
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MARCH LOCAL UNEMPLOYMENT, JOB NUMBERS ANNOUNCED

Eight of 12 metro areas gain jobs over the month; metro Milwaukee estimates decline by 4,400

MADISON – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson today announced U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) preliminary March employment data for Wisconsin counties, metro areas and large municipalities.

“Compared to a year ago, unemployment rates are lower in all major cities, all metro areas and all but three counties,” DWD Secretary Reggie Newson said. “More people are working, and we expect more to return to work as the hiring season progresses.”

Secretary Newson said job openings on www.JobCenterofWisconsin.com, have exceeded 36,000 statewide in recent weeks, and he urges job seekers to visit the website and pursue these opportunities.

JOBS DATA (METRO AREAS ONLY)

Eight metro areas added jobs over the month on a seasonally adjusted basis, including Appleton (+200), Fond du Lac (+400), Janesville (+600), La Crosse (+700), Madison (+1,000), Racine (+800), Sheboygan (+100) and Wausau (+600). Four metro areas saw job numbers decline including Eau Claire (-800), Green Bay (-1,500), Milwaukee-Waukesha-Ozaukee-Washington (-4,400) and Oshkosh-Neenah (-500).

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

METRO AREAS

All 12 metro areas had lower rates in March than in February and the same month a year ago Janesville had the highest rate at 9.2 percent and Madison had the lowest at 5.3 percent. Both Janesville and Sheboygan had the year-over-year decreases of 1.3 percentage points. Janesville's rate dropped from 10.5 percent in March 2011 to 9.2 percent last month; Sheboygan's rate, from 8.6 percent to 7.3 percent.

MUNICIPALITIES

Of 32 municipalities with at least 25,000 residents, only Franklin had a rate increase over the month, from 6.1 percent in February to 6.2 percent in March. The rest had decreases over the month, and all had rate declines from a year ago. Caledonia had the lowest March 2012 rate, 3.5 percent, while Racine had the highest at 11.9 percent.

COUNTIES

Of 72 counties, 67 had lower rates over the month. Ashland, Forest, Menominee and Vilas had increases. Iron had no change. Compared to a year ago, 69 had lower rates. Bayfield, Menominee and Sawyer had rate increases. Dane had the lowest rate, 5.0 percent; Menominee, the highest rate, 16.2 percent.

The March numbers are preliminary and are subject to revision within the next several weeks.

Labor Force and Employment Estimates March 2012

STATEWIDE LABOR FORCE

	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM. Mar-12	FINAL Feb-12	YEAR AGO Mar-11	NET CHANGE OVER		PRELIM. Mar-12	FINAL Feb-12	YEAR AGO Mar-11	NET CHANGE OVER	
				1-Month	1-Year				1-Month	1-Year
Total labor force	3,064,200	3,059,400	3,070,300	4,800	-6,100	3,049,100	3,050,800	3,052,800	-1,700	-3,700
Employment	2,856,600	2,849,600	2,838,100	7,000	18,500	2,819,500	2,809,800	2,797,900	9,700	21,600
Unemployment	207,500	209,900	232,200	-2,400	-24,700	229,600	241,000	254,900	-11,400	-25,300
Unemployment Rate	6.8%	6.9%	7.6%	-0.1%	-0.8%	7.5%	7.9%	8.3%	-0.4%	-0.8%
National Rate	8.2%	8.3%	8.9%	-0.1%	-0.7%	8.4%	8.7%	9.2%	-0.3%	-0.8%

MSA EMPLOYMENT

	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM. Mar-12	FINAL Feb-12	YEAR AGO Mar-11	NET CHANGE OVER		PRELIM. Mar-12	FINAL Feb-12	YEAR AGO Mar-11	NET CHANGE OVER	
				1-Month	1-Year				1-Month	1-Year
Statewide	2,730,600	2,735,100	2,754,500	-4,500	-23,900	2,675,000	2,668,400	2,705,000	6,600	-30,000
Appleton	118,000	117,800	116,800	200	1,200	115,200	115,000	114,500	200	700
Eau Claire	79,100	79,900	80,700	-800	-1,600	78,200	78,500	79,500	-300	-1,300
Fond du Lac	46,000	45,600	45,400	400	600	45,200	44,800	44,500	400	700
Green Bay	167,700	169,200	165,800	-1,500	1,900	164,900	165,900	163,000	-1,000	1,900
Janesville	60,600	60,000	61,100	600	-500	59,700	58,700	60,200	1,000	-500
La Crosse	74,400	73,700	74,000	700	400	73,600	72,800	72,900	800	700
Madison	342,000	341,000	346,900	1,000	-4,900	337,600	336,400	342,200	1,200	-4,600
Milwaukee-W.O.W.	810,000	814,400	813,800	-4,400	-3,800	798,500	799,000	802,800	-500	-4,300
Oshkosh-Neenah	94,500	95,000	94,300	-500	200	92,900	92,900	92,900	0	0
Racine	76,000	75,200	75,100	800	900	74,600	73,500	74,000	1,100	600
Sheboygan	57,800	57,700	57,700	100	100	56,400	56,400	56,100	0	300
Wausau	67,400	66,800	66,800	600	600	66,400	65,700	65,900	700	500

MSA UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

	NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM. Mar-12	FINAL Feb-12	YEAR AGO Mar-11	NET CHANGE OVER	
				1-Month	1-Year
Wisconsin	7.5%	7.9%	8.3%	-0.4%	-0.8%
Appleton	6.8%	7.0%	7.6%	-0.2%	-0.8%
Eau Claire	6.9%	7.2%	7.6%	-0.3%	-0.7%
Fond du Lac	7.1%	7.5%	8.0%	-0.4%	-0.9%
Green Bay	7.1%	7.3%	7.9%	-0.2%	-0.8%
Janesville	9.2%	9.7%	10.5%	-0.5%	-1.3%
La Crosse	6.1%	6.4%	6.7%	-0.3%	-0.6%
Madison	5.3%	5.6%	5.8%	-0.3%	-0.5%
Milwaukee-W.O.W.	7.7%	8.0%	8.4%	-0.3%	-0.7%
Oshkosh-Neenah	6.6%	6.8%	7.1%	-0.2%	-0.5%
Racine	8.9%	9.3%	9.8%	-0.4%	-0.9%
Sheboygan	7.3%	7.7%	8.6%	-0.4%	-1.3%
Wausau	7.7%	8.2%	8.5%	-0.5%	-0.8%

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 March 2012

CITIES

CITY	Mar-12 RANK	Feb-12 RANK	Mar-12 RATE	Feb-12 RATE	Mar-11 RATE
Appleton	12	14	8.7	8.9	9.4
Beloit	2	1	11.8	12.5	13.7
Brookfield	27	28	5.8	5.9	6.4
Caledonia	32	32	3.5	3.7	3.8
Eau Claire	21	22	6.6	6.9	7.5
Fitchburg	30	30	5.4	5.7	6.1
Fond du Lac	17	16	8.1	8.4	9.1
Franklin	24	27	6.2	6.1	6.5
Green Bay	6	7	9.9	10.1	10.9
Greenfield	20	19	6.7	7.4	7.6
Janesville	8	6	9.7	10.3	10.9
Kenosha	9	9	9.2	9.9	10.8
La Crosse	19	21	6.7	7.1	7.3
Madison	31	31	4.7	4.8	4.9
Manitowoc	7	8	9.7	10.1	10.7
Menomonee Falls	26	24	6.0	6.3	6.8

