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## March 2008 Local Unemployment Rates Announced

MADISON – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today released the March local unemployment rates that show declines following the usual seasonal patterns as the weather warms and more jobs become available.

"Wisconsin's labor market saw steady improvement last month as unemployment rates for most counties and nearly all of the major metropolitan areas declined from the February rates," Secretary Gassman said.

### METRO AREAS

Unemployment rates in nine of the state's twelve Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) decreased in March compared to February, while two saw increases and one experienced no change. The Madison MSA had the lowest rate in March at 4.2 percent, followed by La Crosse at 4.7 percent. The Racine MSA unemployment rate declined three-tenths of a percentage point, but remained the highest at 6.6 percent. When the latest rates are compared to those of March 2007, two metro areas had lower rates this year, seven recorded higher rates, and three saw no change in their rates.

Preliminary nonfarm wage and salary jobs increased from February to March in all 11 metro areas. When March's preliminary job numbers are compared to the March 2007 totals, the results show three metro areas increasing jobs, seven decreasing and one unchanged. (As of February 2008, wage and salary industry employment estimates are only reported for 11 of Wisconsin's 12 metro areas - figures for the Fond du Lac MSA will no longer be reported due to Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics policy changes.)

### COUNTIES

Rates in 53 of Wisconsin's 72 counties decreased in March, remained the same in 11, and increased in eight. The largest decrease was in Marquette County, down 0.7 percentage points to 7.1%. The largest rate increase was the 0.2 percentage point rise in Ashland County.

On an annual basis, 24 counties recorded decreases, 40 had increases, and 8 had no change over the year. The greatest decrease occurred in St. Croix, down 0.9 percentage points, followed by Marquette and Green, which both dropped 0.8 percentage points. The greatest increase occurred in Taylor County, which rose 1.7 percentage points.

## Employment and Labor Force

### Place of Residence Data

#### Unadjusted labor force estimates

	<b>Current</b>	<b>Month Ago</b>	<b>Year Ago</b>
Total labor force	3,085,700	3,078,200	3,075,900
Employed	2,911,600	2,900,000	2,905,000
Unemployed	174,100	178,300	170,900
Wis. Unemployment Rate	5.6%	5.8%	5.6%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	5.2%	5.2%	4.5%

#### Adjusted labor force estimates

	<b>Current</b>	<b>Month Ago</b>	<b>Year Ago</b>
<i>Total labor force</i>	3,106,000	3,100,500	3,089,300
<i>Employed</i>	2,955,700	2,948,300	2,935,800
<i>Unemployed</i>	150,300	152,200	153,600
<i>Wis. Unemployment Rate</i>	4.8%	4.9%	5.0%
<i>U.S. Unemployment Rate</i>	5.1%	4.8%	4.4%

#### Unadjusted Unemployment Rate, by WI Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)

<b>MSA</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Month Ago</b>	<b>Year Ago</b>
<i>Wisconsin</i>	5.6	5.8	5.6
<i>Appleton</i>	5.5	5.7	5.3
<i>Eau Claire</i>	5.5	5.5	5.5
<i>Fond du Lac</i>	5.5	5.8	5.6
<i>Green Bay</i>	5.6	5.7	5.5
<i>Janesville</i>	6.2	6.5	6.4
<i>La Crosse</i>	4.7	4.8	4.6
<i>Madison</i>	4.2	4.1	4.1
<i>Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis</i>	5.4	5.5	5.2
<i>Oshkosh-Neenah</i>	5.1	5.3	5.1
<i>Racine</i>	6.6	6.9	6.6
<i>Sheboygan</i>	4.9	5.0	4.7
<i>Wausau</i>	5.5	5.4	5.1

### Place of Work Data

#### Nonfarm wage and salary estimates, by WI Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), in thousands

<b>MSA</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Month Ago</b>	<b>Year Ago</b>
<i>Wisconsin</i>	2825.1	2812.2	2830.0
<i>Appleton</i>	116.6	116.4	116.8
<i>Eau Claire</i>	82.7	82.2	81.9
<i>Green Bay</i>	166.8	166.3	166.6
<i>Janesville</i>	68.7	68.4	69.0
<i>La Crosse</i>	73.8	73.4	73.8
<i>Madison</i>	344.2	343.0	342.3
<i>Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis</i>	844.7	841.5	846.0
<i>Oshkosh-Neenah</i>	92.3	91.9	92.4
<i>Racine</i>	78.7	78.1	79.2
<i>Sheboygan</i>	63.0	62.7	63.2
<i>Wausau</i>	71.8	71.5	72.2

