WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

FOR NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES

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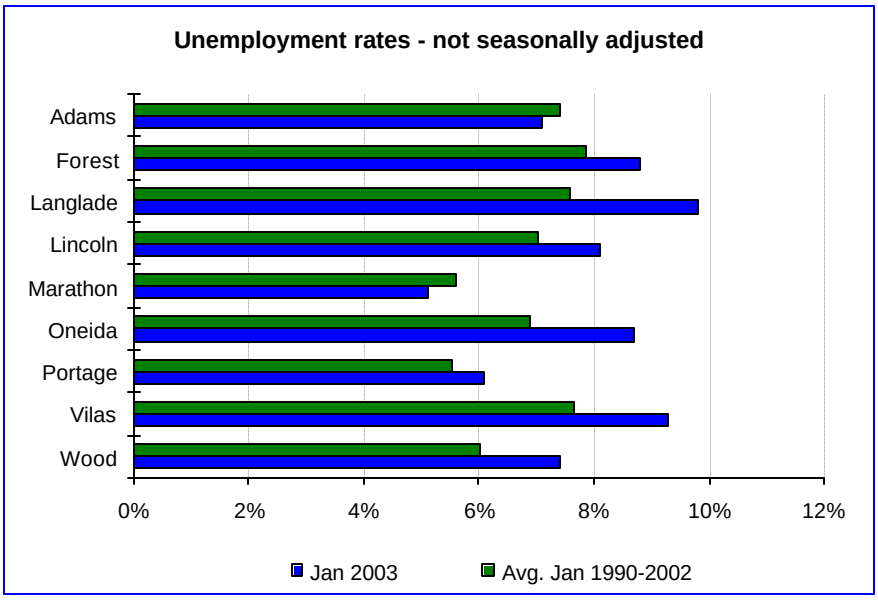
State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Local Workforce Planning Section

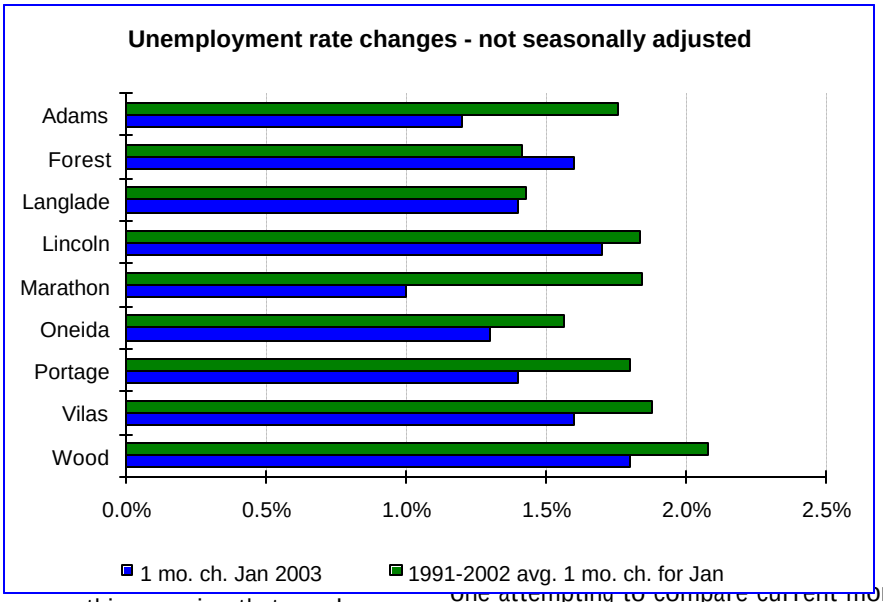
Revisions and recoding blur the picture — separately, commuting data recently released

Two issues complicate analysis of this month's labor force and employment-by-industry figures: revisions and recoding. Each month the Bureau of Labor Statistics releases preliminary estimates. Subsequently, estimators acquire more information about the month in question. At the beginning of each year, this information is used to revise preliminary estimates.

This year, employment-by-industry estimates were generally revised downward and unemployment rate estimates were generally revised upward. Wisconsin's annual average unemployment rate estimate was revised from 5.2 percent to 5.5 percent and most North Central counties experienced similar upward revisions of around three tenths of a percentage point. The exceptions were Portage (revised up from 4.9 to 5.1), Wood (up from 5.8 to 6.3) and Forest (from 6.8 to 7.4).



The graph above compares January 2003 unemployment rates to the average of January unemployment rates from 1990 to 2002. Adams and Marathon counties are below their average January rates, but the other counties in the region, and the region as a whole (as well as the state and the nation) remain above their typical rates. On a brighter note, the graph to the right shows that most counties in the region experienced smaller-than-usual unemployment rate increases in January. The optimistic may see this as a sign that employers are nearly as lean as they can be and unlikely to trim further.



Data is revised every year , but recoding is a once-in-a-lifetime change that will present unique challenges for some time to come. For seventy years, employment-by-industry estimates have been released in categories defined by the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system. Beginning with January 2003 data, the categories will be redefined by the North American Classification System (NAICS). Some similar category titles appear in both SIC and NAICS (like "Manufacturing"), but do not refer to the same group of establishments. While SIC categorized establishments by the good or service produced, NAICS categorizes them based on how they add value. For example, some elements of the printing industry remain in the "manufacturing" category (because they physically produce printed material) while other elements fall under the new "information services" category because they devote more resources to gathering and editing information before publication. Efforts to recode metropolitan counties' SIC data into NAICS are underway. It is not known whether resources will permit recoding of non-metropolitan counties' data past 2001 and 2002. Until pre-recession data is available, this indefinite period of transition presents significant challenges to anyone attempting to compare current month to previous months and previous years. Only the "Total jobs all industries" figures will remain comparable between SIC and NAICS.