CITY	Mar-12 RANK	Feb-12 RANK	Mar-12 RATE	Feb-12 RATE	Mar-11 RATE
Milwaukee	3	5	10.4	10.5	11.0
Mount Pleasant	10	10	9.0	9.3	10.4
Neenah	14	13	8.6	9.1	9.8
New Berlin	25	26	6.0	6.2	6.7
Oak Creek	23	23	6.5	6.7	6.8
Oshkosh	18	18	7.4	7.6	8.0
Racine	1	2	11.9	12.3	14.5
Sheboygan	11	11	8.9	9.3	10.6
Stevens Point	13	12	8.6	9.1	9.1
Sun Prairie	29	25	5.7	6.3	6.7
Superior	22	20	6.5	7.2	7.3
Waukesha	15	15	8.2	8.6	9.3
Wausau	5	3	10.1	10.7	10.9
Wauwatosa	28	29	5.7	5.8	6.2
West Allis	16	17	8.1	8.3	8.9
West Bend	4	4	10.2	10.6	11.2

COUNTIES

Alphabetical Order

COUNTY	Mar-12 RANK	Feb-12 RANK	Mar-12 RATE	Feb-12 RATE	Mar-11 RATE
Adams	7	7	11.4	12.4	12.6
Ashland	12	16	10.3	10.1	11.3
Barron	27	28	8.9	9.3	9.7
Bayfield	2	2	13.0	13.6	12.7
Brown	59	62	6.8	7.0	7.4
Buffalo	65	61	6.4	7.1	7.4
Burnett	17	17	9.6	10.1	11.0
Calumet	70	70	5.7	6.0	6.6
Chippewa	42	41	7.8	8.2	8.7
Clark	30	29	8.7	9.3	10.2
Columbia	47	47	7.4	7.9	8.6
Crawford	28	18	8.8	10.0	10.0
Dane	72	72	5.0	5.2	5.3
Dodge	44	43	7.7	8.2	8.9
Door	4	1	12.8	13.8	13.7
Douglas	58	56	6.8	7.5	7.8
Dunn	57	58	6.8	7.3	7.6
Eau Claire	67	68	6.3	6.5	6.9
Florence	41	40	7.9	8.3	9.7
Fond du Lac	54	55	7.1	7.5	8.0
Forest	8	11	11.3	11.2	11.4
Grant	64	60	6.4	7.2	7.4
Green	45	45	7.6	7.9	8.4
Green Lake	29	25	8.7	9.4	10.1
Iowa	40	37	8.0	8.6	9.1
Iron	5	5	12.6	12.6	13.2
Jackson	22	24	9.1	9.6	10.1
Jefferson	39	38	8.0	8.5	9.5
Juneau	15	15	9.8	10.2	10.9
Kenosha	33	32	8.3	8.9	9.7
Kewaunee	53	52	7.1	7.7	8.2
La Crosse	71	71	5.6	6.0	6.3
Lafayette	61	59	6.5	7.2	7.4
Langlade	14	14	9.9	10.2	10.6
Lincoln	11	8	10.6	11.7	12.0
Manitowoc	32	31	8.5	9.0	9.4

COUNTY	Mar-12 RANK	Feb-12 RANK	Mar-12 RATE	Feb-12 RATE	Mar-11 RATE
Marathon	43	42	7.7	8.2	8.5
Marinette	19	23	9.4	9.6	11.1
Marquette	13	12	10.1	10.8	11.4
Menominee	1	3	16.2	13.0	14.5
Milwaukee	31	33	8.6	8.8	9.2
Monroe	46	46	7.4	7.9	7.6
Oconto	26	27	8.9	9.3	10.6
Oneida	9	9	11.2	11.5	11.9
Outagamie	52	57	7.1	7.3	7.8
Ozaukee	69	69	6.2	6.5	6.6
Pepin	56	49	6.9	7.8	7.6
Pierce	66	67	6.3	6.7	7.0
Polk	20	20	9.3	9.9	9.9
Portage	49	53	7.2	7.6	7.7
Price	38	44	8.0	8.1	9.5
Racine	25	26	8.9	9.3	9.8
Richland	55	48	7.0	7.8	8.3
Rock	21	21	9.2	9.7	10.5
Rusk	10	10	10.6	11.5	13.4
Sauk	36	35	8.1	8.7	9.1
Sawyer	6	6	12.2	12.6	12.1
Shawano	24	30	8.9	9.2	9.8
Sheboygan	48	50	7.3	7.7	8.6
St. Croix	68	66	6.2	6.8	7.6
Taylor	18	13	9.4	10.3	11.2
Trempealeau	63	65	6.4	6.8	7.3
Vernon	51	54	7.1	7.5	8.1
Vilas	3	4	12.9	12.6	13.6
Walworth	35	34	8.1	8.8	9.2
Washburn	16	19	9.6	9.9	10.5
Washington	50	51	7.1	7.7	7.9
Waukesha	62	64	6.4	6.8	7.3
Waupaca	34	39	8.2	8.4	9.0
Waushara	23	22	9.0	9.7	10.3
Winnebago	60	63	6.6	6.8	7.1
Wood	37	36	8.0	8.6	9.0

