

**Jim Doyle**  
Governor

**Roberta Gassman**  
Secretary



**State of Wisconsin**  
**Department of Workforce Development**

**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**  
201 East Washington Avenue  
P.O. Box 7946  
Madison, WI 53707-7946  
Telephone: (608) 266-3131  
Fax: (608) 266-1784  
<http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/>  
e-mail: [dwdsec@dwd.state.wi.us](mailto:dwdsec@dwd.state.wi.us)

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, May 15, 2008  
CONTACT: Dick Jones, Agency Liaison, 608-267-4780

## **APRIL UNEMPLOYMENT RATES ANNOUNCED**

### **Unadjusted Data**

MADISON – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman announced today that Wisconsin's unemployment rate for April was 4.4 percent, down 1.2 percentage points from the March rate of 5.6 percent and nearly a full percentage point from the rate in April of 2007. The national rate for April was 4.8, down from 5.2 percent in March, but half a percentage point higher than the April 2007 rate of 4.3 percent.

"Wisconsin's labor market improved significantly in April, as the construction industry enjoyed warmer weather and manufacturing continued to see strong exports, due in part to a weaker dollar," Secretary Gassman said. "This is the second consecutive month that we've seen improvement in both construction and manufacturing, and we look forward to continued growth. Employment in the leisure and hospitality sector also is improving, as the summer vacation season approaches."

From March to April, total Wisconsin non-farm jobs increased by 19,600 to 2,843,200. Private sector jobs grew by 19,100, led by strong growth in the Construction sector, 8,300, and the Leisure & Hospitality sector, 6,700. Goods producers added 9,000 jobs with 8,300 in construction and 500 in manufacturing. Over the past two months, construction and manufacturing jobs have increased 10,600 and 800 respectively.

Over the year, April 2008 showed a decline of 18,800 Wisconsin non-farm jobs. Goods producers were down 13,700, led by a decline in manufacturing of 9,200. Service providers were down 5,100 over the year, led by a decrease of 6,600 in trade. Government jobs declined 100 over the year. Local government added 3,100 jobs, while state and federal government decreased their employment by 2,800 and 400 jobs respectively.

### **Adjusted Data**

The seasonally adjusted Wisconsin unemployment rate for April 2008 was 4.3 percent, down half a percentage point from March and down eight-tenths of a percentage point from April 2007.

Total state employment was up 8,100 from last month, and up 26,800 compared to one year ago.

**WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY**  
In Thousands

ITEM	PRELIM. APR 08	FINAL MAR 08	YEAR AGO APR 07	NET CHANGE FROM	
				MONTH AGO	YEAR AGO
<b>PLACE OF RESIDENCE DATA</b>					
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES					
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3069.9	3085.1	3070.5	-15.2	-0.6
UNEMPLOYMENT	135.1	174.0	161.1	-38.9	-26.0
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	4.4	5.6	5.3	-1.2	-0.9
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2934.8	2911.1	2909.4	23.7	25.4
<b>PLACE OF WORK DATA</b>					
<i>NONFARM WAGE &amp; SALARY</i>					
TOTAL PRIVATE	2843.2	2823.6	2862	19.6	-18.8
<i>GOODS PRODUCING</i>	607	598	620.7	9.0	-13.7
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	3.3	3.1	3.5	0.2	-0.2
CONSTRUCTION	115.7	107.4	120	8.3	-4.3
MANUFACTURING	488	487.5	497.2	0.5	-9.2
Durable Goods	308.4	308.6	315.3	-0.2	-6.9
Nondurable Goods	179.6	178.9	181.9	0.7	-2.3
<i>SERVICE PRODUCING</i>	2236.2	2225.6	2241.3	10.6	-5.1
TRADE	422.5	423.4	429.1	-0.9	-6.6
Wholesale Trade	120.8	120.7	121	0.1	-0.2
Retail Trade	301.7	302.7	308.1	-1.0	-6.4
TRANS., WAREHOUSE, & UTILITIES	109.9	109.2	109.3	0.7	0.6
Utilities	10.8	10.8	11	0.0	-0.2
INFORMATION	49.4	49.5	49.5	-0.1	-0.1
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	163.3	162.1	162.2	1.2	1.1
Finance and Insurance	136.3	135.2	134.5	1.1	1.8
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	27	26.9	27.7	0.1	-0.7
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	272	270.4	275.7	1.6	-3.7
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	100.2	99.1	99.3	1.1	0.9
Mgmt. Of Companies and Enterprises	42.7	43.1	43.3	-0.4	-0.6
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	129.1	128.2	133.1	0.9	-4.0
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	407	406	396.9	1.0	10.1
Educational Services	51.5	51.6	49.9	-0.1	1.6
Health Care & Social Assistance	355.5	354.4	347	1.1	8.5
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	249.3	242.6	254.3	6.7	-5.0
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	30.2	26.9	33	3.3	-2.8
Accommodation & Food Services	219.1	215.7	221.3	3.4	-2.2
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin	135.9	136	137.3	-0.1	-1.4
GOVERNMENT	426.9	426.4	427	0.5	-0.1
Federal Government	28.6	28.5	29	0.1	-0.4
State Government	103.8	103.8	106.6	0.0	-2.8
Local Government	294.5	294.1	291.4	0.4	3.1
PERSONS INVOLVED IN L-M DISPUTES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
(1) Includes L-M Disputes					
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES					
<b>CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE</b>	3095.8	3105.4	3094.0	-9.6	1.8
UNEMPLOYMENT	132.6	150.2	157.5	-17.6	-24.9
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	4.3	4.8	5.1	-0.5	-0.8
EMPLOYMENT	2963.3	2955.2	2936.5	8.1	26.8

\*Differences in totals may occur as a result of rounding.

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics and Current Employment Statistics programs, Labor Market Information Section.