Source \*LAUS/CES and DWD Bureau of Workforce Training - Labor Market Information, and DWD Office of Economic Advisors

\*\*As of February 2008, Fond du Lac MSA wage and salary estimates no longer reported due to Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics policy changes.

# WISCONSIN COUNTIES

## Unemployment Rates

March 2008

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

RANK	COUNTY	RATE	LAST RATE	LAST RANK	YR AGO RATE	RANK	COUNTY	RATE	LAST RATE	LAST RANK	YR AGO RATE
12	ADAMS	8.1%	8.6%	10	8.4%	57	MARATHON	5.5%	5.4%	61	5.1%
20	ASHLAND	7.2%	7.0%	28	6.6%	25	MARINETTE	6.8%	7.0%	26	7.5%
18	BARRON	7.3%	7.7%	18	7.4%	21	MARQUETTE	7.1%	7.8%	16	7.9%
4	BAYFIELD	9.4%	9.5%	5	8.6%	1	MENOMINEE	10.2%	10.1%	1	8.8%
60	BROWN	5.3%	5.4%	60	5.2%	39	MILWAUKEE	6.1%	6.1%	43	5.9%
67	BUFFALO	4.8%	4.8%	67	4.8%	61	MONROE	5.2%	5.5%	58	4.9%
5	BURNETT	9.2%	9.7%	3	8.2%	17	OCONTO	7.4%	7.6%	19	7.5%
65	CALUMET	4.9%	5.1%	65	5.0%	13	ONEIDA	8.1%	8.4%	12	8.0%
30	CHIPPEWA	6.6%	6.8%	32	6.9%	48	OUTAGAMIE	5.7%	5.9%	49	5.4%
24	CLARK	6.8%	7.2%	23	7.3%	71	OZAUKEE	4.2%	4.2%	71	4.0%
41	COLUMBIA	6.0%	6.2%	40	5.8%	38	PEPIN	6.1%	6.4%	37	6.5%
27	CRAWFORD	6.6%	7.0%	24	6.0%	56	PIERCE	5.5%	5.5%	59	5.7%
72	DANE	3.9%	3.8%	72	3.8%	15	POLK	7.5%	7.9%	15	7.6%
45	DODGE	5.8%	6.0%	44	5.8%	51	PORTAGE	5.6%	5.9%	47	5.4%
9	DOOR	8.3%	8.5%	11	7.8%	46	PRICE	5.8%	5.8%	53	5.7%
36	DOUGLAS	6.2%	6.3%	38	5.9%	29	RACINE	6.6%	6.9%	31	6.6%
50	DUNN	5.7%	5.6%	57	6.0%	40	RICHLAND	6.1%	6.0%	46	6.0%
68	EAU CLAIRE	4.8%	4.7%	68	4.7%	35	ROCK	6.2%	6.5%	34	6.4%
26	FLORENCE	6.7%	7.3%	21	6.7%	3	RUSK	9.5%	9.6%	4	9.5%
55	FOND DU LAC	5.5%	5.8%	51	5.6%	44	SAUK	5.8%	6.1%	41	5.7%
10	FOREST	8.3%	8.3%	13	8.4%	6	SAWYER	9.2%	9.2%	6	8.6%
43	GRANT	5.9%	6.0%	45	6.1%	34	SHAWANO	6.3%	6.3%	39	6.2%
59	GREEN	5.3%	5.6%	56	6.1%	66	SHEBOYGAN	4.9%	5.0%	66	4.7%
16	GREEN LAKE	7.4%	7.8%	17	7.7%	49	ST. CROIX	5.7%	5.8%	52	6.6%
32	IOWA	6.5%	6.5%	35	6.0%	7	TAYLOR	9.2%	9.2%	7	7.5%
2	IRON	10.0%	10.0%	2	10.3%	58	TREMPEALEAU	5.3%	5.7%	54	5.2%
14	JACKSON	7.7%	8.0%	14	7.2%	37	VERNON	6.1%	6.5%	33	6.0%
53	JEFFERSON	5.6%	5.7%	55	5.6%	8	VILAS	8.9%	8.8%	8	8.5%
22	JUNEAU	6.9%	7.3%	22	6.7%	52	WALWORTH	5.6%	5.9%	48	5.4%
47	KENOSHA	5.7%	6.4%	36	5.5%	11	WASHBURN	8.1%	8.7%	9	8.1%
54	KEWAUNEE	5.5%	5.8%	50	5.4%	63	WASHINGTON	5.1%	5.2%	64	4.7%
69	LA CROSSE	4.5%	4.6%	69	4.3%	70	WAUKESHA	4.5%	4.6%	70	4.3%
64	LAFAYETTE	5.0%	5.3%	62	5.2%	31	WAUPACA	6.5%	6.9%	30	6.4%
19	LANGLADE	7.2%	7.4%	20	7.4%	33	WAUSHARA	6.4%	6.9%	29	6.5%
23	LINCOLN	6.9%	7.0%	27	6.6%	62	WINNEBAGO	5.1%	5.3%	63	5.1%
42	MANITOWOC	5.9%	6.1%	42	6.3%	28	WOOD	6.6%	7.0%	25	6.5%

# WISCONSIN CITIES

## Unemployment Rates

March 2008

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

RANK	CITY	RATE	LAST RATE	LAST RANK	YR AGO RATE
6	APPLETON CITY	6.8%	7.5%	5	6.6%
2	BELOIT CITY	9.1%	9.2%	2	8.8%
29	BROOKFIELD CITY	3.8%	3.7%	29	3.7%
31	CALEDONIA VILLAGE	2.6%	2.5%	31	2.4%
19	EAU CLAIRE CITY	5.3%	5.2%	19	5.1%
11	FOND DU LAC CITY	6.3%	6.7%	10	6.6%
25	FRANKLIN CITY	4.5%	4.5%	26	4.0%
3	GREEN BAY CITY	7.9%	8.3%	3	7.9%
21	GREENFIELD CITY	5.0%	5.0%	21	4.7%
10	JANESVILLE CITY	6.3%	6.8%	9	6.5%
13	KENOSHA CITY	6.1%	6.8%	8	6.2%
22	LA CROSSE CITY	5.0%	5.0%	22	5.0%
30	MADISON CITY	3.6%	3.5%	30	3.5%
8	MANITOWOC CITY	6.7%	6.7%	11	7.1%
26	MENOMONEE FALLS VILLAGE	4.4%	4.5%	25	4.2%
5	MILWAUKEE CITY	7.3%	7.4%	6	7.1%
12	MOUNT PLEASANT VILLAGE	6.2%	6.4%	13	5.7%
20	NEENAH CITY	5.1%	5.1%	20	5.3%
27	NEW BERLIN CITY	4.1%	4.3%	27	3.9%
23	OAK CREEK CITY	4.8%	4.9%	23	4.0%
17	OSHKOSH CITY	5.6%	5.8%	16	5.6%
1	RACINE CITY	9.8%	10.3%	1	10.2%
14	SHEBOYGAN CITY	6.0%	6.2%	14	5.8%
7	STEVENS POINT CITY	6.8%	7.2%	7	6.4%
24	SUN PRAIRIE CITY	4.8%	4.7%	24	4.9%
15	SUPERIOR CITY	5.9%	5.8%	17	5.6%
16	WAUKESHA CITY	5.7%	6.0%	15	5.5%
9	WAUSAU CITY	6.6%	6.5%	12	6.1%
28	WAUWATOSA CITY	4.1%	4.1%	28	3.9%
18	WEST ALLIS CITY	5.6%	5.7%	18	5.3%
4	WEST BEND CITY	7.4%	7.6%	4	6.8%

Source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, Bureau of Workforce Training - Labor Market Information Section