Local Unemployment Rates March 2012

COUNTIES

Ascending Order

COUNTY	Mar-12 RATE	Feb-12 RATE	Mar-11 RATE	COUNTY	Mar-12 RATE	Feb-12 RATE	Mar-11 RATE
Dane	5.0	5.2	5.3	Sauk	8.1	8.7	9.1
La Crosse	5.6	6.0	6.3	Walworth	8.1	8.8	9.2
Calumet	5.7	6.0	6.6	Waupaca	8.2	8.4	9.0
Ozaukee	6.2	6.5	6.6	Kenosha	8.3	8.9	9.7
St. Croix	6.2	6.8	7.6	Manitowoc	8.5	9.0	9.4
Eau Claire	6.3	6.5	6.9	Milwaukee	8.6	8.8	9.2
Pierce	6.3	6.7	7.0	Clark	8.7	9.3	10.2
Buffalo	6.4	7.1	7.4	Green Lake	8.7	9.4	10.1
Grant	6.4	7.2	7.4	Crawford	8.8	10.0	10.0
Trempealeau	6.4	6.8	7.3	Barron	8.9	9.3	9.7
Waukesha	6.4	6.8	7.3	Oconto	8.9	9.3	10.6
Lafayette	6.5	7.2	7.4	Racine	8.9	9.3	9.8
Winnebago	6.6	6.8	7.1	Shawano	8.9	9.2	9.8
Brown	6.8	7.0	7.4	Wausara	9.0	9.7	10.3
Douglas	6.8	7.5	7.8	Jackson	9.1	9.6	10.1
Dunn	6.8	7.3	7.6	Rock	9.2	9.7	10.5
Pepin	6.9	7.8	7.6	Polk	9.3	9.9	9.9
Richland	7.0	7.8	8.3	Marinette	9.4	9.6	11.1
Fond du Lac	7.1	7.5	8.0	Taylor	9.4	10.3	11.2
Kewaunee	7.1	7.7	8.2	Burnett	9.6	10.1	11.0
Outagamie	7.1	7.3	7.8	Washburn	9.6	9.9	10.5
Vernon	7.1	7.5	8.1	Juneau	9.8	10.2	10.9
Washington	7.1	7.7	7.9	Langlade	9.9	10.2	10.6
Portage	7.2	7.6	7.7	Marquette	10.1	10.8	11.4
Sheboygan	7.3	7.7	8.6	Ashland	10.3	10.1	11.3
Columbia	7.4	7.9	8.6	Lincoln	10.6	11.7	12.0
Monroe	7.4	7.9	7.6	Rusk	10.6	11.5	13.4
Green	7.6	7.9	8.4	Oneida	11.2	11.5	11.9
Dodge	7.7	8.2	8.9	Forest	11.3	11.2	11.4
Marathon	7.7	8.2	8.5	Adams	11.4	12.4	12.6
Chippewa	7.8	8.2	8.7	Sawyer	12.2	12.6	12.1
Florence	7.9	8.3	9.7	Iron	12.6	12.6	13.2
Iowa	8.0	8.6	9.1	Door	12.8	13.8	13.7
Jefferson	8.0	8.5	9.5	Vilas	12.9	12.6	13.6
Price	8.0	8.1	9.5	Bayfield	13.0	13.6	12.7
Wood	8.0	8.6	9.0	Menominee	16.2	13.0	14.5