	77,700	77,100	78,100	600	-400
Sheboygan	63,300	63,500	62,400	-200	900	63,600	62,800	62,600	800	1,000
Wausau	73,400	73,700	72,200	-300	1,200	73,600	73,300	72,300	300	1,300

Source: Current Employment Statistics (CES)

MSA UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

	NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM May-18	FINAL Apr-18	YEAR AGO May-17	NET CHANGE OVER	
				1-Month	1-Year
Wisconsin	2.6	2.7	3.1	-0.1	-0.5
Appleton	2.4	2.5	2.7	-0.1	-0.3
Eau Claire	2.3	2.6	2.8	-0.3	-0.5
Fond du Lac	2.3	2.3	2.6	0.0	-0.3
Green Bay	2.5	2.6	2.8	-0.1	-0.3
Janesville	2.8	2.8	3.6	0.0	-0.8
La Crosse	2.2	2.3	2.8	-0.1	-0.6
Madison	2.1	1.9	2.4	0.2	-0.3
Milwaukee-W.O.W.	2.8	2.7	3.4	0.1	-0.6
Oshkosh-Neenah	2.4	2.4	2.9	0.0	-0.5
Racine	3.1	3.2	3.7	-0.1	-0.6
Sheboygan	2.3	2.2	2.7	0.1	-0.4
Wausau	2.4	2.5	2.7	-0.1	-0.3

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 2018

CITIES

CITY	May-18 RANK	Apr-18 RANK	May-18 RATE	Apr-18 RATE	May-17 RATE
Appleton	16	18	2.6	2.6	3.1
Beloit	31	31	3.7	3.5	5.2
Brookfield	11	11	2.5	2.4	2.9
Caledonia	19	22	2.7	2.8	3.2
Eau Claire	4	5	2.2	2.1	2.7
Fitchburg	1	1	1.9	1.7	2.4
Fond du Lac	6	11	2.4	2.4	2.8
Franklin	19	17	2.7	2.5	3.1
Green Bay	16	21	2.6	2.7	3.0
Greenfield	22	22	2.8	2.8	3.2
Janesville	22	22	2.8	2.8	3.5
Kenosha	29	28	3.4	3.4	4.0
La Crosse	11	8	2.5	2.3	3.1
Madison	2	2	2.1	1.8	2.4
Manitowoc	28	28	3.2	3.4	3.9
Menomonee Falls	4	4	2.2	2.0	2.8

CITY	May-18 RANK	Apr-18 RANK	May-18 RATE	Apr-18 RATE	May-17 RATE
Milwaukee	30	28	3.6	3.4	4.3
Mount Pleasant	26	22	3.0	2.8	3.4
Neenah	11	11	2.5	2.4	3.1
New Berlin	6	8	2.4	2.3	2.7
Oak Creek	11	11	2.5	2.4	2.9
Oshkosh	16	11	2.6	2.4	3.1
Racine	32	32	4.0	4.1	4.5
Sheboygan	11	11	2.5	2.4	2.9
Stevens Point	25	18	2.9	2.6	3.0
Sun Prairie	2	2	2.1	1.8	2.3
Superior	27	27	3.1	3.1	3.9
Waukesha	6	6	2.4	2.2	2.9
Wausau	19	18	2.7	2.6	3.1
Wauwatosa	6	6	2.4	2.2	2.8
West Allis	22	26	2.8	3.0	3.4
West Bend	6	8	2.4	2.3	2.8

COUNTIES

Alphabetical Order

COUNTY	May-18 RANK	Apr-18 RANK	May-18 RATE	Apr-18 RATE	May-17 RATE
Adams	64	62	3.5	4.2	4.0
Ashland	68	65	3.9	5.0	4.1
Barron	36	52	2.6	3.6	2.9
Bayfield	68	70	3.9	5.9	4.3
Brown	20	20	2.4	2.5	2.8
Buffalo	46	42	2.8	3.2	3.2
Burnett	66	66	3.6	5.2	4.2
Calumet	5	5	2.2	2.2	2.7
Chippewa	20	47	2.4	3.3	2.8
Clark	30	37	2.5	3.0	2.8
Columbia	11	16	2.3	2.4	2.7
Crawford	53	59	3.1	4.1	3.4
Dane	2	1	2.0	1.8	2.4
Dodge	11	10	2.3	2.3	2.7
Door	40	56	2.7	4.0	3.1
Douglas	64	59	3.5	4.1	4.1
Dunn	30	33	2.5	2.9	3.0
Eau Claire	5	10	2.2	2.3	2.8
Florence	58	56	3.2	4.0	4.0
Fond du Lac	11	10	2.3	2.3	2.6
Forest	70	69	4.4	5.6	4.3
Grant	20	16	2.4	2.4	2.9
Green	3	5	2.1	2.2	2.5
Green Lake	51	33	3.0	2.9	3.4
Iowa	3	10	2.1	2.3	2.6
Iron	71	72	5.0	7.9	5.7
Jackson	30	42	2.5	3.2	2.9
Jefferson	30	20	2.5	2.5	3.0
Juneau	36	28	2.6	2.8	2.9
Kenosha	53	38	3.1	3.1	3.6
Kewaunee	20	25	2.4	2.6	2.8
La Crosse	11	5	2.3	2.2	2.8
Lafayette	1	1	1.8	1.8	2.3
Langlade	62	56	3.4	4.0	3.5
Lincoln	40	50	2.7	3.4	3.1
Manitowoc	40	33	2.7	2.9	3.3

COUNTY	May-18 RANK	Apr-18 RANK	May-18 RATE	Apr-18 RATE	May-17 RATE
Marathon	20	20	2.4	2.5	2.7
Marinette	62	53	3.4	3.9	3.9
Marquette	46	42	2.8	3.2	3.2
Menominee	72	71	6.1	6.8	5.7
Milwaukee	58	38	3.2	3.1	3.8
Monroe	5	10	2.2	2.3	2.7
Oconto	40	50	2.7	3.4	3.1
Oneida	49	62	2.9	4.2	3.1
Outagamie	20	20	2.4	2.5	2.8
Ozaukee	11	3	2.3	2.1	2.8
Pepin	5	38	2.2	3.1	2.9
Pierce	36	33	2.6	2.9	3.1
Polk	40	59	2.7	4.1	3.1
Portage	36	27	2.6	2.7	2.8
Price	58	53	3.2	3.9	3.3
Racine	53	42	3.1	3.2	3.7
Richland	11	10	2.3	2.3	2.7
Rock	46	28	2.8	2.8	3.6
Rusk	53	53	3.1	3.9	3.8
Sauk	5	16	2.2	2.4	2.7
Sawyer	67	68	3.8	5.4	4.0
Shawano	40	38	2.7	3.1	3.0
Sheboygan	11	5	2.3	2.2	2.7
St. Croix	20	28	2.4	2.8	2.8
Taylor	20	42	2.4	3.2	2.8
Trempealeau	11	28	2.3	2.8	2.7
Vernon	11	25	2.3	2.6	2.8
Vilas	53	66	3.1	5.2	3.6
Walworth	30	20	2.5	2.5	3.0
Washburn	61	62	3.3	4.2	3.3
Washington	5	3	2.2	2.1	2.6
Waukesha	20	5	2.4	2.2	2.7
Waupaca	30	28	2.5	2.8	2.9
Waushara	51	47	3.0	3.3	3.5
Winnebago	20	16	2.4	2.4	2.9
Wood	49	47	2.9	3.3	3.3

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

Local Unemployment Rates May 2018

COUNTIES

Ascending Order

COUNTY	May-18 RATE	Apr-18 RATE	May-17 RATE	COUNTY	May-18 RATE	Apr-18 RATE	May-17 RATE
Lafayette	1.8	1.8	2.3	Juneau	2.6	2.8	2.9
Dane	2.0	1.8	2.4	Pierce	2.6	2.9	3.1
Green	2.1	2.2	2.5	Portage	2.6	2.7	2.8
Iowa	2.1	2.3	2.6	Door	2.7	4.0	3.1
Calumet	2.2	2.2	2.7	Lincoln	2.7	3.4	3.1
Eau Claire	2.2	2.3	2.8	Manitowoc	2.7	2.9	3.3
Monroe	2.2	2.3	2.7	Oconto	2.7	3.4	3.1
Pepin	2.2	3.1	2.9	Polk	2.7	4.1	3.1
Sauk	2.2	2.4	2.7	Shawano	2.7	3.1	3.0
Washington	2.2	2.1	2.6	Buffalo	2.8	3.2	3.2
Columbia	2.3	2.4	2.7	Marquette	2.8	3.2	3.2
Dodge	2.3	2.3	2.7	Rock	2.8	2.8	3.6
Fond du Lac	2.3	2.3	2.6	Oneida	2.9	4.2	3.1
La Crosse	2.3	2.2	2.8	Wood	2.9	3.3	3.3
Ozaukee	2.3	2.1	2.8	Green Lake	3.0	2.9	3.4
Richland	2.3	2.3	2.7	Waushara	3.0	3.3	3.5
Sheboygan	2.3	2.2	2.7	Crawford	3.1	4.1	3.4
Trempealeau	2.3	2.8	2.7	Kenosha	3.1	3.1	3.6
Vernon	2.3	2.6	2.8	Racine	3.1	3.2	3.7
Brown	2.4	2.5	2.8	Rusk	3.1	3.9	3.8
Chippewa	2.4	3.3	2.8	Vilas	3.1	5.2	3.6
Grant	2.4	2.4	2.9	Florence	3.2	4.0	4.0
Kewaunee	2.4	2.6	2.8	Milwaukee	3.2	3.1	3.8
Marathon	2.4	2.5	2.7	Price	3.2	3.9	3.3
Outagamie	2.4	2.5	2.8	Washburn	3.3	4.2	3.3
St. Croix	2.4	2.8	2.8	Langlade	3.4	4.0	3.5
Taylor	2.4	3.2	2.8	Marinette	3.4	3.9	3.9
Waukesha	2.4	2.2	2.7	Adams	3.5	4.2	4.0
Winnebago	2.4	2.4	2.9	Douglas	3.5	4.1	4.1
Clark	2.5	3.0	2.8	Burnett	3.6	5.2	4.2
Dunn	2.5	2.9	3.0	Sawyer	3.8	5.4	4.0
Jackson	2.5	3.2	2.9	Ashland	3.9	5.0	4.1
Jefferson	2.5	2.5	3.0	Bayfield	3.9	5.9	4.3
Walworth	2.5	2.5	3.0	Forest	4.4	5.6	4.3
Waupaca	2.5	2.8	2.9	Iron	5.0	7.9	5.7
Barron	2.6	3.6	2.9	Menominee	6.1	6.8	5.7