Commuting data released

The U.S. Census Bureau is widely considered the most comprehensive, authoritative source of commuting data, so the recently-released figures were anticipated. Each North Central county sends something like 20-25 percent of its working residents to other counties except Marathon (13%) and Adams (54%) . Each county gets about 15-20 percent of its workers from other counties, except Langlade (12%), Vilas (24%) and Wood (26%). Many went from Lincoln to Marathon (2,800), Marathon to Wood (3,900) and Portage to Wood (2,600).

Payroll employment estimates - not seasonally adjusted

	Wisconsin			Adams			Forest			Langlade			Lincoln		
	Jan 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Jan 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Jan 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Jan 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Jan 2003	1-month change	1-year change
Total jobs, all indstries**	2,716,700	-70,000	-2,600	3,900	-160	100	3,200	-260	-80	3,500	-80	-40	11,900	-320	-220
Const., min'g & nat. resources	110,900	-11,100	-960	170	-60	20	50	-20	-30	120	-20	0	410	-50	-30
Manufacturing	520,600	-1,220	-10,900	440	-10	30	320	-10	-10	500	-20	-60	3,700	-50	-60
Trade (wholesale & retail)	422,600	-15,700	-7,700	510	-20	10	320	0	-10	650	0	0	1,710	-60	-50
Transportation & utilities	103,700	-2,200	970	140	0	0	180	0	0	190	-10	-10	370	-60	-130
Financial activities	153,000	-440	1,610	90	0	0	90	0	0	190	20	0	760	0	20
Education & health services	357,000	-3,900	6,700	460	-10	10	360	20	-30	280	10	20	960	-10	-30
Leisure & hospitality	224,800	-6,500	3,800	550	-60	70	140	-120	-20	260	0	20	1,050	-20	70
Info, prof, & other services	422,200	-5,100	10,700	310	-20	-90	110	-80	-50	290	-20	40	880	-80	-80
Civilian Labor Force*	3,065,200	60,500	61,300	8,400	80	360	4,800	-90	0	10,200	220	410	15,200	490	10
Employed	2,873,500	27,600	58,600	7,800	-20	350	4,400	-160	-20	9,200	60	360	13,900	190	30
Unemployed	191,700	32,900	2,700	600	100	10	420	70	20	1,000	170	60	1,230	300	-20
Unemployment rate (%)	6.3	1.0	0.0	7.1	1.2	-0.2	8.8	1.6	0.4	9.8	1.4	0.1	8.1	1.7	-0.1

	Marathon			Oneida			Portage			Vilas			Wood		
	Jan 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Jan 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Jan 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Jan 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Jan 2003	1-month change	1-year change
Total jobs, all indstries**	68,700	-1,830	390	17,600	-710	520	31,700	-1,940	40	7,900	-320	290	43,400	-1,240	170
Const., min'g & nat. resources	2,500	-260	120	1,020	-160	30	770	-190	-20	710	-140	40	1,360	-200	-150
Manufacturing	18,000	-20	260	1,420	-30	-300	5,500	-190	200	400	-60	-80	8,000	90	-170
Trade (wholesale & retail)	14,400	-610	0	3,800	-80	120	4,900	-330	-340	1,270	-20	-10	6,300	-770	-180
Transportation & utilities	2,400	-500	-400	400	-30	-20	1,600	-270	-310	100	-10	-20	3,200	-60	-50
Financial activities	4,300	20	-50	550	20	10	4,000	50	70	300	0	20	1,140	60	40
Education & health services	6,600	-10	90	3,200	-10	30	3,000	10	30	700	-20	50	10,900	220	620
Leisure & hospitality	4,800	-60	40	2,500	10	600	3,400	-10	500	1,660	0	210	2,600	-90	190
Info, prof, & other services	8,000	-70	330	2,100	-240	110	3,500	-120	-140	450	-70	-120	4,500	-340	-130
Government	7,800	-340	-10	2,600	-180	-70	5,000	-890	60	2,300	-10	190	5,400	-150	10
Federal	570	-10	10	250	0	-10	230	0	0	100	0	20	210	0	0
State	560	-50	-10	430	-10	-30	1,860	-830	130	60	0	10	440	-30	-10
Local	6,600	-280	-10	1,900	-170	-40	2,900	-60	-80	2,200	0	160	4,700	-110	20
Civilian Labor Force*	76,800	1,630	1,070	22,100	490	1,500	38,100	-300	540	11,800	300	770	41,900	1,280	790
Employed	72,900	810	1,630	20,200	150	1,180	35,700	-800	640	10,700	80	630	38,800	430	850
Unemployed	3,900	820	-560	1,930	340	320	2,300	500	-100	1,100	220	140	3,100	850	-60
Unemployment rate (%)	5.1	1.0	-0.8	8.7	1.3	0.9	6.1	1.4	-0.3	9.3	1.6	0.6	7.4	1.8	-0.3

* Includes labor force participants residing in area. **Includes jobs with employers in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary.

Numbers 2,000 and greater are rounded to nearest 100. Numbers under 2,000 are rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding.

Calculations are based on unrounded numbers. Results are rounded.For more information call (608) 242-4885, email dan.barroilhet@dwd.state.wi.us or see http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi